Sammamish may pick up Klahanie annexation prospect from Issaquah

BY JOHN PARKER AND JON SAVELLE

The city of Issaquah wants to jettison Klahanie as a potential annexation area, and officials are asking Sammamish to take on the prospect.

For years, Issaquah has considered Klahanie, an area of more than 11,000 residents bordering southeast Sammamish and northeast Issaquah, for annexation.

In 2005, 67 percent of Klahanie residents voted in favor of annexation, but 53 percent rejected assuming Issaquah's debt obligations, along with existing city residents. The latter vote killed the move.

Klahanie remained in Issaquah's Potential Annexation Area plan, however. A recent posting on the city's Web site said council leadership asked staff to explore the potential transfer to Sammamish.

"We are looking at it," Council President David Kappler said Dec. 19. "We're kind of hoping Sammamish will think it's something they should consider. It's their people, in the northeast part of their city, that are stymied by their transportation system in Klahanie."

In any case, amendment of Issaquah's Potential Annexation Area is not a quick process. It requires approval by the city councils of both cities, plus that of the King County Growth Management Planning Council and the King County Council.

The process also requires amendment of Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan, which involves a review under the state Environmental Policy Act, and a review and recommendation from the city's Planning Policy Commission.

Sammamish City Manager Ben Yazici raised the issue at the Dec. 18 Sammamish council meeting, where it drew mixed reactions.

Councilman Lee Fellinge referred to the city's 2001 financial study concerning annexation of Klahanie. That report showed it would cost city taxpayers more money to annex the area than they would gain from new taxes and other revenue, he said.

"The data we had before showed this is a money pit for our taxpayers," he said.

Councilman Don Gerend, however, said he wants to see updated figures to see if annexation may be a good idea now.

Councilman Jack Barry agreed with the update idea, noting the area's high growth in the last 10 years.

Council members OK'd plans for staff to update those figures. They will decide if the city should pursue annexation further after the study is complete.

Yazici said he will work with King County, which has jurisdiction over Klahanie, to find out what process is needed to revamp the cities' annexation plans.

In 2004, a city of Issaquah study also showed that it would cost city taxpayers money to annex Klahanie.

However, King County, which wants to move county urban areas into city jurisdictions, offered nearly $2 million to encourage the 2005 annexation vote.

Yazici said there's a possibility that state funds also might be available for a Klahanie annexation because the population exceeds 10,000.

King County is trying to shed urban and suburban areas to follow the state Growth Management Act, which says counties should focus on regional and rural services.

Reporter John Parker can be reached at 392-6434, ext. 242, or jparker@isspress.com. Reporter Jon Savelle can be reached at 392-6434, ext. 234, or jsavelle@isspress.com.

Beaver Lake student victim of hit-and-run

BY J.B. WOGAN

A driver in a green Honda Accord struck an eighth-grader from Beaver Lake Middle School in an apparent hit-and-run Dec. 18, according to the King County Sheriff's Office.

The accident occurred at the four-way intersection of Southeast Klahanie Boulevard and 256th Avenue Southeast, about four

according to Sgt. John Urquhart, spokesman for the Sheriff's Office.

The Challenger e-mail also noted that among several eyewitnesses, one wrote down the license plate number of the driver and turned it in to the police.

"Hit-and-run accidents happen all over the county all the time," Urquhart said. "You know, we got 2,200 square miles and we serve 560,000 people, so it's nothing that unusual. Certainly there's no more

hit the student, causing leg and head injuries, and fled the scene.

Mark C. Mitchell, of the King County Department of Transportation, said research indicated Klahanie Boulevard, classified as a collector arterial, suffers 1.5 accidents per every 1 million miles traveled by vehicles on the roadway.

"It's quite a bit lower than other similar roadways," he said.

The average accident rate for other similar roadways in unincor-

drivers on Klahanie Boulevard move at a velocity closer to the new recommended speed limit, somewhere between 27 mph to 37 mph.

But the speed limit revision has been postponed for a year while King County works with the Klahanie Homeowners' Association on safety upgrades, such as improved illumination and raised and extended street corners so pedestrians are more visible before entering the crosswalk.

2008 Rel
has kicko

Two open house kickoff meetings will be held for the 2008 Issaquah Relay for Life event, a fundraiser to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Choose from a 6-8 p.m. meeting Jan. 8 at the Issaquah Starbucks, 1460 N.W. Gilman Blvd., or Jan. 9 at Pine Lake Starbucks, 3016 Issaquah-Pine Lake Road.

Relay for Life is a community

Bypass

FROM PAGE A1

that a record of decision cannot be issued without it.

"The relationship of the biological assessment to the FEIS needs to be clarified," said Councilman John Rittenhouse. "We need to understand whether the biological assessment is a separate document or considered part of the FEIS. If it is a separate document, then I suppose they can go down the road of sending out a notice of availability."

If that were to happen, it still isn't clear whether or not the impact statement would have to be amended after the biological assessment is finished.

Council President David Kappler wondered how the biological assessment could be released at all if it isn't out of review yet. This very issue came up in regard to the impact statement itself, when the council repeatedly asked to see early versions of the document but was