

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 108

CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

Come see pool options June 13

COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY ADDS DETAIL TO THREE PROPOSED SITES

At a public meeting last month, the city revealed three possible locations for its proposed community center. This month, on June 13, the city will share more specific design concepts with the public, including the possible layout of aquatic facilities at each site.

"This will be an exciting meeting to attend," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We've had good attendance at all of our public meetings during this feasibility study, but I imagine a lot of people will want to look at the pool options and really make their preferences clear."

The feasibility study is being conducted by Barker Rinker Seacat (BRS) Architecture of Denver. This month's public meeting will be the fourth in a series of public outreach sessions the consulting firm is holding in Sam-

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Relaxation was the order of the day at City Hall Plaza on May 18.

Farmers Market opens new season under warm, sunny skies

With hopes of making this the best season ever, the organizers of the Farmers Market couldn't have asked for a better opening day on May 18 – sunny weather and a long line of busy booths selling onions, flowers, honey, oversized donuts and all the other indicators of a spectacular spring in Sammamish.

The open-air market, staged by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city, is now in its fourth year.

"We've grown every year, so we're hoping to make 2011 the best season ever," said Joanna Puthoff, the city's liaison to the market. "I don't think

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To Build or not to Build – The Community Center Process

Two summers ago while walking around Sammamish as a candidate for your City Council I carried a 4x6 note card with me as I “doorbelled.” The left side of the card listed some of the issues I thought our residents might



*Tom Odell
Deputy Mayor*

want to discuss. The list expanded as I walked the neighborhoods. Each time an issue was mentioned by a voter I made a mark next to it. By election time, I had filled up three or four of these cards, which are

still in my briefcase.

Two issues – “community center” and “financial responsibility” – got the most strokes, with community center by far and away the clear winner – at least in terms of frequency of mention. Interestingly, the two issues ARE very much related.

Many expressed a feeling that our city still needed a community center despite the decision to convert the old library into a recreation center. My informal market research effort did not go into the details of exactly what features would be included nor did it address the cost issue. Nonetheless it did give me a good indication of what people were thinking.

Last summer city staff conducted a random, statistically accurate telephone survey of some 400 homes. Among other things, it sought to determine if our residents wanted a community center, and if so, what features should be included. On the basis of this survey the City Council decided earlier this year to proceed with a look at the feasibility of having such a facility for our residents. Funding was set aside for the study while some \$6.8 million was redirected from other Parks and

Recreation activities into an account for a potential down payment on facility construction.

This past spring Mayor Don Gerdend, Councilmember Michele Petitti and I combined our attendance at a state convention in Vancouver, WA, with a visit to a community center in that city that had opened two years before and is regarded as one of the best in the state. Parks Director Jessi Richardson, who was also in Vancouver on other city business, joined us for an extensive tour of that center. Later, this same group spent several days visiting other centers in the Seattle and Denver areas. Denver had gone through a community center building boom a few years ago and represents the current state of the art for such facilities. We were accompanied by members of your Parks Commission and a small number of parks staff on our tours in the Seattle area.

In all cases we were focused on the following: (a) what did they cost to build and operate; (b) what features worked – and which did not; (c) what could have been done differently; and (d) the likely cost recovery (through user fees) of both the facility as a whole as well as the component features.

We discovered that while a number of community centers required an operating subsidy, there were also some that were in the black financially or very close to it. The key is both in the mix of features as well as avoiding those which have both a significant capital cost and low recapture of operating expenses.

The city and our consultant are now in the middle of gathering public input as part of our feasibility study. In public meetings thus far we have gone through two important steps: (1) collecting input on what features our citizens might like to have and (2) which

of several sites might be chosen for the facility. There is an expressed preference for a location just to the west of the new library that would expand the current city hall/library campus. However, other sites in the Town Center area remain in contention.

During these meetings, when residents put together their “dream” community center, some were surprised when the estimated price tag reached \$65-70 million. It’s important to note, however, that detailed analysis, still to come, may hopefully change that number significantly downward.

Next steps in our process: (1) a more refined look at the costs of both construction and operation (due June 13) and (2) use of resident focus groups to refine the view of what we can afford, really need to have, and are willing to pay fees to use. It is entirely possible that the concept that emerges may be reduced in scope and cost from what has been discussed thus far.

Fully on the table at this point is the question of (a) do we proceed with this project at all? And, (b) if we do, could it potentially involve a cooperative effort with another public or private entity? We all need to let the process play out until all of the data is available and the Council has had time to evaluate it.

One thing is certain: if this is to be a successful community center, it must be designed with cost issues in mind. It’s possible we may have to limit the features to those with broad user appeal. Also, we’ll have to make sure user fees are set at levels our residents are likely to accept, but that will still provide good cost recovery.

Our citizens will have ample further opportunity to weigh in on design and cost issues. And, most importantly, you, as citizens, will also be the key to any go-ahead decision.

Ecology asks for changes to shoreline regulations; city expected to propose alternative approaches

After reviewing the city's adopted Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update, the state's Department of Ecology has asked for a number of changes to the shoreline regulations.

One of the key changes Ecology wants to make: extending the Lake Sammamish minimum shoreline setback to 25 feet. The city's SMP calls for a minimum 20-foot setback.

"I'm a bit frustrated by the setback issue," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Redmond got the okay for a 20-foot setback. It seems inconsistent to then ask our residents for a 25-foot

setback.

"Also, in Sammamish, most of the lots along the lake are pretty shallow. Having to build 25 feet from the edge of the water instead of 20 feet is a significant change that could pose real problems for many of our residents."

The city has the option of either accepting Ecology's changes or proposing alternative approaches that Ecology will review.

"I would expect that the city will propose alternatives on the setback issue and some of the other items on their list," Yazici said. "Our community

was very engaged and effective as we put together and adopted our SMP. I certainly hope that engagement will continue as we work through the setback issue with Ecology."

City staffers were scheduled to brief the City Council on the issues at the regular Council meeting on June 7. A public hearing is slated to open at the Council study session on June 20.

For more information on the city's SMP status, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/smp/my-comments/sammamish.html.

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mamish. A final BRS report, which will include location, cost and design concept recommendations, is scheduled to be delivered to the City Council on July 12. Due to slower than expected property appraisals and ongoing discussions with property owners at the three potential sites, it's possible the final report will be slightly delayed.

The three sites under consideration are:

- 15.5 acres (ten buildable) just east of 228th Avenue near Eastside Catholic School. This property belongs

to the Lake Washington School District.

- 9.35 acres (7 buildable) just west of the new library. This land belongs to the city.
- 5.7 acres (all buildable) on the south side of Southeast Fourth Street, adjacent to Sammamish

Commons. This site is made up of three properties, two privately owned and one city owned.

The June 13 meeting will be held at City Hall, 801 228th Ave. S.E., beginning at 6:30 p.m. and running roughly two hours. In addition to aquatics, the meeting is expected to focus on busi-

ness and operations plans, maintenance costs, and pricing strategies to facilitate cost recovery.

For more information on the proposed facility and the BRS feasibility study, go to the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us and click on the Community Center banner at the top of the home page.



An artist's rendering of one community center design style.

City library makes national “new landmark” list

Noting its glass walls, green design and flexible layout, the Library Journal has placed the city’s new King County Library System facility on its inaugural list of “new landmark libraries.”

The Library Journal, which included ten buildings on its list, hopes the newly honored buildings will serve to “inspire and inform” any library building project that may be on the horizon.

The library’s green features, which include a green roof, rain garden, permeable concrete, underground parking and a geothermal HVAC system drew special praise.



The Sammamish library next to City Hall Plaza.

“Getting on this list really affirms something that we already knew,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “And that’s that the King County Library System did a really good job on our Sammamish library.”

The \$16.3 million facility, which opened in January of 2010, is located on the south side of City Hall Plaza. With almost 20,000 square feet of space, the new library is about twice the size of the old library at the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road. The old building is being converted into a Boys & Girls Club recreation center.

Collision stats on parkway show promising trend

It’s still early, but recent statistics show that collisions have dropped below historical norms along the improved sections of East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

Those improvements, stretching six tenths of a mile from Inglewood Hill Road to the 2200 block of the Parkway, include turn pockets, a median strip in places, bike lanes and a sidewalk on the east side of the roadway.

In the years before the improvements, this section of roadway produced an annual average of 10 collisions overall and four injury collisions. In 2010, after most of the improvements were in place, only four collisions overall and two injury collisions were reported.

“Historically, this has been a troublesome section,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Let’s hope this new trend continues.”



Old East Lake Sammamish Parkway.



New East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

FARMERS, cont. from pg. 1

we've ever had this many vendor booths on opening day, so we're headed in the right direction."

The sun-splashed crowd was also hungry. Some vendors reported that they ran out of food before the late afternoon event wrapped up.

"It was an awesome first day," Puthoff said. "As the growing season progresses and more items become available, it should get even better."

The Farmers Market will set up for business on the City Hall Plaza every Wednesday until Sept. 28. For most of the season, the hours will be from 4 to 8 p.m., although later in the year, when the sun sets a bit earlier, closing time will come a bit earlier as well.

More information is available at www.sammamishfarmersmarket.org, or by signing up for "special events" email alerts on the city website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us. Just click on the "email alerts" icon on the website homepage.



Sunny weather and a great lineup of vendors brought big crowds to the Farmers Market at City Hall Plaza on opening day.



The 2011 Farmers Market season got underway on May 18 with Mayor Don Gerend wielding the ceremonial scissors. Also pictured, from left, are Deputy Mayor Tom Odell, Chamber of Commerce President Jason Weil, Chamber board member Craig Williamson, Market Manager Juliana Pash, and Deb Sogge, the Chamber's executive director.



Parks Director Jessi Richardson (right) discusses the proposed community center with a resident at the Farmers Market.

Email alerts for the arts!

If you want to stay on top of the latest events staged by the Sammamish Arts Commission, the city's email alert system will help you do it. Just go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the "Email Alert" icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page. After following the prompts, sign up for "Arts Commission" or any of the other forty plus topics available on the interest menu. Participants can add, subtract or cancel email alerts at any time.

See new art at City Hall

Combining traditional painting techniques with photography, artist Kathy Hastings likes to focus on images that relate to the water. Her new art exhibit at City Hall, entitled "WaterLines," will run through Aug. 31.

In her current work, Hastings, who studied at Art Center Design in California, is exploring encaustics – fusing layers of melted beeswax, oil paint, oil pastels and mica powder on the surface of her photos.

The goats did their part; now it's your turn!

When it opens this fall, Evans Creek Preserve will owe a debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who have hauled gravel, built trails, and trimmed foliage. But the 180 acres of well-tended open space will also owe a nod of thanks to some hired goats.

Last month, a small herd of the tough-lipped helpers tore down a nasty blackberry bush forest – and then swallowed it.

“They did their part,” Project Manager Kellye Hilde said. “Now we need to get our volunteers back to work.”

The next big opportunity for human help comes on June 18. Volunteers will work with city staff to cut trail corridors,

build bridges, and restore areas disturbed by construction. Work parties will begin work at 8:30 a.m. and run until 3:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Kellye Hilde at khilde@ci.sammamish.wa.us or 425-295-0582.



Blackberry bushes were no match for goats at Evans Creek Preserve.

No prior experience is necessary – just a desire to work with some great people, have fun playing in the dirt, and contribute to something that benefits the entire community. Bring your lunch, work gloves and sturdy shoes.

The preserve, a combination of meadows, woodlands, and streams, is attached to, but just north of, Sammamish's northern city limits.

Helping you save on flood insurance?

During these tough economic times, when everyone is experiencing a budget crunch, the city is working on a way to help save homeowners money on their flood insurance premiums.

Here's how: Building Plans Examiner Dawn Flores is leading a committee that's applying to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS). This is a program that awards points to communities for flood-plain management activities that exceed the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum standards. The more CRS points a city receives, the greater the discount residents will receive if they buy flood insurance from the NFIP.

Communities are judged on 18 groups of activities that are organized under four overarching categories: public information, mapping and regulation, flood damage reduction, and flood preparedness.

All participating communities start out as a Class 10, which offers no flood insurance premium discount. Each improvement in class translates into a five percent premium discount. If, for example, Sammamish moved from Class 10 to Class 8, residents would receive a 10 percent discount on their flood insurance.

Currently several city staff members are working on the fulfillment of eligibility requirements for CRS participation. If successful, the results will be announced in a future edition of the city newsletter.

Eco-friendly car washes!

It's springtime and many groups are getting ready to break out the sponges and buckets for charity car washes. But before you send all that oily, soapy water down the storm drain, the Sammamish Stormwater Team would like to remind you that this is harmful to our water quality and a violation of pollution rules. Plus, there's a better way!

The better approach involves an Eco-Friendly Car Wash Kit, a simple system that keeps pollution out of the storm drains. If you would like to borrow a kit – at no charge – just call the city's Storm Team at 425-295-0573.

Unlike sanitary sewer systems, storm drains deposit their contents into streams, wetlands and lakes with little or no treatment. Car wash runoff, typically full of soap, oil and other contaminants, is highly toxic to aquatic life and is one of the reasons our streams are not as healthy as they could be.

CITY CALENDAR

JUNE

Wednesday, June 1

Farmers Market

4-8 p.m.

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

Thursday, June 2

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 4

Trail Building at Evans Creek

Preserve, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7

City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Simple Measures Concert, 7:30 p.m.

Sammamish Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, June 8

Farmers Market

4-8 p.m.

Art Exhibit Reception: "WaterLines" by Katherine Hastings, 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, June 9

Community Garden Steering

Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 13

Community Center Feasibility Study Public Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jun. 14

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

Wednesday, June 15

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Youth Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 16

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 17

TeenFest Skate Competition & Live Entertainment, 3:30-9 p.m.

Sammamish Commons

Saturday, June 18

Trail Building at Evans Creek

Preserve, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Beaver Lake Preserve

Lifeguards begin duty at Pine Lake, 12-7 p.m.

Monday, June 20

Arts Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21

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

Wednesday, June 22

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Monday, June 27

Volunteer Orientation - Fourth on the Plateau, 6:30-8 p.m.

City Hall

Tuesday, June 28

KidsFirst! Performance, 11 a.m. - noon.

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Wednesday, June 29

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

JULY

Monday, July 4

Fourth on the Plateau

6-11 p.m.

Sammamish Commons

Tuesday, July 5

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 6

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

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

Thursday, July 7

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 11

KidsFirst! Performance, 11 a.m. - noon

Sammamish Commons Plaza

Tuesday, July 12

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

Wednesday, July 13

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 14

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Community Garden Steering

Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16

Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon

Soaring Eagle Park

Woodin O Shakespeare Play, 7-8:45 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Monday, July 18

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19

KidsFirst! Performance, 12-1 p.m.

Beaver Lake Park Meadow (near Lodge)

City Council Council Office Hour,

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 20

Farmers Market

4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 21

Concert in the Park, 5:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 23

Woodin O Shakespeare Play, 7-8:45 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Wednesday, July 27

Farmers Market

4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 28

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

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
Councilmember



John James
Councilmember



Mark Cross
Councilmember



Michele Petitti
Councilmember

**Do you want to have a face-to-face chat
with a member of your City Council?**

*Just come to City Hall on the third Tuesday
of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Individual Councilmem-
bers will attend on a rotating basis. No appointment needed.*

June 21

July 19

(August recess)

Sept. 20

Oct. 18

Nov 15

Dec. 20



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Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	AdminServices Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
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Bruce Disend	City Attorney
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