

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 96

CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

Name calling has no effect

ALDARRA/MONTAINE ANNEXATION RECEIVES PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

In response to a request for annexation, the city recently agreed to bring the Aldarra and Montaine neighborhoods into the city. On May 18, the Boundary Review Board (BRB) gave preliminary approval to the annexation plan.

“We’re hoping for final approval on June 15,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It was good to see the BRB bless both our process and our efforts to minimize impacts on neighboring jurisdictions.”

The BRB’s preliminary approval was in stark contrast to harsh language directed at the city by an Eastside Fire & Rescue (EF&R) commissioner at a fire board meeting on May 14. At that meeting, Fire Commissioner Ron Pedec called Sammamish city officials “rascals” and compared them to Bernie Madoff, the disgraced investor accused of defrauding clients of billions of dollars.

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A honey vendor prepares sample tastes at the Sammamish Farmers Market.

Farmers Market back in business

THIRD YEAR BRINGS WINE VENDOR, MORE PRODUCE

Like the city itself, the Sammamish Farmers Market continues to grow and evolve with each passing season.

Now in its third year, the market has added new features and burnished old attractions that have proved successful in the past.

“We now have a wine vendor at the market, which is new” the city’s Dawn

Sanders said. “And we have two new cheese vendors, as well.”

But the old standby attraction – fresh produce – is really thriving.

“The range and depth of the produce has really been spectacular this season,” Sanders said. “I think our reg-

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STAFF BREAKFAST

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Levity is healthy, even in government

Is the business of government serious business? Absolutely – at the federal level, the state level, the county level and, yes, even at the city of Sammamish level.

But, in the course of taking care of this serious business for our constituents, is there a place for levity?



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

Without question! And when it occurs, one should not frown and grumble that this is not the time and place for humor.

Instead, I suggest that one should realize that

sometimes a bit of humor can sharpen the wits and stimulate the creative juices, and is probably better for your health than a split shot latte (or, in my case, coming from Wisconsin, a steamed vanilla milk).

You might wonder what motivated me to discuss humor as it relates to the business of government. Well, while trying to decide on this month's topic for the Mayor's Message, I made a list of possible topics.

One I thought might be interesting and relevant was "noxious weeds." This occurred to me because Councilmember Mark Cross brought a particularly nasty one to the last council meeting – Japanese Knotweed – which is quite invasive and difficult to eradicate.

Last year Councilmember Michele Petitti brought in a specimen of tansy ragwort that is poisonous to horses. And then there is the English Ivy, a particularly invasive plant that is a nice ground cover but

can seriously damage trees and even buildings.

So, I typed up my topic list, printed it out and was reviewing it when I came across a typo. I had written "noxious weeks."

That struck my funny bone like a Skyline defender hitting an opposing quarterback - and it was good to laugh. I expect we've all had experiences with "noxious weeks."

Further down my list of possible topics I came across the Guinness World Record to be attempted at 2 p.m. on July 17 at the Skyline football field. The goal is to have a gathering of at least 250 natural redheads.

When I came to this topic, it struck me how funny it would be if, just before taking the picture, the photographer announced that she had mistakenly brought only black and white film and hoped that Guinness would accept this proof. Maybe I'm easily amused!

By the way, if you are a redhead and would like to participate in this world record attempt, contact Anne Lindsay at Anne@annelindsayphotography.com.

By my calculations, if it's true that 2 percent of Americans are redheads, and that pattern holds true here, Sammamish has 800 natural redheads, more than enough to set a record.

My list of possible topics also included barricades, road construction projects, the State Champion Eastside Catholic girls' Lacrosse team, the tremendous positive response to the new library, parameters involved in the possible development of an

aquatics/community center in Sammamish, the old library changing to a Teen Center, the upcoming USGA Senior Open at Sahalee, efforts to obtain some land parcels from King County, the Town Center development regulations, the annexation of the Aldarra and Montaine neighborhoods in August, and the very soggy first two weeks of the Farmers Market, which, we should all note, did not dampen the spirits of the farmers and customers that braved the nasty weather.

That's a long list of topics, some of them serious, some of them not. And that brings me to the last topic on my list – the city's all-staff breakfast.

Once a year, councilmembers and city department heads do the cooking and serving for a very deserving city staff. This is a serious and sincere gesture, but there was plenty of humor this year, especially with Councilmember John Curley working the room like he does so ably in his other career as an auctioneer.

To buttress my point that serious matters and humor do and should go together, I'll conclude this Mayor's Message with the sage advice of Dwight D. Eisenhower: "A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done."

On the other hand, there was also Will Rogers, who said: "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gerend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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“We know that there are financial impacts on surrounding jurisdictions, including fire districts, when annexations take place,” Yazici said. “But we were really taken aback by some of the name calling, especially since we’re just doing what cities are supposed to do.”

The name calling emerged out of a complex set of circumstances. When the city annexes Aldarra/Montaine, fire taxes from those neighborhoods will be funneled to Sammamish instead of Fire District 27, which is based in Fall City. That’s because the responsibility to provide fire services will also transfer to Sammamish.

Sammamish is part of Eastside Fire and Rescue, a fire consortium that also includes Issaquah, North Bend, Fire District 10 and Fire District 38. Fire District 27 in Fall City is not part of EF&R.

When the annexation takes effect, Sammamish’s contribution to EF&R will increase by \$48,000 per

year to cover the cost of fire services to Aldarra/Montaine. In order to mitigate Fire District 27’s loss of revenue, Sammamish suggested that EF&R use Sammamish’s added contribution to pay Fire District 27 to continue providing services to the annexed areas for a transitional period of about two-and-a-half years.

“The city has no legal obligation to compensate Fire District 27 for their loss of tax revenue, but we’re trying to be good neighbors,” Yazici said. “It’s in everybody’s interest if we have a cooperative and supportive approach to fire and other vital services.”

On May 14, the EF&R board rejected Sammamish’s mitigation proposal by a 2-6 vote. Just four days later, however, members of the Boundary Review Board commented favorably on Sammamish’s proposed mitigation solution, and the entire board gave preliminary approval to the city’s annexation plan.

“Our mitigation solution was to take the additional \$48,000 we’re going

to pay EF&R and have EF&R take that money and hire Fire District 27 to provide Aldarra/Montaine with fire services,” Yazici said. “The EF&R board’s objection revolved around the idea that once Sammamish gave the \$48,000 to EF&R, it was EF&R’s money, and we shouldn’t ask them to use their money to help Fire District 27.

“But what’s the alternative?” Yazici asked. “Should we ask Sammamish tax payers to give EF&R \$48,000 annually to cover fire services in Aldarra/Montaine, and then give District 27 another \$48,000 annually? That would amount to taxing our residents twice for the same service.

“I know the shifting of money can make things very emotional, and the funding of fire services can get pretty complicated, especially during annexations, but I hope all parties can move forward without the name calling we’ve seen,” Yazici said. “I also hope the positive reviews our proposed solution received at the Boundary Review Board will help soften the rhetoric.”

FARMERS, cont. from pg. 1

ular visitors will really see an improvement when it comes to fruits and vegetables this year.”

As in years past, the market also features baked goods, crafts, cultural displays, music and other forms of entertainment.

Staged by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce, the market will be up and running every Wednesday until Sept. 29. Hours will be 4 to 8 p.m., and then 4 p.m. to dusk as the days get shorter later in the season.

For more market information, go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on the Farmers Market icon, or contact Dawn Sanders at 425-295-0556 or dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us.



A food vendor prepares to dish up a plate at the Farmers Market.

Summer fun is coming

LIFEGUARDS GO ON DUTY JUNE 19 AT PINE LAKE PARK

The city has ordered lifeguards to report for duty at Pine Lake on June 19. Hopefully, the summer sun got the memo.

“We’re looking forward to another great season of sunshine and fun,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “This will be our second year with the new dock and beach configuration.”

The lifeguards will be on duty through Labor day, Sept. 6. That’s just over 11 weeks of swimming, splashing and sunbathing.

The new dock and beach were part of a final phase of improvements in a years-long effort to revitalize Pine Lake Park. In years past, the city also improved the ball field, constructed a basketball court, put it in play areas, new picnic shelters and a variety of other family-friendly features.



Lifeguards go on duty Saturday, June 19, at Pine Lake Park.

JUNE 18 TEEN FEST FEATURES SKATE COMPETITION, LIVE MUSIC, FREE HOT DOGS AND PIZZA

Timed to mark the end of homework and early morning rides to school, the city’s Teen Fest on June 18 will kick off at 1 p.m. with a skate competition, and wrap up with a 5 to 9 p.m. live music concert – all at City Hall Plaza.

The music lineup will feature local high school bands and then be topped off by the Blue Scholars, a high-profile, Seattle-based hip-hop group with a positive social message.

Entering the skate competition will cost \$5 for residents, and \$10 for non-residents. ASB cards and a \$5 ticket will be required for the music concert.

Free hot dogs will be served at the skate competition. Free pizza will be available during the music concert.



Sammamish teens listen to the Blue Scholars in 2008.

to Sammamish!!!!!!!

THIS “FOURTH ON THE PLATEAU” WILL BE CITY’S FOURTH BLAST

It’s the city’s biggest annual event – a 4th of July celebration featuring food, family fun and fireworks. It’s called the “Fourth on the Plateau,” and if history is any guide, more than 10,000 residents will grace the rolling hills of Sammamish Commons with blankets, folding chairs and an appetite for Independence Day thunder.

A complete guide to the event will be featured in next month’s city newsletter, but the outlines of the event will closely follow last year’s patriotic celebration.

“As more and more people choose the hillside in the Lower Commons for their vantage point, we’re shifting more of the food vendors in that direction,” said the city’s Joanna Puthoff, “but it’s going to be the same mix of music, kids’ entertainment, and pyrotechnics.”

Those interested in sponsoring the event or helping out as volunteers should contact Dawn Sanders at dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0556.



David Nadalin



Blankets, food and fireworks at Sammamish Commons.

David Nadalin

Thursday “Concerts in the Park” at Pine Lake



- July 8 - Silhouettes (50s)*
- July 15 - Creme Tangerine (60s)*
- July 22 - Ricky Venture Review (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)*



244th Avenue link due to open in August

If the current schedule holds, drivers from Windsor Green and other nearby neighborhoods will be able to head north on 244th Avenue in August and get all the way to State Route 202.

That will be a brand new experience. The \$9.3 million construction project is creating a connection between two separate segments of the north/south arterial.

The mile-long improvement project between Southeast Eighth Street and Northeast Eighth Street features a new 800-foot bridge across a wetland, and two new roundabouts, among other things. The bridge deck was poured last month. Much of the roundabout work will be done in June.

For the latest on the project, go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/projects/244thNE.aspx or contact Project Manager Jed Ireland at jireland@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0563.

Spring recycling event gathers up 120 tons

Over 1,500 vehicles came by Eastlake High School on April 24 to drop off old TV sets, computers, batteries, automotive oil and a variety of other materials.



Sponsored by the city and King County, the event collected 1,266 TV sets, 577 computer monitors, 30,240 household batteries, 19,120 pounds of cardboard, 33,340 pounds of bulky and scrap wood, and 550 gallons of used motor oil and petroleum-based products.

Please hold the bird seed

Unless you like bears peering in your back window, you may want to bring in the bird seed until October. Sammamish Code Enforcement Officer Joan Burlingame says that's when bears start their long winter nap. A number of bear reports have come into the city of late, including some indicating that bird feeders have been damaged.



Bear hibernation, which in most cases is a series of very long naps rather than one continuous snooze, can last from October to May. The American black bear sometimes sleeps for up to 100 days straight. During that time, the bear's waking heart rate of 55 beats per minute can drop to as low as 10 beats per minute.

City "Email Alert" system subscriber list grows

More than 1,300 residents are now receiving regular updates from the city of Sammamish's new "Email Alert" system.

Launched late last year, the system allows people to sign up for updates on meetings, road projects, traffic, and a variety of other city-related topics.

To look at the menu of topics and sign up, residents should go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on the "Email Alert" icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page.

City celebrates flag day with historical display

A public reception at City Hall will kickoff a display of historical flags on Monday, June 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. The five flags, on loan from city of Sammamish Senior Planner Rob Garwood, will be presented in the City Hall lobby in a presentation titled "The Stars and Stripes of the 20th Century."

Puget Sound Starts Here

Since last fall, the “Puget Sound Starts Here” campaign has used TV and print ads to hammer home the point that simple, everyday activities like washing your car in the driveway can send polluted water directly into our streams and lakes – through a nearby storm drain.

“It’s been reported that up to half the people who live near a storm drain don’t realize there’s no treatment plant at the other end of the drain,” Sammamish Senior Stormwater Engineer Eric LaFrance said. “As a city, we’re doing what we can to increase awareness.”

On an average day, 143,000 pounds of chemicals, including petroleum, copper, lead and zinc, enter Puget Sound. About 75 percent of that pollution is carried by storm water that runs off paved roads, driveways, rooftops and other developed lands.

For more information on how your everyday activities may be contributing to the pollution of our lakes and streams, and how a change in your habits could help, go to the following web-site: www.pugetsoundstartshere.org.



Storm drains often lead directly to streams and lakes.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

JUNE

Tuesday, June 1

Finance Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 2

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Council Office Hours, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 3

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8

Joint Meeting with Redmond City Council, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 9

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

Monday, June 14

The Stars and Stripes of the 20th Century, 6-8 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 15

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Council Office Hours, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 17

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 21

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 30

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

JULY

Thursday, July 1

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 5

City offices closed for Independence Day

Tuesday, July 6

Finance Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 7

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Council Office Hours, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 13

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

Wednesday, July 14

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

Thursday, July 15

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 19

Arts Commission Meeting, 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

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Council Office Hours, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 22

Public Safety Committee Mtg, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 28

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 29

Planning 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.



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*Nancy Whitten
Deputy Mayor*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*John Curley
Councilmember*



*John James
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti
Councilmember*

Councilmembers and department heads cook and serve breakfast to city staff



Councilmember John James shows his appreciation for the staff's hard work by serving Joanna Puthoff a plate of pancakes, bacon and eggs at the May 20 all-staff breakfast in the City Council Chamber.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

801 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075
Phone: 425-295-0500 • Fax: 425-295-0600

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

- Don Gerend, Mayor**
dgerend@ci.sammamish.wa.us
- Nancy Whitten, Deputy Mayor**
nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us
- Mark Cross, Councilmember**
mcross@ci.sammamish.wa.us
- John Curley, Councilmember**
jcurley@ci.sammamish.wa.us
- John James, Councilmember**
jjames@ci.sammamish.wa.us
- Tom Odell, Councilmember**
todell@ci.sammamish.wa.us
- Michele Petitti, Councilmember**
mpetitti@ci.sammamish.wa.us

- Ben Yazici City Manager
- Pete Butkus Deputy City Manager
- 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