Bellevue Fire Battalion
Chief Warren A. Merritt, whose family has been involved in fire service on the Eastside since the early 1900s, has been promoted to deputy chief.

Merritt, a 25-year veteran of the Bellevue Fire Department, was named to his new position by Chief Mario Trevino during a ceremony attended by firefighters, other city officials, and members of the Merritt family.

Dan Sterling, who served as Bellevue’s fire chief from 1975 until 1990, also attended the ceremony.

Deputy Chief Merritt began his professional firefighting career with the Bellevue Fire Department in 1980. Over the years, he has held the rank of firefighter and engineer, lieutenant, captain and, since 1992, battalion chief. He is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy.

Married to his high school sweetheart, Dana, for over 26 years, Deputy Chief Merritt and his wife have two grown children, Jessica, 23, and Ryan, 21.

Deputy Chief Merritt, 46, is a third-generation firefighter.

In the early 1900s his great uncle built fire boats in the Seattle area. His maternal grandparents, Leonard and Mary Tanska, immigrated to the United States from Finland in 1916 and settled on the Plateau, where Leonard in the early 1940s helped build the first volunteer fire station and served as a volunteer firefighter.

The building, still in use today as the Pine Lake Community Club, was constructed at a time when the plateau’s population was about 400.

Deputy Chief Merritt’s father, Vaughn (Jim), was a volunteer firefighter for King County Fire District (KCFD) #10 (now known as the Eastside Fire and Rescue) from 1954 until 1998. Today, he serves as a Fire Commissioner for Kittitas County Fire District #3 in Easton.

Ask Deputy Chief Merritt and he’s likely to tell you that firefighting is just part of growing up as a Merritt.

As he and each of his four brothers turned 16, they followed in their father’s footsteps and joined the volunteer firefighting ranks in KCFD #10. Deputy Chief Merritt served as a volunteer in the district from May 1974 until May 1994.

At one time in the late 70s, all five Merritt brothers and their dad, Jim, were volunteers with KCFD#10, leading Jim Merritt to say he was most proud of the fact that at one juncture the Merritts could make up their six-man engine company.

While Deputy Chief Merritt went on to a full-time career as a firefighter with the Bellevue Fire Department, two of his siblings went to King County. Chris Merritt, the oldest, is a 28-year veteran with King County Medic One, while Jeff, who is Deputy Chief Merritt’s twin brother, also is with King County Medic One, where he has served for the past 25 years.

Shortly after his promotion, Deputy Chief Merritt attended the North Bend Fire Academy graduation of his nephew, Adam, his oldest brother’s son. Adam presently is a volunteer firefighter with the North Highline Fire Department – and a fourth-generation Merritt firefighter.
Council Corner

Bellevue's parks continue to impress
By Grant Degginger

Independence Day won’t be the only event celebrated in Bellevue’s parks this summer. The Fourth of July festivities in the Downtown Park, with its great food, music and spectacular fireworks, gets bigger and better every year. But it’s only the beginning of the summer fun in Bellevue’s park system.

On July 9th, the city will hold a grand opening for its newest park, Lewis Creek. This spectacular, 55-acre site on Lakemont Boulevard, the culmination of many years of collaboration between the city and residents, and is a great example of how recreation and environmental stewardship can co-exist.

Bellevue purchased property along Lakemont Boulevard in 1990 for Lewis Creek Park. The creek itself bisects the site, and a series of wetlands exist in forested and pasture areas. During the planning process, the community recognized the need for both environmental preservation and active recreation amenities, including sports fields.

The end result reflects this dual vision. Over 80 percent of the park site will be preserved in its current pastoral or wooded condition while two baseball fields with a soccer field overlay, a multipurpose visitor center, trail systems, restrooms and a basketball court will provide many opportunities for active recreation. In the winter, Lewis Creek Park will be the best place in the city for sledding. Picnic and equestrian facilities are planned for the future.

While Lewis Creek Park may be the latest gem in our city’s parks system, it certainly isn’t the only reason Bellevue residents should rejoice this summer.

Work continues on the city’s new South Bellevue Community Center, a 33,000-square-foot complex at Eastgate Park that will be a sparkling addition to our other community centers. The new community center is a three-level recreation center that when completed by year’s end will provide a first-class gathering place serving all of Bellevue, but especially residents south of Interstate 90.

Located on a 25-acre site transferred to the city from King County in 2003, the Center is a partnership between the city and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue. The city and Boys and Girls Clubs have teamed up to provide fitness, health, sports and social programs for all ages; activities for older adults, after school programs, teen activities, special events, community meetings, and facility rentals for such functions as wedding receptions and retirement parties. And just for fun, there is an outdoor, 35-foot tall climbing wall and an outdoor challenge course to support a new series of adventuring programs.

Once completed, the South Bellevue Community Center will bring to life the total number of community centers in Bellevue. Like the other centers, the South Bellevue Community Center represents the City Council’s continued commitment to invest in our neighborhoods by bringing parks and recreation facilities and programs close to home.

Summer also is a great time to take a hike though Coal Creek Park, a new 550-acre addition to our parks system. If you like the water, you can hit the beach at one of our six waterfront parks along Lake Washington or you can rent a canoe at Enatai Beach Park and paddle through the Mercer Slough.

For those interested in exploring the performing arts, the Bellevue Youth Theatre is flourishing, with another great summer of programming as it continues to give people of all ages a unique opportunity to participate in a theatre production. The theater encourages young people, ages 5 to 19, to explore and learn about the world of performing arts, including a guaranteed opportunity to perform before a live audience, regardless of ability. Those who don’t want to step on stage can work behind the scenes in lighting design, costume, scene construction or stage operations. The program uses the performing arts to help build confidence and self esteem in young people.

With the support of the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation, the theater in recent years has managed to become a major player in Bellevue’s cultural arts scene and is a tremendous success story. Along the way, it has won several prestigious awards, including the 2000 Governor’s Arts and Heritage Award from the Washington Arts Commission.

Summertime is typically the time of year when we take a breather from the rigorous daily routines we’ve established for ourselves and enjoy more time in our community with family and friends. Bellevue’s wonderful parks—and parks programs—are there for you and your family to enjoy.

Summertime is at its best. There are so many opportunities for fun right here. So, have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Resident input sought for human services update

The City of Bellevue is asking for your opinion on human services in Bellevue. The city publishes the Human Services Needs Update report every two years. Human services are defined as services that help people with basic needs in times of crisis. City staff welcome your input on what you think are the most critical health and human services needs and what you think are the barriers or roadblocks for people being able to find and use these services in Bellevue.

Your opinions will be included, anonymously, in the 2005-2006 Needs Update available in early 2006. You can e-mail your comments to the City of Bellevue Human Services Office at maorilij@ci.bellevue.wa.us or by phone at 425-452-2824. Comments will be accepted until June 27th. The 2003-2004 Needs Update is available on the city’s web site at cityofbellevue.org.

The Human Services Needs Update assists the City of Bellevue Human Services Commission in developing priorities and recommendations for funding and provides information for other city departments and for non-profit health and human services providers in King County.

See It's Your City on

Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
or see previous editions on the web.
Go to cityofbellevue.org and click on “city videos.”

Hearing set on new critical areas regulations

The Planning Commission is inviting Bellevue citizens to comment on proposed changes to the city’s Land Use Code regulations protecting critical areas. The public hearing is tentatively planned for Wednesday, July 6, at 7 p.m.

Properties with or near critical areas—including wetlands, streams, steep slopes, floodplains, and shorelines—may be affected by the proposed changes. The Planning Commission gathered information and considered options over the course of several months to develop the proposal and welcomes public review and comment before making a final recommendation to the City Council.

Significant anticipated changes to the city’s current regulations include:

- Adoption of city-wide impervious surface limits. These limits will govern the amount of coverage allowed on a lot by structures, patios, driveways, and other similar hard surfaces. Limits will apply to all property in the city, regardless of proximity to a critical area.
- Changes to the rules for construction and repair of docks and bulkheads. Changes are anticipated to require designs that are more sensitive to fish and fish habitat, and to include mitigation and planting of native vegetation.
- Changes to the rules for remodeling or expanding structures near critical areas. Mitigation measures are likely to be imposed for such proposals, including planting native vegetation in critical areas and buffers.
- Changes to increase flexibility to deviate from the standard rules for projects near critical areas. This flexibility will be based on site-specific studies.
- New rules governing protection of certain special status wildlife, and incentives for protecting significant wildlife habitat.
- Increased buffers from critical areas (buffers are the areas immediately adjacent to critical areas within which uses and development are generally prohibited).

Following consideration of public comment, the Planning Commission may recommend the proposal as drafted or may suggest changes. The final proposal will be forwarded to the City Council for action.

Please watch the city’s Critical Areas Update web page (www.cityofbellevue.org) for public hearing details, or contact Kate Berens, 425-452-4616 or kberens@ci.bellevue.wa.us, for additional information.
Where the money comes from—and where it goes

The main sources of General Fund revenue are taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and charges for services.

- Taxes are the main source of revenue (74%) for the General Fund, with sales tax being the single largest revenue category at 35%, followed by property taxes (26%), utility taxes (21%), and business taxes (17%).
- Intergovernmental revenues comprise 11% of all General Fund revenue and are items such as motor vehicle taxes, liquor excise taxes, fire protection services, and 911 dispatch services.
- Charges for Services account for 9% of General Fund revenue; these resources consist of recreation fees, probation and home detention charges.
- Miscellaneous revenues consist of fines and forfeitures, license and permit fees, investment interest, etc.

The state Legislature has approved a funding bill creating $1.5 billion for East King County transportation projects. Of that, $972 million will be used to add lanes and reduce bottlenecks on Interstate 405.

The funding, which will come from a 9½ cent gas tax implemented over 16 years, is tied to specific projects throughout the state. Some examples of significant Eastside investments:

- $30 million toward construction of one HOV lane in each direction on Interstate 90 between Bellevue Way and I-5.
- $67 million for the NE 10th Extension in Bellevue, fully funding the project.
- $250 million to improve the ramps that merge onto I-405 from Northeast Eighth Street to State Route 520, one of the region’s worst chokepoints.
- $500 million for replacement of the 520 bridge. This significant down payment will be combined with the $52 million allocated from the earlier tax, tolls, and regional funds to pay the estimated $1.7 billion to $2.9 billion cost.

The package will also provide $2 billion for the Alaskan Way Viaduct in Seattle, $500 million for State Route 520 and improvements on State Route 167 in south King County.

The improvements are designed to work together, benefiting the entire region. Fixing chokepoints in the south, for example, benefits drivers traveling between Bellevue and Renton and points beyond. Even replacement of Seattle’s Viaduct helps the Eastside; if the Viaduct collapsed in an earthquake, I-405 would quickly become clogged with drivers avoiding an overloaded Interstate 5.

“This package of projects is an investment in the future of Bellevue and the entire Puget Sound region,” said Deputy Mayor Phil Noble, Chair of the Eastside Transportation Partnership. “Thanks in large part to the leadership of our Eastside legislators, commuters and others will see some important improvements in transportation in the coming years.”

The bill also created new funding for local transportation projects via a new ½ cent gas tax distribution to cities. Bellevue currently receives about $1.3 million per year in local gas tax revenues. The city is estimated to receive an additional $494,000 per year for local projects.

Finally, the Transportation Improvement Board, a statewide granting agency supporting local projects, received an additional $7 million. Bellevue has a strong track record of receiving TIB funds.

Public Safety $58,348 (47.8%)
- Police patrol
- Traffic accident investigation & enforcement
- Regional 911 Communications centers
- Fire suppression and rescue
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire inspections
- Emergency Preparedness

Parks $21,030 (17.2%)
- Parks and open spaces
- Recreation programs
- Human Services

Transportation $20,267 (16.6%)
- Plan, and repair transportation facilities
- Traffic signals and street lighting

Operations $16,586 (13.6%)
- City Manager and City Council
- Financial management
- Human Resources
- Records Management
- Hearing Examiner services
- Legal services
- Contingency

Planning $5,812 (4.8%)
- Comprehensive Planning
- Code Compliance
- Neighborhood Outreach
- Housing

Congestion on arterials such as 405 should lessen as newly funded projects are completed.

The state funds are intended to help address the most pressing transportation needs, but do not fully fund the large regional corridors such as I-405 and SR 520. A voted regional package in coming years will be needed to provide matching funds to address the remaining components of the large regional corridor projects.
Tips to prevent West Nile Virus

Warmer weather has many residents thinking of gardening, hiking and outdoor fun. It's also time to think about West Nile Virus prevention.

“Last year we did intensive monitoring and we didn’t find any evidence of West Nile Virus in Washington,” said Maryanne Guichard, director of the agency’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety. “The disease moved into Oregon and Idaho in 2004, so it seems likely that we may be next.”

West Nile Virus has been moving west since 1999 and, though it was not detected in our state last year, it was confirmed in some dead birds and two horses in Washington in 2002. There have been no human cases in our state.

West Nile Virus is primarily a bird disease. Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on infected birds and then pass the virus to uninfected birds, humans, horses or other hosts.

The Washington State Department of Health says there’s a lot you can do to protect yourself against mosquito-borne illness. The best defense is to avoid mosquito bites. Eliminate standing water where mosquito species breed by emptying water from old buckets, cans and tires. Use a hose to frequently flush standing water in bird baths and water troughs.

Avoid being bitten by staying indoors around dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, making sure door and window screens are working properly, and using a mosquito repellent containing DEET when going outdoors when mosquitoes are active.

Most people bitten by a West Nile Virus-infected mosquito won’t show signs of illness. Some may develop mild flu-like symptoms that go away without treatment. In a small number of cases the virus can cause serious illness. People over age 50 have the highest risk for serious illness.

The Department of Health West Nile Virus information line 1-866-78-VIRUS (1-866-788-4787) and the Department of Health West Nile Virus web site (www.doh.wa.gov/WNV) have more information.

The Department of Health is working with local health departments and other state agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife on West Nile Virus monitoring, planning, control and prevention.

What you should know about washing your car

Before you wash your car, follow the tips below to conserve water and prevent dirty wash water from entering Bellevue’s streams and lakes through the storm drain system. Everything that goes into a storm drain flows into a nearby stream, lake or wetland.

Prevent sending contaminants into waterways through storm drains by following these simple tips:

• Take your car to a commercial car wash. Many local car washes conserve water by recycling their wash water. Wastewater goes into the sewer system at these locations, flowing to a treatment plant instead of directly into the storm drain system.

• Wash your car on grass or a gravel-covered area which will absorb the wash water. Use less soap and wash only the body of the car (not the engine). Conserve water by using a spray nozzle with an on/off trigger.

• If you are part of a charity car wash check out a Car Wash Kit for free from the City of Bellevue. The Car Wash Kit includes a small basin that fits in the storm drain, and a pump and hose that transport wash water to a drain connected to the sewer system.

For information on checking out a Car Wash Kit for your next charity car wash, please call Utilities at 425-452-6166.

Water shortage advisory still in effect

Although recent rains have nearly filled reservoirs on the Tolt and Cedar River watersheds, the less than normal snowpack has melted off about a month and a half earlier than usual. As a result of these conditions, Bellevue is keeping the water shortage advisory in effect.

“City staff are monitoring the situation and coordinating with regional supply managers,” said Mike Jackman, Utilities Water Quality Manager. “We’re advising customers to take common-sense steps to prevent water waste and to improve conservation as we head into warmer weather.”

Here are a few things you can do to be water wise this summer:

• Check and repair all leaks, including leaking toilets, faucets and washing equipment.
• Wash full loads of dishes and clothes.
• Take shorter showers.
• Update inefficient fixtures and appliances such as toilets, faucets and washing machines.
• Mulch planting beds to conserve water and reduce weeds.
• Make every drop count. Water at dawn or in evening to reduce evaporation. Use timers to limit watering periods. Add a water shut-off to every hose. Water your lawn separately from other plantings.
• Water lawns 1 inch per week, or let areas that don’t get heavy traffic go brown and dormant (but water enough to moisten root zone once a month). Mow regularly, and leave the clippings on the lawn.
• Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation to water all plants except lawns. Bury soaker hoses under a layer of mulch to prevent evaporation and help spread the water flow.

For more information, visit www.cityofbellevue.org/utilities or call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.

Comments, Questions, Concerns...

If you would like to comment about what you’ve read in this publication, if you would like a question answered, or if you would like to share concerns, please send this form to the City of Bellevue. Your questions will be answered, your comments shared, and your concerns considered.

Name
Address
City/ZIP
Phone (optional)

Please mail to: It’s Your City Editor, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 or send E-mail to: trwaters@ci.bellevue.wa.us
Ramping up for summer road construction

The City of Bellevue is working hard this summer to improve local roads. In addition to utility work and construction on Kamber Road, the city will focus on paving downtown streets, improving pedestrian safety, and widening a few key roadways. Drivers should expect lane- and road closures and construction delays.

Crews will begin paving five major downtown streets in July, continuing through November. There will be 12 days of weekend closures and 72 nights of lane closures, along with some lane closures on weekdays. The city is coordinating paving locations with private development and utility work, to ensure maximum access during city and private construction. Due to the mix of business and residential uses downtown, the city will balance the impacts of paving work by doing some on weekends and at night. Some of the most noisy work will occur during the day to minimize impacts on downtown residents.

This is the largest-ever downtown paving effort in one season, partly because the city coordinated paving to ensure that other projects were done first, to minimize costs of rework. This meant paving was delayed until Access Downtown was complete, and several private developments were complete or had finished their work in the right-of-way. Another reason is the city applied for and received $1.4 million in federal grant funding specifically for paving the streets in downtown Bellevue. For more information, including a weekly look at anticipated construction delays, go to the city’s website at www.cityofbellevue.org. Look for “Construction and Traffic update” and “Construction Projects in Your Neighborhood” under Frequently Requested Pages. You can also sign up for the city’s new List Serve to receive periodic e-mails with updates of the downtown paving schedule. Go to www.cityofbellevue.org/transportation/ for the Downtown Paving e-mail list.

Tentative Downtown Paving Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipated construction dates</th>
<th>Roadway affected</th>
<th>Summary of Improvements</th>
<th>Closure type/details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 29, 2005 – Spring 2006</td>
<td>SE 16th, 145th Place SE to 148th Ave. SE</td>
<td>Relocation of a Puget Sound Energy natural gas line and a City of Bellevue project to improve this narrow section of roadway and sidewalks.</td>
<td>Full closure began April 29, reopened, then will close again June 6 through Nov. 1. Lane closures Nov. through project completion (spring 2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10 to early June 2005</td>
<td>148th Ave SE, SE 24th St. to I-90</td>
<td>Work will include grading, paving and striping for the 148th project that added one lane from SE 24th St. to the I-90 on-ramp.</td>
<td>Lane closures &amp; construction delays for about three weeks. Weather dependent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early June – fall 2005</td>
<td>156th Ave SE, SE 11th St. to SE 16th St.</td>
<td>Add an off-street boardwalk to improve pedestrian safety.</td>
<td>Possible construction delays, short-term lane closures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late June/early July 2005</td>
<td>164th Ave NE, Northup Way to SE 24th St.</td>
<td>Complete the sidewalk near Interlake High School and Sherwood Forest Elementary School.</td>
<td>Possible construction delays, short-term lane closures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2005 – Spring 2006</td>
<td>Kamber Road, Richards Rd. to 137th Ave. SE</td>
<td>Replacement of East Creek culverts, adding pedestrian and bicycle improvements.</td>
<td>Full road closure early June for King County work, &amp; then on or about June 15 to Sept. 15 for city roadway and utility improvements. There will also be temporary lane closures before and after the full road closure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kamber Road closed until Sept. 15

As mentioned above, Kamber Road will be closed for the summer while construction work is underway.

The full closure began in early June and the road is scheduled to reopen Sept. 15. Detour routes are marked and construction information has been sent to area residents. Bellevue police and fire departments are aware of the road closure and will make necessary adjustments to maintain service.

The road needs to be closed so the city can replace the existing East Creek culverts between Richards Road and 137th Avenue SE with a new bridge on Kamber Road. The project also includes stream relocation, fish passage enhancements, underground utility work, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

For more information, including a detour route map, please see the city’s web site at www.cityofbellevue.org and click on “Construction Projects in Your Neighborhood” under Frequently Requested Pages. Go to the Woodridge neighborhood on the map and look for the Kamber Road Project. Or contact Rick Logwood in Transportation at 425-452-6858 or Rlogwood@ci.bellevue.wa.us; or Abe Santos in Utilities at 425-452-6456, Asantos@ci.bellevue.wa.us.
Laura Adams, volunteer Art Appreciation teacher at Sunset Elementary, had an idea for all students to leave their mark on their school. Her original idea was to have each child draw a picture, paint it on a tile and then have the tiles installed in a permanent structure at the school. The first of the projects was a planter bench with tiles made by 69 fifth graders. Other projects included tile frames created by kindergarten through fourth graders and mounted on breeze-way walls; a bench and table set with teacher tiles; and a welcome sign made with staff tiles.

Laura coordinates parent volunteers who participate in a classroom art project once a month. She believes that exposing children to art and stimulating their creativity sparks more effort in all studies. Combining form and functions also instills a sense of pride in the school.

“People tried to talk me out of the project,” says Laura. “They said it would take too much time and would be too much work.” But she was determined that, “Each child, each teacher and all staff have a tile to represent them.”

The hard work paid off. Nearly 550 tiles were decorated by students in 24 classes. Teachers and staff participated and decorated 49 tiles. The tiles, glazed by Laura and fired by parent volunteer Sheri Street, were unveiled at a June 10 Field Day.

Lake Hills identity treatments get thumbs-up from residents

The city’s first Neighborhood Identity Project – reflecting the character and history of Lake Hills – moved a step closer to construction after receiving an enthusiastic reception from residents at a May 24 open house. Local residents registered their approval of designs reflecting two eras in Lake Hills history:

• the 1950s era of three-bedroom ramblers and big-finned cars, when Lake Hills was setting trends as a planned development, and big-finned cars, when Lake Hills was setting trends as a planned development; and

• the more distant, agrarian past, when Lake Hills was dominated by forests and farmlands.

Open house participants viewed designs for six separate locations in the Lake Hills area, including SE 16th and 156th Avenue SE; Lake Hills Boulevard at 145th Place SE; Lake Hills Boulevard at the greenbelt trail crossing; Lake Hills Boulevard at 148th Avenue; 148th Avenue NE near Main Street; and 148th Avenue NE near SE 200th. Both the locations and the design themes emerged from ideas submitted by the community during previous meetings and events.

While the treatments will be related to one another, each will be slightly different, in keeping with the nature of each specific site. Treatments along the 148th and 145th Place corridors will consist mainly of landscaping and signage reflecting the area’s 1950s roots, while the greenbelt treatment will be more subtle, blending in with natural surroundings.

The most elaborate treatment will take place at the northwest corner of SE 16th and 156th, adjacent to the public gardens, the Lake Hills Ranger Station, and the Master Gardeners demonstration garden. At the corner, where the city currently has a small produce stand, plans call for construction of a larger barn-type structure and windmill, with a plaza surrounded by plantings. Directional signs – pointing to Lake Hills landmarks – will be included at this and other treatment sites.

The Lake Hills Identity Treatment project grew out of Bellevue’s Neighborhood Investment Strategy and was funded by a special allocation approved by the City Council. Additional funding is provided by the Parks Department and by Starbucks (see related article). Plans will be presented to the City Council later this month and, if approved, will proceed to construction this year and next.

Starbucks provides a boost for Lake Hills improvement

Plans to enhance a Lake Hills landmark have received a boost from Starbucks – in the form of a $15,000 Neighborhood Parks grant. The grant was awarded this month to the Master Gardener Foundation of King County for a project to remodel the existing produce stand and its surroundings at SE 16th and 156th SE. The Starbucks money will supplement City of Bellevue funding for the larger Neighborhood Identity Treatment project.

Starbucks employees are frequent volunteers for local parks improvement and maintenance projects. The company’s Neighborhood Parks Program awards funding to non-profit organizations to help fund local parks projects. This year the firm announced that it has earmarked $1 million to improve parks in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

Sunset Elementary School students make lasting impressions

The Lake Hills Identity Treatment Project calls for upgrading of the “produce stand corner” at SE 16th and 156th Avenue SE.
Someone began to hum Pomp and Circumstance, the traditional graduation march. Smiles were exchanged. Spontaneous applause erupted as the names of the 2005 Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program graduates were announced. Sixteen individuals spent two weekends learning new ways to address conflict and crisis.

Just two days into the class, long before diplomas were awarded, a mediator-in-training shared his recent experience. He said, “Yesterday I applied my new skills when talking to my next-door neighbor. He’s had an ongoing feud with the guy across the street for years, and he sounds like he’s willing to talk about settling things, using the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program. I couldn’t believe it! Finally, things might be more comfortable on our block.”

This type of experience is not unusual for Bellevue Mediation Program volunteers. Every day mediation volunteers use their skills to create stronger neighborhoods. They give their time and energy working in the Mediation Program office to provide confidential—and free—mediation services to Bellevue residents. For additional information contact the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program office, 425-425-4091.

Children at greatest risk on neighborhood streets

Every year approximately 25,000 children are injured and over 500 killed in pedestrian/vehicle accidents. Most of these accidents result from the unsafe actions of children, not from driver behavior. Elementary school-aged children are at greatest risk for these types of accidents, because they:

• Have a field of vision that is 1/3 narrower than adults;
• Are unable to accurately judge the speed or distance of moving vehicles;
• Cannot determine the direction of sound;
• Overestimate their own abilities; and
• Are easily distracted.

The number of pedestrian/vehicle accidents involving children can be reduced if parents help children cross the street, ensure children get in and out of the car on the curb side, and are supervised when walking or biking near traffic. And most importantly, children should never play in, or near, driveways, streets, or parking lots.

Crossroads Mini City Hall broadens translation services

Bengali, Hindi, Tagalog, and Urdu are among the newest languages spoken at Mini City Hall. Bi-lingual volunteers now offer translation and interpretation services in nine foreign languages during the following hours:

- Armenian – Tuesday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Bengali – Call for an appointment
- Chinese – Monday 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Hindi – Call for an appointment
- Korean – Friday 10 a.m.–noon
- Russian – Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Spanish – Monday 4–6 p.m. and Friday noon–3 p.m.
- Tagalog – Saturday noon–1 p.m.
- Urdu – Call for an appointment

Located in Crossroads Bellevue shopping center in the heart of Bellevue’s most diverse and densely-populated neighborhoods, the Crossroads Mini City Hall provides friendly customer services, information and referral, job information, multi-language resources and assistance, and much more.

Mini City Hall is staffed by a coordinator and community volunteers from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information about translation/interpretation services, drop by or call the Mini City Hall at 425-452-2800.
**NE 10th Street extension work slated**

With the state Legislature’s approval of $67 million for the Northeast 10th Street Extension, construction is scheduled to begin on the project in Spring 2006. A new section of Northeast 10th will provide access into the expanded Overlake Hospital Medical Center campus from 116th Avenue Northeast, across the campus and I-405 connecting to Northeast 10th in downtown at 112th Avenue Northeast. The first phases of the road extension and hospital campus redevelopments are expected to be complete in late 2007.

Other recent progress on the project includes City Council authorization of property sales to Overlake Hospital and acquisition of the project’s Phase 2 right-of-way. The sale allows vacant property owned by the city to be used for the expansion of the Overlake Hospital Medical Center campus. Proceeds from the sale will help fund the street extension.

City staff will work closely with Overlake Hospital and Group Health to minimize construction impacts from the road project to patients, healthcare providers and surrounding businesses. The campus expansion also will include Group Health Cooperative’s new out-patient facility with direct access for patients and medical staff to Overlake Hospital via a tunnel under Northeast 10th Street.

The Washington State Department of Transportation’s plans to add ramps at Northeast 10th to and from State Route 520 will be completed in subsequent phases.

The need to extend Northeast 10th Street was originally identified in 2003 by a citizen advisory committee as part of the city’s updated Downtown Implementation Plan. In 2004, Overlake Hospital received approval from the State Department of Health to add 80 additional beds, prompting a major renovation of the hospital and the surrounding medical center campus. To minimize roadway construction impacts to the medical campus, the city accelerated its plans to complete the Northeast 10th Street Extension to coincide with completion of Phase 1 of the campus redevelopment.

**Spread the word—save a fish**

Everything that goes down a storm drain flows into local streams, lakes, and wetlands. Help save fish and raise awareness by stenciling storm drains with the words “Dump No Waste, Drains To Stream.” When people see that message, they may think twice about dumping pesticides, paint or used motor oil onto the ground where it can wash into storm drains and flow to waterways. Individuals or groups can stencil throughout the summer months, in their own neighborhood or at an assigned location. Everything you need is provided free of charge. Call 425-452-6166 or e-mail kgratt@ci.bellevue.wa.us for more information.

**Something Phishy on web**

Cyber fraudsters across the country made off with well over 1 billion dollars in 2004, according to the Federal Trade Commission. And with over 80% of Bellevue households connected to the Internet, it’s probably fair to say a number of those victims lived here.

Just ask Kelli (not her real name), a 44-year-old Bellevue woman, who considers herself computer savvy. She works from home and spends a great deal of time on her computer. She saw a particularly well-crafted “Security Advisory” allegedly from a major financial institution. She replied and provided personal information.

Kelli hit the submit button… and then had second thoughts.

From that point on, Kelli did everything right. She called her financial institution and the three main credit bureaus. She called the police, filed a police report, and followed through with all the advice she was given.

In 2004, over 5,500 people in Washington were victimized by ID theft alone. This places Washington in 8th place nationally in terms of ID theft per capita. Washingtonians between the ages of 18—49 accounted for 74% of all the victims. ID theft and Internet fraud are crimes that each individual needs to help reduce.

A few of the more common Internet crimes:

- **“Phishing”** – Phony e-mails from major businesses that are elaborately crafted with functional links and appear real even to experts. These bogus e-mails ask for personal information and PIN and account numbers. Go to [www.antiphishing.org/index.htm](http://www.antiphishing.org/index.htm) to see the most recent phishing attempts.
- **Letter scams** – These e-mails supposedly comes from high-ranking officials from third world nations who are asking you to help them in financial transactions. The ploy is based solely on greed as they promise to give you a percentage of the money. A few people in Bellevue fall for this crime each year and lose between $1,000—$50,000.
- **Clearinghouse or sweepstakes scams** – Did you forget which contests you entered? These criminals hope you forgot. Asking for taxes or handling fees up front, they promise you a huge payout. Some victims lose over $100,000 to this scam.

Online auto buyers—Selling a car online? Demand cash payment and ignore any third-party buyer who is supposedly buying a car for another person. The ploy often involves checks written well over the value of the car. You give them a ‘refund’ for the overage and they get your cash and your car. You’re left with a worthless check that no bank will honor.

Protecting yourself is relatively simple:

1. Ignore unsolicited e-mails.
2. Do not respond. By replying, you validate your address and invite further scams.
3. Do not use links or phone numbers on the e-mail. Phone numbers may be false. Links may contain viruses.
4. Verify the e-mail by contacting the sender through an independent source such as a phone book or other directory assistance.

**Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm produce stand open**

The Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm and the Lake Hills Greenbelt farms to help preserve Bellevue’s agricultural heritage and provide the community with the opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown produce.

**Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm produce stand open**

The Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm, also known as Bill Pace’s Fruit & Produce, is now open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The farm carries locally grown fresh produce, including Yakima asparagus, strawberries, lettuce, jams, honey, and other local items as they come into season.

Farm produce stands located at the Lake Hills Greenbelt are also open for the season. U-pick blueberries at both farms will be available beginning mid-July. U-Pick is only available during designated hours of operation and in designated areas.

Please call the farms for hours of operation and product availability:

- Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm, 2380 Bellevue Way SE, 425-467-0501, [www.billpacefruitproduce.com](http://www.billpacefruitproduce.com)
- Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm, 700 148th Ave SE, 425-452-7225
- Lake Hills Greenbelt Produce Stand, corner of 156th Ave and SE 16th, 425-452-7225
- The City of Bellevue manages the Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm and the Lake Hills Greenbelt farms to help preserve Bellevue’s agricultural heritage and provide the community with the opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown produce.

-Karen Gratt watches as interns from the Pacific Science Center stencil storm drains in Bellevue with the message “Dump No Waste – Drains To Stream.” Call Karen at 425-452-6166 for more information about stenciling storm drains.
Grand Opening of Lewis Creek Park on July 9

Bellevue residents are invited to join city to celebrate the opening of Lewis Creek Park and the dedication of the new Headwaters Visitor Center at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 9.

Lewis Creek Park, located at 5702 Lakemont Blvd., will be a community gathering place for environmental education and recreation. Over 50% of the 55-acre park is preserved in its natural condition. The site includes a 5,000-square-foot multipurpose visitor center, extensive trail systems, a play area, basketball court and restrooms. Soccer/baseball fields will be available for scheduled use in March 2006.

For more information about the park, call Bellevue Parks & Community Services at 425-452-6881 or e-mail parkswebct@ci.bellevue.wa.us.

Beach parks water safety tips

Summer is coming and it’s time to head to the beach. Here are some water safety tips that can help make everyone’s summer safe and fun:

- Swim at life-guarded beaches – see schedule below
- Know your capability
- Use a lifejacket
- Don’t assume that a distressed swimmer is “playing a joke”
- Learn CPR
- Take a boating safety class

Life-guarded beaches still require adult supervision. According to the Child Drowning Prevention publication provided by the Washington State Department of Health, “it only takes 20 to 60 seconds for a child to submerge without warning.” Young swimmers need to have supervision by an adult who is solely focused on them, is within arms’ reach, and is aware of how to get help, if needed.

The Bellevue Aquatic Center offers a comprehensive program of swimming lessons for infants through adults. It’s never too late to learn how to swim. Please call the Bellevue Aquatic Center at 425-452-4444 for more information. Or visit the City of Bellevue web site at www.cityofbellevue.org to register for swimming classes online.

2005 Summer Beach Park Lifeguard Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beach</th>
<th>Open Date</th>
<th>Life-guard Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>noon–7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enatai</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>noon–7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chism</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>noon–7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clyde</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>noon–7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meydenbauer</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>noon–7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>2–5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(no guard provided during inclement weather at Chesterfield Beach)

Cutting down a tree? Here are some guidelines

Planning on cutting down a tree or trees on your property? Here are some of the questions residents most frequently ask city officials, and their answers:

What’s the first thing I should do if I want to cut down a tree or trees on my property?

Contact the city’s Department of Planning and Community Development (PCD) and find out if there are any types of tree cutting restrictions in place for your property. The city’s primary interests revolve around protecting public safety and the environment.

Generally, the city allows tree removal on single-family lots without a permit, unless the lot contains special features or restrictions, or if tree removal results in more than 1,000 square feet of ground disturbance.

Ground disturbance means the actual exposure of soil resulting from tree removal (i.e., bare soils exposed to rainfall by removal of tree canopy, roots from vehicle traffic). Since most residential tree removal causes little disturbance to the ground, city staff use an estimate of 50 square feet of disturbance for each significant tree removed.

Who specifically should I contact at PCD?

Contact a clearing & grading reviewer at 425-452-2019 or e-mail clearingandgradedreview@ci.bellevue.wa.us

What types of properties could have restrictions on tree removal?

Generally speaking, areas with such features as wetlands, streams or steep slopes are considered protected and tree clearing rules may apply. In such cases, if tree removal is allowed, the property owner must obtain a permit from the city.

In addition, plat restrictions or private covenants can restrict tree removal on certain properties. A permit is required in these areas, too.

Can I clear trees from an undeveloped lot?

The answer is no, unless a tree is hazardous or if the lot could be short-plotted.

If I’m removing trees in an area that is not protected or restricted, is there a limit on the number of trees you can remove unless the removal of trees results in ground disturbance of more than 1,000 feet. Then a permit is required. The permit would require the property owner to install appropriate erosion control and call for inspections.

How long does it take to obtain a permit?

It can take several hours up to a week, depending on the scope of the work.

Are there penalties if I need, but fail, to obtain a permit?

A stop-work order could be issued, and the property owner could be ordered to obtain a permit and, in some cases, restore the property to its original state.

Food waste recycling tips

Did you know that food waste and food-contaminated paper make up about 25 percent of a typical household’s waste? Instead of putting these items in the garbage, you can put them in your yard debris container, and they’ll get recycled into Cedar Grove compost. You’ll have more room in your garbage—downsizing your can saves money—and you’ll be recycling more and sending less to the landfill. Here are a few tips from customers:

- Using biodegradable bags in the green food waste bucket makes food waste recycling less messy and smelly. Though they are not completely leak-proof, they do keep the bucket and the yard debris container cleaner. K.K.
- Biodegradable bags are available at Larry’s and Whole Foods. Please do not use any other type plastic bags for food waste recycling!
- Take a brown paper bag and form it to fit the green food waste bucket (lining it with used paper towels also helps). It’s so much more pleasant to throw out the contents, since the bag comes out easily, and you just rinse the bucket afterwards instead of scrubbing! F.N.
- If you have smelly items, like raw meat or fish, wrap in a newspaper and put in a brown grocery bag and freeze. On pick-up day, just drop the whole thing into the yard debris cart. C.R.

Send your tips to utilities@cityofbellevue.wa.us.
A sampling of Bellevue’s big summer events

Saturday, July 4, 6 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.
BELLEVUE FAMILY 4TH CELEBRATION
Children’s activities, music, food & fireworks
Bellevue Downtown Park
Bellevue Parks & Community Services: 425-452-7156

Sunday, July 10, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
SEAFAIR MARATHON/ HALF MARATHON/ 5K
Community Marathon/Run/Walk
Starts & ends at Bellevue Downtown Park
(route through much of the city)
SEAFAIR: 206-728-0123 X118 or www.seafairmarathon.com

Friday, July 22, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
SEATTLE BREAST CANCER 3-DAY WALK
3-day walk goes through Bellevue on July 22. Walk to raise money for Breast Cancer charities
NPT Breast Cancer: 206-284-7099

Friday July 29 – Sunday July 31
BELLEVUE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR
Friday & Saturday 9:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Artist booths, Kids fair, food and exhibits
Downtown Bellevue
Bellevue Arts Museum: 425-519-0742 or www.bellevuedowntown.org

BELLEVUE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
Friday & Saturday 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Downtown Bellevue:Cost Plus Parking Lot
Craft Cooperative of the Northwest: 206-363-2048

Sunday, August 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
KIDS DAY 2005
Celebration of children
Crossroads Community Park
Hoys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue: 425-454-6162

Sunday, September 4, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
INTERNATIONAL CANCER CUP DRAGONBOAT FESTIVAL
Dragonboat (racing canoe) race and festival picnic
Newcastle Beach Park
Team Survivor Northwest: 206-732-0263

For more information about summer events in Bellevue, visit www.cityofbellevue.org/parks.

Enjoy the 4th of July safely

Residents are reminded that it is illegal to sell or discharge fireworks in the City of Bellevue. This includes the “Safe and Sane” fireworks sold at road-side stands outside Bellevue city limits.

Since the ban on personal fireworks went into effect in Bellevue in 1994, the city has seen fire-related damages decline remarkably. In the five-year period before the ban, the city had 16 fireworks-related structure fires totaling over $200,000 in damages. In the five-year period after the fireworks ban, the city has had one fireworks-related fire that caused $5,000 in damage.

Personal injuries have also declined. In the five years before the ban, the city had 34 injuries associated with fireworks. In the first year after the ban, the city had 6 fireworks-related injuries and did not have a single injury the next four years.

Celebrating the 4th of July is still fun and festive without personal fireworks. Attending a public display, like the Symetra Bellevue Family 4th Celebration, is a great way to enjoy the day and mark the day with family and friends.

Free Art Fair shuttle

The City of Bellevue, Bellevue Downtown Association, Bellevue Art Museum, and Bellevue Festival of the Arts are offering a free shuttle to the 2005 Art Fair weekend in downtown Bellevue July 30-31. The shuttle service will run on Saturday, July 30, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Riders can catch a shuttle every 15 minutes from any of three Park & Ride locations:

- South Bellevue (Bellevue Way Southeast and 112th Avenue Southeast);
- South Kirkland (108th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 38th Place);
- Houghton (I-405 and Northeast 70th Place).

The Eastside's Most Spectacular 4th of July Celebration!
July 4th at 6:00pm • Bellevue Downtown Park
Hosted and Sponsored by:
Symetra
Bellevue Downtown Association
For more information visit bellevuedowntown.com or call 425-452-4106.
What is it like being a police officer?

Ever wonder what it’s like to be a police officer? Ever wonder why officers do what they do? Ever wonder how police get the bad guy? Enroll in Bellevue Police Department’s Community Academy and find out first hand… for free.

The academy starts Sept. 7 and meets every Wednesday night for twelve weeks. The three-hour classes, taught by officers and detectives, allow you to focus in depth on subjects that you may have only seen through Hollywood’s perspective.

You’ll learn about all the functions within the police department, including:

- K-9 Unit demonstration
- Traffic enforcement and Collision investigation
- Evidence collection and crime scene analysis
- Gangs and narcotics
- Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT)
- Officer recruitment and training
- Firearms training
- Investigations (homicide, property crimes and white collar)
- Domestic violence investigation and prevention
- Bellevue Police Volunteer Program
- D.A.R.E. and School Resource Officer programs
- Opportunity for observer ride-along in patrol car
- 911 Dispatch and records
- Community policing
- Bicycle Patrol

You can enroll in the class by either:
- Calling Sheila Evans at 425-452-7853
- Online at www.cityofbellevue.org/page.asp?view=3720
- E-mail Sheila Evans at sevans@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Bellevue paramedic honored for medical guidelines work

Lieutenant Chuck Heitz of the Bellevue Fire Department recently received the Director’s Award from Dr. Alonzo Plough, King County Public Health, for his efforts in creating the new King County Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) Patient Care Guidelines.

The guidelines are now used by all 4,000 EMTs in the Seattle-King County area. Lt. Heitz has championed a similar program for the Bellevue Fire Department for many years and was the first to compile a pocket-size medical reference book used by Bellevue firefighters.

Recycle electronics and appliances at the curb

Are old televisions and toasters taking up precious space in your garage? Free up that space by recycling small electronics and appliances. If you’re a single-family garbage customer, you can recycle the items below at the curb. Place them near your blue recycling cart on your collection day.

Electronics no bigger than two feet in any direction and less than 60 pounds in weight include:
- Computer equipment
- VCRs
- Audio equipment
- TVs with 21” or less screen
- Cell phones

Small appliances no bigger than two feet in any direction and less than 35 pounds include:
- Toasters, blenders
- Microwave ovens
- Hair dryers
- Irons, radios

Please put all small appliances in a securely closed plastic bag marked “Appliances.”

New this summer . . .

Sunset Fee Specials!

June 20–July 31 • Monday Special
- Sunset Fees all day (except July 4)
- 18-hole adult rounds $20 (after 7 p.m.–$17)
- Junior/Senior 18-hole rounds–$17
- Cart rentals–$18

June 20–Oct 31 • Friday Special
- Sunset Fees for games started 2 p.m.–5 p.m.
- 18-hole adult rounds $24 (after 5 p.m.–$17)

Bellevue Golf Course
5500 140th NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-452-7250

Visit our website for driving directions and additional information
www.cityofbellevue.org

Lots of people were on hand to toss the first shovelfuls of dirt at the Ground Breaking for the Crossroads Community Center Expansion. From l to r: Bob Becker, Maria Hui; Janet Sorenson of Becker Architects; Patrick Foran, Bellevue Parks Director; Kevin Dunham, Roy E. Dunham Co.; John Spilker, Crossroads Advisory Board; State Rep. Ross Hunter; State Rep. Judy Clibborn; Bellevue Councilmembers Claudia Bauducci and John Chelminiai; Bellevue Park Boardmembers Lesley Stuart and Bill Aron.
Three businesses honored for recycling

Three Bellevue businesses have been recognized by the city and Rabanco for their recycling efforts.

Rabanco, Del Teet Furniture, and the Bellevue U.S. Post Office recycled more materials than other businesses equal their size. Rabanco and the city started the annual awards to promote Bellevue’s commercial recycling program and honor participants.

The recycling program, started in June 2004, allows businesses to recycle at no charge and to put all recyclables in the same container. As a result, cardboard, mixed paper, aluminum cans, plastic containers, plastic film, and all colors of glass containers can be combined for recycling.

In the small business category, Bellevue Copy was singled out for recycling 93 percent of its waste. The firm makes sure interior recycling containers are well labeled, and that new employees are introduced to the recycling program during orientation.

Del Teet Furniture, with a 73 percent recycling rate, was honored in the medium-sized company category. One way the company maximizes recycling is to make sure all cardboard boxes are flattened to make room for more recycling. They have also maximized recycling of bubble wrap and shrink wrap.

In the large business category, the Bellevue U.S. Post Office on Bellevue Way was honored for recycling 71 percent of its waste. The government agency cites well-labeled recycling containers in its lobby and communication with employees as the reasons for its success. Each business will receive a free month of garbage service.

I get by with a little help . . .

Karl Kammerrek, age 4, donned his own firefighter uniform to help Bellevue firefighter John Harn roll fire hose after a fire in the Chevy Chase neighborhood, Saturday, May 21, 2005. Photo by Daniel Apol.