

SAMMAMISH

ISSUE 159

CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2015

County appeals city trail permit

When the city issued a permit to King County this summer for improvements to a section of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, it included conditions that would have narrowed the trail in some spots and saved a number of significant trees.

But a number of residents appealed the permit. And then, in late July, the county itself announced that it was going to appeal the conditions imposed by the city.

“We’re disappointed,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “We worked very closely with residents and county officials to arrive at these permit conditions. From our point of view, they’re quite reasonable.

“As we’ve seen over many years, appeals are often part of the process. We’ll make our case during the appeal process, as we’re obligated to do, and then take it from there.”

The county project is expanding the width of the recreational trail and laying down a paved surface. The permit being appealed, known as a “shore-

See PERMIT, pg. 3



New homes go up on N.E. 9th Place in the Ashford development along Inglewood Hill Road.

Question: Why don't cities stop growth? Answer: The courts won't allow it.

BUT SAMMAMISH IS MEETING THE RETURN OF GROWTH WITH TOUGHER STANDARDS AND ROBUST IMPACT FEES

It's a frequently asked question these days: “Why are we seeing so much development in Sammamish all of a sudden?”

Though not comforting to many, the answer is pretty straightforward: The economy has picked up and property owners have decided it's a good time to develop their land.

That response often leads to another question, especially from those concerned about trees, the environment and a potential threat to quiet neighborhoods: “Why doesn't the city put a stop to all this growth?”

How's this for an answer? The U.S. Constitution would frown on it.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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ANNEXATION PARTY

Story on page 3

ARTS FAIR

Story on page 4

Why do we love public service? Because it feels terrific!

This month's message is about public service. More precisely, it's about the rewards of public service.

Whether you're a police officer, a firefighter, or a city employee, the satisfaction that comes from serving the public good is hard to measure.

The same holds true, no doubt, for educators, health care workers and community volunteers.



*Tom Vance
Mayor*

And when it comes to holding public office, I can vouch for the fact that it will put a smile on your face day after day.

This particular theme came to mind after a city employee told me recently that he had noticed how much I seemed to enjoy saying a few words at public events. And he was right!

As the city's current mayor, I get to do that from time to time, and it feels terrific when you join with others to celebrate a community milestone or provide some energy at a public event.

And it's not just the pleasure a public official might take in hearing his or her voice. It's much more than that. It's the feeling that you're part of something good, and perhaps making a small contribution to the community.

The opening of the Farmer's Market earlier this year was a great example. It was a beautiful day, the market was buzzing with shoppers,

and the Creekside Elementary Marimba Club was providing the sound track.

It was a great honor to say a few words and mark the beginning of another great Farmers Market season at City Hall Plaza. And I know the other City Council members present were also caught up in the spirit of the moment.

Of course, you don't need a festive public occasion to experience the feeling that you're making a contribution to something positive. The public servants I know also experience what I would call "moments of quiet accomplishment."

"I can vouch for the fact that it will put a smile on your face day after day."

Think, for example, of all the work our volunteers do in Sammamish. With little fanfare, the member of our city boards and commissions often work late into the night. And our trail builders and plant stewards make this city a better place one step and one stem at a time.

Our service organizations, including the Rotary and Kiwanis, serve the community here in Sammamish as well as communities across the globe. Whether they're raising funds to support youth or some of our local charities, or building houses, or helping defeat debilitating diseases in less privileged parts of

the world, their public service brings them those "moments of quiet accomplishment" we're talking about.

Youth boards and clubs, churches, school foundations, PTSA's, HOA's, the Chamber of Commerce, the Y, the Boys and Girls Club – they all do their part for the community. And so do all the other folks – forgive me – that I've failed to mention!

We're blessed in Sammamish to have so many people who are willing to pitch in and help. They deserve enormous credit for their willingness to contribute to the community, give of their time, and provide their version of public service.

But the secret's out. It's not entirely about diligence and duty. One of the reasons our residents keep coming back for more is because doing good makes you feel good!

So please count me as someone who's grateful for the opportunity to contribute in the arena of public service.

For every moment that might cause a Council member to furrow his or her brow, there are many more that bring smiles, laughter and celebration.

If you have some extra time on your hands, and want to feel terrific, you should look into some form of public service.

I can recommend it without reservation!

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

Annexation party at Klahanie Park

The official annexation date for Klahanie and adjacent neighborhoods isn't until Jan. 1, but the city isn't going to wait until then to say "Welcome!"

Instead, the greeting will be issued on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Klahanie Park (the one next to Challenger Elementary).

"We hope all the neighborhoods in the annexation area will come out and join in the fun," City Manager Ben Yazici said. "The City Council members, city staffers and I are looking forward to meeting all of our 'about to be' residents."

In addition to music, bouncy toys for the kids, and food trucks with delicacies for the whole family, there will also be a few brief remarks and a ceremonial tree planting at about 10:30 a.m.

For more information on the welcoming event, call 425-295-0585 or visit www.sammamish.us/events.

Welcome to Sammamish

Please join us for a FREE family friendly event welcoming our new neighbors to the City of Sammamish.

Saturday, Sept 12, 2015 10a to 2p
Klahanie Park, 25000 Klahanie Blvd

Live Music
Food Truck Rodeo
Bouncy Toys
25 Vendors

City of Sammamish Washington

For more information, call 425-295-0585 or visit www.sammamish.us/events

PERMIT, cont. from pg. 1

line substantial development permit," applies to the southern third of the trail inside the city, a section identified as "South Sammamish Segment A."

The northern third is already complete. The middle third, which has not yet been permitted by the city, will be the final phase.

The East Lake Sammamish Trail follows an old railroad route along the city's western border. A soft-surface version of the trail opened in 2006. The county purchased the rail-banked corridor in 1998.



A section of the existing soft-surface East Lake Sammamish Trail.

Police join the block parties on National Night Out

Every year, people come out of their houses, set up barbecues and throw parties on their neighborhood streets. And, as part of National Night Out, they also make sure to invite the police.

Here in Sammamish, the police party presence was especially impressive at the Aug. 4 event thanks to a change in approach.

Instead of joining firefighters at City Hall Plaza for a public safety equipment display as they had during previous National

Night Out events, the officers spread out across the city and joined residents for their street parties.

“It’s great to be able to get out and

meet with our community members, listen to their concerns, and discuss things that they can do to keep their neighborhoods safe,” Sammamish

Police Chief Nathan Elledge said. “This year’s event was definitely a success.”

Officers from the Sammamish Police Department attended a total of 23 different neighborhood events.

The annual National Night Out event is intended to enhance safety by strengthening bonds between neighbors and public safety personnel.



Deputy Toney Griffith (center) joins a block party near Pine Lake on Aug. 4.

When it comes to art, it's a September to remember

Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.

Classical Concert by the winners of the Frances Walton Competition

Pine Lake Covenant Church

1715 228th Ave. S.E.

Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon

2015 Rookery Nest Making

Lower Commons

Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.

Artist Reception for Joy Hagen

“Trees of the Wood”

City Hall

For more information on all these events, go to the Sammamish Arts Commission Facebook.

9th Annual Sammamish ARTS Fair

fine arts - performance arts - arts activities - admission FREE



Sammamish City Hall & Library, 801 228th Ave SE

October 10 -11, 2015

Saturday -Sunday 10am-5:00pm

www.sammamishartsfair.wordpress.com



GROWTH, cont. from pg. 1

The right to own and develop property is rooted in the country's founding documents and in a long history of Washington state legal rulings.

The message couldn't be more clear: If a city is too bold in its attempts to control growth, it will lose in court, and burn through a lot of tax dollars paying damages and legal fees.

In addition to respecting property rights, Washington cities must also adhere to the state's Growth Management Act (GMA).

Among other things, the GMA created the "urban growth boundary," a line that generally conforms, here on the plateau, to Sammamish's eastern border. On the city side, urban levels of growth are to be accommodated and appropriate urban services are to be provided. On the eastern side, the land is to remain rural. These boundaries exist in all Washington state counties.

Given the complex nature of the issue, and the strong emotions that sometimes come to bear, City Manager Ben Yazici is often asked to respond to heartfelt questions about growth.

Q: If a city can't stop growth, what can it do?

A: There are certain steps we can take to "make growth pay for growth." For example, we have some of the highest transportation impact fees in the state. We charge a developer more than \$14,000 per house so we can put that money toward road improvements. City's also charge park impact fees and school districts charge school impact fees.

Q: For a few years after incorporation, the city had a development moratorium. Why did the city end that moratorium?

A: Because enormous legal pressure

was building. The moratorium was allowed for a while so we could get our city regulations in order, but we had to end the moratorium to avoid enormous legal and financial exposure for our tax payers.

Q: Why do so many people want to move here?

A: Great schools, wonderful neighborhoods, a very safe, family-friendly atmosphere. People want to move here for the same reasons the rest of us did.

Q: Sammamish still has a forested feel to its natural environment. Can that be preserved?



City Manager Ben Yazici

A: We have a tree retention policy that requires big developers to retain 35 percent of the trees on their property. I'm happy to say that our standards are already higher than most cities and we're currently working on some additional upgrades to our policy.

Q: But we're still going to see new clearings in the years ahead, right?

A: That comes with the right to develop property. But I was very impressed at our Council retreat when every single member made it clear that their vision for Sammamish called for a healthy canopy of trees. In addition to preserving existing trees, there was a lot of discussion about planting new trees

in the public right of way and in other areas. I'm confident our urban community will always have a wealth of trees.

Q: What steps have been taken in that direction?

A: In addition to our strong tree retention and environmental regulations, the Council has also invested in open space. Beaver Lake Preserve, Sammamish Commons and Evans Creek Preserve are just a few of the places in and around the city that have been brought into public ownership. These and other properties will never be turned into housing developments.

Q: Speaking of housing developments, who gives the green light to the kind of clearing we've seen.

A: Ultimately, it's our code that allows development. City staffers look at the permit and project applications, assess whether everything is in alignment with our code, and then issue a decision that's legally binding.

Q: The City Council and the city manager can't overturn that decision?

A: Nope.

Q: What can overturn a staff decision?

A: Usually it's an appeal. Residents sometimes appeal project approvals. Developers sometimes appeal project denials. It normally goes before a hearing examiner for a decision.

Q: If the city's professional staff is just following the code, why would a hearing examiner overturn a city decision.

A: Because it's impossible to write a code that eliminates all grey areas. Human judgment will always be part of the equation. We're fortunate, though, that most of the hearing examiner decisions over the past 15 years have upheld the judgments of our professional staff. They've done a great job.

Q: Can a hearing examiner's decision also be appealed?

A: Of course. If people are willing to spend money, they can take a long journey through our country's court system.

Sammamish Symphony unveils 2015/2016 concert season

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE GUEST PERFORMANCE BY VIOLINIST JAEHN SHIN IN OCTOBER

In its 24th concert season, the Sammamish Symphony Orchestra, the premier symphony orchestra on the eastside, is presenting five exciting programs for the 2015-2016 season. Performances this year will be at Meydenbauer Theatre in Bellevue and Eastlake Performing Arts Center in Sammamish.

From Adam Stern, the orchestra's interim director:

"In planning the Sammamish Symphony's 2015-16 season, I had several things in mind:

the best music possible, of course; works that the orchestra hadn't played in a long while, if ever; a healthy mixture of repertoire cornerstones and unfamiliar delights. Almost unconsciously, the season's shape became one

steeped in some of nature's inevitabilities -- water, the coming of spring, wanderlust, and (courtesy of Danish composer Carl Nielsen) the link between music and life itself. Overused though the expression may be, I genuinely believe that every concert will hold 'something for everyone.'"

For more information about the Sammamish Symphony and the upcoming season, go to <http://sammamishsymphony.org>.

Tickets are available on the website and at the door.



Sammamish Symphony

What are those plastic fences at construction sites for?

Are those plastic silt fences really necessary? Do I really have to cover my dirt piles with plastic? Do I have to cover my exposed soils? Do I really need a construction entrance? The answer to all of these questions is yes!

Even during our dryer summer months we still get the occasional rain shower, so it is important to protect our waterways. This practice is called erosion and sediment control and it is a requirement in the city of Sammamish.

Construction run-off is one of the primary contributors to water quality degradation in the greater Puget Sound area and is regulated under federal,

state and local laws and ordinances.

In addition to harming our water quality, construction run-off is harmful to our aquatic environment.

With the rainy season upon us, it is important to take extra precautions when exposing bare soils to the elements.

Tips to help avoid erosion and sedimentation control problems during construction include:

- Check and repair perimeter erosion control prior to every rainfall event.
- Cover stock piles and exposed soils at the end of the work day and prior to weekends or holidays.
- Keep in mind that plastic cov-

erings require maintenance.

- Wind can blow away or tear up plastic cover making it ineffective. Be aware that these plastic coverings can collect rain water in large volumes and accelerate the run-off; therefore it is important that you have a place for this run-off to go.

- Monitor and maintain your construction entrances.

Remember weather can change very rapidly and can be unpredictable. Keep extra supplies of erosion control materials on site (plastic, straw bales, etc.) so they are available when the need arises.

CITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sep. 1

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

Wednesday, Sep. 2

- Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall
- Parks and Rec Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sep. 3

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

Monday, Sep. 7

- Labor Day, City offices closed

Tuesday, Sep. 8

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

Wednesday, Sep. 9

- Farmer's Market, 4-8 p.m.
Plaza at City Hall
- Klahanie Transition Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Sep. 14

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

Tuesday, Sep. 15

- City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Frances Walton Competition
Winners on Tour, 7-8:30 p.m.
Pine Lake Covenant Church

Wednesday, Sep. 16

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

Thursday, Sep. 17

- Fall Senior Art Classes, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club
- Planning Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sep. 19

- Sammamish Arts - Nest Building,
9 a.m.- noon
Lower Sammamish Commons
- Sammamish Walks - Soaring Eagle ,
10 a.m.- noon

Wednesday, Sep. 23

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

Thursday, Sep. 24

- Artists Reception
The Trees of the Wood by Joy Hagen,
6-8 p.m., City Hall

Monday, Sep. 28

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

Wednesday, Sep. 30

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

OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 1

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

Tuesday, Oct. 6

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

Wednesday, Oct. 7

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

Saturday, Oct. 10

- Arts Fair, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
City Hall

Sunday, Oct. 11

- Arts Fair, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
City Hall

Tuesday, Oct. 13

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

Wednesday, Oct. 14

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

Thursday, Oct. 15

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

Saturday, Oct. 17

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

Monday, Oct. 19

- Art Exhibit - Michelle van Slyke,
8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m., City Hall
- Committee of the Whole , 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 20

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

Thursday, Oct. 22

- Art Commission Exhibit Reception,
6-8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 23

- Skyline High School
Homecoming Parade, 4:15-6:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26

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

Friday, Oct. 30

- Halloween Happening, 3-4:30 p.m.
City Hall

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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*Don Gerend
Councilmember*



*Bob Keller
Councilmember*



*Tom Odell
Councilmember*



*Ramiro Valderrama
Councilmember*



*Nancy Whitten
Councilmember*

MAYOR'S MONTH OF CONCERN
FOR THE HUNGRY



September 12 - September 26, 2015

Join your neighbors and friends to help fill our local foodbank shelves, and feed your neighbors in need.

ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- Dry Pasta
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Stew
- Canned Soup
- Canned Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Dried Beans
- Cooking Oil
- Granola Bars
- Popcorn
- Fruit Snacks
- Crackers
- Rice
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Canned vegetables
- Canned meat & tuna
- Macaroni & cheese
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Canned Chili
- Canned Ravioli
- Ramen/Cup of Noodles
- 100% Fruit Juice



Make a monetary donation to either:
Hopelink<http://www.hope-link.org/>
Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank....<https://issaquahfoodbank.org/need-help/>



CITY OF SAMMAMISH OFFICES

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Greg Tryon Fire Chief
Michael Kenyon City Attorney

Newsletter suggestions or concerns?
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