

# SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 113

CITY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

## Boys & Girls Club opens Nov. 3rd

**NEW REC CENTER WILL SERVE ALL AGE GROUPS**

There's something brand-new in the old library building – and it's billed as the "Sammamish EX3 Teen & Recreation Center."

But you could also just call it a Boys & Girls Club that caters to people of all ages, including seniors.

"We're very happy with the partnership we've developed with the Boys & Girls Club," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "We supplied the building, they fixed it up, and now they're going to be open to toddlers, school kids, adults and seniors."

The ribbon comes off the project at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3. That bit of ceremonial business will be part of a grand opening running from 6 to 9 p.m. The big event, which is open to the public, will feature live music from teen bands, cooking demonstrations in the teaching kitchen, membership sign-ups in the technology lab, fun for all in the game room, and deserts for everyone.

*See CLUB, pg. 3*



*Both young and old begin the exploration of Evans Creek Preserve.*

## Sammamish has a new park!

### RESIDENTS EXPLORE EVANS CREEK PRESERVE FOLLOWING OCT. 22 GRAND OPENING

Built with the help of a small army of volunteers, Evans Creek Preserve officially opened its doors on Sat., Oct. 22. Following the opening ceremonies, residents were free to explore the new wilderness park, walking along new trails and absorbing the pleasures of wild, beautiful open space.

"We had about 7,000 hours of volunteer help on this project, so it's really been a community effort," Parks Direc-

tor Jessi Richardson said. "We're so excited it's open and ready to be enjoyed by all of our residents."

The 180-acre preserve, which is located just outside Sammamish, hugs the northern city limits. Comprised of rolling hills, wetlands and patches of forest, the park is a peaceful island of open land in the midst of urban growth.

*See PARK, pg. 3*

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
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## Sammamish residents want the bear facts!

This beautiful city of Sammamish rests along the eastern perimeter of the urban growth boundary. That means that rural King County, with its forests and other greenbelts, is just outside our city.

Before we became an urban area, King County designated many wildlife corridors in what is now Sammamish. Well, the wildlife have responded to this invitation, and we frequently encounter a wide range of wildlife wandering through our neighborhoods.



*Don Gerend  
Mayor*

The National Wildlife Federation ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)) has sponsored a program of encouraging cities and individual property owners to create Certified Wildlife Habitats. Sammamish has participated in this program and my family embraced it. As a result, our yard has been certified (the sign is in the window), which means we provide the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

We put up bird feeders, planted more flowers and learned a lot more about the birds and the bees. I've been surprised at the variety of birds we've seen: towhees, nuthatches, jays, woodpeckers, and a plethora of hummingbirds.

Unfortunately, the larger wildlife have taken our sign literally. We have frequent visits from deer (goodbye flowers), and we've seen coyotes and

bobcats. And last month, we were visited by a black bear who cleaned out the bird feeders.

He paid no attention to my wife and me, though we were just three feet away on the other side of a bay window that held the suction-cupped bird feeder. All we could do was snap pictures with our cell phones.

The next week I received a call from a resident living in the Inglewood Hill area with concerns about a mother bear with cubs that has frequented that neighborhood. Another resident mentioned "Swampy," a bear often spotted around the 3500 block of 223rd Avenue Southeast and more recently along the south shore of Pine Lake. I think Swampy and our "Blackie" might be the same bear.

So what should we do about bears? The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) will get in-



*An unusual constituent visits the mayor's house.*

involved if a bear establishes a pattern of problem behavior. Citizens should report bear issues to the Mill Creek DFW Office (425-775-1311, [team-millcreek@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:team-millcreek@dfw.wa.gov)). If it is an emergency, of course, dial 911.

The DFW has an excellent webpage with a whole lot of Do's and

Don'ts. I highly recommend going to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/bears> and learning more about these majestic animals and how we can minimize any undesirable consequences of their visits.

In the meantime, what I've learned is that one of the biggest problems in our area is a problem I was contributing to: putting out nice, juicy birdfeeders. (I have since taken ours down.) Leaving garbage cans outside is another big problem. We should keep them in the garage, and put them out only on the day of collection, not the night before. Other suggestions: Bring your pet food inside and clean up your recently used barbecue grill.

Although bears usually avoid people and most meetings with bears are the result of a surprise encounter, there is the occasional problem. Bellevue City Councilmember John Chelminiak was seriously injured by a black bear last year and he told me that he surmises that the bear associated him with a location that was related to food.

As DFW noted, bears conditioned to associate people with food can become aggressive in their pursuit of a meal. Chelminiak also mentioned that avoiding surprise encounters will reduce the chance of confrontation, so you might want to work on your singing voice while you're hiking.

I look forward to hearing your dulcet tones on the many trails of Sammamish!



# CITY OF SAMMAMISH

## *PARK, cont. from pg. 1*

“When you come here, you should be prepared for a challenging walk,” Richardson said. “The trails aren’t paved, so you should probably bring some sturdy footwear.”

The volunteer force came from all walks of life. Some were from schools, churches and businesses. Others were just individuals who wanted to help out. Working under the guidance of trail stewards and construction supervisors, the volunteers helped build small bridges and 2.6 miles of worth of trail.

The parking lot for the preserve is located about 500 feet



*Taking a look from one of the viewing platforms.*



*(From left) Parks Director Jessi Richardson, King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert, Mayor Don Gerend, and Evans Creek Preserve Project Manager Kellye Hilde.*

south of State Route 202 on 224th Avenue Northeast. Drivers who reach State Route 202 via Sahalee Way should take a right at the grey barn and then turn right onto 224th Avenue. Those heading north via 244th Avenue should take a left at State Route 202 and then take a left on 224th Avenue. The parking lot has room for about ten vehicles.

For more information about the city’s newest park, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click through Departments, Parks and Rec, Projects, and Evans Creek Preserve.

## *CLUB, cont. from pg. 1*

Other features include meeting and gathering spaces, educational and wellness classes, video production and editing classes and room for physical activity.

The new addition to the city’s recreational menu is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of 228th Avenue and Inglewood Hill Road. It will cater primarily to teenagers after school hours but residents of all ages will find plenty to do while students are in class.

In the not too distant future, the Boys & Girls Club also hopes to add a 7,000-square-foot gymnasium to the old library building. That expansion, however, will depend on how quickly the organization is able to raise the necessary funds.

For more information on the new center, or to inquire about donating, go to [www.rs.positiveplace.org/teencenter.html](http://www.rs.positiveplace.org/teencenter.html) or contact Jeremy Peck at 425-250-4786 or [jpeck@positiveplace.org](mailto:jpeck@positiveplace.org).



*A display board shows the club’s central activity area during a recent open house.*

## Police collect Toys for Tots

Although she was recently transferred to North Bend, Deputy Amy Jarboe is still on the case when it comes to Toys for Tots in Sammamish. Between now and the close of business on Dec. 12, Jarboe will be counting, arranging and then delivering the mountain of new gifts that will once again accumulate in the Sammamish Police Department.

“We’re really grateful she’s heading this up again,” Police Chief Nate Elledge said. “She’s not stationed here right now, but it’s clear her heart is still very attached to Toys for Tots.”

Residents are invited to drop new, unwrapped items into a bin just outside the police department office in City Hall. The gifts will then be delivered to the United States Marine Corps for distribution to needy children. Jarboe has been doing this since 2005 and is grateful for the continuing opportunity.

“It does my heart so much good to witness this city’s generosity,” Jarboe said, “and then get to pass the gifts along to the kids.”



*Deputy Amy Jarboe and Police Chief Nate Elledge last year.*

## Please prepare yourself for winter storms

To make sure you’re not one of those people walking home through the snow in high heels, or without a jacket, it’s important to brush up on your winter driving tips. For a nice summary of those tips, and an updated snow route map, visit the City’s Winter Preparedness webpage at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/winter](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/winter).

But here are the basics:

- Identify the best snow route home with the fewest hills.
- Familiarize yourself with school, daycare and employer snow policies.
- Use transit when possible.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and flashlight at home in case the power fails.
- Sign up for Traffic Alerts: Visit the city’s home page and click on “Email Alert Sign Up.”

- Sign up for King County Metro’s Rider Alerts: <http://metro.king-county.gov/signup/index.html>.
- Make sure your car and tires are in good condition.
- Keep your gas tank at least 3/4 full.
- Store blankets, a bag of sand (or cat litter), shovel, window scraper, flares, and warm clothes in the trunk.

- Make sure you have the right sized tire chains in your vehicle — and learn how to put them on!
- Drive only if necessary!
- City crews’ highest priority is to keep the arterials clear. Once the primary arterials are clear and stable, resources will move on to the secondary arterials, collectors, and then lastly to the residential streets.

- If you must abandon your vehicle, pull as far off the road as possible. Abandoned vehicles make the job of clearing snow and ice from roads nearly impossible and can create problems for other motorists

Other useful winter preparation websites:

- [www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter)
- [www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm)
- [www.bellevuewa.gov/snow-ice.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/snow-ice.htm)



*Abandoned cars along Inglewood Hill Road on Jan. 11, 2007*

## Dawn Sanders receives special recognition award

### CITY'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR LAUDED FOR GENEROSITY AND LEADERSHIP

The city's volunteer coordinator, Dawn Sanders, has overseen an impressive expansion of volunteer work in Sam-

mamish. So much so that on Oct. 4, her great work was recognized before the City Council when she received the City Manager's special recognition award.

"Dawn has done a spectacular job of engaging the generosity of Sammamish residents," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "And I think one of the rea-

sons she's been so successful is because she's exceedingly generous herself. She gives so much to the community in many different ways."

Volunteers range from special needs individuals who help around City Hall to small armies of helpers who make big events like the Fourth on the Plateau possible.

Since 2007, Sanders has harnessed almost 25,000 volunteer hours on behalf of the community.



(From left) City Manager Ben Yazici, Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Sanders, Mayor Don Gerend, and Parks Director Jessi Richardson.

## Lots of volunteers needed for lower commons project

Is the city's Northwest Garden, located in the lower portion of Sammamish Commons, calling your name?

Probably so, because this repository of plants native to Washington is badly in need of weeding and replenishment, and on Nov. 19 your volunteer spirit, community pride and all-around good guyness is just what's needed!

"We have a lot of weeds to pull and some serious planting to do," said Dawn Sanders, the city's volunteer coordinator. "We want to get a big group out there so everyone can feel the force and have a great time working with friends and neighbors."

The volunteer project is open to residents of all ages,

although kids 13 and younger need to be accompanied by their parents. All volunteers are advised to bring gloves, weather-appropriate clothes and their favorite weeding tools. Oh, and one other thing.

"No open-toed shoes, please," Sanders said. "We want everyone to leave with all their digits at the end of

the work day."

To register for the event (a desirable but not mandatory step), please go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)), find the calendar on the left side of the home page, click through to Nov. 19, open the "volunteer event" item and scroll down to "sign up."

The weeding and planting at the Northwest Garden, which is cared for by the Washington Native Plant Society, begins at 1 p.m.

If you'd like to get an early start on your day, you can also be part of a plant salvage effort that morning. Just contact Dawn Sanders ([dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us](mailto:dsanders@ci.sammamish.wa.us), 425-295-0556) and arrange to take a short "salvage" class ahead of time.



Plant salvage crew members celebrate the product of their labor.

## Skyline parades to victory again

It was the ninth annual homecoming parade for Skyline High School, and as usual, the Spartans marched up 228th Avenue and then steamrolled that night's football opponent – in this case, Jackson High School, by a score of 49-24.

The Oct. 14 parade started a bit after 5 p.m. and wended its way up the city's main arterial from Discovery Elementary to Skyline High School. The city closed the northbound lanes for the parade, but split the southbound lanes in two, allowing two-way traffic to continue during the evening rush hour.



*Kids wave as the Skyline homecoming parade heads north on 228th Avenue.*

## A Turkish “Grand Bazaar” comes to City Hall on Saturday, Nov. 5

The Sammamish Arts Commission will present a celebration of Turkish culture, customs and traditions on Saturday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at City Hall.

Residents are invited to attend and share an atmosphere reminiscent of Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, a legendary covered market.

The event will feature live performances, including Caucasus and Anatolian folk dances, and Rom, Azeri and Uzbek dancing. Visitors will also find cooking demonstrations, Turkish travel program information and workshops involving musical instruments and traditional costumes.

The arts commission is building a tradition of celebrating many cultures, trusting that shared experiences will encourage a sense of community in

Sammamish even as the events integrate art and culture into the fabric of our diverse city.

This celebration is definitely welcoming to kids. In addition to the live dancing and other performances, a “Kid's Corner” will offer arts, crafts and games for the younger set.

In addition to the arts commission and the city of Sammamish, the “Grand Bazaar” event is sponsored by King County's 4Culture program and the Turkish American Association of Washington.

This family-friendly cultural celebration is free and open to the public. For more information, go to the city website ([www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)) and click Nov. 5 on the home page calendar.

Master Chorus Eastside  
presents:

## “The Many Worlds of Christmas”

Circle the globe with the Master Chorus Eastside as they sample the myriad sounds and customs of Christmas around the world.

Saturday, December 3  
7:30 p.m.

At the Eastlake High School  
Performing Arts Center

General admission: \$20  
Seniors and students: \$15  
Children nine and under: Free

# CITY CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

*Tuesday, Nov. 1*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Nov. 2*

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

*Thursday, Nov. 3*

Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Saturday, Nov. 5*

Istanbul's Grand Bazaar

Turkish Cultural Event,

11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, Nov. 8*

City Council Study Session

6:30 p.m.

*Thursday, Nov. 10*

Community Garden Steering

Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m.

*Friday, Nov. 11*

Veterans' Day

City offices closed

*Monday, Nov. 14*

City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, Nov. 15*

City Council Council Office Hour

5:30-6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Nov. 16*

Samm Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

*Thursday, Nov. 17*

Gardening With Native Plants, 7 p.m.

Sammamish Library

*Saturday, Nov. 19*

Volunteer Event at Lower

Commons Park, 1-3 p.m.

*Monday, Nov. 21*

Finance Committee Meeting

5:30-6:15 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting

7 p.m.

*Thursday, Nov. 24*

Thanksgiving Holiday

City offices closed

*Friday, Nov. 25*

Thanksgiving Holiday

City offices closed

*Wednesday, Nov. 30*

City Holiday Lighting Ceremony,

5:30-6:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER

*Thursday, Dec. 1*

Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

*Friday, Dec. 2*

Econ Dev Committee Mtg., 6 p.m.

*Tuesday, Dec. 6*

City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Dec. 7*

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

*Thursday, Dec. 8*

Community Garden Steering

Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, Dec. 13*

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

*Wednesday, Dec. 14*

Samm Youth Board Mtg, 6 p.m.

Arts Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

*Tuesday, Dec. 20*

City Council Council Office Hour,

5:30-6:30 p.m.

*Monday, Dec. 26*

Christmas Holiday

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.

## The city needs your input on home business regulations!

Once again, the Planning Commission wants to hear from you!

The reason? The commission is considering changes to the zoning regulations that govern home businesses. Since these businesses are located in neighborhoods like yours, you are the perfect person to provide the commission with perspective.

The proposed changes aim to bal-

ance two important considerations: One, do the regulations ensure that the allowed home businesses are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods? And two, do the rules provide enough flexibility on the types of home businesses that are permitted.

A public hearing on this topic was held on Oct. 20, and a second public hearing before the Planning Commis-

sion is scheduled for Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. The commission may also consider an additional hearing in December.

If you would like to see the proposed regulations, they can be found on the city website. Just go to the following address: <http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/events/Default.aspx?ID=2124>.



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*John James  
Councilmember*



*Mark Cross  
Councilmember*



*Michele Petitti  
Councilmember*

## Holiday lighting ceremony



*Wednesday, Nov. 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at City Hall  
Choral groups, cookie decoration, reindeer fire truck tours, refreshments!*

## CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Mike Sauerwein	Admin Services Director
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