



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 45

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

Trail time!

Barring a last minute delay, King County will open the long-awaited, long-debated East Lake Sammamish Trail on Tuesday, March 21.

The seven-mile segment inside Sammamish will connect with shorter, already open segments in Redmond and Issaquah to form an 11-mile recreational trail along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish.

“We know we have a lot of active families in our community,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The trail is going to fit very nicely with our broad goal of providing more recreational opportunities in Sammamish.”

King County calls the new gravel path the “interim” trail because plans call for its eventual replacement by a more elaborate paved trail. The county doesn’t know yet when that paved “Master Plan” trail will be built.

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Rules of the road

County signs summarize trail protocol

Although the county will post the rules for trail use, Sammamish City Manager Ben Yazici hopes city residents will add a rule of their own to the county’s list.

“Always be patient,” Yazici says. “Whether you live along the trail, or plan to use the trail, please be patient with each other.

“This county trail is going to be a brand new experience for all of us,” he said, “and I’m sure there will be more than a few kinks to work out.”

As usage patterns develop, and then start to build during the warmer summer months, Yazici says the city will work with the county to troubleshoot the problems that arise.

“Seven miles of trail pass through our city, and the circumstances change from block to block,” Yazici said. “Although it’s a county project, I think the city will be pretty busy monitoring and helping where we can.”

As opening day on March 21 approaches, here are the rules the county will post along the trail:

- Obey the 15 mph speed limit.
- Stay on the trail; respect private property.
- Pass on the left; use bell or voice.
- No motorized vehicles allowed on trail.

See **RULES**, pg. 2

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Mayor
Michele Pettiti

As King County prepares for the March 21 opening of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, I know most of our residents are delighted at the prospect of having

a well-maintained recreational trail passing through some of the prettiest scenery in our city. But I understand that some people feel differently.

In fact, your position on the trail probably depends very much on the position of your residential lot. If the county's trail passes between your back door and your dock, you probably have serious concerns. If the trail is a block or two away, you're probably thrilled.

After the long, litigious history of

this project, I hope the trail proves to be less troublesome than many trailside residents have anticipated.

Maybe they'll be as fortunate as my hairdresser. She was very worried about the impact the trail would have on her privacy. But as the county laid down the gravel and put up the fencing, her fears gave way to anticipation. In fact, she built a small bridge from her back yard to the trail and now plans to take a jog every morning. She also plans to walk her dog on the trail.

My optimism about the trail also got a boost during a recent visit I made to California. I marveled at how the beach was open to everyone, and there were access trails that went right past some very, very expensive homes with nothing more than a small hedge to keep intruders out. In fact, the homes and patios were oriented in such a way that they almost seemed

to invite conversations with passersby. Let's hope that our trail develops into a friendly, neighborly environment.

To help things along, both the county and the city will be in troubleshooting mode as trail use develops. Although it's a county project, parking and access issues spill onto city property, so we'll be monitoring things carefully and helping where we can.

Heavy use of the trail probably won't develop until the warmer summer months, but I'm not going to wait that long. I'll be out there soon with my water bottle, a friendly wave for everyone, and all the respect in the world for the privacy of those who live nearby. See you out there!

TRAIL - cont. from pg. 1

In the meantime, the interim version is suitable for walking, jogging and mountain biking. Thin-tired bikes and in-line skates will have to wait until the trail is paved.

First conceived decades ago, the trail, in more recent years, has been bogged down in litigation between a number of trailside residents and the county. The residents said the county's proposed alignment along an old Burlington Northern rail bed was, among other things, unsafe and overly intrusive in some areas.

In 2002, when the city gave the county a permit to build on the rail bed, a long string of legal battles ensued. After first ruling largely in favor of the homeowners, a hearing examiner ultimately reinstated the city's permit last April and the county began construction in September.

Questions about the trail should be directed to King County Project Manager Mike Lozano at 206-296-4240 or mike.lozano@metrokc.gov. Property issues should be taken up with King County Property Agent Robert Nunnenkamp at 206-263-6207 or robert.nunnenkamp@metrokc.gov.

RULES - cont. from pg. 1

- No horses allowed on trail.
- Respect others; share the trail.
- Yield to traffic where signage indicates.
- Keep pets on leash.

The county is encouraging people to use one of its five designated access points. All of these spots feature access that leads from the East Lake Sammamish Parkway to the trail without crossing private property. They were also chosen because there is parking available on nearby public streets or on county property next to the trail. The county's five designated access points along the Parkway, moving from north to south, are:

■ 187th Avenue Northeast - Located on the border with Redmond, this spot features a tunnel underneath the Parkway. Users can park on 187th and use the tunnel, or a nearby driveway, to access the trail.

■ Kokomo Place - Just north of Inglewood Hill Road, this approach will take users down a 45-yard driveway from the Parkway to the trail. There is a small parking area available on the west side of the Parkway, just south of the

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RULES - cont. from pg. 2

access point.

■ East Lake Sammamish Shore Lane N.E. – Located 350 yards north of Thompson Hill Road, this spot features two small gravel pullout areas for parking on the west side of the parkway.

■ Near Southeast Eighth Street – Parking at this spot is available on a large gravel pullout area just north of the access point. Users can also park along Southeast Eighth Street.

■ Southeast 33rd Street – The county plans to have 10 parking spaces available at this location, right next to the trail.

“We’re encouraging people to use the five access points chosen by the county,” Yazici said. “But we’ll be watching closely to see how it goes.”

The city will be paying attention because some observers think trail users may choose other access points, spots that are closer to their homes, or more convenient in other ways. According to the county, many of these alternative access points do, in fact, provide a legal path to the trail. The city’s Tim Larson sought clarification from the county on this issue.

“There are long stretches where the trail is right next to the East Lake Sammamish Parkway. That means the city’s road right-of-way and the county’s trail right-of-way abut each other, with no private property in between,” Larson said. “In those spots, the county says users would be within their legal rights to walk onto the trail, even if there isn’t a county sign marking the spot as an access point.”

And if people begin using these other legal access points, where will they park?

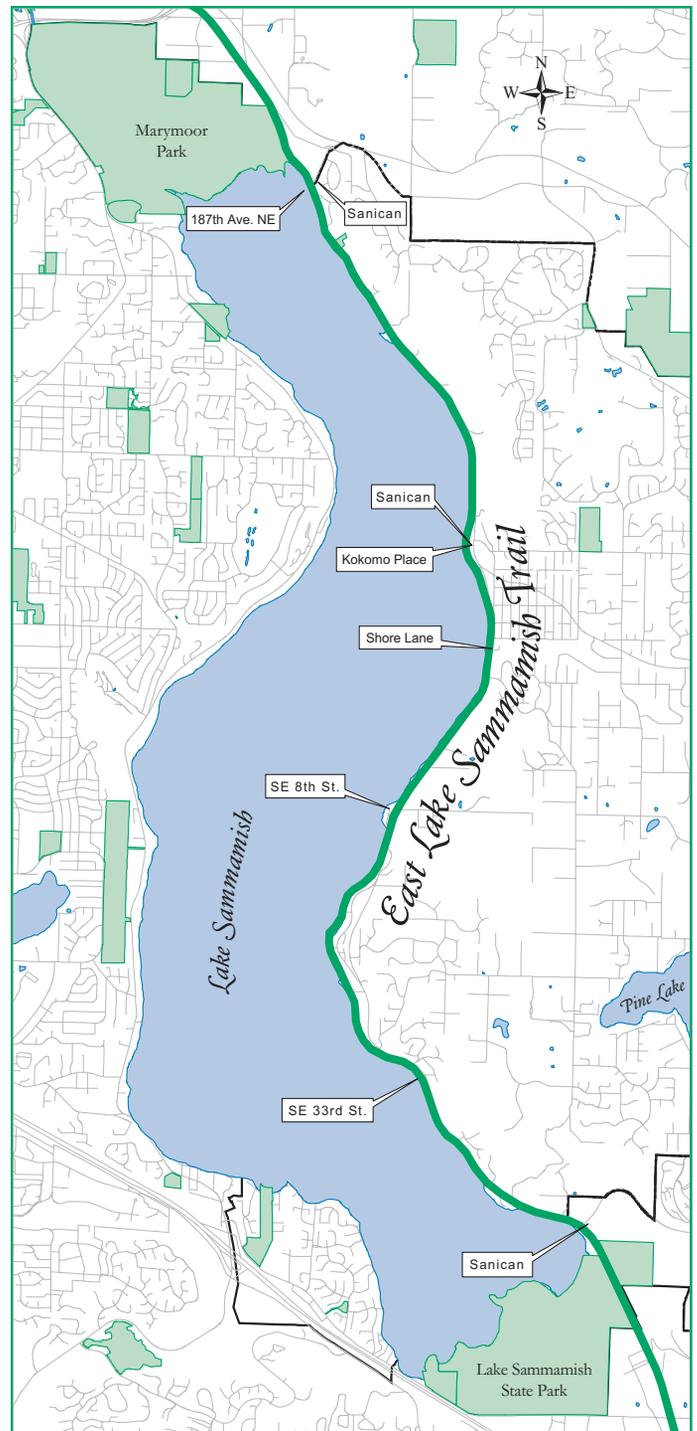
“We’re encouraging people to use the county’s designated access points, because there are parking opportunities nearby,” Larson said, “but people can park near these other access points if they can find a safe spot on city streets.

“The one thing we really want to emphasize, though, is that if people find spots along the Parkway, they should leave enough space for bicycles to get by without having to veer into the car lane.”

As for the driveways that do, indeed, cross private property before reaching the trail, Larson says the city is planning to post “No Trail Access” signs at those spots.

“If you see a “No Trail Access” sign with the city’s logo on it, that means you’ll have to go somewhere else to get on the trail,” Larson said.

The county’s designated access points are marked on the accompanying map. The three sanican locations within



East Lake Sammamish Trail

reach of Sammamish users are also noted.

In addition to calling King County with concerns, residents may also contact the city’s Tim Larson at 425-836-7905 or tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

“We’ll be in close touch with the county when the trail opens and issues come up,” Larson said. “As we get calls from residents, we’ll try to go into problem-solving mode with the county.”

Employees tour new City Hall

Guided by Project Manager Sevda Baran, small groups of city employees have been touring their new work space in recent weeks. Although only the skeletal outline of the new City Hall is in place, employees have been eagerly looking for their future desk locations and imagining how much easier life will be in a real City Hall.

“After working in a cramped cubicle farm and a trailer for six years, this building is really going to help us



Jennifer Lopez (2nd from left) practices her phone technique in the reception area as Sevda Baran, Stacy Herman and Lita Hachey look on.



The new City Hall, viewed from the southwest

better serve the public,” Communications Manager Tim Larson said. “We’ll have a reception area, lots of places to sit down with people, and enough room to really take care of business.”

If the current schedule holds, business will begin at the new City Hall in early August. The first floor (25,914 square feet) will house most of the city staff, plus the police department. A few employees will work on the second floor (13,603 square feet), but most of that space will be held in reserve for future expansion. The building also features an underground garage (20,865 square feet).

The new City Hall is part of the larger Sammamish Commons project, a civic and park complex spread out over 30 acres just west of 228th Avenue near Skyline High School. The overall project is budgeted for \$15.7 million.

Public input needed for Town Center Plan

The city will hold an Open House this month to share and receive information on the Town Center planning process. The Town Center, roughly 200 acres in the geographical center of Sammamish, will serve as the “heart” of the city, providing opportunities for civic engagement, and meeting the commercial, residential and recreational needs of Sammamish residents. The meeting will also serve as the Public Scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Open House will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 4-8 p.m., at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 22818 S.E. Eighth Street. More information is available by contacting Cristina Van Valkenburgh at 425-836-7971 or cvanvalkenburgh@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Open House

2006 Comp Plan amendments

Residents are invited to attend an Open House the city is hosting this month to review the proposed 2006 comprehensive plan amendments. The public session is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 4-6:30 p.m., at the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District, 1510 228th Ave. S.E. The Open House will immediately precede that night’s Planning Commission meeting.

This year’s proposed amendments are expected to focus on the city’s annexation policies.

For more information on the amendment process, please contact Senior Planner Emily Arteché at 425-836-7920. She can also be reached via email at eartech@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Chief Baranzini retires

The city's first and only police chief, Dick Baranzini, will turn in his badge on March 31. Baranzini was appointed chief in 1999, when the city contracted with the King County Sheriff's Department for police services. Including his six years in Sammamish, Baranzini is retiring after 33 years with the Sheriff's Department.

"Being the Chief in Sammamish is the best assignment I've ever had," Baranzini said. "The people in the community and in city government have been wonderful here."

As he watches his police chief head off to Arizona, City Manager Ben Yazici wishes him well.

"He's done a great job for us," Yazici said. "We'll miss him both professionally and personally."

Baranzini emphasized a community-oriented, problem-solving approach that often led to positive interactions with residents. As an example, he pointed to the "vacation house check" program. After his officers watched a home, Baranzini would call the owners upon their return and give them a report.

"I think people liked getting a call from the chief," Baranzini said. "It's not the sort of treatment you would get in a big city."



Police Chief Dick Baranzini



City Engineer Steve Hartwig, Public Works Director Delora Kerber, Mayor Michele Petitti, Project Manager Jed Ireland, Inspector Leticia Neal (in back, right), and residents are on hand for the ceremonial ribbon cutting at the Southeast 24th Street Walkway.

Boardwalk opens on SE 24th Street

Residents who used to walk precariously on the shoulder of Southeast 24th Street, hemmed in by cars on one side and wetlands on the other, have something new – 1,800 feet of beautiful, brand new boardwalk.

The over-water walkway, which opened last month, stretches east from Discovery Elementary. Combined with sidewalk segments completed in a previous phase of the same project, the new path extends all the way from 228th Avenue to 244th Avenue.

On Feb. 22, Mayor Michele Petitti, city staff members and residents gathered for the official ribbon cutting at the west end of the boardwalk.

The new path, which provides enough room for both pedestrians and cyclists, creates a non-motorized connection between Pine Lake Park and Beaver Lake Park. The cost: \$2 million.

Beaver Lake Lodge under new management!

City now handling reservations at choice location

Looking for the perfect wedding spot, or a special place for your party, reception or picnic?

Well, you should consider Beaver Lake Park, now under city management. After several years in the hands of a private company, the rental arrangements for Beaver Lake Lodge and the park pavillion can now be made directly through the city.

Joanna Martin, the city's new Facility Coordinator is the person to call. She can be reached at 425-391-0328, or by sending an email to jmartin@ci.sammamish.wa.us. Martin says the lodge and park are great venues.

"It's quiet and rustic," Martin said. "It's a beautiful

spot for a great variety of occasions."

The lodge offers an 1,847 square-foot main room with an adjacent 380 square-foot commercial kitchen. The lodge can handle up to 150 people for seated events and up to 260 people for standing events.

Fees for use of the lodge vary, depending on whether the reservation falls on a weekday or a weekend. Non-profits based in Sammamish are eligible for discounted rates.

Formerly part of the King County park system, Beaver Lake Park was turned over to the city in 2003.



City offers "baby boot camp" for new moms

Parks and Recreation program slated for Beaver Lake Park

Are you a new mom eager to get back in shape, but reluctant to leave your baby at home? The city, in cooperation with Baby Boot Camp, a private enterprise, may have just the solution you're looking for – a fitness program that makes your baby an integral part of the workout.

Starting April 17, the city will offer three sessions of the fitness program at Beaver Lake Park. Each six-week session features a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule, with classes running from 10 to 11:15 a.m. The second session starts June 5, the third session on July 17. Fees range from \$84 for six classes to \$216 for 18 classes.

Interested moms, who must be at least six weeks postpartum to participate, should call Stefanie Harris at 425-281-1635 to register. Information is also available at www.babybootcamp.com.



Sammi Awards Celebration: March 18

Event to be held at Eastlake High School

Residents will be recognized for their contributions to the community at the annual Sammi Awards. This year's celebration will be on Saturday, March 18, 7-9 p.m., at Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. S.E.

The public is welcome. Donations will be taken at the door.

The eight categories and the nominees are:

- **Arts** - Anita Johnstone, Andrey Spichak, Lynnea Washburn.
- **Business** - Robert Frost, Brett Van Norman, Kathleen Collum, Michael Schweitzer.
- **Courage** - Ann and Dave Bahm.

- **Learning Promotion** - Kim Villeneuve, Steve Evans, Kathy Pelonio, Gene Dales.

- **Teen Challenge** - Christian McOmber, Maggie Harlow, Josh Pelonio, Craig Simmons, Nicki Bastine, Rebecca Harlin.

- **Trevor Price Award** - Joelle Klein, Jaimey Hayes, Emily Rapada, Riley Bancroft.

- **Youth Advocate** - Margaret Collins, Elizabeth Sirjani, Susan Evans, Cherry O'Neill, Judy Klein.

- **Unsung Hero** - Todd Hoeke, Paul Bruno, Janene St. James, Laurie Bush, Michelle Grinslade, Ruth Swanson.



- **Spirit of Sammamish** - Jan Bromberg, Kristi Pitzele, Ilene Stahl, David Irons, Jr., Kristin Pitt.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

MARCH

Tuesday, Mar 7, 2006

- City Council Special Meeting / Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, Mar 14, 2006

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

Wednesday, Mar 15, 2006

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

Thursday, Mar 16, 2006

- Open House/Comprehensive Plan Amendments, 4 - 6:30 p.m.
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer District
- Planning Commission Mtg., 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer District

Tuesday, Mar 21, 2006

- City Council Special Meeting / Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer District

Thursday, Mar 23, 2006

- Sammamish Youth Board Meeting, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Sammamish Library

Saturday, Mar 25, 2006

- Sammamish Spring Recycling Collection Event, 9 am - 3 pm
Eastlake High School

Monday, Mar 27, 2006

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

Tuesday, Mar 28, 2006

- Open House & EIS Scoping meeting/Town Center, 4 - 8 p.m.
*Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church
22818 S.E. Eighth St.*

APRIL

Monday, Apr 3, 2006

- Neighborhood Connections Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm
Sahalee Fire Station #82

Tuesday, Apr 4, 2006

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

Thursday, Apr 6, 2006

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

Tuesday, Apr 11, 2006

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, Apr 17, 2006

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 - 10 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, Apr 18, 2006

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, Apr 19, 2006

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

Thursday, Apr 20, 2006

- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, Apr 24, 2006

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 - 10 pm
Samm. Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, Apr 27, 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



Michele Petitti
Mayor



Mark Cross
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Lee Felling
Councilmember



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

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Pete Butkus	Assistant City Manager
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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
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John Murphy	Fire Chief
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