

# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 35

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2005

## City permit for trail reinstated

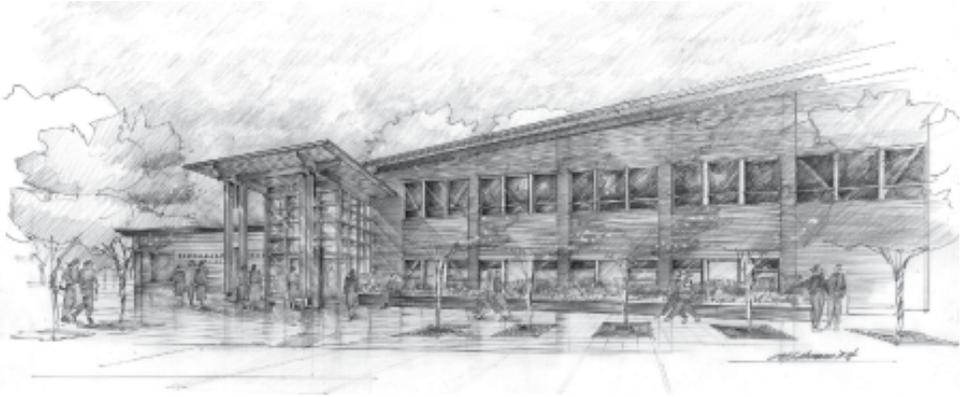
*County first received permit from city more than three years ago.*

Although little has ever been certain about the East Lake Sammamish Trail, it appears King County is poised to begin construction of the Sammamish portion of the recreational path.

In an April 5 decision, Hearing Examiner John Galt reinstated an environmental permit the city first granted to the county in 2002. Now, all that remains is for the county to grant itself a shoreline and grading permit. If all goes well, construction of the 7-mile leg through Sammamish could begin as early as this summer.

"We're looking forward to the opening of the trail," City Manager

*See TRAIL, page 2*



## Breaking ground on Sammamish Commons

*Construction due to start next month*

At press time, the city's long awaited "sense of place" was about to get a building permit.

Sammamish Commons, a park and civic complex at 228th Avenue and S.E. Eighth Street, is expected to break ground next month. The 30-acre site, in the geographical center of the city, has been designed as a central gathering place for community events, recreational activities and government business.

In addition to a new City Hall, Sammamish Commons will feature a civic plaza and amphitheater, a skateboard park and climbing wall, acres of park space, and a network of trails and play areas. The city's police department will be housed inside the new City Hall building.

The last significant obstacle to

construction was cleared last month when the city settled an appeal brought by the Lancaster Ridge Homeowners Association and the Friends of Pine Lake.

"This is very exciting," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Having a 'sense of place' in a community is extremely valuable.

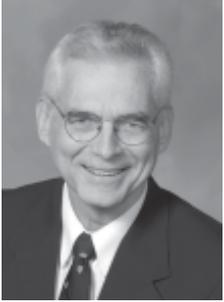
"We think Sammamish Commons will provide our residents with a focal point, a place where they can conduct business, have fun, and find common ground with their neighbors."

The site's role as a gathering place will be further enhanced if and when a community center is constructed. Although there are no specific plans in place, land has been set aside near

*See COMMONS, page 3*

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Mayor  
Don Gerend

Last year, a volunteer 18-member group of your fellow citizens spent many months of their spare time on a Special Study Area Task Force, charged with generating a vision for the center of our city. A key

feature of their ultimate vision was the need for gathering places in Sammamish – social focal points where young and old could come together, chat, laugh, and help the city develop a heart and soul.

Some fifteen years ago sociologist Ray Oldenburg coined the term “third place.” It refers to a gathering place that can supplement the value of home (first place) and work (second place). This “third” place provides an opportunity to leave the cares of home and work behind, spend time with friends, and per-

haps make an unexpected new acquaintance.

The pubs of England and the cafes of France are good examples of “third place” traditions in Europe. Although many of us have fond memories of such places on the main streets of small town USA, the advent of shopping malls and urban sprawl has largely erased the traditional spots where Americans used to socialize, play cards, discuss politics, or just joke around. Today, we spend most of our time at work or at home, or traveling between the two in a car. Unplanned casual interaction with others is rare (except for you fine citizens who carpool or ride the bus).

Twenty-six years ago when my family moved to the Pine Lake Plateau (now Sammamish), there was at least one “third place” within walking distance – Sadler’s Country Store. Shoppers could tie their horse to the hitching rail out front. Wood plank floors inside creaked under your feet.

You were guaranteed to find a “regular” there – along with some good conversation and a great homemade sandwich.

Yes, Starbucks and the QFC lounge are beginnings, but we can do better. It won’t be easy. Even in old city centers, which we lack, creating gathering places that feel natural and authentic can be a challenge.

But we will find a way. It’s important to the cultural and social health of our community. With the “Special Study Area Task Force” having emphasized the importance of such gathering places, I know residents, business people and city government will soon make those special “third places” an enriching feature of our unique community.

### ***TRAIL - cont. from page 1***

Ben Yazici said. “As a city, it’s now our job to make sure the concerns of homeowners along the trail are listened to very carefully.”

The apparent resolution of legal issues follows years of litigation between the county and homeowners along the trail who wanted a different route. Much of that litigation centered around the city-issued environmental permit that Galt reinstated last month.

Homeowners said the permit should be revoked because there was an alternative path with less environmental impact. The county also objected to the city-issued permit, saying it required too much environmental

mitigation.

In 2003, largely agreeing with the homeowners, Galt threw out the permit. That decision, however, was appealed to Snohomish County Superior Court, which eventually remanded the



*Old railroad corridor passes by city homes on the shore of Lake Sammamish.*

case back to Galt. After further consideration, the hearing examiner reinstated the permit last month.

The East Lake Sammamish Community Association (ELSCA), the homeowners’ group that opposed the county trail route, has now withdrawn from litigation.

“We’re going to do what we can to promote a good relationship between the homeowners and the county,” Yazici said. “We want the county’s trail to become a big plus for our community and the entire region.”

The trail, along the eastern contours of Lake Sammamish, will follow an old Burlington Northern railbed. The Redmond and Issaquah segments are already in place.

**COMMONS - cont. from page 1**

City Hall for an additional building.

Project Manager Sevda Baran says contractors will submit bids on May 5. After the City Council reviews the recommended bid on May 10, a contract is expected to be awarded a few days later. In the absence of any hitches, construction will start in early June.

“The Commons and the new City Hall are going to be beautiful,” Baran said. “Now that we’re about to get started, I’m very excited for the community.”

The city purchased the Commons property in two parcels. The first 10 acres, right next to 228th, were bought for \$1 million in September 1999. The adjoining 20 acres, which descend to a substantial wetland, were purchased for \$2 million in April 2002.

The City Hall building and civic plaza will go on the 10 acres near 228th Avenue. The lower 20 acres will accommodate trails, informal play areas and much of the park and open space.

The first floor of City Hall, set



*During a 2003 open house, a youngster runs across the 20-acre “lower site” on the Sammamish Commons property.*

aside for city and police personnel, will cover 25,914 square feet. The City Council chambers are also on the first floor. The second floor, which will accommodate future expansion or serve as lease space, will cover 13,603 square feet. An underground garage covering 20,865 square feet will hold 53 vehicles and a variety of mechani-

cal and electrical facilities.

The Sammamish Commons project is expected to receive a Silver LEED Certificate from the U.S. Green Building Council. The city coordinated its design with the council to achieve the Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) rating.

The city also hired a low impact development (LID) consultant to review the city’s storm water plan for the Commons. The city followed several of the consultant’s recommendations, including the use of porous material for some of the project’s paved surfaces.

The overall design of the project was spearheaded by ARC Architects. The estimated total cost of design and construction for Sammamish Commons: \$15.5 million.

For more information on Sammamish Commons, go to the city’s website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the “projects” tab at the top of the home page.



*A family walks through the Sammamish Commons property during an open house in 2003.*

## Shop/invest in Sammamish

When they started writing up his order for a house alarm installation, Lyman Howard noticed they were sending the sales tax to Bothell. Howard, the city's finance director and a Sammamish resident, corrected the error on the spot.

"Please code this sales tax to Sammamish," Howard said. (Note: Taxes for work done in Sammamish, and for purchases installed in Sammamish, are supposed to go to the city.)

Although asking residents to be as vigilant as a finance director might be a bit much, Howard says residents should at least consider shopping locally when they have the chance.

"Every local sale translates into revenue we can invest in our own city," Howard said. "Last year, we took in \$2 million in sales tax."

That's a paltry sum compared to many cities, but every bit helps.

"You might find a better price by going out of town, but does it make sense to drive six miles to save a quarter?" Howard asked.

By the way, just in case, if you have an alarm system installed or pay out-of-town landscapers to do some work at your home, remember the number 1739. Howard says that's the code number that routes the tax money to Sammamish.



*More sales at Ace Hardware and other Sammamish stores translate into more tax revenue for the city.*

## Growth metering ordinance set for public hearings

The city's Planning Commission, after looking at more complicated options, is now considering a relatively simple "growth metering" ordinance.

The draft ordinance, which aims to phase growth over several years, is scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission on May 5. The City Council has tentatively scheduled a public hearing of its own on June 7.

"The development moratorium we've had in place since incorporation is about to lift," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "The goal is to spread the new growth over a manageable period of time."

Initially, the Planning Commission considered using a point system to prioritize projects, phasing growth

by allowing the highest scorers to build first. If a development was connected to sewer, for example, it would have received more points than a development with a septic system.



*A growth metering ordinance was discussed at this joint meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission on April 19.*

The latest plan simply requires that larger developments phase their construction. A subdivision with 91 or more units, for example, would have to build in three phases. Given permitting and other requirements, the Planning Commission believes such a project would take approximately 5 years to initiate and construct.

"The Planning Commission and City Council are really being prudent with this ordinance," Yazici said.

"It's a tough job, striking a balance between those who want slow growth and those who would like to develop their property."

The draft ordinance can be viewed by going to the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and clicking on Municipal Code.

## East Lake Sammamish Parkway project attracts crowd to open house

Perhaps prompted by the huge traffic backups at the northern end of East Lake Sammamish Parkway, more than 80 residents attended an April 6 open house to discuss possible solutions.

The open house, held at Inglewood Junior High School, did not present design options for the proposed improvements. Project Manager Jeff Brauns says the design team wants to hear from residents before suggested solutions are formulated.

“We had an excellent turnout,” Brauns said. “Hopefully, we’ll see similar interest in the design charette next month.”

That 2-day charette, which will allow residents to put forward their own design ideas, will be held at:

**Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church**  
**22818 S.E. Eighth Street**  
**Wednesday, June 22, 4-9:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday, June 23, 4-7 p.m.**

The parkway project will focus on reducing congestion and improving safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians between N.E. Inglewood Hill Road and 187th Ave. N.E., near the northern city limits. It will also improve access to driveways and side streets, and enhance the attractiveness of the corridor.



*Sammamish residents share their views on improvements to East Lake Sammamish Parkway.*

For more information, contact Project Manager Jeff Brauns at 425-836-7923 or [ELSP@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:ELSP@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

Additional information on the project is also available on the East Lake Sammamish Parkway website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP).

## 244th Avenue project draws attention

### *Residents comment on scope of environmental analysis*



*Project Manager Jed Ireland (facing camera) speaks with residents about the 244th Avenue project.*

The improvements planned for 244th Avenue between S.E. Eighth Street and N.E. Eighth Street will produce a tree-lined, two-lane roadway with bike lanes, turn lanes and sidewalks. Before construction starts in 2007, however, an environmental impact statement will need to be completed.

As an early step in that process, the city held a “scoping” meeting April 7 at Inglewood Junior High School, allowing residents to comment on what they thought the scope of the environmental analysis should be.

“There is an 800-foot gap in the current roadway across a Class 1 wetland,” Project Manager Jed Ireland said. “We’re looking for input on how to best close that gap and make our other improvements.”

To be incorporated in the scoping process, additional comments must be received by May 5, Ireland said. Comments can be submitted via email to [244project@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:244project@ci.sammamish.wa.us). For more information, Ireland can be reached at 425-836-7909.

Approximately 70 residents attended the April scoping meeting and open house. When complete, the mile-long project will improve connectivity and emergency access in that part of the city.

## Ebright trees pack up and leave

With a parking lot in their future, six mature fruit trees at Ebright Creek Park bundled up, left their small orchard behind, and moved to Sammamish Commons last month.

The refugees, promising apples, plums and cherries, moved in next to an 80-year-old apple tree already well established on the Commons property.

“Finding a new home for these trees reflects our community’s values,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It’s a nice blend of progress and preservation.”

Ebright Creek Park, a 12-acre neighborhood park, is scheduled to begin construction this summer. Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre park and civic complex, is due to break ground in June.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Watling said all of the trees survived the move.

“So far, they look good,” Watling said. “They all look very promising.”



*A fruit tree at Ebright Creek Park is packed up and ready to leave for Sammamish Commons*

Keeping the trees alive is a nice way to honor the city’s agrarian past, Watling said.

“Plus, they’ll provide shade and give people a nice place to put a blanket down at the Commons.”

## City Landscaping Rejuvenated

If you have been out and about this spring in the city parks and along the main roadways, you have probably seen city maintenance staff and contractors busy getting the community in shape for the summer recreation season.

Work is being done in city-owned rights of way, as well as in all the city parks: Pine Lake, Beaver Lake, East Sammamish, and Northeast Sammamish.

Here are some of the many projects going on:

- Repairs of termite/carpenter ant/wood rot at The Lodge at Beaver Lake Park;
- Turf repairs at all parks, including mowing, fertilizing, over seeding and aeration;
- Renovation at East Sammamish Park Soccer field;
- Pressure washing of plazas, bleachers, etc;
- Athletic field preparations for little leagues and softball leagues;
- Irrigation system start up and maintenance;
- Installation of drinking fountains at East Sammamish Park;
- Trail surfacing at various locations;
- Hazard tree removal;

- Tree and shrub pruning;
- Arbor Day and Earth Day landscaping project preparation;
- Other routine maintenance throughout the system.

All the work helps ensure our parks and grounds remain an outstanding asset of the community, now and into the future.



*Ground prepared for Arbor/Earth Day planting*



*Mowing along 228th Avenue S.E.*

# Fighting hate crimes

## City contingent trains at Simon Wiesenthal Center

Funded by a federal grant, an eight-member team of city-affiliated personnel traveled to Beverly Hills in March to attend the Tools for Tolerance training program.

The intensive, three-and-a-half day program, which has trained over 45,000 law enforcement personnel from around the country, focuses on identifying hate crimes and teaching ethical, bias-free decision making.

“It was a terrific opportunity to both learn and contribute,” Police Chief Richard Baranzini said. “We had officers, educators, attorneys and judges from all over the country in our group.”

In addition to Baranzini, the Sammamish group included Sgt. Pat Harasek, Officers Paula Davies, Hughes Ebinger, and Erik Soderstrom, Prosecutor Heidi Brosius, Public Defender Ken Harmell, and Communications Manager Tim Larson.



(From left) Communications Mgr. Tim Larson, Sgt. Pat Harasek, Officer Hughes Ebinger, Prosecutor Heidi Brosius, Officer Erik Soderstrom, Officer Paula Davies, Chief Richard Baranzini, and Public Defender Ken Harmell.

As part of the curriculum, participants spent almost a full day in the Museum of Tolerance learning about the Holocaust and more recent manifestations of hate.

“It was very powerful,” Baranzini said. “We’re already working on sending another team to a future session.”

# CITY HALL CALENDAR

## MAY

### Monday, 2 May 2005

Community Development Committee Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

*Sammamish City Hall*

### Tuesday, 3 May 2005

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

*Sammamish City Hall*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Thursday, 5 May 2005

Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Tuesday, 10 May 2005

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

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Monday, 16 May 2005

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

*Sammamish City Hall*

### Tuesday, 17 May 2005

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

*Sammamish City Hall*

Public Works Committee Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Thursday, 19 May 2005

Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Monday, 23 May 2005

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

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Tuesday, 24 May 2005

Public Safety Committee 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, 26 May 2005

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

*Sammamish Library*

## JUNE

### Thursday, 2 Jun 2005

Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Sewer & Water District*

### Monday, 6 Jun 2005

Community Development Committee Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

*Sammamish City Hall*

### Tuesday, 7 Jun 2005

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

*Sammamish City Hall*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Tuesday, 14 Jun 2005

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

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Thursday, 16 Jun 2005

Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Sewer & Water District*

### Monday, 20 Jun 2005

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

*Sammamish City Hall*

### Tuesday, 21 Jun 2005

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

### *Sammamish City Hall*

Public Works Committee Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Wednesday, 22 Jun 2005

East Lake Sammamish Pkwy Design Charette, 4 pm - 9:30 pm

*Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church*

### Thursday, 23 Jun 2005

East Lake Sammamish Pkwy Design Charette, 4 pm - 7 pm

*Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church*

### Monday, 27 Jun 2005

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

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

### Tuesday, 28 Jun 2005

Public Safety Committee 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 Fellingge  
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 Fellingge, Chair  
Jack Barry  
Nancy Whitten



## Community Development

Meets 1st Monday, 5 pm

Mark Cross, Chair  
Michele Petitti  
Kathleen Huckabay



## Public Safety

Meets 4th Tuesday, 5 pm

Kathleen Huckabay, Chair  
Mark Cross,  
Lee Fellingge



## 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 Fellingge



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Pete Butkus ..... Assistant City Manager  
Delora Kerber ..... Public Works Director  
Kamuron Gurol ... 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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