neighborhood news

November 2016

news for and about Bellevue neighborhoods

Bellevue Hits Diversity Milestone

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 in September from its 2015 American Community Survey that indicates 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.

"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 approximately 93 percent of the city's population growth. Other drivers of this growth include a thriving employment market and the city's reputation for good schools, parks and safe neighborhoods.

"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."

In 2015, about 39 percent of Bellevue's population was foreign-born, two-thirds of which are from Asia. As of last year, more than one third of Bellevue's population was Asian.

The city tracks demographic data related to ethnicity, age, and household type and size, along with many other characteristics, to ensure that services continuously match the needs of residents. While the American Community Survey (ACS) estimates don't describe every resident - foreign- or native-born - they do 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 speaks a language other than English at home, compared to 13 percent of Bellevue's native-born population. Citywide, residents 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 similar to 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 average household size of Bellevue's foreign-born population is 2.72, versus 2.46 for its 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.

"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."

Help Families in Need This Holiday Season

November 1 to December 5

- Station One – 766 Bellevue Way SE (Downtown/West Bellevue)
- Station Two – 2802 148th Ave SE (Eastgate/Lake Hills/W. Lake Sammamish)
- Station Three – 16100 NE Eighth St. (Crossroads/NE Bellevue)
- Station Four – 4216 Factoria Blvd. SE (Factoria/Somerset)
- Station Five – 9621 NE 24th St. (Northwest Bellevue)
- Station Six – 1850 132nd Ave NE (Bridle Trails/Wilburton)
- Station Seven – 11900 SE Eighth St. (Wilburton/Woodridge)
- Station Eight – 5701 Lakemont Blvd. SE (Eastgate/Cougar Mountain)
- Station Nine – 12412 SE 69th Way (Newport)

As the holiday season approaches, it can be particularly difficult for families who can't afford toys, food or other essentials for their children and loved ones. If you would like to help those in need, please consider donating new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable, canned and prepackaged food to the Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation Toy and Food Drive, located at all nine Bellevue fire stations:

Toys will be handed out at the Crossroads Youth Holiday Party on Dec. 13, and food will go to Hopelink, which operates food banks in Bellevue. Gifts will be accepted through Dec. 23, for distribution to Bellevue families in need.

Toy ideas include:

- Infants: plush animals, toys and gift cards;
- Children ages 3-10: new books, games, sport equipment such as soccer balls and basketballs, arts and crafts kits, cars/trucks, dolls and plush animals; and
- Teens: gift cards to restaurants, malls and clothing and music stores.

For more information about the celebration or donations needed, please contact Vicki Drake, Community Services Supervisor, Crossroads Community Center, at 425-452-4874.

The EverGreen Gift Market

Saturday, November 19, 10am-3pm

Highland Middle School,
15027 NE Bel-Red Rd, Bellevue

The EverGreen Gift Market will amaze and entertain you with its offerings of wonderful, sustainably-sourced, locally handmade gifts. You might try some sipping vinegar or some flavored salts. You might buy some upcycled jewelry or handmade pottery. Whatever you pick, you'll have the peace of mind of knowing that your purchase is supporting a more sustainable future for you, your loved ones and your community!

City's Affordable Housing Strategy Making Progress

The Affordable Housing Strategy team has been busy analyzing the responses to the Affordable Housing Strategy survey and working with the Technical Advisory Group and the consultant team on the analysis of the draft strategies. We are thrilled to announce that we received more than 900 responses to the Affordable Housing Strategy Survey, and we will be posting the results to the website (http://www.bellevuewa.gov/affordable-housing.htm) in the coming weeks. We will also be posting new, affordable housing information to the website, which we encourage residents to read and share with their neighbors and friends. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your neighborhood organization to discuss your questions and concerns regarding affordable housing! If you are interested in arranging a meeting with staff, please contact Emily Kish ekish@bellevuewa.gov.

Green Clean at Home Workshops

Wednesday, November 2, 7-8pm
Bellevue Downtown Library 1111 110th Ave. NE

Thursday, November 10, 7-8pm
Newport Way Library 14250 SE Newport Way

Wednesday, November 16, 7-8pm
Lake Hills Library 15590 Lake Hills Blvd.

Space is still available for the remaining green clean workshops this fall. These fun, hands-on classes will cover information on avoiding toxic cleaners and resources for making your own green cleaners. Attendees will receive a free green cleaning kit to take home. Adults and children over 7 are welcome to attend. All events are free and registration is required.

Please email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-6932 to register. Spaces are limited to 20 people per session. First come, first served.

City of Bellevue's False Alarm Reduction Program Update

Background:

In 2014, Bellevue police officers responded to 3,871 false alarms, costing over $125,000 in staff time. On December 4, 2014, Bellevue City Council passed the False Alarm Ordinance with the goal of reducing false alarms at residential and commercial properties, allowing police resources to be used more effectively. The ordinance requires alarm registration and includes a civil penalty process for false alarm activations.

The City contracted with a third-party vendor, Public Safety Corporation (PSC), to administer the registration, billing, notifications, and fine collection associated with the False Alarm Reduction Program (FARP). In July 2015, the Bellevue Police Department began educating the public on the new law and registration information was sent to monitored alarm users. Registration, billing, and enforcement of the new law began on October 1, 2015.

The Program:

The False Alarm Reduction Program (FARP) is designed to fulfill the goals of the ordinance through a multi-pronged approach:

Registration: alarm system registration prevents delays in response due to incomplete or inaccurate addresses, and provides police with an emergency contact in case notification is needed.

- $25 one-time registration fee; $12 for senior citizens and individuals with permanent disabilities
- Alarm users are required to update their registration information within 30 days of a change to maintain the effectiveness of the program.

Enhanced call verification: Two calls are made by the alarm company to homeowners upon monitored alarm activation.

Accountability: False Alarm Fines – $100 for false burglar alarms and $200 for false panic/ hold up alarms.*

*The first-time monetary fine is waived if the alarm user takes an on-line alarm education class and passes.

Education: educating all alarm users on the functions of an alarm system and proper maintenance can help reduce false alarms.

Annual update:

After compiling public feedback, the City and PSC made a number of improvements to the program including clarifying the mailed notices from our vendor, easing the registration process, and creating partnerships within the alarm industry to ensure the program reflects the industry standards to best serve the Bellevue community. We continue to solicit ways to improve the program from alarm users.

To improve the program, the City Council approved amendments to the False Alarm Ordinance on July 13, 2016:

One-time Registration Fee: The annual renewal fee was removed from the ordinance and changed to a one-time registration fee.

Definition of Alarm System: The ordinance was changed to include unmonitored alarms, as well as alarms monitored by an alarm company, or any system intended to summon a law enforcement response. The law does not apply to motor vehicle or boat alarms, fire alarms, an alarm system designed solely to alert the occupants of a building/ residence which will not emit a signal either audible or visible from outside the building/ residence, or alarms designed to elicit a medical response.

These amendments seek to hold all alarm users accountable for violations while removing any undue burden to those alarm users that operate and maintain systems that do not impact police resources.

The City of Bellevue saw a reduction of 971 false alarm activations in the first year of implementation, this is a 22% reduction. The City hopes to see a greater reduction in the coming years.

For more information about the alarm code changes, please visit website: http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Bellevue/?Bellevue09/Bellevue0916.html

Bellevue Essentials Graduation

Thursday, November 16, 7pm

Bellevue City Hall Council Chambers, 450 110th Ave NE

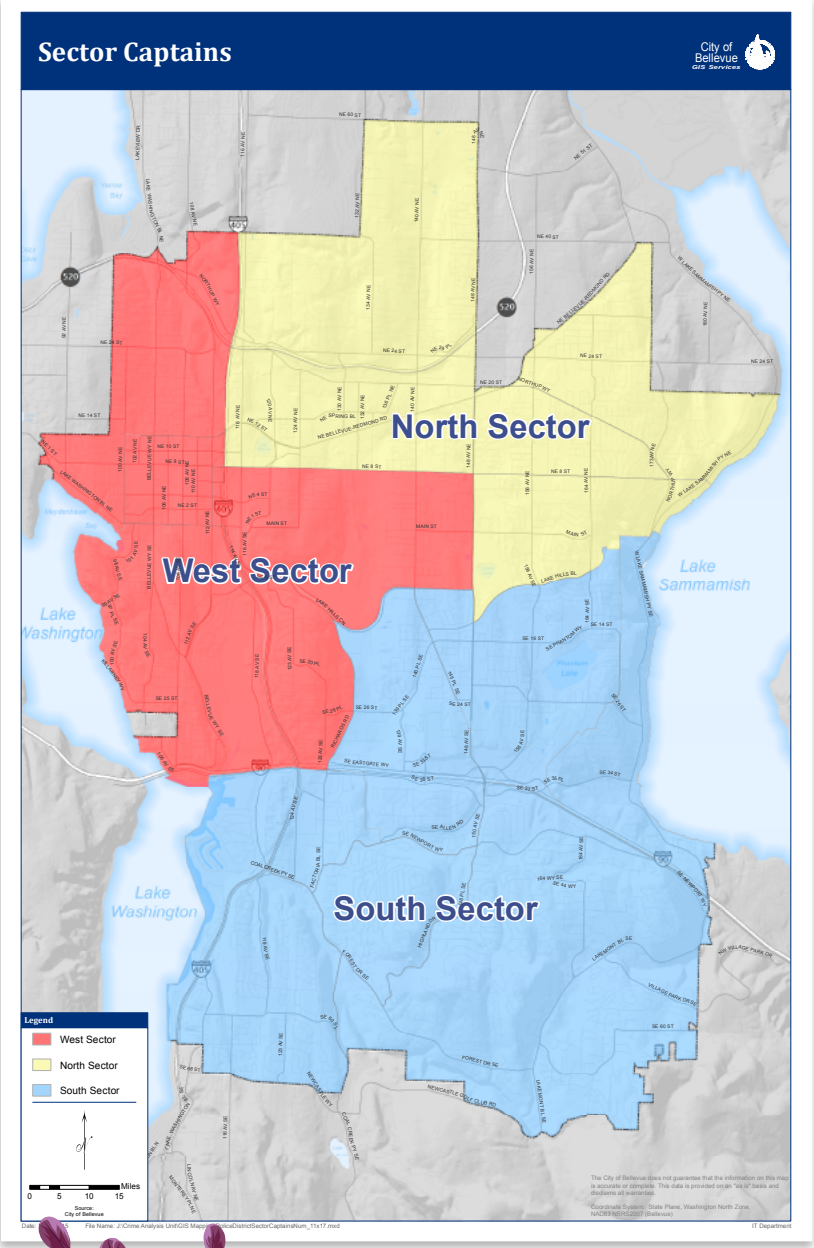
Bellevue Essentials, a civic engagement program now in its fourth season, will welcome over 30 new graduates to its ranks. The community is invited to meet the class this month at a graduation ceremony. The evening will include a keynote address by James Whitfield, President and CEO of Leadership Eastside, as well as class speaker, Pam Unger and Alumni Speaker, Brian Ugai. Graduation certificates will be presented by Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak and City Manager, Brad Miyake.

The event is open to the public, and offers a good opportunity to learn more about the Bellevue Essentials program. Bellevue Essentials is the City's nine-week introductory program to civic engagement. It highlights the structures and inner workings of city government in many arenas. Topics include demographics, public process, city planning, economic development, human services, utilities, environmental stewardship, finance and transportation, intergovernmental relations, public safety and more. The next class will commence in September, 2017, with applications available in May, 2017.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, please contact Julie Ellenhorn at jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372.

Introducing the New Police Sector Captains

The City of Bellevue Police Sector Captain Program divides the City into three, distinct areas to provide residents and neighborhoods with a direct contact to the Bellevue Police Department.



West Sector: Captain Lisa Patricelli

lpatricelli@bellevuewa.gov or (425) 452-7921

Captain Patricelli is a Watch Commander in our Patrol Division. She looks forward to meeting you at Community Events, Block Watches, or anytime you would like to email or call her with questions or concerns regarding your neighborhoods.

North Sector: Captain Andrew Popochock

APopochock@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4347

Captain Popochock has been very active in attending HOA meetings with a host of neighborhoods in his sector, and is working closely on recent parking complaints in the 13200-13600 blocks between the Bel-Red Road and Northup. He also is the Commander for the Crowd Control Unit, and mainly works nights.

South Sector: Captain Debbie Ingram

DIngram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6055

Captain Ingram has been attending community meetings and working on a number of parking complaints in Eastgate. She is also the Traffic Commander and works closely with the City's Transportation and Code Compliance Departments.

We encourage you to call 911 if you see anything suspicious. Our NORCOM call receivers will divert you to non-emergency lines if the issue is not life-threatening. You are our eyes and ears for reporting unusual behavior in the neighborhoods. Get to know your neighbors by hosting or attending established Block Watch meetings. If you are interested in organizing a Block Watch, please email your request to: Crimeprevention@bellevuewa.gov.

All three of your Sector Captains are committed to ensuring our City is a safe place for us to work and live in, along with welcoming our many visitors from all over the world. Partnership with all of you is vital to making this happen!

TRAFFIC CORNER

Construction continues for many project this fall. We apologize for any traffic delays that you encounter as we continue to improve Bellevue's roadways.

The following project locations serve a high volume of traffic. For updates, watch for electronic message boards, which will post road closures seven days in advance. If possible, use an alternate route on the dates and times provided below:

Lane or full road closures:

- Northup Way Connection to SR 520 Trail: Sidewalks, bike lanes and intersection improvements will happen on Northup Way from 116th Avenue NE to NE 24th Street. Construction impacts will happen in both intersections until the end of December, Monday through Friday, 7 am – 4 pm.
- 120th Avenue NE, Stage 2: NE 8th St to NE 12th St: Lane closures through the end of the year, Monday through Friday, 7 am – 4 pm.
- 120th Avenue NE, Stage 3: NE 12th St to NE 16th St: Road is closed between the 1400 block and 1600 block until April 2017 to build a five-lane roadway with bike lanes.
- NE 6th Street: Bellevue Way to 105th Avenue NE: Roadway will be closed to replace pavement and sidewalk and reconstruct the 105th Avenue NE and NE 6th Street intersection.
- 148th Avenue: Main St to SE 8th St: Pavement overlay & traffic signal upgrades: Lane closures at these intersections through November.

Traffic impacts associated with the construction of the East Link light rail include:

- 110th Ave NE from Main St/112th Ave SE to 110th Ave NE/NE 6th St: On-going. Tunnel monitoring equipment installation along the alignment through late 2016. Lane closures along Main St and 110th Ave NE. Traffic control set up will change day to day as the work progresses from south to the north.
- Main St/& 112th Ave: On-going. Expect intermittent lane and sidewalk closures for installation of temporary sound wall.
- NE 2nd Pl from 110th Ave NE to 111th Ave NE: On-going through 2018 (minimum two-year closure) to allow use of the right of way as a staging area for Sound Transit (24-hour construction line: 888-398-5465).

Please note: This list does not include current lane closures, due to private development projects being constructed in downtown Bellevue. For information about those projects, please refer to: www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Development%20Services/lu_MajorProjects.pdf

Construction Information Tools: Stay up-to-date on lane or full road closures by using the following information tools:

- Electronic Message boards: Gives dates or times of upcoming lane or road closures.
- Real-time Traffic Map & Cameras: www.bellevuewa.gov/trafficmap
- Traffic Advisories webpage: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm
- Follow the Transportation Department on Twitter: @BvueTrans

Capital Project (Interactive) Map: www.bellevuewa.gov/capital-projects-map.htm

Sign up for email alerts on project webpages: www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation.htm

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these improvements around Bellevue!

November 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.)

11/1 East Bellevue Community Council
(6:30pm, Lake Hills Club House, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) Oral Communications
http://bellevuewa.gov/ebcc.htm

11/1 Arts Commission (4:30pm, 1E-108) Destination Development Plan Presentation, Preliminary 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

11/1 Human Services Commission (6:00pm, 1E-113) Early Learning/Childcare. Overview of research, gaps, needs, and upcoming legislation. Panelists: Deanne Puffert (Childcare Care Resources), Ed Paul with YMCA (need for childcare sites in downtown Bellevue); Deborah Duitch (Head Start & Early Preschool School Readiness Collaborative) and Home Visiting.
http://bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

11/3 Environmental Services Commission
(6:30pm, 1E-113) Environmental Services Commission Budget/Rate Recommendations to Council; Solid Waste Customer Services Survey Results and 2015-2016 Audit
http://bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

11/3 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30am, 1E-113) Melony Joyce and DeAnna Martin will present on King County Metro Accessible Services
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

11/7 City Council (6:00pm, Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) 2017-2018 Budget - Details for Capital Improvement Plan and Operating Budget; Community Development Block Grant and Human Services Grant Recommendations; Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment

(8:00pm, Regular Session, Council Chambers, 1E-126) Public Hearing – Interim Official Control regarding relocation of businesses by the Sound Transit East Link Project
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

11/8 Parks and Community Services Board
(6:00pm, 1E-113) Parks Department Capital Improvement Plan Budget
http://bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

11/9 Planning Commission (6:30pm, 1E-113) Public Hearing – final review on two 2016 Comprehensive Plan Amendments – Vision Zero and Eastgate Office Park
http://bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

11/10 Transportation Commission
(6:30pm, Enatai Elementary School, 10700 SE 25th St) Note: location tentative, please check website, if not at the school, meeting will be in 1E-113 at city hall) Transportation Management Plan, Preliminary Capital Improvement Plan
http://bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

11/10 Special Events Committee (8:30am, 1E-112) Upcoming Holiday Events, Fees and Schedules for 2017
http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

11/14 City Council (6:00pm, Extended Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) 2017-2018 Budget, Development Services Department Rates, Utilities Rates, School Impact Fees; Diversity Advantage Program Update; Affordable Housing Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

11/15 Human Services Commission
(6:00pm, 1E-113) Upcoming Legislative Session Preview
http://bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

11/15 Library Advisory Board
(5:00pm, Lake Hills Library, 15590 Lake Hills Blvd, Meeting Room) Review of King County Library System 2017 Budget Priorities from November 1st and 3rd public meetings http://bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

11/21 City Council (6:00pm, Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) 2017-2018 Budget; Bellevue Way SE High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Project

(8:00pm, Regular Session, Council Chambers 1E-126) Report from Parks and Community Services Board; Low Impact Development Principles Adoption; Public Hearing-Budget #3
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

11/28 City Council (6:00 p.m. Extended Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) 2017-2018 Budget; Regional Issues http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

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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, please visit our website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-outreach.htm or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov