

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 97

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

## New annexation receives approval

**BARRING LATE APPEAL, ALDARRA/MONTAINE WILL JOIN CITY IN JULY**

The residents of Aldarra and Montaine first submitted petitions requesting annexation to the city of Sammamish back in early 2009. On June 15, after residents and the city jumped through all the necessary hoops, the Boundary Review Board (BRB) approved the annexation. Unless an appeal alters the schedule, the approximately 800 residents of the two neighborhoods will officially join Sammamish sometime in mid-July.

“We’re delighted to welcome them into Sammamish,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We trust that they’ll enjoy being part of a young, growing city.”

Aldarra and Montaine are located at the eastern edge of the city along Duthie Hill Road. The 272 homes there will add approximately \$200 million to the city’s total assessed valuation.

For residents of unincorporated King County, there are three main

*See ANNEXATION, pg. 3*

## Fourth on the Plateau!!!



*More than 10,000 Sammamish residents caught the Fourth of July spirit in 2009, including these four girls wearing patriotic eyewear for the Independence Day fireworks.*

It’s the city’s fourth Fourth! And based on the steady annual rise in attendance, fun and noise, this year’s Independence Day extravaganza should be the best ever.

“It’s been great to see this event grow year after year,” said City Manager Ben Yazici. “We have a lot of wonderful activities in the summer, but it’s hard to beat fireworks, food, music and 10,000 neighbors – all in one spot.”

The layout of the event will be similar to last year’s, with most of the crowd gathering on chairs and blankets in the Lower Commons for a spectacular, up-close look at the fireworks from the comfort of a grassy hillside.

That’s also where the Kid’s Area (bouncy toys, etc.), eight food vendors, and five non-profit booths will be set up.

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**MAYOR’S MESSAGE**

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**LEAN BUDGET**

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**GOLF TRAFFIC PLAN**

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## Vote them out!

Distrust of government is not a new phenomenon. At the federal level, President Eisenhower warned us about the “military-industrial complex” – a



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

potentially dangerous partnership featuring defense contractors, ambitious military leaders, and members of congress all too happy to facilitate contracts that would bring military spending to their districts, even if the expenditure was not in the nation's best interest. Our own senator, Henry “Scoop” Jackson, was called the “Senator from Boeing” because of the military contracts he was able to garner for that company.

What is new, I think, is the level of distrust. It's never been higher. I think part of that can be attributed to the more intense scrutiny of modern media. But I also think a lot of it can still be linked to distorted decision making. Does the “bridge to nowhere” ring a bell?

Members of the House, who serve short, two-year terms, are constantly in campaign mode, often casting votes that will bring business to their districts, donations to their campaign funds, and a winning margin on election day. It's not surprising that some of their decisions seem suspect.

At the state level, distrust has sometimes led to statewide initiatives that bypass the normal legislative process. That mistrust has multiplied when the legislature, in a few instances, has later overturned the apparent “will of the people.” This pattern, along with partisanship, gridlock, and what appears to be an unfair level of legislative control in the hands of just a few people, has helped

poison public perception of government.

At the county level, the story is sometimes similar. The King County Council is elected on a non-partisan basis, but that's not the way they appear to legislate. Around Sammamish, rightly or wrongly, there is a lot of distrust of county governance.

And then there is local government. That would be me, and the six other individuals our residents have been kind enough to select for service on the Sammamish City Council. I would like to think that our citizens trust us completely, and believe that we are indeed making the right decisions for the right reasons, without ulterior motives. But, after eleven years serving the city of Sammamish on our non-partisan Council, I still feel that a fair number of citizens simply don't trust any of their elected officials. The proof is high on a tree along 228th Avenue



near the park & ride lot. It's a sign that states simply: “Just Vote Them Out.”

Although our council members have little to gain from big corporations or big unions, and our campaign funds are exceedingly modest, and our motives – I can vouch for this – are benign and community minded, the distrust that pervades the nation has obviously trickled down to the local level.

So, what is the solution? Perhaps it's greater citizen involvement, something we're seeing signs of in our city. Last year, during the council review of the Shoreline Master Program, a large

group of citizens followed every step of the process and productively worked to improve the draft program. And there is another group – Citizens for Sammamish – that meets monthly, monitoring and evaluating the actions of their local government.

Last month, when I was the guest speaker at a Citizens for Sammamish meeting, I presented a proposal that I believe would generate the capital we need to build a great community and aquatics center in Sammamish. The proposal, which I admit is rather convoluted, served as a great Rorschach test on the trust issue. After perhaps an hour of discussing the proposed financing method, and believing that the idea was resonating with most of the people in the room, I heard some really positive responses.

There were also, however, some deeply distrustful comments: “The only way you can do that is if you're selling snake oil,” and “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” One attendee pointed at me and said that any councilor who pushed through such a plan “would soon be an ex-councilor.”

I extracted these quotes from Jake Lynch's June 11 Sammamish Reporter article entitled: “Snake oil, or just smart math?” Obviously, I'd like to think it's the latter, but the responses at the meeting show that all of us have some work to do.

Sammamish electeds need to make solid, transparent decisions. And I think residents need to set aside assumptions, and judge us on the merits. Neither is an easy task, but I believe that's what it's going to take if we want distrust to stay where it belongs – outside our city limits.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend".

## City crafting a lean budget for tough times

### BIENNIAL BUDGET FOR 2011, 2012 WILL REFLECT THE NEW ECONOMIC REALITIES BROUGHT ON BY NATIONWIDE RECESSION

Tough times call for tough choices, and Sammamish, despite its relative affluence, is not immune to the effects of a national recession.

That's why City Manager Ben Yazici has directed all department heads to search for new ways to save money as he prepares a proposed biennial budget for the City Council's review later this year.

"Over the past year or two, we have not filled a number of budgeted staff positions, and we have delayed capital expenditures," Yazici said. "With our revenues continuing to be down, it's time to tighten our belt even further in 2011 and 2012."

Because it contracts with outside entities for the provision of many city services, the city already has a very small permanent staff. Sammamish has only 1.8 employees per thousand of population. That compares to more than five employees per thousand for nearby cities.

"Even so, our budgeted staff positions have been shrinking for some time now," Yazici said. "Back in 2008,

we had 79 full-time positions budgeted. This 2011/2012 budget may call for only 72 positions or so if we eliminate the positions that are currently vacant."

As the budget review process unfolds over the next few months, Yazici hopes residents will weigh in.



*City Manager Ben Yazici*

"We need everyone's help to focus our priorities," Yazici said. "As we trim dollars from the budget, it means we may have to trim services in certain areas."

Currently, the city spends \$479

per resident per year from its general operating fund. That per capita figure is very low. Issaquah spends \$962 and Redmond spends \$894 per capita.

"We spend less for two main reasons," Yazici said. "One, we're a suburban community that doesn't have to spend a lot of money to handle daytime business, traffic and public safety issues. And two, our City Councils have been fiscally conservative since we incorporated in 1999."

Yazici also gives credit to the city staff for its flexibility during the economic downturn.

"Last year, they were open to a reduction in pay when the cost of living went down," Yazici said, "so I think our staffers have proven that they're willing to make adjustments in this environment."

When the proposed budget is ready, the City Council will review it in a series of public study sessions in September and October. An official public hearing will also be held in November. Approval is expected in November or December.

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

selling points for annexation to Sammamish. Their total tax bill will go down. Their services will improve. And their new right to vote for City Council members will put them just a stone's throw away from their elected leaders.

"Having your elected representatives nearby is a nice feeling for most people," Yazici said. "It's a lot better than having to drive or call into Seattle."

Although the BRB approved the

annexation without any apparent hesitation, the implications for fire services did kick up some concern inside Eastside Fire and Rescue (EF&R), the consortium Sammamish partners with.

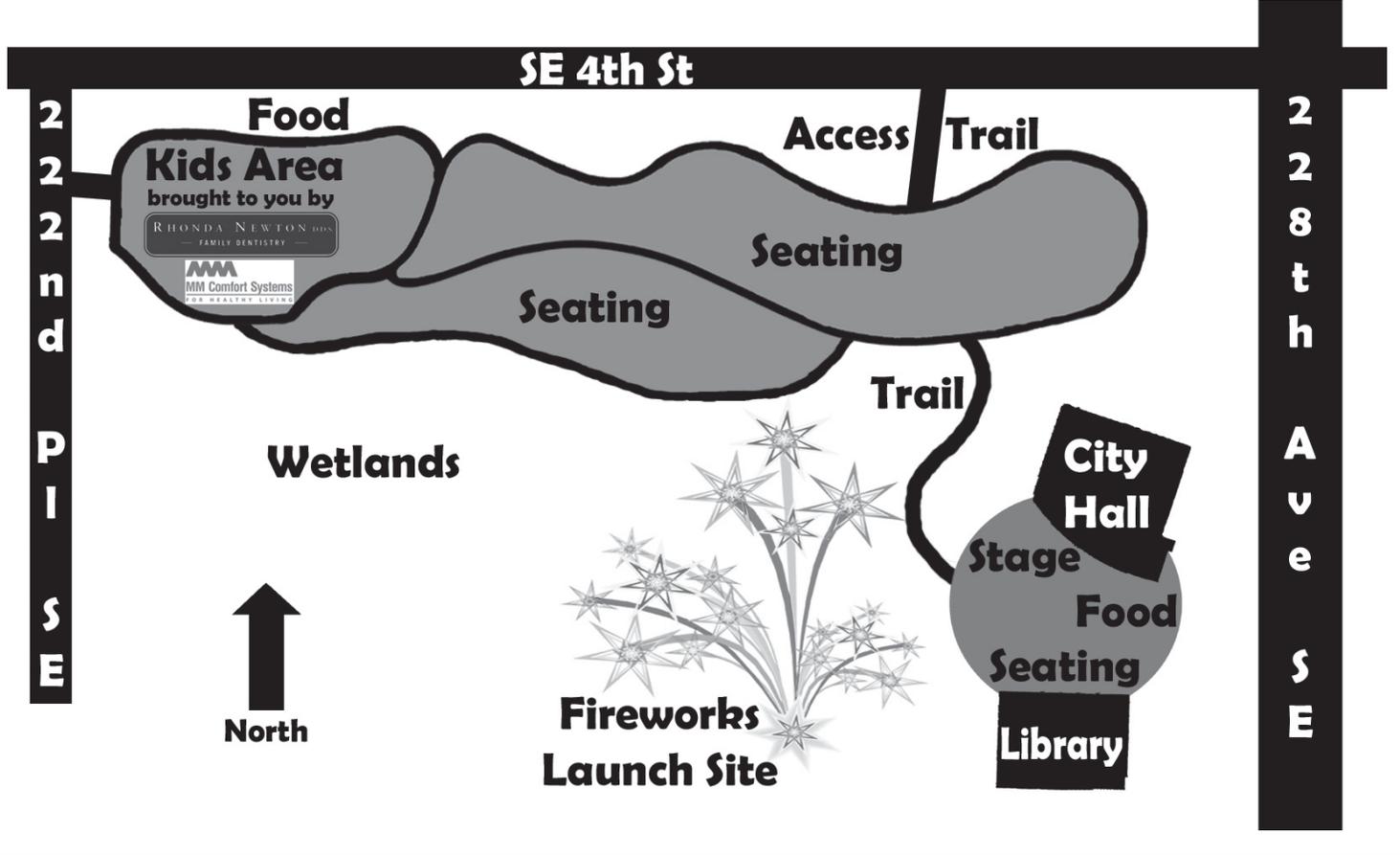
Currently, fire taxes from Aldarra and Montaine go to Fire District 27 in Fall City. Upon annexation, those taxes will flow to Sammamish, along with the responsibility to provide service. District 27 is not part of EF&R.

To pay for fire service to Aldarra and Montaine, Sammamish will pay an

additional \$48,000 to EF&R. But responding to concerns that District 27 was going to have difficulty adapting to its loss of tax revenue, Sammamish suggested that EF&R use that \$48,000 to hire District 27 to continue its service to Aldarra and Montaine over a two-and-a-half-year transitional period.

Although the BRB commented favorably on Sammamish's proposed solution, the EF&R board voted it down and is currently looking at other potential mitigation measures.

# Fourth on the Plateau Fun Map!



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 SPONSORS!



*FOURTH, cont. from pg. 1*

The City Hall Plaza, which was encumbered in 2009 by the construction of the new library, will be the other prime gathering spot.

“The plaza will feature live music, six food vendors, several sponsor booths, and, of course, the skate park,” said Joanna Puthoff, the city’s lead coordinator for the event. “Both the plaza and the Lower Commons are going to be fun spots to be.”

As usual, the big crowds will require many people to park their cars a fair distance from the event. (Parking locations are listed on this page.)

To help out various charities, three close parking locations – Skyline High School, Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, and Mary Queen of Peace Church – will charge \$5 per vehicle. Handicapped parking only will be allowed at City Hall.

The biggest annual event in Sammamish will once again ride on the shoulders of generous sponsors and a small army of volunteers, the city’s Dawn Sanders said.

“They provide the funding and the hard work that make this party so special,” Sanders said. “We’re celebrating the Fourth, and witnessing great community spirit at the same time.”

It’s not too late to volunteer. If residents would like to help with cleanup on July 5, Sanders says they should simply arrive at City Hall at 9 a.m. and ask for an assignment.

The Fourth on the Plateau starts officially at 6 p.m. with music, face painting, balloons, and a broad array of food vendors selling their Independence Day delicacies.

The evening will end on a thunderous note when the fireworks blast off at 10:15 p.m.



*Residents sitting on chairs and blankets watch the fireworks in 2009 from the Lower Commons. City Hall can be seen at the top of the hill on the left side of the picture.*

## Parking locations:

### **Paid parking – \$5**

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church  
Mary Queen of Peace Church  
Skyline High School

### **Free parking**

Eastside Catholic School  
Eastlake High School  
Discovery Elementary  
Safeway Shopping Center  
Pine Lake Park  
Sammamish Park & Ride

### **Handicapped parking only**

Sammamish City Hall

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

To help with traffic flow before, during and after the July 4th event, no left turns will be allowed onto or off of 228th Avenue between N.E. Main St. and S.E. 20th St. from 4 p.m. to midnight. Northbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach N.E. Fourth St. Southbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach S.E. 24th St. NOTE: S.E. Fourth St. will be closed to vehicular traffic after the fireworks to allow residents to exit the Lower Commons.

## Sammamish welcomes USGA Senior Open to Sahalee Country Club week of July 26

When Fred Couples, Tom Watson and Greg Norman come to play golf in Sammamish, you might want to plan for, say, an extra 125,000 people in the neighborhood.

And that's exactly what city and USGA officials had to do to prepare for the Senior Open at Sahalee Country Club in late July.

The final traffic plan has all spectators and volunteers being bused to Sahalee from Marymoor Park. Due to a lack of sidewalks and parking along Sahalee Way, there will be no walk-up options this time for ticketholders. However, parking at Marymoor Park will be free.

"The plan was designed to keep thousands of cars from parking in nearby neighborhoods and to keep residential streets from being jammed with traffic," said Deputy City Manager Pete

Butkus.

After the parking plan was announced, the city heard from some citizens, businesses, and the Chamber of Commerce that they wanted a shuttle from Sammamish to the event. Unfortunately, after the city council asked staff to look into the logistics of an additional parking lot in Sammamish, the potential added costs and unintended consequences proved to be much



greater than anticipated and the city decided to stick with the current plan.

The buses will travel along State Route 202 and then use Sahalee Way to enter and leave the tournament site.

Including practice rounds, tournament activity will run from Monday, July 26, until Sunday, Aug. 1. During competitive play, attendance on any given day is expected to reach around 30,000.

Sahalee Country Club has hosted numerous prestigious events in the past. The PGA, one of the four "majors," was played here in 1998, and the NEC Invitational came to Sahalee in 2002.

For more information on the traffic plan and the tournament itself, go to the city website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the Sahalee icon on the right side of the home page.

## Scout projects help city

As part of their Eagle Scout projects, several young men have made important contributions to their community. The city of Sammamish would like to thank the following:

- Spencer Patzman – Planting in ravine in Lower Commons
- Stephen Patterson – Illahee Trail planting and weeding
- Dylan Perry – Beaver Lake Park Trail widening and resurfacing
- Trenton Price – Ebright Creek trail resurfacing and planting
- Grant Flindt – Planted fruit trees, berries in the Lower Commons orchard
- Connor Bezzant – Ebright Creek planting in the buffer zone
- Colin Wang – Planting of understory in NE Sammamish Park
- Ryan Roth – Planted native plants in buffer zone at Ebright Creek Park
- Carter Timm – Built and installed bird houses in the Lower Commons
- Max Benjamin – Placed distance markers at Illahee Trail
- Sam Ethington – Fence installation in the Lower Commons
- Austin Rogers – Boardwalk installation at Pine Lake Park
- John Forsyth – Built and installed bird houses at Beaver Lake Park
- Ammon James – Stormwater pond replanting

## Sustain Sammamish by taking a website survey

"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" – that's one definition of "sustainability."

But what is your definition? That's what the city wants to know as it continues its multifaceted outreach to the community on this important issue.

"One easy way to participate is by taking our survey on the city website," the city's Kathy Curry said. "In just 10 minutes you can help define what sustainability should mean here."

To get to the survey, go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "sustainability" tab on the left side of the home page.

Another easy way to weigh in is by going to sustainability booths that will be present at the Fourth on the Plateau, some summer concerts, and most of the Farmers Markets.

## Sunny Teen Fest

The clouds parted, the sun came out, and so did 500 out-of-school students as the Boys and Girls Club, in conjunction with the city, staged Teen Fest 2010.

The June 18 event featured a skate competition in the afternoon and a music concert that evening, all right next to Sammamish City Hall. There were free hot dogs at the skate event, and free pizza once the music started playing.

After some local high school bands played, the stars of the evening, the Blue Scholars, performed on a stage backlit by the setting sun.

“After a very rainy spring, it was nice to see the sun come out for the teens,” the city’s Lynne Handlos said. “It was great music and a great event overall.”



*The Blue Scholars perform at City Hall Plaza during Teen Fest 2010.*

## CITY HALL CALENDAR

### JULY

#### Thursday, July 1

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

#### Monday, July 5

For Independence Day

City offices closed

#### Tuesday, July 6

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 7

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

City Council Office Hours

5:30-6:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, July 13

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

#### Wednesday, July 14

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

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

#### Thursday, July 15

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

#### Monday, July 19

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

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

#### Tuesday, July 20

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 21

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

City Council Office Hours

5:30-6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, July 22

Public Safety Committee Mtg, 4 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 28

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

#### Thursday, July 29

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### AUGUST

#### Tuesday, Aug. 3

Finance Committee Mtg, 5-6:15 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Aug. 4

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

#### Wednesday, Aug. 11

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

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

#### Wednesday, Aug. 18

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

Sammamish Days, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

#### Wednesday, Aug. 25

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

### 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.



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## SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend*  
Mayor



*Nancy Whitten*  
Deputy Mayor



*Mark Cross*  
Councilmember



*John Curley*  
Councilmember



*John James*  
Councilmember



*Tom Odell*  
Councilmember



*Michele Petitti*  
Councilmember

## Summer entertainment lineup:

Thursday “Concerts in the Park” at Pine Lake  
(6:30-8 p.m.)

- July 8 - Silhouettes (50s)*
- July 15 - Creme Tangerine (60s)*
- July 22 - Ricky Venture Revue (70s)*
- July 29 - Weatherheads (80s)*
- Aug. 5 - All Mixed Up (80s)*
- Aug. 12 - AstroCats (90s to present)*
- Aug. 19 - Sammamish Symphony (The American West)*
- Aug. 26 - Groove Edition (60s to today)*

### Wooden O Shakespeare Plays:

(Pine Lake Park, 7 p.m.)

- July 17 - Othello*
- July 24 - Much Ado About Nothing*

### “Kids First” Noontime Series

(Beaver Lake Park, noon)

- July 27 - Valentine’s Day Performing Pigs*
- August 17 - Amazement Magic Show*

### CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Kamuron Gurol	ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr
Lyman Howard	FinanceDir/AsstCityMgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	AdminServices Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr