

City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 37

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2005

Eastlake ballfields on the way

The community's inventory of sports fields will get a big boost this year when 3.2 acres on the Eastlake High School campus are converted into a multi-purpose, synthetic surface athletic field.

The "Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School," as it will be known, will be ready for community residents and students alike at the end of this year. Among other things, it will accommodate baseball, softball, lacrosse and soccer.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Watling says the \$2.5 million project is a product of excellent cooperation between the city and the Lake Washington School District.

See BALLFIELDS, page 6



"Dig" nitarities begin Commons construction

Wielding a dozen golden shovels, an array of community leaders broke ground last month on the Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre civic and park complex along 228th Avenue.

The year-long project will produce a combination City Hall and police building, a civic plaza and amphitheater, a youth sports complex, and a network of trails, play areas and picnic facilities.

It's expected the sum total of

those parts, priced at \$15.7 million, will create a welcoming "sense of place" in Sammamish and offer residents a convenient and memorable place to gather as a community.

"The community, city staff and design team have put a ton of work into this," Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus said. "It was a great moment for everyone when those shovels went to work."

See COMMONS, page 3

Inside This Edition

Eastlake ballfields	1
Sammamish Commons	1
Mayor's message	2
Fireworks finale	2
National Night Out	4
Growth phasing	4
Comprehensive plan	4
Summer Nights in the Park	5
Parkway design workshop	5
PSE substation	6
Business fair	6
Concrete award	7
City Hall calendar	7
Council committees	7

Catching up on infrastructure

Sammamish is in its sixth year of incorporation, and we have been working hard to make the change in infrastructure from rural to urban.



Mayor
Don Gerend

That means more and improved parks and sports fields, city facilities, better roads and creating a sense of place.

This year is a big year in the urbanization program. After

squeezing our city staff into a retail store front, plus a couple of houses, for the last six years, finally June saw the groundbreaking on the Sammamish Commons project. On the thirty acres of prime real estate across from Skyline High School will emerge city hall, sports facilities, trails and other park amenities.

City Hall and the long-awaited skateboard park will be nestled up to

228th Ave., with plenty of open space for trails and sports meadows to the west. A unique feature of this project is the fact that you can follow the progress on the web. A camera is perched on a pole along 228th, pointing at the city hall site. The photo is updated every five minutes and can be seen on the city website, www.ci.sammamish.wa.us (click on "projects", "Sammamish Commons" and then "Live Camera").

Groundbreaking also occurred last month for the new sports fields the city is developing at Eastlake High School with the cooperation of Lake Washington School District. Two lighted, sport turf covered soccer fields will emerge where a practice field now exists.

Sound Transit is building a park and ride lot at the corner of 228th Avenue and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, and the city will be extending a road to the west to connect directly into the route around Pine Lake. The Ebright Creek Park project is fully funded and working through sewer design issues. Improvements to East Lake Sammamish Parkway and design

of the missing link in 244th Ave are moving through a public participation and environmental review process. Various sidewalk projects are also under design.

And on the private side, there is the Evergreen Christian Church project on 228th near Main Street, and Eastside Catholic High School, destined to become a reality just east of 228th Avenue between Eastlake High School and Skyline High School.

With the six-year moratorium on new subdivisions scheduled to expire in August, the city expects applications for quite a few new projects. The actual rate of new home sales should slow down for a while, however, as current projects approach all-sold status and new projects are designed, approved and completed.

Indeed, 2005 is a very busy year in Sammamish.

Fireworks finale marks a new beginning

As the echoes from another noisy Fourth of July fade across the plateau, a new "fireworks-free" era is beginning in Sammamish. Following in the footsteps of Redmond, Issaquah and Bellevue, the city will prohibit fireworks next year.

"This Fourth of July, we passed out a lot of information on the new rules for next year," Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus said. "We hope that will ease the transition."

Next year, the penalty for possession will be \$500; the penalty for discharge \$1,000. But the city isn't planning to hand out a lot of citations in 2006.

"We're going to continue our informational approach," Butkus said. "We know this is an adjustment."

To view the new ordinance, go to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on "ordinances." The fireworks ordinance is #02005-176.



COMMONS - cont. from pg. 1

The spadework was handled by Mayor Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor Michele Petitti, and Councilmembers Jack Barry, Mark Cross and Nancy Whitten.

Among the others helping out at the June 6 event were former Mayor Phil Dyer, King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert, City Manager Ben Yazici and Ron Bayley, the president of Bayley Construction, the company charged with building the project.

Located in the geographical center of the city, the Commons will anchor what community leaders believe will be the beginnings of a city center in Sammamish, a community of 38,000 scattered over 21 square miles.

Yazici says Sammamish, like all communities, will benefit from having a focal point that provides the city a sense of identity.

“I think it’s going to be something to be proud of for many generations



Mayor Don Gerend (center) is joined by Deputy Mayor Michele Petitti and Councilmember Jack Barry during groundbreaking remarks.

to come,” Yazici said.

The city purchased the Commons property in two parcels. The first 10 acres, right next to 228th Avenue, cost \$1 million in 1999. The adjoining 20 acres, farther west, cost \$2 million in 2002.

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

The city’s project manager, Sevda Baran, can be reached at 425-246-0307.



Sammamish Commons Project Manager Sevda Baran (center) and Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus (right) talk to Autumn Koepp of the Sammamish Review.



Ron Bayley, president of Bayley Construction, chats with Sammamish City Manager Ben Yazici shortly after the groundbreaking.

National Night Out slated for August 2



This scene from the 2003 National Night Out in Sammamish will be repeated in several places throughout the city on Aug. 2.

The city's police officers and firefighters will be out in force Tuesday, Aug. 2. But they hope to be eating hot dogs and sharing good times with local residents rather than fighting crime and fire.

Sammamish will once again take part in "National Night Out," a nationwide event intended to build trust and connections between neighbors, the community and public safety personnel.

Participating neighborhoods, cul de sacs and streets will welcome the uniformed personnel at barbecues and other informal gatherings.

Further details and a registration form are available on the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/NNO. Information is also available at 425-836-7957.

Growth phasing

At press time, the City Council was expected to vote on a "growth phasing" ordinance at its regular July 19 council meeting. The expected vote may mark the end of a long public process involving both the Planning Commission and the City Council.

With the city's development moratorium due to expire later this year, the new ordinance aims to prevent a sudden surge of new residential construction.

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. The Planning Commission ultimately rejected the point system, saying it was too complicated, and difficult to apply fairly.

More recent discussions have focused on "phasing," which would simply require larger developments to build out over a period of years. To view draft versions of the new ordinance, go to the city's website at : www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/MunicipalCode.aspx.

Amendments to comp plan

Informational open house scheduled for July 27

With both the City Council and the Planning Commission expected to hold hearings this fall on possible comprehensive plan amendments, the city is holding an open house this month to let residents take an early look at some of the options being considered.

Among other things, the open house will offer information on parks, transportation, fire protection services, and impact fees.

By state law, amendments to a city's comprehensive plan are allowed once per year.

The open house will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 4:30-7 p.m., at the Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 22818 S.E. Eighth Street. More information is available by contacting Darci Donovan at 425-836-7938.

“Summer Nights in the Park” underway

The Thursday night music concerts at Pine Lake Park have started; now it's time for the Bard.

The Wooden O Theatre will present Macbeth on Saturday, July 16th, at 6:30 p.m.

Now in its fifth season, the “Summer Nights in the Park” entertainment series continues to be a big success. For a complete listing of all the summer events, please go to the city website at: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on “Summer Nights 2005.”

In addition to sponsoring eight music concerts and two Shakespeare plays, the city is also offering two “Kids First” events.

At noon on Tuesday, July 26, kids can enjoy the “Reptile Man,” an interactive display. At noon on Tuesday, August 23, it's “Brothers from Different Mothers,” a juggling duo.

All of the Pine Lake Park events are free and open to the public.



A canine with a classical bent enjoys the Sammamish Symphony at Pine Lake Park last summer with friends.

Design starts on E. Lake Sammamish Parkway



Residents attending the Parkway design workshop sketch in their ideas.

A two-day design workshop on improvements to East Lake Sammamish Parkway drew comments from residents last month. The workshop, at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, was held on June 22 and 23.

The improvements will stretch along the northern portion of the parkway, from Inglewood Hill Road to 187th Avenue Northeast. The project will focus on improving safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. The project will also reduce congestion and enhance the attractiveness of the corridor.

The workshop and an earlier open house on April 6 were designed to gather community input on the project before specific designs were developed. Another open house is on tap next month for further review and comment from the public on initial concepts. That event is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 22818 S.E. Eighth St.

More information is available on the project web page at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP.

BALLFIELDS - cont. from pg. 1

“We signed cooperation agreements with both the Lake Washington and Issaquah School Districts so we could begin sharing space and resources,” Watling said. “We hope to pursue similar opportunities in the future.”

Among those at the June 21 ceremonial groundbreaking were Lake Washington School District Superintendent Don Saul and Mayor Don Gerend.

Thanks to lights for evening activity and it’s synthetic surface, the field will get heavy use, alleviating pressure on other community fields. Since residents will use the field after school hours, they will be able to use pre-existing parking space.

For more information on the project, go to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on “projects.”



Breaking ground (from left): Forrest Miller, Lake Washington School District (LWSD); Superintendent Don Saul, LWSD; Councilmember Lee Felling; Doug Eglinton, LWSD School Board; Councilmember Kathleen Huckabay; Mayor Don Gerend; City Manager Ben Yazici; Parks Director Jeff Watling; Park Commissioner John Rossi; and Associate Principal Tim Patterson, East Lake High School.

PSE substation work will affect traffic

Construction of a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) substation, scheduled to resume this month, will cause intermittent traffic delays along Northeast Eighth Street over the next four or five months.

The substation, about 800 feet east of 228th Avenue on Northeast Eighth Street, will require substantial trenching and power pole installation work. Most of the work will be on the south side of Northeast Eighth, where PSE will dig up the sidewalk for installation of underground conduit.

In addition to the 800 feet of construction on Northeast Eighth, the work will cross 228th Avenue and extend about 200 feet along Inglewood Hill Road. Completion of the project, expected in October or November, will require the repaving of the intersection at 228th Avenue and Northeast Eighth.

The substation, which began construction last year, will improve reliability – reducing the size, frequency and length of power outages.

Community business fair on July 30th

Sammamish Chamber of Commerce sponsors event

To help acquaint residents with the hundreds of businesses located in Sammamish, many of them home-based enterprises, the Chamber of Commerce is holding its second annual Community Business Fair this month.

The fair will run from noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, July 30, at Discovery Elementary, 2300 228th Avenue S.E. Admission is free.

The fair will feature many of the products and services local businesses offer to the community, local entertainment, informative seminars and hourly raffles. Those attending will also have the opportunity to make donations to area food banks.

For more information, including details on business event participation, contact Steve Hawn at 206-963-0814 or SCCEvents@comcast.net.

Concrete accomplishments

City wins award for “rock fascia” walls along 228th Ave.

Although retaining walls aren't normally associated with compliments, the city received a big one last month from the Washington Aggregates and Concrete Association.

For its replication of rock texture on a pair of walls along 228th Avenue, the association gave the city its “Excellence in Concrete” award.

“Since we needed walls for our 228th Avenue improvements,” Public Works Director Delora Kerber said, “we decided to make them as attractive as possible.”

The walls were constructed in three phases. The first crew erected the soldier pile walls and shotcreted the surface. Another crew carved and smoothed the surface, and yet another stained the rock with the normal color variations found in nature.



The Excellence in Concrete construction award (left) for rock fascia walls along 228th Avenue N.E.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JULY

Monday, 4 Jul 2005

- Independence Day
- City offices closed

Thursday, 7 Jul 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Friday, 8 Jul 2005 - Sunday, 10 Jul 2005

- King County Wastemobile, From 10 am to 5 pm

each day

Eastlake High School

Monday, 11 Jul 2005

- Community Development Committee Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Neighborhood Connections Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Sahalee Fire Station #82

Tuesday, 12 Jul 2005

- City Council Special Meeting / Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, 14 Jul 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Saturday, 16 Jul 2005

- Summer Nights Shakespeare, 6:30 pm - 11 pm

Pine Lake Park

Monday, 18 Jul 2005

- Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, 19 Jul 2005

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

Sammamish City Hall

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, 20 Jul 2005

- Critical Areas Advisory Committee Meeting, 6 pm - 8 pm

Beaver Lake Lodge

Thursday, 21 Jul 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

- Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Saturday, 23 Jul 2005

- Summer Nights Shakespeare, 6:30 pm - 11 pm

Pine Lake Park

Monday, 25 Jul 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 26 Jul 2005

- “Kids First” Noontime Series, 12 pm - 1 pm

Pine Lake Park

- 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

Wednesday, 27 Jul 2005

- 2005 Comprehensive Plan Revisions Open House, 4:30 pm - 7 pm

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church

- Technology Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, 28 Jul 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

AUGUST

Thursday, 4 Aug 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Thursday, 11 Aug 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Thursday, 18 Aug 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, 23 Aug 2005

- “Kids First” Noontime Series, 12 pm - 1 pm

Pine Lake Park

Thursday, 25 Aug 2005

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Pine Lake Park

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



Community Development

Meets 2nd Monday, 5 pm

Mark Cross, Chair
Michele Petitti
Kathleen Huckabay



Public Works

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5 pm

Jack Barry, Chair
Mark Cross
Nancy Whitten



Human Services

Meets as needed

Michele Petitti, Lee Felling



Finance

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 11:30 am

Lee Felling, Chair
Jack Barry
Nancy Whitten



Public Safety

Meets 4th Tuesday, 5 pm

Kathleen Huckabay, Chair
Mark Cross,
Lee Felling



Legislative

Meets as needed

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



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Ben Yazici	City Manager
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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