

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 160

CITY NEWSLETTER

OCT. 2015

Special census in annexation area

Before the Klahanie area officially joins the city on Jan. 1, the city is required by state law to conduct a special census in the annexation area.

The purpose – to ensure proper distribution of state funds allocated to cities based on their population.

So, Klahanie-area residents should expect a knock on their door on Dec. 19 or shortly thereafter. The firm hired by the city to do the survey is called Census Services.

If someone prefers not to provide information through contact at the door, here are the options:

- Call Census Director Glenn Mac-Gilvra at 425-533-5432.
- Ask for a census form and a postage-paid envelope when the census taker arrives at the door.
- Email your home phone number to Sammamish City Clerk Melonie Anderson at manderson@sammamish.us or to censuservices@gmail.com.

All information will be confidential and will be destroyed after verification by the state's Office of Financial Management. Census takers will carry a city identification badge.



The city's finance team (from left): Deputy Finance Director Chris Gianini, Finance Specialist Jodee Bass, Accounting Manager Jennifer Dilley, and Finance Director Joe Guinasso. Not pictured, Finance Specialist Marlene Dunham.

“Culture of accountability”

AUDITOR PRAISES CITY FOR ITS FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY, ATTENTION TO DETAIL, AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO RESIDENTS

It happened during the exit interview after the city received its eighth straight “clean” audit.

With City Councilmembers and staff present, the state auditor's office delivered a special letter of recognition congratulating the city on its “culture of accountability.”

“We were surprised,” Finance Director Joe Guinasso said. “We were happy about the clean audit, but then they told us we were the first jurisdiction in the state to receive this new letter of recognition. That was really cool.”

See ACCOUNTABILITY, pg. 3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Page 2

COMMUNITY CENTER

Story on page 3

ARTS FAIR

Story on page 6

Great leadership is often a group activity

Not long ago, I joined eight other mayors at a celebration of Leadership Eastside's newest class of students.

This excellent non-profit training organization, through its Leadership Enrichment Program, helps working professionals to improve their skills, expand their horizons and learn more about community leadership.



*Tom Vance
Mayor*

The new students – 48 of them, in this case – are typically sponsored by their city, county, non-profit or private employers.

With a big crowd present for the kickoff event, the Eastside mayors led round-table discussions, evaluated second-year student projects and, from the stage, offered insights into how leadership can manifest itself at the city level. It was an honor to be included.

As I looked across the stage at the other Eastside mayors, it struck me that one of the main things we had in common was our record of working together on a wide range of regional issues.

That was an important point to get across to our new class of students. Cities don't exist in a vacuum. We are connected, affected and sometimes buffeted by other jurisdictions. And that means the best leadership, sometimes, has to be a group activity!

Our own recent history makes the point.

This year, Sammamish joined the "King County-Cities Climate Collaboration," a partnership intended to

coordinate and enhance sustainability programs. I was pleased to be one of the mayors who worked with King County over the past two years on a joint agreement that covers, among other things, green building, energy efficiency, sustainable land use, transportation, forests and farming.

Given the rewards – a better environment, less costly energy, etc. – our City Council happily approved the joint letter of commitment on Sept. 15.

More often than not, our work with regional partners has been focused on better transportation and transit for our suburban cities. The passing of a long-awaited transportation package in the state legislature was a very welcome victory for regional persistence!

Working with our colleagues in Issaquah, we helped ensure that important improvements to the I-90 corridor were part of that package.

The improvements include widening I-90 to provide more lanes during the rush hour and making changes to State Route 18 so that truck and freight traffic headed to our ports won't have to use I-90.

These are the kinds of results Leadership Eastside's new students must consider and learn from.

And there's more to share with them. Recently, a coalition of Sammamish, Issaquah, Redmond, Bellevue and Kirkland also pushed for important eastside projects be included in the new Sound Transit 3 ballot, currently scheduled for November 2016.

The Eastside Transportation Partnership, representing cities from Renton to Lake Forest Park, also joined in that effort.

Fortunately, when Sound Transit announced their list of projects on August 27, there was good news for the Eastside. Included is a plan to extend light rail into downtown Redmond so that commuters, including Sammamish residents, can connect with light rail by either busing to Redmond or parking in a nearby park-and-ride.

Dovetailing nicely with that, we were able, working with Redmond mayor John Marchione, to have a new North Sammamish Park and Ride included in the plan, either in Sammamish or immediately to the north of our city. Sound Transit is already in talks with Sammamish to find a good location for the new park and ride!

The benefits of cooperation, of course, don't preclude bold leadership by individual cities. Sometimes circumstances call for that, and our City Council has never shied away from those opportunities.

But standing on that stage with the other mayors, it was very satisfying to reflect on our many shared endeavors, our regional successes, and the array of opportunities that await us if we continue to lead together.

Fortunately, I believe our message got through to the new students loud and clear. And as they continue their journeys and find new openings for their talents, I trust their communities will benefit from the same cooperative spirit.

Good luck to them. And thanks to Leadership Eastside for their great work!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vance".

Community and Aquatic Center opens this spring!

With a brand-new community and aquatic center opening its doors, the spring of 2016 is going to be especially memorable here in Sammamish. But there are still a few items that need to be taken care of:

- Finish building the structured parking lot
- Add siding, glaze the windows, finish the floors
- Install light fixtures, tile and cabinets
- Furnish and equip the facility
- Add sidewalks, a driveway and landscaping
- Train staff

The 69,000-square-foot, two-level building is located just west of City Hall. The city-owned facility will be operated in partnership with the YMCA.

See the yellow box on this page for membership info!



One of two swimming pools at the new facility.



A jogging track circles above the two gyms.

Charter Memberships

- No joining fees
- Pre-Opening facility access
- Invitation to exclusive events
- Special charter membership card
 - Swag bag with Y gear

On sale through October at City Hall,
Monday and Friday, 1-3 p.m.
or at ournewy.org/charter

ACCOUNTABILITY, cont. from pg. 1

In part, the letter from acting State Auditor Jan Jutte said: “During our audit work we saw the City’s culture of accountability to its citizens as evidenced by Finance staff’s commitment to meeting deadlines, attention to detail in their financial statement preparation as well as their accessibility, and responsiveness to the audit.”

It went on to say: “It is apparent the City management and staff want to be accountable to the citizens and good stewards of public funds.”

City Manager Ben Yazici expressed great satisfaction that the city received this unsolicited recognition from the state auditor’s office.

“From the beginning, our City Councils have always insisted on a very responsible and transparent approach to finances,” Yazici said. “We were squeaky clean during Lyman Howard’s long tenure as finance director, and now Joe Guinasso and his staff have maintained the tradition over the past several years. It’s great to see.”

Guinasso came to Sammamish from the city of Bellevue in 2011, filling the role of finance director after Howard was appointed deputy city manager. Howard is slated to become Sammamish’s new city manager in February when Yazici leaves after 15 years with the city.

Along with its clean audits, the city has also maintained healthy financial reserves, earning an AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor’s. The city does not currently have any bonded indebtedness.

Kids build human-sized nest

No birds were present, but the biggest nest in Sammamish history commenced construction in the Lower Commons on Saturday, Sept. 19.

With a band of kids doing most of the construction, environmental artist Karen White shared her knowledge of ornithological architecture as part of a Sammamish Arts Commission, ArtEast and 4Culture arts project.

Arranging branches and twigs in a criss-cross pattern, the 8- to 12-year-old kids quickly created a stable foundation for the human-sized nest.

At completion, the nest will be transferred to Big Rock Park, where it will serve as a play structure beginning in the spring of 2016.



Environmental artist Karen White helps kids build nest on Sept. 19.

Come to City Hall for a Halloween Happening!

You and your youngsters are invited to trek through City Hall during this enjoyable, safe and dry trick-or-treat adventure!

Decorations, costumes and treats will be geared toward a fun, friendly and non-frightening atmosphere.

Friday, Oct. 30

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Sammamish City Hall

801 228th Ave. S.E.



For more information, contact Lynne Handlos at lhandlos@sammamish.us or 425-295-0584.

Homecoming parade on Oct. 23!



Skyline High School's traditional homecoming parade will march up 228th Avenue on Friday, Oct. 23, beginning at 5 p.m. The northbound lanes of 228th will be closed between Discovery Elementary and the high school from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Two-way traffic will be maintained, however, on what are normally the southbound lanes. Motorists are encouraged to take alternative routes.

Rake it or leave it!

Fall is here and it's time to figure out what to do with all those leaves! Here are three suggestions for you:

- Rake it! – Gather it all up and follow your community guidelines for curbside pickup. Never rake leaves into or near storm drains, ditches or creeks.
- Leave it! – Mulch leaves by running over them with your lawn mower at the next cutting. Leaves and grass clippings are the best fertilizer for you lawn.
- Rake it and leave it! – Rake leaves into a compost pile for a nutrient-rich fertilizer to use on your garden next spring.

Welcome to Sammamish!

CITY REACHES OUT TO ANNEXATION-AREA RESIDENTS AT KLAHANIE PARK EVENT

The annexation doesn't become official until Jan. 1, but the city didn't wait around to make a good first impression.

On Sept. 12 – a very sunny Saturday – City Councilmembers, department heads and city staffers mixed with hundreds of residents from the annexation area at a “welcome event” featuring bouncy toys, games, food trucks, live music, information booths and the ceremonial planting of a Scarlett Oak tree.

“Coming to Klahanie Park and having some fun with our new residents felt really good,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “I think we’re going to have a good, long-term relationship.”

The residents of the annexation area, made up of Klahanie proper and several adjoining neighborhoods, voted overwhelmingly in April to join Sammamish. The 11,000 new residents will lift the city's population to about 60,000.



Helping out with the ceremonial tree planting (from left): Councilmember Nancy Whitten, Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama, Mayor Tom Vance, Transition Committee Chair Lorrie Schleg, Councilmember Tom Odell, King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert, Councilmember Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor Kathy Huckabay, City Manager Ben Yazici and Councilmember Bob Keller.



Families begin arriving for the “Welcome to Sammamish” event.



The Sammamish Chamber of Commerce says hello!

Come to second Sahalee Way Open House on Nov. 4

It's not scheduled to start construction until 2017 at the earliest, but the widening of Sahalee Way will be the focus of a second open house on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 7-8 p.m., at the Boys and Girls Club, 825 228th Ave. N.E.

By then, the City Council will have considered all public input and provided its general recommendations for the final design. The design work, by Pertect, Inc., will begin in January.



Sahalee Way today

Approximately a mile and a half of Sahalee Way, from Northeast 25th Way to Northeast 37th Street, will be widened. The finished roadway will feature one lane in each direction, a middle turn lane or median strip, and sidewalks and bike lanes.

The city's six-year Transportation Improvement Plan shows a project cost of \$15.7 million, although that number could rise or fall depending on final design choices.

Sammamish Arts Fair:

OCT. 10 AND 11, FROM 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

One of the most anticipated art events on the Eastside will return to City Hall this month. It's the ninth annual Sammamish Arts Fair, a two-day display of some of the best jury-selected art in the area.

The fair is a community-wide cultural art experience produced in partnership with the participating artists and the Sammamish Arts Commission. The admission-free event receives sponsorship support from 4Culture, the city of Sammamish and the Sammamish Arts Commission.

Those attending will have the opportunity to visit with the artists, purchase individual pieces, and enjoy a festive atmosphere on Saturday, Oct. 11, and Sunday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

Live theater Oct. 24

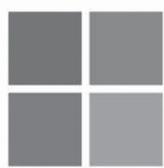
An abbreviated version of Hansel and Gretel will be presented at the Boys and Girls Club, 825 228th Ave. N.E., on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m.



This family-friendly event is being staged by the Repertory Collective and the Sammamish Arts Commission with support from 4Culture. Tickets are free, but attendees must have a ticket. To get yours, please go to hanselgretel.brownpapertickets.com.

For more information on this special event, send an email to Steve@SDWright.net.

Thank you summer event sponsors!



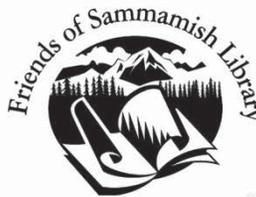
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TLC Montessori



ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE
Aegis Living
at Marymoor



CITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 1

-“Mix it Up” Mixed Media Workshop,
10 a.m.-1 p.m., Boys and Girls Club
-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2

-Auditions, 6-8 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club

Saturday, Oct. 3

-Volunteer at Lower Commons Park,
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

-City Council Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
-City Council Office Hour, Canceled

Wednesday, Oct. 7

-Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 9

-Auditions, 6-8 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club

Saturday, Oct. 10

-Arts Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
City Hall

Sunday, Oct. 11

-Arts Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
City Hall

Tuesday, Oct. 13

-City Council Special Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

-Transition Committee Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 15

-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17

-Sammamish Walks - Big Rock Park,
10 a.m.-noon

Monday, Oct. 19

-Art Exhibit - Michelle van Slyke,
-Committee of the Whole,
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 20

-City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22

-Art Exhibit Reception,
6-8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 23

-Skyline High School Homecoming
Parade, 4-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24

-Hansel and Gretel, 7-10 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club

Monday, Oct. 26

-Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 30

-Halloween Happening, 3-4:30 p.m.
City Hall

Saturday, Oct. 31

-Volunteer at Ebright Creek Park,
9 a.m.-noon

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 3

-City Council Office Hour, 5-6 p.m.
-City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

-Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 5

-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

-City Council Study Session,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

-Veterans Day,
City offices closed

Thursday, Nov. 12

-Klahanie Transition
Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 16

-Committee of the Whole,
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

-City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 19

-Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 23

-Arts Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 26

-Thanksgiving Day, City offices closed

Friday, Nov. 27

-Thanksgiving, City offices closed

PLEASE NOTE:

All meetings and events at City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please consult the city website for the most current information.



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Sammamish, WA 98075

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SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL



Tom Vance
Mayor



Kathy Huckabay
Deputy Mayor



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Bob Keller
Councilmember



Tom Odell
Councilmember



Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Volunteer Opportunities!

Restore the Lower Commons Wetland

Saturday, Oct. 10 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Help plant and mulch native trees and shrubs
and remove invasive plants

Enhance salmon habitat at Ebright Creek

Saturday, Oct. 31 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Help the Washington Native Plant Society by
removing invasive weeds and planting native trees, shrubs.

To sign up and obtain information,
go to www.sammamish.us/volunteer

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

801 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075
Phone: 425-295-0500 • Fax: 425-295-0600

www.sammamish.us

Tom Vance, Mayor

tvance@sammamish.us

Kathy Huckabay, Deputy Mayor

khuckabay@sammamish.us

Don Gerend, Councilmember

dgerend@sammamish.us

Bob Keller, Councilmember

bkeller@sammamish.us

Tom Odell, Councilmember

todell@sammamish.us

Ramiro Valderrama

rvalderrama@sammamish.us

Nancy Whitten, Councilmember

nwhitten@sammamish.us

Ben Yazici

City Manager

Lyman Howard

Deputy City Manager

Jessi Bon

Parks & Rec Director

Beth Goldberg

Admin Services Director

Joe Guinasso

Finance Director

Jeff Thomas

Community Dev Director

Melonie Anderson

City Clerk

Nathan Elledge

Police Chief

Greg Tryon

Fire Chief

Michael Kenyon

City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?

Contact Communications Mgr [Tim Larson](mailto:tlarson@sammamish.us)

425-295-0555, tlarson@sammamish.us