

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 99

CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2010

## Sustainable Sammamish gathers force

**TWO SEPTEMBER EVENTS WILL BRING COMMUNITY DESIRES INTO FOCUS**

It's been a five-month, city-wide vocabulary test focused on just one word – sustainability – and by the end of this month the community's definition of that word may finally come into focus.

“To a lot of people, ‘sustainability’ means ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,’” said the city’s Kathy Curry, “but we’ve been trying hard to understand what ‘sustainability’ means, specifically, to the residents of Sammamish.

“As we implement sustainability measures over the coming years, we want to make sure they reflect the values and priorities of the broad community.”

To that end, the city is inviting all residents to a “Sustainable Sam-

*See SUSTAINABLE, pg. 5*



*The barricade at Southeast 32nd Street.*

## Should this barricade stay or go?

**DECISION CRITERIA TO BE TESTED AT SE 32ND ST.**

It's a complicated and emotional issue – should the city remove barricades that block a number of residential streets in Sammamish? Is the improvement in traffic circulation – or “connectivity” – worth the potential impacts on safety and neighborhood character.

In 2007, around 200 residents, many of them holding signs, crowded

into a City Council meeting and spoke forcefully against the removal of a barricade along Southeast 32nd Street, just south of Pine Lake.

As a response to that meeting and other expressions of concern, the city decided to develop a set of criteria to guide its decision-making process on

*See BARRICADES, pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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**COMMISSION OPENINGS**

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**PREVENT FLOODING**

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## Cultural Immersion in Sammamish

In last November's newsletter my topic was cultural diversity in Sammamish. I wrote about being invited to participate in Diwali, a Hindu tradition, and what a delightful experience it was!

Recently I had the opportunity for brief immersions in another of Sammamish's rich cultures – the Muslim



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

community. During Ramadan last month I was invited to participate in an Iftar or "fast breaking" evening of prayers, speeches and ultimately a dinner with some of the traditional foods. The

food had some kick to it, but was all terrific. Ramadan lasts roughly a month, and during that month it is observed by fasting from sunrise to sunset.

I learned that in our city of some 42,000 people there are perhaps 1,000 Muslims. Most of these families and individuals have come here because Microsoft, Boeing, and other nearby high-tech and engineering employers value their skills.

Gradually, we're seeing greater participation by our Muslim neighbors in city affairs. One of our planning commissioners, for example, Mahbubul Islam, a manager with the Environmental Protection Agency, was at the Iftar dinner, along with his wife, a financial analyst for Sound Transit.

The fledgling Sammamish Muslim Association, formed in 2002, does not have a mosque yet, so they held the Iftar dinner at the Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Sammamish, which in itself is a statement about

interfaith tolerance and respect. They have purchased a couple of acres of land and an existing house on Southeast 20th Street and hope to have this be a place of worship, recreation and education. Currently, they are contemplating an application for land use permits from the city of Sammamish.

To learn more about members of the Muslim community in the Puget Sound area, and their aspirations, I subsequently attended another Iftar Dinner, this one at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse. Sponsored by the Muslim Association of Puget Sound, the event had a guest list that included the Mayor of Redmond and councilmembers from both Redmond and Bellevue. I found out that there are over 100,000 Muslim residents and over 35 mosques in Washington State; the Redmond mosque was founded in 2006.

At this Iftar gathering, one of the speakers was an American-born Muslim, raised in New York City but now living in Bellevue, who spoke passionately about the global nature of the Islam religion, as well as some of the traditions that many of the practitioners observe. For example, Islamic etiquette encourages modesty in behavior, including clothing choices, so we shouldn't be surprised to find young Muslim female students choosing to wear scarves to high school.

The native New Yorker also chose to address the desire by some Muslims to open a community center in a building, the Burlington Coat Factory, two blocks from Ground Zero in Manhattan. There is already apparently a mosque some five blocks away and a wide variety of churches and businesses

in the vicinity of Ground Zero. The Burlington Coat Factory building was damaged in the Sept. 11 attacks and the center's planners apparently have said that they want the center to stand as a statement against terrorism.

They are violating no law in wanting to build a community center there, as our speaker pointed out, but many Americans apparently believe that this is not the right way for American Muslims to express their opposition to terrorism. I was impressed when the speaker pointed out that although the Muslim community was within its rights, he personally would advise against the plan to open the community center that close to Ground Zero. It was good to see that our Muslim community, like so many others, features a range of perspectives.

I am delighted with the warmth of the Muslim community in our city, their appreciation for living in Sammamish, their desire to be better understood, and their increasing activity in our civic and cultural affairs.

As an extension of this theme, the multi-cultural emphasis at this year's Sammamish Days and Sammamish Nights celebration was very well received. What a pleasure it was, especially, to see the many children dressed in a variety of traditional clothes. As part of this very colorful and educational experience, I met again a three-year-old friend who was absolutely radiant in his memorable Korean costume. It was great to see you again, young fella.

And it's great to be part of our ever more diverse city. Let us continue to embrace the exciting mix of cultures and traditions in this immersion laboratory called Sammamish.

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

## *BARRICADES, cont. from pg. 1*

barricades. Acknowledging that each of the barriers presented a unique set of circumstances, the city, through an extensive public process, created a flexible set of criteria that it hopes can be applied to all, or at least most, of the cases.

To test the usefulness of its criteria, and gauge the response of a specific neighborhood to the decision-making process, the city will return to the barricade at Southeast 32nd Street.

“That should be a great test,” City Engineer Laura Philpot said. “There’s a barricade in the middle of Southeast 32nd, with traffic on both sides. We’re expecting a big turnout at our neighborhood meeting this month.”

That meeting, on Sept. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Sunny Hills Elementary, 3200 Issaquah-Pine Lake Road S.E., will focus on neighborhood concerns and the residents’ perspective on the best way to weight and order the decision criteria in a site-specific way.

“There’s been some concern that a lot of people from other parts of town will show up at the meeting and vote to take the barricade out,” Philpot said. “But that’s not the case. There isn’t going to be a vote. We’re just going to see how residents react to the criteria and the process.”

Although anyone can attend a public meeting, the city is especially interested in feedback from those living within the “influence area” of the barricade. That area encompasses any street that the city’s computer traffic model indicates would experience an increase or decrease of at least 10 vehicle trips per day if the barricade were removed.

“The city will mail out meeting notifications to all

residents within the ‘influence area,’” Philpot said. “We’re confident we’ll get some very useful feedback from the affected neighborhood.”

Among the frequently heard arguments against removal of barricades:

- It will increase traffic on the barricaded road.
- It will make the barricaded street less safe for children and other residents.
- The increased traffic will change the character of the neighborhood.

Among the arguments in favor of barricade removal:

- The barricades deflect traffic onto other streets, making them less safe.
- They increase the length of trips because drivers need to detour around the barricades.
- Removing the barricades will allow better, quicker access for emergency vehicles.

There are dozens of barriers in Sammamish. Some of them are rigid barricades like the one on Southeast 32nd Street. Others are opticom gates, barriers that swing open when signaled to do so by emergency vehicles. And other, more modest barriers are in place

where roads have not been completed.

“We have a variety of circumstances,” Philpot said. “We think the criteria we’ve developed will provide us with the flexibility we need to make sensible decisions.”

Some of the considerations embedded in the criteria include:

- Driver sight distance.
- Roadway grade.
- Impact on neighborhood “feel.”
- Cost of improvements needed to compensate for increased traffic.
- Impact on air pollution and water quality.
- Effect on vehicle miles traveled.
- Is the barrier near a pedestrian generator such as a school?

Following the Sept. 23 meeting, city staff will review the feedback and then schedule another neighborhood meeting in October. (At press time, no time and place had been chosen.)

“At the October meeting, the neighbors will probably get an idea of which way the criteria and process are leaning in this case,” Philpot said. “Residents will be able to weigh in at the October meeting and again at subsequent City Council meetings when the Southeast 32nd Street barrier is discussed.”

Based on the tentative schedule, the city staff expects to make a formal recommendation to the City Council around the end of the year. A final decision on the Southeast 32nd Street barricade is expected to be made by the City Council around January.

For more information on this and related issues, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)), click on the “projects” tab on the left side of the home page and then select “connectivity.” City Engineer Laura Philpot can be reached at [lphilpot@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:lphilpot@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0570.



*Residents carried signs into April 16, 2007, City Council meeting.*

## Parks and Planning Commissions have openings

The city is accepting applications from interested residents to fill positions on the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The seven-member Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council on land use ordinances and regulations. The nine-member Parks And Recreation Commission advises the City Council and city staff on matters relating to planning, acquisition of land, and the development and operation of park facilities and recreation programs within the city.

All applicants will participate in a short, informal interview at a public City Council session on Nov. 15. The Coun-

cil will then make the appointments in December, with the new commissioners beginning their 4-year terms in January of 2011. Currently, there are two openings on both commissions.

All applicants must reside in Sammamish and have their applications in by Nov. 1. A complete application will consist of a letter of interest, a resume, and a completed questionnaire (available online at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)).

Applications should be submitted to City Clerk Melonie Anderson at 801 228th Ave. S.E., Sammamish, WA 98075, or via email to [manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

Please call 425-295-0511 for additional information.



*Planning Commissioners question a consultant in 2007.*

## Mayor's "Month of Concern"

Starting this month, the mayors of eastside cities, including Sammamish Mayor Don Gerend, will be leading the way as a big effort unfolds to fill up the shelves of local food banks.

The mayors' "Month of Concern for the Hungry," which will run from Sept. 25 to Oct. 23, is designed to energize neighbors, friends and concerned citizens who are in a position to help those in need. Here in Sammamish, collection bins will be set up at City Hall and all fire stations. Donations will be accepted during normal business hours.

Among the most needed canned goods: vegetables, fruit, beef stew, pork and beans, tuna, soup, and chili. Also welcome: peanut butter, powdered milk, macaroni and cheese, baby food, vegetable oil, and snack puddings.

Mayor Gerend will read a proclamation at the regular City Council meeting on Sept. 21 to announce the big food drive. Similar proclamations will be read by other mayors throughout the eastside.

The city is encouraging homeowner associations to compete with each other on the food drive. Contact Melonie Anderson (425-295-0511, [manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us)) for rules and schedule information. For more general information on the "Month of Concern," and a list of donation locations, please go to [www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive/](http://www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive/).

## Help prevent flooding

Not to get ahead of ourselves, but the fall equation goes something like this: Rain + Falling Leaves = Flooding.

There isn't much we can do about the rain; it's going to come our way as the fall colors arrive. But we can do something about the leaves; we can pick them up.

"Leaves accumulate around the stormwater grates on our neighborhood streets," says Stormwater Engineer Eric LaFrance. "When we keep those grates clear, we have a lot less flooding during heavy showers."

Throughout the fall months, city maintenance crews will be on patrol looking for plugged stormwater grates, but they could really use a helping hand from observant residents.

"We'd encourage everyone to adopt a nearby storm drain and make sure the grate is clear of leaves," LaFrance said. "When the rain and the leaves are coming down all over town, there's no way we can keep things clear without the help of residents."

"When you rake the leaves up in your yard, we'd suggest that you clear the curb and gutter area in front of your home as well," he said. "And tell your friends to do the same. If we can make this a community-wide habit, we'll have a much less soggy experience each fall."

## National Night Out

As part of a nationwide event, the Sammamish Police Department and Sammamish Citizen Corps had a get-together with city residents and a variety of other public safety personnel at City Hall Plaza on Aug. 3.

Designed as a way to bring neighbors, police and firefighters together in a day of solidarity, the event drew an enthusiastic crowd. Among other things, kids met mascots, climbed on firetrucks, shook hands with police officers, and watched bomb squad equipment in operation throughout the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. event.



*Meeting and greeting on Aug. 3 during the National Night Out event at City Hall Plaza.*

### *SUSTAINABLE, cont. from pg. 1*

mamish” event at City Hall on Sept. 15. Coordinated by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city, the 4 to 8 p.m. event will feature information, vendors and products that residents can use to reduce their impact on the environment even as they enjoy and profit from the community they live in.

The Sept. 15 event will overlap with that day’s Farmers Market (also 4-8 p.m.), so the “Sustainable Sammamish” event should help create a very busy and entertaining day at City Hall.

“It will be another great opportunity to gather input from our residents on what ‘sustainability’ means to them,” Curry said. “And then, later in the month, we’re going to have a community meeting to review the outcome of our public outreach efforts and start closing in on a ‘sustainability strategy.’”

That public meeting, at City Hall on Sept. 30, will begin with a welcome reception at 5 p.m. and then continue

with a workshop and other meeting activities between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The two September events will follow an extensive, five-month community outreach effort. Among other things, the city has conducted a staff workshop, briefed the Planning Commission and City Council, connected with youth groups and the Chamber of Commerce, created a “sustainability” website, and conducted an online community poll.

That online survey, on the city’s website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)), is open until Sept. 17 and can be accessed by clicking on the “sustainability” tab on the left side of the home page.

As part of the outreach effort, residents have been asked about their priorities at a “sustainability” booth that has made its way to summer concerts, the Fourth on the Plateau celebration, and numerous Farmers Markets.

Staffed by members of the City Council, Planning Commission, Parks Commission and city staff, the booth has allowed residents to place dots on a pair of boards to identify the sustainability practices they already employ

and, looking forward, the priorities they value most.

Some of the options on the two boards:

- Conserving energy
- Conserving water
- Fostering green businesses and jobs
- Planning for long-term financial stability
- Reducing, reusing, recycling
- Promoting social equity
- Participating in community and/or neighborhood social events
- Creating and protecting healthy natural habitats
- Volunteering in the community
- Fostering healthy neighborhoods

Following the two September events, the Planning Commission and City Council will review all relevant information, refine the strategy, and then adopt a “sustainability” program sometime in 2011.

For more information on the “sustainability” project, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click on the “sustainability” tab, or contact Kathy Curry ([kcurry@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:kcurry@ci.sammamish.wa.us), 425-295-0527.)

## Keep up with the Sammamish Arts Commission on Facebook

For the latest news on art events in and around the city, residents can now go directly to the source – the Sammamish Arts Commission Facebook Page.

To find the page, go into Facebook and search for “Sammamish Arts Commission.” In addition to viewing all the news, visitors can also share their perspective on the arts in Sammamish.

## 4th Annual Art Fair near

Some of the best jury-selected artists on the eastside will present their work at the 2010 Sammamish Art Fair next month. This fourth annual event, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9, and Sunday, Oct. 10 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days), will be staged at City Hall.

The fair will feature original paintings, jewelry, mixed media, encaustic art, ceramics, textile art, woodcarving, and various glass arts. Attendees will be encouraged to meet the artists, discuss the creative process, and consider the pieces on sale.

There will also be a full program of performance art at the adjacent public library, including childrens’ theater, dance, book readings and a puppet show. Children at the library will have the opportunity for some “hands on” art activities, as well.

This community-wide cultural art experience is sponsored by the city of Sammamish, the Arts Commission, and 4Culture. In addition to the art, attendees will also enjoy live music and light refreshments. Admission is free.

For artist previews and more information on the Art Fair, go to [www.sammamishartfair.wordpress.com](http://www.sammamishartfair.wordpress.com).

## City installs the latest in lighting technology

The short pathway connecting the Mary Queen of Peace parking lot to City Hall used to be illuminated by ordinary light standards. But when the new library construction cut off power to those lights, the city decided to take advantage of the latest technology to restore the light, and move the city towards its goal of a more “sustainable” future.

The two new fixtures come complete with solar panels, internal batteries, and LED lighting. When the pathway lights turn on at dusk, they operate at 100 percent, then dim during the middle of the night when there is little path-



*A solar panel and lighting fixture illuminates the path. The new Sammamish library is in the background.*

way use. They brighten up to 100 percent again in the early morning when heavier use resumes. The lighting pattern effectively matches use of the pathway by library workers and other pedestrians.

## Sept. 16 meeting at City Hall for Eagle Scout projects

Young men interested in doing an Eagle Scout project with the city of Sammamish are invited to attend a meeting with city staff at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16, at City Hall.

The city’s Dawn Sanders, Kyle Endelman and Mike Keller will brief the attendees on project options and requirements.

In years past, the Scouts have worked on a variety of different projects, including fence building, construction of boardwalks, and park planting, among other things.

# CITY CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

### Wednesday, Sept. 1

4-8 pm, Sammamish Farmers Market  
5:30-6:30 pm, City Council Office Hours

### Thursday, Sept. 2

6:30 pm, Planning Commission Mtg

### Monday, Sept. 6, 2010

Labor Day, City offices closed

### Tuesday, Sept. 7

5-6:15 pm, Finance Committee Mtg  
6:30 pm, City Council Meeting

### Wednesday, Sept. 8

4-8 pm, Sammamish Farmers Market  
6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg

### Tuesday, Sept. 14

6:30 pm, City Council Study Session

### Wednesday, Sept. 15

2-9 pm, Sustainable Sammamish  
4-8 pm, Sammamish Farmers Market  
5:30-6:30 pm, City Council Office Hours  
6 pm, Sammamish Youth Board Mtg

### Thursday, Sept. 16

6:30 pm, Planning Commission Mtg

### Saturday, Sept. 18

9 am to noon - Volunteer weeding, cleaning in Lower Commons  
10 am to noon - Sammamish Walks, Beaver Lake Preserve parking lot

### Monday, Sept. 20

6:30 pm, Arts Commission Meeting  
6:30 pm, City Council Study Session

### Tuesday, Sept. 21

6:30 pm, City Council Meeting

### Wednesday, Sept. 22

4-8 pm, Sammamish Farmers Market

### Thursday, Sept. 23

7-9 pm, Arts Commission Film Screening: "Wounded Healers"

### Saturday, Sept. 25

Mayor's "Month of Concern" drive to stock local foodbank shelves. (See story on pg. 4).

## OCTOBER

### Monday, Oct. 4

5:30-6:30 pm, City Council Office Hours

### Tuesday, Oct. 5

5-6:15 pm, Finance Committee Mtg  
6:30 pm, City Council Meeting

### Thursday, Oct. 7

7-9 pm, "The Scarlet Letter," Sammamish Library

### Saturday, Oct. 9

1:30-2:30 pm, "The Prince of the Pond," Sammamish Library  
3-4 pm, Artist Wendy Wahman shows kids how to interact with dogs, Sammamish Library

### Saturday, Oct. 9-Sunday, Oct. 10

10 am to 4 pm both days  
Art Fair at City Hall

### Sunday, Oct. 10

1:30 pm and 3 pm, Thistle Theater, Sammamish Library

### Monday, Oct. 11

8:30 am to 5 pm each business day through Nov. 12, Veronique LeMerre Art Exhibit, City Hall

### Tuesday, Oct. 12

6:30 pm, City Council Study Session

### Wednesday, Oct. 13

6:30 pm, Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg

### Monday, Oct. 18

5:30-6 pm, City Council Office Hours  
6:30 pm, Arts Commission Meeting  
6:30 pm, City Council Study Session

### Tuesday, Oct. 19

7 pm, City Council Meeting

### Wednesday, Oct. 20

6 pm, Sammamish Youth Board Mtg

### Thursday, Oct. 21

4 pm, Public Safety Committee Mtg  
6:30 pm, Planning Commission Mtg

### Saturday, Oct. 23

9 am-noon, Volunteer weeding, mulching, Ilahee Trail

### Thursday, Oct. 28

7-8 pm, Arts Commission Comedy Night, Jet City Improv

## 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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# Thank You!

The City of Sammamish would like to thank our sponsors for Sammamish Days. We couldn't make it happen without their generosity.

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