

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 80

CITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

## Work starts on new library

**OPENING EXPECTED IN EARLY 2010**

Just south of City Hall, on the other side of the public plaza, the big yellow excavator started work right on schedule. It had to, if the new library was to open up in February 2010.

"They got off to a fast start with their clearing and grading in January," Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus said. "Let's hope the weather isn't too tough on them and they can stay on track."

The new \$16.3 million facility being built by the King County Library System will be roughly twice the size of the current library at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road. In addition to more computers, materials and space for young people, the new library will also feature a community meeting room.

City Manager Ben Yazici says the new addition is another affirmation of the city's decision to incorporate.

*See LIBRARY, Page 3*



Don Gerend (left) takes the gavel from Lee Felling, the outgoing mayor.

## Don Gerend returns as Mayor

At incorporation in 1999, Don Gerend was elected as one of the city's original seven council members. Last month, almost 10 years later, Gerend was selected by his council colleagues to serve a second one-year term as mayor. He took the gavel from Lee Felling, the outgoing mayor, at the Jan. 6 council meeting.

"Don was also our mayor in 2005," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "He has a vast store of knowledge about the

community, he understands how the city works, and he runs a very open and welcoming council meeting."

Gerend, a former rocket scientist with Boeing who has also worked in real estate, has a Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Washington.

The council also selected Jack Barry as deputy mayor. Like Gerend, Barry is one of the original council members and also a former mayor. Barry served as mayor in 2000.

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

In last month's newsletter, then Mayor Lee Felling discussed our city's form of government (council-manager) and how the seven-member council reorganizes each year, selecting one of the council as mayor and one as deputy mayor. For 2009, I am honored that my colleagues selected me as mayor, and I know Jack Barry feels the same way about his selection as deputy mayor.

Jack and I are looking forward to working with the rest of the council, the city manager and staff, and you, the citizens of Sammamish, in continuing the development of our city as a great place to live, work, recreate and socially gather.

Sammamish, which is the youngest city in western Washington, will be ten years old this August. With a population of over 40,000 within the 21 square

miles of our city limits, Sammamish has seen enormous growth since being designated an urban area under the state's Growth Management Act in the 1990's.

The current recession, however, with the significant softening of the housing market, has all but halted new construction, and, as a consequence, there is increasing unemployment and a weakening in the financial condition of many local companies.

As we await the revival of our national economy, we hope the many infrastructure projects the city has planned for 2009 will help a bit in the short term by providing local jobs. Among the projects are scaled down improvements to East Lake Sammamish Parkway, the northerly extension of 244th Avenue to Northeast Eighth Street, a public works facility, more trails and sidewalks, and work on Pine Lake Park and Evans Creek Preserve.

On the social side, the council is looking forward to additional city-wide

events in this tenth year of incorporation. Our concerts in the park, the Fourth on the Plateau celebration and other events have helped make us a more cohesive, neighborly community, so we're always on the lookout for more opportunities to build community spirit.

We will also be working on expanding citizen participation in project planning and in all aspects of city government. I hope all of our residents will do their part by looking for opportunities to participate and contribute.

I am looking forward to working this year with Deputy Mayor Barry, the rest of the council and the entire community. All of us have a great opportunity to shape the direction that Sammamish will take in its second decade of existence, so let's get off to a terrific start in 2009!



## City Council begins review of shoreline program

After receiving a draft of the Shoreline Master Program Update from the Planning Commission on Jan. 6, the City Council will begin its own review of the program on Feb. 10.

The program update, which will serve as both a comprehensive plan and regulatory document for shorelines in the city, will also be reviewed by the council at three other study sessions, on Feb. 17, March 10 and March 16. Council adoption of the program update is tentatively scheduled for May 19.

The state-mandated re-

view, which has been proceeding methodically for almost three years, has focused primarily on buffers, dock lengths, impervious surface requirements, lot dimensions, public access

and park plans.

Over that time, the public has been invited to three open houses, two public hearings, and more than 20 Planning Commission meetings.

Before they begin their final deliberations, the City Council will hold two public hearings of their own, on April 7 and April 21.

For more information on the Shoreline Master Program Update, go to the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "Shoreline" tab on the left side of the home page.



*Homes along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish.*

## Are bobcat reports an echo of the big snowstorm?

As the city's code enforcement officer, Joan Burlingame hears a lot of reports. Lately, she's been hearing more than usual about bobcats, coyotes, and – prepare to shiver, as Burlingame does – rats!

"I don't like rats," Burlingame said, "so I did some research after we saw an uptick in rat reports."

Although her evidence is anecdotal and her conclusions soft, Burlingame thinks all of this may be an echo of the big December snow storm. In sequence, here's the theory:

- The snowstorm stopped garbage pickup.
- Residents put extra garbage in plastic bags.
- Rats bit through the bags and feasted.
- Rats breed more when they're well fed.
- A rat's gestation period is just over three weeks.
- Bobcats and coyotes are spending

more time in the city because, unlike Burlingame, they love rats.

"I wouldn't bet my life on it, but based on the research I did, I think we can thank the snow for all this," Burlingame said. "Fortunately, it looks like nature is going to take care of it for us and bring things back into balance."

Any discussion of rodents, of course, can trigger negative reactions. To ward off the real and imagined dangers, Burlingame recommends the following:

- Always use trash cans.
- Don't put garbage on the ground in plastic bags.
- Don't feed pets outside.
- Put bird feeders out of reach and make sure to sweep up under the feeder.

"Compared to most other cities, we don't have many rats," Burlingame said.



Photo by Greg Arnquist

*A bobcat seen near the East Lake Sammamish Parkway after the big December snow storm.*

"With the use of common sense measures, and the help of a few bobcats and coyotes, I'm sure we'll keep it that way."

Residents who become concerned after sighting a bobcat or coyote can contact Burlingame at 425-295-0547 or [jburlingame@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:jburlingame@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

They can also attend a city-sponsored "living with wildlife" seminar in April. The seminar, which is timed to the emergence of bears from hibernation, will feature state fish and wildlife experts. The specific time and place for the seminar will be publicized when the schedule is finalized.

### *LIBRARY, cont. from pg. 1*

"Before incorporation, the community wasn't satisfied with the location and size of the old library," Yazici said. "It's been very satisfying for the City Council to work with the library system and come up with another cornerstone project for the people of Sammamish."

More information on the new library, including photos of the ceremonial groundbreaking, is available on the King County Library System website at [www.kcls.org/bond/sammamish/](http://www.kcls.org/bond/sammamish/).



*Making space for the new library next to City Hall.*

## Emergency plan a top priority

Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus has many pressing items on his to-do list, but only one is an emergency – maintaining a plan to deal with earthquakes, wildfires, snow storms and any other disasters that could conceivably descend on Sammamish.

“It takes a lot of work,” Butkus said. “Our plan needs to be broad enough and flexible enough to deal with all sorts of possibilities.”

As the point man on potential disaster, Butkus is continually revising the city’s emergency plan with the help of staff, outside experts, and resident volunteers.

“I think we’ve improved the plan every year, and we’ll continue to do so,” Butkus said. “We’re always inserting new pages and adding more resources.”

Some of the initiatives already taken include the following:

- Funding and installing “ham radio” systems in City Hall and the city’s three fire stations. During emergencies, the radios will be staffed by volunteer experts.
- Participating in a regional “sound

shake” exercises that test communications and resources during a simulated earthquake.

- Installing stand-by power at the public works shop so snow and ice control could continue during a power outage.
- Developing a response plan for pandemic flu.
- Equipping all city staff with a 72-hour emergency kit.

“The key recommendation from all the experts is that residents should also be ready to survive on their own for 72-hours,” Butkus said. “When a major disaster hits a broad area, it may take two or three days for federal and state departments to respond to local agency needs.”

To provide emergency information to residents, the city is also establishing an AM radio station. The station, which could be picked up by car and battery-powered radios during power outages, is expected to be operational later this year.



*Damage along the East Lake Sammamish Parkway following the February 28, 2001, earthquake.*

“Of course, a plan is only as good as the people who execute it,” Butkus said, “so we’re grateful for all the volunteer help we’re getting from the Sammamish Citizen Corps Council and other residents who’ve offered to help out.”

## Map your neighborhood to guard against disaster

Do you and your neighbors want to pull together for the common good if and when disaster strikes?

If the answer is yes, plan to attend a special meeting on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., at the Sammamish Public Library meeting room, 825 228th Ave. S.E.

Under the umbrella term of “map your neighborhood,” you will learn how to develop an inventory of neigh-

borhood skills, equipment, and people with special needs, among other things. You will also learn the nine steps you



and your family need to take immediately following a disaster.

Meeting sponsors say the “map your neighborhood” approach will not only help during an emergency, but also improve the cohesiveness of your community and enhance your quality of life.

Is your plan to attend, please RSVP by Feb. 18 to Kent Kiernan and Barb Clayton at [ktkiernan33@comcast.net](mailto:ktkiernan33@comcast.net) or 425-285-9623.

## Good partners help city handle snow

It was the storm that never seemed to end, starting in mid-December and continuing to lay down new blankets of snow well past Christmas.

As they scraped their way up and down the main arterials day after day, city crews never ran out of energy, but they did run out of sand and luck a couple of times. Fortunately, the city had some good partners to call on for help.

Issaquah replenished the city's sand supply and also did a great job of keeping Southeast 43rd Way open and clear. The Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District pitched in with some additional plowing and sanding equipment. And, when some of the city's overworked equipment broke down, and the contract mechanic was unable to make it into town, Eastside Fire and Rescue volunteered their mechanic for the job.

"We were back on the road in no time," Public Works Director John Cunningham said. "The cooperative relationships we maintain with other jurisdictions really paid off during this storm."

For almost two weeks, the city's road crews worked 12 hour shifts, some working 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. while others worked 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. They spent most of that time working on the main arterials because the snow never let up long enough for lower-priority neighborhood streets to get much-needed attention.

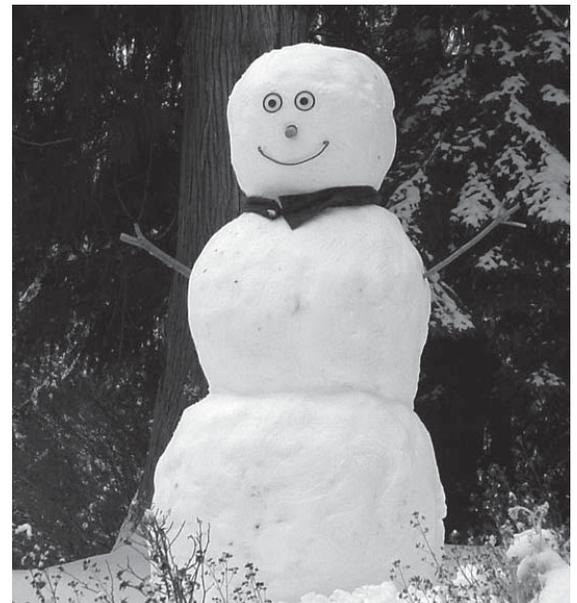
"It was a bit frustrating," Cunningham said. "We'd get started on the side roads, and another wave of snow would hit us. Fortunately, I think most residents were understanding because they could see what we were up against. We got a lot of positive feedback from the community and that's always gratifying for the crews to hear."

Cunningham estimates the crews dropped the equivalent of 35 dumptrucks of sand on city streets. And, if you put all the liquid de-icer the city used end to end, it would have extended over 1,700 miles.

"No wonder our crews were tired," Cunningham said. "That's a lot of sanding, plowing, and de-icing."



*A city snow plow clears the roundabout by Sunny Hills Elementary.*



*A friendly snowman in north Sammamish.*



*A view from the eastern shore of Pine Lake.*

## City honors volunteers with special night

### A SIT DOWN DINNER AT CITY HALL FOR RESIDENTS WHO SERVE COMMUNITY

For a lot of city volunteers, a night in the City Council chamber usually translates into a lot of work, but on Jan. 12 they found a fine dinner rather than a complex issue to wrestle with.

Members of the Planning, Arts, and Parks Commissions were joined by members of the Technology Committee, Sammamish Youth Board, and Beaver Lake Management

District for the expression of city appreciation. Volunteers with the Sammamish Citizen Corps, SARGE, and Eastside Fire and Rescue, along with residents who help out in other capacities, were also thanked for their contributions.

“We wouldn’t be the community we are without the commitment and work of our volunteers,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We want them to know they’re appreciated.”



*Planning Commission members with councilmembers and city staff: (From left) Jan Klier, Scott Hamilton, Mayor Don Gerend, Erica Tiliacos, Deputy Mayor Jack Barry, Councilmembers Michele Petitti and Lee Felling, Tom Vance, City Manager Ben Yazici, Stan Bump, and Permit Center Manager Darci Donovan.*



*Arts Commission members with councilmembers and city staff: (From left) Finance Director Lyman Howard, Kent Greene, Mayor Don Gerend, Daphne Robinson, Katja May, Deputy Mayor Jack Barry, Councilmembers Michele Petitti and Lee Felling, Vinta K, and City Manager Ben Yazici.*

## Development map online

Whether you’re a designer, a contractor, or just a curious resident, the city’s new development activity map is now online and ready to help.

The map shows the names and locations of all current short plats, subdivisions, commercial site developments, and projects with grading significant enough to require SEPA (environmental) review.

The developments on the map are color coded to show what stage of review or construction the projects are in. To see the map and related information, go to the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the “maps” tab at the top of the homepage.

## Sammi awards in March

This year’s Sammi awards celebration, an event that honors community-spirited residents in a number of different categories, is just around the corner.

The seventh annual Sammi Awards are scheduled to be bestowed on Saturday, March 14, 7 p.m., at Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. N.E.

For additional information on the community awards ceremony, please go to the Sammi Awards website at [www.sammiawards.org](http://www.sammiawards.org).



# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## Skyline Spartan Day at Jan. 20 council meeting

The Sammamish City Council honored two state championship teams from Skyline High School at its Jan. 20 meeting. With players and coaches from both the Spartan football team and girls soccer team present, Mayor Don Gerend read a proclamation praising the two championship

teams and designating Jan. 20 as “Skyline Spartan Day” in their hometown of Sammamish.

After hearing from the coaches and posing for pictures, the two teams shared cake and refreshments with council members, staffers, and residents who were in attendance.



*From left, Christina Vargas, Kiara Williams, Kayten Porter, Coach Don Braman, Kayla Shim, Mindy Nation, Mayor Don Gerend, Coral Anderson, and Maddie Christ.*



*From left, Gino Simone, Jake Heaps, Coach Mat Taylor, Ryan Somers, and Mayor Don Gerend.*

## CITY CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

#### Tuesday, Feb. 3

Art Exhibit Reception:  
Winter Remedies , 6-8 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 4

Sammamish Landing Public Mtg #3,  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, Feb. 5

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 10

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

#### Wednesday, Feb. 11

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

#### Monday, Feb. 16

President's Day  
City offices closed

#### Tuesday, Feb. 17

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, Feb. 19

Planning Comm. Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Monday, Feb. 23

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### MARCH

#### Tuesday, Mar. 3

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, Mar. 5

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Mar. 10

Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Mar. 11

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

#### Monday, Mar. 16

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Mar. 17

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Location TBA

#### Wednesday, Mar. 18

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

#### Thursday, Mar. 19

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### 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



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*



*Jack Barry  
Deputy Mayor*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling  
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember*



## Sales tax lookup tool online

As residents begin to work on their federal tax returns, the city has been receiving calls regarding the local/state split on sales tax.

To make things easy, the city has included a “sales tax lookup tool” on the city website that allows residents to type in their address and immedi-

ately see the figures they may need to include in their federal tax return.

To access the lookup tool, go to <http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/financialservices.aspx>, scroll down to “financial links,” and click on the “federal tax return state/local sales tax lookup tool.”

### CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Pete Butkus

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Lyman Howard

John Cunningham

Jessi Richardson

Mike Sauerwein

Melonie Anderson

Brad Thompson

Lee Soptich

Bruce Disend

Tim Larson

City Manager

Deputy City Manager

Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr

Finance Dir/Asst City Mgr

Public Works Director

Parks & Rec Director

Admin Services Director

City Clerk

Police Chief

Fire Chief

City Attorney

Communications Mgr



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