

City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 27

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2004

Landscaping on 228th to be fixed

Contractor works on punchlist

Although 228th Avenue is open and functioning well, there are still a number of items on the contractor's punch list.

The most prominent among them is a major improvement to the landscaping.

"The contractor is responsible for the quality and condition of the landscaping for a year after the city accepts the project," City Engineer Steve Hartwig said. "And we haven't accepted 228th yet."

Among other things, Hartwig says the contractor needs to substi-

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Parks Director Jeff Watling and Parks Commissioner John Rossi look at Ebright Creek from a small wooden bridge.

Ebright Creek Park update:

The next public meeting to discuss the future shape of Ebright Creek Park is scheduled for 7 pm, Sept. 30, at Discovery Elementary, 2300 228th Ave. SE.

Based on community feedback, four concepts for the park have been reduced to two, Parks Director Jeff Watling said.

"Both concepts include features everyone seems to agree on," Watling said. "Things like picnic areas, trails and a playfield of some kind.

"Now we need to address

whether the park should have an off-leash area, an historical house, and some other features people may not agree on.

"That comes down to a discussion of values," Watling said. "Different things are important to different people.

"But I'm confident we'll see a spirit of compromise as we try to balance competing values at these meetings."

The City Council is expected to consider a preferred concept sometime in late fall.

(More on Ebright Creek on Pg. 4)



Mayor
Kathleen Huckabay

Summer's almost over, the concerts in the park were an enormous success, and now its time to roll up our sleeves and get back to work.

Our first and most important order of business – preparing a 2005-2006 biennial budget for Sammamish. “Budget” – I can hear you tuning out as you read the word.

I prefer the term “spending plan” myself, as it has a positive, in-charge feel to it. A spending plan simply puts our vision and goals for the future into dollars and cents. In our personal life that translates into deciding how much money we'll spend for food, clothing and shelter, and choosing how to save for that new roof, college, or the big trip.

In Sammamish, it means deciding how much money we'll spend on roads, parks, sidewalks and trails, the city hall building, arts and human services, police and fire services, as well as land acquisition. Like all families, our budget is limited, so we have to set clear priorities and make hard choices.

Among the questions we'll be considering over the coming months:

How much do we spend on roads, in comparison to transit, sidewalks, paths and bike lanes? How do we keep staff costs under control while providing excellent customer service and maintenance? Do we protect our lakes, streams and wetlands at a higher standard than the law requires, as we have at Ebright Creek and the proposed Park & Ride near Pine Lake, or do we do just enough to meet the requirements?

Should we emphasize park development on land we already own, or

spend the money on buying and preserving additional land for future parks? Should the city provide its own recreation services, or partner with existing organizations?

As regional and federal funding decreases, how much money should we spend on human services that address domestic violence, troubled teens, disabled neighbors and services for seniors? And how do we weigh the importance of those programs against the cost of incorporating art and music into our public life, supporting a farmers' market, or creating a 4th of July Celebration?

As you can see, these are tough questions. We would welcome your help as we try to come up with the answers at our many public meetings. Please feel free to drop by and join in the discussions.

Homeland security grants strengthen city

About \$225,000 in Homeland Security grants will fund a long list of security upgrades in and around Sammamish over the coming months.

Police Chief Dick Baranzini says the improvements should make the city safer during natural disasters as well as any terrorist activity.

“It's impossible to know how, when and where the need might arise,” Baranzini said, “but we'll put all of this money to good use.”

The grants were applied for and received by the police department, the city of Sammamish, the Issaquah and Lake Washington school districts, and water districts serving Sammamish.

Approximately \$102,000 will be

devoted to “target hardening.” A few of those upgrades include: a Sally Port door for the police station, water district campus security, perimeter CCTV cameras, security upgrades for lift stations, and wireless transmitters in the new City Hall parking garage.

Approximately \$122,000 will be spent on communications upgrades, including: Motorola radios and Nextel phones for city, water district and school district personnel; and a

base station at the new City Hall Emergency Management Center.



Police Chief Dick Baranzini reviews information on new equipment.

Neighborhood Connections

Focus on roads next

The October 4 meeting of Neighborhood Connections will focus primarily on road issues, with Public Works Director Delora Kerber present to field questions and provide the latest information.

Among other things, 228th Avenue, 244th Avenue, East Lake Sammamish Parkway, and the new roundabout on Issaquah-Pine Lake Road are expected to be discussed.

The Neighborhood Connections program is designed to use established neighborhood associations to enhance two-way communication between residents and their city government.

Meetings are held at Fire Station 82 (Sahalee), 1812 228th Ave. SE, on the first Monday in January, April, July and October. Meetings start at 6:30 pm and typically last until 8 pm.

Although most of the attendees are



Residents talk to city staff at a Neighborhood Connections session in July. The quarterly meetings, usually held at Fire Station 82 (Sahalee), are attended by representatives from neighborhood associations and by individual residents.

representatives of neighborhood associations, individual residents are also welcome to join the meetings.

If you would like more informa-

tion on the meetings, or want to be added to a meeting notification list, please contact Laura Shaughnessy at lshaughnessy@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

228th – Cont. from Pg. 1

tute some different trees and shrubs for those originally put in, and properly weed and water the landscaping.

“As people driving on 228th have noticed, we have some dead plants and some weed problems out there,” Hartwig said. “We’re in discussions with the contractor to get those problems fixed.”

Other items on the contractor’s to-do list include: fixing cracks on the curbs and sidewalks, installing small sections of missing curb, grading and smoothing behind the sidewalks, ensuring that storm water

ponds are functioning properly, putting wetland plantings in place in and around the ponds, and making sure all streetlight poles are perfectly vertical.

“Punch-list items at the end of a big project are not unusual,” Hartwig said. “We’ll make sure the contractor takes care of all of this.”

If everything goes according to plan, most of the items should be addressed within a couple of months, Hartwig said. If significant disagreements with the contractor emerge, it could take longer.



Steve Hartwig
City Engineer

Restoration opportunity at Ebright Creek Park

After decades of use as pastureland, the city's Ebright Creek property doesn't much resemble what settlers encountered a century ago.

On the banks of the creek, tall conifers were long ago replaced by alder trees and a choking mass of non-native blackberry bushes.

Although the specific design of the new Ebright Creek Park won't be known until a public input process is complete, one thing is for sure — the city's portion of Ebright Creek is in for a healthy makeover.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Watling says the blackberry bushes and other invasive plants will be removed and replaced by native plants, shrubs and trees.

"Restoration of the creek and the wetland buffers will be part of any park design the City Council approves," Watling said.

Currently, the non-native, invasive plants, which also include Scotch Broom, completely obscure the creek. With the exception of a small foot bridge, the creek is completely inaccessible by foot.



Looking west across old pastureland on the future site of Ebright Creek Park along 212th Avenue.



Thick blackberry bushes and alder trees guard the banks of Ebright Creek



Invasive, non-native vines reach across Ebright Creek's dry creek bed in August.

Scenes from a symphony

City residents, and their pets, enjoy the sound of the Sammamish Symphony at Pine Lake Park on the evening of Aug. 26. Conductor R. Joseph Scott and his talented musicians created a “Fiesta” atmosphere with a selection of Latin American music.

The orchestra also played music from the soundtrack of “Pirates of the Caribbean.”



Sammamish Safety Fair

In an effort to promote safety throughout the city, several entities have pooled their efforts to mount a Sammamish Safety Fair this fall.

The broad-based event, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9, 10 am to 2 pm, will be held at Skyline High School, 1122 228th Ave. SE.

The Sammamish Citizen Corps Council, Eastside Fire and Rescue, and the City of Sammamish are jointly sponsoring the safety fair.

Among other things, the fair will feature hands-on demonstrations, safety training, and safety kits. Families are welcome to attend; activities for children of all ages will be available.

“I want safety information in the hands of every citizen,” the Citizen Corps Council’s Jan Bromberg said, “so people know what to do if something happens.”

For more information on the Sammamish Safety Fair, please contact Sammamishcitizencorps@hotmail.com.

Fall Recycling Events

Recycling opportunities are coming up on Sept. 18 at Eastlake High School and Oct. 16 at Discovery Elementary. Items will be accepted from 9 to 3 both days. Items accepted free of charge include motor oil, filters, antifreeze, lead acid and household batteries, cardboard, clothing, and miscellaneous household items in good condition.

A fee ranging from \$1.50 - \$25 will be charged for the collection of: propane tanks, porcelain toilets and sinks, refrigerators, freezers, household air conditioners, appliances, scrap metal, electronic equipment and television sets. The fees must be paid IN CASH ONLY at time of drop off.

The following items are not acceptable: scrap wood/yard debris, styrofoam peanuts, paint, pesticides, solvents, thinners, household chemicals, cleaning products, window glass, garbage, plastics.

See the calendar at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us for more detailed information.

Parking enforcement: There's a reason

Although it's not the most exciting part of police work, Chief Dick Baranzini says checking up on parked cars is a vital part of keeping Sammamish safe.

"Parking enforcement is an important component of our Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, because improper parking can become a safety issue," Baranzini said.

The Traffic Code and related statutes adopted by the City of Sammamish include very specific directions about parking of cars. Rules such as these make for predictability, contributing to the safety of pedestrians and drivers, and making sure traffic flows as smoothly as possible.

Parking violations are civil infractions carrying a monetary penalty. Two parking regulations that attract a lot of attention are parking in a disabled zone and parking in a fire lane. The police department receives many complaints about violations of those two regulations:

**Parking in a disabled zone:
RCW 46.16.381-10**

It is an infraction with a monetary penalty of \$250 to park in a space designated for disabled use only without a disabled parking placard or license plate. This applies on both public and private property. A space is designated for disabled use only if it has the disabled symbol painted on the pavement and has a sign in front of it that has the disabled symbol and the words "State disable parking per-

mit required." If drivers have a disabled parking placard, it needs to be displayed so it can be seen from outside the vehicle. It is also an infraction with a monetary penalty of \$250 to park in a way that blocks the access aisle next to a disabled zone (RCW 46.16.381-9). This area is marked with diagonal white lines.

**Parking in a fire lane
SMC 17.05.010**

It's an infraction with a monetary penalty of \$250 to park in a designated fire lane. The fire lane needs to be marked with a red curb, a yellow curb or a yellow stripe painted on the pavement; and either a sign that says "No Parking



Another vehicle marked for sale along East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

**Parking violations
are civil infractions
carrying a
monetary penalty.**

Fire Lane," or those words painted on the pavement adjacent to the yellow stripe or curb.

The following are other parking regulations that officers often enforce, but that might not be so well known. Unless otherwise noted, each of these has a monetary penalty of \$20:

- SMC 22.10.020 Parked blocking mailbox between 10 am and 3 pm on mail delivery days (\$50).
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked on sidewalk.
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked on/ in a crosswalk.
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked in front of or within 5' of curb radius of driveway.
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked within 15' of fire hydrant.
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked

- within 20' of crosswalk.
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked within 30' of traffic control sign or signal.
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked within 20' of driveway of fire station.
- RCW 46.61.570 Parked within 75' opposite fire station entrance.
- RCW 46.61.100 Parked unattended with motor running (\$101).
- WAC 308-330-436-1B Parked displaying vehicle for sale (\$86).

Sammamish officers are currently conducting an education program for vehicles parked on the wrong side of the road. Special warning notices have been designed, but officers still have the discretion to issue a Notice of Infraction for the violation.

Vehicles parked on the shoulder for over 24 hours without being moved are also subject to impoundment as an abandoned vehicle. Officers try very hard to contact the registered owner after tagging the vehicle, but inability to find a phone number for the owner will not prevent an officer from impounding the vehicle.

"We hope not too many of you have had the unpleasant experience of returning to your vehicle and finding a parking infraction on the windshield," Baranzini said. "But, at least, that's better than finding out your car was the cause of an accident, or that it was impounded."



Marked for sale, in violation of RCW 308-330-436-1B

City website search opens new horizons

The recently completed website usage survey revealed that 38% of the respondents wanted a search feature on the city website, www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

In response, city staff began investigating the options. After evaluating several commercial packages, a decision was made to save money by developing the city's first search engine in house. Based on comments received so far, it was the right decision.

"I am amazed at the amount of information out there," webmaster Andy Stringer commented. "Many documents were virtually hidden before... now, the website is wide open."

The site search feature, which is easily accessible from the city website's left navigation bar, offers two search methods, each with distinct features to meet different needs.

Exact match search is a powerful way to find documents containing a specific phrase, in the exact word order entered. For example, searching for "special study area" returns 65 documents all about the city's 546-acre Special Study Area. If the phrase occurs early in the document, it is highlighted yellow in the synopsis.

Exact phrase search, however, doesn't always do the trick. Try "barking dog" as the search term, and no matches are found. If the search method is changed to any word, 16 documents are returned. However, all of the results are for the word "dog", none for "barking", since no document on the website contains barking.

Results are displayed in order of relevance. To help users with slow internet connections, only five results are shown

per page. Clicking the number links at the top or bottom of the page takes the user to another set of results.

Ideas for expanding the search feature are already in the works. One concept is "filtered search", where results can be restricted by type. Users might, for example, want to look in the city ordinances for "tree cutting". Filtered searches will be available in the near future.

Other features added recently to the website include "breadcrumbs" on various pages, above the titles. These allow easy navigation back to a higher level page. In addition, the amount of news and events announced on the website continues to grow.

Send suggestions for the search engine, or any other website comments, to webmaster@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 2

- Summer Nights Concert, 6:30 pm
Pine Lake Park

Monday, September 6

- Labor Day Holiday - City offices closed

Tuesday, September 7

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10 am

Sammamish Library

- Special Study Area Task Force, 6 pm

Beaver Lake Lodge

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, September 8

- Community Development Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, September 9

- Pine Lake Transit Access Open House, 6 pm

Pine Lake Middle School

Tuesday, September 14

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, September 15

- Arts Commission, 7 pm

Pine Lake Covenant Church

- Special Study Area Community Forum, 7 pm

Skyline High School

Thursday, September 16

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Saturday, September 18

- Fall Recycling Event, 9 am - 3 pm

Eastlake High School

Tuesday, September 21

- Public Works Committee, 5 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.
- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, September 22

- Public Safety Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Thursday, September 23

- Planning Commission Public Hearing, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, September 27

- Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, September 28

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, September 29

- Public Meeting: 2005/06 Budget Review, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, September 30

- Ebright Creek Park Workshop, 7 pm

Discovery Elementary School

OCTOBER

Monday, October 4

- Parks, Open Space & Natural Resources Committee, 10 am

Sammamish Library

Tuesday, October 5

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, October 7

- Planning Commission, 7pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, October 12

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, October 13

- Community Development Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Special Study Area Community Forum, 7 pm

Skyline High School

Saturday, October 16

- Fall Recycling Event, 9 am - 3 pm

Discovery Elementary School

Tuesday, October 19

- Public Works Committee, 5 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, October 20

- Arts Commission, 7 pm

Pine Lake Covenant Church

Thursday, October 21

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, October 25

- Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, October 26

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, October 28

- Public Safety Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

NOTE: Times, dates and locations 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.



*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 a.m.

Nancy Whitten, Chair
Michele Petitti
Lee Felling



Community Development:

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Mark Cross, Chair
Jack Barry
Nancy Whitten



Public Works:

Meets: 3rd Tuesday, 5 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 Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Lee Felling, 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
Susan Cezar Community Dev Director
Lyman Howard ... Financial Svcs Director
Jeff Watling Parks & Rec. Director
Mike Sauerwein Admin Svcs Director
Tim Larson Communications Manager
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Melonie Anderson City Clerk
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