



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 43

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006

Mayor Petitti takes the gavel

In a unanimous vote, the City Council selected Michele Petitti to serve as mayor in 2006. Petitti, who served as Deputy Mayor last year, has been on the council since 2001. Don Gerend, the outgoing mayor, handed the gavel to Petitti at the council's Jan. 3 meeting. The council also selected Mark Cross to serve as Deputy Mayor. Cross has been on the council since January 2004.

"Michele and Mark have worked very hard for this community," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I'm looking forward to another year of dramatic progress under their leadership."

Petitti, who lives near Beaver Lake Park, has resided in Sammamish since 1987. She has an MBA degree from Suffolk University in Boston, has worked as a small business owner and marketing director, and is noted for her interest in dressage horse training. Cross, with a University of Washington degree in urban planning, has lived in Sammamish since 1987.

In Sammamish's council/city manager form of government, councilmembers select one of their own to serve as mayor, usually for a one-year term.



*Michele Petitti
New Mayor*

INSIDE THIS EDITION

New Mayor	1
Trail nears completion	1
Mayor's Message	2
Community Sports Field	2
Emergency Preparedness	4
Soaring Eagle Park	4
City honors volunteers	5
Sammamish Commons	6
Critical Areas Update	6
City employee of the year	7
City Hall Calendar	7
City contacts	8

Trail nears completion

Like a mirage flickering in and out of focus, the promise of the East Lake Sammamish Trail has teased thousands of Sammamish residents for years now. But that flicker is about to become rock-solid reality.

At press time, King County Project Manager Mike Lozano said he's aiming for an opening date of Feb. 4. Although an earlier schedule called

for completion in December, numerous requests for additional fencing extended the work schedule. City Manager Ben Yazici says the trail opening will be a great day for the community.

"Sammamish residents are going to have a wonderful recreational amenity," Yazici said. "We know it's been

See TRAIL, page 3



Mayor
Michele Petitti

It's a New Year, and you, the citizens of Sammamish, have a new mayor. Following established practice, the City Council chose one of its seven members to wield the gavel for a year, and, as I begin my fifth year on the council, it's my turn! I look forward to presiding over the council meetings, helping to set the council agenda, and representing the city at numerous regional meetings. I'm also eager to hear from all of you as we continue to build a community that reflects your values and priorities.

By the time you get this newsletter, your city council members and department heads will have spent three days at our annual retreat. This is a concentrated time away that allows us to roll up our sleeves and reprioritize our goals and work plans for the coming year.

It is a time to brainstorm issues and come up with new approaches and solutions. When we come back, we should all be on the same page and ready to "hit the ground running" as 2006 begins to unfold. The next newsletter will summarize our retreat outcomes and outline our plan to continue building the city and providing award-winning services.

Our retreat discussions will be energized, I'm sure, by some of the ideas Councilmembers Don Gerend, Mark Cross and I brought back from the National League of Cities conference in December. This four-day conference, in Charlotte, North Carolina, was filled with workshops and lectures sharing the work and great ideas of other municipalities across the country.

It was especially valuable to hear from other cities trying to create a "sense of place," the very thing we're striving for with Sammamish Commons and our "town center" planning. One town had just finished a 40,000 square foot town hall and library and had moved and re-

stored a historic train depot to the center to serve as the Chamber of Commerce business headquarters.

Another town was just getting ready to double the size of its town center building and remodel it in accordance with newly adopted architectural controls. New zoned areas had also enabled developers to build town homes, condos and senior apartments right in the designed town center.

As we embrace our opportunities here in Sammamish, it's good to learn from other cities. And, thanks to the creativity of our residents, my fellow councilmembers, and an exceptional city staff, it's good to know that other cities are also learning from us.

I look forward to serving as your mayor this year. Please know that the door is always open, and I'll be happy to chat with you about any issues or concerns you may have.

Grand Opening set for Community Sports Field Ceremony scheduled for Jan. 14 at Eastlake High School

In partnership with the Lake Washington School District, the city of Sammamish is inviting residents to attend the grand opening of the Community Sports Field at Eastlake High School.

The brand-new, synthetic turf field, which will accommodate everything from soccer to lacrosse, was built by the city on three acres of open space on the Eastlake High School campus.

The grand opening, on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon, will feature a ribbon cutting, refreshments, and remarks from public officials. Eastlake High is located at 400 228th Ave. N.E.

For more information on the new, lighted field, please go to the city's website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "projects" tab.



A view of the main gate at the new sports field

TRAIL – cont. from pg. 1

a long and difficult road, but the day is almost here.”

King County’s 11-mile trail stretches from Redmond to Issaquah along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish. After years of legal battles between the county and some trailside residents, the Sammamish portion of the trail, seven miles in length, finally started construction in September. Much shorter segments in Redmond and Issaquah are already open.

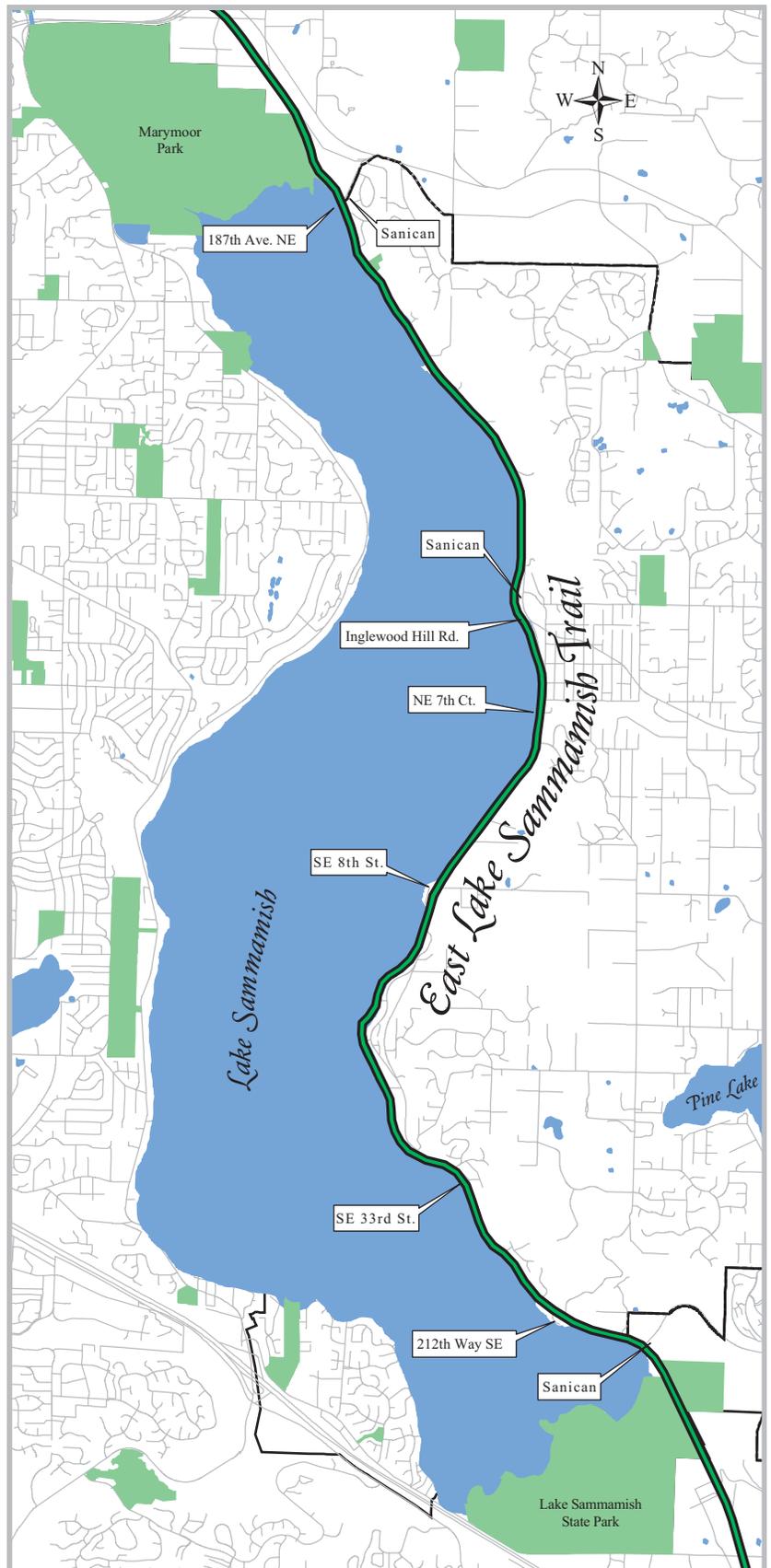
One of the biggest legal battles was over a city-issued permit allowing the county to build the trail along its preferred route – an old Burlington Northern railbed. The city’s permit, issued in 2002, was appealed by homeowners, many of whom said the county’s proposed trail posed safety and privacy problems. After first ruling in favor of the homeowners, a hearing examiner reinstated the city’s permit last April.

King County purchased the old rail corridor from The Land Conservancy in 1998, paying \$2.9 million. Burlington Northern, which discontinued service on the line in 1996, sold the corridor to The Land Conservancy in 1997 for \$1.5 million.

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, although most observers believe the paved trail is still several years away.

Within Sammamish, the designated access points to the trail are marked on the map to the right. Initially, restroom facilities will be limited to three locations, near Marymoor Park, near Inglewood Hill Road, and near Lake Sammamish State Park.

Residents with construction questions about this King County project should call Mike Lozano at 206-296-4240. Property questions should go to Robert Nunnenkamp at 206-263-6207. Although the trail is not a city project, residents with concerns can call Sammamish Communications Manager Tim Larson at 425-836-7905.



Seven miles of the East Lake Sammamish Trail pass through the city of Sammamish.

Emergency preparedness Q & A:

Q: What is all this talk about a three-day supply of food and water – a 72-hour kit?

A: Disaster planners have long said that people should be able to survive on their own for at least three days. The recent hurricane disasters have simply highlighted the importance of a 72-hour kit.

Q: What should I have in my three-day kit?

A: Enough food and water for people and pets to last three days, plus a variety of other useful items such as flashlights, batteries, a radio and a first aid kit. For a full list of recommended items, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us), click on community links, and scroll down to “emergency preparedness.”

Q: I see the phrase “3 days-3 ways” advertised on buses. I understand “3 days,” but what does “3 ways” refer to?

A: That’s a reference to the three important ways you prepare for an emergency. One is to pick a meeting place for your family if disaster strikes. A local park or nearby playground might be a good choice. The second way is to identify an “out of area contact” everyone in your family can report to. If you can’t make local phone calls, you can use this “out of area

contact” to report your status. Your contact can then share the information with other family members who call in. The third way we’ve already talked about; it’s your 72-hour pack.



Soaring Eagle Park up for discussion



A portion of Soaring Eagle Park (Section 36).

The city scheduled two public meetings to discuss the potential development of a community park and athletic facility on 30 acres of Soaring Eagle Park, a square mile of county owned land on the city’s eastern border.

The first meeting was scheduled for Jan. 12 at Cascade Ridge Elementary. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7-9 p.m., at Inglewood Junior High School, 24120 N.E. Eighth St. Residents are invited to attend, view the proposed development and provide comments to city staff.

In a proposed partnership between the county and the city, the 30 acres would be transferred to the city for development. The remainder of Soaring Eagle Park, commonly referred to as Section 36, would remain in county hands.

City honors volunteers

More than 80 attend appreciation dinner

A jovial mixture of volunteers, city staff, and councilmembers gathered at Beaver Lake Lodge for an appreciation dinner on Dec. 15. The event, which acknowledged the contributions of resident volunteers, was attended by more than 80 people.

Representing a broad spectrum of public-minded residents, the volunteers were thanked for their hard work and creative contributions to the community.

“There needs to be a real partnership between residents and their city government,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “These volunteers breathe a tremendous amount of life into the process.”

Among those honored: The Critical Areas Citizens Advisory Committee, Special Study Area Task Force, Sammamish Youth Board, and the Arts, Planning and Parks Commissions.



Planning Commission members Bob Keller, Scott Hamilton and Bob Conger chat with Erica Tiliacos of the Critical Areas Citizen Advisory Committee.



Councilmembers Michele Petitti and Don Gerend with Youth Board Chair Robert Baxter.



Park Commissioners Hank Klein and John Rossi with Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Watling (right).

Sammamish Commons update:



Looking southeast, the new City Hall takes shape near 228th Avenue as park development continues in the foreground.

The steel beams, silhouetted against grey, winter skies, provide dramatic evidence that the new City Hall is going up fast at Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre park and civic complex due to be finished this summer.

But what drivers along 228th Avenue can't see is the progress being made in the lower reaches of the complex, where trails, play areas and new fencing are making a mark on the green contours of this choice piece of property.

"It's exciting to see the progress," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It won't be long now before the community has a real focal point, a place to do business, have fun and gather with friends."

For more information on the Sammamish Commons project, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "projects" tab.

Critical areas update approved by council

Beating a state-imposed deadline by 10 days, the City Council passed a Critical Areas Update on Dec. 20.

The revised environmental regulations, fashioned with the help of the Planning Commission and a Citizens Advisory Committee, will take effect Jan. 3.

"Our residents, planning commissioners, city staff members and council put a tremendous amount of work into this," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Beating that deadline required real commitment."

The state's Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to update their Critical Areas code on a periodic basis, using the "best available science" and broad community input,

among other things, to revise regulations affecting sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, lakes and steep slopes. Frequently flooded and aquifer recharge areas are some of the other critical areas affected.

Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol says the revisions will put Sammamish in step with surrounding cities such as Issaquah, Redmond and Bellevue.

"Generally speaking, this update keeps us in line with our peer jurisdictions," Gurol said. "Our process, like theirs, has generated new regulations such as wider buffers in some areas."

Among other things, the revisions require certain protections for lakes,

streams and wetlands. In some cases, however, the required buffers can be reduced if property owners take steps to enhance the natural habitat in the remaining buffer area.

"The Planning Commission and City Council wanted to build in more flexibility than before to adapt the rules for specific property circumstances," Gurol said. "The new regulations allow us that flexibility on a case-by-case basis."

To look at the new rules in detail and read a "frequently asked questions" feature, residents are encouraged to visit the city's website. Please go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on the "critical areas" tab on the left side of the home page.

Evan Maxim

Employee of the year

Renowned inside City Hall for his professionalism and positive attitude, Senior Planner Evan Maxim was honored as the city's 2005 Employee of the Year last month at an employee luncheon.

Maxim, working in the Community Development Department, spends long hours reviewing development permits with property owners who come in to City Hall. He is also the staff expert on the city's permit tracking software.

"Evan has terrific technical skills and terrific people skills," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "That's a combination of talents all of us should aspire to."



Evan Maxim (center) accepts his "Employee of the Year" award from City Manager Ben Yazici (left) and Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JANUARY

Monday, Jan 2, 2006

New Year's Day, All day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Jan 3, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, Jan 5, 2006 - Saturday, Jan 7, 2006

City Council Retreat, From 8 am to 5 pm each day
Bellingham, WA

Tuesday, Jan 10, 2006

City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, Jan 16, 2006

Martin Luther King Day, All day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Jan 17, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, Jan 18, 2006

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 9 pm
Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, Jan 19, 2006

Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 8 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Monday, Jan 23, 2006

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, Jan 24, 2006

City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, Jan 26, 2006

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

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, Feb 7, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, Feb 14, 2006

City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Wednesday, Feb 15, 2006

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 pm - 8 pm
Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, Feb 16, 2006

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

Monday, Feb 20, 2006

Presidents' Day, All day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Feb 21, 2006

City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm - 10 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, Feb 28, 2006

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



*Michele Petitti
Mayor*



*Mark Cross
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Council Committees



As 2006 begins, council committees are being reconfigured. New committee assignments and meeting times will be included in the February newsletter.

City of Sammamish Offices
486 228th Ave. NE, Sammamish, WA 98074
Phone: 425-898-0660 • Fax: 425-898-0669

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

Michele Petitti, Mayor
mpetitti@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Mark Cross, Deputy Mayor
mcross@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Jack Barry, Councilmember
jbarry@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Lee Felling, Councilmember
lfelling@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Kathleen Huckabay, Councilmember
khuckabay@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Nancy Whitten, Councilmember
nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Don Gerend, Councilmember
dgerend@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



486 - 228th Avenue NE
Sammamish, WA 98074

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
REDMOND, WA
PERMIT NO. 312

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER