

# Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

February 2013

## Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Finishes Well, Neighborhood Leadership Gatherings Begin

After 24 years, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) is drawing to a conclusion.

Originally launched in 1988, NEP provided residents the opportunity to select small capital projects for city-funded improvements in their neighborhoods. NEP sparked community efforts to come together with the City of Bellevue and build something positive in their own neighborhoods. The success of NEP has been attributed to its guiding philosophy – that residents themselves are in the best position to decide how to improve their own neighborhoods. After running twenty four years, the most critical small neighborhood projects (well over 430 projects!) have been completed! These projects met a wide array of neighborhood needs; improving playgrounds, parks, trail connections, sidewalk links, landscaping and public art.



The Neighborhood Enhancement Projects ran on a three-year cycle – with residents voting in their neighborhood areas for their top priorities for small capital projects. Beginning in 2011, with the fiscal reality prompting cost-saving measures, the City of Bellevue prioritized completing its commitments for its approved NEP projects. As these projects near

completion, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program will come to an end. All previously approved projects will be completed, but no further applications for NEP projects will be considered.

The City remains committed to listening to neighborhoods and looking for new ways to invest in the health and vitality of our neighborhoods. The guiding philosophy of NEP, that residents themselves are in the best position to decide how to improve their own neighborhoods, still holds true today. Neighborhood Outreach will be revitalizing the Neighborhood Match program to leverage community collaboration and provide small matching grants for neighborhood projects. Neighborhood Forums will provide platforms to deepen our neighborhood conversations about the issues that matter to us most, including topics like public safety, environmental stewardship and economic development.

And most importantly, Neighborhood Outreach will be responsive to new ideas and community input on how to best strengthen our neighborhoods and work together to maintain the quality of life that we have come to enjoy. This year we will convene “Neighborhood Leadership Gatherings” to identify emerging areas of need and help shape the next vision for neighborhood investment. Neighborhood leaders are invited to share their priorities for 2013 at the first gathering on Feb. 26, 5:30-7 p.m., at City Hall.

We have much to celebrate with the accomplishments that occurred through the Neighborhood Enhancement Program. If you would like to comment, share a success story of how NEP impacted your neighborhood or participate in new neighborhood initiatives to build up our communities, please contact Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood and Community Outreach Manager, at [mmhuent@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mmhuent@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-4502-4089.

## Bellevue Women to Share Cultural Practices Around Death and Mourning

Bellevue residents from all over the world will get an opportunity to share their stories and their rituals around death and dying at a **Cultural Conversations** meeting on **Tuesday February 12th (1 p.m.)** at the **Crossroads Community Center**.



Rita Egrari, a long time Cultural Conversations participant will share her own personal story of loss in a multi-cultural family and give the group a chance to learn about the Bhai faith rituals. Other women will also share their stories to include many other faiths and cultural practices including stories from Taiwan, China, Somalia and the US. The meeting will begin promptly at 1 and will end at 2:30 p.m.

Sharing stories is a powerful way to learn about cultures other than your own. When we gain knowledge through stories we can support and connect with our neighbors with deeper understanding and respect. Participants will have an opportunity to share their own experience and perspectives in small groups during the event.

*Cultural Conversations* was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City's Neighborhood Outreach Team. The concept was initiated by women who hoped to develop community connections and enhance their knowledge and understanding of different cultural practices and world views. Monthly gatherings include women from all around the world. The events are free, refreshments are served and women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. Meetings are held Tuesdays at Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10<sup>th</sup> St. Meetings scheduled through June 2013 are:

- ✚ Mar. 19, 1-2:30 p.m. Cultural expectations
- ✚ Apr. 23, 1-2:30 p.m. Stress relievers in different cultures
- ✚ June 4, 1-2:30 p.m. Cultural attitudes toward money & financial security

For more information, contact Ying Carlson at 425-452-4342 or [ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov) or Barb Tuininga at 425-452-2800 or [btuininga@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:btuininga@bellevuewa.gov)

## Lake Hills Shopping Center Moves Forward on Development

The development of the new Lake Hills Commercial Center is underway! The recently vacated commercial center is now ready for demolition to begin in the next couple of weeks. The construction of a new garage is planned to begin this spring, with new residential and commercial construction to follow. This is an exciting time to watch the progress as the commercial center is transformed into a vibrant retail and residential space for the community. So please, pardon the dust and stay tuned!



For more information, please contact Liz Stead at 425-452-2725 or [estead@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:estead@bellevuewa.gov)

## Come Plan Bellevue's Future with Us

Ever think about what Bellevue will be like in the future? Think about how much has changed in the past 30 years. Bellevue has gone from a sleepy bedroom community to a city that is a diverse regional center of commerce with global connections.

The next 30 years are sure to bring more dramatic changes. What will our neighborhoods look like? How will we get around? Where will we play, shop, and work? Will it still be a city you want to live in – and leave to your children?



Bellevue city planners want to hear your hopes, concerns and visions about the future as they begin to update the Comprehensive Plan, the city's vision for the future. The Comprehensive Plan will look to what Bellevue will be like in 2030, 2040, and beyond. It helps the city plan for places to live, learn and play, for jobs and a strong local economy, and for creating and preserving a healthy environment.

Your participation is vital to provide thoughts on what issues should be the focus of the update, to help guide and shape the plan, and to ensure that the plan continues to embrace the community's vision.

For more information, visit the City website at <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/comp-plan-update.htm> or contact Paul Inghram at 425-452-4070 or [Pinghram@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Pinghram@bellevuewa.gov)

## Neighborhood Leadership Gathering

The Neighborhood Outreach Team will be hosting a *Neighborhood Leadership Gathering* in February at City Hall. This is an excellent opportunity for the leaders of neighborhood associations and boards, as well as emerging community leaders to share their neighborhood priorities for the coming year. It is also a chance to meet our new Neighborhood Outreach staff at the City.



**When:** February 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:00pm

**Where:** Room 1E-113, Bellevue City Hall, 450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

## February Meetings

*(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)*

**2/4 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) East Link Land Use Code Amendments, PSRC Growing Transit Communities, Hearing Examiner matter on Sammamish High School CUP (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) State of the County Report, Consent Calendar, Ratify Countywide Planning Policies [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)  
**2/5 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Election of 2013 Council Officers, Courtesy Public Hearing on a Land Use Code Amendment for Retail Auto Sales in Office/Limited Business District, Department Report of Code Compliance and Neighborhood Mediation Processes [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)  
**2/5 Human Services Commission & Parks & Community Services Board** (6:30, 1E-113) Single Adult Shelter Task Force Report, feedback on 2013-2014 Human Services Needs Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**2/5 Arts Commission** (4:30, 1E-109) Comprehensive Plan Update, Cultural Demographic Survey Update, Cultural Compass Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm)

**2/7 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES) Stormwater Management Program Recommendation, Stream Team Update, 2012 Solid Waste Contract Performance Review, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm)

**2/7 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30-10:30am, 1E-120) Civic Engagement presentation, Committee reports [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network\\_on\\_aging.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm)

**2/11 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) King County Solid Waste ILA, East Link Land Use Code Amendments Public Hearing, Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**2/12 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, 1E-112) Agenda to be determined [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm)

**2/13 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Office/Limited Business (OLB) District retail auto sales [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**2/14 Transportation Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Downtown Transportation Plan, Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative (MII) projects update, Development Code update Bel-Red area street naming, NE 6th St. [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm)

**2/18 President's Day** – All city offices closed

**2/21 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**2/19 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Transit Master Plan, East Link Land Use Code Amendments, Downtown Transit Plan Update (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Sammamish High School CUP [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**2/25 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues, Solid Waste Contract discussion, Comprehensive Plan Update, Medical Marijuana [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**2/27 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Public Hearing on the Office/Limited Business (OLB) District code amendment regarding retail auto sales [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

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Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.