



City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 18

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2004

228th Ave. finished!

After four years of challenging work, and four years of patience from residents, the city's signature boulevard – 228th Avenue – is now complete.

The \$30 million project, completed in three phases, stretches from the QFC shopping center in the south to the Safeway shopping center up north.

Approximately three miles in length, the biggest capital project in Sammamish history has produced an arterial featuring four lanes, a median area with turn pockets, broad sidewalks and generous landscaping and lighting.

“This is a great moment in Sammamish history,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “Our residents incor-



A young Sammamish resident walks north along the newly finished final phase of 228th Avenue.

porated largely because they wanted roads, parks and better land use control. This is a quantum leap forward.”

Before the city's 1999 incorporation, 228th Avenue was a symbol of what was wrong with the Sammamish plateau. Although it was the main arterial for a burgeoning population, the two-lane county road lacked capacity, sidewalks, lighting and normal safety features.

“The backups along 228th were legendary,” Yazici said. “Beyond that, it was very unsafe for our children and other pedestrians.

“Now we have a state-of-the-art arterial with lots of capacity and safe

sidewalks for our families.”

Phase 1, totaling six-tenths of a mile, started in late 1999. It improved 228th from just south of Issaquah-Pine Lake Road to Discovery Elementary at SE 24th Street. It also expanded a short stretch of Issaquah-Pine Lake Road off of 228th Avenue.

Phase 2, approximately 1 mile long, extended the improvements from Discovery Elementary to SE Eighth Street, just north of Skyline High School. Phase 2 started in May 2001 and reached substantial completion in

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Mayor Kathleen Huckabay

Recently I received an email message from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) titled "I-864 Update." I-864 is Tim Eyman's latest initiative. The AWC is a statewide organization that keeps us up to date on legislation, rule changes and other pertinent issues that affect cities. It also provides a forum for cities to come together, discuss issues and formulate solutions and strategies. Topics range from building code changes to Internet sales taxes

to health care benefits.

The recent update on Initiative 864 (I-864) included a copy of the initiative, a fact sheet from the Public Disclosure Commission outlining what our city and its elected officials can and cannot say regarding the initiative, and a schedule showing the impact on Sammamish's budget and the budgets of all cities around the state.

The initiative is fairly simple – it proposes to reduce property taxes by reducing the regular property tax levy for local jurisdictions by 25%. Property taxes that were voted in by voters, such as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy, will not be reduced. If the initiative passes, AWC calculates that Sammamish's property tax revenues would drop from \$15,

417,000 to \$11,562,000, a loss of \$3,855,000. Statewide, cities stand to lose \$131 million.

This potential reduction would have a significant impact on cities, and here in Sammamish we are taking this very seriously. As we enter into our biennial budget cycle, we will be preparing two budgets. One budget will assume passage of the initiative; the other will assume rejection.

The budget process is generally pretty boring. Most of us do not want to take the time or energy to do one for ourselves, let alone review what the city, county and state are doing. But this year, we're asking you to pay attention. I-864 is serious stuff.

Budgets are simply a monetary way of showing the programs and services that we deliver to the community, and how much you pay for those services. As we work our way through this process, we will hold discussions with community groups, local businesses, the chamber and others to identify the "core" services our community wants to preserve. With your help, we will also identify services that should be reduced if funds are not available to maintain current service levels.

We need your input! I hope all of you will contribute to this community-wide discussion of services and programs.

Stay tuned!

Limiting injuries by limiting left turns



New divider along 228th Ave.

The section of 228th Avenue running past the Safeway shopping center might as well be called "crash alley."

From 1999 through 2003, there were 188 traffic accidents between NE

Fourth Street and NE 12th Place. Previously, when vehicles stopped there to turn, long backups would block the nearby intersection at NE Eighth Street. Now, drivers proceed to a U-turn at NE 12th Place, turn around, and make a right turn into the library.

"It was an adjustment we had to make because the library entrance was just too close to the intersection," Kerber said. "We expect the injuries and accidents along this segment of 228th to drop dramatically with the addition of the median strip and other improvements."



Northbound vehicles on 228th Ave. can no longer turn left into library parking lot

Fourth Street and NE 12th Place. More than 50 of the smash-ups produced injuries.

Largely for safety reasons, the city just completed the installation of a median strip which will eliminate some left turns along this section of 228th Avenue.

"Anyone who tried to make a left turn out of the shopping center onto 228th knows what a hair-raising experience that used to be," Public Works Director Delora Kerber said.

The new divider also prevents northbound drivers on 228th

228th - cont. from page 1

December 2001.

Phase 3, one-and-a-quarter miles long, reached from Southeast Eighth Street to NE 12th Place, just north of the Safeway shopping center. This final phase started in August 2002.

Phase 2 and phase 3 were handled entirely by the city. Phase 1 was built by the county in consultation with the city during its first few months of existence.

Currently, the busiest section of 228th Avenue is between Issaquah-Pine Lake Road and Southeast 20th Street. That segment, which passes by the QFC shopping center, handles an estimated 23,700 vehicles per day.

The next busiest section is between SE 20th Street and SE Fourth Street, the segment of 228th that passes by Skyline High School. That stretch handles around 22,000 vehicles per day.

The third busiest segment, between SE Fourth Street and NE 12th Place, passes by the Safeway shopping center. That section carries an estimated 18,600 vehicles per day.

Although 228th has been designed to handle those volumes, Sammamish drivers are also looking for regional improvements beyond the city limits.

A \$102 million road improvement package city officials argued for in Olympia should help immensely with the bottlenecks along State Route 202 and State Route 520, Yazici said.

Those improvements, along with the recent opening of the Sunset interchange along Interstate 90, should make a real difference to Sammamish drivers, Yazici said.

“But the people of this community and the council should get special credit for taking on the 228th challenge and getting the job done,” Yazici said.

It hasn’t been easy, especially with all the traffic delays, but I think the people of Sammamish should feel a strong sense of accomplishment.”



Two lanes of traffic turn into East Lake High School off of 228th Avenue on a recent morning. Before improvements were made, only a single turning lane was available to southbound drivers.



Looking north along a new section of 228th Avenue as landscaping begins to take root in the median strip.

Busy Season for Maintenance Crews

Summer is a busy time for the City Maintenance crew. Scheduled projects for 2004 include the following:

Drainage:

- SE 212th Way pipe replacement
- Repair 40 to 50 failed catch basins
- Install culvert on NE 1st near 228th
- Install Catch basin, pipe and repave NE 7th St
- Install Catch basin and repair 50 feet of pipe on NE 18th St

Asphalt:

- Overlay preparation
- Repave roadways at various locations (details at city website www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)

Vegetation:

- Slope and shoulder mowing
- Guardrail weed removal
- Landscape maintenance along 228th, the Inglewood Hill Road roundabout, and other maintained areas

Parks:

- Event support
- Daily maintenance
- Baseball field maintenance
- Install and renew landscape beds at East Sammamish and Beaver Lake Parks
- Repair and maintain trail system in all parks
- Improve signage at parks
- Renovate grass area at ESP tennis courts



In addition to scheduled maintenance, City Maintenance crews respond daily to Citizen Action Requests (CARS), submitted by Sammamish citizens at City Hall or on-line.

These requests vary greatly in nature, from broken sidewalks, to missing manhole covers, to overgrown blackberry bushes.

“We have received about 300 CARS so far this year and are on pace for over 1000 for the entire year,” City Maintenance Manager Glenn Akromoff said. “Last year we had around 800.”

City Offers Discounted Rain Barrels

To encourage efficient water use, the City of Sammamish is offering Raincatcher rain barrels to its citizens at a huge discount. Quantities are limited, so order yours soon while supplies last.

Raincatchers may be ordered by printing out the order form, located at http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/ViewImage.aspx?File_ID=367, or picking one up at City Hall. Order forms must be mailed with payment prior to receiving your rain barrel. These rain barrels normally retail for about \$120, but, thanks to support from the King County Solid Waste Division and the Washington State Department of Ecology, Sammamish residents pay only \$24. Payment is non-refundable, and may be made by check, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

The recycled plastic Raincatcher holds up to 55 gallons of water collected through a home's downspouts. The downspout may be shortened to allow water to flow into the top of the container, or downspout adapters may be purchased at various home improvement centers.

Leaves and other debris are screened out through the opening. A spigot allows the connection of a hose to fill watering cans.

A strong aluminum mesh screen covers the barrel top, creating a non-corrosive and long lasting filter. This screen keeps out leaves, shingle pieces, dead birds, sticks and other debris that comes off your roof. In addition, it prevents wildlife and pets from entering or drinking from barrel. The top screen ring is removable for easy cleaning and storage.

The overflow portal on the back of the barrel easily hooks up to the supplied tubing which runs down the back of the unit in a furrow. The overflow apparatus draws water down and out of the bottom front of barrel, diverting excess water away from the foundation. The back of the barrel is flat, allowing it to be placed neatly against a wall.



Public Works Director takes on big challenge

Delora Kerber applied for admission to Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland, Oregon because it was at the top academically.

But she didn't start thinking about becoming an engineer until she ran into a great algebra teacher there.

Thanks to him, "I began to realize, hey, I'm pretty good at this," Kerber said.

That revelation eventually led her to Oregon State, a degree in civil engineering, and a steady upward progression in her professional life.

After several years working for consulting firms in Bellevue, Kerber decided to join Sammamish in February 2002.

"When I was in college, I always thought being a city engineer would be a cool job," Kerber said.

Noting that she's always liked a challenge, Kerber says the job of Public Works Director in Sammamish definitely fits the bill.

"Improving safety and helping the infrastructure catch up to the population is a big job," Kerber said.

Among other things, Public Works Directors oversee the construction and maintenance of roads, traffic signals, and storm drainage facilities.

Asked what her favorite part of the job is, Kerber said: "Interacting with citizens and working with a talented, highly driven staff."

Although residents may have a



Delora Kerber, Sammamish Public Works Director, enjoys a light moment with other city staff members.

different point of view about a project, Kerber enjoys clarifying the issues.

"I enjoy it when they go, 'Great. Thanks for calling me back and giving me the information.'"

As a woman in a predominantly male field, Kerber says she hasn't encountered any gender-based obstacles in recent years.

"I don't really give it much thought," Kerber said.

But she does remember her graduating class at Benson Polytechnic – "nine girls and 275 boys" – with a smile.

"It was fun. I had a lot of guys who were my friends," Kerber said. "Not boyfriends, mind you, just friends."

Today, it's still fun, despite a lengthy and complex to-do list looming over her desk.

"I like working with people and solving problems," Kerber said.

Bio Box:

Name: Delora Kerber

Born: Portland, Oregon

High School: Benson Polytechnic, Portland

College: Oregon State, Bachelor of Science, Engineering

Work:

- Oregon Dept. of Transportation
- Consultant, Alpha Engineering Group, Bellevue
- Consultant, CH2M Hill, Bellevue
- Joined Sammamish in February 2002 as Senior Transportation Engineer
- Promoted to City Engineer in April 2003
- Promoted to Public Works Director in January 2004

Personal: Married

Husband, Gregg

Dogs, Bandit and Macy

A new start for Ebright Creek Park

Late last month, 2,800 households near the proposed site of Ebright Creek Park received a city survey asking for public feedback on the 12-acre property.

Residents were asked to identify the activities and facilities they wanted to see at the park, and to indicate what level of environmental impact they would find acceptable at the site.



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Those surveys were due back to the city by May 15. Prior to that deadline, two open houses were held at the park site, with residents invited to walk the property and talk to Parks Commissioners and Parks staff.

“We want all potential users to tell us what their hopes and concerns are for this project,” Nancy Whitten, chair of the City Council’s Parks, Trails, and

Natural Resources Committee, said.

The survey results will be reviewed at a public meeting on Monday, June 7, 7-9 pm, at Discovery Elementary, 2300 228th Ave. SE. Subsequent public meetings will allow residents to view the design options being considered.

“We’re hoping this process can bring the community to a consensus,” Whitten said.

This is a new beginning for the Ebright Creek Park project. Originally scheduled for completion in 2003, the park was appealed by residents who said, among other things, that the city hadn’t sought sufficient public input and the site wasn’t appropriate for a combination baseball/soccer field planned for the property.

When it was also discovered that the city had placed a restroom too close to the property line in its design sketches, and the city code prohibited planned walking trails through wetland buffers, the city decided to begin anew.

Tax calculator online



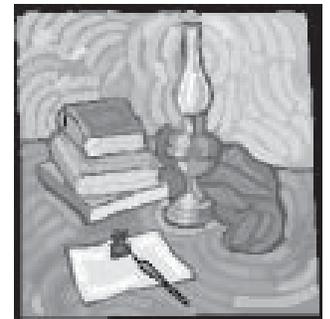
As part of our ongoing quest to provide a broad range of information on the city website, the City of Sammamish is proud to unveil an online Tax Calculator. Located at <http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us>, the Tax Calculator seeks to provide an answer to the question: “Where did my property tax go?”

Users simply enter the assessed value of their property, then choose their street address from a drop down menu to define the tax levy area. Alternately, a color coded map reveals the levy areas for all parts of the city.

After collecting the necessary information, the Tax Calculator determines the total tax bill, and displays a breakdown of funds distribution among several taxing entities: The State of Washington, City of Sammamish, Issaquah or Lake Washington School District, Fire District, Evergreen Hospital, King County Library, and Emergency Medical.

Thanks to the hard working City Planning and Finance team for this innovative number-crunching tool!

Poetry workshop



The Sammamish Arts Commission is offering a poetry writing workshop for city residents who want to take risks, look inside themselves, and express their emotions through poetry.

The workshop – at a cost of \$25 – will be led by Vicky Edmonds, one of the area’s most creative writers and teachers. If you would like to attend, please set aside Sunday, May 30th, between 1 pm and 4 pm. The workshop will be held at Sammamish Fire Station #82, 1851 228th Ave. NE.

To enroll, or gather further information, please send an email to manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us or call 425-836-7904.

Real estate sign placement

A brief overview

Over the past several years since incorporation, City Hall has received numerous calls from citizens concerned with the growing number of signs throughout the community. The city recognizes the importance of these signs to the building and real estate industries, but there needs to be a balance between those needs, and the concerns of citizens regarding the city's image.

Because of this, the city enacted regulations regarding sign placement, and enforces these rules on a continuing basis. Such enforcement includes periodic "sweeps" through the city, removing any illegal signs located in the public right-of-way, and issuing citations for non-compliance.

There are many specific types of signs, each with a slightly different set of rules. Temporary signs, such as the A-frame signs used to point the way to real estate open

houses, are the only type which are allowed in the area between roads and utility poles. This area is referred to as the Public Right of Way (ROW). Other signs have associated development regulations and may require a building permit.

The city has developed a brochure to enhance communication regarding the issue of sign placement. Available at City Hall or on the city website, it is presented in a simple "do's and don'ts" format with plenty of illustrations. In addition, the sign code is available for viewing on the city's website, under City Documents, Sammamish Municipal Code, Chapter 21A.45.

If you have further questions regarding sign placement, city Community Development staff are always happy to assist.



CITY HALL CALENDAR

MAY

Monday, May 3

Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10:00 am

Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Tuesday, May 4

Community Development Committee, 6:00 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Special City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, May 6

Planning Commission Public Hearing, 7:00 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, May 11

Council Study Session, 7:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, May 13

City Hall Neighborhood Meeting, 7:00 pm

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 22818 SE 8th St

Tuesday, May 18

Public Works Committee, 5:30 pm

Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, May 19

Arts Commission, 7:00 pm

Bellewood Retirement Ctr, 3710 Providence Point SE

Thursday, May 20

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 City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Council Study Session, 7:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, May 27

Sammamish Youth Board, 6:00 pm

Sammamish Library, 825 228th Ave NE

JUNE

Tuesday, June 1

Community Development Committee, 6:00 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Regular City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, June 3

Planning Commission, 7:00 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, June 7

Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10:00 am

Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Tuesday, June 8

Council Study Session, 7:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, June 15

Public Works Committee, 5:30 pm

Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Regular City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, June 16

Arts Commission, 7:00 pm

Bellewood Retirement Ctr, 3710 Providence Point SE

Thursday, June 17

Planning Commission, 7:00 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, June 21

Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, 22

Finance Committee, 11:30 am

Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Avenue NE

Council Study Session, 7:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, June 23

Public Safety Committee, 6:00 pm

Sammamish City Hall, 486 228th Avenue 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.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



*Kathleen Huckabay
Mayor*



*Don Gerend
Deputy Mayor*



*Jack Barry
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Lee Fellingge
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

Council Committees

Parks, Trails, and Natural Resources:

Meets: 1st Monday, 10 a.m.

Nancy Whitten, Chair
Michele Petitti
Lee Fellingge



Community Development:

Meets: 1st Tuesday, 6 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 Fellingge



Public Safety:

Meets: 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Lee Fellingge, Chair
Kathleen Huckabay
Mark Cross



Legislative:

Meets: as needed

Kathleen Huckabay, Chair
Don Gerend
Michele Petitti



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Pete Butkus Assistant City Manager
Delora Kerber Public Works Director
Ray Gilmore Community Development Director
Lyman Howard Financial Services Director
Jeff Watling Parks & Recreation Director
Mike Sauerwein.....Administrative Services Director
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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