

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 116

CITY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

Environmentally Critical Areas update

The Planning Commission is scheduled to kick off the update to the city's Environmentally Critical Areas regulations with educational and round table sessions at City Hall on Feb. 16 and March 1 at 6:30 p.m.

The initial meetings will focus on an overview of the existing regulations. As the update progresses, an in-depth review of the regulations by topic is projected to begin in mid-March and continue into the summer.

The city is hiring a consultant to perform a research review of the "best available science" to inform the public, stakeholders, the Planning Commission and City Council.

If you are interested in more information as the city moves through this process, please sign up for email alerts by going to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and clicking on the "Email Alert" icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page.

Updates will also be posted on our website in the near future at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/departments/communitydevelopment/CriticalAreas.aspx.



Tom Odell (left) receives the mayor's gavel from Don Gerend, the outgoing mayor.

Tom Odell takes the mayor's gavel

On Jan. 3, during their first meeting of 2012, members of the Sammamish City Council selected Tom Odell to serve as mayor. Odell, who will serve a two-year term, takes the place of outgoing Mayor Don Gerend.

During 2011, Odell served as Deputy Mayor. Now that he's moved up to the mayor's role, the Council selected John James to serve a one-year term as Deputy Mayor.

"Tom and John have both been on the Council for two years now, so they

have a wealth of experience and a lot to offer," City Manager Ben Yazici. "I'm really looking forward to working with them and the rest of the City Council in 2012."

The Council selects the mayor and deputy mayor from among its own members. In the Council/City Manager form of government, which Sammamish employs, the Council sets policy, but then relies on the city manager to implement that policy and run the city's day-to-day operations.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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Snow. Wind. Rain. Ice. Snowmageddon!

With apologies to Jeff Renner, our friend, fellow Sammamish resident, and TV meteorologist, these words serve to strike fear in the hearts of our residents – and did so in January.

The reality is that we DID get several inches of snow (at least 8 inches, including compaction, on the bench on my deck) before it started raining. This was followed by high wind and yet more rain.



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

We could not get to work (perhaps fortunately, as we might have been stranded there) and we could not get to the store. Our school districts cancelled, for the entire week, as it turned out.

Then the power went out and our houses became progressively chillier. Mine included. I do not have a generator (yet!) and my fireplace insert depends on electricity to function. This is going to change before too long!

We added a second down quilt to our bed and took our kitty to bed with us (to keep him warm!). I got out the propane cook stove, another burner, plus all the battery and propane lanterns that we owned. We settled down and waited – for the streets to be cleared and for the lights to come on. Keep the fridge and freezer doors closed! Hunker down and camp out.

Ace Hardware, Safeway, and QFC maintained limited operations on backup power. We could still get es-

entials – if we had a good vehicle with traction tires and/or chains and some winter driving skills. Having grown up in Minnesota, the latter was not a problem for me personally, but a major challenge for those not accustomed to these conditions.

When it became evident that we were facing a major weather event, the city opened its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in a conference room at City Hall. Senior city staff as well as public works and parks maintenance and operations staff were mobilized. Equipment was readied. Sand and de-icing supplies were in place (as they have been for the past several winters). Road crews were placed on alert that they would be working 12 hour shifts.

FYI – the city currently has seven trucks that can be equipped with plows. Three of these also carry de-icing fluid dispensers, three others are sanders, and another one does both. We have 10 city maintenance people that drive (five at a time in 12-hour shifts) these vehicles. They are supplemented by other city staff members. We dispensed 25,000 gallons of de-icer, 304 tons of salt, and 250 cubic yards of sand on our city streets.

Additional snow removal equipment, and staff to operate it, was obtained from the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District, a separate entity that has previously cooperated with the city in just such emergencies. Both of our water districts had their own emergency plans to maintain water and sewer functionality when the lights went out – and they

did. The estimated cost for all this: \$125,000.

Once the storm did hit, it was all that was forecast and more. At its peak more than 12,000 of our 14,000+ households lost power. Travel was difficult but thanks to everyone's efforts remained possible on all city arterials. Side streets, of necessity, were a different story.

The EOC tracked fallen trees, downed or low-hanging power lines, road closures, checked on elderly and infirm residents, established a warming and battery recharge station in the Council chambers at City Hall, and coordinated with other neighboring city governments and Puget Sound Energy, our electric utility.

Our main job – besides public safety – was to ensure mobility. In other words, keep the roads plowed so residents could move, emergency crews could respond to calls for aid and fire, and PSE crews could get to where they needed to go to restore power.

Many wrote in to commend our staff's efforts. A few felt otherwise but in general the feedback was largely positive, particularly relative to elsewhere in Puget Sound. I am pleased with how it was all handled.

Now that these storms are over we will look at what went well and also see what we perhaps might do differently next time we have one of these events.

Thanks for your understanding and your patience.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Odell".

January snow and ice storm tests Sammamish

CITY ROAD CREWS STAY BUSY; RESIDENTS ADAPT AND HAVE FUN

Last winter didn't amount to much for city road crews. Thanks to flake-free weather, the plows, sand, salt and de-icer never really had to come out of hibernation.

But the snow and ice storm of January 2012 was something else altogether. Navigating through a dark and

cold city struggling with massive power outages, city crews traded off 12-hour shifts and kept the snow plows on the attack 24 hours a day for more than a week.

"The crews did a great job," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It's not easy to keep the main arterials clear when

that much snow is coming down on the roads for that long.

"Our residents did a great job, too. Even though it was a terrible storm, we didn't have that many calls or problems. People adapted and managed to have a little fun along the way. It was good to see."



A city snow plow clears the way along Southeast 24th Street.



Winter fun next to Elizabeth Blackwell Elementary.

Annual retreat covers broad range of city issues

Guided by thick binders and a generous helping of power point presentations, City Council members and senior city staff once again covered a lot of territory during their annual retreat late last month.

Among other things, the topic list included economic development, council committees, fire services, community center options, town center, meeting schedules and long-range budget perspectives.

"From Thursday evening until mid-day Saturday, the Council really stayed on task," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It's great to have some uninterrupted time to really think and share ideas."

This year's retreat was held at Suncadia Lodge.



Mayor Tom Odell leads retreat discussion.

Public input continues on Southeast Eighth Street Park

YOUR THOUGHTS NEEDED TO MASTER PLAN 36 ACRES OF DONATED OPEN SPACE

After a public meeting on Jan. 11, during which residents were asked to share their “hopes, dreams and fears” regarding Southeast Eighth Street Park, the city also opened up an online survey for further input.

The goal: To gather everyone’s thoughts on the best way to handle 36 acres of donated land in the geographical center of Sammamish.

“We know it’s going to be a beautiful passive park,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “But there are a few things we need to decide.”

After gathering all the public comments and sorting through the options, the city will present alternative design concepts for review. The Parks and Rec Commission and the City Council will both take a look and, of course, there will be plenty of opportunities for residents to have their say.



A snowy pathway in Southeast Eighth Street Park.

The land donation is being made in three phases. Right now, the city already has a 16-acre parcel in its possession and open for public use. Another 20-acre parcel will transfer to the city within the next five to seven years. And then a final 15 acres will likely be donated in 15 or more years. Only the first two parcels are included in the initial master plan.

To complete the online survey, go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click through Departments, Parks and Rec, S.E. 8th St. Park, and Public Involvement.

You can also sign up for email alerts on the Southeast Eighth Street Park planning process by clicking on the “email alert” icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the the city website’s home page.

Project Manager Linda Frkuska can be reached at 425-295-0586 or lfrkuska@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Open house: For a 2,000-foot sidewalk on Inglewood Hill Road

Back before Sammamish became a city, roads were narrow, sidewalks were scarce, and a lot of residents were cranky about it, especially those with children who had to walk next to roaring streams of traffic.

In response, the city has methodically added sidewalks, filled in gaps, and made Sammamish safer for pedestrians. The latest addition will go in along the southern side of Inglewood Hill Road, closing a 2,000-foot gap between 222nd Avenue and the roundabout at 216th Avenue.

The city will be seeking public input at an open house on Wednesday, Feb. 29, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Boys and Girls Club, 825 228th Ave. N.E. Project Manager Jed Ireland says the goal is to start construction in July and wrap things up in October.

For more information on the project, contact Ireland at 425-295-0563 or jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us.



Students walk along Inglewood Hill Road.

More than 2,700 residents follow city with email alerts SERVICE OFFERS BOTH EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS AND TEXT MESSAGES

It may not be as exciting as getting a tweet from Lady Gaga, but an alert from the city can come in handy, especially when the snow is wrecking your evening commute or you're wondering when the lights are going to come back on.

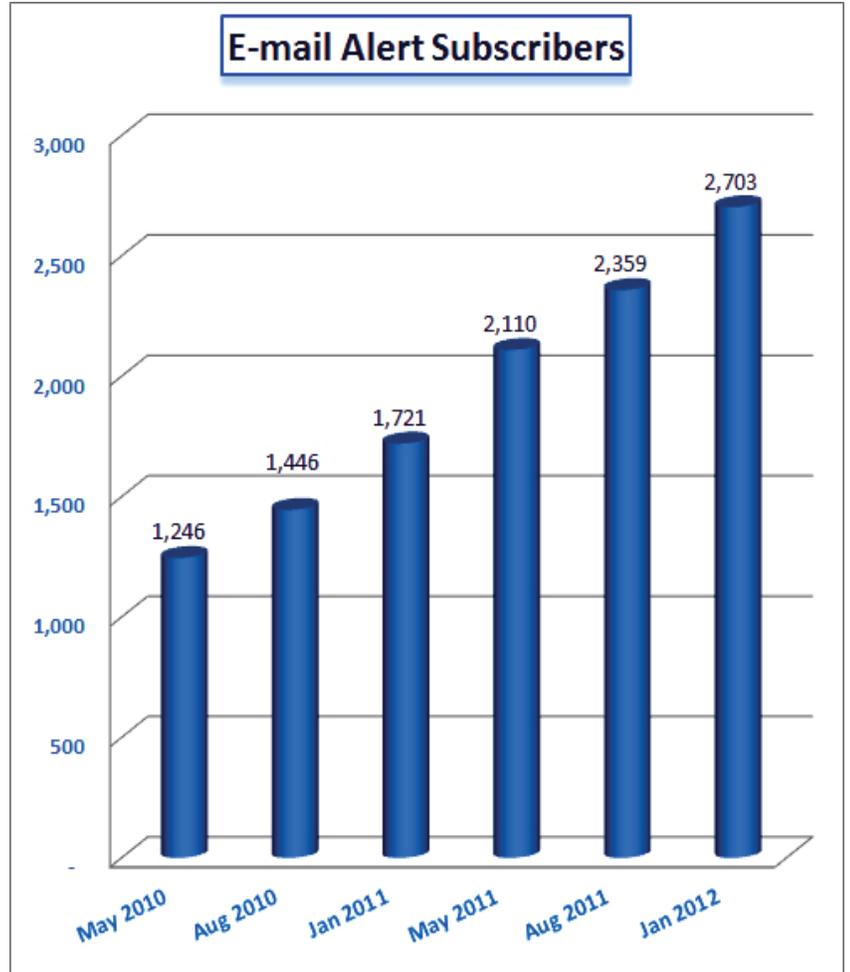
"Our alert system really helped out during the recent storm," Communications Manager Tim Larson said. "We were able to push out a lot of information to our subscribers."

The city's alert system sends out both emails and shorter text messages. When residents subscribe to the service, they can opt to receive one or the other, or both.

The number of people who've signed up has grown steadily (see chart). In May 2010, just over 1,200 residents had subscribed. Twenty months later in January 2012, that figure was over 2,700.

"We have around 50 topics people can sign up for," Larson said. "Everything from City Council updates to traffic alerts to parks news. Our goal is to get the subscriber list above 3,000, and then above 4,000 after that. It's fun to see that number grow."

To sign up for the alerts, go to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us, click on the "email alert" icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page, and then simply follow the prompts.



Council appoints residents to commissions and boards

(New, first-time appointees highlighted in blue)

Arts Commission:

- Bharath Sankaranarayan
- Daphne Robinson
- Anne Schaefer
- Lin Garretson
- Claradell Shedd
- Max Montrey
- Mary Lynn Vance

Park & Rec Commission

- Krist Morritt
- Mary Doerrer
- Hank Klein
- Brad Conner

Planning Commission

- Mahbubul Islam
- Ryan Kohlmann

Beaver Lake Management District Board

- Bruce Morgan
- Collin Clark
- Frank Blau
- Tyler Easley
- Robert Brady

Arts Commission: Concert, art exhibits are here to color your winter beautiful

The Sammamish Arts Commission is busy at work planning art exhibits, concerts, and other events to keep things lively around here this winter, so please mark your calendars accordingly:

- Through March 8 at City Hall: “Tribute to Trees” art exhibit featuring beautiful artwork from several local artists.
- February 14: Simple Measures concert. From Brahms to the Beatles, this “Unstrung Hero” concert has a little something for everyone this Valentine’s Day. 7:30 p.m., Sammamish Presbyterian Church.
- Feb. 23: A “Tribute to Trees” salon in which four local artists discuss their work. At ArtEast, 95 Front St. N., Issaquah, 7 p.m.
- March 12 – June 8 at City Hall: “Come Sit A While” art exhibit, depicting paper-cut artwork of Sammamish scenes.
- For more information, go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on the Arts Commission tab.



- To receive email alerts, go to the same website and click on the “email alert” icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page. You may also “like” the Sammamish Arts Commission on Facebook, or “follow” the Commission on Twitter @SammamishArts.

Beaver Lake Lodge all spruced up for spring, summer events

The log cabin ambiance at Beaver Lake Lodge has always been popular for weddings, business meetings and other events. And it’s likely to be even busier now that some important improvements have been made.

“In the main room, I think what people will notice is much better lighting and the presence of two big TV screens,” said Facilities Coordinator Joanna Puthoff. “The TV’s will be great for wedding slide shows and business power point presentations.”

Last year, the city booked the lodge almost 600 times, taking in \$45,000 in fees. With the new improvements, the city hopes to book more big events and boost that revenue total.



Beaver Lake Lodge interior.

Other improvements include new appliances and counter tops in the kitchen, new tile floors in the restroom and back rooms, and a new storage area for tables and chairs.

“When we took the lodge over from King County, we knew we were going to have to make some improvements to the floors

and other basic components,” Puthoff said. “If we had waited any longer, some of the deterioration we were seeing was just going to accelerate.”

Those with a discerning eye will notice that the lodge’s interior trim is now a rusty red rather than teal. The reason:

“We based lot of the changes on feedback from customers,” Puthoff said, “and a lot of them said the teal just wasn’t working with their wedding colors.”

CITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Feb. 1

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

Thursday, Feb. 2

Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 6

Economic Development Self-Assessment Tool Presentation, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9

Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 13

City Council Study Session 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Simple Measures Concert
"Unstrung Hero", 7:30-9 p.m.
Sammamish Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 20

Washington's Birthday

City offices closed

Tuesday, Feb. 21

City Council Office Hour, 5:30 p.m.

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

Monday, Feb. 27

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

MARCH

Thursday, Mar. 1

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 6

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 7

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

Thursday, Mar. 8

Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 12 - Friday, Jun. 8

City Hall Art Display

"Come Sit a While", 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 13

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

Wednesday, Mar. 14

Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 15

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 17

Volunteer Opportunity, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Evans Creek Preserve

Monday, Mar. 19

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 20

City Council Office Hour, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 24

Volunteer Event at Lower Commons Park, 9 a.m.- noon

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.

Tips on flood prevention and wet weather safety

With the rainy season well underway, the Department of Public Works encourages residents to take precautions and protect themselves and their property from flood risks and flood damage:

Flood prevention tips:

- Keep drainage areas (ditches, swales, small channels) free of debris accumulation.
- Make sure drainage facilities are working properly.
- Landscape slope areas with plants suitable for erosion control.
- Report clogged catch basins to

the city at 425-295-0500 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Personal safety tips during a flood:

- Do not walk through flowing water.
- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else during a flood.
- Don't ever drive around barriers, especially during floods. The road or bridge beyond the barrier may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. After drowning, electrocution is the biggest killer during a flood. Electrical current can travel through water.
- Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris, including broken bottles and nails.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has ventilation.



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SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Tom Odell
Mayor



John James
Deputy Mayor



John Curley
Councilmember



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember



Tom Vance
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

CERT

Community Emergency Response Team training

March 13	Course overview and disaster preparedness
March 20	Incident command
March 27	Disaster psychology/terrorism
April 3	Fire suppression
April 10	Light search and rescue
April 17	Disaster medical - triage
April 24	Disaster medical - treatment
May 1	Optional/makeup/review
May 5	Final drill

Cost of training: \$35

Class start time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fire Station 82, 1851 228th Ave. N.E.

More information: www.sammamishcitizencorps.org

Contact: CERT@sammamishcitizencorps.org

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Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
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Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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