

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 145

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

Klahanie update:

PROCEDURAL STEPS NEEDED FOR ANNEXATION ELECTION IN 2015 GOING SMOOTHLY

There are still a few hurdles ahead, and some of those hurdles require some waiting, but it looks like Klahanie-area residents will get a chance to vote on annexation to Sammamish sometime in 2015.

“We’ve been encouraged by the progress,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Issaquah, King County and all the other players have really been cooperating.”

Issaquah has already amended its comprehensive plan so it can transfer the Klahanie area into Sammamish’s “potential annexation area,” or PAA. Issaquah agreed to the transfer after Klahanie-area residents, by a narrow margin, voted in February not to annex to Issaquah. The region’s Growth Management Planning Council has also voted its approval of the PAA transfer.

Other necessary steps include the following:

- King County Council must approve the change and amend its comprehensive plan accordingly.

See *KLAHANIE*, pg. 5



City of Sammamish and YMCA officials join staffers and other stakeholders during the ceremonial groundbreaking on June 12 for the new Community and Aquatic Center.

Community & Aquatic Center begins construction on schedule

CONTRACTOR AIMS TO COMPLETE BUILDING IN TIME FOR AN OPENING IN EARLY 2016

Eighteen months from now, assuming the soil holds few surprises and the weatherman cooperates, Sammamish residents will be preparing to enter what so many of them have asked for – a brand new Community and Aquatic Center.

Construction of the two-level, 69,000-square-foot facility began June 12 with a ceremonial groundbreaking just west of City Hall and the Sammamish library. With two pools, a pair of gyms, and a long list of

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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ALCOHOL STING

Story on page 5

SAFE AND SOUND

Story on page 6

Will Olympia listen to city voices?

A French aphorist once wrote, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

He could have been talking about our state. More than eighty years ago, the Association of Washington Cities was formed to be a voice for cities. The big issue then: Prohibition was ending; new liquor laws would be passed and new liquor taxes would be levied.



Tom Vance
Mayor

The cities, realizing that the impact of those new regulations would largely fall

to cities, wanted their fair share of the revenues.

Guess what? Cities in Washington are still fighting that battle. When the new liquor laws went into effect in 2012, city revenues were capped. Since then, the AWC has been fighting to get the city share of liquor revenues restored.

Now we add the new recreational marijuana laws. As with liquor, the frontlines of the effort to administer and police the new laws will fall to the cities. Going forward, the AWC will argue for two things from the legislature: to reconcile the now largely unregulated medical marijuana market with the new recreational marijuana market, and to secure a share of the new marijuana revenues for cities.

Late last month, in Spokane, five members of your City Council attended the annual meeting of the AWC, now representing 281 cities

across our state. Along with the above issues, the themes of the sessions were not always uplifting.

With many of our cities struggling financially, many presentations and seminars focused on the tough financial choices being made by cities across the state. In that, we are fortunate. Along with our sound financial practices, we are a very desirable residential community, with high assessed valuation, placed within commuting distance of some of the world's largest corporations.

But we aren't immune to the distress some of our neighboring cities are feeling. We share an economy with them. Their success helps insure a better economy for our state overall.

"With the viability of our state's aging roads, bridges, and other vital public infrastructure in question, the loss of the Public Works Trust Fund is a major blow."

Here is a case in point: the Public Works Trust Fund. The fund was created to provide self-perpetuating monies that cities, counties, and local utility districts could tap – without raising taxes – to build important local infrastructure.

The interest was low, and the money paid back would go back into the fund to help build more roads, bridges, and storm water systems, at much less cost for cities and taxpayers.

Early in our relatively short history, Sammamish used the fund to rebuild our major thoroughfare, 228th Avenue. Without the Public Works Trust Fund, the city would likely have had to ask the voters to approve a bond, costing more in city funds and causing a significant increase in local taxes.

In 2013, the legislature swept \$277 million from the fund, reducing capacity by more than a billion dollars over the next six years. Last July, the Legislature declined to fund the 2013 list of projects around the state.

With the viability of our state's aging roads, bridges, and other vital public infrastructure in question, the loss of the Public Works Trust Fund is a major blow. Many cities and counties simply won't be able to afford to take on these important projects. This will not only affect public safety around the state, it will negatively affect our state and local economies.

Every year, AWC sends their troop of lobbyists to Olympia to represent our cities. Many councilmembers and mayors, including yours truly, and others from our Council, join them from time to time.

This year the AWC is adding a new wrinkle: they have asked all state representatives, senators, and candidates to answer a set of questions, concerning important city issues. You can find out who has responded from our 41st and 45th districts by going to www.awc.org and clicking "Candidate Questionnaire Responses."

Maybe we can find out if our prospects are about to change, or just stay the same.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Tom Vance.

Volunteers at Evans Creek Preserve!

When Evans Creek Preserve opened in early 2011, much credit was given to the volunteer work groups who built trails and augmented the work of professional staff. Working under the supervision of the Washington Trails Association (WTA), the community volunteers made enormous contributions and helped make the 180-acre preserve very much a homegrown amenity.

And they're not done yet. Once again taking guidance from the WTA, community volunteers have been working on a new trail link between Sahalee Way and the lower levels of the preserve.

"It's an area with a lot of steep slopes, so there are some challenges," Parks Director Jessi Bon said. "But I think our volunteers enjoy it."

The preserve lies just north of the city limits in unincorporated King County. A mixture of ponds, creeks, trees and meadows, Evans Creek Preserve is perfect for quiet walks and a respite from city life.

The Sahalee access trail is not yet open, so visitors should go to the main entrance. Drivers headed north on Sahalee Way should take a right at State Route 202, another right at 224th Avenue Northeast, and then proceed a short distance to the parking lot.

The latest phase of volunteer work is just wrapping up, but there will be more! To sign up, just go to www.wta.org/volunteer/trail-work-parties.



Volunteers on a steep slope at Evans Creek Preserve.

COMMUNITY CENTER, cont. from pg. 1

other amenities, the new center is a response to persistent requests from city residents.

"Over the past few years, when our Council members have gone doorbelling, or gone to the grocery store, people have asked, 'When are we going to get a community center?'" City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Well, now they have an answer. It's going to happen in 2016."

The Council's decision to go forward with the facility was also fueled by a positive advisory vote by Sammamish residents in the November 2012 election.

The Community and Aquatic Center is a joint venture between the city and the YMCA. Although the city will own the building and pay for most of the con-

struction costs, the facility will be operated by the YMCA.

"We have a small city staff and want to keep it that way," Yazici said. "Partnering with the YMCA puts their experts in charge of operations and keeps us from having to pay a lot more in salaries and benefits."

Porter Brothers Construction of Edgewood won the contract award with a bid of \$25,574,258. With sales tax, design, demolition, construction contingencies and other expenses, the total project cost comes to \$33,885,000.

"We're a community full of families, kids, adults and seniors," Yazici said. "This is a place where they'll be able to exercise, socialize and have fun together. I think it's going to be a very exciting day when the doors swing open in 2016."



Mayor Tom Vance and Sammamish YMCA Board Chair Lesley Austin makes remarks at the June 12 groundbreaking.

It's summertime in Sammamish!!!

AND THE SWIMMING IS EASY AT PINE LAKE PARK

When the city incorporated in 1999, it inherited a very tired and neglected Pine Lake Park. Despite its majestically tall trees and picturesque shoreline, it badly needed a healthy makeover.

So the work began. And now, from its environmentally fortified shoreline to its first class ball field, the park is now an enticing attraction, especially in the summer!

Want to swim, or watch your kids swim? Come on down to the beach, or walk out on the new array of docks. Lifeguards are on duty from noon to 7 p.m. every day until Sept. 1!



A lazy Tuesday afternoon at Pine Lake Park

New director hired

The city's new director of community development is Jeff Thomas, a veteran planner with a wealth of experience in western Washington.

Up until June 20, Thomas filled the same role with the city of Bellingham. He takes the place of Kamuron Gurol, recently hired as city manager in Burien.

"Jeff's resume is excellent," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I think he's going to do great work here."



Jeff Thomas

King County van will gather ballots

For residents who don't want to mail in their ballots for the August primary election, King County is providing another option.

On three separate days, the King County elections office will station a van in the Sammamish City Hall parking lot.

Here are the dates:

- Saturday, Aug. 2
- Monday, Aug. 4
- Tuesday, Aug. 5

The van will be in place each of those days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All you have to do is drive up and drop off your ballot. You don't even need to get out of your car. The van will be present for subsequent elections as well.

Stormwater ponds

Q: Who owns stormwater ponds?

A: Most are owned by the city.

Q: What is a "trash rack?"

A: It's a screening device that keeps trash and debris from going into a stream.

Q: Are ponds good places for mosquitoes?

A: It may seem counter-intuitive, but these ponds are not good breeding sites. They have mosquito predators like fish, frogs and dragonflies.

Q: Why does the city have signs posted at these stormwater ponds?

A: The hope is that residents will call if they see a problem. The signs have a city phone number and a pond identification number posted.

Q: How often are the ponds mowed?

A: We clear the vegetation once a year. Some neighborhoods pitch in to do it more frequently. If you'd like to consider that, call the city's Stormwater Management Team at 425-295-0573.

Good news: Alcohol sting comes up empty

FIFTEEN BUSINESSES REFUSE TO SELL ALCOHOL TO A 19-YEAR-OLD

It was a simple sting. Send a minor into 15 businesses and see how many would sell him alcohol. The answer this year – zero. That’s a lot better than last year, when seven out of 15 retailers failed the test.

The latest sting, on June 13, was conducted by Sammamish Police and agents for the Washington State Liquor Control Board in conjunction with the Sammamish “Impaired Driving Education and Action” (IDEA) project.

The IDEA project, supported by a broad array of concerned community members, was launched in early 2013 after statistics showed an unusually high percentage of impaired driving stops in Sammamish involved residents under 21 years of age.



KLAHANIE, cont. from pg. 1

- The cities of King County must ratify that approval.
- Sammamish must amend its comprehensive plan to accommodate the PAA transfer.
- The Boundary Review Board (BRB) must conduct its review, a process expected to be complete by early 2015. In the absence of any obstacles, an annexation election will be scheduled.

Another important element in the process is a fiscal report by the city analyzing the financial impacts of the proposed annexation. That report, produced by a consultant, is expected to be presented to the City Council in July.

The Klahanie annexation area, 1.94 square miles in size, is comprised of Klahanie proper and several adjoining neighborhoods. It contains 3,930 residential units and a population of 10,939. Should residents there vote to join Sammamish, it would raise the city’s population to around 60,000.

To raise awareness of annexation issues, the city has invited Klahanie leaders and residents to Sammamish City Hall for an informational dinner, made a presentation to a Brookshire Estates homeowners’ meeting, and started mailing the city newsletter to the annexation area.

The outreach efforts will continue over the next few months with three open houses, two of them in Klahanie, and one at Sammamish City Hall (see meeting schedule on right side of this page).

For more information on the proposed Klahanie area annexation, go to the city website (www.sammamish.us) and click on the “Klahanie annexation” tab on the left side of the home page.

Klahanie Annexation Open Houses

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Faith Church, 3924 Issaquah-Pine Lake Road

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Faith Church, 3924 Issaquah-Pine Lake Road

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.



Sammamish City Manager Ben Yazici discusses benefits of annexation with Brookshire Estates residents.

It's "Safe and Sound Sammamish 2014"

To kick off "National Night Out," a coast-to-coast gathering of safety-minded neighbors, the city is holding a "Safe and Sound Sammamish 2014" event on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. at City Hall.

In addition to police officers, firefighters and an array of vehicles and equipment, "Safe and Sound Sammamish 2014" will feature the Radio Disney AM 1250 Road Crew. Among other things, the radio personalities will hand out prizes for the kids, and provide interactive entertainment for the whole family.

Those interested in organizing their own neighborhood gathering as part of "National Night Out" should go to sammamishcitizencorps.com and register.



Kids visit with police officers at City Hall Plaza.

Summer entertainment is here!

Concerts in the Park

6:30-8 p.m., on Thursdays, at Pine Lake Park

July 10 - Wings n Things - The music of Paul McCartney

July 17 - North Country - Bluegrass

July 24 - 3 Trick Pony - Classic to current rock hits

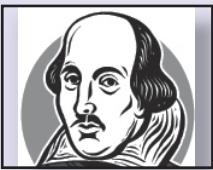
July 31 - The Delphi Band - Jazz/Funk/R&B

August 7 - Junkyard Jane - "Swampabilly Blues"

August 14 - Petty Fever - Tom Petty Tribute

August 21 - Sammamish Symphony

August 28 - The Remnanz, Classic rock and roll



Seattle & Wooden O Shakespeare plays, 7-8:45 p.m., at Pine Lake Park

July 19 - Julius Caesar

July 26 - Two Gentlemen of Verona

Kiwanis "Kids First" series

July 15 - 1 p.m. - Jeff Evans, magician - City Hall Plaza

July 22 - Noon - Eric Herman and the Thunder Puppies - East Sammamish Park soccer field

July 29 - 1 p.m. - Eric Ode, music entertainer - City Hall Plaza

August 12 - 1 p.m. - Alex Zerbe - comedy juggler - City Hall Plaza

August 19 - Noon - Matt Wells, magician - Ebright Creek Park meadow

CITY CALENDAR

JULY

Tuesday, July 1

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

Wednesday, July 2

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza
- Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, July 4

- Fourth on the Plateau, Noon-10 p.m.
Sammamish Commons

Saturday, July 5

- Fifth of July Clean Up, 9 a.m.-Noon
Sammamish Commons

Tuesday, July 8

- Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Thursday, July 10

- Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.-Noon,
Lower Sammamish Commons
- Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, July 12

- Trail Work Project with WTA,
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Evans Creek Preserve

Sunday, July 13

- Trail Work Project with WTA,
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Evans Creek Preserve

Monday, July 14

- Finance Committee Mtg, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Joint Meeting with City of Issaquah,
4:30-6:30 p.m., Issaquah City Hall
- Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 15

- Kiwanis KidsFirst!, Noon-1 p.m.
City Hall Plaza
- City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., City Hall Plaza

Thursday, July 17

- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, July 19

- Volunteer at Sammamish Landing,
9 a.m.-Noon
- Children's Walk at Big Rock, 10 a.m.-Noon
- Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, 7-8:45 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, July 22

- Kiwanis KidsFirst!, Noon-1 p.m.
East Sammamish Park

Wednesday, July 23

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., City Hall Plaza

Thursday, July 24

- Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.- Noon
Lower Sammamish Commons
- Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, July 26

- Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen of Verona
7-8:45 p.m., Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, July 29

- Kiwanis KidsFirst!, Noon-1 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Wednesday, July 30

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., City Hall Plaza

Thursday, July 31

- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 5

- Safe and Sound Sammamish, 2-5 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Wednesday, Aug. 6

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., City Hall Plaza
- Klahanie annexation open house,
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Faith Church, Klahanie
- Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 7

- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, Aug. 9

- Rotary Club Soap Box Derby Challenge Race,
7 a.m.-1 p.m., SE 24th Street
- Sammamish Days and Nights,
10 a.m.-10 p.m.
City Hall

Tuesday, Aug. 12

- Kiwanis KidsFirst!, Noon-1 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Wednesday, Aug. 13

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Thursday, Aug. 14

- Family Volunteer Event,
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Lower Sammamish Commons
- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

Saturday, Aug. 16

- Sammamish Walks at Evans Creek Preserve,
10 a.m.-Noon

Monday, Aug. 18

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

Tuesday, Aug. 19

- Kiwanis KidsFirst!, Noon-1 p.m.
Ebright Creek Park

Wednesday, Aug. 20

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Thursday, Aug. 21

- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park
- Art exhibit reception, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 23

- Lake Sammamish Triathlon,
7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 27

- Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Thursday, Aug. 28

- Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Lower Sammamish Commons
- Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pine Lake Park

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



Tom Vance
Mayor



Kathy Huckabay
Deputy Mayor



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Bob Keller
Councilmember



Tom Odell
Councilmember



Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

“Call to Artists”

The city of Sammamish is requesting artwork to be included in the 2015 comprehensive plan

Suitable artwork would include:

- Photography (300 dpi) of Sammamish
- Short poetry (1-4 lines)
- Abstract designs

The artwork should be reflective of the city’s “Working Vision Sammamish 2035”

For more information, go to www.sammamish.us and click on “Call to artists”

Application deadline: July 18

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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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?
Contact Communications Mgr [Tim Larson](mailto:tlarson@sammamish.us)
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