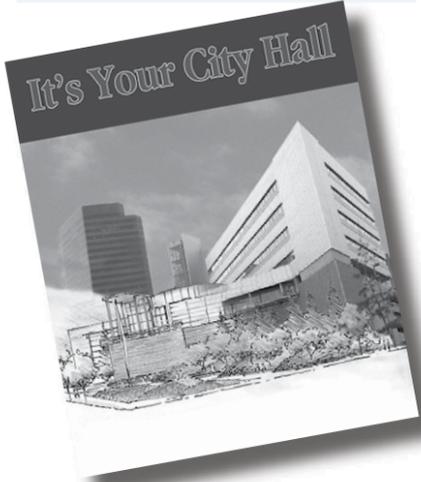


B E L L E V U E It's Your City

JANUARY 2006
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Degginger, Chelminiak chosen to lead Bellevue City Council



It's Your City Hall – A Special Insert



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Grant Degginger on Jan. 3 was chosen by City Councilmembers as Bellevue's new mayor, replacing Connie Marshall whose term expired.

John Chelminiak was chosen deputy mayor, replacing Phil Noble, whose term also expired.

Degginger, a partner with the law firm Lane Powell, has served on the City Council for six years. As mayor, Degginger said he will focus on transportation, quality neighborhoods, economic development, economic stewardship and continued strong fiscal management.

He said he would also continue his work with the Cascade Water Alliance, a consortium of East and South King County cities working to develop a new regional water supply to accommodate growing needs.

"Bellevue has emerged as a regional leader in recent years, with a major voice in the critical issues affecting the entire Puget Sound area," Degginger said. "My goal is to make sure the City Council's voice is heard loud and clear, and that our priorities are adopted."

A resident of the Lakemont area of Bellevue, Degginger presently serves on the Growth Management Planning Council, the I-405 Executive Committee, the Bellevue Economic Partnership and the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board.

He is past chair of the Bellevue Planning Commission and a former Little League and soccer coach.

Both Degginger and Chelminiak praised their predecessors for their strong leadership the past two years, singling out their efforts on transportation issues. Marshall serves as a Sound Transit board



Grant Degginger (L) was elected mayor Jan. 3, while John Chelminiak (R) was chosen deputy mayor.

member, while Noble chairs the Eastside Transportation Partnership.

The new mayor and deputy mayor said Marshall and Noble are strong, effective advocates for Bellevue's transportation needs, and their skills would be indispensable as Bellevue and the Eastside region continue work to solve transportation challenges.

Chelminiak was elected to the Council in 2004. He said his focus as deputy mayor would be neighborhood and minority community outreach, while continuing to work on trade, economic, transportation and criminal justice issues.

"All of these issues have a very significant effect on our quality of life," Chelminiak said. "It's essential that Bellevue's elected officials ensure the city's and eastside's interests are properly represented, and we do our part to find solutions to the challenges confronting us."

Chelminiak has been active in the Puget Sound Regional Council Economic Development District Policy Board, the Trade Advisory Committee of Greater

Seattle and the Bellevue Economic Partnership. He previously served on the Planning Commission.

Currently chief of staff for the Snohomish County Council and formerly the Metropolitan King County Council, Chelminiak previously was a radio journalist. He is chairman of the board at O'Dea High School.

Bellevue operates under a form of government in which a city manager hired by the City Council is the city's chief administrator. Councilmembers are elected to four-year terms, and a new mayor and deputy mayor are chosen from among the seven Council members every two years.

The mayor chairs Council meetings, appoints board and commission members with the concurrence of the Council, acts as a liaison between the Council and the City Manager and performs ceremonial duties.

The deputy mayor facilitates Council meetings in the mayor's absence, makes motions to keep meetings flowing, and helps plan and manage Council business. The position also performs ceremonial duties.

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Council Corner



Parks, open space and environmental stewardship funding likely to be issues in 2006

By Connie Marshall

How do you measure a city's commitment to parks, open space and environmental stewardship?

If the past year is any indication, Bellevue's commitment is big indeed. Consider these recent efforts:

- The city's acquisition of Coal Creek Park and the stream bank stabilization work now being completed there to help restore this 550-acre site.
- Lewis Creek Park, a wonderfully unique 56-acre park that opened to great fanfare in July 2005, balancing environmental preservation with opportunities for active recreation.
- Major culvert and other work on Kamber Road to restore the natural flow to East Creek, enhancing the overall environmental integrity of the creek and nearby areas to improve fish passage.

It's important to note that throughout Bellevue's history, the money for many of our city's important parks, open space and environmental

projects came primarily from several voter-approved bond issues supported by property taxes. The last such bond issue was passed in 1988, and expires soon.

Since our city was incorporated in 1953, Bellevue residents have approved eight separate parks bond issues, and the funds from these bonds have been instrumental in helping the city fulfill its parks and open space commitment. Dozens of projects, from acquiring and preserving natural areas, to the development of public areas such as our Crossroads Park, have been funded from city bond issue funds. These projects have played an important role in fulfilling the city's ongoing commitment to parks, open space and environmental stewardship. Other examples include:

- Mercer Slough Nature Park, a 320-acre park that has become the national standard for urban parks with its forests and wetlands. The park is the largest wetland expanse remaining on Lake Washington.
- Lake Hills Greenbelt, a wetland corridor connecting Phantom Lake and Larsen Lake, and home to an incredible variety of vegetation and wildlife. Spanning more than 140 acres, the greenbelt hosts more than 1,000 species of plants and hundreds of varieties of birds and small mammals.
- Chism Beach Park, a beautiful waterfront park on Lake Washington. While much of this land was donated to the city, a portion of the property comprising the park was purchased through bond funds.

In short, many of the projects funded through park bond issues are a major reason Bellevue can legitimately call itself a "City in a Park."

With the pending expiration of a 1988 bond issue, a major question confronting the City Council this year will be how to continue the city's ongoing commitment to parks, open space, and environmental stewardship. The Council will have to think about whether a new voter initiative is the right strategy to put before Bellevue residents to decide.

South Bellevue Community Center opens



Entrance to the South Bellevue Community Center

After more than seven years of anticipation and citizen involvement, Bellevue's newest and biggest community center opened December 3 in Eastgate Park.

More than 2,000 people gathered at the South Bellevue Community Center to celebrate its grand opening. Bellevue City Councilmembers were joined by neighbors and volunteers and representatives of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, which will operate the center in partnership with the city.

"This marvelous center is the culmination of many years of hard work by the south Bellevue community and city staff with the support of the City Council," said Bellevue City Manager Steve Sarkozy. "It's a gem of a place, not only for the Eastgate area, but the entire city."

Sarkozy said a Citizen's Advisory Committee was appointed in 1998 to work with the community to make recommendations on the location, design and function of the center.

The result was a multi-use facility with an emphasis on health and wellness.

The three-story building is designed to sit comfortably against the hillside of the park, reflecting the natural peaceful surroundings.

Natural materials have been used on the exterior and interior of the building, and a rock sculpture art piece by artist John Young sits at the main entrance, framed by large windows that draw the visitor's gaze to the park's open spaces from inside the center.

The strongest reflection of the outdoors is the 33-foot simulated-granite indoor climbing wall. The wall provides climbing opportunities for all ages and skill levels. Experts from Mini-Mountain will provide classes, workshops and supervised drop-ins.

For the sports enthusiasts, the double gymnasium on the bottom floor provides ample space for basketball, volleyball, pickleball and badminton. Drop-in organized sports are available to meet the needs of all age groups.

The 2,500-square-foot Fitness Room offers state-of-the-art equipment for both classes and drop-in use. There are opportunities to train one-on-one with fitness staff, schedule a personal fitness assessment, and register for a variety of health programs, such as nutrition, weight loss and stress management. The Fitness Room is designed for adults and teens 13 and older.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue will offer the Project Learn after-school program for school-aged children and Latitude Lounge, a late night teen drop-in program.

The center is available for community and private rental use. The 2,600-square-foot community room has floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the park and is perfect for weddings, receptions, banquets, parties, meetings, workshops and special events. A catering kitchen and classrooms are available for rent.

With the addition of the South Bellevue Community Center, the city now has five community centers located around the city. The Crossroads Community Center is presently being renovated, with the grand re-opening celebration scheduled for early 2006.

- Address:** 14509 SE Newport Way
- Hours:** Monday thru Thursday—6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday—6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday—7 p.m. to 11 p.m. B&GCB Teen Program
Saturday—8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Features:** 33' indoor climbing wall; double gymnasium community room; fitness room; games room; registered and drop-in programs
- Sample Pricing:** Daily drop-in—\$5 resident/\$6 non-resident
Adult Monthly Pass—\$26 resident/\$31 non-resident
Teen Monthly Pass—\$16 resident/\$19 non-resident
- On-line Registration:** www.ParksReg.cityofbellevue.org
- Call:** 425-452-4240

Volunteers sought for community police stations



Ever wonder what goes on in a police department? Here's your chance to find out by becoming a part of one.

The Bellevue Police Department needs volunteers for the Crossroads and Factoria community police stations. Volunteers are responsible for helping maintain station operations by answering phones, assisting callers and visitors with a variety of police-related questions, and helping the station officer with special projects and events.

The assignment requires experience using basic office and computer equipment, good customer service and communications skills, and the desire to work with the public. Volunteers work one set shift each week. Currently available shifts at Crossroads are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Available shifts at Factoria are Mondays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2 p.m.-6 p.m., and Fridays from 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

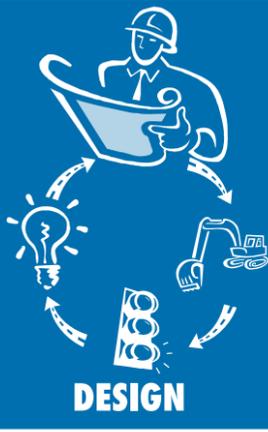
Applicants will be interviewed and must successfully complete a thorough background investigation. For an application, contact the police volunteer coordinator at 425-452-6017.

DOWNTOWN BELLEVUE PROJECTS UPDATE

January 2006



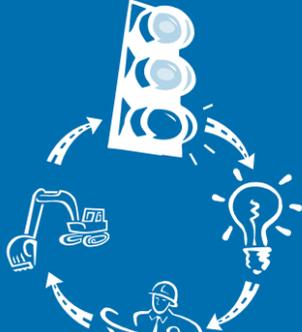
PLANNING



DESIGN



CONSTRUCTION



OPERATIONS



A downtown paving project completed this past year.

Here is an update about active programs and projects in downtown Bellevue.

Along with regional projects, there are several other projects that the City of Bellevue is working on. Some are just getting started and some were recently completed. All of them will help make downtown a better place to live, work, and visit.

To help you locate where these projects are please see the map on page 5.

I-405: SE 8th Street to 112th Avenue SE (WSDOT)

Project Background: In the spring of 2003, the Washington State Legislature approved a gas tax increase known as the Nickel Funding Package. This will provide more than \$4 billion of highway improvement projects throughout the state. Three of the "Nickel Projects," totaling \$485 million, are on I-405. They are the Kirkland Nickel: SR-520 to SR-522, the Tukwila/South Renton Nickel: I-5 to SR-169, and the Bellevue Nickel: SE 8th Street to 112th Avenue SE. In 2005, the gas tax increased, providing additional funds for projects statewide. These projects build off of the Nickel projects.

Project Need: I-405 has extreme congestion more than six hours a day, with daily congestion at the Wilburton Tunnel. Without improvement, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) estimates that rush hour trips on I-405 through Bellevue in 2020 will take about 40 percent longer than today.

Proposed Improvements: This project will add one northbound lane between I-90 and SE 8th Street and one southbound lane between SE 8th Street and I-90. A southbound high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane will also be added, directly connecting the existing SE 8th Street on ramp HOV bypass to the existing westbound I-90 HOV ramp. It will also reconstruct the Wilburton Tunnel, taking the tunnel to its ultimate configuration as described in the I-405 Master Plan.

Benefits: The SE 8th Street to 112th Avenue SE Project will reduce congestion into and out of Bellevue on I-405 from the south, and fix the "Wilburton Weave." This project will help address continued growth in Bellevue and the greater Eastside. It is also expected to attract regional trips to the freeway, thereby alleviating congestion on Bellevue city streets and reducing traffic that cuts through nearby neighborhoods. Other project benefits:

- Improve safety
- Improve one of the worst congestion chokepoints along the I-405 corridor
- Increase travel speeds during peak commuter hours
- Move freight traffic more efficiently through the corridor

This project complements the Access Downtown construction that was completed in early 2005.

Current Status: In January 2005, the Nickel Environmental Assessment began. The environmental assessment is expected to be complete in Spring 2006.

Schedule: Construction is expected to begin in 2007, and the new lanes will open to traffic in 2009.

Budget: \$205 million

City Contact: Bernard van de Kamp, 425-452-6459, or via E-mail: Bvandekamp@ci.bellevue.wa.us

WSDOT Project Manager: Stacy Taylor, 425-456-8563, or via E-mail: trussler@wsdot.wa.gov

I-405: NE 8th Street to SR 520

Project Background: The project was funded by the 2005 Washington State Legislature's Transportation Partnership Account that will raise the gas tax by 9.5 cents incrementally over the next several years. This project is consistent with the objective of fixing the most congested segments of the corridor first and will build upon the recently completed Access Downtown project.

Project Need: I-405 is heavily congested throughout much of the day, particularly in areas near major interchanges. Facilities supporting the Northbound I-405 to SR 520 movement are inadequate to accommodate current traffic levels and projected future demand. Therefore, the project will improve the system of on and off ramps connecting these two corridors and will prepare this segment of highway for the eventual expansion of I-405 and SR 520.

Proposed Improvements: This project will fix the weave congestion between northbound I-405 traffic exiting to SR 520 and entering from NE 8th Street. The project will also eliminate the weave congestion between I-405 traffic entering SR 520 and traffic exiting to 124th Avenue NE. Vertical clearance at the NE 12th Street crossing will be improved.

Benefits: These improvements are expected to improve safety, increase traffic flow, and reduce congestion.

Current Status: Environmental review and design has not yet begun.

Schedule: To be determined; however, this project is on a fast-track.

Budget: \$250 million

Bellevue Project Manager: Bernard van de Kamp, 425-452-6459, or via E-mail: bvandekamp@ci.bellevue.wa.us

WSDOT Project Manager: Denise Cieri, 425-452-8509, or via E-mail: cierid@wsdot.wa.gov

Early Implementation of Downtown Plan-

NE 2nd Street Extension - Preliminary Design Analysis

Project Need: To improve access to/from I-405 and circulation throughout downtown.

Proposed Improvements: Conducting a preliminary design analysis for widening NE 2nd Street from Bellevue Way to 112th Avenue NE. The full project will widen the existing roadway from three lanes, with parking and left-turn pockets, to five lanes. A new half-diamond interchange is proposed at I-405 for access to and from the south.

Connection of the NE 2nd Street Extension to the future half-diamond interchange; however, it is dependent upon available funding.

Benefits: This project is critical to support the planned growth of downtown over the next twenty years. About 10,000 new residents and 28,000 jobs are expected by 2020. Key early actions are needed now to ensure that new public



Transportation Solutions for You

and private developments are consistent with the planned action and to preserve opportunities for future implementation.

Current Status: City staff has just begun the preliminary design analysis and will begin the alignment alternative in early 2006.

Schedule: Preliminary design of the NE 2nd Street Extension will be conducted in 2006.

Budget: \$354,000

Project Manager: Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382, or via E-mail: Nlacombe@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Early Implementation of Downtown Plan— NE 10th Medical District

Project need: Overlake Hospital Medical Center and Group Health Cooperative are growing to meet the health care needs of the Eastside community.

As the city and the region continue to grow, the City of Bellevue has identified the need to provide more access to, from, and within downtown Bellevue and allow for future expanded access to I-405. The NE 10th Street Extension is included in the city's June 2003 Downtown Plan Update and the March 2005 Comprehensive Plan amendment of the Medical District.

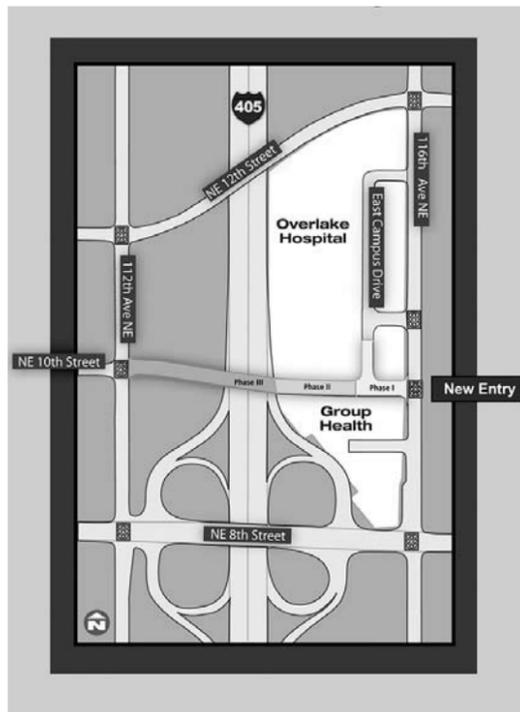
Proposed improvements:

- **Overlake Hospital:** The 200,000-square-foot South Tower is the first project in a three-year Overlake master development plan allowing the hospital to continue to meet the needs of the community.
- **Group Health Cooperative:** Group Health will build a new multi-specialty outpatient medical center, next to and connected with Overlake Hospital. Group Health's 185,000-square-foot medical center will have ample parking, and will be fully equipped with operating rooms for day surgery, diagnostic imaging, an urgent and acute care center, consultative specialty services, and primary care services.
- **NE 10th Street Extension:** The NE 10th Street Extension, a new roadway between 112th Avenue NE and 116th Avenue NE will be implemented in phases.

Phase 1: In partnership with Overlake Hospital and Group Health Cooperative, the first phase of the NE 10th Street Extension will be built east of I-405.

This initial construction will provide access to Overlake Hospital's new South Tower north of NE 10th Street, and Group Health Cooperative's new medical center to the south. The improvements reflect a joint effort in coordinating the design, construction, and communications to maintain the safety, delivery of goods and services, and emergency access to and from Overlake Hospital and Group Health.

Future phases: The city is also working with WSDOT to design and schedule completion of the NE 10th Street Extension across I-405 to 112th Avenue NE. This final phase is funded through the latest gas tax increase. This phase will include provisions for ramps connecting to I-405, to and from the north.



Benefits: Collectively the three interconnected projects result in the following benefits to the community:

- Improved traffic circulation between downtown, Overlake Hospital/Group Health Cooperative, and other areas of Bellevue
- Expanded regional emergency care and medical services to citizens on the greater Eastside
- Support of Bellevue's economic development efforts by bringing hundreds of new jobs to the city

Current status of each project: Each project is in varying stages:

- **Overlake Hospital:** Excavation of the parking garage was completed in October, successfully beating the arrival of the rainy season. This avoided the impact of increased truck traffic for major dirt removal and a large cost impact. Work continues on footings and foundations, forming columns and walls, and plumbing and electrical rough-ins. The underground garage will be up to grade by spring.
- **Group Health:** Group Health is concluding its design phase, and construction is scheduled to begin Spring or early Summer 2006.
- **NE 10th Street Extension:** Project partners (City of Bellevue, in coordination with Overlake Hospital and Group Health) are developing a coordinated plan for the design and construction of the NE 10th Street Extension between I-405 and 116th Avenue NE and the Overlake and

Group Health campuses. Design of the NE 10th Street improvements is approximately 30 percent complete. The initial construction of NE 10th Street Extension east of I-405 is scheduled to begin construction in September, 2006.

The City of Bellevue is coordinating with WSDOT on the final design of the NE 10th Street Extension west of the Overlake and Group Health campuses.

Schedule:

- **Overlake:** The new Overlake South Tower is scheduled to be substantially complete in October 2007.
- **Group Health:** Group Health is scheduled to be substantially complete in Spring 2008.
- **NE 10th Street Extension:** The project is being designed and built in phases. The initial phase, extending NE 10th Street from 116th Avenue NE to the eastern edge of I-405, is scheduled to be mostly complete by the end of 2007.

Construction of the section over I-405 will be completed in partnership with WSDOT following the initial phase.

Budget: The amounts listed below are cost estimates for each project.

- **Overlake:** \$125 million
- **Group Health:** \$120 million
- **NE 10th Street Extension:** \$75.7 million (includes design, right-of-way, and construction for all phases)

Project Managers:

- **Overlake Hospital Medical Center:** Janet Donelson, Vice President, Facilities, Web site: www.overlakehospital.org/about/campusexpansion/home.aspx
- **Group Health Cooperative:** Trammel Crow Co., Web site: www.ghc.org/locations/eastside.jhtml
- **NE 10th Street Extension:** Rick Logwood, City of Bellevue, 425-452-6858 or via E-mail: Rlogwood@ci.bellevue.wa.us, Web site: www.cityofbellevue.org/page.asp?view=32937

NE 1st Street: 99th Avenue NE to 100th Avenue NE Sidewalk

Project Need: Sidewalk is missing between 99th Avenue NE and 100th Avenue NE.

Proposed Improvements: Add new curb and gutter on the west side of 99th Avenue NE to connect with the existing curb. Sidewalk construction in this section will take place with redevelopment of the corner lot.

Benefits: Increases pedestrian safety and improves the pedestrian connection on NE 1st Street while minimizing the impact on the existing on-street parking situation. It also provides better access between the Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Beach Park.

Current Status: Design is almost complete.

Schedule: Construction is expected Winter 2006.

Budget: \$75,000

Project Manager: Kevin McDonald, 425-452-4558, or via E-mail: KmcDonald@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Main Street and 102nd Avenue Intersection

Project Need: There have been several accidents caused by drivers running red lights in the north-south direction. From 1997 through 2004, approximately 16 accidents have occurred. The estimated cost to the City of Bellevue is a total of \$241,000, or \$30,000 for each year.

Nearby buildings make it difficult for drivers to see the pole-mounted traffic signals, contributing to the red light-running problem. In the past, we've modified the signal heads.

Proposed Improvements: Installing a single, four-sided signal head above the center of the intersection, which will be supported by a pole located on the northeast corner of the intersection. The four existing traffic signals will not be removed so that there continues to be good visibility at this intersection.

The design and color of the new pole will match the decorative "Old Main" nostalgia and will look very similar to the recently installed streetlight poles on the Meydenbauer bridge.

Benefits: The new signal head will be significantly more visible to all drivers, reducing accidents at this intersection.

Schedule: Construction is expected to start this winter. Once it is underway, we anticipate three weeks of work. Please expect construction delays in the area during this time.

Budget: \$35,000

Project Manager: Brandon Carver, 425-452-4346, or via E-mail: Bcarver@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Sanitary Sewer Repairs

Project Need: Sanitary sewer pipes have broken, are leaking, or are showing signs of strength loss.

Proposed Improvements: Crews will make repairs at 10 different downtown locations. *Please refer to the map.*

Current Status: Under design.

Schedule: Repairs will begin in January 2006 and end in November 2006.

Budget: \$1,000,000

Project Manager: Carol Cap, 425-452-4494, or via E-mail: Ccap@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Replacement of Large Commercial Water Meters

Project Need: Water meters around downtown are aging.

Proposed Improvements: Replace aging commercial water meters and associated parts to bring service to the current standards at various locations. Please refer to the map.

Benefits: Improves reliability, integrity, and safe operations of the water meters.

Current Status: Under design.

Schedule: Replacement will start taking place Winter 2006 and be completed by Summer 2006.

Budget: \$130,000

Project Manager: Vanaja S. Rajah, 425-452-4881, or via E-mail: Vrajah@ci.bellevue.wa.us

2005 Pavement Overlay Program

Project Need: Several roadways needed to be repaired because of cracked or grooved pavement conditions.

Recent Improvements: Four major arterials downtown were repaved:

- Bellevue Way: NE 8th Street to SE 8th Street
- NE 8th Street: 98th Avenue NE to 112th Avenue NE
- NE 4th Street: 100th Avenue NE to 112th Avenue NE
- Main Street: 100th Avenue to Bellevue Way

Benefits: Saves street maintenance costs in the future and provides a better driving surface.

Schedule: The pavement overlay work began in Spring 2005 and was completed by November. Only traffic signal loops need to be installed in the spring of 2006 on NE 4th Street between 100th Avenue NE and 112th Avenue NE.

Budget: \$2,500,000

Project Manager: Bob Goenen, 425-452-4239, or via E-mail: Bgoenen@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Commercial & Private Development Projects

Because private developers and franchise utilities conduct their work in and around our city streets, we coordinate our construction efforts with theirs. Please be aware that because these development projects require construction vehicles that enter or leave the sites, there may be associated traffic delays in the area.

Drivers and pedestrians should anticipate periodic lane and/or sidewalk closures adjacent to several commercial developments or utility work sites in Bellevue. Lane closures will be minimized but may occur at:

- Lincoln Square (Retail and Residential) 604 Bellevue Way NE
- Marriott Courtyard (Hotel) 11010 NE 8th Street
- Ashwood Commons (Retail and Residential) 989 112th Avenue NE
- Bellevue City Hall 450 110th Avenue NE
- Washington Square/Wasatch (Retail and Residential) 10620 NE 8th Street
- Overlake Hospital 1035 116th Avenue NE

For additional information, please contact Patti Wilma, Department of Planning & Community Development, 425-452-2725, or via E-mail: Pwilma@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Staying Informed

Do you like to know what is going on downtown? There are a number of tools available for you to stay informed:

- City of Bellevue "Projects in Your Neighborhood" - Just click on the link at www.cityofbellevue.org, find your neighborhood on the map, and scroll through the quick-review index of current and pending projects in your area.

"Projects in Your Neighborhood" outlines important details about the improvements the city builds every year all over town - including streets, sidewalks, trails, parks, sewer and water main line upgrades - plus projects selected by neighborhood residents. You can learn what projects are in your area, when they'll start and finish, what phase of development they are in, and other useful details. Each listing includes the project manager, phone number, and an E-mail link so you can ask questions.

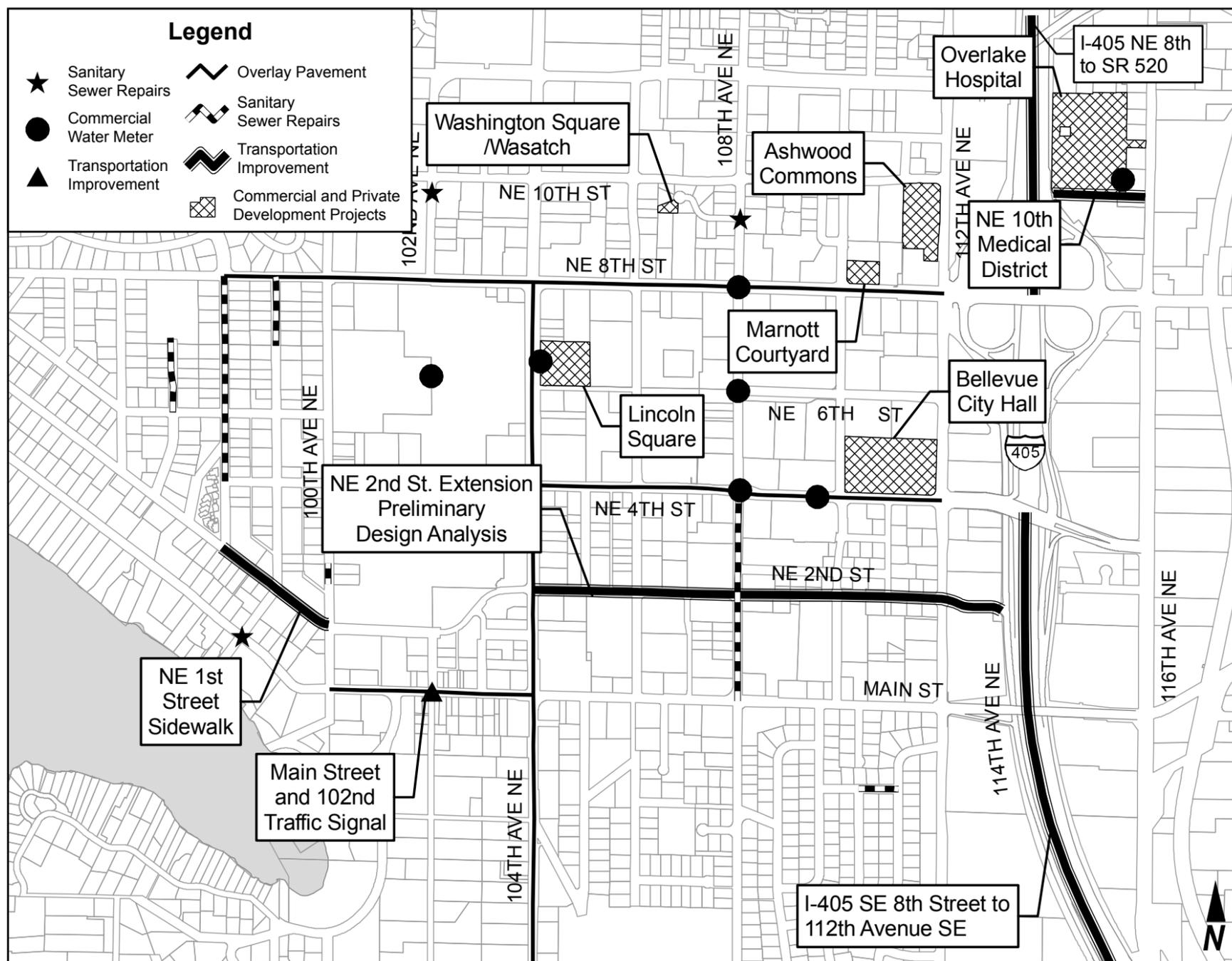
- Commercial and Private Development Project Information - Available at www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/page.asp?view=9106 and click on "Major Projects."

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please call 425-452-4638 or write Tresa Berg, Public Involvement Manager, City of Bellevue Transportation Department, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 or Tberg@ci.bellevue.wa.us.

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Eastgate Elementary students spread joy to other children

Firefighters from Bellevue Fire Station 2 collected toys from the kindergarten and 1st grade classes at Bellevue's Eastgate Elementary School on Dec. 21. Several hundred toys were given to firefighters who then distributed the toys to needy children before Christmas. The firefighters pictured by Engine 2 are (left to right) Tim McManis, Camari Ferguson, and Doug Halbert.

Bellevue Fire Department wins national awards

The City of Bellevue's Emergency Preparedness Division recently received five awards for its public education programs from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM).

In addition, Unigard Insurance of Bellevue was honored with the *Business and Industry Preparedness Award* for purchasing defibrillators and training staff how to use them.

The winning nominations were:

Honorable Mention for "Damage Assessment Training Video for Schools, Fire Stations, and Neighborhoods" – Video media award for Local Emergency Management Agency.

The Bellevue Fire Department has a strong working relationship with Bellevue Community College's Bellevue Television (BTV). This program stressed the need for rapid damage assessment following a significant earthquake in the Bellevue area.

Second Place for "Videotapes/DVD category for Local Emergency Management Agency" – "It's Your City" Magazine Show.

In April, "It's Your City" dedicated a large portion of its half-hour time slot to emergency preparedness. Later this year, following the Hurricanes in the Gulf, BTV re-edited the program and put it back on the air.

First Place for "Educational Campaigns by local Emergency Management Agency" – Childcare Preparedness and Excellence Award.

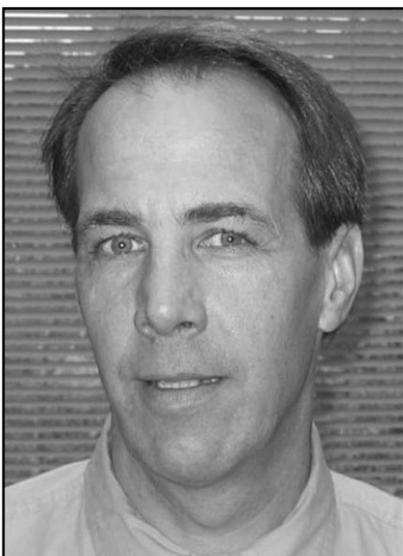
Washington State law dictates that childcare providers must have a disaster plan. While elementary, middle and high schools have many resources to accomplish this mandate, there are few program designed for the unique needs of childcare providers. In a partnership with Seattle-King County Public Health, 10 local childcare centers achieved the Excellence Award in Emergency Preparedness Planning.

National Business Winner "Business and Industry Preparedness Award" – Unigard Insurance.

Unigard was one of the first companies in Bellevue to purchase automatic external defibrillators and train staff to use them. Unigard has an excellent business continuity plan, which includes training of all employees and practice drills at least twice a year.

Ken Carlson named Bellevue Fire Marshal

Ken Carlson has been named the City of Bellevue's fire marshal.



Ken comes to Bellevue after spending 21 years working for the Kirkland Fire & Building Department, beginning as a building inspector and concluding as the building official and fire marshal.

In his capacity of fire marshal, Ken will manage new construction reviews and inspections, fire investigations and public education. Ken holds certifications as a fire inspector, building inspector and building official.

Ken, 48, is married with four children and one grandchild. He and his wife love to travel.

Nelson named Emergency Preparedness Manager

Laurel Nelson has joined the Bellevue Fire Department as Emergency Preparedness Division manager.



Nelson came to the city after being with the King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) since 1999. During her tenure with the county, Nelson gained invaluable experience serving in a number of roles, including Training & Education Program coordinator, Regional Planning Program coordinator and Operations Program manager.

Nelson began her career in emergency management as an emergency preparedness educator with King County Fire District #41 and, before that, with the City of Kirkland Fire Department's Preparedness Services.

East Bellevue voters continue Community Council thru 2009

By James E. Bell, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

East Bellevue voters, by a 2 to 1 majority, elected to continue the East Bellevue Community Municipal Corporation for four additional years. Voters also elected five members to the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) to run the corporation through 2009. Four of the incumbent members of the EBCC, Jim Eder, Ken Seal, Jim Bell and Jim Keeffe, ran unopposed. In the only contested race, Neil Penrose will succeed Brigitte Weichmann.

A majority of the voters must elect to continue the East Bellevue Community Municipal Corporation every four years. This requirement was levied in the Washington State statute that created the original community municipal corporation in 1969. Details are described in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) section 35.14. Basically that state law gave voters in areas that were being annexed to a city the option of electing a community municipal corporation and five members to govern it. The municipal corporation is granted two powers by the State of Washington. First is the power to veto land use ordinances adopted by the City of Bellevue. The second power is the right to advise the Bellevue City Council on levels of service within the annexed area.

In comparing the 2005 election to the 2001 election, the voter turnout was larger this time even though there were fewer registered voters.

In the 2001 election there were 7062 registered voters in the East Bellevue area. Of those, 2335 voted. There were 1242 votes to continue the Community Council versus 1093 who opposed the continuation.

In the 2005 election, voter turnout was 2875 out of 5530 registered voters. There were 1521 votes to continue the corporation for an additional four years; 800 voters opposed the continuation.

It has been the practice that each member of the Council be sworn-in at the beginning of their first meeting of the new year. This year that meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lake Hills Community Clubhouse located at 15230 Lake Hills Boulevard. Presiding Judge Michael Trickey of the King County Superior Court will administer the oath of office. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. The regular meeting agenda should start about 7:15 p.m.

Neil R. Penrose is the newest member of the East Bellevue Community Council

Neil Penrose and his wife grew up on the Eastside. He believes that the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) is an effective tool in preserving our neighborhoods and property rights. Neil has two children and believes this area is a good safe place to raise them. Neil wants to work to preserve our neighborhoods and provide a good place for local businesses to thrive as well.

He also believes that the East Bellevue Community Municipal Corporation's power to reject city proposals is a valuable check on the city's power. This power is even more important now that the U.S. Supreme Court has diminished private property rights with the *Kelo v. New London* decision. The *Kelo* decision gives government the power to take land from individuals and allows them to sell it to developers in the hope that they will generate more taxes. The State Supreme Court has demonstrated a willingness to defer to cities and developers with decisions on eminent domain during the construction of Quest and Safeco Fields. These public/private projects displaced businesses that had been there for years and forced them to relocate. The EBCC provides local residents with a tool that can block actions that they believe will harm the neighborhood and can advocate for changes that will improve the neighborhood.

Finally he believes that the best government is the one closest to the people. The EBCC gives residents of East Bellevue access to city government through five council members who have been their neighbors for years and will be their neighbors for years to come.

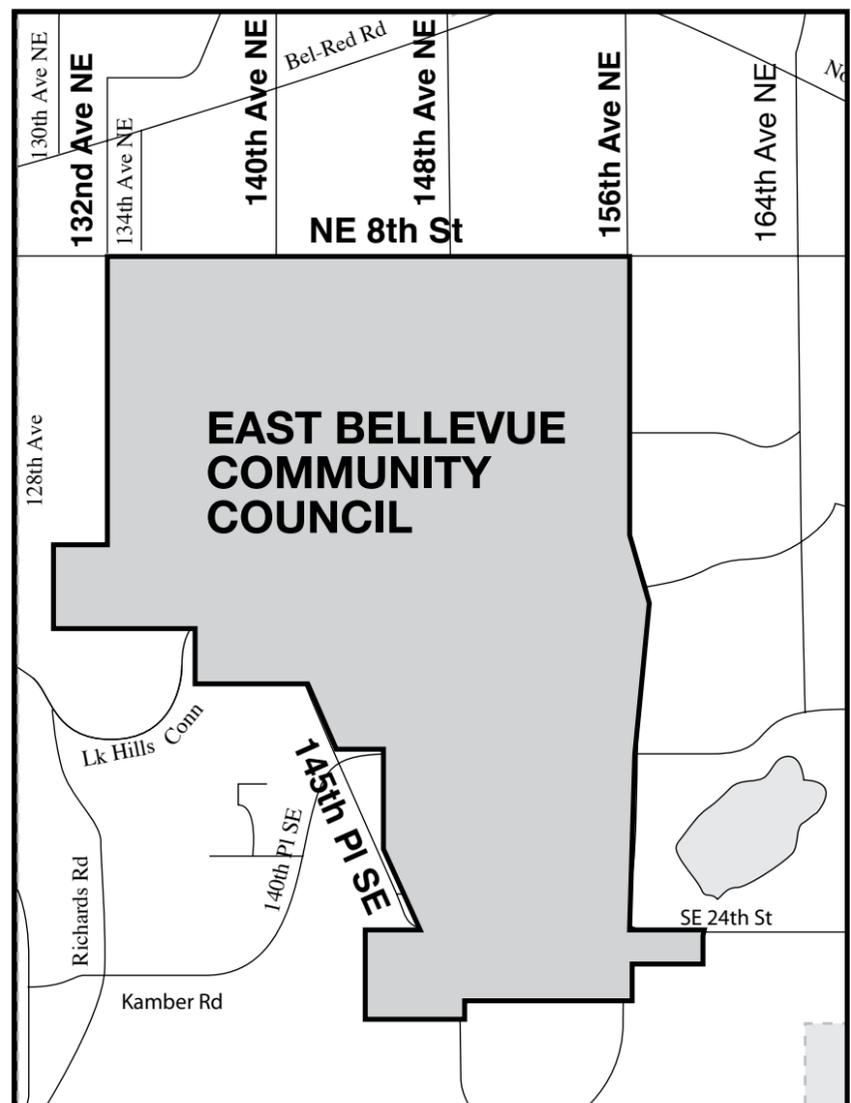
You can share your views with Neil Penrose by phone at 425-260-4549 or by E-mail at nrpenrose@msn.com. You can share your views with the whole Community Council by E-mail at EBCC@ci.bellevue.wa.us.

Neighbors and Community Council Members tour Lake Hills Elementary School

Don Lemieux, past EBCC and City Council member, asked the principal, Judy Buckmaster, to give some of the senior local residents a tour of the brand new school. After all he reasoned they had endured all the noise and disruption while the school was completely redone. He invited Jim Bell and Jim Eder to join the tour because EBCC had approved the changes to the Land Use Code that allowed the school project to proceed with administrative rather than full process conditional use permits.

Enrollment at Lake Hills Elementary has been steady at about 425 students. The new building has grown from one story with 41,000 SF to two stories and 67,800 SF. We were amazed and delighted with the new facility. One example was smart boards that have replaced "blackboards" and "whiteboards". These allow the teacher to prepare lessons and plans on their laptop computers. The laptop can be connected to the smart board. The students are able to touch the screen and do learning exercises interactively with the teacher's plan. Of course, story telling or group reading areas are still part of the school library. Buckmaster said there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and help out with school activities.

East Bellevue Community Council held two Courtesy Public Hearings and one Public Hearing before approving the change from full conditional use to administrative conditional use for the school project. A fourth Courtesy Public Hearing was held on the administrative conditional use application. The chief concerns were granting increased building height without community approval. These concerns were addressed and satisfied during the hearings. You can review the testimony by viewing the meeting minutes for Nov 6, 2002; Dec 3, 2002; Feb 4, 2003; and Jan 13, 2004 on-line at <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us>. Click on City Government, then Community Council and finally Minutes.



For information about the city's Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Michelle Murphy, 452-6466, or contact the East Bellevue Community Council Chairperson, James Bell.

East Bellevue Community Council meets the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Members
James E. Bell
Jim Eder
James Keeffe
Ken Seal
Brigitte Weichmann

City Contact Information

Bellevue City Hall

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Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

City of Bellevue web site: www.cityofbellevue.org

Information Center: 452-6800

City Council Office: 452-7810

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.
2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.
Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6805 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Library Board: 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30

City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6805

City Manager: 452-6810

Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874

Highland: 452-7686

North Bellevue Senior: 452-7681

Community Council: 452-6805

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911

Business and Information: 452-6892

Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or www.cityofbellevue.org

Information Technology: 452-4626

Marina Hotline: 452-6123

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Parks & Community Services

Parks Information: 452-6881

Recreation Registration: 452-6885

Youth Sports: 452-6887

Ballfields: 452-6914

Picnics/Rentals: 452-7158

Park Maintenance: 452-6855

Human Services: 452-6884

Cultural Diversity: 452-7886

Probation: 452-6956

Recreation & Special Services Division: 452-6885

Planning & Community Development: 452-6864

New permit applications and application status: 452-6864

Code compliance: 452-4570

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

D.A.R.E.: 452-7895

Emergency Only: 911

Administration: 452-6952

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Detective Division: 452-5373

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-6915; Residential 452-6916

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-6940

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Transportation Construction Hotline: 452-7933

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-2977

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS

Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000



It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue, WA. If you have questions or comments about this publication or city services, call 425-452-4090; or write: Editor, *It's Your City*, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012;

or send e-mail to trwaters@ci.bellevue.wa.us.
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Bellevue City Council



Grant Degginger
Mayor



John Chelminiak
Deputy Mayor



Claudia Balducci



Don Davidson



Connie Marshall



Phil Noble



Conrad Lee

WSDOT I-405 "Nickel Project" open house and hearing

Washington State Department of Transportation's I-405 Corridor Program will hold a combined open house and environmental hearing on the Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project on Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 4-7 p.m., in the International Middle School Commons, 445 128th Ave. SE, Bellevue.

The project will add one northbound lane on I-405 from I-90 to SE 8th Street and one southbound lane from SE 8th Street to I-90. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2007. Total project funding is \$185.5 million.

The purpose of the open house and hearing is to ensure social, economic, and environmental effects have been considered under federal and state environmental procedures. The hearing is a chance for the public to give testimony to a certified court reporter.

You may be eligible for a Utilities rate reduction

The city's Utility Rate Reduction and Rebate Program kick-off begins Feb. 1, 2006. A rebate is available for qualifying renters and a reduction is available for qualifying homeowners. To qualify, you must be disabled or over 62 years of age, have lived in Bellevue for most of 2005, pay utility bills, and have an income of \$24,698 or less if single and \$28,358 or less if a married couple. A household of four can make up to \$34,687. Please make an appointment to meet with Utilities staff at Crossroads Mini City Hall, New City Hall, Factoria Mini City Hall and North Bellevue Senior Center. Those who received a rebate or reduction in 2005 need to reapply for 2006. For more information, call Utilities at 425-452-5285.



Did you get your free food waste bucket? If not, call Allied Waste/Rabanco at 425-452-4762. Food waste buckets make it easier to collect food waste in your kitchen and carry it to the yard debris cart. For more information about food waste recycling, visit www.Rabanco.com/collection/Bellevue.