Meeting to air proposal for new 148th Avenue transmission line

A public meeting is scheduled this month to discuss Puget Sound Energy’s proposal to build a new transmission line through east Bellevue, connecting the utility’s Phantom Lake and Lake Hills substations. The proposed line would run along 148th Avenue from NE 8th to SE 16th and would include connecting segments on both NE 8th and SE 16th. The proposal, which is designed to improve electrical reliability, would require the removal of about 400 trees along the route of the line.

As part of the public review process for a Conditional Use Permit/Approval, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) representatives will discuss the proposal at the Tuesday, Sept. 4 meeting of the East Bellevue Community Council. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd. Representatives from both PSE and the City of Bellevue will be on hand to answer questions. A public hearing on the required Conditional Use Permit will be held before the Bellevue Hearing Examiner at a later date. For more information, contact Sally Nichols, 425-452-2727 or spnichols@bellevuewa.gov.

Bellevue women working to foster unity

Cultural Conversations, a monthly discussion group created by women working to build intercultural understanding, begins its third year this month.

The group’s Sept. 11 program will feature guest speaker Nura Adam, a local entrepreneur, on the topic of bridging cultural gaps and fostering community unity. She will share her reflections about Sept. 11, 2001, and her inspiration to move forward in a life-changing way. Originally from Somalia, Ms. Adam owns a translation and consulting business that helps businesses and organizations develop the background knowledge and communication skills to succeed in a culturally diverse environment. Meeting participants will learn how to move beyond cultural barriers, assumptions and judgments to a more positive mindset about neighbors from different cultures.

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 for the remainder of 2012 are:

- Sept. 11, 1-3 p.m. – AARPIC Theory - new model for building a culturally competent community
- Oct. 16, 1-2:30 p.m. – The American Dream and Identity
- Dec. 4, noon-2 p.m. – Ethnic potluck
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.

Natural yard care is taking root in Bellevue

The City of Bellevue recently updated its online resources to help residents grow great yards and gardens. The collection includes webpages, downloadable PDFs, how-to videos and information about free natural yard care classes. The webpages can be accessed by clicking this button:

Natural yard care is a five-step method to create a beautiful landscape that’s easier to care for and healthier for families, pets and Bellevue’s beautiful environment. Each step is achieved by working smarter – not harder – with nature.

The benefits of natural yard care include beautiful yards with easy maintenance, less cost, and reduced water needs; healthy outdoor refuges for pets; and decreases in waste, chemicals, and stormwater runoff. Visit www.bellevuewa.gov/naturalyardcare.htm to learn more.

Get training to help resolve neighborhood conflict

Interested in a meaningful volunteer opportunity? Bellevue’s unique Neighborhood Mediation Program works with volunteers to help neighbors resolve conflicts which threaten neighborhood peace and harmony.

The program is seeking volunteers to provide telephone intake and conflict coaching services. A free 16-hour training is offered to prospective volunteers who live, work or attend school in Bellevue. Three evening classes – Oct. 17, 19 and 24 – will focus on communications skills and conflict resolution.

Information about services of the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program can be found at the website, www.bellevuewa.gov/mediation.htm. For more information about the upcoming training, or to request an application, please e-mail mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-4091. The deadline to apply for training is Sept. 28.

September 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.)

9/4 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Right-of-way code amendments, Comprehensive Plan threshold review, direction on budget assumptions relating to Impact Fees (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
9/4 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) Arts Commission Goals, Cultural Compass Update planning, update on the Bellwether exhibit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm
9/4 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Public meeting on conditional use requests: (1) From Puget Sound Energy – to install new transmission line connecting the Lake Hills and Phantom Lake substations; and (2) From Bellevue School District – to demolish Sammamish High School with the exception of the existing Performing Arts Center, and to construct a new three-story facility to serve students in grades 9-12 http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm
9/6 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) King County Sexual Assault Resource Center presentation “Sex Offenders in the Community and Community Safety”; Transit Master Plan Forum briefing; presentation titled “Building Non-Profit Resiliency” http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm
9/6 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Solid Waste Contract review #2; Shoreline Master Program; budget proposal wrap-up; Revenue & Rate Study follow-up [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm]

9/6 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30am, 1E-120) Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse presentation, committee reports [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm]

9/6 Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station Public Meeting (6:00, East Shore Unitarian Church, 12700 SE 32nd St.) Opportunity to comment on proposal to remove the existing transfer station and construct a new station and recycling facility at 13800 SE 32nd St.

9/10 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Proposed solid waste rate increase; Tentative -- interlocal agreement creating National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) consortium; Tentative – joint prosecution agreement for NPDES [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm]

9/11 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm]

9/12 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Public hearing on the proposal for area-wide rezoning from R-3.5 to R-2.5 within the Horizon View C neighborhood [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm]


9/17 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Environmental Stewardship Initiative update/briefing; Land Use Code Amendments relating to East Link code conflicts and gaps; scope, guiding principles for Downtown Livability initiative (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Proclamations for Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry, Family Day, and National Recovery Month; Consent Calendar, amendments to the Right-of-Way Code relating to East Link; City Code amendments relating to firearms in parks and community centers [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm]

9/18 Human Services Commission (6:00, 1E-113) Transit Master Plan Forum (instead of regular Human Services Commission meeting) [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm]

9/24 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues, Procurement Code amendments, proposed B&O Tax Code amendments [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm]

9/26 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm]

Say goodbye . . .

Ed.Note: I’m leaving the City -- after 24 years – to pursue some new interests. I wish you all the utmost success in your community, neighborhood, and personal endeavors. And as a resident, I look forward to working with you to keep Bellevue beautiful and healthy for all people.

The terrific Neighborhood Outreach Team is still here to serve you. Give them a call at 425-452-6836 any time you need information or assistance.

Cheryl Kuhn
Outreach Manager

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.