

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 135

CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2013

Harvest party!

COMMUNITY GARDEN
CELEBRATES ITS FIRST
GROWING SEASON ON
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22

It's only been open since May, but the city's first community garden is already primed for its inaugural "harvest party."

The festivities will run from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22. Among other things, the celebrants will be able to enjoy snacks, special kids' activities, and live music – from the appropriately named "Pickled Ochra."

"If you haven't been out to take a peek at this new community amenity, the harvest party would be a great time to absorb it all," Parks Director Jessi Bon said. "The garden is really attractive, and full of life – both of the plant and human variety."

The community garden, which features 58 planting boxes, is located in the northwest corner of Sammamish Commons. To reach the attached parking lot, turn off 228th Avenue, head west on Southeast Fourth Street,

See GARDEN, pg. 4



Eastlake Little League boys receive their recognition awards from Mayor Tom Odell at the Sept. 3 City Council meeting as Eastlake Little League girls (foreground) applaud.

Eastlake Little Leaguers turn Sammamish into "Tometown"

CITY RECOGNIZES BASEBALL, SOFTBALL PLAYERS

Girls or boys – it doesn't matter: the state champs are Eastlake Little Leaguers.

And to give full recognition to that amazing fact, the families, friends and fans of the two Sammamish teams gathered at City Hall on a sunny September evening and celebrated the accomplishment.

Both teams went beyond the state tournaments into regional competition, with the boys' team making it all the way to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, where they captured third place at the Little League World Series.

In addition to being serenaded by the Eastlake High School band at City

See CHAMPS, pg. 3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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MYSTIC LAKE

Story on page 3

ARTS FAIR

Story on page 6

A most amazing run!

Sammamish is a city of almost 48,000 people. Approximately one-third of our city's population is under the age of eighteen.

Our residents choose to live here because of our good schools, safe neighborhoods, fresh air, parks, and our open spaces. We also offer many great sports opportunities.



*Tom Odell
Mayor*

Our young people participate in organized sports programs both through the schools and other organiza-

tions like Little League.

We have many different sports – both team and individual – for them to choose from according to their abilities and interests.

Our community is also fortunate to have parents who are willing and able to devote many, many hours to coaching, score keeping, fund raising, cheering, and providing transport to and from games and lessons.

It's difficult to measure, but the benefits of this parental commitment are a key ingredient in the preservation of a healthy and thriving community that pays proper attention and respect to all generations.

Late last March, I had the privilege of playing a minor role in all of this when I had the honor of helping the Eastlake Little League kick off its 2013 season by throwing out a whole bunch of first pitches for the boys and helping the girls launch the season with their opening ceremony.

My first two or three pitches were nothing to write home about but as the day went on I was actually getting them over the plate. Practice helps!

It was a bright, warm, sunny, and most enjoyable day – a great start to the season! Everyone was eager to see the season begin, and, as always, optimism was the rule of the day.

Given our community's great success in the athletic arena, those positive expectations were certainly appropriate. Sammamish has often produced excellent sports teams. Eastlake, Eastside Catholic, and Skyline high school teams frequently win division titles and have also typically done well at the state level.

While everyone had high hopes last spring for a good season, I suspect few could have guessed then that both the girls Eastlake Little League softball team and the boys Eastlake Little League all-star baseball team would both take the state title and then move on to regional competition.

The boys then went on to the national playoffs and finally to the World Series competition in Williamsport, Pennsylvania – the first Washington state team to do so since the early 1980s!

Can you imagine the thrill? Playing baseball at that age in front of thousands of fans and a huge television audience? I was amazed at the composure our youngsters demonstrated throughout!

As the Sammamish Eastlake team moved up in the competition, without a doubt most of our residents

watching TV were likely tuned into the games and cheering on our kids from home! After a while the TV announcers even learned how to pronounce "Sammamish" correctly!

But that was just a side benefit. The great accomplishment was seeing our youngsters go toe to toe with the best Little Leaguers in the world.

After many white knuckles, a lot of nail biting, and some very emotional moments, our kids finished as the number three Little League team in the country. What an accomplishment!

It was wonderful exposure for our youth and our community and likely a once-in-a-lifetime experience for both the kids and their families. Can you imagine how nervous the moms and dads were as they watched their kids on such an enormous stage? I imagine some are still trying to recover.

But it was all about participation, teamwork, and competition. Important lessons were learned about how dedication to practice and putting in time and effort brings its rewards of accomplishment, win or lose. These experiences, along with the thrill of victory, the pain of defeat, and a compassion for injury to others, are life skills that will serve them well into adulthood.

All of our Little League kids have done very well for themselves. We extend our heartiest congratulations to all of the Sammamish teams, their players, their coaches, and their families!

It really was a truly amazing run and a great summer! WELL DONE!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Odell".

Developments near Mystic Lake area will meet key standards

HOMES, PARKS, TRAILS JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS WILL CONFORM TO A “VOLUNTARY MITIGATION AGREEMENT” NEGOTIATED BY SAMMAMISH AND CAMWEST

The Mystic Lake area looks funny on a map. It appears as if King County approached Sammamish from the east and took an L-shaped bite out of the city, producing a 40-acre preserve for King County regulations where logic might indicate that Sammamish rules should apply.

Given that CamWest now has plans to build 115 homes inside that border indentation, and up to 137 more on three parcels slightly to the east, the city reached out to the developer in mid-2012 to outline concerns over traffic and other impacts.

“All of these parcels are inside our ‘potential annexation area,’” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “So that means

they’ll eventually be part of the city.

“Although we don’t have jurisdictional authority over the land yet, we were pleased that our proactive conversations with CamWest produced a ‘voluntary mitigation agreement’ that will ensure these new homes, and the related infrastructure, will fit comfortably inside Sammamish when the time comes.”

The agreement covers approximately 80 acres on both sides of 244th Avenue Northeast. Among other things, it includes the following stipulations:

- Streets will be the 28 feet wide, meeting the city standard. The county standard is 24 feet.
- Parks and trails will also be con-

structed to city standards.

- The developer will pay the city \$9,500 per house to mitigate transportation impacts.
- The developer will pay the city \$1,700 per house to mitigate park impacts.
- The developer will also contribute about \$100,000 to the construction of sidewalks along 244th Avenue Northeast.

“Given that it was the property owners’ decision to let this land be developed, and the land is currently outside the city,” Yazici said, “I think the developer, the City Council and the staff should be commended for being proactive and working this out.”

CHAMPS, cont. from pg. 1

Hall Plaza, and getting a boost from from the high school cheerleaders, the players from both teams were invited inside to make an appearance at the televised City Council meeting.

“It was an honor to have them in the Council chamber,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We have a lot of great kids in Sammamish. It’s always fun to honor them when they do something special, whether it’s in school, on the athletic fields, or in some other way. They have really made us proud.”

As the players received their certificates of recognition and individual trophies from Mayor Tom Odell, the Council chamber was filled with parents, coaches and all the others who contributed to the championships.

“They’re champions, too,” Yazici said.



State Champion Eastlake Little League softball players are honored at City Hall.

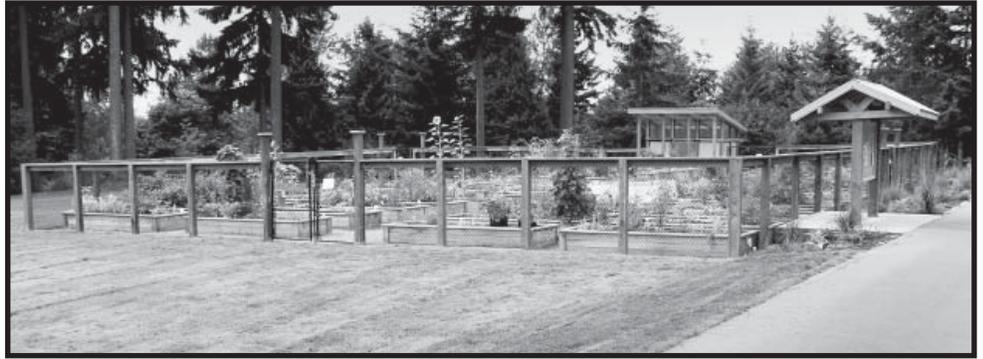
GARDEN, cont. from pg 1

and then take a left onto 222nd Place Southeast. A short distance later, you'll see the garden on the left.

"Ann Precup and Stephanie Hibner, along with the rest of our Community Garden Steering Committee, have put a lot of work into this," Bon said. "I think the harvest party is going to be a nice way to recognize their efforts and enjoy all the cool plants, flowers, vegetables and special touches our residents have brought to life."

The plots, six of which are designed to be accessible to people with disabilities, were awarded through a lottery earlier this year. To get on the waiting list for an available plot, you're invited to contact Joanna Puthoff at jputhoff@sammamish.us. There's been a waiting list since the beginning, but you will be contacted when a plot becomes available.

For additional information on the garden, you may also go to <https://www.facebook.com/SammamishCommunityGardens>.



The community garden is located in the northwest corner of Sammamish Commons.

The city's "short course" on planning draws a crowd

As the city goes through its lengthy update of the comprehensive plan, it will welcome the input of all residents.

And thanks to a well-attended "short course" on planning held at City Hall on Sept. 5, it's hoped some of those who participate will be well-grounded on the basics of land use planning, the state's Growth Management Act, the Open Public Meetings Act, and the legal basis of planning in Washington.

The free course touched on other pertinent topics, as well – including the role of public involvement and the Planning Commission.

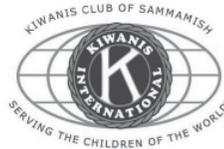
"It was great to see a good turnout," Kamuron Gurol, the city's director of community development, said. "Well-informed residents will really help the community produce a good update."



There was a good turnout for the planning "short course."

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

Thank you 2013 event sponsors



What is a BMP?

It's a modest little acronym, but BMP carries a lot of weight in the world of stormwater. It stands for "best management practices," and here in Sammamish, with lakes, streams and pavement aplenty, you better get your BMPs in place PDQ.

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain and snowmelt don't percolate into the soil and instead travel over land, driveways, sidewalks, streets and other impervious surfaces. The oil, chemicals, debris and other pollutants it gathers along the way contribute to pollution if the water isn't handled and treated with the "best management practices" in place.

Control and treatment of stormwater runoff was mandated by the Clean Water Act of 1972. The BMPs developed over the years include basins, dry ponds, wet ponds, sand filters, bioretention, swales, channels, underground pipe storage systems, oil/water separators, and underground storage vaults.

Mayors' Month of Concern

EASTSIDE FOOD DRIVE WILL RELY ON VOLUNTEERS TO GATHER AND SORT FOOD

Spearheaded by the leaders of eastside cities, the "Mayors' Month of Concern" is a month-long food drive that began on Sept. 14 and wraps up – hopefully, with a massive haul of food items for needy families – on Oct. 5.

Last year, Sammamish volunteers, under the leadership of the ARAS Foundation took in 22,868 pounds of donations from city residents. To help meet or beat that standard, volunteers are encouraged to join the effort by registering on the city website. Just go to www.sammamish.us and select Sept. 14 on the calendar, which is located in the lower left-hand corner of the home page.

Groups and individuals wanting to help out can also get involved by contacting Dawn Sanders, the city's volunteer coordinator, at 425-295-0556 or dsanders@sammamish.us.

"This is a great initiative for families," Sanders said. "It's a really good way for parents to get their young children in the habit of providing a helping hand."

7th Sammamish Arts Fair OCT. 12 AND 13 – 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

The work of some of the best jury-selected local artists will be on display at City Hall and the library next month when the 7th Sammamish Arts Fair takes place on Saturday, Oct. 12, and Sunday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

The Arts Fair is a community-wide cultural art experience produced through a partnership of the participating artists and the Sammamish Arts Commission. The city of Sammamish, the Arts Commission and 4Culture sponsor this special event, which is free to the public.

Attendees are invited to visit with the artists, see their work and learn about the creative process. Among other things, the displays will feature paintings, jewelry, mixed media, encaustic art, glass arts, ceramics, printmaking, woodcarving, photography and textile art.

For more information, please go to <http://sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com/>.

Swil Kanim to perform "Tree Story" at Beaver Lake Lodge

Swil Kanim, a Native American violinist and storyteller, will bring his mesmerizing compositions to Beaver Lake Lodge on Thursday, Sept. 26, beginning at 7 p.m.

Kanim will perform "Tree Story," following a seedling through its first winter and tracing the life of the tree that became his violin. He will also talk about the power of music and the feelings he can create with his violin.

A classically trained violinist, native storyteller and actor, Kanim is a member of the Lummi tribe. Separated from his parents, he was raised in foster homes and took up the violin with the encouragement of a teacher.

Kanim's compositions incorporate classical influences as well as musical interpretations of his journey from depression and despair to spiritual and emotional freedom.

Born in Seattle and raised in Bellingham, this artist is a sought-after keynote speaker for conferences and workshops. For more information, go to www.swilkanim.com. The Sept. 26 presentation is free and open to the public.

CITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Monday, Sept. 2,

-Labor Day,
City offices closed

Tuesday, Sept. 3

-City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 4

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 5

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

Monday, Sept. 9

-Caring Hearts with Eastside Friends
of Seniors, 12-1 p.m.
-City Council Office Hour,
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 10

-City Council Study Session,
6:30 p.m.
Sammamish Youth Writing Club,
7-8 p.m., Sammamish Library

Wednesday, Sept. 11

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 12

-East Meets West Guided Artwork Ex-
hibit Tour, 6-7 p.m., Panel Discussion
and Reception, 7-8:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 16

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

Wednesday, Sept. 18

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 19

-(55+ Art Program),
10 a.m.-noon
Boys and Girls Club
-Community Garden
Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.
-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon
Soaring Eagle Park

Sunday, Sept. 22

Community Garden Harvest Party
Lower Commons, 1-4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 25

-Farmers Market, 3-8 p.m.
-Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 26

-(55+ Art Program), 10 a.m.-noon
Boys and Girls Club
-Swil Kanim - Storytelling, 6-9 p.m.
Beaver Lake Lodge

OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 1

-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 2,

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

Thursday, Oct. 3

-(55+ Art Program), 10 a.m.-noon,
Boys and Girls Club
-Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

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

Saturday, Oct. 12

-Volunteer at Illahee Trail, 9 a.m.-noon

-7th Annual Arts Fair,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 13

-7th Annual Arts Fair,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 14

-City Council Office Hour,
5:30-6:30 p.m.
-City Council Special Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 17

-Community Garden
Steering Committee, 6:30-8 p.m.
-Planning Commission Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19

-Sammamish Walks
Beaver Lake Preserve,
10 a.m.-noon

Saturday, Oct. 26

-Volunteer at Evans Creek Preserve,
9 a.m.-noon

Monday, Oct. 28

-Arts Commission Mtg,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 31

-Halloween Happening
at City Hall, 2:30-4:30 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.



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*John Curley
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*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*John James
Councilmember*



*Tom Vance
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Spot the Spawners!!!



If you'd like to see salmon spawning, like this pair of Kokanee in Ebright Creek last year, just go to www.kingcounty.gov/salmon and click on Salmon SEEson to find the best spots on the eastside.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Kamuron Gurol	Com Dev Dir/Asst City Mgr
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Serv Dir/Asst City Mgr
Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Laura Philpot	Public Works 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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tlarson@sammamish.us