Bellevue Women to Trace Genealogies at Workshop

_Cultural Conversations_, a monthly discussion group created by women working to build intercultural understanding, begins its fourth year this month.

The group’s _January 8_ program (_1-2:30 pm, Crossroads Community Center_) is a workshop to explore another aspect of genealogy - storytelling. The conversation will not focus on a traditional and technical “how to” of genealogy but rather a “what if” we could resurrect the stories that have never been told or the story that seems to have ended abruptly.

The pursuit of family history is especially popular in American society where our people have been migrating from all around the world for generations. The January meeting will be led by long time Cultural Conversations member Carol Ross, an avid amateur genealogist who has actively been un-puzzling the story of her family since she was a child. Born into a family with deep Southern roots, Carol was strongly influenced by the experience of her parents who were part of the great exodus of 6 million African Americans from the South between 1915-1970 seeking opportunity and a better life. It wasn’t until she obtained some of the technical “know how” that she began to make great strides in her research, but this reminds us that this art of storytelling of your own family history begins with you today and what you know now.

_Cultural Conversations_ was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City’s Neighborhood Outreach Team. The concept was initiated by women who hoped to develop community connections and enhance their knowledge and understanding of different cultural practices and world views. Monthly gatherings include women from all around the world. The events are free, refreshments are served and women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. Meetings are held Tuesdays at Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St. Meetings scheduled through June 2013 are:

- Feb. 12 1-2:30 p.m. Rituals surrounding death, dying and funeral traditions
- Mar. 19, 1:30 p.m. Cultural expectations
- Apr. 23, 1-2:30 p.m. Stress relievers in different cultures
- June 4, 1-2:30 p.m. Cultural attitudes toward money & financial security

For more information, contact Ying Carlson at 425-452-4342 or ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov or Barb Tuininga at 425-452-2800 or btuininga@bellevuewa.gov.
Sound Transit to Start Field Work on Eastlink Light Rail Project

Over the next several months residents may notice Sound Transit staff conducting field work along the East Link Extension light rail alignment. They’ll be out collecting information to help advance the East Link design. Field work can include:

- Geotechnical exploration: drillings help Sound Transit better understand soil conditions along the light rail alignment. Boring holes are typically four to 12 inches in diameter and vary in depth. Once the boring is complete, the hole is backfilled and the area is returned to its existing condition.
- Survey: consists of research on all ground features, including utilities, trees, fences, buildings, roadways and other features.
- Utility exploration: commonly referred to as potholing, includes digging a hole or series of holes to locate a utility. Once the utility is found, the hole(s) will be backfilled and the area is returned to its existing condition.
- Wetland delineation: a biologist investigates the property, possibly digging a few shallow holes, and if necessary, stakes out an area determined to be a wetland.

While much of the field work will take place on public right-of-way, there will be some need to conduct activities on private property. To ensure the design of East Link is based on the best possible information, Sound Transit will soon be requesting permission to access private property (Right-of-Entry) from property owners along the alignment. Right-of-Entry agreements allow Sound Transit to learn about the soil conditions, water levels, utilities and topography along the alignment and in the vicinity.

Work on private property will only take place following permission from property owners. Sound Transit Community Outreach is committed to providing advanced notification to all those affected by field work. For questions or additional information regarding the East Link project, please contact Katie Kuciemba at 206-398-5459 or eastlink@soundtransit.org

A Few Spaces Left in Popular Mediation Training

Mediation is an increasingly popular method for resolving disputes. Basic mediation training is offered for people interested in developing mediation and conflict resolution skills, and is also a pre-requisite for those interested in volunteering with the mediation program. Course curriculum includes conflict theory, communication skills, conflict styles and mediation tools.

Course Dates: Wed. Jan 30 & Feb 6 5pm-9pm  
Fri. Feb 1 & Feb 8, 9am-5pm  
Sat. Feb 2 & Feb. 9, 9am-5pm

Sessions are held at Bellevue City Hall and attendance at all sessions is required. Cost is $250. For more information or to register, please call 425-452-4091 or email mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov.
Carbon Monoxide Detectors Now Required in Rentals

If you are a renter or a landlord, there is a new law taking effect on January 1st, 2013 that will affect you. The state now requires carbon monoxide (CO) detectors to be installed in all apartment and home rentals and in re-sale homes prior to occupancy.

Carbon monoxide poisoning, most often occurring when someone tries to heat their home during a power outage by bringing a grill or gas generator inside, kills more than 500 people and accounts for an estimated 20,000 emergency department visits annually in the U.S. CO detectors alert residents when dangerous levels of the odorless gas are reached.

Fire officials recommend installing a carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home, near bedrooms especially. In existing residences, detectors can be plug-in, battery-operated or hard-wired.

There are two exceptions to the new law. Owner-occupied, single-family residences are exempt, however, to sell a home, the seller must equip the residence with carbon monoxide alarms before the buyer or any other person may legally occupy the residence. Motels, hotels, college dormitories and licensed boarding homes and residential treatment facilities may install common-area carbon monoxide detectors when certain conditions are met.


January meetings
(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

1/1 New Year’s Day – All city offices closed
1/3 City Council (7:30-9:00am, 1E-113) Legislative Breakfast http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
1/7 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Draft Light Rail Overlay to govern permitting for the East Link Light Rail project (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
1/10 Environmental Services Commission (8:00pm, 1E-113) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) & Stormwater Management Program, commission 2013 workplan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/envirn_serv_comm.htm
1/10 Transportation Commission (7:45, 1E-120) Downtown Transportation Plan Update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm
1/14 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Presentation by Matt Segal/Jessica Skelton on meeting protocols, Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act, Downtown Livability, Puget Sound Regional Council Executive (PSRC) Growing Transit Communities, Draft Light Rail Overlay to govern permitting for the East Link Light Rail project
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/15 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Livability study overview, Cultural Compass and other program updates
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

1/15 Human Services Commission (6:00, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined

1/17 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30am-Noon, 1E-120) Annual Retreat
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

1/21 Martin Luther King Day – All city offices closed

1/22 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Draft Light Rail Overlay to govern permitting for the East Link Light Rail project, Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) update (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Management Brief regarding amending the false alarm provisions to allow for third part administration, Consent Calendar
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/24-26 City Council Retreat (location: Port Ludlow, time and agenda details to be determined)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/28 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Possible East Link discussion, possible Shoreline Master Plan discussion, Solid Waste contract discussion, possible A Regional Coalitionfor Housing (ARCH) 2013 work program and budget discussion, Regional Issues
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

Bellevue’s Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.