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Neighborhood push breathes life into shopping center



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When the shovels clanked into the dirt at the corner of 156th Avenue Southeast and Lake Hills Boulevard last month, a crowd of more than 100 people cheered. A project once left for dead, the redevelopment of the Lake Hills Shopping Center was finally underway.

The May 20 groundbreaking, for the new library to anchor the shopping center, was a huge triumph for a long list of stakeholders.

For Cosmos Development, owner of the center, it culminated nearly a decade of planning to revamp the '50s-era shopping center into a new and viable retail development.

For the City of Bellevue, it was a leap forward in a series of strategic moves to encourage redevelopment of aging neighborhood shopping centers.

For the King County Library System – breaking ground on the shopping center's first new building – it was the exciting launch of a state-of-the-art library approved by voters to replace the old, much-loved Lake Hills Library now outdated and bursting at the seams.

And especially for the neighbors – the residents of Lake Hills who worked diligently and kept the faith through delays and downturns – May 20 was a delicious victory.

There were times that revival of the Lake Hills center looked remote, if not hopeless. In 2001, after

Lake Hills residents who supported the project stepped forward and retrieved the project from the dumpster. Participating in the city's Neighborhood Investment Strategy pilot project, a group identified shopping center revitalization as the top priority for maintaining Lake Hills' livability.

Residents urged the city not to give up on the shopping center, and invited a group of interested parties to sit down and discuss the options. In response, the City Council convened a Lake Hills Shopping Center Stakeholders Group for a series of meetings in the spring of 2003.

Working with drawings and block models, the group came up with a concept that proved acceptable to the developer, the city, the East Bellevue Community Council, the West Lake Hills Citizen Advisory Committee and the surrounding neighborhood.

"Although not all residents were initially supportive of the proposed increase in density that a new, mixed-use shopping center would bring, we all agreed that the potential of losing our neighborhood shopping center altogether to other redevelopment schemes was not an acceptable alternative," said Doug Matthews, a member of the stakeholder group.

"The Lake Hills Shopping Center Stakeholders Group provided a forum where all parties' concerns could be presented and addressed, while at the same time eliminating some misunderstandings and misinformation about the project that had developed over time," Matthews noted.

The stakeholders' development concept was received enthusiastically at a major community meeting in May of 2003. And that concept – modified to conform to site requirements and city regulations – is still the basis of plans guiding the redevelopment of the shopping center today.

Beginning with the construction of a new library as the focal point, redevelopment will transform the



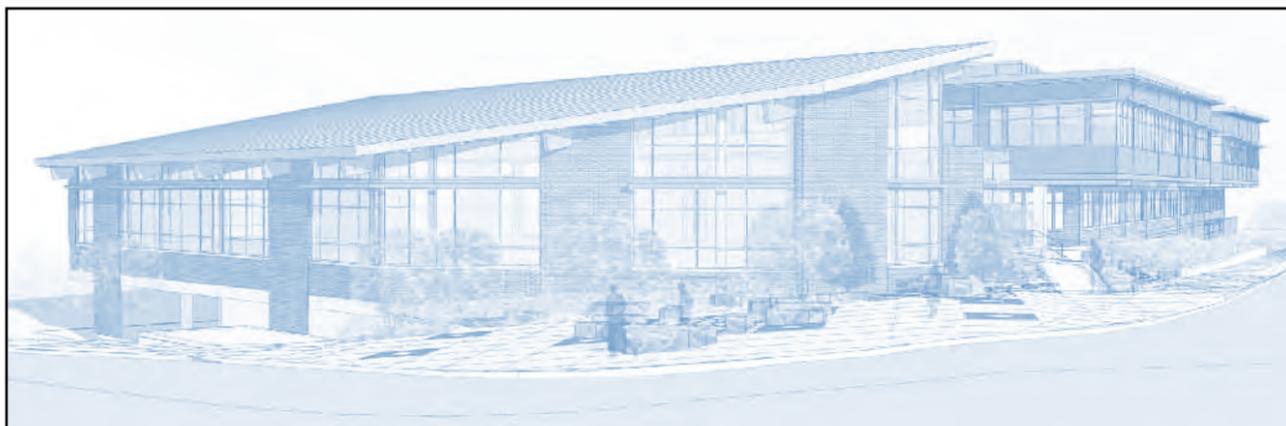
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Rendering of the new Lake Hills Library, designed by Baylis Architects.

some residents cited fears about increased density and traffic, the East Bellevue Community Council rejected zoning changes necessary for an earlier redevelopment plan.

'50s-era retail center into a modern mixed-used center with retail, office and residential uses. When all phases of construction are complete, the center will feature a heavily landscaped perimeter, underground parking, an interior pedestrian street and places for local residents to gather.

The new 10,000-square-foot library will bring added capacity for books, materials, computers, a community meeting room, and spaces dedicated to children and teens.

Bringing vitality to neighborhood retail centers is a priority of the city. As shopping habits change and centers built in the 1950s and '60s show signs of aging, the city seeks ways to assist developers and neighborhoods with modernization efforts.

For more information about Lake Hills Shopping Center redevelopment, contact Mike Upston with Bellevue, 425-452-2970, or Oscar Del Moro with Cosmos, 425-451-8188. For more information about the Lake Hills Library project, call 425-369-3276.



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Council Corner



Community steps up to respond to recession

By Bellevue City Councilmember John Chelminiak

I'm an eternal optimist. I hear the bad news constantly but truly believe we are turning the economic corner. Slowly.

I'm also a realist and I know people are hurting. Some worry about their future in a few years while others worry about a future only hours from now.

When we adopted our city budget, the council tucked some money aside for neighborhood celebrations. But times have changed. Bellevue has wonderful employees with great compassion and creativity. They see what's happening on a daily basis – and they've come up with a way to give us something even better to celebrate.

Not long ago, a man came to Crossroads Mini City Hall to pay his utility bill. As he was doing his business, he told a city employee how tough times were for his family.

He had recently lost his job and, with it, health insurance for himself, his wife and their two small children. His wife was working, but her earnings didn't pay the bills. To make matters worse, she had just been told she could lose her job in the next six months.

The city employee was able to provide the man with emergency groceries and names of local food banks. The employee also helped the man file for unemployment assistance, get on a waiting list for the state's basic health coverage insurance plan, and provide information on summer day camp scholarships for his children.

After seeing this and other examples of people in our community struggling, the city employee got together with her coworkers and came up with a better way use the money set aside for community celebrations. They recommended we put our community caring and compassion to work first, then celebrate that success. And that is what we are doing.

A number of activities are now underway to respond to the needs of those impacted by the economic downturn. A major one is the "Neighbor Link" campaign being organized by the city's Neighborhood Outreach Office. Details are available at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighbor-link.htm>.

The campaign's goal is to engage neighborhoods in activities that both strengthen community connections and also help local families cope with the practical impacts of recession. The first step is working with neighborhoods that want to conduct their own food drives as part of the "End Summer Hunger" effort – a very worthy effort when you consider local food banks reported a 50 percent increase in demand this winter over last. Step-by-step directions on how to hold a drive are provided by Neighborhood Outreach staff, as are food collection bins, neighborhood banners, flyers, food pick-up and more. Already, eight neighborhoods have signed up to conduct drives.

Neighborhoods that hold summer food drives, or participate in any other Neighbor Link activity (see list below) will be offered a "Party in a Box" to enjoy in their own communities, AND are invited to a gala summer picnic and concert on the lawn at City Hall, with catering donated by Whole Foods Market, Bellevue, and musical entertainment by the Two Scoops combo. To learn more about the food drive, Neighbor Link or the July 23 picnic and concert on the lawn, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

Bellevue youth are responding to the recession by holding their own food drive. On June 27 they will come together for an All-Community Food Drive Challenge at Downtown Park. The event will culminate between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. when teams drop off their collected food items. The food drive will take the place of Bellevue's 24-Hour Relay Challenge, a popular annual event that raises money for local youth programs. That event will resume next year.

The Neighbor Link and All-Community Food Drive Challenge will be followed this fall by a regionally coordinated drive organized by Bellevue and our neighbor cities Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah and Mercer Island. This drive will begin Sept. 26, the same day of the "National Mayor's Day of Concern for the Hungry," and run through Oct. 24. Donated goods will benefit various Eastside food assistance programs including World Impact Network, Hopelink, the Issaquah Food Bank and the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle and King County. Bellevue residents who would like more information about this event or want to help can call Bellevue Human Services at 425-452-6884.

Additional food drives are being organized by other groups, including one now underway by City of Bellevue employees, who are holding three drives to collect donations from city staff. If you aren't already involved in a food drive in your neighborhood or elsewhere, I encourage you to get involved.

Other activities to assist those impacted by the recession include:

Bellevue Cares – Help in These Tough Economic Times (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/recession-community-resources.htm>), an online guide prepared by city staff, provides residents with information about local agencies providing food, clothing, financial counseling, emergency financial assistance, job resources, health care, foreclosure assistance and emergency shelters. The guide includes links to the Crisis Clinic's 2-1-1 community resources database, a comprehensive list of agencies throughout the region. The guide also includes information about helpful events such as financial

workshops. In addition, those who want to help others can find information about city volunteering and donating opportunities at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/volunteer.htm>.

Know Your Neighbor Campaign: Neighborhood Outreach this summer is staging a campaign designed to help residents get to know their neighbors and their needs better. For those impacted by the recession, networking and sharing resources with neighbors can prove invaluable. Maybe one of your neighbors is out of work, and you just happen to know someone hiring in his or her particular field. Maybe another neighbor, also unemployed, is struggling putting together a resume for the first time in 20 years, and you happen to be an excellent writer. The campaign will help neighborhoods organize get-togethers, conduct neighborhood walking tours, put together electronic phone directories, set up emergency networks and other activities. To learn more about this Neighbor Link program, contact Julie Ellenhorn at jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372.

Adopt-a-Cause Campaign: Also a Neighbor Link activity, this effort will get underway this summer and promote neighborhood "adoptions" of individual human service agencies, families in need, children's sports scholarships and other worthy causes. Again, for more information contact Julie Ellenhorn at jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372.

Expanded Human Services Training: Beginning this month, the city's customer service representatives who answer phones and interact directly with the public at various city locations will have the opportunity to receive extra training from the Crisis Clinic, the organization that operates our area's 2-1-1 information resource center. Crisis Clinic staff will better acquaint staff about the region's human service groups and the services they provide, as well as provide tips on how to deal with the emotional effects of serving those in need.

The city continues to work closely with human service organizations in Bellevue to monitor needs and determine ways to respond to the recession. And we will continue to partner with neighborhood and volunteer groups.

On behalf of the entire City Council, I'd like to thank those of you who have taken the time to respond and help in some way. Your generosity and community spirit help make Bellevue a great community. Let's show our caring and compassion, and celebrate what makes Bellevue great!

Community volunteers honored

Kelsey Creek Park is a unique facility – a 160-acre, homage to Bellevue's farming heritage, complete with sheep, horses and a big white barn. Maintaining the park is a special challenge. Jim McWha, a volunteer handyman, helps staff meet that challenge.



Mehline

Teegarden

McWha

For his extraordinary contributions, McWha has been named Bellevue's first Volunteer of the Year. The City Council in May honored McWha, as well as Community Volunteer of the Year Joan Mehline and Youth Volunteer of the Year Rick Teegarden. McWha, Mehline and Teegarden are star examples of the more than 5,900 volunteers who performed a staggering 128,800 hours of community service for city programs alone in 2008.

"Volunteers' contributions make a very real and lasting impact to the community," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said.

The city established annual volunteer awards in an effort to recognize people who have not only made a significant contribution to the community, but have also shown leadership, innovation, creativity and collaboration. Bellevue facilitates volunteer activities both for the city and for the entire Eastside, so there are separate "city" and "community" volunteer awards.

The Council recognized Mehline for helping the Puget Sound Blood Center. Over the years, she has assisted an estimated 250,000 donors. Since each pint of blood helps up to three hospital patients, Joan's care has helped save as many as 750,000 people in the community.

Teegarden, a Sammamish High School junior, was recognized for his work with the "Kids Care Coat Drive," which has resulted in more than 5,000 coats and jackets being donated to needy people.

"Volunteering is a very powerful, positive way to respond to today's challenges," Sarkozy says. "Every contribution improves our world. We invite all the citizens of Bellevue to consider becoming a volunteer, either in a city program or throughout the community. Some very powerful and satisfying opportunities exist." For more information about Bellevue's volunteer program, or to access the Community Volunteering Guide, visit <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/volunteer.htm> or contact the city's volunteer program coordinator at volunteer@bellevuewa.gov.



Light rail and Bellevue

Transportation Director discusses East Link and why a tunnel downtown is favored

Planning is well underway on East Link, an 18-mile long light rail line that will run from downtown Seattle to Bellevue and the Overlake area of Redmond.

In May, Sound Transit's Board of Directors narrowed the number of route options to be studied in the final environmental report for the project. While the Bellevue and the Sound Transit Board mostly agreed on the best route through the city, there are differences. Most importantly, Sound Transit recommends that a street-level route through the downtown segment be included for more analysis. Bellevue officials firmly believe a tunnel is needed downtown.



Bellevue's Transportation director, Goran Sparman, recently answered some questions about East Link to help readers better understand the project and the city's position on light rail.

Q: Why is East Link significant for Bellevue?

A: I think most residents understand that transit in general, and light rail in particular, is going to play a major role if we're going to maintain a balanced transportation system in Bellevue. We can make key investments in improving our roadways, but we can't pave our way out of congestion. We face real challenges and light rail will be an important component in meeting those challenges.

East Link is a huge investment in the heart of our city. It will have a profound effect during the years it takes to build out the system and have long-term consequences for Bellevue's transportation and land use structures. We see light rail as a 100-year commitment. That's why we're working closely with Sound Transit's staff to figure out what the best system is to meet the needs of the public.

Q: Sound Transit recently decided to continue studying the feasibility of a street-level route for East Link through downtown. Why does the city believe a street-level route would not be a good choice?

A: We're concerned that putting light rail trains on our streets will both make vehicle congestion worse and cause a regional chokepoint for East Link, creating systemwide delays. Conflicts between light rail and vehicles could create major backups onto Interstate 405, which already has problems of its own.

Another drawback of a street-level, downtown light rail route is that the ability of employees and residents to access parking garages in some downtown office buildings and condominiums could be severely limited.

Our downtown street system was created in the 1950s, geared for automobile travel, and hasn't changed much over the decades. Basically, downtown is made up of very large blocks – we call them "superblocks" – that are about twice as long as those found in a typical downtown. That means we have roughly half as many streets on which to move traffic. And, the ones we do have tend to be big arterials such as Fourth and Eighth streets, that move a lot of traffic.

Q: Downtown Bellevue has a lot more room to grow. How does a street-level alignment fit plans for future growth?

A: We've added thousands of new jobs and residents downtown and we expect to add tens of thousands more over the next 20 years. We're very concerned that operating light rail on the street would compromise travel times for the regional rail system.

The bottom line is that East Link must be built to deliver fast, reliable service to the greatest possible number of riders across the region. To do that, it needs to be compatible, not competitive, with downtown Bellevue's transportation system.

Q: Where does the issue go from here?

A: We want Sound Transit to take a closer look at the impacts of the proposed downtown tunnel options (cut-and-cover or bored) and of a street-level light rail route. That includes more in-depth computer modeling and traffic analysis.

We've also asked Sound Transit to answer key questions about the two downtown tunnel options that have been put forward. We believe either tunnel option is greatly preferable to a street-level route, but more study is needed to determine which of the two is best. We simply don't have enough information to make an informed decision at this time.

Q: What are some of the key questions you want answered?

A: There are several issues we've asked Sound Transit to address. Topics include the impacts of an excavated tunnel construction versus a tunnel bored below ground; the mitigation measures needed to address construction impacts; minimizing construction impacts of Bellevue's preferred tunnel route on the Bellevue Transit Center; how Sound Transit's preferred tunnel route, with a station above or near I-405, can be accommodated; and how a tunnel would impact 108th Avenue and Northeast 12th Street.

Q: You've traveled quite a bit. What have you learned about other transit systems that might be useful in Bellevue?

A: Although I've lived in this country for many years and have worked for the City of Bellevue for the past 10, I was born and raised abroad. I've been fortunate to travel quite a bit in Europe and elsewhere, and I've experienced a variety of public transportation systems. That's one reason I'm very enthusiastic about light rail coming to Bellevue – because I know it's an extremely efficient way to move people.

I also believe that a good urban transportation system needs to be truly multimodal, with a variety of choices. Light rail will complement our existing road and bus system. One of the main lessons I've learned is the importance of building a transit system correctly from the beginning. I've seen good and bad ones and I believe that light rail needs to be built right the first time.

Q: Are there other people or groups who agree on the need for a tunnel?

A: Several groups agree that a downtown tunnel is crucial. A citizens panel appointed by the Bellevue council last year to study light rail in other cities found that those cities all wish they could have avoided a street-level system. In Seattle, the need to run regional light rail underground to avoid problems has long been apparent. And both the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and Bellevue Downtown Association believe the street-level alignment under consideration by Sound Transit could hinder performance of the entire East Link line.

Q: If a tunnel is a better choice, why did the Sound Transit Board pick the street level alternative for further evaluation?

A: As I understand it, the Board agrees that a downtown tunnel would offer faster service and could attract a higher ridership. The main reason for analyzing a street-level route over the next few months is based on cost constraints, not effectiveness.

"We can make key investments in improving our roadways, but we can't pave our way out of congestion."

Q: If the Board does ultimately pick a tunnel, who would pay the additional cost?

A: That's an important question. The Board asked Bellevue to identify additional sources of funding by the time design work for the routes reaches a specific level of completion, which is expected to happen in early 2010. We have committed to do that, but we need Sound Transit's partnership.

This is a regional project and we believe that in the end, all will agree the tunnel is the right solution and we should be working together to find the funding for it. Possibilities include state and federal grants and local funding sources. In addition to identifying other sources of revenue, we're working closely with Sound Transit to identify cost savings across the entire East Link route in Bellevue.

Q: When will Sound Transit make a final decision about East Link routes and what comes after that?

A: The board is projected to choose its ultimate route for East Link in 2010 based on the additional evaluation it conducts as part of a final environmental impact statement. Construction on East Link is scheduled to begin in 2013 or 2014. Light rail service to Bellevue is slated to start in 2020; service to Overlake will start in 2021.



For more information on East Link, visit the City of Bellevue website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm> or Sound Transit's web page at <http://www.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml>

Bel-Red code changes approved

With the City Council's approval of a detailed plan and major zoning changes, the gradual transformation of the Bel-Red corridor from a declining warehouse district to a model for growth management and transit-oriented development can begin.

"This is about growing smartly," Councilman John Chelminiak said in February, after the council approved the Bel-Red Subarea Plan. "This is about the economy and the environment winning. This is a sustainable plan."

Council members noted the new plan for the 900-acre area northeast of downtown was three years in the making and the product of a citizen steering committee, the Planning Commission and other city commissions, citizens who participated in numerous public meetings and other outreach efforts, staff and Council.

In May the council took a step essential for the vision in the plan to become reality, adopting a complete rezone of the Bel-Red area, along with a new set of development regulations. Over the years, the Bel-Red area has experienced a gradual decline. Initially set aside in the 1960s for light industry, the number of people employed in the area has gradually decreased. For example, Safeway moved a large portion of its food distribution warehouse to Auburn.

The subarea plan calls for the corridor to undergo a graceful transition from light industrial to a mixture of retail, office and residential uses. The highest density development would be clustered around two light rail stations planned for the area as part of Sound Transit's East Link line. The line, now in the planning stages, will ultimately connect the employment centers of downtown Bellevue, Seattle and Overlake.

Specifically, the Bel-Red plan calls for:

New parks, trails and bike paths to enhance neighborhoods and better connect them to other parts of the city;

The day lighting of six streams to benefit salmon and other aquatic life;

Increased open space;

More affordable housing, with specific targets to serve low- and moderate-income households;

New office and commercial space blended with residential development, including up to 10,000 new jobs and 5,000 new housing units organized around high-capacity transit stations by 2030.

A benefit of the plan is reduced greenhouse gas emissions because local transit, housing and jobs will be in closer proximity, reducing car trips.

Unlike downtown, where the city has successfully concentrated high-density development by allowing buildings of over 40 stories, the tallest buildings in the transformed Bel-Red area will be limited to about 13 stories and located only near transit centers. The plan calls for other parts of Bel-Red to have three- to six-story buildings.

These higher densities will help Bellevue meet growth management targets, which require cities and towns to accept larger populations in order to avoid suburban sprawl.

Council members are considering a range of ways to pay for the proposed Bel-Red improvements. Besides general tax revenues, options include higher impact fees and creation of local improvement districts.

Rain sensors save water and money

Does your automatic sprinkler turn on when it's pouring rain? There is a way to prevent that! Bellevue and Cascade Water Alliance are offering up to a \$100 rebate to customers who install a rain sensor on their irrigation system.

A rain sensor will shut off the sprinkler system when it's raining. A qualified and licensed irrigation contractor can install a rain sensor in about an hour. The typical cost for a rain sensor and installation is about \$150.

Rain sensors can reduce seasonal outdoor water use by 5 percent or more and reduce water bills while keeping the landscape healthy and vibrant. If you already have a rain sensor, ask your landscape contractor to check it at the beginning of each irrigation season to make sure it's in good operating condition.

Apply for a rebate at <http://www.cascadewater.org>. For more water-saving and natural yard care tips, visit http://www.cityofbellevue.org/water_conservation.htm or call 425-452-4127.

Rebate on WaterSense toilets

Are you considering a bathroom remodel or just looking for ways to lower your utility bills? Bellevue and Cascade Water Alliance now offer up to \$100 rebate for the purchase of high-efficiency toilets with the WaterSense label.

WaterSense toilets (any brand may carry the label) use a maximum of 1.28 gallons per flush (20 percent less than the current plumbing standard) and must demonstrate reliable flushing performance.

Depending on the number of people in your home and the age of the toilets, you could be using 50 to 60 gallons of water or more each day just on flushing. In fact, in a typical home with older toilets, almost one-third of the indoor water use just goes down the toilet. You can lower your water use by thousands of gallons per year by making the switch to a WaterSense toilet.

After the rebate, a typical home will recover the cost of the toilet replacements in one to four years in savings on their utility bills. To learn more, visit <http://www.cascadewater.org>.

New turf fields at Newport and Wilburton parks



Soccer players go mud-free on the turf at Robinswood Park.

Synthetic turf fields are coming to Newport Hills and Wilburton Hill parks this year, which will make both available for soccer and other sports year-round. Installation is set to begin this fall.

In March the City Council launched the park improvement projects approved by voters last year, hiring firms to design the new fields, which will replace the grass field at Newport Hills and the dirt field at Wilburton Hill.

The new turf fields will be like the new ones at Robinswood Park, which led to expanded capacity there. The parks levy included \$3 million for sports field improvements at Wilburton Hill and Newport Hills parks.

The Newport Hills field has only been available from July through November because it would quickly turn to mud under pounding cleats in the rainy months. An improved lighting system will also be installed, and improvements to the adjacent Little League baseball field, including a synthetic turf infield, will be considered as budget allows. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.8 million.

At Wilburton Hill, in addition to the new soccer field, a perimeter running track may also be incorporated if funding allows. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.2 million.

In addition to being more durable than grass, the synthetic turf surface also requires no costly mowing, watering, fertilizing or reseeding.

City experiments with social media



Exploring new ways to engage the public, Bellevue now has pages on the popular social networking sites Facebook and Twitter, as well as the file-sharing site YouTube.

"The idea behind governments going to Facebook and similar sites is to serve and inform people where they are," said Bellevue's online editor, Claude Iosso. "Nowadays,

the world comes to a lot of people through their social networking pages. If you want, we'll come to you there too."

The latest news about city events and programs has been going to people's e-mail inboxes since August 2007, when Bellevue launched "E-Mail Alerts." More than 10,000 residents have signed up to receive alerts when web pages about projects in which they're interested are updated.

You can find out about all of the options at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/social-media>.

More than 300 people receive news release headlines in "tweets" from Bellevue. They can receive those messages on their own home pages or as text messages on their phones. On Facebook, city news and photos have been posted on the city's "wall."

Bellevue has its own channel on YouTube, with some videos, selected somewhat randomly so far, posted on it. The city has professionally produced Bellevue TV videos available for viewing at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm. YouTube will offer another route to some of that programming.

At this point, comments are not enabled on Bellevue's social media sites. There are issues the city must consider, including the added responsibility for staff to respond.

Social networking sites fit into an interactive category of websites known as "Web 2.0." The city also launched a blog in May about shoreline management. Michael Paine and Heidi Bedwell, planners in the Development Services Department, share authoring duties.

The Shorelines blog was focused more on questions for the public than declarations from the city.

"We hope this will be a place where citizens can share ideas, raise issues and learn from one another about Bellevue's shorelines," Paine wrote in the first blog.



Expect big delays on I-90 in July

Projects on city streets also expected to impact travel

Summer may be the right time for “dancin’ in the streets” of Baltimore, as Martha & the Vandellas claimed, but it’s also the best time for street work in Bellevue.

In addition to several construction projects on city roadways, the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is predicting gridlock on regional highways when it closes the westbound lanes of the Interstate 90 floating bridge for repairs from July 5 to 28. Commutes of up to one hour from Bellevue to Seattle are forecast.



WSDOT contractors cut into the concrete holding an old I-90 expansion junction.

In addition to the I-90 bridge closure, the following projects are expected to have an impact on city streets (for summer road work information, see project list on pages 13 & 14):

- 124th Avenue Northeast will close, south of Northup Way, for two weeks in August as part of improvements to the Northup Way corridor.
- 112th Avenue Northeast will close for 16 days, between Northeast Eighth and 10th streets as part of a WSDOT project to extend 10th Street east over Interstate 405.
- Weekday lane closures on Richards Road at I-90 and on I-90 off-ramps to Richards Road in October. WSDOT has scheduled a series of lane closures as part of an effort to strengthen overpasses against a possible earthquake.
- Northeast Eighth Street will close for 30 days this summer, between Lake Washington Boulevard and 96th Avenue Northeast as part of a sidewalk project.

During the I-90 closure in July, all traffic from the westbound mainline will be funneled into the express lanes around the clock. Unprecedented regional congestion is possible on I-90, I-405, SR 520 and I-5 as drivers seek alternate routes.

Improved website benefits Bellevue commuters, employers

One source that can help travelers deal with the lane closures on I-90 and other traffic challenges in Bellevue is Chooseyourwaybellevue.org. A one-stop transportation website geared toward reducing the number of solo drivers on the road in Bellevue, it was recently upgraded to make it even more useful.

Launched in January 2008, Chooseyourwaybellevue.org provides travel options for commuters, residents, employers and students.

The revamped site features a new look and feel, more interactivity and easier navigation to the many resources. Other changes include a new blog, a carbon emissions calculator and an events calendar.

The closures could also impact traffic on city streets in Bellevue as drivers exit congested freeways and try to find alternate routes across or around Lake Washington. Local impacts could be especially heavy on north-south arterials such as Bellevue Way and 148th Avenue.

The congestion will be caused by the second phase of safety repairs on the I-90 floating bridge. The work is needed to prevent cracked joints from breaking and popping up into traffic. In May, the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) closed the I-90 express lanes for two straight weeks to remove and replace cracked expansion joints.

To avoid the worst backups, commuters can:

- Work from home or arrange a flexible work schedule.
- Avoid crossing Lake Washington or use alternate routes.
- Change travel times to commute before 6 a.m.; avoid peak weekday commutes from 6 to 11 a.m. and from 3 to 7 p.m.
- Ride a bike to work on the I-90 bike path. (Special bridges will keep the path open during construction).
- Ride a bus, vanpool or carpool.
- Schedule a vacation.

Like the closure in May, congestion during the July lane closures could stretch to Issaquah or farther unless drivers shift how and when they travel. Fortunately in May, drivers were able to spread out their commute times and ease congestion.

Backups and delays are expected to be even worse in July than in May because there will be fewer lanes available. Five lanes of westbound traffic will be sharing just two I-90 express lanes during the morning commute in July.

During the evening, westbound drivers usually have three lanes, but instead will be shifted into the two express lanes. Backups also are expected for eastbound evening traffic once the express lanes start carrying only westbound traffic.

For more information, including maps, links and travel time tips, visit WSDOT’s project web page at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i90/homerhadleybridgerepair/>. For the latest information on construction work on Bellevue streets, visit the city’s web page at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm

Council looks at ways to restore tree canopy

Since an analysis has revealed that Bellevue lost 9 percent of its tree canopy from 1996 to 2008, the city is enhancing and restoring parks and open spaces, working with neighborhoods on tree planting projects and developing a green infrastructure master plan.

Evaluating Bellevue’s tree canopy, especially along rights of way, has been a major focus of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative launched by the City Council in 2007.

Results from an urban ecosystem analysis completed last fall show that Bellevue had a 36 percent overall tree canopy in 2007. This figure is higher than in many cities, but it is less than the 40 percent recommended by American Forests, a nonprofit organization that performed Bellevue’s assessment along with that of more than 40 other metropolitan areas.

The 9 percent tree canopy loss over the last 12 years follows a 12 percent loss between 1986 and 1996.

An overarching goal of Bellevue’s environmental stewardship initiative is to reduce the city’s carbon footprint – the amount of carbon dioxide generated. Tree canopy is important because trees remove carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air, while generating oxygen.

In addition, trees and other vegetation slow stormwater runoff, which can cause flooding and erosion; improve water quality by absorbing water pollutants; and provide shade and offer habitat for birds and other wildlife.

To view the Urban Ecosystem Analysis, visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Manager/Urban_Ecosystem_Analysis.pdf

Rain gardens and LED traffic lights

The city is taking other actions to protect the environment as well. The city recently installed two curb extensions along 154th Avenue Southeast that function as rain gardens – shallow, landscaped depressions between curbs and front yards that absorb and filter stormwater runoff instead of letting it drain fast into Bellevue’s stormwater system.



Rain garden

Rain gardens are designed to mimic natural drainage conditions, with soils and plants together storing and treating runoff. After the city landscaped the rain gardens, the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program will evaluate how well they are functioning and may use them in future projects.

By switching to light emitting diodes to power its red and green traffic lights in 2003, the city has saved a considerable amount of energy. The previous incandescent bulbs used 150 watts while an equivalent LED may use only 10 for the same intensity.

With 182 traffic signals around the city, the savings add up. Also, LEDs last about seven years, vs. just two for incandescent

lights, resulting in less maintenance costs.

When the red and green lights were replaced in 2003, amber LEDs were still being developed. Now that the red and green lights need replacing, the city will change the amber lights at the same time. Work will be done at night or during non-peak daytime hours.

Council Roundup

City receives Recovery Act funds for human services

The City Council voted June 1 to accept more than \$191,000 in federal Recovery Act funds to make badly needed repairs to an adult day health care center for seniors and people with disabilities, and an assisted-living facility that houses low- and moderate-income people.

The funds, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will be used for roof and other improvements at the Elder and Adult Day Services center and the Evergreen Court assisted-living facility.

A portion of the money also will be used to repair a small number of single-family homes owned by low- and moderate-income Bellevue residents.

"This is very good news and comes at a time when our human services funding is being stretched thin by competing needs," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said. "These funds will be used to put people to work immediately fixing the homes and living facilities of those most in need."

The city's Parks and Community Services Department applied for the Recovery Act funds. HUD guidelines call for the prioritization of projects that can be initiated within 120 days after funds are received.

Feedback: Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager, 425-452-6452 or eleslie@bellevuewa.gov.

Coal Creek Natural Area incorporated

Bellevue's popular network of natural trails and open space areas received a boost in June with the formal annexation of an additional 146 acres in the Coal Creek Natural Area.

Annexation of the unincorporated acreage, approved by the City Council, brings the total size of the natural area to 446 acres, and makes it the largest single area in the city's park system. It also adds nearly five miles to the city's natural trails system. The city has over 80 miles of trails.

The Coal Creek Natural Area is a unique part of a nearly contiguous corridor of public lands for wildlife, natural areas preservation and public use. Acquired from King County in 2004, it connects to the 3,000-acre Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, the county's largest park.

Feedback: Nicholas Matz, Senior Planner, 425-452-5371 or nmatz@bellevuewa.gov

Aquatic center options considered

Council members expressed support for the idea of a new swimming pool in Bellevue that would better serve the broad aquatic community, including competitive swimmers. After looking at a preliminary feasibility study on March 23, they asked staff to find potential partners, including other cities, to help fund the considerable construction and maintenance costs that would be involved.

"There is interest in pursuing this further," said Mayor Grant Degginger. "We have a long way to go in terms of identifying what partners may be out there, what kinds of structure and governance might work and what the optimum program is here so that we can develop something that will be used and loved and a great asset to the community and the region."

The council commissioned the feasibility study in 2007, after a group of area swimmers asked the city to consider building a multi-purpose aquatic complex that could accommodate a wide range of aquatic needs, including competitive swimming events.

The Bellevue Aquatic Center near Odle Middle School meets the needs of lap swimmers and children taking lessons. It also provides a warm water therapy pool, but the current facility does not meet length or depth requirements for more serious competitive swimming.

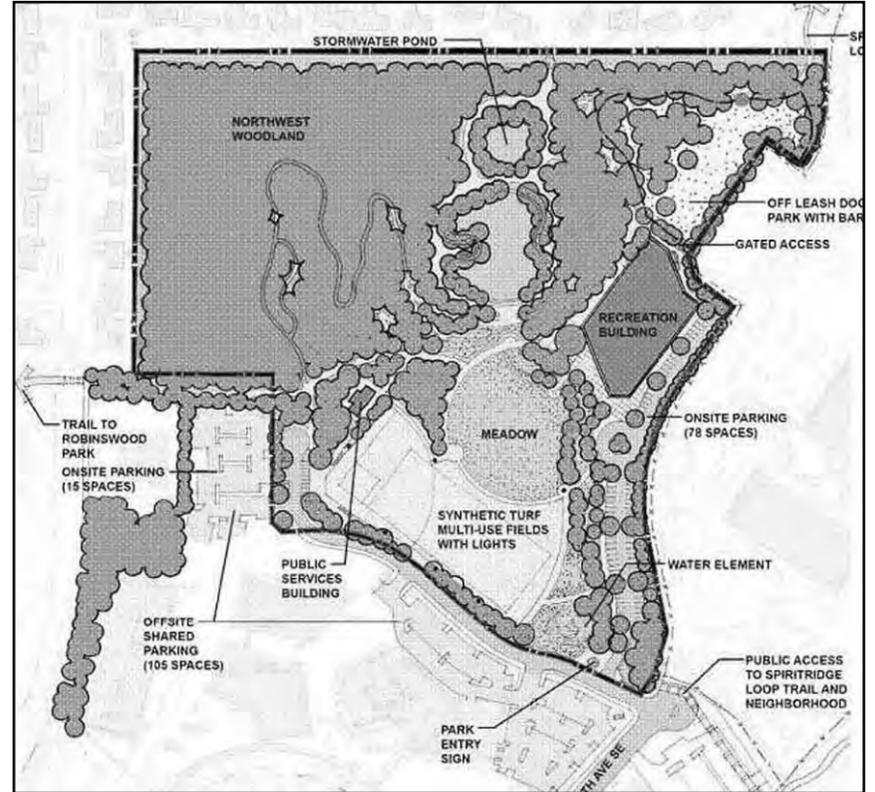
The draft study confirmed great demand for new or expanded swimming facilities throughout the region. However, swimming pools are very expensive to build and maintain. According to the study, the more expensive the facility, the less fees cover the cost of maintenance.

Feedback: Glenn Kost, Parks & Community Services Planning Manager, 425-452-5258 or gst@bellevuewa.gov

New parks at Surrey Downs and Eastgate planned

On March 16, the council adopted a master plan for a new park in the Surrey Downs neighborhood. A week earlier, the council reviewed plans for a new park at Eastgate. Both parks are on a list of projects to receive funding from the parks levy voters approved in November.

There is a Surrey Downs Park now, at 546 112th Ave. SE, but the master plan calls for expansion that would include an area now occupied by King County District Court. Now including a play field, two small ball



fields, a children's play area and a basketball court, the expanded park would feature an open lawn, larger baseball fields that could be converted to a soccer field, picnic spots and a skateboarding area, along with a small basketball court.

A community center is not included in the master plan, but a "development zone" has been reserved to allow for one and a possible parking lot. The planning for a community center would follow a separate planning process.

Design and permitting for the new Surrey Downs Park will take about 18 months. Construction could then begin when the District Court is relocated.

At Eastgate, the city is planning a new park that could include lighted sports fields, an indoor recreation building, off-leash dog area, picnic facilities and trails. The city purchased properties from the Boeing Co. and the Bellevue School District that, along with an existing stormwater pond, total 28 acres.

The area, between Southeast 26th Street and Microsoft's Advanta office campus, is now open space and woodland. The council looked at plan alternatives for the new park calling for different levels of development.

Feedback: Glenn Kost, Parks & Community Services Planning Manager, 425-452-5258 or gst@bellevuewa.gov

Fire chief retires

After 36 years in the fire service, including that last four here as fire chief here, Mario H. Treviño has retired. He stepped down on March 29, after taking medial leave to undergo cancer treatment.

Although the treatment has gone well, he has not made the full recovery needed to return to work.

"This has been a difficult medical challenge, especially because it brought my retirement sooner than I expected," said Treviño. "It is surreal, after all these years, that I will not be putting on my uniform and going to work."

Treviño, 56, began his career with the Seattle Fire Department in 1973. After 24 years, he had reached the rank of deputy fire chief. He then left Seattle and served as fire chief in Las Vegas from 1996 to 2001. He then moved on to serve as the fire chief in San Francisco until 2004.



Chief Treviño led the Bellevue Fire Department through many notable accomplishments including reaccreditation in 2008, relocation of fire headquarters to the new City Hall in 2006 and the addition of almost 30 staff members in response to downtown growth. Most of the additional staff serve as first-response firefighters, effectively increasing the fire and medical aid service throughout the city.

"Mario's passion and consummate professionalism will be sorely missed by all of us, and our prayers are with him and his family," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said.

Treviño received a bachelor's degree in public administration from Seattle University in 1984, graduating summa cum laude, and completed a fellowship at Harvard University in 1998. He recently earned a master's degree in public administration.

In 2006 the Center for Public Safety Excellence designated Treviño a chief fire officer, a professional honor. He has written numerous articles in fire service publications, and has been a featured speaker at many national and international venues.

The city has appointed Deputy Chief Mike Eisner to serve as the interim chief. Eisner has served 35 years with the department, the past 17 years as deputy. The city is not yet ready to announce plans for a permanent fire chief appointment.



Vision for new waterfront park comes into focus

Residents have a chance to consider two alternatives for transforming a quarter-mile stretch of shoreline between Meydenbauer Beach Park and the Bellevue Marina into a 10-acre park with pedestrian connections to the surrounding neighborhood.

Over the past two years, the city has been working with a citizen steering committee to develop a plan not only for the creation of a new park, but also for the addition of walkways and terraces linking the neighborhood and the park.



Alternative 1

Renderings of the "action" alternatives depict possible options for the grand entrance to the new park, at Main Street and 100th Avenue Northeast.



Alternative 2

The draft environmental impact statement for the plan was published on June 4, and public comment will be accepted until July 20. A public hearing will be June 23 at 6 p.m. in City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE.

As early as 1987, the city identified the need for more public waterfront access and use, and targeted Meydenbauer Bay as an attractive destination for a wide range of users. Over the last 15 years, the city has acquired 12 properties in the area, totaling nearly 10 acres.

Both park alternatives assessed in the draft EIS would feature a community building, a swimming beach, an underground parking garage, a public pier or water walk, moorage for about 50 boats (including long-term and day-use) and at least 800 feet of restored shoreline.

One alternative calls for an environmental education center (with a smaller community building), a terraced garden pathway and 106 parking spaces. The second alternative allows for more recreational uses, with a plaza at the corner of Main Street and 100th Avenue Southeast, an elevated viewing platform and floating boardwalk, 156 parking spaces, a café and space for vendor kiosks.

To make it easier for people downtown to walk to the park, the land use plan calls for mid-block walkways, plazas and terraces available to the public in the block east of the park and improved pedestrian amenities on the block north of the park. Apartment building owners could incorporate these pedestrian amenities when they rebuild. Rezoning would increase development potential to approximately 60 units per acre. Current height limits would remain.

The land use and park alternatives envision the closure of 100th Avenue Southeast to vehicle traffic and incorporating the street right of way into the park, creating a significant pedestrian entry. A variant of both alternatives, with 100th Avenue Southeast remaining open to vehicle traffic, is also undergoing environmental review.

After the draft EIS comment period, the citizen steering committee will issue recommendations for the park and land use plan. Its recommendation will be included in the final EIS later this year.

After the final EIS is issued, the City Council will approve a plan.

The draft EIS, along with other information about the project, is available online at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer_project_intro.htm. Paper copies of the draft EIS may be purchased for \$15 at the Service First reception desk at City Hall. Compact discs with the draft EIS in electronic format are also available at Service First at no charge.

For more information, contact Mike Bergstrom at mbergstrom@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6866, or Robin Cole at rcole@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6195.

Top commercial recyclers honored



The City Council has honored two Bellevue businesses and a local school for their outstanding recycling efforts.

Honored in May, the top business recyclers in their class for 2008 are ICOM Inc., Bellevue Healthcare and Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. In addition to recognition from the city and Allied

Waste, which handles garbage and recycling for Bellevue, each business will receive a month of free garbage service.

In the small business category, ICOM is recycling 96 percent of its waste. ICOM's product line includes communications equipment for the marine, avionics and land industries, including equipment for police, fire and military uses. ICOM has recycling containers at every desk and runs recycling articles in its employee newsletters. Bellevue Healthcare, which sells, rents and services home medical equipment, won in the medium size category with an 80 percent recycling rate. The company provides easy access to recycling bins in its building and "closes the loop" by purchasing office supplies made from recycled content.

Forest Ridge School, a Catholic school for girls in grades 5-12, won in the large business category, with a recycling rate of 87 percent. In addition to recycling, the school reduces paper usage by completing lessons electronically and using online media.

Forest Ridge has also become a fully recognized King County Green School, with a Green Committee of faculty and staff and a Green Team of students. Together they started a food waste composting program and purchase compostable ware for the dining hall and kitchen. The school cut its garbage collection frequency in half and doubled its recycling collection.

The commercial recycling program is available at no additional charge to Allied Waste commercial garbage customers. The program allows all recyclables to be combined in the same recycling container.

Allied Waste and Bellevue began the Commercial Recycling Awards as a way to recognize businesses that go above and beyond in their recycling efforts and to promote the commercial recycling program. If businesses would like to learn more about recycling, they should contact Allied Waste at 425-646-2492.

For details about garbage and recycling services for businesses in Bellevue, please go to <http://bellevuewa.gov/recycling-garbage-businesses.htm>.



Eugene Schmidt and Kelly Cruden of the Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Now pay your utilities bill by phone



Utilities customers can now access account information by phone any time day or night.

Through MyUtilityBill By Phone, it's easy to retrieve bill and payment history or pay a bill by phone. Just call 425-452-6979 and have your account number and MasterCard or Visa card ready.

To improve customer service, the city implemented online bill payment in 2008 and is following up with a new interactive voice response system. Customers now have a variety of ways to access information and make payments.

Customer service representatives are still available at 425-6973 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Resources during the recession



Help in these tough economic times

of area resources by calling the Crisis Clinic's help line. Just dial 211.

With local social services agencies reporting a dramatic jump in demand with the recession, Bellevue offers a listing below for places to turn for help with food, clothing, shelter and more.

In addition to the Bellevue-area resources presented here, you can check a comprehensive database

CLOTHING

Overlake Service League

Provides emergency financial assistance, educational grants, food and clothing to Bellevue residents.

<http://www.overlakeserviceleague.com/>; 425-451-1175; osl@overlakeserviceleague.org

Teen Closet

Low-cost clothing for teens; operated by Bellevue Youth Link, in partnership with Plato's Closet and the World Impact Network.

<http://www.youthlink.com/teencloset.html>; 425-643-8246

YWCA Dress for Success Program

Provides professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

<http://www.dressforsuccess.org/affiliate.aspx?pageid=1&sisid=63>; 206-325-3453

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

WorkSource

Provides services for job seekers and employers in a one-stop setting.

<http://www.worksourcekc.org>; 425-861-3700

YWCA Family Village

Offers job search skills and assistance, training and job interview clothing.

<http://www.ywcaworks.org>; 425-556-1352

Lake Washington Technical College Employment Resource Center

Provides help with resumes, job interviews and access to Internet resources. Conducts career choice workshops.

<http://www.lwtc.ctc.edu>; 425-739-8113

King County Library System

Provides on-line resources for new career options, interviewing techniques, and on-line employment sites.

<http://www.kcls.org/looktoyourlibrary>

State Unemployment Office

Provides unemployment insurance if you lost your job through no fault of your own.

<http://www.go2ui.com>; 206-766-6000 English/other; 206-766-6063 Spanish

FINANCIAL COUNSELING

ClearPoint Financial Solutions

A national non-profit organization that helps consumers gain perspective of their financial situation through credit, housing and bankruptcy counseling and education.

<http://www.clearpointfinancialsolutions.org>; 9709 Third Ave. NE, Suite 210, Seattle, 877-818-5929

Consumer Counseling of NW

Help people learn to manage money, balance their budgets and get out of debt through comprehensive personal finance education and credit counseling.

<http://www.cccservices.com>; 253-830-6806

Solid Ground

Information on eviction and foreclosure statutes; assistance negotiating with landlords and lenders; modest financial assistance to prevent housing loss; reverse equity mortgage counseling for senior homeowners.

<http://www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Housing/Counseling/Pages/default.aspx>; Mortgage Counseling: 206-694-6766; Landlord/Tenant: 206-694-6767; Predatory Lending: 206-694-6864; housingcounseling@solid-ground.org

Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants

Volunteer CPAs provide financial education.

<https://www.wscpa.org/wscpa/index.cfm>; 425-586-1140

FINANCIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Overlake Service League

Provides emergency financial assistance to Bellevue residents.

<http://www.overlakeserviceleague.com/>; 425-451-1175; osl@overlakeserviceleague.org

Catholic Community Services

Provides financial assistance for low-income families, seniors, and disabled adults in crisis through the following: motel vouchers, utility assistance, rent and move-in assistance, gas and food vouchers.

http://www.ccsww.org/site/PageServer?pagename=families_emergencyservices_emergencyassistance; 425-213-1963

Hopelink Emergency Services

Serves low-income families and individuals residing in north and east King County, offering a wide range of services including food, financial assistance for eviction prevention, first month's rent, and utility assistance.

Rental Assistance: <http://www.hope-link.org/gethelp/housing>; 425-556-9289

Energy Assistance: <http://www.hope-link.org/gethelp/energy>; 800-348-7144



The Salvation Army Eastside Corps

Providing temporary financial assistance, counseling services, referrals and information, and general support for individuals experiencing a personal emergency or crisis.

<http://www.salvationarmynw.org/corpsdetail.asp?ID=529>; 425-452-7300; jackie.engle@usw.salvationarmy.org

Solid Ground Housing Stability Program

One-time loans/ grants to homeowners and tenants in danger of eviction or foreclosure; provides loans/ grants to homeless families and individuals needing assistance moving to permanent housing, and limited assistance for other types of moves.

<http://www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Housing/Stability/Pages/default.aspx>; 206-461-3200; housingcounseling@solid-ground.org

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Food Banks

Hopelink

Helps provide basic services to homeless and low income families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Provides weekly food bank and emergency food bags.

<http://www.hope-link.org/>; 425-869-6000; hopelink@hope-link.org

World Impact Network: Renewal Food Bank

Provides a food bank to low income families, children and individuals

Food Vouchers

Catholic Community Services

Provides food vouchers

<http://www.ccsww.org/>; 425-213-1963 Extension 2; web@ccsww.org

Meal Programs

The Salvation Army Eastside Corps

Provides a hot meal at dinner time 5 days week at Eastside facility in Crossroads

<http://www.salvationarmynw.org/corpsdetail.asp?ID=529>; 425-452-7300, jackie.engle@usw.salvationarmy.org



Signs of the recession

Right now in Bellevue, there are many signs we are feeling the effects of the national recession:

- Requests by Bellevue residents for emergency financial assistance from Hopelink between September 2008 and January 2009 increased by 49 percent compared to the same period a year ago.
- Requests for food at Hopelink by Bellevue residents from September 2008 to January 2009 increased by 31 percent over the same period last year.
- From March 2009 to April 2009, the unemployment rate in Washington rose from 8.3 percent to 9.2 percent; the third consecutive month unemployment rose by 0.5 percent or more.
- April 2009 saw the biggest jump in food prices in 18 years, according to the Labor Department. At the same time, workers' average weekly earnings, adjusted for inflation, dropped for the seventh straight month.
- Applications for Basic Food Assistance (formerly called food stamps) in Washington rose 42 percent in November 2008 from the previous year.

Emergency Food Bags

(Containing 2-3 meals with non-perishable food items for 1-4 people. Call to determine locations and hours.)

Hopelink Emergency Feeding Service

<http://www.hope-link.org>; 425-882-0241, scotton@hope-link.org

Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County

<http://www.emergencyfeeding.org>; 206-329-0300; brian@emergencyfeeding.org

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE

Medical

HealthPoint

Registered Nursing Healthcare visits for the homeless, primary medical care, dental care, and naturopathic medicine available for low income residents in North and East King County.

<http://www.HealthPointCHC.org/>; 425-882-1697

Eastgate Public Health

Assistance with basic health insurance program, health insurance for kids under 19, and pregnancy medical program.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthServices/health/locations/eastgate>; 1-800-244-4512

MENTAL HEALTH/CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

Asian Counseling & Referral Service

Offers bilingual, bicultural counseling and community-based mental health services to the Asian-Pacific Islander communities.

<http://www.acrs.org/>; 206-695-7600

Crisis Clinic

The 24-Hour Crisis Line provides emergency telephone intervention for all King County residents in crisis or emotional distress 7/24/365, also 2-1-1 Community Information Line, and Teen Link (teen crisis intervention line).

<http://www.crisisclinic.org>; 1-800-621-4636 or 2-1-1

NAMI Eastside

Provide support to families and individuals whose lives are impacted by mental illness, through support groups, in-depth classes, monthly educational forums, a speaker's bureau, newsletter, website, and referral service.

<http://www.nami-eastside.org>; 425-885-6264; info@nami-eastside.org

Sound Mental Health

Offers children, adults and families strength-based mental health, psychiatric, and chemical dependency assessment integrated into individualized, collaborative recovery-oriented services.

<http://www.smh.org/>; 425-653-4900

Therapeutic Health Services

Provides outpatient chemical dependency services.

<http://www.therapeutichealth.org>; 425-747-7892

Youth Eastside Services

Offers counseling services for youth and their families experiencing personal conflict, as well as problems in the family, school or community.

<http://www.youtheastsideservices.org>; 425-827-5608

HOUSING-FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE

If you are having difficulty making your mortgage payment, one of the most important things to do is to seek assistance. The following organizations may be able to help:

Urban League of Seattle

Assists African Americans, other people of color, and disadvantaged individuals in becoming self-sufficient.

<http://www.urbanleague.org>; 105 14th Ave., Seattle; 206-461-3792, Ext. 5; Foreclosure Hotline - 1-800-368-1455

Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Information about housing news, home owning, buying, renting and financing.

<http://www.hud.gov>; 800-569-4287

State Department of Financial Institutions

Free state-sponsored counseling available to Washington residents facing foreclosure, thinking of buying a home or considering refinancing.

<http://www.wshfc.org>, 1000 Second Ave., Suite 2700, Seattle; 206-287-4470; Homeownership Hotline – 877-894-HOME

SHELTER AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Catholic Community Services: Harrington House

Harrington House provides a safe transitional housing and comprehensive goal-oriented case management to homeless women 18 years or older, who are pregnant and/or parenting children <18 months of age.

http://www.ccsww.org/site/PageServer?pagename=housing_harringtonhouse; 425-643-1434

Eastside Domestic Violence Program: My Sister's Home

Safe, confidential, emergency shelter that provides services for domestic violence survivors and their children.



<http://www.edvp.org>; 425-746-1940

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC)

EISCC's Congregations for the Homeless Emergency Shelter program provides a service-enhanced emergency shelter with 30 beds, 3 meals, and case management.

<http://www.cfhomeless.org>; 425-749-8369; davidj@cfhomeless.org

Friends of Youth: The Landing

The Landing is an overnight shelter for homeless young adults ages 18-24, five nights a week.

<http://www.friendsofyouth.org/shelters.aspx>; 425-449-3868; keri@friendsofyouth.org

Hopelink Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing

Provides housing and comprehensive services to homeless families and individuals to help them gain permanent housing and the skills necessary for long-term self-sufficiency.

<http://www.hope-link.org/gethelp/housing>; 425-556-9289

Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing

Provides transitional housing and services for homeless families with children, and permanent housing with case management services.

<http://www.kithcares.org>; 425-576-9531

Sophia Way

Provides supportive services, overnight shelter, and one-bedroom apartments to women as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing

<http://sophiaway.org/>; 425-463-6285; entry@sophiaway.org

Turning Bellevue into a more bike-friendly community

Biking in Bellevue is in full spin and it's a good time to think about safe cycling and what's new on the street. The following addresses some issues raised in recent months.

Q: What is the city's perspective on bicycling?

A: The City of Bellevue views bicycling as an important component of a healthy and balanced transportation system. Bellevue wants to encourage bike riding as a transportation and recreation option and is committed to establishing and maintaining a citywide network of bike routes.

Q: I've heard that Bellevue has a new pedestrian-bicycle plan. What's that about?

A: In February, after nearly two years of work, the City Council approved major changes for Bellevue's network of pedestrian and bicycle paths. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facilities Plan, or Ped-Bike plan as it's more commonly known, was adopted as part of Bellevue's annual Comprehensive Plan amendments. The Ped-Bike plan identifies 435 projects that, when funded and built, would produce 144 miles of bikeway, 90 miles of sidewalk and 20 miles of trail improvements. Plan goals include completing two continuous north-south and two continuous east-west bicycle routes through the Bellevue, reducing bicycle-vehicle crashes by 25 percent from 2007 levels, and constructing 25 miles of new sidewalks along major arterial roads.

Q: Is there a map that shows all the existing bike corridors in Bellevue?

A: New maps were created that highlight bike lanes, bike caution areas, higher and lower traffic streets and pedestrian paths. It's available online at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/bike_map_2009.pdf.

Q: I've noticed images of bikes, along with a double chevron, painted onto Bellevue streets. What do they mean?

A: What you're seeing are "sharrows," which designate a lane that is shared by bikes and cars. A pilot project to test the effectiveness of sharrows was started in late 2008 on 161st Avenue Southeast, and more installations are planned. For more information about the pilot project, read an online report at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/sharrows_report_march_09.pdf



Sharrows on 161st Avenue Northeast

Q: Is there a way to find out what routes in Bellevue other bicyclists recommend?

A: Yes. Recently, the City launched a Bike Bellevue group on a website called MapMyRide (<http://www.mapmyride.com/community/groups/879123990786928765>). It's intended as a forum where cyclists in Bellevue can identify their preferred bicycle routes so that others can benefit from their knowledge.

Q: Is there a good bike safety video that provides information specific to Bellevue?

A: The Bellevue Police Department made a bike safety video for the televised version of "It's Your City." To view it, go to http://bellevue.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=19&clip_id=1900.

Q: May was National Bike Month and as part of that, Cascade Bicycle Club coordinated the Group Health Commute Challenge. How did Bellevue commuters do?

A: Hundreds of commuters participated in the Commute Challenge at dozens of Bellevue businesses. At the City of Bellevue alone, 83 employees took part, biking more than 6,000 miles, averaging 16.2 miles per trip and saving an estimated 6,664 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

Q: Where can I find out more information about biking in Bellevue?

A: Check out the City of Bellevue's walking and biking website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/walking_biking.htm. You'll find the updated 2009 city bike map, information on the sharrows project, a copy of a child bike safety brochure, who to contact to make maintenance request, a downtown bike rack map, and information on how bicyclists can activate a traffic signal by stopping on the "X" mark at an intersection.

Q: How can I get more information about commuting in general, including bicycling?

A: Check out Chooseyourwaybellevue (<http://www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org/>), a website sponsored by the City of Bellevue. It's a one-stop online resource for commuters, residents, employers, students and others to learn about travel options – including biking – and check local traffic conditions.

Police volunteer receives award

Susan Allen, who has assisted the Bellevue Police Department one way or another for nearly 30 years, received the Governor's Volunteer Service Award in April.



Allen has been an official Bellevue Police volunteer since 1995, but her history helping the department goes back to 1980, when she was active with Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Since then, she has worked at the Factoria Community Station, supported the Crime Analysis Unit, helped schedule and coordinate interview boards and now works in the Transit Center Community Station downtown. Allen also assists at annual events such as National Night Out and the Child Safety Fair.

A lifelong resident of Bellevue, Allen has always taken an active interest in the safety and security of her neighborhood.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my years with BPD," Allen said. "It's been a very rewarding experience and I've learned so much. I've had the opportunity to work with a great staff and other volunteers while providing a service to the department and to the community."

Recipients of the Governor's Award, given by the Washington Commission for National and Community Service, are selected based in such things as longevity of service, number of hours volunteered, number and diversity of programs and/or organizations supported, and contributions to sustaining the programs they support.

This award, which Gov. Gregoire herself gave to Allen in Olympia, is given annually during National Volunteer Week (April 19-25 this year) to recognize the importance and value of "service and volunteerism as a strategy to accomplish needed activities throughout the state."

Police and teens build connections

How often do police officers and teens have meaningful conversations, where they even laugh and joke together? It happened not long ago, at a



forum at Sammamish High School.

In April, Bellevue police officers and detectives, along with Chief Linda Pillo, met with teens in a two-hour program dedicated to improving communication between police and the community.

About 70 people, including many adults, attended the event. Both teens and officers shared views and concerns, and suggested ways to improve understanding.

"It's great that we could come and understand how the whole police thing works," said Brenda Fernandez, a Sammamish High freshman and a member of the teen organization, Latino Heat. "And it was good that (the police) listened to us about what we think when they approach us."

The event was part of the "Conversations about Race and Culture" series, an ongoing program sponsored by the Parks and Community Services Department's Cultural Diversity program.

Police at the Sammamish High School meeting included detectives, patrol and several officers who perform outreach in schools.

"I was pleased to see the large number of community members willing to spend a couple of hours working on building better relationships between our youth and police," Chief Pillo said. "With the community learning from police and police learning from the community, I started to feel a connection building in that room. I hope these conversations continue."

Melissa Galvez, Youth Eastside Services program coordinator, said: "The young people absolutely learned something. It can be a little intimidating talking to police, but I think if there are more of these events, the teens will feel more comfortable talking."



The president of Latvia visited City Hall in May. Liepaja, Latvia's third largest city, is one of Bellevue's sister cities, so President Valdis Zatlers and his wife Lilita came to City Hall.

President Zatlers was in the area for a speaking engagement in Seattle, and he wanted to come to Bellevue to personally thank the City Council for the cities' 17-year relationship. Mayor Grant Degginger welcomed the president, the first lady and other Latvian officials at a ceremony in the concourse, then gave the Latvians a tour of parts of City Hall. Parks staff then showed the Latvians the new Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.

Traffic enforcement cameras to be tested

Joining the ranks of other cities, Bellevue will launch a pilot program using cameras to enforce speed limits in school zones and red lights at problem intersections.

The program, approved by the City Council in early April, calls for American Traffic Solutions Inc. to install cameras to catch motorists running red lights at still-to-be determined locations on Northeast Eighth Street, Bel-Red Road and 148th Avenue Northeast. Cameras

to enforce speeding laws will also be installed near Stevenson, Lake Hills and Sunset elementary schools.

The cameras are expected to be installed in August or September.

More of both types of cameras may be installed later at other locations, depending on whether the program improves public safety.

"The effort is expected to improve traffic safety in the affected areas, while reducing risk to our officers," Police Chief Linda Pillo said. "With only minimal impact to our budget, the red-light cameras should provide efficient enforcement and help us continue to protect our community's children."

City Council members emphasized the program is a pilot. To monitor its effectiveness, statistical reports will be compiled for council review every six months.



Stormwater runoff regulations to get update

Are you concerned about polluted water in Western Washington or the depleted fisheries or other impacts to our natural waterways?

Bellevue, along with most other Western Washington communities, is revising codes in response to requirements of a federal Clean Water Act permit to minimize stormwater pollution. The permit requires Bellevue to:

Adopt more stringent stormwater standards for new development projects.

Revise codes addressing control of illicit (non-stormwater) discharges, including escalating enforcement provisions.

Both the city's Storm and Surface Water Utility Code and its Clearing and Grading Code are being revised to comply with the state's 2005 Ecology Manual stormwater standards for development, redevelopment and construction.

The city has held two open house/public meeting events to provide information on the code revisions and gather feedback from residents, businesses and developers. The City Council is scheduled to adopt proposed code revisions in August.

For more information:

Proposed code revisions are available for review at the Service First desk (under Project File #09-113895AB) on the first floor of Bellevue City Hall or online at www.bellevuewa.gov/development-services.htm (see What's New).

Vesting – Rules are available in Land Use Code 20.40.500 on the city's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellcode/Bluc2040.html#20.40.500>

Call or e-mail the following with your questions:

--Stormwater Standards/Vesting: Joy Ramshur, 425-452-4855,

jhramshur@bellevuewa.gov

--Construction/Erosion Control: Tom McFarlane, 425-452-5207,

tmcfarlane@bellevuewa.gov

--Illicit Discharges: Phyllis Varner, 425-452-7683, pvarner@bellevuewa.gov.

www.bellevuewa.gov

Mike Graves, 425-452-2030, mgraves@bellevuewa.gov

For information on the permit, see the Department of Ecology's website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/phaseIIww/wwphiipermmit.html>

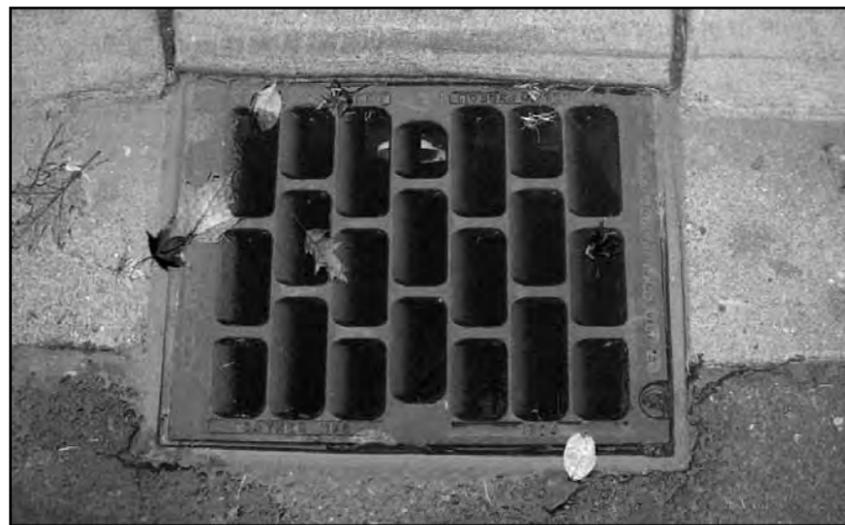
Sandy sidewalks need sweeping

Who would know that snowy streets in December could mean sandy sidewalks in June? But the nitty-gritty on the sand used to help make roads passable last winter is that everyone needs to pitch in now to get rid of it.

While City of Bellevue crews clean the sand off public roadways using big street sweepers, they depend on residents and business owners to clear their sidewalks of sand. Like snow-clearing operations, city government does not have the capacity to clear sidewalks of leftover sand.

According to city regulations, property owners are expected to keep sidewalks clean, including clearing them of obstructions such as vehicles, overhanging branches and plants, leaves and other debris. For more information, call the City of Bellevue Transportation Department at 425-452-6856.

Your stream starts here



Stormwater or any other water that trickles from your driveway into the storm drains on the street is not treated and flows directly to local streams and lakes.

Bellevue streams are home and highway to a variety of fish and wildlife including salmon, river otters, salamanders and bald eagles. Help protect their habitat by doing the following:

- Use a commercial carwash because the wastewater is sent to the sewer for treatment.
- Avoid pesticides. Products that kill "bad" bugs in your yard kill good bugs in the stream.
- Scoop the dog poop, bag it, and place it in the trash. Dog waste can carry harmful microorganisms that can be passed on to humans.

Community vision and partnerships bring great things

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

We did it. Many of you attended the groundbreaking for our beautiful new library at the Lake Hills Shopping Center, which should be open about a year from now. This building will be the first of three phases of construction that will ultimately become one of the true treasures of our neighborhood.

Later phases will add retail and office space with underground and surface parking. When complete, the development will also have residential units. I am most excited about the community gathering spaces which will be incorporated into the project.

This great community space required the cooperation and shared vision of many partners, including the King County Library System, local elected leaders and many neighborhood visionaries.



If you were involved in any of the community meetings, you know how this happened. But, for those who were not lucky enough to have been one of the many people who provided feedback throughout the process, I want you to know you can make a difference.

We each have a different vision concerning what will make our community great, and by bringing those ideas together we can find consensus to find the best possible outcome for all of us.

But it starts with you. If you have an opinion about an idea or project, tell someone. If you do not have time to attend a community meeting, send an e-mail or letter with your ideas to the people working on the project. The East Bellevue Community Council will update its web page to list more projects going on in our area.

Early feedback is crucial to successful projects. You know what is best for you and your family, and what works for you might be the best for all of us. I look forward to hearing from you on any project that you are interested in.

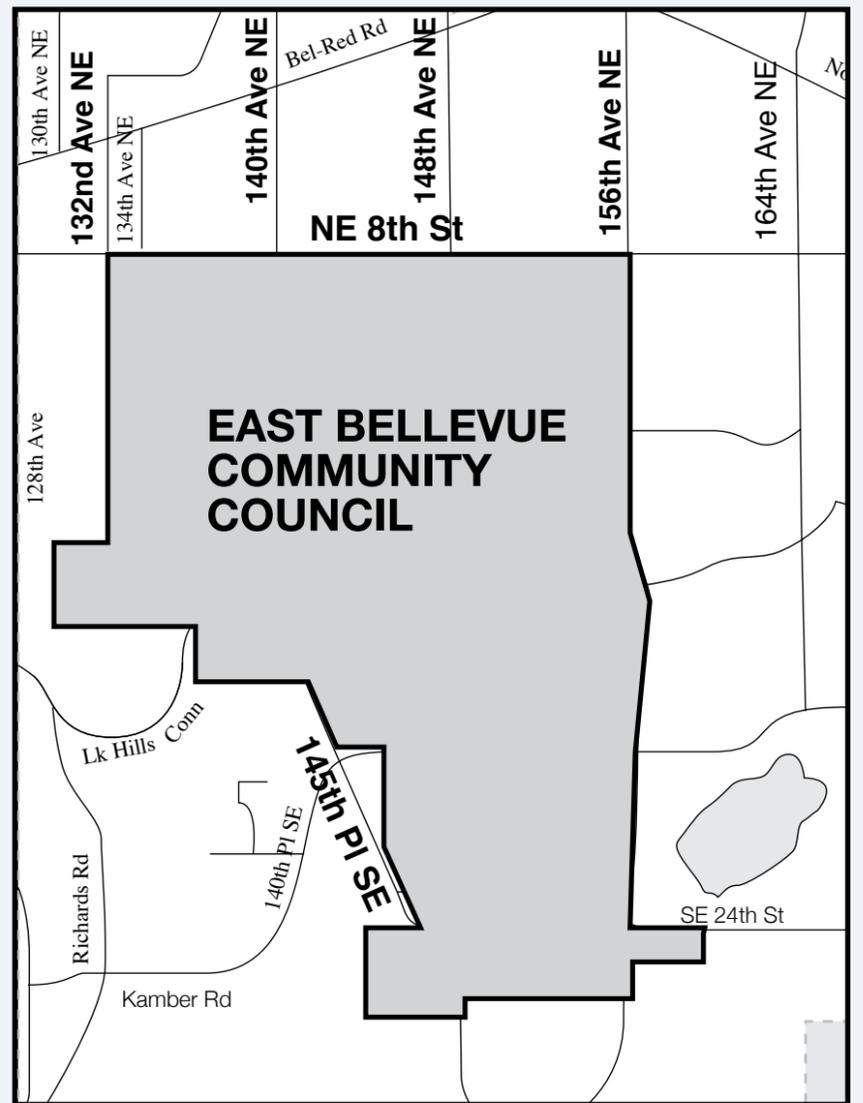
New council member brings passion

Richard Erwin recently was appointed to the East Bellevue Community Council, and brings a great passion for the community.

A single father, Erwin works for Boeing and volunteers for many community organizations, including his daughter's high school Parent-Teacher-Student-Association. I hope you have the opportunity to meet him at events around the community this summer.

We as a community council have committed to being more visible and accessible to you, our neighbors and constituents. Michael Elwin, EBCC vice chair, will coordinate schedules of council members and events as we continue through the year.

If you are having a community event please tell us about, it so we can have a council member attend to hear about the issues that are having an impact in your community.



For more information about the East Bellevue Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Michelle Murphy, 425-452-6466, or contact Steven Kasner, acting chairman for the EBCC.

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

Members

Michael Elwin, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal, Richard Erwin

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the Community Council via e-mail at EBCC@bellevuewa.gov. To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC go to the website, http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm.

So much is happening in our neighborhood, from the recent refurbishment of Samena Swim and Recreation Club to the beginning of a long-term plan to improve St. Louise Parish School. Maybe you have an idea for something that no one else has thought of yet.

To start the ball rolling, you can come to one of the EBCC meetings at the Lake Hills Clubhouse on the first Tuesday of every month (unless it is a holiday). Meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

We can learn so much from each other just by exchanging ideas. With the school year ending, now is the time to enjoy our great community. Thanks for listening and have a great day.

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.

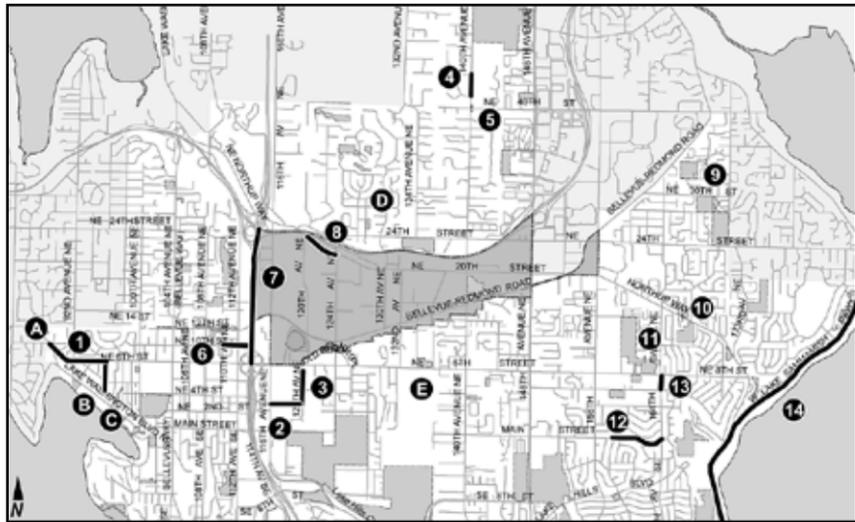


North Bellevue Projects Update

It is time to give you an update on what the city is working on in the North Bellevue. 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. They are: West Bellevue, Northwest Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Wilburton, Crossroads, and Northeast Bellevue. These neighborhoods fall in the area north of Main Street.

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



NORTHWEST BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD

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

This project will include a new six-foot continuous sidewalk with curb and gutter, a three-foot striped shoulder, and a four-foot landscaped planter, where feasible, on the north side of Northeast Eighth Street, west of 96th Avenue Northeast to Lake Washington Boulevard. It will also upgrade the existing traffic signal at the intersection of Northeast Eighth Street and 92nd Avenue Northeast for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and add street lights. The design of this \$2.4 million project is almost complete with construction expected this summer and ending by 2010. Please note: Sewer pipe replacement will take place between Lake Washington Boulevard and 92nd Avenue Northeast before work on the sidewalk project. For more information: Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 or MArakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

2. Northeast Fourth Street Extension

The Northeast Fourth Street Extension project between 116th Avenue Northeast and 120th Avenue Northeast was identified by City Council as one of several projects that are part of Bellevue's Mobility and Infrastructure (M&I) Initiative which will construct improvements in response to current and future growth in the Downtown, Wilburton, and Bel-Red areas. Ongoing coordination with proposed development and a number of key decisions have yet to be made that will influence this project's timing. The proposed improvements include a four-lane roadway, sidewalks, bike lanes, and left-turn pockets at new or modified signalized intersections. This \$33.2 million project is starting design this summer and is expected to be under construction in 2011. For more information: Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 or Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

3. 120th Avenue Northeast: Northeast 300 block to Northeast 700 block



The 120th Avenue Northeast project is the first of several projects proposed as part of Bellevue's Mobility and Infrastructure (M&I) Initiative which will construct major improvements in response to current and future growth in the Downtown, Wilburton, and Bel-Red areas. This project will widen 120th Avenue Northeast to five lanes and add bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides, and include street light improvements. Traffic calming elements will be added on Northeast Fifth Street east of 170th Avenue Northeast. The project will be coordinated with the Northeast 4th Street

Extension which is also just starting design. Design will begin this summer. For more information: Steve Costa, 452-452-2845 or scosta@bellevuewa.gov

BRIDLE TRAILS NEIGHBORHOOD AREA

4. 140th Avenue Northeast from Northeast 42nd Street to Northeast 44th Street Landscape Screening

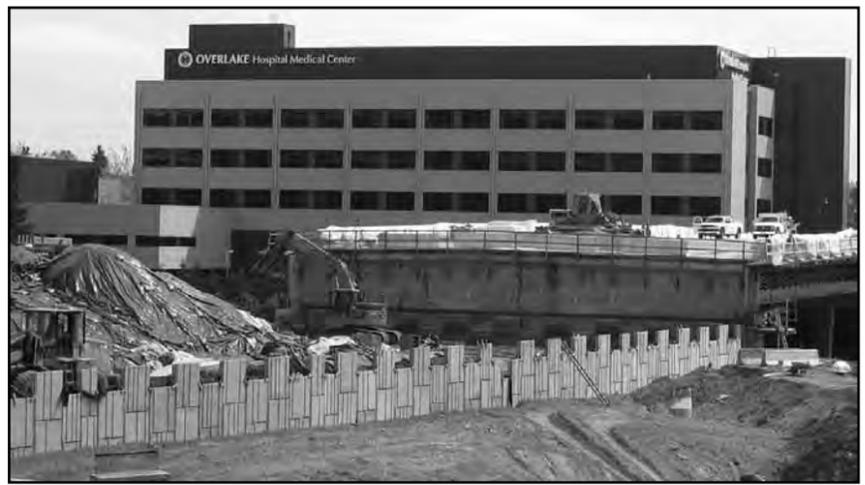
This project will install native plantings and trees to provide additional screening between 140th Avenue Northeast and the adjacent private property that houses the Bridle Trails neighborhood pool, tennis courts and riding arena. This proposal will increase the density of the plantings to create a semi-solid screen of vegetation along the entirety of the property frontage. Plantings will include native shrubs and evergreen conifers. This \$30,600 project will be complete this spring. For more information: Don McQuilliams, 425-452-7865 or Dmcquilliams@bellevuewa.gov

5. 140th Avenue Northeast & Northeast 40th Street Landscaping

This project will install landscaping in the City-owned right-of-way on all four corners of the intersection of 140th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 40th Street in order to provide a more aesthetic and neighborhood feel to this heavily-used intersection. Invasive weeds will be removed and native plantings and trees will be planted on the northeast and southeast corners to provide a natural landscape. On the northwest and southwest corners, other appropriate plants will be used to improve the appearance of the intersection and to blend with the existing landscaping. This \$32,600 project will be complete this spring. For more information: Tom Kuykendall, 425-452-7924 or TKuykendall@bellevuewa.gov

WILBURTON NEIGHBORHOOD AREA

6. Northeast 10th Street Extension, Stage II



Stage II of this project, led by WSDOT will extend Northeast 10th Street east from 112th Avenue Northeast and over I-405 to connect with Northeast 10th Street, Stage I. The project also includes widening 112th Avenue Northeast between Northeast Eighth and Northeast 10th Streets. This project is expected to be complete this fall. For more information: Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 or Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov

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

This project received \$30 million in stimulus funding from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funding advanced delivery to the public by approximately one year.

We are working jointly with WSDOT to build new multi-level "braided" ramps to separate vehicles entering and exiting northbound I-405 between Northeast Eighth Street and SR 520. This project will add a bypass lane for I-405 traffic headed eastbound to SR 520. A new ramp from the Northeast 10th Street overpass will give drivers direct access to SR 520 from downtown Bellevue. 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. This \$255 million project is funded by Washington State and is expected to start construction this year and continue through 2012. For more information: Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 or visit the WSDOT website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520.

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

The project will install one eastbound lane on Northup Way between 120th Avenue Northeast and 124th Avenue Northeast and add another left-turn lane for eastbound traffic on Northup Way turning onto the westbound SR-520 on-ramp. 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.

This \$5,106,000 project began construction in April and is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Construction hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, with lane closures expected 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please expect traffic delays to and from SR 520 during this time.

Please note: We will need to completely close 124th Avenue Northeast between Northeast 18th Street and Northup Way for approximately two weeks in August to re-grade the road. Local access will be permitted. For more information: Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

CROSSROADS NEIGHBORHOOD

9 & 10. Ardmore Park at 16910 NE 30th St & Ivanhoe Park at 16600 Northup Way Restrooms

These two projects will install a unisex restroom building with flush toilet, sink and drinking fountain at Ardmore Park and Ivanhoe Park. The restroom will lock from the inside and include a stainless steel sink, hand dryer and exhaust vent. Vent and lights will automatically come on when the door opens, and the door automatically locks at night with a timer and can be programmed. The unit will include an ADA-compliant drinking fountain and will have an anti-graffiti coating to help in removing graffiti. The estimated cost for each includes the cost of providing water, sewer and electrical connections. They each cost \$120,000 and will be completed this spring. For more information: Randy Ransom, 425-452-2036 or Rransom@bellevuewa.gov

11. Crossroads Park Water Spray Play Area - Picnic Shelters and Asian Rain Drums



We have recently completed the installation of two picnic shelters at Crossroads Community Park Water Spray Play Area at 833 164th Avenue Northeast. The Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club partnered with the City to raise money for this 25,000 square foot playground expansion. As designed, the play area features include Nessie's Lagoon, family picnic shelters, spitting frogs, a floating granite world, spouting Northwest Orca whales, squirting clams, sinking boats and Asian rain drums. Funding for the picnic shelters (\$150,000) was approved through the City's Neighborhood Enhancement (NEP), bringing the total project cost to \$1,000,000. For more information: Scott Vanderhyden, 425-452-4169 or Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

12. Main Street: 158th Place to 164th Avenue Traffic Calming Project

We will begin working with area residents to develop a traffic calming plan for Main Street between 158th Place and 164th Avenue to address speeding, pedestrian safety and reported accidents. Residents will be surveyed this spring and asked to share suggestions for addressing these concerns. For more information: Rebecca Rodni, 425-452-6160 or rrodni@bellevuewa.gov

NORTHEAST BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD

13. Landscaping on 164th Avenue Northeast from Northeast Sixth Street to Northeast Eighth Street

This project will install new landscaping along approximately 6,500 square feet of right-of-way along the east side of 164th Avenue Northeast from Northeast Sixth Street to Northeast Eighth Street. The project will include the removal of existing vegetation, extensive site and soil preparation to create a suitable growing environment, and new plantings chosen to match similar planter areas within the community. Hand watering or an irrigation system will need to be implemented for at least the first three years to establish the new plantings. This \$46,000 project will be complete this spring. For more information: Don McQuilliams, 425-452-7865 or Dmcquilliams@bellevuewa.gov

14. West Lake Sammamish Parkway (WLSP) Design Report: North City Limits to I-90

We are finalizing the preliminary design and determining, with the help of WLSP residents, which segment should be designed and built first.

This summer we present the construction phasing plan to the Transportation Commission, followed by a presentation to City Council in July for approval. The final design on the first phase will begin after Council's approval.

The Parkway improvements will be built in five phases with each segment approximately one mile long. The construction cost for each segment range from \$8 to \$13 million dollars.

The current total project budget is \$6,560,000 which is sufficient to complete the final design and acquire the right-of-way for a first phase; however, the remaining budget will not be sufficient to fully construct a first phase. The city will need to allocate or pursue additional project funding to fully construct the first phase of the corridor improvements.

For more information: Paul Krawczyk, 425.452.7905 or pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

A. Northwest Bellevue

Sanitary Sewer Repairs Northeast 10th Street and Lake Washington Boulevard: The existing sanitary sewer pipe, located approximately 150 feet south of intersection, is in need of repair and is being done in advance of a sidewalk project scheduled to begin later this summer. This \$35,000 repair will take place this month. For more information: Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 or Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

B. West Bellevue

Lakeline Access Manholes: We are installing access manholes on sanitary sewer pipelines at Meydenbauer and Clyde Hill beach parks. This \$400,000 project is expected to start in the fall and be completed by next spring. For more information: Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

C. Sewer Lake Line Replacement Program

This new program includes an initial construction project to replace approximately 1,150 feet of aging 10-inch sewer line (currently under Meydenbauer Bay) with on-shore pipe between Grange Pump Station at SE Bellevue Place to Meydenbauer Beach Park. This \$2,000,000 project is scheduled for construction in 2011. For more information: Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240 or Bjensen@bellevuewa.gov

CROSSROADS

D. Kelsey Creek Early World Bank Stabilization

The Utilities Department 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. For more information: Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

WEST LAKE HILLS

E. Kelsey Creek Stream Channel and Fish Passage Improvements

We are working to control stream bank erosion and to improve salmon and wildlife habitat 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 (approximate) \$1 million project is currently in the design stage and will likely be constructed in Summer 2010. For more information: Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 or Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF BELLEVUE

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) which will help prevent leaks and provide consistent reliable water service. We have a program to examine the condition of service saddles to determine locations where replacement is needed most. The following replacement projects will take place this spring and summer.

103rd Avenue Northeast between Bellevue Way and just south of I-405
Northeast 34th Street between 98th Avenue Northeast and 99th Avenue Northeast

Lake Washington Boulevard between 94th Avenue Northeast and 100th Avenue Northeast

Northeast 30th Place between 100th Avenue Northeast and 102nd Avenue Northeast

Total cost for these locations will be about \$175,000. For more information: Vanaja Rajah, 425-452-4881 or Vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

Pressure Reducing Station (PRV) Rehabilitation

We are replacing or rehabilitating aging water pressure reducing stations throughout Bellevue. We have one \$900,000 project this summer: PRV # 14 on Northeast Eighth Street at 129th Place Northeast. For more information:

Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Water Main Replacement

We are replacing four water meters and relocating service lines at 143rd Avenue Northeast and Northeast 16th Place. This \$20,000 project will take place this spring before the roadway is repaved this summer. For more information: Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 or Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

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 VI Coordinator at 425-452-4270.



Community Calendar

Mountains to Sound Greenway Days

June 20-21
A full weekend of activities along the greenway, including environmental workshops at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center and family orienteering at Lewis Creek Park. <http://www.mtsgreenway.org> or 425-452-7106

Social Networking/Media 101 Workshop

June 23, 10 a.m. to noon
Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St.
Email: khenry@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7886

Bellevue Strawberry Festival

June 27, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; June 28, 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.

www.bellevuestrawberryfestival.org or 425-450-1049

Bellevue 24-Hour Relay's New Food Challenge

June 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bellevue Downtown Park, 10201 NE Fourth St.
Join the communitywide food drive to help collect 24,000 pounds of food. 425-452-2846

Symetra Bellevue Family Fourth

July 4, 2 - 11 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. <http://www.bellevuedowntown.com> or 425-452-4106

Kids' Show at Robinswood Park

July 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Robinswood Barn, 2430 148th Ave. NE
A whimsical show featuring hilarious, daring tricks and routines with refreshing originality. Bring blankets for seating on the grass. Free. kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7688

Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Show and Sale

Aug. 22-23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.
Great selection of plants from Eastside gardeners. 425-452-6826 or <http://www.bellevuebotanical.com>

Eastgate Park <http://bellevuewa.gov/south_bellevue.htm> Ballfield – movies begin at dusk, between 8 – 8:30 p.m. Park at South Bellevue Community Center, 14509 SE Newport Way. Movies shown in SBCC gym during inclement weather.

Aug. 11 – *Kung Fu Panda*, YouthCare (adult socks and underwear drive)

Aug. 18 – *Ghostbusters*, YWCA (toiletries and hygiene supplies drive)

Aug. 25 – *Back to the Future*, Hopelink (food drive)

Movie titles are subject to change without notice. Sponsored by Bellevue Parks & Community Services and Intelius <<http://www.intelius.com/summermovies>> .

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/sbcc_movies.htm <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/sbcc_movies.htm> 425-452-4240



Beach at Enatai.

2009 Lifeguard Schedule

Location	Dates	Time
Newcastle	June 20 - September 7	noon – 7 p.m.
Meydenbauer	June 20 - September 7	noon – 7 p.m.
Enatai	June 27 - August 30	noon – 7 p.m.
Chism	June 27 - August 30	noon – 7 p.m.
Clyde	June 27 - August 30	noon – 7 p.m.
Chesterfield	June 27 - August 30	2 – 5 p.m.

For additional information, please contact Mike Koenig, Aquatics Program Manager, at 425-452-4444.

Girl Power

July 31-Aug. 9, times vary
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northup Way
Original play about the struggles and successes that young women face. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Pops in the Park

Aug. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.
Bring a picnic supper, a blanket and enjoy music at the gardens. Co-sponsored by Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. Free, but donations are encouraged. 425-452-2750

Summer Outdoor Movies

Free outdoor movies in the park. Bring noted donations to support local charities!
Bellevue Downtown Park <http://bellevuewa.gov/downtown_park_and_rose_garden.htm> – movies begin at dusk, between 8:30 – 9 p.m.
Park at Downtown Park's parking lots, Chase Bank (on NE 1st St) and available street parking.
July 7 - *Hotel for Dogs* -Hopelink (food drive)
July 14 – *Bride Wars*, Overlake Service League (food and toiletries drive)
July 21 – *Second Hand Lions*, Eastside Domestic Violence (adult socks and toiletries drive)
July 28 – *The Express*, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue (backpacks and school supplies drive)
Aug. 4 – *Madagascar 2*, Treehouse (youth pajama drive)

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 http://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

1625 118th Ave SE
25-452-2565
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 a.m. – 6 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



Canoeing is always an option at Mercer Slough.

Park Dance

July 21, 23, 28 and 30, 5:30-6 p.m.
Bellevue Downtown Park, 10201 NE Fourth St.
Rain or shine, highly athletic contemporary dancers improvise and choreograph movement as they flit, romp and transform the park with dance in unexpected places. 425-452-6885 or NWAC@bellevuewa.gov

Dr. Doolittle

Aug. 14-16, times vary
Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE Sixth St.
The Bellevue Youth Theatre performs this story about the veterinarian who talks to the animals. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

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 452-6466 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: 452-7228

Community Centers

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

Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services Center: 452-6800

New permit applications and application status: 452-4898

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
Transit Center Station: 452-7933
Emergency Only: 911
Complaints and Information: 452-6917
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;

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Bellevue City Council



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Mayor



Claudia Balducci
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Phil Noble

Residents grade curb ramps

To ensure that its curb ramps make the grade, Bellevue recently consulted residents with expertise. In early April, two people with wheelchairs, a man who uses a wheeled walker and a man with a vision disability tested a half dozen ramps in and near downtown.

The curb ramp evaluation, along with an accessibility open house on April 29, are part of a larger effort by the city to complete an update to its American with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. The plan guides Bellevue's compliance efforts related to the ADA.

Comments from the two events are helping Bellevue identify what is working and where accessibility barriers to city programs and facilities limit participation. Residents with disabilities are also encouraged to complete an online survey before July 1, available at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/accessibility.htm>, about access to city programs and facilities.

During the ramp evaluation, Jay Karns, Michael Moran, Rima Saha and Larry Showalter assessed a variety of ramps for Bellevue's Transportation Department. They provided valuable feedback to staff, who helped them fill out detailed forms rating each ramp for features such as steepness, smoothness and the presence of yellow warning bumps. Their comments will help the city prioritize improvements as financial resources become available.

From 2007 through 2009, Bellevue will spend more than \$2 million to upgrade nearly 300 curb ramps citywide. The city is also repairing uneven sidewalks buckled by tree roots, improving traffic signals and crosswalks for pedestrians and providing appropriate services when needed to ensure effective communication with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The curb ramp assessment was made possible with help from King County Metro Accessible Services, which helped coordinate the visits and supplied accessible vans to transport the participants.



Photo by Ned Ahrens, King County Department of Transportation

Be counted in next Census

The next census, the nationwide effort made every 10 years to count everyone residing in the United States, is less than a year away. To ensure that Bellevue receives its share of political representation and federal funding for programs and services, residents won't want to be missed.

Bellevue is an increasingly diverse city. According to the Census Bureau's 2005-2007 estimates, over 29 percent of Bellevue's population was born in a foreign country and 32 percent speak a language other than English at home. Asians alone represent 23 percent of the city's population.

While the Census Bureau now produces annual estimates with details about population characteristics, the census is a complete count.

For those who might be concerned, participating in the census is easy and safe. The City of Bellevue will work with local organizations to assist those who speak a language other than English.

Census questionnaires will be delivered to every household in the United States next March. The questionnaire takes only a few minutes to answer and return by mail. Responses are protected by law and Census workers have taken an oath to protect confidentiality.