



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 33

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2005

A long parade of ordinances

Council, Planning Commission busy

A new ordinance affecting trails heads a long list of code changes approved by the City Council in recent weeks.

Other measures, either already passed or under consideration, will affect utility yards, park structure setbacks, power scooters, trees, residential density and the use of weapons to kill or injure animals.

Among the measures already passed:

- **Amendment to the sensitive areas ordinance** - This alteration of the code will allow the city to approve trails through wetland buffers, if they are constructed in an appropriate and environmentally sensitive manner. During its own park design

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Looking at plans for Sammamish Commons during 2003 open house.

Uncommon care taken with Sammamish Commons

Out of respect for its prime location, vital purpose and philosophical import, the City Council is taking great care with Sammamish Commons, the 30-acre civic and park complex destined to provide the community with some of its long-missing "sense of place."

"The council has spent a lot of time making sure this project reflects the social and environmental priorities of the community," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "As the developer, the city has gone above and beyond what is required."

Sammamish Commons, which, among other things, will feature an

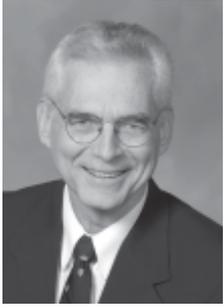
amphitheater, skateboard park, trails, play areas and a new City Hall building, will be built just west of the 228th Avenue/Southeast Eighth Street intersection. A long list of environmental measures will soften its impact on the land.

- All runoff from impervious surfaces will be captured and fed into an underground treatment vault the size of a swimming pool: 108 feet long, 40 feet wide and 9 feet deep.

- Many paved surfaces will feature porous materials, which allow rainwater to trickle into the soil.

- Grasscrete, a type of concrete

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Mayor
Don Gerend

The Legislature is once again in session, and the story is the same one we've heard for several sessions: In order to balance the budget there will be either continued reductions in services, or tax increases, or

both. At the same time, organizations and individuals are looking to the legislature for support for, or solutions to, various issues. It's hard to ignore health care, support for teachers and school programs, regional transportation deficiencies, environmental concerns and a myriad of other legitimate issues. It's also tempting for the legislature and the Governor, in an effort to solve everything and still balance the budget, to pass down to counties and cities the mandates to better serve the citizens, but fail to provide the funds to do so. These are known to local electeds as

"unfunded mandates" and can come down from both state and federal sources.

At the state level, one such program is the Growth Management Act, which is designed to increase population density within certain arbitrary Urban Growth Areas, while limiting growth in rural and forest areas. Cities are instructed to provide the requisite infrastructure before approving the growth, but are also assigned twenty-year growth targets that determine how many new residential units they should permit. The major expenditure for infrastructure improvements inevitably comes down to new and expanded transportation facilities. And, with the further necessary restrictions regarding environmental concerns (such as wetlands, steep slopes, clear water preservation, listed species recovery), the cost of transportation improvements has increased dramatically in the last fifteen years.

So how does the state help cities improve the local roads? Cities receive 2.46 cents of gas tax per gallon, a fixed

figure since 1991. The per capita inflation adjusted value of this distribution has dropped 40% during this period! At the same time, other state and federal sources are also drying up. Our legislators have to hear this message and work on correcting the problem. Various regional and state organizations take the word to the legislature, but it's important for Sammamish to take its own message to Olympia and Washington, D.C.

In mid-February, the Sammamish delegation (Mayor Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor Michele Petitti, Councilmember Jack Barry, City Manager Ben Yazici and Communications Manager Tim Larson) spent two days in Olympia meeting with our legislators and having two-way conversations on various issues of importance to Sammamish. Amongst the issues that we discussed were these:

- An increase in the gas tax, with a significant portion being directly distrib-

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ORDINANCES - cont. from pg. 1

process, the city discovered that its code would not allow trails through certain portions of Ebright Creek Park, Pine Lake Park and the Sammamish Commons. The change will bring the city's code in line with rules governing trails in most surrounding cities.

- **Utility yards** - This new ordinance allows public agency utility yards in the city. These facilities, which store equipment, materials and repair resources, will be subject to setback, landscaping, and sound-buffering requirements.

- **Scooters** - This measure allows electric scooters on sidewalks if they don't exceed 5 mph. Scooters powered by internal combustion engines are not allowed on sidewalks. All power scooters are prohibited in city

parks, on trails and bicycle paths, and on any street with a speed limit above 25 mph. Operators must wear a helmet and be at least 12 years old.

- **Park structure setbacks** - This amendment to the development code requires park buildings to be set back 50 feet from the property line. Play structures, however, require only a 20-foot setback.

- **Weapons** - This measure prohibits, among other things, the use of a firearm, bow and arrow, or trap to kill or injure a wild animal or wild bird within city limits.

Pending at press time:

- **Net density** - This measure would change the way the city calculates allowed density for new residential development. It would subtract sensitive areas and streets from the

property area before calculating the total number of allowed units. The new ordinance would bring the code into alignment with the city's comprehensive plan.

- **Tree retention** - This ordinance would require that new developments retain or replace a certain number of trees. In the past, developers were entitled to take down all trees outside of environmentally sensitive areas. The new ordinance reflects guidance from both the comprehensive plan and substantial public comment.

Drafts of the net density and tree retention ordinances can be found under "Municipal Code" on the city's website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us). Ordinances already passed can be found on the website under "Ordinances."

More information is also available by calling 425-836-7938.

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with built-in space for grass, will also be used in some parking areas.

- Barbed wire fencing already in place will be replaced by wood-rail fencing.

- The buffer to a large wetland on the property will be restored. During past agricultural use of this land, the wetland buffer was mowed several times a year.

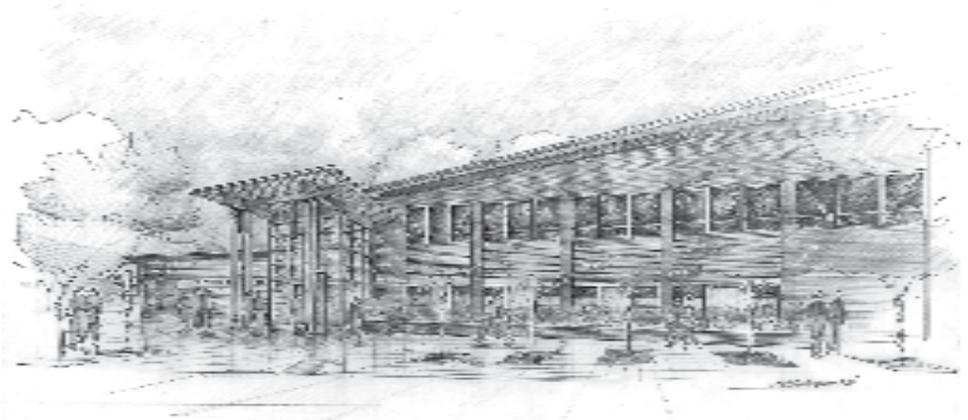
On direction of the City Council, Sammamish Commons is also pursuing LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Some of the items on the LEED checklist include:

- Water-efficient landscaping featuring plants with a low need for water.
- Bike storage and changing rooms for employees.
- Minimal parking capacity to encourage alternative forms of transportation.
- Use of light-colored materials



A family strolls across a portion of the Sammamish Commons site.



Sketch of the City Hall building planned for Sammamish Commons.

to minimize heat absorption during summer months.

- Exterior light design that reduces light pollution.
- Purchase of energy units generated by windmills and other “green” sources.
- Re-use or recycling of construction debris.
- Carpets and cabinets made from recycled material.
- Use of low-emitting paints, adhesives, sealants and carpets.

King County gave technical sup-

port to this effort by providing a LEED expert to consult with the city’s design team.

Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus, who has shepherded this project from its inception, says the city also hired a “low-impact” development consultant.

“He suggested, among other things, that we plant trees on a slope just west of the main building,” Butkus said. “He also helped us decide where we could place porous concrete.”

Other features of the project include:

- Standby power for the entire building.
- Maintenance of the westward view, which features the Seattle skyline.
- Preservation of space for a potential community center.
- A northwest garden that will educate residents about the value of drought-resistant, native plants.

Sammamish Commons is expected to break ground this summer. If the projected timeline holds fast, residents will be enjoying the 30-acre park and civic complex by summer 2006.

The anticipated cost of the entire project: \$15 million.

Sgt. Dan Pingrey says goodbye

A promotion to captain and a move to Shoreline cost Sammamish the services of Dan Pingrey, a pivotal law enforcement figure in the city since incorporation in 1999.

Pingrey, who served as the administrative sergeant under Police Chief Dick Baranzini, left for Shoreline last month.

“Dan was perfect for Sammamish,” Baranzini said. “He grew up here and he still has family here. We’re going to miss him.”

Pingrey’s replacement, Sgt. Jerrell Wills, comes to the city from the north precinct in Kenmore.

“Jerrell came through a very competitive interview process to get this position,” Baranzini said. “I’ve known him for many years. He’s a take-charge guy who’s very respected by his fellow officers.”

Sgt. Pat Harasek also joined the department in recent days as an operations sergeant.

“With the addition of Pat, we now have a sergeant supervising all of our shifts,” Baranzini said. “We’re very pleased. Pat was our first choice for that spot.”

Sammamish contracts with the King County Sheriff’s Office for its police services.



City Manager Ben Yazici invites Sgt. Dan Pingrey (right) to dig in to a goodbye cake as staff members show their appreciation.



Sgt. Jerrell Wills



Sgt. Pat Harasek

MAYOR - cont. from pg. 2

uted per capita to cities for help in funding local transportation projects.

- The explicit right of cities to contract with other cities for municipal court services.

- Assurances that road projects approved in previous legislatures (such as the major improvements to SR-520 and SR-202 that were funded through the previous gas tax increase) will be completed as promised.

- Some technical corrections regarding interpretation of residential densities allowed by cities in meeting their growth targets.

- An issue of streamlined sales tax collections, wherein the point of delivery rather than the point of sale determines which municipality receives the taxes.

We look forward to our legislators (Representatives Jay Rodne and Glenn Anderson and Senator Cheryl Pflug in the 5th District; and representing the northern most portion of Sammamish in the 45th

District, Representatives Larry Springer and Toby Nixon and Senator Bill Finkbeiner) supporting our positions. If you wish to follow the legislative action, I suggest that you go to the Association of Washington Cities website (www.awcnet.org) and the legislative links therein.

Popular Sammi Awards coming up March 12

Dawn Sanders to leave as chair after 4th annual event

Sammi, short for “Sammamish Acknowledges Magnificent Moments of Inspiration,” will be much in evidence at Skyline High School, Saturday, March 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

For the fourth year in a row, Sammi awards will go to Sammamish residents who’ve made special contributions to the community in a variety of categories.

With an emphasis on volunteer spirit and courage, the following Sammi’s will be awarded:

- Business
- Arts
- Learning Promotion
- Youth Advocate
- Unsung Hero
- Courage
- Spirit of Sammamish
- Teen Challenge
- Trevor Price Children’s Award

The awards began in 2002 as the vision of Karen Armstead and Loren Stayboldt. Over the course of the past four years, the awards ceremony has turned into a strong and colorful tradition in Sammamish. Last year, residents filled the Skyline High School auditorium for the event. This year, a closed-circuit video feed will be available in the school’s Commons area should an overflow crowd arrive.

Dawn Sanders, the Sammi Awards chair over the past three years, says the event has been a great experience for those who’ve been recognized - and for those who’ve worked on the program.

“It’s totally changed me as a person,” Sanders said, noting that contact

with positive, giving people improves a person’s outlook on life.

“It’s been a wonderful opportunity for me to become connected to so many people in the community.”

Teens are the focus of this year’s Sammi Awards. A new cat-



*Dawn Sanders
Sammi Awards Chair*

egory, Teen Challenge, has been added, and the presentation ceremony will be emceed by a pair of teens, Skyline High School’s Ashley McAlhaney and Eastlake High School’s Kellen Klein. Two other teens, Liz Morgan of Skyline and Katie Kennedy of Eastlake, are co-chairing the event along with Sanders.

The City of Sammamish is a major sponsor of the event. Other major sponsors include: Swedish Hospital, Sammamish Rotary, Kids

Without Borders, DC’s Grill, and the Kiwanis & Trevor Price Foundation.

After three years as the Sammi chair, Sanders will step aside following this year’s event.

“I really feel it’s important to get new ideas and new voices” involved, Sanders said. “It can only benefit the Sammi’s to have someone else step into this role.”

Next year, to spread the responsibilities of a growing tradition, Sanders’ role will be split into three parts: production chair, public relations chair and administrative chair. Melanie Saedi will take over as production chair. The two other chair positions will be filled after a thorough review of candidates.

Those interested in chair positions, or in other roles with the Sammi’s, are invited to attend an informational open house on Tuesday, April 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The open house will be held at the Knolls Apartments’

clubhouse, 22626 N.E. Inglewood Hill Road.

For more information on anything related to the Sammi Awards, Sanders can be reached at 425-868-3484. Information is also available at www.sammiawards.org.

There is no admission charge for the March 12 event, but donations will be accepted at the door. Sanders encourages all Sammamish residents to attend.

“It’s very uplifting when you go to the ceremony.”

Maintenance crew makeovers

The corner along East Beaver Lake Drive was an “ugly piece of public right-of-way,” according to Glenn Akramoff, the city’s operations and maintenance manager.

A contractor offered to pretty it up for \$10,000 or so, but Akramoff

decided his maintenance workers could do the job for half that price. The result: a mini-park that fits in nicely with surrounding developments.

Over the past two years, Akramoff says his crews have enjoyed doing about 20 such jobs.

“They’re given a budget, but they handle all the planning and design,” Akramoff said. “It gives them a chance to put their mark on the community.

“Because of projects like these, they’re becoming more than maintenance workers.”



Before and after pictures at the corner of East Beaver Lake Drive and East Beaver Lake Way.

On-line building permits double

As a member of the innovative eCityGov Alliance, Sammamish doubled the number of building permits it issued on-line in 2004.

Using MyBuildingPermit.com, 544 customers received their permits on-line last year. That’s twice the number issued on-line in 2003.

“The on-line permits accounted for about a third of the permits we issued last year,” Permit Center Manager Kimberlee McArthur said. “It really helped.

“That’s 544 people who didn’t need to come in to City Hall, and that means we had more time to help those who did come in.”

The on-line permit process is available at www.MyBuildingPermit.com.

Overall, the city issued 1,528 building permits in 2004. That’s up slightly from the 2003 figure of 1,500.

Volunteers needed For advisory committee on sensitive areas ordinance

Like other counties and cities, Sammamish will be updating its Environmentally Sensitive Areas Ordinance. To help in this effort, the city is recruiting residents to serve on a Citizens Advisory Committee.

Interested residents should submit a resume, letter of interest and completed questionnaire to City Clerk Melonie Anderson at 486 228th Ave. N.E., Sammamish, WA 98074. The questionnaire, along with other information about the committee, can be found on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us). Applications may also be submitted via email to manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us. More information is available at 425-836-7904.

The updated ordinance will set standards and criteria for development in and around critical areas, which include, among other things, wetlands, streams, associated buffers, and aquifer recharge, frequently flooded and geologically hazardous areas.

Tree removal rules!

A clearing and grading permit is required to remove “significant” trees in the City of Sammamish. A significant tree is a conifer (cedar, fir or pine) greater than eight inches in diameter, or deciduous tree (maple, alder) greater than twelve inches in diameter. Diameter should be measured at chest height, 54 inches above the ground. This rule applies throughout the City, except in sensitive areas.

In sensitive areas or their buffers, a clearing and grading permit is required prior to removing ANY vegetation, regardless of size or variety. Sensitive areas include wetlands and steep areas with slopes greater than forty percent.

A permit is not required for emergency tree removal to prevent imminent danger or hazard to persons or property.

To obtain a permit, visit the permit center at Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE.

Free tax help online

The City’s property tax calculator, located at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/TaxCalculator.aspx, has been updated with new tax levy rates for 2005.

Calculating property tax is simple. Just submit a street address and tax parcel value, and get a summary of property tax distribution between nine government entities: the State of Washington school fund, King County, Port of Seattle, school district, fire district, hospital, library, emergency medical services, and the City of Sammamish.

The calculator has been a popular service since its inception early last year. Over 2000 web users have calculated their property tax, and cities in Washington, Oregon, and even Georgia contacted the city to inquire how they could provide a similar service in their areas.

Another valuable service is being offered this year by the state of Washington: a tool to calculate state and local sales taxes for federal income tax filing. A link is provided from the City’s tax calculator. Check it out!

CITY HALL CALENDAR

MARCH

Tuesday, 1 Mar 2005

- Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 3 Mar 2005

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 8 Mar 2005

- Community Development Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 10 Mar 2005

- Planning Commission Growth Metering Stakeholder Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Saturday, 12 Mar 2005

- Spring Recycling Event, 9 am - 3 pm

Eastlake High School

Tuesday, 15 Mar 2005

- Finance Committee Regular Meeting, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Public Works Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, 21 Mar 2005

- Arts Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Pine Lake Covenant Church

Tuesday, 22 Mar 2005

- Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 24 Mar 2005

- Sammamish Youth Board Regular Meeting, 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Sammamish Library

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, 28 Mar 2005

- Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

APRIL

Monday, 4 Apr 2005

- Neighborhood Connections, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Sahalee Fire Station #82

Tuesday, 5 Apr 2005

- Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 7 Apr 2005

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 12 Apr 2005

- Community Development Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 14 Apr 2005

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, 18 Apr 2005

- Arts Commission Regular Meeting, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Pine Lake Covenant Church

Tuesday, 19 Apr 2005

- Finance Committee Regular Meeting, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Public Works Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, 25 Apr 2005

- Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 26 Apr 2005

- Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

NOTE: Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

The Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District is located at 1510 228th Avenue NE.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend
Mayor*



*Michele Petitti
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Council Committees

Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources

Meets 1st Tuesday, 5 pm

Nancy Whitten, Chair
Michele Petitti
Kathleen Huckabay



Finance

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 11:30 am

Lee Felling, Chair
Jack Barry
Nancy Whitten



Community Development

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 5 pm

Mark Cross, Chair
Michele Petitti
Kathleen Huckabay



Public Safety

Meets 4th Tuesday, 5 pm

Kathleen Huckabay, Chair
Mark Cross,
Lee Felling



Public Works

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5 pm

Jack Barry, Chair
Mark Cross
Nancy Whitten



Legislative

Meets as needed

Michele Petitti, Chair
Don Gerend and a third
member depending on issue.



Human Services

Meets as needed

Michele Petitti, Lee Felling



City of Sammamish Offices
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Ben Yazici City Manager
Pete Butkus Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber Public Works Director
Bob Horne Community Dev Director
Lyman Howard ... Financial Svcs Director
Jeff Watling Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein Admin Svcs Director
Steve Hartwig City Engineer
Bruce Disend City Attorney
Melonie Anderson City Clerk
Richard Baranzini Police Chief
John Murphy Fire Chief
Tim Larson Communications Manager



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