

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 123

CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2012

ECA Update

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER ARE BUSY MONTHS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS (ECA) CODE REVIEW

The Planning Commission will stay busy over the next few months as it prepares to hand off its recommendation to the City Council on the Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) code update. The Commission's hand-off to the Council is expected to take place just after the first of the year.

The Commission's schedule calls for meetings on Sept. 6 and 20 to go over evaluations of major policy items, and then two public hearings on Oct. 4 and 18.

Senior Planner Evan Maxim, the city staff lead on the ECA, says the Commission's process has been both interesting and engaging.

"We've been very pleased with the quality of the comments we've received from all stakeholders," Maxim said. "And the Planning Commission has been very thoughtful and thorough in its approach to these evaluations."

State law requires cities like Sam-

See ECA, pg. 3



One section of a leisure pool at a community center in Salem, Oregon.

Community/Aquatic Center advisory vote on Nov. 6 ballot

Shortly after they select their preferred presidential candidate, Sammamish residents will face another interesting choice as they scan their ballot: Should the city build a \$30 million community/aquatics center in partnership with the YMCA?

The rough outlines of the proposed partnership look like this:

- The YMCA would contribute \$5

million towards construction, operate the finished facility, and be responsible for operational costs.

- The city would cover the rest of the construction costs and place the facility on seven acres of city-owned land just west of the library.
- The city's share of construction costs is expected to be \$25 million,

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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NWMAPS!

Story on page 3

ALL SAMMAMISH READS

Story on page 6

Building the community, one event at a time!

On the 17th of August we celebrated the Sammamish Days and Sammamish Nights events; this was the fourth time around for this special sequence of festivities. The first time was in conjunction with our city's 10th anniversary celebration in 2009 and we've continued every year since then as another way to bring our community together.



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

The daytime event was focused on families and kids with lots of activities aimed at our younger residents. As the Mayor, I had the privilege and honor of leading the kickoff parade of kids, parents, and pets. Joining me in the city's golf cart was this year's SAMMI Awards Foundation Trevor Price Award winner Nathan Gelbrich.

The enthusiasm was wonderful and fortunately no one got lost along the way from Mary Queen of Peace to the Upper Commons at City Hall! There we were greeted by all sorts of activities like face painting, bean bag tosses, dancing and lots of music! In addition there were a large number of booths where kids and parents could go for artwork, henna tattoos, a chance to try on ethnic clothing and a variety of other festive experiences.

In the evening, the Upper Commons was transformed, shifting from daytime fun to an elegant wine and tasting locale for adults. The Sammamish Chamber of Commerce was the main sponsor of the evening event along with about 16 wineries, a brewery and a distillery, plus ten or so of our local area restaurants. All together they

combined to provide a "Bite and Sip of Sammamish."

The Sammamish Arts Commission also arranged for a fantastic display of works by local artists. People greatly enjoyed going from place to place, enjoying the art, sampling food and wine, and mingling with each other.

The weather cooperated (no rain and fortunately not too warm) so the entire day was a great experience! I sincerely encourage all of us to put it on our calendar for next August! As usual, we had many volunteers helping our parks and recreation staff out with the event. Thank you! You know who you are!

City events like Sammamish Days and Nights, Safe and Sound Sammamish, the Farmers' Market, the Fourth of July celebration, and the concerts at Pine Lake Park are important in helping to bring about a sense of



community for our city. It takes many people to make these events successful and their efforts are much appreciated! Events such as these certainly offer a great opportunity to get out and meet residents from elsewhere in the city and to become informed about community organizations and services. We live in a wonderful city and should all enjoy it together! If you have not been a participant, I do recommend that you plan to

come in the future! All events are listed in advance on the Sammamish city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us).

Another note or two...

Garbage Service: Recently those of us (including me!) who are served by Waste Management had their regular garbage, recycling, and yard waste removal service interrupted by a labor issue involving that company. Others in the city who are served by another service provider were not seriously affected.

The service interruption prompted a number of calls and e-mails about the nature of our current service agreement with the two vendors. Both contracts were in place prior to our incorporation and we inherited them from King County. Both were automatically and annually self-renewing and each

have a clause requiring a 10 year cancellation notice. The city gave this notice in 2006 in order to start the 10-year clock and thus set us up for negotiations on a new contract to be effective in 2016.

Garbage Can Placement: While still on the subject of garbage pickup, I would like to remind all of our residents that when placing your containers for pickup, **PLEASE do not place them where they will**

impede pedestrian traffic (i.e., do not block the sidewalk or road shoulders!). They should be placed at the foot of your driveway, not on the sidewalk or walkway. We do not want to have walkers and kids on bikes forced into the path of vehicles!

Thanks for reading!



ECA, cont. from pg. 1

mamish to update its ECA code on a periodic basis. Using the “best available science,” the update attempts to balance environmental protections and the development goals of property owners.

The ECA regulations are part of the city’s development code. Among other things, the ECA code regulates wetlands, streams, aquifer recharge areas, seismic zones and steep slopes.

“The City Council asked the Planning Commission to provide thoughtful and well-documented recommendations,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Based on what we’ve seen so far, the Commission is going to give the Council a very valuable work product.”

After receiving the Commission’s recommendations in early 2013, the City Council will begin its own review process. Adoption of the updated ECA code is expected sometime in the spring.

For comprehensive information on the ECA, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the “Environmentally Critical Areas” tab on the left side of the home page.

To sign up for email alerts on the latest ECA news and meeting information, go to the website home page and click on the “email alerts” icon in the upper, right-hand corner.



Mystic Lake wetland

www.NWMaps.net recognized

A special website designed to help people research property information won the International Best in Class award (in the government category) from the Interactive Media Council last month.

Created by eCityGov Alliance, a consortium of east-side cities, www.NWMaps.net provides zoning, permitting, utility, environmental and school information, among other things, with a few clicks of a mouse.

Following the award, John Backman, Executive Director of eCityGov Alliance, sent a letter to City Manager Ben Yazici thanking him for special contributions made by two city staffers – Senior Planner Emily Arteché and GIS Coordinator Beth Carpenter.

Arteché served as the chair of the NWMaps business committee for a number of years and was the force behind a redesign of the website. Carpenter has served as the co-chair of the technical committee and is now co-chair of the eCityGov GIS Team.

The cities participating in www.NWMaps.net are Sammamish, Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, Renton, Shoreline and Tukwila.

Maintain septic tanks, please!

Like cars, septic tanks need regular attention to work properly. Unlike cars, though, these underground tanks can’t be dropped off at a dealership for service. So, it’s up to you to do the right things:

- Every 3 to 5 years, have your tank pumped by a certified contractor.
- Use only reputable, licensed septic waste haulers to pump out or repair your system.
- The solid level in the tank should be monitored annually and pumped out before overflow occurs.
- Put kitchen grease and garbage into the trash, not the septic system.
- Do NOT connect your septic tank to the stormwater drainage system.
- Keep heavy cars or equipment away from the area where pipes are located.
- Conserve water in your house to avoid system flooding.

Water that carries harmful bacteria from failing septic systems can pollute our lakes and streams. For more information on best practices, contact Stormwater Technician Lisa Werre at 425-295-0573 or lwerre@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

COMMUNITY, cont. from pg. 1

all of which would be drawn from a portion of the city's existing capital funds and financial reserves.

- **Note:** Although the details are still being worked out, the partnership would also give the city a lease on seven acres of YMCA land just south of Pine Lake Middle School. The \$1 per year lease for 50 years would allow the city to build and locate an additional recreational structure on the YMCA land in the future.
- **Note:** User fees and membership rates for the proposed community/aquatic center have not yet been set.

"The City Council asked for an advisory vote because this is a very important investment," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Even though no new taxes would be required to cover the city's share of the costs, the Council wanted residents to weigh in."

The city's decision to place this on the ballot follows a lengthy and comprehensive public input process. It began in March 2011 when Barker Seacat Rinker (BRS), a Denver consulting



firm, held the first of several public meetings. After also doing site analysis, market research, and reviewing focus group results, BRS presented the City Council with a proposal that reflected the community's stated desires.

Unfortunately, the price tag was almost universally considered too hefty: \$44 million for the building, and another \$20 million for related road improvements and an underground parking lot.

Looking to lower the cost, the City Council reduced the scope of the building and agreed to find a partner. After considering both non-profit and for-profit entities, the city came to an agreement with the YMCA.

Here are some of the primary features of the new, approximately 60,000-square-foot design:

- A leisure pool
- A lap pool
- Two gymnasiums
- A jogging track
- Weights
- Cardio and group fitness space
- Multipurpose rooms
- A child watch area
- Locker rooms
- On site parking

As required by law, the city will limit itself to providing factual information about the proposed community/aquatic center. To that end, residents will be receiving a mailed fact sheet later this month.

Residents wanting additional information can also contact the parks department at 425-295-0585 or jjackson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.



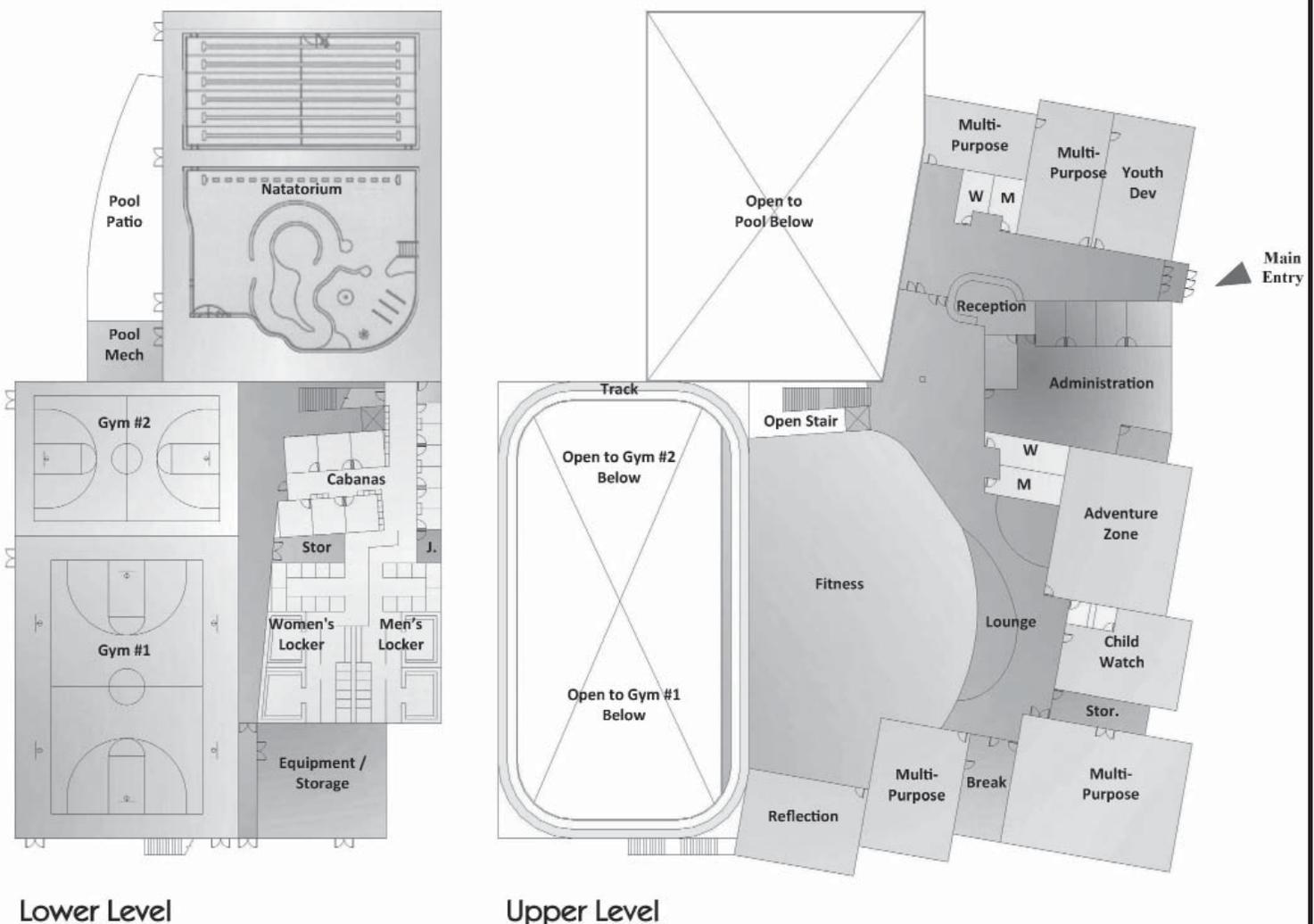


Important facts:



- Size of Community/Aquatic Center: approximately 60,000 square feet
 - Construction and equipment costs: \$30 million
- YMCA contributes at least \$5 million and covers operation costs
 - City contributes \$25 million, all of it drawn from a portion of existing capital fund and financial reserves.
 - No new taxes.

Conceptual design, subject to change

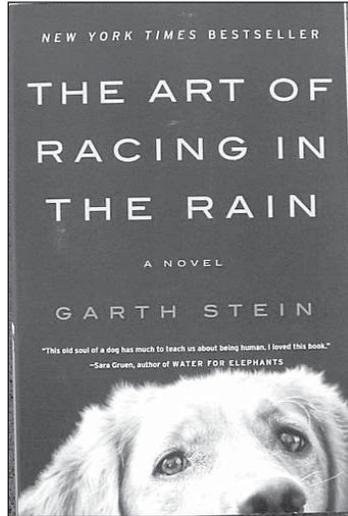


“All Sammamish Reads!” author comes to town

Garth Stein, author of “The Art of Racing in the Rain,” will appear at the Eastside Catholic School gymnasium on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Stein’s appearance is the culmination of the “All Sammamish Reads!” initiative sponsored by the Friends of the Sammamish Library, Chamber of Commerce, Eastside Catholic School and the city of Sammamish.

The initiative invited the en-



tire community to read Stein’s book and enjoy book-related activities over the course of the summer. Stein will cap off the family-friendly program with his personal appearance.

Stein’s novel, a New York Times bestseller, features Denny Swift, a race car driver from Seattle, and his dog Enzo. The story is told from the point of view of Enzo, who believes he can be reincarnated as a human being.

Thank you summer event sponsors!!!

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CITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Monday, Sept. 3

-Labor Day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Sept. 4

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

Wednesday, Sept. 5

-Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.
-City Council Council Office
Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
-Parks and Recreation Commis-
sion Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 6

-Planning Commission
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 11

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

Wednesday, Sept. 12

-Farmers Market,
3-7 p.m.
-Community Service Fair,
3-7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 13

-Volunteer Meet & Greet,
10 a.m.-noon, Lower Commons

Saturday, Sept. 15

-Volunteer Opportunity,
9 a.m.-noon
Sammamish Landing
-Sammamish Walks,
10 a.m.-noon
Hazel Wolf Wetland Preserve

Monday, Sept. 17

-Finance Committee Meeting,
5:30-6:15 p.m.
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

-OPEN HOUSE: 244th Avenue
SE Improvements, 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

-Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 20

-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22

-All Sammamish Reads
Volunteer Project, 9 a.m.-noon.
Beaver Lake Dog Park
-Mayor's Day of Concern for the
Hungry, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sammamish Area Grocery Stores

Tuesday, Sept. 25

-Economic Development
Committee Meeting, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

-Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.

OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 2

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

Wednesday, Oct. 3

-Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m.
-City Council Council Office
Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
-Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 4

-Planning Comm Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

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

Thursday, Oct. 11

Volunteer Meet & Greet,
10 a.m.-noon,
Lower Commons

Saturday, Oct. 13 - Sunday, Oct. 14

-Art Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 15

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

Thursday, Oct. 18

-Planning Comm Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20

-Volunteer Opportunity,
9 a.m.-noon,
Lower Commons
-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon
Soaring Eagle Park

Monday, Oct. 22

-Arts Commission 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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*John Curley
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Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember*



*Tom Vance
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Eastside “Month of Concern”

The mayors of several eastside cities have proclaimed Sept. 22 through Oct. 13 as the “Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry.” Sammamish-area residents are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items at the following locations:

Sammamish City Hall

During normal business hours, Sept. 22 through Oct. 13

Safeway

On Sept. 22 and Sept. 29

Sammamish and Klahanie QFCs

On Sept. 22 and 29, Oct. 6 and 13

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Ben Yazici | City Manager |
| Lyman Howard | Deputy City Manager |
| Kamuron Guroi | Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr |
| Joe Guinasso | Finance Director |
| Laura Philpot | Public Works Director |
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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?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
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tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us**