

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 126

CITY NEWSLETTER

DEC. 2012

City's advisory vote favors Community and Aquatic Center

53.3 PERCENT IN FAVOR
46.7 PERCENT AGAINST

After years of discussion over whether it would be wise to build a Community and Aquatic Center in Sammamish, the City Council decided to ask for an advisory vote during the recent Nov. 6 election.

At press time, the totals showed that 53.3 percent of Sammamish voters favored the proposed \$30 million project, while 46.7 percent were opposed.

The basic outline of the proposal is as follows:

- The city would contribute \$25 million toward construction, and provide the site – nine acres of city-owned land next to the library and City Hall.
- The YMCA would contribute \$5 million toward construction, furnish and equip the center, and be responsible for all operational duties and expenses.

See *COMMUNITY*, pg. 3



Photo: Roger Tabor, USFWS

These Kokanee in Ebright Creek are now getting much farther upstream.

Kokanee ascend Ebright Creek!

**NEW BOX CULVERT FUNDED BY PRIVATE CITIZEN
OPENS THE WAY FOR LAKE SAMMAMISH SPECIES**

For centuries, the freshwater Kokanee salmon of Lake Sammamish had unfettered access to the upper reaches of Ebright Creek. But then, several decades ago, someone funneled the stream through an 18-inch pipe, effectively blocking the spawning route for most of the fish.

That all changed this summer when

Sammamish resident Wally Pereyra, spending his own money, took out the old pipe and installed an expansive, new box culvert that practically waved the Kokanee farther upstream.

"I've seen hundreds of Kokanee above the new culvert this fall," King

See *KOKANEE*, pg. 4

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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ECA UPDATE

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STAN CHAPIN WAY

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Odell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Planning Commission begins deliberations on ECA ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS UPDATE GOES TO COUNCIL NEXT YEAR

After nearly a year of public outreach, input from stakeholders, and thorough staff analysis, the Planning Commission was scheduled to begin deliberation on the Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) update on Dec. 6, with a second meeting set for Dec. 13. The Commission is expected to pass on its recommendations to the City Council early next year.

“The Commission’s work on the ECA has been very thoughtful and thorough,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “That’s as it should be, given that it’s necessary to strike a balance between environmental considerations and the rights of property owners.”

The ECA update, mandated by state law and informed by the “best

available science,” alters regulations governing the treatment of wetlands, buffers, streams, steep slopes and other sensitive areas in the city.

Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol says the Com-



Mystic Lake wetland

mission has taken a look at 80 “items,” a dozen of which are considered major. To help in the assessment, a new evaluation form has been employed.

“The form produces evaluations in three categories: the environment, property, and implementation,” Gurol said. “It also produces an overall rating based on those three considerations.”

To avoid a redundancy of effort, the City Council asked for the Commission’s ECA process to be inclusive, thorough and well-documented.

“I think the Commission met that test,” Gurol said. “I don’t think the Council will have to do a lot of additional work when they receive the recommendations.”

COMMUNITY, cont. from pg. 1

- The YMCA would also lease a separate piece of land (near Pine Lake Middle School) to the city for 50 years at \$1 per year. As a condition of the lease, the city would develop a plan for recreational use of the property within five years.

Taking the advisory vote into consideration, the City Council was expected to make a build/no-build decision at its Dec. 4 meeting. If a decision was made to proceed, the Council would then meet on Jan. 15 to review an operating agreement with the YMCA.

“I’m confident the Councilmembers had the information they needed to make a decision,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “They’ve been hearing from the community on this topic for

many years. Whether through casual conversation or public comment or the results of our community surveys, our residents have made their feelings clear to the Council. And, of course, that was all topped off by the election.”

Among other things, the proposed 60,000 square-foot Community and Aquatic Center would feature a leisure pool, lap pool, family spa, locker room, multi-purpose space, weights, fitness equipment and two gyms. The two-level facility would also have child-watch services, community meeting space and approximately 300 parking spaces on-site.

Thanks to some misinformation circulating in the community, the city received numerous inquiries from very concerned residents. Communications Manager Tim Larson says one of the biggest misconceptions was

that the city would be giving \$25 million to the YMCA so they could build a “Y.”

“That concern evaporated pretty quickly when we told them that the city would own the building,” Larson said. “When they realized we were just using the Y’s expertise to operate the facility, but the building would belong to the residents of Sammamish, that calmed down quite a bit.”

Some residents were also concerned that their property taxes would go up if the project went ahead. In fact, if the project proceeds, the funding for construction would come from a portion of the city’s financial reserves. No new taxes would be required to fund the project.

For more information, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on “Community and Aquatic Center Fact Sheet.”

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

KOKANEE, cont. from pg. 1

County's David St. John said. "Wally's willingness to do this on his property has been a real gift to the community. The new culvert has opened up a tremendous amount of quality habitat for the Kokanee."

Pereyra's initiative fits nicely into a broader effort being made by a coalition of fish-friendly actors who've made real progress in their effort to protect, preserve and grow the Kokanee population.

Known as the Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group, the participants include:

- Issaquah
- Redmond
- Bellevue
- Sammamish
- King County
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Trout Unlimited
- Friends of Pine Lake
- Snoqualmie Tribe

- Save Lake Sammamish
- Residents like Pereyra who live in the watershed.

"The group started working together in 2007 to prevent the extinction of the Kokanee," St. John said.

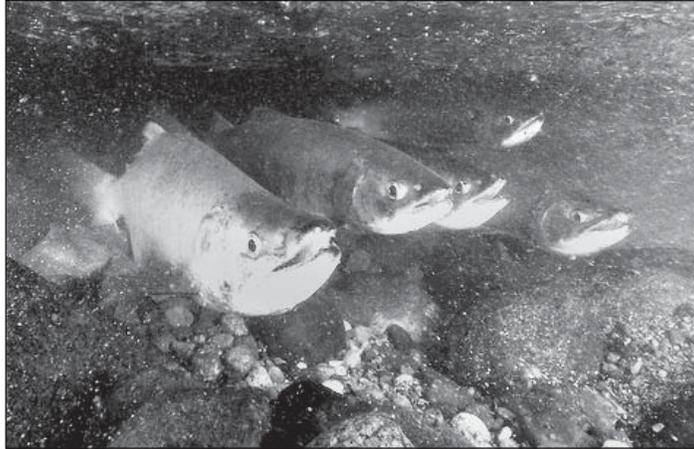


Photo: Roger Tabor, USFWS

More Kokanee head upstream in Ebright Creek.

"Ultimately we'd like to make the Kokanee self-sustaining and grow the population to the point where it would be legal to fish them again."

To that end, the work group has taken Kokanee out of Ebright, Laughing Jacobs and Lewis Creek, allowed them to spawn at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, and then released the fry back

into the creeks. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides most of the funding for the work group's hatchery program.

"We've had successful releases the past three years and hope to continue doing this for several more years," St. John said. "It's exciting for all the members of the work group to see the population growing year by year."

"So many people are pitching in, it's inspiring. The kind of contribution Wally Pereyra made, of course, is fundamental to the whole effort. But so are the contributions made by non-profits and private businesses."

"Darigold Dairy in Issaquah, for example, has provided us with temperature controlled, high-quality water for special incubators at the hatchery. It's been a great group effort."

More contributors are welcome. Residents who would like to help out with the Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group should contact David St. John at 206-296-8003.



This was the old 18-inch pipe that prevented most Kokanee salmon from making their way to the upper reaches of Ebright Creek.



This is the expansive box culvert that replaced the 18-inch pipe. It was paid for by property owner Wally Pereyra.

Sidewalk on Inglewood Hill Road almost done

Once emblematic of Sammamish, it's a sight that is slowly but surely becoming less common: school kids walking on a narrow shoulder next to fast-moving traffic.

The reason for the change? More sidewalks. The latest addition lies along 2,000 feet of Inglewood Hill Road, between 222nd Avenue Northeast and the roundabout at 216th Avenue Northeast.

"We had a real sidewalk deficit when we incorporated in 1999," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "This is another step in the right direction."

The new sidewalk, on the south side of the street only, features a slotted curb and a rain garden between the walkway and the road. The slots allow runoff to flow through the curb so the water can be absorbed by the rain garden instead of just running down the street.

The \$700,000 project began this summer and at press time was scheduled to wrap up in early December.



A curb machine lays down cement concrete along Inglewood Hill Road.

Ribbon cutting to officially open Stan Chapin Way LATE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT EASTLAKE TO BE HONORED DEC. X

Awaiting details...will write story on Monday.

A big 2013 for the Sammamish Arts Commission! NOW IN ITS 10TH YEAR, COMMISSION PLANS YEAR-LONG “FESTIVAL OF ARTS”

The new year is still a few days away, but the Sammamish Arts Commission already has a long list of events planned for 2013. That's as it should be since next year will be the commission's 10th anniversary and the all-volunteer group has made a habit of making the arts scene in Sammamish bigger and better every year.

Here are some, but not all, of the art-related events coming your way courtesy of the Sammamish Arts Commission:

- **Build it Sammamish, a LEGO Building Event!** This Jan. 26 event at City Hall will ask participants to use LEGO blocks to create their own 3D visualizations of Sammamish.
- **Concert!** Look for our “Harmony” concert, featuring “Simple Measures” and the new concert master

of the Seattle Symphony.

- **Multiple Theater Performances!** The ACT Theater will be back with a community reading and the ever-popular Jet City Improv will make their yearly appearance. Also, Native American storyteller and musician Swil Kanim will explore his ancestral connection to Sammamish.
- **Art Classes!** Back by popular demand, the “Seniors Making Art” program will provide seven weeks of art instruction for mature Sammamish residents.
- **Life Stories!** The arts commission will engage teenagers to record and share the life stories of our senior citizens.
- **The 7th Annual Arts Fair!** This showcase for local artists, musicians and storytellers will return

for another great year.

- **Poetry in Sammamish!** A series of poetry events will be offered throughout the month of April to



Follow flood safety tips!

Flooding can affect you no matter where you live, but especially if your home is in a low-lying area. And it's not just the water you have to worry about. Flooding can also spread dangerous chemicals found in many houses.

Here are some flood safety tips you should follow right away if you want to be prepared:

- Store valuables and necessary household chemicals at higher elevations.
- Remove all unnecessary chemicals, appliances and other material from your home by taking advantage of recycling programs.
- Keep street drains and storm grates free of leaves and other debris.
- Make a plan. Make sure everyone in your family knows emergency phone numbers and when to use them.

Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat Project

Looking for something to do with the whole family?
How about working together to make your property a
Certified Community Wildlife Habitat?

For more information, go to
<http://sammamishwildlifehabitatproject.blogspot.com/>.

Sammamish became a
Certified Community Wildlife Habitat
just last year!

Currently, 200 homes, eight schools, eight city parks, four farms, one church, and five water district sites have been certified! Isn't it time for you to join the fun?

CITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Tuesday, Dec. 4

City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 6

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 10

Annual Boards & Commissions
Dinner, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 11

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

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,
6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 13

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 17

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

City of Sammamish Blood Drive,
10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Holiday.
City offices closed

JANUARY

Tuesday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day
City offices closed

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

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

Tuesday, Jan. 15

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

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 17

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 21

Martin Luther King Day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Jan. 22

City Council Special Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26

"Build it Sammamish"
A LEGO Building Event,
10 a.m.-5 p.m., City Hall

Thursday, Jan. 31 - Saturday, Feb. 2

City Council Retreat,
Location TBA

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.

Opportunities on city boards and commissions!

A TOTAL OF NINE APPOINTMENTS WILL BE MADE BY THE CITY COUNCIL

The application deadline for a spot on one of the city's volunteer boards or commissions is coming up at the end of business on Friday, Dec. 28.

Appointments will be made to the Beaver Lake Management District Advisory Board and to the Planning, Parks and Arts commissions.

All commission and board



meetings are open to the public and held at Sammamish City hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E. The terms, most of them lasting four years, will begin on Feb. 1.

For more information on the application process, contact City Clerk Melonie Anderson. She can be reached at 425-295-0511 or manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.



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*John James
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*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember*



*Tom Vance
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Toys for Tots!!!

Donations welcome at City Hall through Dec. 14.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Kamuron Guroi	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
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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