



City to convene second roundtable

With big budgetary and infrastructure decisions on the horizon, the City Council will convene a community roundtable to gain more insight into what Sammamish residents want – and what they're willing to pay for.

The roundtable, featuring between 50 and 60 residents, will likely convene in late May or early June, Councilman Jack Barry said. The format will be similar to the city's first roundtable, which was held in April 2002.

"The first session gave us some great ideas," Barry said. "I think our second roundtable will help us with direction and priorities."

Barry, who is taking the council lead on the roundtable effort, divides the city's to-do list into three categories: need to do, want to do, and it would be nice to do.

"All of these things have a price tag," Barry said. "I think it's important to hear from our residents in as many ways as possible before we spend their money. We can't pay for everything."

Roundtable participants will be chosen by the council, with each council member tapping eight people. In 2002, Barry made most of his selections by choosing from among those who spoke before the council, sent him emails or expressed an interest. (Email addresses for all council



Councilman Jack Barry

members are listed on the last page of this newsletter.)

"I think the roundtable will be an essential element in demonstrating to our public that we not only value their input, but we solicit it as well," Barry said.

Council contemplates Eyman impact Initiative 864 aims to cut property tax revenue 25 percent

If Tim Eyman's Initiative 864 makes it onto the November ballot and passes, the city will have to make some significant decisions before approving its 2005-2006 biennial budget.

The new initiative, which aims to reduce property taxes by up to 25 per-

cent, would drop the city's property tax revenue from approximately \$15.5 million to approximately \$12.7 million annually. That's a very steep drop for Sammamish, which receives around 70 percent of its operating revenue from property taxes.

One potential adjustment would be to immediately cut city programs and capital expenditures for roads and parks.

The other option, of course, would be to ask residents to retain the current



Mayor Kathleen Huckabay

This newsletter focuses on many of the subjects we addressed at our council retreat in January.

But I would like to add some perspective on the working relationship that developed there between the “old” and the “new” council members.

Our new colleagues are certainly independent, questioning thinkers who challenge the rest of us to think through and explain our positions. Challenging, yes! But, most importantly, at the

end of the retreat we felt energized and confident that we could listen and question each other, discuss ideas and come up with a better work product as a result.

With three new councilmembers, I knew that the first priority was to bring them up to speed on a multitude of issues and provide them with background information. Much of it was mundane: rules on how council members work together and how the council connects with city staff. We also went over the open meetings act.

But much of the material was and is frustratingly complex: finances, concurrency, and balancing how to make growth pay for itself without pricing attractive amenities, such as teen centers, non-profit organizations, public schools, churches and convenience services, out of the market. Moderating growth so our infrastructure can catch up is another tough subject.

But we came out of the retreat committed to looking at best practices in our area and in other cities, and understanding

an issue and how it will affect the public before making a decision. Those of you that joined us at our lengthy discussions on concurrency can appreciate that quality. It may take time but we'll find a way to craft a solution.

In addition to listening to each other, council members want to hear from you. Whether it's bringing the public into the process early on as we undertake new projects, giving you more opportunities to speak and be heard at council meetings or study sessions, or just engaging in conversation, we are committed to being good listeners.

One result is that we took a giant step back on the park-ride project and scheduled an open house to hear everyone's concerns before going forward. Another is our council roundtable, which will invite a representative cross section of residents to talk about our capital projects. Plus, the council will be forming a task force to focus on the 'special study area'. This area, in and around our future city hall, can become the heart of our young city. We want to take care in determining our collective vision for that space.

Lastly, there is our Ebright Creek redesign initiative. The city made some process mistakes when designing that park. By going back to square one, we have the opportunity to create a model process that integrates community involvement and environmental review early on in the design process. If successful, this can be a process that applies to many other projects, both park and road, throughout our city

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Huckabay". The signature is fluid and cursive.

EYMAN - continued from Page 1

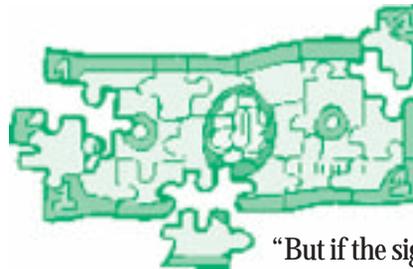
level of service by voting to maintain the current property tax rate.

“Obviously, the community will have to give the options some serious thought in the months to come,” City Manager Ben Yazici said.

“We may have to prepare two budgets. One that assumes the initiative fails, and one that assumes passage.”

The Eyman initiative calls for a 25 percent reduction from the maximum levy amount. Since the city doesn't currently levy at the maximum rate, the net impact to the city would likely amount to about an 18 percent reduction from current levels.

It should become clear by July if Eyman is going to have enough signatures to put I-864 on the November ballot.



“If the initiative doesn't make it on the ballot, we'll be able to follow our normal budgetary process,” Yazici said.

“But if the signatures are there, we'll have to go into November with two different frameworks to consider.”

The budgetary timeline will require some fancy financial footwork if I-864 passes on Nov. 2. The new rules, and a new budget reflecting those rules, will have to go into effect just a few weeks later on Jan. 1.



With City Manager
BEN YAZICI

**Q
&
A**

Q: The new council has been in place for two months now. How are things going?

A: I think the city has made a very smooth transition. Our three new council members—Nancy Whitten, Mark Cross and Lee Felling—are fully engaged and on task.

Q: What are the big challenges they'll face this year?

A: All of our council members have made it clear we have some big decisions to make on expenditures and priorities. We have a long list of projects—roads, parks, storm drainage, etc.—and a finite amount of money.

Q: How will the city go about making its choices?

A: As always, the council will confer with the community. In addition to looking at surveys and holding public hearings, the city will also convene a new community roundtable. We think this roundtable, featuring 50 or 60 key members of the community, will give us a great deal of insight into how residents feel.

Q: Give us a quick thumbnail sketch of the situation.

A: Looking ahead 20 years, we've concluded that the city needs to invest approximately \$260 million to erase the infrastructure deficit we inherited from King County. Over that same 20-year period, though, our current revenue structure will produce only around \$220 million.

Q: How do you solve that problem?

A: We have three options: We can drop some items off our to-do list, we can look for ways to raise additional revenues, or we can stretch the time line from 20 years to 25 or 30 years.

Q: And this is complicated further by the new Tim Eyman initiative, right?

A: Correct. If Initiative 864 passes, and property taxes are reduced, the decisions will get even tougher.

Q: You went to Olympia recently with Mayor Kathleen Huckabay, Deputy Mayor Don Gerend and Councilmember Michele Petitti. What did you push for?

A: On the Senate side we checked in with Majority Leader Bill Finkbeiner and Senator Cheryl Pflug. On the house side, we talked with Representatives Glenn Anderson and Jay Rodne, among others. We reminded them how important the widening of State Route 202 is to our residents. They assured us they would do everything they could to protect the funding for that project.

We also made a big push for the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement. This is becoming

especially important now that so many people are buying products over the internet.

In this approach, sales tax is funneled to the point of product delivery rather than the point of sale.

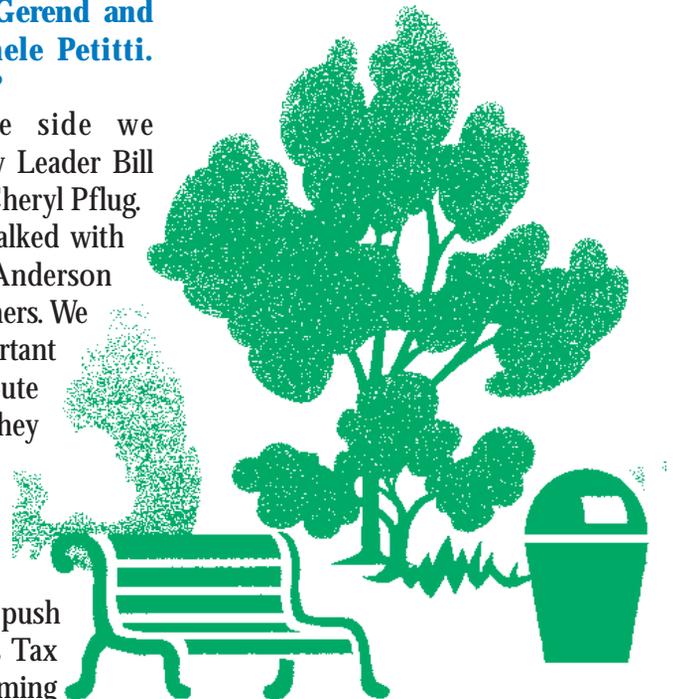
This is important to Sammamish. If one of our residents orders a refrigerator, we think the sales tax should go to Sammamish, not to some remote warehouse district.

At the same time, we are sensitive to other cities losing revenue, so we support some type of mitigation.

Q: What are some other recent highlights?

A: We started our \$1 million renovation of Pine Lake Park. We're busily working on some additional programs for our new TV channel. And we just extended our development moratorium to give us a bit more time to establish our development regulations.

We've been busy on many, many fronts. It's an exciting time to be working for the City of Sammamish!



Moratorium on development extended six months

The City Council voted last month to extend a moratorium on new development for another six months. The moratorium, which has been in place since shortly after incorporation in 1999, was extended by a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Among other things, the measure prohibits approval of new apartments, office buildings and residential subdivisions. Some of the exemptions to the moratorium include: schools, government buildings, churches, single-family homes and some short plats with a maximum of two lots. Development permits submitted to King County before Sammamish became a city are also entitled to proceed.

“The council wanted some more time to establish a full complement of development regulations before lifting the moratorium,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The community seems pleased that we’re proceeding carefully with this.”

Although the Planning Advisory Board (PAB) recommended a number of development standards that were adopted by the council as part of the comprehensive plan process, the city is still working on its own regulations in many other areas. Until the city fully adopts its own standards, it will continue to be governed in some areas by regulations patterned after King County code.

Planning Commission hard at work

They meet once a month, seven of the city’s best and brightest, to discuss such things as landscape standards for storm water structures and the appropriate location of public maintenance facilities.

The subjects may not be glamorous, but the work is vital, and the city’s new Planning Commission is now about six meetings into its first tour of duty.

The seven members are: Chairman Scot Jarvis, Vice-Chair Karen Moran, Stuart Carson, Robert Conger, Robert Keller, Catherine Kendall and Will Sadler.

As a group, they are charged with making recommendations to the City Council on amendments to the comprehensive plan and new development regulations. They also review the city’s adherence to the state’s Growth Management Act.

Director of Community Development Ray Gilmore says the Planning Commission has quickly developed a good working style.

“They’re a bright, hard-working group,” Gilmore said. “They share information freely and work toward consensus.”

The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District, 1510 228th Ave. SE.



From left: Stuart Carson, Vice-Chair Karen Moran, Chairman Scot Jarvis, Robert Keller, Will Sadler, Catherine Kendall, Robert Conger.

\$1 million renovation at Pine Lake Park

Mid-May opening planned

An aging Pine Lake Park is undergoing a much-needed facelift. After starting in early February, workers are scheduled to complete the makeover by mid-May.

The \$1 million project will greatly enhance existing facilities and add several new features, Parks and Recreation Manager Jeff Watling said.

Improvements include a new multi-use sports field, basketball court, climbing wall and parking lot. Improved restrooms and a new storm water system are also part of the project.



Contractors start work at Pine Lake Park last month.

Lean, mean permit machine



Nicole Jackson, Permit Center Manager Kimberlee McArthur and Cindy Reddekopp warm up their arms for a hard day of permitting at Sammamish City Hall.

The city's permit center has been a busy place over the past two years.

In 2002, the city issued 1,331 total permits. Last year, it was 1,500.

"Typically, a city our size has a staff of five or more to handle permits," says Permit Center Manager Kimberlee McArthur. "We've managed to do it with just three."

The permits, for single-family homes, garages, fireplaces and a multitude of other projects, keep McArthur, Cindy Reddekopp and Nicole Jackson hopping.

McArthur credits solid organization and an emphasis on customer service for the team's productivity.

"We pride ourselves on being as informative and helpful as possible when people come into City Hall," McArthur said.

"We think if customers receive accurate information right from the beginning, it will save them and us a lot of time and money."

Sammi Awards

Celebration set for March 20

Sammamish residents who've made special contributions to the community will be honored March 20 at Skyline High School during the third annual Sammi Awards celebration.

Awards will be handed out in eight categories: arts, business, courage, learning promotion, unsung hero, youth advocate, spirit of Sammamish, and the Trevor Price Children's Award.

Dawn Sanders, Chair of the Sammi Awards, says this year's event promises to be the biggest yet.

"The feedback we're getting this year is greater than we've ever gotten before," Sanders said. "We're a little bit concerned that we're not going to have enough seating."

This year's awards will be handed out inside the Skyline High School Theater. After the presentations, refreshments will be served.

Sanders said the Sammi Awards are a great way to bring the community together to recognize special individuals.

"The people that are nominated are so incredulous that the city is recognizing them," Sanders said. It also gives people a chance to say "Thank you for what you've done."

The awards ceremony, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled for 5 p.m., Saturday, March 20, at Skyline High School, 1122 228th Ave. SE.



Sammi Awards committee: (Front) John Sanders, Elaine Bosseler, David McGibney, Kristin Pitt. (Standing) Son Michael Pham, Dawn Abed, Jane Souza, Dawn Sanders, Jim Berry, Rena Brady.

Sammi Award Nominees

Arts:

Anita Johnstone
Diane Moffit
Kerry Robinson Holmes
Shelly Brack

Business:

Debbie Chaney
Coldstone Creamery,
Eric Nikolaisen
Papa John's Pizza,
Nicole Mcleod and
Matthew Reynolds
Plateau Heated Storage,
Sherman Ewing
Sherm's BBQ

Courage:

Kendall Brasch
Jaynee Cadrez
Trish May

Learning Promotion:

Jim Anderson
Marion Makin
Kate Poaster
BJ Sherman

Trevor Price Children's Award:

Elizabeth Arnold
Lindi Augenstein
Morgan Conover
Heather Hilliker
Samantha Leyde
Max Sussman

Unsung Hero:

Diane Hogle
Kara Murphy
Cheryl Lewis
Dianne Spiro
Loren Stayboldt

Youth Advocate:

Nathan Bosseler
Mark Hawksworth
Carolyn Rossi
Jeff Stillwell
Jaden Villnow

Spirit of Sammamish:

Jan Bromberg
Vali Eberhardt
Kerry Robinson Holmes
Mohamed Jawad Khaki
Kara Murphy

City sponsors waste reduction services

The very popular Recycling, Waste Reduction and Hazardous Waste Collection programs will once again be sponsored by the City of Sammamish in 2004.

The programs have two main goals: to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills and to properly collect and dispose of low-level, household hazardous wastes. Sammamish is planning for several such events, spread throughout the year.

In 2003, nearly 1,700 city residents participated in Sammamish Special Collection Events. The programs collected over 250,000 pounds of recyclable material. This included over 47,000 pounds of moderate risk waste, like motor oil and lead acid batteries.

The first event this year will be held on Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Eastlake High School, 400 228th Ave. NE. Residents will also be noti-



Vehicles line up for recycling event at Eastlake High School in 2003.

fied of the service via mail and the city's website: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

This continuing program is sponsored by the City of Sammamish and is made possible by grants from the state Department of Ecology, King County Solid

Waste Division and Seattle-King County Public Health.

The city contracts with a regional firm, Olympic Environmental Resources, for the actual collection and proper re-use and recycling of the items accepted at events.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

Monday, March 1

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10:00 a.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Parks & Rec. Commission, 6:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, March 2

- Community Dev. Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, March 3

- Public Safety Committee, 6:30 p.m.
Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Ave NE

Tuesday, March 9

- Joint Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
City Council & Planning Commission
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, March 16

- Public Works Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Ave NE

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

The Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District is located at 1510 228th Avenue NE.

Tuesday, March 16 - cont.

- Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, March 17

- Arts Commission, 7:00 p.m.
Bellewood, 3710 Providence Point Dr. SE

Monday, March 22

- Parks & Rec. Commission, 6:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, March 23

- Finance Committee, 11:30 a.m.
City Hall, 486 228th Ave NE
- City Council Study Session, 7:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, March 25

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, April 1

- Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, April 5

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10:00 a.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, April 6

- Community Dev. Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, April 6 - cont.

- Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, April 13

- City Council Study Session, 7:30 p.m.
(If necessary)
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, April 20

- Public Works Committee, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, 486 228th Ave NE
- Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, April 21

- Arts Commission, 7:00 p.m.
Bellewood, 3710 Providence Point Dr. SE

Thursday, April 22

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, April 26

- Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, April 27

- Finance Committee, 11:30 a.m.
City Hall, 486 228th Ave NE
- Public Safety Committee, 6:30 p.m.
Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Ave NE
- City Council Study Session, 7:30 p.m.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.



*Kathleen Huckabay
Mayor*



*Don Gerend
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Lee Felling
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Council Committees

Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources:

Meets: 1st Monday, 10:00 a.m.

Nancy Whitten, Chair
Michele Petitti
Lee Felling



Community Development:

Meets: 1st Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Mark Cross, Chair
Jack Barry
Nancy Whitten



Public Works:

Meets: 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

Michele Petitti, Chair
Mark Cross
Jack Barry



Finance:

Meets: 4th Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

Don Gerend, Chair
Nancy Whitten
Lee Felling



Public Safety:

Meets: 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Jan, April, July & Oct

Lee Felling, Chair
Kathleen Huckabay
Mark Cross



Legislative:

Meets: as needed

Kathleen Huckabay, Chair
Don Gerend
Michele Petitti



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Lyman Howard.....Financial Services Director
Jeff Watling.....Parks & Recreation Manager
Tim Larson.....Communications Manager
Bruce Disend.....City Attorney
Melonie Anderson.....City Clerk
Richard Baranzini.....Police Chief
John Murphy.....Fire Chief

* Assistant City Manager



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