

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 167

CITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

Cascadia Rising!

CITY GEARS UP FOR REGIONAL EMERGENCY EXERCISE ON JUNE 7

Early next month, when you go to buy your groceries, you may encounter a new, temporary feature at your favorite shopping center – an emergency “Info Hub.”

Organized and set up by the Sammamish Citizen Corps Council (SCCC), the Info Hubs will be vital sources of communication if a big earthquake, or some other disaster, strikes the region.

On June 7, as part of “Cascadia Rising,” a four-day regional emergency exercise, SCCC volunteers and personnel from the city, Eastside Fire & Rescue and Sammamish Plateau Water will test their readiness.

The Info Hubs will feature ham radios and message boards, allowing residents to report problems to the Sammamish Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and provide the city and other agencies with an emergency link to the community.

“The Info Hubs will serve as two-way communication channels when everybody’s phones, computers and

See CASCADIA, pg. 4



It’s time to take the plunge!

THE COMMUNITY & AQUATIC CENTER IS NOW OPEN

Although it had already been in use for a few days as part of a “soft” opening, the official, mark-it-down “Grand Opening” of the Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center took place on Saturday, April 30, with city officials, YMCA leaders, regional dignitaries and lots of residents on hand to celebrate the beginning of an exciting new era.

“Ever since we incorporated in 1999, our residents have been asking for better recreational opportunities

for people of all ages,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “I would invite everybody to stop by and take a look at this fantastic new option.”

Among other things, the 69,000-square-foot facility includes two swimming pools, two gyms, multiple exercise areas, childcare spaces, meeting rooms and an indoor track. Day-to-day operations will be handled by the YMCA.

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MAYOR’S MESSAGE

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TREE PERMITS

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CALL FOR ARTISTS

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Regional issues require regional conversations

The 8th Congressional District stretches from Eatonville in the south to Chelan in the northeast, capturing the Cascades and 30 towns and cities – including Sammamish and Issaquah. It is served in Congress by Representative Dave Reichert. Each year Rep. Reichert calls together the mayors of the 8th District cities to discuss issues of municipal concern.

So, on a beautiful late April day, I journeyed to Roslyn for this gathering of mayors. The wide ranging discussion included these topics:

- The Federal position on marijuana (illegal) contrasts with Washington and some other states (legal)
 - The opioid “epidemic” impacting all of the cities, with the proliferation of prescription drugs as part of the problem.
 - The problem of too many bureaucratic strings attached to federal grants.
 - A federal task force concerned with criminal justice reform.
 - Federal tax policy. Rep. Reichert is second in seniority on the Tax Policy Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee.
- As part of my update on Sammamish, I touched on both our concerns and our successes:
- I expressed the importance of federal action on internet sales tax leg-

islation. Local brick and mortar stores need to compete on a level playing field with on-line retailers.

- I brought up the importance of the tax exemption status of municipal bonds.
- I also explained how the native run of kokanee in Lake Sammamish is still tenuous, and would benefit enor-



Mayor Don Gerend, Rep. David Reichert in Roslyn last month.

mously from culvert replacements on East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

- And, of course, I spoke about our newly completed community/aquatic center, our efforts to get higher education in Sammamish, the status of our Town Center, and our visions of an Emerald Necklace trail loop around the plateau.

Two days later I was back in Eastern Washington for an Association of

Washington Cities “Mayors Exchange” in Wenatchee. This forum focused on affordable housing, homelessness and the impact on our communities. Homelessness is a regional issue, and it’s clear state support for both housing and mental health is inadequate.

More broadly, state support for municipal needs has been seriously eroded in recent years. As the state struggles to balance its budget, the legislature has usurped revenues historically shared with cities.

Cities aren’t the only ones caught in this pinch. King County is developing its next biennial budget and really doesn’t have sufficient taxing resources to meet demands across the board. That means, among other things, that rural roads will be not maintained well, the Sheriff’s Department might have to ground its helicopters, and public health clinics will continue to struggle.

I certainly hope the conversations we had in Roslyn and Wenatchee will prove useful. Most of the issues of concern to cities do not end at city boundaries and are best addressed by having open communication channels between cities, counties, the state and our congressional delegation.

City facilitating KPMG Women’s PGA Championship

Including practice rounds, some of the best golfers in the world will be present in Sammamish from Tuesday, June 7, until Sunday, June 12, all of them participating in the KPMG Women’s PGA Championship at Sahalee Country Club.

In preparation for the tournament, city and PGA officials have met to discuss shuttle transportation, parking, public safety, logistics and many other topics.

“This is a world-class event and we’re confident everything will go smoothly,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “We’ve been working closely with the tournament folks, and we certainly hope our residents will show strong support as spectators.”

Full information about the tournament is available at www.kpmgwomenspgachampionship.com/home.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

GRAND OPENING, cont. from pg. 1

“Our partnership with the YMCA is one of the most exciting features of this whole enterprise,” Howard said. “Our community owns a terrific facility, but we don’t have to expand city staff to operate it.”

“Our residents will benefit from the proven programs and best practices of the YMCA.”

Bob Gilbertson, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Seattle, spoke glowingly of the new building, as did Mayor Don Gerend.

Toward the end of the formal remarks, Gerend handed Gilbertson the ceremonial keys to the Community and Aquatic Center and urged all present to “Go and enjoy this great new facility!”



With City Councilmembers and YMCA staff looking on, Mayor Don Gerend (left) hands the ceremonial keys to Bob Gilbertson, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Seattle.



Father and son, one-on-one.



View of the Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center from City Hall Plaza.



The leisure pool is a popular spot.

CASCADIA, cont. from pg. 1

television sets stop working,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “We’re looking forward to activating the city’s Emergency Operations Center and seeing how well we link up with the info hub volunteers.”

The SCCC will set up its hubs at three locations:

- Next to Trader Joe’s in the Sammammish Highlands shopping center.
- Next to the QFC in the Pine Lake shopping center.
- Next to the QFC in the Klahanie shopping center.

Volunteers at those sites will help residents identify the Info Hubs closest to their homes, share information about the exercise and provide pamphlets on emergency preparedness.

One of the pamphlets will feature “Map Your Neighborhood,” a community program that empowers residents to handle emergencies, and identify neighbors with special skills and equipment. It also identifies residents who may have special needs and vulnerabilities.

Volunteers are needed for the June 7 event. If you’d like to help out, go to sammamishcitizencorps.com or contact infohub@sammamishcitizencorps.com.

The full, four-day Cascadia Rising exercise is intended to test the region’s ability to respond to a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami. Local, state, tribal and federal entities are involved, along with some private-sector and non-governmental organizations.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) plate interface is a giant fault that runs from northern California to British Columbia. Scientists have concluded that an 8.0 to 9.0 earthquake occurs along this 700 mile-long fault line every 200 to 500 years. The last major earthquake associated with this fault occurred over 300 years ago.

Should another come this way, it’s believed the region would see major damage to roads, bridges, dams, levees, railways, water and sewer systems, schools, hospitals and communications systems.

Joseph Guinasso, city finance director, passes away at 49

Along with his family and friends, Joe Guinasso’s colleagues at City Hall are mourning his passing after a lengthy illness.

The city’s much-honored finance director, who was only 49, continued to work until late March, just a handful of days before his death on April 14.

“Joe was a great professional and a great friend,” City Manager Lyman Howard said.



Joe Guinasso

“His humor, kindness and decency filled this building every single day, even after he was very ill.

“I know the City Council and the staff were inspired by his courage and productivity throughout this ordeal. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family he loved so much, and to his many, many friends.”

No permit or exemption? Don’t cut that tree!

In a city where trees are highly valued, but, at the same time, tempting to cut down – for view-improvement, safety reasons, etc. – the main thing residents should understand is this: Before you cut down a “significant” tree, you must obtain a permit, or an exemption, from the city.

What qualifies as a significant tree?

A conifer, if it’s 8 inches wide, or wider, at chest height, or a deciduous tree, if it’s 12 inches wide, or

wider, at chest height.

The new tree ordinance passed by the City Council in October also imposes tough penalties.

Cutting down a significant tree without a permit or exemption carries a penalty of \$1,500 per inch of width. In other words, a tree that is 8 inches wide at chest height would cost the violator \$12,000. Those penalties apply to both developers and individual residents.

“The community has made it

very clear to the Council that it wants solid tree regulations and solid enforcement,” City Manager Lyman Howard said. “So, we’re going to keep alerting people to the rules.”

Residents who want an exemption so they can cut down a diseased tree must provide documentation to the city from a certified arborist.

For additional information on permits and exemptions, residents should call City Hall at 425-295-0500.

Community Workshop: Issaquah-Fall City Road

The city is developing design options for the first phase of improvements to Issaquah-Fall City Road. To help collect public input on the matter, the city is holding a “Community Workshop” on Thursday, May 12, 6-8 p.m., at Pacific Cascade Middle School, 24635 S.E. Issaquah-Fall City Road.

Phase 1 improvements will stretch seven-tenths of a mile from 242nd Avenue Southeast to Klahanie Drive Southeast, a section of Issaquah-Fall City Road that suffers from heavy congestion during the morning and evening rush hours. The broad goal is to widen the roadway segment to five lanes and add sidewalks, landscaping and bike lanes.

A second phase of improvements will focus on Issaquah-Fall City Road from

Klahanie Drive Southeast to Issaquah-Beaver Lake Road. It’s anticipated that phase will widen the road to just three lanes.

The May 12 workshop will allow residents to learn about Phase 1, meet the project team, share thoughts on priorities and concerns, and discuss potential design options. An overview of the project will be presented between 6 and 6:30 p.m., with an open house to follow. Assuming the project receives the final go-ahead, construction could begin as early as summer 2017.

For more information, residents can contact Project Manager Sam Park (spark@sammamish.us, 425-295-0538) or go to the www.sammamish.us and click on the “projects” tab on the left side of the home page.

Celebrating Women in Business 2016

Friday, May 13,
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Plateau Club
25625 E. Plateau Drive
Sammamish, WA

Buy tickets at
www.sammamishchamber.org

Members: \$45
Non-members: \$55

“Senior Transitions” Making it easier

Transitions can be hard,
especially as we get older.

Learn from a panel of experts about:

- Downsizing
- Selling in this market
- Finding the right place for loved ones

Sunday, June 26, 2-4 p.m.
Sammamish King County Library
825 228th Ave. S.E.

Free and open to the public
This is NOT a sales presentation
Reserve your spot at 425-497-0900

An urgent problem after hours? THE NUMBER TO CALL IS 425-295-0700

You’re always welcome at City Hall to report a big problem, but what do you do if it’s midnight and city offices are all locked up? Well, just call 425-295-0700, the city’s after-hours phone number for urgent problems.

If an immediate response is needed, the operator will contact city staff. If it can hold for a bit, your message will be waiting for the appropriate employee when they arrive at work the next business day.

This after-hours number is NOT a substitute for 9-1-1, but it is good for people who want to report trees being taken down without a permit, a violation of construction hours, dangerous spills, or some other urgent problem outside of normal business hours.

An operator will be on duty 24 hours a day on the weekend, on holidays, and between 3:30 p.m. and 7 a.m., Monday through Friday. Again, the after hours number for urgent problems in Sammamish is 425-295-0700.



Skate & Big Screen!

Friday, June 3
5-10 p.m.

City Hall Plaza

This event kicks off with a skate competition open to all ages.

Registration from
4:30-5 p.m.

Competition begins at 5 p.m.

Seating for the outdoor movie
begins at 8 p.m.

When the sun goes down,
“Inside Out”
will play on the big screen
in the plaza.

10th Annual
Sammamish **ARTS Fair**
fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Application deadline May 15th 2016

Fair dates: October 8th & 9th, 2016

Sponsored by the Sammamish Arts Commission
For more information: www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com

There’s also a “Call for Talented Students”

Would you like to showcase your artistic prowess?
Want to sell your work in a professional environment?

Please submit by June 1. Find out more at:

www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com

The Puget Sound Starts Here!

MAY IS THE MONTH WE CELEBRATE CLEAN WATER

Did you know that the storm drain next to your sidewalk takes water directly to the creeks, rivers and lakes that feed the Puget Sound? And that the water is not treated anywhere along the way? That’s why it’s critical that you do everything possible to make sure that only “rain goes down the drain.”

Since May is “Puget Sound Starts Here Month,” maybe you should consider joining so many others in this month’s effort to keep our waterways clean. Here are a few resources to help you support this terrific regional effort:

Visit the events page:

www.pugetsoundstartshere.org/events-list/

Like PSSH on Facebook and Twitter

Purchase tickets for “Puget Sound Starts Here” night
at the May 14 Seattle Mariners game
www.mariners.com/pugetsound

Donate your bikes to Africa!



Drop them off at Sammamish City Hall
Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
For more information, contact Mary Trask at
mary@arasfoundation.org.

CITY CALENDAR

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 Comm 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

-ARAS Bicycle Drive, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
City Hall
-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon
Pine Lake
-Master Gardener Workshop:
Propagation, 1:30-4 p.m.

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 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

-Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 21

-Sammamish Walks, 10 a.m.-noon
Big Rock Park
-Big Rock Grand Opening,
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Big Rock Park

Monday, May 23

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

Tuesday, May 24

Joint City Council Meeting:
Sammamish/Redmond,
6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25

-Sammamish Farmer's Market,
4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza
City Council/Issaquah School Board,
Joint Meeting,
5:30 p.m.
Issaquah School District

JUNE

Wednesday, June 1

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

Thursday, June 2

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

Friday, June 3

-Skate Competition,
5-8 p.m.
Sammamish Skate Park
-Outdoor Movie,
8-11 p.m.
City Hall Plaza

Tuesday, June 7

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

Wednesday, June 8

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

Saturday, June 11

-Master Gardener Workshop: Garden
Pests and Diseases, 1:30-4 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14

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

Wednesday, June 15

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

Thursday, June 16

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

Saturday, June 18

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

Tuesday, June 21

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

Wednesday, June 22

-Sammamish Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
City Hall Plaza
-Sammamish Walks, 4-6 p.m.
Lower Sammamish Commons

Monday, June 27

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

Wednesday, June 29

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

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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*Ramiro Valderrama
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*Tom Hornish
Councilmember*



*Kathy Huckabay
Councilmember*



*Bob Keller
Councilmember*



*Christie Malchow
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*

Farmers Market!



The 9th season is here!

Come to City Hall Plaza in Sammamish
every Wednesday, 4-8 p.m., through Sept. 21.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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John Cunningham	Public Works Director
Chris Gianini	Acting Finance 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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