

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 102

CITY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

## City shrugs off November snow

### BUT WAS THIS STORM THE FIRST OF MANY?

If this winter is supposed to be tougher than most, and that's what the "La Nina" weather pattern supposedly holds in store for us, then the storm on Monday, Nov. 22, was a nice test run.

It dropped two to four inches of snow throughout the city, much of it just before the evening commute got rolling.

"That's the worst timing you can have, but our residents and our maintenance crews handled it well," Public Works Director John Cunningham said. "We had a couple of temporary blockages on 228th when some cars got stuck, but other than that it was just a slow, tedious drive home for most people."

In other parts of the Puget Sound region, roads and highways were so icy the next day that many employers asked workers to stay home. Schools in Sammamish were closed for two days after the storm hit.

"It stayed very, very cold for a cou-

*See SNOW, pg. 4*



*Cutting the ribbon, from left: Bob Munchinski, H.W. Lochner; K. Adams, KBA; Paul Garrett, KBA; City Engineer Laura Philpot; John Vandergriend, Ceccanti Inc.; Mayor Don Gerend; Project Manager Jed Ireland; Tom Ballard, Transportation Improvement Board; Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus; Public Works Director John Cunningham.*

## Bridging the gap on 244th

The ceremonial scissors cutting through the ribbon weren't real, but the sense of satisfaction certainly was as Mayor Don Gerend, city staffers and contractors posed for a photo last month on the new bridge deck along 244th Avenue Northeast.

The 800-foot bridge, which carries

traffic across a previously impassable wetland, closes a gap that used to block north and southbound travel on one of the city's main arterials.

"One of the primary reasons the city incorporated was to improve the road system," City Manager Ben Yaziz

*See 244th, pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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**FOOD DRIVE RESULTS**

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**TOYS FOR TOTS**

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## Parks Commission energizes our residents

COMMUNITY GARDEN, "SAMMAMISH WALKS," AND WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECT ARE ALL VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY PARKS COMMISSION

Since I'm always using this space to say good things about my fellow residents, I suppose it would be a nice change of pace if I occasionally offered up a stinging critique of some sort. It would probably make my mayor's messages less predictable, and no doubt help my credibility.

But thanks to the Parks Commission, and the great projects they're supporting, I'll have to leave that for another day. The work they're doing is just too impressive!



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

Let me start with the Community Garden they've envisioned, encouraged and brought very close to reality.

Right now, volunteers are being recruited for a steering committee. This committee will work with city staff to develop a governance plan that will ensure that everything sprouts the way it's supposed to.

The Community Garden, located at Beaver Lake Park, will include a small gravel parking lot, entry kiosk, compost bin, tool shed, fencing, planters and a water supply.

If things go according to plan, and I'm sure they will thanks to our great resident volunteers, the Community Garden will open in the fall of 2011 or the spring of 2012.

The benefits are plentiful:

- Providing people with a common goal

- Nutritious food
- Donations for food banks
- Opportunities for recreation, exercise therapy and education
- Intergenerational and cross-cultural connections
- Family food budget reduction
- Preservation of green open space

If you would like to be part of this great venture and become a member of the Community Garden Steering Committee, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders ([dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us), 295-0556).

Another initiative developing nicely with the help of the Parks Commission is a new website called "Sammamish Walks." It's already up and running but thanks to volunteers it's going to expand and do an even better job of capturing, enhancing and organizing the trail-walking experience in our city.

Among other things, the website will provide maps, descriptions, and photos for all the trails that cut through our forests and other beautiful landscapes.

There is also an "events" page that lists the upcoming Sammamish Walks schedule. If you want to learn more about the wildlife, native plants, birds and ecosystems of Sammamish, all while ambling along with a knowledgeable guide, go to the new website at [www.sammamishwalks.org](http://www.sammamishwalks.org).

This is an ongoing project with plenty of room for growth. If you would like to lead a walk, or help map

and post new trails, please contact Dawn Sanders.

The Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat Project is another great example of residents doing something generous and worthwhile for the greater good.

Started two years ago by a small group of local volunteers, the goal of the project is to help the city become a certified "Community Wildlife Habitat" with the National Wildlife Federation.

Eleven communities in Washington and 48 across the country have already earned their certificates, and Sammamish is only 19 habitat points away from joining that special list.

Cities earn points by providing habitat for wildlife throughout the community – in individual backyards, on school grounds, and in public areas such as parks, places of worship, and business locations.

If you would like to push Sammamish across the finish line and help us win that certificate, please fill out a simple application at [www.nwf.org/certify](http://www.nwf.org/certify).

I hope these three snapshots of generosity in Sammamish will help explain why I'm so unrelentingly positive about our community. It's a flaw, I know, but given that we're heading into this holiday season, I'm confident you'll be generous enough to forgive me.

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

## No more traffic delays; Phase 1B Parkway work is done

It's a new day along the East Lake Sammamish Parkway – no flaggers, no construction delays, and no waiting for drivers to make a left turn. Thanks to the completion of Phase 1B of the project, drivers will now be able to enjoy the improvements just north of the Inglewood Hill Road intersection.

The centerpiece of the Phase 1B improvements was the expansion and fortification of an existing bridge. The new version of the bridge, in addition to being more earthquake resistant, is now wide enough to accommodate the major improvements that have been made to the parkway.

These include a center turn lane, a landscaped median strip in some places, a sidewalk on the east side, bike lanes, and storm water facilities to prevent oil and

other pollutants from running off into the lake.

Those improvements were also part of the first phase, which had as its centerpiece the reconfiguration of the intersection at Inglewood Hill Road. Taken together, the two phases stretch two-thirds of a mile, from the Inglewood Hill Road intersection north to the 2200 block of the parkway.

There are no plans on the horizon for additional parkway projects.

When Phase 1B was approved in 2009, construction costs were expected to be covered completely by \$3.5 million in federal stimulus funds. Due to unforeseen soil problems and other factors, however, construction costs rose above that figure and the city contributed \$650,000.

The total construction cost : \$4.15 million.



*The Phase 1B bridge on the East Lake Sammamish Parkway.*

### *244th, cont. from pg. 1*

ci said. “This new link is a dramatic and very visible reminder of what a community can do when it takes charge.”

The new bridge is part of a mile-long road improvement project along 244th Avenue that stretches from Southeast Eighth Street to Northeast Eighth Street. The new additions include sidewalks and bikelanes on both sides, a landscaped median with turn pockets, planter strips next to the curb, and a pair of new roundabouts.

“This gives us three north/south arterials that connect us to the northern city limits and State Route 202,” Yazici said. “Thanks to this bridge, residents can now head straight north on 244th instead of detouring over to 228th or the East Lake Sammamish Parkway, our two other arterials.”

The construction contract for the mile-long road improvement project came in at \$9.3 million. The contract went to Ceccanti Inc. of Tacoma.



*The new bridge skips over the wetland and provides safe passage underneath for wildlife.*

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH



*The morning after in the Audubon Park neighborhood.*



*Two generations enjoy the snow.*

## SNOW, cont. from pg. 1

ple of days, so that kept things very slick,” Cunningham said. “I’m happy we didn’t have substantial problems in Sammamish.”

The city used a half-dozen snow plows of its own and welcomed the aid of one other truck from the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District. As always, the road crews concentrated first on the main arterials and then gradually moved on to side roads and neighborhood streets.

It was a long slog for the snowplows, which are also used to put down de-icing liquid and sand. Beginning Saturday evening, in anticipation of the storm, the city split the days into two 12-hour shifts and had crews on duty 24 hours a day. The crews stayed on that schedule through mid-day on Thanksgiving Day.



*Sammamish Commons after the snow.*



*Playing the morning after next to Blackwell Elementary.*



*City snow plow/sander/de-icer on 228th Avenue.*

## Sammamish leads the way in eastside mayors' food drive

The canned goods and boxes of macaroni arrived in a month-long wave, beginning on Sept. 25 and running through Oct. 23. By the time it was over, the food drive led by eastside mayors had deposited more than 50,000 pounds of nutritious merchandise on the shelves of local food banks.

And on a happy note for Sammamish, city residents led all others in the total amount contributed. Sammamish, with the help of schools, grocery stores, businesses and a broad range of other volunteers, delivered more than 18,000 pounds of food and almost \$5,000 in cash to the cause.

"That's amazing," City Manager Ben Yazici said, "and quite an affirmation of the generosity and volunteer spirit we see so often in our community."

Residents were generous through-

out the eastside. Led by their mayors, Kirkland, Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Newcastle and North Bend also produced a big haul.

"During tough economic times, this kind of contribution is essential," Yazici said. "I'm glad Mayor Don Gerend and all the other eastside mayors decided to get involved and make this a huge success."

In Sammamish, the list of contributors was very long indeed. Eastside Catholic High School students delivered a busload of food to City Hall. Skyline and Eastlake High School collected items when they faced off at their Oct. 22 football game. Both Safeway and QFC passed out lists of appropriate foods to entering shoppers, and then collected the cans and boxes as the shoppers exited the stores.

"We received contributions from

churches, social organizations, individual volunteers and all quarters of our community," Yazici said. "This was definitely a very broad-based effort."

City Clerk Melonie Anderson and Dawn Sanders, the city's volunteer coordinator, said one of the prime movers in Sammamish was ARAS (Acceptance, Respect, Affection, Support), a charitable organization led by Mary Trask that did a lot of the organizing and collecting.

"Mary and her friends were very busy at the grocery stores and elsewhere," Anderson said. "This kind of effort requires leaders and she was definitely out front."

The first "Month of Concern" food drive on the eastside was launched in 2009. Now, with the impressive success of the 2010 effort, it's hoped the food drive will turn into a major yearly event.

## Help the holiday grease drive!

Holiday cooking has always produced a lot of grease, but now, with the increasing popularity of "deep fried" turkeys, this seasonal wave of leftover cooking oil is cresting at ever higher levels.

With its emphasis on "sustainability," the city is happy to report that Safeway and the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce have placed a collection tank behind the grocery store in the Sammamish Highlands shopping center. The tank carries the label of General Biodiesel, a company that turns all that holiday cooking oil into a fuel that can be used in any diesel engine.

The collection tank will be available until at least Jan. 4. If it proves to be popular, General Biodiesel may decide to leave it there year around.

Sammamish is joining Redmond, Mercer Island, Bellingham, Burien, West Seattle and several other communities in this year's big "grease drive."

## Fencing in construction runoff

They may not be attractive, but those black plastic fences around construction sites are helping to keep your water clean. Guided by federal, state and local laws, those fences and other precautions keep construction runoff from fouling streams and lakes.

Here are some of the guidelines construction crews are supposed to follow:

- Check perimeter erosion control prior to rainfall "events."
- Cover exposed soil at the end of each work day.
- Properly maintain and repair plastic coverings.
- In some cases, plastic coverings can increase runoff, so have a plan for where this water will go.
- Monitor and maintain construction entrances.
- Keep extra supplies of erosion control materials on site so they are available if the weather gets rough.



*The Toys for Tots barrel at the Sammamish Police Department.*

## Last chance to donate “Toys for Tots”

If you would like to brighten up the holidays for some needy children, your deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 10. That’s when the barrel outside the Sammamish Police Department will be brought inside and emptied for the last time.

Det. Amy Jarboe, the leader in this effort, will then arrange for the toys and gifts to be delivered to the U. S. Marine Corps, the umbrella sponsor for this popular program.

For those who want to beat the deadline, the rules are simple: Just bring a new, unwrapped item to Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E., before 5 p.m. on Dec. 10 and drop the gift into the barrel outside the police station.

For more information about the “Toys for Tots” effort, go to [www.toys4tots.org](http://www.toys4tots.org) or contact Det. Jarboe at 425-295-0786.

## City starts over on “ordinary high water mark” study

Although City Manager Ben Yazici believes it was simply a case of poor judgment, a social friendship between a city employee and the head of a consulting firm has prompted the city to end a study aimed at establishing the “ordinary high water mark” for Lake Sammamish.

The firm began its work in September with a city-approved budget of \$30,000. Although approximately \$17,000 of that money has already been spent, Yazici said he decided to cut ties with the firm when he learned that the city employee supervising the study and the consultant were good friends, and had spent time on the employee’s boat just prior to the selection process.

“It appears to be a case of poor judgment by a good em-

ployee,” Yazici said. “Even though the two people in question are longtime friends who worked together in a different setting, I think their social contact right before the firm-selection process certainly could create an ‘appearance of fairness’ problem.”

To wipe the slate clean, the city

has terminated its contract with the firm, assigned the project to a different employee, and initiated another selection process. A new firm will be hired to begin the study from scratch next year. No preliminary data from the original study has been shared with the city.

The establishment of an “ordinary high water mark” (OHWM) along Lake Sammamish is a very sensitive issue. Among other things, the OHWM affects the establishment of buffers and setbacks for waterfront property owners.

“It helps guide where and how residents can build on their property,” Yazici said. “It’s absolutely imperative, therefore, that the process be totally transparent and free from any and all concerns.”



*Homes along the shore of Lake Sammamish.*

# CITY CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

**Wednesday, Dec. 1**  
Holiday Lighting Event  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 2**  
Planning Commission Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 7**  
City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 8**  
Parks and Rec Commission Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 14**  
City Council Study Session  
6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 15**  
Sammamish Youth Board Meeting  
6 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 16**  
Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 24, Saturday, Dec. 25**  
Christmas Holiday

**Friday, Dec. 31**  
New Years Day Holiday

## JANUARY

**Tuesday, Jan. 4**  
City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 5**  
Parks and Rec Commission Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 6**  
Planning Commission Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**  
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 17**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

**Tuesday, Jan. 18**  
City Council Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 19**  
Artist Lecture and Walk-thru, 2 p.m.  
Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 20**  
Planning Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 24**  
Arts Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 27**  
Public Safety Committee Mtg, 4 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.

## National recognition for city's "performance measurement" SAMMAMISH IS ONE OF 47 CITIES HONORED AT ICMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The city's ongoing efforts to measure performance and compare its results with peer jurisdictions was recognized in October when the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) selected Sammamish as one of just 47 cities across the nation to receive a special award.

City Finance Director Lyman Howard was on hand to receive the award on Oct. 19 at the ICMA's 96th Annual Conference in San Jose, Calif. The "Certificate of Achievement" honored the city for "its use of performance measurement in local government management, including training, verification and public reporting."

Among other areas, the city tracks its performance in crime prevention, code enforcement and citizen satisfaction.



*From left: ICMA Executive Director Bob O'Neill, Sammamish Finance Director Lyman Howard, and National Research Center President Tom Miller in San Jose, Calif., on Oct. 19.*



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## SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*



*Nancy Whitten  
Deputy Mayor*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*John Curley  
Councilmember*



*John James  
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*

## Public Works Shop takes shape



*Officially known as the Maintenance and Operations Center, the new public works shop along 244th Avenue Northeast will provide offices and operational space for city staff.*

### CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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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   | Admin Services Director |
| Melonie Anderson | City Clerk              |
| Nathan Elledge   | Police Chief            |
| Lee Soptich      | Fire Chief              |
| Bruce Disend     | City Attorney           |
| Tim Larson       | Communications Mgr      |