

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 152

CITY NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2015

Community Center construction update

POOLS, GYMS AND MUCH MORE DUE TO OPEN IN EARLY 2016

It's still too early to bounce a basketball or take a swim, but as girders, joists and interior columns fall into alignment, the early 2016 opening of the Community and Aquatic Center is becoming easier to imagine.

The roofline over the two gyms is already in place, and space for the swimming pools is taking shape. Despite the usual winter rains, steady progress on the 69,000-square-foot, two level facility is evident.

"The construction site keeps changing as new elements are added," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "Forming a mental picture of the finished building, and the day we throw the doors open to our residents in early 2016, is exciting."

Located just west of the library and City Hall, the Community and Aquatic Center will offer approximately 185 vehicle spaces in a parking structure and another 114 spaces of surface parking. Access to the facility will be provided by an expansion and

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Artist's rendering of "The Village," a proposed, mixed-use project in the Town Center located on the northwest corner of 228th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Fourth Street.

Two Town Center projects may break ground this year

First, the community needed to form a Town Center vision. Then, a vision-supporting set of rules and regulations had to be devised. And then, and perhaps most importantly, the economy had to take off and turn that vision into a bright, shiny reality.

That last part took a while.

But two project applications for the Town Center would seem to indicate that private-sector energy is coming back strong. If everything goes as expected, it's possible two different

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Sammamish needs the state legislature to come through!

By the time this message is published, the state legislature will have been in session for just over a month. Here's hoping they've made some progress!

This is a "budget year" for the legislature. In 2013, the legislature went to the last hour of the final day – right up to the government shut-down precipice – before approving a budget.



*Tom Vance
Mayor*

This year could be just as difficult.

Although the economic outlook is more positive than in several years, the so-called

McCleary Decision by the State Supreme Court to fully fund K-12 education, along with the passing of an unfunded initiative on class size, is going to make things tough on the legislature.

In that context, the Sammamish City Council recently passed its "Legislative Priorities for 2015." In addition to supporting Issaquah's efforts to improve commuter roads along the I-90 corridor, here are some of the important issues on our list:

Transportation: The state needs a comprehensive statewide transportation plan. We face deteriorating infrastructure throughout the state.

Regionally, we need continued support for improvements on the I-90, I-405 and SR 520 routes. In King County and the tri-county area, we need support for our vital

transit systems, along with new, strategically placed park-and-ride lots – especially north of our city.

The parking lots in Redmond are filling up by 7:30 a.m. or earlier. Because we have one central commuter bus corridor through our city, we need park and ride lots to help make transit more available to our citizens who live beyond walking distance to 228th Avenue.

Keep your eye on the state senate. I'm told that if there is any hope that a statewide transportation package is going to make it out of the legislature this year, it will have to come from the Senate.

If we cannot get a statewide package, the Puget Sound Regional Council (including King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties), led by our neighbor, Redmond Mayor John Marchione, will ask for a regional package. But let's be patient – for now.

The Public Works Trust Fund: I wrote about this last year. This is the self-perpetuating, low-interest fund that helps cities and counties pay for vital public works, such as roads and bridges, without going to the much more expensive bond market and potentially having to increase property taxes.

We used the fund to help rebuild 228th Avenue when we were a very young city. Unfortunately, the state legislature has diverted these vital funds to fill short-falls elsewhere. In the long run, this is very bad policy. They need to restore those funds.

Maintain and restore state revenue sharing: The liquor tax, for example. The state has reduced and capped

the amount of liquor excise tax going to local governments. That has a significant impact since cities and counties provide most of the public safety we enjoy. The city share of the liquor tax helps pay for local and regional policing, including, well, DUIs.

Marketplace Fairness Act: At the federal level, Sammamish joins other local and regional partners in supporting the important legislation.

Let's make sure that our local businesses can continue to compete with out-of-state competitors who benefit from tax-free pricing.

Education: Great schools are one of the foundations of our wonderful community. Every time Sammamish is lauded as a friendly, safe, best place to live, our schools are an important part of that consideration.

Although those of us on the City Council are not directly involved in the operation of our local school districts, and education does not appear on our priorities list, many of us help with the school foundations and in collaboration with the school boards to help them achieve their goals.

Their success is vital to our community.

I don't envy the job legislators are facing this session. I wish them success as they weigh the importance of funding our education system, and the very real needs of our cities and counties.

Here's hoping they find the right balance!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

COMMUNITY, *c ont. from pg. 1*

reconfiguration of the roads currently serving the library and City Hall.

In addition to the two gyms and two pools, the facility will offer fitness areas, locker rooms, an elevated jogging track, a weight room, multi-purpose spaces, meeting areas, child care and a variety of other amenities.

With demolition, design, sales tax, construction contingencies and other expenses, the total project cost is \$33,885,000. Funding

for the project will be drawn from existing financial reserves. No new taxes were imposed to pay for the facility.

When the city-owned build-

ing opens, it will be operated by the YMCA. The Y will also contribute \$5 million toward construction, and equip and furnish the facility. Mem-

bership fees, services and programs will be similar to those in nearby YMCAs.

“Partnering with the YMCA makes a lot of sense for a city that keeps its permanent staff small,” Yazici said. “With the Y handling day-to-day operations, something they have vast experience with, we won’t have to hire a lot of new people to staff the facility.”



A recent photo of the Community and Aquatic Center construction site.

TOWN CENTER, *c ont. from pg. 1*

projects could break ground in 2015.

The bigger of the two, a TRF Pacific project billed as “The Village,” will be located on the northwest corner of 228th Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street, a spot best known now as the residence of an old railroad caboos.

“The Village” will occupy over six acres and provide up to 115,000 square feet of commercial space. Restaurants, retail and office space, and a grocery store (Metropolitan Market) will be front and center. The project will also feature 159 living units. (See an artist’s rendering on the front page of this newsletter.)

A second application, this one by Intracorp, is in for a project called “Southeast Village.” Located just north of the Lutheran Church at 228th Avenue and Southeast Eighth Street, this 4.5 acre site will feature 75 townhouses (including 13 live-work units), and 6,500 square feet of commercial space.

A third application, with an anticipated groundbreaking in 2016, is also in the pipeline. That project, by American Classic, will build “Plateau 120,” a five-story concept that puts 92 apartment units above 14,515 square feet of ground-floor office space. The 2.84-acre site is just west of Eastside Catho-

lic High School along 228th Avenue.

“We are continuing the review process on these applications,” City Manager Ben Yazici said, “but we’re feeling optimistic. Even if changes need to be made, we think there’s a good chance the Town Center will really get rolling this summer.”



Artist’s rendering of Plateau 120, a mixed-use project proposed by American Classic. This blend of living and work spaces will be located just west of Eastside Catholic High School, near the intersection of Southeast First Street and 228th Avenue Southeast.

Klahanie annexation on track for April election

The Boundary Review Board waited 45 days to see if anybody would contest the Klahanie area's potential annexation to Sammamish – but nobody did. The window for “invoking jurisdiction,” as it's called, ended on Jan. 22.

So that means there's a very good chance the city will meet its goal of holding the annexation election on April 28. And that's good news for Klahanie-area taxpayers.

Why? Because if the vote favors annexation, the April election date will give the city enough time to make the annexation official by Aug. 1, and that means Klahanie-area residents will benefit from lower taxes beginning in 2016. If the official annexation date were to fall after Aug. 1, the lower taxes wouldn't take effect until 2017.

It's estimated a Klahanie-area resident with a \$500,000 home will see property taxes drop by about \$420 annually.

Huckabay wins a second 1-year term as deputy mayor

Although the mayor serves a two-year term in Sammamish, the deputy mayor serves for only one year. Unless, of course, the City Council chooses to re-elect the deputy mayor for another one-year term.

And that's exactly what happened on Jan. 6 at the City Council's first regular meeting of 2015.

By a vote of 5-1-1, the Council chose Kathy Huckabay to serve another term as deputy mayor. The choice came at the mid-point of Mayor Tom Vance's two-year term.



*Kathy Huckabay
Deputy Mayor*

Residents discuss comprehensive plan at open house

After more than a year of detailed work, the city's Planning Commission shared its thoughts on the comprehensive plan rewrite last month.

With residents invited, the Commission's goals and policies were on full display at a Jan. 20 open house inside City Hall. The eight elements of the comprehensive plan – housing, land use, transportation, shorelines, parks, capital facilities, utilities, and environment and conservation – were all covered.

The Commission started its work on the state-mandated rewrite in late 2013. It's expected to wrap up its deliberations this month and pass along its recommendations

to the City Council in March.

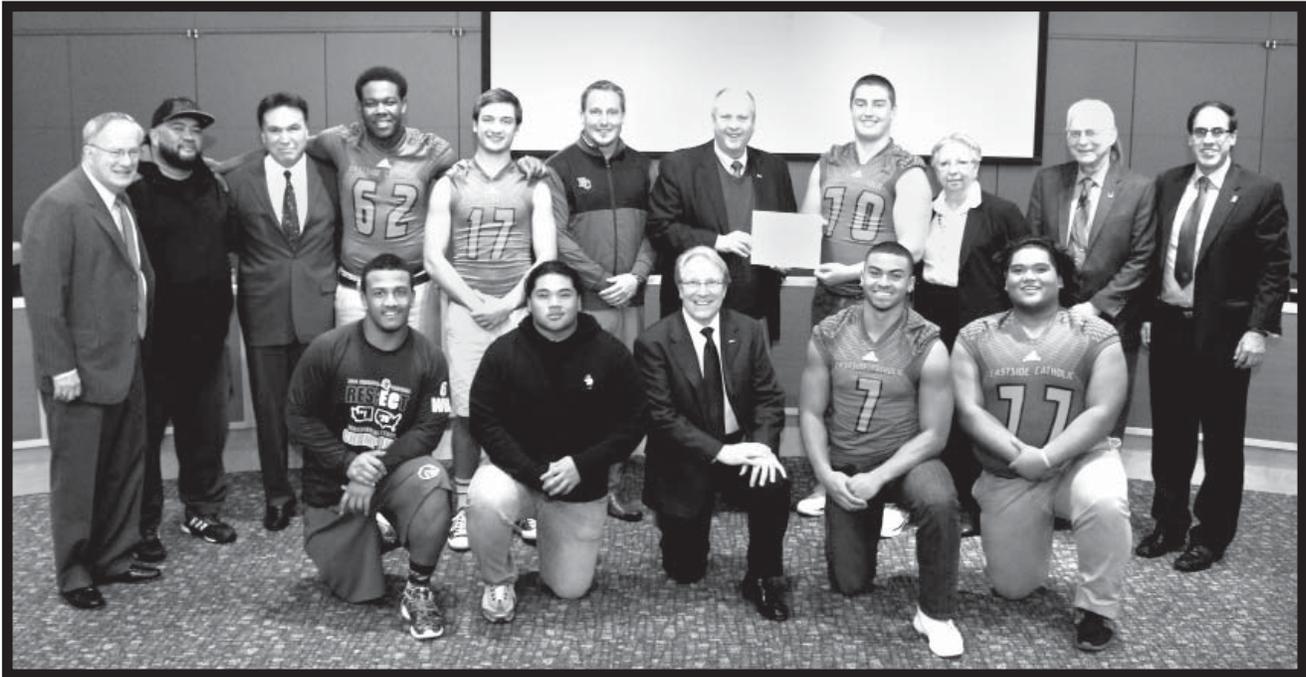
The Council will then begin its review and adopt the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Rewrite in June. In the course of that work, the Council will hold two more open houses and two public hearings. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide their perspectives.

“Our Planning Commission members and city staff have done great work,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “And, shortly, it will be the Council's turn. I hope residents will continue to take part so the comp plan, our roadmap for the future, will truly reflect what the people in our community want Sammamish to look like 20 years from now.”



Senior Planner Emily Arteché discusses the comp plan with residents.

Honoring Eastside Catholic, 3A State Football Champs



After defeating Bellevue High School in the 3A championship game, Eastside Catholic football coaches and players were recognized at the Jan. 6 City Council meeting. In the front row, from the left, Devon Arbis-Jackson, Dominique Fetui, Councilmember Bob Keller, Brandon Wellington, Deion Fetui. Back row, Councilmember Tom Odell, Coach Lia Fetui, City Manager Ben Yazici, Cody Baker, Matt Kvech, Head Coach Jeremy Thielbahr, Mayor Tom Vance, Alex Neale, and Councilmembers Kathy Huckabay, Don Gerend and Ramiro Valderrama.

Don't let this happen in Sammamish!



If you see an illicit discharge polluting our streams and lakes, call the city's Stormwater Team at 425-295-0573.

Life stories workshop!

Presented by Special Arts Sammamish
A free cross-generational event

John Gordon of the Pacific Northwest Life Stories will lead this interactive and fun workshop so you can construct and edit your life story!

Saturday, Feb. 28, from 1-4 p.m.
Bellewood Retirement Apartments
3710 Providence Point Dr. S.E., Issaquah 98029

Contact agubata@sammamish.us to register

Sponsored by:
Sammamish Arts Commission and 4Culture

Recognizing great work!

CITY HONORS EMPLOYEES AT LUNCHEON

Steven Chen, City Employee of the Year

City Manager Ben Yazici lauded the city's traffic engineer for his excellent work with residents. Known for his patience and "get it done" approach, Steven Chen works on parking, speeding, crosswalks, sight distance problems, sign requests and many other issues that affect public safety.

Ryan Anderson and Pete Wilson, Firefighters of the Year

Responsible for the "Think Again" program at local high schools, these two firefighters ask students to consider the potential consequences of using alcohol or other substances. Their message – Think Again, and don't become a statistic.

Det. Tracy Dodd, Police Officer of the Year

This Sammamish detective recently helped clear a car prowling problem that was victimizing people in Sammamish and beyond. The investigation drew significant media attention and enhanced the public's faith in law enforcement.

Finance Division, Team of the Year

City Manager Ben Yazici praised Joe Guinasso's finance team for their excellent work on the 2015/2016 biennial budget, and noted that the department has received seven straight "clean audits" from the state of Washington.



Lt. Ryan Anderson and Firefighter Pete Wilson (fourth and fifth from left) share the "Firefighter of the Year" award. Also pictured, Fire Chief Bud Backer, Councilmembers Kathy Huckabay and Ramiro Valderrama and City Manager Ben Yazici.



Finance division wins "Team of the Year" award. From left, Councilmember Tom Odell, Finance Director Joe Guinasso, Mayor Tom Vance, Financial Specialist II Jodee Bass, Accounting Manager Jennifer Dilley, Financial Specialist Marlene Dunham and Admin. Ass't. Allison Gubata.



As his colleagues applaud in the background, Steven Chen (center) receives his "Employee of the Year" award from Public Works Director Laura Philpot (left), Councilmember Bob Keller, Councilmember Nancy Whitten and City Manager Ben Yazici.



Det. Tracey Dodd (center), with Councilmembers Kathy Huckabay and Ramiro Valderrama, is honored as "Police Officer of Year."

CITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, Feb. 3

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

Wednesday, Feb. 4

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

Thursday, Feb. 5

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

Saturday, Feb. 7

- Volunteer opportunity, 10 a.m - 1 p.m.
- Restoration, Lower Commons

Tuesday, Feb. 10

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

Thursday, Feb. 12

- Volunteer opportunity, 10 a.m - 1 p.m.
- Restoration, Lower Commons

Saturday, Feb. 14

- Volunteer opportunity, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Restoration, Lower Commons

Monday, Feb. 16

- Washington's Birthday, Offices closed

Tuesday, Feb. 17

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- "Messiaen Around with Time"
- Simple Measures, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Pine Lake Covenant Church

Thursday, Feb. 19

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

Saturday, Feb. 21

- Volunteer opportunity, 9 a.m.-noon
- Ebright Creek Restoration

Monday, Feb. 23

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

MARCH

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

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

Saturday, March 7

- Volunteer opportunity, 10 a.m - 1 p.m.
- Restoration, Lower Commons

Tuesday, March 10

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

Saturday, March 14

- Volunteer opportunity, 10 a.m - 1 p.m.
- Restoration, Lower Commons

Monday, March 16

- Committee of the Whole, 6:30 p.m.
- Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17

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

Saturday, March 28

- "Make it a Clay Day"
- Special Arts Sammamish,
Noon -3 p.m.
- Boys and Girls Club

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.

Volunteer opportunities in Sammamish!



Help restore the Lower Commons wetland

Saturday, Feb. 7, Thursday, Feb. 12, and Thursday, Feb. 19

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plant and mulch native trees and shrubs, remove invasives.



Help the salmon in Ebright Creek

Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to Noon

Join volunteers with the Washington Native Plant Society as they remove invasive weeds and plant native trees and shrubs.

For more information, or to register, go to <https://www.sammamish.us/volunteer/default.aspx>.



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Sammamish, WA 98075

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SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



*Tom Vance
Mayor*



*Kathy Huckabay
Deputy Mayor*



*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*Bob Keller
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Excellence in Financial Reporting



The Government Finance Officers Association awarded Sammamish its "Excellence in Financial Reporting" certificate for the spirit of transparency and full disclosure evident in the city's comprehensive financial reports. Mayor Tom Vance (left) holds the certificate and is joined by Accounting Manager Jennifer Dille (left), Finance Director Joe Guinasso and Financial Specialist II Jodee Bass.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ben Yazici | City Manager |
| Lyman Howard | Deputy City Manager |
| Laura Philpot | Ass't City Mgr/Public Works Dir |
| Jessi Bon | Parks & Rec Director |
| Beth Goldberg | Admin Services Director |
| Joe Guinasso | Finance Director |
| Jeff Thomas | Community Dev Director |
| Melonie Anderson | City Clerk |
| Nathan Elledge | Police Chief |
| Bud Backer | Fire Chief |
| Michael Kenyon | City Attorney |

**Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
425-295-0555, tlarson@sammamish.us**