

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 120

CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

PRO Plan approved

PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE PLAN ADOPTED MAY 14

To meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act and be eligible for state grants, cities are required to update the parks component of their comprehensive plan every six years. On May 14, thanks to the City Council's adoption of the update, a major item on the city's to-do list was marked off the list.

But the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, commonly known as the PRO Plan, is much more than a requirement; it's a vision.

"Whether it's parks, trails, open space or ballfields, our residents want us to do things right," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I think this PRO Plan was put together in a very thoughtful way by our Parks Commission, City Council and staff."

Parks Director Jessi Richardson says the plan emphasizes environmental stewardship, sustaining existing amenities at a high level, and making prudent investments in additional features.

"Among other things, our capital plan calls for improvements to Beaver Lake Park, East Sammamish Park and Evans Creek Preserve," Richardson

See PRO, pg. 3



Looking north from a picnic shelter at the city's new waterfront park.

Sammamish Landing is open

Want to dip your toes in Lake Sammamish? Then come to Sammamish Landing, a small but pretty spot with rare public access to the lake.

"This is the only significant section of shoreline belonging to the city," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Over time, we know Sammamish Landing is going to be very popular."

The first phase of development features a central lawn, two picnic shelters and a restroom. New docks are expected

to be built late this fall. As a cost-saving measure, the design and construction of the park was handled largely by city staff rather than outside contractors.

The park is located near the northern city limits. Visitors are urged to park along 187 Avenue Northeast and then walk south a short distance along the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

Find more information at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us by clicking through *departments, parks & rec, and parks.*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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S.E. EIGHTH ST. PARK

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FARMERS MARKET

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The new solicitor ordinance

Door-to-door solicitors are very active in our city. It is a year-round issue but warmer weather seems to amplify the problem. Along with the



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

return of higher temperatures and spring flowers we also experience a return of people going door-to-door merchandising various products and services.

This letter will update you on the latest regulations for this activity that were passed by the City Council in April.

Related to this is one of our main policing problems – home burglaries. A common tactic used is to ring the doorbell and, if no one answers, to proceed with a forced entry to the home – often via a rear door or window that may be screened from street view. They then take whatever valuables they can find. Prescription narcotics are favored along with firearms, jewelry, and other valuables.

Sometimes the person ringing the doorbell is a younger neighbor on a Girl Scout cookie sales drive or it may be high school football team members trying to raise funds for team-related activities. Often, however, they are people selling tree trimming, yard spraying, driveway replacement, magazines or any number of other sorts of services or products. I have even been approached a couple of times to buy frozen meat or fish!

Soliciting is usually concentrated

in the afternoon or on weekends but they can show up at your doorstep anytime. At best they are an interruption from your activities and at times can be both inconvenient and annoying. It is fairly high on my own personal list of pet peeves!

In all of last year the city issued licenses to 20 different companies and 87 individuals. Many more did not bother to even apply for the \$15 license and, if challenged, usually claimed to not be aware of our solicitor permit requirement.

The police respond to frequent complaints about these solicitors as their sales tactics are often aggressive and intimidating to residents. However, unless the solicitors had an active arrest warrant or had not obtained the proper license from the city, law enforcement was limited in what it could do to deal with citizen complaints about these activities.

A few weeks ago the City Council passed a major update to the existing ordinance that significantly tightens requirements for a soliciting permit as well as substantially improving its enforceability.

The previous ordinance was too weak and did not give police the tools needed to effectively control who was knocking on your door. There was no requirement for a vendor background check; there was no requirement for the city to revoke licenses should the vendor be found to be engaging in criminal activity while in the city; and there was no prohibition on vendors approaching homeowners who have posted “no

soliciting” or other similarly worded signs on their property.

All of this has now significantly changed. All solicitors must apply individually for licenses and will have a background check. Applicants who, within the last 10 years, have been convicted of a crime relating to such sales, including but not limited to burglary, theft, and fraud, will be denied a license. Additionally, all licenses will expire annually on December 31, thereby forcing reapplication and new background checks.

Finally, any solicitor who violates a posted no-soliciting sign will be subject to arrest and to a misdemeanor charge. Soliciting hours are now restricted to between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the weekend.

Similar to the previous ordinance, charitable, religious, and non-profit organizations are exempt from the licensing requirement. Also, due to First Amendment requirements, newspaper subscription solicitors and vendors of books and periodicals are exempt.

Residents of our city who are contacted by a solicitor are urged to ask to see their city license. It will be specific to them and will have their name on it! There are no “group” or “company” solicitor licenses.

If they do not have one, please call 9-1-1 and ask that an officer be sent out to investigate.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Odell".

Council feedback due on SE Eighth Street Park design

THREE MASTER PLAN DESIGN ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED

On June 12, with design options and generous public input at their fingertips, the City Council will begin to express its initial preferences for the design of Southeast Eighth Street Park.

The master plan design alternatives being considered cover 36 acres in the geographical center of the city. The land is part of a larger donation being made in three phases by a local resident.

“This next meeting will give us an idea which way the Council is leaning,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “All three design alternatives, per the donor’s request, will feature limited development. This is wonderful open space, and that essential quality will be preserved.”

Among the design elements being considered: an activity center, community garden, picnic shelters, parking and a tree house. The Reard-Freed House, an historic farmhouse originally located along 212th Avenue, is also going to be part of the picture. At press time, the house was scheduled to be moved onto the donated land on June 3.



A portion of the land being donated to the city.

So far, public input has been taken at two master planning meetings, a pair of Parks Commission meetings and one Council meeting. Additional feedback will be welcome at the June 12 Council study session and a community meeting being planned for sometime in July.

For the most up-to-date information on meeting schedules and other aspects of this master planning process, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us), click on the email alert icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page and follow the prompts. You’ll be able to sign up for email alerts on Southeast Eighth Street

Park and any other topics of interest to you.

So far, concerns about the park revolve around traffic and privacy issues for nearby neighbors. The city’s park staff is exploring options to address those concerns.

Additional public comment is also welcome at the project website. Just go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us, and click through *projects, parks department and S.E. Eighth Street Park*.

PRO, cont. from pg. 1

said. “We will also be funding the anticipated improvements to Southeast Eighth Street Park.”

The most eye-catching priority in the new plan is its call for a new community and aquatic center. Although the scale and cost of the center has not been determined, it’s expected to be much more modest than the facility described in an earlier feasibility study.

“That study produced a won-

derful concept for a facility based on feedback from the community,” Richardson said. “But it also pro-



duced sticker shock, so we’re looking at smaller options and a possible partnership with an outside recreation provider.”

The size and timing of such an investment will obviously have an effect on other PRO Plan investments, so the new update has a lot of built-in flexibility.

“The plan is an excellent description of our vision for the community,” Richardson said. “But it also allows us to adapt as opportunities present themselves.”

Sunshine greets Farmers Market on opening day

MARKET ADDS MORE VENDORS IN 5TH SEASON

Thanks to a prolonged stretch of sunshine last month, the Sammamish Farmers Market opened its season on May 16 accompanied by the best weather in recent memory.

It was also highlighted by the presence of new vendors, including one specializing in scones that proved very popular. Thanks to good weather this spring, the selection of vegetables was also especially generous.

With the exception of July 4, the market will continue every Wednesday until Oct. 3. The new hours are 3 to 7 p.m. For more information on the market, go to www.sammamishfarmers-market.org.



Residents of all ages came to the opening of the Farmers Market on May 16. The market has new hours, opening at 3 p.m. and closing at 7 p.m. for the duration of the market season.

“African Bike Drive” generosity overflows at City Hall

Once a year, City Hall looks like a place where bicycles go to die. Hundreds of them are stacked in the parking lot and carted away. But they're not destined for a cemetery; they're headed for a new life in the villages of Africa.

This year, the 7th Annual ARAS African Bike Drive stretched the limits. Roughly 700 bikes, plus parts, arrived at City Hall, exceeding the capacity of the cargo container. As a result, an overflow of almost 200 bikes began their journey to Africa on a flatbed truck, a pickup and an SUV.

Mary Trask, the ARAS Community Service Director, says more than 80 vol-

unteers helped out at the April 29 event, prepping and loading the bikes for shipment. ARAS, an acronym for “acceptance, respect, affection and support,” is a Sammamish-based non-profit.

“We're delighted the city can help out in a small way by making the City Hall parking lot available for this great effort,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “This has turned into a great community tradition.”

The bikes are used by villagers who have no other form of transportation. In many cases, the bikes allow families to access distant jobs and attain greater security and health.



These are some of the bikes that wouldn't fit in the cargo container.

Arts Commission needs your feedback WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS?

The Sammamish Arts Commission is approaching 10 years of providing quality arts programs and events to the Sammamish community. Among other things, the Commission has staged art exhibitions, music concerts, theater readings, senior citizen art classes, cultural events, poetry workshops and, of course, the Sammamish Arts Fair. And best of all, these attractions were all free to the public.

Now the Commission needs your help in planning the next 10 years. Please tell us what you would like to see in arts-related events and programs. You can share your thoughts and ideas by sending them to Allison Gubata at agubata@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

In other Arts Commission notes:

- **“The Journey”** – This summer exhibition at City Hall runs from June 29 to Oct. 10. It features the work of two accomplished Sammamish artists – Anna

Macrae and Carol Ross. Anna’s abstract expressionistic paintings and Carol’s emotionally laden ethereal landscapes find common ground in the Commons Gallery. The exhibition is FREE during normal business hours.

- **Sammamish Arts Fair** – The Call for Artists generated a fantastic response from local artists. The jury process to select this year’s participants will soon be completed. For updates on the Oct. 13-14 Arts Fair, please visit the arts fair website at <http://sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com/>.

- **Attention PTSA leaders and art educators** – May is now officially the “Month of Arts Education” in the city of Sammamish. As you go forward with your planning for 2013, the Commission would love to coordinate with you. Please contact Daphne Robinson at daphnem-robinson@msn.com.

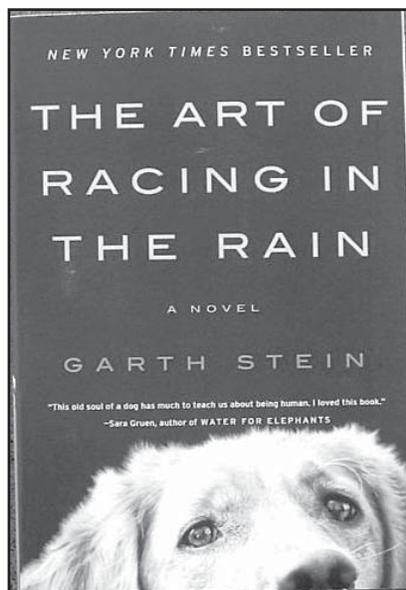


City-wide reading event: “All Sammamish Reads!” LIBRARY CHOOSES GARTH STEIN’S “THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN”

A family-friendly event sponsored by the Sammamish Library invites the entire community to read the same book, participate in book-related events, and then see the author in person!

This reading initiative, done in partnership with the city, the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce and Eastside Catholic School, will focus on Garth Stein’s “The Art of Racing in the Rain.”

Programs and book discussions will be held throughout the city in July, August and September. To make the reading event more inclusive, the library will also offer Garth Stein’s



juvenile fiction title: “Racing in the Rain: My Life as a Dog.” Kids can attend fun programs relating to dogs and cars!

“All Sammamish Reads” culminates on Tuesday, Sept. 11, when the author himself will be at the Eastside Catholic School gymnasium to present a program about his highly acclaimed book. Copies of the books will be available for sale at the event.

So, pick up a copy of “The Art of Racing in the Rain” and start reading! The book will be available for checkout at the Sammamish Library. Call 425-392-3130 for more information.

Another blast lined up for the Fourth on the Plateau!

If you're one of the many thousands who've experienced the heady mix of patriotism and pyrotechnics at past Fourth of July celebrations in Sammamish, prepare to enjoy yourself again!

The only change: People who used to sit directly west of City Hall will now find an expanded parking lot where there used to be grass. Suggestion: Filter over to the lower commons where a perfectly sloped lawn will accommodate all your fireworks-viewing needs.

For full details on the event, make sure to read the comprehensive layout planned for next month's city newsletter.

And, if you're interested in becoming a sponsor for the event, or want to participate as a vendor, please contact the city's Dawn Sanders at dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0556.



Patriotism and fun will be the order of the day at Sammamish Commons.

Kick off your Sammamish summer at TeenFest!

Under normal circumstances, City Hall Plaza is a rather sedate civic space. But that will change on Friday, June 15, when TeenFest takes over and students turn their attention from books to boogie.

If the "boogie" reference is out of date, let's be clear: The Thoretics, a seven-piece Seattle hip hop band, will be on stage to entertain Sammamish teens. They'll be joined by five other bands, all local, to make TeenFest a perfect place to kick off the summer of 2012.

The day's events will begin at 3 p.m. with the annual skate competition. Competitors will pay an entry fee of

\$5 if they're residents and \$10 if they're non-residents. There is no charge to view the competition at the city's skate park.



Macklemore performs at TeenFest 2011.

The gates to the \$10 music show will open at 5 p.m. Attendees will need ID showing they're 6th to 12th grade students in Sammamish, Issaquah or Redmond. In addition to music, the ticket will give teens access to food vendors, bounce games, henna painting and other entertainment opportunities.

For more information on TeenFest, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) click on the "Events" tab and then select "Special Events."

CITY CALENDAR

JUNE

Tuesday, June 5

-City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.

Wednesday, June 6

-Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

-City Council Council Office Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

-Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30-9 p.m.

Friday, June 8

-Law Enforcement Open House, 1-3 p.m.
Location TBA

Tuesday, June 12

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

Wednesday, June 13

-Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

-Youth Board Meeting, 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, June 14

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9 p.m.

-Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m.

Friday, June 15

-Teen Fest, 3-9 p.m.

Saturday, June 16

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Evans Creek Preserve

Monday, June 18

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

-City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.

-Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 20

-Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

Thursday, June 21

-Public Safety Committee Mtg, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 27

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

Thursday, June 28

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, June 29

-Art Exhibit - "The Journey"

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

JULY

Tuesday, July 3

-City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4

-Fourth on the Plateau, 6-11 p.m.

City offices closed

Tuesday, July 10

-KidsFirst! Performance Series, 12-1 p.m.

Beaver Lake Lodge

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

Wednesday, July 11

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

-Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30-9 p.m.

Thursday, July 12

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9 p.m.

-Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Monday, July 16

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

-Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

-City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 17

-KidsFirst! Performance Series, 12-1 p.m.

Wednesday, July 18

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

Thursday, July 19

-Public Safety Committee Mtg, 4-6 p.m.

-Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Saturday, July 21

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Grand Ridge

-Wooden O Shakespeare Play, 7-8:45 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, July 24

-KidsFirst! Performance Series, 12-1 p.m.

E. Sammamish Park, 21300 NE 16th St

Wednesday, July 25

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

Thursday, July 26

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9 p.m.

-Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Saturday, July 28

-Wooden O Shakespeare Play, 7-8:45 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, July 31

-KidsFirst! Performance Series, 12-1 p.m.

City Hall at Sammamish Commons

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.

Eco-Friendly kit offered for charity car washes

If you are involved with a charity car wash this summer, please contact the city of Sammamish to learn about pollution prevention practices during your event. The city is working to ensure charity events do not inadvertently harm the environment.

Washing multiple cars at a single event releases pollutants from vehicles which enter the storm drain system.

Oil, grease, dirt, and heavy metals come off vehicles when washed. When these pollutants are washed down the storm drain, they are not treated and run directly into the nearest stream, lake or wetland.

To ensure your charity car wash is protecting our local water resources, the city of Sammamish has an Eco-Friendly car wash kit. The kit includes

a hose and a basin to capture and divert the soapy water away from the storm drain and onto grass or gravel or into a floor drain that flows into the wastewater treatment system.

To reserve a kit, contact Colleen Rupke at 425-295-0565. Kits are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and must be returned no later than two days after the event.



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KidsFirst! Performance Series

The city of Sammamish is pleased to announce the addition of three KidsFirst! events thanks to our partnership with the Sammamish Friends of the Library and the Sammamish Kiwanis!

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

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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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?
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