



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 70

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

Popular route gets more buses

City partners with Microsoft, Redmond, Issaquah and Metro

In the near future, service on the 269 bus route through Sammamish will increase by 50 percent during peak hours. That's because Sammamish, Redmond and Issaquah have joined up with Microsoft to help fund the additional service.

"It's a great deal for residents," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "King County Metro is contributing two dollars for every dollar the partnership puts up."

The numbers look like this:

See BUSES, pg. 2

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Soaring Eagle	1
Expanded bus service	1
Mayor's message	2
Flyover opens	3
City traffic cameras.....	3
SAMMI Awards bestowed.....	4
Spammers and scammers.....	4
Permitting progress	5
Project updates.....	6
Recycling event	7
Arts Commission openings.....	7
City Hall calendar	7
Lifeguards wanted	8
City Hall contact info.....	8



A portion of the 30 acres transferred by King County to the city.

City lands Soaring Eagle

It took years of persistent work, but Sammamish finally arranged for the transfer of 30 acres of Soaring Eagle Park into city hands.

Although officials say six months of paperwork still lie ahead before the transfer of county land is complete, the King County Council approved the transfer on March 10. At press time, the Sammamish City Council was slated to accept the transfer on April 1.

"We are very happy with King County's decision," Ben Yazici said. "Down the road, this is going to be a great, active recreational resource."

"Our city council and staff had to jump through a lot of hoops to get this done. Councilmember Mark Cross, I know, met numerous times with King

County officials to find a way forward on this, and Parks Director Jessi Richardson was relentless."

After the 30 acres are transferred, the county's Soaring Eagle Park will still boast more than 600 acres of open space. Eventually, after funding is identified and a master plan process is conducted, the city hopes to build active recreation facilities on the transferred land, which is located on the city's eastern border.

"Kathy Lambert, our representative on the King County Council, did a great job of working with her fellow councilmembers and the executive's office to get this done," Yazici said. "We owe thanks for her determination and their cooperation."



Lee Felling
Mayor

The main reason I recently attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. was to carry out my duties representing the Association of Washington Cities on the Finance Committee. But there were many side benefits. Among other things, we were briefed by national experts on issues that affect all cities.

The briefings were not uplifting. In the financial area we face a massive federal budget deficit that compounds the difficulty of fixing Social Security, Medicare, and our deteriorating infrastructure.

When it comes to infrastructure, cities and states have depended on federal dollars to help, but with budgets strained by a likely recession and escalating healthcare and pension costs, cities and states are even less able to re-

pair, replace and expand roads, bridges, sewers and water systems. In Sammamish, we are fortunate to be dealing just with expansion of infrastructure and not crumbling bridges.

As we attempt to meet our transportation needs in Sammamish, it's helpful to remember that the costs of transportation are influenced not only by \$3.50 per gallon gas but by our land use choices, transportation investments, vehicle technology and fuel choices – whether measured in dollars, time, air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions.

In Sammamish we are planning sidewalks and trails and bike lanes to provide alternatives to jumping in the car. After our new sidewalk on 228th Avenue Northeast opened, I was able to walk safely to Safeway instead of driving. I even worked off a few calories!

We're also looking at ways to reduce car trips as we plan Town Center, considering design ideas like

concentrating development of retail and recreation near civic facilities so that you only park once to do several things.

Locating dense housing within walking distance of bus routes could also help. Speaking of buses, a recent partnership between Sammamish, Issaquah, Redmond, Microsoft and Metro will provide greatly expanded bus service in our city. Route 269, which connects Issaquah, Sammamish and Redmond, is scheduled to boost service by 50 percent by about year end.

When faced with some really big national transportation problems, it's empowering to realize that we, in Sammamish, are acting locally and doing smart things that are not only cost effective but help preserve a high quality of life for our children and grandchildren.

BUSES, cont. from pg. 1

- **Microsoft** **\$56,520**
- **Sammamish** **\$56,520**
- **Redmond** **\$56,520**
- **Issaquah** **\$18,840**
- **Metro** **\$376,790**

During the morning peak hours, the 269 bus leaves the downtown Issaquah park-and-ride, heads north through Sammamish along 228th Avenue, and terminates at the Overlake park-and-ride in Redmond. Currently, two buses per hour head north during the morning peak (6-9 a.m.). With the change, that will rise to three buses per hour.

During the evening peak (3:30-7 p.m.) the number of buses heading south along the same route will also increase from two to three buses per hour.

The boost in service was made possible by Transit Now, a ballot initiative that allows transit partnerships of this sort. The additional buses are expected to start run-

ning late this year.

“The 269 bus route is very popular,” Yazici said. “A lot of Sammamish residents work at Microsoft and other places north of our city limits.

“The increased service in the peak hours means buses will come every 20 minutes.”



Rider hops aboard the 269 bus in Sammamish.

Flyover opens in Redmond

The traffic trap at the intersection of State Route 202 and State Route 520, well known to Sammamish commuters who want to head west toward Bellevue or Seattle, has sprung a leak.

Instead of waiting through two traffic lights before taking a left onto State Route 520, drivers can now exit onto a “flyover” ramp that takes them up and over the big mess and deposits them directly onto State Route 520.

“The State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is monitoring use of the new flyover and seeing what impact it has on nearby roadways,” said the city’s Jeff Brauns. “After observing it for a while, they may decide to make some lane adjustments or other modifications to maximize its effectiveness.”



Approaching the new flyover exit on State Route 202 in Redmond.

The flyover is just one of many roadway improvements the state is making north of Sammamish city limits. The widening of State Route 202 between the flyover and Sahalee Way is already largely complete. In other work, the state will make improve-

ments on State Route 520 to the west of the flyover.

For more information on the project and related roadway improvements, please go to the WSDOT website (www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR202/SR520_Sahalee/).

How popular are city traffic cameras?

Last summer, when the city set up two traffic cameras – both pointing north along Sahalee Way and East Lake Sammamish Parkway – it was unclear if residents would find them valuable. But based on public feedback, all of it positive, it looks like the cameras are a hit with residents who use them.

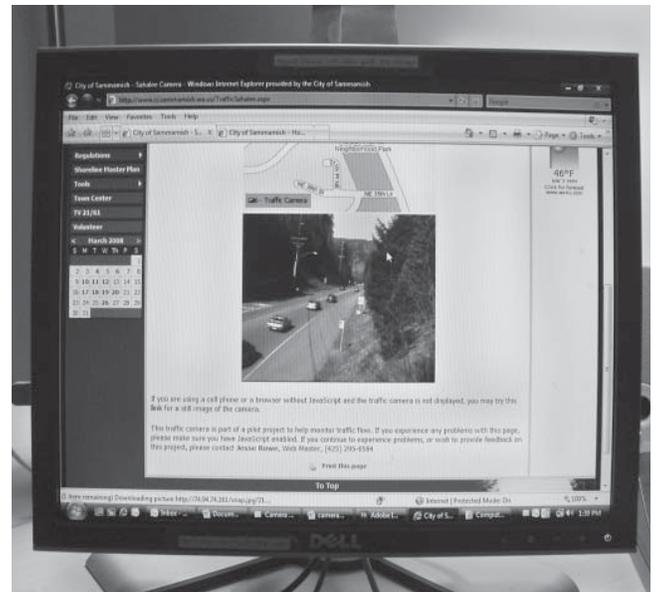
“Love these cameras,” one resident wrote.

“These video feeds are awesome,” wrote another, taking advantage of the “feedback” email address just below the traffic cam pictures on the city website.

“We have about 50 hits a day on our traffic cam page,” said city Webmaster Jesse Rowe. “Morning commuters are comparing the traffic on the two northbound routes to see which one looks better.”

The pictures are available by going to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and clicking on “traffic cameras” in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page.

“We hope people will click on my email address and send us some feedback,” Rowe said. We’ll be monitoring usage and reaction over the course of 2008.”



Sahalee Way traffic cam on city website: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

7th Annual SAMMI Awards bestowed

Lori Horton receives prestigious “Spirit of Sammamish” award



Lori Horton

In what is now a 7-year tradition, a select group of outstanding, community-minded individuals and families were recognized at the March 8 SAMMI Awards at Skyline High School. The awards, intended to showcase residents who have contributed selflessly to the community, were handed out in nine different categories.

The “Spirit of Sammamish” award, the climactic moment at the end of the awards ceremony, went to Lori Horton. Among other things, Horton was recognized for her commitment of time and energy to PTSA auctions and booster clubs, and her generous help to families in need.

Here is the complete list of awardees:

- **Arts - Jim Henderson**
- **Business - Laurel and Skyler Zoppi**
- **Courage - The Rapada family**
- **Teen Spirit - Christian McComber**
- **Learning Promotion - Don Braman**
- **Trevor Price Award - Lucas Thrun**
- **Unsung Hero - John Hardt**
- **Youth Advocate - Curtis Betzler**
- **Spirit of Sammamish - Lori Horton**

Computers are electronic windows into your life

So says Sammamish Police Chief Brad Thompson

If it were up to him, Sammamish Police Chief Brad Thompson would pull a pair of curtains across your computer screen.

“The spammers and scammers out there like to peer into your life,” Thompson said. “It’s important to block their view so they can’t steal your identity – and your money.”

The electronic thieves often gain entry by luring you into an email exchange.

“If the message sounds too good to be true – something like ‘Congratulations on winning the Random International Computer-Pick Lot-

tery!’ – then it is just that: Too good to be true.”

The best protection – delete all

“The spammers and scammers out there like to peer into your life. It’s important to block their view.”

**Brad Thompson
Police Chief**

suspicious emails without responding to them, and don’t open any of the attachments.

“We get calls from residents almost every week regarding phony sounding email offers,” Thompson said. “Although they’re annoying, there usually isn’t a crime our department can investigate.”

So, the best defense is to close that electronic window on your life and protect your assets.

Chief Thompson recommends two websites to those who would like to guard their privacy and their money. They are:

- www.ic3.gov
- lookstoogoodtobetrue.com

Council briefed on permitting progress

City Manager cites performance standards and a new approach

Striving to improve the city's permitting process, City Manager Ben Yazici told the City Council on March 18 that he's very encouraged by the progress he's seeing.

Among other things, Yazici highlighted the city's new, faster "over-the-counter" approach for many permits, and the institution of performance standards for turnaround times and

in just one session at City Hall with a permit technician.

"This new approach often allows people who want to build a deck or remodel their kitchen to turn their permit around quickly," Yazici said.

It starts with permit technicians greeting customers when they enter City Hall.

"We have a nice permit counter,"

customers, whether they're residents or developers, to be able to keep tabs on their permit status some day the same way a UPS customer can keep track of his package," Gurol said.

In briefing the City Council, Yazici also noted that the housing slowdown has reduced the city's permit revenue. In response to that slowdown, the city recently let one permit staff employee go.

"We think, however, that permit revenue will stabilize and then improve over time," Yazici said. "Sammamish is a very attractive place. We have great schools, low crime, proximity to employment centers, and a very high quality of life."



A customer approaches the permit counter with a major project.

other permit-related metrics.

"I told the council that we've made a lot of progress, and there's more progress to come," Yazici said. "We want to really push hard in this arena, to provide top-notch customer service while at the same time doing a great job of implementing city policies and regulations."

The "over the counter" approach allows people with relatively simple permit needs to finish up the process

Yazici said. "We decided it would be nice if there was a smiling face waiting for permit applicants as they walk in the front door."

In addition to setting performance standards and then monitoring that performance, the city is planning to improve the computer software it uses to track permits, says Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol.

"The ultimate goal is for our

Permit Review Mission Statement

- **Guide growth and change consistent with the community vision in the Comprehensive Plan.**
- **Improve our quality of life by promoting the health, safety and welfare of the community and protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment.**
- **Serve all members of our community in a responsive, consistent, and courteous manner.**

Project updates:

More information available online at:
www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and
www.sammplat.wa.org



244th Avenue: This project will improve 244th Avenue between Southeast Eighth Street and Northeast Eighth Street by creating a two-lane, tree-lined street with a median and/or center turn lane, as needed. The street will include a 630-foot-long bridge structure that will close an existing gap in the corridor. Project design is over 90% completed, and construction is anticipated to begin in July 2008, pending receipt of required permits from State and Federal agencies. Construction costs are estimated at \$13 million. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0563.

East Lake Sammamish Parkway Northeast: The design team has begun the final design of the initial segment from Inglewood Hill Road to NE 26th Street (approximately the 2600 block). Geotechnical investiga-

tions and supplemental surveying have been completed. Current work includes confirming retaining wall systems and utility coordination. In the next few months, members of the design team will meet with individual property owners to discuss and coordinate specific design details associated with their frontage along the parkway. A public open house will be held in late 2008 to review the construction plans. The cost, including construction, right-of-way acquisition, environmental analysis and preliminary design, is estimated at \$17 million. Construction of the first phase is scheduled for 2009. Key features of this project include widening the roadway to three lanes to add either a center turn lane or landscaped median, bike lanes, and a sidewalk on only the east side. The remaining two segments will be designed and constructed in future years. Project manager Jeff Brauns can be reached

at jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0561.

212th Avenue Southeast Sidewalk:

This project will construct sidewalk along the west side of 212th Ave SE in the vicinity of Ebright Creek Park and close the existing gaps between the park and the Crossings at Pine Lake subdivision to the south and the future Chestnut Lane subdivision to the north. Construction is scheduled for late 2008 or 2009. For more information, contact Sevda Baran at sbaran@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0553.

South Pine Lake Route Project:

Necessary utility work continues, in advance of the city project, which will make improvements between 212th Avenue Southeast and 224th Avenue Southeast, along Southeast 32nd Street, 216th Avenue Southeast, Southeast 28th Street, 222nd Place Southeast, and Southeast 30th Street. Design is nearly complete, and the Wetland Mitigation Plan has been tentatively approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Ecology. The plan calls for the purchase of mitigation bank credits from an existing wetland project in order to offset the small amount of wetland impacted by the road widening. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2008. Project manager Jed Ireland can be reached at jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0563.

Southeast 24th St. Pedestrian Path:

The City is in the planning stages for a soft-surface pedestrian path along the south side of SE 24th St. from 204th Ave SE to 212th Ave SE. This project will be constructed this summer. Additional information is available from Charlie Simpson at csimpson@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-837-4633.



East Lake Sammamish Parkway Northeast as it looks today.

Recycling event set for April 19

Rain barrels also for sale

A spring recycling event will be held at Eastlake High School on Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Residents are welcome to bring everything from old computers to motor oil to the city-sponsored program.

For more information on what materials are eligible for recycling, please go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/files/document/4388.pdf.

In 2007, more than 2,800 Sammamish residents and businesses participated in the recycling events, turning in nearly 370,000 pounds of material.

This year, a limited supply of rain barrels will be on sale at the event for \$25 (cash only, please). The normal retail price is \$125.

Arts Commission spots open up

One regular and two alternate positions available

The city is accepting applications from residents who want to serve on the Sammamish Arts Commission. The deadline for submittals is at the close of business on April 30.

Applicants are required to submit a letter of interest, resume, and completed questionnaire. (The questionnaire is available online at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/files/document/4411.pdf.)

All applications should be submitted to the City Clerk, 801 228th Ave. S.E., Sammamish, WA 98075 or via email at manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Residents with questions about the application process should call City Clerk Melonie Anderson at 425-295-0511.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

April

Tuesday, April 1

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 3

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

Tuesday, April 8

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

Wednesday, April 9

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

Tuesday, April 15

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16

Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 17

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

Saturday, April 19

Spring Recycling Event, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Eastlake High School

Monday, April 21

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

Saturday, April 26

Opening Day of Fishing Season
6 a.m.-8 p.m., Pine Lake

May

Thursday, May 1

Opening of Beaver Lake Off-Leash Area, 4 p.m.

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

Tuesday, May 6

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13

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

Wednesday, May 14

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

Thursday, May 15

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

Monday, May 19

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

Tuesday, May 20

Sculpture Dedication, 5:30 p.m. at Sammamish Commons Plaza

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21

Grand Opening, Sammamish Farmers Market, 4 p.m.

Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day, City Hall closed

Wednesday, May 28

Sammamish Farmers' Market, 4 p.m., at Sammamish Commons Plaza

Thursday, May 29

Planning Commission Mtg, 5 p.m.

NOTE: All meetings at City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.



Lee Felling
Mayor



Don Gerend
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Mark Cross
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Pettiti
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Lifeguarding at Pine Lake

A job so hot....it's cool!

If you'd like to spend your summer keeping swimmers safe at one of the most picturesque urban lakes in the state, it's time to apply for one of several lifeguard openings at Pine Lake Park.

The beach front manager and assistant beach front manager positions are also open.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 425-295-0585. Application forms are available on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/employment.aspx).

Applicants must be enrolled in high school (or an equivalent educational program) and have one year of

lifeguarding experience. Among other things, they must also have a current American Red Cross lifeguard certification.

"It's a fun summer job with solid pay," says Recreation Coordinator Lynne Handlos. "We've had some wonderful young people come through our lifeguard ranks."

The hourly pay ranges for the positions are as follows:

- **Lifeguard - \$10-15**
- **Ass't Beach Front Mgr. - \$14-19**
- **Beach Front Mgr. - \$17-22**

Work hours are from noon to 7 p.m., seven days a week, with the season starting on June 15 and running through Sept. 1.

City of Sammamish Offices
801 228th Ave. S.E., Sammamish, WA 98075
Phone: 425-295-0500 • Fax: 425-295-0600

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

Lee Felling, Mayor
lfelling@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor
dgerend@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Jack Barry, Councilmember
jbarry@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Mark Cross, Councilmember
mcross@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Kathleen Huckabay, Councilmember
khuckabay@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Michele Pettiti, Councilmember
mpettiti@ci.sammamish.wa.us
Nancy Whitten, Councilmember
nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Lyman Howard	Finance Dir/Ass't City Mgr
Kamuron Guroi	Com Dev Dir/Ass't City Mgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Brad Thompson	Police Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Manager



801 - 228th Avenue SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
REDMOND, WA
PERMIT NO. 312