



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 22

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

April 2004

Trail mix:

Judge issues split decision on East Lake Sammamish Trail

City Manager Ben Yazici says the impact of a Snohomish County Superior Court ruling on the East Lake Sammamish Trail may take some time to judge. The mixed ruling, issued by Judge Larry McKeeman on March 16, is undergoing additional review by city officials.

In his ruling, McKeeman upheld portions of a hearing examiner's decision on the trail, but also said the hearing examiner made a number of mistakes. As a result, the judge remanded several issues back to the hearing examiner for further consideration.

"It would have been nice if this ruling had produced more clarity," Yazici said, noting that the complex issues

surrounding the trail have been bogged down in lawsuits for years.

One year ago, Hearing Examiner John Galt ruled that a city-issued permit for a trail along an old Burlington

Northern rail bed was invalid because there was a "practical" alternative with less environmental impact. Both King County and a trailside homeowners' group appealed the decision. McKeeman heard the appeals in December and issued his ruling last month.

Although he didn't reinstate the city's permit on behalf of the county, McKeeman ruled that the hearing examiner should have used a broader definition of the word "practical." The word, as it appears in the city's code, doesn't just mean "feasible," McKeeman wrote, it also should have been interpreted to mean "sensible" and "useful."

"With the judge's direction on that and other issues, it's possible the hearing examiner could reverse him-



Looking north along a short section of the proposed East Lake Sammamish Trail.

self and reinstate our permit to the county," Yazici said, noting that the original permit was issued in April 2002. "But it's not clear that will end the litigation."

As he has for years, Yazici encouraged homeowners and county officials to talk, perhaps with the help of a professional mediator.

"The trail question should not be decided in courtrooms," Yazici said. "I think living rooms would be a much better place to generate some meaningful give-and-take."

"I'm suggesting that everyone take a deep breath and focus on getting this trail built quickly. The money homeowners and the county are spending on legal fees would be much better spent on enhancements to the trail."

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*Mayor
Kathleen Huckabay*

In my last message, I talked about how this council is committed to listening to our community. We've just heard from a number of residents who are concerned about our plans for the Ebright Creek Park and have assumed that the redesign means "shelved," and that we are not interested in ballfields for our young athletes.

We made some process mistakes when designing the park and realized that our codes would not allow the park to go forward as planned. So, our Planning Commission will recommend revisions to our codes allowing park structures in wetland buffers in some circumstances and setbacks from neighboring houses.

There will be public hearings so you will have an opportunity to comment and share your concerns. Then we'll start a new planning process integrating community involvement and bringing environmental review into the design process earlier rather than later.

In the meantime, we are moving forward on creating ballfields in other areas. The most promising opportunity is at

Eastlake High School where they have an unused piece of property that can be converted to sports fields. We are currently working with the school district and the neighbors to address everyone's concerns and hope to move forward soon.

In addition we are incorporating a sports meadow in our city hall project – a sports meadow is a place where kids can fly kites, roll in the grass as well as play pickup or organized soccer or baseball.

Lastly, we have started conversations with the county about developing the ballfields incorporated in the Soaring Eagle Park (Sec. 36) masterplan.

However, the comment that really hit home was from the young mother who told of the need for more playgrounds for toddlers. I can relate – when my granddaughters visited, we would drive to playgrounds in Issaquah or Redmond. I can assure her and others that we are working on it.

To date, we have installed beautiful playground equipment in Pine Lake Park and Northeast Park and are planning to build more so that you don't have to leave Sammamish to enjoy a day in the park with your children.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Huckabay".

Sammamish, Issaquah hold joint council meeting



Sammamish City Councilmember Lee Felling (center) chats with Issaquah Councilmembers Bill Conley (left) and Joe Forkner (right) at a joint dinner meeting Feb. 24. The dinner, held at Tibbets Creek Manor in Issaquah, allowed elected officials from both cities to discuss issues of mutual interest.

The heart of the city

Community will choose character of subarea

On a map, it looks like nothing more than a big square. But the 546-acre area, in the geographical center of Sammamish, is on its way to becoming the heart of the city.

In addition to the homes, schools and major roads already in place, this “sub-area” within the city will eventually also feature the new City Hall/Police Station building and the Sammamish Commons. The question now is: What else will be allowed?

To make sure that it becomes what the community wants it to be, the City Council has called for a thorough public input process. A consultant will be hired to run that process, but the City Council has already settled on a general approach.

Initially, a half-dozen or so citizens will be asked to “drive” the process forward.

“We want this group of catalysts to take charge,” City Councilmember Don Gerend said. “We want this to be driven by the community – not the council, and not the city staff.”

Gerend says the catalyst group will eventually bring in between 60 and 100 additional residents to participate, drawing from homeowners’ associations, service groups, churches and other sources.

“We think we can maximize public input by creating a large group that mirrors the whole community,” Gerend said. “It should generate a great vision for the center of our city.”

Reaching a consensus during this sub-area planning process won’t be a snap. Differences of opinion have already surfaced among residents. Some have spoken up in favor of mixed use and commercial development. Others oppose that concept.

“This is going to be an excellent test for our community,” City Manager Ben



The subarea being studied (shown in highlighted box) stretches roughly from Eastlake High School to Skyline High school and then west to 218th Avenue.

Yazici said. “We need to put our heads together, be patient with each other, and produce a sensible compromise.”

The sub-area, commonly referred to as the “special study area,” poses many questions. What should the design standards be? How big should the buffers be to guard the privacy of established neigh-

borhoods? How will the environment be protected? What range of zoning is appropriate?

The community group’s recommendations will go to the Planning Commission and City Council for consideration. Formal adoption of the new subarea plan is expected to take at least a year.

228th update:

The wrap up work on 228th Avenue, originally scheduled for late last year, was still awaiting completion as this newsletter went to press.

City staff attributed the delay to several factors:

- Complications due to utility relocations.
- Delays in the delivery of streetlight and traffic signal poles.
- Uncooperative weather.

The final layer of pavement between SE Eighth and NE 12th Place

started to be placed the week of March 8 during warm weather. Although most of the work was completed in the northbound lanes, rain and weather forced a delay in the paving of the southbound lanes.

Paving crews are now waiting for a short spell of warm, dry weather to complete their task. The work requires 55 degree days with rising temperatures.



Art Commission needs your help

The Sammamish Arts Commission is trying to identify artists in our city interested in future art events, shows, or calls for artists.

Please send an email with biographical information and a sample of your work to:

manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Or, send a letter to:

Sammamish Arts Commission
486 228th Ave. NE
Sammamish, WA 98074

Live theater extravaganza!

Arts Commission event scheduled for April 18

A juggler, two mimes, three typists and a typhoon will take center stage at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 18, at the Eastlake High School Performing Arts Center, 400 228th Ave. NE.

In collaboration with the new Sammamish Arts Commission, the performances will be offered by four Seattle-based, contemporary theater groups.

Typing Explosion will provide spontaneous performance poetry, the Seattle Mime Theater will perform new works and old favorites, the movement theater of Thomas Arthur will offer lyrical juggling, and Poisonous Toy Theater will deliver humorous fables.

“It’s a lineup that should appeal to all age groups,” Arts Commission Chair Pamela Rembold said.

Tickets on sale at the Sammamish Highlands Safeway and at City Hall, 486 228th Ave. NE.



Arts Commission members: (sitting) Carole McCallum, Karen Mathews, Daphne Robinson, Kathleen Redmer. (Standing) Kevin Hinkley, Joe McConnell, Pamela Rembold.

Stopping domestic violence: *Police add new service*

On September 1, 1999, the City of Sammamish contracted with the King County Sheriff's Office for police services, including the Domestic Violence Intervention Unit. In fact, Sammamish was the FIRST incorporated city to contract for the services of the Sheriff's Domestic Violence Intervention Unit (DVIU). Since 1999, we have added several services directly benefiting victims of domestic violence and, more importantly, preventing further occurrences of domestic violence.

What does the DVIU do? The DVIU reviews and conducts follow-up investigations, as needed on misdemeanor and some felony domestic violence crimes. The types of crimes include misdemeanor assault, threats, harassment, court order violations, stalking, trespass, burglary, vandalism, reckless endangerment and family disturbances. Detectives review domestic violence reports to make sure each individual case is complete for the Prosecutor's Office. They often obtain additional statements from victims and witnesses, take photographs, recover evidence, obtain medical records and arrest the perpetrators. The DVIU detectives also provide training to members of the department and to community organizations in an effort to increase awareness of the impact domestic violence has on the victim, children and the community.

Who is assigned to Sammamish? Detective Amy Jarboe is currently assigned to provide follow-up services on domestic violence cases for the City of Sammamish. Amy Jarboe has ten years of detective experience; eight of those years have been focused on domestic violence investigations. She has been assigned to the

City of Sammamish since 1999 and has a wide variety of experience in the "dynamics" involved in domestic violence and providing support to victims and their children. You can reach Detective Jarboe at (206) 296-5037, or stop by the Sammamish Police Station, where her office is located.

The bottom line is simple: Domestic Violence has no place in the City of Sammamish—or anywhere else!

Advocate Services for the city of Sammamish. The City of Sammamish contracts with Kara Murphy to assist victims of domestic violence cases. She provides resource information and answers questions about the legal process if someone is arrested. You can contact her at (425) 961-0618.

Our Newest Service: City emergency shelter program for domestic violence victims. As of March 12, 2004 the City of Sammamish started its own emergency shelter program for victims of domestic violence. There are occasions when victims of domestic violence are unable to leave their homes due to financial restraints, the lack of available shelters or other reasons. The city understands those issues and the safety concerns for its citizens. When a victim is in

need of emergency shelter assistance and has been turned down for that assistance from local shelter programs, the city of Sammamish has a program instituted to assist the victim and their children.

What should I do if I'm a victim of domestic violence, or if I know someone else who is a victim? If you believe you or someone you know, may be the victim of domestic violence we strongly encourage you to call 911 or obtain additional information on resources available to assist you. Additional resource information may be found at the following websites: www.edvp.org (Eastside Domestic Violence Program) and www.metrokc.gov/dvinfo or you may call the **Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-562-6025.**

Moratorium on cell phone towers

The City Council voted March 2 to include cell phone towers and other wireless facilities in the city's ongoing development moratorium.

The new rule, which went into effect immediately upon passage, will put new wireless facilities on hold until the moratorium is lifted.

Although the City Council could vote to extend it, the current moratorium is due to expire in August.

New trail link in Soaring Eagle Park

A new section of trail opened recently in Soaring Eagle Park (Section 36), a square-mile of county-owned land on the eastern border of Sammamish.

The \$10,000 project was funded by Brian McCabe, the developer of Castle Pines, a nearby residential area.

The hard work of building the trail fell to volunteers from the Washington Trail Association and Mountains to Sound Greenway.

"It's the best section of trail in all of Soaring Eagle Park," said City Councilmember Michele Petitti, who helped coordinate the effort.

The trail head leading to the new section is just past the Plateau Country Club on East Main Drive.



City Councilmember Michele Petitti leads the way along a new section of trail in Soaring Eagle Park (Section 36). She's followed by developer Brian McCabe (center) and Brett Roberts of King County Parks and Recreation.

eCityGov Reaps Software Award

Along with workers in other Puget Sound cities, several Sammamish staffers shared an award handed out by the Washington Software Association (WSA) in February.

MyBuildingPermit.com, a product of the eCityGov Alliance, was recognized as Outstanding Contribution to Digital Government. The award was presented to Toni Cramer, co-chair of the eCityGov Alliance, at the WSA annual awards gala in Seattle.

Founded in 1984, with over 1,100 members representing a range of software, Internet and technology companies, the WSA is a statewide trade association focused on helping Washington state tech-

nology companies succeed.

As a charter member of eCityGov

alliance, along with eight other suburban Puget Sound area cities, Sammamish has actively participated in the development and maintenance of MyBuildingPermit.com from the start.

MyBuildingPermit.com currently allows contractors to obtain building permits online for electrical, low voltage, mechanical and plumbing projects.

According to Jan Vogee, City of Sammamish building official, upcoming features will include permits for re-roofing single family homes (end of April), and tracking the status of building permit applications by late Fall, if not sooner.



Sammamish city staffers pose with their award. From the left: Mark Schwarzwalter, Kimberlee McArthur, Ron Seaward, Dennis Lovelett, Matthew Long, Building Official Jan Vogee, Kurt Aldworth, Dawn Flores.

City Website Improvements

The City Web site (located at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) is an increasingly important resource for Sammamish residents. Usage has increased tremendously over the winter months as city staff expanded the website's content, and moved to a more database-driven design.

News items on the home page are now updated daily. Examples of recent news postings include: changes in city regulations and codes, opportunities for citizen comment on planned public works projects, and notification on traffic and weather-related issues.

The Calendar page provides a comprehensive view of upcoming events as information becomes available. Time, place and contact person are provided, as well as links to agendas, minutes, ordinances or resolutions that may apply to a City meeting. Agendas and minutes are posted not only for City Council, but for all city meetings including those of the Planning, Arts, and Parks Commissions, and the Sammamish Youth Board.

In About the City, there is a City Tour page with a number of newly added pictures of our beautiful town. There is a



City employees Matt Micono and Andrew Stringer have worked steadily to improve the city's website.: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

complete and up-to-date list of City Contacts on the staff page. Finally, the Community Links section provides phone numbers and other information to address a wide array of needs - from garbage collection to voter registration.

As time goes by, the city plans continued expansion. Ideas for making the website more useful are always welcome. Please send your suggestions to Andrew Stringer at astringer@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

APRIL

Thursday, April 1

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

Monday, April 5

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10:00 am
City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Tuesday, April 6

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

Tuesday, April 13

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

Tuesday, April 20

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

Wednesday, April 21

- Arts Commission, 7:00 pm
Bellewood, 3710 Providence Point SE

Thursday, April 22

- Planning Commission, 7:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Public Meeting, Inglewood Sub-basin Plan, 7:00 pm
Beaver Lake Lodge, SE 24th St. @ 244th Ave. SE

Thursday, April 22

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

Monday, April 26

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

Tuesday, April 27

- Finance Committee, 11:30 am
City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE
- Council Study Session, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

MAY

Monday, May 3

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10:00 am
City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Tuesday, May 4

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

Thursday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 11

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

Tuesday, May 18

- Public Works Committee, 5:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, May 19

- Arts Commission, 7:00 pm
Bellewood, 3710 Providence Point SE

Thursday, May 20

- Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Planning Commission, 7:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, May 24

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

Tuesday, May 25

- Finance Committee, 11:30 am
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- Council Study Session, 7:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

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.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



*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: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Jan, April, July & Oct
Lee Felling, Chair
Kathleen Huckabay
Mark Cross



Legislative:

Meets: as needed



City of Sammamish Offices

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Nancy Whitten, Councilmember
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Ben Yazici..... City Manager
Pete Butkus..... Admin. Services Director/ACM*
Delora Kerber.....Public Works Director
Ray Gilmore.... Community Development Director
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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