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Guess who's Bellevue's biggest employer. Page 6



Sculpture exhibition has green theme. Page 8



Tree house at Mercer Slough. Page 11

Catching air at the new skate plaza



Theotis Beasley of the Nike SB skateboarding team performs a maneuver at Bellevue's new Highland Center Skate Plaza during the grand opening. More than 750 people gathered at the event and were treated to "best trick" contests among top amateur skateboarders from across the country, as well as demonstrations from the pros on the Nike team.

Blueprint for transformed Bel-Red area drafted

For more than two years, city planners have been working with residents and business owners to develop a vision for a transformed Bel-Red area northeast of downtown. With the City Council close to making decisions about proposed land use and code changes, *It's Your City* presents common questions and current answers about the project.

Question: *I've heard the city is considering big changes for the Bel-Red Corridor. What's being proposed?*

Answer: A recently released draft plan calls for dramatically reshaping the area, allowing it to gracefully transform from its current low-rise, light-industrial and commercial uses to a more urban environment. The plan envisions, by

2030, areas of more intense, mixed-used development, new parks and open space, a thriving economy, new neighborhoods and a better transportation system, with more streets, trails and bike lanes.

Q: *Where is this area located?*

A: The 900-acre Bel-Red area is located a short distance northeast of downtown Bellevue. It's roughly bordered by State Route 520 on the north, Bellevue-Redmond Road on the south, Interstate 405 on the west, and 148th Avenue Northeast on the east, with a small section between Bel-Red Road and 156th Avenue Northeast farther to the east.

Q: *What's been done so far?*

A: From 2005 to 2007, a Bel-Red Steering Committee appointed by the City Council held public meetings and came up with a vision for the area. Since then, five Bellevue boards and commissions have worked together with city staff to turn the Committee's vision into a planning blueprint called the Bel-Red Subarea Plan.

Q: *Why are these changes being proposed now?*

A: In part, the changes are being considered because the character of the area has changed. Although the Bel-Red area is a major employment center in Bellevue, some of its larger employers have moved away or reduced operations in recent years. Another driver is Sound Transit's

proposed extension of a light rail line through the area. Bus rapid transit routes are also being considered.

Q: *Why is the city interested in making these changes?*

A: Members of the Steering Committee and various Commissions and Boards see an opportunity to take advantage of the current and future changes taking place in the Bel-Red area. More intense development could capitalize on the public transit system proposed for the area, and placing jobs and residences in close proximity also makes sense. In addition, enhancing streams that run through the corridor could produce valuable environmental benefits, while the creation of new parks and trails adds to the city's recreational choices.

Q: *I'm a customer of several businesses located in the corridor. What will happen to them?*

A: The vision for Bel-Red is to accommodate existing businesses while supporting gradual change to new, higher density forms of development in specific locations. Many existing commercial uses and services would continue to be allowed in the various new zones proposed for Bel-Red. Other existing uses, such as light industrial manufacturing, are addressed in a specific new code section in the draft regulations that allows for current uses to continue operating.

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Council Corner

Affordable housing boosts everyone's quality of life



By Bellevue City Councilmember Phil Noble

How hard is it for some people who work in Bellevue to find affordable housing here? Consider these numbers:

Median income in King County for a family of four is about \$78,000. However, the average kindergarten teacher in the Seattle-Bellevue area earns an average annual salary of \$48,420, according to data compiled by the federal government. Medical assistants make \$34,130, waiters and waitresses earn \$27,860, and retail salespersons average \$29,190.

Using the general rule of thumb that one-third of a family's income goes to housing, a family of four with a median income could afford a \$263,000 house, or a monthly payment of \$1,871. Lower income families, of course, can afford much less.

Now consider this: The median sales price of a single-family home in Bellevue is \$635,500, while the median price of a condo is \$324,995. The average monthly apartment rent is \$1,162.

What these numbers tell us is that those who teach our children, repair our vehicles, police our streets, sell us clothing or serve us in restaurants either cannot afford to live here, or find it exceedingly difficult. Add senior citizens, people with disabilities and others on fixed incomes to the mix, and the number of such people grows.

Why should we care?

There are many reasons. If employees who provide the services we need cannot live here, it may become impossible or very expensive for businesses, schools, hospitals and other establishments to recruit and retain qualified workers. Moreover, traffic congestion and air pollution worsen when people are forced to commute long distances, families lose stability if they must move frequently and people paying too much for housing risk homelessness.

In a recent survey conducted by the city's Human Services Division, residents overwhelmingly identified affordable housing as one of Bellevue's most pressing issues. Over the years, the City Council, using a variety of strategies, has worked to expand the supply of such housing for both low- and moderate-income households. Perhaps most notably, since 1993 we have collaborated with other East King County cities through A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) to fund more than 2,300 affordable housing units for families, seniors, persons with special needs and the homeless. An estimated \$23 million has been provided to ARCH, with Bellevue providing just over \$10 million of those funds.

In coming years, the majority of new affordable housing built on the Eastside will be in existing downtowns and areas zoned for mixed uses. In Bellevue, city planners estimate that 80 percent of all types of new residential housing will be built in these areas.

With that in mind, the Council last year, as part of the larger Bel-Red planning process now underway, endorsed an affordable housing work program to evaluate potential tools to encourage more affordable housing construction. More than 5,000 new housing units are expected to be built in coming years in the Bel-Red area as major zoning and other changes occur.

Some of the issues the Council is expected to consider in coming months include:

- Should the city specifically decide how many affordable housing units must be built in Bel-Red, and if so, for what income levels should the units be targeted?
- Should the city require housing contractors to include affordable housing in their projects, perhaps offset by higher density or height incentives? Or should the construction of affordable housing be accomplished solely through voluntary incentives?
- Should commercial developments be included as part of a comprehensive affordable housing strategy?

These are some of the questions the City Council will likely address as it moves toward adopting a comprehensive land use plan for Bel-Red later this year. Ultimately, strategies adopted for Bel-Red will be considered or used in other areas of the city.

The bottom line is that providing affordable housing is not just about improving housing conditions for those who live in the housing, but improving the quality of life for all of us. I urge you to get involved and let your views be known on this very important topic.

Councilman Noble serves on the Eastside Human Services Forum Executive Board, the Governing Board Committee to End Homelessness (a regional coalition hosted by King County) and the King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Board. He is also the Council liaison to the city's Human Services Commission.

New feature to highlight Council actions

Nearly every week, Bellevue's City Council takes action on important policies and issues. Now residents who want to know what happened at the latest Council meeting have a place to go.

Each week there is a Council meeting, a "roundup" of Council action will be presented as a news release online. Look for it on the City Council page – http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm.

People who subscribe to E-Mail Alerts for Council news will receive e-mails whenever a new roundup is posted. For E-Mail Alerts subscriptions, go to the city website home page (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov>) and follow the link under "More News and Events."

The roundups are sent to media as well, and you may find them or parts of them covered by the local papers and TV and radio outlets.

For complete information about Council meetings, consult agendas and meeting minutes, linked from the Council web page.

Residents Talk

What do you like most about Bellevue?



Patricia Virden: Believe it or not, I like the weather. It's fun to shop at Bellevue Square. I also like the parks. There's a lot of nice parks to take the kids to.



Sarah Sanberg: The school district. It's top in the nation, with most kids studying at two grades above what they would be elsewhere. The parents are very involved. We moved here for the schools.



Barbara Johnson: The parks, trails and services. We like the Phantom Lake Loop, Mercer Slough and the Bellevue Botanical Garden, where they have the Garden d'Lights.



Eric Edson: The downtown's pretty cool. It's like a big city, but not.



Former Planning Commission member joins City Council



Patsy Bonincontri, a former member of Bellevue's Planning Commission, has been chosen to fill the City Council seat vacated by Connie Marshall.

The Council in March chose Bonincontri to fill Marshall's term, which expires at the end of 2009.

Following Marshall's resignation, 21 Bellevue residents applied for the vacant seat. The Council then whittled the list down to seven finalists before conducting public interviews with each candidate.

Bonincontri received the four votes necessary to secure the seat on March 24.

"I think we would be honored to serve with any one of the seven finalists," Mayor Grant Degginger said. "All of them are impressive people with tremendous credentials."

Bonincontri, a Bellevue resident for the past 16 years, was born in Hong Kong, and moved to the United States to attend college. She holds a degree in architecture from the University of Southern California, and has practiced the profession for more than 20 years.

While serving on the Planning Commission from 1998 to 2007, she chaired the panel twice and was involved in major issues including the drafting of the city's critical areas ordinance and the Downtown Implementation Plan, which guides public investment and design in the central business district.

Bonincontri also worked on the city's Development Services initiative, a highly successful effort that has dramatically improved customer services to homeowners, contractors and others with inspection, permit and other needs.

When she applied for the Council seat, Bonincontri was serving as a member of Sound Transit's Citizen Oversight Panel, charged with evaluating how the agency adheres to schedules, budgets and annual performance audits.

Bonincontri was sworn into office in early April, and stepped down from the Sound Transit panel.

Dispatcher helps deliver baby over the phone

When a Shoreline couple called 911 in June of 2007, the woman was in the last stage of labor. The Eastside Regional Communications Center dispatcher sent emergency medical technicians her way, but the baby was ready to enter the world.

It was up to the dispatcher, Becky Lucci, to guide the couple with the delivery over the phone. With another dispatcher feeding her information from resource guide, Lucci was able to calmly direct the husband and a neighbor through the process, and the baby was born in a little over two minutes.

The King County Emergency Medical Dispatch program in May honored Lucci for "exemplary handling of an EMS incident." The couple, Thea De Young and Jeff Crissafulli, attended the ceremony at the dispatch center in Bellevue City Hall with their baby, Oscar.

The couple and their neighbor credited Lucci's poise and patient instructions for helping them bring Oscar safely into the world. In Eastside Communications tradition, Lucci received a lapel pin in the shape of a stork for assisting with the delivery.

Also honored at the event was Krystal McCoy, another Eastside dispatcher, honored for "sustained exemplary performance."

At the Eastside dispatch center for almost 10 years, McCoy has earned a reputation for being able to communicate effectively with frantic callers and bringing rational thought into a crisis. Her ability to do so day in and day out was a compelling factor in selecting her for the award.

McCoy has also helped train new dispatchers, including co-instructing the classroom academy and providing one-on-one training.

Administered by the Bellevue Police Department, Eastside Regional Communications has a staff of more than 50 people and dispatches police and fire services to more than 700,000 people in a 1,400 square-mile area in east King County. The dispatchers handle over 250,000 calls a year, nearly 15,000 emergency calls a month, and average 487 emergency calls a day.

City earns high marks from residents

The vast majority of the city's residents continue to believe Bellevue is a good to excellent community to live in and that they are getting value for their tax dollars.

Those are some of the key findings of the city's annual performance measurement survey conducted during the first part of this year. An outside firm queried residents about city government operations and gathered resident opinion about the effectiveness of city service delivery and general attitudes toward city government.

The survey is one of the tools the city uses to make sure it is meeting residents' expectations.

"The survey results reflect the City Council's continuing commitment to fiscal stewardship, and to making sure we continue to provide first-class neighborhoods, parks and public safety services for our residents," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said.

"It is especially gratifying to know most residents believe we are doing a good job when you consider the rapid growth the city is experiencing and the challenges that come with that growth," he added.

95 percent of the respondents polled believe Bellevue is a good to excellent place to live, up from 93 percent the previous year.

Sarkozy noted the city has been conducting the annual performance survey for a decade now.

Over that period, citizens have continually ranked the city's performance as high in key areas.

"Obviously there are areas we can improve, but overall we have been able to sustain high-quality customer service and sustain a mix of municipal services that our residents want and deserve," he said.

This year's survey was conducted by Seattle-based Opinion Research Northwest. The company interviewed more than 400 residents earlier this winter, asking them questions on a wide range of issues pertaining to the performance of city government.

According to an initial analysis of the 2008 survey data, 95 percent of the respondents polled believe Bellevue is a good to excellent place to live, up from 93 percent the previous year.

The survey found that 94 percent of respondents believe the quality of life in their neighborhood is good to excellent, up from 90 percent in 2007, while 87 percent believe they are getting value for their city tax dollars, up from 82 percent in 2007.

Initial survey results also found 81 percent of residents believing the city is headed in the right direction, up from 77 percent in 2007, while 70 percent of those polled are satisfied with the job the city is doing planning for the future, up 2 percent over the previous year.



The summer months offer opportunity to enjoy many of Bellevue's parks including Bellevue Downtown Park.

It's Your Neighborhood

VOLUNTEERISM AND CARING REACH NEW HEIGHTS

By Cheryl Kuhn, Neighborhood Outreach Manager

Your neighborhood – it's more than a place to park your car and hang your hat. It's where you establish and cultivate the most important relationships in your life – with your family, friends and neighbors.

Your neighborhood is also a tremendous source of support – in good times and bad. Increasingly, Bellevue residents are turning to their immediate neighbors – or to their neighborhood associations – for various kinds of assistance.

For some residents living far from relatives, the neighborhood is their closest resource. For those who are elderly or struggling with illness or disabilities, neighbors can provide the one element of support that enables them to remain in their homes.

Many Bellevue neighbors are volunteering in different ways to care for neighbors in need. For instance:

Newport Hills volunteers drive through the neighborhood each December, distributing candy for kids and collecting food for needy families. The Newport Hills Community Club hosts an annual recognition event for community volunteers, and club leader Gary Thrasher has designated "random acts of kindness" as the theme of his presidency. At Newport Hills Community Church a new outreach program matches volunteer resources with neighborhood needs.

Jubilee Services, a new Bellevue-based nonprofit organization, will help residents who need help with home maintenance in Lake Hills and elsewhere this summer. On Aug. 16, "A Day of Sharing and Caring," volunteers led by Jubilee will prepare elementary schools for the coming school year and make vital improvements to up to 40 homes.

The Sunset Community devotes a portion of its newsletter to a "drum roll" for neighborhood volunteer efforts. Individuals are recognized for everything from tending landscaped areas to cooking hot dogs at the neighborhood picnic.

Neighborhood appearance is foremost on the agendas of many residents as the days get warmer and longer. From Apple Valley to Woodridge – volunteers are mobilizing throughout Bellevue to weed, trim and clean up.

Neighborhoods are not only more attractive, but also safer when neighbors volunteer to get involved. Neighborhood cohesiveness has long been recognized as an effective crime deterrent. When residents watch out for each other – seeing that kids get home from school safely, keeping an eye on the homes of residents on vacation – the whole neighborhood becomes safer.

Many neighborhood volunteers are active in Block Watches – including Whispering Heights and Collingwood.

Other neighborhoods have taken a proactive approach to emergency preparedness. In the Somerset and Westwood Highlands communities, volunteers are working with the Fire Department's Emergency Preparedness Division to make sure neighbors are prepared to take care of one another in case of disaster.

And when crisis actually occurs – as in the extended storm and power outage of 2006 – neighborhood volunteers are often the first to provide essential, even life-saving, assistance.

Volunteers for the Surrey Downs Community Club paid visits to the neighborhood's elderly and disabled residents during the 2006 winter storm, to make sure they were warm and well-fed. In Horizon Heights, neighbors pooled their resources, sharing everything from chainsaws to hot water for showers.

Neighborhood-based volunteerism is shaping today's Bellevue and making it a better place to live. For more information about neighborhood associations and their role in volunteer activities, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836. For other volunteer opportunities, contact the city's volunteer coordinator at 425-452-5375.

Residents ask

City staff get these questions often. Maybe you've wondered about the same things.

Why doesn't the city make homeowners clean up messy yards?

The current Bellevue City Code does not include a property maintenance ordinance. "Messy yards" are typically covered by the Nuisance (BCC 9.10) and Anti-Litter (BCC 9.11) ordinances, which do not address overgrown vegetation and tall grass. The Fire Code may apply if staff in the Fire Department judge overgrown, dry vegetation to be a fire hazard.

The city enforcement policy is to respond to complaints of code violations, except in the case of Sign Code violations and life/safety hazards, which the city proactively polices. If you have a concern about messy yards, call the city's code compliance line at 425-452-4570 or e-mail codecompliance@bellevuewa.gov. Except for life/safety issues, the city will not respond to anonymous complaints. However, under the state public records disclosure law, you can request nondisclosure of identifying information at the time you make the complaint.

If you don't want to make a complaint, consider working with the city's Neighborhood Mediation staff to try to reach an agreement with your neighbor. Call 425-452-4091 to find out more about mediation. And read an informative article on neighborhood eyesores at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/Mediation_NeighborhoodIssues_Eyesores_05-07.pdf.

How can we get speed bumps in our neighborhood?

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) has a number of education, enforcement and engineering recommendations that address traffic and pedestrian safety concerns on residential streets. Speed humps or other traffic calming measures are not the first choice because they also slow emergency vehicles. Traffic calming measures are limited to streets with excessive speeds that meet city guidelines.

If you feel a street in your neighborhood would benefit from an NTCP review, please read more about the program at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_calming_phase_1.htm. You can fill out an online Citizen Action Request form with details about your concern and any suggestions you may have for addressing it. Each two- to three-month review includes field investigations and the collection of relevant data (speed, volumes, etc.). Once this traffic analysis is complete, a report with the findings and traffic calming recommendations is mailed to those residents who have expressed concern.

My neighbor is removing trees from his yard. Can he do that?

To answer this question, several other questions must be answered first. Does the subdivision have restrictions which prohibit tree removal? Does the property contain a critical area (steep slope, stream corridor, wetland, etc.) or is one located adjacent to or near the property? Is the property subject to private contracts, covenants or homeowners associations that might affect your neighbor's ability to remove trees? Is the property located in an R-1 zone in Bridle Trails? Removing any vegetation, including trees, is prohibited in these cases.

If none of the above restrictions apply, your neighbor can remove trees. However, if the tree removal results in disturbance to more than 1,000 square feet of ground, the owner will need a clearing and grading permit. For help with this and any other clearing and grading questions, call 425-452-2019. Specific violations can be reported to Code Compliance, 425-452-4570.



Another crane went up yesterday. What are they building there?

The Bellevue website has a page devoted to development activity, http://www.bellevuewa.gov/development_activity.htm, which offers a wealth of information about private and city construction projects:

The Major Projects Report provides pictures and key information about private projects in and around the downtown, including those in the permitting stage;

Construction Projects in Your Neighborhood locates city projects planned or in process throughout the city.

The Permit Status site gives you access to Bellevue's permit database, with comprehensive information about permitted projects in Bellevue.

The Weekly Permit Bulletin is the official notice of current land use applications, public meetings, decisions, recommendations, public hearings and appeals of land use decisions in Bellevue.

Where in City Hall is the Courthouse?

The King County District Court at Bellevue is **not** in City Hall. The court, which handles traffic infractions and misdemeanors, is in the old Surrey Downs School at 585 112th Ave. SE, open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Civil and small claims actions are filed and heard in the East Division's civil court at the Issaquah Courthouse, 5415 220th Ave. SE.



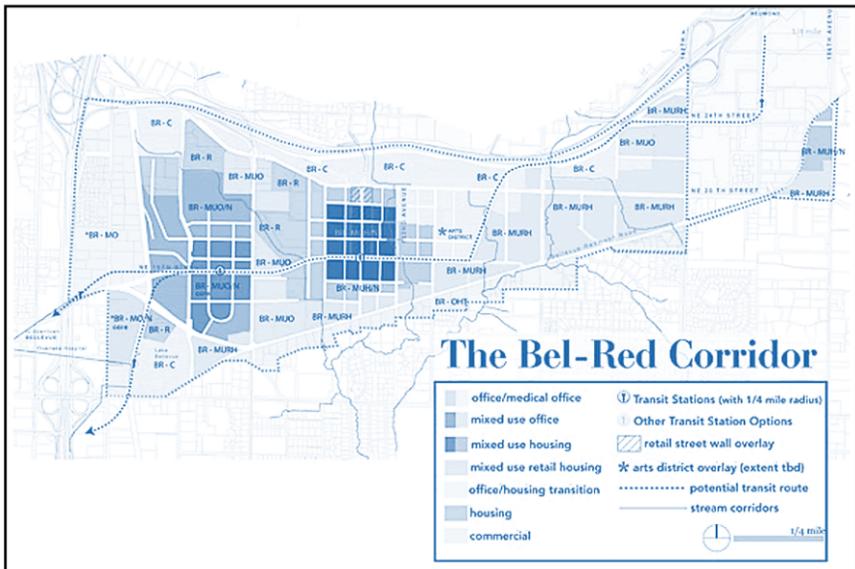
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Q: Why is this plan good for Bellevue?

A: The draft plan for Bel-Red proposes a new network of public improvements that will not only serve the Bel-Red area, but also provide improvements for the entire city, including improved east-west transportation, better access to downtown Bellevue, connections to city and regional parks and trails, and enhancement of the city's streams.

Q: How would Bel-Red area look different in the future?

A: Some of the biggest changes would include new streets running through the area, a wider variety of buildings ranging from 30 to 150 feet tall, better access to open space and a possible light rail line through the corridor.



Q: Bel-Red Road and Northeast 20th Street are already busy. Won't these changes make traffic even worse?

A: Increasing congestion is always a concern as development occurs, but the proposed integration of land uses and transportation improvements, including the addition of new streets and bike lanes and improvements to public transit such as light rail are designed to keep vehicle traffic moving and provide better options to driving alone.

Q: Is there going to be a light rail line running through this area?

A: The land use pattern proposed for Bel-Red is designed to support, and be supported by, a high level of transit service. The Bel-Red plan is not dependent on light rail, although for the new Bel-Red neighborhoods to be fully successful it will require some form of high-capacity transit service, such as light rail or bus rapid transit. The Bel-Red plans for Northeast 16th Street could accommodate either form of transit.

Q: How much would the Bel-Red project cost the city?

A: To pay for all the new road improvements, create new parks and open space and restore several streams in the Bel-Red area, would require more than \$450 million in capital spending through 2030, according to staff estimates.

Q: Who would pay for it?

A: A variety of sources for the funding have been identified as possible means. Developers could pay for a significant amount through impact fees, donated right-of-way for roads or open space and through incentive programs. Other sources of revenue might include grants, storm drainage fees, a tax on future growth in the area, money from the capital projects fund and formation of a local improvement district.

Q: When will this proposed transformation begin and how long will it last?

A: On the current project schedule, the City Council could take action on the Subarea Plan, zoning and regulations late this summer or this fall. With the zoning and regulations in place, developers will then have the ability to apply for development permits. It's anticipated that the Bel-Red area will see development of about 4.5 million square feet of commercial and office space and about 5,000 residences by 2030. Building out the entire area could take 40 years or more.

Q: I know some property owners will benefit from "upzoning" the area, but what's in it for me?

A: Some property will likely be worth more as a result of zoning changes, but it's also true that developers are expected to share the cost of improvements in the area. All Bellevue residents are expected to reap benefits from the Bel-Red project in the form of new jobs, new sources of tax revenue, transportation system improvements and new parks.

Q: What happens next? When will a final decision be made?

A: The Planning Commission is reviewing the draft plans and regulations for Bel-Red and is expected to make a recommendation to the City Council this summer. Council review and action on the recommendations could occur this summer or in the fall.

Q: How can I voice my opinion about the Bel-Red Subarea Plan?

A: The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Subarea Plan on May 28. To comment further, send comments to Paul Inghram, Comprehensive Planning Manager, and P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009 or by e-mail to pingram@bellevuewa.gov.

Q: Where can I learn more about the Bel-Red project?

A: For more information, including a draft of the Bel-Red Subarea Plan, draft zoning map, draft land-use code amendments, draft design guidelines and a staff report, visit the Bellevue website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bel-red_intro.htm.

Q: Supporters say plans for the Bel-Red area – which contains more than 1,100 businesses and nearly 17 percent of the city's total employment – will encourage a vibrant economy, but wouldn't the area attract new businesses even without the city's involvement?

A: Maybe, but there has been relatively little development activity or investment in the area compared to the city's other commercial growth centers in recent years, and some large employers have moved their operations from the area, which is often seen as being in transition from a mostly light industrial, underutilized section of the city, to one of greater density. With extensive input from the community and property/business owners in the area, the Bel-Red Steering Committee considered, and rejected, maintaining a continuation of the existing land use pattern in favor of a future vision that renews the area through transit improvements, parks, commercial development and new housing.

Q: I've heard the Bel-Red area may represent an opportunity for the city to explore ways to get more affordable housing built in Bellevue. Is that true??

A: Yes. With the median sales price of single-family homes in Bellevue at \$635,000 and condos close to \$325,000, buying a home is out of reach for most King County families. While Bellevue has made progress in boosting the supply of affordable housing on the Eastside, demand remains strong. That's why officials are studying several options designed to increase affordable housing in the Bel-Red area, where more than 5,000 housing units are expected to be built in the coming years.

Businesses can get funding to prevent water pollution

Bellevue businesses that make capital improvements to cut pollution going into the stormwater system could receive matching funds from the city.



The city received a grant from the King Conservation District that allows for 50 percent reimbursement to businesses – up to a maximum of \$5,000. To be eligible, businesses must make permanent improvements that keep pollutants such as grease, oil, soap, garbage and other hazardous materials out of surface water.

Restaurants, landscapers, construction companies, auto shops or any businesses that wash vehicles or buckets outdoors or store hazardous materials outside are encouraged to contact the city for additional information.

To be eligible for matching funds, project applications must be received and approved by the city before work begins.

If you have questions or would like additional information, including an application form, please contact Elaine Borjeson, program administrator, at 425-452-7103 or eborjeson@bellevuewa.gov.

See It's Your City on **BTV 21**
Bellevue TV

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 bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm.

Bellevue's motor fleet turns green

The City of Bellevue's vehicle fleet is turning green, and paint color has nothing to do with it. As part of its environmental stewardship initiative, the city now favors the purchase of fuel-efficient new vehicles and has retrofitted old ones to generate less air pollution.

By the end of 2008, Bellevue's vehicle fleet will have 31 gasoline-electric hybrid cars – seven Toyota Priuses, one Toyota Camry and 23 Ford Escapes. The city also has one electric pickup truck on order.

The fleet also includes several "flex" fuel vehicles, which run on a blend of gasoline and ethanol. All future police cruiser cars will be flex fuel vehicles. Plans are in the works to purchase two hybrid boom trucks for the Transportation Department for 2010.

Fleet Operations is testing other alternative vehicles, too, including a car that runs on compressed natural gas, a product almost free of harmful emissions.



The city's Ford Escape SUVs provide considerable fuel savings.

The city is not only picking greener new vehicles, but is also making its current fleet as fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly as possible.

To improve air quality, 32 diesel vehicles were retrofitted with "diesel particulate filters" that trap polluting ash and fumes normally released into the air. The city already used ultra low-sulfur fuel in these vehicles, and the filter almost eliminates what little ash there was. An \$82,000 grant from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency paid for the retrofit.

The city is incorporating more recycling in the maintenance of all 540 cars and trucks in its fleet as well as its more than 400 pieces of equipment, such as chippers and mowers. All engine oil, antifreeze, fluids, tires, batteries, metals, mercury switches and brake components are recycled, and all used oil is re-refined.

Parts cleaners with harmful solvents have been replaced with cleaners that use hot water and detergent. Brake cleaners are now environmentally friendly, with no ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons.

Staff on Bellevue's Fleet Operations are serving on a regional advisory board called the Green Fleets Initiative, which is establishing green standards for fleets throughout Puget Sound.

Some clinics take old medicines

To give people a way to dispose of old, unused medications without harming the environment, some local clinics and pharmacies will take them back and send them away for incineration.

Keeping medications around can be risky for children or others in the household, but flushing them down the toilet is not recommended, because even though wastewater is treated, pharmaceuticals are still showing up in Puget Sound in concentrations that harm marine life.

Several clinics and pharmacies, including Group Health Cooperative's Factoria Medical Center (13451 SE 36th St.) are piloting the meds take-back program. For a list of locations in King County and information on what's accepted, visit <http://www.medicinereturn.com/> or call the state Department of Ecology hotline at 800-732-9253.

Currently some medications, such as narcotics and other "controlled" drugs, are not accepted through this take-back program. To dispose safely of these medications, mix them with something unappetizing, like kitty litter, put the mixture in a non-see-through bag and throw it into the trash.

Needles are not accepted by the program, but they can be put in the garbage if they are in a rigid, puncture-proof container no larger than one-gallon. A one-gallon milk jug or a two-liter pop bottle is acceptable when capped, taped and labeled "Do Not Recycle." For more information, call Allied Waste at 425-452-4762.

The pilot program is scheduled to end in December. However, to be introduced in 2009 would direct manufacturers of prescription and over-the-counter medications to finance a permanent system to safely accept medications throughout the state. Such programs currently exist in many countries, including several provinces in Canada.

Microsoft soon to be largest Bellevue employer

With its announcement this spring that it will 25 of 26 floors at the City Center Plaza office building, Microsoft makes room for enough workers here to make it by far the largest employer in Bellevue by the end of 2009.

The 10 largest private-sector employers in Bellevue, projected through that time, are:



1. Microsoft – 7,500 employees
2. T-Mobile – 3,200 employees
3. Boeing – 2,800 employees
4. Overlake Hospital – 2,200 employees
5. Expedia – 1,650 employees
6. Verizon – 1,500 employees
7. Safeway – 1,200 employees
8. Nordstrom – 1,100 employees
9. Puget Sound Energy – 1,100 employees
10. Symetra Financial – 900 employees

Pay utility bills when out of town

Now you can access and pay your Bellevue Utilities bill even if you're on vacation in another country. Visit <https://MyUtilityBill.bellevuewa.gov> and get registered before you leave town. Finding an Internet connection in Europe will give you the convenience of paying your bill securely with a credit or debit card even when you're away from home. Paying your utilities bill online through MyUtilityBill™ is catching on. Since the service was offered in January, more than 3,000 customers have signed up.





Splashy new playground



A craftsman in the Philippines shapes one of the orca shales now at the Water Spray Playground.

A celebration for a new kind of playground featuring frogs, orcas, sinking ships and even the Loch Ness Monster spouting and squirting water is set for Saturday, June 7, at Crossroads Community Park.

Clowns, balloons and a ribbon-cutting will all be part of the event, starting at noon at the park, 999 164th Ave. NE. Audience members can even participate in a dance in the Water Spray Playground led by Seattle dance ensemble "Phffft."

The Water Spray Playground is designed to provide fun and recreation for all ages and physical abilities. The theme elements will offer play and climbing opportunities in all seasons.

Located next to a traditional playground, the new playground is designed to have no standing water. The water spouting there will be potable and, in keeping with Bellevue's environmental stewardship efforts, will be naturally drained from the site and recycled to supplement irrigation at the park.

The Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club, which led fund-raising for construction of the Water Spray Playground, is hosting the celebration with the city. Grants for the project came from the Recreation Conservation Office, the state, King County Parks and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Crossroads area is one of the most densely populated and ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods in Bellevue. It is hoped that the playground will bring together people of all cultures as they engage in water play.

Youth leadership winners honored

Students throughout Bellevue who have shown leadership in the classroom, on the sports field and elsewhere have been recognized with Community Leadership awards.

Bellevue Youth Link, a youth leadership program sponsored by the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Public Schools, handed out awards in 12 categories on May 29. This is the 18th year Youth Link has given these awards.

Youth Link sought nominations of children and teens who have had a positive influence on the community. More than 60 young people were nominated.

The following youth were honored at a celebration at Meydenbauer Center:

AWARD CATEGORY	AWARD WINNER	SCHOOL
Most Inspirational – Boy	Patrick Smith	Bellevue High
Most Inspirational – Girl	Megan Phan	Bellevue High
Athlete – Boy	Kevin La	Tyee Middle
Athlete – Girl	Jordan Lee	Newport High
Scholar – Boy	Alex Rockwell	Interlake High
Scholar – Girl	Tiffanie Tam	Newport High
Youth Leader – Boy	Brandt Nevin	Interlake High
Youth Leader – Girl	Xiyang (Hatty) Liu	Bellevue High
Diversity Champion	Mishbah Uraizee	Sammamish High
Environmental Champion	Emily Armstrong	Sammamish High
Youth Volunteer – Boy	Austin McNamara	Home
Youth Volunteer – Girl	Stephanie Tran	Sammamish High
Elementary School Student	James Sullivan	Lake Hills Elementary
Middle School Student	Farah Uraices	Odle Middle
High School Student	Kristina Endrikhovskaia	Newport High
Warming Hearts Award	Airahim Merali	International School
Norm Maleng Award	Phoebe Huang	Bellevue High

Youth Link recognized all nominees in the evening's program as well as its own volunteers.

City matches volunteers with needs

In Bellevue, thousands of residents are eager to volunteer their services, and there are plenty of unmet community needs. The trick is to match these volunteers with those tasks.

The city is expanding its volunteering program to help address some of the needs. With a citywide volunteer coordinator hired in January, the city is accommodating more volunteers and developing partnerships with nonprofit organizations and businesses that need volunteers.



The volunteers for the Waterwise Garden at Bellevue Botanical Garden are a spirited crew.

"The city has a communitywide perspective, and can often see the needs but not always address them," City Manager Steve Sarkozy noted. "Now we're developing new approaches to serving the community through volunteerism partnerships and enhanced city volunteer programming."

In 2007, more than 6,700 people volunteered for the city, performing a broad range of tasks, from planting trees to teaching classes to serving lunch at the North Bellevue Community Center.

Already, thousands of volunteers have pitched in for city programs this year, including planting shrubs and pulling weeds in the snow at Earth Day-Arbor Day.

In addition, Bellevue is helping nonprofit groups find volunteers for other projects. On Aug. 16, people drawn through city publicity will provide service for a new nonprofit – Jubilee Services – fanning out across the city to make key home improvements for people who cannot make those fixes themselves.

To facilitate connections between organizations and residents with jobs to be done and volunteers who want something to do, the city has revamped its volunteering web pages. Go to <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/volunteer.htm>.

Citizens are encouraged to pitch ideas, and organizations are invited to contact the volunteer program coordinator to discuss the possibilities.

If you have ideas for new projects or want to volunteer with a group, send an e-mail to volunteer@bellevuewa.gov. Volunteer Program Coordinator Shelly Shellabarger can be reached at 425-452-5375.

Quoting Winston Churchill, Shellabarger says, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

Natural yard care saves water

Typical lawn and garden care often depends upon commercial fertilizer made with fossil fuels, toxic chemical pesticides and water-wasting sprinklers. Natural yard care offers a better way.

- Choose plants wisely. Select mostly pest- and disease-resistant plants that need little or no irrigation and match the sun exposure, soil types and drainage in your yard.
- Mulch your plantings. Add a layer of organic material such as wood chips, compost or leaves, over the soil to reduce weed growth and conserve soil moisture.
- Tune up your watering system. Inspect your equipment and repair leaky, broken or poorly adjusted sprinklers, as well as leaky hoses and faucets. Rebates up to \$450 are available for the installation of new weather-based controllers and rain sensors. For more information visit <http://www.cascadewater.org>.
- Water lawns deeply but less often. Lawns need about one inch of water per week from June-August, but less in September.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to water all plants except lawns.
- Leave the clippings on the lawn. "Grasscycling" provides free fertilizer, helps lawns grow greener and denser and doesn't cause thatch build up.
- Start a compost pile. Turn your yard trimmings into compost and use it to build healthy soil. King County offers compost bins at discounted rates at www.composters.com/kingcounty.

Get unwanted pesticides out of your garage. Take them to the Household Hazardous Waste collection section at the Factoria Transfer Station for safe disposal. Call 206-296-4692 for hours and directions.

For more information on Natural Yard Care, call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-4127.

Sculpture exhibition has sustainability angle

The Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition, one of the premier art events in the Puget Sound area, will open June 14, and, for the first time it has a theme – “Sculpted Green.”

For the eighth presentation of the biennial Exhibition, established in 1992, the Bellevue Arts Commission and the Arts Program decided to check in with sculptors to see how, or if, ideas of sustainability are impacting their art.

The answer is yes! Artists were not required to submit works with a green theme, but more than half of the 259 sculptures that came from across the the United States and Canada addressed the environment through message, materials and/or method.

In the end, 30 of the more than 35 sculptures on display at the Downtown Park and City Hall have a green tint, while the rest fit within the broadly inclusive range of contemporary work characteristic of Bellevue’s exhibition.

Many pieces feature recycled, repurposed and organic materials, including bottle caps, clothespins and moss – in innovative, thought-provoking ways. Bernard Hosey of Twisp manipulated recycled steel to create two monumental spheres and Jeff Tangen of Shoreline makes use of surplus traffic lenses in his outdoor work.

Others explore the sustainability theme through technique. Kate Kaman of Philadelphia will harness solar power to light her artwork completely off the grid, for example. The sculpted green idea is expressed in a number of ways – humorous, ironical, reflective or serious – offering viewers a chance to ponder the myriad aspects of green living.

There is nothing subtle about the message Kate MacDowell of Portland delivers with “Daphne,” a porcelain sculpture of the mythic nymph who turned into a tree when Apollo pursued her. A metaphor for environmental degradation, the statue is shattered.

About a dozen sculptures are at the park; the others are in public



Kate MacDowell, *Daphne*

The opening celebration, which will feature free hors d’oeuvres and live music, is set for 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, June 14, on the first-floor concourse at City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE.

Free parking is available at City Hall from 110th Avenue. More information is available at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/sculpture_exhibition2008.htm.



Kate Kaman, *The Nebulae*

spaces at Bellevue’s award-winning City Hall.

The exhibition kicks off with an opening celebration at City Hall, June 14 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to join Exhibition artists, arts commissioners and members of the City Council taking their first look at the sculptures. Many will continue on to the Downtown Park around 7:30 or 8 p.m. to enjoy the sculptures there.

Podcast and guide-by-cell technology will be available for audio commentary on all of the sculptures.

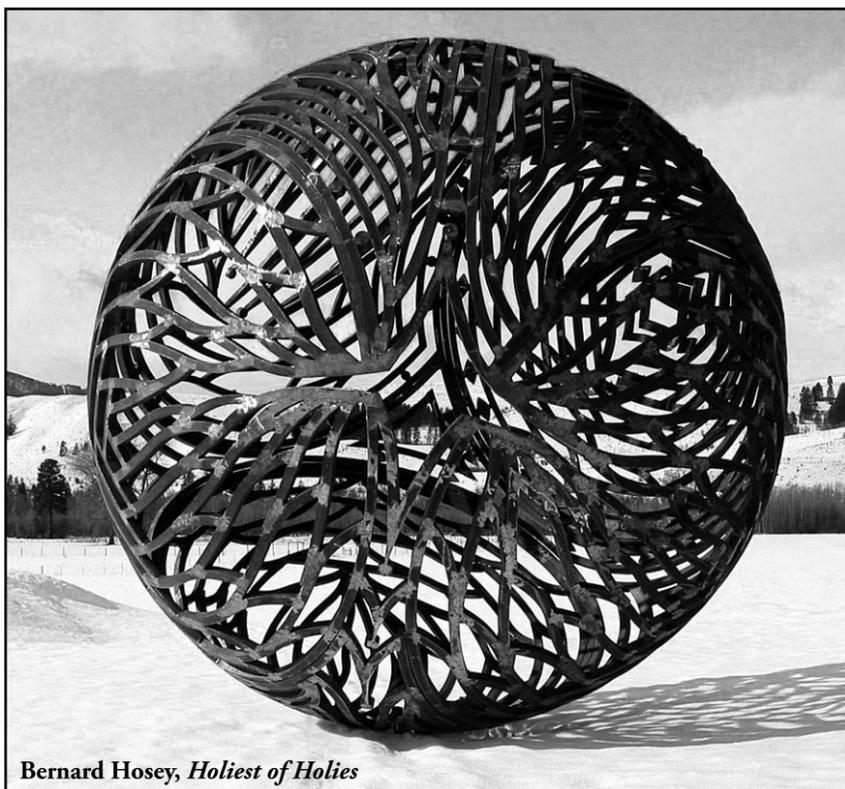
An historically popular feature of Bellevue’s exhibition is the Teen Project. This year students in Bellevue and teens from Ground Zero Teen Center will present their take on “green” by introducing geocaching and travel bugs.

In partnership with the Bellevue Schools Foundation and Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, teen participants are creating more than 200 small-scale sculptures out of recycled materials.

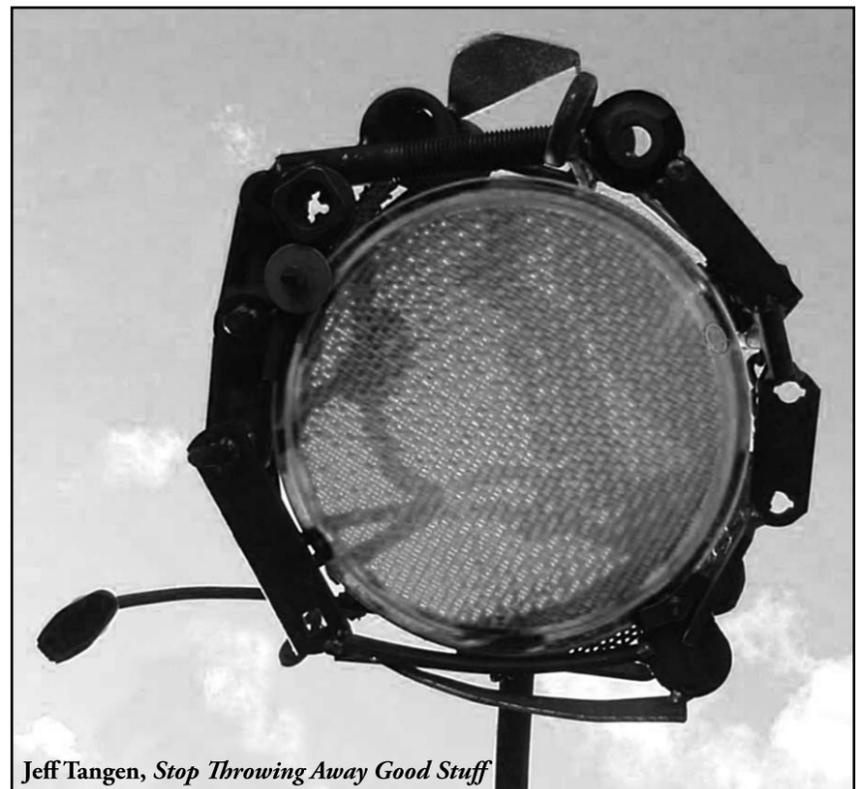
Labeled and tagged, these sculptures will become “travel bugs” in the worldwide treasure hunt known as geocaching. Using online clues and GPS coordinates, geocachers find hidden “caches.” When players find a cache, they record their find, stories, pictures and other information online, bridging the real and virtual worlds.

A cache may contain a log book, small objects that the finder might trade for another object, or a travel bug that has story and a destination goal. Geocachers help travel bugs reach their goals by moving them to another cache (hopefully closer to its final destination).

The ultimate goal for the sculptural travel bugs is to arrive at City Hall during the Exhibition to become part of the evolving Teen Project display. In this microcosm of a public art work’s lifecycle, teens create a sculpture fit for the public realm and steward it through its adventures – including threats common to public art.



Bernard Hosey, *Holiest of Holies*



Jeff Tangen, *Stop Throwing Away Good Stuff*



Summer volunteer opportunities

Summertime is ripe with volunteer possibilities throughout Bellevue. Events and special summer programs abound and volunteers are a key element of their success.

Summer is also a great time for teens to finish their required community service hours. Read on to learn about the opportunities in the summer, and year round as well.

24-Hour Relay Challenge

Be a chaperone, help with set up and take down or provide crowd control for this popular event, which helps to raise funds for Bellevue-area youth projects and programs. Contact Helena Stephens at hstephens@bellevuewa.gov or 425-864-2875.

Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, June 22, Downtown Park

Seafair Kids Mini Marathon

Call 425-452-4627 to sign up.
Sunday, June 29, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Downtown Park

Symetra Bellevue Family 4th

Positions are limited, and you must sign up in advance. Contact Pam Myers at pmyers@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.
Friday, July 4, 5 to 11 p.m., Downtown Park

Day of Caring and Sharing

With nonprofit Jubilee Services, help neighbors in need improve the appearance and safety of their homes and neighborhoods. Call 425-452-7917.
Saturday, Aug. 16.

End of the Summer Picnic

Call the North Bellevue Community Center at 425-452-7681.
Wednesday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., North Bellevue Community Center

Stream Team

With the Stream Team, volunteers monitor local streams for salmon, revegetate stream corridors with native trees and shrubs, help collect bugs for water quality monitoring or work on a variety of other projects that help protect water quality and enhance stream habitat. Training is provided. Coming events include stream bug collections in mid-August and Salmon Watcher workshops in September. E-mail streamteam@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-5200.

Specialized Recreation Day Camps

Provide supervision and support for children with a variety of disabilities on field trips featuring art, games and sports. Two volunteers, aged 17 and up, are needed each week (three trips a week). Call Kim Indurkar at 425-452-7686.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 23 to Aug. 15 (with a break July 21-25).

Aloha Picnic and Dance

Help with set up and take down and serve food for this event for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. Ten volunteers, age 15 and up, are needed. Call Kim Indurkar at 425-452-7686.

5 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 8.

Waterwise Gardening

Learn about plants and natural care practices such as weed control, composting and smart watering while helping with special late-spring and summer planting and ongoing care of the Waterwise Garden. Call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-4127.

First and third Wednesday of each month, 1 to 3 p.m., the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Storm Drain Stenciling or Marking

Stencil (paint) or mark (glue down colorful, eye-catching markers) storm drains with the words "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream." Call 425-452-6166.

Late June to early September.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Help out with Bellevue Botanical Garden Plant ID Tour (June 14 and July 12, 1 p.m.) or Pops in the Park (Aug. 2, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.). On an ongoing basis, maintain the garden's perennial border. Call 425-452-2750 or visit the garden at 12001 Main St.

Options for Teens

Serve on a Youth Link action team (call 425-452-5254), assist with skate park management (425-452-2722) or serve on a parent-teen mediation team (425-452-4091). Kelsey Creek Farm also offers a wide variety of opportunities for teens to assist with summer daily operations. Contact Pam Myers at pmyers@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.

Mini City Hall volunteer retires



Longtime volunteer Jeanne Cline is retiring to Issaquah.

After 15 years representing the city at Crossroads Mini City Hall, longtime volunteer Jeanne Cline is retiring. Cline went the extra mile to build resident trust in Bellevue's most diverse neighborhood.

"Jeanne loved the Crossroads neighborhood and enjoyed helping people and finding resources to match their needs," said Barb Tuininga, Mini City Hall coordinator. "Jeanne made a huge impact in her many years at Mini City Hall. Her enthusiasm and warmth will be missed."

Cline, who is moving to Issaquah after 30 years here, said her most rewarding days were when she gave someone a referral or information about a resource that was life changing for them.

For example, when an elderly man came to the office at Crossroads Bellevue to pay a water bill, Cline took the time to learn his story. After chatting for a while, he shared with her his desire to learn to read.

Cline quickly made an appointment at Eastside Literacy for the man, who had always tried to keep his illiteracy from his family and friends. In two years, he was able to read and for years afterward he would stop by Mini City Hall to tell Jeanne what he was reading.

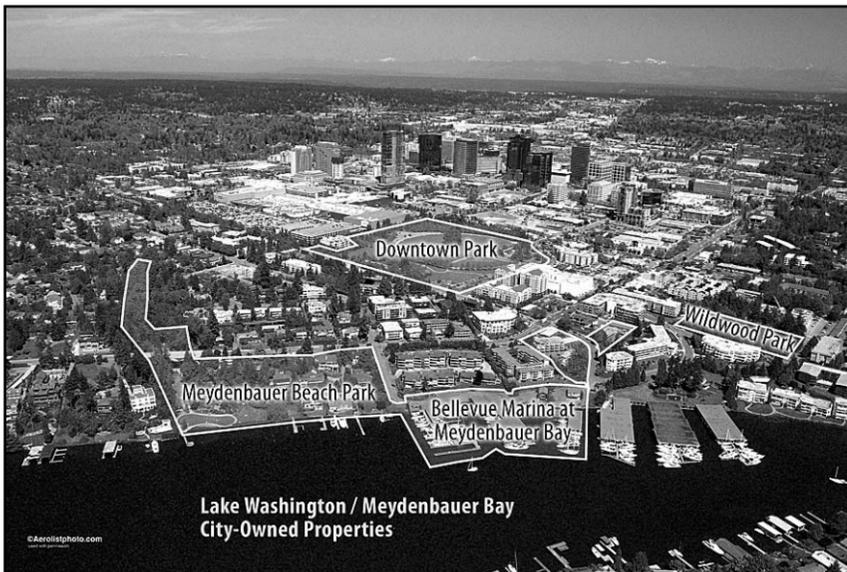
Cline is one of two volunteers at Mini City Hall who started soon after the facility first opened in 1994.

Volunteers at Crossroads Mini City Hall work with the public, make referrals and provide interpretation services for residents who have limited English. Volunteers commit to one shift per week for at least a year. For more information, call Barb Tuininga, the Mini City Hall Coordinator, at 425-452-2800.



The city's website is an excellent resource for the latest news about the city.

Input sought on plans for new Meydenbauer Bay park



The city has acquired 10 acres of shoreline on Meydenbauer Bay for the creation of a new waterfront park.

Plans to create a new waterfront park along Meydenbauer Bay and connect it to nearby neighborhoods are moving into a new phase, focused now on visions for the park itself.

The city has been acquiring property along the shoreline since the early 1990s, and now owns approximately 10 acres. In early 2007 the city launched a public process, including a steering committee, to make the park and its connections a reality.

The focus of master planning last year was land use, which considered development options for properties located away from or “upland” of the waterfront.

Now, the Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee and project team are turning their focus to the planning of the park itself. This phase of the project is expected to be completed in the fall.

There will be three public workshops this summer and fall, providing the public with opportunities to provide input. All Bellevue residents are encouraged to take part.

These workshops are tentatively scheduled for late July, September and November. In addition, the Steering Committee will meet at critical points in the process to provide oversight and guidance. Those meetings are open to the public.

The project web page – www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer_project_intro.htm – is updated periodically with project information and dates and times of upcoming meetings and workshops. Residents can sign up online for e-mail alerts whenever news breaks about the project. For more information, call 425-452-6195.



Paving the way to savings

When it comes to Bellevue’s pavement management program, the guiding philosophy is that it’s better to repave now than rebuild later.

The reason’s simple: Money.

It costs up to three times more to replace a street than to repave, or overlay it. That’s why this year, the city’s contractor, Lakeside Industries, will repave 24.8 miles of roadway in 48 different segments north of Interstate 90. It’s part of Bellevue’s annual overlay effort, first started in 1982.

“It’s more cost effective to do this preventative maintenance than waiting for complete failure, which means rebuilding the entire roadway,” said Teresa Becker, who’s in charge of the overlay program. “It’s like changing the oil in your car regularly to prevent big repair bills in the future.”

In an overlay operation, the old asphalt is planed down so the new overlay will match up with the curb and gutter, which is made of concrete, a more durable material. Then, two inches of new, hot asphalt is put down by a large machine that creeps over the roadway at about 2 mph. That’s followed by a heavy roller that presses the asphalt into place.

If the same street required a complete rebuild, all the old asphalt would need to be removed, then 2 to 4 inches of gravel laid down and compacted, topped by about 8 inches of asphalt.

What streets get the overlay treatment each year is determined by the city’s pavement management system, a detailed inventory of all city roads that was begun in 1986 and computerized in 1991.

Under this system, each street is classified according to how heavily it’s used, then rated every two years according to its condition. In the parlance of engineers, pavement distress consists of defects such as alligator cracking, rutting, raveling and flushing.

A street that scores 100 is flawless; a score of 40 or less means rehab time for sure.

Arterial roads deteriorate faster than residential roads, mainly because they are used more, but also because they accommodate heavier loads from large trucks and must endure more stops and starts, which tend to wear asphalt down faster. The freeze-and-thaw cycle of winter weather is hard on all types of streets.

Data from the pavement management system is used to identify streets in immediate need of repair and to create a six-year overlay plan. The final selection of streets to be overlaid each year is based on where in Bellevue those most in need or repair are located. Overlaying streets in the same area reduces construction costs and prevents paving a street adjacent to one paved the previous year.

Another cost-saver is the coordination that takes place between the Transportation and Utilities departments, so that work to dig up pipes and wires beneath roadways happens before an overlay, not after.

Overlay program by the numbers

- 942 lane miles: Total roadway in Bellevue (only 11 miles are concrete; 931 miles are asphalt)
 - 24.8 lane miles: Scheduled for overlays in 2008
 - 48 locations: Scheduled for overlays in 2008
 - \$3.95 million: Construction contract for overlay work in 2008
 - \$160,000: Approximate cost per lane mile of overlay streets in 2008
 - 300 degrees: Temperature at which asphalt is applied for overlay
 - 15 to 20 years: Life expectancy of arterial street before next overlay is needed
 - 25 to 30 years: Life expectancy of residential street before next overlay is needed
 - 528 lane miles: Bellevue streets overlaid since 1991
- Note: A lane is defined as 12 feet wide





Goodbye Wilburton Tunnel

REMOVAL TO CLOSE SOUTHBOUND I-405 IN AUGUST



In 1972, the old State Route 405 was widened through Bellevue to create Interstate 405 and the Wilburton Tunnel was built. Now, 36 years later, it's time to widen the highway again and the tunnel must be removed to make room for two new southbound lanes.

To quickly and safely remove the 365-foot long tunnel, the state Department of Transportation will close the southbound lanes of I-405, from Southeast Eighth Street to Interstate 90, on three consecutive weekends in August.

The closures will take place from 11 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday on the weekends of Aug. 8

to 11, Aug. 15 to 18 and Aug. 22 to 25. The northbound lanes will remain open.

Expanding the highway is part the I-405 South Bellevue Widening project, designed to relieve congestion on one of the region's stickiest section of roadway – in and out of downtown Bellevue. Scheduled for completion in fall 2009, the construction cost for the project is \$124 million; total funding for the project, which includes a variety of non-construction-related costs, is \$202.3 million.

Though detours will be in place during the closures, state and city transportation staffs are asking for the public's help to minimize the impacts. They're urging drivers to avoid the area if possible, use alternate routes or reschedule trips. Motorists heading south on I-405 are strongly advised to follow the recommended detour, which is west on SR 520, south on I-5, east on I-90 and south again on I-405.

For more on the Wilburton Tunnel demolition, with maps of the detour routes, visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/112thAvetoSE8th/>.



Crews are building a new southbound bridge over I-90. The above illustration (supplied by WSDOT) shows what the new bridge will look like when it is complete by fall of 2008. The new bridge is the left-most span of the three in this view looking north, with downtown Bellevue in the background.

Commuting options

Want to help ease traffic congestion and reduce air pollution? Check out chooseyourwaybellevue.org, a one-stop, online resource that provides tips on how to keep moving during roadway construction projects and provides alternatives to driving alone. Log on to view traffic conditions, receive free trip planning assistance and learn about options such as carpooling, vanpooling, walking and bicycling. In addition, chooseyourwaybellevue.org includes special programs for commuters, residents and employers.

Tree house takes shape



When the city finally broke ground to significantly expand the education center in the Mercer Slough Nature Park, it had lofty aims for an innovative learning setting.

Those aims are being met with a complex that includes a "tree house" that will offer bird's-eye views of the Slough.

The city is building the new Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center in a partnership with Puget Sound Energy and Pacific Science Center. With the new complex, the number of children in the state who can learn about wetland flora and fauna in the 320-acre Nature Park will jump from 8,000 each year to 40,000.

After the \$13 million capital project is complete in September, approximately 8,700 square feet of

building space will be available, including the tree house, a new classroom building, community building, wet lab, visitor center, boardwalks and slough overlook. All buildings will be accessible to people with disabilities.

Plans call for a second phase of construction, for an additional wet lab and classroom. However, at least \$2.5 million would be needed, and that funding has not been secured.

The new facility is expected to receive the U.S. Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) "silver" rating.

In addition to the three partners in the projects, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the state, King County and the Boeing Company all contributed funding.

Look for information about grand opening activities online at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/mseec.htm>.

Avoid mosquito bites to prevent West Nile Virus

All it takes for mosquitoes to breed is warm weather and a tiny bit of water that stays stagnant for seven days. Although most of the more than 50 mosquito species in Washington do not carry West Nile Virus, it's a good idea to avoid mosquito bites to cut your risk of the disease.

Mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus can infect humans, horses, birds and other animals. People bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus usually experience mild flu-like symptoms.

Last year was quiet in Washington for West Nile Virus. There were no human cases and only seven horses and one bird. But in 2006, there were three human cases—one in Clark County and two in Pierce County. No one knows if West Nile Virus will be a problem this summer. To be safe, here are some tips for reducing places where mosquitoes can breed and avoiding mosquito bites:



- Dump out standing water from items around your yard, such as wheelbarrows, plant saucers, cans or buckets.
- Remove old tires and other items from your property that could hold stagnant water.
- Change the water in fountains, wading pools, birdbaths and animal troughs at least once a week.
- Make sure gutters are free of standing water and draining properly.
- Consider staying inside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, pants and a hat when going into areas where you've see mosquitoes.
- Check windows and door screens to make sure they are "bug tight."
- Apply insect repellent containing Picaridin or DEET when going outside, especially at dawn and dusk.

For more information about West Nile Virus, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web page, www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile and the city's West Nile Virus web page, www.bellevuewa.gov/WestNile_Virus.htm.

Detailed information, including a flier in multiple languages, can be found at Public Health's West Nile web page, www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile/ or by calling the West Nile hotline at 206-205-3883.

North Bellevue Projects Update

Have you wondered about all the work going on in the North Bellevue area? Keeping you informed about the project activity is very important to us as we work to improve freeways, parks, sewer systems, sidewalks, streets or water mains in your neighborhood.

To find projects taking place in your area, please refer to the map below, which is based on the Neighborhood Enhancement Program & Neighborhood Liaison Areas. The neighborhood areas, all north of Main Street, are: West Bellevue, Northwest Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Wilburton, Crossroads and Northeast Bellevue.

Project managers are identified for each project. Feel free to contact them if you have questions or comments.

Map of North Bellevue Projects

NORTHWEST BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD

1. Northeast Eighth Street: 96th Avenue Northeast to Lake Washington Boulevard Sidewalk

A new sidewalk on the north side of Northeast Eighth Street, west of 96th Avenue Northeast to Lake Washington Boulevard. The \$2.2 million project is under design, with construction expected to start in the spring of 2009 and end by 2010. Project Manager: Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 or MArakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

2. 92nd Avenue Northeast: Northeast Eighth Street to Northeast 12th Street Traffic Calming Project

The city will begin working with area residents to develop a traffic calming plan for 92nd Avenue Northeast between Northeast Eighth Street and Northeast 12th Street to address speeding, pedestrian safety, and spillover parking issues. Residents will be surveyed later this spring and a committee of neighborhood volunteers will help the city implement this project. Project Manager: Brian Casey, 425-452-6867 or Bcasey@bellevuewa.gov

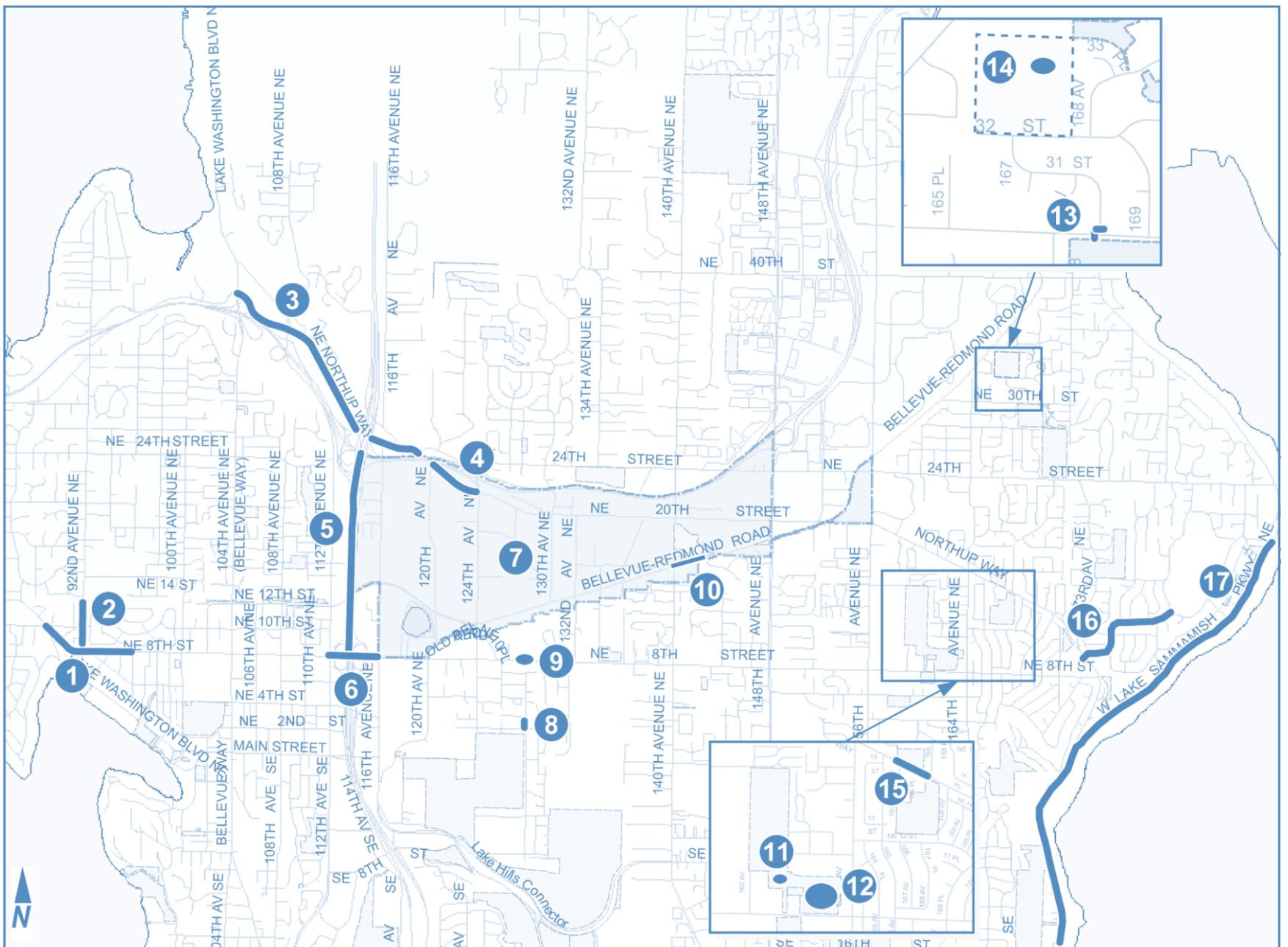


3. Northrup Way: Bellevue Way to Northeast 24th Street

Roadway improvements are in the preliminary design phase for Northrup Way, between Bellevue Way and Northeast 24th Street. These improvements are based on a 1996 Northrup Way Corridor Study that identified the following needs:

- Bike lanes and sidewalk on both sides of Northrup Way (connecting to the SR 520 Bike route)
- Roadway widening to include a center-turn lane
- Landscaped planter strips and medians along Northrup Way
- Street lighting and lighted pedestrian crossing
- Traffic signal improvements at four nearby intersections.

This project has a cost of \$1.4 million; however, this budget is intended to be a placeholder to fund the early engineering work and any high-priority safety improvements that may be identified. Also, as part of the early design, we will develop a phased implementation plan of the ultimate improvements. Additional funding will be needed to implement the improvements on Northrup Way. Project Manager: Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov or refer to: www.bellevuewa.gov/northrup_improvements.htm.





WILBURTON NEIGHBORHOOD

4. Northup Way: 120th to 124th Avenue Northeast

Install an eastbound lane on Northup Way between 120th and 124th Avenues Northeast, and add another left-turn lane for eastbound traffic turning onto the westbound State Route 520 on ramp. Delayed in 2004 because of uncertainty over impacts from the state Department of Transportation's "braided crossing" projects on I-405, the project is expected to begin by year's end. Major work items include widening Northup Way, installing a wall on the southeast corner of the intersection of Northup Way and 124th Avenue Northeast and installing detention and water quality vaults. Project Manager: Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

5. I-405 Northbound: Northeast Eighth Street to SR 520 Braided Crossing

Working with the city, WSDOT will build a "braided crossing" structure to separate the merging and weaving traffic flows on northbound I-405 between Northeast Eighth Street and SR 520. As part of the project, the Northeast 12th bridge over I-405 will be replaced, an eastbound lane along SR 520 will be added to separate traffic exiting at 124th Avenue Northeast, and an on-ramp from Northeast 10th Street to eastbound SR 520 will be added. In order to start this work, several buildings are being demolished east of 520 near the planned improvements. The total cost of the project, which is funded by the state, is \$255 million. Construction is scheduled to start in 2009 and continue through 2012. Project Manager: Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 or nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov, or visit the WSDOT website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520.

6. Northeast 10th Street Extension, Stages I and II

The Northeast 10th Street Extension is being implemented in two stages. Stage I, led by the city, created a five- to seven-lane arterial from I-405 to 116th Avenue Northeast, between Overlake Hospital and the new Group Health building. Other improvements, which were recently completed as part of Stage I, include landscaping, one additional southbound left-turn lane on 116th Avenue Northeast at the Northeast Eighth Street intersection, modified traffic signals, two new signalized intersections, and widened sidewalks.



Stage II of the project, led by WSDOT, will extend Northeast 10th Street east from 112th Avenue Northeast, over I-405 to connect with Northeast 10th Street. The improvements also include widening of 112th Avenue Northeast between Northeast Eighth and Northeast 10th Streets, adding a right-turn lane to Northeast 10th Street, and widening the shared lane for bicyclists and motorists. The total cost for both stages of the project is estimated at \$63.8 million. Project Manager: Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 or Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov

7. Bel-Red Subarea Plan & Land Use Code Update

Please see the front-page story for a complete update on this project.

8. Wilburton Traffic Calming Project

The city is working with Wilburton residents to develop a traffic calming plan that includes speed humps on Northeast Second Street, Southeast Seventh Place and 128th Avenue Northeast; a traffic circle at the 128th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Fourth Street intersection, and neighborhood signage at select entry points to the neighborhood. If majority support is received, this \$125,000 project is expected to begin design this summer and be complete by early 2009. Project Manager: Linda Glas, 425-452-2841 or Lglas@bellevuewa.gov.

9. Habitat/Landscaping along Kelsey Creek at Northeast Eighth Street

Reestablish wildlife habitat along Kelsey Creek and add formal landscape to the only remaining non-landscaped right of way along Northeast Eighth. This \$31,400 Neighborhood Enhancement project is expected to be done in the fall. Project Manager: Tom Kuykendall, 425-452-7924 or Tkuykendall@bellevuewa.gov

10. Gas Main Replacement at Bel-Red Road and 140th Avenue Northeast

Puget Sound Energy will install approximately 800 feet of four-inch natural gas line under Bel-Red Road between 140th Avenue Northeast and 143rd Avenue Northeast. When this work begins, the eastbound curb lane of Bel-Red Road will be closed to conduct trenching, which will cause traffic delays. Drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes, especially at the beginning of construction. Project Manager: Tim Stever, 425-452-4294 or Tstever@bellevuewa.gov.

CROSSROADS NEIGHBORHOOD

11. Community Garden at Crossroads Park

Installation of a community garden in Crossroads Park, just north of the Kinderling Center, including site preparation, a new pathway and other infrastructure improvements such as irrigation, trash containers and water supply. This \$60,000 Neighborhood Enhancement project starts in the fall and will be complete in 2009. Project Manager: Brian J. Krause, 425-452-6992 or Bjkrause@bellevuewa.gov

12. Crossroads Water Spray Playground

See the article on page 7 for details.

NORTHEAST BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD

13. Northeast 30th Street at 168th Place Northeast Raised Crosswalk

A raised crosswalk on Northeast 30th Street at 168th Place Northeast. This is a designated school crossing for Ardmore Elementary, as well as a location that serves residents going to and from Ardmore Park on the south side of Northeast 30th Street. Construction for this \$44,000 project was set to start this spring. Project Manager: Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103 or Vparico@bellevuewa.gov

14. Ardmore Elementary School Playground Equipment

In the design phase. Demolition and construction has been deferred until 2009-2010 to coordinate with the school district schedule. This \$65,000 Neighborhood Enhancement project received funding in 2005. Project Manager: Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326 or Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov

15. Northup Way Sidewalk: Ivanhoe Park to 168th Avenue Northeast

Six-foot sidewalk with curb and gutter on the north side of Northup Way, from Ivanhoe Park to 168th Avenue Northeast, and a crosswalk across Northup Way at 168th Avenue Northeast. The \$300,000 project is funded through Neighborhood Enhancement and Transportation programs. Project Manager: Chris Masek, 452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

16. Tam O'Shanter/Brettonwood Neighborhoods Roadway and Sidewalk Project

Remove and replace the existing roadway pavement, curb, gutter and sidewalk, and add new sidewalk on the north side of Northeast 10th Street between Northeast 11th Street and Northup Way. Construction is underway and will occur Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Some work may be allowed on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please expect lane closures from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. This \$2.7 million project is expected to be complete in November. Project Manager: Mike Rodni, 425-452-4586 or mrodni@bellevuewa.gov or Bill Cross, 425-452-5365 or bcross@bellevuewa.gov

17. West Lake Sammamish Parkway Design Report: North City Limits to I-90

Four-foot-wide shoulder on the east side of the road and a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail on the west side for walkers and bicyclists, which would be buffered from the road in many areas by landscaped strips in varying widths. The northbound lane will be 10 feet wide and the southbound lane will be 10.5 feet wide. This project also includes a new traffic signal at Southeast 34th Street and six crosswalks between I-90 and Bellevue's northern city limits.

This project is in the design report phase, which means cost estimates, permitting, preliminary design plans and construction phasing are being determined. The overall estimated cost for final design, right of way acquisition, and construction will be determined at the completion of the design report phase. Project Manager: Rachel Speer at 425-452-6902 or Rspeer@bellevuewa.gov or at the city's website: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/west_lk_samm_prkwy.htm.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

Northwest Bellevue

Clyde Hill 465 Standpipe Reservoir Water Quality Project: Mechanical and electrical improvements to the existing standpipe reservoir and water booster pump station at 2111 96th Ave. NE. The \$300,000 began in May, and is set to be completed in September. Project Manager: Bob Bergstrom, 425-452-4474 or Bbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov

Clyde Hill 335 Water Reservoir Altitude Valve Improvements

Project: Mechanical and electrical improvements to the water reservoir at 9400 NE 19th St. The \$200,000 project will start construction this summer and be complete in September. Project Manager: Bob Bergstrom, 425-452-4474 or Bbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

Exposed Sanitary Sewer Lake Lines: Placement of rock material over sewer lake lines to provide additional protection, and installation of access manholes at Meydenbauer and Clyde Hill beach parks. The \$500,000 project is expected to start in the fall and be completed next spring. Project Manager: Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Bridle Trails

Cherry Crest Water Reservoir Sealing and Grouting: Sealant application at the Cherry Crest Concrete Reservoir at Northeast 26th Street and 127th Avenue Northeast. The \$35,000 project began this spring and is expected to be complete in June. Project Manager: Regan Sidie, 425-452-6857 or Rsidie@bellevuewa.gov

Wilburton

Bel-Red Inlet: Upgrade and refit the existing water metering and inlet station between the Bellevue and Seattle water systems along the southeast corner of Bel-Red Road and 132nd Avenue Northeast. This \$800,000 project will begin construction in October and end in February 2009. Project Manager: Bob Bergstrom, 425-452-4474 or Bbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov

Crossroads

Kelsey Creek Early World Bank Stabilization: Bellevue Utilities is partnering with the Early World Daycare at 13851 Bel-Red Road to stabilize the nearby stream bank and channel at a sharp bend in Kelsey Creek. This \$120,000 to \$200,000 project is currently in design. Project Manager: Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Northeast Bellevue

Rosemont Roadway Restoration: Restoration of Rosemont Boulevard as a follow-up to water main replacement between Northeast Eighth and 16th streets. This approximate \$150,000 to \$300,000 project will start construction in June and be complete in October. Project Manager: Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

West Lake Hills

Kelsey Creek Stream Channel and Fish Passage Improvements: Control of stream bank erosion and improvement of habitat for salmon and

other wildlife and fish passage in several reaches of Kelsey Creek, from just south of Northeast Eighth Street to Southeast Eighth Street near Lake Hills Connector. Improvements in the North Bellevue area include work to install logs and stumps along stream banks, plant natural stream-side vegetation, and make other stream modifications to reduce jump heights for migrating fish and allow high-flow refuge areas during rainstorms. This project is currently in the early design stage and will likely be constructed in the summer of 2009 or 2010. Project Manager: Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 or snoeske@bellevuewa.gov.

Sammamish/East Lake Hills

West Lake Sammamish Culvert Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation of several aging culverts along West Lake Sammamish Parkway Southeast that were annexed from King County in 2001 to provide utility customers with consistent, reliable service. This \$250,000 project will start construction in the summer of 2009. Project Manager: Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 or Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Various locations

Water Service Lines and Saddle Replacement Program: This ongoing program will replace aging water service lines and service saddles (metal straps that connect home service lines to the water main). Replacing deteriorating service lines and saddles will help prevent leaks and provide consistent reliable water service. Bellevue Utilities will be examining service saddle conditions to determine locations where replacement is most needed. Several locations in North Bellevue will be sampled in summer 2008 with replacement projects at various locations to follow in the fall. Project Manager: Vanaja Rajah, 425-452-4881 or vrajah@bellevuewa.gov.

Pressure Reducing Station Rehabilitation: Replacement or rehabilitation of aging water pressure reducing stations throughout Bellevue. One station located in Northeast Bellevue will be rehabilitated early this summer. Project Manager: Bob Bergstrom, 425-452-4474 or Bbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov

Sanitary Sewer Repairs: Repair of aging sanitary sewer pipes in various locations throughout the city where there are breaks, leaks or signs of deterioration. This \$500,000 project will take place in the summer and winter. Project Manager: Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 or Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Water Main Replacement: Ongoing program to replace aging pipes at several locations throughout the city to ensure consistent, reliable service for both customers and the Fire Department. This \$4 million program will continue throughout the summer and fall. Project Manager: Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Commercial and residential development projects

These are the commercial and residential developments under review in the Transportation Department, contact Chris Dreaney at 425-452-5264 or Cdreaney@bellevuewa.gov for more information.

Project	Description	Address
First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue	Construct classroom/accessory building	1717 Bellevue Way N.E.
Medina Academy	Construct private elementary school	16242 Northup Way
Casa Townhomes	Two-unit townhouse development	123 - 99th Ave. N.E.
Enclave at Fox Glen	25-lot residential subdivision	1037 - 156th Ave. N.E.
Crossroads II	28,000 square foot office building and short plat	805 - 156th Ave. N.E.
BMW Services and Parking Garage	Three-story closed parking and service garage with basement and roof parking	13605 N.E. 20th St.
Jamieson Briggs Short Plat	Subdivide two lots into three single family lots	9840 N.E. 31st St.
Wintz Co Storage	New multi family self storage facility (139,709 square foot)	12399 Northup Way
5 Corners Office Building	Two-story office building, 32,956 sf	15211 Bel-Red Road
115th Townhomes	13 residences in four structures	3421 115th Ave. N.E.
Short Plat	Two lots	3805 134th Ave. N.E.
Baker Short Plat	Two lots	435 - 140th Ave. N.E.
Bel Red Office	20,000 square foot office	15063 Bel-Red Road
Chinn PUD	27 single family homes	2631 104th Ave. N.E.
Fahim Short Plat	Four lots	1450 173rd Ave N.E.
Griffith Short Plat	Seven lots	1405 148th Ave. N.E.
Lindor Short Plat	Two Lots	10100 N.E. 16th Place
The Lakes Apartments	Improvements to existing apartment buildings	4220 144th Place N.E.
Trinity Short Plat	Four lots	13026 N.E. Eighth St.

Title VI Notice to the Public - It is the City of Bellevue's policy to assure that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated may file a complaint with the Title VI Coordinator. For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact the Title I Coordinator at 425-452-4270.



Community Calendar

Crossroads Water Spray Playground Grand Opening

June 7, noon-3 p.m.

Crossroads Community Park International Playground

999 164th Ave. NE

Official "ribbon cutting" ceremony includes entertainment and refreshments. This new playground provides fun and recreation for all levels of physical ability. Children of all ages can enjoy squirting clams, orca whales, a floating granite world and more. Free.

425-452-4874

Northwest Senior Games-Kayaking Competition

June 8, 8 a.m.

Enatai Beach Park

3519 108th Ave. SE

Athletes of all abilities, 50 and older, compete in a variety of sports. www.northwestseniorgames.org or www.myparksandrecreation.com.

24-Hour Relay Challenge

June 21, 10 a.m.-June 22, 10 a.m.

Downtown Park

10201 NE Fourth St.

Walking/strolling relay that builds community connections. Free.

425-452-2846

Bellevue Strawberry Festival

June 28, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., June 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Crossroads Community Park
16000 NE 10th St.

Eastside tradition with displays, exhibits, vendor booths, food, entertainment, and strawberry shortcake.

425-450-1049 or www.bellevuestrawberryfestival.org

Mountains to Sound Greenway Days

June 28-29

Orienteering at Lewis Creek Park and scavenger hunts at Meydenbauer Marina and Mercer Slough Nature Park.

www.mtsgreenway.org or 425-452-7106

Seafair Marathon and Half Marathon

June 29

7 a.m.-1 p.m.

New route to start at Husky Stadium, cross 520 Bridge; wind through downtown waterfront areas and end at Bellevue Downtown Park.

www.seafairmarathon.org

Symetra Bellevue Family Fourth

July 4, 6 p.m.

Bellevue Downtown Park

10201 NE Fourth St.

Live entertainment, food and fun. At around 10 p.m., the Eastside's largest fireworks display synchronized to a performance by the Bellevue Philharmonic. Free.

425-452-4106 or www.bellevuedowntown.com

Kids' Show at Robinswood Park

July 31, 1:30 p.m.

Robinswood Barn, 2432 148th Ave. NE

Featuring the Harmonica Pocket Children's Show. Cosponsored by the King County Library System. Bring blankets for seating on the grass. Free.

425-452-7688

The Jungle Book

Aug. 11-13, times vary

Meydenbauer Center

11100 NE Sixth St.

The Bellevue Youth Theatre performs this beloved classic tale.

425-452-7155, e-mail byt@bellevuewa.gov or 206-325-6500

Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Show and Sale

Aug. 16-17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

12001 Main St.

Great selection of plants from Eastside gardeners.

425-452-6826 or www.bellevuebotanical.com

SEASONAL

Crossroads Par 3 Golf Course 15801 NE 15th St.

Beginner and family course that takes about an hour to play. Holes range in length from 63 to 107 yards.

425-452-4873 or www.bellevuewa.gov/golf_courses.htm

Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

12001 Main St.

425-451-3755

Nature Walks in Mercer Slough

Saturdays, 2-3 p.m.

Winters House

2102 Bellevue Way SE

Free guided nature walk in Bellevue's largest wetland park.

425-452-2752

Seasonal Fresh Produce Stands

Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm and Bill Pace Fruit & Produce

9 a.m. -7 p.m. daily

Mercer Slough Nature Park

2380 Bellevue Way SE

425-467-0501

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and Cha Family Farms

Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Lake Hills Greenbelt, 2 locations:

700 148th Ave. SE (Lake Hills Produce Stand) and

156th Ave. SE/SE 16th St. (Cha Family Farms)

425-260-2266



Runners approach the finish line in the 2007 Seafair Downtown Marathon. Seafair Marathon runs through Bellevue June 29, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Schoolhouse Rock!

Aug. 1-3, multiple times

Bellevue Youth Theatre

16661 Northup Way

The 1970's Saturday morning cartoon series brought to the stage.

425-452-7155 or e-mail byt@bellevuewa.gov

Pops in the Park

Aug. 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

12001 Main St.

Music by the Fabulous Roadstars Dixieland band and tricks performed by a professional clown. Cosponsored by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. Free, but donations are encouraged.

425-452-2750

Community Campout

Aug. 9, 3 p.m.-Aug. 10, 10 a.m.

Eastgate Park

14509 SE Newport Way

Bring your own tent. Evening barbecue, scavenger hunts, family games, mobile climbing wall, stargazing, interpretive presentation on nature and orienteering, songs and pancake breakfast. Participants must pre-register; \$25 per family up to four members; \$10 for each additional member.

To register, call 425-452-4240

Team Survivor Dragon Boat Festival

Aug. 22, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Newcastle Beach Park

4400 Lake Washington Blvd. SE

Dragon boat races, festival and barbecue picnic.

206-440-3213



Tour the Bellevue Botanical Garden Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

City Contact Information

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

City of Bellevue website: www.bellevuewa.gov

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 p.m.

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

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6464

City Manager: 452-6810

Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874
Highland: 452-7686
North Bellevue Senior: 452-7681
South Bellevue: 452-4240

Community Council: 452-6805

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services Center: 452-6800

New permit applications and application status: 452-6800
Inspection Requests: 452-6875
Code Compliance: 452-4570

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.bellevuewa.gov

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: 452-6914
Park Maintenance: 452-6855
Human Services: 452-6884
Cultural Diversity: 452-7886
Probation: 452-6956
Recreation & Special Services Division: 452-6885

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

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

Bellevue

IT'S YOUR CITY

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. If you have questions or comments about this publication or city services, call 425-452-4448; or write: Editor, *It's Your City*, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012;

or send e-mail to ciosso@bellevuewa.gov
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www.bellevuewa.gov



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Bellevue City Council



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Mayor



Claudia Balducci
Deputy Mayor



Patsy Bonincontri



John Chelminiak



Don Davidson



Conrad Lee



Phil Noble

Best Practices report prepares Bellevue for possible light rail route

After studying the light rail systems of different cities for nearly a year, Bellevue's Light Rail Best Practices Committee has produced a set of recommendations to help City officials prepare for, and affect, upcoming decisions by Sound Transit.

Sound Transit's Board will decide by the end of July whether to seek voter approval this November for a ballot measure that would include an East Link light rail extension from Seattle to Bellevue.

The agency is expected to release a draft environmental impact statement for the project this fall.

After the draft EIS is released, but before Sound Transit identifies a preferred route and issues a final EIS, is seen as a prime period for Bellevue to influence light rail decisions.

Bellevue's Light Rail Best Practices Committee was formed in July 2007 in response to community concerns about what light rail could mean for Bellevue. A "Roads and Transit" measure that would have extended light rail through Bellevue to the Overlake area of Redmond was voted down in November 2007.

Over the past 11 months, the Committee – appointed by the City Council and made up of members from various City boards and commissions – has held monthly meetings, heard comments from people interested in the issue and observed first-hand the light rail systems in Portland, San Diego and San Jose.

The purpose of the Best Practices project has been to learn from the experiences of other cities and to create a set of "best practices" for developing light rail in Bellevue. The Committee's report contains recommendations on a range of actions, including draft comprehensive plan amendments for consideration by the Council.

Some major themes contained in the draft report include:

- **Character:** A light rail system should be designed to complement, rather than diminish Bellevue's character. The Committee's report helps articulate the quality and design that's desired.
- **Public involvement:** Ongoing public involvement is essential for success. It improves the quality of the project and provides a sense of ownership. There should be many ways for the public to stay engaged.
- **Connections:** Light rail needs to connect people to where they live, work or recreate. Locally, some of those destinations are downtown Bellevue, the Bel-Red area, Overlake and downtown Seattle.
- **Impacts:** Like any major project, construction will not be painless. The Best Practices project puts leaders in a better position to anticipate the impact of light rail construction and operations, and to advocate for mitigation.
- **Profiles:** In selecting the "profile," or type of light rail track that's built – street-level, elevated or in a tunnel – the unique qualities of the community must be considered. One size does not fit all and there are tradeoffs in picking profiles in different areas of the city.

After its final Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, at City Hall, the Best Practices Committee will finalize its report and forward it to the City Council.

In July, the Planning Commission will review the Comprehensive Plan recommendations from the final report and forward its own recommendations to the City Council. The Council will study the report, then adopt changes to the city's comprehensive plan before Sound Transit releases its draft EIS later this year.

For more information about the Light Rail Best Practices project, visit the City of Bellevue Web site at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_info.htm. For information about Sound Transit and East Link, visit <http://www.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml>

