

SAMMAMISH

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CITY NEWSLETTER

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Voters to decide on additional parks funding

At press time, it appeared the residents of Sammamish will have a chance to vote in November on new funding for additional parks facilities and services.

The City Council was considering a two-part addition to the ballot:

1 - A \$19 million bond to build new recreational facilities.

2 - A property tax levy lift to pay for \$310,000 in annual programming and operation costs at the new facilities.

“Putting this on the ballot will let the residents decide an important issue,” City Manager Ben Yazici said. “This vote, whichever way it goes, will put the power in their hands.”

The \$19 million bond would pay for the following:

- \$5 million to purchase the existing King County library for conversion and expansion into a youth and teen center. The city intends to partner with the Boys and Girls Club to operate the facility.
- \$3 million for Phase I development of Sammamish Landing, a waterfront

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The 4th was great!



Three young patriots celebrate the Fourth on the Plateau at Sammamish Commons.

Two years don't amount to a tradition, but the city's second "Fourth on the Plateau" celebration went a long way toward making fireworks an important and memorable part of life in Sammamish.

"After last year's success, to see even bigger crowds this 4th of July tells us that our community will be coming together this way for decades to come,"

City Manager Ben Yazici said. "It's a privilege to know that fifty years from now, our kids will be talking about the "good old days" at Sammamish Commons back on the 4th of July."

The event, funded largely by sponsors (see page 5), featured two bands,

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Lee Fellingge
Mayor

It's summer – finally – and many of the things I like to do involve driving someplace distant. But, with gas at well over \$4 a gallon, I'm a bit reluctant. The good news is that there are a lot of

cool things to do right here in Sammamish. Here are some of my favorites:

Take family and friends to enjoy one of the free Concerts in Pine Lake Park on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. You can picnic, or enjoy a variety foods and ice cream on sale at the park. Trust me, it's a great time!

Take a walk or bike ride by the water on the East lake Sammamish Trail. Did you know that this is the rail bed of the former Seattle, Lakeshore and Eastern that was built in 1888 and was going to be Seattle's link to the transcontinental railroad? As you move along the trail, imagine people eighty

years ago taking the steam train from Seattle for a day at Snoqualmie Falls on a warm summer day.

Each week, pick a different park to explore and just enjoy. How about Pine Lake Park? When was the last time you swam in a lake? Lifeguards are on duty from noon to 7 p.m. everyday in the summer.

In addition, you might consider East Sammamish Park, Beaver Lake Park (your pooch can frisk at the new dog park area), Northeast Sammamish Neighborhood Park, or our newest – Ebright Creek Park. Which is your favorite? Picnic shelters can be reserved and are free of charge.

Remember also that the Farmers Market is held each Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. until September 24. You can combine shopping next to City Hall with a walk around the paths of Sammamish Commons. After that walk you may feel less guilty about enjoying that baked goody from the market.

For the youngsters, the "Kids First"

Noontime Performance will feature a Pirate Rock Band on August 5 next to City Hall, and a magician on August 19 at Beaver Lake Lodge.

If you want to know your neighbors and public safety personnel a bit better, National Night Out on August 5 will feature a display of emergency equipment and personnel next to City Hall. Since the best control of crime comes from neighbors watching out for each other, you're also encouraged to organize your own neighborhood BBQs that same night.

And, if the weather doesn't cooperate one day, stop by the library and check out a book you might not ordinarily read, or maybe a classic movie you've always wanted to see.

Whatever you choose, I hope you save a little gas money, and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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- park along Lake Sammamish.
- \$2.5 million to convert the existing grass athletic field at Pine Lake Middle School into an artificial, multipurpose field with lights.
- \$1.8 million for major improvements to East Sammamish Park (next to Margaret Mead Elementary).
- \$1.7 million for construction of the Beaver Lake Vicinity Trail, a path connecting Beaver Lake Park to Beaver Lake Preserve along West Beaver Lake Drive.
- \$4 million for land acquisition in the northeast quadrant of the city, which is not currently served by a neighborhood park.
- \$1 million for estimated park bond fees.
"If the voters approve the bond, it

will be paid off over 20 years by raising property taxes 14 cents per thousand of assessed valuation," Yazici said. "That translates into \$84 per year, or \$7 per month, on a \$600,000 home. After 20 years that tax would go away.

"If the voters approve the levy lift to pay for the programming and operation of the new facilities, that will raise 4 cents per thousand of assessed valuation. That translates into \$24 per year, or \$2 per month, on a \$600,000 home. Since the cost of operations and maintenance will go on indefinitely, the levy lift will not be discontinued."

Although residents will cast separate votes on the bond and the maintenance levy lift, the two are linked. The city won't proceed with the bond unless the maintenance money is also approved.

Park Bond Facts:

Bond amount: \$19 million **Term of bond:** 20 years

Paid for: By a property tax increase of 14 cents per thousand of assessed valuation.

On a \$600,000 home: That would translate into \$84 per year. This additional tax would end after 20 years.

Will pay for: New parks and recreation facilities.

Levy Lift Facts:

Amount: An increase of 4 cents per thousand of assessed valuation.

On a \$600,000 home: That would translate into \$24 per year. This tax would not end.

Will pay for: Programming and operation of new facilities.