

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 77

CITY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2008

New budget keeps city staff lean

PROJECTED FTE NUMBER SHRINKS FROM 79 TO 76

The city's last biennial budget called for 79 full-time equivalents (FTEs) to be employed in 2008. The new biennial budget calls for only 76 FTE's in 2010.

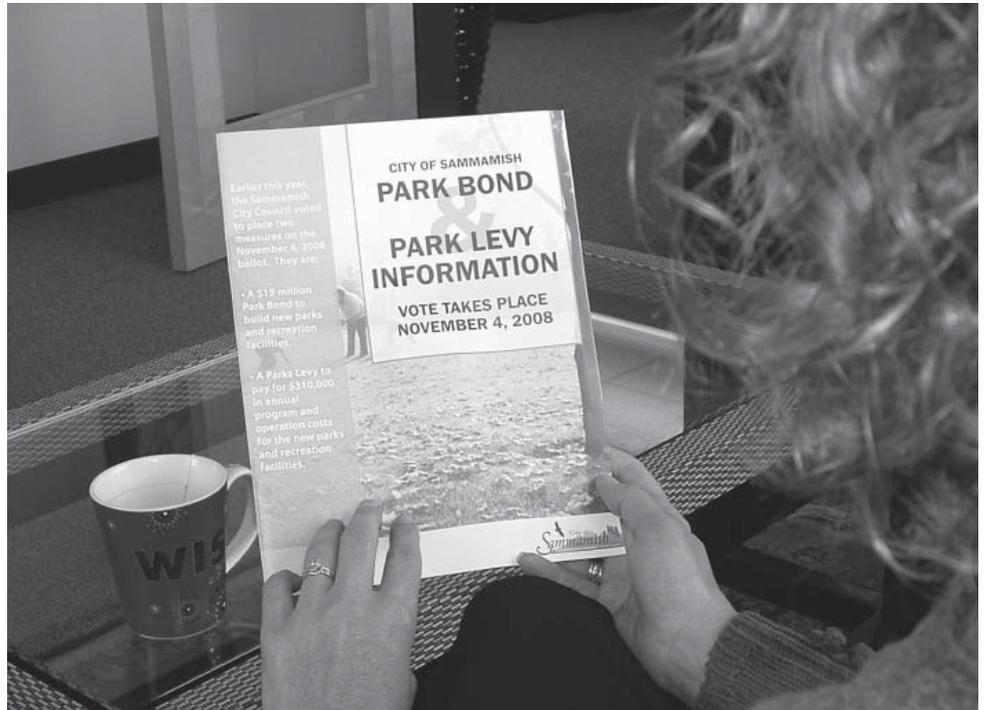
Why are the projections shrinking? Primarily because the economy is slowing, building permit revenue is down, and the city intends to live within its means.

"The City Council has always insisted that we stay on a sound financial footing," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I think this new, two-year budget proposal reflects that emphasis."

The projection of 79 FTEs for 2008 was never reached due to employee departures, unfilled positions, and the slowing economy. Reaching the projected FTE level of 76 in 2010 will depend on similar factors.

In 2009 and 2010, the city's proposed general fund expenses will in-

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Community asked to decide PARKS BOND, LEVY ON THE NOV. 4 BALLOT

After receiving a generous and regular supply of information regarding two ballot measures – a parks bond and a parks levy lift – the residents of Sammamish will make an important decision on Nov. 4.

If they approve both measures, a \$19 million bond will provide funding for a half dozen new parks and recreation projects inside city limits, and

the levy lift will pay for programming and operation expenses at the new facilities. Both measures need to pass for either one to go into effect.

"We've done our very best to put out objective, neutral information on the two propositions," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "By law, the city is not allowed to campaign for or against the

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



*Lee Fellingge
Mayor*

November 11 is Veterans Day. I would like to salute and honor those Sammamish citizens who have served our country as members of the military.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day to mark the end of the horror of World War I. An armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. It was optimistically hoped that this would be the "war to end all wars."

World War I did not end all wars.

We have had many wars since. Our country has continually called upon men and women to serve in our military, both to keep us strong and to respond to actual conflict. Many veterans made the supreme sacrifice. Others suffered injury and ongoing trauma. Families were greatly affected. And yet citizens continued to come forward to serve. We enjoy the freedoms of today because of our fellow citizens' willingness to serve.

Many think of World War II, fought by those often called the Greatest Generation, as a true contest between good and evil. Other wars have been controversial, like the current war in Iraq. I proudly served on active duty for over 4 years in the Air Force during the time of the unpopu-

lar Vietnam War. As a member of the armed forces, I remember it was painful to be spoken ill of merely because some believed the Vietnam war itself was wrong.

It is not the men and women serving in the military who decide when and why to go to war. It is the politicians whom we elect who decide that. The men and women serving in the military have to do the best they can with the hand they have been dealt in often terribly difficult circumstances.

Thank you, members of the military past and present, for your willingness to serve!

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crease by an average of 3.8 percent per year.

"I'm proud that our overall increase is lower than the 5.8 percent rate of inflation," Yazici said, "especially considering that police and fire expenses have risen substantially higher than inflation."

Not counting transfers between funds, the proposed budget calls for operating fund expenditures of approximately \$28 million in both 2009 and 2010. At the end of 2010, the city expects an ending fund balance of \$5.6 million in the general operating fund. Of this amount, \$2.8 million (10 percent of operating revenues), will be designated for the strategic reserve in accordance with City Council policy.

Although the city will continue to invest in the community by building transportation and parks infrastructure, the phasing of some capital projects will be slowed by the weakness in the overall economy.

The proposed capital budget for 2009 and 2010 adds up to \$47.7 million, with much of that devoted to improvements along 244th Avenue and East Lake Sammamish Parkway. The funding for these projects, provided in part by developer impact fees, is already in place.

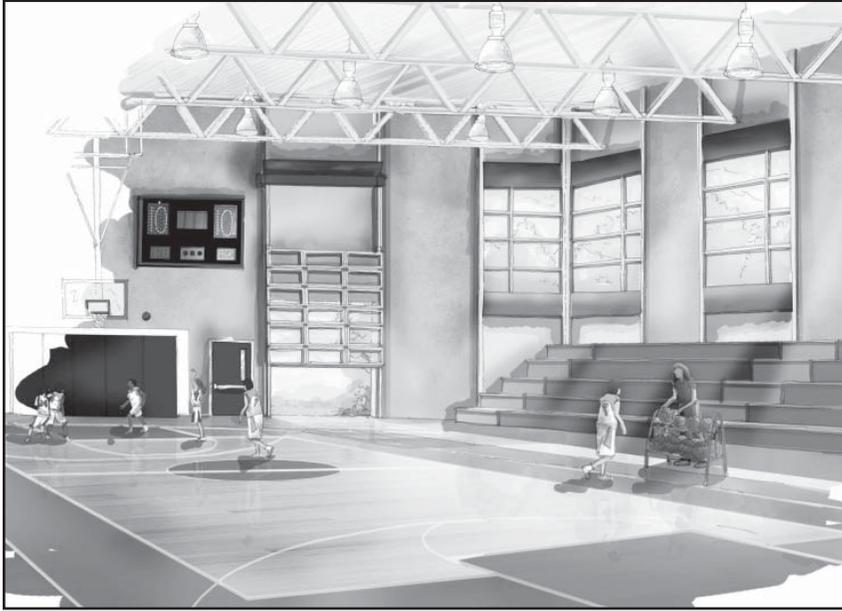
Budget Hearing Schedule 2009/2010 Biennial Budget

**Tuesday, November 4, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Study Session**

**Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m.
Public Hearing/First Reading
2009/2010 Budget and Tax Levy Rate**

**Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m.
Public Hearing/Second Reading
Possible Adoption
2009/2010 Budget and Tax Levy Rate**

CITY OF SAMMAMISH



Recreation center for youth, teens, and seniors.



Beaver Lake vicinity trail.

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measures.”

The 20-year, \$19 million bond would pay for the following:

- Sammamish Landing – A waterfront park on Lake Sammamish.
- Recreation Center – The current library would be renovated and expanded to include a gymnasium.
- New athletic field at Pine Lake Middle School – It would feature artificial turf and lights.
- East Sammamish Park improvements.
- Beaver Lake Vicinity Trail.
- Land acquisition for park in north-east Sammamish.

- Park bond fees.

The bond would cost the owner of a \$600,000 home \$84 per year in new property taxes (14 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation).

The levy lift would cost that same homeowner \$24 per year (four cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation).

After 20 years, when the bond is paid off, the \$84 annual cost would disappear. The \$24 annual cost for programming and operations would continue indefinitely.

For a complete rundown on the ballot measures, please go to the city

website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click the red button on the right-hand side of the home page. To view a 5-minute informational video on the two measures, click the blue button.

Information contacts:

Project inquiries:

Jessi Richardson

425-295-0589

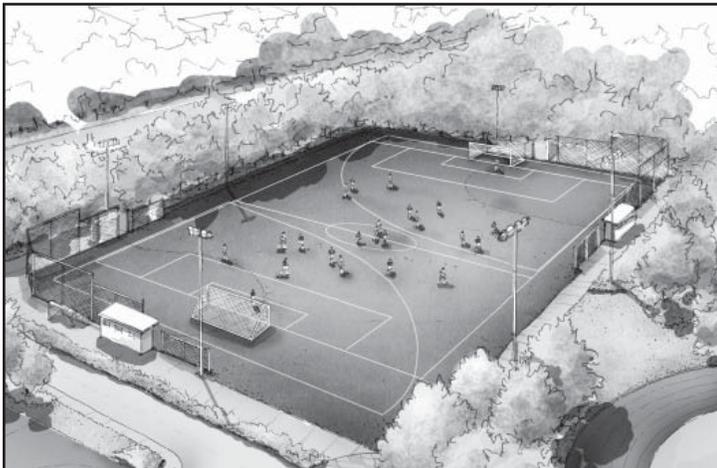
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Financial inquiries:

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Field at Pine Lake Middle School with artificial turf and lights.



East Sammamish Park improvements.

Public hearings on Shoreline Master Program Update

PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEWS DRAFT OF PLANNING AND REGULATORY DOCUMENT

The draft of a document that serves as both a comprehensive plan and a regulatory guide for the management of city shorelines was reviewed by residents and the city's Planning Commission during a public hearing on Oct. 16. The Planning Commission scheduled a second public hearing for Oct. 30.

According to the draft, the Shoreline Master Program Update is designed to "promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community by providing long range, comprehensive policies and effective, reasonable

regulations for development, use, and restoration of Sammamish's shorelines."

The periodic updates are mandated by state law. In the case of Sammamish, they govern the shorelines of Lake Sammamish, Pine Lake and Beaver Lake.

The Planning Commission will deliberate over the public comment they've received during their meeting on Nov. 6. A similar meeting on Nov. 20 has been cancelled.

More information on the update is available online at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx.



Planning Commission the night of the Oct. 16 public hearing.

City receives "Excellence in Building Green" award

Sammamish Commons, the 30-acre park and civic complex in the geographic center of the city, recently received another award for its environmentally friendly execution.

The "Excellence in Building Green" award, bestowed by King County, was accompanied by remarks from King County Executive Ron Sims applauding the city for its use of sustainable design and construction.

"The Sammamish Commons project represents a bold, new approach to building public areas, with integrated green building design, locally sourced and recycled building materials, and innovative approaches to stormwater runoff control," Sims said.

City Manager Ben Yazici gave special credit to Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus and Project Manager Sevda Baran for shepherding the project to completion.

"Sevda and Pete spent a lot of time making sure we incorporated the environmentally friendly approach our community wants," Yazici said. "This is great recognition."

The finished project features, among other things, a new City Hall, public plaza, skate park, climbing wall, sports court, play area, trail network and park space. The project has also received the U.S. Green Building Council's coveted LEED Silver rating.



Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus and Project Manager Sevda Baran hold the "Excellence in Building Green" award from King County.

Residents weigh in on public works shop design

The city's plan to build a new operations and maintenance facility – commonly referred to as a public works shop – is currently in the design phase.

As part of that process, the city held a public meeting at City Hall on Oct. 15 so residents could view design options, ask questions and provide feedback. In addition to mixing with city staff, residents were also able to talk to Randy Cook of TCF Architecture, the outside firm hired to design the shop facility.

The new shop will be placed on 4.8 acres just west of 244th Avenue near Northeast 18th Street. When finished, the shop will house trucks, backhoes, mowers and a variety of other city vehicles, tools and service facilities. It will also house the city's sign shop and provide storage space for city materials.



Architect Randy Cook goes over one of the design options on Oct. 15.

Sammamish Landing master plan meeting #2

In November, the city will hold its second public meeting as part of its master planning process for Sammamish Landing, a proposed recreational park along a stretch of shoreline at the northern end of Lake Sammamish.

The meeting, on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at City Hall, will review master plan alternatives for the slim strip of shoreline that runs parallel to the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

Funding for Sammamish Landing is contingent on the passage of two parks measures on the November ballot. If it's built, the park is expected to feature picnic and swimming facilities, a canoe launch area, and easy access to the trail, among other things.

Another public meeting is scheduled for Feb. 4. Residents are invited to attend all the meetings, share their thoughts and concerns, and ask questions of city staff.

For additional information, residents may also visit the project webpage at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SammLanding.aspx.

Look for public sector jobs online

Several eastside cities, including Sammamish, have joined to create a one-stop shopping location for government jobs. The online job-hunting service, GovJobsToday.com, features openings in Sammamish, Bellevue, Issaquah and Mercer Island. Other cities expected to join soon include Kirkland, Bothell, Kenmore, Snoqualmie and Woodinville.

Among other things, the service allows people to search for jobs at multiple agencies, apply instantly, and create a free and secure applicant account.

Expect traffic delays in November on East Lake Sammamish Parkway

The relocation of power lines in advance of roadwork along East Lake Sammamish Parkway will cause significant traffic delays in November. Traffic will be reduced to one lane, forcing north and southbound traffic to take turns between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on some weekend days. For more information on the first phase of improvements to East Lake Sammamish Parkway, contact Jeff Brauns (jbrauns@ci.sammamish.wa.us, 295-0561).



Det. Amy Jarboe with gifts donated by residents last year.

City police try to repeat Toys for Tots success

Three years ago, Det. Amy Jarboe of the Sammamish Police Department volunteered to help the U. S. Marine Corps with their “Toys for Tots” program in Sammamish. The community has responded strongly, and last year, her efforts attracted a mountain of gifts for deserving kids in King County.

“Seeing the community’s generosity felt great,” Jarboe said last year. “It made my holidays.”

To contribute, residents are invited to bring their toys, dolls and other gifts to City Hall and place them in a Toys for Tots barrel just outside the police department entryway.

Are you ready for winter emergencies?

When Sammamish residents woke up on Jan. 11, 2007, and went looking for their cars, they probably promised themselves that they would be better prepared the next time a big snow storm turned the plateau into a gigantic game of slip-n-slide.

In case you’ve forgotten what it was like to walk home through the snow in heels, or without a jacket, here are some winter driving basics:

- Keep your gas tank at least three-quarters full.
- Keep blankets, warm clothes, gloves, winter footwear, tire chains, jumper cables and a supply of water and dried food in the trunk.
- Make sure you have the right size chains and know how to put them on.
- Keep some sand and a shovel in your trunk, along with an ice scraper, flashlight, flares, anti-freeze, and first-aid kit.
- Check your tires for good traction.
- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape and your window cleaner reservoir is full.
- Know ahead of time which priority routes the city will plow.
- If you park away from your home to avoid steep hills, make sure to pull over in a safe area where traffic won’t be impeded.
- Remember that four-wheel drives don’t stop on a dime in

snow and ice. Keep the conditions in mind and drive safely. To help city crews, residents can also do the following:

- Properly dispose of grass clipping, leaves and debris so they don’t clog storm water drains.
- Periodically clear nearby storm drains to ensure proper drainage.
- Help children and other pedestrians by clearing snow from nearby sidewalks.



This is what Inglewood Hill Road looked like Jan. 11, 2007.

First year of Farmers Market deemed a success

From the strawberries to the elephant ears, from the music to the sunsets, the breadth of the Farmers Market experience in Sammamish left organizers smiling as the first season came to a close on Oct. 1.

“It was a great start, and we’ve learned a lot of things that are going to make it better next year,” said Dawn Sanders, president of the Chamber of Commerce, the organization that stages the event for the city.

A few of the planned adjustments: a greater variety of produce, more craft items, and additional prepared foods for people to enjoy on site. There have also been some requests for toned down music levels so people can visit in a more peaceful environment.

“For the first year, I think Heidi Bohan, our market manager, did a great job of launching this community event,” Sanders said. “Our vendors were happy, and so was the city.”

The city’s market began Wednesday, May 21, and continued every Wednesday thereafter for 20 weeks, with shopping hours from 4 to 8 p.m. The same schedule is expected next year.



Residents crowd around a booth at The Sammamish Farmers Market.

CITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 4

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 6

Planning Comm. Mtg, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

Veteran’s Day

City offices closed

Wednesday, Nov. 12

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

Thursday, Nov. 13

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 17

Joint Meeting: Issaquah School District Board/City Council, 6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Sammamish Landing Public Meeting #2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 20

Planning Comm. Mtg, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 27 - Friday, Nov. 28

Thanksgiving weekend

City offices closed

DECEMBER

Monday, Dec. 1

Holiday Tree Lighting, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 4

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Joint Meeting: City Council/Parks & Rec Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15

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

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25 - Christmas

City offices closed

PLEASE 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.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Lee Felling
Mayor



Don Gerend
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Mark Cross
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Tree lighting ceremony at City Hall!



Local choral groups will perform again, as they did last year (above), during the tree lighting ceremony at City Hall. The event, on Monday, Dec. 1, 5:30-6:30 p.m., will feature singing, hot beverages and kids' activities, all sponsored by the Sammamish Youth Board.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Guroi	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Lyman Howard	Finance Dir/Asst 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
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr



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