



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 40

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2005

Residents give city high marks

Community survey shows positive trend

Among those who stated an opinion during a recent, community-wide phone poll, 86.6 percent agreed that the “overall direction of the city is on the right track.” Only 13.4 percent disagreed with that assessment. On that particular question, 79 out of 386 respondents stated no opinion.

The 86.6 number is up significantly from 2004, when 81.9 percent agreed the city was on the “right track,” and 2003, when the percentage was 75.6.

“The City Council and the city staff are very excited about the way

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Mayor Don Gerend, Councilmember Lee Felling and King County Executive Ron Sims go to work at the Park-and-Ride site.

Park-and-Ride to open in spring

The intersection of 228th Avenue and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, long defined by the QFC shopping center, is rapidly developing another major feature – the new Sound Transit Park-and-Ride lot.

The \$7.7 million project, on the west side of 228th Avenue, will provide space for 265 parking stalls, bus loading, bicycle storage, customer amenities and information kiosks.

“This is an important step in reducing regional congestion,” Mayor Don Gerend said. “We’re especially

proud of a unique storm water treatment system that will protect Pine Lake.”

Gerend, Councilmember Lee Felling and King County Executive Ron Sims were among several officials on hand last month to commemorate the new construction with the ceremonial planting of three pine tree saplings, a reflection of the project’s environmentally friendly design.

The Sound Transit project, built in cooperation with King County Metro Transit and the city, is expected to open next spring.

Katrina and Rita: Short-term and long-term impact

Our hearts and our pocketbooks have opened to the victims of Katrina and Rita. Sammamish citizens are contributing to relief funds, many are



Mayor
Don Gerend

actively participating in relief and reconstruction efforts, and others are offering housing here in Sammamish for evacuees.

And now, as a city, we can plan for the future events, be they local disasters or second order effects of climate changes and other paradigm shifts of major proportions, so that when the time comes we are more

able to accept the challenge. We must use these current disasters as learning experiences, nationally and locally.

Short term ramifications are already being felt locally; gas and home heating prices are spiking, widespread disruption in the marketplace is occurring (including critical building supplies), and financial impacts are being felt at the individual level on up to the federal and global level.

Looking to the long term, Katrina and Rita are harbingers of a future reality that begs for planning to start now. Sammamish citizens are overly dependent on the auto. Petroleum is a nonrenewable resource and, quite frankly, the proven reserves are running out.

What can we do locally and regionally? We can enhance our transit options – more park-and-ride

lots, more routes and more frequency. We can wean ourselves off oil and support alternative energy programs such as wind, solar, hydroelectric and nuclear (if done right, nuclear energy can be cost effective, safe and environmentally friendly).

Individually we can look to hybrid or all-electric vehicles. Small shuttle vehicles to get us to transit stops and small shuttle vehicles to get us from transit stops to our work places can be electric powered. This scenario might sound radical now, but it might become a reality in the future. Planning needs to start now.

Finally, our homes can become our workplaces for many more of us, with government support and encouragement of the availability of enhanced technology.

Sammamish Commons update

With the doors due to swing open next summer, the new City Hall is going up fast. And so are the trails, play areas and public spaces that will surround it on the 30-acre site known as Sammamish Commons.

“We’re on schedule, and very excited,” Sevda Baran, the city’s project manager, said. “It’s great to see a vision become a reality.”

The \$15.7 million project will also feature a youth activity area with a sports court, skate park, and climbing wall.

The Sammamish Commons site is located just west of Skyline High School, near the intersection of 228th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Eighth Street.



Looking southwest as the new City Hall rises next to 228th Avenue.

SURVEY - cont. from pg. 1

these positive numbers are climbing,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “If we keep working hard on the right things, we hope the trend will continue.”

On several of the questions, residents were asked to react to a statement about the city. Their answer options were:

- 1 = strongly disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 3 = no opinion
- 4 = agree
- 5 = strongly agree

Some examples include:

Statement: Since incorporation, the city has become a better place to live.

Among those who stated an opinion: 89.5% agreed or strongly agreed; 10.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed. (98 out of 365 stated no opinion.)

Statement: The city is making good progress on improving city roads.

Among those who stated an opinion: 76.5% agreed or strongly agreed; 23.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed. (65 out of 388 stated no opinion.)

Statement: I’m satisfied with the leadership of the City Council and the city administration.

Among those who stated an opinion: 81.6% agreed or strongly agreed; 18.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed. (123 out of 373 stated no opinion.)

Statement: Since incorporation, services now provided by the city have improved.

Among those who stated an opinion: 85% agreed or strongly agreed; 15% disagreed or strongly disagreed. (122 out of 355 respondents stated no opinion.)

Statement: Police presence in the city is just about right.

Among those who stated an opinion: 78.5% agreed or strongly agreed; 21.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed. (73 out of 385 respondents stated no opinion.)

In two other questions, residents were asked about bonds.

Question: How willing would you be to vote for a park bond to pay for more park improvements?

Among those who gave an answer: 79.1% were somewhat willing or very willing; 20.9% were somewhat unwilling or very unwilling. (24 out of 392 stated no answer.)

Question: How willing would you be to vote for a bond to fund transportation improvements?

Among those who gave an answer: 77.6% were somewhat willing or very willing; 22.4% were somewhat unwilling or very unwilling. (26 out of 392 respondents stated no answer.)

Other survey highlights:

■ “Scenery” and “small town feel” were what residents enjoyed most about living in Sammamish.

■ “Traffic/congestion” was what residents would most like to change about the city.

■ Parks, youth activities, a pool, trails, and ball fields were identified as the most important recreation needs in the city.

■ When asked to identify what

the city’s top priorities should be, the top three choices were “traffic,” “managing growth development,” and “roads/streets.”

■ When asked how safe they felt walking alone in their neighborhood, 93.6% said they felt “very safe” or “reasonably safe.”

■ When asked to rate the refuse and garbage collection services in the city, 78% said the services were either “excellent” or “good.”

“I think these very positive responses show that people remember what it was like before incorporation.”

*Ben Yazici
City Manager*

The random phone survey, with a sample size of around 400 on most questions, was conducted by Sound Communication of University Place. Sound Communication did similar surveys for the city in 2003 and 2004.

“I think these very positive responses show that people remember what it was like before incorporation,” Yazici said. “Obviously, most of our residents think self-governance was the right choice.”

To look at the complete community survey, please go to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and scroll down to “News.” Residents with questions can also call Communications Manager Tim Larson at 425-836-7905.



Community Sports Field taking shape



Synthetic turf installed in the southwest corner of the Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School.

A cooperative venture between the city and the Lake Washington School District is about to produce a brand-new, three-acre sports field at Eastlake High School. The multi-purpose, synthetic turf field, to be used by residents and students alike, is moving toward completion in November.

The \$2.5 million project is under construction on what used to be an open field on the school campus. Among other activities, the new space will accommodate baseball, softball, youth football, lacrosse and soccer.

The new facility is an important step toward the city's goal of alleviating the shortage of sports fields in the community.

For more information on the Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School, go to the city's website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on "projects."

Web tax calculator wins recognition

A special feature on the city's website, created by Financial Analyst Aaron Antin and Webmaster Andy Stringer, was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by the Association of Washington Cities this year.

The feature, a property tax calculator that estimates how much specific properties will owe, and shows how the money will be distributed, has been emulated by several other cities.

"It's innovative and educational," Finance Director Lyman Howard said. "We've received a lot of positive comments from residents and realtors alike."

To take a look, go to the city's website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on the "Tools" tab on the left side of the home page. Questions should be directed to Aaron Antin at 425-836-7944 or aantin@ci.sammamish.wa.us.



Aaron Antin and Andy Stringer hold the Certificate of Achievement awarded to the city this year by the Association of Washington Cities.

City appeals growth board ruling on moratorium

A ruling that the city's development moratorium was "invalid," handed down by the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board, is being appealed to King County Superior Court by the city.

Arguing, among other things, that "the board erred by failing to give deference to the City Council" as required under the state's Growth Management Act, the city asked for a reversal of the board's decision.

"Our City Council mapped out a smooth transition from the moratorium to our growth phasing ordinance," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "This appeal is an effort to safeguard

that transition."

The board's decision, made just a few days before the moratorium was due to expire and give way to growth phasing, created a regulatory gap which allowed developers to try to submit applications for 610 new lots or units in just two days.

After accepting only those applications deemed complete, however, only 72 new, proposed residential lots entered the city's permit pipeline. Several developers whose applications were not accepted have since sued the city.

"If we win the appeal, we think most of the application issues will get

resolved and we'll be able to implement the original plan," Yazici said.

The growth phasing plan calls for a random allocation process, or lottery, that would allow applications for 420 lots in the first year and another 420 in the second year. The two-year life of the growth phasing ordinance began Aug. 15.

More information is available on this issue by going to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and clicking on the "Land Use Applications" tab on the left side of the home page. Information is also available by calling the Community Development Department at 425-836-7938.

New sidewalk at the top of Snake Hill Road

Along with roads and parks, sidewalks were much in demand when the city incorporated in 1999.

A new 200-foot section of sidewalk at the southern end of 212th Avenue S.E. is one of the latest gaps to be filled as the city continues to

address the infrastructure deficit it inherited from the pre-incorporation era.

Construction of the sidewalk and associated landscaping began in early April. The job, managed by city crews, wrapped up in early August.

The new path will allow pedes-

trians to walk much more safely as they navigate a turn along 212th just above the long, twisting descent to East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

That descending road, officially 212th Way S.E., is more commonly referred to as Snake Hill Road.



Before



After

Commission and Board applicants face October 31 deadline

Planning Commission: The Commission is advisory to the City Council on the preparation and amendment of land use plans and implementing ordinances such as zoning. Commissioners are selected to represent all areas of the city and as many “walks of life” as possible. *The term length is four years.*

Parks & Recreation Commission: The commission provides guidance and direction in meeting the parks and recreational needs of the city by advising the City Council and staff on matters relating to planning, acquisition, development and operation of park facilities and recreational programs within the city. *The term length is three years.*

Arts Commission: The commission’s mission is to promote and facilitate public participation and involvement in the development of the arts in the community. *The length of the term is four years.*

Technology Committee: The duty of the committee is to study and make recommendations to the City Council on technology issues, ranging from those affecting city governments to those of broad community interest. All applicants are appointed. *Length of term is four years.*

To apply, please submit a letter of interest describing why you would like to be on the commission/committee, a resume, and a completed city questionnaire, available on the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us. Application materials can be mailed to:

**City of Sammamish
City Clerk
486 228th Avenue NE
Sammamish, WA 98075**

Email submittals can be sent to manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us or faxed to (425) 898-0669. The deadline for submitting applications is **October 31, 2005**. The City Council will interview all candidates on **November 22, 2005** at the City Council Study Session. (An alternative interview date is scheduled for November 8, 2005.) For further information, please contact Melonie Anderson at (425) 836-7904.

Public meeting on Pine Lake management plan

With the development of a Pine Lake management plan on the horizon, the city is inviting residents to attend an informational meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Discovery Elementary, 2300 228th Ave. S.E.

City staff and consultants will share the latest data from the lake and discuss how a lake management plan might work. When the plan is implemented, the goal will be to maintain or improve the water quality and general health of Pine Lake.

For more information on lake management plans and the Oct. 12 meeting, please contact Project Manager Eric LaFrance at 425-836-7943 or elafrance@ci.sammamish.wa.us.



Planning for Sammi awards underway

Organizers of the Sammi awards are already hard at work making plans for the 5th annual community celebration. The event, celebrating volunteerism and special accomplishments by Sammamish residents, is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, at Eastlake High School.

To help with planning or to become a sponsor, please contact Jim Berry at 425-391-5333.

The deadline for nominations is Dec. 15. For more information on the award categories, and to download a nomination form, please go to the Sammi awards website at www.sammiaward.org.

Bus shelter enhanced by Arts Commission



Daphne Robinson stands next to a 228th Avenue bus shelter spruced up by the Arts Commission. The shelter, just south of Inglewood Hill Road, bears a fish and water treatment created by Robinson, the Arts Commission chair.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Monday, 3 Oct 2005

- Community Development Committee Meeting, 5 - 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 4 Oct 2005

- Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources Committee Meeting, 5 - 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, 5 Oct 2005

- WSDOT SR 520 Open House, 5 - 7 pm

Redmond Library, 15990 NE 85th St

Thursday, 6 Oct 2005

- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Saturday, 8 Oct 2005

- King County Recycling Collection Event, 9 am - 3 pm

Sunny Hills Elementary School

- Sammamish Safety Fair, 10 am - 2 pm

Eastlake High School

Tuesday, 11 Oct 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 13 Oct 2005

- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, 17 Oct 2005

- Neighborhood Connections Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm

Sahalee Fire Station #82

Tuesday, 18 Oct 2005

- Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Public Works Committee Meeting, 5 - 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 20 Oct 2005

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

Sammamish Library

- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 25 Oct 2005

- Public Safety Committee Meeting, 5 - 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 27 Oct 2005

- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Sunday, 30 Oct 2005

- Finance Committee Meeting, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Sammamish City Hall

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 1 Nov 2005

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 3 Nov 2005

- Planning Commission Meeting, 7 - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 8 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Friday, 11 Nov 2005

- Veterans' Day, All day

City offices closed

Tuesday, 15 Nov 2005

- Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Public Works Committee Meeting, 5 - 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 17 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Library

- Planning Commission Meeting, 7 - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 22 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 24 Nov 2005 - Friday, 25 Nov 2005

- Thanksgiving Day, All day

City offices closed

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 1st 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.



City of Sammamish Offices
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Phone: 425-898-0660 • Fax: 425-898-0669

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

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Nancy Whitten, Councilmember
nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us

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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