

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 109

CITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

Pool opinions plentiful at public meeting

BIG CROWD TURNS OUT FOR COMMUNITY CENTER DISCUSSION

Although no decision has been made to go forward with a community center, the feasibility study examining that possibility has drawn big crowds to public meetings at City Hall.

The June 13 meeting, which focused on potential swimming pool configurations, was no exception.

“It was great to see the Council chamber packed with people who had strong opinions and really good questions,” Parks Director Jessi Richardson said. “This study has really generated a lot of public input.”

The following comments (paraphrased) were made by attendees:

- *Make sure the pool and community center are plenty big.*
- *Why do we need this when there are pools and gyms nearby?*

See *COMMUNITY*, pg. 3



Wearing the stars and stripes, eating ice cream, and waiting for the fireworks!

Fourth on the Plateau!!!

The 4th of July, as last year’s community celebration proved, does not surrender its pleasures to a few rain drops. But this year’s event, climatological odds being what they are, should be the brightest and biggest Fourth on the Plateau in history.

“We’ve seen steady growth at this event since it started back in 2007,” said Joanna Puthoff, the city’s lead on this year’s celebration. “This will be our fifth year, and if the weather cooperates, it should be our best ever.”

See *FOURTH*, pg. 5

MAYOR’S MESSAGE

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STAN AND ELLIE

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NWMAPS.NET

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Some tech notes for Sammamish to think about

As a member of the National League of Cities (NLC) steering committee on Information Technology & Communications, I had the privilege of attending a quarterly meeting in Kansas City last month.

The meeting was held jointly with two other NLC committees – Transportation Infrastructure and Services (TIS) and Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR). The topics discussed dealt with the rapidly changing landscape of technology and how this will impact cities and our residents.



*Don Gerend
Mayor*

Coincidentally, the meeting was in Kansas City, where both the Kansas and Missouri sides of that city were chosen by Google for their grand experiment in an ultra high-speed broadband network. In a marketing stroke of genius, Google announced a national sweepstake last year to select one or more cities to build and test a broadband network with speeds of 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections.

Well, cities fell all over each other trying to get Google to select their metro area for the test. Topeka, Kansas, for example, renamed itself “Google, Kansas,” for a month in an effort to entice Google.

Ultimately, Kansas City was selected and Google plans to not only provide the 1 Gbps service to homes and businesses there at competitive pricing, but to provide it free forever

to some 130 or so public institutions (primarily schools).

To put this in perspective, I checked the speeds on my Comcast broadband service (go to www.broadband.gov for the test) and found that my download speed was about 20 Mbps and upload around 3.3 Mbps. That’s not bad, but imagine how 1Gbps could impact Sammamish citizens and businesses.

Even now we have a high percentage of home-based businesses, and as broadband services continue to ramp up, the appeal of working from home or having access to a nearby executive suite with ultra high-speed broadband will make working and living in Sammamish even that much more desirable!

In combination with the TIS steering committee, we toured an electric truck company (www.smith-electricvehicles.com) and had good discussions about battery technology, alternate use of spent batteries as electric storage devices for the smart grid, and even discussed ultra capacitors. Already in Sammamish there are numerous owners of electric cars and plug-in hybrids; the Nissan Leaf is fun to drive and the Tesla is awesome (just don’t put the pedal to the metal in Sammamish).

Along with this new vehicle technology will come the requisite enhancement of our electrical grid system to smart grid technology (www.smartgrid.gov).

One of the presenters at the joint meeting with the EENR committee took the smart concept even further, pointing out that already smart phones

are integrating formerly separate uses into a single system: take a picture, send the picture attached to a text message or email, or even post it on the internet (careful what you post), and then talk about it with your friends, all from your smart phone.

Smart infrastructure is the future – interconnecting utilities, for example. The layering of GIS-obtained information already is transforming information gathering and storage in various areas of municipal services.

All of this expansion of data collecting and storage naturally leads to another issue – cyber security. Our committee discussed trying to stay ahead of federal regulation in this arena dealing with data breaches (see www.databreaches.net).

Somewhat disconcerting is the fact that one study found that Seattle is number one on a list of cities suffering from cyber crime. Obviously, encryption and other techniques for protecting sensitive information are important to consider both at the individual level and the public/corporate level.

Fortunately, the concerns raised on this trip were more than outweighed by frequent moments of illumination and inspiration. The common theme enlivening our many meetings and panel discussions: Technology is changing rapidly and we had best prepare for and embrace the changes.

It’s an exciting time to be alive!



Property and permit info online at NWMaps.net

Thanks to a new service provided by Sammamish and other eastside cities, residents and business people can now easily explore a treasure trove of property information online.

For example, if someone wants permit or project construction information (including contact data), www.NWMaps.net will supply it with a few mouse clicks.

This online service comes from the **eCityGov Alliance**, a municipal partnership that seeks to share information, processes and resources for the sake of efficiency.

The cities participating in www.NWMaps.net are: Sammamish, Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, Kenmore, Renton, Shoreline and Tukwila.

“National Night Out” kickoff event on Aug. 2

Once a year, Americans across the country are encouraged to have barbecues, block parties and other social events to solidify the neighborly connections that can serve as a barrier to crime. This year, “National Night Out” will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

To jump start the event here, the Sammamish Police and Sammamish Citizen Corps are holding a National Night Out “kickoff event” at City Hall plaza between noon and 3 p.m. Among other things, the event will feature:

- A display of police vehicles
- A community safety and awareness fair
- We C.A.R.E. Sports activities for kids
- And a children’s music concert

For more information about this nationwide initiative, go to www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/.

COMMUNITY, cont. from pg. 1

- *It would be so great if I didn’t have to leave Sammamish to enjoy a public pool with my family.*
- *How are we going to pay for it?*
- *Why should everyone pay taxes to fund a community center when not everyone will use it?*
- *Please build it before my kids grow up and leave home.*

Barker Rinker Seacat (BRS), the consulting firm doing the study, will summarize all of the public input for the Parks Commission and City Council, but many commissioners and councilmembers were in attendance at the June 13 meeting to hear residents react to various aquatic features. Those features included:

- A cold water competition pool that could be rented by local swim teams
- A warmer leisure pool
- Cool and warm water lap lanes
- A water slide

- A water activity and exercise area
- A family whirlpool
- A current channel or “lazy river”

The BRS feasibility study will wrap up sometime this summer with a final report going to the City Council. Among other things, that report will recommend a preferred location and a conceptual design for the community center. It will also include a market analysis, and projected capital and operational costs.

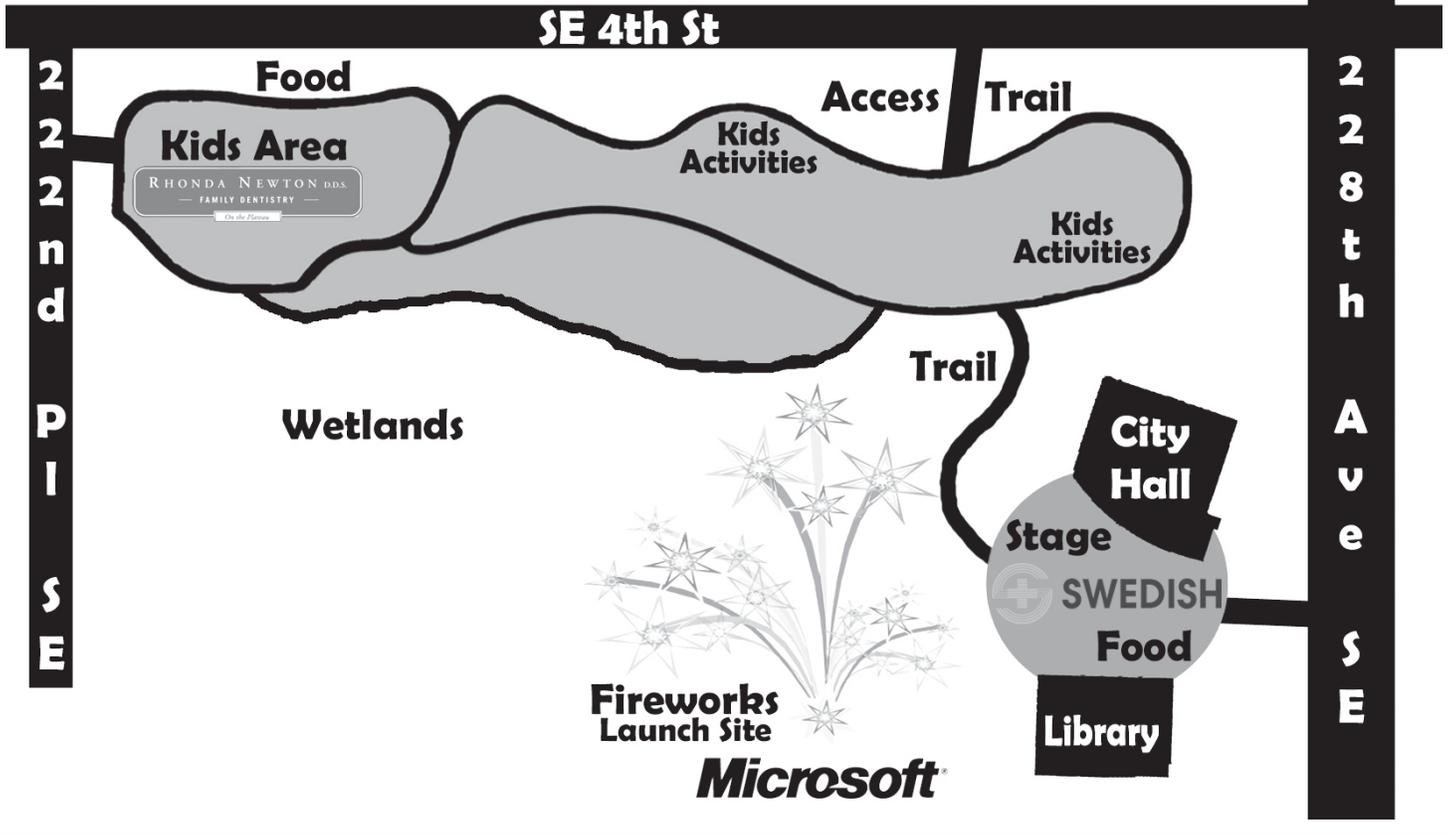
After reviewing all of the material, the City Council will then decide on next steps. One option: Put the proposed community center, along with a funding plan, to a vote of the people at some future election. Another option: Shelve the idea.

For comprehensive information on the Community Center feasibility study, go to the city website (www.ci.sammamish.wa.us) and click on the Community Center banner at the top of the home page.



Aquatic facilities at a Salem, Oregon, community center.

Fourth on the Plateau Fun Map!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2011 SPONSORS!

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FOURTH, cont. from pg. 1

This year's agenda will follow the usual foolproof combination of music, food and fireworks. And, as usual, the event will start when families begin arriving with their picnic blankets around 6 p.m. After several hours of snacking, dancing and Independence Day hijinks, the fireworks will blast off around 10 p.m.

Thanks to the popularity of the event, parking will be a fair distance from Sammamish Commons for some residents. For parking options, see the list of alternatives outlined on this page.

As the event map (opposite page) shows, the layout for 2011 is almost identical to last year's arrangement. That means the majority of the crowd will gather on chairs and blankets in the Lower Commons, where a grassy hillside provides a spectacular, up-close look at the late-evening pyrotechnics.

The best pedestrian access to the Lower Commons is on Southeast 4th Street. To access the City Hall plaza, pedestrians can enter via 228th Avenue.

"We'll have plenty of music, food and fun at both the Lower Commons and City Hall plaza locations," Puthoff said. "If you have kids, though, the Lower Commons is where we're setting up all of the kid's entertainment."

The event, which is largely funded by sponsors, will also benefit this year from the usual army of volunteers.

"The volunteers really make this a community event that is 'for and by the people,'" Puthoff said. "It's a thrill to see that 'Independence Day' spirit each and every year."



The Fourth of July slides are fun even for older kids!

Parking locations:

Paid parking – \$5

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church
Mary Queen of Peace Church
Skyline High School

More free parking

Eastside Catholic School
Eastlake High School
Discovery Elementary
Safeway Shopping Center
Pine Lake Park
Sammamish Park & Ride

Free for handicapped only

Sammamish City Hall

No left turns onto or off of 228th, please!

To help with traffic flow before, during and after the July 4th event, no left turns will be allowed onto or off of 228th Avenue between N.E. Main St. and S.E. 20th St. from 4 p.m. to midnight. Northbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach N.E. Fourth St. Southbound drivers can turn left or make a u-turn when they reach S.E. 24th St. NOTE: S.E. Fourth St. will be closed to vehicular traffic after the fireworks to allow residents to exit the Lower Commons.

Stan and Ellie – Thanks for everything you do

After 50 years of marriage, Stan and Ellie Bump can leaf back through their personal history book and find a lot of highlights. And now, following a City Council proclamation on June 7, they can add at least one more page to their records.

The proclamation, which identified June 24 as “Stan Bump Day,” thanked the retired Navy admiral for his service on the city Planning Commission, his weekly attendance at City Council meetings over the past decade, and his unofficial role as a sharp-eyed proofreader of city documents.

Noting that Ellie Bump had also endured those many Council meetings, Mayor Don Gerend thanked them both for their “friendly vigilance” and devotion to Sammamish.



Mayor Don Gerend (right) thanks Stan and Ellie Bump.

Reflecting on their contributions, City Manager Ben Yazici expressed amazement at the couple’s commitment.

“In both official and unofficial roles, they’ve always been there for the Council, the community, and their neighbors,” Yazici said. “It’s been a pleasure and a privilege to have them observe city processes, weigh in on city policies, and make sure we stay on the straight and narrow.”

During his career, Bump, a graduate of the Naval Academy, commanded a submarine group and a naval base. He and Ellie moved almost 20 times during his military career.

Concerts in the Park

(Thursday nights at Pine Lake Park, 6:30 p.m.)

- July 7 - Creme Tangerine (Beatles tribute)
- July 14 - @Five (Dance music for the soul)
- July 21 - About Face (Rock)
- July 28 - Dr. Funk (Funk and groove)
- Aug. 4 - FreddyPink (Rhythm and blues)
- Aug. 11 - BottleRockit (Country rock)
- Aug. 18 - Sammamish Symphony (Movie soundtracks)
- Aug. 25 - Soul Purpose (Motown)

Wooden O Shakespeare

(Saturday nights at Pine Lake Park, 7 p.m.)

- July 16 - Macbeth
- July 23 - The Comedy of Errors

KidsFirst! Performance Series

(Presented by Sammamish Kiwanis)

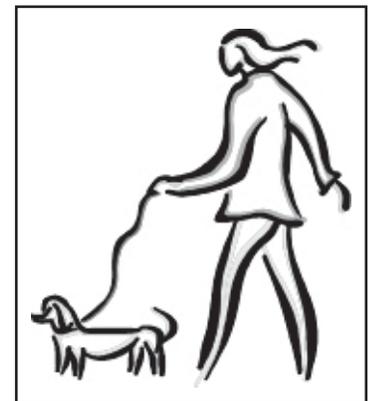
- July 11 at 11 a.m. - Sammamish Commons
- July 19 at noon - Beaver Lake Lodge
- Aug. 2 at noon - Sammamish Commons
- Aug. 16 at noon - East Sammamish Park
- Aug. 29 at noon - Ebright Creek Park

Please pick up after your pet!

You love your pet and enjoy walking with him or her through the grassy, forested splendor that is Sammamish, right? Well, here’s a suggestion from your friends and neighbors: Don’t let your beloved pet add to the splendor!

Aside from good manners, here are some good reasons to carry a small plastic bag when you walk your pet:

- Stormwater carries pet waste into storm drains that lead directly into our streams and lakes.
- Pet waste adds nitrogen to the water. Excess nitrogen depletes oxygen needed by fish and underwater grasses.
- Roundworms and hookworms deposited by pets can be transmitted to other animals and even humans.
- No matter how charming your pet is, your friends and neighbors don’t want to step in it!



CITY CALENDAR

JULY

Monday, July 4

Fourth on the Plateau, 6-11 p.m.

Sammamish Commons

Tuesday, July 5

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 6

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

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

Thursday, July 7

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Tuesday, July 12

City Council Special Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 13

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 14

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16

Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.- Noon

Soaring Eagle Park

Woodin O Shakespeare Play,

7-8:45 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Monday, July 18

Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19

Kids First, Noon-1 p.m.

Beaver Lake Park Meadow
(Near the Lodge.)

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

Wednesday, July 20

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 21

Concert in the Park, 5:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Planning Commission Meeting,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 23

Woodin O Shakespeare Play,
7-8:45 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Wednesday, July 27

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, July 28

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 2

National Night Out & Kid's Performance, 12-3 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

National Night Out Kick-Off Event,
12-3 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

Wednesday, Aug. 3

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 4

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Wednesday, Aug. 10

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 11

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 12

Sammamish Nights, 6-10 p.m.

City Hall

Saturday, Aug. 13

Sammamish Days, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

Tuesday, Aug. 16

Kids First, Noon-1 p.m.

East Sammamish Park - 21300 NE
16th Street

Wednesday, Aug. 17

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 18

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Saturday, Aug. 20

Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Grand Ridge Trail

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25

Concert in the Park, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pine Lake Park

Monday, Aug. 29

Kids First, Noon-1 p.m.

Ebright Creek Park

Wednesday, Aug. 31

Sammamish Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m.

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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*Tom Odell
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*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*



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Councilmember*



*John James
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti
Councilmember*

Students present their city to Council



Students (4th and 5th graders) from Grand Ridge and Creekside Elementary gather around "Polyhedrville," the city they designed as a school project. The SAGE (Special Approach to Gifted Education) students are joined by city and school staffers, as well as several City Council members, during the Council's June 7 meeting.

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