

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 132

CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2013

The ultimate balancing act

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR A BEDROOM COMMUNITY

Sammamish is a modern suburban community blessed with looks, money and brains – enough so that it regularly ranks among the “best places to live” in national rankings.

It’s a great town, the whole package, except for one thing – not enough action. No movie theaters, not many restaurants, and, allegedly, no place to buy a pair of socks.

“It’s an interesting situation,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “What we lack, to some degree, is what makes us such a great place to live.

“We’re a quiet community because we don’t have big-box stores. We have a small-town feel because Sammamish isn’t a major job center that draws a daily influx of workers.”

Nevertheless, with the help of a consultant, Chris Mefford of Community Attributes, Inc., the city is crafting an “Economic Development

See STRATEGIC, pg. 2



Farmers Market shoppers check out dairy products at the Golden Glen Creamery booth.

If it’s Wednesday – Farmers Market!

Come to the Farmers Market every Wednesday from 3 to 8 p.m. and support the purveyors of asparagus, flowers, honey, strawberries – and doughnuts on steroids.

Uh, nix the steroids – these natural doughnuts are just really, really big. And they’re part of a great, sunny season at City Hall Plaza!

Now in its sixth season, the market is staged by the Sammamish Chamber

of Commerce in cooperation with the city of Sammamish. After opening up on May 15, the market will run every Wednesday afternoon and evening until Sept. 25.

And here’s the big annual suggestion: Park at Mary Queen of Peace Church and walk to the market on the short, conveniently located path. For more information on the market, go to: www.sammamishfarmersmarket.org.

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Page 2

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Story on page 3

SUMMER CONCERTS

Story on page 6

STRATEGIC, cont. from pg. 1

Strategic Plan.”

“The goal is to add more good things to our community without subtracting what we already love about Sammamish,” Yazici said. “It’s going to be the ultimate balancing act, and success will depend on the input of residents, business people and all other stakeholders.”

The City Council’s “Community and Economic Development Committee,” established in 2011, has been busy examining the possibilities. But to make sure they’re grounded in cold, hard facts, they recently reviewed an “economic profile” of Sammamish put together by Mefford. (Highlights on the right.)

“It’s pretty obvious that our population shrinks dramatically during the daytime when everyone commutes off the plateau and goes to work, but the actual figures are pretty striking,” Yazici said. “Over 21,000 of our residents work, but only 700 of those residents work in Sammamish.”

If the city’s Town Center Plan becomes a reality with the help of an improving economy, the number of residents who work in Sammamish should go up. As should the number of restaurants, offices, retail outlets and community amenities.

“Positive economic development and the Town Center are very closely linked,” Yazici said. “Thanks to the Town Center framework we’ve created, we’ll be able to accommodate more economic activity, more amenities, and more ‘action’ without seeing it creep into every neighborhood and cul de sac.

“That’s how we’re hoping to ‘add’ to Sammamish without ‘subtracting’ the quiet, small-town qualities our residents value so much.”

Adoption of the Economic Development Strategic Plan, scheduled for the end of 2013, will follow a busy year of information gathering and analysis. Among other things, the consultant will provide a market assessment, conduct private sector and stakeholder interviews, contribute to Council committee meetings, coordinate public input, and present a final plan for Council review and adoption.

For more information, go to the city website (www.sammamish.us) and click on the “Economic Development Strategic Plan” tab on the left side of the home page.

Sammamish Economic Profile

Median family income:

\$143,632

(60 percent higher than King County)

Top three employment centers:

Bel-Red corridor - 4,920

Downtown Seattle - 3,000

Issaquah - 1,930

**21,400 workers live in Sammamish
Only 700 of them work in Sammamish**

There are 4,600 jobs in Sammamish

**Licensed businesses physically
located in Sammamish: 2,604**

Of those, 979 provide a “liveable” income

2012 population: 47,420

Projected 2040 population: 63,529

**Percentage of 4-person households: 40 percent
King County, by comparison: 20 percent**

Percentage of households with children:

Sammamish - 56 percent

Issaquah - 30 percent

Redmond - 29 percent

Jobs to housing ratio:

Sammamish has 0.3 jobs per household

Issaquah has 1.4 per household

Redmond has 3.2 per household

**Residents spend only 31 percent of their
grocery money in Sammamish**

**Residents spend only 27 percent of their
total retail spending in Sammamish**

To view the complete Economic profile, go to www.sammamish.us, click on the “Economic Development Strategic Plan” tab and select “resources.”

Community Garden will let flowers, friendships blossom

In the Lower Commons, the neat rows of raised, wooden boxes will hold the flowers and vegetables. But the spaces in between, where the friendships grow, will be just as important.

“This is so exciting,” Parks Director Jessi Bon said. “Just looking at our new community garden – you can sense what a wonderful, human place this is going to be.

“Our residents, caring for living things, rubbing elbows, trading ideas, sharing laughs – it’s going to be awesome!”

Recently opened, the garden is already sprouting in the spring sunshine. The fast start isn’t surprising. There were



The Community Garden in the Lower Commons.



Sammamish resident Mary Doerrer prepares her plot for planting.

123 applicants for the 58 plots and a lottery was required to choose the initial wave of custodians.

“Our Community Garden Steering Committee did a great job of planning and guiding this process,” Bon said. “The co-chairs, Ann Precup and Stephanie Hibner, along with all the other members, really deserve our thanks.”

Residents who want to get on a waiting list should contact the city’s Joanna Puthoff at jputhoff@sammamish.us or 425-295-0588. The annual cost is \$50. Currently, there are 34 people on the waiting list.

City selects consultant to help with Comprehensive Plan update

The city’s comprehensive plan, adopted in 2003 and extensively amended in 2006, is due for another update. To that end, the city has selected a consultant, Deborah Munkberg of Studio 3MW, to do a lot of the heavy lifting.

Like other cities, Sammamish is required by the state to periodically update its plan, bring it into alignment with the state’s growth management goals, and make sure it follows all new and existing codes.

Among other things, the comp plan guides the city’s regulation of land use, transportation, housing, parks and environmentally critical areas.

With much public outreach and input along the way, and a thorough examination of pertinent science and law, the Planning Commission will review a draft of the plan and send it on to the City Council. Adoption by the Council is expected sometime in 2015.

For more information on the update process, go to www.sammamish.us and click through *departments, community development and comprehensive plan*.

Grass clippings, leaf cuttings

When a soft rain carries your grass clippings away to a better place, it may seem natural – and quite green. But it’s not!

Believe it or not, grass and leaves are way too nutritious for the algae in our ponds and lakes. The result: unsightly algae buildups and aquatic weeds.

So sweep up! And let the yard waste truck carry it away. Or compost it. Or, leave the clippings on your lawn and let decomposition provide nutrients to future blades of grass. That will also save money on fertilizer!

Fireworks ban in Sammamish will be enforced

\$500 FINE FOR POSSESSION OF FIREWORKS; \$1,000 FINE FOR DISCHARGE

This Fourth of July, it's going to be different. Instead of passing on friendly reminders that private fireworks are prohibited in Sammamish, the standard practice in the past, this year city police are going to hand out citations when they encounter violations.

And it's going to be spendy. Possession of private fireworks will cost you \$500, and actual discharge of your own pyrotechnics will cost \$1,000.

When the city passed an ordinance banning fireworks in 2005, it was hoped the highly publicized change in the rules would rein in the private fireworks shows, but the city continues to

get many complaints from a variety of neighborhoods.

"Our residents have been asking for better enforcement of the ordinance,



so that's what we're going to do," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "After giving everybody a few years to adapt, I think it makes sense to make sure people follow the rules."

Police will conduct emphasis patrols this year in neighborhoods that have generated the most complaints in the past. The Pine Lake area and the shoreline of Lake Sammamish are two such areas.

"We know this won't be well received by some, but this is what the rules are and this is what our residents are asking for," Yazici said. "We're hoping for a significant reduction."

Bountiful bike donations at City Hall!

ANNUAL ARAS DRIVE WILL SEND MUCH NEEDED BICYCLES TO AFRICA

Thanks to Mary Trask and the ARAS Foundation, a Sammamish-based non-profit, hundreds of bikes were dropped off at City Hall last month.

ARAS, partnering with the Vil-

lage Bicycle Project, will send the donated bikes to Africa. This year, the Sammamish total was impressive: 642 bicycles, plus parts.

The annual drive is fueled by the belief that bikes provide power and



A sea of donated bikes waiting to be loaded.

opportunity to Africans with limited transportation options. Riding a bike is four times faster than walking, allowing villagers to get to school, go to market and reach health care resources in one fourth the time.



Volunteers stand in front a loaded truck at City Hall.

Adoption of ECA update expected this month

At press time, the City Council was scheduled to discuss and then adopt the Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) update at its regular meeting on June 16.

A periodic mandate of the ECA, which regulates the treatment of environmentally sensitive areas, is mandated by state law. The Council took up the update following a year-long examination of the issues by the Planning Commission. The Commission hand the ECA update off to the Council on Feb. 12.

“Both the Planning Commission and the City Council have put a lot of work into getting this right,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Our residents and other stakeholders also deserve a lot of credit. They’ve helped us keep property rights considerations and environmental concerns in balance.”

More information is available on the city website (www.sammamish.us) by clicking on the Environmentally Critical Areas tab on the left side of the home page.

Arts Commission has a new spot to display art

If you’ve ever wanted to see the city’s new Maintenance and Operations Center (MOC), and view some very fine water color art at the same time, now is the time.

The Sammamish Arts Commission, as part of the “Art in the Workplace Enrichment Program,” is displaying the work of watercolor artist Jerome Steffen at the MOC from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, until June 30.

Five pieces of Mr. Steffen’s work are currently on display at the MOC. The MOC is located in the northeastern quadrant of the city at 1801 244th Ave. N.E.

The artist, who has a professional background in construction and architecture, says watercolors are the most “natural” way for him to express his feelings.

Sammamish Heritage Society receives Spellman award HONORED IN SEATTLE FOR PRESERVING THE HISTORIC REARD HOUSE

The historic farm house once owned by Jacob and Emma Reard, vulnerable and in jeopardy along 212th Avenue, was close to gone. But a small group of vounteers, otherwise known as the Sammamish Heritage Society, protected it, moved it, and are now in

the process of renovating it.

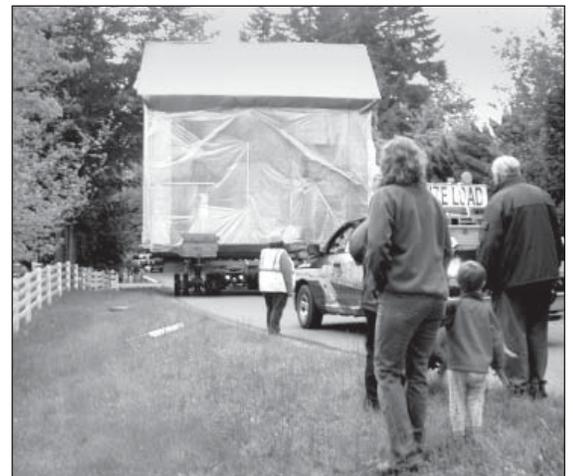
Recognizing their determined effort, King County Executive Dow Constantine recently presented the group with the John D. Spellman Award for Exemplary Achievement in Historic Preservation (Advocacy Category). More than 300 people were in attendance at the Museum of History and Industry when the award was presented to the Sammamish Heritage Society on April 23.

Through fundraising efforts and a vigorous pursuit of grant awards, the Sammamish group has raised over \$140,000 for restoration of the Reard house.

The old farmhouse is now comfortably settled in Big Rock Park, its permanent location in the geographical center of the city. For more information about the the Reard house and the Sammamish Heritage Society, go to www.sammamishheritage.org.



Reard house near original 212th Avenue location.



Historic home moves to Big Rock Park in June 2012.

It's Thursday – time to boogie!



In the summertime, on Thursday evenings, the place to be is Pine Lake Park!

The summer concerts at Pine Lake Park get underway on Thursday, July 11 and continue every Thursday until Aug. 29. The concerts are free and run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Here's this year's lineup:

*July 11
Mulligans Rock
(Classic Rock)*

*July 18
Creme Tangerine
(Beatles tribute)*

*July 25
Chance McKinney
(Modern country)*

*August 1
The Tropics!
(Classic rock)*

*August 8
Cherry Cherry
(Neil Diamond tribute)*

*August 15
Petty Fever
(Tom Petty tribute)*

*August 22
Sammammish Symphony
(Tall Ships)*

*August 29
North Country
(Bluegrass)*

Teen Fest!

Skate competition and Teen music festival



City Hall Plaza – Friday, June 14

Skate competition at 3:30 p.m. – Music starts at 6 p.m.

More information: 425-295-0585

CITY CALENDAR

JUNE

Saturday, June 1

-National Trails Day Volunteer Event,
10 a.m.-noon,
Evans Creek Preserve

Tuesday, June 4

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

Wednesday, June 5

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 6

-Public Safety Committee Meeting,
4-5 p.m.
-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 10

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

Tuesday, June 11

-Joint Meeting: City Council and
Parks & Rec Commission,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
-Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,
6 p.m.

Friday, June 14

-Teen Fest - Skate Competition and
Teen Music Festival,
3:30-9 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Saturday, June 15

-Sammamish Walks
"I Spy", 10 a.m.-noon
Beaver Lake Park

Monday, June 17

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

Tuesday, June 18

-Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.-noon
Lower Commons

Wednesday, June 19

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, June 20

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
-Community Garden Steering
Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

JULY

Tuesday, July 2

-Family Volunteer Event, 10 a.m.-noon
Lower Commons
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 4

-City offices closed
-Fourth on the Plateau, 6-10 p.m.

Friday, July 5

-Fifth of July Clean Up, 9 a.m.-noon

Monday, July 8

-East meets West through Art, Poetry
and Revolution, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
-City Council Office Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9

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

Wednesday, July 10

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
-Parks and Rec Commission
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 15

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

Tuesday, July 16

-Family Volunteer Event,
10 a.m.-noon
Lower Commons

Wednesday, July 17

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 18

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
-Community Garden Steering
Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 20

-Sammamish Walks,
10-11:30 a.m.
Big Rock Park

Wednesday, July 24

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
-Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31

-Sammamish Farmers Market,
3-8 p.m.
-IPAD Art Class,
5-6 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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Sammamish, WA 98075

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*John Curley
Councilmember*



*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*John James
Councilmember*



*Tom Vance
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Swimming Season!

Lifeguards will go on duty at Pine Lake Park on June 15.

Let's hit the beach!

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Wes Collins	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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