



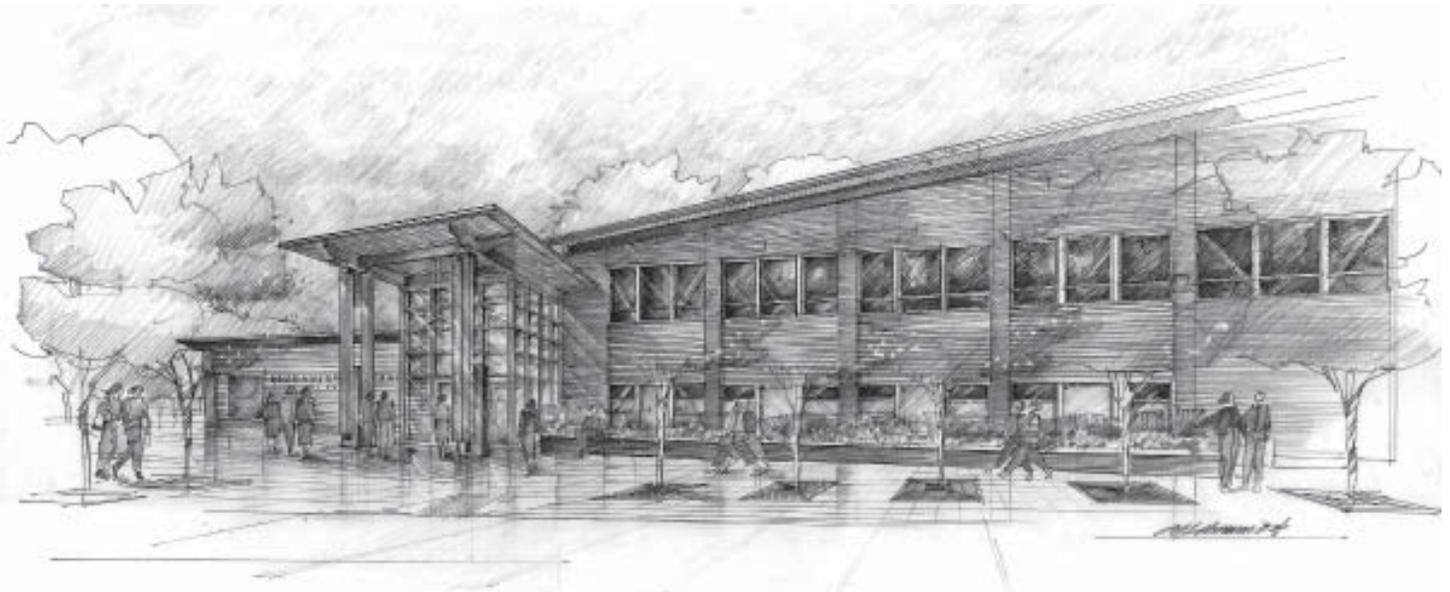
# City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 42

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

## The Town Center Challenge: *Can Sammamish create a city with a soul?*



*A sketch of the new City Hall building, one of the anchoring elements of the town center concept.*

Mention Paris, and people think of the Seine and the Eiffel Tower. Bring up Issaquah, and perhaps thoughts of old Front Street and Salmon Days come to mind. But what mental image does Sammamish trigger?

QFC? Safeway? The 228<sup>th</sup> corridor?

Although other cities may envy the rolling forests and lakeside scenery of Sammamish, the average person – even those who live in the community – would be hard pressed to point at something and say: “That’s Sammamish.”

As many plateau residents have said for years now, “There’s no there there.”

But that could all change dramatically over the next few years if the community meets a daunting, but exciting, challenge contained in the city’s comprehensive plan – the creation of a thriving, people-friendly town center in the geographical heart of the city.

The effort is already off to a fast start with the ongoing construction of Sammamish Commons, a park and civic complex featuring a new City Hall building. But that’s only a start, a 30-acre pump primer for a larger town center vision.

That vision came into soft focus in January when a Special Study Area Task Force of community volunteers recommended a town center with, among other things, trails, open space, housing, small-scale retail, low-impact development and family gathering places full of cultural, educational and social opportunities.

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## Cascade Classic: A mental and physical challenge

Between Christmas and New Years, a truly unique girls' basketball tournament, the Cascade Classic, will transpire for the sixth year in a row here in Sammamish.

This tournament is not just about basketball, but about mentorship of the participants, about educational field trips, and about the Pepsi Challenge Brain Game. The Brain Game, in a highly developed game show format, finds the basketball student-athletes engaged in team academic competition.

The tournament is about the kids, our city, our schools, and about volunteers and sponsors working to-



Mayor  
Don Gerend

gether in another community building experience. Both Eastlake and Skyline High Schools will be participating in and hosting the games.

Tournament Director Loren Stayboldt reports that this year some sixteen teams from Canada, California, Alaska and Washington will pit their physical and mental skills against one another, while having a chance to share life experiences and develop

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***“we are striving to build an environment that nurtures, challenges and educates our young people”***

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friendships. The tournament is founded on the John Wooden model of ethics/competition/sportsmanship.

In a City with one third of our population under age eighteen, we are striving to build an environment that nurtures, challenges and educates our young people. This tournament, with

teams ranging from Los Angeles to North Pole Alaska, is giving our community and kids exposure to others from totally different environments – a growing experience for all involved.

The basketball games will be at Eastlake High and Skyline High between December 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, some 32 games in all. And the Brain Games will be held at Pine Lake Covenant Church on December 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The schedule for the basketball games and the Brain Games can be found on the website, [www.cascadeclassic.org](http://www.cascadeclassic.org).

If past years are an indication, both the basketball games and the Brain Games will be highly entertaining. A lot of volunteers are working hard to make this one-of-a-kind girls basketball/academic tournament a resounding success once again. Let's give a warm welcome to our honored guests and enjoy some great holiday season high school competition. See you there?

### **TOWN CENTER - from pg. 1**

While the town center plan is scheduled to be adopted in the summer of 2007, and massive doses of public input will be taken between now and then, the City Council has settled on some preliminary boundaries for the study. The accompanying map shows a 200-acre expanse, roughly square, from Skyline High School north to Main Street and from 232<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the east to just west of 222<sup>nd</sup> Place.

“The community is fortunate to have such a large area in the geographical center of the city that hasn't been intensively developed,” City

Manager Ben Yazici said. “It's like a canvas waiting for residents to create something wonderful.”

For the most part, personal brushstrokes from residents will be considered in 2006.

“The city staff is working with the Planning Commission and City Council right now to create a realistic timeline for all the public input we need,” Yazici said. “The bulk of our community feedback will come next year, and then decision time will come in 2007.”

In addition to creating a “there there,” or a “sense of place,” as Yazici calls it, the town center could produce some very tangible transportation ben-

efits. Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol says small-scale retail in the town center could reduce car trips and promote walking and biking instead.

“If we have a network of walkways and bikeways feeding into and through the town center, allowing people to run an errand, buy a book, or drop into a small bakery, we'll reduce the number of vehicle trips off and back onto the plateau,” Gurol said.

Although the citywide moratorium on development applications lifted in August, a separate moratorium protecting the town center area

**See TOWN CENTER, page 3**

**TOWN CENTER - from pg. 2**

was adopted in July.

During this pause in development, the community will have a chance to consider several alternative town center concepts. It will do so with the help of several consulting firms, hired by the city to conduct the public outreach process and provide perspective on similar efforts in other cities.

“Mercer Island, Kirkland, and Mill Creek are just some of the communities that have been through this,” Gurol said. “The consultants we hire will help us, as they say, to ‘learn from the best and leave the rest.’”

After the city adopts a plan, with all the requisite development regulations and zoning, it’s possible a lead developer, or several developers, may emerge to build the housing, retail, office and recreational amenities of the town center.

Another question to be answered: How much of the road, storm water and other infrastructure would the city build, and how much would the developers be responsible for?

With so much to consider, and such an imposing opportunity to embrace, Yazici says all the stakeholders should approach the challenge with both excitement and patience.

“If you want to build something wonderful, you don’t get there over-

night,” Yazici said. “A community needs to find a way to talk, plan, and compromise – but still arrive at a special vision. That’s not something you can rush.”

“Sammamish has many intelligent, highly-engaged residents,” Yazici

input.

“The City Council started all this with a volunteer task force so the final product would reflect community values and tastes,” Yazici said. “We want to build on that solid foundation as we enter this next phase.”

The topography of the town center area presents another challenge. It has a variety of steep slopes, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas.

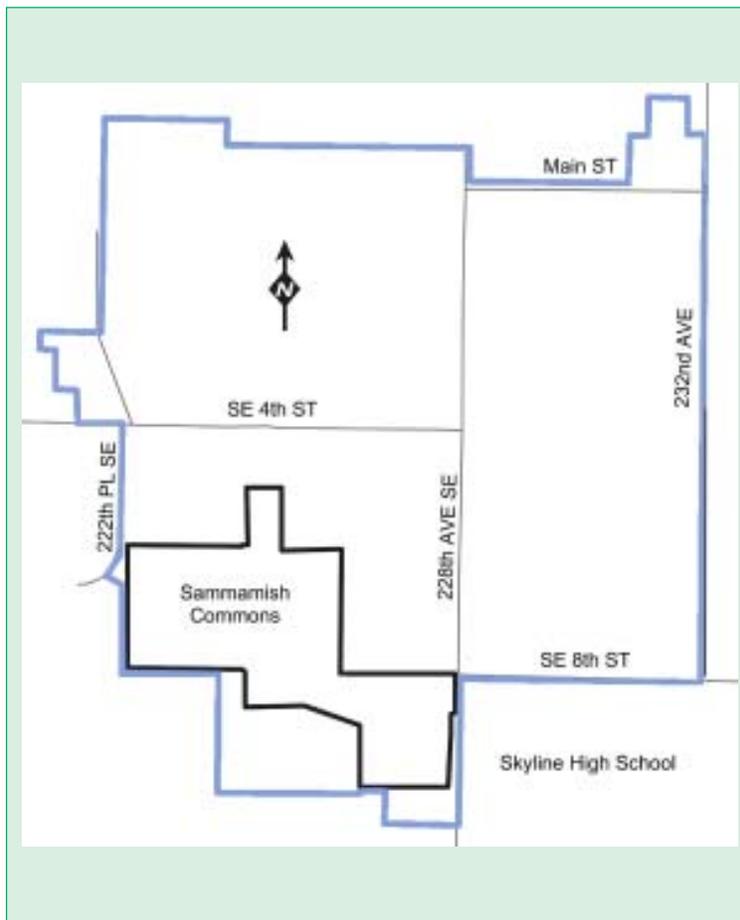
“We plan to work with nature, not against it,” Yazici said. “Our volunteer task force, Planning Commission, City Council and city staff have all embraced the idea of being creative and sensitive to nature.”

Over the next two years, the budget contains \$300,000 for consultants, environmental studies and other professional services focused on the town center. The city has also received a \$35,000 grant from the state to help launch the town center project.

“It’s an excellent investment in our community,” Yazici said. “Decades from now, when people hear the name Sammamish, they won’t just think of a strip mall.

“In their mind’s eye, they’ll see Sammamish Commons, a beautiful park and civic complex, surrounded by a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly town center.

“A hundred years from now, I want visitors to say ‘Wow!’ – these people really had a vision.”



*Proposed Town Center outlined in blue.*

said. “It would be nice if they all agreed on how to proceed, but we know that’s not going to happen.

“Our best hope is that a spirit of compromise will generate great ideas and a great final product.”

Staff and councilmembers are currently working out the details of the planning process and timeline. The city encourages residents to take full advantage of opportunities for public

# Ham radio operators ready to help



*Rick Olsen, who heads up the local Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), at his home station.*

A list of volunteer ham radio operators has been posted on the city website so Sammamish residents will know where to go for emergency communications in the event of a disaster. The list can be found at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Sarge.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Sarge.aspx).

Rick Olsen, the City of Sammamish Races (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) Officer, is trying to recruit more local radio operators for the group. Those interested are asked to send an email to [info@mysarge.net](mailto:info@mysarge.net). More information on the local group is also available at [www.mysarge.net](http://www.mysarge.net).

Olsen says the group has three basic roles during an emergency. The first is to assist fire and police with disaster communications. The second is to link the city's Emergency Operations Center to CERT (Community Emergency Response) teams. A third goal is to relay health and welfare information about Sammamish residents to out of town relatives and loved ones.

## CERT training begins Jan. 10

### *Community Emergency Response Team training lasts two months*

Under the auspices of the Sammamish Citizen Corps Council, training classes in emergency preparedness continue to be available to community residents. The 8-session program, which also covers fire suppression, disaster triage, disaster medical, light search and rescue, incident command, psychology and terrorism, begins Jan. 10 and ends on March 7. The classes, at Fire Station 82, will be taught every Tuesday evening except Feb. 7.

Jan Bromberg, president of the Sammamish Citizen Corps Council, says interest in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is very high right now.

"It seems Katrina and other disasters have created a lot of interest," Bromberg said. "I may already have enough applicants to start a second class."

Interested residents can get more information on the training by sending an email to [sammamishcitizencorps@hotmail.com](mailto:sammamishcitizencorps@hotmail.com), or by going to the organization's website at [www.sammamishcitizencorps.org](http://www.sammamishcitizencorps.org).

Their mission statement: "...to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds."

## Sammi Awards deadline nears

Nominations for the fifth annual Sammi Awards celebration must be submitted by Dec. 15. Nomination forms should be sent to:

**Sammi Awards**  
**704 228th Ave. N.E.**  
**PMB 291**  
**Sammamish, WA 98074**

Nominations will be accepted in nine categories: arts, business, courage, learning promotion, unsung hero, youth advocate, teen challenge, spirit of Sammamish, and the Trevor Price Children's Award.

To download a nomination form, please go to the Sammi website at [www.sammiawards.org](http://www.sammiawards.org).

# Clearing roads is a serious business

After receiving great reviews two winters ago for their exceptional road-clearing efforts, city crews were ready to hit the repeat button last winter. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on your point of view, the snow never arrived.

“We were ready,” Operations and Maintenance Manager Glenn Akramoff said, “but we didn’t really get any big storms.”

Last winter, with support from King County and the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer district, the city had six units ready to clear the roads in Sammamish. This year, the city has added another de-icer unit to its fleet of snowplows, sanders and de-icers.

“If we get a big storm, people who want roads cleared should call 425-898-0660 during business hours,” Akramoff said. “That’s the main City Hall number.

“After hours, we’ll be dispatched by King County at 1-800-296-8100.”



*Operations and Maintenance Manager Glenn Akramoff (far left) stands next to Ben Cooper, Jeff Dickinson, Kyle Endelman, Mike Keller, Dalton Luizzo, Ho Le, Tom Tubbs and Kobi Kershaw.*

## Lake buffers under consideration

### ***Critical areas code updates scheduled for adoption Dec. 13***

A recommendation from the Planning Commission to establish new buffer requirements for lakes and ponds, with incentives that allow buffer reduction, is being reviewed by the City Council. The buffer requirement, if adopted, would apply to new development such as home construction, additions, or clearing and grading permits. The new lake buffer would require preservation of existing natural vegetation and habitat on lake shoreline lots.

The city does not currently have a lake buffer in its environmental regulations. It does have shoreline setback requirements of either 20 or 50 feet, depending on the designation of the property in question.

Shoreline setbacks establish how

far structures must be from the water’s edge, but don’t prohibit alterations to natural habitat next to a lake. In contrast, a buffer would preserve or enhance the natural habitat functions and values along lake fronts.

In a memo to the City Council, Scot Jarvis, Planning Commission Chair, said the recommended code changes were the product of a comprehensive process.

“The Sammamish Planning Commission, after an extensive public process that included consideration of Best Available Science information, community input, and staff and consultant recommendations, is pleased to recommend the attached Critical Areas Code,” Jarvis wrote. “The public process utilized ...

has been open and inclusive of all viewpoints in the community.”

The proposed 50-foot lake buffer could be reduced to 20 feet if property owners agree to limit use of fertilizer and other chemicals, and agree to restore or preserve natural shoreline contours and habitat. The proposal also allows 25 percent of the property’s shoreline to be used for lake access.

The lake buffer recommendation is only one of several proposed changes to the code. The changes currently being reviewed by the City Council are scheduled to be adopted on Dec. 13.

More information on the code revisions can be found on the city’s website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) by clicking on “Critical Areas.”

# Attention all kids (and youthful adults)!

## *New police trading cards hit the streets*

If running a red light is your traditional way of starting up conversations with police officers, you now have a new option – ask for their latest trading cards.

Police Chief Dick Baranzini says the third edition of the Sammamish Police Department trading cards are now available.

“These trading cards have been very popular,” Baranzini said. “We encourage all kids, young and old, to approach our officers and ask for some.”

The cards feature a picture on the front and a short biography of the officer on the back. Many of the cards



also feature a personal message from the officer. In the case of Motorcycle Officer Kelley Kinser, the message says:

“Life is full of choices and consequences. Choose well, since there are many things that we are not able to ‘do over,’ and we will have to live with the consequences of our choices, good or bad.”

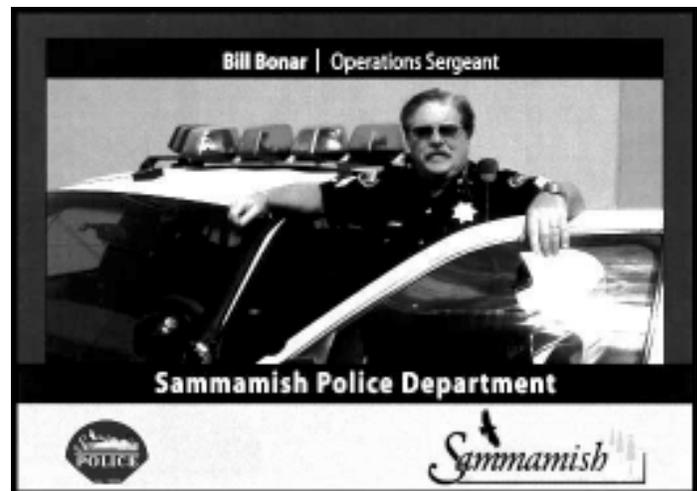
Chief Baranzini says the cards have three primary purposes. The first is to encourage contacts between officers and kids that don’t have anything to do with enforcement.

The second is to explain the organization and the services provided by police and other city departments. To that end, this edition of cards also includes pictures of the City Manager, City Council, planning staff and other city officials.



The third purpose is to promote internal team-building within the city. The cards, featuring city employees from numerous departments, illustrate that all city employees work as a team to solve problems, prevent crime, and handle emergencies.

Some of the cards feature teams rather than individual officers. Officer Sue Sherwood, for example, is shown with some of the youthful volunteers in the Police Explorer program. Other cards show equipment like the X26 Taser,



a non-lethal device that reduces injuries to suspects and officers alike.

More information on the cards is available by calling Chief Baranzini at 425-836-7957.

# Eastlake sports fields almost ready

Flat as a pool table and almost as smooth, the new Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School will open its gates to city residents on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The \$2.5 million project, a cooperative venture between the city and the Lake Washington School District, will dramatically increase the sports field inventory in Sammamish.

“With synthetic turf, and lights for evening use, we’re really going to get maximum use out of these three acres,” Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Watling said. “Our soccer, softball, baseball, football and lacrosse players suddenly have a lot more room.”

Located on what was previously an open field on the Eastlake High campus, the new facility will be used by both students and residents. The city is working with the Issaquah School district to construct a similar joint facility at Skyline High School.



*Two full-size soccer fields – 3 acres worth – sit side-by-side at the new Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School. The synthetic surface fields are also marked for softball, baseball, football and lacrosse.*

Residents and sports organizations wanting to use the new Community Sports Field at Eastlake High

School should contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 425-443-7390.

## CITY HALL CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

**Tuesday, 6 Dec 2005**

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

*Sammamish City Hall*

**Wednesday, 7 Dec 2005**

South Pine Lake Route Project Open House, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

*Discovery Elementary School*

**Tuesday, 13 Dec 2005**

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

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

**Tuesday, 20 Dec 2005**

City Council Special Meeting (if necessary), 6:30 pm - 10 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

**Monday, 26 Dec 2005**

Christmas, All day

*City offices closed*

### JANUARY

**Monday, 2 Jan 2006**

New Year's Day, All day

*City offices closed*

**Tuesday, 17 Jan 2006**

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

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

**Thursday, 19 Jan 2006**

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

**Tuesday, 24 Jan 2006**

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

*Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District*

**Thursday, 26 Jan 2006**

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

*Sammamish Library*

*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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Phone: 425-898-0660 • Fax: 425-898-0669

[www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)

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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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