



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 63

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sprucing up city parks

Proposed improvements to Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park, and the Evans Creek Preserve will be reviewed at a joint meeting of the City Council and Parks Commission on Sept. 11.

The formal review follows a long series of public meetings over the summer in which residents were asked to offer their own thoughts and ideas on how to make the parks better.

Proposed improvements to Pine Lake Park include a dock renovation, increased native plantings to protect existing evergreen trees, and better access for people with disabilities.

The review will also look at a “preferred master plan alternative” for East Sammamish Park that will, among other things, increase the

See PARKS, pg. 2



Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders (left) with volunteers Sal Pagan and Jan Weiss at the “Volunteer Appreciation” event at City Hall.

Thanks, volunteers!

Cool vanilla ice cream topped with M&Ms and Gummy Bears – that was the attraction as the city thanked residents for their help during “Volunteer Appreciation” day on Aug. 22.

Recording artist Hilary Scott was also on hand to add a musical dimension as volunteers gathered with City Councilmembers and staff on the sunlit plaza next to City Hall.

“We have more and more opportunities for volunteers here at the city,” said Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders. “And we do our best to find

work the volunteers will find personally meaningful.”

The range of opportunities can be perused on the city website by going to www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and clicking on the “volunteer” tab on the left side of the home page.

“The Fourth on the Plateau, the summer concerts, the advisory boards, the park improvement projects – all of those are possible because of volunteers,” Sanders said. “People can volunteer for big jobs and small jobs – we welcome them all.”

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Mark Cross
Mayor

As you probably noticed, we've included a Town Center brochure in this newsletter. In reviewing this plan, it seems clear to me that we should look both forward – and back.

Forward in the sense that we should consider pedestrian-friendly walkways, public plazas, a mix of residential, open, retail and commercial spaces – and a variety of other features that enjoy ascending popularity among urban planners and ordinary folk alike.

But we also need to look back, to cities that have been around for a century or more, for wonderful examples. These cities, not all of them much bigger than Sammamish, have town centers that include the same mix of uses we are envisioning, and more.

They are living examples of how all the pieces fit together. It is the connected public spaces, and the flow into and out of private retail and office space that make these cities great.

Sammamish residents come from all over the world, and Sammamish residents travel to great cities all over the world. As an urban planner I am interested in all of these cities. The really great ones share the benefits of public plazas and walkable town centers. They utilize the topography to open up to views and vistas, and they are not all about cars. They are about a balance of pedestrian, auto and transit.

These same great cities also challenged their “private sector” partners to build their best multi-story homes, apartments, restaurants and stores in and around these great public spaces. Close to home, Kirkland, Bellevue, Mill Creek and Redmond all provide samples and examples that we can bor-

row and make our own.

If, in your travels, you've seen a feature you would like to fold into our Town Center mix, please bring it to a planning commission or council meeting. This is our Town Center, and our time to design and build; we need your spark and your ideas. They could be the very features, both old and new, that people will admire about Sammamish a hundred years from now.

Rest assured, even with the design and construction of a new town center, I am sure residents of Sammamish will always want to preserve the very things that brought them here in the first place: great family neighborhoods, trees, lakes, and streams flowing to Lake Sammamish and the Puget Sound beyond.

Looking forward and looking back – that is how we will design the town center.

PARKS, cont. from pg. 1

size and improve the drainage of the existing soccer field, add a children's spray park, and make the park more “neighborhood-friendly” by increasing pedestrian access.

A “preferred long-term strategy” for Evans Creek Preserve, 179 acres of open space just north of the city limits, will also be reviewed. That proposed strategy calls for largely passive use, with only modest picnic facilities, a few trails, and a small parking lot being suggested.

“The improvements being proposed for all these properties were the result of a thoughtful

process that made every effort to include public input,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “I think we've gathered some good ideas and look forward to discussing them with the City Council and Parks Commission.”



Viewing Evans Creek Preserve.

At this stage of the process, Richardson is looking for an okay from the council to proceed with environmental review of the proposed improvements. Later, after the council gives the final go-aheads, and permitting hurdles are cleared, construction on the projects could begin in late 2008 or early 2009. At Pine Lake, construction will definitely not start until after the 2008 swimming season, with completion expected before the 2009 swimming season.

More information is available on these park projects, and other park initiatives, by going to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Traffic camera test



The city is testing public response to a pair of traffic cameras, one on East Lake Sammamish Parkway and one on Sahalee Way. The cameras are intended to help morning commuters choose between the two busy north-bound routes. Interested residents can compare the camera views and provide feedback by going to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and clicking on “traffic cameras” on the right side of the home page.

Applicants sought for commissions

Residents interested in serving on the city’s Planning, Arts, and Parks & Recreation Commissions need to submit applications by Nov. 1, 2007. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, a resume, and a completed questionnaire, which is available at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Please mail applications to:

City of Sammamish

City Clerk

801 228th Ave. SE

Sammamish, WA 98075

Email to:

manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Fax to: **425-295-0600**

For more information, call 425-295-0511

CITY HALL CALENDAR

September

Monday, Sept. 3

Labor Day. City Hall closed

Tuesday, Sept. 4

City Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

Evans Creek Preserve Mtg #3, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 6

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

Tuesday, Sept. 11

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

Wednesday, Sept. 12

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

Monday, Sept. 17

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

Arts Commission Mtg, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

City Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

East Sammamish Park Mtg #4, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 20

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

October

Tuesday, Sept. 25

SR 202 Corridor Study, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 27

Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Sammamish Library

Tuesday, Oct. 2

City Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 4

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 8

Arts Commission Cultural Event, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

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

Wednesday, Oct. 10

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

Monday, Oct. 15

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

Arts Commission Mtg, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 16

City Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Evans Creek Preserve Mtg #4, 6:30-9 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 25

Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Sammamish Library

NOTE:

All events are at Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E, except where otherwise noted.

Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Mark Cross
Mayor



Lee Felling
Deputy Mayor



Jack Barry
Councilmember



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Kathleen Huckabay
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

National Night Out



The Guardian One Helicopter from the King County Sheriff's Office flies over Sammamish City Hall during the "National Night Out" event on Aug. 7. The helicopter also spent time on the ground at the event, which was aimed at getting residents, police, and firefighters better acquainted. Among the other attractions: Jones the Bomb Dog, tours of the police station, fingerprinting cards, Jr. Officer stickers, and information on a variety of safety programs.

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Lyman Howard	Finance Dir/Ass't City Mgr
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Kamuron Gurol	Community Dev Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
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Brad Thompson	Police Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Manager



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