

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 87

CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

## Kids look ahead on city's 10th birthday

### DRESSED AS THEIR FUTURE SELVES, KIDS LEAD BIG PARADE

Although the city's 10th birthday party on Aug. 29 was a celebration of the past decade, the event, from the beginning, was tilting toward the future.

In the leadup to the party, residents were invited to record video greetings to the inhabitants of 2049, the year a 40-year time capsule will be unearthed. And participants in the kids' parade, the kickoff event, were invited to dress as they expect to be dressed four decades hence.

As some XXX kids streamed down 228th Avenue from the Mary Queen of Peace parking lot to City Hall, more than a few 3-foot-tall doctors, lawyers and ballerinas could be seen marching into the future.

"The kid's parade got the event off to a great start," said City Manager Ben Yazici. "They came right off 228th and went straight to the bouncy toys, food booths and balloon artists."

Following the 10 a.m. parade, City Hall Plaza was hopping for the rest of

See *BIRTHDAY*, Page 4



With cell phone in hand, "The Boss" is dressed for success. As part of the kids' parade, he and a number of other youngsters dressed in outfits they hope to be wearing in 2049, the year the city's time capsule is scheduled to be unearthed.

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**LOW PARKWAY BIDS**  
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## It takes a community to raise a city

In the June edition of the Mayor's Message, I focused on the many ways citizens are making Sammamish a better place to live. I mentioned church and sports groups, social organizations and other non-profits, and the huge



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

participation by residents in specific projects or programs such as the Shoreline Master Program Update.

In the August edition, which focused on the city's tenth birthday, I gave special mention to community-binding events that have been so beneficial during our growth years – the SAMMI awards, Nightmare at Beaver Lake, etc.

Those two Mayor's Messages, however, barely opened the book on citizen contributions to the evolution of our city. In this message I shall leaf through some additional pages in this wonderful book of citizen volunteerism – the ingredient that has been so essential to making Sammamish a wonderful place to live.

Starting with the Council-appointed boards and commissions, we have the Arts Commission, the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission and the Technology Committee. Over the years some 77 citizens have given, for no compensation, literally hundreds of hours of their time to help the Council and staff flesh out the physical and legal

landscape of our city.

We have had numerous boards and committees with more specialized tasks, all filled with citizens freely giving of their time and expertise to “grow” our city. There was the Planning Advisory Board, which was given the very difficult task of drafting our first comprehensive plan, the Beaver Lake Management District Board, the Town Center Special Area Task Force, the Town Center Citizen Advisory Board, the Critical Areas Advisory Board, the Emergency Management Advisory Committee and the Parks Bond Validation Committee. There were another 120 citizens on these panels, some serving on several.

The Sammamish Youth Board over the years has had literally hundreds of participants, and there have been some 29 student liaisons attending City Council meetings, giving the Council and the city two-way connections with the high schools.

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*“I shall leaf through some additional pages in this wonderful book of citizen volunteerism...”*

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And then there has always been voluminous public involvement in special meetings when the city has solicited ideas and input from residents. These include the East Lake Sammamish Trail charette, 228th Avenue Improvements charette, Pine Lake Park Improvement meetings, Ebright Creek Park improvement meetings, Town Center meetings, East Sammamish Park Master Plan meetings, Beaver Lake Park Improvement meetings, Sammamish Landing

Park meetings, East Lake Sammamish Parkway Improvement meetings, barricade meetings, a road standards workshop, All About Roads Day Meeting, and Shoreline Master Plan Meetings.

Going back to the earlier years of our incorporation when we had Council committees which were open to the public, we had citizen participation in these meetings as well. In particular, I remember having anywhere from 20 to 40 residents at early meetings of the Transportation Committee at which we grappled with the task of transforming a rural road network into the spine of a system to handle the inevitable growth that comes with being designated as an urban area.

And we also have the numerous volunteer projects and programs overseen by the city's Volunteer Coordinator, Dawn Sanders, the most recent one being our tenth birthday celebration on August 29th. In addition, there are many volunteers who go about their contributions in very quiet ways, whether it is helping out in the schools, checking in with elderly neighbors, monitoring the water quality of our lakes, working on neighborhood traffic calming efforts, pulling noxious weeds, or picking up litter along our sidewalks and roads.

So, to the thousands of Sammamish residents who have contributed thousands of hours of volunteer time during these ten years of community growth, on behalf of the Council, the staff and the city, I would like to extend to you our most heartfelt thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

## New beach was busy this summer

Aided by an exceptionally sunny swimming season and a new pebble beach, the shoreline at Pine Lake Park was a busy place this summer. The presence of a brand new dock didn't hurt either.

"We had a great summer this year," Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. "There was an adjustment period after the improvements we made during the offseason, but it was fun to see people embrace it."

Due to state environmental regulations, the city was not allowed to replenish a sand beach that has slowly migrated to the bottom of the lake over the past few years. Last season, the beach was quite muddy with only a residue of sand left.

"When the sand goes to the bottom, it builds sediment and damages water quality," Richardson said. "The small round pebbles we have now are regarded as the best alternative."

In other changes, the city installed root protection



*Residents relax on the pebble beach at Pine Lake Park last month.*

zones to improve the precarious health of trees along the shore. These feature native vegetation at the base of the tree and protective fencing. In addition, the city solidified the shore by placing natural logs and boulders along the beach that also serve as waterfront seating.

The changes, which also include a new picnic terrace, are the latest phase of improvements to Pine Lake Park. The price tag for the new features: \$1.5 million.

## New parkway bids come in below estimates

### STIMULUS MONEY WILL COVER \$2.7 MILLION CONSTRUCTION COST

Taking the very favorable bidding environment into account, engineer's estimates for the cost of East Lake Sammamish Parkway Phase 1B were pushed down to \$3 million.

Apparently, the engineer didn't push down far enough. On Sept. 1, the City Council awarded the contract to SCI Infrastructure for \$2.7 million, \$300,000 less than the flinty-eyed original estimate.

"Buyers are continuing to benefit from the slow economy when it comes to capital projects," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Contractors are competing by submitting some really favorable bids."

In this case, the cost will be covered by \$3.5 million in federal stimulus money awarded to Sammamish. In addition to paying for the \$2.7 million construction contract, the

stimulus funds will cover a separate contract for construction management. Any money left over will be sent back to the federal government.

Phase 1B will modify and widen an existing bridge along the parkway and extend other road improvements about a quarter mile north of where Phase 1A ends. The improvements, extending to Northeast 26th Street, will include a center turn lane, median strip, bike lanes, a sidewalk on the east side, and storm water facilities to prevent oil and other pollutants from running off into the lake.

Construction is scheduled to begin next spring, with completion expected by late summer. For more information, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ELSP) or contact Project Manager Jeff Brauns ([jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us)).

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

*BIRTHDAY, cont. from pg. 1*

the day with music, food and entertainment.

Among the highlights: Brothers from Different Brothers, Jet City Improv, Zero and Somebuddy, a youth marimba ensemble, and a music/comedy group called Recess Monkey.

Mayor Don Gerend also took time to introduce the winners of the art, essay and math competitions held in conjunction with the event. The winners were:

- Art - XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
- Essay - XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
- Math - XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

The high point, from a ceremonial point of view, was



*Marchers representing the Evergreen Bilingual Institute.*



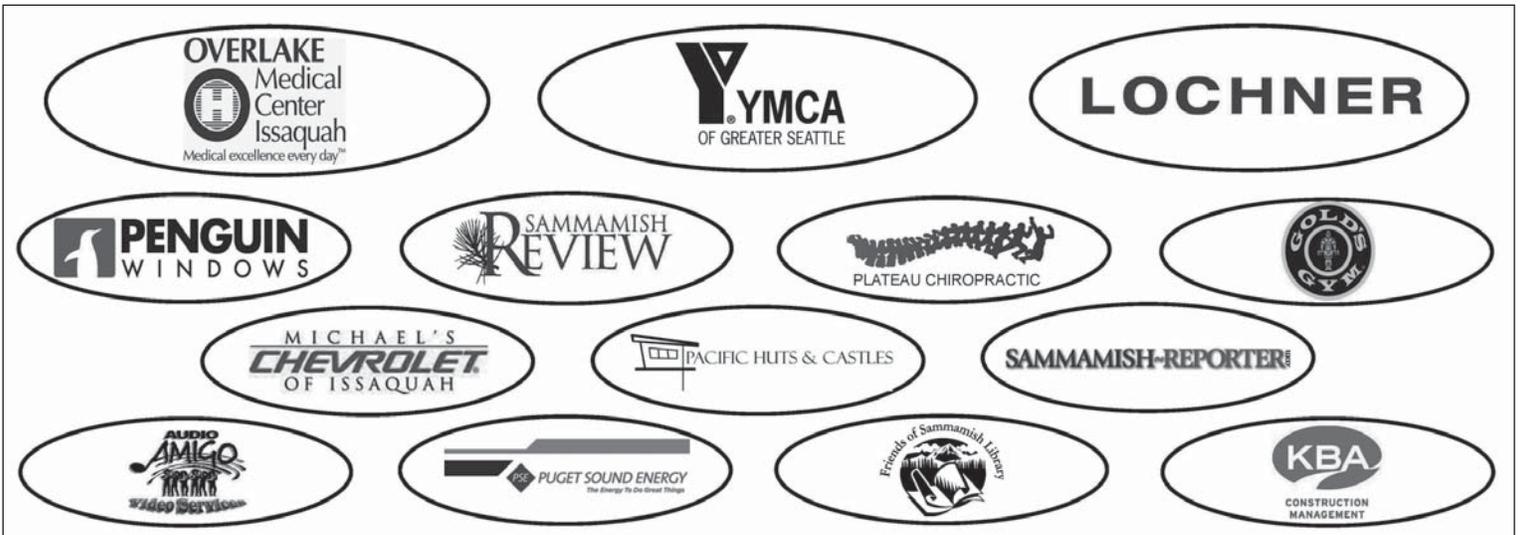
*Mayor Don Gerend and Xxxxxx Xxxxx lead the parade.*

the burial of the time capsule at about 1:30 p.m. at the southern edge of the skate park. Wielding the golden shovels were past councilmembers Phil Dyer and Ken Kilroy, Mayor Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor Jack Barry, current councilmembers Michele Petitti, Kathleen Huckabay and Mark Cross, and Xxxxxx Xxxxxx, a ten-year-old resident who was born on the very day of incorporation.

The time capsule burial was preceded by speeches from elected officials and other dignitaries present for the big day. Among those in attendance: King County Sheriff Sue Rahr, Lake Washington School Superintendent Chip Kimball, and State Representatives, Glenn Anderson, Roger Goodman and Larry Springer.

“It was a very nice turnout and a milestone moment for

## Birthday sponsors: Thank You!



everyone in Sammamish,” Yazici said. “A lot has been accomplished over the past ten years here in Sammamish, and it was nice to hear some brief remarks about where we’ve been and where we’re going.”

Sammamish incorporated in 1999 after residents became concerned that rapid residential growth was not being matched with appropriate investment in roads, parks and other infrastructure. Before incorporation, King County spent approximately \$1 million annually on infrastructure. Following the formation of the city, the community’s infrastructure investment has averaged approximately \$10-12 million per year.

“The past decade has really shown the benefits of self-governance,” Yazici said. “Growth is under better control, residents have better roads, parks, ball fields and other amenities, and city residents pay a lower tax rate than their neighbors in unincorporated King County. It’s been a transformational decade.”



*The ceremonial burial of the 40-year time capsule.*

## Rep. Reichert places Sammamish in the congressional record

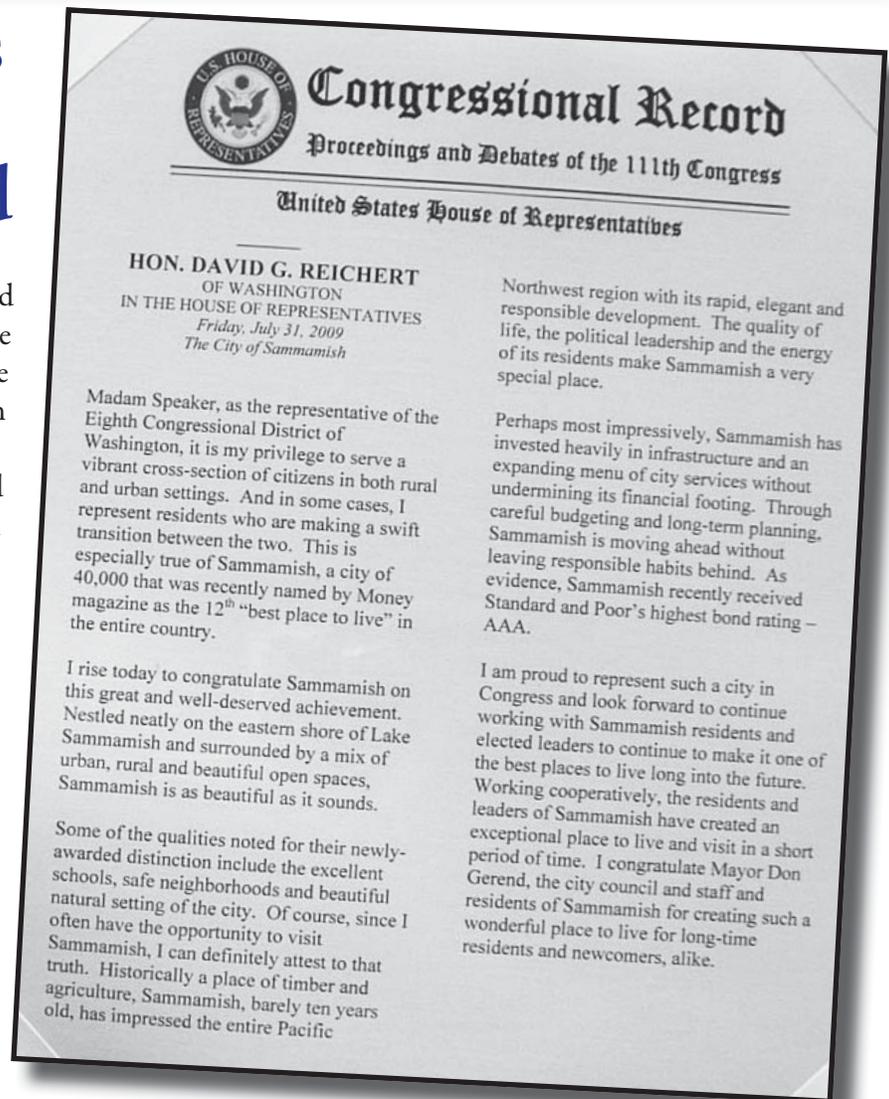
After seeing that Money Magazine had named Sammamish the 12th “best place to live” in the country, Congressman David Reichert made note of that proud fact in the Congressional Record on July 31.

In his statement, Reichert said Sammamish had “impressed the entire Pacific Northwest region with its rapid, elegant and responsible development.”

The congressional record now also contains references to the city’s excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and heavy investments in infrastructure.

“We are very pleased that Congressman Reichert took the time to recognize Sammamish in this way,” City Manager Ben Yazici. “We’ve already put our bound copy of the document in the display case here at City Hall.”

Reichert’s statement ends by saying: “I congratulate Mayor Don Gerend, the city council and staff and residents of Sammamish for creating such a wonderful place to live for long-time residents and newcomers, alike.”



## SMP at the finish line

Following a public hearing on Sept. 1, the City Council is poised to adopt the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update on Sept. 15 at its regular City Council meeting.

If it's adopted on schedule, the SMP, an update of shoreline regulations mandated by the state, will then go the Washington Department of Ecology for review and approval. If the state agency approves the SMP, it will conclude a complex, sometimes contentious, years-long public process.

"Everyone has worked very hard on the SMP," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Shoreline property owners, the Planning Commission, City Council, city staff, and hundreds of residents have all been part of a delicate balancing act.

"Protecting the environment and safeguarding individual property rights at the same time requires some real diligence."

For more information on the SMP, go to the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx).

### Other briefs here:

**Skyline parade**

**Food banks**

**Sammamish Citizen Corps**

**Walking Sammamish Trails**

## Art will be an autumn highlight at City Hall

### THE ART OF THE SARI

Starting Sept. 16, the City Hall Commons Gallery will be lined with brilliantly colored saris, the traditional costumes of Indian women that date back more than two thousand years. The exhibit, staged by the Sammamish Arts Commission, will run through Dec. 4.

The piece of cloth used as a sari is usually six to nine yards long and traditionally covers the upper and lower parts of the body while leaving the midriff uncovered. Usually, the way a sari is draped – there are at least 100 different ways – will hint at the region of India the wearer is from.

The fall exhibit will also feature photographs and an intricate form of sand painting called Rangoli. The exhibit is part of a year around series of shows the Sammamish Arts Commission presents in the City Hall gallery.

The opening reception for “The Art of Sari” will be held on Sept. 16, 6-8 p.m., at City Hall. For more information, contact Barbara Jirsa a [barbarajirsa@comcast.net](mailto:barbarajirsa@comcast.net).

### SAMMAMISH ART FAIR

Local eastside artists will have their work for sale at City Hall next month as part of the city’s third annual Sammamish Art Fair. The fair, which will feature original paintings, jewelry, mixed media, encaustic art, glass art, ceramics, woodcarving and textile art, is sponsored by the Sammamish Arts Commission.

This year’s art submissions were juried to ensure the highest quality. More information is available at the art fair website: <http://sammamishartfair.wordpress.com>.

The art fair will be open Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at City Hall. Light refreshments and music will be offered at the event. Admission is free.

Parking is available next to City Hall and at nearby lots. For more information on the Sammamish Art Fair, please call 425-295-0500 and ask for the Sammamish Arts Commission.

## CITY CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

#### Tuesday, Sept. 1

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 2

Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m.

#### Thursday, Sept. 3

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Beaver Lake Park Master Plan - Public Meeting #3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Beaver Lake Lodge

#### Monday, Sept. 7

Labor Day, city offices closed

#### Tuesday, Sept. 8

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

#### Wednesday, Sept. 9

Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m.

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

#### Tuesday, Sept. 15

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 16

Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m.

Sari Exhibit Reception, 6-8 p.m.

#### Monday, Sept. 21

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

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

#### Wednesday, Sept. 23

Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m.

#### Thursday, Sept. 24

Planning Commission Mtg, 5 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 30

Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m.

### OCTOBER

#### Thursday, Oct. 1

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 6

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, Oct. 8

Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9 p.m.

#### Saturday, Oct. 10 - Sunday, Oct. 11

Art Fair, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day

#### Tuesday, Oct. 13

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

#### Wednesday, Oct. 14

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

#### Thursday, Oct. 15

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Monday, Oct. 19

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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

#### Tuesday, Oct. 20

City Council Meeting, 6:30 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.



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*Jack Barry  
Deputy Mayor*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling  
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember*

**Commission Vacancies here**

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- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Ben Yazici       | City Manager           |
| Pete Butkus      | Deputy City Manager    |
| Kamuron Gurol    | ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr  |
| Lyman Howard     | FinanceDir/AsstCityMgr |
| John Cunningham  | Public Works Director  |
| Jessi Richardson | Parks & Rec Director   |
| Mike Sauerwein   | AdminServices Director |
| Melonie Anderson | City Clerk             |
| Nathan Elledge   | Police Chief           |
| Lee Soptich      | Fire Chief             |
| Bruce Disend     | City Attorney          |
| Tim Larson       | Communications Mgr     |