

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 121

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2012

## City looks at fire service alternatives

**REMAINING AS PARTNER IN EF&R STILL AN OPTION**

Extending the city's partnership with Eastside Fire & Rescue (EF&R) is still a possibility following a June 18 City Council vote to continue negotiations with the regional fire consortium.

But if those negotiations are unproductive, the city will follow a path recommended by FCS Group, a consultant recently hired by the city to study fire service options.

Its recommended alternatives, in order of preference:

1. Leave the partnership but negotiate a contract for services with EF&R.
2. Negotiate a contract for fire services with the Redmond Fire Department.
3. Start the city's own fire department.

The city's consideration of alternatives arose from long-term concerns about rapidly rising costs, the city's share of the funding, and the governance of EF&R. The consultant's recommendation to contract with EF&R rather than continuing as a partner was predicated, in part, on the belief that

*See FIRE, pg. 3*



## Community center price plummets

**PARTNERSHIP WITH YMCA ON MORE MODEST OPTION WOULD REDUCE CITY'S COSTS TO \$24 MILLION**

Last year, after an in-depth conversation with Sammamish residents about what they wanted to see in a community/aquatics center, a consulting firm configured the requested features, toted up the costs, and triggered more than a little sticker shock.

The price: \$44 million for the center itself, and another \$20 million for a parking lot and associated road improvements.

"The consultant's feasibility study

was step one," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "After they gave us an accurate picture of what the community wanted, step two was to pare things down to a scale our community might be willing to pay for."

That new option was presented to the City Council on June 12. It entails a significantly smaller building and a partnership with the YMCA. The

*See COMMUNITY, pg. 3*

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!**

*Story on page 2*

**SE 8TH ST. PARK**

*Story on page 2*

**FOURTH ON THE PLATEAU**

*Story on page 4*

## Naming contest for SE 8th park

The 51 acres of open space in the geographical center of the city came without a name. The donor, after whom the park might logically have been named, requested that there be no reference to her in the permanent appellation.

So, along with this most generous gift, the community has been offered the opportunity to come up with a name worthy of this historic act of generosity.

“We’ve been calling it Southeast Eighth Street Park on a temporary basis, but we thought a naming contest would be a great way to get the community involved,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “We especially hope to get some great ideas from our youngsters. When they’re enjoying the park 50 years from now, we want them to remember that they helped come up with the name.”



*Southeast Eighth Street Park needs a permanent name.*

At press time, the guidelines for the naming contest were still being formulated. Please go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) to find out how you and your family can submit your ideas. A naming committee is expected to select the winner sometime this summer.

## National Night Out!

It’s fun, neighborly, and a great way to discourage crime! That’s National Night Out, a coast-to-coast event featuring barbecues, block parties and other neighborhood events designed to strengthen ties between residents.

This year, the festivities are scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 7. To register your neighborhood for a National Night Out event, please go to [www.sammamishcitizencorps.com](http://www.sammamishcitizencorps.com).

To help kick off the event locally, the Sammamish Citizen’s Corps will hold the “Safe and Sound Sammamish” event at City Hall on Aug. 7 from 2 to 5 p.m. This safety and awareness fair will be highlighted by police vehicles and other law enforcement displays.

Circus Cascadia, a Portland-based group, will also entertain with pole balancers, stilt walkers and other circus acts. Their interactive approach will allow residents to try their hand at hula hooping, plate-spinning and other challenging activities.

For more information about the National Night Out initiative, go to [www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/](http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/).

## Oil and water don’t mix!

If your car has an oil leak, you have two good reasons to get it fixed. One, you’ll save money on oil. And two, you’ll keep that nasty stuff out of our streams and lakes!

The same holds true for antifreeze, brake and transmission fluids. Please try to keep it inside your car and out of our waterways.

Here are some simple steps you can take to help keep Puget Sound clean:

- Fix all vehicle leaks as soon as possible.
- Place drip pans or a piece of cardboard underneath your car until you fix the leak.
- Use an absorbent like kitty litter to clean up spills. Sweep it up, put it in a plastic bag and drop it in the garbage.
- Don’t dump oil or other fluids in the grass, street, or directly into the storm drain. They’ll find their way into the Puget Sound.
- Recycle used motor oil. Many auto supply stores will take your used oil and recycle it for free.

## COMMUNITY, cont. from pg. 1

city's share: \$24 million.

"That's a much smaller price tag, but I think people will be excited when they see what a nice facility it would produce," Yazici said. "Most of the features people asked for are still in the picture."

The outlines of a potential partnership came out of lengthy discussions between the city and the YMCA. Although the terms have not been locked down yet, the initial presentation to the Council called for the YMCA to manage the facility and contribute \$5 million towards construction costs.

"We had other discussions, including some with private sector operators, but the YMCA option is the one that really picked up steam," Yazici said. "I'll be very interested to see how the Council and the community react to this possibility."

Among other things, the new, more modest version of the community/aquatic center would feature:

- A leisure pool and a four-lane, 25-yard lap pool

- A full-size gym and a smaller family gym
- A jogging track
- Cardio and weight equipment
- Group exercise space
- Locker rooms
- Generous multi-purpose space

The two-floor facility would be 65,000 square feet in size. That compares to 98,000 square feet in the original concept.

Among the changes made to reduce the project's scope and expense:

- No banquet facilities or catering kitchen.
- No competitive pool.
- No dedicated party room.
- Less structured parking.

As part of the original feasibility study, various new taxes were discussed to cover the cost of the facility.

The reduced scale of the new proposal, in combination with contributions from the YMCA, make new taxes unnecessary.

"Should the City Council decide to proceed with a more modest option, the city could cover the cost with existing resources," Yazici said.

Yazici noted the following:

- The \$6 million allocated to the community center in the 2011-12 budget will be available in 2013-14.
- The city is not expected to spend \$3 million in contingency funds allocated in the 2011-2012 budget.
- Taking those figures into account, the city's estimated fund balance at the end of 2012 is expected to total \$47 million.
- If the city were to spend \$24 million on a community/aquatic center, the remaining reserves would amount to \$23 million.
- Of that \$23 million in reserves, \$14 million would be unobligated and unrestricted. The other \$9 million, although not yet allocated, would be restricted to expenditures on stormwater management, parks and other specific items.

"Our City Councils have always been fiscally conservative," Yazici said. "That's why we have so much in reserve, and that's why we have the financial flexibility to consider a community amenity like this."

## FIRE, cont. from pg. 1

a negotiated deal would provide greater predictability of costs. Fire service is the city's biggest annual expense, constituting 24 percent of the operating budget.

The city's annual contribution to EF&R has grown from \$4.9 million in 2007 to \$5.9 million in 2012, a 20 percent increase in just five years.

The city's current agreement with EF&R runs through 2014. If the city wants to leave the partnership, it must give one year's notice. In the absence of that notice, the agreement would automatically renew for another seven years.

"We hired FCS because we owe our taxpayers that kind of due diligence," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "With a poten-

tial seven-year commitment on the horizon, a thorough review was called for."

As part of that review, the City Council also appointed three former Council members – Kathleen Huckabay, Ron Haworth and Lee Felling – to monitor the FCS study. They expressed support for the FCS recommendations at the June 5 Council meeting.

The FCS report pointed out that Sammamish provides 28 percent of EF&R's funding but receives only 18 percent of the service calls. Should the city continue as a partner, it would want, among other things, to alter the funding model so service calls are part of the equation.

"The current model is based on the

assessed valuation of property," Yazici said. "Since that approach causes Sammamish taxpayers to subsidize other partners, we want to negotiate what we think is a more equitable, service-based formula.

"Whatever the end result, our intent is to preserve the same excellent level of service our firefighters have provided us over many years."

If those negotiations are not successful "in principle" by Sept. 17, the Council authorized Yazici to pursue the alternatives recommended by FCS, beginning with a possible negotiated contract for services with EF&R.

The current partners in EF&R are North Bend, Fire District 10, Fire District 38, Sammamish and Issaquah.

## Sammamish gathers for another blast!

It's a good thing fireworks never get old, because this is year six for the city's Independence Day celebration at Sammamish Commons.

"The years have flown by," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It seems like just yesterday that we had our first Fourth on the Plateau."

With no reason to mess with success, the city will hit the repeat button and draw huge crowds once again with music, great food, entertainment for the kids, and, of course, the "bombs bursting in air."

"Thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and an enthusiastic community, the Fourth on the Plateau is the biggest event of the year in Sammamish," Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. "It's a great time to see your neighbors, make new friends, and continue to build our sense of community."

This year's setup will be almost identical to last year's, with families encouraged to enter the Lower Commons via Southeast Fourth Street. That's where the kids' entertainment is centered, and it's also the very best place to find a perfectly sloped lawn for your fireworks-viewing pleasure.

"There's only one significant change this year," Richardson said. "The parking lot just west of City Hall has been expanded to accommodate police vehicles, so there's less viewing space there than last year."

As usual, getting to Sammamish Commons for the big show will involve some walking, either from home or one of the suggested parking locations listed on this page.

"We're looking forward to another big turnout this year," Richardson said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."



### Parking locations:

#### **Paid parking – \$5**

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church  
Mary Queen of Peace Church  
Skyline High School

#### **More free parking**

Eastside Catholic School  
Pine Lake Covenant Church  
Discovery Elementary  
Safeway Shopping Center  
Pine Lake Park  
Sammamish Park & Ride

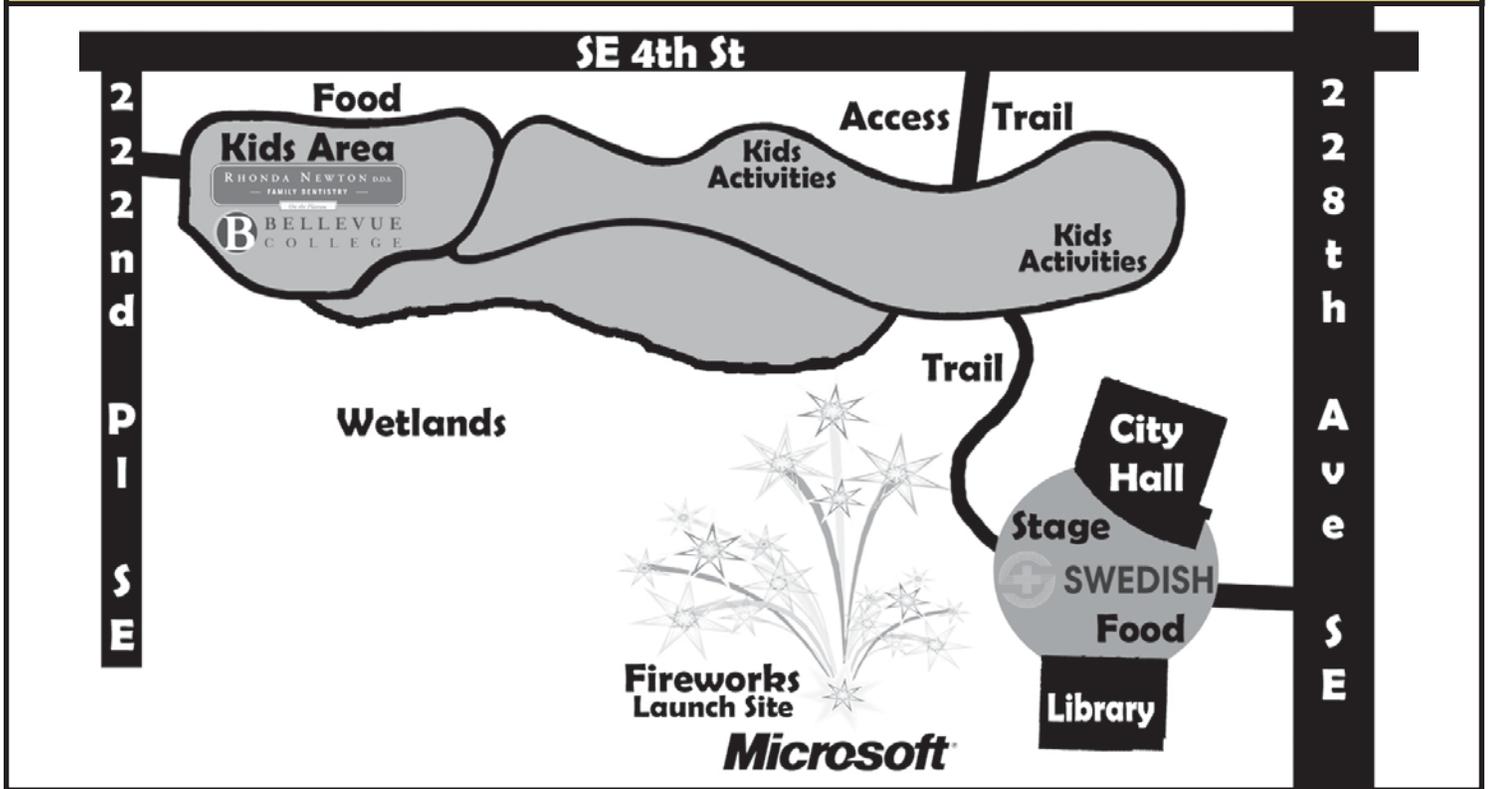
#### **Free for handicapped only**

Sammamish City Hall

### No left turns onto or off of 228th, please!

To help with traffic flow before, during and after the July 4th event, no left turns will be allowed onto or off of 228th Avenue between N.E. Main St. and S.E. 20th St. from 4 p.m. to midnight. Northbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach N.E. Fourth St. Southbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach S.E. 24th St. NOTE: S.E. Fourth St. will be closed to vehicular traffic after the fireworks to allow residents to exit the Lower Commons.

# Fourth on the Plateau site map



## Thank You Sponsors!!!



## Tricks and tunes at TeenFest 2012

As usual, TeenFest got started with a high-flying competition at the city's skate park right next to 228th Avenue. Then, under sunny skies, the action moved a few yards west to City Hall Plaza for an evening of great music staged by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sammamish and Redmond.

The yearly event, near the beginning of summer break for local students, has become a welcome tradition for skaters, music lovers, and anyone with a healthy amount of youthful energy.

"Our local bands were especially good this year," said Recreation Coordinator Lynn Handlos, "They did a great job of supporting our headline act."

Those bands included:

- Jacob McCaslin and Roll the Credits
- Stereotype Nation
- Smote
- Scinite
- Max Wang

The headliner for the evening: The "Theoretics," a



*Forty skaters competed at the 5th Annual Sammamish Skate Contest during TeenFest at Sammamish Commons on June 15.*

seven-piece hip hop band from Seattle that also incorporates electronica, funk and soul.

The skate competition featured both male and female competitors. The winners, in five categories were:



*Jacob McCaslin and Roll the Credits play at TeenFest 2012.*

**Kris Miller**  
"Sponsored"  
**Greg Peterson**  
16 and older  
**Diego Lopez**  
11-15 year olds  
**Zach Tally**  
10 and under  
**Gretchen Reynolds**  
Girls category

## JULY

### Tuesday, July 3

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, July 4

-Fourth on the Plateau, 6 p.m.

Council office hour.

### Tuesday, July 10

-City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, July 11

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, July 12

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

### Monday, July 16

-Finance Committee Mtg, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, July 18, 2012

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

### Thursday, July 19

-Public Safety Committee Mtg, 4 p.m.

### Saturday, July 21

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.- noon

Grand Ridge

### Wednesday, July 25

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

### Thursday, July 26

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

## AUGUST

### Wednesday, Aug. 1

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

-Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Aug. 7

-Safe and Sound Sammamish, 2-5 p.m.

### Wednesday, Aug. 8

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

### Monday, Aug. 13

-Donate Blood at City Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Wednesday, Aug. 15

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 18

-Sammamish Days, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

-Sammamish Nights, 6:30-10 p.m.

### Monday, Aug. 20

-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, Aug. 22

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 25

Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m. - noon

Beaver Lake Preserve

### Wednesday, Aug. 29

-Sammamish Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

## PLEASE NOTE:

All meetings and events at City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

# Summer entertainment!

## Concerts in the Park (Pine Lake Park, 6:30 p.m.)



July 12 - The Spyrographs, 60s Spy, Pop and Surf

July 19 - Second Hand Newz, Fleetwood Mac Tribute

July 26 - Craig Terrill Band, Classic Rock

August 2 - Stacy Jones Band, Indie Blues Rock

August 9 - Adrian Xavier Band, Reggae World Music

August 16 - Cloverdayle, Modern Country

August 23 - Sammamish Symphony

August 30 - Cherry Cherry, Neil Diamond Tribute



## Wooden O - Free Shakespeare in the Park (Pine Lake Park, 7 p.m.)

July 21 - Twelfth Night

July 28 - The Winter's Tale



## Kids First! Performance Series

July 10 - Alex Zerbe, Professional Zaniac!, Beaver Lake Park, Noon

July 17 - Lori Henriques, "Kindie" music, City Hall Plaza, Noon

July 24 - Karen Quest, Cowgirl Tricks, East Sammamish Park, Noon

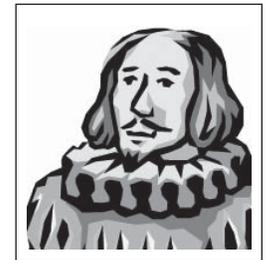
July 31 - Board of Education, "Kindie" Rock group, City Hall Plaza, Noon

August 7 - Circus Cascadia, Circus Artist, City Hall Plaza, 2-5 p.m.

August 14 - Harmonic Pocket, Music for Children, City Hall Plaza, Noon

August 18 - Daring Dreams in Times of Magic, Multi-cultural stories, City Hall Plaza, 2-3 p.m.

August 21 - Eric Herman and the Thunder Puppies, Children's music, Ebright Creek Park, Noon





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*Ramiro Valderrama*  
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*Nancy Whitten*  
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# New volunteer project for the whole family!

*Starts Thursday, July 12, 10 a.m. to noon*

This all-volunteer project will focus on the  
Lower Commons Native Plant Garden.

Adults and children alike are invited to pitch in and  
help keep this unique garden healthy, clean and weed free!

Volunteers will gather once per month through November. Make  
new friends, help the community, and, most important, have fun!

For more information, go to the city website  
([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click on the "volunteer" tab.

You may also contact Dawn Sanders, the city's volunteer  
coordinator, at [dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

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Lyman Howard	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Guroi	ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Wes Collins	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney

**Newsletter suggestions or concerns?**  
**Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson**  
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