

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 83

CITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

Shoreline update a top priority

PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH REDUCES INACCURATE INFORMATION

State law requires cities to periodically update their shoreline regulations. Murphy's law, it would seem, also requires cities to experience some heartburn along the way.

"Shoreline regulations can be complicated and confusing," Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol said. "It's not surprising that some rumors and misinformation occasionally creep into the conversation and get people upset."

Two examples: Some residents with waterfront homes erroneously came to believe that a kitchen remodel would require a shoreline permit. Others thought they wouldn't be able to mow their lawns near the shore.

"We've responded to that kind of misinformation by ramping up what was already a very robust public input process," Gurol said. "The dialogue tables, for example, were especially helpful."

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Farmers Market fun returns!

From strawberries to baby strollers, from doughnuts to live music, the broad spectrum of delights offered by the Sammamish Farmers Market will return to the City Hall plaza on May 20.

The market will benefit from some improvements in its second season, including the addition of "30-minute" parking spaces in front of City Hall to facilitate easier and faster access for residents on the go.

"We're going to make improve-

ments every year so we can build on the initial success we had last year," said the city's Dawn Sanders. "It's going to be fun."

The market, organized by the Chamber of Commerce, runs from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. In September, the market will close at 7 p.m. until the season wraps up at the end of that month.

Vendors who would like to take part should contact Deb Sogge at 425-681-4910 or deb@sammamishchamber.org.

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NEW PINE LAKE PARK
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I-90 DELAYS
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On time capsules and the city's 10th birthday

Sammamish is 10 years old in August and we plan to celebrate the first 10 years of incorporation with special events on Saturday, August 29, at City Hall. As warm ups to the birthday party, there are two contests for Sammamish residents born in 1999 and/or in 4th grade – an art contest and an essay contest, with entries to be submitted during the month of June.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

For those of you who don't fit the age requirement for these contests, but would still like to participate intellectually in our birthday celebration, we have some other exciting opportunities. We have a "Deci-Centennial" math contest on the city's website which you can download/print or fill out the answer sheet online.

There are two entry categories, age 17 and under, and adults. You must submit your answers to this qualifying test on or before May 20th, and there will be a proctored final exam for those who get the qualifying exam correct, at City Hall on June 3 at 5 p.m.

You can work on the qualifying exam as teams, but you must designate one person to take the final exam. The problems deal with issues involved in

the operation and evolution of the city. Most of the problems are straightforward, although the last one might involve some integral calculus. Winners will receive prizes and be listed on a document inserted in a time capsule.

That time capsule will be buried on August 29 at a site near the skateboard park, with instructions for it to be opened in 40 years, during the city's 50th birthday celebration. With about a cubic foot of space in the capsule, and with current technology, we have some flexibility as to how much information can be stored in it.

If you are a little rusty on your math, and you don't qualify for the art and essay contests, we are inviting all of you to submit your vision of Sammamish 40 years into the future. Let your imagination roam and tell us about future family life, schools, technology, society, government structure – your choice.

All essays will go into the "time capsule" (on a DVD and/or another storage device). Or, tell the future what you particularly like about Sammamish today or in days past. No reasonable length erudite essay will be rejected.

I have been making the rounds of the grade schools, talking to the kids about the city's birthday celebration plans. What really excites them is the notion of the time capsule. In particular,

they like the idea of sending a message to themselves 40 years into the future.

So, we are going to set up a video camera at a few of the Farmers' Markets (the markets start May 20 and are on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sammamish Commons). You can come by and record a video message, by yourself or with your family or friends, and we will put the video file in the time capsule.

Check the city's website, www.ci.sammamish.wa.us, and next month's newsletter for more details about the city's birthday plans, and be sure to participate in the options mentioned above.

On a historical note, the first container designated as a "time capsule" was apparently stored in conjunction with the 1939 New York World's Fair, with instructions to open it in 5,000 years. It was decided that this would be perhaps too long a time for the Sammamish time capsule, and 15 years (for our 25th birthday) was too short, so a compromise of 40 years was selected.

Thinking optimistically, I look forward to opening up that capsule in 2049 and reviewing everything you came up with. It should be fun!



The 10th birthday: Volunteer, sponsor or participate!

The city is offering several ways for people to join in the Aug. 29 celebration of Sammamish's 10th Anniversary. In addition to participating in the art, essay and math contests, residents can also volunteer to help out with the event, or even provide sponsorship support.

To get acquainted with the event, please go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the 10th Anniversary logo at the top of the home page. For addition-

al information on sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please contact the city's Dawn Sanders at 425-295-0556 or dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

The city also needs help from residents in the creation of a 10-year timeline for the city. If you have picture, a news article, or even a leaf that fell off a tree during the past ten years, the website is the place to go for more information. Most important, be there on Aug. 29 to join in the fun!

New dock, beach at Pine Lake Park

With temperatures warming, last month's opening of a newly renovated shoreline at Pine Lake Park is a clear sign that summer is on its way.

"If you ask me, I think the new dock and beach area look great," said Parks Director Jessi Richardson. "It's very satisfying to make this beautiful park even better. It's going to be a great swimming season for our residents."

Along with a new Y-shaped dock, the latest improvements include a pebble beach, picnic terrace, more seating, wooden fencing and a variety of shoreline restoration measures.

Due to state environmental regulations, the city was not allowed to replenish what used to be a sand beach. Richardson says the sand migrates to the bottom of the lake, builds sediment, and damages water quality.

"A pebble beach was the best alternative," she said. "Right now, you can't see much of it, but as the water level drops over the summer, the beach will



Throwing pebbles at newly renovated Pine Lake Park.

get a lot bigger."

In an effort to preserve the trees along the shore, the city installed root protection zones. These zones feature native vegetation at the base of the tree, along with natural logs and boulders that provide a planting border and double as waterfront seating.

"Residents have made it clear how important these beautiful tall trees are

to the character of the park," Richardson said. "I think this shows that it's possible to improve a park and enhance the environment at the same time."

The new improvements carried a price tag of \$1.5 million. Previous improvements included, among other things, a renovated baseball field, a new basketball court, climbing walls, picnic shelters and a new parking lot.

UPDATE, cont. from pg. 1

Those tables, which were set up on March 31 and April 20, allowed residents to have back and forth conversations with staff members, consultants and neighbors on a variety of topics, and to suggest alternative approaches for the shoreline update.

The city's update, which focuses on buffers, dock lengths, impervious surface requirements, lot dimensions and public access, among other things, will

have to be approved by the state's Department of Ecology.

"The city needs to balance the interests of lakeside residents, the health of our lakes, and the state's requirements," Gurol said. "That's a process that benefits from good communication in all directions."

Before the Shoreline Master Program Update (the update's official name) is approved this summer, there will be more chances for residents to speak their piece.

"Staff are compiling all the input from the two dialogue table sessions now," Gurol said, "and the council will re-open the public hearing on June 2. People have been taking full advantage of the city's public input opportunities to share their perspectives."

For more information, go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx, or contact Project Manager Maren Van Nostrand (425-295-0538, mvannosstrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

Camden Park joins Sammamish



Camden Park

Attracted by the prospect of lower taxes and more accessible services, the residents of Camden Park officially became part of Sammamish on April 14. This first annexation of an established neighborhood into Sammamish capped a relatively speedy process that lasted just over seven months.

“We’re very happy to have them inside our city limits,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We look forward to their vigorous participation in all dimensions of our city life.”

The annexed area, comprised of Camden Park, the Trails at Camden Park, Camden Park Estates, Devereaux, and other associated areas to the north, is located just east of 244th Avenue near the intersection with Northeast 22nd Street. The new 113-acre addition to the city is home to nearly 350 people.

Being inside the city will save the new residents a substantial amount in tax payments – between

\$600 and \$800 on a \$600,000 home.

“Along with lower taxes, I think the residents like the idea of being able to come into a nearby City Hall to do business, to be part of our community, and even to run for City Council some day,” Yazici said. “We look forward to this new influx of energy and ideas.”

This won’t be the last annexation; the Aldarra/Montaine neighborhood along Duthie Hill Road and the Rosemont neighborhood north of Timberline have also initiated their own annexation efforts.

Drop off old prescription drugs



Old pill bottles are easy to dispose of.

If you have old prescription medication you want to get rid of, a new disposal bin at City Hall is ready to gobble them up and keep them out of the hands of youngsters.

“Sometimes young family members and others will take pain pills and other medications not prescribed to them,” Sgt. Robert Baxter said. “This is a safe spot to drop them off.”

The bin is located just inside the front doors of City Hall. No needles or other “sharps” are allowed, Baxter says, adding that unused vitamins should be disposed of at a pharmacy.

The bin is available during regular City Hall hours – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City hiring new police chief

After three years of service in Sammamish, Police Chief Brad Thompson put in a request for transfer to Precinct Three in Maple Valley, a move that will shorten his commute and give him more time with his family.

“We wish Brad the best,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “He has been both very personable and professional during his time here.”

The city, which contracts with the King County Sheriff’s Department for police services, interviewed replacement candidates on May 6. A new chief is expected to be in place shortly.

Parkway project worker struck by vehicle

ACCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR CAUTION IN CONSTRUCTION ZONE

Following an injury accident last month, the city is asking drivers to be especially cautious as they navigate the new road construction zone along the East Lake Sammamish Parkway. The project, which will reconfigure the intersection at Inglewood Hill Road and extend improvements about four-tenths of a mile to the north, periodically reduces driving room to a bare minimum.

“One of the workers was hit by a vehicle last month at the Inglewood Hill Road intersection,” Project Manager Jeff Brauns said. “He was treated and released, but the accident really made it clear that drivers need to move slowly and carefully through the work zone.”

Although the contract conditions require one traffic lane to remain open, Brauns strongly encourages people to take alternative routes like 228th Avenue and Sahalee Way. That’s especially true for bicycles, which due to the construction no longer have a road shoulder to ride on. For construction zone driving safety tips, go to wsdot.wa.gov/safety/brake/.



Tight driving conditions in the Parkway construction zone.

City accepts \$3.5 million in federal stimulus money

Thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, some of the tax dollars local residents have sent to Washington, DC, are returning to Sammamish.

On April 7, the City Council voted to accept \$3.5 million in federal stimulus money. The money was granted on the condition that it be spent on Phase 1B of the East Lake Sammamish Parkway Project.

“The stimulus money had to go to a project that was already designed and ready for construction,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Fortunately, our next phase of the Parkway Project met those requirements.”

Phase 1A of the parkway project, which will make improvements to the Inglewood Hill Road Intersection and north to Northeast 18th Place, is already underway. The schedule for Phase 1B, which will extend the improvements approximately a quarter mile to the north, has not been set.

Big delays for I-90 drivers

Repairs to the I-90 floating bridge in May and July will create significant traffic slowdowns for drivers trying to get across Lake Washington. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is encouraging people to reduce the traffic jams by leaving early for work, carpooling, riding a bike, working from home or taking a vacation.

The roadwork, which will replace aging expansion joints on the bridge, will happen in two phases. The first phase, from May 4 to May 23, will close down the center roadway. The second, from July 5 to July 28, will close down the westbound lanes.

The I-90 bridge opened to traffic in 1989. For more information on the repairs, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov and search for “I-90 Bridge.” The total funding for the project available from all sources: \$8.33 million.

Teenfest needs volunteers

If you're over 21 years of age, can pass a police background check, and get along well with teenagers, you will be in high demand at City Hall plaza on June 19. That's when the city's second annual Teenfest comes alive, and that's when volunteers are needed to help with parking, bag checking and a variety of other important functions.

The Teenfest, which runs from mid-day to 10 p.m., will



Blue Scholars perform at Teenfest 2008.

feature, among other things, a skateboard competition, live music, and a mix of fun and games perfectly suited to teenagers. The event, which the city co-sponsors with the Boys and Girls Club, drew a big crowd in 2008.

If you would like to help out, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders at 425-295-0556 or dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Fourth on the Plateau!

CITY WELCOMING VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS FOR THE BIG EVENT

While it may only be spring, the city is looking forward to this summer's huge event – the Fourth on the Plateau. Last year, an estimated 12- to 15-thousand residents came to Sammamish Commons to watch the fireworks and enjoy live music, great food, and the friendship of their many neighbors.

One of the key ingredients in making this the biggest annual event in the city is the participation of volunteers, vendors and community-minded sponsors. If you would like to be part of this celebration, please go to the event webpage (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/4thJuly.aspx) and

find out how you can be part of this signature event in the city of Sammamish.

Beaver Lake Park meeting

Residents will have another chance to weigh in on potential improvements to Beaver Lake Park early next month. As part of the city's Model Master Plan Process, Public Meeting #2 is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Beaver Lake Lodge. The primary focus of the meeting will be a review of Master Plan alternatives.

For more information on the planning process, residents can go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/beaverlake.aspx. They may also contact Project Manager Anjali Myer (amyer@ci.sammamish.wa.us, 425-295-0581) if they have additional questions.

Although incremental improvements have been made to the park in recent years, the master planning process aims to map out a more comprehensive approach based on plentiful public input.

Volunteers clean up parks

Celebrating Earth Day, almost 150 volunteers spread throughout the city's parks and trails on April 18 to plant, remove weeds and pick up branches.



Families go to work at Pine Lake Park.

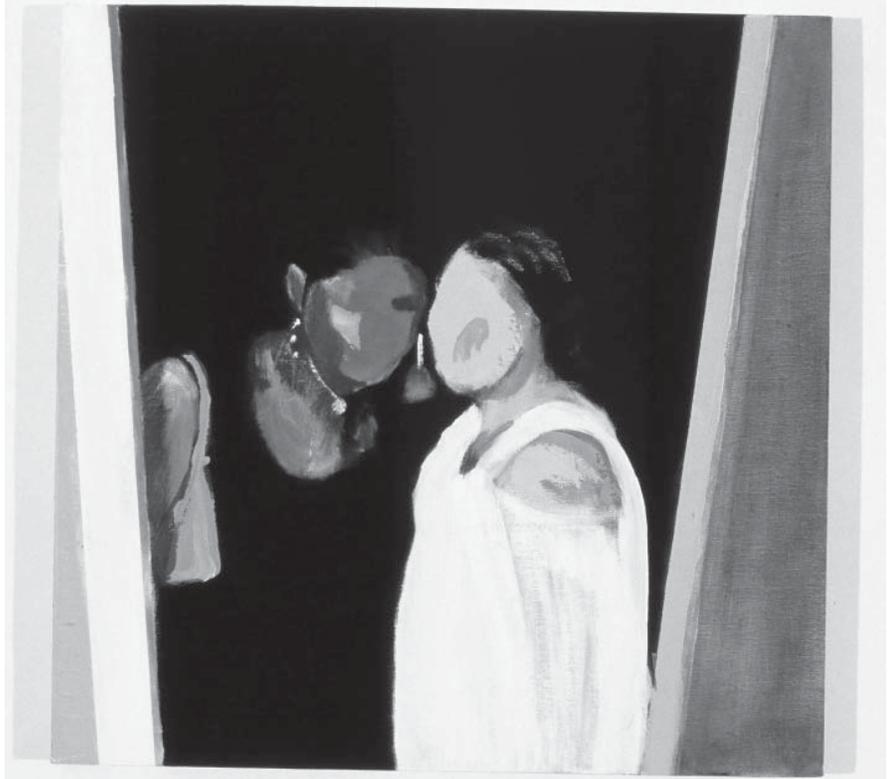
The effort was sponsored by PCC Natural Markets, the Columbia Athletic Club at Pine Lake, and the Sammamish Reporter newspaper. Much of the volunteer work focused on Pine Lake Park, Llama Landing and the Ilahee trail.

City Hall art exhibit opens on May 19

The Sammamish Arts Commission will host a reception later this month to mark the opening of Seattle artist Anne Moon's exhibit at City Hall.

The reception, scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 6-8 p.m., will introduce a two-part exhibit. In the City Hall main lobby, the title of Moon's display is "Family," a collection of images of her own relatives. On the second floor mezzanine, Moon's "East of the Mountains" display focuses on the muted tones of spare and largely uninhabited landscapes.

The public is invited to attend the opening reception, which is free, and to view the art during City Hall's regular business hours – Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Joy and Nilda, 2005 – 24" x 24" Oil on canvas – By Anne Moon

CITY CALENDAR

MAY

Tuesday, May 5

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 7

Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, May 12

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

Wednesday, May 13

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

Monday, May 18

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, May 19

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Art Reception, 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 21

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

JUNE

Tuesday, June 2

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 3

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Beaver Lake Master Plan Public Meeting #2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Beaver Lake Lodge

Thursday, June 4

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 9

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

Wednesday, June 10

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

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

Thursday, June 11

Planning Commission Mtg, 6 p.m.

Monday, June 15

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

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Samm. Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 18

Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, June 19

Teen Event, 12-9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

PLEASE NOTE:

All meetings are at City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Don Gerend
Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Deputy Mayor*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*



Top Ten Favorite Thing about Sammamish...

1. Parks
2. Small Town Feel
3. Views
4. Trees
5. People
6. Lakes
7. Neighborhood
8. Low Crime Rate
9. Sports
10. Family Friendly

Go to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us to participate in this month's survey:
"What is your favorite thing about Sammamish?"

Save the Date to Celebrate August 29th All Day & Night Event

Festivities include:

Time Capsule
Art, Essay, Math Contests
Live Entertainment
Kids Activities
Sammamish Timeline
And, of course....Cake!

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Pete Butkus	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Gurol	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Lyman Howard	Finance Dir/Asst City Mgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Robert Baxter	Acting Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
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