

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 139

CITY NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2014

City alters two town center regs

STRUCTURED PARKING, STORMWATER STANDARDS TWEAKED TO ENCOURAGE NEW DEVELOPMENT

Although development regulations for the city's town center remain more rigorous than those in other parts of the city, the standards for structured parking and the handling of stormwater have been softened a bit.

Hoping to encourage development in the town center area, the City Council passed a resolution on Dec. 3 advising staff to do two things:

1. Reduce the structured parking requirement in the town center from 80 percent to 50 percent.
2. Reduce the more restrictive stormwater volume standards previously in place for the town center, but retain the higher standards for stormwater release rates.

The plan has always been for development in the town center to be driven

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The lights were shining at City Hall on the evening of Dec. 6.

A Very Merry Sammamish!

It was a chilly night, but there was much to warm to on Dec. 6 as a sparkling Very Merry Sammamish event unfolded at City Hall.

The annual celebration of the season began with songs from Master Chorus Eastside, moved quickly to the lighting ceremony, and then spread onto the City Hall plaza where a fire engine, a backhoe, a garbage truck and various other vehicles were festooned with holiday lights.

"We decided to add some features to the event this year," Parks Director Jessi Bon said. "I think the petting zoo, the lights, and pumping up the music element really made it fun for kids and their families."

"The Not-Its," a kid-oriented rock band, the Blackwell Elementary Choir, and Chad Guse kept the evening tuneful throughout, and the petting zoo provided up-close-and-personal con-

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COUNCIL FAREWELL

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COMP PLAN

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REARD-FREED HOUSE

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John James, John Curley say farewell to Council

Given that they left of their own free will, it wasn't surprising that the farewell ceremonies for departing City Councilmembers John James and John Curley were festive in nature.

They received plaques of appreciation, warm comments from their colleagues, and an opportunity to make some departing remarks.

"I really appreciate their service," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Both of them had full-time careers away from their Council duties, so they've really sacrificed a lot to serve their community."

James and Curley, both of whom leave the Council after serving one four-year term, decided not to run for re-election. They will be replaced by Kathy Huckabay and Bob Keller, both winners in the November elections.

"We're going to miss John and John," Yazici said. "They did a great job, and were a pleasure to work with."



John James (left) and John Curley (right) pose for a goodbye photo with Mayor Tom Odell at the Dec. 10 City Council meeting.

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by market forces and the enthusiasm of the private sector," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We're hoping these alterations will prime the pump and accelerate interest in the town center."

The town center plan, adopted by the City Council in 2008, provides a development framework for 240 acres in the geographical center of the city. Anchored at the south end by City Hall, the new library and a soon-to-be-constructed community and aquatic center, the town center vision calls for a mixture of retail, residential, recreational, commercial and public spaces, all bound and fed by a network of pedestrian-friendly pathways.

In addition to easing

the parking and stormwater standards, the city has also set aside \$4.5 million to help developers pay for necessary infrastructure improvements.

"When a city is working in partnership with private developers to fulfill a public vision, it's quite common for the city to help pay for the necessary roads, sidewalks and

stormwater improvements," Yazici said. "As developers submit their proposals in the months and years ahead, some of that \$4.5 million may be available to them."

The town center plan was adopted just as the economic downturn began in 2008.

"Now that the economy is showing signs of life, we're enthusiastic about our town center projects," Yazici said. "It's going to be fun to watch it grow."



The Town Center vision calls for a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly environment.

Comp plan rewrite due by 2015

Like all King County cities, Sammamish is obligated by law to rewrite and refresh its comprehensive plan from time to time. In this case, the City Council must approve the new comp plan by mid-year 2015.

“The Planning Commission will be working on it throughout 2014 and pass along its recommendations to the Council,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “As always, I expect our residents will be very involved and provide us with thoughtful comments along the way.”

Among other things, this rewrite will feature a “building healthy communities” theme. Recent academic research shows that pedestrian- and bike-friendly cities with lots of social interaction produce better health outcomes.

The Council will be also be conducting a “visioning” process in February. For more information, go to the city website (www.sammamish.us) and click on the “Comprehensive Plan 2035” tab.



The Comprehensive Plan 2035 booth at the Farmers Market.

MERRY, cont. from pg. 1

tact with the likes of Mighty Mo, a friendly camel.

As residents wandered about, they visited the EX3 Boys & Girls Club van, the YMCA van, drank hot chocolate, decorated cookies and had some Big House BBQ.

Sponsored by Republic Services and Aegis Living, the event also featured Princess Merry, a regal and lovely presence more than happy to glide about and pose for pictures with the common folk.

“As usual, there was really a nice spirit at the event,” Bon said. “When you see all the kids and families streaming into City Hall and onto the plaza, it really gives you a strong sense of community.”



The Master Chorus Eastside fills City Hall with song.



A youngster makes his acquaintance with Mighty Mo the camel.



Posing for pix with Princess Merry!

Co-existing with wildlife in Sammamish

Seeing bobcats in your backyard is not an uncommon experience if you live in Washington state. But Sammamish resident John Candaux did more than that; he used a telephoto lens to capture two of the predators, fluffy and absurdly confident, lounging on his back fence.

According to the Washington State Fish and Wildlife website, bobcats generally stick to mice, rabbits, gophers, insects and other wild menu items. But they've also been known to occasionally take small house pets, so some precautions are advised.



A few rules of *Two bobcats relax on John Candaux's backyard fence near Issaquah-Pine Lake Road.*

thumb? Prevent a buildup of food under bird feeders, feed your dogs and cats indoors, don't let them outside between dusk and dawn unless you're with them, and don't ever feed wild animals. Wildlife officials also advise you to provide a secure enclosure for chickens, ducks and turkeys.

Candaux, who lives along Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, first noticed the young bobcats with their mother, but he says they look fully grown now. He's also noticed something else: He now sees "zero" rabbits around his house.

The Reard-Freed House is looking good!

Built in the early 1890s, battered by more than a century of rain, wind and snow, and recently trundled across town on a truck to its new location in Big Rock Park, the Reard-Freed House is looking surprisingly good.

After a lot of exterior work and a new coat of yellow paint, all courtesy of the the Sammamish Heritage Society, the old farm house looks ready to host a community dance, just as it did in the good old days.

"There is still a lot of work to do, but it looks beautiful in the new location," Kellye Hilde, the city's project manager, said. "When the Heritage Society gets done, it's going to be a historical treasure and a great reminder of what Sammamish used to be like."

The Reard-Freed House, originally located along 212th Avenue, is currently listed on the King County Historic Resource Inventory. Among its claims to fame – it was heavily featured in "Act of Love," a 1980 movie starring Ron Howard, Robert Foxworth and Mickey Rourke.



The Reard-Freed House at Big Rock Park.

Arts Commission gets off to a fast start in 2014

It's a new year and, as usual, a new menu of arts-oriented opportunities is being offered by the Sammamish Arts Commission.

It begins on Jan. 21 when the Commons Gallery at City Hall hosts an invitational exhibition entitled "Crossing Boundaries." The exhibition, which will run through April 25, will bring attention to artists working in traditional print art media.

A public conversation on April 10 at 7 p.m. will address the questions of where printmaking has been, where it is going, and the validity of digital images.

Then, on Jan. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the EX3Teen Center, 825 228th Ave. N.E., some cross-generational fun is in store during a special "Life Stories" event. It will feature teens pairing up with adults (55 and older) to share real-life short

stories through the visual arts, music, poetry and the spoken word. An open microphone atmosphere will allow participants to have their say. Great instructors, authors and surprise guests will help participants, and there will be prizes handed out for the best stories. For more information, go to www.sammamish.us/events and click on Jan. 25, or call 425-295-0597.



LEGO Master Builder Dan Parker

The pace continues on Feb. 1 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at City Hall) with the return of Dan Parker, the LEGO Master Builder. Just as he did a year ago, Parker will help local youngsters develop their own creations and show off some of his own. There will also be a "What Sammamish means to me" LEGO building competition.

To join Dan Parker, please register by going to www.sammamish.us/events and clicking on Feb. 1.

City recognized for financial reporting

The city's finance department has been recognized for its "excellence in financial reporting" by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). In recognizing the city's "comprehensive annual financial report," the GFOA noted the report's "spirit of full disclosure" and clear communication.

The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals in the U. S. and Canada.

City Hall chargers now cost \$1 per hour

For the past two years, electric vehicle owners have been able to charge up their batteries at City Hall for free. But now, it will cost \$1 per hour to use the charging stations located in the City Hall parking lot. And, after six hours of charging, the rate will rise to \$2 per hour.

The new fees are intended to recover the city's costs and to discourage owners from leaving their electric vehicles in the charging spaces longer than necessary.



Charging station at City Hall

City recognizes excellence at employee appreciation lunch

EMPLOYEE, TEAM, POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR HONORED

City Manager Ben Yazici says the city never seems to run out of good candidates for its “Employee of the Year” award. And Anjali Myer, the recipient for 2013, is obviously no exception. Her supervisor, Parks Director Jessi Bon, had this to say.

“Anjali is well-organized, detail-oriented, tactful, collaborative, friendly and extremely effective,” Bon said. “Did I mention thrifty?”

Although she’s a project manager, not a Girl Scout, Myer has brought those talents to bear on complex projects that must sometimes navigate a contentious public process.

“She’s very inclusive in her thinking,” Bon said, “but she also recognizes



Anjali Myer, the city’s 2013 “Employee of the Year” receives her award on Dec. 11. Myer, a project manager in the parks department, has worked on several high-profile initiatives, including Sammamish Landing and the Community and Aquatic Center.



Councilmember Tom Vance (center), joins city workers at the Employee Appreciation lunch.

that focus and forward movement are important. She’s done terrific work on Sammamish Landing and the Community and Aquatic Center.”

Three other awards were also bestowed at the Dec. 11 “Employee Appreciation” lunch at City Hall:

- **Team of the Year:** Darci Donovan, Jeff Brauns and Matt Micono for their work on a new permit tracking system.
- **Police Officer of the Year:** MPO (Master Police Officer) Clay Meeks.
- **Firefighter of the Year:** Lt. Dean deAlteriis.

“We’re fortunate to have great people in all departments,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It’s always fun to recognize their special contributions.”

CITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

Wednesday, Jan. 1

New Years Day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Jan. 7

City Council Meeting, 6:30p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

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

Thursday, Jan. 9

Eagle Scout Project Mtg, 4-5 p.m.
Planning Commission Mt, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

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

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
City offices closed

Tuesday, Jan. 21

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

Thursday, Jan. 23

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25

“Life Stories”, 1-3 p.m.
EX3 Boys and Girls Club

Monday, Jan. 27

Arts Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb. 1

“Build It” Sammamish - LEGO Event,
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

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

Thursday, Feb. 6

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11

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

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg,
6 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 17

Washington’s Birthday
City offices closed

Thursday, Feb. 20 - Saturday, Feb. 22

City Council Retreat
Suncadia Lodge

Thursday, Feb. 20

Planning Commission Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24

Arts Commission Meeting,
6:30 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.

Free “auto leaks” workshops available!

Drivers can learn basic car care and get an oil-leak inspection at free “auto leaks” workshops offered by the Department of Ecology and Seattle Public Utilities. In addition to the professional inspection, the classes, valued at \$125, will cover how to check basic car-care systems, vital fluids, belts, hoses, filters and much more. Choose from these upcoming locations and dates:



**Renton Technical College: Jan. 18; Feb. 1 and 15 ;
March 1 and 15**

South Seattle Community College: Jan. 18 and Feb. 15

West Seattle High School: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8



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Bob Keller
Councilmember



Tom Vance
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Toys for Tots!



Capt. Bob Baxter, Sgt. Tony Garza and Deputy Amy Jarboe stand next to a generous pile of gifts donated by Sammamish residents.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Wes Collins	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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