

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 79

CITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

## Reduced parkway project approved

**COUNCIL VOTES 7-0 TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW**

Noting the important safety, traffic and environmental benefits it would generate, the City Council voted 7-0 last month to approve Phase 1A of the East Lake Sammamish Parkway Project. The approval came after council members agreed to reduce the length of the project from one mile to about half a mile.

The reduced project will retain all the original improvements planned for the Inglewood Hill Road intersection, and extend those improvements northward to Northeast 18th Place. In the original plan, the improvements were to extend to Northeast 26th Street.

"The approved plan will dramatically improve traffic flow through the Inglewood Hill Road intersection," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "And even with the reduced scope, most of the significant safety issues along this stretch of the Parkway will also be addressed."

*See PARKWAY, Page 2*

**SEE NEW PARKS AND REC GUIDE INSIDE**



*Plowing in front of Sunny Hills Elementary on Dec. 24.*

## Community praises road crews

**MANY MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION FOR CREWS WHO WORKED 12-HOUR SHIFTS DURING LONG WINTER STORM**

*"I just want to thank our city council and city workers for the fantastic job that you have done recently in clearing the snow from our roads. I know it must have taken a lot of work to make our main streets and hills accessible. I live in Demery Hill and if the hill out of our development had not been regularly gritted I and many other residents would have remained stuck. Last Tuesday, I drove into Redmond and the comparison with the roads there was astounding. Right after I passed over the city border the roads became very icy and difficult to drive on. I know we all complain loudly when things don't go right, but this time I wanted you to know that you guys did an awesome job!"*

Email from: Pam Moffatt

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**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
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**TOYS FOR TOTS**  
*Story on page 4*

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Lee Felling  
Mayor

When you read this letter, Sammamish will have a new Mayor for 2009. It has been a great honor to serve as your Mayor in 2008.

Sammamish has a form of government called Council-Manager. The City Council hires a City Manager who in turn hires and manages the city staff. The Council elects one of its members to serve as Mayor. The Mayor has three major duties in addition to the duties of a councilmember: set the agenda, chair council meetings, and represent the Council at ceremonies and other events.

Representing the council at interesting gatherings is fun. This has ranged from ribbon cuttings for new businesses with the Chamber of Commerce, to panel discussions with the Mayors of other Puget Sound cities. One of my favorite memories was reading Dr Seuss to children at Margaret

Mead Elementary.

Setting the agenda not only includes deciding, after consultation with fellow council members, the topics that should be scheduled for meetings, but planning what preparation will be needed to have a productive discussion. There is always a balance between adequate debate and getting things done. With controversial issues, the focus often quickly turns to differences. I try to look for areas of common agreement. I was pleased that we were able to find common ground on the East Lake Sammamish Parkway scaled down plan.

Chairing council meetings does have its share of thrills and spills. Although the chair could choose to use the position to dominate discussions, I think the proper role is to facilitate discussion. We are a diverse community. It is natural and healthy to have different points of view. My goal as chair has been to create an atmosphere where those differences can be expressed in a respectful and civil manner.

Many years ago I helped in an effort to recruit new candidates for the Seattle School Board, an elected body, which in many people's opinion at that time had become dysfunctional. As part of my interest in understanding what makes local government work, I have spent time observing other elected bodies. One of my conclusions is that a successful elected body has to periodically spend time discussing how to continuously improve as a well functioning team. Unless the elected council works as a team, in spite of representing different points of view, the taxpayer is not well served. We have spent time on team building in the past and I hope we continue to do so.

We have a wonderful community here in Sammamish with a great future. Thank you for the privilege to have served.

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

The two-lane arterial along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish is one of the most dangerous roads in the city. With many small, hidden driveways and no turn lane, drivers often create long backups as they wait to make precarious left-hand turns off the busy road.

The improvements to the Parkway will include the addition of a center turn lane, a landscaped median strip in some places, a sidewalk on the east side, bike lanes, and storm water facilities to prevent oil and other pollutants from running off into the lake.

The new center turn lane will also make it much easier for drivers who

want to join parkway traffic from those troublesome driveways.

"Our residents will have to find a break in just one lane of traffic," Yazici said. "Then they'll be able to take refuge in the center lane until they can safely join the other lane."

The engineering cost estimate for construction of the reduced project is \$8.7 million, approximately \$5 million less than the estimate for the original project. With the downturn in the economy creating a favorable bidding environment, bids are expected to come in below the engineering estimates.

"This wasn't an easy decision for the council," Yazici said. "They've had to digest a lot of input from staff, traffic engineers, consultants and residents

over the past few years. I'm impressed that they were able to work through all the issues and come to a unanimous decision."

The project was also driven by what's called "concurrency," a state law that requires cities to build enough roads and other infrastructure to keep pace with growth. Based on the "level of service" standards set by the city's comprehensive plan, the parkway's current congestion level has put the road into what's called "concurrency failure."

"We have to continue to improve our roads to maintain concurrency," Yazici said. "The alternative is to alter the comprehensive plan, lower our 'level of service,' and accept more congestion on our roads."

## City names “employee” and “team” of the year.

At the annual Employee Appreciation luncheon at the Beaver Lake Lodge last month, City Manager Ben Yazici named Tony Hudson as the city’s “Employee of the Year.”

Hudson, who can be found at the city’s front desk everyday, was lauded for setting a great example by always saying, “That’s my job.”

A case in point: that’s Tony shoveling snow (see photo) in front of City Hall during the big December snowstorm.

“He jumps at the chance to help,” Yazici said. “Whether it’s a resident at the front desk or a co-worker who needs a hand, Tony is always there. We are very fortunate to have him as a repre-

sentative for the city.”

City Clerk Melonie Anderson and Deputy Clerk Stacy Herman were honored as the “Team of the Year.”

“Although they have a weekly to-do list longer than 228th Avenue, Melonie and Stacy bring a tremendous amount of positive energy and integrity to City

Hall,” Yazici said. “They keep us on the straight and narrow, keep all the paper work straight, and crack the whip when they need to – but they are also a lot of fun. They are, indeed, a great team.”



*City Manager Ben Yazici with the Team of the Year: City Clerk Melonie Anderson (left) and Deputy City Clerk Stacy Herman.*



*Tony Hudson  
Employee of the Year*

## CITY CALENDAR

### JANUARY

**Thursday, Jan. 1**

City Hall closed.

**Tuesday, Jan. 6**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 8**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 14**

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

**Monday, Jan. 19**

Martin Luther King Holiday

City offices closed

**Tuesday, Jan. 20**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 22**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 25**

Arts Commission Meeting, Noon

### FEBRUARY

**Tuesday, Feb. 3**

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 Comm. Mtg, 6:30 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**

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

City Council Study Session, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Feb. 17**

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 19**

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 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



*Lee Felling*  
Mayor



*Don Gerend*  
Deputy Mayor



*Jack Barry*  
Councilmember



*Mark Cross*  
Councilmember



*Kathleen Huckabay*  
Councilmember



*Michele Petitti*  
Councilmember



*Nancy Whitten*  
Councilmember

## U.S. Marines and Sammamish Police Deliver!



Thanks to the generosity of residents and the hard work of Sammamish Det. Amy Jarboe, the community delivered a huge load of toys and bicycles to the the U. S. Marines' Toys for Tots program just before Christmas.

Jarboe collected the donations at

the Sammamish Police Department so the gifts could be handed over to Sgt. Ramon Galarza (in truck) and Sgt. Mike McGinnis of the U. S. Marines.

A half-dozen bicycles were purchased for the program with donation from Sammamish city staffers.

### CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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#### Nancy Whitten, Councilmember

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Ben Yazici	City Manager
Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Guroi	ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr
Lyman Howard	FinanceDir/AsstCityMgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Brad Thompson	Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr



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