

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 73

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

Come to the Fourth!

**BUT TAKE THE EASY
WAY TO THE PARTY**

The second edition of the city's Fourth on the Plateau celebration is ready to go: The fireworks, the fun – and the traffic plan – have all been accounted for.

Now, the only question left – aside from the weather – is if residents will walk the smooth and easy route to and from the Independence Day extravaganza.

“Even though we got great reviews on last year’s event, we learned a lot and found some better ways to get people in and out,” the city’s Mike Sauerwein said. “The main change is that we want to funnel most of the families into Sammamish Commons through Southeast Fourth Street.”

To help residents visualize that path, page 5 of this newsletter features a map showing the pedestrian route along Southeast Fourth Street. It also shows the parking options.

“Our goal is to guide more people

See FOURTH, Page 4



Sammamish neighborhood.

City on the “right track” ACCORDING TO COMMUNITY SURVEY

As the city deals with growth, traffic and other challenges common to the Puget Sound region, a random telephone survey indicates that most Sammamish residents feel their community is headed in the right direction.

The survey, with a sample of almost 400 residents, showed 78.6 percent of respondents “agreed or strongly agreed” with the following statement: “The overall direction of the city is on

the right track.”

“Considering the challenges and opportunities cities face in western Washington, I feel that number is very encouraging,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “I think most of our residents recognize that the City Council, the staff, and the community at large are making a good-faith effort to grapple intelligently with the issues and make

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



*Lee Felling
Mayor*

Do you remember your favorite Fourth of July celebration? Perhaps it was a family reunion, a picnic, fireworks over the lake, or driving someplace to see a big display.

My early memories in southern California were of neighbors setting off individual fireworks carefully selected from fireworks stands in grocery store parking lots.

The evening always started with a few piccolo petes and their shrill whistle. That was followed, after dusk, with fountains, pinwheels, sparklers and other fiery delights being set off on the seawall over the water.

My wife has early memories at her aunt's little house in Seaside, Oregon. She would walk up the ocean front promenade with her parents, cousins,

aunts and uncles. There, with hundreds of others bundled up in warm jackets and blankets, she would wait for the fireworks to begin, watching the sun set into the ocean as the pounding surf crashed onto the broad white sand beach that is Seaside's delight.

Then at 10 o'clock it began. The aerial bombs exploded over the Pacific, with their colors of red, white and blue dropping into the roiling mist, always ending with a powerful bang.

An especially memorable Fourth for both of us was in Salem, Oregon, during the bicentennial in 1976. The Oregon Symphony played as we sat on blankets in Bush Park enjoying picnic suppers with friends and neighbors. That was capped with a fireworks display coordinated with music. I remember thinking about the founding of our nation and all that has been sacrificed and accomplished to keep this a great country, and that we must never stop

trying to make things better.

Last year I gathered with friends and neighbors to enjoy the first ever Fourth of July celebration at the Sammamish Commons. It was wonderful to see this huge gathering of so many in one place. I remember hearing several people say that this was a special coming together that seemed to unify us as a community. I also heard many people say that this was the best fireworks display they had ever seen.

I look forward to this year's celebration in Sammamish – The Fourth on the Plateau – and hope that this will become a happy tradition for you, your children and grandchildren, and something that you will later recall with joy and fond memories.

Lee Felling

Design begins on Public Works Shop

With the help of TCF Architecture of Tacoma, the city is figuring out how it wants to lay out the new Public Works Shop on 4.8 acres just west of 244th Avenue near Northeast Eighteenth Street.

When finished, the shop will house trucks, backhoes, mowers and a variety of other city vehicles and tools, along with facilities for minor servicing of the city equipment. It will also house the city's sign shop, and provide storage space for a variety of city materials.

"As we proceed with environmental review and the permitting process, there will be ample opportunity for residents to provide feedback during open houses and public meetings," said Project Manager Sevda Baran. "Our first open house is scheduled for July 17, 4 p.m., in the City Hall council chamber."

For more information, Baran can be contacted via email at sbaran@ci.sammamish.wa.us. The project webpage is at <http://ci.sammamish.wa.us/OandMfacility.aspx>.



Property selected for Public Works Shop.

Town Center plan adopted unanimously

After four years of broad-based community input and analysis, the City Council voted 7-0 on June 9 to adopt a Town Center Plan that will create a pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use “heart of the city” in the geographical center of Sammamish.

“This is a breakthrough moment in Sammamish,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Thanks to the hard work of resident volunteers, Planning Commissioners, Councilmembers, city staff and a broad array of fully involved stakeholders, we have created the framework for a vibrant city center.”

The Town Center planning area, 240 acres centered roughly around the intersection of 228th Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street, will feature a mix of retail, office, residential and public spaces, all bound together by trails, bikeways and other environmentally friendly elements. The adopted plan calls for a “wedding cake” design, with greater height and density in the middle, and a gradual tapering off toward the edges where the Town Center will meet and blend with existing neighborhoods.

The plan calls for up to 600,000 square feet of commercial space, and up to 2,000 new residences in a variety

of types. At least 10 percent of the new homes will be required to qualify as affordable housing.

“The community has taken a proactive step to strategically place density in the Town Center,” Mayor Lee Fellinger said. “This gives us a focal point, a gathering place for all of our residents, and it protects existing neighborhoods from disorganized, unmanaged growth throughout the city.”

Town Center Project Manager Mi-

**“THIS IS A BREAKTHROUGH
MOMENT IN SAMMAMISH”**

City Manager Ben Yazici

chael Matthias says there is still more work to be done before anyone breaks ground.

“With the plan’s basic framework in place, the city will now define its zoning and development regulations so private developers can begin making plans to be part of the Town Center,” Matthias said.

In many cases, that will involve a partnership with the city that will require developers to help build roads, sidewalks and other basic infrastructure.

“We’re going to work very closely with developers so everyone wins,”

Yazici said. “Our plan is flexible so we can accommodate market forces, but it also ensures that the Town Center will match the community’s vision.”

The Town Center is already anchored at the southern end by Sammamish Commons, a 30-acre park and civic complex that features the recently built City Hall building and space for a new library that will begin construction later this year. As restaurants, shops, and other attractions are added to the Town Center,

the need to leave the plateau for entertainment and other basic needs will diminish.

“The Town Center will eliminate a lot of car trips to Redmond and Issaquah,” Yazici said. “We’re not going to have any big-box stores in Sammamish, but it will be nice to have a broader spectrum of opportunities right here in our community.”

It will take years, perhaps decades, for the Town Center to fully take shape, but the City Council’s unanimous adoption of the plan was a major step forward, Yazici said.

“If the planning process continues to go smoothly, and all the planets stay in alignment, construction on some Town Center elements could begin as early as 2010.”

2009 Comprehensive plan amendment proposals due in September

Once a year, the city accepts applications from people who think the community’s comprehensive land use plan needs to be amended. In preparation for the 2009 amendment process, applicants should submit their materials to the city this September.

Applications are evaluated for compliance with the Sammamish Municipal Code, King County planning policies, and the state’s Growth Management Act. The proposed amendments are reviewed by the city’s Planning Commission before the City Council makes

a final decision. Amendments are subject to public participation.

For more information on the amendment process, please contact Senior Planner Emily Arteché at 425-295-0522 or earteche@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

FOURTH ON THE PLATEAU

with CITY OF SAMMAMISH
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FOURTH, cont. from pg. 1

to the west end of the Commons,” Sauerwein said. “That’s where the kids’ play area will be located this year, and it’s the biggest and most comfortable spot to watch the fireworks. We’re also going to have food vendors and all the other amenities down there.”

The exit along Southeast Fourth Street will also speed everyone’s trip home. Last year, the people at the west end of the Commons had to wait for half-an-hour while fireworks debris was cleared from the pathway heading up to City Hall and 228th Avenue.

The Fourth on the Plateau festivities begin at 6 p.m. with the fireworks set for 10:15 p.m. For more information on the event, please go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/4thJuly.aspx.

The great response to last year’s event was very rewarding, City Manager Ben Yazici said.

“There was such a great spirit and such a big crowd,” he said. “I can’t wait to see the community come together again to celebrate our nation’s birthday.”



www.hartmanphotography.com

The sky lights up over Sammamish Commons at the first Fourth on the Plateau in 2007.

No left turns onto or off of 228th Avenue, please!

To help with traffic flow before, during and after the July 4th celebration at Sammamish Commons, no left turns will be allowed onto or off of 228th Avenue between NE Main St. and SE 20th St. from 6 p.m. to midnight. Northbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach NE 4th St. Southbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach SE 24th St.

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CITY OF SAMMAMISH

SURVEY, cont. from pg. 1

Sammamish a better place.”

The complete survey, which can be seen online at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/News.aspx?ID=697, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent. (NOTE: The percentages quoted here do not include residents who had “no opinion” or were “neutral” on a survey topic).

Complete copies of the survey and a summary of highlights were distrib-

uted and discussed by city Communications Manager Tim Larson at the June 10 City Council study session.

Other highlights of the survey include:

- 91.6 percent said they felt “safe or very safe” walking in their neighborhood after dark.
- 78.4 percent rated their satisfaction with parks and recreation facilities and programs as “good or excellent.”
- 66.1 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the city is making good

progress on improving city roads.

- 74.2 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the leadership of the City Council and city administration.
- Of the 55 residents in the survey who had applied for a building permit with the city, 84.4 percent had a “good or excellent” impression of the permit process.
- 81.6 percent of those who had had contact with the Sammamish Police Department rated their experience as “good or excellent.”
- 69.9 percent rated the city’s long-term planning for the future as “good or excellent.”
- Of those who had participated in or seen the results of the Town Center planning process, 67 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the plan was heading “in the right direction.”
- When asked what they most enjoy about living in Sammamish, 18.1 percent said “small town feel,” 15.3 percent said “scenery,” and 12.5 percent said “parks.”
- When asked what they would



Deputy Mayor Don Gerend, Councilmember Michele Petitti, Mayor Lee Felling, Councilmembers Kathleen Huckabay, Jack Barry, Nancy Whitten and Mark Cross.

most like to change or see happen to make the community more livable, 22.4 percent brought up traffic congestion, 14.8 percent mentioned roads and streets, 12.2 percent wanted to slow down growth, and 7.6 percent asked for more recreational opportunities.

“I think the results clearly show that residents continue to be concerned about growth, traffic, transportation issues, and the need for more recreational options,” Yazici said. “Those were the issues that drove the incorporation effort, and they’re still driving us today.”

“People appear to be happy that we’ve invested in the roads, parks and other infrastructure, and there’s obviously more to do.”

“74.2 PERCENT AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED THAT THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATION.”

2008 Community Survey
Hebert Research

Summer concert and entertainment series begins

Beginning on Thursday, July 10, the city will once again launch its very popular, weekly “summer concerts in the park” program. The performances, ranging from rock to classical, will repeat every Thursday through Aug. 28. For a full listing of the concerts, please see the complete schedule on the next page.

“We have an excellent lineup this year,” the city’s Lynne Handlos said. “The first seven concerts will be at Pine Lake Park, and then we’ll finish with the Sammamish Symphony at the City Hall plaza.”

On July 19 and 26, the city will present Shakespeare by the Wooden O Theater. Both of the Saturday performances will be at Pine Lake Park beginning at 7 p.m.

The Kids Noontime series will also return with a July 22 and Aug. 19 presentation at Beaver Lake Lodge, and an Aug. 5 date at Sammamish Commons.



Dancing to the music at a summer concert in the park.

CITY CALENDAR

JULY

Tuesday, July 1

City Council Meeting, 6:30-10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Friday, July 4

City offices closed

Fourth on the Plateau, 6-11 p.m.

Sammamish Commons

Tuesday, July 8

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

Wednesday, July 9

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

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

Thursday, July 10

Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Plan. Comm. Public Hearing, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 15

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Thursday, July 17

Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Public Works Shop Open House, 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 19

Shakespeare in the Park, 7 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Monday, July 21

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

Tuesday, July 22

Kid’s First Noontime Series, Noon

Beaver Lake Park

Wednesday, July 23

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Thursday, July 24

Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 26

Shakespeare in the Park, 7 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Wednesday, July 30

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Thursday, July 31

Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 5

Nat’l Night Out, Kids Performance, 1-5 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Wednesday, Aug. 6

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Thursday, Aug. 7

Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Wednesday, Aug. 13

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

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

Thursday, Aug. 14

Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, Aug. 19

Kids First Noontime Series, Noon

Beaver Lake Park

Wednesday, Aug. 20

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Thursday, Aug. 21

Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Wednesday, Aug. 27

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Thursday, Aug. 28

Concert in the Park

Sammamish Commons

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

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

–Sponsored by Plateau Jewelers –



July 10 - *Portage Bay Big Band (Swing)*

July 17 - *AboutFace (Classic Rock 'n Roll)*

July 24 - *BottleRockIt (Country Rock)*

July 31 - *Soul Purpose (Funk/Soul)*

Aug. 7 - *Velvet Blues Revue (Blues/Classic Rock)*

Aug. 14 - *African All-Stars (Calypso/Reggae)*

Aug. 21 - *Shelley and the Curves (60s 70s 80s Dance)*

Aug. 28 - *Sammamish Symphony*

All concerts at Pine Lake Park except for Aug. 28 event, which will be at City Hall plaza. Picknickers welcome at 5 p.m. The music starts at 6:30 p.m.

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Lyman Howard	FinanceDir/AsstCityMgr
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Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Brad Thompson	Police Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr



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