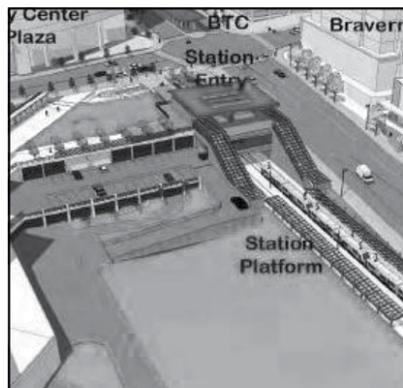




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'Inspiration Playground' planned for Bellevue Downtown Park

The playground at Bellevue Downtown Park will be redesigned and significantly expanded to include new, interactive features that engage the senses and accommodate children with all abilities.

A "Play for All" Expo launching the fundraising campaign for the playground drew more than 800 people to Downtown Park on Sept. 29. Participants visited several "discovery stations" where they tried their hand at activities such as a wheelchair obstacle course and a blind navigation challenge, while learning about community resources available in Bellevue for people with disabilities.

The city has hired a landscape architect to draw up plans for "Inspiration Playground," which will have unusual components, including tactile sculptures that encourage touching and climbing and an interactive music plaza that allows users to create and respond to sound. A central "Whimsy Plaza" will feature a tree sculpture that evokes Dr. Seuss.

To be five times the size of the current playground, the new one will be open to all children,

but it will offer a great play opportunity for children with developmental and physical disabilities who have difficulty at traditional playgrounds.

"Here in Bellevue, we should all be proud of our commitment to our diverse community of people of all ages and abilities," Mayor Conrad Lee said at the Expo. "We have a long history of great programs that serve our diverse population."

The Rotary Club of Bellevue has partnered with the city on this project and is leading an effort to raise \$3.5 million to build the playground, possibly by 2015. Rob Rose, the Rotary Club's president, also spoke at the Expo.

"Why are we here today?" Rose asked the audience. "What is the need? In Nepal I saw children and adults with and without disability interacting together, learning about each other and forgetting the disability, seeing only the person. This playground will offer a teachable moment for every visitor."

To donate funds or support the project, call 425-998-7542 or visit www.bellevuerotary.net.

Status quo budget proposed for 2013-2014

City Manager Steve Sarkozy has proposed a "status quo" 2013-2014 budget that includes just incremental growth. The economy's slow recovery means no cuts in services are in the draft budget, a marked contrast from 2011 and early this year, when Bellevue's budget was "reset" and shrank by \$24 million.

The city manager presented the preliminary 2013-2014 operating and 2013-2019 capital budgets to the City Council on Oct. 8. The general fund, which

covers core services such as fire, police, transportation and parks, is slated to grow 4.4 percent in 2013 and 3.2 percent in 2014. The council is slated to adopt the budget on Dec. 3.

Public outreach continues, with the third and last public hearing concerning the budget set for Nov. 19. At Mayor Conrad Lee's request, people invited by the council will participate in a focus group in November (date to be determined) concerning the budget.

Highlights from the preliminary budget include:

- No general tax increases or layoffs proposed;
- Advances for many of the city's most important capital needs, including Parks Levy projects, the Mobility & Infrastructure Initiative and East Link commitments; and
- Proposed utility rate increases necessary to fund regional wholesale cost increases and improvements needed to maintain service levels and system integrity; as well as proposed Development Services rate increases to ensure fees match the cost of providing services.

The budget proposes \$465,000 for new programs related to economic growth and competitiveness.



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Council Corner



Speaking the language of economic development

By Mayor Conrad Lee

Since I was first elected to the city council 19 years ago, economic development has been my top priority; I've always felt it's the foundation of our city's well-being.

I believe that a healthy economy generates sustainable revenue to build good roads and first-class parks, and to provide top-notch police and fire protection. It's what makes Bellevue a place people

choose to live, work and raise a family.

Like a business, Bellevue must seize economic development opportunities. Right now, the opportunities are in international trade, specifically, trade with China, India and other Asian countries. Take a look at these numbers from a recent report by the Washington Council on International Trade, and the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle:

- Almost 40 percent of all jobs in Washington state are tied to international trade;
- Washington exports in 2011 totaled more than \$64 billion; and
- Exports to China have increased 230 percent since 2004.

My belief in the importance of international trade is the main reason for my recent trip to China, where I was born and lived for 18 years before coming to the United States. While I was there I met with government and industry leaders in Beijing, Nanjing, Jinan and Guiyang. My message was always the same: Bellevue is a great place to live and do business and companies should consider investing here.

The world has gotten a lot smaller and resources that were once vital to our economy no longer are. Server farms are more important to our residents than strawberry fields, and data mining makes more sense than digging coal from the side of Cougar Mountain. What we have to sell now is our innovation and our technology. China has become a manufacturing center and its economy is thriving. To me, these trends create a big opportunity for international trade, and, for lots of reasons, the time is right for Bellevue to capitalize.

First, because trade with China depends on relationships, we're in a good position to take advantage since I speak the language and know the culture. I can connect quickly with prominent business people. I'm hopeful they have confidence in me, and confidence is the bedrock for building successful relationships.

Here's an example. Two weeks before I left on my trip, I went to a party at a friend's house in Bellevue and he introduced me to his cousin, who is from Jinan, China. We started talking and he invited me to visit him in Jinan, where he set up a meeting with a friend, who turned out to be the chairman of a large investment group. The contact hasn't led to a big trade deal, but you never know. It's about the relationships.

Another advantage for Bellevue is that former Washington state Gov. Gary Locke currently is the United States Ambassador to China - the first Chinese-American to hold the office. With his help, we are exploring Chinese investments in our area.

But the biggest advantage we have is Bellevue itself. Visitors from China find our city amazing. They love all the water, which they equate with prosperity. Also, our city is becoming more international all the time.

Some 30 percent of our residents were born outside the country, more than 80 languages are spoken in Bellevue schools and 9.6 percent of Bellevue's population (11,700 residents) is Chinese. They're in this area for the jobs, but they live in Bellevue because we have great schools, safe streets and a well-maintained city. They feel welcome here.

Business-wise, Bellevue is attractive because it's a center for industries that are seen as economic drivers of the future, such as wireless technology and cloud computing. People coming here are creative and entrepreneurial.

We want Chinese companies to open small U.S. headquarters offices



In June the city launched a bilingual e-zine, *Bellevue CN*, to help local businesses find customers in China and East Asia, and to attract more investment to Bellevue and the region.

in Bellevue and grow. We want homegrown companies to expand their business with China, a potential gold rush of a market with a population of more than 1.3 billion people. And we want local corporations such as Boeing and Microsoft to expand trade with China.

In addition to my meetings with Chinese business people, Bellevue is pursuing other opportunities to encourage trade. In 2008 we struck city-to-city cooperation agreements with Dalian and Qingdao. And, earlier this year, we launched *Bellevue CN*, a bi-lingual website in English and Chinese aimed at building a dialogue between our region and China around the topic of technology leadership.

Although we've worked hard to recruit companies from countries such as India, Mexico and Germany, China is the low-hanging fruit of our international trade efforts. It's a connection point with other fast growing markets in Asia and it represents our greatest opportunity at this time.

There are a lot of folks in China looking to invest in the United States. My goal is to get them to invest here, to foster economic development and to make Bellevue's foundation even stronger.

Council Roundup

Park expansion in South Bellevue

The City Council in September approved acquisition of a 14-acre parcel next to the South Bellevue Community Center that makes it possible to expand a popular challenge course and add forest trails to Eastgate Park.

The council authorized the \$903,000 purchase, made possible with King County Levy proceeds (\$451,500) and funding from King County Conservation Futures (\$451,500). With the forested property immediately west of the community center, Eastgate Park will expand from 25 acres to 39.

The purchase allows the city to preserve a large tract of wooded land, expand trails and pedestrian access to Eastgate Park and expand the South Bellevue Challenge Course, likely adding a zipline.

Partnership could net new gym at park

The council on Aug. 6 expressed enthusiasm for a proposed partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue that would

allow the organization to build and operate a gymnasium at Hidden Valley Park. The nonprofit group and the city would share the costs for upgrades to sports fields and other improvements for community use.

Hidden Valley is a 17-acre park with three sports fields (one of them lighted) a few blocks north of downtown. Under the proposal, the city would lease land for the gym to the Boys & Girls Club for \$1 per year and gain community access to the gym when it's not in use. For its part, the BGCB would construct and operate the gym.

The organizations would share the costs of converting the lighted field to synthetic turf, converting two other infields to turf and adding an unlighted sports field.

Before an agreement is signed, a public outreach effort must be launched to educate the community about the proposal and seek feedback, funding must be secured, more contract details must be hammered out, and additional engineering and design work needs to be completed.

Downtown Livability initiative launched

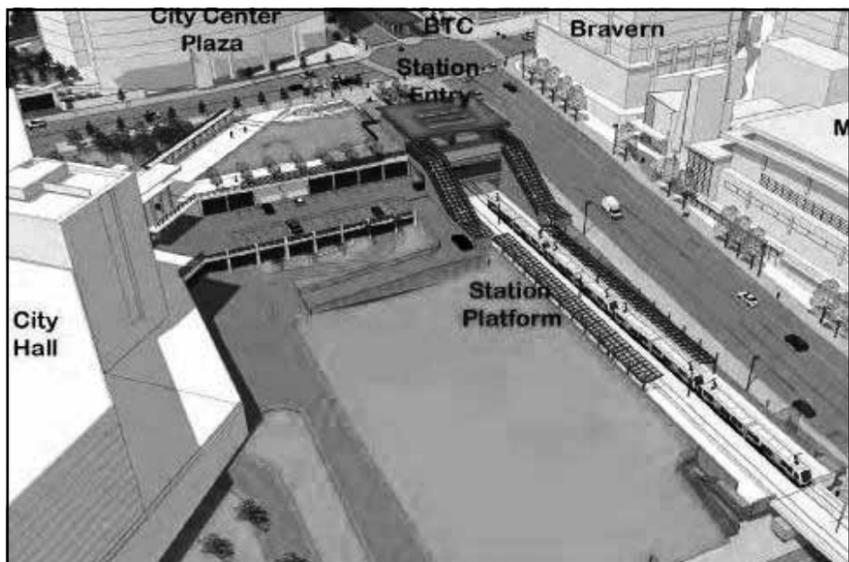
The City Council on July 23 launched an initiative to develop code and design guideline changes that would ensure a "livable, memorable downtown environment." In an effort to have code amendments in place before another construction boom, the council reallocated \$350,000 from the city's capital budget for the Downtown Livability project.

Key objectives for the Downtown Livability initiative identified by staff include:

- Updating zoning incentives that reward developers for building amenities that benefit the community;
- Analyzing building forms and heights to identify potential areas for increased height limits in return for additional public benefits;
- Refining downtown design guidelines to improve the pedestrian environment and encourage interesting architecture and sustainable building practices.



Narrowing East Link cost-saving ideas



Relocating the downtown station planned for East Link to an above-ground spot on Northeast Sixth Street would save \$23 to \$39 million.

Bellevue and Sound Transit officials continue working to reduce costs on the East Link light rail project in order to fund a downtown tunnel.

The city and transit agency signed an agreement late last year that laid out how to do that. In it, the city agreed to provide \$100 million in low- or no-cost contributions toward the cost of a tunnel. Another \$60 million in “contingent” contributions by the city is the target of cost savings efforts; the city’s goal is to reduce that contribution to zero.

Since a collaborative design process began early this year, the city and Sound Transit have narrowed the cost savings ideas to the following:

- **Bellevue Way Southeast/Winters House:** Replacing a retained-cut light rail line with a street-level line by shifting Bellevue Way to the west, and adding southbound high-occupancy-vehicle lane (HOV) from the main entrance to the South Bellevue Station (where the South Bellevue Park and Ride is located now) north to the Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue Southeast “Y” intersection (estimated \$7 to 11

million savings, though the city would contribute \$11 million towards the HOV lane).

- **112th Avenue Southeast:** Replacing an elevated and retained-cut light rail line the length of 112th with a street-level line as much as possible, while maintaining access to the Surrey Downs neighborhood. Crossing 112th from east to west at Southeast 15th Street would happen using a new overpass for vehicles, above light rail. Other options include closing Southeast Fourth Street except for emergency vehicles or keeping traffic access at Southeast Fourth with a raised street above light rail (\$7 to 16 million savings).
- **Downtown tunnel:** Ideas include making several design changes to the downtown tunnel station on 110th Avenue Northeast, beneath Northeast Fourth Street; building a stacked tunnel instead of a side-by-side tunnel; and relocating the station to Northeast Sixth Street and making it above ground (\$6 to 13 million savings for tunnel changes; \$23 to 39 million savings for relocation to Northeast Sixth Street).
- **Other cost-savings ideas along the East Link line:** Modifying the design of elevated structures, reducing the number of storm water vaults through low-impact development designs, and speeding up tunnel construction through additional temporary road closures (\$15 to 20 million total).

In late October, Bellevue and Sound Transit are expected to narrow the number of ideas for further analysis. A final decision on the cost savings ideas will occur after an environmental analysis is completed, probably in spring 2013. The public would have an opportunity to comment on the HOV lane project before the city council decides whether or not to fund it.

In addition to cost savings efforts, the city is making progress on other aspects of the MOU, such as a land use code amendment that allows for a predictable permitting process. The council will consider the amendments through November, with a vote anticipated in early December. If the council decides to pursue one of the permitting options, a development agreement, a draft would be available for public comment in 2013 or early 2014, prior to final council action.

For updates on public meetings and progress reports check the city’s light rail website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>.

Public can help pick new street names in Bel-Red

Residents will have a chance to suggest names for five new Bellevue streets this fall.

The city will build the streets, to include a grand boulevard, in the Bel-Red area as it is transformed from a sprawling light industrial district to a transit-oriented development featuring housing, shopping and commerce.

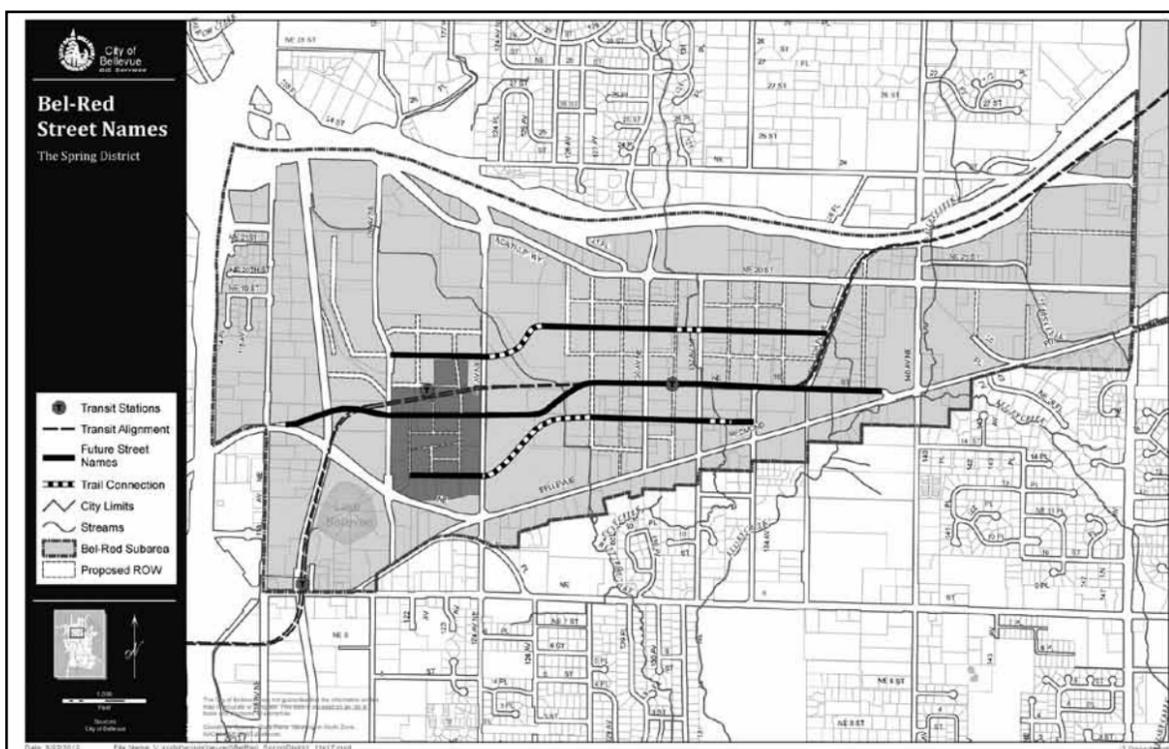
Giving the area a sense of place was one of the goals of the planning effort that resulted in sweeping land use code and zoning changes for Bel-Red in 2009, so the city is breaking with its tradition of numbered streets here.

With East Link light rail stations as anchors, the area by 2030 will be distinguished by vibrant walkable neighborhoods, comprehensive, connected parks and open spaces, reclaimed and enhanced streams and an arts district.

The city will consider all suggestions for street names. The names may be based on the area’s industrial past or recall its natural, agricultural and ethnic heritage. Suggested names may also refer to neighborhood landmarks and events, as well as something about the area’s future.

The streets to be named are:

Northeast 15th/16th Street: This street will be a lynchpin and key east-west corridor for Bel-Red, serving cars, pedestrians and cyclists and incorporating a series of environmentally



sensitive urban open spaces.

Two segments each of Northeast 14th and 18th streets: These streets will be “green streets,” generally located between stream corridors and trail connections, with an abundance of trees and landscaping to limit stormwater runoff.

Suggestions may be submitted online at www.bellevuewa.gov/street-names.htm, and will be accepted until 3 p.m., Nov. 30.

The Transportation Commission will choose names and forward them to the City Council for its approval in late 2012 or early 2013.

Out of the frying pan and ...



Firefighter Brandon Bothwell demonstrates a stovetop fire.

Hundreds of people who attended the Fire Department's annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 6, got to witness first-hand how quickly a stovetop fire can get out of hand.

The cooking fire demonstration was just one of the attractions. All nine stations were open for visitors, and an estimated 3,500 people dropped in. In addition to station tours, visitors saw water extinguisher demonstrations and experienced a fiery room (with theatrical smoke) in a child safety trailer.

The city offered special prizes this year. Children who presented home fire escape plans when they visited a fire station could get the opportunity to ride to school in a fire engine. Second prize was a dinner for six at a Bellevue fire station (parental supervision required). Almost 350 kids submitted fire escape plans.

People also had the opportunity to try on firefighter "bunker" gear, meet Bellevue Police SWAT officers and see the SWAT Bear Cat vehicle. Cake was served at some stations; coffee and cookies at all nine.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Bellevue Paramedic program, medics let visitors to stations 1, 3 or 9 try intubating a mannequin or treat it for traumatic injuries.

Children ages seven through 15 who live in and attend school in the Bellevue, Newcastle, Medina, Beaux Arts, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point or Yarrow Point were eligible to enter the drawing. Prize winners were expected to be announced in late October.

Activities help keep seniors healthy, involved

Staying connected can be as important to older adults' health as a good diet and exercise, and the North Bellevue Community Center offers many free and inexpensive activities around which to socialize.

According to reports from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Association of Retired Persons, active socialization is a positive indicator for productive and healthy living, with a strong protective effect on health.

Many factors can make socialization challenging for seniors, including death of family members or friends, retirement and poor health. Trends such as smaller family size and an increasingly mobile society increases challenges.

The North Bellevue Community Center (4063 148th Ave. NE) provides free opportunities for older adults to recreate and socialize. For more information, contact staff at 425-452-7681 or NBCC@bellevuewa.gov.

Community Dining

Lunch served Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. \$3 suggested donation for adults over 60, \$5.75 for other adults.

Drop-in Games

Ping-Pong, pickle ball, billiards, mahjong, cribbage, pinochle. Prices and schedules vary (FREE to \$4 with Play Pass for discounted play) - call for details.

Drop-in Painting

Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Bring your painting

project and supplies, and visit with others in a friendly atmosphere.

Knitting Group

Wednesdays, 11-3 p.m. Join this group of Red Cross volunteers who get together and knit items to donate to local hospitals and other charities. Free.

Book Club

Second Tuesday each month, 10-11:30 a.m., Free.

Line Dance Drop-in

Mondays, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., and Fridays, 11 a.m.-noon, Learn and practice the dances. All levels welcome. \$3 for resident, \$4 for non-residents. Purchase Play Pass for discounted visits.

Shape Up Discount

Ages 50+ qualify for the Shape Up Discount. Get \$10 off and receive a swag bag when you sign up for a class you have never taken or one you haven't taken in over 3 months. Refer a friend to the class you are currently taking and you both get the discount. One discount per person per year.

Enhance Fitness Class Drop-in

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9-10 a.m., specially designed low-impact aerobics for older adults. \$4 Resident/\$5 NonResident.

Tap Class Drop in

Tuesdays, beginners 11 a.m.-noon, intermediate, 12:15-1:15 p.m., \$4 Resident/\$5 NonResident.



Cultural Programs and ESL Groups

Spanish Speakers, Mondays 12:30-2 p.m.; Mandarin Newspaper Reading Group, Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Indian Fellowship, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Mandarin Ballroom Dance, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.

Sound of Swing Monthly Dance

Second Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. 21-piece swing band. \$3 per person.

Drop in Crafts

Tuesdays, 6-8:30 p.m., Fused glass, pottery, glass painting and more. \$3 Resident/\$4 non-resident, purchase Play Pass for discounted visits.

Chorus

English, Fridays, 10:30-noon; Chinese, Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Free.

Gentle Yoga Class Drop-in

Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., all levels. \$9 resident/\$11 non-resident.

Neighborhood traffic safety blog launched

Residents concerned about traffic in their neighborhood now have a new avenue for sharing - a traffic safety blog called "Streets are for Everyone" (SAFE).

Sponsored by the Transportation Department's Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services division, SAFE (<http://bellevuentss.wordpress.com>) offers a public forum for neighborhood traffic issues and projects.

NTSS (formerly Neighborhood Traffic Calming) wants to increase citizen interaction and participation by giving them the opportunity to post comments or ask questions online. The blog will feature posts from staff about common traffic safety topics.

"We're excited about the blog," NTSS manager Karen Gonzalez said. "It raises awareness about neighborhood traffic safety and it's a step forward in finding cost-effective ways to engage a broader spectrum of our residents."

Since SAFE launched in mid-July, topics have included: why "Children at Play" signs do not increase a driver's attention to the point of reducing

vehicle speeds, why stop signs don't always slow down cars and what the black rubber spikes you sometimes see on the road are.

Visitors to SAFE are encouraged to discuss the blog topics, suggest a new topic for a future article or submit traffic safety requests.

On another social media front, Transportation launched a Twitter page, from which it tweets in a timely way about road construction, traffic delays and other transportation issues.

"Road closed today and tomorrow for construction" may be what you see on Twitter when you follow <http://twitter.com/bvuetrans>.

In the past month, transportation-oriented tweets have been posted on Bellevue's general Twitter page (<http://twitter.com/bellevuewa>). Major traffic and transportation issues will continue to be posted on the city's general page.

If you have any questions about @BvueTrans, please contact Tresa Berg, Transportation Public Involvement Manager, at 425-452-4638 or Tberg@bellevuewa.gov.



Pet etiquette lacking near some schools



Becca Smith of Bellevue practices good pet etiquette, caring for dogs at the Robinswood Park off-leash dog area.

Pets bring companionship, loyalty and playful personalities to our lives. But as residents near four Bellevue schools can attest, it really stinks when people forget about the responsibilities that come with pet ownership.

Regional Animal Services of King County field officers will step up enforcement near Woodridge, Eastgate and Phantom Lake elementary schools as well as Tillicum Middle School in response to reports of unleashed dogs and dog poop being left on public property, including fields, sidewalks and planting strips.

Most pets, including dogs and cats, must be licensed, and dogs must be on a leash and their waste picked up. The penalty for not licensing is \$125 for pets that have been spayed or neutered and \$250 for unaltered pets. Owners who let their dogs run loose in public spaces must pay a \$50 fine.

Pet waste poses a threat to people, other pets and the environment. The waste contains parasites and bacteria that can be harmful, causing illnesses with symptoms ranging from fever to diarrhea. Children, older people and people battling chronic illnesses are most at risk.

Pet waste can also pollute streams and lakes, increasing phosphorus and nitrogen in the water – reducing oxygen levels for fish and amphibians.

Responsible pet owners who license, leash and pick up after their dogs, avoid fines, but also benefit themselves and the community in a multitude of ways:

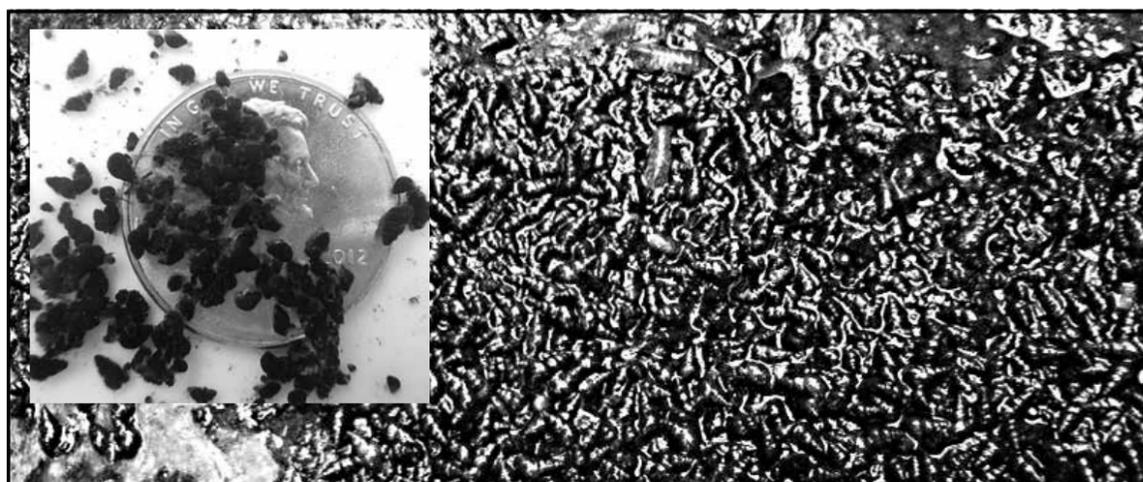
- Leashing your dog so it doesn't cause traffic accidents, get hurt or scare people or animals.
- Keeping your dog on your property and bringing it inside when it barks are neighborly actions.
- Vaccinating your pets against rabies, which is now required by state law.
- Spaying or neutering your pet to keep the population in check.

A licensed pet, with identifying information on the tag, is far more likely to be reunited with its owner. Animal Services will attempt to deliver your pet home to you immediately, skipping a trip to the animal shelter. Animals brought to the shelter are held for a longer period when they are licensed as well.

License fees also fund field investigations of reported cruelty, abuse and neglect of animals and the Regional Animal Services Shelter that provides a caring home for abandoned, lost or neglected animals in our community.

Licensing your dog or cat is easy – just visit City Hall or go online to www.kingcounty.gov/safety/regionalAnimalServices/License.aspx. Licenses are \$30 for altered pets (\$15 for seniors) and \$60 for unaltered pets.

New Zealand mud snails invade Kelsey and Valley creeks



Snails are rampant in Olympia's Capitol Lake.

New Zealand mud snails are attacking Kelsey and Valley creeks. These invasive snails are tiny, but they reproduce at anything but a snail's pace, spreading rapidly by cloning, damaging habitat as they spread.

The snails have little nutritional value, crowd out native invertebrates important to the aquatic food chain and have a detrimental impact on fish populations and vegetation.

The only other area where New Zealand

mud snails have been found in the Lake Washington area, to date, is Thornton Creek in Seattle. Able to live for weeks on damp gear, the snails can be easily transported by people, which is probably how they got to Bellevue.

There is no way to control these fast-growing snails once established. That's the bad news. The good news is that residents can help prevent their spread.

When you leave a body of water anywhere, scrub off any sediment, organisms or debris from all boots, clothing and gear. Drain any water collected in gear before you leave a site. Rinse all gear in potable water and then allow it to be completely dry under low humidity conditions.

Mud snails can live for weeks in felt on boots, so soak boots in ammonia or 409 Degreaser for 10 minutes prior to drying.

Gear must remain totally dry for a minimum of 48 hours before reuse. Visit http://wdfw.wa.gov/ais/potamopyrgus_antipodarum/ for more information on New Zealand mud snails and other proper decontamination procedures.

More bike parking downtown

This fall the city will install 20 new bicycle racks on sidewalks throughout downtown Bellevue, pushing the total number of public racks in the area to more than 100. More bike racks means fewer bicycles locked to trees, railings and sign posts, which is better for cyclists and improves sidewalk access.

The new racks will be installed at popular bicycling destinations where public bicycle parking options are limited, such as Old Bellevue and the northern portion of 106th Avenue Northeast. Additional racks will also be placed near entrances to Bellevue Square Mall and along Northeast Eighth Street, by the Bellevue Transit Center.

The new, compact bike racks are easily recognizable as bicycle parking, can accommodate up to two bicycles and take up less space than typical racks. The design is sleeker and they are painted black to compliment the stylish coffee cup bike racks that were installed in 2009.

The City Council allocates approximately \$400,000 each year for small pedestrian and bicycle improvements. This year's bike rack project costs \$5,000.

In the future, more bike racks will be installed downtown, as needed. Individuals and businesses may request future locations downtown by contacting Catherine Silva, at 425-452-4183 or csilva@bellevuewa.gov.

New incentive program for downtown commuters

Residents and workers in downtown Bellevue can add a little green to their wallets or pocketbooks – and to their commutes – simply by taking a bus, bike or vanpool to work.

A new program, "Downtown Bellevue On the Move," offers rewards and travel assistance to downtown residents and workers who try a commute mode other than driving alone. After 25 days of logging round-trip commutes by bus, carpool, vanpool, bike or foot, eligible participants who live or work in downtown Bellevue can earn a \$50 gift card for businesses including Union 76, Gregg's Cycles and iTunes.

Those who continue to log commute trips will be entered into drawings for more rewards.

Interested commuters can sign up at www.DBOnTheMove.org. The website also includes travel resources such as vanpool and carpool partner matching, personalized commute planning assistance and commute cost calculator.

Master naturalists give and receive



Lara Vyas

Lara Vyas can identify just about any plant in Bellevue's parks, and she's no stranger to the local wildlife either. One of the city's master naturalists, Vyas has volunteered more than 100 hours leading field trips and providing environmental education.

In return for training from staff in the Parks & Community Services Department's Natural Resources division, master naturalists volunteer, Vyas has applied what she's learned to train teens about wetland plants and teach residents how to create a backyard wildlife habitat and restore wildlife habitat from invasive species.

"While I have always upheld sustainable, eco-friendly practices in my garden design and coaching, this recognition and experience has propelled me to being closely involved in my commitment to community outreach and environmental education," Vyas says.

The city offers master naturalist training, which includes introduction to local plants, animals and other aspects of the natural world, in February. If you are interested, contact Laura Harper at LHarper@bellevuewa.gov or Alex DySard at ADysard@bellevuewa.gov.

Teens blaze trails, career and otherwise

Every year Bellevue teens help maintain the city's world-class walking trails. When 10 Bellevue high school students renovated a mile of trails this summer, they learned valuable lessons about caring for our natural resources too.

The teens did the work, which included building a new trail in Chism Beach Park, through Well KEPT (Kids Environmental Project Training), a 26-year program operated by the Parks & Community Services Department's Natural Resources division.

In addition to drawing a paycheck in a year when summer jobs were scarce, the participants received training in effective trail design, low-impact construction techniques and environmental stewardship. Staff leading young people on Well KEPT projects also strive to instill strong self-esteem, good work habits and sound environmental ethics.

The work focuses on park land renovation and maintenance, and typical projects include forest enhancement, wetland restoration and trail construction. This year the Well KEPT crew accomplished many things, including:

Clearing nearly an acre of invasive weeds such as Himalayan blackberry, morning glory, Japanese knotweed and English holly from Bellevue parks, while learning first-hand about the detriments of noxious vegetation;



Helping control the spread of plants such as purple loosestrife, jewelweed and policeman's helmet in the Kelsey Creek drainage system, as they gained knowledge and experience about hydrology and stormwater management;

Planting trees and clearing trails in Killarney Glen Park, while learning about the ecological benefits of trees and native vegetation; and working at the Mercer Slough Blueberry farm, while learning about Bellevue's cultural and agricultural heritage.

The group also participated in formal workshops taught by professionals in native plant identification, soil and survey analysis, stream health and water quality, wetland ecology and management, and recycling/composting.

Participants in Well KEPT must be attending high school in Bellevue. They earn minimum wage. Applications for the summer 2013 program will be available in the spring. For more information see www.bellevuewa.gov/well-kept.htm or call Alex DySard at 425-452-4195.

Tips on safe home delivery

The Bellevue Police Department provides crime prevention tips throughout the year. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when having packages delivered to your home, especially with the holiday season approaching.

- Require a signature for home deliveries.
- Sign up for email/ text response when the package is delivered and have an available neighbor pick up your package.
- Have the package sent to a corporate store, UPS / FedEx Office.
- If you are going to have a package delivered to your home, make it difficult for someone to see the package from the street.
- Always insure the package.
- Have the package sent to a trusted friend/relative/neighbor, if they are home most of the day.
- Have the package sent to your workplace.
- Instead of ordering directly from the Internet site, call the toll-free number and ask about the shipping alternatives.
- Don't leave a note on the door! That just tells the burglar you aren't home.
- Start a block watch. Stay-at-home neighbors may be able to assist you with package deliveries.

Medicare open enrollment starts

With Medicare open enrollment Oct. 15-Dec. 7, the Social Security Administration is encouraging people with Medicare and their families to start reviewing drug and health plan coverage options for 2013. Seniors and people with disabilities can compare and find the best plan that meets their unique needs.

Using Medicare's Plan Finder - available at www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan - users can find the best plan in their area and see if their current plan is highly rated or may have some problems. The Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA), part of the State Insurance Commissioner's consumer protection services, offers free, unbiased assistance. Go to www.insurance.gov/shiba.index or call 800-562-6900.

In 2012, there were a number of improvements to Medicare such as; additional benefits to people with Medicare include lower prescription drug costs through a 50 percent discount on covered brand name drugs in the coverage gap (also referred to as the "donut hole"), wellness checkups and access to certain preventive care with no copayments.

Visit www.medicare.gov or www.socialsecurity.gov and see what changes are ahead for 2013.

Once a mediator always a mediator



Barbara Barnes

Dozens of people who live or work in Bellevue have volunteered for the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program, helping neighbors, family members and others to resolve disputes. Free training gives Bellevue's mediators skills they never lose.

"My mediation skills follow me everywhere I go, as long as I stay mindful," notes one mediator, Henry Smilowicz.

People who have volunteered with Neighborhood Mediation affirm the program's value, noting that they use techniques and approaches they've learned in a variety of situations. Learn more about the mediation program, including trainings at www.bellevuewa.gov/mediation.htm.

Barb Miller, a teacher with the Lifetime Learning Center in Seattle, said she helped rewrite her neighborhood's covenant and helped neighbors settle a dispute over a tree. She has worked to mediate conflicts at her church, and even gave a lay sermon there on peacemaking.

Barbara Barnes says her mediation training

and experience was very valuable and even transformative. She says she uses her skills as president of a toastmaster's club, in relationships and professionally.

"It is fun when friends call and ask me how to present clear messages or how to get disentangled from conflict," Barnes said.

"Of course, family life is where we find the greatest arena for conflict and potential for resolution," Barnes added. "Just applying good listening, seriously considering the other person's perspective, makes a huge difference. My family is thrilled."



It's still a city in a park

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

Despite Bellevue's steady rise as a regional high-tech center, it is still "a city in a park." Participating in this year's Lake to Lake Walk, I got a chance to see and appreciate our city's diverse parks and open spaces.

If residents make a better effort to curb litter and graffiti, the city would really have it all.

Sometimes those of us who know Bellevue well do not even realize all that we have. For years, I had heard about the Lake to Lake Trail. In fact, when I was on the Park Board, the city purchased many properties to augment the trail.

While I had been on small parts of trail, I never explored the whole nine-mile route until Sept. 15, when I decided to try the 17-kilometer version of the annual Lake to Lake Walk, from Weowna Park by Lake Sammamish to the Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm.

Over a nearly four-hour trek that left me limping, I saw a range of park spaces, from beautiful urban forests and a farm to pristine sports fields and themed gardens, all at a pace that allowed me to process what I was seeing.

That Saturday morning I and about a dozen other walkers were bused from the Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm parking lot to Weowna Park, an urban forest where it was hard to believe I was in the major urban city on the Eastside.

I met and walked with a very nice woman from Vashon Island who had completed many American Volkssport Association (the event's cosponsor) events. Of the 150 some people who registered for the Lake to Lake walks, more than 75 percent had traveled from other cities to experience what we get to see every day.

When you're walking, you see the city from a different perspective than when you're driving. I discovered a trailhead off the Lake Hills Connector I'd never known existed despite driving that road thousands of times. Out on foot, I ran into an old college friend I hadn't seen in 10 years. I found out how his family was doing, and all because I made the effort to attempt this walk.



A Bellevue couple enjoys the Lake to Lake Trail by the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

At Kelsey Creek Park, we walked past pastures and barns and imagined when it was a working dairy farm, providing nourishment to the Eastside so many years ago. Events here each fall and spring celebrate our rich agricultural history.

The next segment of my journey took me to Wilburton Hill Park and the Bellevue Botanical Garden, The Wilburton Hill Park sports fields, with their new synthetic turf, looked pristine in the bright sun as I watched a youth soccer game. I remembered coaching on this field in the mud and the rain.

We almost have it all in Bellevue. Unfortunately, among all of the beauty, I saw trash along arterials and paths, as well as graffiti on street utility cabinets. In these tight monetary times, the city has to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in staff time and contractor fees to clean that up.

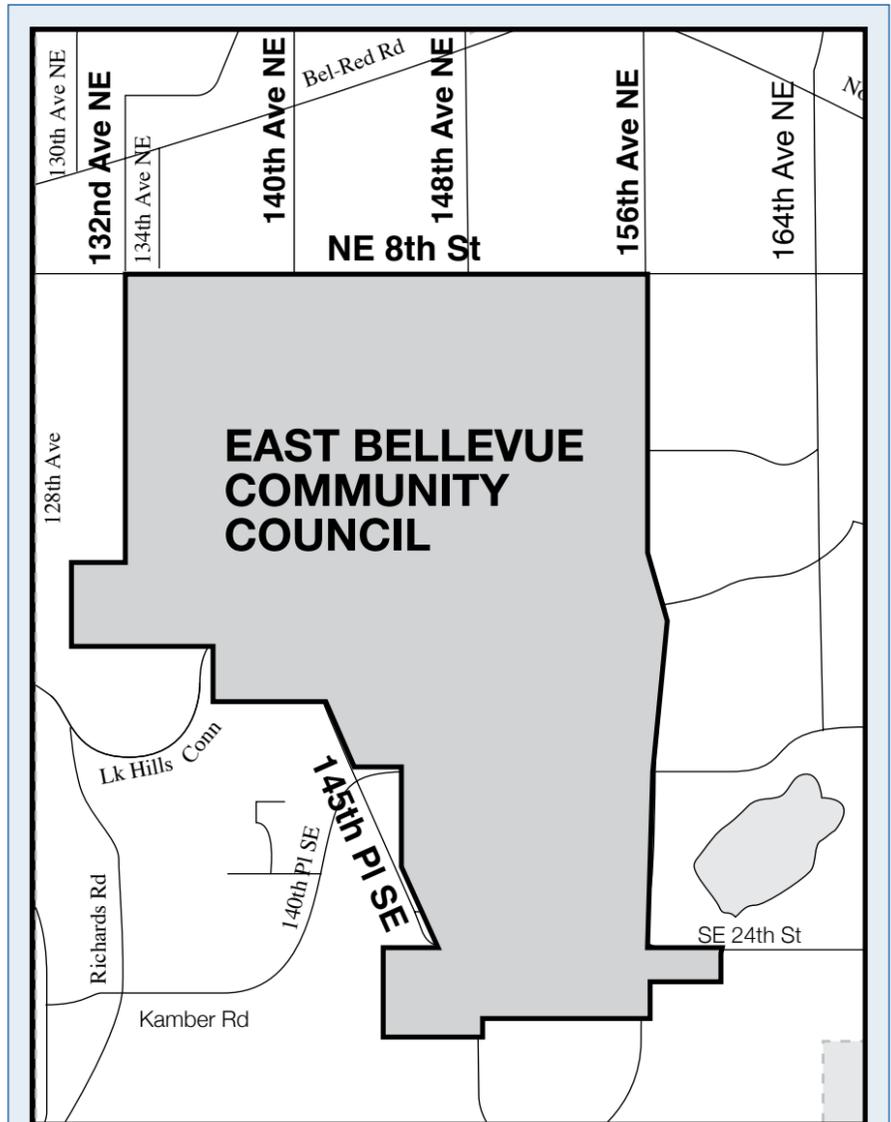
My fellow walkers said that it was not that bad for a major city, but that is not my standard of what Bellevue can become. I dream of a city where we would not have to spend time and money correcting those things because people would throw away their own garbage and doodle on their own property.

We each can help make that happen by picking up litter. At Disneyland, staff make a special effort to keep the property clean. Visitors notice and almost no one litters in Disneyland. I believe we can do that in Bellevue.

Back to the walk, we passed by the new buildings at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (the insides of which I still have not seen).

As we entered the Slough, my walking partners said many of their cities had nice nature areas, but no one had thought to connect them all together as Bellevue has. (Thank you Mr. Springgate).

The Lake to Lake Walk was one of the best mornings I ever had. Later that day I limped around Larson Lake with a friend. There was more of the city to see.



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

Gerald Hughes, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal, William Capron

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, www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm.

Former Neighborhood Outreach manager inspires

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair



Cheryl Kuhn

After 24 years with the city, our beloved Neighborhood Outreach manager, Cheryl Kuhn, has stepped down, and will use her immense talent to work on other projects. Leading a program both admired and imitated, Cheryl inspired me to volunteer for Bellevue.

If you ever worked with the Neighborhood Outreach team, you know what I am talking about. I met Cheryl when I went through Advance Bellevue, a leadership training program. She served on its board, focusing on student recruitment.

Cheryl's communications skills in addressing complex and controversial community issues have facilitated countless positive outcomes.

We could do great things for our community if we understood all its facets, she told us. I studied hard and I do not know if I have mastered all of its facets, but I learned a lot. I look forward to watching Cheryl have time to spend with her family and work on her many community interests.

I was lucky enough to be selected to participate on the hiring committee to fill Cheryl's massive shoes. By the time you read this, her successor should be in place.

Please welcome the new Neighborhood Outreach manager. Our neighborhoods (families, businesses and communities) are what make Bellevue what it is today, and Neighborhood Outreach facilitates so much.

Citywide Projects Update

Throughout the city, there are many projects in various stages of development. This update includes all projects with an estimated budget of \$100,000 or more, sorted by neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact the project manager.

Bridle Trails

Contact

Bridle Trails Park Levy Projects: Developing two parks in the Bridle Trails neighborhood. Master planning began Spring 2012. \$2.5 million	Scott VanderHyden, 425-452-4169 Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/bridle_trails_levy.htm
SR 520 Bridge Replacement & HOV Project: Rebuilding the floating bridge and replacing highway and interchanges between I-5 and Medina. For 520 closures, refer to WSDOT webpage. Construction underway. \$6.5 billion	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/sr520_bridge_intro.htm wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge
Eastside Transit & HOV Project: Completing and improving the 8.8 mile HOV system from Evergreen Point Road to the SR 202 interchange to improve access to and from SR 520. Construction complete 2013. \$306 million	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/MedinaTo202/
Pikes Peak 4.5 Million Gallon (MG) Reservoir: Replacing 1.0 MG reservoir in Bridle Trails State Park with a new 4.5 MG reservoir. Construction 2013-2014. \$8 million	Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov
132nd Avenue NE Bellevue/Kirkland Water Intertie: Building 650 linear feet of eight-inch water main and an automatic control valve to provide an emergency connection between Bellevue's and Kirkland's water systems for improved fire flow. Construction through Fall 2012. \$200,000	Dan Ross, 425-452-4362 Dross@bellevuewa.gov

Crossroads

Contact

Bellevue Youth Theatre Expansion: Constructing a new 12,000 square-foot multi-functional theater in Crossroads Community Park. Waiting for permits. Construction dates—depending on funding. \$8 million	Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326 Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/youth_theatre_expansion.htm
14701 NE 20th Street Rockery Project: Replacing deficient rockery. Construction Summer 2013. \$300,000	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov
Valley Creek - NE 21st Street Flood Control: Reducing flooding with a range of hydraulic improvements, including restoring the stream channel and replacing the NE 21st Street culvert. Construction summer 2013. \$500,000	Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240 Bjensen@bellevuewa.gov
Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2012 Ph. 2: Repairing existing sewer system. Multiple and various locations. Construction Fall 2012-Winter 2013. \$305,000.	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate/Cougar Mountain

Contact

Horizon View #3 Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation: Installing new pumps and a standby generator. Planning, design, & permitting. Construction: Fall/Winter 2013 - Spring 2014. \$1.2-1.8 million.	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
Lewis Creek Park: Replacing a trail that was washed away. Under construction. \$100,000.	Kevin Husemann, 425-452-4154 Khusemann@bellevuewa.gov
Newport Reservoir Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation: Installing new pumps and adding a standby generator. Construction through Spring 2013. \$880,000	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
Regional Detention Pond (Lakemont Boulevard SE near I-90): Improving storm drainage runoff water quality before it's released into Lewis Creek. Complete Fall 2012. \$700,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Newport Hills

Contact

Coal Creek Culvert: Replacing deteriorating metal culvert under Coal Creek Parkway. Enhances fish passage and provides a trail for hikers. Construction 2013. \$6.5 million	Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240 Bjensen@bellevuewa.gov
SE 60th Street/123rd Avenue SE Sidewalk: Adding a sidewalk on the south side of SE 60th Street and the east side of 123rd Avenue SE. Construction complete Fall 2012. \$150,000	Vangie Garcia, 425-452-6103, vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov

Northeast Bellevue

Contact

Northup Way at 156th, 160th, and 164th Avenues NE: Upgrading traffic signals to improve pedestrian safety at these intersections. Relocating crosswalk at 160th Avenue NE. Construction Fall 2012. \$700,000	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov
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Northwest Bellevue

Contact

112th Avenue NE south of NE 24th Street: Adding a sidewalk on the west side of 112th Avenue NE. Complete Winter 2013. \$100,000	Vangie Garcia, 425-452-6103, vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov
Northup Way Corridor Improvements: Adding a bike facility and improving sidewalks between NE 24th Street and 108th Avenue NE. At 108th Avenue NE, a new regional pedestrian/bike path will be built. (WSDOT is co-lead). Construction 2013. \$13.5 million	Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 Scosta@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/northup-corridor-pedbike.htm
Bellevue Way & NE 24th Street Traffic Signal Upgrade: Replacing the existing span wire signal, updating the curb ramps, and overlaying the intersection. Construction Fall 2012. \$500,000	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov
Yarrow Tributary Culvert: Restoring fish passage to the West Tributary of Yarrow Creek. Construction 2013. \$300,000	Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240 Bjensen@bellevuewa.gov

Sammamish/East Lake Hills

Contact

West Lake Sammamish Parkway, Phase I: I-90 to SE 34th Street: Designing Segment 1 (of 5) to include an improved multi-use trail, retaining walls, landscaping, and improved roadway drainage. Construction begins Winter 2013. \$6.56 million.	Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/west_lk_samm_parkway.htm
Bellevue Airfield Park: Constructing sports fields, trails, picnic facilities and storm water improvements over an existing landfill. Phase 1 Development, design, and permitting. \$10 million	Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326 Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov



Somerset/Sunset

Contact

Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG) Feasibility Study: Selecting a preferred alternative where to align the MTSG Trail between Factoria Boulevard and Lakemont Avenue SE. Developing a MTSG Report. \$198,000	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov
Storm Drainage Trenchless: Repairing several easements and adjacent streets. Construction complete October 2012, \$350,000	Vanaja Rajah, 425-452-4881, Vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

Contact

Downtown Transportation Plan: Evaluating transportation alternatives for new roadway capacity, improving non-motorized and transit facilities to ensure mobility through 2030. Planning complete Spring 2013. \$300,000	Kevin McDonald, 425-452-4558, Kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm
I-90 Two-Way Transit/High Occupancy Vehicle Project, Stage 2: With Sound Transit and WSDOT, improving eastbound I-90 from Mercer Island, HOV access at Bellevue Way, and HOV lanes. Construction complete Fall 2012. \$187 million	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/i-90_hov_intro.htm
Sewer Lake Line Replacement at Meydenbauer Bay: Installing new 1,200 lineal feet of sewer line on shore between Meydenbauer Beach Park and SE Bellevue Place. Construction starts Fall 2013. \$2 million	Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov
Sewer Lake Line Condition Assessment, Ph. I - Lake Washington: Studying location and condition of about 13 miles of buried sewer pipe from Yarrow Point to Renton. Phase 1 Study to be complete early 2013. \$450,000	Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov
Exposed Sanitary Sewer Lake Lines: Studying the condition of sewer lines and covering exposed lines with rock. Construction Fall 2012. \$200,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

West Lake Hills

Contact

Lake Hills Boulevard Landscaping: Replacing existing birch trees with landscaping beds, shrubs, and trees, with an irrigation system. Complete Fall 2012. \$116,000	Melissa Brown, 425-452-4100 Mbrown@bellevuewa.gov
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Wilburton

Contact

Bellevue Botanical Garden - Visitor Center Expansion: Constructing a new 8,500 square foot visitor center with an outdoor covered orientation space, gift shop, meeting areas, classrooms, and restrooms. Construction depends on fundraising. \$9 million	Ken Kroeger, 425-452-4624 kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/bbg_master_plan_update.htm
NE 4th Street Extension - 116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE: Extending NE 4th Street with five lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides, landscaping, storm drainage, street lighting, and a new traffic signal at 120th Avenue NE. Project is part of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal and is on holding pending Hearing Examiner's decision later this year. \$38.4 million	Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/ne-fourth-street-extension.htm
NE 5th Street Neighborhood Traffic Assessment: Constructing a temporary one-lane zone (near the BSD maintenance facility) to limit cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. Project is part of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal and is on holding pending Hearing Examiner's decision later this year. \$150,000	Vangie Garcia, 425-452-6103 Vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/NE-5th-traffic.htm
NE 6th Street Extension: I-405 to 120th Avenue NE: Extending NE 6th as an HOV/transit only facility from the I-405 interchange east over 116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE, with four lanes a non-motorized path. Conceptual Design Report complete. Design: TBD. \$1 million (Pre-design only)	Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/ne-sixth-extension.htm
120th Avenue NE Improvements - 300 Block to 700 Block, Stage 1: Widening to five lanes with center-turn lane, bike lanes, curb, gutter, and sidewalk, and adding a traffic signal at NE 6th Street. Project is part of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal and is on holding pending Hearing Examiner's decision later this year. \$7.5 million	Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 Scosta@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/120th-widening.htm
120th Avenue NE Improvements, Stage 2: Widening the roadway to five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, and sidewalks from NE 700 Block to NE 12th Street, with utility work. Project is part of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal and is on holding pending Hearing Examiner's decision later this year. \$31 million	Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/120th-widening-phase-2.htm
120th Avenue NE Improvements, Stage 3: Widening the roadway to four or five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, and sidewalks from NE 12th Street to Northup Way, with utility work. Project is part of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal and is on holding pending Hearing Examiner's decision later this year. \$1 million	Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/120th-widening-phase-2.htm
NE 15th Multi-Modal Corridor - 116th Avenue NE: NE 12th Street to 124th Avenue NE, Segment 1: Designing four lanes, left-turn lanes at designated intersections, sidewalk on both sides, bicycle facilities, street lighting, and storm drainage and detention. 30% engineering Spring 2012. \$5.4 million (Design only)	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/NE-15th-Street-construction.htm
124th Avenue NE: Proposed NE 15th/NE 16th Street Extension to Northup Way: Widening 124th Avenue NE to five lanes. 60% design Spring 2013 \$1.8 million (Design only)	Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

Woodridge

Contact

East Creek/Richards Creek Fish Passage Improvement & Stream Modification: Providing stable streambed control and channel and bank modifications. Construction Summer 2013. Design \$420,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
Sunset Creek/Richards Creek Flood Control & Habitat Improvement Project: Improving habitat along the stream channel to providing a healthier aquatic environment. Construction Summer 2013. \$650,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Various Locations

Contact

East Link Light Rail: Working collaboratively with Sound Transit to do the engineering design of the alignment from I-90 through the Bel-Red Corridor. City and Sound Transit select final cost-savings options by early 2013. Construction starts in 2014. \$2.8 billion	Bernard van de Kamp, 425-452-6459 BvandeKamp@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm www.soundtransit.org/eastlink
Bellevue Transit Master Plan: Developing a comprehensive 20-year look ahead to the type of transit system that will be required to meet transit needs through 2030. Budget TBD. Planning complete Spring 2013.	Franz Loewenherz, 425-452-4077 Floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov

SCAT Adaptive Traffic Signal System Deployment: Improving 41 traffic signals with adaptive technology. \$305,000	Mike Whiteaker, 425-452-4230 Mwhiteaker@bellevuewa.gov
AC Water Main Replacement 2012, Phase 2 & 3: Replacing approximately 3.4 miles of aging asbestos cement (AC) water main with ductile iron pipe. Ph. 2 Fall 2012. Ph. Winter 2013. \$4.3 million	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
PRV & Commercial Meter Vault Modifications 2012: Upgrading a control valve vault, a PRV vault, and two commercial water meter vaults to provide adequate maintenance access. Construction complete Fall 2012. \$200,000.	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
PRV Replacement 2013: Replacing aging pressure reducing valve stations to regulate water pressure in three neighborhoods. Construction Fall 2013. \$290,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2012, Phase 2: Repairing existing sewer system. Multiple and various locations. Construction Fall/Winter 2012. \$305,000	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Blame it on the rain



Utilities storm & surface water lead Trisha Tyo clears leaves from a storm drain, but staff can't get to all of them. Residents can do themselves a big favor by clearing debris from the grates near their home.

When rainy fall and winter weather return, any property can experience flooding, even one that isn't located in a floodplain. But there are actions you can take to prevent flooding, and now is a good time to get ready.

Do you live in a floodplain? In Bellevue, floodplains are located adjacent to streams, lakes or wetlands. If you're not sure if your property is in a floodplain, call Utilities at 425-452-6977 or check Bellevue's floodplain map at www.bellevuewa.gov/floodplain_map.htm.

Flood insurance is a requirement for properties in a floodplain that also have federally-backed mortgages. It is available at a 25 percent discount because of Bellevue's floodplain management program.

Most homeowner policies do not cover water damage if the flooding source is external to the building (flooding river, plugged storm drain or sewer pipe break). But flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program, even for properties not in a floodplain. Check with your insurance carrier to see what your policy covers.

If you need advice about drainage problems around your home, call Utilities at 425-452-7840.

When a heavy storm hits Bellevue, up-to-date information can be found at www.bellevuewa.gov/extreme_weather_response.htm. Sign up for Alerts, and you'll receive email or text updates about city actions.

- To prepare for heavy rains and avoid flooding, follow the tips below:
- To report water main breaks at your home or business, or lack of water, please call the Utilities 24-hour emergency number at 425-452-7840.
- If you've experienced water in your crawlspace, you may want to install a sump pump. If you already own a pump, test it now.
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts and remove leaves from clogged storm drain grates near your home.
- Remove sediment, debris and rocks from private driveway or road culverts and drainage swales. Check the yellow pages or the Internet for vendors who clean drainage systems.
- Preserve natural drainage systems by not filling in or blocking the flows in streams, wetlands or ditches. Do not put yard debris or other items in streams where they could block stream flow. Call 425-452-7840 to report dumping.
- Leave natural vegetation on steep slopes and along streams and lakes. Plants slow stormwater runoff and help stabilize the earth so it won't wash away.
- All development projects near streams and wetlands must meet setback requirements. For information on development projects near streams or in floodplain areas, call the city's Permit Center at 425-452-6864. Report non-permitted activities within a floodplain to the city's Code Compliance Office at 425-452-4570.
- Remember that during a storm, it's normal for streams to rise and that some parking lots and parks are designed to fill with water.

Tips for braving ice and snow

Although forecasters are predicting a drier winter in the Northwest this year, winter storms can happen in any year, so it's always wise to be prepared for snow and ice. The city will keep you informed about extreme weather conditions in Bellevue, including driving conditions and road closures, at http://bellevuewa.gov/extreme_weather_response.htm.

The web page includes a snow priorities map and emergency tips and phone numbers. You can sign up for Alerts to receive an email or text whenever there is an update.

Be prepared

Avoid driving during severe weather unless absolutely necessary. Before driving in snow or ice, check the snow priority response map to plan routes which are less steep and are likely to be serviced first.

Check conditions and prepare your vehicle, including traction tires or pre-tested chains. Have warm clothes, water, a cell phone and other items in your car in case you get stuck. Give snowplows plenty of room to work and watch out for black ice on bridges, ramps and shady areas.

City crews follow a plan

Citywide and neighborhood priority routes are cleared first to accommodate fire, medical and police response, transit, schools buses and commuter traffic. After that, secondary streets are cleared. If snow continues, plows may need to continue working on priority routes.

View the priority ranking of streets citywide using Bellevue's snow response priorities map at www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/SnowRoute_11x17.pdf. To check the condition of city streets in real time,

see the city's network of intersection cameras and the online traffic map at <http://trafficmap.cityofbellevue.net>.





Community Calendar

Zombies

Oct. 26, 27 and Nov. 2, 3 at 7 p.m.
Oct. 28, Nov. 3, 4 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16661 Northup Way
Light-hearted look at the undead, written for BYT.
\$10-\$12 per ticket
425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov.

Coat and Toy Drives

Donate a new or gently used coat to the Kids Care Coat Drive or a new, unwrapped toy or gift certificate to benefit infants, children and teens this holiday season through the Crossroads Community Center
16000 NE 10th St.
425-452-4874

Veterans Day Dance

Nov. 13, 2-4 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE
Sound of Swing performs.
Ages 18+, \$3; No preregistration required. 425-452-7681

Snow White

Nov. 9, 10, 16, 17 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 11, 17, 18 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16661 Northup Way
Brothers Grimm re-imagined with elements of music.
\$10-\$12 per ticket
425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave NE.
Staff and volunteers will serve a delicious turkey and trimmings feast. Entertainment provided.
Preregistration required by Nov. 10. Cosponsored by Catholic Community Services.
\$3-\$6 suggested donation per participant. All ages welcome.
425-452-7681

Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Crossroads Community Center
16000 NE 10th St
Cosponsored by Aldersgate Methodist Church
(Family Crafts: 5:30 p.m.; Dinner: 6 p.m.) Free for Bellevue families in need. No preregistration required.
All ages welcome. 425-452-4874

Thanksgiving Day Indoor Cycling Classes

Nov. 22, 7 a.m., 8:15 a.m. or 9:30 a.m.
South Bellevue Community Center
14509 SE Newport Way
Free one-hour cycling class to benefit Eastside Domestic Violence with suggested donations. Please request a list of requested donation items when you call to reserve your spot. Advance reservation required.
Ages 13+ 425-452-4240

"Fit for the Feast" Masters swim workout,

Nov. 22, 9 to 11 a.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center
601 143rd Ave NE.
Ages 19 and up. All abilities are welcome. Cost is \$10, includes a t-shirt. 425-452-2806

Clara and the Nutcracker

Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m.
Dec. 2, 8 and 9 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16661 Northup Way
Before the famous ballet, there was the book. See the story come to life as a wonderful play for all ages.
\$10-\$12 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Youth Holiday Party

Dec. 11, 4:30-7 p.m.
Crossroads Community Center
16000 NE 10th St.
Bellevue infants, youth and teens in need can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy entertainment and refreshments and receive a gift. Child must be present to receive a gift. Free event for Bellevue families in need.
No preregistration required.
425-452-4874

Celebrate Snow Dance

Dec. 11, 2-4 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE.
Enjoy favorites of the Big Band era with the Sounds of Swing band.
\$3 per person at the door. Preregistration not required.
425-452-7681

Holiday Luncheon

Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE.
Festive holiday meal cosponsored by Catholic Community Services. Seasonal music preceding lunch. Preregister by Nov. 5. \$3 to \$6 suggested donation per participant. All ages welcome. 425-452-7681



Couples dance at the North Bellevue Community Center, where Sound of Swing plays the second Tuesday of each month, 2-4 p.m.

Bellevue Magic Season Events

Garden d'Lights

Nov. 24-Dec. 31, 5-10 p.m. nightly
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
Over a half million lights transform the Bellevue Botanical Garden into a blossoming winter wonderland.
\$5 per ticket. Children ages 10 and under are free.
Advance tickets required and are available online at:
www.gardendlights.org
425-452-6844

Group Health Ice Arena

Nov. 23-Jan. 13; open daily, hours vary.
Bellevue Downtown Park
NE First St. and 102nd Ave. NE.
Partial open-air rink (the only one in the Seattle area) and a heated tent for spectators.
\$10 admission includes skate rentals. \$7 admission if with skates.
425-453-3110 or www.magicseason.com

Snowflake Lane

Nov 25-Dec. 24
Bellevue Way & NE 8th St.
Snow falls nightly as live toy soldiers and winter characters, music, and a dazzling light show brighten the night.
425-454-8096 or www.magicseason.com

Youth Appreciation and Safety Day

Nov. 23, noon-2 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center
601 143rd Ave. NE
For children ages 12 and under, promoting water safety and offering free swimming. Free T-shirts to the first 50 children 12 and under, free raffle drawings throughout the event. Free for children 12 and under; \$6 for ages 13+.
425- 452-4444

Annie

Nov. 23 and 24 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 24 and 25 at 2 p.m.
Meydenbauer Theatre
11100 NE 6th St.
Classic Broadway musical with dancing, singing and classic songs "Tomorrow" and "Hard Knock Life." All ages.
\$10-\$12 per ticket.
425-452-7155

Hilltop Holiday Craft Show

Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center
9825 NE 24th St.
Thousands of quality crafts from more than 80 of Northwest's finest artists and crafters. Free.
425-452-4106 or Hilltop.Crafts@frontier.com

Holiday Ball

Dec. 1, 7 to 11 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE.
The Sound of Swing will perform.
\$15 per participant, ages 18-100+ .
Preregistration is not required.
425-452-7681

Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Celebrations

Dec. 12, Newcastle Beach Park
4400 Lake Washington Blvd. SE,
8:20-8:40 p.m.
Dec. 14, Meydenbauer Beach Park
419 98th Ave. NE, 7:50 to 8:10 p.m.
Welcome the Seattle Civic Christmas Ship from onshore and enjoy a beach fire.
Free. Preregistration is not required.
425-452-4106 or NWAC@bellevuewa.gov

Visions of Sugarplum

Dec. 8, 10-11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center
9825 NE 24th St.
Make mini-gingerbread houses, sing songs, dance and eat yummys!
Ages 2-5, \$20-\$25/non-residents. Additional child cost is \$5-\$6
Preregistration is required.
425-452-4106 or NWAC@bellevuewa.gov

www.facebook.com/bellevuewashington

City Contact Information

Bellevue City Hall

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

Service First (general information): 452-6800

City of Bellevue website: www.bellevuewa.gov

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.

East Bellevue 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: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Network On Aging: 1st Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

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

Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd Thursday 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: 452-7681

South Bellevue: 452-4240

East Bellevue Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services: 452-6800

New permit applications: 452-4898

Inspection requests, application and inspection status, pay fees: 452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: MyBuildingPermit.com

Application and inspection status: MyBuildingPermit.com

Code Compliance: 452-4570

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

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: 452-4883

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 452-4200

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

Planning & Community Development: 452-7892

Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

Emergency Only: 911

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-2979; Residential 452-6915

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-7658

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

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

Volunteering: 452-5375

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

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Bellevue City Council



Conrad Lee
Mayor



Jennifer Robertson
Deputy Mayor



Claudia Balducci



John Chelminiak



Don Davidson



John Stokes



Kevin Wallace

Hot topics at Cultural Conversations

Since Cultural Conversations was launched in 2010, it has offered Bellevue women of all backgrounds a way to connect over a range of hot topics.

At the Oct. 16 meeting, participants explored the evolving nature of the American dream, which varies as the country becomes more diverse. Paula Matthyse, outreach director for the Eastside Community Network, facilitated the discussion.

A partnership between diverse women in the community and the city's Neighborhood Outreach team, Cultural Conversations are monthly gatherings, usually 1-2:30 p.m., at the Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St. The events are free, with refreshments served and women of all ages, faiths and cultures welcome to attend.

Only one meeting is scheduled for the remainder of 2012 - an ethnic potluck, noon-2 p.m., on Dec. 4. Dates and topics for next year include:

- Jan. 8:, genealogy and history - empowerment from cultural roots and ancestors;
- Feb. 12: rituals surrounding death, dying and funeral traditions;
- March 19: cultural expectations;
- April 23: stress relievers in different cultures; and
- June 4: cultural attitudes toward money and financial security.

Budget, from front page

With \$350,000, the city would develop an economic development strategy, including branding and marketing, intended to increase the number of businesses moving to and staying in Bellevue. The remaining \$115,000 would launch implementation of a plan for long-term growth in the Eastgate/Interstate 90 corridor.

The preliminary CIP budget includes \$6.2 million reserved for emerging, high-priority capital needs for economic development and neighborhoods.

Overall, the draft capital and operating budgets, totaling \$1.29 billion for 2013 and 2014, provide a plan to continue quality services that residents rely on. In response to a budget survey earlier this year, four out of five (81 percent) Bellevue residents said they feel they are getting their money's worth.

For the second time, Bellevue's budget is structured around community priorities (called outcomes) approved by the council in February. "Results teams," made up of city staff, ranked all services proposed to meet those outcomes, then funded with available revenue based on the rankings.

The community outcomes are: economic growth and competitiveness; healthy and sustainable environment; improved mobility; innovative, vibrant, and caring community; quality neighborhoods; responsive government; and safe community.

Bellevue IT'S YOUR CITY

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

or send email to ciosso@bellevuewa.gov

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