

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 149

CITY NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2014

Aiming for April

CITY HOPES FOR ANNEXATION
ELECTION IN SPRING OF 2015

During three open houses held by the city in recent months, the vast majority of Klahanie-area residents in attendance appeared to favor annexation to Sammamish. But when will the real test, in the form of an election, be put before the voters?

If the city, in cooperation with King County officials, can move the process along fast enough, the election will be on April 28, 2015.

“Right now, that seems like a realistic goal,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “But there are enough moving parts in this process to keep it from being a sure thing.”

The rough outline of the process looks like this:

- The city must complete an amendment to its comprehensive plan that would place the Klahanie-area in the city’s PAA (Potential Annexation Area). A second public hearing on the amendment will be held by the City Council on Nov. 17. It’s possible the amendment will be voted on and approved that same night.

See KLAHANIE, pg. 4



Abandoned cars along Inglewood Hill Road during a winter storm.

Are you prepared for a snow storm?

TAKE STEPS NOW SO YOU WON'T KICK YOURSELF LATER

Getting caught short in an emergency is a really bad feeling.

Remember a few years ago when a snow storm knocked out your heat and shut down all the gas stations? You couldn't even go out to your car to warm up because you were low on gas.

And what if you were also low on food and water? Yes, a bad feeling indeed.

That's why you should take steps now to prepare yourself for a bad snow

storm. It may not come, but what's the downside to being prepared?

Fortunately, the steps are simple and easy to access online. At the end of this story, please take a look at the list of available resources.

But here are the basics:

- Go to www.ready.gov/kit and set yourself up with enough food, water and emergency equipment to get through three days on your

See SNOW, pg. 3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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COMMUNITY CENTER

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EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

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There is much to be thankful for in Sammamish!

The first Thanksgiving is said to have celebrated a good harvest in 1621, at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts.

But the tradition goes back further. After the Reformation in England, at the time of Henry VIII, there was a movement to reduce the number of religious holidays. Puritans, at that time, wished to eliminate all religious holidays, including Christmas and Easter.



*Tom Vance
Mayor*

In place of all those religious holidays, religious leaders proclaimed special “Days of Fasting” and “Days of Thanksgiving.”

Days of fasting were called for dire events: drought, floods, or plagues. Special Blessings, especially a good harvest, called for a Day of Thanksgiving. Puritans from England continued that tradition in New England.

By the time President George Washington declared November 26, 1789, a “day of public thanksgiving,” those kinds of declarations were made mostly by public leaders.

Lately I’ve been writing about some of the big issues as our city goes through some growing pains. In the noise and passion of some of those issues we can forget how fortunate we are as a city.

We have accomplished so much, through good and bad times, in our fifteen years. I’m thankful for what we have and for

what we’ve accomplished.

Most recently, as I write this message, I’m thankful for the unanimous vote as our City Council approved some interim tree retention regulations. Although these regulations aren’t the final word, they provide a framework and a theme as the final regulations move through the Planning Commission and back to the Council early next year.

As I mentioned at that meeting, this decision is a legacy for future generations. Twenty or thirty years from now, future residents won’t remember what we are doing now, but they will inherit the results.

I’m thankful for our Council and city staff as we approve, at about the time you receive this newsletter, yet another very positive budget. Our finances are the envy of cities all across America. That does not come without tough policy-making by the City Council, and wise management and decision-making by our city staff.

And I’m thankful for that lean and hard-working city staff. In routine as well as sometimes controversial situations, they have gone the extra mile to communicate and solve problems in our community and with our regional partners. It is not always easy, but I appreciate the work they do.

Sammamish continues to rank at the top of regional and national lists of safest cities. Thank you to our Sammamish police and firefighters for their major role in that accomplishment.

Thanks to our Parks and Recreation Department for another great year of concerts in the park, Shake-

spare, and so many special events – still on-going. Our July 4th was another wonderfully classic celebration.

I’m thankful as the new Community and Aquatic Center takes shape at Sammamish Commons, and I’m thankful for the services and programs the Y will be providing there.

Thanks to our volunteers for building trails, replanting parks and open space, and making our many events and celebrations happen. If something wonderful is happening in Sammamish, there are sure to be volunteers from our community helping. Thank you.

I’m grateful for the important work our local service and non-profit groups do in our community, in the region, and beyond. Whether you were scared at the annual Nightmare at Beaver Lake (Rotary), geared up at the annual Ski Swap (Kiwanis), or provisioned at our annual warm weather Farmer’s Market (Chamber of Commerce), the benefits to our community and beyond are great.

I’m thankful to all the many non-profit organizations in our community – more than 20 based in Sammamish – that tackle homelessness, housing issues, hunger, and help support youth, families and seniors.

This is a long list that could have been much longer. To all the members of our diverse community who make Sammamish such a wonderful city: Happy Thanksgiving!

And since the Seahawks are playing on Thanksgiving Day: Go Hawks!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Vance".

Community and Aquatic Center update PROGRESS CONTINUES AS CREWS SHRUG OFF WINTER RAINS

It's a big project: two gyms, two swimming pools, two parking garage wings – and a whole lot more. But the city's new Community and Aquatic Center is steadily becoming a reality as Porter Brothers Construction continues to erect walls, pour foundations and shape the earth for the parking garage.

Located just west of City Hall and the library, the biggest construction project in the city's history remains largely invisible to residents passing by on 228th, but it's growing fast.

"Every time you go take a look, a major new feature jumps out at you," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "In a project this size, you can expect some hiccups, but we're looking for-

ward to our 2016 opening."

In recent days, workers have made progress on the swimming pool surge tank (it captures the overflow when swimmers enter the pool), perimeter walls, foundations, plumbing,

the stormwater vault and excavation for the parking garage.

"The amount of rain we receive varies from year to year, so it's hard to gauge how much impact the weather will have," Yazici said. "But we're hoping for the best."

In addition to the pools and gyms, the 69,000-square-foot, two-level facility will also feature fitness areas, a weight room, meeting spaces, an elevated indoor running track, child care, locker rooms, and a variety of other amenities.



When a lot of people jump in the pool, the displaced water goes into a surge tank, seen here under construction.

SNOW, cont. from pg. 1

own. In severe circumstances, it can take a while for help to arrive.

- Before winter, go to www.sammamish.us/winter.aspx and prepare yourself to successfully navigate roads. Click on [City of Sammamish Snow Response Map](#) to see which roads in our city will be prioritized for snow clearance. The webpage will also advise you to keep your gas tank full, check the fit on your car chains, and pack a car survival kit featuring a flashlight, shovel, ice scraper, bag of sand, flares

and warm clothes, among other things.

Given that there are a lot of hills in Sammamish, bad snow storms often produce large accumulations of abandoned vehicles at the bottom of those

hills. If you must leave your car, please make every effort to pull as far off the road as possible while remaining safe.

Another good suggestion: Don't drive at all unless you absolutely have to. Most things can wait until the storm passes.

Other online resources include:

- www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter
- www.seattle.gov/transportation/winter-weather
- www.bellevuewa.gov/snow-ice

To report accidents or other difficulties, residents can call 425-295-0500 during regular business hours, and 206-296-8100 after hours.



City crews clear the roads near Sunny Hills Elementary.

Emergency ordinance lifts tree retention standards

In a unanimous vote, the City Council adopted an emergency ordinance on Oct. 14 that will preserve a greater percentage of significant trees on new subdivisions, and on short plats with three or more lots. The interim regulations, in place until new permanent standards are devised and approved by the Planning Commission and City Council, require developers to retain 35 percent of the significant trees on their buildable land. The previous standard was 25 percent. All significant trees in environmentally sensitive areas must be retained.

“This was a very prompt response from our City Council to expressions of concern from our residents,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “With the economy picking up and more clearing taking place, I think they were wise to pass these interim regulations.”

Significant trees are defined as conifers that are eight inches wide and deciduous trees that are twelve inches wide at chest height. For every significant tree taken down, the new rules also require developers to plant a similar tree elsewhere on the same property.

November and December volunteer opportunities!

Ebright Creek Park
Plant native trees and shrubs
Nov. 8 – 9 a.m. to noon

Sammamish Landing
Plant native trees and shrubs
Nov. 15 and 22 – 9 a.m. to noon

Lower Commons
Plant and mulch native trees and shrubs
Dec. 6 – 9 a.m. to noon

Ebright Creek Park
Plant native trees and shrubs
Dec. 13 – 9 a.m. to noon

For more information on these volunteer opportunities, go to www.sammamish.us, find the home page calendar, and click on the event date.

KLAHANIE, cont. from pg. 1

- King County cities must ratify changes to county-wide planning policies, changes that will accommodate the placement of the Klahanie area within Sammamish's PAA. That ratification is expected to wrap up in December.
- After ratification, the city must submit a “notice of intent” to the county’s Boundary Review Board (BRB), a notice that says Sammamish plans to annex the Klahanie area.
- The BRB will then consider the matter this winter, looking at the viability of the proposed annexation. The BRB will review fiscal reports, zoning,

levels of service and other issues.

- Assuming the BRB encounters no obstacles, the city will get the go-ahead to set an election date. The city’s goal is to give Klahanie-area residents an opportunity to vote on annexation on April 28.
- If a simple majority votes in favor



Sgt. Pete Horvath of the Sammamish Police Department discusses police services at the Oct. 15 open house.

of annexation, the City Council will pass an ordinance setting the official date of annexation. That’s the day Klahanie-area residents will leave unincorporated King County and become residents of Sammamish.

The annexation area, comprised of Klahanie proper and adjacent neighborhoods, is approximately 2 square miles in size. Its estimated population is 10,939. A yes vote on annexation would raise Sammamish’s population to approximately 60,000.

For more information on the Klahanie-area annexation, go to www.sammamish.us and click on the “Klahanie Annexation” tab on the left side of the home page.

Toys for Tots reaches year 9 in Sammamish

The U. S. Marines will be coming to Sammamish on Dec. 11, and they'll be expecting to haul away the usual mountain of donated toys for needy kids. So let's not disappoint them!

Just bring a new, unwrapped item – or two or three – and drop them off in front of the police department door inside City Hall. You can do it today, or tomorrow, or all the way through Dec. 10.

Toys for Tots is a program run by the U. S. Marine Corps in cooperation with other volunteers. Det. Amy Jarboe has been coordinating the local effort since 2005.



Police Chief Nate Elledge and Det. Amy Jarboe with donated toys.

Very Merry Sammamish!

Mark it on your calendar now! Very Merry Sammamish is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., at City Hall. It's just the time, and just the place, to crank up your holiday spirit!

And here's what you have to look forward to – a tree lighting, several local school choirs, cookie decorating, a petting zoo, and a guaranteed patch of holiday snow. Sparring no expense, the city will bring in a snow machine to achieve just the right seasonal atmosphere.

Other attractions include the Ice Queen and Ice Princess, hot chocolate, and the company of your Sammamish neighbors and friends! Bring your kids, bring yourself, and help make this a Very Merry Sammamish, indeed!



After the tree lighting, it's time for pictures!

It's time to nominate someone for a 2015 SAMMI Award!

If you know someone who, in the words of the SAMMI Awards Foundation, helps the community by "volunteering, giving and inspiring others to do likewise," please nominate them for a SAMMI Award.

Award recipients will be recognized on March 21 at the 2015 SAMMI Awards celebration. To nominate a deserving resident, just go to sammiawards.org and click on the "nominate" tab.

The award categories are Circle of Service, Community Spirit, Courage, Environmental Stewardship and Youth Spirit. Nominations are due by midnight on Dec. 8.



Dawn Sanders is recognized at the SAMMI Awards last March.

Mayor's Month of Concern Food Drive thrives in Sammamish, Klahanie area

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers and the generosity of local residents, the Mayor's Month of Concern Food Drive produced some impressive results when the numbers were toted up last month.

All together, residents in Sammamish and the Klahanie area collected and donated 22,140 pounds of food. The much-appreciated donations were delivered to the food banks in Issaquah and Redmond.



Sammamish Mayor Tom Vance will be sending out formal thank-you's to the many contributors, including

Sammamish Kiwanis, Key Club, Rotary Club, Boys & Girls Club, Sammamish Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Sammamish Youth Board, Sammamish YMCA,

Girl Scout Troop 43274, and members of the Sammamish Parks Commission and City Council.

Please do maintain your drain!

EVERY BIT OF ASSISTANCE YOU PROVIDE REALLY HELPS CITY CREWS TRY TO KEEP 5,000 DRAINS CLEAR

Do you have a storm drain near your property? Maybe along the curb near your house?

Why don't you join many others and do your community a favor by clearing the storm grate when leaves and other debris begin to accumulate and block drainage?

There are more than 5,000 storm drains scattered throughout Sammamish. With the rainy season now well underway, and the leaves continuing to fall, it doesn't take much for a puddle – or small lake! – to form around the drains.

So thanks in advance for your help. Together, we can keep our streets safe and clear!

Here are a few tips:

- Don't ever remove the grate from the storm drain opening. That can be dangerous.
- Just clear the grate of leaves and other debris.
- Check the storm drains frequently for new accumulations of debris.
- Rake leaves away in the vicinity storm drains near your house or business so they never reach the grate.
- Never blow leaves from your property into the street.
- Dispose of leaves in your yard waste container or your compost bin.

Special Arts Sammamish

presents

Theater of Possibility

Saturday, Nov. 8, 1-3 p.m.
Bellewood Apartments

(This event is especially appropriate for students on the autism spectrum. For more information, email Allison Gubata at agubata@sammamish.us)

The Sammamish Arts Commission

presents

"It's a Wonderful Life"

Dec. 20 and 21,
7:30 p.m.

Eastlake Performing Arts Center
Eastlake High School
400 228th Ave. N.E.

and

A Cut Above

City Hall Exhibit

Hand-cut work in paper,
wood, prints and sculpture

In the Commons Gallery,
through Jan. 16.

CITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 4

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

Wednesday, Nov. 5

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

Thursday, Nov. 6

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

Saturday, Nov. 8

-Volunteer at Ebright Creek Park,
9 a.m.- noon
-"Theatre of Possibility"
Special Arts Sammamish, 1-3 p.m.
Bellewood Apartments
3710 Providence Point Dr. S.E.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

-Veterans Day,
City offices closed

Saturday, Nov. 15

-Volunteer at Sammamish Landing,
9 a.m.- noon

Monday, Nov. 17

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

Tuesday, Nov. 18

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

Wednesday, Nov. 19

-Sammamish Youth Board Mtg,
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 20

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

Saturday, Nov. 22

-Volunteer at Sammamish Landing,
9 a.m.- noon

Thursday, Nov. 27

-Thanksgiving Day,
City offices closed

Friday, Nov. 28

-Thanksgiving Holiday,
City offices closed

DECEMBER

Tuesday, Dec. 2

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

Wednesday, Dec. 3

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

Thursday, Dec. 4

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

Friday, Dec. 5

-Very Merry Sammamish,
5:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6

-Lower Commons Wetland Restoration,
9 a.m.- noon

Tuesday, Dec. 9

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

Thursday, Dec. 11

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

Saturday, Dec. 13

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

Monday, Dec. 15

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

Tuesday, Dec. 16

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

Wednesday, Dec. 17

-Sammamish Youth
Board Meeting,
6 p.m.
EX3 Boys and Girls Club

Saturday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 21

"It's a Wonderful Life"
7:30-9:30 p.m.
Eastlake High School

Thursday, Dec. 25

-Christmas Day,
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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Deputy Mayor



Don Gerend
Councilmember



Bob Keller
Councilmember



Tom Odell
Councilmember



Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember



Nancy Whitten
Councilmember

Openings on city boards and commissions

Planning Commission, Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation
Commission, Beaver Lake Management District Board



For more information on the application process, go to www.sammamish.us, click on the Commission/Boards tab, and then select the volunteer position you are interested in.

CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
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Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Bud Backer	Fire Chief
Michael Kenyon	City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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