

SAMMAMISH



ISSUE 161

CITY NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2015

City strengthens tree regulations

DEVELOPERS MUST RETAIN MORE TREES, AND PLANT REPLACEMENTS FOR THOSE THEY CUT

Responding to concerns that the city was losing too much of its tree canopy to new development, the City Council on Oct. 6 passed regulations that will preserve more trees, strengthen replanting efforts, and toughen penalties. The new regulations will take the place of an emergency tree ordinance that was passed in October of 2014.

“Last year, all of us saw the impact a rebounding economy was having on development,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The City Council saw the same thing our residents saw, so they decided to take action to preserve more of our trees.”

The new regulations are necessarily complex. Although a developer must preserve a minimum of 35 to 50 percent of the trees on a property, that percentage can go way up depending on environmen-

See TREES, pg. 3



Very Merry Sammamish face painters enjoy 2014 event.

Very Merry Sammamish!

**DEC. 4 TREE LIGHTING, MUSIC AND OTHER FESTIVITIES
KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN SAMMAMISH**

It's hard to know what attracts the big crowds to “Very Merry Sammamish” each year.

Is it the tree lighting, the face painting, the school choirs? Or is it the petting zoo, the story tellers and the magical ice princesses?

Whatever it is, the annual holiday

celebration at City Hall is once again expected to draw revelers of all ages when the doors swing open Friday, Dec. 4, at 5:30 p.m.

“This event has turned into a nice tradition over the years,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “The music, the

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

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TOYS FOR TOTS

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On Thanksgiving, be grateful for this community

Writing a Thanksgiving message isn't easy. No matter how sincere your feelings, the words you put down can sound corny and contrived.

So let's try something different. Let's go into outer space, look back



*Tom Vance
Mayor*

at planet earth, and consider how blessed we are to live in this specific community.

The first thing you notice is that we live on a part of the planet that's developed. That means good roads, good hospitals and, by global standards, high levels of wealth.

We can be thankful for that.

Sammamish is also well-located politically. We have elections, free speech and orderly transfers of power. Some parts of the developed world haven't gotten around to that yet. So far, on the luck scale, Sammamish is two for two.

Violence? There's plenty in this

world but almost none in Sammamish.

Racism? Sexism? Ageism? There's always work to be done, of course, but from outer space, the dark light of intolerance, plentiful elsewhere, is almost invisible in Sammamish.

Peace and quiet? We have it.

Natural beauty? Check.

Friendly residents? Check.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but from a distance, it appears that we've hit the lottery.

There are 7 billion people on this earth, many of them without sufficient food, medicine and freedom. How did we get to be among the 49,980 who live in this wonderful community?

Even after we descend from outer space, the view continues to look good at ground level.

Our new Community and Aquatic Center is going to open early next year, initiating a new era in Sammamish recreation. Even after the dark and drizzly season arrives, our kids, families and seniors will have a brightly lit place to exercise, socialize and harmonize!

Less exciting, but just as important, we've also finalized our new comprehensive plan. If we're going to retain our good fortune, this regulatory and planning roadmap for transportation, housing, land use, environmental protection and many other issues is absolutely vital. I'm thankful this most recent update is done!

We should also be happy that our new tree retention ordinance is now in place. It's a vital part of our City Council's commitment to preserving and growing our forest canopy.

As these last three items show, our blessings are not just the product of good luck. Sammamish works hard!

We wouldn't be where we are without the engagement, watchfulness and fantastic community spirit of our friends and neighbors.

And that's what I'm going to be especially grateful for.

Have a great Thanksgiving!



Sammamish one of the "best suburbs" in America

BUSINESSINSIDER.COM CRUNCHES THE NUMBERS AND RANKS SAMMAMISH AT NUMBER 39

After looking at the data on 2,754 cities, BusinessInsider.com has ranked the city of Sammamish as the 39th "Best suburb in America." In its write-up, the online site said the following:

"With an official motto of 'Building Community Together,' the city of Sammamish in King County, Washington, is as friendly as it gets. The unemployment rate is a low five percent, the median household income

is \$143,919, and, according to Forbes, the city's crime rate is approximately 90% lower than the national average."

To be considered, suburbs needed to have populations between 5,000 and 100,000 and be within 25 miles of the nearest metropolitan area. Other important factors included commute times, median household income, poverty and crime rates, public school ratings and housing affordability.

"Sammamish continues to be men-

tioned on all these lists," Deputy City Manager Lyman Howard said. "We've been described as being among the safest, friendliest and best places to live all across the country. Not bad for a community that elected its first City Council just 16 years ago."

The full rundown of "best suburbs" in America is available online at: <http://www.businessinsider.com/ranked-the-50-best-suburbs-in-america-2015-10>.

City Council adopts comprehensive plan update

LEGISLATIVE ACTION WRAPS UP PROCESS THAT BEGAN IN SPRING OF 2013

It took a while, as it always does, but the city concluded an exceedingly important process on Oct. 13 when the Council adopted its latest comprehensive plan update.

The update, mandated by state law, aligns the city's plan with all the local, regional and state requirements of the Growth Management Act. Since the spring of 2013, the city has conducted a robust public outreach effort to properly inform the planning process with input from all stakeholders.

Thanks to multiple public hearings, a variety of open houses, and a continuous flow of emails from resi-

dents, the updated comprehensive plan bears the unmistakable stamp of community sentiment.

"Through the Planning Commission process and then the Council process, we did our best to make sure the plan reflected our residents' values," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "This is a roadmap to the future, so I'm very glad we took our time and did it right."

Among other things, the updated plan strengthened policies regarding diverse housing options, affordable housing, transportation networks and the preservation of forest canopy.



City Council meeting earlier this year.

TREES, cont. from pg. 1
tal and other factors.

The new regulations also require replacements for any significant trees that are cut down. If possible, the new trees will be planted on the same property. If not, the replacements can be located in city parks, in the city right of way, on private property, or in other places approved by the city.

A conifer is considered significant if it's 8 inches wide at chest height. A deciduous tree is significant if it's 12 inches wide at chest height.

"The goal going forward is to have no net loss of trees on this beautiful plateau," Yazici said. "This new wave of development has reminded

us all of how much we value our forest canopy."

To enforce the new rules, the City Council established strong penalties.

If someone cuts down a significant tree illegally, the penalty will be

\$1,500 for each inch of diameter. In other words, a tree that is 8" wide at chest height will cost the violator \$12,000. Those penalties, which apply to both developers and individual residents, are already in effect.

Although residents are sometimes allowed to cut down a significant tree on their property, they must have a permit. To sort out the details and avoid any costly mistakes, the best advice is the same as it's always been: "Call before you cut!"

The City Hall number is 425-295-0500. Just tell the receptionist you're inquiring about a tree permit and they'll direct you to the appropriate person.



Finding a way to retain trees in an urban environment.

The city is affluent, but human services remain vital

NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR AIMS TO MAKE THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE

Sammamish is blessed with great schools, beautiful scenery and safe neighborhoods, but in a very important way it's just like every other town: Some of its residents have problems.

That's not news to the many good people who offer counseling, family support and other human services to city residents. Whether it's churches, non-profits or government-supported agencies, a broad array of services are in place to help those in need.

But as Allison Gubata, the city's new community services coordinator, has learned, residents sometimes aren't fully aware of what's available.

"When someone's having problems, they're often not in the best position to make phone calls, do the research and explore options online," Gubata said. "Part of my job is to add some clarity in our community so residents can more easily access appropriate services."

Since she started her new job on July 1, Gubata has been busy interviewing providers, getting her arms around the range of services, and identifying gaps and redundancies.

Although her job is part time (20 hours per week), Gubata has already learned a lot, built a network of connections, and put together a list of human service providers on the city website. To access the list, go to www.sammamish.us, click on the "Community Links" tab on the left side of the home page, and select "Human Services."

The list contains the names and contact information for some 40 providers who receive financial support

from Sammamish and other jurisdictions. The city's outlay for human services grants this year is \$170,000.



Allison Gubata
Community Services Coordinator

With a high proportion of young people in its population, the city of Sammamish has a substantial need for human services that focus on youth.

(See three examples in the yellow box below.)

Among other things, high expectations and stress contribute to the difficulties experienced by Sammamish youth. Drug and alcohol abuse are problems and there are occasional cases of self harm.

Older residents also need help at times. Whether it's emotional distress, a health problem, or a cash shortage that leaves the cupboards bare, human services are there to help.

In addition to the city website's list of human services providers, another good place to locate options is <http://win211.org/>. Residents may also simply dial 2-1-1 on the telephone.

"Everybody has problems from time to time," Gubata said. "It's nice to know there are resources available when one of our families or one of our individual residents hits a rough patch."

Resources for Youth

TeenLink (<http://866teenlink.org/about-teen-link/>) – Offers confidential, anonymous, non-judgmental help line for youth ages 13-20 every evening from 6 to 10 p.m. Call 1-866-833-6546. Or go to <http://866teenlink.org/chat-now/> for online conversation every evening from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Friend of Youth - Provides a broad range of services, including substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling and homeless youth services. Website: www.friendsofyouth.org. Email: info@friendsofyouth.org. Phone: 425-392-6367. For emergency overnight shelter, call 24-hour hotline: 206-236-KIDS.

Youth Eastside Services (YES) - It's a lifeline for kids and families coping with emotional distress, substance abuse and violence. YES has offices in Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond and a presence in many Lake Washington and Bellevue School District schools. Website: www.youtheastideservices.org. Phone: 425-747-4937.

Tenth Anniversary for Toys for Tots in Sammamish!

DETECTIVE AMY JARBOE HAS HELPED U.S. MARINES FOR A FULL DECADE

Det. Amy Jarboe was with the Sammamish Police Department when she started collecting “Toys for Tots” many years ago. But even though she has since moved on to the Woodinville Police Department, her heart, and her attachment to needy kids, has continued to be a strong presence in Sammamish.

This year, when “Toys for Tots” donations begin pouring into City Hall, it will be the tenth anniversary for Jarboe’s gift-collection effort. Working with the U.S. Marine Corps, the sponsoring organization, she has made it a high-profile, holiday-season tradition in Sammamish.

“Sammamish residents have always given so generously, I wanted to stay involved, even though I now work in Woodinville,” Jarboe said. “At this time of year, it’s always so rewarding to come back and help organize this effort on

behalf of needy kids.”

To commemorate its tenth anniversary, the local Toys for Tots initiative is going to tie in with the city’s “Very Merry Sammamish” event on Dec. 4, 5:30 to 8 p.m., at City Hall. Jarboe says U.S. Marines in uniform will be present, and a Toys for Tots Santa will be available for pictures with youngsters.

“We’re hoping to get a nice wave of donations that night, as well,” Jarboe said. “With the holiday lighting ceremony, the singing, the Ice Princess and all the other attractions that evening, we’re hoping for a very large and very generous crowd.”

Donations began Nov. 2 and will run through Dec. 10. Residents should just bring a new, unwrapped item into Sammamish City Hall – or two or three – and drop them off in front of the police station.



Det. Amy Jarboe with Toys for Tots donations in 2014.

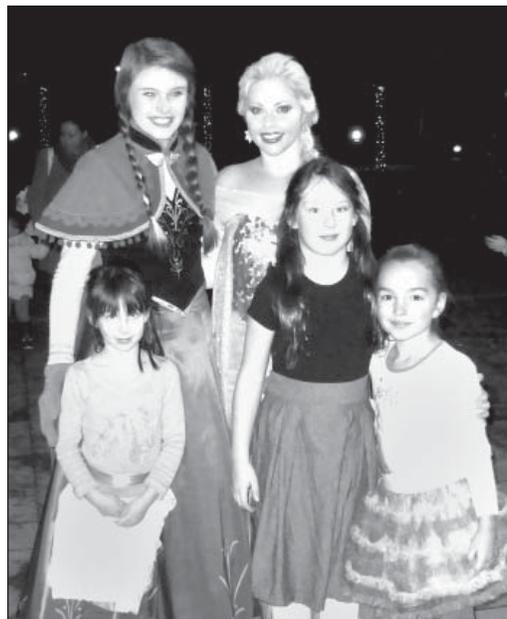
MERRY, cont. from pg. 1

fun, and the neighborly feeling have turned it into a very nice community celebration.”

In addition to the ever-popular ice princesses, this year’s event will also be notable for the presence of roving “Winter Fairies.”

Other attractions will include:

- Story telling – Kids can listen to classic holiday tales as told to them by performers using puppets, props and bells.
- Holiday songs – The singing will resound throughout City Hall courtesy of Rachel Carson Elementary, Blackwell Elementary and the



The Ice Princess and Ice Queen last year.

Eastlake High School Carolers.

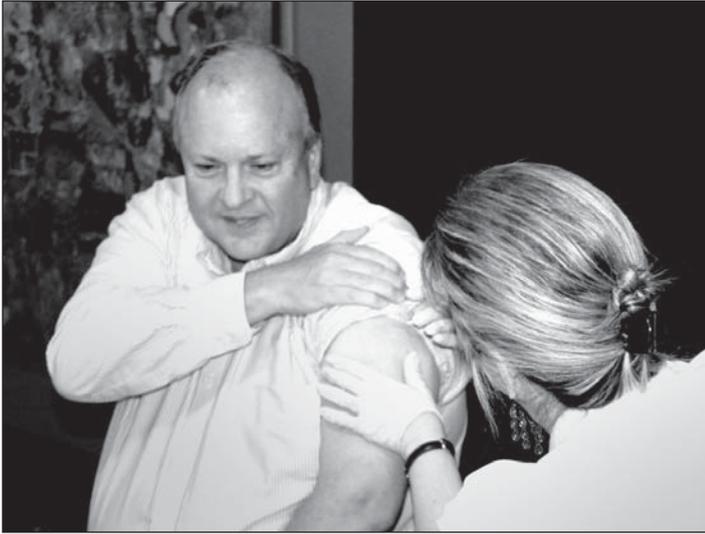
- Petting Zoo - Ever make friends with a camel named Might Moe? This is your chance. Lots of other animals will also be present to make your acquaintance.
- Food trucks! – Step out onto City Hall Plaza and enjoy some tasty delicacies the whole family can enjoy.

The tree lighting is scheduled for 6 p.m., so make sure you show up in plenty of time.

For more information on the event, go to www.sammamish.us and find Dec. 4 on the home page calendar.

Get your flu shot now!

Most cases of the flu hit from December to March, so this month would be a good time to get that flu shot! Just go to flushot.healthmap.org, enter your zip code, and choose a flu shot location that is convenient for you.



Mayor Tom Vance gets his flu shot at City Hall.

These storm drains don't lead to water treatment plants!



So please help to protect our lakes and streams by:

- Keeping fertilizer off paved surfaces
- Keeping grass clippings off the street
- Taking your car to a professional car wash
- Taking used motor oil to the nearest auto parts store
- Putting kitty litter, sand or other absorbent materials on liquid spills and sweeping it up

You & Me | Me & You

The Sammamish Arts Commission is pleased to present the work of Kent and Michele Van Slyke in the City Hall Commons Gallery through Jan. 16. As husband and wife, these artists have lived and created together for 50 years. Kent favors the camera and computer while Michele works with metal. Below left are three pieces by Kent and a bench by Michelle.

Below right is a sculpture by Michele. The Commons Gallery is open during normal business hours at City Hall.



CITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 3

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

Wednesday, Nov. 4

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

Thursday, Nov. 5

- Finance Committee Mtg, 2 p.m.
- Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

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

Wednesday, Nov. 11

- Veterans Day
City offices closed

Thursday, Nov. 12

- Klahanie Transition Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 16

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

Tuesday, Nov. 17

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

Wednesday, Nov. 18

- Sammamish Youth Board Mtg, 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 19

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

Monday, Nov. 23

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

Thursday, Nov. 26

- Thanksgiving Day, City offices closed

Friday, Nov. 27

- Thanksgiving, City offices closed

DECEMBER

Tuesday, Dec. 1

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

Wednesday, Dec. 2

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

Thursday, Dec. 3

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

Friday, Dec. 4

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

Tuesday, Dec. 8

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

Wednesday, Dec. 9

- Klahanie Transition Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17

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

Friday, 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.

Cut these cards out and prepare for an emergency!



Visit our website:
www.sammamishcitizencorps.com

Find more information about

- Preparedness in Sammamish
- Upcoming CERT Trainings
- Info hubs
- Map Your Neighborhood

Sammamish
citizen★corps

CERT MRC Fire Corps MYN
Email: info@sammamishcitizencorps.com
Check out our Facebook Page!
Sammamish Citizen Corps Council





A basic emergency supply kit should include the following:

- Water, one gallon per person, per day, for at least 7-10 days
- Food, at least a 7-10 day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air, plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for canned food
- Local maps
- Cell phone chargers, inverter or solar charger



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*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*Bob Keller
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

**The deadline for SAMMI Award nominations
is Tuesday, Dec. 1.**

**Go to sammiawards.org to nominate a deserving individual
in one of five categories:**

Courage
Circle of Service
Youth Spirit
Community Spirit
Environmental Stewardship

The SAMMI Awards event will be held on March 12, 2016.



CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Lyman Howard	Deputy City Manager
Jessi Bon	Parks & Rec Director
Beth Goldberg	Admin Services Director
Joe Guinasso	Finance Director
Jeff Thomas	Community Dev Director
Melonie Anderson	City Clerk
Nathan Elledge	Police Chief
Greg Tryon	Fire Chief
Michael Kenyon	City Attorney

**Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
Contact Communications Mgr Tim Larson
425-295-0555, tlarson@sammamish.us**