

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 107

CITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

## Have your say on design concepts for community center

**MAY 9 MEETING WILL ALSO LOOK AT BUDGET OPTIONS AS FEASIBILITY STUDY CONTINUES**

The ongoing city-wide conversation regarding a potential community center will continue at a third public meeting on May 9.

This latest public input session, like the others, will be run by Barker Rinker Seacat (BRS) Architecture, a highly respected Denver firm with vast experience in the community center arena.

The May 9 meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, will focus on preliminary design concepts for the facility and potential funding options.

"We've been really happy with the BRS process," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "They don't have any pre-conceived ideas and are working really hard to find out what this community

*See COMMUNITY, pg. 3*



## Time to go to the Farmers Market!

When the Farmers Market opens up on Wednesday, May 18, it will mark the beginning of the fourth season for this family-friendly city tradition.

It will continue every Wednesday thereafter until Sept. 28. The hours: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The outdoor market, as in years past, will be located on the plaza between City Hall and the library. In addition to the fresh produce, flowers, snacks and many other Farmers Mar-

ket attractions, there will be live entertainment to keep the mood lively.

"We had the best response ever last year, so we're looking forward to continued growth," said the city's Dawn Sanders. "It should be a lot of fun again."

The Farmers Market is staged by the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city. If you would like more detailed information on the market, go to [www.sammamishfarmersmarket.org](http://www.sammamishfarmersmarket.org).

**OUR VIEW**  
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**VOLUNTEER EFFORT**  
*Story on page 5*

**NEW EMAIL ALERTS!**  
*Story on page 5*

# Please step forward – your community needs you!

Following the recent announcements that Mark Cross and I were not planning to run for additional terms on the City Council, it was suggested that we write something to encourage citizens to step forward and consider running. We were also asked to provide some guidance on what we think it takes to be an outstanding City Councilmember. So here we go: our thoughts, as written by me, Michele

Petitti, and as approved by Mark Cross.



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*

Mark and I are very interested in the future of our city and we want to step aside knowing we will all be in good hands in the years ahead! To that end, we would like to share some guiding principles that have served us well in making the transition from community activism to duty on the City Council.

As luck would have it, the essence of what we've learned was beautifully summarized in a booklet put out by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). I first saw the booklet, titled "The Ten Commandments of Community Leadership," back in 2007 when I attended an AWC seminar.

These commandments, though presented in a humorous format, provide serious insight on how to best navigate the maze of conflicting interests, comments and concerns that are always present in the public arena.

One commandment is to promote respect. This requires the ability to critique ideas rather than people, and to distinguish between facts and opinions.

Another commandment is to demonstrate a high standard of ethical behavior. This can mean many things, but avoiding conflicts of interest, following through on commitments, and making decisions to serve the greater good are high on the list.

Investing in education and training is another important commandment. That's why the Sammamish City Council has always supported the local school district bonds and levies. We want our children to be prepared for the global marketplace!

Another obligation – building a sustainable economy for the next generation. "Buy local" programs, the Sammamish Farmers Market, preserving open space, creating affordable housing, and nurturing a good relationship between the city and local businesses are all part of following this commandment. So is the strategic thinking that produced new parks, new open space, and the recently adopted Town Center plan.

A city leader should also have a vision for the city that incorporates the community's values and beliefs. Pragmatic problem solving is vital, but all solutions should be guided by an understanding of what the residents want their city to become.

Also on the vision side, a City Councilmember needs to move his or her focus from "what is" to "what could be." Leaders should be encouraged to dream about "whole" communities, cities that promote history, art, awareness of cultural differences and the many other dimensions that help flesh out our municipal character.

The final commandment is to develop future leaders. Volunteers on our commissions – planning, parks and arts, among others – are learning how to be effective leaders so they can grow into larger roles. It's also important to listen to our business people, non-profit leaders, and youth so we can incorporate their ideas and values into our vision and draw them into public service.

We don't have the space to share all ten commandments, but the examples we've chosen should give you an idea of what's in the booklet, and what it takes to be an effective member of the City Council. For a more complete look at AWC's guidance, go to [www.awcnet.org](http://www.awcnet.org), click *Programs and Services*, select *Publications*, and then scroll down to "*The Ten Commandments of Community Leadership*."

If you're thinking of running for a City Council position, and we hope you are, that would be a great place to start!



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*

## *COMMUNITY, cont. from pg. 1*

wants – or doesn't want.”

No decision has been made to build a community center. After BRS provides its final feasibility report on July 12, the City Council will review the matter and consider taking some additional steps. Among other things, it's possible the Council could decide to put the matter up to a vote of the people sometime next year.

The final report from BRS will contain a recommended design concept, location and cost. One of the biggest questions that needs to be answered is whether a Sammamish community center should include a pool and other aquatic features.

“This feasibility study is really an investigation,” Yazici said. “We know that our statistically valid surveys show substantial support for a community center. But will that support still be there once the costs are estimated and the proposed facility features are identified.”

To reach people who may not be



*Residents brainstorm at the April 11 Community Center public meeting.*

able to attend the meetings, the city is also planning to set up booths at grocery stores, coffee shops, schools and city events. Online “webinars” and “focus groups” are also being considered as part of the outreach effort.

For more information on the community center feasibility study, go to

the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click on the “*Community Center*” banner at the top of the home page.

Email updates on the study are also available by clicking on the “*Email Alert*” icon in the upper, right-hand corner of the home page.



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

## Meeting Schedule:

**Monday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.**

*Focus on design concepts, site analysis and budget options.*

**Monday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.**

*Focus on preferred design, budgets and operation alternatives.*

**Tuesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.**

*Final BRS report to City Council  
(Report will contain recommended design concept, location and cost.)*

## Permit for Muslim prayer house gets standard review

Although the permit application is not unusual, and it's going through a standard review process by city staff, a residence along Southeast 20th Street, and its proposed use as a Muslim prayer house, has provoked a few letters to the editor.

Most of the concerns expressed revolve around noise, traffic, wildlife and compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood, but at least one letter writer has suggested the city is being politically correct by even considering the application.

"Actually, it's not unusual for churches and schools and other institutional uses to be considered in areas that are zoned R-4," said Kamuron Gurol, the city's director of community development. "This zoning, which allows single-family homes and a case-by-case evaluation of institutional uses, covers about 70 percent of the city."

The Latter Day Saints building on 216th Avenue Northeast and the Good

Samaritan Episcopal Church along 244th Avenue Northeast are two examples of institutional uses in residential areas.

"Religious uses like the prayer house require a conditional use permit," Gurol said, "and that's what the prayer house has applied for."

"City staff looks at these applications on an individual basis. We don't know yet what's going to happen with the prayer house."

When the city reviews a conditional use permit application, it looks at the likely impacts on the surround-

ing neighborhood and, as a condition of approval, often requires the applicant to soften those impacts in a variety of ways. Among other things, this may require screening, landscaping, traffic improvements and a strict limitation on hours of use. (NOTE: The City Council is not involved in permitting decisions.)

The application from the Sammamish Muslim Association, if approved by city staff, would allow a religious use in the building and the construction of a 38-stall parking lot on the two-acre property. Additional conditional use permits would likely be required should the association ask to expand the building or add new ones.

"Our rules regarding conditional use permits are the standard rules that most cities use," Gurol said. "There's room for judgment, of course, because every case is different, but we'll apply the rules the way we always do."



*The prayer house along Southeast 20th Street.*

## You can help create a more healthy environment!

By making small changes in your daily habits, you can have a big impact on the health of your children, pets and the environment. Here are ten ways you can help:

1. Never dump anything into storm drains or streams.
2. Use a commercial car wash instead of washing your car in the driveway.
3. Check your car for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
4. Use, store and dispose of household hazardous materials in a proper manner.
5. Scoop pet waste, bag it, and place it in the trash.

6. Find and use a professional carpet cleaning service that practices proper waste water disposal.
7. Practice natural yard care.
8. Use little to no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides.
9. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider starting a rain garden.
10. Reduce the size of your lawn and impervious surfaces on your property.

Courtesy of your Sammamish Stormwater Management Team: 425-295-0573

## Evans Creek Preserve trails take shape thanks to volunteers

Evans Creek Preserve, 180 acres of picturesque open space along the northern city limits, will open this fall. And thanks to a small army of volunteers, visitors will pad along two miles of brand-new trails as they take in the scenery.

“It started in March and April when the Washington Trails Association did a lot of the early work with their volunteers,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “The WTA did a great job, and now we need to match their accomplishments with city-led volunteers.”

Residents who want to contrib-

ute to the trail-building effort, or obtain more information about the project, should contact Dawn Sanders, the city’s volunteer coordinator at [dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us) or 425-295-0556.

Volunteer crews will likely consist of 10 to 20 people per day, with park commissioners, city staff and trained volunteers doing the supervising. Currently, the volunteer work days are scheduled for May 7, May 27, June 4 and June 18 with work beginning at



*WTA volunteers work on an Evans Creek Preserve trail.*

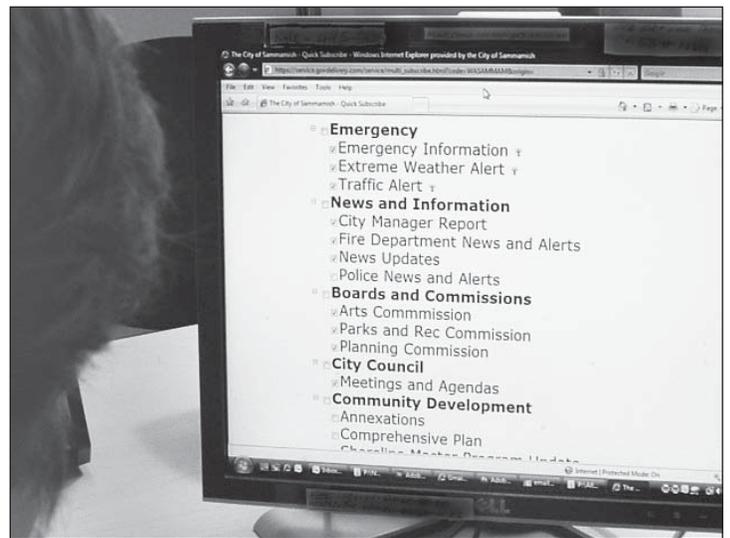
8:30 a.m. and going until 3:30 p.m.

To visit the project webpage, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click through *Departments, Parks and Rec, Projects, and Evans Creek Preserve*.

## More topics added to city email alert menu

Residents who like to receive email alerts from the city now have a longer menu of topic choices to select from when they go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)). In addition to news updates, traffic alerts, City Council bulletins and about 40 other city-related topics that were on the original menu when the service began a year and a half ago, the following choices were recently added:

- **Community Center Feasibility Study** – Residents can now receive the latest updates on the ongoing feasibility study. The study, which features public meetings and vigorous outreach to the community, will result in a report to the City Council in July.
- **Evans Creek Preserve, Phase One** – This 180-acre parcel of open space is currently benefitting from the hard work of volunteers who are building trails. It’s expected to open this fall.
- **Community Garden** – This garden, still in the planning



*Choose from a menu of email alert topics on the city website.*

stages, will be located at Beaver Lake Park. It’s expected to open in the fall of 2011 or the early spring of 2012.

- **Stormwater Management** – The latest tips and news on city policies regarding surface water runoff.
- **Wireless Communications** – News on policy affecting cell phone towers and other wireless facilities.
- **Boys & Girls Club Recreation Center**

## CALEA recognition for King County Sheriff's Office

After undergoing a rigorous 36-month evaluation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the King County Sheriff's Office was recognized recently in Washington, D.C., for meeting CALEA'S accreditation standards.

Those standards reflect the current thinking and experience of public safety practitioners and researchers, and are considered benchmarks for today's public safety agencies. CALEA's accreditation, which requires that an agency reach internationally recognized professional standards, was awarded to the King County Sheriff's Office at CALEA's spring conference in the nation's capital.

Sammamish contracts with the county for its police services. All Sammamish police officers are members of the newly accredited King County Sheriff's Office.

## Do you have a 72-hour kit ready for emergencies?

Disaster planners have long said that people should be able to survive on their own for at least three days in the event of an emergency.

"That's a 72-hour period when the crisis could be so big that emergency personnel and resources may not be available," Deputy City Manager Lyman Howard said. "As we learned during the recent earthquake in Japan, people can be on their own for quite a while."

Howard, who heads up the city's emergency planning, says a 72-hour emergency preparedness kit should contain enough food and water to sustain people and pets for three days, plus other items such as flashlights, batteries, first aid supplies and a radio.

For full details on how to plan for three days of self-reliance during an emergency, go to : [www.govlink.org/3days3ways/](http://www.govlink.org/3days3ways/).

## Deputy City Manager Pete Butkus retires

His last day was April 29, but the positive energy Pete Butkus brought to the office week after week continues to animate City Hall.

"He was a difference-maker," said City Manager Ben Yazici. "Not just because he did important things, but because he did them in the right spirit. I don't think the influence of his friendly, can-do approach will ever wear off here at City Hall."

As deputy city manager, Butkus had an expansive portfolio, taking the lead on the 244th Avenue corridor study, the design and construction of Sammamish Commons (including the City Hall building), and the initial phase of public process that eventually led to the adopted Town Center Plan.

"I hired Pete in 2001 because he had a reputation as a guy who got things done," Yazici said. "That turned

out to be very true. Sometimes he would provide delicate, carefully calibrated briefings to the council. Other times, he'd be walking down the hall with a wrench to fix a pipe somewhere. He was Mr. Can Do."

His resume highlights include nine years as a police officer, six years as the elected mayor of Pullman, and 15 years



*Pete Butkus, Dep. City Manager – Retired!*

as the executive director of the State Public Works Board under three governors. He was also a finance and management consultant to environmental agencies that worked with the Russian National Pollution Fund. Starting now, he plans to add fishing and gardening to his record.

"My wife Carole and I are going to move to our house on Harstine Island," Butkus said. "We plan to stay pretty busy doing things we enjoy. Aside from fishing and growing things, I'm planning to be a 'reader' at a local elementary school, and expect to visit and revisit a lot of foreign lands with Carole."

Asked what he will miss most about Sammamish, Butkus said it was the people he's grown to admire.

"The staffers at City Hall, and so many residents. I've met a lot of people who are working hard to make a positive difference here in Sammamish."

# CITY CALENDAR

## MAY

### *Sunday, May 1*

Blood Drive at City Hall  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### *Tuesday, May 3*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### *Wednesday, May 4*

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

### *Thursday, May 5*

Planning Commission Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

### *Monday, May 9*

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

### *Tuesday, May 10*

Joint Meeting: City Council/Parks &  
Rec Commission, 6:30 p.m.

### *Thursday, May 12*

Community Garden Steering  
Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### *Monday, May 16*

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

### *Tuesday, May 17*

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

### *Wednesday, May 18*

OPENING DAY  
Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

### *Thursday, May 19*

Planning Commission  
ARCH field trip, 5 p.m.

### *Saturday, May 21*

Volunteer Event at Illahee Trail  
9 a.m.- noon  
Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.- noon  
Pine Lake Park

### *Wednesday, May 25*

Joint Mtg: City Council/Issaquah  
School Board, 6 p.m., at Issaquah  
School District offices.  
Samm. Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

### *Monday, May 30*

Memorial Day  
City offices closed

## JUNE

### *Wednesday, June 1*

Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Parks and Rec Comm. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### *Thursday, June 2*

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### *Tuesday, June 7*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Simple Measures Concert, 7-9 p.m. at  
Sammamish Presbyterian Church

### *Wednesday, June 8*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Art Recycle Reception, 6-8 p.m.

### *Thursday, June 9*

Community Garden Steering Com-  
mittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### *Monday, June 11*

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

### *Tuesday, June 14*

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

### *Wednesday, June 15*

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.  
Youth Board Meeting, 6-7 p.m.

### *Thursday, June 16*

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### *Friday, June 17*

Teen Fest Skate Competition  
and Dance, 1-9 p.m.  
Sammamish Skate Park & Plaza

### *Saturday, June 18*

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

### *Monday, June 20*

Arts Commission Meeting, 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*

Samm, Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

### *Monday, Jun. 27*

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

### *Tuesday, June 28*

Kids Concert, 11 a.m.- noon

### *Wednesday, June 29*

Sammamish Farmers Market  
4-8 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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## SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



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Mayor



*Tom Odell*  
Deputy Mayor



*Nancy Whitten*  
Councilmember



*John Curley*  
Councilmember



*John James*  
Councilmember



*Mark Cross*  
Councilmember



*Michele Petitti*  
Councilmember

# Sammamish ARTS FAIR

Sponsored by the  
City of Sammamish Arts Commission  
Fair dates: October 8 & 9, 2011

## CALL TO ARTISTS

Artwork submission deadline May 15th 2011

For more information, visit  
[www.sammamishartfair.wordpress.com](http://www.sammamishartfair.wordpress.com)

### CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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

[www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)

**Don Gerend, Mayor**  
dgerend@ci.sammamish.wa.us  
**Tom Odell, Deputy Mayor**  
todell@ci.sammamish.wa.us  
**Mark Cross, Councilmember**  
mcross@ci.sammamish.wa.us  
**John Curley, Councilmember**  
jcurley@ci.sammamish.wa.us  
**John James, Councilmember**  
jjames@ci.sammamish.wa.us  
**Michele Petitti, Councilmember**  
mpetitti@ci.sammamish.wa.us  
**Nancy Whitten, Councilmember**  
nwhitten@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Ben Yazici	City Manager
Lyman Howard	Deputy City Manager
Kamuron Gurol	ComDevDir/AsstCityMgr
Laura Philpot	Public Works Director
Jessi Richardson	Parks & Rec Director
Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
Aaron Antin	Deputy Finance Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Lee Soptich	Fire Chief
Bruce Disend	City Attorney
Tim Larson	Communications Mgr