Sharing responsibility for the ‘common good’

Neighbors delve into community issues: housing needs, caring for at-risk youth

The first Neighborhood Forum of 2012 laid the foundation for a dynamic community conversation about caring for the “Common Good.” That conversation will pick up steam at the second forum on March 29, when residents apply the “Common Good” concept to actual community concerns.

The March 29 forum will get underway at 7 p.m. in City Hall with presentations by:

- **Patti Skelton-McGougan**, Executive Director of Youth Eastside Services (YES) – addressing problems and challenges facing Bellevue youth; and

- **Arthur Sullivan**, Manager of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) – exploring issues related to housing, including obstacles and possible solutions for meeting the housing needs of local families, youth, seniors and others.

At a third event on Thursday, April 19, Common Good Works Director Bill Grace will facilitate a hands-on workshop for those who want to move from talk to action in addressing either of the above two issues, or other issues to be determined by forum participants.

All forums are scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. at City Hall, and all are free and open to the public. Advance registration is helpful, but not required. For more information, contact Neighborhood Outreach staff at 425-452-6836

South Bellevue annexations head toward the finish line

If everything goes according to plan, Bellevue will add 786 acres and more than 5,000 residents to its population with April completion of the Eastgate and Tamara Hills annexations.

In a 2011 petition drive, residents of the two South Bellevue communities gathered property owners’ signatures representing more than 50 percent of the areas’ assessed valuation – a step required by the State for annexation by petition. On March 5, the City Council will hold a public hearing prior to acting on the annexation. Members of the public can comment on the annexation during the 8 p.m. hearing at City Hall.

The Eastgate and Tamara Hills annexations are expected to become effective this spring – April 1 at the earliest. Residents will benefit immediately from Bellevue’s higher level of urban services. Annexation of South Bellevue’s remaining Potential Annexation Area (PAA) is pending, as residents of Horizon View conduct their own signature drive and Hilltop residents continue to pursue annexation.

Generous sponsors

The Bellevue Neighborhood Forums are supported by the generous contributions of 12 neighborhood associations:

- Bridle Trails
- Horizon Heights
- Newport Hills
- Whispering Heights & Collingwood
- Norwood Village
- Sunset Community
- Surrey Downs
- Ellene’s Addition
- Bellecrest
- Woodridge
- Horizon Crest
- Somerset.

Your Local Market, a recent addition to the Downtown Bellevue business community, is donating dessert for participants at each forum.
Help shape Bellevue’s transit future (and enjoy dinner)

You’re invited to partner with the City of Bellevue in planning for a high quality transit system. By responding to the online survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6TJV5L3 you will be helping the City evaluate current transit services and make recommendations to King County Metro and Sound Transit for local improvements.

Those who complete this survey are eligible to win one of three prizes provided by downtown Bellevue restaurants: a $75 gift certificate for Purple Café & Wine Bar, a $100 gift certificate for Daniel’s Broiler, or a $100 gift certificate for El Gaucho.

Go to http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-transit-plan.htm for more information about the Bellevue Transit Master Plan project or contact Franz Loewenherz at 425-452-4077 or Floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov.

Comment on Storm and Surface Water System Plan

The City is seeking public comments on the draft 2012 Storm and Surface Water System Plan – a road map for managing and operating the storm and surface water system and helping the City meet federal, state and regional regulations.

Staff will host a March 1 open house – from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., just prior to the Environmental Services Commission meeting in the City Council Conference Room. Written and oral comments also can be presented at the beginning or end of the Commission’s 6:30 meeting. Alternatively, those who cannot attend the open house will have until March 7 to submit comments. Download a comment form, fill it out and email to Utilities engineer Brian Ward at bward@bellevuewa.gov or mail to Bellevue City Hall, PO Box 90012, Bellevue WA 98009.

The draft plan, an update of the City’s 1994 Comprehensive Drainage Plan, can be viewed online at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/storm-surface-water-plan.htm. Printed copies may be checked out for a limited time at the Bellevue Regional Library or City Hall Service First desk.

Learn to work with ‘high conflict people’

Conflict is everywhere – home, school, the workplace, the neighborhood. Bellevue’s Neighborhood Mediation Program is offering local residents a chance to learn some skills for dealing with “high conflict people.” A three-hour workshop, conducted by Bill Eddy, president of the High Conflict Institute in Scottsdale, AZ, will focus on: managing your own anxiety; communicating with empathy and respect; and mediating disputes with high conflict people.

The workshop is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27 in City Hall Room 1E-112. There is a fee of $50 per person. To register, call 425-452-4091 or email gjones@bellevuewa.gov.

Connect your community with a neighborhood directory

Neighborhood directories can be simple or elaborate – but in either case, they help you maintain vital neighborhood connections. Don’t know where to start? Neighborhood Outreach can help.

The Little Match program can help with a variety of community building activities, including compiling a directory. You can apply to receive matching funds for printing and distributing the directory to your neighbors. One option is to have a published directory that everyone in the neighborhood receives, and another is to have a private directory that provides limited access.
Usually, people welcome having contact information about their neighbors. The directory serves as a useful tool for crime prevention, emergency preparedness, and just maintaining neighborly connections. It’s essential for reaching neighbors in an emergency to make sure everything is alright.

For more information contact Patricia Knight at 425-452-7917, or pknight@bellevuewa.gov. A tip sheet for directory can be found at: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood_Directory_Tips.pdf

Security exercise scheduled at Bellevue High

Bellevue’s Fire Department is notifying the surrounding neighborhood of a March 10-11 UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) exercise at Bellevue High School. In the simulation, student role-players will respond to a Columbine-type of event.

March 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.)

3/1 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30 a.m., 1E-120) Attorney General Rob McKenna: Older Adult Initiatives update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm
3/5 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) NE 4th Street alignment and project financing, interrelationship between Downtown Transportation Plan, Downtown Livability Study, Land Use Code Amendments, Housing Trust Fund Allocation (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Proclamation recognizing Girl Scouts’ 100th Anniversary, Transportation and Utilities Department reaccreditation, Management Brief on NPDES Annual Report, Management Brief on 405 toll lanes, Consent Calendar, public hearing on the annexation of Eastgate and Tamara Hills http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
3/12 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan due to change in state law, update on Hilltop annexation, possible action on annexation of Eastgate/Tamara Hills http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
3/13 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm
3/19 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be announced (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, limited public hearing on appeal of Kimberlee Park Planned Unit Development (PUD), possible action on annexation of Eastgate/Tamara Hills http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
3/26  City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room)  Regional issues
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
3/28  Planning Commission  (6:30, Council Conference Room)  Shoreline Master Program Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm
3/29  Bellevue Neighborhood Forum  (7:00, Council Chambers)  Community discussion on sharing responsibility for the Common Good in Bellevue  (See above article)

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.