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FALL/WINTER 2016

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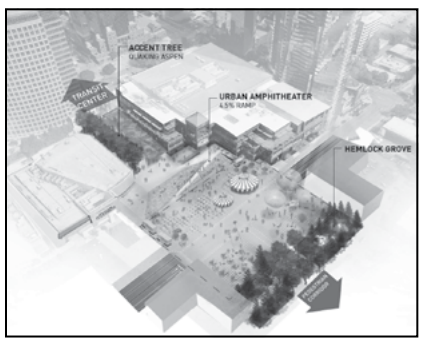

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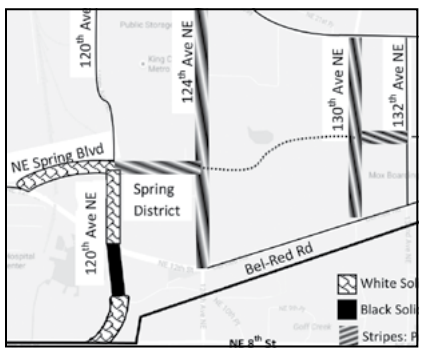

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Bellevue hits diversity milestone

By Gwen Rousseau, Associate Planner (Demographics)

The Ukrainian International Festival at Crossroads Park is one of a growing number of ethnic gatherings in Bellevue.

For the first time, Bellevue's population is evenly split between non-Hispanic whites and people of a minority race or ethnicity, according to the latest estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau released data this month from its 2015 American Community Survey that indicate that minorities comprised 50 percent of Bellevue's population last year, up from 41 percent in 2010, 28 percent in 2000 and 15 percent in 1990. Nationally, minorities are not projected to become the majority until 2044.

"Cultural diversity broadens our possibilities for shared learning, strengthening Bellevue's place as a hub of knowledge and innovation in all areas, including technology, arts and business," said City Manager Brad Miyake. "This ongoing growth of individuals from all backgrounds speaks to Bellevue's desirability as a community people want to live and work in."

"It's not the same Bellevue it was a few years ago," Mayor John Stokes said. "We really are a global city now."

This demographic trend is not surprising, considering that since 2000, Bellevue's foreign-born population has accounted for about 93 percent of the city's population growth. Other drivers of this population growth include a thriving employment market and the city's reputation for good schools, parks and safe neighborhoods.

In 2015, about 39 percent of Bellevue's population were foreign-born, two-thirds of them from Asia. Over a third of Bellevue's population was Asian as of last year.

The city tracks demographic data related to ethnicity, age, household type and size, along with many other characteristics, as part of a continuous effort to ensure its services match the needs of residents. The American Community Survey estimates don't describe every resident, foreign- or native-born, but they help us anticipate changing needs for housing, schools, communication and transportation. Other estimates from the ACS include:

- About 86 percent of Bellevue's foreign-born population speak a language other than English at home, compared to 13 percent of Bellevue's native-born population. Residents citywide who speak a language other than English at home rose from 14 percent in 1990 to 42 percent in 2015;
- Income distribution for Bellevue's foreign-born households is much the same as the distribution for native-born households, both having median incomes just over $90,000;
- 70 percent of Bellevue's foreign-born adults are married, compared to 49 percent of the city's native-born population;
- The foreign-born population here has an average household size of 2.72 versus 2.46 for Bellevue's native-born population; and
- Despite having larger households, Bellevue's Asian population is more likely to live in multifamily housing – 59 percent versus 40 percent for the non-Hispanic white population.

In late 2014, the city launched a "Diversity Advantage" initiative, which recommended more than 60 actions to improve services to Bellevue's growing population and help all residents make the most of living in a multicultural city.

Since then, the city hired a team to help implement the initiative, which includes training for employees on cultural competence and broadening its recruitment efforts. The city has recruited residents to serve in the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network, a panel that will advise the city on how to best serve and communicate with all segments of the community.

"Diversity has become one of the cornerstones of our identity," said Mark Manuel, diversity outreach and engagement administrator for the city. "It is a great asset we can leverage."

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Council Corner

Bellevue's 'nimble' vision

By Councilmember Vandana Slatter

Can local government act nimbly in response to challenges by envisioning an optimistic future? I believe the answer is yes, as two examples in Bellevue over the past year illustrate. In one, affordable housing for 76 low-income families was preserved in Bellevue when the city focused efforts to assemble regional partners in the space of two weeks – an unprecedented time frame. In the other, regional connectivity and light-rail oriented development led two leading universities, fueled initially by Microsoft funding, to locate their innovative educational institution in Bellevue.

The common threads woven through these examples embrace the idea that a shared vision by a city deeply aware of present and future community needs, offers a foundation for nimbleness that is open to synergy with regional and community partners.

Commitment to our priorities helped save Highland Village

As reported in more detail in this issue, the Highland Village Apartments were scheduled for re-development into market-rate housing this summer. Limited affordable options in Bellevue meant that 76 families, with 85 children in the Bellevue School District, were faced with a move away from jobs, schools and continuity of their close-knit community. Residents and local nonprofit organizations appealed to the city for help.

One of the City Council's two-year priorities is to: "Assess the unique housing needs of our city and region and create an affordable housing strategic action plan by 2016 and implementation in 2017." Given this mission, resources still needed to be mobilized quickly to help these families stay in their homes. Employing the kind of collaborative, team-based thinking I've had the opportunity to see in the biotech industry, we worked to bring together important players. The city met with the King County Housing Authority and other entities on short notice to fashion an unprecedented plan for buying Highland Village and preserving it as affordable housing.

While the negotiations were carried out in the blink of an eye (by government standards!), the groundwork for our involvement was laid months before. The council had a 20-year vision for the city in place when I was elected, and when I came on board this year, we drafted the new set of two-year priorities.

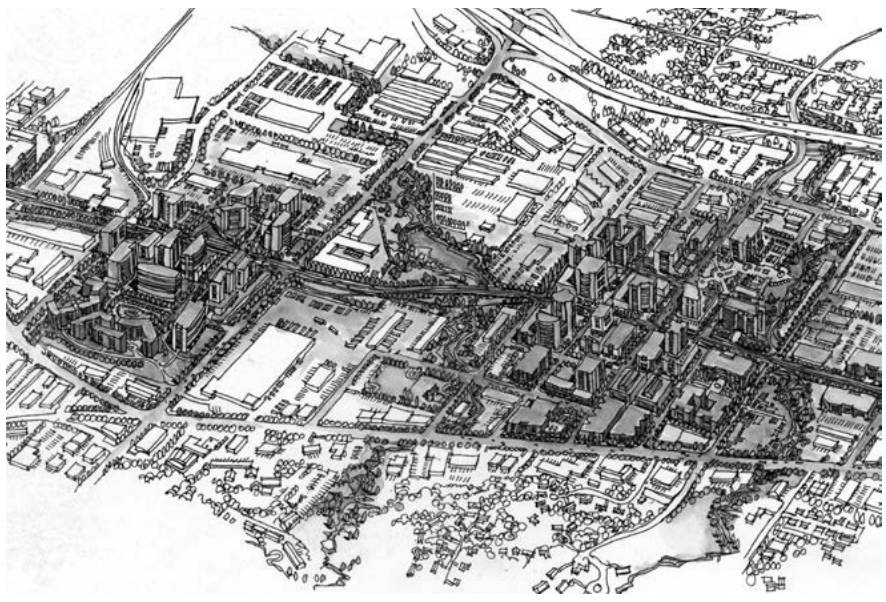
The city continues to develop an action plan, but early on we recognized that preserving our existing affordable housing is an important, key element. So when Highland Village residents came forward, the council and staff were empowered to move quickly because the commitment to preserving affordable housing had already been made.

Looking to our priorities and listening to the community provided the underpinning of support for a unique alliance that embraced Highland Village as part of a broader community.

Zoning policy inspired global vision and GIX

When the University of Washington and China's Tsinghua University were thinking about creating a new kind of educational institution in the Puget Sound area, they chose Bellevue. The state-of-the-art Global Innovation Exchange will be located near light rail in the BelRed corridor's new urban Spring District.

Back in 2005, the council committed to transit-oriented development of BelRed. Considerable public outreach and study followed and in 2009, a new subarea plan was adopted. Wright Runstad & Co. initiated the vision by locating its Spring District mixed-use development in BelRed. Construction of the new Spring District began last year, and in September we attended the ground-breaking ceremony for GIX.



The Spring District now becoming a reality was part of the visions for BelRed in 2009 – the cluster of mid-rise buildings on the left in this visualization.

These steps taken by the city years earlier led to the Spring District in BelRed becoming the right place at the right time for the innovative GIX enterprise. Thanks to forward-thinking and great regional and global partners, Bellevue will gain a new landmark educational institution with the mission "to develop thought leaders in innovation to solve the world's greatest challenges" and strengthen our region as a hub for technology.

Future nimbleness resides in our present

It is exciting to be part of a City Council and city government committed to a vibrant, forward-looking vision. With this commitment, we have the capacity and willingness to respond nimbly and with innovative ideas. It is also clear that a continued spirit of cooperation with our community and regional partners will be vital as we move into the future. Ultimately, the key to success is recognizing that the best ideas arise by being deeply aware and engaged with our growing community.

Council Roundup

With county on permanent shelter site search

The City Council on Aug. 3 approved a letter of agreement with King County to explore siting a permanent men's shelter and supportive housing on county property in Eastgate. Through the fall the city and Congregations for the Homeless will meet with surrounding businesses, neighbors and interested parties to identify concerns and potential solutions.

Homelessness has emerged as a major issue facing King County, including the Eastside. The city has had a men's shelter in temporary locations since 2008. Finding a permanent site for the shelter in Bellevue is one of the council's 2016-17 priorities.

The site under consideration, at 14350 SE Eastgate Way, is immediately north of Interstate 90, next to King County Metro's Eastgate park-and-ride, as well as a county public health center medical clinic.

More information on the permanent shelter, including updates and background, is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm.

Design for light rail maintenance facility

The council on July 25 approved an agreement with Sound Transit that outlines the process for how the city and Sound Transit will work together on the design and construction of a light rail operations and maintenance yard in BelRed.

The implementation agreement calls for the designer of the maintenance yard to integrate transit-oriented development featuring a mixed use of housing and offices next to the maintenance yard. The site is next to the future Spring District/120th station. Sound Transit's design-build process has three firms competing to offer the most effective and efficient method to construct the maintenance yard and prepare TOD parcels for development.

Recommendations for East Main station area

In August, the council accepted the East Main Station Area Plan, a report and recommendations for development of the area around the future East Main light rail station. The plan includes 33 strategies for integrating Sound Transit's station and future redevelopment with nearby residential neighborhoods.

The strategies, recommended by the East Main Citizen Advisory Committee, touch on topics ranging from parking monitoring to pedestrian and bicycle projects to rezoning existing commercial properties for a mix of residential, retail, office and hotel uses.

The East Main light rail station will serve the southeast portion of downtown, hotels and businesses east of 112th Avenue and the surrounding residential neighborhoods when East Link is operational.

Groundbreaking for GIX at Spring District

By Claude Iosso, Digital Communications Coordinator

It had to happen. The groundbreaking Global Innovation Exchange had a groundbreaking.

The unique graduate institution – a collaboration between the University of Washington and China's Tsinghua University – will take shape in the BelRed area, in the Spring District now under construction.

Mayor John Stokes joined Gov. Jay Inslee, County Executive Dow Constantine, UW president Ana Mari Cauce, Tsinghua president Qiu Yong and other dignitaries in hailing GIX's beginning. Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak and the rest of the City Council were also on hand.

"GIX will add a new dimension to Bellevue and the region's development as a center for technology and innovation," Mayor John Stokes said at the Sept. 23 ceremony in a tent in the middle of the construction zone.

The mayor presented UW and Tsinghua officials with a bilingual street sign for GIX and a plaque. The new institution will occupy a state-of-the-art facility that will feature design studios, electronics prototyping labs and spaces for collaboration and presentations. GIX is scheduled to open in time for the 2017-2018 school year.

The program is now accepting applications for the inaugural fall 2017 class, with students able to apply for UW's Master of Science in Technology Innovation degree and a GIX dual masters' degree.

GIX will be in the Spring District, several blocks of mid-rise office buildings and housing, restaurants and park space being built in BelRed by Wright Runstad & Co. The Spring District is the beginning of a transformation of BelRed from underutilized semi-industrial space.

In 2009, the city laid the groundwork for changes in BelRed, northeast of downtown, when it adopted a new subarea plan and zoning changes. Recently, the city has partnered with Redmond and Kirkland to form the "Innovation Triangle," encouraging tech companies and startups to settle in the area. In addition to GIX, REI is moving its headquarters from Kent to the Spring District.

"GIX provides a unique platform to tackle global challenges in health, sustainability, and social innovation," said Vikram Jandhyala, UW's vice president for innovation strategy and UW co-CEO of GIX. "Breaking ground is a great way to celebrate the concrete progress we're making across a number of fronts to bring this program to fruition."

GIX, which received major financial support from Microsoft, will pioneer new forms of teaching and learning by connecting world-class learners and faculty with research-led companies and organizations to collaborate on solutions to global challenges.

From left, Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak, Councilmember Lynne Robinson, Councilmember Vandana Slatter, Mayor John Stokes and Councilmember Conrad Lee stand together at the Sept. 23 groundbreaking for GIX. Councilmembers Jennifer Robertson and Kevin Wallace also attended.

January start anticipated for East Link construction in south Bellevue

By Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach

Sound Transit expects to begin construction of the South Bellevue segment of East Link as early as January. The South Bellevue Park-and-Ride will be closed for approximately five years, during construction, and there will also be temporary closures of Bellevue Way Southeast and 112th Avenue Southeast over that time.

Sound Transit and King County Metro are offering incentives that encourage transit as a commute option, advertising alternate park-and-ride lots and providing transit route information and trip planning.

The light rail alignment in south Bellevue will run north from Interstate 90 along the east side of Bellevue Way to the South Bellevue station (current location of the park-and-ride), then continue below-grade in a lidded trench along the east side of 112th Avenue, past the Winters House.

Construction on Bellevue Way will involve the relocation of public and private utilities, followed by the guideway construction. Then Sound Transit's contractor will restore Bellevue Way pavement, sidewalk, striping and landscaping.

Construction from the park-and-ride to 112th Avenue Southeast is anticipated to have the greatest impact on traffic and to take approximately two-and-a-half years. Financial incentives are available to the contractor to reduce the duration. The timeline to the right shows the construction elements for the South Bellevue station.

Weekend closures of all lanes on Bellevue Way, from I-90 to the "Y" at 112th Avenue, will be necessary (local and emergency access to neighborhoods and businesses will be provided). From the park-and-ride north to 112th Avenue, Bellevue Way will be in a reversible lane configuration, with two lanes northbound (to downtown) open in the morning peak commute and two lanes southbound open for the evening peak commute.

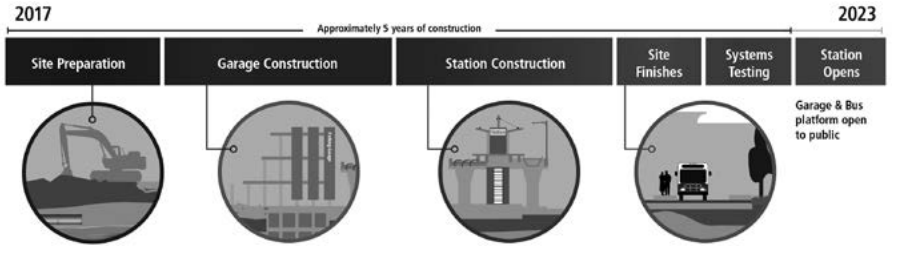
In an effort to lessen the potential for increased traffic in the Bellecrest, Enatai, and Surrey Downs neighborhoods and Beaux Arts Village, a traffic committee has proposed mitigation tools (e.g. turn restrictions) to be in place during East Link construction. More information is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm.

Transit commuters are encouraged now to plan ahead for transit service changes due to East Link construction. Drivers ought to be aware of road conditions prior to traveling in south Bellevue and comply with traffic control near construction areas. Residents and businesses should be informed about East Link and other construction activities.

Sound Transit has launched outreach about the project, and will host a construction kick-off meeting to give the community an opportunity to meet its contractor and learn more about the construction process. To receive notice of the meeting and East Link construction updates, subscribe at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe.

Information sources:

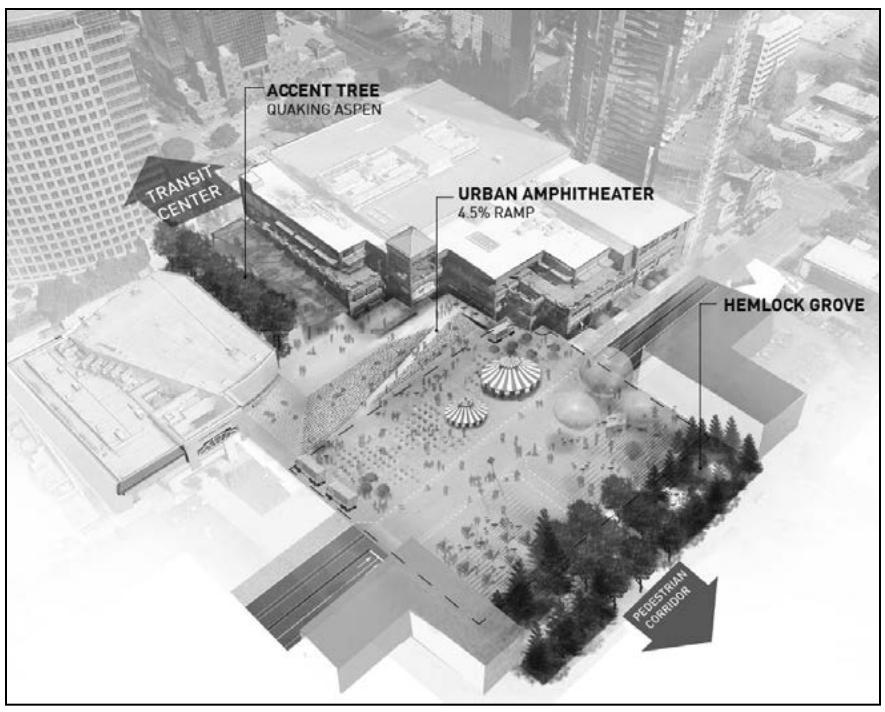
- Bellevue Traffic Advisories: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm
- Bellevue Transportation Department on Twitter @BvueTrans
- Sound Transit/East Link Construction Alerts www.soundtransit.org/east-link-construction
- Sound Transit Schedules www.soundtransit.org/schedule
- King County Metro Transit Trip Planning www.tripplanner.kingcounty.gov



Ideas emerge for Grand Connection route

By Bradley Calvert, Community Development Manager

Compass Plaza in front of Bellevue Connection (formerly the Galleria), at 106th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Sixth Street, could be expanded with an urban amphitheater, streamlined access, enlarged plaza and other features to host more kinds of events and become a dynamic and vibrant public space at the heart of downtown.



Downtown Park, already in the midst of the "Complete the Circle" project, could become even more accessible and inviting to passersby and users with new gateways at the corner of Northeast Fourth Street and Bellevue Way and at mid-block on Fourth, across from Bellevue Square.

These are two proposals that have emerged from the visioning process now underway for the "Grand Connection," a pedestrian corridor planned for downtown.

Conceptualized as a non-motorized path and network of spaces, the Grand Connection begins at Meydenbauer Bay and connects to Old Bellevue, Downtown Park and the rest of Bellevue's dynamic downtown before ultimately connecting with the planned Eastside Rail Corridor in Wilburton.

The City Council launched the Grand Connection planning effort last December, making it a priority for the city to develop a vision for the corridor and a land use plan for the Wilburton commercial area by the end of 2017. Visioning for the Grand Connection is anticipated to be completed in early 2017.

Following a tremendously successful design charrette at the Bellevue Arts Museum in April, where nearly 80 architects, engineers, planners and artists developed and sketched out ideas for the route, the city embarked on an ambitious visioning process for the Grand Connection. New York-based urban design and landscape architecture firm Balmori Associates is leading the visioning of the project in collaboration with the city.

The visioning process has been separated into two phases. The first phase focuses on identity, design strategies and improvement of public spaces, between Meydenbauer Bay and the Transit Center. The second will focus on the connection across Interstate 405 and corridor's interface with the Eastside Rail Corridor and Wilburton commercial area.

The proposals for improvements to Downtown Park and expansion of the Compass Plaza are just two of several concepts have emerged in the first phase of visioning so far.

Balmori has also created new concepts for the identity of the route that focus on the natural environment and Bellevue's history. Additionally, the design team has developed alternatives to infuse elements of whimsy and history into the corridor including play installations for adults and children and community spaces that exhibit the history of Bellevue.

In August the city launched an "online open house" – at www.bellevuegrandconnection.com – to gain initial feedback on the proposals for the visioning to date. The city is still accepting feedback and ideas through the website.

Following refinement of the first phase of work, the city and design consultant will embark on phase two, concerning the stretch from the I-405 crossing to the Eastside Rail Corridor.

The city will continue to roll out several more online and City Hall engagement events that will further inform and shape the future of the project.

City and county explore permanent location for shelter

By Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager

To better help the growing numbers of people without shelter on the Eastside, the City of Bellevue and King County are exploring siting a permanent men's shelter on county property in Eastgate.

In addition to establishing a permanent home for the shelter (capacity for 100 men a night), this new partnership between the city and county with Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing will provide supportive housing units (approximately 60 units), a drop-in day center, accommodating public health services, as well as space for social service providers.

The site being considered for the shelter is in a mixed-use area of Eastgate, just north of Interstate 90, at 14350 SE Eastgate Way on property shared with Public Health - Seattle & King County, adjacent to a King County Metro park-and-ride.

The city hosted an informational meeting for residents at the Champions Centre church on Sept. 29. A follow-up workshop is set for Oct. 27, 7 p.m., also at Champions Center, 2649 145th Pl. SE. The public is invited to attend to learn more and help prioritize solutions to issues identified through the outreach process.

Thousands without shelter

The "One Night Count" of the homeless in January found nearly 4,500 people in King County living without shelter. On the Eastside, in selected urban areas, 245 people were found unsheltered and over 1,200 homeless people were served in shelters last year on the Eastside.

Eastside cities are working together to provide a regional solution to homelessness in the area, with the aim of making homelessness a "rare, brief and one-time" occurrence for most people. Redmond provides shelter for homeless youth and Kirkland is working to provide a shelter for homeless women and children.

Bellevue has partnered with Congregations for the Homeless in the operation of the Eastside Winter Shelter in Bellevue for homeless men since 2008, most recently in BelRed. Without a permanent location though, the men's shelter has had to move over the years.

Permanent shelter is priority

Recognizing the challenges that come with temporary shelters, the City Council early this year made establishing a permanent men's shelter one of its 2016-17 two-year priorities. To get at some of the root causes of homelessness, the council also asked staff to develop an affordable housing strategy.

The permanent shelter, to be operated by Congregations for the Homeless, would provide emergency, overnight shelter and hot meals. Imagine Housing would operate the supportive housing units. The trained staff of Congregations for the Homeless will also help connect the men to necessary services and resources, to help them make a fast transition out of homelessness.

The goal is to have a permanent location for the men's shelter by late 2019. More information about the project is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm, where you can sign up for alerts, submit comments and find updates on the project, including notice about upcoming meetings.

RASKC is your partner in keeping pets safe

For pets, getting lost is a frightening experience. However, when your cat or dog is wearing a pet license tag from Regional Animal Services of King County, they receive the following benefits: reunited quickly with their family, a free, first-time ride home, longer care periods at our adoption center and vacation pet alerts. Most importantly, your pet license fees support the return of hundreds of lost pets and help thousands of homeless pets be adopted by new families every year.

New boulevard in BelRed, other street improvements in area

By Tresa Berg, Transportation Public Involvement Manager

With the construction of a new boulevard through BelRed and the widening of an arterial that takes people in and out of the area, the city is helping make a long-cherished vision of transit-oriented development come true.

In 2009 the City Council adopted an ambitious plan to facilitate the BelRed corridor's transformation from an underutilized light industrial sprawl to a community where jobs, housing and recreation are linked through a multimodal transportation system.

The city started building Northeast Spring Boulevard, a new BelRed east-west arterial, in September. In the same month, the city also began widening 120th Avenue to include sidewalks and bike lanes between Northeast 12th and 16th streets. These projects won't transform the area by themselves, but they'll sure help.

New east-west boulevard

Northeast Spring Boulevard begins at 116th Avenue, in the same area as the Eastside Rail Corridor, and will eventually stretch east beyond 136th Avenue to Northeast 20th Street. The new street will connect future East Link light rail stations, office and residential buildings, neighborhood parks and open space.

The first phase of construction, now underway, is from the Eastside Rail Corridor to 120th Avenue Northeast. Spring Boulevard will feature two travel lanes in each direction and a bridge over where the East Link tracks will be. The street will include a separated-multipurpose pathway on the north side and a sidewalk on the south side.

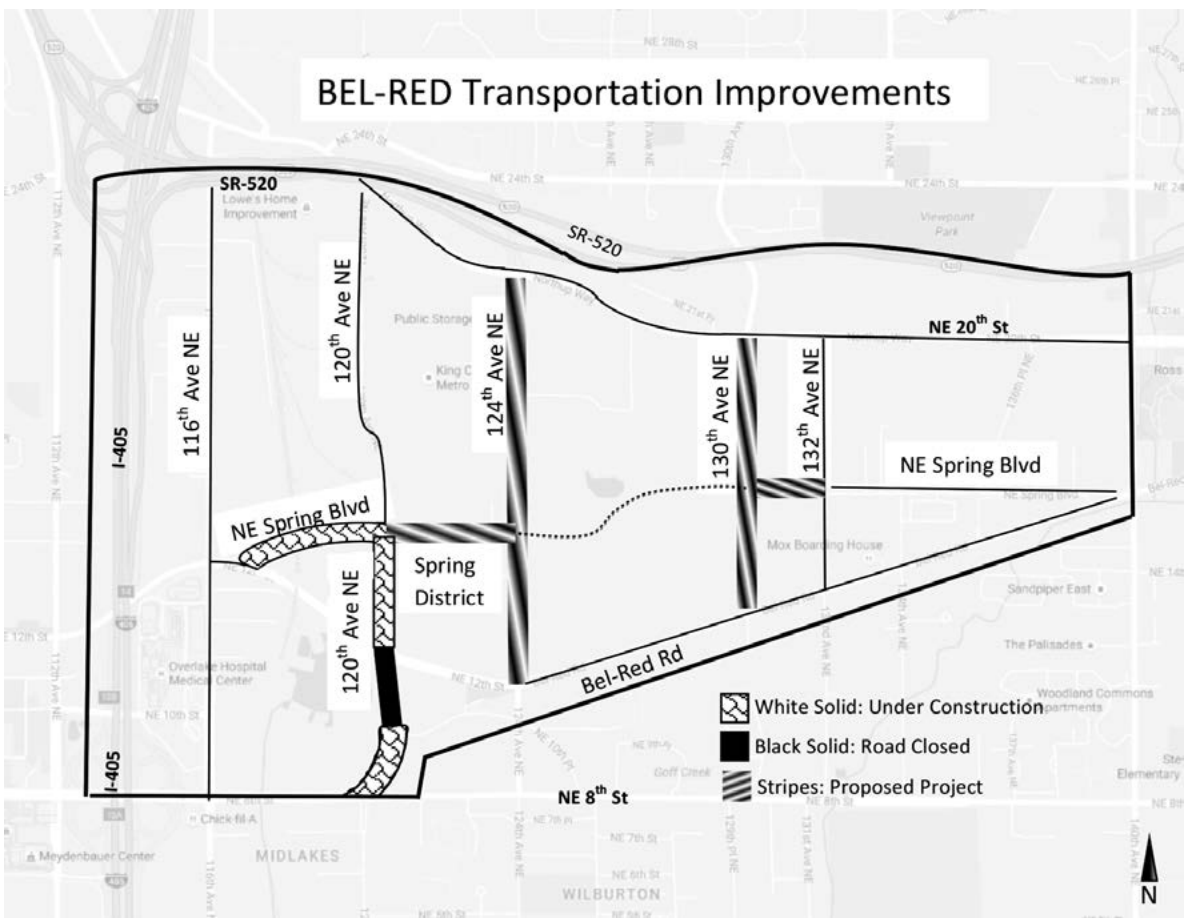
The first phase will cost about $23.9 million, and is expected to be complete by September 2017. Construction work hours are 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Widening 120th Avenue Northeast

Widening 120th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 12th and 16th streets is actually the continuation of improvements to the north-south arterial already done or in progress between Northeast Fourth and 12th streets in Wilburton. With more capacity, 120th Avenue can accommodate the growth anticipated in BelRed and Wilburton.

When this project is complete, 120th will be raised to accommodate a future undercrossing of East Link.

The street was closed to all traffic between the 1400 and 1600 blocks in September, and will remain closed until April 2017. All users are being asked to follow the detour route. Work hours are 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Saturday. Throughout construction, there will be periodic lane closures on Northeast 12th Street.



More roadway improvements needed

More roadway improvements are needed to address the planned land use and development in BelRed. The city has applied for a low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Transportation that would pay for various projects in the area, including extending Spring Boulevard from 120th Avenue to 124th Avenue.

Ultimately, the goal is to have options for people to conveniently drive, bike, walk, take transit or use a carpool or vanpool to get to destinations in and outside BelRed in a short matter of time. Coordinating improvements with Sound Transit's plans for East Link, the city can develop a connected, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented mobility system that serves not only the BelRed area, but all of Bellevue and beyond.

"It is important that we support the rapid growth of this major economic center and coordinate with the light rail construction," said Transportation Director David Berg. "To minimize disruption to the public and to the area businesses over the next several years, we are currently seeking a loan to fast-track construction of this extensive street network necessary to bring the BelRed plan to fruition."

Bellevue has requested a $100 million low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Transportation that would pay for key mobility projects that support projected growth in the BelRed, Wilburton and downtown areas. City officials expect to learn whether the loan has been approved in early 2017.

Highland Village apartments preserved as affordable housing

By Janet Lewine, Associate Planner

The City of Bellevue continues the process of developing an overarching affordable housing strategy, but took immediate action this summer to save the Highland Village apartments.

The complex in the Crossroads neighborhood provides affordable housing for 76 families, but a developer began pursuing plans this year to replace it with market-rate townhomes. The city asked for help from the King County Housing Authority, which owns and maintains affordable housing throughout the county.

With the city contributing $2 million, and additional funding commitments from the state Legislature and King County, KCHA reached an agreement with local builder Intracorp in August to acquire Highland Village and preserve it as affordable housing.

"We are pleased to have been able to reach an agreement with Intracorp," said KCHA Executive Director Stephen Norman. "For a private business to change its plans in response to community concerns and forego substantial future financial gain is extraordinary, and we applaud them for helping us fulfill our mission."

In December 2015 the City Council made it a priority to "develop an affordable housing plan for the needs of our diverse population" by the end of this year. In early September, the council approved an evaluation of 30 potential actions, which staff developed after community outreach and consultation with a technical advisory group.

Making sure Highland Village stays affordable fits with one of the strategies under consideration for Bellevue's affordable housing plan – support programs that preserve existing affordable housing.

"The City of Bellevue is extremely pleased to see this important affordable housing resource preserved" said Bellevue Mayor John Stokes. "Preservation of existing affordable housing aligns with our council priorities and we are fully committed to making this project happen."

Highland Village is located along the Metro Bus Rapid Ride line on Northeast Eighth Street, a block west of the 148th Avenue intersection. KCHA will renovate the property over the next two years while keeping the rents at or near their current, affordable levels.

"As a resident and representative of East Bellevue, I am proud and happy to be part of this solution which will help so many families remain a part of our community," said King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci. "Housing prices on the Eastside are skyrocketing; losing the Highland Village apartments would have meant hardship for these families, our neighbors, almost certainly requiring them to move far from jobs, friends, schools and support systems."

Near-miss analysis is a hit for traffic safety

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

Traditionally, transportation engineers look at where collisions have already occurred to determine where streets could be made safer. Not content with that approach, Bellevue transportation planners want to train computers to scan traffic camera footage for near misses.

An innovative video analytics project now underway offers the city hope of achieving the Holy Grail of traffic safety: preventing crashes by predicting when and where they will happen – before anyone gets hurt.

The effort, a partnership between Microsoft and Bellevue, in collaboration with the University of Washington, could fundamentally change how jurisdictions approach traffic safety analysis – and save lives in the process. Nationwide, more than 19,000 people were killed in traffic crashes in the first six months of this year.

Staff from the three organizations are developing algorithms that can scan video from the city's network of traffic cameras to create a 24/7 predictive, crash analysis system. Designed to flag near-miss crashes, such a system would enable public works departments to implement safety countermeasures before someone gets hurt.

A key feature of the system will be its capacity for machine learning, or pattern recognition, to make predictions based on data. To help the computer system "learn," project organizers in the coming months plan to launch a crowd-sourcing campaign, inviting the public to view traffic video from city streets and label the various objects (pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles) and movements. The feedback then will be used to teach the system how to analyze traffic patterns.

For Bellevue, video analytics is just the sharpest of several cutting-edge projects that focus on data collection as a tool for improving transportation safety in general, and the pedestrian-bicycle network in particular.

In September, the U.S. Department of Transportation recognized Bellevue with a Mayor's Challenge award for its work in collecting data to use in its Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative.

Bellevue was one of just seven smaller cities to win an award out of 246 small and large cities participating in the DOT's Safer People, Safer Streets Initiative. It was the only small city to win in the data collection category. Examples of Bellevue's data collection efforts include:

- **Wikimap surveys:** The city used Wikimap online surveys at two stages in developing an implementation plan. In the first, over 700 people identified more than 1,600 locations citywide they felt were unsafe for walking and bicycling. In the second Wikimap, 120 people submitted 400-plus comments on conceptual designs for 52 proposed projects to make the pedestrian and bicycle systems safer;
- **Ten-year crash analysis:** Staff conducted an assessment from 2006–2015 of non-motorized collisions using the USDOT's pedestrian and bicycle crash analysis tool system;
- **Data from open houses:** Input was gathered using key-pad polling and comment cards at 20 public meetings and an open house that attracted 140 attendees; and
- **Data from pedestrian and bicycle counters:** See adjacent story.

All of the data collection work supports Bellevue's endorsement of Vision Zero, a traffic safety approach adopted by the City Council in late 2015. Its goal is to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030.

For more information about data collection methods or the city's Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative, contact project manager Franz Loewenherz at 425-452-4077 or floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov

200,000 cyclists use I-90 trail

Over a year's time, more than 200,000 cyclists and nearly 45,000 pedestrians were counted on the paved trail along Interstate 90.

What: In early 2015 the state Department of Transportation in partnership with Bellevue placed advanced pedestrian and bicycle counters on the I-90 trail (near 109th Avenue Southeast) and on the SR 520 trail (west of 124th Avenue Northeast) to measure usage on an ongoing basis.

Why: This system allows for 24/7 monitoring, rather than anecdotal data collected manually or from video recordings, both very time-consuming methods. The data will be used to better target investments in bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

How it works: The system is a combination of an inductive loop detector and an infrared sensor. The loop detector embedded beneath the trail precisely detects all types of bicycles. The sensor uses passive-infrared, pyroelectric technology with a high-precision lens, to count people by detecting body temperature.

The results: Data below is from I-90 trail counts, taken over a one-year period from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

- **One-year totals:** Cyclists, 213,820; pedestrians, 44,769
- **Busiest/slowest months:** For cyclists, June; for pedestrians, July. Slowest month: December for both
- **Busiest day:** For cyclists, Aug. 1 (1,832); for pedestrians, Sept. 18 (566)
- **Busiest time of day:** For cyclists, 5 p.m.; for pedestrians, 8 a.m. to noon, and 4 p.m.

Many drive-alone alternatives

Bellevue is teaming up with King County Metro to encourage alternatives to driving alone. In October, Metro is sending thousands of mailers to households as part of the promotion.

"Whether you're a long-time resident or new to Bellevue, we know that transportation is a topic you care about," said Transportation Director David Berg. "You can help make a difference for yourself and others by trying an alternative to driving alone."

The city is promoting the effort through its Choose Your Way Bellevue program, a one-stop resource for transportation alternatives. Information includes:

- Bus, bike, carpool, vanpool and car sharing options for work or personal trips;
- Details on the upcoming five-year closure of the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride, and the replacement of park-and-ride lots, due to East Link light rail construction;
- A "SchoolPool" pilot program for students and parents at select schools in the Bellevue School District; and
- A chance to earn $25 to $100 in rewards by logging your non-drive-alone trips, part of King County Metro's "Just One Trip – Community in Motion" campaign.

To learn more, visit www.ChooseYourWayBellevue.org. Or, let trip planning staff help you sort out options; contact them at info@cywb.org or 425-283-1356.

Bellevue firefighter to be honored in Rose Parade

By Ryan Armstrong, Fire Department Public Information Officer

Firefighter Deanna Carr served the citizens of Bellevue for over 22 years. For saving lives even after a scuba diving accident tragically ended her life, Carr will be honored with a "floragraph" (portrait made like sand art with flower seeds and other natural materials) in the Rose Parade on New Year's Day.

Carr, 53, within months of retirement when she died in 2014, was an organ donor. She gave four individuals a second chance at life.

Deanna Carr

"Deanna was more than a coworker sister to me," said Lt. Bob Crueger, who supervised her. "I'd have liked her as a real sister, and I miss her as one. I'm very glad, and it's a wonderful thing that someone else's sister or brother is alive because of what Deanna gave them."

Local organ procurement organization LifeCenter Northwest chose Carr to be honored on the Donate Life Float at the Rose Parade in Pasadena. The float has been part of the parade since 2004, and is a memorial to organ donors and a celebration for all those who have been touched by organ, eye and tissue donation.

For more information about organ donation or LifeCenter Northwest, please visit www.lcnw.org. More information about the Donate Life float is available at www.donatelifefloat.org/wp/.

Voters to decide on neighborhood safety levies

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer and Lt. Ryan Armstrong, Fire Public Information Officer

On Nov. 8, city voters will weigh in on two important ballot measures that address a backlog of capital projects related to fire facilities and neighborhood transportation projects in Bellevue.

Following a concentrated public outreach effort that included three open houses and an online survey that garnered 800 responses, the City Council on July 25 approved the two measures for the ballot.

According to the survey, 67 percent of those responding supported a measure that would fund improvements to fire stations and add a new one to serve downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Sixty-four percent supported a measure that would improve neighborhood safety and connectivity.

If approved, the combined cost of the two measures for a typical Bellevue homeowner (whose home has the median assessed value of $640,000), would be approximately $176 per year.

The Fire Facilities measure (Proposition 1) would increase the city's property tax levy by 12.5 cents per $1,000 of assessed value, or about $80 per year for the owner of a home with a median assessed value. Over the 20-year life of the levy it would raise approximately $120 million for upgrades to fire facilities.

The Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion measure (Proposition 2) would increase the city's property tax levy by 15 cents per $1,000 of assessed value, or about $96 per year. The 20-year levy would raise about $140 million for transportation system improvements.

Fire Facilities

The Fire Department has 10 facilities (nine stations and a training center) to maintain, and each one must operate 24 hours per day. In 2014, Fire produced a master plan that identified several challenges in the current system. The proposed fire facilities ballot measure would address these challenges in several ways:

- Seismic retrofits: Upgrade facilities to ensure that every fire station meets seismic standards to withstand a major earthquake and allow a first response in any emergency;
- Build a new downtown fire station: Construct a fire station to serve Bellevue's fastest-growing neighborhood, also taking response pressure off other neighborhood stations;
- Upgrade existing fire stations: Remodel, expand or replace fire stations to better serve the community; and
- Logistics center space: Obtain warehouse space to consolidate reserve equipment and to provide a central location for the repair of special equipment.

Walkers on 158th Place Southeast

Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion

The Transportation Department has a backlog of safety and neighborhood connectivity needs, including:

neighborhood sidewalk improvements or installations that would take more than 30 years to complete at current funding levels;

- 55 pedestrian crossing projects;
- 35 neighborhood traffic calming projects;
- 12 school traffic improvement projects; and
- 52 new or upgraded bike facilities projects.

In addition, the city has heard of growing concerns about increased traffic congestion near or within neighborhoods.

New, sustained funding is needed to help reduce these backlogs. Improvements eligible for funding by the transportation ballot measure include:

• **Projects that reduce neighborhood congestion:** Easing congestion for motor vehicles within or near neighborhoods and services to improve access and mobility;

• **Neighborhood safety projects:** Traffic calming, speed reduction, reducing the potential for collisions, adding mid-block crossings and crosswalks with enhanced safety features;

• **New sidewalks/trails/paths:** Adding sidewalks to provide walking access within, and to neighborhoods, schools, parks, shopping and other destinations;

• **Technology for safety and traffic management:** Upgrades that improve safety, traffic flow, traveler information; and emerging technology such as autonomous vehicles;

• **Projects to enhance maintenance:** Repairs to transportation facilities with outstanding maintenance needs, such as sidewalks, trails, walls, lighting and street cleaning; and

• **New bike facilities:** Adding facilities to create a safe and connected bike network for commuting, recreational and family activities.

More information is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-safety.htm.

Please trim trees, bushes hanging over street

To help ensure clean streets and safe travels, the city sweeps roadways and bicycle lanes citywide. However, many Bellevue neighborhoods have overgrown trees and vegetation that block access for our two street sweepers.

We need your help to fix the problem. If trees or shrubs where you live have grown over the curb, the sweepers cannot safely clear leaves and other debris. The result is increased risk to travelers, more materials washed into city storm drains and a greater chance of damage to the sweepers.

Vegetation needs to be trimmed back to one foot behind the sidewalk or street, seven feet above sidewalks, and 14.5 feet above roadways. In addition, please avoid blowing leaves and debris into the street. Instead, collect and recycle it in your yard waste bin. Thanks for helping us make the most of our city resources – and keep our streets clean.

Trees block street sweeper.

New chief communications officer

Lenka Wright

Lenka Wright is the City of Bellevue's new chief communications officer, having started the job in late September. Lenka heads up our citywide communication efforts, both internal and external, and leads a team of seasoned communicators. She is based in the City Manager's Office.

"Bellevue has a wonderful story to tell, and I am very fortunate to be in the position to inform the world about Bellevue's triumphs and accomplishments, which are shaping its future as a progressive, innovative and sustainable world-class city," said Wright. "I knew right away that Bellevue is where I want to be, and I am overjoyed to join a very talented team that recognizes the importance of an engaged, well-informed community."

Prior to joining Bellevue, Wright was assistant director of communications for the City of San Jose, Calif., for nearly six years. Before that, she was the communications and media relations manager for the City of Abilene, Texas for almost four years. The Long Island, N.Y. native also has a broadcasting background, working as a television news anchor/reporter at news stations across the country.

Wright has a master's degree in communication arts from the New York Institute of Technology and double majored in telecommunications and political science as an undergrad at Indiana University.

Wright plans to reside in Bellevue with her family, taking advantage of the excellent schools, high quality of life, premium shopping and wide range of outdoor activities all easily accessible in our "city in a park."

Residents have their day at EBCC hearings

By Betsi Hummer, EBCC Vice Chair

Since I was elected to the East Bellevue Community Council in 2014, I have found EBCC meetings to be a great forum to discuss land use decisions that affect East Bellevue and surrounding neighborhoods.

The EBCC holds public hearings and courtesy hearings during our meetings to gather input on a wide variety of issues, from affordable housing and marijuana policies to adult family homes and zoning. I will review a few recent hearings to give you an idea of what happens at EBCC meetings, in hopes you will attend the first Tuesday of the month at the Lake Hills Clubhouse.

Courtesy hearings can change plans

One recent courtesy hearing dealt with parcel subdivisions. Many residential areas in East Bellevue are zoned R5, which means five houses can be built on an acre of land. Many properties in our jurisdiction are half-acre lots (21,750 square feet). These can actually be subdivided into three parcels, since the minimum lot size for a home is 7,200 square feet.

At the hearing, the EBCC had no decision to make, but the hearing helped the residents and us understand changes in the neighborhood better, and gave the neighbors a forum to voice their concerns. (To find out more about how your neighborhood is zoned, check out http://gismaps.kingcounty.gov/parcelviewer2/).

Residents got a lot more than clarification about zoning regulations at a courtesy hearing in June regarding proposed redevelopment of the Highland Village Apartments. A developer sought to replace the 72-unit complex, which charges relatively low rents, with market-rate townhomes.

It seemed like a done deal after presentations by the developer and city staff. However, dozens of residents and advocates came to the hearing, and, in its relaxed atmosphere, there was a meaningful question-and-answer forum.

Concern about the displacement of Highland Village residents spread, and the residents spoke before the City Council. With the city's support, the King County Housing Authority purchased the complex in August to preserve as affordable housing. The residents retain their homes, their children are able to stay in the Bellevue School District and the city keeps an affordable housing complex.

Links to the relevant agenda, and minutes and news release are available at www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Community%20Council/06072016_8b.pdf, www.bellevuewa.gov/ebcc-minutes-2016.htm and www.bellevuewa.gov/12419.htm

Rezone near Bellevue College?

The EBCC will likely soon rule on whether two parcels near the east entrance of Bellevue College are rezoned for community business, which would allow a greater variety of services and uses, including coffee shops and other retail. The Shell gas station is on one parcel, currently zoned for neighborhood businesses. The Champions Centre church is on the other, which is zoned for professional office use. The Planning Commission approved the rezone. After the City Council rules on it, it will come before the EBCC in a public hearing.

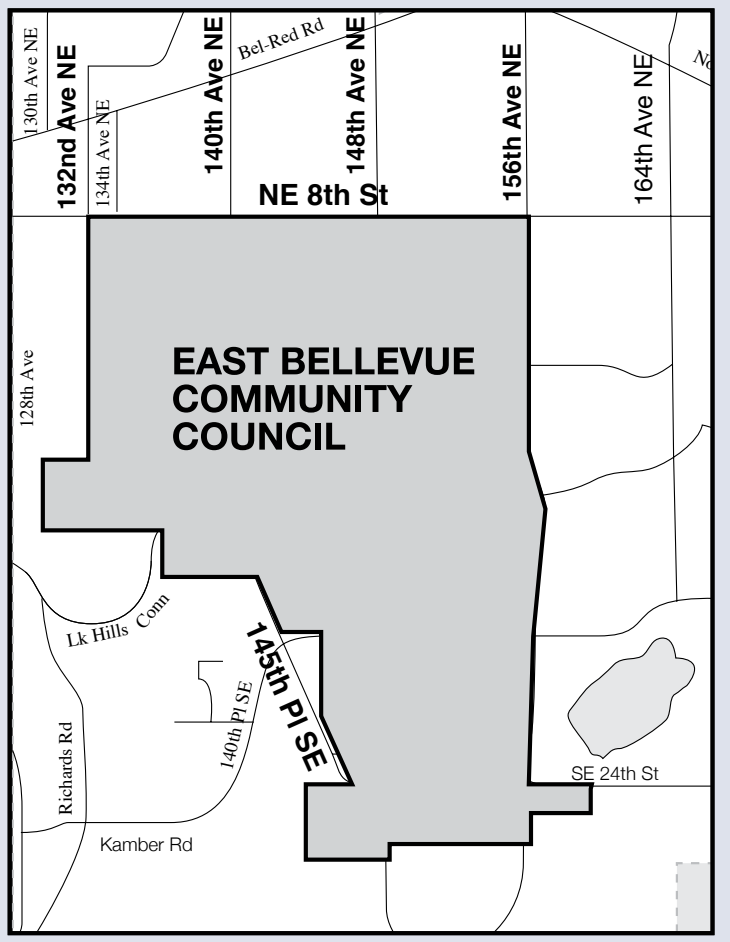
It is invigorating to have input from neighboring communities and understand that what we decide impacts neighborhoods other than East Bellevue. A concerned Eastgate resident has asked us to leave the zoning unchanged until the transportation issue has been addressed. Eastgate, like East Bellevue, has increased cut-through traffic due to job growth in Bellevue, and residential development in other municipalities such as Sumner, Snoqualmie, Sammamish, Snohomish and Seattle.

EBCC meetings less formal

It is refreshing to have the EBCC venue and open meeting format for issues to be presented and discussed. While we must stick to the agenda, to ensure everyone has a fair chance to be heard, the EBCC is less formal than the City Council or many of the boards and commissions. Attendees often can interact directly with city staff, developers and other permit applicants.

In addition to the comments being publicly recorded, we have a chance to further develop relationships with stakeholders in our community. Hopefully this leads to an increased understanding of city policies and procedures.

Hope to meet you at our Nov. 1 meeting!



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.

Ecolunch Eastside

You can pack your kids off to school with lunches that waste less. It's estimated that a school-age child using disposable lunch items generates 67 pounds of waste per school year!

Many students come to school with lunches full of single-use items: juice boxes, bags of chips, fruit snacks, string cheese, snacks in Ziploc bags, granola bars, yogurt and more. These items are convenient, but the packaging goes straight to the landfill. Packing your lunch in reusable containers reduces waste and encourages healthier choices.

Get a free, reusable lunch kit and take the pledge today to reduce your families waste at www.ecoluncheastside.org. Limit of one lunch kit per household and while supplies last.

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: Replacing existing Pikes Peak 1 million gallon steel reservoir and existing pump station. Public outreach and alternative analysis 2016/2017 (est.), design and permitting 2017/2018, construction 2019/2020. $5.7 million. Jay Hummel, Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

BelRed

Mid Lakes Pump Station Capacity Improvements: Replacing pump station for growing BelRed area. Construction: TBD. $4 million (est.) In design. 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 Spring 2017. $40 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 five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, sidewalks and utility work. Construction through Winter 2017. $26 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 at NE Spring Blvd. From NE 12th St to 120th: new four-lane roadway with traffic signals, a multimodal path along the north side, and two bridges over the East Link light rail alignment. Construction until Sept 2017. $36.5 million. bellevuewa.gov/spring-boulevard.htm Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

NE Spring Blvd: 120th to 124th Aves NE (Zone 2): 100% design for a new four-lane roadway, outside lanes for shared non-motorized use, landscaping, sidewalks and on-street parking. $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 fall 2016. Construction by fall 2017. Pending ROW acquisition. $19.94 million (est.) Marina Arakelyan, Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

124th Ave NE and SR 520 Interchange: Complete interchange with westbound exit ramp and eastbound on ramp. WSDOT is preparing environmental reports. Awaiting State Legislature's next budget cycle. Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown

Downtown Park - Complete the Circle & Inspiration Playground: Completing the circle promenade and canal, expanding the parking lot off of 100th Ave NE and building a new universally accessible playground. Under construction until July 2017. $17.1 million. bellevuewa.gov/downtown-park-complete-circle.htm Ken Kroeger, Kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown Transportation Plan Projects: Replacing brick pavers and street trees, and improving lighting along the north sidewalk of the Transit Center. Creating a raised intersection on 106th Ave NE at NE 6th St. Installing crosswalks at 100th Ave NE and NE 1st St and 102nd Ave NE and NE 1st St, as part of the Downtown Park improvements. bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm Kevin McDonald, Kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov

107th Ave NE Rockery Replacement: Replace a failing rockery on 107th Ave NE north of Main St and installing a barrier. Project is currently in design; construction winter 2017. Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate

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

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: Installing new reservoir and pump station. Construction underway. $3.2 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: In a design alternatives analysis for roadway and pedestrian/ bicycle improvements. $8.1 million. Paul Krawczyk, Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

Factoria

Factoria Blvd Storm Conveyance Improvements: Improving storm water conveyance system along Factoria Blvd between SE 38th St and Richards Creek inlet. $2 million (est.). In design. Construction late 2017. Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov

Lake Hills

Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016: Repairing sewer defects throughout the city. In design. Construction spring/summer 2016. $1.1 million (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

148th Ave – Main St to SE 8 St Signal Upgrade and Overlay: Replacing the existing traffic signals at 148 Ave and Main St and 148 Ave SE at SE 8 St. Work continues until the end of Oct. $1.9 million. Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Newport Hills

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

Newport

Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Project: Replacing five culverts and two outfalls in the area of Newport Shores. One culvert in design, with construction 2017. First culvert cost: $1.7 million (est.) Debbie Harris, dharris@bellevuewa.gov

Northeast Bellevue

Northup Way Connection to the SR 520 Trail: Adding bike lanes and sidewalks from NE 24th St to NE 33rd Place to connect the SR 520 trail with the new regional trail at 108th Ave NE. Construction underway. $12.8 million. bellevuewa.gov/northup-corridor-pedbike.htm Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Eastside Rail Corridor Interim Trail: King County project to will construct interim (gravel) trail from 108th Ave NE (near the South Kirkland P& R) to SR 520. Construction 2017. Mike Ingram, Mingram@bellevuewa.gov

Northwest Bellevue

Meydenbauer Bay Park - Phase 1: Implementing Master Plan, including park expansion west of 99th Ave NE. Construction 2017. $17 million bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer-park-projects.htm Scott VanderHyden, Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation: Rehabilitating the existing sewer system. In design; construction winter 2016/2017. $720,000 (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Replacement: Replacing existing sewer system. A section of AC water main included. Design; Construction spring/summer 2017. $1.3 million (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@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 crosswalks, landscaping, lighting, and urban design. 100% design. $1.2 million design only. bellevuewa.gov/mts-greenway-trail.htm Chris Masek, Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail – I-405 to 132nd Ave SE: Designing new 12-foot-wide trail from 1-405 to the vicinity of 132nd Ave SE. Includes bridge crossings, landscaping, lighting, and urban design. Design complete Dec 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. In design; construction fall 2016. $100,000 (est.) Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

Meydenbauer Bay Park Sewer Line Replacement: Constructing 1,500 linear feet (approx.) of sewer line along the shore of Lake Washington. Being coordinated with the future Meydenbauer Bay Park project. Construction Dec 2016 - May 2017. $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. 2016. $533,594 Debbie Harris, Dharris@bellevuewa.gov

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

Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV Lane: Conducting 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 P & R main entrance. In design. $4.4 million. Marina Arakelyan, Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016: Repairing sewer defects in the area. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Wilburton

NE 6th St Ext: 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

Woodridge

Woodridge Open Space Sewer Pipeline Replacement: Replacing 1,500 feet of sewer pipeline. Construction 2017. $1.2 million. Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov

Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2015, Phase1: Repairing existing sewer system in advance of street paving projects throughout the city. Construction 2016. $1.2 million (est.) Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Kelsey Creek Glendale Country Club 8th Tee Assessment: Evaluating recently constructed fish passage improvements and impacts to 8th tee channel stability. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Richards Road Inlet Modifications: Replace an aging Inlet station with meter, pressure reducer valve, telemetry, and vault along Richards Road at SE 26th St. In design; construction early 2017. $5 K (est). Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov.

Various Locations

East Link Light Rail: Construction is underway to complete approximately ½ mile of mined light rail transit tunnel from Main St to NE 6th St. Tunneling expected late fall 2016. South Bellevue segment construction begins as early as January 2017. Construction Alerts: soundtransit.org/subscribe. Marie Jensen, mjensen@bellevuewa.gov.

AC Water Main: Replacing 1.5-1.6 miles of aging asbestos cement water main with ductile iron pipe. 2016 Phase 1 Construction - $1.8 million; 2016 Phase 2 Construction- $2.1 million; 2016 Phase 3 In design. Construction cost $2.3 million (est.). Abe Santos, Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

PRV Rehabilitation and Replacement 2016: Replacing aging pressure reducing valve stations to regulate water pressure in various neighborhoods. Construction Fall/Winter 2016, $450,000 Abe Santos, Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

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

Commercial Water Meter Replacement 2016: Replacing large outdated water meter assemblies and vaults at four commercial sites. Construction, $400,000; fall 2016. Dan Ross, dross@bellevuewa.gov

Take the pledge to be Energy Smart and get 2 FREE LED light bulbs!

Our city is competing with 50 cities across the country to reduce our energy use and win the $5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize. Help Bellevue win by committing to take simple steps to reduce energy use.

Learn more at
bellevuewa.gov/energysmart.htm

*Take the Energy Smart pledge by November 10 and receive 2 free LED light bulbs, while supplies last, and be entered to win a $25 REI gift card.

Community Calendar

Fall/Winter 2016
October

South Bellevue Spookfest

South Bellevue Community Center
14509 SE Newport Way
Sponsored by Bellevue Nissan

SpookFest Zip Scare

Oct. 21, 22, 28 & 29; Tours start every 15 minutes from 6-7:45 p.m.
Cost: $27/youth 12-17; $42/ages 18 & up
Experience one suspension bridge and three zip lines in the dark!
Register at www.parksreg.cityofbellevue.org or by calling 425-452-4240

6th Annual Great SBCC Pumpkin Race and Jump

Oct. 22, 10 a.m.
Free; Rent ($10) or buy ($25) pumpkin racer supplies kit if needed. Register and receive helpful instructions on how to prepare for race day! Ages 6 & up; Preregistration is required code #108040
Register at www.parksreg.cityofbellevue.org or by calling 425-452-4240

SpookFest Carnival

Oct. 22, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Carnival games, arts & crafts, performances, food and more!
Tickets sold day of at SBCC. $1/ticket. Some free activities.
All ages family event. No registration required.

SpookFest Haunted Golf

Oct. 22, 6-9 p.m.
Play a round of haunted golf after dark on a nine-hole course decorated to scare. All ages welcome. Cost: 5 tickets. $1 tickets available for purchase at the SBCC front desk.

SpookFest Dessert Theater

Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theater presents "Alice in Zombieland"
Ages: 7 years and older
Ticket Prices: $10.00/person
Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
Pre-registration required by Oct. 20
Register at www.parksreg.cityofbellevue.org or by calling 425-452-4240

SpookFest Night Watchman Tour

Oct. 22, 7 and 8 p.m.
Take a guided 45-minute tour through the trails and dark sides of Eastgate Park. A night watchman will tell tales of ghosts and werewolves. All ages welcome. Free. Preregistration required. Register at www.parksreg.cityofbellevue.org or by calling 425-452-4240; course 109355 for 7 p.m. tour; course 109356 for 8 p.m. tour.

Men's Shelter Informational Meeting

Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
Champions Centre
2649 145th Pl. SE
Discussion of permanent site in Eastgate
Details at www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm

"Merry Fairy Tales"

Oct. 28, 29, Nov. 4, 5 at 7 p.m.
Oct. 30, Nov. 5 and 6 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre-Crossroads
16051 NE 10th St. All ages. $12 per ticket before Oct. 21.
425-452-7155 or
byt@bellevuewa.gov

A participant in the Great SBCC Pumpkin Race and Jump is all smiles at the finish line.

Great Pumpkin Hunt!

Oct 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center
9825 NE 24th St.
Kid carnival games, Halloween crafts, music. Ages 2 - 12. Prizes for the best costume. Food vendors will have food for purchase. Admission: $15 per child. Parents and grandparents are free. Pre-registration recommended. Limited number of tickets will be sold. 425-452-4106, course #108239. NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

November

Sounds of Swing Dance

Nov. 8, 2-4 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE
$3 at the door
425-452-7681

"Bye Bye Birdie"

Nov. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 13, 19 and 20 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre-Crossroads
16051 NE 10th St.
This show is suitable for the entire family.
$12 per ticket before Nov. 4.
425-452-7155 or email
byt@bellevuewa.gov

Thanksgiving Lunch

Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE
Preregistration required/Space limited
$4/each at the door

EverGreen Holiday Gift Market

Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Highland Middle School
15027 NE Bel-Red Rd.
Shop for handmade, "upcycled" and local arts and crafts.

"Fit for the Feast" Masters Swim Workout

Nov. 24, 9-11 a.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center
601 143rd Ave. NE
Ages 19 and up. All abilities are welcome. Cost is $10, includes a t-shirt.
425-452-2806

Youth Appreciation & Safety Day

Nov. 25, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center
601 143rd Ave. NE
Bring your kids to this special swim session with safety demonstration and raffles.
Free admission and open swim for children 12 & under. $7.00 for ages 13 and older.
425-452-4444

"How the Penguins Saved Santa Claus"

Nov. 25, 26, Dec. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 27, Dec. 3 and 4 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre-Crossroads
16051 NE 10th St.
Come and share the magic and laughter of the holiday season as a group of misfit penguins race against the clock to save Santa. $12 per ticket before Nov. 18.
425-452-7155

December

Hilltop Holiday Craft Fair

Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center
9825 NE 24th St.
Thousands of quality crafts from more than 65 of Northwest's finest artists and crafters. Free admission. www.bellevuehilltopholidaycraftshow.com/ or 206-920-2957 or contact Northwest Arts Center at
NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or
425-452-4106

Christmas Ship Festival

Dec. 1, Newcastle Beach Park
4400 Lk Washington Blvd. SE, 8:55-9:15 p.m.
Dec. 22, Meydenbauer Beach Park
419 98th Ave. NE, 8:35-8:55 p.m.
See the ships from onshore and enjoy a beach fire to keep you warm!
Free event. Pre-registration is not required.
425-452-4106 or
NWAC@bellevuewa.gov

"A Christmas Carol"

Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 11, 17 and 18 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre-Crossroads
16051 NE 10th St.
Join the 25th anniversary celebration of this traditional retelling of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. $12 per ticket before Dec. 18. 425-452-7155

Sounds of Swing Dance

Dec. 13, 2-4 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE
$3 at the door
425-452-7681

Bellevue Magic Season Events

Garden d'Lights

Nov. 26 – Dec. 31, 4:30 – 9:00 p.m. every evening including holidays. Lights go out at 9:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
$5 Admission. Free for children 10 and under.
Free parking is available at Wilburton Hill Park. $5/premium on-site parking; free for limited mobility. Tickets are available online starting Oct. 14.
www.gardendlights.org
425-452-6844

Bellevue Magic Season Ice Arena

presented by Bank of America
Nov. 25-Jan. 8; open daily, hours vary
2016-2017 season at Ashwood Park
10820 NE 10th St.
Complimentary parking available in library garage.
Partial open-air rink (the only one in the Seattle area)
Featuring a heated tent for spectators and larger rink surface
$12 admission includes skate rental; 8-year-olds and under $9 (includes skate rental).
425-453-3110 or www.BellevueDowntown.com

Snowflake Lane

Nov. 25-Dec. 24
Nightly at 7 p.m.
Bellevue Way and Northeast 8th St.
Snow falls nightly as live toy soldiers and winter characters,
music and a dazzling light show brighten the night. 425-454-8096 or www.bellevuecollection.com/snowflakelane

City Contact Information

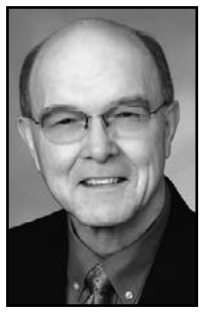
City Hall
450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012
Service First (general information): 452-6800

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 (recycing, 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

Tips to prepare for the rainy season

By Jerry Shuster, Stormwater Engineer

When rain storms are intense, the city's storm drain system can become overwhelmed and flooding can occur. It's a good idea to get prepared now and know what to do to protect your property and yourself.

Properties located within floodplains or next to streams, lakes and wetlands are most susceptible to flooding. Floodplains benefit the entire community by providing temporary storage of floodwaters until a storm subsides.

Bellevue's drainage system also includes flood detention ponds, pipes and ditches. Some parking lots and parks are even designed to fill with water during big storms.

Of course, you don't need to be in a floodplain to experience flooding. Most flooding in Bellevue is caused by storm drains clogged with leaves and debris, especially in heavy rains. Utilities crews inspect, clean and maintain the city's storm drain system, but there are more than 20,000 public storm drains around the city and help from residents to keep them free of debris is much appreciated.

Floodplain boundary lines are shown on FEMA flood insurance rate maps. To find out if your property is located within a floodplain, call Utilities at 425-452-5206 or check Bellevue's floodplain maps on the city website, www.bellevuewa.gov. The city also keeps elevation certificates on file for permitted construction within the floodplains.

Flood insurance is required for structures in the floodplain that also have federally-backed mortgages. Flood insurance can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program, which provides flood insurance for all properties. Even if you don't live in a floodplain, flood insurance is recommended. A typical homeowner's insurance policy will not cover water damage unless the damage is caused by interior flooding, such as an overflowing toilet or a leaking sink.

Ask your insurance carrier for information about the National Flood Insurance Program. Bellevue residents receive a 25 percent discount on NFIP policies due to Bellevue's floodplain management program. There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy goes into effect.

Report flooding, lack of water, or water main breaks at your home or business by calling the Utilities 24-hour emergency number at 425-452-7840.

Know how to shut off your electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves, so you can do so if your property floods. For information on gas and electric shutoff procedures, call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773. If you need help locating your main water shut off valve, call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-7840.

Move to higher floors or higher ground if you experience flooding. Never wade or drive through flooded areas. If your car stalls in water, abandon it and move to higher ground.

Prevent erosion and slow stormwater runoff by preserving trees, plants and grasses on steep slopes and near streams and lakes. Keep them clear of debris also.

If there are drainage problems near your property, call Utilities at 425-452-7840. Help Utilities by removing leaves from nearby clogged storm drains.

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
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