Five years of Cultural Conversations

The Bellevue Diversity Initiative, adopted by the City Council late last year, seeks to leverage the city’s growing diversity and recommends dozens of actions for government and the community to implement.

One successful program that already is helping women of varied backgrounds become better connected with their changing community is Cultural Conversations. The city’s Neighborhood Outreach Program partnered with interested women to launch Cultural Conversations in 2010. Since then, the group has held regular gatherings and the list of participants has grown to more than 300 women from around the world.

Storytelling is at the heart of Cultural Conversations and attendees treat the gatherings as opportunities to experience the culture of others and understand different perspectives.

In February, a special edition of Cultural Conversations was held at City Hall. “An Evening of Connections Across Cultures” included both men and women and featured the compelling stories of immigrants who are now Bellevue residents. Adriana Prengler spoke of losing her cultural identity but creating a better future when she moved here from Argentina. Nura Adam, from Somalia, bridged cultures when she became good friends with Jane York. Finally, Kwawja “Shams” Shamsuddin, a long-time city volunteer, escaped upheaval in India and Pakistan before launching a successful career and becoming a community leader here.

The stories were followed by table discussions where participants explored how diversity and culture impact their daily lives.

Mayor Claudia Balducci spoke at the gathering, noting that Bellevue benefits economically, culturally and socially from its diversity. Cultural Conversations helps residents learn from each other and helps Bellevue grow as a community.

Carol Ross, part of the Neighborhood Outreach team, said feedback from the event was extremely positive. “People who took part in the table conversations told me it was a powerful experience. They said there is no other place in the city where people can sit down and talk across cultures and begin to strengthen community.”

Information about Cultural Conversations is available online (www.bellevuewa.gov/cultural-conversations). Contact Barb Tuininga or Carol Ross with the Neighborhood Outreach team at 425-452-6836; or email neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Revving up Bellevue’s startup culture

One important focus of the Economic Development Plan adopted last year by the city council has been to encourage more of a startup culture and entrepreneurial environment in Bellevue.

This “Next Generation” strategy is designed to build on Bellevue’s largest industry grouping: information technology, including software, gaming and mobile technology.

In recent months, city staff and private sector promoters have collaborated on a variety of projects to help spur that spirit of entrepreneurialism. They include:

- **Tech Hive:** In September, City Hall was the scene for a new event called Bellevue Tech Hive. It brought together entrepreneurs from China to share ideas with local venture capitalists.
- **Startup Weekend Bellevue:** In October, Bellevue again played host to more than 200 budding entrepreneurs who took over City Hall for a weekend before wrapping up at Bellevue College. It was a chance for entrepreneurs to work together to turn their ideas into action and pitch concepts to a panel of judges.
- **Impact Hub:** And in December, Bellevue’s first startup incubator was launched by Impact Hub in an under-utilized city building just east of Interstate 405. The new facility already has a few dozen individual members and several new businesses. The incubator has attracted international attention. Recently, a delegation from Busan, Korea, visited Impact Hub to learn how they can encourage entrepreneurialism as part of their city’s economic development strategy.
- **extraSlice Smart Space:** Also in December, another incubator called extraSlice Smart Space held its grand opening in the Bel-Red corridor. The new facility already has a few dozen individual members and several new businesses. The incubator has attracted international attention. Recently, a delegation from Busan, Korea, visited Impact Hub to learn how they can encourage entrepreneurialism as part of their city’s economic development strategy.

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The Positive Power of Diversity

By Conrad Lee

Last year, my fellow councilmembers and I created a vision statement. If you haven’t read it yet, it’s worth a look. Its opening words are: "Bellevue 2035 – The City Where You Want to Be. Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength."

The document is important to our community. It sets out the council’s vision for seven strategic target areas and it includes two-year priorities to help us start implementing the vision. One of the seven target areas – Achieving Human Potential – supports the Bellevue Diversity Initiative with a plan to increase community connections and outreach. Recently, we adopted this plan, called The Diversity Advantage.

The council vision and the diversity plan mean a lot to me on a personal level. As many of you know, I was born in China and moved to Bellevue in 1967. The change I’ve seen in our population, particularly in the city’s ethnic makeup, is amazing.

When I moved to Bellevue in 1967, people of Asian descent comprised about 1 percent of the city’s population. Today, people of Asian descent make up more than 29 percent of Bellevue’s 134,400 residents. Over the past 60 years, the overall share of minorities who live in Bellevue has jumped from 2.7 percent to 42.2 percent.

Bellevue has not just become more ethnically diverse. The percent of the population who are 65 or older has increased from 3 percent in 1970 to 14 percent today, with the average of all residents rising from 25 to 38; and the city’s foreign-born population has jumped from 6.9 percent to 35.5 percent.

I firmly believe our diversity makes us strong. We are a nation of immigrants and our country is stronger because of it. That’s a good thing, and Bellevue has prospered as it has grown more diverse. Median household income has grown by 25 percent since 1980, rising from $72,991 to $91,260 adjusted for inflation.

International trade and foreign direct investment – important components of our regional economic development strategy – bring jobs and economic growth to our region. Bellevue’s diversity and overseas connections mean we are well-positioned as we continue to grow and strengthen our ties with the rest of the world.

Bellevue is a different place than it was when I arrived, and, in my opinion, it’s a better place. It has transitioned from a bedroom community with a high percentage of Boeing employees, to a multicultural urban center, all while maintaining strong neighborhoods. We still have the Boeing workers, but we’ve added software, telecom and gaming workers, doctors, lawyers and other professionals from across the region and across the world.

While our population has changed, there is a core set of community attributes that are the same today as they were when I moved to Bellevue.

Our city has engaged residents, excellent schools, a great park system, energetic neighborhoods and a vibrant business community. Our dynamic downtown is attracting new businesses and new residents at a rapid pace. The city is well-run and well-governed based on thoughtful planning, consistent expectations and high standards.

But Bellevue’s successful track record of growing into a more diverse community didn’t occur by chance. Starting in 1993, when I was first elected to the council, with the city’s original Diversity Action Plan, the council made an effort to recognize changes, and invest in programs and projects to keep Bellevue moving in the right direction. With fast-changing demographics, this work continues.

The council directed that today’s Diversity Initiative be “formed to study Bellevue’s diverse community culture and recommend a set of actions for the city to pursue.” The resulting plan focuses on several key areas: cultural competency, human services, public safety, education, economic development and civic engagement. People are fundamental to our success. We must help our residents maximize their potential.

Demographic shifts bring both benefits and challenges. To manage through these changes, we need to recognize them and figure out the next steps. We need to make decisions that are logical, equitable and systematic to ensure our growth is positive and smooth.

The tagline for The Diversity Advantage report highlights the “positive power of diversity.” For me, that power is found when we work together and learn from one another. We have a wealth of opportunities for diversity to grow and flourish – just like our city. Our diversity is our strength!

The council vision can be found at www.bellevuewa.gov/council-vision.htm. The Diversity Initiative plan can be found at www.bellevuewa.gov/cultural_diversity.htm.

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Council Roundup

Unanimous approval for city budget

After several months of collecting input from the public, stakeholder groups and staff budget teams, the City Council on December 3 unanimously adopted the 2015-2016 Operating Budget and 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program Budget.

The council’s work, which was heavily influenced by their recently forged vision of Bellevue’s future in 2035, also included five consecutive weeks of budget deliberations to come up with a plan that reflects the council’s commitment to sound fiscal management and being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Previously, councilmembers held three budget workshops, several check-ins with staff and three public hearings.

Earlier this year, the council crafted a common vision of the city where you want to be,” said Mayor Claudia Balducci. “With this budget, we have significantly advanced most of the council’s shared priorities.

“The budget will increase public safety resources, make progress on transportation, light rail and road capacity, create marvelous new places such as a major waterfront park at Meydenbauer Bay, and support a new, larger children’s museum downtown. Support of this budget reflects our vision. I’m very proud of what we have accomplished.”

The budget calls for a total 3 percent increase in Bellevue’s share of the property tax to help pay for key projects and enhance public safety. A 3 percent increase adds approximately $15 annually to the property tax bill for a $500,000 home in Bellevue.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Wallace and Councilmember Conrad Lee voted against the 3 percent property tax increase, but joined the rest of the council in approving the operating budget and capital budget.

Despite the increase, the city’s overall property tax rate will fall from $1.07 per $1,000 of assessed value in 2014, to 98 cents in 2015, the lowest rate in Washington for cities with populations greater than 20,000. The lower rate is made possible because of new development and increased property values.

The first 2 percent of the 3 percent property tax increase will be available for capital projects, generating about $10 million in bonded funding for key neighborhood and citywide capital projects, including parks and fire facilities, over the next seven years. Another 1 percent of the property tax increase will be targeted to the operating side of the budget to add four firefighter positions. In 2012, the council reduced firefighting staff by eight positions to help balance the budget.
Limiting East Link impacts with mitigation

By Kate March, East Link Outreach

With the East Link light rail project in the final stages of design, Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue are working to limit the line’s impacts, such as noise and appearance, on the neighborhoods through which it will pass.

Mitigation, the effort to avoid, minimize or offset known impacts of a project, is the magic word. Mitigation is an important part of ensuring that East Link fits with the unique character of Bellevue’s neighborhoods.

East Link is a Sound Transit project, but the agency agreed to collaborate with the city on the project’s design. They have worked together over the past four years to design a light rail system that will serve as a long-term asset to the city and the region.

When the City Council and Sound Transit Board agreed to an East Link alignment in 2013, they chose a course that avoided many significant and otherwise unavoidable impacts.

For remaining impacts, efforts will be made to implement effective mitigation, such as noise walls, landscaping buffers and screening, tree replacement, park replacement and environmental treatments, among other things. This type of project mitigation is regulated through the city’s design and mitigation permitting process, a unique type of permit established specifically for light rail within the city.

Mitigation will also be required for impacts from East Link construction on streets, traffics, businesses and neighborhoods. The city regulates construction mitigation through its right-of-way, building, and clearing and grading permits.

While much planning to address East Link impacts has already occurred, developing mitigation measures and ensuring those measures are effective is a process that will continue throughout construction.

The City Council heard a presentation about East Link mitigation at its January 26 and February 9 meetings. Part of these presentations included an updated version of Sound Transit’s computer animation of how the project will look and feel once constructed, including where mitigation will occur.

To view a copy of this animation, and to learn the latest information about East Link, please visit the city’s light rail web pages www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-involvement.htm.

The city will continue design and mitigation permitting through 2015, while construction permitting will continue throughout the project. East Link construction is slated to begin early next year, although residents may still see some early utilities relocation work on 112th Avenue and in the Bel-Red area this year. Service is expected to begin in 2023.

New economic development director a familiar face

By David Guest, Public Information Officer

If Bellevue’s new economic development director looks familiar to some, there’s good reason. James Henderson, who began his new position in late December, graduated from Bellevue High School with the Class of 1985.

Henderson’s arrival follows the City Council’s adoption last July of an Economic Development Plan, the first in many years.

Chris Salomone, director of the Planning and Community Development Department, said Henderson’s wide range of experience “in areas such as business attraction and retention, export strategies and new program implementation” will be valuable in helping to implement the city’s economic development plan.

Someday the strategies the plan envisions to strengthen economic clusters in the city include: cultivating Bellevue’s next generation of entrepreneurs, positioning the city as a Pacific Rim gateway, strengthening Bellevue’s tourism and visitor sectors, and developing an economic development marketing campaign.

Prior to being hired in Bellevue, Henderson served as assistant director of the Economic Development Department in San Antonio, where he also worked in a variety of other capacities since 2005. Before that he held positions related to international development in Brussels and in Washington D.C.

Henderson earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Washington, a master’s degree in European history from George Washington University and a master’s degree in international studies from the University of Denver.

“Today, the city is dramatically more diverse, not to mention the rapid population increase. Our city council has recognized the possibilities for economic development and adopted a thoughtful strategy to maximize that potential.”

The Economic Development Plan is available on the city’s website (www.bellevuewa.gov/economic_development.htm).

Trouble next door? Mediation can help

By Andrew Kiddie, Mediation Program manager

Early last summer police and firefighters frequently visited the transitional housing project next door to Carlheen Mechkoff’s condominium. Late in the evenings Mechkoff heard loud music and saw young children outside unattended. When she learned a gunshot had caused one police visit, it was the last straw.

Mechkoff contacted the city and was connected to the Mediation Program. When discussing her concerns, we offered to contact the group that ran the housing project to see if they would meet with her and other neighbors. Mechkoff agreed. We then contacted Meghan Altimore at the housing project to see if they would meet with her and other housing group representatives acknowledged the neighbors’ concerns, and promised to work hard to ensure that the facility would be safe. The manager of the facility provided contact information, and said that the neighbors could contact him. The police worried about the unsupervised children, and said they would respond whenever called to see to their welfare.

Three months later the situation had improved. Mechkoff had seen a “huge drop” in police visits. There were no unsupervised kids out late, and it was quieter. She recalled that she and her neighbors had gone to the mediation feeling angry and confused, but had left feeling that real solutions were possible. Altimore said that her housing group team felt it was a positive meeting. For us, as mediators, it confirmed again the power of connecting people in a dialogue and building relationships.

If you have a dispute with a neighbor or some other difficult situation that may require assistance, contact the city’s Mediation Program at 425-452-4091 or email mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov.
Staff unites around vision at ‘All Hands’ meeting

By Claude Iosso, Digital Communications Coordinator

City staff gathered together on January 14 for an “All Hands” meeting that reinforced efforts to provide great service, doing our jobs in new ways if that’s what it takes.

“First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the tremendous quality and customer service all of you provide to the community day to day,” City Manager Brad Miyake said in his address. “This truly is a hallmark of Bellevue, and I really appreciate all that you do to make this happen.”

The long-range vision adopted by the City Council last year was a focus of the staff meeting. Learn more about the vision at www.bellevuewa.gov/council-vision.htm.

The meeting at the Meydenbauer Center was the first such meeting for all 1,200 city employees since 2008. From now on, Miyake, who was appointed last year, hopes to hold such meetings every two years, after the city’s biannual budget is approved.

Milestones noted from 2015 included the City Council’s adoption in May of a 20-year vision for Bellevue, including strategic target areas and immediate priorities. That vision helped shape the 2015-2016 city budget and contributed to department work plans.

The city manager also cited the importance of high performance organization (HPO) training, which 900 employees took last year. The essence of HPO is for staff to be ready and on the lookout for ways to do things more efficiently “to challenge yourself to be a better public servant, team member and leader.”

City Manager Brad Miyake speaks at the staff “All Hands” meeting on Jan. 14.

Examples of staff-inspired innovation were presented at the meeting, including the Information Technology Department’s approach to emergency management using a ship’s bell to alert staff to an emerging problem.

With the HPO principles of shared leadership, innovation and collaboration, staff can help ensure Bellevue remains, as the council declared in its vision statement, “the city where you want to be.”

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 2015 utility bills if your 2014 household income was $30,860 or less for one person or $35,280 or less for two persons.
- If you pay a Bellevue utility bill directly, you may qualify for a rate rebate check on 2014 utility costs if your 2013 household income was $30,370 or less for one person or $34,720 or less for two persons.
- Additional requirements apply. Complete program guidelines and application materials will be available in February at www.bellevuewa.gov/utilityrelief.htm or by calling Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.

Start planning neighborhood events

By Carol Ross, Neighborhood Outreach

Launched in 2009, the Neighbor Link Program is designed to bring neighbors together in a spirit of community, service and celebration. It encourages and supports efforts that build healthy, lasting connections.

The premise of the program is that neighbors who know one another are more involved in their community and will make a difference in improving the quality of life for all residents.

While many Neighbor Link-supported activities take place in the warmer months, winter is a good time to begin planning to organize neighbors for a spring or summer gathering.

Not sure how to get to know your neighbors? Here are some ideas:

- **Neighborhood party (June to October):** Call it what you like – a block party, ice cream social, picnic, neighborhood fair, harvest celebration or soup night – just make it fun.
- **Neighborhood Outreach group:** The Neighborhood Outreach group can help you do that, and help you reconnect with long-time neighbors and meet new ones. After the bash, neighbors make comments such as “We should have done this a long time ago,” or “This is my first block party,” or “We are better able to help each other as neighbors in a time of emergency.”

Neighbor Link Outreach, through the Neighbor Link program, can work with you to:

- plan and register your event;
- publicize it with colorful flyers, a banner or sandwich board;
- share tips on how to create a successful gathering;
- contact the appropriate city staff about having a police officer or firefighter attend (depending on their availability); and
- obtain a city permit to close a street using an approved barricade – and seek reimbursement of up to $50 for expenses.

**Neighborhood Green Cleanup (May to October):** This can be a great way to help foster environmental stewardship, give back to the community and beautify your neighborhood. The Neighbor Link Green Cleanup encourages large-scale green debris clean-ups of residential, single-family homes, surrounding lawn and sidewalk areas with a city-sponsored Dumpster placed in your neighborhood.

- **Community service (ongoing):** Neighborhood Outreach encourages community service to support neighbors and children in need. Examples are Hopelink’s End Summer Hunger campaign, the Renewal Food Bank and the Backpack Meals for Kids program.

- **Examples:**
  - help a neighbor in need of home maintenance or yard clean-up by participating in Jubilee Reach’s Day of Sharing and Caring (August 22), or organizing volunteers for Stewardship Saturdays at Bellevue parks.
  - For more information on any of these programs, contact Carol Ross at 425-452-7917 or cross@bellevuewa.gov.

The grand opening of the new Bellevue Youth Theatre will be Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The free event will feature a ribbon-cutting, refreshments, tours and demonstrations. Come and explore this innovative, round 12,000-square-foot building nestled in a hillside near Crossroads Community Center. The 150-seat theatre space, designed by Becker Architects of Bellevue, also has an outdoor stage.

Dan and Emily Fennel, organizers of a Newport Hills neighborhood street party.
Fire celebrates 50 years
By Lt. Richard Burke, Fire Community Liaison Officer

For the past 50 years, the Bellevue Fire Department has been responding to emergencies in and around our great city. An anniversary gala, with one of the department’s original firefighters in attendance, will be on March 14 at the Meydenbauer Center.

King County Fire District 14 became a city department in 1965, 12 years after Bellevue incorporated in recognition of the growing city’s needs. When Bellevue formed the department, the original seven volunteer firefighters were hired. Emery Goodrich, 89, the only surviving firefighter from that era, will be at the gala, sponsored in part by Overlake Medical Center.

Tickets are still on sale. Please contact Lt Richard Burke 425-452-6995 or rburke@bellevuewa.gov if you would care to share a wonderful evening of stories, memorabilia and important piece of our city’s history.

Times change, commitment remains
Today the Bellevue Fire Department responds to over 17,000 emergency calls annually. We have consistently had one of the highest rates of resuscitations from cardiac arrest of anywhere in the world.

Today our staff works around the clock to provide world-class fire protection, advanced life support, building inspection and code enforcement, emergency planning and management, public outreach and education and hazardous materials response. While the fire department has changed over the years, the camaraderie and dedication our firefighters share has been constant.

Bellevue Fire is now preparing for our new “vertical neighborhoods” downtown. Instead of rolling up to a mailbox and charging through the front door, we’re navigating elevators and 40+ stories of stairs to reach our citizens.

City aims to cut costly false alarms
By Amanda Jensen, Crime Prevention Detective

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Bright future for Bellevue’s streetlights
Over the next year, half of the streetlights in Bellevue will be converted from sodium lamps to brighter, energy-saving LEDs. When the 4,200 streetlights are all converted by early next year, the city expects to save $173,000 a year.

The City of Bellevue has approximately 5,300 streetlights, owned and maintained by Puget Sound Energy, most of which are high-pressure sodium lights.

As part of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative, PSE and city staff conducted a citywide study and found that upgrading to light-emitting diode technology would significantly cut the city’s energy usage, energy costs and maintenance costs. LED lighting also offers several financial, environmental, management and light quality benefits.

With state Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency and Solar grants, the city and PSE will work together to replace 4,066 PSE-owned lights and 176 city-owned lights with the new LED fixtures.

“Afeter plenty of planning, organizing and engineering work by both the City of Bellevue and PSE, it’s time to see the results with new energy-efficient LED luminaires going up throughout the city,” said Dawn Middbo, manager of lighting at PSE. “Kudos to Bellevue for once again being a leader in energy efficiency.”

The upgrades will begin this month or next and continue through early 2016. The upgrade work will have minimal impact on traffic or residences. Work will be phased by neighborhood and subarea.

You might notice a difference in coloration as these streetlights are replaced. LED lights are whiter than sodium lights, with a color similar to moonlight, making it easier to see true colors and details of the surroundings.

A new interactive map of this streetlight replacement project lets you search by address to see where and when streetlights in your area will be upgraded. Find this map and more information about LED streetlight at www.bellevuewa.gov/ledconversion.htm.

Questions? Contact Kam Szabo, Senior Engineer, at 425-452-4346 or kszabo@bellevuewa.gov.

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The City of Bellevue has approximately 5,300 streetlights, owned and maintained by Puget Sound Energy, most of which are high-pressure sodium lights.

As part of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative, PSE and city staff conducted a citywide study and found that upgrading to light-emitting diode technology would significantly cut the city’s energy usage, energy costs and maintenance costs. LED lighting also offers several financial, environmental, management and light quality benefits.

With state Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency and Solar grants, the city and PSE will work together to replace 4,066 PSE-owned lights and 176 city-owned lights with the new LED fixtures.

“Afeter plenty of planning, organizing and engineering work by both the City of Bellevue and PSE, it’s time to see the results with new energy-efficient LED luminaires going up throughout the city,” said Dawn Middbo, manager of lighting at PSE. “Kudos to Bellevue for once again being a leader in energy efficiency.”

The upgrades will begin this month or next and continue through early 2016. The upgrade work will have minimal impact on traffic or residences. Work will be phased by neighborhood and subarea.

You might notice a difference in coloration as these streetlights are replaced. LED lights are whiter than sodium lights, with a color similar to moonlight, making it easier to see true colors and details of the surroundings.

A new interactive map of this streetlight replacement project lets you search by address to see where and when streetlights in your area will be upgraded. Find this map and more information about LED streetlight at www.bellevuewa.gov/ledconversion.htm.

Questions? Contact Kam Szabo, Senior Engineer, at 425-452-4346 or kszabo@bellevuewa.gov.
Just beginning to reach our potential

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Councilmember

The revitalization of east Bellevue has been a priority for the East Bellevue Community Council for a number of years. EBCC meeting agendas have tackled many of the land use actions, and council members have spent numerous hours, in and out of EBCC meetings with members of the City Council, city staff, local developers and concerned citizens to help craft an approach to revitalize our community. The hard work is beginning to pay off.

Kelsey Creek Center has filled all of its retail spaces, with Great Clips hair salon and AuroZone the latest stores to open there. There are still inquiries for future openings.

Center owner Brian Franklin said, “We are very proud of what we accomplished even though it took much longer to complete than we anticipated.”

We are lucky to have such a vibrant shopping center in the heart of our community. It is like one-stop shopping where you can take care of most of your daily needs and grab a bite to eat. Or if you have eaten too much, you can work it off at 24 Hour Fitness.

I wish I could say that we have finally finished with Kelsey Creek, but alas there is more work to do as the corner property (under different owner) still is an eyesore. It may take some creativity between the developer, city staff and the community to complete the vision we have had for more than 20 years.

The Bellevue School District is making great progress with the remodel of Sammamish High School, with its beautiful, red brick façade now visible along 140th Avenue. Construction will continue for another year and a half before completion in the summer of 2016. For a very large construction project the disruptions to the neighborhood and school have been minimal.

The other school project is the demolition and replacement of Odle Middle School. The East Bellevue Community Council facilitated the community outreach, ensuring that the final project met the needs of the neighborhood. We provided a forum so that the community could raise traffic flow concerns while making sure that public safety needs could be met at the site. The compromise achieved will benefit us all.

For more details on these projects, including the updated timeline, visit the school district’s website, www.bsd405.org/about-us/facilities/construction-projects/all-projects.aspx.

The Lake Hills Village development is designed to be a central gathering place catering to neighborhood needs and services of the Lake Hills community. The mixed-use plan will include retail, office and residential space, underground and surface parking, a central pedestrian plaza with a bell tower, and a gateway terrace with a covered arcade.

Lake Hills Village has continued to rise from the ground (and underground) as many of the apartments have been completed and occupied. The underground parking facility has also been finished and throughout 2015 we should begin to see commercial tenants moving in.

Of course the very busy Lake Hills Library continues to be one of the most active libraries in the King County system. If you haven’t been there yet, you should go check it out (pun intended).

Lake Hills is more than buildings, and the East Bellevue Community Council has been active working on the issues that affect our neighborhoods. We finally were able to gain final approval on the Camp and Conference center ordinance that clarifies what is possible at Sambico and shows a blueprint for other camps in the future.

Pretty soon, we should see the final ordinance to protect our single-family neighborhoods with the interim ordinance set to expire March 23. These concerns were brought forward by your neighbors in Spiritwood to both the City Council and the East Bellevue Community Council.

We also spent considerable time on recreational marijuana ordinances, which generated great debate in the community about how to implement state law without destroying neighborhood character. There are no possible retail locations in the EBCC areas but there are a few processors near our neighborhood in the Richards Road area.

Finally, as you may have heard, Puget Sound Energy seeks to build a 115-kilovolt transmission line between its Lakeside and Phantom Lake substations. (This is not the “Energize Eastside” project involving a proposed 230-kilovolt transmission line.) If the conditional use permit for the 115-kilovolt line is approved by the City Council, the EBCC will likely vote on it this spring.

Community input is essential in order for us to make the best decisions for our future.

Come to our meetings and tell us how we can make our community better. Thanks for reading and I hope to see you soon.

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

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

Members: Gerald Hughes, Ross Gooding, Steven Kaster, Betzi Hummer, William Captree.

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, www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm.

Construction projects bring benefits, possible delays

By Tessa Berg, Transportation Public Involvement Manager

With improved streets and an expanded sewer system to accommodate population growth, Transportation and Utilities are making your life better. Brace for some traffic impacts in the meantime.

Transportation Projects

Several roadways are slated for improvements this year. Many projects are already underway, with a few more beginning soon, including:

- 120th Avenue Northeast, Stage 2: Northeast Seventh Street to Northeast 12th Street
  Periodic lane closures and night work, 9 p.m.-4 a.m. Old Bel-Red
  Road closure between 120th and 124th avenues will continue until December 2016.
- Northeast Fourth Street, Phase 2: Eastside Rail Corridor to 120th Avenue Northeast
  Periodic lane closures on 120th Avenue Northeast: April – November
- Southeast Newport Way: 150th Avenue Southeast to 152nd Avenue
  Southeast Sidewalk
  Periodic lane closures: February - September
- 124th Avenue Northeast Willburton Streetscapes Enhancement
  Lane closures and a weekend closure of the south leg of Northeast Eighth Street and 124th Avenue Northeast March – May.

For your own safety, please heed these "sidewalk closed" signs near big construction projects.

Utilities Projects

Utilities is improving the sewer system in the Bellefield area and at Downtown Park, to serve the growing downtown area and also to replace aging infrastructure. These projects are:

- Downtown Park Sewer
  Parking will remain open with temporary access. Walking path will be detoured around work area. Remainder of park will be open to public. Traffic will be detoured around work zones: January - April
- 112th Avenue Southeast Sewer (Trunkline Improvements)
  112th Avenue Southeast from just north of Southeast Eighth Street to Bellevue Way Southeast will require periodic lane closures; one lane of traffic in each direction, from about May to November. Entire project: March – April 2016

For more detailed information about these construction projects and their project managers, please refer to the citywide projects update chart on pages 8, 9 and 10.

Also, keep in mind that there are currently nine private construction sites downtown, with more expected to begin mid-2015. These sites will continue to require lane or road closures. Always be extra cautious, especially if you are walking or biking.

Please obey “Closed Sidewalk” signs. Dashing across many lanes of traffic mid-block can mean a $56 fine or worse, a serious injury. Do not step into oncoming traffic at any time.

We offer a number of resources to keep you informed about construction around the city:

- City Capital Projects Map: www.bellevuewa.gov/capital-projects-map.htm
- Traffic Advisories: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm
- Real-Time Bellevue Traffic Map: www.bellevuewa.gov/trafficmap.htm
- Twitter: @BrucTrans.
**Exploring our parks one step at a time**

By Robin Haaseth, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

With nearly 100 parks in the city, there probably aren't too many residents who can say that they have seen each one. Soon, there will be at least one who can make that claim.

Over the past year, Stuart Heath has visited nearly every park in the city—and he doesn’t just visit each park. He takes time to explore each one “corner to corner” and walk from one park to the next to see how they all connect.

Heath, an attorney who lives in the Bridle Trails neighborhood, estimates that he’s seen 85 to 90 percent of Bellevue’s parks and he plans to see the rest by early March, checking off each park as he visits on the Bellevue park guide map he carries with him. Though the effort will take almost exactly a year to complete, he believes it has been well worth it.

“I thought it was just a good way to get to know both the city and our parks system up close,” he said. After joining the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board in 2012, Heath wanted to learn more about the system he was serving.

He began visiting the parks last March, and he’s generally working his way from west to east, “with some backtracking along the way.” For example, even though he has already walked all of the parks near downtown, he hasn’t yet been to Meydenbauer Beach Park or Clyde Beach Park. “I already did that in the past, but I want to go back and pick those up on this journey, with this perspective,” he said.

Though he mostly walks the parks solo, he is occasionally joined by his wife and two young daughters, Tamryn, 2, and Morgan, 14 months, for a family picnic or playtime at the park.

“It’s been great exercise and a fun way to spend time together,” he notes. “Also, what I have learned by walking is amazing. I could never have known how well our parks connect to so many different neighborhoods by just driving by the main entrances. It is so great to see how well connected our system is and how accessible it is from so many different points.”

“I have visited many other cities’ parks systems around the country, what we have developed here and how we have maintained this system is great and it’s very well run,” he says. “I have nothing but high marks for all of the employees and contractors that maintain such a high quality standard—and our parks, trails and sidewalk systems are the best I have seen.”

When asked what the biggest surprise has been along the way, Heath said “a person just really never has to leave the city for recreation opportunities. The breadth and depth of our parks system has been a big, big realization for me. There really is something for everyone.”

To see photos Heath has taken along his journey, see the city’s “fllicks” page at www.flickr.com/photos/bellevuewashington.

For more information about Bellevue Parks & Community Services, including trail guides and driving directions, visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks-community-services.htm or email Parksweb@bellevuewa.gov.

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**Downtown intersections get more pedestrian-friendly**

Several intersections downtown will become more pedestrian-friendly – with features such as wider or raised crosswalks, curb ramps and audible “walk” messages.

The city’s Transportation Commission has identified intersections used by high numbers of pedestrians and vehicles that would benefit from design improvements, including those near the Transit Center and the future light rail stations.

These intersections are called out in the Downtown Transportation Plan to be enhanced over the next several years. Some will be under construction as early as this year.

“Crosswalk enhancements – designed to improve pedestrian safety and visibility – range from simple solutions, such as widening the crosswalk, to more elaborate components such as special paving and weather protection. The entire crossing may be raised or include way-finding landmarks. This year the intersection of 108th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Fourth Street will get more pedestrian standing space at the corners, wider crosswalks and curb ramps, special paving, new landscaping and weather protection. The intersection at Northeast Sixth Street at 110th Avenue Northeast may be raised to allow for an easy pedestrian connection between the Transit Center and the future light rail station.

For information about more downtown intersection improvements recommended in the Downtown Transportation Plan, please contact Kevin McDonald at kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov or see the study at www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm.

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**Around the city...**

**Draft comp plan update ready for review**

After two years of collecting comments from the public and analyzing policy and current conditions, city staff have drafted an update of Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan, which lays out a community vision for the next 20 years and spells out changes. The council could adopt a new Comprehensive Plan in June.

**City in running for energy prize**

The City of Bellevue is a semifinalist for the Georgetown University Energy Prize, a $5 million award to the small- or medium-size U.S. community that can cut its energy consumption the most over the next two years.

“Bellevue decided to compete for the prize because it helps get folks to think creatively about saving energy, and that way everyone wins,” said Mayor Claudia Balducci. “When we work together to be more energy-efficient, our residents save money and improve the environment.”

Bellevue’s strategy for winning includes promoting resources already available to residents from Puget Sound Energy (https://pse.com), including the HomePrint Assessment, Condominium Direct Install and Energy Advisor Hotline.

Youth volunteers in the new Eastside Energy Corps program will develop a community call to action. More information about Bellevue’s efforts and how you can save energy is at www.bellevuewa.gov/environmental.htm, or contact Paul Andesson at panderson@bellevuewa.gov.

**Photo enforcement cameras added**

The city has added three cameras to catch red-light runners and one to catch school-zone speeders after traffic-enforcement cameras installed in 2009 and 2010 greatly reduced infractions.

The new red-light cameras, installed on Northeast Eighth Street near the Transit Center and near the future light rail stations, will help drive down red-light violations. Our residents from Puget Sound Energy (https://pse.com), including the HomePrint Assessment, Condominium Direct Install and Energy Advisor Hotline.

The new red-light cameras, installed on Northeast Eighth Street in January, are at the 112th Avenue (eastbound and westbound) and 116th Avenue (westbound only) intersections.

Youth volunteers in the new Eastside Energy Corps program will develop a community call to action. More information about Bellevue’s efforts and how you can save energy is at www.bellevuewa.gov/environmental.htm, or contact Paul Andesson at panderson@bellevuewa.gov.

**Photo enforcement infractions result in a $124 fine**

Infractions issued by photo are not moving violations, and will not appear on an offender’s driving record.

**Comprehensive Plan update ready for review**

A limited number of printed copies of the draft are available at City Hall and at Bellevue public libraries. Other opportunities to comment on the draft plan include:

- Open house, 5-7 p.m., Feb. 25, City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE;
- Open house, 5-7 p.m., Feb. 26, Interlake High School, 16245 NE 24th St.; and
- Planning Commission public hearing, 6:30 p.m., March 4, City Hall.

Please share your comments by March 4. Later comments will be accepted, but may not be part of the official record. The Planning Commission will consider the draft plan over the coming weeks, then forward a recommendation to the City Council, which will have the last word on changes. The council could adopt a new Comprehensive Plan in June.

**Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan in June.**
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 $100,000 or more, sorted by neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact the project manager.

**Bridle Trails**

Pikes Peak Reservoir Structural/Seismic Modifications and Pump Station Replacement: Rehabilitating existing 1 million gallon steel reservoir and replacing Pikes Peak Pump Station adjacent to reservoir (joint project). Construction 2017-2018. $5.7 million.

Contact: Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160

**Bel-Red**

Mid Lakes Pump Station Capacity Improvements: Replace existing pump station to increase capacity for growth in Bel-Red. Construction may be dependent on redevelopment efforts in the Bel-Red Corridor rezoned area. $4 million (est.).

Contact: Vana S. Rajah, 425-452-4881

120th Ave NE: NE 7th St - NE 12th St (Stage 2): Widening the roadway to five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, and sidewalks; includes utility work. Construction through December 2016. $36.5 million. www.bellevuewa.gov/4th-and-120th-NE-corridor.htm

Contact: Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905

120th Ave NE: NE 12th St - SE 16th (Stage 3): Widening the roadway to four or five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, and sidewalks, with utility work. Design complete in 2015. $14.5 million. www.bellevuewa.gov/4th-and-120th-NE-corridor.htm

Contact: Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905

**NE Spring Blvd: 116th to 120th Ave NE (Zone 1):** Widening NE 12th St to five lanes between 116th Ave NE and a new signalized intersection at NE Spring Boulevard. NE Spring Boulevard between NE 12th St and 120th Ave NE will be a new four-lane roadway with two travel lanes in each direction and a multimodal path along the north side. Design complete in 2015 to coordinate with Sound Transit. $31.6 million. www.bellevuewa.gov/spring-boulevard.htm

Contact: Steve Costa, 425-452-2845

140th Ave NE Mid-Block Crossings: Storm pipe abandonment at 108th Ave SE at NE 2nd Pl. Construction January-March 2015. $50K

Contact: Vanaja S. Rajah, 425-452-4881

**NE Spring Blvd: 120th to 124th Ave NE (Zone 2):** Adding a four-lane roadway with center median, wider lanes for shared non-motorized use, landscaping, sidewalks, and on-street parking along the north side. Designing to 60%. $3.3 million.

Contact: Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858

www.bellevuewa.gov/spring-boulevard.htm

**NE Spring Blvd: 130th to 132nd Aves NE:** Adding a new two-lane roadway by extending NE 16th St from 120th Ave NE to 122nd Ave NE. A light rail transit station will be built in the center of the future roadway. $3.4 million. www.bellevuewa.gov/130th-Ave-and-NE-16th.htm

Contact: Steve Costa, 425-452-2845

**124th Ave NE: NE 12th St to NE Spring Blvd:** Widening 124th Ave NE to five lanes with multipurpose path/sidewalk. Constructing streetscape enhancements on 124th, between Main and NE 8th March through summer. 30% design complete. $1.4 million.

Contact: Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632

**124th Ave NE: NE Spring Blvd to NE 18th St:** Widening 124th Ave NE to five lanes. Design complete summer 2015; Construction 2016. $17.1 million (est.). City and Sound Transit developing cost sharing agreement. www.bellevuewa.gov/124th-ave-improvements.htm

Contact: Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632

**124th Ave NE and SR 520 Interchange:** Awaiting further direction by the State Legislature. $7 million. www.bellevuewa.gov/124th-ave-improvements.htm

**Storm Trenchless Repair 2014:** NE 12th Street, West of 124th Ave NE. Design will be completed by end of January 2015. $7,000.

Contact: Vana S. Rajah, 425-452-4881

**Crossroads**


Contact: Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326


Contact: Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271

140th Ave. NE Mid-Block Crossings: Installing two new mid-block crossings north of NE 8th St and in the vicinity of NE 12th St. Project includes sidewalk and curb ramp improvements, median, lighting, and a flashing beacon. Construction fall 2015. $410,000.

Contact: Dzjarzynski@bellevuewa.gov

**Cougar Mountain/Lakemont**

Storm Drainage Dig and Repair 2014: Dig and repair of storm pipes at two different locations along SE 60th Street. Construction through September. $20,000.

Contact: Vana S. Rajah, 425-452-4881

Storm Drainage Dig and Repair 2014: Dig and repair of storm pipes at two different locations along 168th Ave SE. Construction through September. $5,000.

Contact: Vana S. Rajah, 425-452-4881

**Downtown**

Downtown Park “Complete the Circle”: Design and construction to complete circular promenade and canal, and to expand the parking lot off of 100th Ave NE. Construction 2015-2016. $5 million. http://bellevuewa.gov/downtown-park-complete-circle.htm

Contact: Ken Knoeger, 425-452-4624


Contact: Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326

Downtown Transportation Plan Implementation: Implementing transportation projects to ensure mobility and enhance livability throughout 2030, with a focus on providing exceptional pedestrian and bicycle access to the Downtown light rail station. Immediate projects include: 108th Avenue NE at Main Street and at NE 4th Street, modifications to the steep ramp on the Pedestrian Corridor west of 108th Ave NE, access to the Downtown Park from Old Bellevue on 102nd Avenue NE, and a northbound bike lane on 112th Avenue NE at NE 8th Street. www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm

Contact: Kevin McDonald, 425-452-4558

108th & Main St: Modifying the existing traffic island on the north leg and providing a queuing area for southbound cyclists at the signal. Includes overlay work, an additional traffic island and landscaping. Construction winter 2015. $150,000.

Contact: Kyle Potuzak, 425-452-2027 kpotuzak@bellevuewa.gov

Storm Drainage Dig and Repair 2014: Dig and repair of storm pipes at four different locations and irrigation sleeve installation at two different locations between 112th Ave NE and 108th Ave NE. Construction January-March 2015. $50K

Contact: Vana S. Rajah, 425-452-4881

Storm Drainage Dig and Repair 2014: Storm pipe abandonment at 108th Ave SE at NE 2nd Pl. Construction through March. $5K

Contact: Ken Knoeger, 425-452-4624

Downtown Park Sanitary Sewer Replacement: Replace existing sanitary sewer, running through the center of the park. Construction through April. $710,000.

Contact: Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastgate/Cougar Mountain</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizon View #3 Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation: Installing new pumps and standby generator. Planning, design &amp; permitting. Construction starting summer. $1.2-1.45 million.</td>
<td>Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 <a href="mailto:SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov">SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizon View #1 Reservoir and Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation or Replacement: Design underway for the replacement of the reservoir and pump station. Construction late 2015-2016. $5.3-4.5 million.</td>
<td>James B. Nicolls, 425-452-2869 <a href="mailto:JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov">JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure Zone Interties: Installing two new pressure reducing valve stations. Construction of Cougar Mountain 1150 pressure zone PRV winter 2015. Construction of Lake Hills 520 zone pressure PRV spring 2015. $160,000-$200,000 (est.)</td>
<td>James B. Nicolls, 425-452-2869 <a href="mailto:JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov">JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161st Ave SE &amp; SE 33rd PI Crosswalk: Installing new crosswalk across 161st Ave SE near greenbelt trail and Spintridge Neighborhood Park, with sidewalk and curb ramp improvements, lighting and flashing beacons. Construction through spring. $100,000.</td>
<td>Kurt Latt, 425-452-6020 <a href="mailto:Klatt@bellevuewa.gov">Klatt@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Newport Way Sidewalk, 150th Ave SE to 152nd Ave SE: Construction underway for a new sidewalk on the south side, bike lanes on both sides, landscaping. Construction complete summer 2015. $2.5 million. <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/se-newport-way-sidewalk.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/se-newport-way-sidewalk.htm</a></td>
<td>Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 <a href="mailto:Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov">Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cougar Mountain #3 Pump Station Rehabilitation or Replacement: Predesign/permitting summer 2015, Construction spring 2016. $650,000.</td>
<td>James B. Nicolls, 425-452-2869 <a href="mailto:JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov">JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factoria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factoria Reservoir Coating Repair and overflow modifications: Construction summer 2015. $150,000.</td>
<td>James B. Nicolls, 425-452-2869 <a href="mailto:JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov">JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Trenchless Repair 2014: Trenchless pipe repair Factoria Blvd, south of I-90 and along SE 41st Place. Design complete. Construction $80,000 (est.)</td>
<td>Vaniaj S. Rajah, 425-452-4881 <a href="mailto:vrajah@bellevuewa.gov">vrajah@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newport Hills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Heights Wastewater Pump Station Rehab: Replacing existing wastewater pumping station assumed from Coal Creek Utility District to be rehabilitated to meet current standards. In design. Construction 2016. $750,000.</td>
<td>Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 <a href="mailto:SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov">SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Bellevue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidden Valley Park: Constructing a multi-use gymnasium and improving the sports field in partnership with the Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Bellevue. Under construction. $5 million (for site work). Grand opening planned for March 28 (see events page 11). <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/hidden-valley-bgcb-partnership.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/hidden-valley-bgcb-partnership.htm</a></td>
<td>ScottVanderhyden, 425-452-4169 <a href="mailto:Swanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov">Swanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northup Way Corridor Improvements: NE 24th St to NE 33rd Place: Adding bike lanes and sidewalks between NE 24th St and NE 33rd PI, connecting the SE 520 trail with a new regional trail at 108th Ave NE. Construction begins in 2015. $11.7 million (est.) <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/northup-corridor-pedbike.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/northup-corridor-pedbike.htm</a></td>
<td>Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 <a href="mailto:Scosta@bellevuewa.gov">Scosta@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Water Dig and Repair 2014: NE 12th St, west of 108th Ave. Replacing existing storm pipes. Construction January 2015, $100,000 (est.)</td>
<td>Vaniaj S. Rajah, 425-452-4881 <a href="mailto:vrajah@bellevuewa.gov">vrajah@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue Way NE – North of 133rd Ave NE Rockeley Replacement: Replacing existing rockeyer with engineered wall. Construction underway. $350,000.</td>
<td>Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 <a href="mailto:Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov">Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary Sewer Replacement – Vuecrest Side Sewers: This is the second phase of a previous project. It involves the replacement and/or rehabilitation of side sewers. Construction 2015. $470,000.</td>
<td>Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 <a href="mailto:SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov">SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Trenchless Repair 2014: Trenchless pipe repair along 112th Ave NE, north of NE 12th Street. Construction $500,000 (est.)</td>
<td>Vaniaj S. Rajah, 425-452-4881 <a href="mailto:vrajah@bellevuewa.gov">vrajah@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sammamish/East Lake Hills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue Airfield: Design and permitting for construction of sports fields, trails, picnic facilities and storm water improvements over existing landfill. Phase 1 design and permitting begin 2015. $1.6 million. <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate_area_properties_master_plan.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate_area_properties_master_plan.htm</a></td>
<td>Pam Fehman, 425-452-4326 <a href="mailto:Pfehman@bellevuewa.gov">Pfehman@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Elementary School Sidewalk: Adding new sidewalk on east side of West Lake Sammamish Parkway to connect neighborhoods to crosswalk serving Sunset Elementary. Construction complete summer 2015. $325,000.</td>
<td>Vangie Garcia, 425-452-6103 <a href="mailto:vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov">vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary Sewer Replacement – Ballpark: Replacing and/or rehabilitating sanitary sewer south of Lake Hills Blvd and between 151st Ave SE and Lake Hills Greenbelt. Predesign/permitting 2016. $400,000.</td>
<td>Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 <a href="mailto:SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov">SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary Sewer Replacement – Bogline: Replacing or rehabilitating existing sanitary sewer. Predesign/permitting 2015; Construction 2015 (est.) $300,000.</td>
<td>Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 <a href="mailto:SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov">SNoeske@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset/Sunset</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail: Working with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to design a new trail from Factoria Blvd SE to the vicinity of 150th Ave SE. Includes lighting, crosswalks, urban design features and landscaping. Design 2015. $2.5M. <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/mts-greenway-trail.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/mts-greenway-trail.htm</a></td>
<td>Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 <a href="mailto:Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov">Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset Reservoir Seismic Retrofit: Internal strengthening of the underground reservoir. Construction April 2015. $60,000 (est.)</td>
<td>Vaniaj S. Rajah, 425-452-4881 <a href="mailto:vrajah@bellevuewa.gov">vrajah@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bellevue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meydenbauer Bay Park - Phase 1 Development: Design will reflect adopted Master Plan and will include park expansion west of 99th Ave NE. Construction 2015-2020. $12 million. <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer-bay-park-projects.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer-bay-park-projects.htm</a></td>
<td>Robin Cole, 425-452-2881 <a href="mailto:Rcole@bellevuewa.gov">Rcole@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer Lake Line Replacement at Meydenbauer Bay: Replacing 1,200 feet of sewer lake line on shore between Meydenbauer Beach Park and SE Bellevue Place. Construction on hold until 2017 (est.) On-going coordination with Parks. $2.3 million. <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/se-bellevue-place.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/se-bellevue-place.htm</a></td>
<td>Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 <a href="mailto:Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov">Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer Lake Line Condition Assessment, Phase 2 — Lake Washington: Condition assessment of 14 miles of buried sewer pipe from Yarrow Point to Renton. 2015-2016. $350,000.</td>
<td>Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 <a href="mailto:Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov">Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue 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 associated with growth in downtown area. Construction 2015-2016. $8 million. <a href="http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-station.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-station.htm</a></td>
<td>Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 <a href="mailto:Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov">Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Storm Trenchless Repair 2014 (Meydenbauer Way SE): Design complete. Construction $45,000 (est.)
Vanaja S. Rajah, 425-452-4881 vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

Scott VanderHyden, 425-452-4169 Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

Court Relocation to Bellevue Office Park: Moving Bellevue District Court and Probation Services to Bellevue Office Park, improving and upgrading the building. Under construction.
Susan Harper, 425-452-6438 sharper@bellevuewa.gov

Wilkurton
NE 4th St Extension: 116th Ave NE to 120th Ave NE: Extending NE 4th St with five lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks, landscaping, storm drainage, street lighting, and a new traffic signal at 120th Ave NE. Phase II (Eastside Rail Corridor to 120th Ave) begins this spring, completion and opening to traffic this fall. $362 million. www.bellevuewa.gov/ne-4th-extension.htm
Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

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, with four lanes and a non-motorized path. Pre-design complete. Awaiting further direction by the State Legislature. $1 million (pre-design only). Coordinating with Sound Transit. www.bellevuewa.gov/ne-sixth-street-extension.htm
Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Willburton Sewer Capacity Upgrade: Replacing 4,400 feet of sewer pipe with larger-diameter pipe to meet sewer capacity for re-development in Wilburton. Includes the following locations: SE 8th St between 112th Ave SE and 114th Ave; 114th Ave SE between SE 8th St and SE 1st St; SE 1st St to Main St along east side of I-405. Construction spring. $9.4 million.
Brandon Cole, 425-452-4474 Bcole@bellevuewa.gov

123rd Ave SE Water Service Saddle Replacement: Replacement of existing water service lines and service saddles. Construction through February. $258,000. Vanaaj S. Rajah, PE vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

Woodridge
East Creek/Richards Creek Fish Passage Improvement & Stream Modification: Providing stable streambed control and channel and bank modifications. In Construction. $560,000.
Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Richards Road Inlet Improvements: Improving an existing inlet and pressure reducing station at Richards Rd near SE 26th St. Construction fall 2015. $200,000.
Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

123rd Ave SE Sidewalk: SE 20th St to 123rd Pl SE: Adding sidewalk on east side of roadway with traffic safety measures. Construction winter 2016. $1.2 million.
John Murphy, 425-452-6967 Jmurphy@bellevuewa.gov

123rd Ave SE Water Service Saddle Replacement: Under construction through March. $269,000. Vanaaj S. Rajah, PE vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

Bannerwood Park Synthetic Turf Infield: Converting existing grass infield to synthetic turf. Partnership with Seattle University, who is funding the construction costs. In construction; complete February. $550,000.
Scott VanderHyden, 425-452-4169 Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

North East Link
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 late-2015. $2.8 billion. www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm, www.soundtransit.org/eastlink
Kate March, 425-452-2055 Kmasch@bellevuewa.gov

SR 520 Bridge Replacement & HOV Project: Rebuilding the floating bridge and replacing highway and interchanges between I-5 and SR 202. Construction underway. $4.3 billion. www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge.htm
Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov

2014 Pavement Overlay Projects: Sidewalk ramp work continues ahead of the resurfacing project at Highland Drive, SE 63rd St and 128th Ave SE/123rd Ave SE on Woodridge. Complete spring. $4.4 million. www.bellevuewa.gov/overlay.htm
Teresa Becker, 425-452-7942 Tbecker@bellevuewa.gov

2015 ADA & Pavement Overlay Projects: Sidewalk ramp reconstruction and pavement overlay along NE 12th Street, 112th Avenue NE and 102nd Avenue NE, 2.5 miles of Lakemont Blvd; 116th Avenue NE; 108th Avenue NE; residential streets in the Eastgate area; and various Utility restoration sites following water main projects. Construction begins this spring.
Teresa Becker, 425-452-7942 Tbecker@bellevuewa.gov

Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

AC Water Main Replacement 2014: Replacing 1.5 miles of aging asbestos cement (AC) water main with ductile iron pipe. Construction underway. $1.4 million.
Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

AC Water Main Replacement 2015 (Phase 1): Replacing 1.5 miles of aging asbestos cement (AC) water main with ductile iron pipe. Construction in February. $1.6 million.
Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Kam Szabo, 425-452-4346 Kszabo@bellevuewa.gov

PRV & Commercial Meter Vault Modifications 2015: Upgrading a control-valve vault, a PRV vault and two commercial water meter vaults for improved maintenance access. Construction May. $200,000.
Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

PRV Replacement 2015: Replacing aging pressure reducing valve stations to regulate water pressure in various neighborhoods. Construction September. $350,000.
Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

SCATS Traffic Adaptive Signals (Phase 4): Monitors traffic entering intersections and adjusts signal timing in real time. 45 intersections comprise Phase 4, including the 156th Ave NE, NE 20th St, Bel-Red Rd and Bellevue Way SE corridors. Includes 26 new flashing yellow arrow left turns. Installation begins in March. $500,000.
Fred Liang, 425-452-5361 Fliang@bellevuewa.gov

Commercial Water Meter Replacement 2014 (Phase 2): Replacing seven outdated domestic water meter assemblies at six commercial sites located throughout Bellevue. Construction 2015. $320,000.
Dan Ross, 425-452-4362 dross@bellevuewa.gov

Stephen Nokes, 425-452-5271 Snokes@bellevuewa.gov
Community Calendar

Nature Movie: The Secret World of Bats
Feb 27, 5-6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
See all aspects of bat behavior through remarkable slow-motion photography. Free. No pre-registration required. Ages 5+ more@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565

Ranger Program: Crows, Seagulls and Pigeons
March 1 and 8, 1-2 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Learn where pigeons nest, how seagulls care for their young, how smart those crows are and more. All ages welcome. Free. Pre-registration required. 425-452-2565

Hidden Valley Park
New Barn & Site Improvements Ribbon Cutting
Hidden Valley Park
1905 112th Ave. NE.
March 28, 9:30 am
Hosted by Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, 425-454-6162

March Mania Plant Sale
March 14, 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. www.northwestperennialalliance.org

Bellevue Youth Theatre Grand Opening
March 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
Celebration of new facility. Free event will include a short ceremony at 11 a.m., followed by ribbon-cutting, refreshments, tours and demonstrations. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Garden Workshops and Lectures
March 5: Plant Your Vegetable Garden, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
March 10: Design Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Ooh-La-La Garden, 7 p.m.
March 15: Northwest Perennial Alliance presents Nikolay Memorial Lecture, 1 p.m.
May 10: Container Crazy (and Plants for Small Gardens) Workshops provided in conjunction with various partners. Prices vary. www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html

Tuesday Trails Senior Hiking Series
April 14 and April 28, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Highland Community Center 14224 Bel-Red Rd.
Ride to a local trailhead in scenic areas such as Issaquah Alps or the Cascades, then a fun hike specifically chosen for adults. Ages 50+, $5, Pre-registration is required. jwalenga@bellevuewa.gov

Rapunzel
April 17-26
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th Street
Fun version of timeless tale, full of surprises. Tickets - $10-12. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Earth Day-Arbor Day
April 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Volunteer projects in various locations, 9-11 a.m.; Community celebration, 11:30 a.m.
Lewis Creek Park
9808 Lakemont Blvd SE
Volunteer registration required by March 14
425-452-4195 or parks_stewardship@bellevuewa.gov

Geocaching 101: Family Adventure
April 25, 10 a.m.-noon
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Free workshop to learn about hidden treasures and how to find them. jwalenga@bellevuewa.gov

Oblio and the Pointless Forest
March 20-29
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th Street.
Based on Harry Nilsson’s “The Point”, the show includes classic songs such as “Me and My Arrow”, and is suitable for all ages. First show of the first season at the new theater. Tickets - $10-12. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing
April 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm Park
410 130th Pl. SE
See sheep being shorn of their winter coats, spinning demonstrations, children’s crafts, tractor rides, pony rides and food. Free admission. Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM on site, no charge cards accepted. 425-452-7688 or kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov

Eastside Fuchsia Society Sale
May 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
Details to be announced.

Midsummer Night’s Dream
May 15-24
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th Street
One of Shakespeare’s most popular shows in a fun adaptation appropriate for all ages. Tickets - $10-12
425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Mother’s Day Social
May 10, 1-4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
Details to be announced. Free and open to all. Donations welcome. 425-452-2750 or www.bellevuebotanical.org

Spring/Summer Day Camps Registration
April – October, Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
425-451-3755

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and Cha Family Farms
Lake Hills Greenbelt, 2 locations: 700 148 Ave. SE and 156th Ave SE/SE 16th St.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station
15416 SE 16th St.
620-2266

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

Lakeside Fuchsia Society Sale
May 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
425-452-2750

Seasonal Crossroads Par 3 Golf Course
Opens March 1
15801 NE 15th Street
An excellent beginner and family course that takes about an hour to play. Holes range in length from 63 to 107 yards. 425-452-4873 www.bellevuewa.gov/golf_courses.html

Spring/Summer Recreation Programs Registration
(May through August) March 9—Resident registration begins
March 18—Non-resident registration begins
425-452-6885 or www.myparksandrecreation.com

Fresh Produce Stands
Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm
Mercer Slough Nature Park
2880 Bellevue Way SE
425-452-2740

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and Cha Family Farms
Lake Hills Greenbelt, 2 locations: 700 148 Ave. SE and 156th Ave SE/SE 16th St.

It’s a dirty job, but these volunteers don’t seem to mind. Earth Day-Arbor Day will be April 18 this year. Register to volunteer by March 14.

REMEmber to license your pet
kingcounty.gov/pets
Continuing to study need for Energize Eastside

An independent review of the need for PSE Sound Energy’s “Energize Eastside” project was well underway in late January.

The city in December hired Utility Systems Efficiencies, Inc. (USE) to conduct an independent technical analysis regarding PSE’s projections for growth and electric load need for Bellevue. PSE seeks to build a 230-kilovolt transmission line through Bellevue, citing the need for more electrical supply to meet anticipated demand.

Many residents have expressed concerns about the project, prompting the City Council to pursue the independent technical review of the need for the project ahead of a required environmental impact study of Energize Eastside. (The council in January hired a firm to assist city staff in the preparation of the environmental impact statement.)

USE is evaluating the purpose, need and timing of the proposed transmission line based on forecast growth for the area. The consultant is also evaluating the project’s expected impact on electrical system reliability.

As part of USE’s analysis, the city solicited stakeholder questions and comments about the need for the project. The consultant will respond to those as part of its report, fulfilling the council’s goal for broad engagement in the project analysis.


The MyBellevue app is a great way to request city services and learn about city events and projects from your smart phone or tablet. Available for nearly a year now, MyBellevue offers widgets for key pages, including:

- City news
- Events calendar
- City social media
- Emergencies and extreme weather response
- Capital projects map

The MyBellevue app is a new app connecting you with the city... on the go!

www.bellevuewa.gov/electrical-facilities-engagement.htm

The city of Bellevue website: www.bellevuewa.gov

City Hall
450 110th Ave. NE/PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

City Council Offices: 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: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Transportation: 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 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 www.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
Picnic/Facility Rentals: 452-6914
Park Maintenance: 452-6855
Human Services: 452-6894
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
Factotum 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/Balance: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)
Metro Transit/Sound Trans: 206-553-5000

www.bellevuewa.gov/itsyourcity.htm