

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 136

CITY NEWSLETTER

OCT. 2013

Paving the trail starts next year

KING COUNTY WILL BEGIN WITH 2.6 MILE NORTHERN SEGMENT

Having already finished its work in Issaquah and Redmond, King County will now take on the more difficult task of paving the East Lake Sammamish Trail as it passes through and near numerous residential properties in Sammamish.

The project, divided into three phases, will begin with a 2.6 mile segment stretching from Inglewood Hill Road to the northern city limits at 187th Avenue Northeast. Construction is expected to begin early next year and wrap up in the spring of 2015. The engineer's cost estimate for the northern section is \$6.8 million.

"This will be a bit more challenging for the county," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Unlike Redmond and Issaquah, we have a lot of homes along the trail."

When King County Parks Director Kevin Brown made a presentation

See TRAIL, pg. 5



Volunteers create frightful fun!

THE ROTARY CLUB'S "NIGHTMARE ON BEAVER LAKE" RAISES MONEY AND THE HAIR ON THE BACK OF YOUR NECK

On October 17, the Rotary Club will launch the tenth edition of "Nightmare on Beaver Lake," a fundraising frightfest that brings in steady streams of money and thousands of eager-to-shriek patrons.

Staged with the help of Scare Productions, the city of Sammamish, and supported by several sponsors, the event brings in about \$70,000 annu-

ally, with all of the net proceeds going to charities.

"This is both a fun tradition for the community, and a great benefit to those who receive the proceeds," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Thanks to the Rotary for a decade of great work."

The Nightmare begins officially on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 5:30 p.m., when

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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CLEAN AUDIT

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CODE COMPLIANCE

Story on page 6

Klahanie deserves a choice!

At the southern end of the Sammamish Plateau is the community of Greater Klahanie, a triangular piece of unincorporated King County that adjoins the city of Sammamish city boundary on two of its three sides for about 3.5 miles or about 60% of the total Klahanie community boundary.



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

The city of Issaquah adjoins Klahanie for only about 0.3 miles (about 5% of the total Klahanie boundary) at the very southwest corner of the Klahanie triangle. The remaining 40% abuts rural King County and the Urban Growth Boundary beyond which annexation is prohibited.

Klahanie is home to over 10,000 residents, most with children attending schools that feed into Skyline High in Sammamish, who make use of Sammamish parks, the Sammamish library, and Sammamish civic events. They will also be users of the Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center when it opens in early 2016. They are truly our neighbors and have always been an integral part of our community!

Prior to our 1999 incorporation as a city the northern half of Sammamish was in the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) for Redmond. The southern half, including all of Klahanie, was in the Issaquah PAA as was another area then known as Aldarra Farms. The Aldarra and Montaigne neighborhoods were annexed to the city of Sammamish only a few years ago as a result of an adjustment to the Issaquah PAA.

Klahanie is a different story – and the community is now in play for annexation – once again.

On the evenings of this past September 18 and 19, the Boundary Review Board, a county governmental body that approves all unincorporated area annexations, met in open public meeting in downtown Issaquah to hear Issaquah's petition for their annexation of the greater Klahanie area.

I attended as your mayor and primary city representative. Accompanying me were our Deputy Mayor, Ramiro Valderama, and Councilmember Don Gerend. All three of us joined in a presentation strongly opposing the annexation of Klahanie by Issaquah and strongly in favor of an annexation by Sammamish.

In June of 2001, two years after our 1999 incorporation as a city, the Sammamish City Council expressed a desire to have Klahanie included in its PAA. There was no adjustment to the status of the Klahanie area in Issaquah's PAA at the time of our incorporation to reflect the creation of the city of Sammamish or the interest that it may have in establishing its own PAA which logically would include Klahanie. The Issaquah City Council released Aldarra Farms for annexation to Sammamish but they did not do the same with Klahanie.

A joint Memorandum of Understanding with Issaquah's Mayor signed in May, 2002 that would have transferred both Aldarra and Klahanie to Sammamish was turned down by the Issaquah Council in September of the same year. Issaquah then refused to release Klahanie from their PAA. In No-

vember of 2005 the residents of Klahanie did vote to annex to Issaquah but also rejected accepting any of that city's debt obligation. The Issaquah Council subsequently turned down the annexation and Klahanie still remains unincorporated and in the Issaquah PAA.

In January of this year the Issaquah Council again kicked off a study of the feasibility of annexing Klahanie (their second). In June the report recommended proceeding with annexation. However, in the same month the Sammamish City Council unanimously passed a resolution expressing our interest in annexing Klahanie should the Issaquah annexation effort fail.

July, 2013 the Issaquah Council on a 6 – 1 vote decided and to go ahead and place the issue on February 2014 general election ballot. Per this arrangement Klahanie residents would then have to decide to remain “independent” residents of King County or to join Issaquah.

This completely ignores the fact that the Klahanie neighborhood as a significant part of the Sammamish Plateau has much more in common with Sammamish than it does with Issaquah. Both of us are essentially newer bedroom communities for families with children. Issaquah is much older with different demographics and heavily dependent on its commercial base.

Also ignored is the fact that important city services – emergency fire and police – are currently and can be more readily provided from Sammamish than from Issaquah as a result of both our extensive common boundary and much closer location to our city center and facilities.

Fire and emergency services for Klahanie are provided by Fire District

See MAYOR'S MESSAGE, pg. 3

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

MAYOR'S MESSAGE, cont. from pg. 3
10 (D10) which includes the Greater Klahanie area and a lot of other unincorporated areas. D10 is a partner in Eastside Fire and Rescue (EFR) as is Sammamish. In 2012 our three Sammamish fire stations (all owned by the city) responded to 391 calls to D10, primarily in Klahanie. Station 83 (Sunny Hills) alone had 313 of its calls go to D10 (almost 20% and largely to Klahanie) thus providing virtually all of the fire and emergency medical coverage for the community.

Sammamish is currently in discussion with our EFR partners regarding potentially leaving EFR due to an ongoing funding dispute with some of the other partners. At the root of the disagreement is the fact that our city only generated 52% of the calls answered by our three stations while we paid for 89% of the cost of their operation! There are other issues with EFR beyond this as well. Should Sammamish choose to leave EFR this would occur at the end of 2014 when the current EFR agreement expires.

Between now and January 2015 Klahanie would continue to receive fire protection from Station 83. Afterward how Klahanie would be protected is unclear. If Sammamish does leave EFR and if Klahanie were to annex to Issaquah or remain unincorporated then (1) there would have to be a contract with Sammamish for Klahanie fire and emergency services; or (2) Issaquah could provide service from the much more distant Issaquah Highlands fire station; or (3) Issaquah would have to either (a) redistribute its fire services within the city or (b) build a station to serve both Klahanie and Providence Point. An independent Sammamish would no longer continue to provide Klahanie with automatic

fire and emergency services protection and Station 83 could be relocated elsewhere to better serve the residents of Sammamish. Mutual aid (but not automatic aid) would continue but Issaquah would then become largely responsible for answering fire and emergency medical calls. Response times might increase significantly. Annexation to Sammamish by Klahanie would ensure continuation and possibly improvement of their current level of emergency services given Station 83's existing location adjacent to Klahanie.

Today police services are provided to Klahanie by the King County Sheriff, supplemented with off-duty officers hired by the Klahanie Homeowners' Association. Sammamish contracts with the Sheriff for law enforcement services operating under the Sammamish Police Chief who has immediate access to all of the Sheriff's many resources. The Sheriff's precinct station is located in our City Hall. Our officers already patrol 60% of the Klahanie boundary and back up the Sheriff on calls and last year responded to 340 calls in Klahanie (28/month!). On 25% of the calls Sammamish officers were first on scene due to our very short (under four minutes) response times. Issaquah has its own operation and would only say that their officers are "mobile" – from somewhere within their city. Sammamish could well be able to provide a much faster response.

Then there is the intangible aspect that most Klahanie children attend schools on the plateau which feed into Skyline High School, located in the heart of Sammamish, use the Sammamish library and our parks and attend our community events. They will be users of our new Community and Aquatic Center when it opens in early

2016 and would have the benefit of reduced fees as Sammamish residents. Many are in ball and soccer leagues based here on the Plateau.

Klahanie residents all understandably want to annex to SOMEONE in their search for better services and lower costs. Both cities offer lower taxes than the unincorporated county. Issaquah has an advantage in property taxes. To this must be added taxes Sammamish does not have – excise taxes on water bills, TV and cable, Business and Occupation Taxes. Sammamish has not raised property taxes in FOUR YEARS – and is unlikely to in the coming year. We run a very lean and efficient city which provides excellent services to its residents. We have a \$68 million cash balance surplus as of the end of this August!

We are paying our \$25 million share of the cost of building our new Community and Aquatic Center entirely from our substantial cash reserves. We continue to have an AAA bond rating and only \$4.6 million in long-term debt. We have \$415 million in unused bonding capacity should we need it in the future. As of December, 2012 Issaquah had \$29 million in current long-term debt with another \$10 million coming for their pool renovation and other parks projects. Any additional funding for the Central Issaquah redevelopment plan may be additive to that number. As of year-end 2012 Issaquah's debt capacity was \$259 million.

Issaquah needs Klahanie and its high property tax valuations for debt servicing and future bonding capacity gained in order to support current obligations and probable additions to their debt. Issaquah's annexation plan

See MAYOR'S MESSAGE, pg. 4

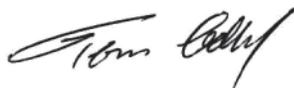
MAYOR'S MESSAGE, cont. from pg. 3

is also financially dependent on the state Sales Tax Annexation Credit to recover its projected \$500,000+ annual loss on amortized annexation costs for the next few years. This is money that is diverted from state and county sales tax revenues. Sammamish does not need this state credit to make our Klahanie annex work. Our projections are that it will be mildly cash positive for our city.

In addition to regarding Klahanie as already being an integral part of the Sammamish Plateau community, the city of Sammamish desires to annex the greater Klahanie area for strategic reasons of its own. It would simplify fire and police protection – and reduce overall costs – in the future by adding a large geographically contiguous area and population that will make provision of all city services even more efficient.

Equally importantly, it would give us full control over maintenance and improvement of major arterial roadways such as the Issaquah – Fall City and Duthie Hill Roads that are extremely important to the residents of Klahanie and Sammamish for commuting, shopping, and daily activities, and to the city for ensuring its own economic prosperity. Those roads are much more vital to the Plateau communities than they are to Issaquah.

Lastly, and most importantly, the residents of Klahanie are in many ways – other than name – already a major part of the Sammamish Plateau community. They deserve the right to be able to make a choice between continuing as they are OR between joining Sammamish or Issaquah.



Erosion control is vital to city

Do those black silt fences really do anything? Do I really have to cover my dirt piles with plastic? Do I have to cover my exposed soils? Do I really need a construction entrance? The answer to all of these questions is yes.

Even during our dryer summer months, we still get the occasional rain shower, so it's important to protect our waterways. Erosion and sediment control is a requirement in the city of Sammamish.

Construction run-off is one of the primary contributors to water quality degradation in the greater Puget Sound area and is regulated under federal, state and local laws and ordinances. With the rainy season upon us, here are practices all contractors should follow:

- Repair perimeter erosion control before rainfall.
- Cover stock piles and exposed soils at the end of the work day.
- Keep in mind that plastic coverings require maintenance.
- Wind can tear up plastic cover, making it ineffective.

Plastic coverings can also collect large amounts of water. Contractors need to have a place for this runoff to go, and extra supplies of erosion control materials in case they're needed.

7th Annual
Sammamish ARTS Fair
fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE



October 12th & 13th,
Saturday -Sunday 10am-5pm

Sammamish City Hall and Library, 801 228th Ave SE

www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com

Free art event for special needs students

CREATING CHARACTERS AT THE SAMMAMISH EX3 TEEN CENTER

At this no-charge event, each student's individual creativity will be expressed through clay, puppets, cartooning, storytelling, written words, theater – and their own imagination.

It runs from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19, at the EX3Teen Center, 825 228th Ave. N.E. To register, contact Allison Gubata at agubata@sammamish.us

or register online by going to www.sammamish.us and clicking Oct. 19 on the home page calendar.

The instructors will include published authors Wendy Wahman and Dana Sullivan, and art instructor Betsy Matias. The special needs students will also be entertained and inspired by Star Wars characters in full costume.

City receives a “clean audit” for the sixth straight year

After a lengthy review of the city’s financial documents and practices for fiscal year 2012, the state auditor’s office has once again given the city a “clean audit.” This is the sixth year in a row the city has received the much-desired evaluation.

“We have an AAA bond rating for a reason,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It’s the financial prudence of the City Council combined with the exceptional professionalism of our finance staff.”

Finance Director Joe Guinasso delivered the good

news to the City Council in a Sept. 16 email, noting that much of the credit should go to a finance staff made up of Chris Gianini, Jennifer Dilley, Jodee Bass, Marlene Dunhan and Allison Gubata.

The state audits the city’s finances every year, making sure that all financial statements are in order, and that the city’s financial practices are in alignment with City Council policies.

“Safeguarding the public’s trust is vital to our success as a city,” Yazici said. “This is great news.”

TRAIL, cont. from pg. 1

to the Sammamish City Council on Sept. 16, he said the county is making every effort to communicate and coordinate with affected residents.

The northern section of the trail will be closed during construction. Brown said, however, that access to all private properties and driveways will be maintained throughout the construction period.

The \$6.8 million in funding, provided by a voter-approved open space and trail levy, and grants from the federal Surface Transportation Enhancements Program and the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, will pay for, among other things :

- A 12-foot-wide asphalt trail with 2-foot soft-surface shoulders.
- Improved intersections and crossing treatments.

- Environmental improvements, including wetland enhancements, fish-passable culverts, slope stabilization and native landscaping.

Residents with questions, comments or concerns are invited to contact or engage with King County in a variety of ways:

- Hotline: 1-888-668-4886
- Project website: www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail.
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/iheartkcparks.

The next phase, between Southeast 43rd Way and Southeast 33rd Street is expected to begin construction in April of 2015. The last phase, from Southeast 33rd Street to Inglewood Hill Road, is scheduled to begin in April of 2017.

King County says the project timeline will be subject to change and dependent on budget availability.



Current gravel trail in Sammamish



Paved trail in Issaquah

City Council takes code compliance seriously

Just like the economy, the phone lines into City Hall have been heating up lately. And they've been carrying messages of concern from residents who think builders may be clearing too much land, taking down too many trees, and running the risk of doing environmental damage.

"The Council is hearing those voices loud and clear," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "And in recent discussions, the Council has emphasized again that they want fair and equal enforcement of our city code."

In most cases, code compliance issues can be handled with a simple "knock and talk" approach. When a builder makes a

mistake, a conversation and proper followup usually bring the project into compliance in a timely manner.

But there are occasional cases where a builder may decide, as the saying goes, that it's easier to be forgiven than to get permission. And that can become a pattern.

"We're going to impose the proper penalties when someone becomes a repeat offender," Yazici says. "Our environment and our neighborhoods are too important to let anyone play games with our code."

The city imposes penalties based on the severity of the infraction, the level of environmental damage done,

and the frequency of violations. The code authorizes the city to impose fines up to \$25,000.

"We don't want to impose that kind of fine, but compliance with the code is what helps us have good neighborhoods, a healthy environment, and a great, functional community," Yazici said. "With building activity on the rise, we're going to stay busy and make sure everyone follows the rules."

For more information on the code, go to the city website at www.sammamish.us and click through [departments](#), [community development](#) and [code compliance](#).

NIGHTMARE, cont. from pg. 1

Mayor Tom Odell snips the opening day ribbon, and continues every day through Halloween Night on Oct. 31.

A "Family Scare" version of the show will run from 7 to 7:45 p.m. for the benefit of younger children who may want a less frightening experience. A "Full Scare" version will run from 8 to 10 p.m. on school nights and from 8 to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Approximately 150 volunteers per night pitch in to make the October extravaganza go. Among other things, they serve as actors, makeup artists, security personnel, traffic control, line control, parking assistants and van drivers. Those interested in signing up are still very welcome. Just go to www.nightmareatbeaverlake.com and click the "volunteer" tab. The event website also has information on sponsors, directions, contributions and a variety of other topics.

Among the recipients of charity grants from the event are Habitat for Humanity, Friends of Youth, Eastside Men's Winter Shelter, Eastside Baby Corner, Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank, Starlight Children's Foundation, the Rotary International "End Polio Now" program and the Boys and Girls Club. College scholarship help is also offered to graduates of Skyline, Eastlake and Eastside Catholic High Schools.

Major sponsors of the event are Petco, Swedish Hospital, 7UP TEN, EAST-SIGNS of Bellevue and Republic Services.

In addition to the revenue garnered through ticket sales, the Sammamish Rotary Foundation also accepts all donations. Potential donors should contact Kurt Hamke at Kurt.Hamke@SammamishRotary.org.

Symphony begins season on Oct. 18

The Sammamish Symphony will begin its 22nd season with two performances of Romeo & Juliet, the first at the Meydenbauer Theater in Bellevue on Oct. 18 and the second at the Eastlake Performing Arts Theater in Sammamish on Oct. 20.

The concert lineup for the entire season is now posted on the symphony's website at SammamishSymphony.org. Season tickets for adults are set at \$90, for seniors and students at \$75, and for children (10 and under) at \$30. Those interested in purchasing tickets are invited to call 206-517-7777.

One of the highlights of the season will be a performance of Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor at Benaroya Hall on March 30.

CITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 1

City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Finance Committee Meeting,
4 p.m.
Parks and Rec Comm Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 3

Public Safety Committee Mtg,
4 p.m.
Planning Comm Mtg,
6:30 p.m.
(55+ Art Program),
“Putting it all together Collage
Cardmaking,”
Boys and Girls Club,
10 a.m.-noon

Saturday, Oct. 5

Mayor’s Month of Concern,
11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

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

Saturday, Oct. 12

Sammamish Recycling Collection,
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunny Hills Elementary School
Volunteer at Illahee Trail,
9 a.m.-noon

Saturday, Oct. 12

7th Annual Arts Fair,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 13

7th Annual Arts Fair,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 14

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

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,
6 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club

Thursday, Oct. 17

Community Garden Steering Cmte,
6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Sammamish Walks,
Beaver Lake Preserve, 10 a.m.-noon.
“Creative Characters” Special Arts
Sammamish, 1-3 p.m.,
Boys and Girls Club

Saturday, Oct. 26

Volunteer at Evans Creek Preserve, 9
a.m.-noon

Monday, Oct. 28

Arts Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 5

City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

Finance Committee Meeting,
4 p.m.
Parks and Rec Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 7

Planning Commission Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 9

Volunteer at Lower Sammamish Commons,
9 a.m.-noon

Monday, Nov. 11

Veterans’ Day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Nov. 12

Study Session,
6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 18

City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.
Arts Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,
6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 21

Community Garden Steering Cmte,
6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 28 - Friday, Nov. 29,

Thanksgiving
City offices closed

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.



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SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Tom Odell
Mayor*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Deputy Mayor*



*John Curley
Councilmember*



*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*John James
Councilmember*



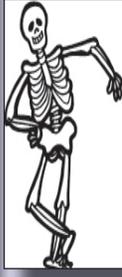
*Tom Vance
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Halloween at City Hall!!!





Oct. 31 - 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Let your young children trick or treat in a safe, dry, not-too-scary environment. City staffers will be dressed up for the occasion and loaded with treats. For more information contact Joanna Puthoff.
(jputhoff@sammamish.us, 425-295-0588)

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Lyman Howard	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Gurol	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Serv Dir/Asst City Mgr
Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Laura Philpot	Public Works 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
425-295-0555
tlarson@sammamish.us**