



WINTER-SPRING 2016

INSIDE



East Link construction begins
Page 3



Civil rights hero
Page 5



Ped-bike projects
Page 6



Mediation for startups
Page 6



Mayor John Stokes, left, and Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak strike a happy pose after their election by the council on Jan. 4.

Stokes elected mayor, Chelminiak deputy mayor

By Brad Harwood, Public Information Officer

In its first order of business for the new year, the City Council elected John Stokes mayor and John Chelminiak deputy mayor on Jan. 4. They will serve in those positions for two-year terms.

"I'm really excited and pleased to be in this role," Stokes said at the meeting. "I think we're going to have a great two years ahead of us. Everyone on this council, while impassioned about their various issues, are really pragmatists. That's the kind of leadership John and I will try to bring."

Chelminiak, who was also deputy mayor in 2006 and 2007, said, "It's an honor to serve." He then gave a nod to Councilmember Kevin Wallace for his work as deputy mayor in 2014 and 2015, collaborating with Mayor Claudia Balducci.

Also, Councilmember Vandana Slatter took her seat for the first time at that meeting. Voters elected her in November to the position vacated by Balducci,



Vandana Slatter

who won a seat on the King County Council representing the Eastside last fall.

Slatter, a senior regional medical liaison with the biotech firm Amgen, has been a community leader, helping establish an urban farm at the Lake Hills Greenbelt and serving on advisory boards of local nonprofits including

Global Social Business Partners and Farmer Frog. She also served as a trustee on the Foundation Board of Overlake Hospital.

Vandana and her husband Greg live in Northeast Bellevue near Bridle Trails with their son Quinn, who serves in the Washington National Guard.

The city's seven council members are elected citywide to staggered four-year terms and select a mayor and deputy mayor internally every two years. The mayor presides over council meetings and study sessions, helps set the meeting agenda, represents the city at public events, and acts as the primary spokesperson for the council.


Stokes was elected to his second term on the council last year. A retired attorney, he is a longtime advocate for public education and a co-founder of Eastside Pathways. Since joining the council in 2012, Stokes has advocated for affordable housing, economic vitality and livability in Bellevue, as well as construction of the Tateuchi Center for the Performing Arts.

He worked collaboratively with Sound Transit on cost savings for the East Link Light Rail and remains involved through the design process. He is the council liaison to the Planning and Arts commissions.

He lives with his wife Bettina in the Woodridge neighborhood and his daughter works for the State Department of Early Learning.

Chelminiak joined the council in 2004 and has a long record in public service. He primarily champions economic competitiveness, growth management and human services. Chelminiak is a member of All Home (formerly King County's Committee to End Homelessness), the Eastside Human Services Forum and the Growth Management Board of the Puget Sound Regional Council.

He and his wife Lynn reside in the Vuecrest neighborhood with daughter Megan, who attends Bellevue High School.

 City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

PRSTD STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellevue, WA
Permit NO. 61

ECRWSS-C

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL



[www.facebook.com/
bellevuewashington](http://www.facebook.com/bellevuewashington)

twitter.com/bellevuewa



Council Corner

Education: a core community value shaping Bellevue's future



By Councilmember Jennifer Robertson

In Bellevue, we have residents who come from all across the country and all across the world. We speak more than 100 different languages, have different customs and different backgrounds. But in Bellevue we share many values, including a commitment to live in a safe, friendly city with a healthy environment, a strong work ethic and a dedication to education. As a mom of three daughters attending Bellevue public schools, I also share the community's strong commitment to education.

These common values have provided the foundation that produced the Bellevue we have today, with a dynamic and highly-educated population, a vibrant economy, a plethora of parks and open space, and one of the best educational systems in the nation. These common values are continuing to create a new Bellevue for the 21st century, including bringing new educational infrastructure to Bellevue and the Eastside.

In Bellevue, about 64 percent of adults have a bachelor's degree or higher, more than double the national average (30 percent). Another 20 percent of adults here have some college education. This density of educated adults has spawned businesses that rely on educated professionals and has helped drive the high-tech, innovation economy in our region. The concentration of educated adults has also helped create even more educational opportunities and excellence for our children and young adults.

Bellevue School District. The Bellevue School District is one of the best public school districts in the United States, and competes with some of the best K-12 schools internationally as well. It has earned that distinction because of the strong community support in Bellevue. Our most recent bond and levies passed with more than 70 percent voter approval.

But the investments in our local schools go beyond the taxpayer support. Many of our public schools also have PTSA's with significant parent involvement in terms of membership, fundraising and volunteering. This creates a supportive environment to help support all Bellevue kids in learning and achieving. The city has also partnered with BSD in providing wrap-around services and support for Eastside Pathways, both of which help ensure all Bellevue children have the opportunities to succeed.

Bellevue's five public high schools claimed the top five spots in the state on the 2014 Washington Post Challenge Index, and are rated among the top 160 of the "most challenging high schools" in the nation. A U.S. News & World report ranked all of Bellevue's public high schools in the top 10 "best schools" nationwide.

Our high school students have much higher advanced placement class enrollment than the national average and much higher AP test pass rates as well. Nearly 90 percent of graduates from Bellevue's high schools have passed one or more AP tests. A significant number of Bellevue students go on to obtain higher education following high school, with about 80 percent of graduates enrolling in a four-year college after graduation.

Our higher education opportunities are also increasing in Bellevue with the expansion of Bellevue College and the newly announced Global Innovation Exchange opening later this year.

Bellevue College. Bellevue College is now offering 10 different bachelor's degrees and 22 associate's degrees, and is the second largest college in the state with 33,000 students enrolled, including 1,700 international students.

BC's new state-of-the-art Health Sciences facility welcomed its first students last fall. The \$39 million, 70,000-square-foot, three-story building, with laboratories that incorporate the latest technology, is home to BC's growing Health Sciences programs. Nursing, BC's oldest and most established Health Science program, benefits greatly from the new facility's dedicated nursing labs with 20 hospital beds, and a five-room medical simulation lab. It complements the expected growth of the Nursing program and the bachelor's degree program in nursing.

BC is also currently in talks with Washington State University to bring more learning and degree opportunities to students in Bellevue.

While many students still commute to Bellevue College from outside communities, many need affordable housing options near the college. Construction of its first student housing is projected to begin this summer. The first phase of the college's new student housing development will deliver a 350-bed residential community scheduled to open mid-2018. The four-story building will be the first of three development phases to add up to 1,100 rooms for students in the next 10 years.

Global Innovation Exchange. The Global Innovation Exchange will be in the BelRed corridor, and is an exciting partnership between the University of Washington and Tsinghua University in Beijing, with \$40 million in support coming from Microsoft. GIX is expected to open in September and will attract top students, faculty, professionals and entrepreneurs from around the world to tackle some of the biggest technology and design challenges.

The partnership joins UW, among the United States' top research universities, with Tsinghua, widely considered China's top technology research university. GIX will offer an inaugural program to about 40 students



A rendering of the Global Innovation Exchange from the architect, NBBJ.

for a dual master's degree and grow to 3,000 students within a decade. These students will work in a project-based environment, which tackles real-world problems in a collaboration that crosses national and university boundaries. This experience will make GIX graduates uniquely qualified to help powerhouse tech firms in Bellevue reach new levels or start new companies of their own.

DigiPen Institute of Technology. Adjacent to Bellevue is DigiPen Institute of Technology. DigiPen is a leader in education and research in computer interactive technologies. DigiPen has more than 1,000 enrolled students from all 50 states and close to 50 different countries. DigiPen offers eight different bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees. In addition to educating young adults at the college level, DigiPen offers excellent camps and classes to children in first through 12th grade.

The opportunities created by our excellent K-12 public schools, Bellevue College, GIX and DigiPen will continue to spur innovation and economic growth for Bellevue and the entire region, and will help ensure the children of today will have a bright future tomorrow.

Two years ago, when the City Council drafted a vision of Bellevue 20 years from now, we imagined a city with "an array of excellent educational opportunities for life-long learning, from one of the nation's best K-12 school districts to a variety of secondary and higher educational opportunities." It is thrilling and a little amazing to think that in two short years that ambitious goal is more reality than vision.

Council Roundup

\$1 million grant for Meydenbauer Bay Park

The City Council on Jan. 4 voted to accept a \$1 million state grant for development of Meydenbauer Bay Park. The funds are part of a grant agreement with the state's Recreation Conservation Office.

For decades, the city has envisioned a new park at Meydenbauer Bay, allowing the waterfront to connect with downtown. Using properties acquired over the years, the city plans to create a new 10-acre park featuring almost a quarter mile of shoreline between Meydenbauer Beach Park, which would become part of the new park, and the Bellevue Marina.

The grant helps fund the first phase of the project, which includes extending the Meydenbauer

Beach Park to the east along the waterfront, daylighting an underground stream there, beach and shoreline improvements, canoe and kayak tie-ups, pathways, trails, landscaping and restroom and pier construction.

The Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan also calls for new and improved walkways and plazas connecting the new park with downtown. Drawings and various reports are currently under review by city, state and federal permit agencies.

Council amends budget

The council on Dec. 7 unanimously approved a modification of 2015-2016 biennial budget and the 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program Plan. Highlights of the adjusted budget include the restoration of the city's police bike patrol

unit, \$150,000 for continued work on electrical reliability and \$75,000 in funding for Music Works Northwest, a nonprofit community music school downtown.

Police Chief Steve Mylett asked the council to adding five bike patrol officers to the police force to stem a rise in property crimes, including car thefts and prowls, in the downtown, BelRed and Factoria areas.

"The bike team is a very versatile tool," Mylett told the council. "It's very mobile and we're able to use it in very different capacities. The bikes are able to get into places a police car can't."

The restoration of the bike patrol will cost \$680,000 this year, then \$530,000 annually after that.



East Link tunnel construction set to begin downtown

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

Ten years after the City Council voted to endorse light rail over buses as its choice for high-capacity transit on the Eastside, Sound Transit is poised to break ground on a downtown tunnel for East Link.

Heavy construction on the long-awaited East Link light rail route from Seattle, through Mercer Island and Bellevue, to the future Redmond Technology Center station (currently known as Overlake Transit Center), is slated to begin in the coming weeks. The tunnel is projected for completion in 2020.



The contractor for Sound Transit will use a “sequential excavation” method to build a downtown tunnel for the East Link light rail project. Photo courtesy of Sound Transit.

“After years of planning, negotiating and collaborating with our partners at Sound Transit, it will be great to finally move some dirt on our way to a world-class transit system for Bellevue,” said Mayor John Stokes. “Construction won’t be easy, traffic impacts will be a challenge, but we’ll deal with it and keep our city open for business. I know the end result will be worth the effort.”

In Bellevue, East Link will be constructed in five segments, the first of which is the downtown tunnel. Other segments, and their construction start dates (subject to change), are: Overlake (beginning as early as mid-

2016), South Bellevue (late 2016), the BelRed area (early 2017) and Central Bellevue/Wilburton (mid-2017).

The first signs of construction will be demolition and clearing-and-grading work near the south portal of the downtown tunnel, around Main Street and 112th Avenue. In late summer or early fall, the tunnel excavation itself will start and proceed west below Main Street, then north under 110th Avenue Northeast. The north portal will be located near 110th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Sixth Street, by City Hall, where the route will bend east before crossing over Interstate 405.

To minimize traffic impacts on downtown streets, and to reduce construction noise, Sound Transit will use what’s known as a sequential excavation method to build the half-mile long tunnel. Instead of the more common cut-and-cover tunneling, sequential excavation removes soil in small sections using an excavator and cutting machines underground. Workers then spray concrete onto the exposed surfaces, followed by the installation of steel lattice girders for structural support.

Traffic impacts will include intermittent closures along 110th and 112th avenues, and adjacent cross streets, intermittent closures along Main Street and possible mid-block closures on 110th Avenue.

Voters approved the Sound Transit 2 plan, which includes East Link, in 2008. The 14-mile long line from Seattle to Redmond, budgeted at \$3.7 billion, is expected to begin service in 2023; its projected daily ridership is 50,000 by 2030.

More information and updates from Sound Transit are available: on the project website (soundtransit.org/eastlink); by subscribing to email and text alerts (soundtransit.org/subscribe); by calling the 24-7 construction hotline (888-298-2395); or by contacting East Link community outreach staff (206-398-LINK or eastlink@soundtransit.org).

Information about citywide traffic impacts in Bellevue is available on the city’s traffic advisory webpage (bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories).

Next up: ST3

As construction on East Link, part of the Sound Transit 2 funding package, gets under way, Sound Transit is planning for another phase of transit expansion in the Puget Sound region. Sound Transit 3 would guide transit operations and infrastructure improvements in the Puget Sound region, including projects such as light rail, bus rapid transit and regional express bus service.

A draft ST3 plan is expected to be issued for public comment in late March, with a final plan slated for completion in June. The public will have an opportunity to vote on an ST3 ballot measure in the November 2016 general election. To learn more about ST3, or to provide feedback, visit Sound Transit’s website (soundtransit3.org).

Awards and high rankings for Bellevue

By Claude Iosso, Digital Communications Coordinator

Residents seeking validation for choosing to live in Bellevue do not have to look far. Continuing a trend of high rankings in various online surveys, the city came in number 2 on Livability.com’s list of top 100 small to mid-sized cities last year and number 9 on the Financial Times fDi Magazine’s list of top 10 “Small American Cities of the Future.”

In addition, the city received awards in 2015 for transportation, utilities and parks programs and projects.

Top rankings

Bellevue has shown up on Livability’s “Top 100 Best Places to Live” each of the three years the online source has done a list. Bellevue was ranked second last September for the 2016 list, with its lakes and mountains, lush parks, festivals, museums and restaurants all cited.

Livability, which tracks data to “explore what makes small-to-medium sized cities great places to live,” also mentioned Bellevue’s range of amenities, diversity and top schools.

The Financial Times publishes the fDi Magazine to focus on globalization and foreign direct investment. Bellevue was number 9 on the “Top 10 Small American Cities of the Future 2015/16.”

Awards

The city’s notable awards in 2015 included a bronze designation by the League of American Bicyclists as a “Bicycle Friendly Community” for its efforts to make the city a safe, comfortable and convenient place to bike. The national program assesses communities based on their initiatives, programs, facilities and key outcomes related to ridership and safety, and it provides

www.bellevuewa.gov

recommendations for communities to improve.

An increasing share of people are getting around Bellevue by walking and taking transit. Parking and land-use policies here support walking. The city keeps detailed inventories for sidewalks and curb ramps, crosswalks, medians and curb extensions, in addition to progress installing and repairing these elements.



The new Coal Creek Parkway bridge was named 2015 Project of the Year.

Early last year the city earned national recognition for adopting its “Diversity Advantage” plan to support and take advantage of our growing diversity. Bellevue was one of just seven cities around the country to receive a Cultural Diversity Award from the National League of Cities.

Drafted after years of community outreach, the plan recommends more than 60 actions the city can take to improve services for people of all cultures, as well as recommendations on how the community can make the most of living in a multicultural city. The city has begun putting those recommendations into action.

The Parks & Community Services Department received several honors from the Washington Recreation and Parks Association including one for innovative programming involved in the staging of a major skateboard competition to raise money for charity and another for best special use facility – the new visitor center at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

The Utilities Department received the Platinum Award for Utility Excellence from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies.

Utilities ranked high for product quality, customer satisfaction, financial viability and infrastructure stability. In addition, it was recognized for exceptional public service, a renewal and replacement fund to maintain and replace aging infrastructure and a high bond rating without the use of debt financing. Successful public education and outreach programs committed to sustainability and environmental protection were also highlighted.

Utilities also earned a “2015 Project of the Year” award from the state chapter of the American Public Works Association for the Coal Creek Parkway Culvert/Bridge project, located between Forest Drive and Southeast 60th Street.

The project involved replacing an aging nine-foot diameter culvert with a 39-foot culvert/bridge, and took a year and a half to complete. The project ensured a safe roadway for the 28,000 motorists who use it each day. It also created a safe way for hikers to cross under the roadway to connect to the Coal Creek Trail and stream restoration to improve salmon habitat.

These are just some of Bellevue’s awards. See more at bellevuewa.gov/awards.htm.

City Hall gets green roof

By Brad Harwood, City Manager's Office Public Information Officer

For visitors and employees at City Hall, the rooftop patio outside the third floor was gray and boring, yet functional. Now, thanks in part to a \$90,000 King Conservation District grant, the crushed rock yard has been replaced by a "green roof."

The green roof is made up of layers of drought-tolerant vegetation, soil, filter fabric and plastic cups planted over a waterproofing system on top of the building's roof. Green roofs offer a number of advantages compared to traditional roofs, and have recently emerged as a prime example of natural design.

"We're excited to have the opportunity to implement this demonstration project," said Emma Johnson, Civic Service's resource conservation manager, who also spearheads Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Initiative. "Besides being aesthetically nicer than a flat pile of gravel, the green roof will help minimize the building's stormwater runoff and reduce heating and cooling costs."

The 5,300-square-foot surface, installed by Buckley Nursery Company in October, is composed of a mixture of plants, not grass. Sedums and perennials and 6 inches of soil help retain 70 to 90 percent of the precipitation that falls on them and release water more slowly to the storm drain (because the plants absorb the water).

Another benefit includes the green roof's ability help fight the "urban heat island effect," a phenomenon created in the summer by the presence of concrete, steel and asphalt in cities. Unlike rural areas, high temperatures tend to linger at night because these materials re-radiate the heat. Green roofs ease this effect by absorbing and removing heat from the air, reducing temperatures of the roof surface and the surrounding air.

"I think visitors are going to enjoy learning about this new third-floor space," said Johnson. "When the sun starts to come out this spring, it's going to be a fun place to meet and enjoy the view."

Until budgetary concerns rendered them unfeasible, green roofs were among the advanced features to be added to City Hall when it was transformed from a utilitarian telecommunications headquarters in 2006.

To see a video of City Hall undergoing its green roof makeover, visit Bellevue's YouTube channel at YouTube.com/BellevueWashington.



The green roof features drought-tolerant vegetation.

Forge connections at Neighborhoods Conference

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Residents who want to connect better with their neighbors can learn how at Bellevue's first "Better Together" Neighborhoods Conference, scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at City Hall.



Becky Henchman

Keynote speaker Becky Henchman, author of the local blog, "Eat, Play, Thaw," will set the tone for the day as she shares her story of thawing the "Seattle Freeze" by being intentional about building meaningful

relationships with her neighbors.

Few of us intend to not know our neighbors, but often we find we aren't connected to those who live right next to us. Henchman will speak to the intentionality of invitation and how

to create opportunities for conversations to begin. Continental breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee.

The conference will feature approximately 20 one-hour workshops focused on four major themes. Participants can go deeply into one of the following themes or mix and match themes throughout the day.

- Building Community in My Neighborhood;
- The World in My Neighborhood;
- Staying Safe in My Neighborhood; and
- Navigating the City for my Neighborhood.

Whether you are attending as an individual or as part of a neighborhood group, the program will provide opportunities to connect with your neighbors through both structured, interactive workshops and unstructured networking opportunities. City staff and community experts will lead the workshops.

Topics include learning to navigate city processes and communications tools, planning

neighborhood events, engaging volunteers, bridging cultural barriers, dealing with conflict and creating safer neighborhoods.

A brochure with registration materials and descriptions of all of the workshops will be available in late March. The conference registration fee is \$35 (early bird registration through April 22) and \$50 after April 22, if space is still available.

Registration is open to those who live or work in Bellevue. The fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials. Scholarships are available on request. Workshop spaces will be assigned in the order registrations are received, and space is limited to 150 participants.

Save the date now and contact Julie Ellenhorn (425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov) for more information or to sign up to receive a conference registration packet.

Public invited to comment on Energize Eastside Draft EIS

By Heidi Bedwell, Senior Planner

The Phase 1 draft environmental review of Energize Eastside, PSE's proposal to build a new electric substation and approximately 18 miles of high-capacity electric transmission lines from Renton to Redmond, is now available for public comment. It includes four alternatives.

Residents will have an opportunity to learn more and comment at an open house and public hearing at City Hall on March 1, 6-9 p.m. The meeting will begin with a 30-minute open house, followed by a short presentation and an oral comment period.

Energize Eastside is intended to address a deficiency in electrical transmission capacity that could begin in 2017. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is led by the City of Bellevue in cooperation with Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond and Renton.

Additional open house opportunities will be provided at the following other public meetings:

- Kirkland Justice Ctr., 11750 NE 118th St., Kirkland, Feb. 23, 6-8 p.m.;
- Renton City Hall, 1055 S. Grady Way, Renton, Feb. 25, 6-8 p.m.;
- Newcastle Elementary School, 8440 136th Ave. SE, Newcastle, Feb. 27, 2-4 p.m.; and
- Redmond City Hall, 15670 NE 85th St., Redmond, Feb. 29, 6-8 p.m.

Please note the same information and opportunities will be provided at all meetings, so you only have to attend one for your comment to be received. Comments may be submitted orally at the public hearings or in writing. The deadline for submitting comments is March 14. Residents also have the following options to comment:

Online at: EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
 By email to: Info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org
 By mail to: City of Bellevue
 Development Services Department
 Attn: Heidi M. Bedwell
 450 110th Ave. NE
 Bellevue, WA 98004

The Energize Eastside EIS is not a permit. It is one of many sets of information permitting agencies will consider as they decide whether to approve the project and issue necessary permits. The EIS process is a separate requirement that must be completed before any permits may be issued.

The EIS is a two-phased process providing environmental review of PSE's proposal and alternatives. Phase 1 focuses on the programmatic aspects of the project, including whether or not the type of project PSE has proposed is the best way to improve electrical grid reliability for Eastside communities and what other types of solutions should be explored.

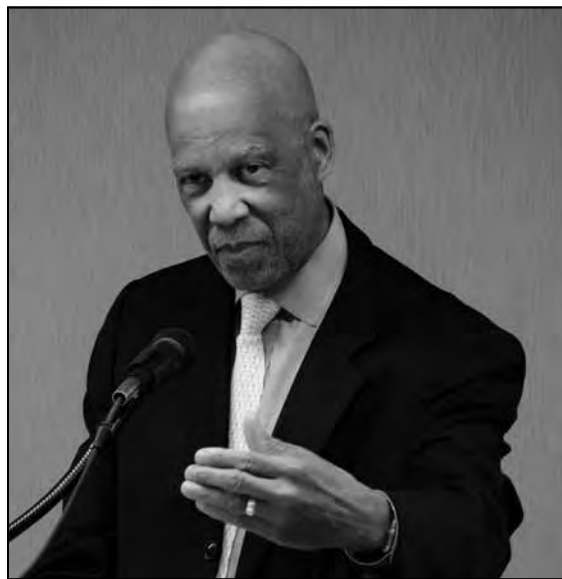
Scoping for Phase I is now complete, and the Draft EIS was released for public comment on Jan. 28. A complete project description and the Phase I draft, including the studied alternatives, are available at EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

For the second phase of environmental analysis, PSE will select its project alternatives to be evaluated in the Phase 1 DEIS and examine details for that option, including possible alternative locations for project components. There will be multiple opportunities for public comment during Phase 2. Scoping for Phase 2 is anticipated to begin this spring.



Civil rights hero still on crusade against racism

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer



Terrace Roberts speaks at City Hall.

History paid a visit to Bellevue last month. Terrence Roberts, one of nine black students who desegregated Little Rock Central High School in 1957 with an army escort, is still striving to ensure equal opportunities for all Americans.

Nearly 60 years after he had to pass an angry mob to go to school, Roberts said racism is still with us. But in appearances at City Hall, the Bellevue Library and Downtown Park around Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Roberts offered a measure of hope too.

“Things have not gotten better,” said Roberts. “I think it’s pretty well known what the issues are.” However, “If awareness is raised, personal responsibility is taken and choices are different from that point on, change is possible,” he asserted.

Despite a federal court order that called for desegregation of schools, 59 years ago protestors and Arkansas National Guardsmen tried to prevent the “Little Rock Nine” from entering Little Rock Central High School. U.S. Army soldiers had to escort the students in and were stationed at the school the entire year.

Determined to resist integration in his state, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus closed Little Rock’s high schools in 1958. Roberts moved to Los Angeles and graduated from high school and college there, before earning advanced degrees in sociology and social welfare.

After earning a Ph.D. in psychology, Roberts served long tenures as a college professor and administrator, as well as a hospital administrator. He currently consults with organizations around the country to bridge the gap between potential and performance.

Recently, Roberts and his wife started a venture called “Talking about Race” to help organizations have important conversations that can facilitate a more equitable society.

At the Bellevue gatherings, Roberts emphasized the importance of continuing to challenge assumptions about equality and

inclusion through learning.

“If you pass up the opportunity to learn, you are literally thumbing your nose at humanity,” said Roberts. “The more you know, you have more options. There are billions of options in the universe.”

The city, in a partnership with the King County Library System and Bellevue Friends



Roberts stands outside Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Photo courtesy the National Park Service

of the Library, invited Roberts here to provide a forum for a community discussion about inclusiveness and equity. In 2014, the city adopted the Bellevue Diversity Advantage Plan, a framework to support and champion diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion citywide.

New hardware, software streamline inspections

Now equipped with computer tablets and specialized software, construction inspectors can record inspection results while in the field. Contractors and homeowners can see the results online within an hour.

Turning inspectors into a “mobile workforce” adds to the convenience started with Paperless Permitting, which allows for online permit applications. The mobile inspection services align with how our customers operate in a technology-based environment.

“It’s efficient, fast, clean,” notes building inspector Shane Cline. “Correction notices can even go right to the contractor’s email. They love it. I love it.”

Equipping approximately 60 inspectors and supervisors in Development Services with smart phones and mobile computers last spring was the final phase of the Paperless Permitting project, which began in 2011 and involved several steps. Two-thirds of permit applications come in to the city online these days.

Previously, inspection staff had limited technology available to them

while in the field. The smart phones and convertible tablet/laptops are paired with software and connectivity that provides inspectors with all-day access to permit and inspection-related information, electronic copies of plans, applications, tools and various communication options.

The mobile workforce in Development Services is another example of the city’s commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, efficiency and sound business practices.

Primary estimates indicate up to 1,600 saved in labor with mobile technology and up to 4,000 hours saved for inspectors, allowing them to perform 160 more inspections per year.

The city also gives inspectors the option to deploy early in the morning, so they can coordinate with contractors on the job site when the contractors are beginning their work day. Calls are forwarded through Skype to inspectors’ smart phones, and their daily inspections and related project information are downloaded onto their mobile devices so they can literally grab and go.

Invasive snails leave “genetic fingerprints” for trackers

By Michael May, Utilities Public Information Officer

New Zealand mudsnails were first detected in Kelsey Creek in 2012. These tiny invaders can take over the ecology of our streams, hurting native species like trout and salmon. Knowing where they are helps us prevent them from spreading to other streams.

New Zealand mudsnails are very small, less than 1/8 inch, and are dark brown. They are very difficult to see when in low numbers. Snails shed skin cells and their waste into the water, leaving traces of DNA that can be detected, just like on TV crime shows.

The process is known as environmental DNA tracing or eDNA. City staff are working with Washington State University to evaluate every stream for the mudsnails’ presence, collecting and filtering water samples from each one. WSU analyzes the filters for unique genetic markers produced by snails.

Using eDNA is cheaper and quicker than doing visual surveys, though it isn’t meant to totally replace them. Bellevue is one of the first cities in the nation to use these techniques as

a management tool to help slow the spread of invasive species.

What is so bad about a little snail? New Zealand mudsnails quickly reproduce by cloning, so it only takes one small snail to produce up to 2 million in just a couple of years. They are bullies, displacing good, native invertebrates at the bottom of the stream.

The snails have a tight operculum (a kind of trap door) that protects them from drying out. It is so strong that they can survive being eaten by trout, causing the fish to starve while not harming the snail!

What do we do with the information? We inform people living along the infested streams about the potential for spreading the snails. The city also posts signs, and requires any contracts for work in streams to include more intense decontamination procedures, so our consultants and contractors do not move the snails to other areas.

What can you do?

- Avoid getting into infested waters. Don’t allow your dog to get into multiple streams,



Utilities employee Liora Llewellyn collects a water sample in a Bellevue creek.

such as at Kelsey Creek Farm.

- Clean all boots and shoes with Formula 409 Degreaser, then rinse with water (the degreasing agent can penetrate the snail’s “trap door.”)
- Get more information at bellevuewa.gov/new-zealand-mud-snails.htm.

Pedestrians, bicyclists benefit from variety of smaller projects

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

Neighborhood advocates, walking enthusiasts and bicyclists want more sidewalks and bike lanes, and for good reasons. Such improvements encourage healthy activities, increase safety and provide alternatives to driving that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



The restriping of 116th Avenue Northeast in 2015, part of the annual overlay program, is one example of the city's effort to expand its network of bike lanes.

Bellevue's recently updated Comprehensive Plan notes, "Walking is a fundamentally important way to travel," and "The bicycle system provides an increasingly important mobility option."

The city's Transportation Department has responded to the growing number of requests. In addition to the sidewalks and bike lanes that will be part of the major transportation road projects in 2016 (see story on Page 7), the Transportation Department is chipping away at a list of smaller, neighborhood projects through a variety of programs and funding sources.

For example, last year, the city's annual Overlay Program added 3.5 miles of bike lanes at relatively low cost by restriping existing roadways. The same program also included the upgrade of 60 curb ramps, making it easier

for people with disabilities to get around.

This year, the overlay program calls for upgrading 68 curb ramps and adding more than two miles of bike lanes. More than a mile of bike lanes will be added on Southeast Allen Road, between 138th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 38th Street, and more than 4,000 feet of bike lanes will be striped on the Lake Hills Connector, from Richards Road to 140th Avenue Southeast.

A different focus, the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program, kicks off a project in February when, among other improvements, includes a five-foot wide sidewalk on 123rd Avenue Southeast, between Southeast 20th and 26th streets. It will provide an important connection to both Woodridge Elementary School and Norwood Village Neighborhood Park.

Also, construction began in February on a new sidewalk project on the south side of Northeast 24th Street, between 103rd Avenue Northeast and Bellevue Way, and a sidewalk rebuild of a 250-foot section on Bellevue Way, with a landscaped buffer.

A different source of funding – the Downtown Transportation Plan Implementation Program – is being used for three pedestrian-oriented projects expected to commence this year in Bellevue's fastest-growing neighborhood. The projects are expected to significantly improve walkers' comfort, safety and access to transit.

One of them is the infamous "cattle chute," currently a narrow, steep and uninviting ramp connecting the sidewalk on 108th Avenue Northeast to the downtown pedestrian corridor. It will be made wider, better illuminated, less steep and more attractive.

In addition, the intersection of 108th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Fourth Street, one of the highest volume pedestrian crossings downtown, will get safety improvements such as wider crosswalks and curb ramps, curb bump-outs and landscaping. And those slippery bricks on the sidewalk north of the Bellevue Transit Center, between 108th and 110th avenues, will be replaced with new pavers to make this a preferred route for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

All told, the 2016 projects total more than \$3.5 million worth of smaller investments designed to improve the pedestrian and bicycle networks in Bellevue.

Startup Resolve: Conflict Assistance for Startups

By Marcia McReynolds, Co-Manager, Bellevue Mediation Program

According to Harvard Business School professor Noam Wasserman, author of "Founders' Dilemma," 65 percent of startups fail due to interpersonal issues among founders. To help new local companies succeed and become sustainable teams, the Bellevue Mediation Program has launched "Startup Resolve," offering free coaching, classes, shuttle diplomacy and mediation catered specifically to startup needs.

You and your team members may have excellent technical and business skills, a solid business plan, financing and a defined customer base. However, if you start fighting about how things are going to be done or put off important conversations because you fear a conflict, then your business may falter or even fail.

If you find yourself in this situation, you can call Bellevue Mediation and speak to trained mediators, volunteers and staff, who will assess what level of service you need. If litigation is a possibility, mediation offers a far less expensive route to making opposing parties happy. If you just need to talk things through to reach resolution or get some coaching on how to have

a difficult conversation, we can help with that too.

If you are at an impasse, we can call your partner to discuss the situation, easing the tension and developing understanding so that the two of you can talk with each other. We can also sit down with you to have a mediated conversation to help you make decisions and understand each other's needs, differences and styles. This can improve your chances for having successful discussions in the future.

In addition, there will be Startup Resolve classes on how to manage differences at incubator hubs around Bellevue.

The Mediation program handled 350 cases, including 55 mediations, in 2015.

This project is part of Bellevue's work to foster a culture of entrepreneurship on the Eastside and help startups succeed.

Our services are free. Everything you share is confidential. Our mediators are experienced business people from a wide variety of cultures. No problem is too big or too small. To find out more, call 425-452-4091 or email Mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov.



Conflict assistance involves people talking to each other and discussing ideas

Just six grams of lunch waste per student at Spiritridge!

Bellevue Utilities' Carbon Yeti celebrates with Spiritridge Elementary School students after they win the Cafeteria Challenge. Spiritridge won a competition to reduce cafeteria waste by generating only six grams of garbage, the weight of a quarter, per student, on "measurement day."

Thirteen Bellevue elementary and middle schools accepted Utilities' challenge to reduce cafeteria waste as a part of America Recycles Day last fall.

Participating schools educated parents, staff and students on ways to reduce waste, including finishing lunch, bringing leftovers home for snacks, composting food scraps, recycling and using reusable containers for packed lunches.



The Carbon Yeti honors Spiritridge kids.



New City Hall celebrates 10 years



New City Hall under construction.



New City Hall after construction.

On Feb. 21, 2006, the city first opened the doors of its new City Hall building to residents. With its soaring windows and a terrazzo floor that evokes a river, the revamped telecom building downtown was intended to be a true community meeting place, in the very heart of Bellevue. At a grand opening that May, the theme was, “Brilliantly Bellevue – The Future is All Around You.” Today the City Council’s vision declares, “We embrace the future while respecting our past.”

Likewise, the celebration’s international flavor (including Chinese lion dancers, Taiko drummers, a Bulgarian folk music chorus and salsa dancers) is also echoed in the council vision’s statement, “Bellevue welcomes the world; Diversity is our strength.”

City Hall has won architectural awards and, more importantly, hosts events and meetings on a regular basis. From the Service First desk and integrated Development Services team to the circular council chamber and airy plaza, the building has been an inviting place for residents and visitors.

Major roadway projects get rolling this year

By Tresa Berg, Transportation Public Involvement Manager

In 2015, Bellevue completed several important transportation projects, such as the extension of Northeast Fourth Street, improvements on 124th Avenue Northeast and the build-out of the city’s adaptive signal system. This year, design or construction will begin on four projects intended to improve safety and mobility in Bellevue.

Filling in the missing link on Northup Way: Work has started on Northup Way, between Northeast 24th Street and Northeast 33rd Place, to fill a gap in the regional pedestrian and bicycle system. Bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of Northup Way will be added, along with a pedestrian bridge at the Eastside Rail Corridor crossing. When completed in early 2017, the project will provide a safer connection to the SR 520 Trail, the Lake Washington Loop Trail and bike lanes on other city streets.

To receive weekly updates on this and other city projects, sign up for Alerts from the city’s Traffic Advisories web page (bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm). For project questions, contact Kyle Thieme, construction inspector (425-452-2870 or Kthieme@bellevuewa.gov), or Steve Costa, project manager (425-452-2845 or Scosta@bellevuewa.gov).

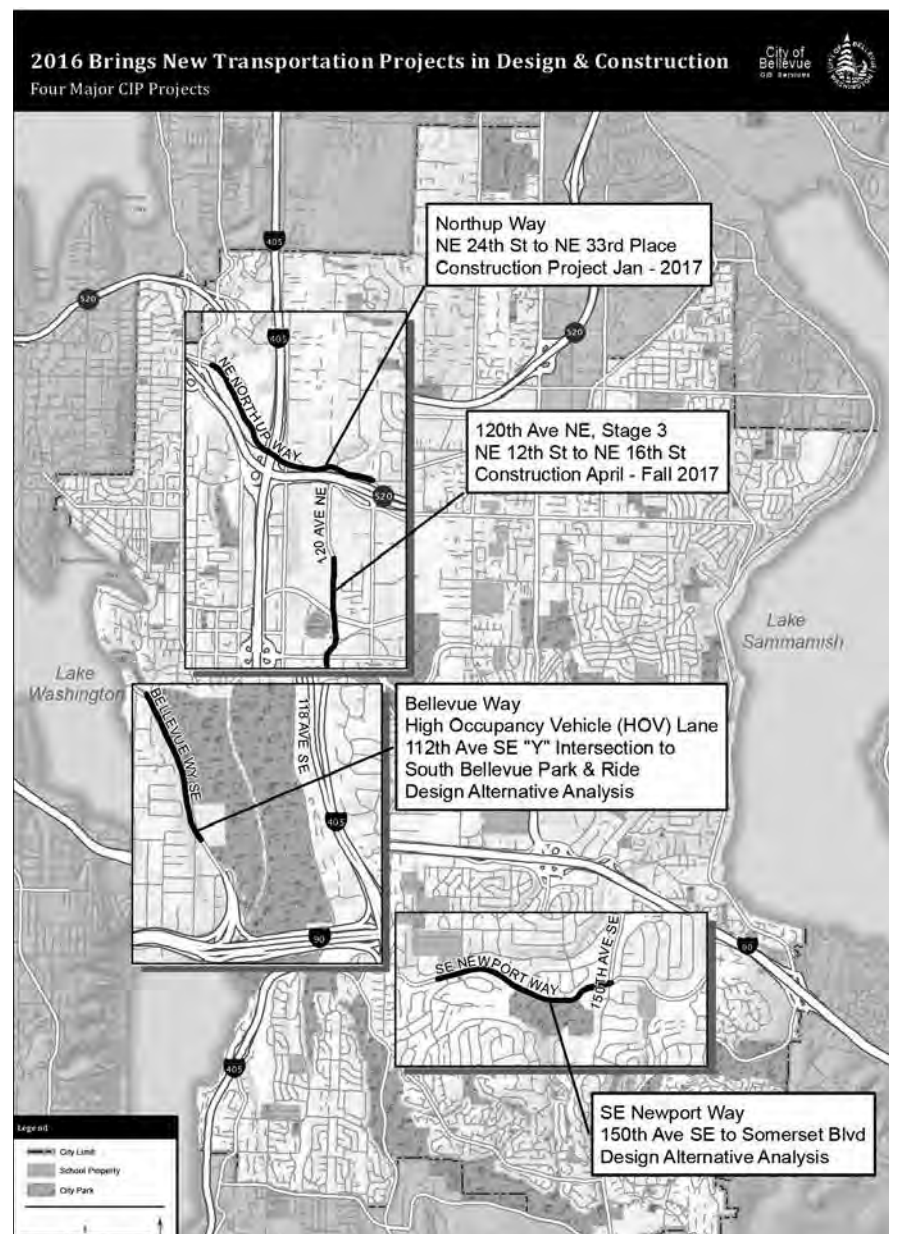
Extending the improvements on 120th Avenue: In early spring, construction will begin on 120th Avenue Northeast, between Northeast 12th and Northeast 16th streets. It’s the third of four sections of 120th Avenue to be improved. Upgrades will include widening the road to five lanes – two travel lanes in each direction, with turn pockets or a center-turn lane – bike lanes, sidewalks, landscaping and storm water system enhancements. The project is slated for completion in fall 2017.

Pedestrian Walkway for Newport Way: Design of a long-awaited project in the Eastgate neighborhood to add a walkway and bike lanes on Southeast Newport Way, from Somerset Boulevard to 150th Avenue Southeast, will get rolling this spring. Other elements of the design will include crosswalks, turn lanes and better street lighting, as well as new landscaping and water quality treatment.

Public involvement will begin in early spring to develop a design for the project. For questions about the work, contact Paul Krawczyk, project manager (425-452-7905 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov).

Bellevue Way Southeast HOV Lane: Public outreach will begin this month to evaluate the need for a high-occupancy vehicle lane in the southbound curb lane on Bellevue Way Southeast, from the “Y” intersection at 112th Avenue Southeast to the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride main entrance. The project would include a shoulder or sidewalk. (Sound Transit will build an HOV lane between the park-and-ride and Interstate 90 as part of the East Link light rail project.)

By adding an HOV lane segment, the city could help alleviate congestion and improve access to and from I-90 and the park-and-ride. The city’s public engagement process will assist in developing design alternatives, evaluating environmental impacts and selecting a preferred option.



For questions about the city’s HOV project, contact Marina Arakelyan, project manager (425-452-4632 or Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov).

For general questions about the projects listed above, please contact Tresa Berg (425-452-4638 or Tberg@bellevuewa.gov).

Utility rate relief offered to low-income seniors, disabled

The City of Bellevue offers low-income seniors (62 and older) and low-income permanently disabled persons relief on their utility costs for water, wastewater, and drainage.

Rate relief offers up to 75 percent off utility costs for seniors and permanently disabled persons who meet specific residency and income guidelines. The form of relief and household income guidelines depend on how utility costs are paid:

- If you pay a Bellevue utility bill directly, you may qualify for a rate reduction on your 2016 utility bills if your 2015 household income was \$30,860 or less for one person or \$35,280 or less for two persons.
- If your utility costs have been paid through rent or other third party, you may qualify for a rate rebate check on 2015 utility costs if your 2014 household income was

\$30,860 or less for one person or \$35,280 or less for two persons.

Additional requirements apply. Complete program guidelines and application materials are available in February at bellevuewa.gov/utilityrelief.htm or by calling Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.

How the EBCC Works

By Bill Capron, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

A new year is upon us and I hope everyone is looking forward to great things in 2016.

The East Bellevue Community Council finished 2015 with some big decisions and has more in the pipeline for 2016.

Before I talk about what the EBCC has done in 2015, I'd like to explain what the EBCC can and can't do. This may surprise you.

The EBCC has veto power over some land use decisions within its boundaries. What does this mean?

This means that if a permit is applied for within EBCC boundaries, which requires a conditional use permit, preliminary plat, planned unit development, comprehensive plan amendment or zoning ordinance, the EBCC has final say about approval within its boundaries.

For example, let's say you inherit your uncle's house. It's a very old farm house on a great big lot in the EBCC area.

Your uncle had been in his 90s when he passed, and the old house is in terrible disrepair. It's time to tear it down. You do some research at the city and find out the lot is big enough in area to divide into four lots under the underlying zoning. However, half of the lot is covered by a stream and steep-slope critical area. With the critical areas subtracted, you can only achieve two lots based on minimum lot size requirements.

Can you still get four lots? You may still be able to achieve four lots with a planned unit development, a special permit type that trades lot size for permanent protection of critical areas. These are parts of the property that otherwise would not be available for development, but you are given greater flexibility to develop your site due its unique characteristics.

The procedure starts at the "Service First" counter at City Hall. The city staff there will help you with the process. It takes time and money for surveyors and engineering. Early on you'll be asked to present your plans to the EBCC for a courtesy hearing. A planned unit development then must be approved by a hearing examiner, based on a recommendation from the Development Services director following a public hearing.

When this process has been completed you have to come to the EBCC for approval.

What can the EBCC do at this point? We only have two choices, yes or no. Your project comes to us on our agenda, and we have three neighbors who don't like that your plan includes removing mature trees. We review your plan, take in the public input and make a decision. The vote is 3-2 to deny your planned unit development. Why? What went wrong? The city staff worked with you to get this, and now the EBCC said no.

As chair of the EBCC, I feel the problem is with the process. We have final say but we can't change what is brought to us for approval. It's just "yes" or "no."

Of course, the courtesy hearing can help you avoid this scenario, giving the EBCC a chance to listen to your idea and give feedback on what we like or dislike about it. This gives you the opportunity to modify early in the process (perhaps by saving trees). The EBCC and the neighbors have known about your plan, and nobody is surprised. We have answers to the neighbors' objections and your plan is approved.

This brings us to Puget Sound Energy.

PSE came to the EBCC for a courtesy hearing, regarding a proposal to connect two power substations with a 115-kilovolt transmission line, for which the utility would need a conditional use permit. PSE said the project would increase the reliability of the power grid in east Bellevue.

The first substation is on the east border of our area and the second one is eight blocks outside our area. PSE chose a route directly through the center of the EBCC area, down both of our urban boulevards (148th Avenue and Northeast Eighth Street). The EBCC was not supportive of the route and expressed this to PSE representatives.

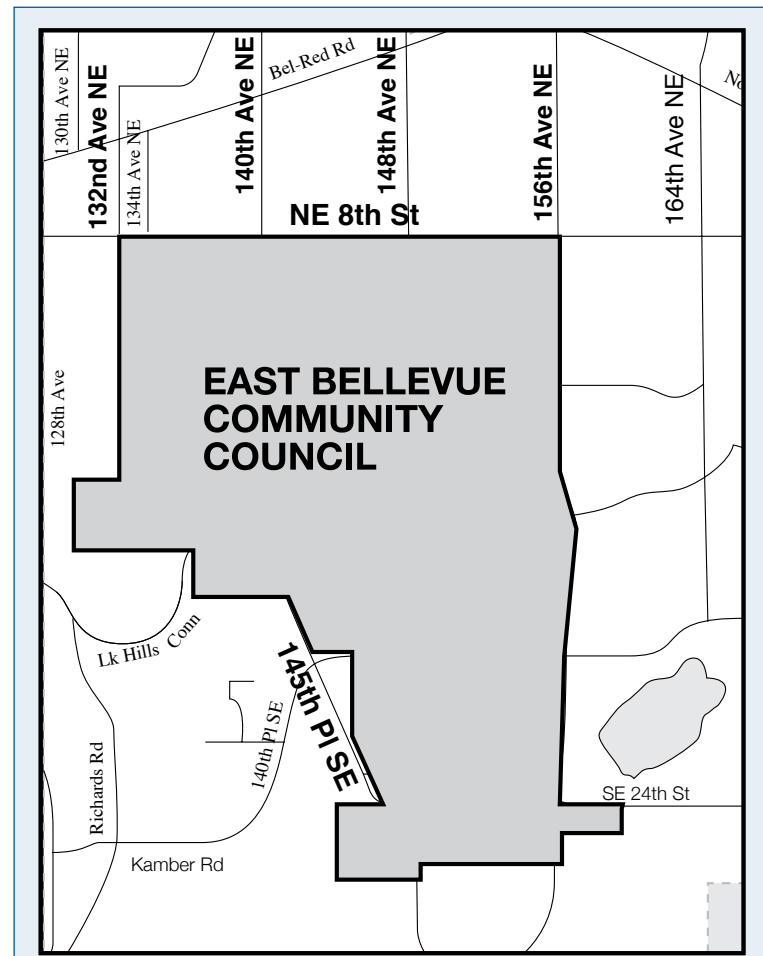
PSE applied for the needed permits from the city, obtained approval from the Hearing Examiner and the City Council, then came back to the EBCC for the conditional use permit approval. It was still the same route we had said we would not support earlier. After two long meetings, the EBCC voted 5-0 to disapprove PSE's conditional use permit (CUP).

PSE appealed the EBCC resolution to the King County Superior Court. In December the judge upheld the EBCC's decision to disapprove the CUP.

PSE has appealed the ruling in the Court of Appeals. Where are we now? The Court of Appeals will probably hear PSE's appeal sometime in late summer or early fall, and we should have a decision by the end of 2016.

The EBCC has always been, and still is, open to meaningful discussions about achieving the result PSE has said it desires – "increasing overall system reliability." The EBCC hopes that is still PSE's goal and we can come to an agreement.

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Lake Hills Clubhouse. We hope to see you there!



For more information about the East Bellevue Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo, 425-452-6466.

East Bellevue Community Council meets the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Members: Gerald Hughes, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Betsi Hummer, William Capron

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area.

You can share your views with the Community Council via e-mail at EBCC@bellevuewa.gov. To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC go to the website, bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm.



Free gardening classes

Cascade Water Alliance, which supplies the city's water, is offering free gardening classes to help you have beautiful, healthy landscapes while using water efficiently.

From February to April, 30 free classes will be taught by a team of expert gardening professionals on a wide range of topics. Classes are free, but registration is required.

For more information, to register and view a list of classes, visit cascadewater.org/classes.php or call 1-800-838-3006.



Citywide Projects Update

Throughout the city, there are many projects in various stages of development. This update includes all projects with an estimated budget of \$250,000 or more, sorted by neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact the project manager.

Bridle Trails

- Pikes Peak Reservoir and Pump Station Replacement:** Rehabilitating existing Pikes Peak 1 million gallon steel reservoir. Replace Pump Station adjacent to the reservoir. Public outreach and alternative analysis 2016. \$5.7 million. Jay Hummel, Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov
- Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016:** Repairing sewer defects throughout the city's sewer service area. Construction est. spring/summer 2016. \$1.1 million (est.) Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Bel-Red

- Mid Lakes Pump Station Capacity Improvements:** Replacing pump station to increase capacity for growth in BelRed. Construction may be dependent on redevelopment rates in the BelRed Corridor rezone area. \$4 million (est.) Design underway. Vanaja S. Rajah, Vrajah@bellevuewa.gov
- 120th Ave NE: NE 7th St - NE 12th St (Stage 2):** Widening roadway to five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, sidewalks and utility work. Construction through 2016. \$36.5 million. bellevuewa.gov/4th-and-120th-NE-corridor.htm Paul Krawczyk, Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov
- 120th Ave NE: NE 12th - NE 16th (Stage 3):** Widening roadway to four or five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, sidewalks and utility work. Design completed. \$14.5 million. bellevuewa.gov/4th-and-120th-NE-corridor.htm Paul Krawczyk, Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov
- NE Spring Blvd: 116th to 120th Ave NE (Zone 1):** Widening NE 12th St to five lanes from 116th Ave NE to a new intersection with NE Spring Blvd. From NE 12th St to 120th, it will be a new four-lane roadway with a multimodal path along the north side, with a bridge over the East Link light rail alignment. Final design by March 2016. \$31.6 million. bellevuewa.gov/spring-boulevard.htm Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov
- NE Spring Blvd: 120th to 124th Aves NE (Zone 2):** Completing final design for future addition of a new four-lane roadway with center median, outside lanes for shared non-motorized use, landscaping, sidewalks and on-street parking along the north side, with underground utilities and signalized intersection improvements. At 60% design. \$3.4 million. bellevuewa.gov/spring-boulevard.htm Rick Logwood, Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov
- 124th Ave NE: NE Spring Blvd to NE 18th St:** Widening 124th Ave NE to five lanes. Design complete spring 2016. Construction summer 2016 Pending ROW acquisition. \$19.94 million (est.) Marina Arakelyan, Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov
- 124th Ave NE and SR 520 Interchange:** Complete diamond interchange with westbound exit ramp and eastbound on ramp. Pre-design complete. Awaiting direction by the State Legislature. Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Crossroads

- 140th Ave NE:** Installing two new mid-block crossings north of NE 8th St and NE 12th St., with sidewalk and curb ramps, median, lighting, and flashing beacons. Construction winter 2016. \$410,000. Darek Jarzynski, Djarzynski@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown

- Downtown Park "Complete the Circle":** Complete circular promenade and canal, and expand the parking lot off of 100th Ave NE. Construction TBD. \$5 million bellevuewa.gov/downtown-park-complete-circle.htm Ken Kroeger, Kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov
- Downtown Park Inspiration Playground:** Building a new playground with universally accessible design. Construction will depend on Rotary fundraising. bellevuewa.gov/inspiration-playground.htm Pam Fehrman, Pfehman@bellevuewa.gov
- Downtown Transportation Plan:** Projects planned for 2016 include widening and creating a gentle slope on the steep pedestrian and bicycle ramp on NE 6th Street just west of 108th Avenue NE; Replacing brick pavers and street trees, and improving lighting along the north sidewalk of the Transit Center; and improving the intersection of 108th Avenue NE and NE 4th Street for pedestrians. bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm Kevin McDonald, Kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate

- Horizon View #3 Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation:** Installing new pumps and standby generator. Construction underway. \$1.2 – 1.45 million. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
- Horizon View #1 Reservoir and Water Booster Pump Station:** Designing for replacement of reservoir and pump station. Construction early 2016. \$2.3-\$4.5 million James B. Nicolls, JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov
- Cougar Mountain #3 Pump Station Rehabilitation or Replacement:** Design 2016, Construction 2017. \$1.3 million James B. Nicolls, JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov
- SE Newport Way Improvements: 150th Ave SE to Somerset Blvd:** Conducting a design alternatives analysis for roadway and pedestrian/ bicycle improvements. Public involvement begins spring 2016. \$8.1 million. Paul Krawczyk, Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov
- Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016:** Repairing sewer defects throughout the City. Project is currently in design. Construction anticipated to begin spring/summer 2016. \$1.1 million (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Factoria

- Factoria Boulevard Storm Conveyance Improvements:** This project will improve the storm water conveyance system to reduce or eliminate flooding along Factoria Boulevard between SE 38th Street and Richards Creek. Construction early 2017. \$1.2 million (est.). Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov

Lake Hills

- Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016:** Repairing sewer defects throughout the City. Project is currently in design. Construction spring/summer 2016. \$1.1 million (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Newport Hills

- Lake Heights Wastewater Pump Station:** Rehabilitating wastewater pumping station to meet current standards. Currently in design phase and preparing for permitting. Construction 2016/2017. \$750,000 (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Northeast Bellevue

- Northup Way Connection to the SR 520 Trail:** Adding bike lanes and sidewalks from NE 24th Street to NE 33rd Place to connect the SR 520 trail with the new regional trail at 108th Ave NE. Also adding two mid-block crossings and a pedestrian bridge over Eastside Rail Corridor. Construction February 2016. Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov
- Eastside Rail Corridor Interim Trail:** King County project to remove existing rails from the corridor and construct interim (gravel) trail from 108th Avenue NE (near the South Kirkland P& R) to SR 520. Construction 2017. Mike Ingram, Mingram@bellevuewa.gov

Northwest Bellevue

- Bellevue Way NE/NE 24th Street Sidewalk:** Adding 80 feet of new sidewalk between 103rd Ave Ne and Bellevue Way on the north side of NE 24th St. Construction underway. \$300,000 Greg Lucas, Glucas@bellevuewa.gov
- Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation:** Rehabilitating the existing sewer system using trenchless construction to minimize disturbances. Design; Construction winter 2016/2017. \$720,000 (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
- Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Replacement:** Replacing existing sewer system using open trench construction. System needed to be excavated and replaced. A section of AC water main included. Design; Construction spring/summer 2017. \$1.3 million (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Sammamish/East Lake Hills

Bellevue Airfield Park: Designing and constructing sports fields, trails, picnic facilities and storm water improvements over existing landfill. Phase 1 design underway. \$1.6 million bellevuewa.gov/airfield-park-master-plan.htm Pam Fehrman, Pfehman@bellevuewa.gov

Somerset/Sunset

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail – Factoria Blvd SE to 150th Ave SE: Designing new 12' wide trail from Factoria Blvd SE to the vicinity of 150th Ave SE. Includes lighting, crosswalks, urban design features and landscaping. Design complete Summer 2016. \$1.2 million design only. bellevuewa.gov/mts-greenway-trail.htm Chris Masek, Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Somerset Reservoir No. 1 Pressure Reducing Station (PRV) Relocation: Relocating the existing PRV out of the existing reservoir so the existing reservoir can be removed from service. Currently in design phase with construction anticipated summer/fall 2016. Estimated construction costs are \$100,000 Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail – I-405 to 132nd Ave SE: Designing new 12' wide trail from I-405 to the vicinity of 132nd Ave SE. Includes lighting, bridge crossings, landscaping and urban design feature. Design complete December 2016. \$1.2 million design only. bellevuewa.gov/mts-greenway-trail.htm Chris Masek, Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

Meydenbauer Bay Park - Phase 1: Designing to reflect adopted Master Plan, including park expansion west of 99th Ave NE. Construction 2017. \$12 million bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer-park-projects.htm Robin Cole, Rcole@bellevuewa.gov

Meydenbauer Bay Park Sewer Line Replacement: Replacing 1,200 feet of sewer lake line through Meydenbauer Bay Park and Bellevue Marina to the Grange Pump Station at SE Bellevue Place, in conjunction with the Grange Pump Station Improvements project. Construction 2016-2017. \$2 million Jay Hummel, Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

Grange Pump Station Improvements: Rehabilitating existing sewer pump station with new pumps, wet well, electrical, instrumentation and controls system, in conjunction with the Meydenbauer Bay Park Sewer Line Replacement project. Construction 2016-2017. \$2.3 million. Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov

Sewer Lake Line Condition Assessment, Phase 2—Lake Washington: Assessing condition of 14 miles of buried sewer pipe from Yarrow Point to Renton. 2015-2016. \$533,594 Debbie Harris, Dharris@bellevuewa.gov

Bellefield Pump Station Capacity Improvements: Replacing sewer pump station at SE 15th St and 112th Ave SE with larger station to meet increased future-projected sewer flows. Construction complete spring 2016. \$8 million. Jay Hummel, Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

East CBD Sewer Trunk Line Improvements: Replacing 2,200 feet of sewer pipe with larger diameter pipes serving east side of downtown. Construction complete winter 2016. \$3 million Jay Hummel, Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

Surrey Downs Park Development: Design and construction of park improvements. Design and permitting 2015-2016. \$7 million. bellevuewa.gov/surrey_downs_master_plan.htm Scott VanderHyden, Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV Lane: Conduct a design alternative analysis for a southbound inside high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane and an outside shoulder or sidewalk from the Bellevue Way/112th Ave SE "Y" to the South Bellevue Park & Ride main entrance. Begin design and public involvement February 2016. \$4.4 million. Marina Arakelyan, Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016: Repairing sewer defects throughout the City. Begin design and public involvement (HOV) lane and an outside shoulder or sidewalk from the Bellevue Way/112th Ave S (est.) Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

West Lake Sammamish

Issaquah Master Meter(s): Installing master meter(s) and other appurtenances in water system which supplies water to the area recently relinquished to the City of Issaquah. Design; construction spring/summer 2016. Jointly funded by Bellevue and Issaquah. \$300,000 (est.) Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Wilburton

NE 6th St Extension: I-405 to 120th Ave NE: Extending NE 6th St as an HOV/transit-only facility from the I-405 interchange east over 116th Ave NE to 120th Ave NE, Awaiting direction by the State Legislature. bellevuewa.gov/ne-sixth-st-extension.htm Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Wilburton Sewer Capacity Upgrade: Replacing 4,400 feet of sewer pipe with larger-diameter pipe to meet sewer capacity for redevelopment in Wilburton. Construction spring 2016. \$9.4 million Brandon Cole, Bcole@bellevuewa.gov

Woodridge

Woodridge Open Space Sewer Pipeline Replacement: The project involves replacing 1,600 feet of existing sewer pipeline that is currently leaking and situated in the Woodridge Open Space. Design; Construction early 2017. \$1.2 million (est.) Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov

Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2015, Phase 1: Repairing existing sewer system in advance of street pavement overlays throughout the city. Construction 2016. \$1.2 million (est.) Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016: Repairing sewer defects throughout the City street pavement overlays throughout the leaking and siConstruction anticipated to begin spring/summer 2016. Estimated construction costs \$1.1 million. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Kelsey Creek Glendale Country Club 8th Tee Assessment: An evaluation of the recently constructed fish passage improvements and impacts to 8th tee channel stability. Study phase only at this time. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

123rd Ave SE Sidewalk: SE 20th Pl to SE 26th St: Adding sidewalk on east side of roadway with traffic safety measures. Construction February 2016. \$1.37 million. Mike Rodni, Mrodni@bellevuewa.gov

Various Locations

East Link Light Rail: Working collaboratively with Sound Transit to advance final design of the project from I-90 through the Bel-Red Corridor. Construction early 2016. \$2.8 billion. bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm, soundtransit.org/eastlink Marie Jensen, Mjensen@bellevuewa.gov

SR 520 Bridge Replacement & HOV Program: Rebuilding floating bridge and replacing highway and interchanges between I-5 and I-405. Construction underway. \$4.65 billion. wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge.htm Rick Logwood, Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov

AC Water Main: Replacing 1.5-1.6 miles of aging asbestos cement water main with ductile iron pipe. 2016 Phase 1 Design - \$1.9 million; 2015 Phase 2 Construction- \$2.2 million; 2015 Phase 3 Construction- \$2.3 million Abe Santos, Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

LED Streetlight Conversion: Working with Puget Sound Energy to install light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures in street lights city-wide. Installing through 2016. \$596,000 bellevuewa.gov/ledconversion.htm Kam Szabo, Kszabo@bellevuewa.gov

PRV Rehabilitation and Replacement 2014 & 2016: Replacing aging pressure reducing valve stations to regulate water pressure in various neighborhoods. 2014 - Construction, \$740,000; 2016 - Construction Fall 2016, \$400,000 Abe Santos, Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

SCATS Traffic Adaptive Signals: Monitoring traffic entering intersections and adjusting signal timing in real time. Four more signals installed in 2016. Fred Liang, Fliang@bellevuewa.gov

148th Ave SE/ Main St and 148th Ave SE/SE 8th Street Traffic Signal Replacement: Replace the traffic signals and repave at 148th Ave and Main St and at 148th Ave SE and SE 8th St. Construction Summer 2016. Chris Masek, Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov



Community Calendar

Myth vs. Fact: The Great Pacific Petroleum Patch

Feb 28, 2-3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Learn more about a massive collection of marine debris made up of microplastics that travels from urban areas to the North Pacific Ocean.
Free. No pre-registration required. Best for ages 12 years and older.
mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565

Living with Urban Wildlife

March 6, 2-3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Learn about animals adapting and thriving in urban environments and how we can peacefully co-exist.
All ages welcome. Free.
Preregistration required:
425-452-2565

March Mania Plant Sale

March 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
Featuring unique specialty plants and spring ephemerals.
Family event with children's corner.
northwestperennialalliance.org

Madeline

March 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 7 p.m.;
March 19, 20 and 26 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages; \$12 per ticket
425-452-7155 or
byt@bellevuewa.gov

Bellevue Botanical Garden Workshops and Lectures

12001 Main St.
425-451-3755
March 3: Choosing Drought Tolerant Plants for Northwest Gardens, 10-12 p.m.
March 16: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Growing the World's Best Vegetables, 7 p.m.
March 24: Build a Succulent Terrarium, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
March 26: Create a Miniature Fairy Garden, 10-11:30 a.m.
April 16: Organic Gardening 101, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
May 18: Common and Uncommon Plants from Near and Far, 7 p.m.
May 26: Dahlias 201, 6:30-8 p.m.
Workshops and lectures provided in conjunction with various partners.
Prices vary.
bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html

Priority Bicycle Corridor Open House

March 23, 5-7 p.m.
City Hall
Opportunity for public to learn about proposed improvements to city's bicycle network and help prioritize projects.

Tuesday Trails Senior Hiking Series

Tuesdays, April 19-June 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Meet at North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE
Ride to a local trailhead in scenic areas such as Issaquah Alps or the Cascades, then go on a fun hike specifically chosen for adults.
Ages 50+. \$5. Pre-registration is required.
csabochik@bellevuewa.gov

Kelsey Creek Farm Park Annual Sheep Shearing

Saturday, April 30, 11-4 p.m. The sheep at Kelsey Creek Farm are getting haircuts just in time for warmer weather. Enjoy fiber crafts, tractor/wagon rides, pony rides, animal areas, sheep herding and more.
410 130th Place SE
425-452-7688
parkstrails.myparksandrecreation.com/Details.aspx?pid=23
No entrance fee. Cost varies for activities and food. No ATM on site.

Romeo and Juliet

April 29, 30, May 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.;
April 30, May 1 and 7 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. \$12 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or
byt@bellevuewa.gov



Sheep shearing at the Kelsey Farm.

Oklahoma!

April 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 7 p.m.;
April 17, 23 and 24 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. \$12 per ticket
425-452-7155 or
byt@bellevuewa.gov

Earth Day-Arbor Day

April 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Volunteer projects in various locations, 9-11 a.m.;
Community celebration, 11:30 a.m.
Lewis Creek Park
5808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Volunteer registration required by March 14
425-452-4195 or parks_stewardship@bellevuewa.gov

Out Fit

Saturday April 30, 10am-11:30 am Hiking, Lewis Creek Park
Saturday May 14, 10am-11:30am Biking, Lake Hills Green Belt
Saturday June 18, 10am-11:30am Hiking, Coal Creek Natural Area
Pre-registration is required. \$5 per person
Register at myparksandrecreation.com or 425-452-6885

Mother's Day Social at Bellevue Botanical Garden

Sunday, May 8, 1-4 p.m.
12001 Main Street
425-452-2750
bellevuewa.gov/botanical_garden.htm
Free event; donations welcome.

Beauty and the Beast

May 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7 p.m.;
May 15, 21 and 22 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. \$12 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or
byt@bellevuewa.gov

Spring and Summer Recreation Programs Registration Begins

(May through August)
March 7— Resident registration
March 16— Non-resident registration
425-452-6885 or
myparksandrecreation.com

Fresh Produce Stands

Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm

(Operated by Cha Family Farms)
Mercer Slough Nature Park
2380 Bellevue Way SE
425-460-2266

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and Lake Hills Farm Fresh Market

(Operated by Cha Family Farms)
Lake Hills Greenbelt, 2 locations:
700 148 Ave. SE and 156th Ave SE/
SE 16th St. 425-260-2266

Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

April – October, Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
425-451-3755

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Walks

Saturdays, 2-3 p.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station
15416 SE 16th St.
Guided tour of the Greenbelt. Learn the history of the park, tour community gardens, and learn about local wildlife. No registration necessary. All ages welcome. Free.
Note: No walk on April 16.
425-452-7225

Spring/Summer Day Camps Registration

Registration for Bellevue's spring and summer day camps began this month. bellevuewa.gov/parks_connections.htm

2016 Picnic Shelter Reservations

Planning a special occasion or casual summer gathering at one of Bellevue's beautiful parks? Picnic shelters are now available for reservation. For more information, call 425-452-6914

REMEMBER
to license
your pet



City Contact Information

City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Service First (general information): 452-6800

City of Bellevue website: bellevuewa.gov

City Council Office: 452-7810

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.
2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

East Bellevue Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.
Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Library Board: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Network On Aging: 1st Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6464

City Manager: 452-7228

East Bellevue Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services: 452-6800

New permit applications: 452-4898

Inspection requests, application and inspection status, pay fees: 452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: MyBuildingPermit.com

Application and inspection status: MyBuildingPermit.com

Code Compliance: 452-4570

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911

Business and Information: 452-6892

Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or bellevuewa.gov

Information Technology: 452-4626

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 452-4200

Recreation Program Registration/Parks Info: 452-6885

Youth Sports: 452-6885

Ballfield Rental: 452-6914

Picnics/Facility Rentals: 452-6914

Park Maintenance: 452-6855

Human Services: 452-6884

Cultural Diversity: 452-7886

Probation: 452-6956

Community Centers:

Crossroads Community Center: 452-4874

Highland Community Center: 452-7686

North Bellevue Community Center: 452-7681

South Bellevue Community Center: 452-4240

Marina Hotline: 452-4883

Planning & Community Development: 452-7892

Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

Emergency Only: 911

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-2979; Residential 452-6915

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-7658

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

Volunteering: 452-5375

Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS

Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

bellevuewa.gov/itsyourcity.htm

Bellevue City Council



John Stokes
Mayor



John Chelminiak
Deputy Mayor



Conrad Lee



Jennifer Robertson



Lynne Robinson



Vandana Slatter



Kevin Wallace

Fire department ranked among best

By Ryan Armstrong, Fire Public Information Officer

As a result of an evaluation conducted in November and December, the Bellevue Fire Department is rated among the top four in the state. The Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau gave the department high marks for its training, maintenance, water supply, the skills of its personnel and its emergency communications.



The Rating Bureau assigns a numerical classification of 1 through 10, with 1 indicating exemplary fire protection capabilities while 10 indicates insufficient capabilities. The Bellevue department, last evaluated in 2003, retained a Class 2 rating. Of the 411 fire departments in the state, only Bellevue, Federal Way, Olympia and Seattle have Class 2 ratings. No fire departments in the state hold a Class 1 rating.

A top rating generally means lower fire insurance premiums for residents and businesses. In some cases, the savings between a Class 2 and Class 3 can be up to 12 percent.

Five of the six other area cities that contract with Bellevue for fire protection – Medina, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Newcastle – saw their ratings improve from Class 3 to a Class 2.

Credit for the high ratings also goes to the Utilities, Development Services and Civic Services departments, along with the Coal Creek Water District and NORCOM, our regional dispatching agency. Fire Chief Mark Risen also expressed appreciation to the City Council for its continued investment in the department.

The grading process is based on a comprehensive assessment of four major areas: fire department, water supply, emergency communications and fire safety control. The Fire Department is evaluated on its personnel, responses to alarms, training, apparatus maintenance and distribution of fire stations.

The water supply is evaluated on fire suppression capabilities, hydrant locations and maintenance. Emergency communications is evaluated on handling and dispatching fire alarms, personnel and training. Fire prevention efforts are evaluated on public education, fire and building code enforcement, and abilities to inspect new and existing buildings.

Bellevue IT'S YOUR CITY

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or ciosso@bellevuewa.gov

Editor: Claude Iosso

City Manager: Brad Miyake

Acting Chief Communications Officer:

Sonja Hanson

Graphics: Ted Van Dyken/
Solvita Upenieks

Contributors: Bobbi Pochman,
Doug Fox, Lionel Forde, Charmaine
Arredondo



It's Your City is printed on recycled paper.
Please recycle.