

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 166

CITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

Grand Opening: Community & Aquatic Center

TOURS, FUN FOR THE KIDS, MEMBERSHIP SIGNUPS AND MUCH MORE ON APRIL 30



The 25-yard, six-lane lap pool



One of two gyms



Exercise machines look out over Sammamish Commons



Leisure pool with the "lazy river" feature

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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GRAND OPENING

Story on page 2

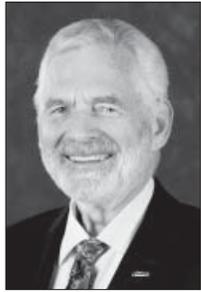
CALL TO ARTISTS

Story on page 8

Thanks to everyone for the Community & Aquatic Center

As the April 30 Grand Opening of the Community & Aquatic Center approaches, I thought about saying how proud I was to have been part of the City Council that approved the project. But then I caught myself.

This is, after all, a “community” facility that owes its existence to the steady and thoughtful feedback we’ve received from our residents over many years.



Don Gerend
Mayor

We heard the call when we doorbelled during our campaigns, when we read your responses in our community surveys, and even when we

bumped into you at the grocery store.

“When are we going to get a pool?” you asked. “And how about a community center for our kids, and a place where seniors can get together?”

As I watch our new facility nearing completion, I’m really glad we were smart enough to listen.

It took a lot of work – public meetings, community focus groups, and a positive advisory vote – but I truly believe this commitment has made our very desirable city even more attractive.

Even if you never step inside the the Community and Aquatic Center for a workout, I believe you’ll feel some very healthful effects on your property values!

Who wouldn’t want to live in a city where beauty abounds, safety surrounds, and residents can gather in a

state-of-the-art facility for their physical and social well-being.

Interestingly, as I took a tour of the building a few days ago and marveled at the pools and gyms and fancy exercise equipment, I was most struck by its social potential.

The hallways and lockerrooms were still empty, but I could already hear the laughter, the neighborly greetings, and the burgeoning sense of community that would soon fill this space.

So thanks for your persistent persuasion! As a member of the City Council, I can’t tell you how rewarding it’s been to see your vision come to life.

See you at the Grand Opening!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Gerend". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

The doors swing wide open on Saturday, April 30, at 10 a.m.!

OPENING OF COMMUNITY & AQUATIC CENTER BRINGS EXCITEMENT AND A PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT

If you’ve ever wanted to drop the kids off in a supervised play area and go for a swim, or play basketball, or take a spin class, or lift weights, or meet with friends – your day is coming!

And that day – marked by the grand opening of the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center – is April 30. The opening day festivities are scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to XX a.m.

“This is going to be an amazing, signature moment for our community,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “It’s the biggest, most complicated project we’ve ever done, and it’s a thrill to have the grand opening just a few days away.”

The 69,000-square-foot, two-level building, which broke ground in June

2014, was built by Porter Brothers Construction of Edgewood. The total cost, with sales tax, design, demolition, construction contingency funds spent and other expenses: \$32,931,659.

“It speaks to the financial health of our city that we were able to pay for this major project with existing funds,” Howard said. “We did this very comfortably without debt and without any new taxes.”

So here’s what residents will see when they walk into the new building: A state-of-the-art facility featuring two gyms, two swimming pools, multiple exercise areas, child-care spaces, meeting rooms, an indoor track and a variety of other amenities. (For a full list, see pg. 5.)

Operation of the Community &

Aquatic Center will not require an expansion of city staff. Thanks to a partnership, the YMCA will run and operate the facility on a day-to-day basis. The YMCA also supplied all the equipment and furnishings in the new building and contributed \$1 million toward construction.

“Having the experts from the YMCA handle operations fits with our contract approach here in Sammamish,” Howard said. “We’ve kept our city staff small by contracting for things like fire and police services, and we’re certainly continuing that tradition here.”

The new recreational facility was designed by Barker Rinker Seacat, a

See OPENING, pg. 4

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The welcome desk and foyer



The top-floor exercise room



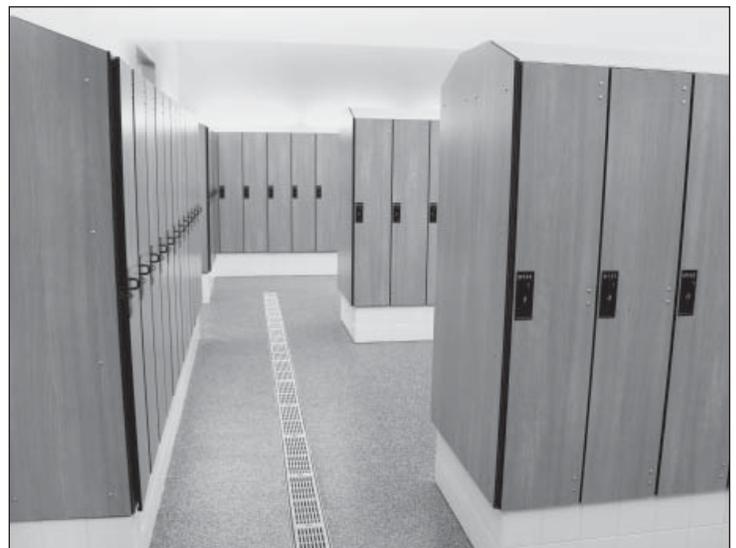
For those who need assistance getting into the pool



One of several spaces designed for meeting and socializing



Private changing rooms



A portion of the men's lockerroom

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

OPENING, cont. from pg. 2

Denver architectural firm, with all ages in mind.

Whether it's a toddler approaching a zero-depth entry to the recreational pool, or a senior who needs to be lowered into the water with the help of a special hydraulic chair, every effort has been made to create a multi-generational gathering place.

"I think all age groups are going to enjoy the programs and amenities," Howard said. "And I think the social benefit, the chance for parents, kids, grandparents and neighbors to spend time together, is going to be terrific as well."

The city and YMCA staff are get-

ting ready for a period of adjustment after the center opens.

"We'll be going out on a nice shake-down cruise beginning April 30," Howard said. "There will no doubt be a number of fixes and adjustments required."

One of the early challenges will be getting residents acquainted with entry and exit routes, parking locations, and drop-off protocols. (See the map below for a basic picture of the circulation pattern.)

Drivers will be able to enter and exit at Southeast Eighth Street (just north of City Hall). They will also be able enter and exit on the road just south of the library.

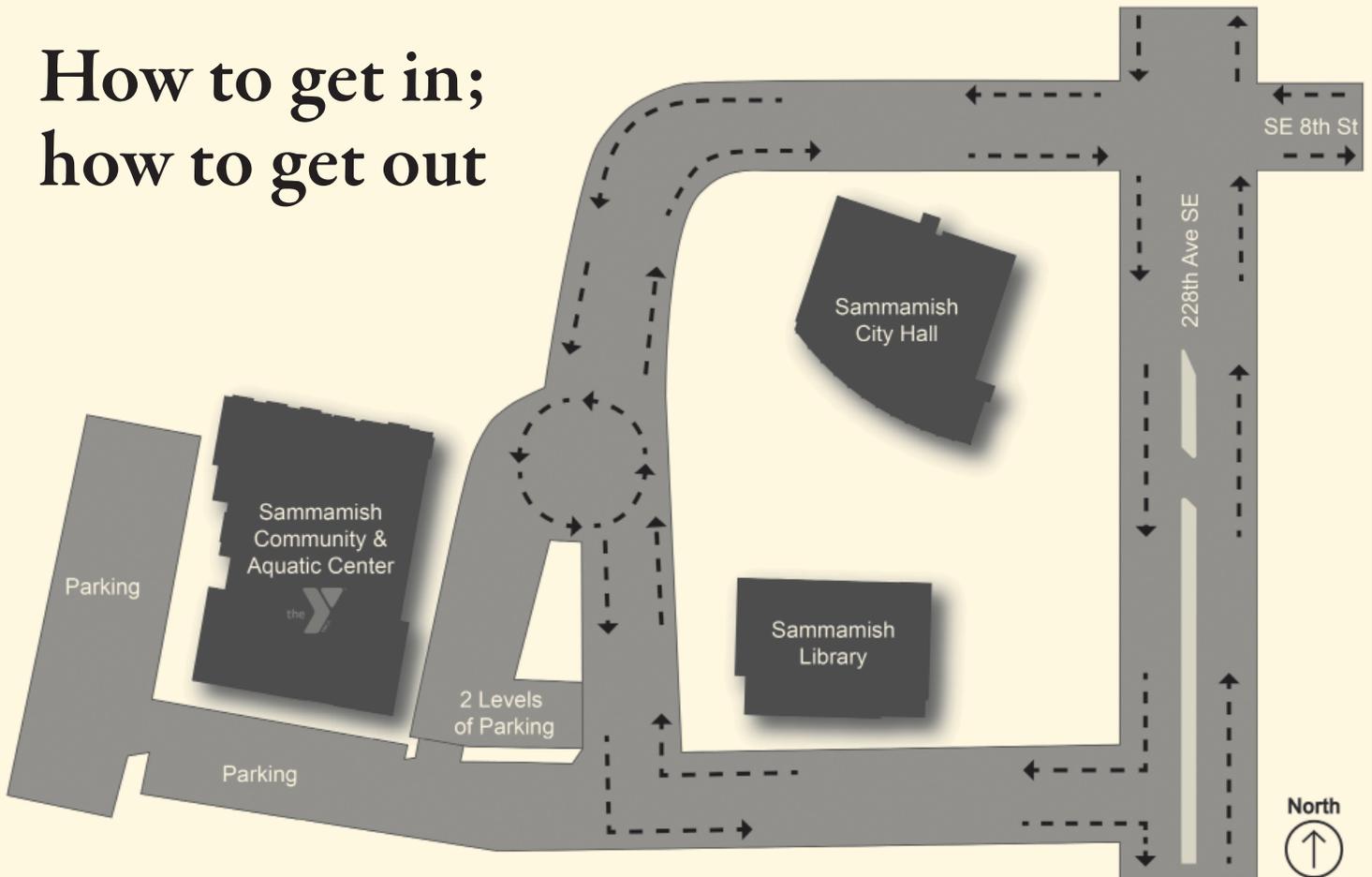
Overflow parking, if there is any, will be accommodated right next door

in the Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church parking lot.

Adding to the excitement of the day, especially for kids, is the Rig-A-Palooza event that will be going on at City Hall plaza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event, which was very popular last year, will feature vehicles from Sammamish Police, the King County Sheriff's Office, the garbage collection company and other jurisdictions.

"It should be a fun day for everyone," City Manager Lyman Howard said. "Whether you're exploring the new Community & Aquatic Center, or climbing all over the rigs out on the plaza, we're looking forward to seeing a big crowd."

How to get in; how to get out



CITY OF SAMMAMISH

Community & Aquatic Center amenities:

- Lap pool (25 yards, six lanes)
- Leisure pool with lazy river and slide
 - Spa
- Full-size gymnasium and a second, smaller gym
 - Elevated jogging track above both gyms
- Fitness area (6,500 sq. ft) featuring machines, weights
 - Large group fitness room (2,200 sq. ft)
 - Small group fitness room ((1,200 sq. ft)
 - Spinning room (650 sq. ft)
 - Reflection room for yoga and similar classes
 - Male lockerroom, female lockerroom
 - Six private family changing rooms
 - Multipurpose room
 - Family Center for teen, school and family events
- Child Watch room for supervision of young children
- Adventure Zone entertainment room for children
 - Break room and kitchen
 - Approximately 300 parking spaces

Grand Opening schedule of events:

Details to come

How to sign up for a membership

Details to come

For more information on the Community & Aquatic Center Grand Opening, contact Janie Jackson (jjackson@sammamish.us, 425-295-0585)



Finishing up construction in March



The spa



The "Kids Corner"



The water slide exits and re-enters the leisure pool area

Stormwater education for our elementary school kids!

Preventing pollution can be a challenge. And now, thanks to a special education program, third graders throughout Sammamish know just how much work it takes.

The program, funded by a King Conservation District grant, taught students how their actions can help protect the rare Kokanee salmon that live in Lake Sammamish and periodically swim up our local streams.

As part of the “Healthy Watersheds, Healthy World” classroom workshop, conducted in the fall of 2015, students were asked to take part in the “Kokanee Challenge,” an educational component that required participating students to record the

stormwater pollution prevention actions they took over a 30-day period. Top honors would go to the school that took the most positive action.

After it was all said and done, recognition for the top Kokanee Challenge performance went to Cascade Ridge Elementary. Among other things, these exemplary third

graders put litter in its place, picked up pet waste and encouraged the adults in their sphere to use a commercial car wash instead of hosing off vehicles in the driveway.

The special stormwater education program will be repeated for incoming third graders this fall.



Winners of the Kokanee Challenge: The third-grade classes of Mrs. Jochim, Mrs. Trull, Mrs. Shawver and Ms. Perkin at Cascade Ridge Elementary.

Photo display at City Hall

From April 15 to July 8, the photos of Sammamish resident Gail Twelves will be on display at City Hall. Her two favorite subjects: polar bears and mustangs!

In addition to viewing the photos during normal business hours, residents are invited to attend an artist's reception, featuring refreshments and live music, on Friday, April 22, 6-8 p.m., at City Hall.

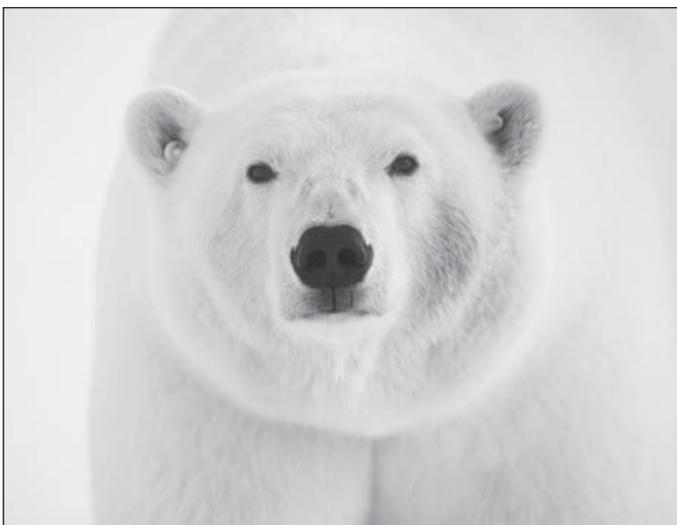


Photo by Gail Twelves: “Mama Bear”

City supports human services

To make sure Sammamish residents are aware of human services that receive financial support from the city, specific agencies are periodically listed here in the city newsletter. For example:

- EADS Day Services (425-250-7030) – This agency provides adult day care, adult health, and respite services for those with cognitive and physical disabilities. To help caregivers cope with stress, the agency also provides a free class – “Powerful Tools for Caregivers.” For more information, go to <https://eadscares.wordpress.com/>.
- YMCA camps for kids – Teen Quest Camp, Camp Terry outdoor camps, and Day Camp at the new YMCA in Sammamish are some of the options. Check out the full lineup at www.ykids.org. Financial assistance is available to those in need.
- Athletes for Kids – This organization serves special needs children in first grade through ninth grade, carefully matching each child with a qualified high school athlete who commits to mentoring a child for one to three years. For more information, call Mary Queen of Peace Church at 425-369-2142 or go to AFK@athletesforkids.org.

CITY CALENDAR

APRIL

Saturday, April 2

Short Course on Local Planning
Bellevue City Hall, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 5

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6

Parks and Rec Comn Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 9

Master Gardener Workshop:
Fruits & Berries, 1:30-4 p.m.
Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 12

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

Friday, April 15

Art Exhibit: Gail Twelves "Eye to Eye",
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20

Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Friday, April 22

Exhibiting Artist Reception , 6-8 p.m.

Monday, April 25

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 30

Rig-A-Palooza, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

"Au-Some Artists!"

FREE Inclusive Event, 1-4 p.m.

Boys and Girls Club

MAY

Tuesday, May 3

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4

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

Thursday, May 5

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10

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

Wednesday, May 11

Sammamish Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Saturday, May 14

Master Gardener Workshop:
Propagation, 1:30-4 p.m.
Council Chambers

Tuesday, May 17

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 18

Sammamish Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza
Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Planning Commission Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 23

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24

Sammamish/Redmond,
Joint Council Meeting, 6-10 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25

Sammamish Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

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.

Celebrate Earth Day; Volunteer at Ebright Creek!

Volunteers with the Washington Native Plant Society are looking for help on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, as they work to restore Ebright Creek, an important salmon-bearing stream.

If you'd like to celebrate Earth Day by giving our planet some tender, loving care, go to the city's volunteer page at www.sammamish.us/volunteer.

In addition to removing invasive weeds and planting native trees and shrubs, volunteers will learn how to certify their backyards as wildlife habitats with the National Wildlife Federation.



Earth Day volunteers at Ebright Creek Park in 2015.



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*Christie Malchow
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*

Call to artists!

For the 10th Annual Sammamish Arts Fair
Submission deadline: May 15

Student artists also invited to participate!
Submission deadline for students: June 1

The Sammamish Arts Fair
will take place at City Hall
on Saturday, Oct. 8, and Sunday, Oct. 9,
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com



CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Beth Goldberg	Admin Services Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Jeff Clark	Fire Chief
Michael Kenyon	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr **Tim Larson**
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