

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 76

CITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

Bond “facts” are city responsibility

ONLINE VIDEO AND NEWSLETTER FACT SHEET PROVIDE BASIC INFO ON NOVEMBER 4 BALLOT MEASURES

In addition to choosing a president, Sammamish voters on Nov. 4 will also approve or reject two park bond measures. To help residents make a well-informed choice, the city has provided factual information on the measures in several ways.

The latest source for information is an online park bond video available on the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us). The video will pop up if you click on the blue “Park Bond Video” button in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page.

Like all other city communications on the bond measures, the video provides only factual and neutral informa-

See BOND, Page 3



With the new land transfer, Sammamish will have 3,000 feet of shoreline to work with.

Thanks, Redmond!!!

TRANSFER WILL EXPAND CITY-OWNED SHORELINE

Three parcels of Sammamish land owned by the city of Redmond are about to come home and become part of Sammamish Landing, a proposed park along the northern shore of Lake Sammamish.

Thanks to the Redmond City Council's approval of the transfer last month, the 2.36 acres will add to a collection of city and county-owned land

Sammamish hopes to turn into a 3,000-foot-long recreational park along the water.

“The Redmond City Council and Mayor John Marchione have been extremely generous to our residents,” Sammamish City Manager Ben Yazici said. “It shows how beneficial it is when

See SHORELINE, pg. 2

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Page 2

SHORELINE UPDATE

Story on page 4

NEW LID ORDINANCE

Story on page 5

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



*Lee Felling
Mayor*

There are so many elements that make a city a great place to live. It's an important challenge for your City Council and staff to do all of them well and cost effectively.

One of the elements that I think is important to most of us is sustainability, or maintaining and improving the beautiful environment in which we live.

In that light, here are a few things we have underway or have completed. A low-impact development (LID) ordinance was adopted on Sept. 16. Basin plans for George Davis Creek, Pine Lake, and Ebright Creek are completed or in process. Wildlife corridors are being implemented. The City Hall earned the coveted LEED Silver certificate for green design and operation. A bike and pedestrian plan guides new trail

development. A tree ordinance was adopted to retain significant trees for environmental and aesthetic values.

Selected city permits can now be obtained on line to save driving trips and time. Coordination efforts with Metro and Sound Transit are underway to improve transit services and choices.

There is ongoing cooperation with regional partners to monitor Lake Sammamish as part of salmon recovery efforts. Storm water management design manuals are being updated and will be used for future capital projects. The Shoreline Master Program is being updated to accommodate state guidelines and local input.

Work is underway on a transfer of development rights program that will help us meet state growth requirements while moving development from environmentally sensitive areas to more appropriate locations.

We are selective in what we do.

Just because a program is labeled environmental doesn't mean that it makes sense. For example, we, along with Bellevue and many cities in the state, are engaged in a legal challenge to some state pollution discharge permit requirements because they do not produce enough benefits to justify the cost.

For the future we are looking at strategies to limit energy usage and carbon generation for city facilities and vehicles and to encourage reuse and recycling. We will look at partnership opportunities to help us guide sustainability efforts in the most cost-effective manner.

The real test, of course, will be when the next generation looks back to judge how well we preserved their environmental inheritance in Sammamish. I want them to say we did well.

Lee Felling

SHORELINE, cont. from pg. 1

our council and our staff work in a cooperative way with surrounding jurisdictions."

Sammamish Landing is now going through its master planning process, but funding depends on a bond package residents will approve or reject on election day, Nov. 4.

If it's built, the park is expected to feature docks, canoe pullouts, and swimming and picnic facilities, among other things. If the city is unable to develop the land within 10 years, the transfer agreement calls for Sammamish to give the land back to Redmond.

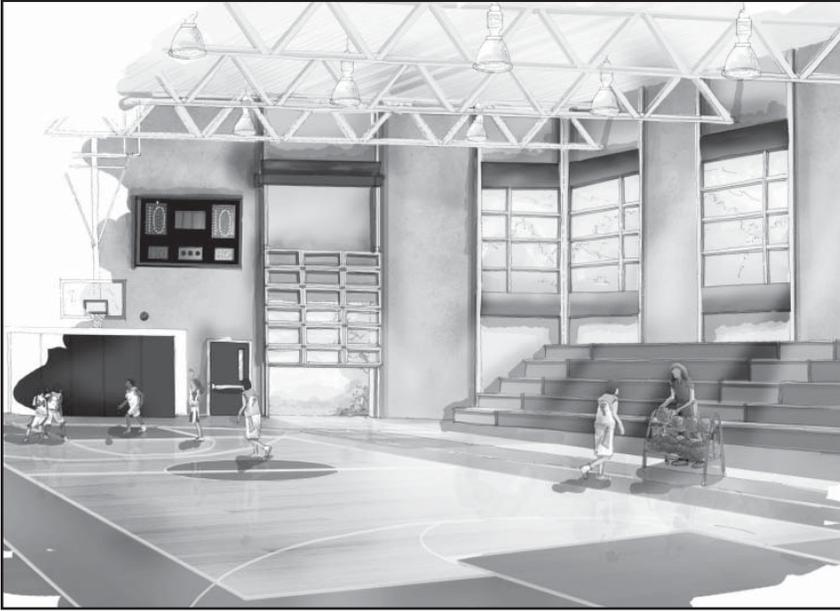
As part of the master planning process, residents have already attended one public meeting. Additional opportunities to ask questions and provide input are listed below:

- Meeting #2 – Nov. 19, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Meeting #3 – Feb. 4, 2009, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

All meetings will be at City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.



Artist's rendering of proposed Sammamish Landing park.



Recreation center for youth, teens, and seniors.



Beaver Lake vicinity trail.

BOND, cont. from pg. 1

tion. By law, the city is not allowed to advocate for or against the bond measures.

Residents also received a ballot measure “fact sheet” inside the city’s September newsletter. That fact sheet, and other general information about the park bond and park levy, is presented on the city website as well.

“The city’s role is to provide facts on the two propositions,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “By law, we leave the campaigning to others.”

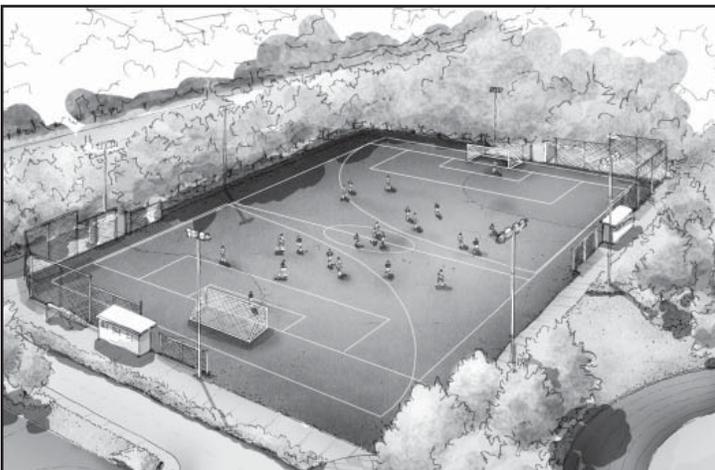
Proposition 1 is a \$19 million bond that would pay for new parks and rec-

reational facilities, some of which are pictured on this page. Proposition 2 is a property tax levy lift that would pay for the programming and operation of the new facilities.

Both propositions must pass for the city to move forward on the new facilities. Taken together, the two measures would cost the owner of a \$600,000 home \$108 in new property taxes each year. After twenty years, the bond portion of that cost (\$84 per year) would end. The programming and operation cost (\$24 per year) would continue indefinitely.

If both measures pass, the bond money would pay for:

- Sammamish Landing – A waterfront park on Lake Sammamish.
- Recreation Center – The current library would be renovated and expanded to include a gymnasium.
- New athletic field at Pine Lake Middle School – It would feature artificial turf and lights.
- East Sammamish Park improvements
- Beaver Lake Vicinity Trail
- Land acquisition for park in north-east Sammamish.
- Park bond fees.



Field at Pine Lake Middle School with artificial turf and lights.



East Sammamish Park improvements.

When people fill ditches, city hears complaints



Ditches run alongside many city roads.

CHANGE IN WATER FLOW A PROBLEM

Although they're not always pretty, the ditches along neighborhood roads were engineered for a specific purpose – to move and hold water.

That's something residents should keep in mind before they fill them in to create more parking space, or alter them in some other way that redirects the flow of water. They should also keep in mind that it's illegal.

"We've been getting a number of complaints from residents who say their neighbors are causing problems by re-engineering the ditches," said Joan Burlingame, the city's code enforcement officer. "Sometimes these ditch alterations send water onto someone's property and undermine the foundation of a house."

If residents want to alter a ditch, Burlingame says they should contact the city at 425-295-0500. Although modifications are sometimes allowed, more often than not the ditches need to remain as they are to carry the appropriate amount of water.

Public hearings this month on shoreline update

The Planning Commission will hold a pair of public hearings this month on the city's Draft Shoreline Master Program Update. The regulatory and planning document, which must be revised periodically per state law, focuses on lake shorelines. The two public hearings will be on Oct. 16 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E.

Residents who want to read the draft update can go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/SMP.aspx) or visit City Hall to read a hard copy. More information is available by contacting Maren Van Nostrand (mvannosstrand@ci.sammamish.wa.us, 425-295-0538).

After the Planning Commission makes recommendations, the City Council will hold public hearings of its own in early 2009.



A scene along the shoreline of Beaver Lake.

Innovative ordinance promotes low impact development

VOLUNTARY, INCENTIVE-BASED APPROACH WILL ENCOURAGE BUILDERS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT

After working closely with developers and environmentalists, the city adopted an ordinance last month that will greatly encourage low impact development (LID) inside Sammamish.

The ordinance, passed Sept. 16 by the City Council, opens the door to a voluntary, incentive-based approach that will benefit both the developers and the environment.

“The goal is to reduce the impact of development on our streams and other water resources,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “As much as possible, we want rain to seep into the ground instead of running off on the surface and causing environmental problems.”

Expanding the amount of open space around a development, planting additional trees and vegetation, and using porous concrete are some of the LID techniques builders will be encouraged to use. In exchange, developers may be allowed, among other things, to add more homes and build narrower streets on their land. They will also be rewarded with public recognition by the city for their environmentally friendly efforts.

“We’re very excited about this incentive-based approach,” Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol said. “It’s innovative, and we think it’s attractive enough

to developers that they’ll take full advantage.”

The City Council and Planning Commission worked closely with stakeholders over the past two years to craft the new ordinance, which went into effect Sept. 22.

“Developers told us what incentives they would find valuable, environmentalists helped us maximize the ecological benefits, and the City Council listened carefully to consultants and other experts,” Yazici said. “I’m proud of the broad-based, collaborative approach the community took to achieve a result that I’m sure other jurisdictions will be taking a close look at in the years ahead.”

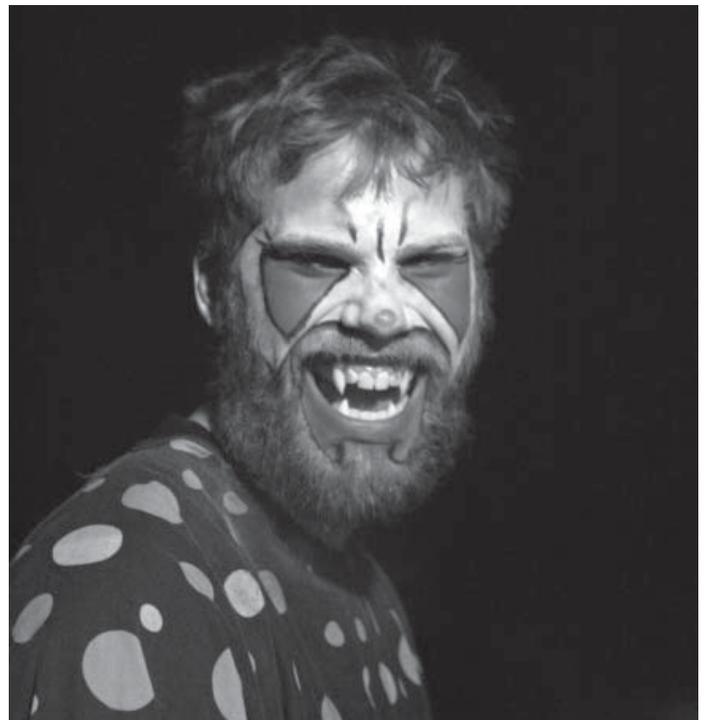
Nightmare at Beaver Lake

EIGHT-DAY FRIGHTFEST STARTS OCT. 24

Sammamish residents have flocked in great numbers to the “Nightmare at Beaver Lake” in years past, and organizers are expecting another large and tremulous turnout for the 2008 edition of the Halloween event.

The haunting of Sammamish will begin on Friday, Oct. 24, and run through Halloween night on Oct. 31. For temporary trauma only, a family hour of light frights will begin each night at 7 p.m. But from 8 to 10 p.m., the full-on frightfest will bring many a scream to the dark and spooky shores of Beaver Lake.

Entry to the family hour only will cost \$9. The full-fright freight will vary between \$12 and \$15, depending on the night. All night passes will go for \$25, and, for the truly twisted, a season pass will cost \$90, not counting subsequent psychiatric fees. For more information, go to www.nightmareatbeaverlake.com.



Smiling faces will greet you at the Nightmare at Beaver Lake.

Arts Commission offers a rich menu in October

Thanks to the good work of the Sammamish Arts Commission, city residents will have at least three opportunities to enjoy art and music this month.

It begins on Thursday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. when Native American violinist, poet and storyteller Swil Kanim performs at Beaver Lake Lodge, 25101 S.E. 24th St. Admission is free. More information on Kanim is available at www.swilkanim.net.

Then, on the weekend of October 11 and 12, more than 20 local artists will have their work on display at City Hall as part of the 2008 Sammamish Art Fair.

The fair will feature original paintings, glass art, ceramics, jewelry, mixed-media, wood carving and textile art, among other things. The free event, which will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, will also offer music and light refreshments. For more information on the fair, please contact Ann Elizabeth Scott at 425-836-9022.

The month of October will also feature a new exhibit in



Swil Kanim, a Native American violinist and storyteller will perform on Thursday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m., at Beaver Lake Lodge.

the Sammamish City Hall Gallery that will run through Dec. 30. It's titled "Subject to Natural Forces" and features an exhibition of contrasting landscapes by regional artists Eric Eschenbach and Paul Cooke. The exhibit may be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sammamish Garden Club helps out



Sammamish Garden Club members, along with city staffers, pose next to trees to be planted at Sammamish Commons last month. The club contributed two Douglas Firs and one Black Hawthorn to the park's native plant garden.

Real estate forum for Town Center property owners

If you want to learn more about the land development process in Sammamish, a forum of experts will speak at City Hall on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Urban Land Institute, the presentation will be tailored to property owners and other stakeholders in the city's Town Center planning area.

Topics will include land valuation, risk analysis, regulations, contracts, and development from A to Z. The scheduled speakers are developer Mark Huppert, attorney Jessica Clawson, and architect Bill Kreager.

For more information on the event, go to www.seattle.uli.org and click on the "events" tab, or contact Town Center Project Manager Michael Matthias (mmatthias@ci.sammamish.wa.us, 425-295-0539).

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

Skyline Homecoming parade set for Oct. 24

Drivers will once again have to maneuver through some cones on Oct. 24 when the annual Skyline High School Homecoming Parade wends its way along 228th Avenue.

Between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., traffic will be reduced to two lanes along a short section of the city's main arterial. Access from driveways and roads on the east side of 228th Avenue, from Southeast 24th Street to Southeast 10th Street, will also be limited.

The parade, which begins at 5 p.m., will move north from Discovery Elementary to Skyline High School. Traffic control will be provided by police and city staff. For more information, please call the city's Colleen Rupke at 425-295-0565.



Residents wave as the Skyline High School Homecoming parade goes up 228th Avenue.

CITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 2

Planning Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 4

Sammamish Commons Volunteer Opportunity, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 7

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

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

Thursday, Oct. 9

Swil Kanim Performance, 7-10 p.m.

Beaver Lake Lodge

Real Estate Forum, 6-8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 11 & Sunday, Oct. 12

Art Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

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

Thursday, Oct. 16

Planning Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Recycling Event, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunny Hills Elementary School

Monday, Oct. 20

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

Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 21

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 4

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 6

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

Veteran's Day - City offices closed

Wednesday, Nov. 12

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

Monday, Nov. 17

Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Sammamish Landing Public Mtg #2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 20

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 27 - Friday, Nov. 28

Thanksgiving - City offices closed

PLEASE NOTE:

All meetings 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



Lee Felling
Mayor



Don Gerend
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Mark Cross
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Trick or Treat?

Join us at City Hall on Friday, Oct. 31, 3-5 p.m., for a tour of city offices and a treasure of treats.



School-age goblins are especially welcome. Our frightening and costumed city staffers await your arrival.



CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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

www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

Lee Felling, Mayor

lfelling@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor

dgerend@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Jack Barry, Councilmember

jbarry@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Mark Cross, Councilmember

mcross@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Kathleen Huckabay, Councilmember

khuckabay@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Michele Petitti, Councilmember

mpetitti@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Nancy Whitten, Councilmember

nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Ben Yazici

Pete Butkus

Kamuron Gurol

Lyman Howard

John Cunningham

Jessi Richardson

Mike Sauerwein

Melonie Anderson

Brad Thompson

Lee Soptich

Bruce Disend

Tim Larson

City Manager

Deputy City Manager

Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr

Finance Dir/Asst City Mgr

Public Works Director

Parks & Rec Director

Admin Services Director

City Clerk

Police Chief

Fire Chief

City Attorney

Communications Mgr



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