

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 151

CITY NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2015

## Positive feedback

### COMMUNITY SURVEY SAYS CITY "ON THE RIGHT TRACK"

Since 2003, the city has asked the same core questions in its community surveys. And, with only minor variations from survey to survey, the community's answers have remained the same. Overall, Sammamish residents seem to feel the city is doing well.

The results of this latest survey, a statistically valid, random phone poll conducted by McGuire Research in October, were presented to the City Council on Dec. 9 by Tim Larson, the city's communications manager. Surveys based on the same core questions were conducted in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2012.

"More than 70 percent of respondents said the city was on the right track and they were satisfied with the leadership of city government," Larson said. "Those numbers are slightly down from the 2012 numbers, but roughly in line with what we saw in 2008."

The 31-question survey had a sample size of 401, all individuals who identified themselves as a "head of household." The margin of error on a

*See SURVEY, pg. 4*



*A street scene in Brookshire Estates, one of several neighborhoods just outside of Klahanie that are nevertheless part of what is commonly referred to as the Klahanie annexation area.*

## Annexation election by April 28? IT'S IN THE HANDS OF THE BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD

Having already jumped through several process hoops, the city's desire to annex the Klahanie area is clear to everyone, but the goal became official last month when Sammamish submitted its Notice of Intent (NOI) to the King County Boundary Review Board (BRB).

The BRB will now consider the matter, and hold a hearing if, and only if, an interested jurisdiction contests

the action. In the best case scenario, the BRB could approve the boundaries of the proposed annexation late this month or in February.

Assuming the eventual vote favors annexation to Sammamish, residents of the Klahanie area would be well served if the BRB moves briskly and gives the city time to stage an election by April 28.

*See ANNEXATION, pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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**PAVED TRAIL**

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**SNAKE HILL ROAD**

*Story on page 5*

# It's going to be a busy and exciting 2015!

Here we go again! Another year in the on-going history of the city of Sammamish. This year, just like the last, will be full of important and sometimes controversial issues. But I'm confident 2015 will also be full of opportunities and, with some luck, accomplishments!

As this newsletter is arriving in your mailbox, your City Council members, along with staff leadership, are preparing to gather for the annual retreat.



*Tom Vance  
Mayor*

The retreat offers us a quiet time – mostly away from the demands of phones and emails – to talk about our city's present and future. And it also gives us the opportunity to discuss important subjects in greater depth, with an emphasis on long-term strategy. That can be tough to do when we're trying to navigate busy agendas at our regular meetings.

A major theme at the retreat will be our vision for 2040. What should our services, infrastructure, environment and finances look like 25 years from now?

This should be a valuable exercise, especially given that the Council will be revising the city's comprehensive plan later this year. I expect a discussion on the environment and the protection of open space will be a major topic. I'm looking forward to the conversation.

Success in the long term, however, can't happen without hard work

in the short term. So, our city department directors will prepare for discussions of their work plans in land use, public safety, parks and recreation, public works, and finance. The retreat should give us a good look at what's going to be a very busy 2015!

Early this year, we'll be considering a revised Tree Retention Ordinance for new development. Although the details aren't yet clear, I'm hopeful that our new ordinance will ensure that future generations of Sammamish residents will live in a city of trees.

Along with the new ordinance, our Council will be looking at other potential strategies to improve our city's tree canopy. An option to be considered may include the reforestation of public spaces and city right-of-ways.

Another major feature of 2015 will be the potential annexation of the Klahanie area. If everything goes according to plan, the annexation election could come as early as April. If that turns out to be the case, and the vote is positive, the annexation could become official in August.

That should be a win for all our residents, current and future: lower taxes and improved services for residents in the Klahanie annexation area, and better roads and commutes for all of us.

This is also a budget year in the legislature. Along with our regional partners, we will lobby for a comprehensive statewide transportation package with a strong transit component. Here's hoping our representatives in Olympia get something done!

I'll write more about the legislature in my February message.

Throughout 2015, we will continue to work with our neighbors, especially Issaquah and Redmond, to solve road and transit problems, both north and south of our city.

Issaquah is considering an especially ambitious plan to improve traffic in the I-90 corridor. With our support, and the support of other regional partners, we certainly hope they can get rolling on their plans. Improving and expanding the I-90 corridor would benefit us all.

By the end of the 2015, our new Community and Aquatic Center should be nearly finished. Very soon – early 2016 is the target date – our residents will have a new place to gather, exercise, and recreate all year long, even when the weather outside is cold and rainy.

We should also see new construction this year in the Town Center. Projects now in the planning stages will bring us restaurants, a grocery store, retail outlets and other services for our residents – all without "big box" dimensions.

I can't say that this short message has covered all the issues, challenges and opportunities that will come our way in 2015. There are, after all, plenty of surprises in life.

But I can say this – your City Council and city staff will continue working hard to make Sammamish the best city it can be, now and in the future. Here's to a great 2015!



## City urges flexibility on width of paved trail

As King County prepares to pave the southern segments of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, it's pondering what to do in places where the 18-foot design width won't quite fit. With the city urging flexibility, County officials are considering a reduced width in a limited number of locations.

"It seems clear to us that there are spots where we could save a lot of trees with a reduced width," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "And there are other spots where some very reasonable features of the built environment could be saved as well."

Mayor Tom Vance, Deputy Mayor Kathy Huckabay and Councilmember Don Gerend made the case for flexibility in a meeting last

month with King County officials. With City Manager Ben Yazici and Public Works Director Laura Philpot also present, city officials argued that a slightly narrower profile in a few, select spots would not be an obstacle to a safe and enjoyable trail. King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert was also at the meeting and provided vigor-

ous support for the city's perspective.

"The county officials we met with could not have been more helpful," Yazici said. "They listened, shared their thoughts, and appeared to keep all doors open."

At the end of the meeting, Deputy King County Executive Fred Jarrett directed county staff to coordinate with Sammamish city staff to identify potential locations for a slight narrowing of the trail.

The county is currently paving the northern section of the trail between Inglewood Hill Road and the northern city limits. Two southern segments will also be paved, with construction of the first expected to begin in the second quarter of 2015. The width adjustments being considered are in the southern segments.



*A section of the paved trail in Issaquah.*

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

The reason? Because that election date would give the city enough time to make the annexation official by Aug. 1, 2015. And if that happens, Klahanie-area residents would see their property taxes drop in 2016.

If the official annexation date falls after Aug. 1, 2015, lower taxes wouldn't take effect until 2017. When the city's lower rates take effect, it's estimated a Klahanie-area resident with a \$500,000 home will see property taxes drop by about \$420 annually.

"The city is doing everything it can to move things along, but the BRB has important work to do," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We know they're going to consider this carefully, as they

should, and make a sound decision.

An important part of their review will focus on the city's fiscal analysis, which shows that services will improve and property taxes will go down in the Klahanie area following

annexation. The city's updated fiscal report, which was submitted to the BRB along with the NOI, also shows that current residents of Sammamish would not be adversely affected by the annexation.



*The shopping center in Klahanie near Issaquah-Fall City Road.*

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

sample of this size is plus or minus 5 percent.

Here are some highlights:

- 77 percent said they were satisfied with the management of the city's finances.
- When asked to name the one thing they most enjoyed about living in Sammamish, the number one answer was "small town feel."
- When asked what they would most like to see change in Sammamish, the number one answer was "traffic congestion."
- When asked what city services are most in need of improvement, the number one answer was "roads."
- When asked how the city should prioritize its expenditure of limited resources, the top priority was "traffic." The second most commonly identified priority was "managing growth and development."
- 73 percent of respondents said the city was "making good progress on improving city roads."

"Although the city has invested heavily in roads and other infrastructure since incorporation in 1999, it's pretty clear the respondents still have transportation and congestion issues on their minds," Larson said. "The word 'traffic' came up a lot in their responses."

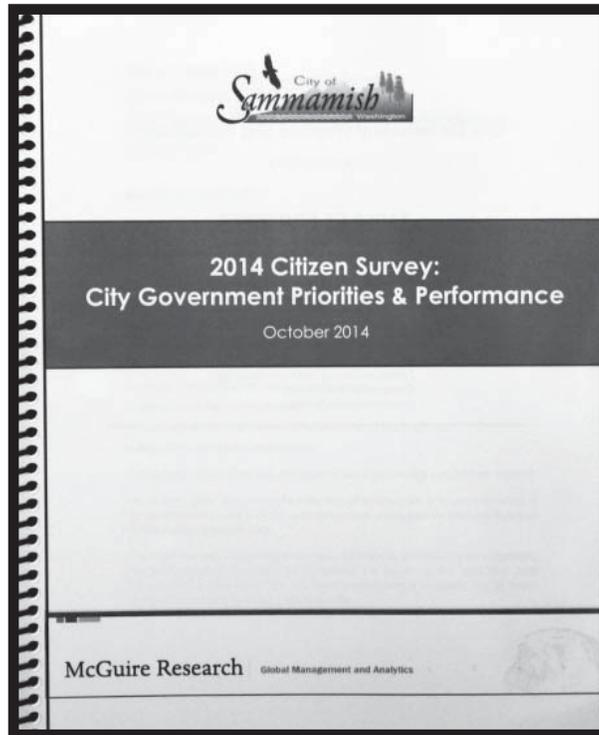
Other highlights:

- When asked what city services they were most satisfied with, the number one answer was "police."
- 96 percent of respondents said they felt safe walking alone in their neighborhood after dark.
- 77 percent felt police presence in

the city was "about right."

The city contracts for police services with the King County Sheriff's Office. The deputies assigned to the city wear Sammamish uniforms, drive police cars with city markings, and operate out of Sammamish City Hall. Police Chief Nathan Elledge was selected by City Manager Ben Yazici from a pool of candidates supplied by the King County Sheriff's Office.

"It's good to see that residents are pleased with our police services and feel safe in the community," Yazici said.



"I think these survey results, which have been consistent over the years, show that our contract approach is working out well."

Additional results:

- More than 9 in 10 respondents visited parks, recreation or open space facilities during the preceding year.
- Of those who visited parks facilities, half said they had done so 12 or more times in the preceding year.
- On a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 de-

noting the highest level of satisfaction, respondents rated their overall satisfaction with city parks and recreation facilities at 7.70.

- When asked what city services they were most satisfied with, respondents put "parks" in the second position, just behind "police."
- When asked to identify their favorite "community event," the number one answer was the "Fourth of July celebration." The Farmers Market was next, and "concerts in the park" rounded out the top three.
  - 79 percent said the city's road-clearing efforts during winter storms were "good" or "excellent."
  - 90 percent rated the condition of the roads and streets in their neighborhood as "good" or "excellent."
  - When asked what their favorite road improvement had been in recent years, the top answer was 228th Avenue.
  - When asked what environmental issues the city should focus on, the top three answers, in descending order, were protecting Lake Sammamish, protecting streams and protecting wildlife.

Following presentation of the numbers, Larson offered the opinion that the survey results were quite good and suggested that the slight dip from 2012 might be accounted for largely by the margin of error, noting that the 2012 results were unusually high.

During Council discussion, another thought was offered: Perhaps an improving economy and the increase in development had revived concerns about growth and put some downward pressure on the numbers.

The full community survey report is available online at [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us).

## Snake Hill Road lives up to its nickname

Its official name is 212th Avenue Southeast, but the section that slips off the edge of the plateau and slithers down to Lake Sammamish is more commonly known as Snake Hill Road.

It more than lives up to its colorful nickname. It turns and twists, and all too often, especially during wet weather, it wiggles and moves a bit.

So, on Dec. 2, the City Council approved a \$448,000 contract with Gray and Osborne to design a rehabilitation project for the most troublesome sections of the road. Including design expenses, the estimated cost of the project is \$9 million. The start of construction is slated for the summer of 2016.



*Snake Hill Road is a steep, narrow, twisting corridor with a sharp drop-off just beyond the railing.*

A key part of the fix will be the use of “geogrid reinforcement.” It involves rearranging and stabilizing the existing soil with layers of mesh-like material that lock soil particles into place. If necessary, a limited use of retaining walls will also be employed to further support some portions of the roadway.

The price tag on the project is substantial, but the alternative isn’t very appetizing.

“If we don’t fix it, we’ll be stuck with chronic, ongoing repairs,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Either that, or we’ll have to close the road.”

On a typical weekday, 5,000 vehicles use Snake Hill Road.

## Comp plan open house

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Rewrite, the city will hold a public open house on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

This public outreach is part of a process that began in late 2013, when the city’s Planning Commission initiated an update to the city’s comp plan. After receiving recommendations from the Planning Commission, the City Council will go through its own review and eventually adopt the updated comprehensive plan.

The state-mandated deadline for the City Council’s adoption is June 30, 2015. A comprehensive plan is essentially a blueprint for the future character of the city.

The open house will feature displays of the Planning Commission’s recommendations, a preliminary vision statement, and a listing of future opportunities for public comment. One of those opportunities will come just two days after the open house when the Planning Commission holds a Jan. 22 public hearing on the comp plan. Interested residents can gather more information about the comp plan update by going to the city website at [www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us) and clicking on the **2035 Comprehensive Plan** tab.

## Volunteer of the Year!

With a robust volunteer program that incorporates the efforts and talents of Sammamish residents throughout the year, the city throws an annual “Volunteer Appreciation Dinner” at City Hall. At the most recent celebration, on Dec. 8, the city honored Silva Sebring as the “Volunteer of the Year.” Sebring is the volunteer manager of the city’s community garden.



*Volunteer of the Year Silva Sebring with Deputy City Manager Lyman Howard.*

Among the others honored were volunteers who reached significant milestones.

Pauline Cantor, Anne Schaefer and Steve Wright were recognized for contributing more than 250 hours of volunteer work.

Margaret Rosenow was honored for reaching the 100-hour milestone.

## Sammamish residents come through again!

Thanks to Det. Amy Jarboe, the call goes out every year to Sammamish residents. And each year, the Toys for Tots program receives a small mountain of donations for needy kids who may not have much, if anything, under the tree.

“The folks in this city have been reliably generous over the nine years I’ve been helping out with this,” Jarboe said. “It was great to see everybody step up again this year.”

After accepting donations of new, unwrapped gifts at City Hall through Dec. 10, Jarboe and members of the Sammamish Police Department loaded the gifts onto a truck driven by U. S. Marines, the sponsoring organization behind Toys for Tots.



*Det. Amy Jarboe with this year's haul of Toys for Tots!*

## Erosion and sediment WHY THEY SHOULD MATTER TO YOU!

Whether you're a big developer or just managing a personal project, you should know that controlling construction runoff is crucial to the health of Puget Sound waterways. Those black silt fences you see, and the plastic coverings over mounds of dirt, aren't just window dressing. They're both key tools as we try to protect our streams, lakes and other water resources. So, here are a few tips to help you do your part:

- Check and repair erosion and sediment control measures prior to every rainfall event.
- Monitor and maintain your construction entrances.
- Cover stock piles and exposed soils.
- Repair silt fences and check catch basin inserts at the end of the work day and prior to weekends or holidays.
- Keep in mind that plastic coverings require maintenance. If they're not properly maintained and positioned, they can collect large volumes of water and accelerate runoff.
- Be aware that wind can blow away or tear up plastic, making it ineffective.

Remember that weather can change very rapidly and be quite unpredictable. Keep extra supplies of erosion and sediment control materials on the site so they're available when the need arises.

## Quartet for the End of Time

In true Simple Measures style, you will walk through the *Quartet for the End of Time* by Olivier Messiaen.

Sean Osborn - Clarinet  
Cordula Merks - Violin  
Rajan Krishnaswami - Cello  
Mark Salman - Piano

Pine Lake Covenant Church  
1715 228th Ave. S.E.  
Tuesday, Feb. 17  
7:30-9 p.m.

## Volunteer opportunity Jan. 19

Come help with the ongoing restoration of the Lower Commons Wetland, the headwaters of Ebright Creek.

It's on Martin Luther King Day,  
Jan. 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Enhance the wetland by removing invasives and planting native trees and shrubs. Water, snacks, gloves and tools will be provided.

There are volunteer opportunities every Saturday!  
To sign up, or to obtain more information, go to [www.sammamish.us/volunteer](http://www.sammamish.us/volunteer).

# CITY CALENDAR

## JANUARY

### Thursday, Jan. 1

-New Year's Day,  
City offices closed

### Monday, Jan. 5

-“A Cut Above” - Reception,  
6-8 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 6

-City Council Office Hour, 5-6 p.m.  
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 7

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

### Thursday, Jan. 8

-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 13

-Special Council Meeting and  
Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 15

-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 19

-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
City offices closed  
-MLK Day Volunteer Opportunity,  
10 a.m.-2 p.m., 550 222nd Place SE

### Tuesday, Jan. 20

-Art Exhibit - Anne Anderson  
Silk paintings, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
-City Council Meeting, Canceled

### Thursday, Jan. 22

-City Council Retreat, 6-8 p.m.  
Suncadia Resort  
-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 23

-City Council Retreat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Suncadia Resort

### Saturday, Jan. 24

-City Council Retreat, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Suncadia Resort  
-“Build It Sammamish” - LEGO Event,  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 26

-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

### Tuesday, Feb. 3

-City Council Office Hour, 5-6 p.m.  
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, Feb. 4

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

### Thursday, Feb. 5

-Planning Commission Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 10

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

### Monday, Feb. 16

-Washington's Birthday, City offices closed

### Tuesday, Feb. 17

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
-“Messiaen Around with Time”  
Simple Measures, 7:30-9 p.m.  
Pine Lake Covenant Church

### Thursday, Feb. 19

-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### Monday, Feb. 23

-Arts Commission Mtg, 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.

## City planner wins award

Robin Proebsting, an associate planner with the city since March of 2013, received the Barbara Grace Award at the 2014 American Planning Association Conference (Washington state chapter) in Spokane. This annual award recognizes a mid-level planner who has shown exceptional dedication to public service and professional accomplishment.

“Robin is very deserving,” City Manager Ben Yazici. “She has a terrific work ethic, excellent professional skills and a great way with people.”

Proebsting earned a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning degree from the University of Virginia and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington. Before coming to Sammamish, she worked as an assistant planner with the city of Corvallis, Oregon.



*Robin Proebsting accepts her award from Joe Tovar of the American Institute of Certified Planners.*



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*Kathy Huckabay  
Deputy Mayor*



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Councilmember*



*Bob Keller  
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell  
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama  
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember*

**Wildlife in Sammamish!**



*A young deer reaches down for a fallen apple near the mouth of Ebright Creek.*

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES**

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Lyman Howard	Deputy City Manager
Laura Philpot	Ass't City Mgr/Public Works Dir
Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
Beth Goldberg	Admin Services Director
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Bud Backer	Fire Chief
Michael Kenyon	City Attorney

**Newsletter suggestions or concerns?**  
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