

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 129

CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013

ECA update to Council

PLANNING COMMISSION HANDS OFF VITAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS

After spending a year deep in the weeds, much of it devoted to balancing environmental science and property rights, the Planning Commission on Feb. 12 handed off its Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) Update recommendations to the City Council.

City Manager Ben Yazici praised the commission for delivering what the Council asked for – a set of recommendations informed by a thorough, inclusive and well-documented process.

“The commissioners handed off a very detailed and thoughtful product,” Yazici said. “The Council review will no doubt produce a change or two, but most of the heavy lifting has already been done.”

The Planning Commission held

See ECA, pg. 3



The Kroc Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

City, YMCA come to terms on Community Center agreement

After a lengthy and thoughtful collaboration, the city and the YMCA have devised an “operating and management” agreement that will put the Y in charge of running the city’s still-to-be-built Community and Aquatic Center.

The agreement clears the way for a year-long design process and the even-

tual construction of a facility that City Manager Ben Yazici thinks the community will be proud of.

“We’ve received public input on this the whole way,” Yazici said, “and that’s not going to stop. This facility is really going to reflect what our resi-

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MAYOR’S MESSAGE

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SAMMI AWARDS

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NEW SIDEWALKS

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When we ring doorbells, the people speak!

FRONT PORCH CONVERSATIONS DURING CAMPAIGN MADE IT CLEAR OUR COMMUNITY WAS VERY INTERESTED IN A COMMUNITY AND AQUATIC CENTER

During my campaign for the City Council three summers ago, approximately sixty percent of the people I spoke with mentioned the same issue – a strong need for a community center in Sammamish!

This came without any prompting on my part whatsoever and provided a clear indication of what our voters considered to be an important and unmet need for our city.



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

The city has done extensive research on what it takes to create and sustain a viable community center.

We visited many similar facilities in Washington and Colorado. City staff, the Parks Commission, and our consultant held a number of public meetings to gain community input. And surveys and focus groups were conducted to zero in on what people in our community viewed as important. All of this helped us narrow our focus and bring us to the launching point!

Late last year the advisory vote held in conjunction with the general election reconfirmed that a significant majority of the voters in this city wanted to proceed with the Community Center project.

I am very pleased to now be able to report that on Feb. 19 your City Council approved agreements with

the YMCA covering both the financial details and the operation and management of what will be known as the Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center!

This project will be a joint venture with the Y and is an excellent example of a public-private partnership that brings many benefits to Sammamish residents. The specifics of these agreements and the benefits for Sammamish residents are covered in detail beginning on page one of this newsletter.

The new Sammamish Commu-

“Our city is fortunate to be able to add the Community and Aquatic Center to the list of recreational opportunities our residents enjoy.”

nity and Aquatic Center will be located just to the west of and downhill from the new library. With City Hall next door, the new facility will become the third leg of our city's civic campus triad.

The project will include a new access road and a 300+ car parking facility that will ease currently crowded parking conditions for people headed to City Hall, the library, the skate park, the Farmer's Market and other city functions. It should also contribute to the future success

of our Town Center project.

In addition to the many benefits the Community Center will bring to our city and its residents, we also obtained a 50-year lease on the Y's approximately 7-acre property on 228th Avenue Southeast just south of Pine Lake Middle School.

Our lease, at a rate of \$1 per year, gives the city an option to purchase the property at any time at fair market value. For its part, the city will have five years to develop a plan for future recreational usage of this site. Some interesting ideas are under consideration – more to come on this!

The next step for the Community and Aquatic Center is a year of detailed design work that will commence shortly. That will be followed by about a year and a half of actual construction.

Our city is fortunate to be able to add the Community and Aquatic Center to the list of recreational opportunities our residents enjoy. And it's especially satisfying to know that the idea and the energy came from those very same residents.

I'm confident this will further enrich our city, strengthen property values, and make Sammamish an even more desirable place to live!



ECA, cont. from pg. 1

more than two dozen public meetings and took in over 400 written and verbal public comments during its year-long effort. And, as required by the state-mandated update process, their recommendations were also guided by the “best available science.”

“It’s not easy to wade through all that information and come up with regulations that satisfy our community’s concern for the environment and our residents’ desire to have fair use of their property,” Yazici said. “I applaud them for their discipline, hard work and fair-minded approach.”

After commencing their review this month, the Council will hold public hearings on the ECA in April and May. Approval is expected some time in June.

For more information, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the “Environmentally Critical Areas” tab on the left side of the home page. To sign up for email updates, click on the “email alerts” icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page.



AGREEMENT, cont. from pg. 1

dents say they’re interested in.”

Here are the basics:

- The city-owned building, to be named the “Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center,” will be leased to the Y at \$1 per year for 25 years.
- The facility will be built on city-owned land just west of the library and City Hall.
- The Y will manage the facility, provide recreational programs, and cover all operating expenses.
- If both parties agree, the lease may be extended to 50 years.
- The city will serve as the lead on both design and construction. The Y will have representatives on the design team.
- The recreational programs will be branded as “YMCA programs.”

Benefits for Sammamish Residents:

- For the first 18 months of operation, residents may join without paying the one-time joining fee (currently \$125).

- After 18 months, residents will receive a 75 percent discount on the one-time joining fee.
- Meeting space will be available at no charge for Sammamish-based community groups.
- Non-member residents will be eligible for free programs such as open houses, monthly senior socials and community swims.
- Exhibition space will be made available to the Sammamish Arts Commission and Sammamish Heritage Society.

Other facts:

- The city will contribute \$25 million and the Y \$5 million to construction.
- If the Y withdraws from the operating agreement within 10 years, the city will not have to reimburse the Y for its \$5 million contribution to construction.
- The city’s contribution will be drawn from a portion of its existing reserves.

- The Community and Aquatic Center will be approximately 60,000 square feet in size.
- If there is an operating revenue surplus, the funds will be used for repairs, equipment replacement costs, and/or jointly approved enhancements of the facility.
- Maintenance and repair costs for the parking facility, which will also be used by City Hall employees and visitors, will be borne by the city.

The city and the Y also reached a secondary agreement regarding a parcel of land near Pine Lake Middle School. The city will lease the YMCA-owned land at \$1 per year for 50 years.

As a condition of the lease, the city is obligated to come up with a plan for recreational use of the land within five years. The city will also have the right to purchase the land at fair market value at any time during the course of the lease.

12th Annual SAMMI Awards celebration

(www.sammiawards.org)

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 6 P.M.
EASTRIDGE CHURCH
24205 S.E. ISSAQUAH-FALL CITY ROAD

In four categories, the honorees are:

Circle of Service

Tom Kent-Dobias
Nicky Beedle
Mary Trask
Sally Rusk
Dave Sanford
Mahbubul Islam
Cyn Baumert
Zoe Vierling-Coulter
Jane Dulski
Sandy Marshall
Steve VanWambeck
Bruce Salmon
Daphne Robinson
Harry Shedd
Lynne Banki

Susan Evans
Chris Gentes

Community Spirit

Sarah Bundy
Tom Wage
Marla Zylstra
Karin House
Mayten (May) Gross
Larry Crandall
Bob Trask
Jill Loveland
Sally Bastine
Nolen Holcomb
David Hall

Courage

Kira Hanson
Jenean Hatlelid
Pam Austin (posthumous)

Youth Spirit

Prabha Dublish
Adithi Addepalli
Kelsey Nyce
Lauren Christian
Arjun Kumar
Amanda Levenson
Teddy Hung
Kaylee Hansen
Tinuola Dada
Jerome Siangco



(The SAMMI Awards were created in 2001 by a group of community volunteers. The goal was to honor residents who demonstrated community spirit by being of service to their fellow residents. Although the city has no direct or supervisory relationship with the SAMMI Awards, it has supplied modest financial support to the group since its inception.)

Step by step, sidewalks make Sammamish safer

If slow and steady wins the race, the pace of sidewalk construction in Sammamish should soon put the city on the victory stand. Just as one sidewalk is completed on Inglewood Hill Road, another is being designed for the section of 244th Avenue Southeast that passes near the Beaver Lake Park ball fields.

The new 244th Avenue project will stretch from Southeast 24th Street to Southeast 32nd street, a distance of about

half a mile. The improvements to the eastside of the road will include the sidewalk, a planter strip or rain garden between the sidewalk and the roadway, and a bike lane. There will also be a bike lane on the west side of the road. The construction budget: \$1.4 million

Since Sammamish first incorporated back in 1999, the city has added almost 11 miles of new sidewalk along its main roads and neighborhood streets.



The recently completed sidewalk along Inglewood Hill Road.



Pedestrians will soon have a sidewalk on this section of 244th Ave. S.E.

Gas, paint, solvents can be dangerous around the house

IF YOU MUST STORE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PLEASE DO SO PROPERLY

Keeping hazardous materials around the house is not a good idea, so you would be well advised to follow these rules of thumb:

- Buy only what you need
- Use what you've got
- Store leftovers away from the house

Despite that advice, fire departments across the country spend a lot of time responding to incidents generated by poorly stored kerosene, gasoline, paint, solvents and other dangerous materials.

Instead of storing such items in the garage, where accidental ignition could burn the whole house down and pose

an immediate threat to residents, it's recommended that they be placed in a well-marked detached shed or outbuilding.

Other useful guidelines that should be followed:

- Store combustible materials away from heaters or heating devices
- Keep flammable materials in approved containers
- Paint or apply a finish only in well-ventilated areas
- Never store gasoline in your garage or house
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions completely for han-

dling, storing and disposing of the product

- If you have a well on your property, store all gasoline and other hazardous materials far away and downslope from your well.

For more information on disposal of hazardous materials, go online to www.lhwmp.org/home/default.aspx. The website provides a list of dropoff locations around King County and the schedule for the "wastemobile." That wandering waste pickup vehicle will be coming to Eastlake High School on Aug. 9, 10 and 11.

“Sammamish Cares” program ready to help

ROTARY, KIWANIS, CITY, EASTSIDE FRIENDS OF SENIORS, AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE REPAIRS FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED

If someone you know is facing a simple, one-time repair job around the house, but they don't have the wherewithal, financially, physically or mentally, to get it done, it may be time to contact “Sammamish Cares,” a joint effort by the Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Eastside Friends of Seniors, Habitat for Humanity and the city designed to help out in just such cases.

Although the program doesn't handle ongoing maintenance or projects that exceed volunteer skill levels, it does help with yard work, simple



Before

repairs and other one-time challenges. More complex projects may be referred to Habitat for Humanity's “Brush with Kindness” program.

If you would like to arrange for some help, contact the city's volunteer coordinator, Dawn Sanders, at 425-295-0556 or dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us. She will forward the “application of need” to the Sammamish Cares Operations Committee for monthly review.



After

In some cases, homeowners will be asked to help with some of the project costs.

Prepare for poetry, music and skateboard art

THE ARTS COMMISSION BRINGS YOU A DIVERSE AND EXCITING APRIL

Shortly after the start of spring, the Arts Commission will enrich the season with a stimulating blend of artistry.

It begins on **April 1** when “**Jump on Board - A Skateboard!**” takes up residence in City Hall for a three-month run. This exhibit, a celebration of the art of the skateboard, will feature board designs, photography and memorabilia. The display is free and open to the public during normal business hours at City Hall.

On **April 2**, come listen to a poetry reading by **Washington State Poet Laureate Kathleen Flenniken** (www.kathleenflenniken.com/). This special event, which will also include a reading by Michael Dylan Welch (sites.google.com/site/graceguts/), the vice president of the Haiku Society of America, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Sammamish Library. Poets of all ages are also welcome to share their poems.

On **April 23**, it's time for a **Harmony Concert!** This annual event featuring **Simple Measures** begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Sammamish Presbyterian Church. Come see Seattle Symphony Concertmaster Alexander Velinzon and the duo of Krishnaswami-Salman. The performance will explore harmony through the centuries, culminating in Beethoven's “Archduke Trio.”

For more information, go to the city website calendar (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the appropriate date.



Poet Laureate Kathleen Flenniken

CITY CALENDAR

MARCH

Tuesday, Mar. 5

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 6

-Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

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

Thursday, Mar. 7

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 12

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

Monday, Mar. 18

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

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

Wednesday, Mar. 20

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 21

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

-Community Garden

Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 23

-Native Plant Salvage and Planting

at Illahee, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

-Planting at Illahee, 2-4 p.m.

APRIL

Tuesday, April 2

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

Donate Blood, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, April 15

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

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

Wednesday, April 17

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,

6 p.m.

Thursday, April 18

-Community Garden

Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.

-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 20

Earth Day, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lower Commons Community Garden

Tuesday, April 23

Simple Measures - "Harmony Concert"

7:30-9 p.m., Samm. Presbyterian Church

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.

Don't leave a sheen! Keep our waters clean!

That little drip under your car may not seem like much, but it's now one of our nation's biggest contributors to water pollution. That spot of oil, along with fertilizer run-off and leaking septic tanks, is a real problem for all of us.

Fortunately, if we all work together, the solution is in our hands. Here's what the experts suggest:

- Maintain your vehicle so it doesn't drip oil or other pollutants.
- Check for oil leaks fre-

quently and immediately fix the leak when necessary.

- Clean up spills immediately.
- Never put oil or other engine flu-



ids down the storm drain, on the ground or into a ditch.

- Recycle used motor oil. Many auto supply stores and gas stations will accept used oil.

Oil doesn't dissolve in water. It lasts a long time and sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers. Oil and other petroleum products are also toxic to humans, wildlife and plants. One pint of oil can make a slick larger than a football field.



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SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Tom Odell
Mayor*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Deputy Mayor*



*John Curley
Councilmember*



*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*John James
Councilmember*



*Tom Vance
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Plant salvage volunteers needed 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 23

(For more information, contact Dawn Sanders at
425-295-0566 or dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us)



Larry Miller (front, left), Martin Bobanan, Susan Adams, Denette Sinclair and Pauline Cantor salvage plants to be replanted elsewhere.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Ben Yazici	City Manager
Lyman Howard	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Guroi	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
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?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
425-295-0555
tlarson@ci.sammamish.wa.us**