

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 124

CITY NEWSLETTER

OCT. 2012

City voters will weigh in on Proposition 1

COMMUNITY AND AQUATIC CENTER ON NOV. 6 BALLOT

When they mail in their ballots on or before Nov. 6, Sammamish residents will be sending a signal to the City Council regarding the wisdom of building a Community and Aquatic Center next to the library and City Hall.

The proposed \$30 million, 60,000-square-foot facility would be built and run in conjunction with the YMCA. Residents will express their preferences by casting an advisory vote for or against Proposition 1 on this year's ballot.

"We mailed out a big fact sheet on the proposed center, so residents should know all about the amenities, the costs, and how it would be paid for," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I know the City Council is eager to see how this advisory vote from the residents turns out."

See *COMMUNITY*, pg. 3



Arts Fair attendees enjoy refreshments as well as art at City Hall.

6th Annual Arts Fair on Oct. 13, 14

SAMMAMISH ARTS COMMISSION WILL BRING THE WORK OF 31 LOCAL ARTISTS TO CITY HALL

Thanks to the hard work of the Sammamish Arts Commission and an abundance of local talent, viewing fine art has become a fine tradition at City Hall.

On Saturday, Oct. 13, and Sunday, Oct. 14, the tradition will continue as the 6th Annual Arts Fair takes up residence in city offices at 801 228th Ave.

S. E. City Hall will be open to art lovers both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fair, which is free and open to all residents, will feature refreshments and activities for people of all ages. Among other things, the list of attractions includes puppet shows, music

See *ARTS FAIR*, pg. 5

ONLINE THREAT ARREST
Page 2

ECA PUBLIC HEARINGS
Story on page 3

ELECTRIC CARS!
Story on page 4

Online threat to Skyline High School results in arrest of Edmonds juvenile

SAMMAMISH POLICE TAKE 16-YEAR-OLD FORMER SKYLINE STUDENT INTO CUSTODY FOLLOWING TWO-WEEK INVESTIGATION

Two weeks after someone made an online threat to shoot up Skyline High School, detectives with the Sammamish Police Department took a suspect into custody. The 16-year-old boy, a former student at Skyline, was arrested at his home in Edmonds on the morning of Oct. 2.

The suspect was booked at the King County Youth Services Center, but at press time no charges had been filed. Police said his case would be forwarded immediately to the King County Prosecutor's Office.

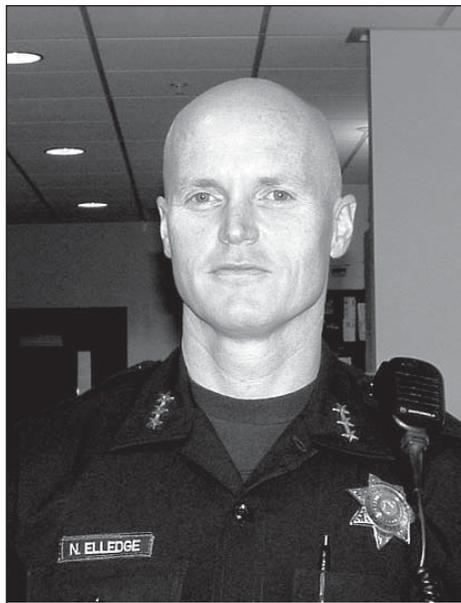
Sammamish Police Chief Nathan Elledge announced the arrest at a news conference at Sammamish City Hall. He was joined by King County Sheriff Steven Strachan.

After serving a search warrant at the suspect's home on Sept. 25, detectives seized three computers and two cell phones. A forensic search of one of the computers found digital evidence, or footprints, linking the suspect to the threat. They found no evidence that anyone else was involved in the Sept. 19 threat against Skyline High School.

Detectives also found evidence suggesting that the same suspect was involved with a similar threat against Meadowdale High School in Lynnwood last spring.

"It looks like our Sammamish Police investigators, in cooperation

with the King County Sheriff's Office, have done a great job," Sammamish City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Like everyone else in the community, I'm relieved to know that a suspect has been taken into custody."



*Nathan Elledge
Sammamish Police Chief*

The threat surfaced on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at about 8:45 p.m. when an anonymous posting appeared on 4chan.org, a bulletin board website. The threat stated that the poster was tired of life in general and the people he had to deal with at school.

The poster went on to say that he intended to bring his father's Erma submachine gun to Skyline High School and open fire on students in

the commons area. The post included a photo of an automatic weapon.

After the post appeared, the King County Sheriff's Office 911 center received calls from all over the nation alerting law enforcement to the threat. Over 270 calls came in to 911 the evening of the 19th.

Officers immediately notified school district staff and began investigating the origin of the threat. At around 11 p.m., Skyline High School and Issaquah School District administrators exercised an abundance of caution and closed the school for Thursday, Sept. 20.

The King County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit detectives, in cooperation with the FBI Cyber Crimes Unit, began tracking the IP address from which the threat originated. The trail led to a distant proxy server in Sweden, but that amounted to a dead end.

Fortunately, though, dozens of students and community members came forward to provide information and tips in the case. Detectives followed up on every tip and eventually developed a suspect.

"Day to day, our police department does a great job," Yazici said. "But they also shine when a serious case like this comes up. I've thanked Chief Elledge and asked him to pass on our thanks to everyone involved."

COMMUNITY, cont. from pg. 1

Among other things, the Community and Aquatic Center's amenities would feature:

- A leisure pool
- A lap pool
- Two gymnasiums
- A jogging track
- Weights
- Cardio and group fitness space
- Multipurpose rooms
- A child watch area
- Locker rooms
- On-site parking

A detailed agreement between the city and the YMCA isn't expected to be finalized until early next year, but membership and use fees are expected to resemble the YMCA model. In rough terms, that would be around \$115 per month for a family membership or \$65 per month for an adult

membership.

Pending the result of negotiations, Sammamish residents may also be eligible for discounts on swimming lessons, summer camp and other specific, facility-based programs.

The outlines of the agreement between the city and the YMCA look like this:

- The city would contribute approximately \$25 million toward construction and locate the center on 9 acres of city-owned land next to the library and City Hall.
- The YMCA would run the facility and cover all maintenance and operational expenses,
- The YMCA would furnish and equip the facility and contribute \$5 million toward construction of the building.
- No new taxes would be required.

The city's financial contribution would be drawn from a portion of its existing capital fund and financial reserves.

NOTE: Although it has no direct connection to the Community and Aquatic Center proposal, there is another element to the agreement. The YMCA will lease a separate piece of land (just south of Pine Lake Middle School) to the city for 50 years at \$1 per year. The city desired to secure this land to accommodate future recreation needs. As a condition of the lease, the city will develop a plan for use of the property within the next five years. A timeline for construction and development of this site has not been established.

For more information, contact the parks department at 425-295-0585 or jjackson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

ECA public hearings reset for Nov. 1 & 8

ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS CODE REVIEW INVITES MORE PUBLIC INPUT

The Planning Commission's important work on the Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) code review will enter a key phase early next month when it holds a two-part public hearing on Nov. 1 and 8. Per the current schedule, the Commission will begin deliberation on Nov. 29 and then hand off its recommendations to the City Council after the first of the year.

Among other things, the ECA code regulates wetlands, streams, aquifer recharge areas, seismic zones and steep slopes. The Commission is considering more than 70 changes to the code, with 17 of those changes identified as major items.

To help assess the proposed amendments, the Commission is employing a new evaluation form that

helps gauge impacts in three areas: the environment, property rights, and the challenges of implementation.

"The City Council asked the Commission to be 'thorough, inclusive and well-documented' in its approach," Community Development Director Kamuron Gurol said. "This evaluation form is helping them to stay focused on facts and analysis."

For more information on the ECA, 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 alerts on the latest ECA news and meeting information, go to the website home page and click on the "email alerts" icon in the upper, right-hand corner.



Why drive an electric car? Hear the reasons on Oct. 24

Sammamish residents Tom and Cathy Saxton are members of Plug In America, a national non-profit organization that advocates for consumers interested in driving electric cars, so be prepared for a positive message if you go to their presentation at the library on Oct. 24, at 7 p.m.

Their hour-long presentation – titled “Why drive an electric car?” – will draw from personal experience; they’ve been driving electric cars since 2008.

Tom and Cathy spend a lot of time sharing their electric vehicle experiences at car shows and eco-fairs, so extending that opportunity to Sammamish residents through a presentation at the library seemed like a good idea.

“We know people are curious about electric vehicles,” Tom said. “This will be a chance for people to talk to an owner rather than a car dealer.”

The all-electric couple have no affiliation with or financial interest in any automaker or related company, but

they will definitely come off as enthusiasts.

“Separate from the environmental, economic and national security benefits, electric vehicles offer a better, more convenient and cheaper driving experience,” Tom said. “They aren’t right for everyone, though. Hopefully, our presentation will cover the facts, share our experiences, and help people evaluate whether electric makes sense for them.”



Tom Saxton, vice-president of Plug In America, charges up a Nissan Leaf at City Hall as Councilmember Don Gerend (center) and Director of Community Development Kamuron Gurol look on.

As part of an overall sustainability policy, the city recently installed electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall and purchased two Nissan Leafs. As the city sorted through the options, Tom was there to lend his expertise.

“Tom and Cathy both have a great depth of knowledge on this subject,” Community Development Director Kamuron Gurol said. “Whatever your attitude toward electric vehicles, I would highly recommend going to their presentation.”

The city library is located at 825 S.E. 228th Ave.

Oct. 20 recycling event

Want to dispose of tires, oil, antifreeze, batteries, porcelain fixtures, propane tanks, cardboard, refrigerators, appliances and electronic equipment? Well, bring them all to Sunny Hills Elementary, 3200 Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 20, for the Sammamish and King County Fall Recycling Collection Event.

Do NOT bring paint, scrap wood, construction debris, garbage, furniture, plastic toys, window glass, cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, thinners, household chemicals and fluorescent lights.

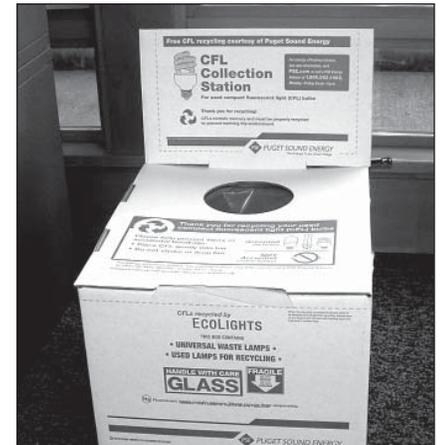
For more information, Sammamish residents should call 425-295-0500.

Toss those twisty bulbs at City Hall

Looking for a place to throw away those pretzel-shaped light bulbs when they’ve come to the end of their long life?

Thanks to Puget Sound Energy (PSE), there is now a cardboard box sitting just inside the front door of City Hall designated for that very purpose. Just drop the bulbs in the circular opening at the top of the box and walk away knowing that you’ve done the responsible and convenient thing.

When the box fills up, PSE will come fetch it and put an empty box in its place. The compact fluorescent lights, or CFLs, are not supposed to go into your regular trash.



Popularity of city email alerts climbing fast

MORE THAN 4,000 RESIDENTS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES

When the city first offered its email alert service in 2010, the subscriber list quickly grew to over a thousand.

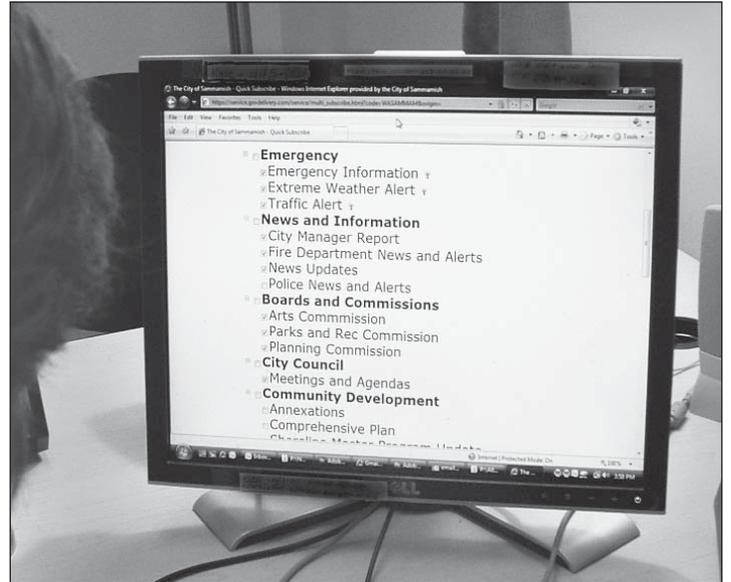
The attraction? An easy-to-access menu of topics on the city website. Whether you wanted email alerts on City Council news or the latest road project, all you had to do was click on your favorite topic. Today, the list of subscribers has grown to 4,590, or roughly 10 percent of the city's population.

"That's a lot of people receiving accurate, timely information," Communications Manager Tim Larson said. "Along with our city newsletter, we think the email alert system is giving our community the opportunity to stay really well informed."

To sign up, residents just go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us), click on the "email alert" icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page, and follow the prompts. That will produce a list of more than 40 topics that may be of particular interest.

Among the more popular menu items: Parks & Rec news, special events, traffic alerts, emergency information, volunteer opportunities and general news updates.

"I don't have any proof, but I think the people who sign up probably tend to be people who spread the word," Larson said.



To select your menu of email alert topics, just go to the city website and click on the subjects that are of particular interest to you.

"Opinion leaders, community-oriented people. I imagine there's a pretty healthy multiplier effect when you add it all up."

Residents can sign up for as many or as few topics as they wish, change their selection, or terminate the service at any time.

"Residents subscribe and unsubscribe on their own, so there's no staff time spent on maintaining email lists," Larson said. "The staffers in our various departments just concentrate on putting out timely information now and then. It's great."

ARTS FAIR, cont. from pg. 1

and hands-on projects.

Best of all, attendees will be able to visit with the artists, see their work and learn all about their creative process. And, if anything draws your interest, you can even go home with a purchased piece of art. The jury-selected array will include paintings, jewelry, mixed media, ceramics, woodcarvings, photography and textile, glass and encaustic art.

For a complete list of activities and other information, please visit the Sammamish Arts Fair website at <http://sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com/>.

6th Annual
Sammamish ARTS Fair
fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE



October 13th & 14th,
Saturday - Sunday 10am-5:00pm

Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE

www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com

Come scare the folks at City Hall!!!

Hey, kids – if you’ve been looking for a safe way to frighten and amaze scaredy-cat grownups, come to City Hall between 3 and 5 p.m. on Halloween Day. As they have in years past, our hardworking city staffers will take a “fright break” just for you!



**HALLOWEEN
HAPPENING**

**October 31
3:00-5:00 pm**

Trek through
Sammamish City Hall
for a fun, safe and dry
Trick or Treat Adventure
appropriate for all ages

**801 - 228th Ave SE
425-295-0730**

City expands solicitor license requirements

If someone offering to clean your windows or prune your trees knocks on the door, you are now within your rights to ask them for a city-issued solicitor’s license. On Sept. 17, the City Council voted to expand the license requirement so that people offering services, like those offering to sell goods, must have a license.

The city runs a background check and collects a fee before issuing a solicitor license. There are some exceptions. People working for non-profit or religious organizations do not undergo the background check and don’t have to pay the license fee. They do, however, have to come to City Hall and register for a license.

For more information, contact City Clerk Melonie Anderson at manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Protect storm drains from trash, pollution

There is a common misconception that those storm drains next to the sidewalk carry water to a treatment plant.

Not so.

That water, and all the trash and pollution it carries, often goes directly into our streams and lakes. The city of Sammamish Stormwater Team is asking for your help. Please do the following:

- If you see litter along the curb, toss it in a garbage can.
- Keep grass clippings away from the street and driveway.
- Don’t apply fertilizer right before it rains.
- Don’t wash your car on a driveway or street.
- Use a dry cleanup method if you spill oil, paint or another liquid. Place kitty litter or sand on it, sweep it up and dispose of it properly.

CITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 2

City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 3

Sammamish Farmers Market,
3-7 p.m.
City Council Office Hour,
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Parks and Rec Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 4

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

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

Thursday, Oct. 11

Volunteer Event, Meet & Greet,
10 a.m.- noon
Lower Commons Native Plant
Garden

Saturday, Oct. 13 - Sunday, Oct. 14

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

Monday, Oct. 15

Finance Committee Meeting,
5:30-6:15 p.m.
City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,
6-7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20

Parks and Recreation Volunteer Op-
portunity,
9 a.m.- noon
Lower Commons Native Plant Garden
Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.- noon
Soaring Eagle Park

Monday, Oct. 22

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Thursday, Nov. 1

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 6

City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 7

City Council Office Hour,
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 8

Volunteer Event - Meet & Greet,
10 a.m.- noon
Lower Commons Native Plant Garden

Saturday, Nov. 10

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

Monday, Nov. 12

Veterans Day,
City offices closed

Tuesday, Nov. 13

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

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Sammamish Youth Board Meeting,
6-7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 19

Finance Committee Meeting,
5:30-6:15 p.m.
Arts Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Holiday
City offices closed

Friday, Nov. 23

Thanksgiving Holiday.
City offices closed

Wednesday, Nov. 28

City Holiday Lighting Ceremony,
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 29

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 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.



801 - 228th Avenue SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

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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*

**Another great Farmers Market
season comes to an end!**



Kids frolic on City Hall lawn during a late-season Farmers Market!

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?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
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