



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 41

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2005

Developers find out when they can start

Allocation process works well

With property owners gathered around on Oct. 24, a random number generator brought smiles and frowns as the results flashed up on the wall.

The computer, operated by an independent Certified Public Accountant, put a series of unique ID numbers in random order. That order meant that some applicants could initiate development in year one, some in year two, and the rest in year three and beyond.

“It went remarkably well,” said Community Development Director Kamuron Gurol. “We think the random allocation process was a really fair

See **ALLOCATION**, page 3

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Development allocation	1
Trail construction	1
Mayor's message	2
Park-and-Ride	3
ECityGov Alliance award	4
Critical areas	4
Fall Volunteer Day	5
Haunted House	5
National budget award	6
Sammi Awards	6
South Pine Lake Route Project	6
Sammamish 21 TV	7
City Hall Calendar	7
Council committees	8



County crews install a new pipe along the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

Trail to open in late January

After years of wrangling between King County and trailside residents, the final leg of the East Lake Sammamish Trail is headed toward completion.

Construction of the Sammamish segment, a 7-mile section between the already completed Redmond and Issaquah segments, began in September.

Although an earlier schedule called for completion in late December, King County Project Manager Mike Lozano now says the trail effort should wrap up in late January. The one-month delay resulted from numerous requests from residents for additional fencing, Lozano said.

When finished, the 11-mile recreational trail will stretch from Redmond to Issaquah, curving along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish.

The initial, or interim, version of the trail will feature a compacted gravel surface suitable for pedestrians and mountain bikes. Thin-tired bikes and inline skates won't be appropriate until the trail is paved as part of a master plan construction phase. No date has been set for the master plan phase.

Residents with construction questions should call Mike Lozano at 206-296-4240. Property questions should go to Robert Nunnenkamp at 206-263-6207.

Sammamish as a family

To say it takes a community to raise a child implies that the community is really the extended family of



Mayor
Don Gerend

the child. I envision Sammamish becoming the greater family for all of us. And by Sammamish I don't mean just the city govern-

ment; I mean all of us working together to mutually support each other.

In addition to city staff and the seven elected councilmembers, there are already boards and commissions serving us all by advising the city council and staff. These volunteer positions are time consuming and non-paying, except for the reward of knowing that you are helping the Sammamish family. There is the Arts Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Technology Committee. The meetings are open to the public, and non-board members are encouraged to come and participate.

There also is the Sammamish Historical Society, the Friends of the Sammamish Library, the Sammamish Cultural Alliance (a non-profit organization committed to raising private funds to support various cultural programs in Sammamish), and the Sammamish Symphony Orchestra.

Then there are the service clubs – the Kiwanis, the Rotary, and the Chamber of Commerce. There is the Sammi Awards organization. There is the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. There are the special events that rely on volunteers – the Beaver Lake Marathon, the concerts and plays in Pine Lake Park in the summer, the Cascade Classic girls basketball tournament, and academic competition at winter holiday time.

There are also those many homeowner associations which have volunteer boards and committees. In addition, city staff meet quarterly with representatives of all those associations to maintain two-way communication on activities and ideas.

***“With all of us
doing our parts,
Sammamish can
be an even greater
'family' than it is
now.”***

There are the scouting organizations, the churches with their own great participation and support programs, the clubs at the schools, the PTSA associations, and other volunteer opportunities through the schools such as the mentoring and tutoring programs. We have grass roots environmental and neighborhood groups supporting the sensitive ecology of our lakes and streams and open spaces.

There are many human service and charitable organizations, largely staffed by volunteers dedicated to help us all in times of need. There are people working on a volunteer basis to help the community enhance its “family” amenities, be that a community center, a youth center, a senior center, a new library or a post office.

To keep the Sammamish family home looking good, there is the Adopt A Road program, or you can simply grab a garbage bag, some gloves and preferably a bright orange or yellow vest, and clean the road side of litter in the vicinity of your own house. Encouraging the other members of our family not to litter, through education and peer pressure, also helps.

Oh, and by the way, in any family a little sibling rivalry can be stimulating. A case in point – the recent “big game” between the football teams of Eastlake and Skyline high schools. Maybe this can be extended to city-wide academic rivalries, such as the city math contest, held the first year of our incorporation, or spin-offs of school spelling and geography bees.

Volunteer time, creativity and commitment mean so much for these programs. To create and maintain a family is a never-ending program, and with all of us doing our parts Sammamish can be an even greater “family” than it is now.

Commuters eye progress on Park-and-Ride

Sleepy drivers on the way to work may be looking longingly at the new Park-and-Ride rapidly taking shape at 228th Avenue and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road.

It could mean a long nap on a bus. Or a chance to read the morning paper instead of tapping the brakes for an hour or so.

“We’re excited about this new facility,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It’s one more tool we can use to help with congestion.”

The \$7.7 million project will provide space for 265 parking stalls, bus loading, bicycle storage, customer amenities and information kiosks.

The Sound Transit facility, built in cooperation with King County Metro Transit, will open in the spring.



Looking west from 228th Avenue at the new 265-space Park-and-Ride.

ALLOCATION – cont. from pg. 1

way to spread development out over a few years and avoid a huge spike of activity immediately after our moratorium ended.”

Flattening that spike was one goal of the city’s new “growth phasing” ordinance, which went into effect after the city’s development moratorium expired on Aug. 14. That moratorium had been in effect since the city incorporated in 1999.

During the ordinance’s two-year life, it allows applications for 420 residential lots in the first year, and another 420 in the second year. In the third year and beyond, the city has not placed a limit on the number of lots developers may apply for.

“The property owners who participated in the allocation process now know when they can start their process,” Gurol said. “And the city staff-

ers who review projects, issue permits, and so on, now have a good grip on the challenges ahead.”

Another aspect of the “phasing” ordinance is its requirement that larger developments build out over a period of time. Projects with 91 or more units, for example, will be required to record their lots over three years, with approximately one-third of the lots recorded each year.

“Given that it takes one to three years just to get preliminary approval, build the utilities and roads, and then record the lots, a project like that might not build out for four or five years,” Gurol said.

If any evidence was needed to demonstrate the value of a phasing mechanism, the number of applicants on Oct. 24 certainly supplied it. Over 130 applicants participated in the allocation process. Those applications translated into more than 2,000 resi-

dential lots.

“That would have been a huge spike,” Gurol said, “especially when the community is trying to catch up on roads, parks and the other infrastructure deficits we inherited at incorporation.”

The growth phasing ordinance was adopted in July after intense, long-term consideration of the issue by the Planning Commission, City Council and a broad array of stakeholders. Developers, small property owners and other community residents shared their perspectives on the complex issue in numerous public meetings.

In accordance with the state’s Growth Management Act, Sammamish’s comprehensive plan calls for an additional 3,842 residential units by the year 2022. Gurol estimates Sammamish, one of the fastest-growing cities in the state, will reach that 20-year goal in less than 10 years.

Property data and maps available on city website

NWMaps.net part of eCityGov Alliance

Instead of making a special trip to City Hall, Sammamish residents can now access property information and view maps via the city website. The service, provided by the ECityGov Alliance, is expected to be used by homeowners, realtors, contractors, and visitors.

“Putting this information at everyone’s fingertips should save everybody time,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It makes our decision to be part of the eCityGov Alliance look better all the time.”

The alliance, a consortium of mostly Eastside cities, allows residents to access services in their community through a regional online system. Other features on the system include MyBuildingPermit.com and MyParksandRecreation.com.

The city recently received a Program Excellence Award for its part in the development of the ECityGov Alliance. Yazici presented the award, from the International City/County Management Association, to the City Council on Oct. 4.

The new property data service, known as NWMaps.net, can be accessed by clicking “maps” and then “property search” on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us).



Mayor Don Gerend (left) accepts the Program Excellence Award from City Manager Ben Yazici at the Oct. 4 City Council meeting.

Residents speak out on Critical Areas

City Council continues public hearing on Nov. 15

An update to the city’s Critical Areas Code picked up speed Nov. 1 when the City Council opened its public hearing. This council hearing marks the beginning of the final review step in a long public process that will ultimately lead to the adoption of the update in mid-December.

Like other cities and counties, Sammamish is required by the state’s Growth Management Act to periodically update its Critical Areas Code. The goal is to protect, among other things, environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, and

steep slopes.

Wetland Biologist Kathy Curry, the city’s Critical Areas project manager, has already witnessed a great deal of public input.

“The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) held the first of its five meetings in May,” Curry said. “That was a great way to get residents involved and make sure we heard from the community.”

The CAC’s recommendations then went to the Planning Commission, which had a half-dozen public meetings of its own before completing its recom-

mendations to the council on Oct. 27.

If everything goes according to schedule, the council will wrap up its public hearing on Nov. 15 and adopt the amendments on Dec. 13.

To see the recommendations from the Planning Commission, please go to the Sammamish city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the “Critical Areas” tab on the left side of the home page.

Residents who want information beyond what is provided on the website may call the Department of Community Development at 425-836-7938.

Fright freaks flock to “Nightmare”

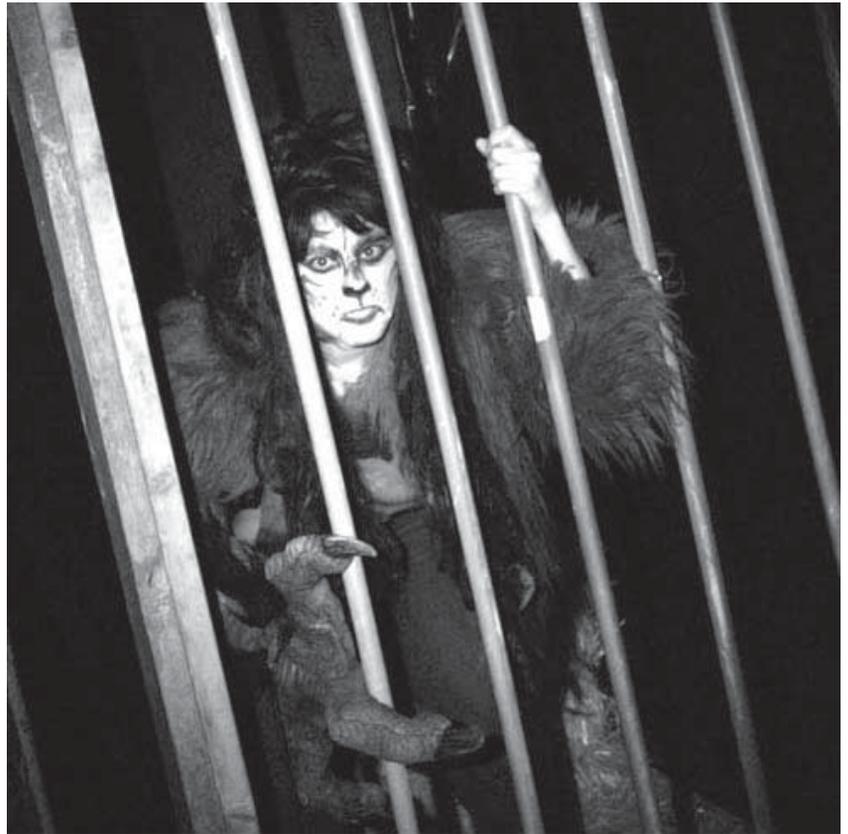
Beaver Lake Park Haunted House draws record crowds

In 2004, its first year, The Nightmare at Beaver Lake drew an impressive 4,200 fright fans to its Halloween festivities. This year, the ghoulish count shot up to 5,575.

“Even though the “Nightmare” is only two years old, this is turning into a terrific community event,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The Rotary Club and all the other community volunteers should be congratulated.”

With the city providing the venue and some staff support, the event drew big crowds during its four-day, Oct. 27-31, run. Reports from survivors indicate both the spooky outdoor trail and the haunted house were surpassingly “scarilicious.” The “Nighmare” was fleshed out with the help of 150 actors from local high schools.

The event also took in 1,800 pounds of food for the Issaquah Food Bank thanks to a \$1 discount on tickets for those thoughtful enough to bring a contribution.



Haunted House hostess tries to reach out and touch someone.

Fall Volunteer Day beautifies park

Wearing gloves and wielding shovels, residents dug into the soft earth at East Sammamish Park and made a difference Oct. 22.

The park, next to Margaret Mead Elementary, now features 300 new plants – everything from flowers to evergreens.

“It was a beautiful day,” said Lola Nelson-Mills, the city’s volunteer coordinator. “I think everyone had a lot of fun getting dirty and doing something good for the community.”

For their efforts on the sunny Saturday morning, volunteers got hot drinks, refreshments and a big pat on the back.

“It’s an ideal opportunity for parents and their kids to make a contribution together,” Kevin Husemann of the Parks Department said. “We’re going to do something similar in April.”



Alexander Brunke and his mom Jill make a good team during the city’s Fall Volunteer Day.



Mark Neary (center) of the Government Finance Officers Association joins Mayor Don Gerend (left) and Finance Director Lyman Howard (right) after presenting the city with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

City earns national budget award

The city's biennial budget for 2005/2006 has been awarded the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" by the Government Finance Officers Association, a professional group representing 14,000 government finance professionals throughout North America.

"Only a small percentage of American cities receive this award," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Our staff deserves tremendous credit for creating a clear, transparent budget document our residents can understand."

The award, presented to Finance Director Lyman Howard and Financial Analyst Aaron Antin, is the city's second. The 2003/2004 biennial budget was similarly honored. To win, a budget must impress the judges as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communication device.

Nomination deadline for Sammi Awards

With the fifth annual Sammi Awards celebration just four months away, organizers are very busy these days.

Last month, they held a fundraiser at DC's Grill, and a kickoff event to recruit volunteers and spread the word about this popular community event.

Sammi Awards President Jim Berry is also busy talking to potential sponsors. He can be reached at 425-837-8888.

The awards event, to be held Saturday, March 18, at Eastlake High School, celebrates volunteerism and special accomplishments by Sammamish residents. As it has in past years, the Sammi Awards event will be videotaped and replayed numerous times on the city's cable channel, Sammamish 21 TV.

With the deadline for nominations coming up on Dec. 15, residents are encouraged to get their nominations in.

For more information on the award categories, and to download a nomination form, please go to the Sammi Awards website at www.sammiawards.org.

Improving bikeways and walkways south of Pine Lake

Open house set for Dec. 7

A project aimed at improving bicycle and pedestrian pathways from 224th Avenue Southeast to 212th Avenue Southeast – just south of Pine Lake – will receive close public scrutiny next month.

The city will hold an Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7-8:30 p.m., at Discovery Elementary, 2300 228th Ave. S.E., so residents can review preliminary design alternatives. Those interested can stop by anytime between 7 and 8:30 p.m. to look at displays and discuss the alternatives with project staff.

The improvements, known as the South Pine Lake Route Project, will run along Southeast 32nd Street, 216th Avenue Southeast, Southeast 28th Street, 222nd Place Southeast and Southeast 30th Street.

For more information, please contact Project Manager Jed Ireland at 425-836-7909. Emails may be sent to SPLRproject@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Community oriented programming on Sammamish 21 TV

Since it debuted in December 2003, the city's cable channel – Sammamish 21 TV – has slowly been adding more programming.

Initially, it featured only a few informational videos and a bulletin board. Then, in June 2004, the City Council meetings began to air on a tape-delayed basis.

“I think putting the City Council meetings on Channel 21 has been really valuable,” Communications Manager Tim Larson said. “Although it's not “must see TV,” it gives residents a glimpse of how much time councilmembers have to put in, how complex some of the issues are, and how rare the ‘easy answers’ are.”

More recently, Sammamish 21 TV added Lake Washington school board meetings, Q & A sessions with City Manager Ben Yazici, and a number of tape-delayed Skyline High School football games.

“The Skyline football booster club paid a production company to tape the games,” Larson said. “It was great. All we did was accept a DVD.

“If we're provided with recordings of a school play or concert, an academic competition, or some other community-oriented program, we'd be happy to consider it



City Manager Ben Yazici answers questions from Communications Manager Tim Larson during an Oct. 21 television taping of “Q & A.”

for Ch. 21. Naturally, the decision to air something would have to be made on a case-by-case basis.”

If and when the Issaquah School District tapes its school board meetings, or if Eastlake High School were to tape its athletic events, Larson says Ch. 21 would welcome the recordings.

“Grassroots television productions with broad community interest are great,” Larson said. “They give residents shared experiences and help bring people together.”

CITY HALL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 1 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 3 Nov 2005

- Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, 7 Nov 2005

- Community Development Committee Meeting, 5 pm - 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, 8 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, 16 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, 17 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Library

- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, 22 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 24 Nov 2005 - Friday, 25 Nov 2005

- Thanksgiving Day, All day

City offices closed

Monday, 28 Nov 2005

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location TBA

Tuesday, 29 Nov 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

DECEMBER

Tuesday, 13 Dec 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, 15 Dec 2005

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

Sammamish Library

Tuesday, 20 Dec 2005

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

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

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, 26 Dec 2005

- Christmas, 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



Finance

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 11:30 am

Lee Felling, 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 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

Kamuron Guroi

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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