

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 125

CITY NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2012

## City boards and Commissions!

IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

If it's ever crossed your mind that you should serve the community by joining one of the city's boards and commissions, now is the time to turn that idle thought into concrete action.

There are vacancies on the Planning, Parks and Arts commissions and the Beaver Lake Management District Advisory Board – and they're all calling your name!

The deadline for submitting an application is Dec. 28. For details, please contact City Clerk Melonie Anderson at 425-295-0511 or [manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

"The people who serve on these commission and boards provide an invaluable service to our community," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "They bring expertise and energy from all walks of life, and really broaden the city's intellectual resources."

There are a total of nine vacancies that will need to be filled next year.

See *COMMISSIONS*, pg. 3



*Deputy Derek Deziel (left) and Major Jerrell Wills walk through Sammamish Station.*

## King County Sheriff's Office settles into Sammamish Station

If there was a dictionary definition for win-win, you might find a picture of Sammamish Station, a King County Sheriff's Office quietly humming away on the second floor of City Hall.

The Sheriff's Office is saving money by consolidating a lot of its East King County work in one place, and

the city is making money by leasing out spare space.

"We're delighted to have them with us," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It's a partnership that works well for both sides."

*STATION, cont. on pg. 3*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

*Page 2*

**READY FOR WINTER?**

*Story on page 4*

**CODE COMPLIANCE**

*Story on page 5*

## Budgeting your city

Your City Council and administration have had a lot on their plate of late. Despite this, we have not lost sight of the fact that under Washington law the city must go through a complete budgeting process.



Tom Odell  
Mayor

In our case, it's a two-year budget with mid-term adjustments that are nearly as time-consuming as the primary budget.

We are almost through the process of finalizing the city budget for the 2013 – 2014 period, a process that began last April and which will end – assuming all goes well – in mid-November.

It all begins with a financial forecast of projected revenues for the coming biennium, a review of capital improvement projects, and a detailed review of each of the city's operating departments by the city manager with the department heads. The revenue forecast is continually updated as we go along.

Over the summer City Council members individually consult with the city manager regarding their individual views on budget needs and prioritization issues. At the same time, major capital expenditure programs like parks and roads are being reviewed and refined. The impact of these programs on the operating budget is then cranked into that budget.

In September the Council and city staff began going through the budget department by department. This process continues over a number of Council meetings between Sep-

tember and mid-November.

Having previously been the financial comptroller for a very large operating division of a major US airline, I found the process quite similar save for the fact that it was a biennial budget, and that the process took longer, a function of our need to conduct this review in public with a limited number of meeting opportunities.

This will continue yet for several more meetings and, if all goes well, will conclude around Thanksgiving.

On the general fund side, where the city accounts for the majority of its public services (e.g. Police, Fire, Parks, Administration), our expenses for the biennium now look like they will come

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*“Where does our money go? Our biggest expense item is public safety. Police services will be \$10.5 million and fire protection will be \$12.3 million for the two-year period.”*

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in at approximately \$69.2 million compared with the \$68.17 million we have budgeted for the 2011-12 period. This represents an overall increase of slightly over 1.5%. Please remember – the numbers are for TWO years!

Where does our money go? Our biggest expense item is public safety. Police services will be \$10.5 million and fire protection will be \$12.3 million for the two-year period. That's a combined total of almost \$22.9 million, or 33% of our total general fund budget. Parks and recreation at \$6.87 million is third,

followed by community development in fourth place at \$5.8 million.

Unlike most cities in the country, we will continue to invest heavily in maintaining our road structure with \$3 million spent annually on our streets overlay program. (This money comes from a separate street fund, not the general fund.) Fortunately, with a very favorable bidding environment we have now been able to stretch this program even further than might otherwise be the case. A few years ago we were only investing \$500,000 and were falling seriously behind as roads deteriorated faster than we could fix them.

On the revenue side, we are projecting total general fund revenues of approximately \$60.6 million from all sources. Property tax revenues – which will not be raised this year for a fourth year in a row – are projected at slightly over \$43.85 million. If we were to increase taxes by 1% it would only net the city some \$440,000. Again, this is a two-year number.

The difference between the total revenue and the property tax numbers is made up of revenue from various sources such as licenses and permits (\$3.26 million), liquor profits and license fees (\$884,000), city charges for goods and services (\$3.545 million), and other miscellaneous items.

The difference between the \$69.2 million in expenses for 2013-14 and revenues of \$60.6 million is \$8.6 million. This will come out of the city's reserves that have accumulated over time through a combination of conservative budgeting, a strong local economy compared to other cities, and prudent management of city funds.

# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## *STATION, cont. from pg. 1*

It's also a model for the kind of cooperation and sharing of resources that King County is pursuing in many settings.

(Awaiting quote from Executive Constantine)

Operating out of Sammamish Station, Major Jerrell Wills oversees all of unincorporated King County and supervises the contract cities in East King County. Sammamish is one of those cities, contracting with the Sheriff's Office for police services. Although they are King County deputies underneath their Sammamish uniforms, the city's police officers operate out of City Hall (in a totally different space on the first floor) and are led by Police Chief Nathan Elledge.

"Now that we have both in City Hall, and both are driving our streets, our law enforcement presence has become more visible," Yazici said. "Even though the deputies aren't



*Evidence Technician Larry Jones in Sammamish Station.*



*Sheriff's Office vehicles park behind City Hall.*

patrolling our neighborhoods, it's nice to have them around."

Although modern-era deputies use computer-equipped vehicles as their offices these days, about a dozen King County uniforms come into Sammamish Station every day. Along with administrative duties, the upstairs office has consolidated much of the investigative and evidence analysis work for all of East King County. Major Wills says it's working well.

"Sharing space makes sense" Wills said. "Eventually, we may want to use this model and do something similar down south in the Maple Valley and Covington area."

As part of a 30-year agreement, Sammamish receives an annual lease payment of \$104,000 for the 5,200-square-foot space. Both the city and the tenant have the right to terminate the agreement at the end of each 10-year period.

## *COMMISSIONS, cont. from pg. 1*

Here is a brief description of duties:

- Arts Commission – Members encourage, sponsor and conduct art programs. They meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (Go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Group.aspx?ID=3](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Group.aspx?ID=3) for more information.)
- Planning Commission – Members advise the City Council on land use, regulations and the comprehensive plan, among other things. (Go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Group.aspx?ID=5](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Group.aspx?ID=5) for more information.)
- Parks and Rec Commission – Members advise the City Council on planning, land acquisition, and programming for the Parks and Rec Dept. (Go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Group.aspx?ID=4](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Group.aspx?ID=4) for more information.)
- Beaver Lake Management District Advisory Board – Members monitor the water quality of Beaver Lake.

To qualify for this board, applicants must be residents of the Beaver Lake Management District. (Go to [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/projects/BLMD.aspx](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/projects/BLMD.aspx) for more information.)

All commission and board meetings are open to the public and are held at Sammamish City Hall. All positions will begin on Feb. 1. Most of the positions are for four years. In addition to the meetings, there are other duties associated with these positions.

## Are you ready for this winter's storms?

Once the snow is hubcap deep, it's a little late to prepare for that first winter storm. So, you may want to get started right now by brushing up on those winter driving skills and buying necessary tools and supplies.

For a nice summary of winter transportation tips, and an updated snow route map, visit the city's Winter Preparedness webpage at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/winter](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/winter).

But here are the basics:

- Identify the best snow route home with the fewest hills.
- Familiarize yourself with school, daycare and employer snow policies.
- Use transit when possible.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and flashlight at home in case the power fails.
- Sign up for Traffic Alerts: Visit the city's homepage

and click on "Email Alert Sign Up."

- Sign up for King County Metro's Rider Alerts: <http://metro.king-county.gov/signup/>
- Make sure your car and tires are in good condition.
- Keep your gas tank at least 3/4 full.
- Store blankets, a bag of sand (or cat litter), shovel, window scraper,

flares, and warm clothes in the trunk.

- Make sure you have the right sized tire chains in your vehicle — and learn how to put them on!

- Drive only if necessary!
- City crews' highest priority is to keep the arterials clear. Once the primary arterials are clear and stable, resources will move on to the secondary arterials, collectors, and then lastly to the residential streets.

- If you must abandon your vehicle, pull as far off the road as possible. Abandoned vehicles make the job of clearing snow and ice from roads nearly impossible and can create problems for other motorists

Other useful websites:

- [www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter)
- [www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm)
- [www.bellevuewa.gov/snow-ice.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/snow-ice.htm)



*A winter storm scene along Inglewood Hill Road.*

## Month of Concern food drive collects 22,868 pounds!

After Sammamish wrapped up a month-long food drive on Oct. 13, the results were impressive: 22,868 pounds of food were headed for local food banks thanks to the generosity of city residents.

The city's effort was part of the Eastside Mayors Month of Concern initiative. Mary Trask, the ARAS Community Service Director who helped with the community's effort gave credit to a long list of contributors:

- Safeway, and the QFCs at



Pine Lake and Klahanie.

- TLC Academy, Lucky Jack's Latte, and Plateau Wellness.
- LDS Issaquah wards 2, 3 and 6, guided by Steve and Julie Oliver.
- Eastlake High School cheerleaders and Rachel Carson Elementary.
- City employees led by Melonie Anderson, Dawn Sanders and Sammamish wMayor Tom Odell.
- All city volunteers.

## Common complaints keep code compliance busy

### CITY STAFFERS HOPE MORE INFORMATION WILL REDUCE VIOLATIONS

When a code compliance officer for the city of Sammamish ventures out to the site of a complaint, they are likely to find a violation that fits into one of three major categories. Given that, city Building Official Kurt Aldworth, the supervisor of code compliance efforts, thought it might make sense to publicize the categories so residents could better police their own actions.

“When people have a good understanding of the rules, they’re less likely to make a mistake,” Aldworth said. “And since most of our violations fall into just three groups, we thought we should put out the word.”

In rough terms, the three violation categories are:

- **Tree removal without a permit** – A permit is required for an evergreen tree with a diameter of 8 inches or more at chest



*A complaint led code compliance staff to this junked vehicle.*

height. Deciduous trees with a chest-high diameter of 12 inches or more also requires a permit.

- **Improperly placed signs** – No signs of any kind are allowed in median strips or roundabouts. A-board signs are allowed along the side of roads, but only if they’re promoting a community event, and only during certain

hours of the day. Signs for marshal arts classes, baseball signups, etc., are not allowed.

- **Nuisance** – This category covers a lot of territory. Violations include junked vehicles, trash and clutter in a yard, fire hazards, and conditions that encourage the presence of rats and other vermin.

If you have questions about the details of code compliance in these and other categories, call City Hall at 425-295-0500 and ask for the code compliance officer on duty.

## Volunteer event update:

As always, volunteer opportunities are plentiful in Sammamish. Here are three events scheduled for November:

**Fight invasive plants at Illahee Trail**  
Northeast Eighth and 235th Place N.E.  
9 a.m. to noon, Nov. 10

**Girl Scouts discuss ways to earn their Silver and Gold Awards with city and non-profits**  
4 p.m., Nov. 14, at City Hall

**Salvage native plants for relocation to city parks**  
9 a.m. to noon, Nov. 17, location tba

Register online at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) by clicking on the event date in the calendar (lower left on home page).

## 2000 visitors at Arts Fair!

The Sammamish Arts Fair, now in its sixth year, drew enthusiastic crowds to City Hall and the adjacent library on Oct. 13 and 14. The two-day weekend event drew approximately 2,000 visitors to a broad array of artistic displays and an opportunity to interact with some of the most accomplished artists in the region.

The juried arts fair, staged by the selected artists, dedicated volunteers and the Sammamish Arts Commission, featured paintings, jewelry, mixed media, encaustic art, glass arts, ceramics, woodcarving, photography and textile art.

As always, admission was free. The arts fair was sponsored by the city of Sammamish, the Arts Commission and King County’s 4Culture program.

## Police are on the lookout for Toys for Tots DONATIONS WELCOME AT CITY HALL THROUGH DECEMBER 14

Around City Hall, one of the highlights of the holiday seasons is the annual accumulation of “Toys for Tots.” The gifts, donated by generous residents every year are distributed to needy children after the city hands them over to the U. S. Marine Corps. This year, the program is a joint venture of the Sammamish Police Department and the King County Sheriff’s Office.

King County Deputy Amy Jarboe heads up the effort, continuing her volunteer work despite the fact that she was transferred from the Sammamish Police Department to duties outside the city a while back.

“This became so meaningful to me, I just wanted to continue,” Jarboe said. “I’m still very close to the Sammamish community and really enjoy helping out the kids.”

There are two donation bins inside City Hall, one just inside the front door by the police department, and one up the stairs outside of the King County Sheriff’s Office Sammamish Station. Donations are now being taken and will continue to be accepted through the end of business on Dec. 14.



*Deputy Amy Jarboe and Police Chief Nate Elledge with 2011 toys.*

## Come to Holiday Lighting Event at City Hall! THIS YEAR’S CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28

Sponsored by the Sammamish Youth Board and The Friends of the Sammamish Library, this year’s “Holiday Lighting Event” will once again cast a positive glow in and around City Hall.

This annual event, featuring a variety of holiday delights, is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 28, between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Among other things, the event will feature performances by local choral groups, cookie decorating

for kids, reindeer fire truck tours and refreshments.



There will also be a 38,000-pound “Recycle Truck,” decorated for the season and chalk full of gift wrapping and decorating tips that will let you keep your holiday as green as possible.

Plus, if you’d like to prolong the holiday mood, go next door to the library at 7 p.m. for “The Noisiest Toy,” a presentation suitable for kids 5 years of age and older.

For more information, contact Lynne Hanlos at 425-295-0584 or [lhandlos@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:lhandlos@ci.sammamish.wa.us).

# CITY CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

*Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012*  
City Council Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Nov. 7*  
City Council Council  
Office Hour,  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation  
Commission Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

*Thursday, Nov. 8*  
Planning Commission Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, Nov. 10*  
Volunteer Event at Illahee Trail,  
NE 8th and 235th PL NE  
9 a.m.- noon

*Monday, Nov. 12*  
Veterans Day  
City offices closed

*Tuesday, Nov. 13*  
City Council Study Session,  
6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Nov. 14*  
Gold and Silver  
Award Opportunities,  
4-5 p.m.

Sammamish Youth Board  
Meeting, 6 p.m.

*Thursday, Nov. 15*  
Planning Commission Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, Nov. 17*  
Native Plant Salvage  
and Planting,  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
TBD/Lower Commons

*Monday, Nov. 19*  
Finance Committee Meeting,  
5:30-6:15 p.m.

City Council Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

*Thursday, Nov. 22*  
Friday, Nov. 23  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
City offices closed

*Wednesday, Nov. 28*  
City Holiday Lighting  
Ceremony, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER

*Tuesday, Dec. 4*  
City Council Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

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

Parks and Recreation  
Commission Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

*Thursday, Dec. 6*  
Planning Commission Meeting,  
6 p.m.

*Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012*  
City Council Study Session,  
6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Dec. 12*  
Sammamish Youth Board  
Meeting, 6 p.m.

*Thursday, Dec. 13*  
Planning Commission  
Meeting, 6 p.m.

*Monday, Dec. 17*  
City Council Meeting,  
6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Dec. 19*  
City of Sammamish Blood Drive,  
City Hall  
10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, Dec. 25*  
Christmas Holiday  
City offices closed

### 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 Odell  
Mayor*



*John James  
Deputy Mayor*



*John Curley  
Councilmember*



*Don Gerend  
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama  
Councilmember*



*Tom Vance  
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten  
Councilmember*

# Maintain your drain!

Got a storm drain near your property? How about helping your community by maintaining it! Here is what you need to do:

- Check the grates frequently to make sure they are free of leaves and other debris.
- Do not remove the grate from the storm drain opening. This will not unclog the system but does create a hazard.
- Rake leaves away from storm drains near your house or business so they don't get washed into the drain.
- Do not rake or blow leaves from your property into the street.
  - Dispose of your leaves in your yard waste container or compost bin.

There are over 5,000 storm drains in Sammamish. With your assistance we can keep streets safe, clear and reduce flooding!

## 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 Richardson	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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