

City Views @ Sammamish

ISSUE 28

CITY OF SAMMAMISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

Positive response

to community survey

In a July phone survey of more than 400 Sammamish residents, a strongly positive evaluation of the city emerged.

By and large, residents said the overall direction of the city was on the right track, the city is a better place to live since the 1999 incorporation, and the City Council and city administration are providing satisfactory leadership.

"These survey results are very good," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "I think they show the city is working hard on the right things."

As the city fashions a biennial budget for 2005 and 2006, there was also valuable insight into the community's willingness to vote for bonds.

See *SURVEY* - pg. 3



Police Chief Dick Baranzini and Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus fall forward an instant after receiving a jolt from police taser gear.

Taser training a blast

Police Chief Dick Baranzini and Assistant City Manager Pete Butkus can vouch for the effectiveness of police taser gear after a test firing knocked both men to the ground last month.

Baranzini and Butkus volunteered for the test, which took place during a training session for local officers.

"It reminded me of when my son turned the switch on once when I was installing a light fixture," Baranzini said.

When officers fire the taser darts, the connected wires carry a 50,000 volt jolt.

"It felt like a pulsing or throbbing all over my body," Butkus said.

The city, which now has 11 taser guns, obtained its first last year. Since then, officers have used them three times. In all cases, the subjects were quickly subdued.

"They're extremely effective," Baranzini said. "They help protect our officers."

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor
Kathleen Huckabay

As I promised in my last letter, we on the council came back from the August recess, rolled up our sleeves and got back to work. Here are a few of the highlights.

Since additional park and recreation activities have always ranked very high on your priority list, I'm pleased to announce that we signed an interlocal agreement with the Issaquah School District to share facilities within Sammamish. This agreement, coupled with a similar agreement with the Lake Washington School District, expands our ability to use school district facilities and moves us closer to meeting the community's recreation needs.

We've also given the green light to the Special Study Area Task Force, which is working to define the future look and feel of our city center. Your participation is welcome (see pg. 4).

The new City Hall will be part

of that city center. As the design nears completion you are invited to attend an open house (please see notice below). Features include a plaza for public and community events, an open-air amphitheatre, trails to the park below, a play field and, yes, the long awaited skate park.

Our 2005-2006 spending plan is almost finalized but there is still time for you to join in the discussion. At our council retreat, we set a goal to invest more of your capital dollars into paths, sidewalks and road safety projects. This budget cycle, those dollars will be dedicated to two large projects – and two or three smaller projects.

The first large project will improve pedestrian facilities along SE 29th Street from 212th Avenue to the Park-and-Ride that will be constructed at 228th Avenue and Issaquah Pine Lake Road. The second big project will improve pedestrian access along 228th Avenue/Sahalee Way from NE 12th Place to NE 25th Way. In addition, we are improving access to some schools and completing trail links. Since we have many more projects

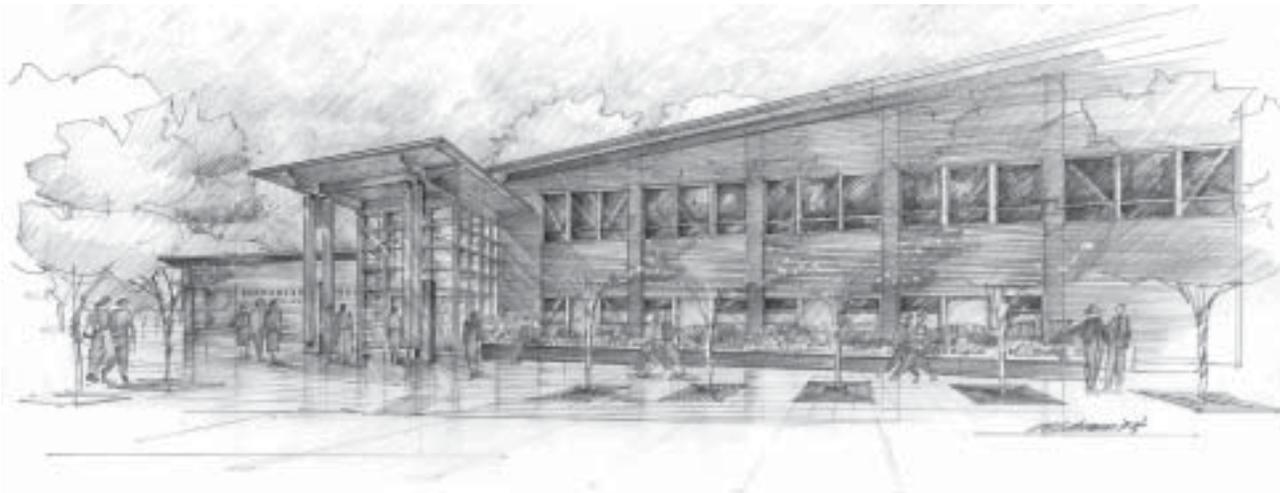
than we have money, we'll continue to seek grant money to do more.

But we can't forget road improvements. Now that 228th Avenue is complete, we're starting the planning process for improvements to NE 244th Avenue and East Lake Sammamish Parkway. The NE 244th Avenue project will give drivers north of SE Eighth Street a more direct access to State Route 202. This should reduce the number of cars along 228th and Sahalee Way.

In 2005, we'll be spending our dollars on planning, public meetings and studying the environmental impacts of these projects. Construction is expected in 2006 or 2007.

Lastly, we are focusing on increasing transit within the community, and to our neighboring cities of Issaquah and Redmond. Planning is in the early stages, but all three councils are excited about the prospect of working together to reduce congestion and making your commute easier.

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



Sammamish Commons Open House

The Sammamish City Council is inviting residents to an open house to review the latest design and the development history of Sammamish Commons, which includes the proposed City Hall seen above. The open house will be on Thursday, Nov. 4, 1-7 p.m., at the current City Hall, 486 228th Ave. NE.

SURVEY - cont. from page 1

More than two-thirds of the respondents said they would be “very willing or somewhat willing” to vote for a bond to pay for transportation improvements.

A similar proportion said they were “very willing or somewhat willing” to vote for a bond to pay for park improvements.

On the first 10 survey questions, residents were asked to react to a statement about the city. Their answer options were:

- 1=strongly disagree
- 2=disagree
- 3=no opinion
- 4=agree
- 5=strongly agree

The responses are listed below:

Statement: The city is making good progress on improving city roads.

Among those who stated an opinion: 78.3 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 21.7 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. (35 out of 398 stated no opinion.)

Statement: I’m happy the city has imposed a moratorium on growth since incorporation.

Among those who stated an opinion: 86.3 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 13.6 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. (42 out of 393 stated no opinion.)

Statement: The city is making good progress in acquiring park land and open space.

Among those who stated an

opinion, 74.6 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 25.4 disagreed or strongly disagreed. (119 out of 390 stated no opinion.)

Statement: Since incorporation, services now provided by the city have improved.

Among those who stated an opinion, 78.6 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 21.5 disagreed or strongly disagreed. (157 out of 375 stated no opinion.)

Statement: The city has done an excellent job of keeping citizens informed about city issues.

Among those who stated an opinion, 83.6 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 16.4 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. (57 out of 398 stated no opinion)

Statement: My neighborhood is safer now than it was prior to incorporation.

Among those who stated an opinion, 52.8 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 47.2 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. (197 out of 375 stated no opinion.)

Statement: Police presence in the city is just about right.

Among those who stated an opinion, 71.3 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 28.7 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. (81 out of 394 stated no opinion.)

Statement: Since incorporation, the city has become a better place to live.

Among those who stated an

opinion, 86.3 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 13.7 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. (113 out of 383 respondents stated no opinion.)

Statement: The overall direction of the city is on the right track.

Among those who stated an opinion, 81.9 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 18.1 disagreed or strongly disagreed. (80 out of 395 stated no opinion.)

Statement: I’m satisfied with the leadership of the City Council and the city administration.

Among those who stated an opinion, 81.8 percent agreed or strongly agreed; 18.1 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. (107 out of 338 stated no opinion.)

Other highlights of the survey:

- “Quiet neighborhoods” was what residents enjoyed most about Sammamish.
- “Traffic congestion” was what residents would most like to change.
- “Police/Fire” was the city service residents were most satisfied with.
- When asked to name what the city’s top five priorities should be, residents made “traffic” their top choice, followed, in descending order, by “roads/streets,” “managing growth/development,” “parks/nature,” and “youth activities.”

The survey results, produced by Sound Communication, can be viewed on the city’s website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Community Forums focus on “heart of the city”

The second of three community forums, all intended to shape the future character of the city’s geographical and civic center, was held Oct. 13 at Skyline High School.

The forums, directed by a task force of resident volunteers, are focusing on a 546-acre “special study area” that includes the future site of Sammamish Commons, a civic and park complex that will feature a new City Hall and police building.

Residents from throughout the city are invited to attend the final community forum on:

Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7 pm
Skyline High School
1122 228th Ave. SE



City Councilmember Don Gerend (center) and residents discuss the “special study area” at the Sept. 15 Community Forum at Skyline High School.



Residents discuss two Ebright Creek Park concepts at a Sept. 30 meeting at Discovery Elementary School.

Ebright Creek Park decision nears

Following a public survey and three public meetings, the City Council will have plenty of community input to weigh as it moves toward a decision on Ebright Creek Park.

But the decision won’t be easy. Some residents want the 12-acre site to feature a relatively passive park, with no basketball court and no formal baseball field. Others favor a design with more opportunities for sports and other forms of active recreation.

Among other things, the City Council will have to decide whether to include an off-leash dog area in the park. There has also been some discussion of moving the historic Reard/Freed house to the park.

The council is expected to choose a preferred option late this year.

Homecoming parade will affect traffic

Oct. 22 event will close some 228th lanes for two hours

During last year's first-ever Homecoming Parade, traffic diversions along 228th Avenue went smoothly and Skyline High School followed with a football victory over Cedarcrest High School.

City and school officials anticipate similar success this year as the Oct. 22 parade and game draw near.

The parade, which will start at Discovery Elementary and proceed north to Skyline High School, will close northbound lanes on 228th Avenue between SE 24th Street and SE 10th Street. The lanes will close at 4:30 p.m. and reopen at 6:30 p.m.

To accommodate the parade, all traffic will be diverted to the southbound lanes of 228th Avenue. One lane will continue as a southbound lane; the other will be converted to a northbound lane.

The intersections at SE 20th Street and SE 24th Street, on the east side of 228th Avenue, will



Marchers move north along 228th Avenue during last year's Skyline High School homecoming parade.

also be closed during the parade. Additionally, driveways and other roads on the east side of the parade route will be blocked off. Traffic from those side roads will not be allowed to enter or exit 228th Avenue. Drivers entering 228th on the west side will be allowed to make southbound turns only.

Traffic control flaggers or police officers will be stationed along the parade route to direct and assist drivers. For more information, please call Colleen Hawkins at 424-836-7925.

SR 202 widening promises traffic relief

Over the next three years, the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will be constructing a major project along the northern margins of Sammamish. The project should bring long-awaited relief to the many Sammamish residents who must travel northbound on Sahalee Way and East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

As those who regularly travel northbound know, there are frequent and long backups. The project, which has been in the planning stages for several years, is finally funded and ready to begin construction late this year.

The first phase of construction will add a lane to SR 202 in each di-

rection between SR 520 and the busy intersection at East Lake Sammamish Parkway (ELSP). An additional left turn lane will be added from ELSP to SR202, and the intersection will be reconfigured by increasing the turning radius to allow softer left turns.

Other work includes bicycle lanes, sidewalks, drainage, a landscaped median, signing upgrades, and signal revisions at the SR 520 off-ramp and at NE 70th Street.

The second phase, beginning in Spring 2005, will run from ELSP to Sahalee Way. It will widen the roadway to four lanes with left turn pock-

ets, and replace bridges at 196th Avenue NE and Evans Creek.

In addition, the roadbed will be raised 14 feet from 196th Avenue to Sahalee Way to accommodate an existing landslide.

Other features include new retaining walls, noise walls, and, in some sections, bicycle lanes and sidewalks. WSDOT plans to advertise for bids on the second phase in January 2005.

The entire project should be completed by Fall 2007. For more information about the widening of SR 202, visit the WSDOT website at www.wsdot.wa.us/projects/SR202_SR520_Sahalee/.

Budget hearing slated for Nov. 16

The first reading of the 2005/2006 biennial budget is scheduled for the second regular City Council meeting next month.

The Nov. 16 meeting will also see the first reading of the proposed property tax levy, which is expected to stay at or about the current \$2.61 per thousand of assessed valuation.

This year's operations budget is \$22 million. In the proposed budget, that figure will rise to \$25 million in 2005 and \$26 million in 2006. Most of that increase is linked to new hires and the added expense of maintaining new infrastructure.

The proposed budget pays for three new positions in 2005 - an administrative assistant, a wetland biologist and an additional police sergeant. In 2006, two more hires are anticipated - one in parks and the other in street maintenance.

Despite those hires, Sammamish will continue to have a relatively small staff, with only 1.7 employees per thousand population. By comparison, most area cities employ over 6 employees per thousand population.



At the Oct. 5 City Council meeting, an intruder gives Jack Barry and Michele Petitti a preview of the "nightmare."

"Nightmare at Beaver Lake"

The Halloween spirit in Sammamish will reach frightful new heights this October thanks to a joint effort by the Rotary Club, Sammamish Youth Board, and talented community residents.

The first-ever "Nightmare at Beaver Lake," on Oct. 28-31, will feature vampires, witches, crazy clowns and assorted ghouls and werewolves. A skeletal apparition even invaded the Oct. 5 City Council meeting to promote the community fearfest.

The cost of fear will be \$6, with \$1 off for a food donation at the door for the Issaquah Food Bank. For more information on how you too can have bad dreams, please visit: www.nightmareatbeaverlake.com.



Looking northwest toward Eastlake High School, across a 3-acre field where a multi-use sports field will be constructed.

Design firm hired for Eastlake field

The city has hired DA Hogan, a Seattle firm, to design a multi-use sports field for 3 acres of open space on the campus of Eastlake High School.

The city, in cooperation with the Lake Washington School District, expects the synthetic turf field to be used year around, easing the shortage of sports fields in the city. Both students and city residents are expected to use the field.

The \$208,000 design contract will be followed by a separate construction contract. Funds for construction will be included in the 2005/2006 proposed budget.

To open the door to this sort of cooperative project, the city has signed interlocal agreements with both the Lake Washington and Issaquah school districts.

Website usage on the rise

Usage of the city's website has shown a dramatic increase in the past year. In September 2003, 19,325 hits were recorded. In September 2004 the hit count increased to 64,781. This represents a 235% increase. During that same period, the number of files transmitted increased from 14,621 to 51,901 per month.

By dividing the number of requests by the successful transmissions, it can be calculated that 80% of web requests were completed successfully in September 2004, a 5% efficiency increase. One reason for this might be a concerted effort to systematically handle "Page Not Found" errors.

Ordinance search is a new feature added in the past month, which allows users to search for city ordinances which match a specific keyword or phrase. This

feature can be found from the homepage by clicking "Ordinances" in the left bar.

A sample search for the word "noise" returns at the top of the list Ordinance O2002-105, "an ordinance regulating excessive noise within the City for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens". A total of five documents are found related to "noise".

In order to get results about trees on East Lake Sammamish Parkway, a Boolean search might be helpful. In order to do this, use exact match, and join the desired terms with AND (example "East Lake Sammamish Parkway" AND trees).

If you have any problems with or questions about search, or other website features, please contact webmaster@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Alternate positions open

The city is accepting applications from residents interested in serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

There are currently three vacant "alternate" positions. Alternates attend all meetings and are called upon to vote if a quorum of regular commissioners is not present. Commission meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month.

Interested residents should submit a letter of interest and a resume to the City Clerk, 486 228th Avenue N.E., Sammamish, WA 98074, or to manderson@ci.sammamish.wa.us.

CITY HALL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Monday, October 4

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

Sammamish City Hall

- Neighborhood Connections, 6:30 pm

Sahalee Fire Station #82

Tuesday, October 5

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, October 6

- Special Study Area Task Force, 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, October 7

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting & Public Hearing, 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

Sunny Hills 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

- City Council / Issaquah School District Joint Meeting, 6 pm

Location TBA

- Planning Commission Regular Meeting & Public Hearing, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, October 25

- City Council/Issaquah School District Joint Meeting, 6 pm

Location TBA

- 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.

Wednesday, October 27

- Special Study Area Task Force, 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, October 28

- Public Safety Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 1

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

Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, November 2

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Thursday, November 4

- Sammamish Commons Open House, 1 - 7 pm

Sammamish City Hall

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, November 9

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, November 10

- Community Development Committee, 6 pm

Sammamish City Hall

Tuesday, November 16

- Public Works Committee, 5 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

- City Council, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, November 17

- Special Study Area Task Force, 6 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

- Arts Commission, 7 pm

Pine Lake Covenant Church

Thursday, November 18

- Planning Commission, 7 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Monday, November 22

- Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Tuesday, November 23

- City Council Study Session, 6:30 pm

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer Dist.

Wednesday, November 24

- 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 SE.

SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



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



City of Sammamish Offices

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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
Bruce Disend City Attorney
Melonie Anderson City Clerk
Richard Baranzini Police Chief
John Murphy Fire Chief



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