

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

May 2011

Second forum focuses on neighborhood connections

Building connections among neighbors – with a special emphasis on youth, senior citizens and multicultural neighbors – is the topic of the second Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum, scheduled for Thursday, May 12, at the Crossroads Community Center.

Everyone is invited to attend the forum, which continues the community-building theme established at the first Neighborhoods Forum with author Peter Lovenheim. (See related article for results of April 6 forum.) The May 12 discussion will get underway with a panel of experts exploring ways to build strong personal and community connections that embrace the city's diversity in an era of demographic change. The panelists are:

- Helena Stephens, Bellevue Family, Youth & Teen Services Manager;
- Ralph Ibarra, Diversity Consultant; and
- Joanne Donohue, Vice President of Senior Services of King County.

Following the panel, forum participants will choose their primary area of interest – youth, aging, or multicultural relationships – and continue discussion with the panelist in that focus area.

Scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m., the forum will include dinner courtesy of sponsor *Chipotle Mexican Grill*. The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required and space is limited. For reservations, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Seven neighborhood sponsors also helped make the Neighborhoods Forums possible:
*Surrey Downs Community Club ~ Sunset Community Association ~ Somerset Community Association
Newport Hills Community Club ~ Whispering Heights & Collingwood Community Association
Horizon Heights Community Association ~ Horizon Crest Community Association*

Save the date for Neighbor Link picnic

All neighborhoods are invited to join in the fun at the third annual Neighbor Link picnic on **Saturday, July 23, noon-2 p.m.** at Crossroads Community Park. The event will be a celebration of Bellevue neighborhoods – with a day of old fashioned fun, including a \$1.00 hotdog lunch, games, entertainment for all ages, prizes and more.



Help the Babies! At the picnic, one goal is to collect 5,000 diapers for Eastside Baby Corner, enough to supply needy Eastside babies for a week. Individuals or neighborhoods that donate 500 diapers will receive special recognition. Set up a diaper drive in your neighborhood and help Bellevue babies thrive!



For more information about Neighbor Link programs and the diaper drive, contact Julie in Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-5372.

Reduced maintenance is a budget reality

As seasons change and families spend more time outside, residents may notice changes in the maintenance of some Bellevue streetscapes. Due to recent budget constraints, staff has had to reduce maintenance on sites that previously were maintained.

All streetscapes will continue to be maintained for safety purposes, but many routine maintenance activities will be discontinued, including weeding, shrub and ground cover pruning, litter pick-up, and the annual flower program. Staff will respond to such safety issues as sight-distance obstructions, shrubs growing out into the walking surfaces or in bike lanes, etc.



If residents would like to provide additional maintenance for right-of-way in their neighborhood, Parks staff will collaborate on the best approach to keeping neighborhood landscapes looking their best. To report safety issues or discuss collaborative efforts, contact: Melissa Brown, 425-452-6454; Mike Hauer, 425-452-4480; or Tom Kuykendall, 425-452-7924.

Funds still available for neighborhood match projects

Matching funds are still available for neighborhoods planning a neighborhood improvement project to be completed in 2011. Qualifying projects include:

- Small construction projects – Entry treatments, landscaping, mailbox stand replacement, etc.;
- Clean-up projects – Clean green collection, junk removal, community garage sales, etc.;
- Community-building – Neighborhood directories, organizing, membership building, etc.

For more information, see the web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/9513.htm> and contact Patricia Knight, 425-452-7917, pknight@bellevuewa.gov.

Bellevue residents pool ideas for connecting neighborhoods

Peter Lovenheim, author of *In the Neighborhood* and speaker at the April 6 Neighborhoods Forum, settled on neighborhood sleepovers as the best way to get to know his neighbors.

The hundred or so Bellevue residents who attended the April 6 forum weren't ready to go quite that far. But, after breaking into small discussion groups, they did come up with some interesting ideas for building neighbor-to-neighbor connections. Here are a few their ideas.

Events & Social Outreach:

- Coffee house gatherings (in homes or coffee shops), focus around an issue, or just social
- Neighborhood garage sales
- Trunk or Treat tailgate parties
- Affinity groups: book club, garden club, singles club, dog walking group, card/bunko group, wine tasting, etc.
- Block parties, summer picnics/BBQ, ice cream social (close the street if possible)
- Neighborhood planting or landscape/weeding cleanup parties
- Walking clubs or walking buddy system, neighborhood walking tour
- Easter egg hunts
- Holiday caroling or craft bazaar
- Neighborhood baseball games
- Happy hour events (in homes or local restaurants)
- Neighborhood viewing of Peter Lovenheim's recorded talk, followed by discussion
- Share with your neighbors – bake cookies, make jam, canning, etc.
- Adopt a family at the holidays
- Holiday craft bazaar
- Sleepover in the school gym or community center
- Potlucks and progressive dinners (can be ethnically focused to share culture/traditions)
- Salmon bakes, spaghetti dinners
- Earth hour event – turn off electricity, talk, sing, play guitar, grill s'mores.
- Share a meal with a neighbor, planned or impromptu
- Do front yard activities – move the BBQ, front yard garden, front yard benches

- Bike parade
- Place a heat lantern in a central neighborhood space, so people can bring their chairs outside and talk year-round
- Have an open house for your neighbors when you remodel your home or yard
- Invite neighbors to the May forum and other City neighborhood events

Publications/Communication

- Neighborhood newsletters – translate into languages heavily represented in neighborhood
- Neighborhood directories (phone, email, addresses, even a few words about each person)
- Create a service directory (babysitting, pet care, house sitting, making meals for housebound)
- Have neighbors read a book on community and then discuss
- Establish an old-fashioned phone tree
- Develop a facebook page for the neighborhood

Safety:

- Establish safe houses for kids – places they know they can go in an emergency
- Create neighborhood safety programs – by zone, small areas
- Disaster drills, block watch, emergency preparedness programs
- Elderly check in service – do you know where your senior is? “I’m okay” cards in windows
- First aid kit program – in certain identified homes in neighborhood

Service:

- Lending program – tools, lawn and garden equipment
- Community garden (pea patch)
- Baby sitting exchange
- Donating to a charity as a neighborhood for a local project/common project
- Welcome Wagon program for new residents
- Ask high school kids who need community service hours to help with organizing in neighborhood
- Deliver baked goods or flowers from neighborhood gardens to shut-ins

Feel free to use these ideas to build your own neighborhood connections. If you need help developing an idea, Neighborhood Outreach staff is available as a resource and can be reached at 425-452-6836.

Bellevue focuses on Japan

The tragic events in Japan will be the focus of a program sponsored by the Bellevue Sister Cities Association on Tuesday, May 10, in the Bellevue City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Chuck Aanenson of Peace Winds will speak to the group before returning to Japan a couple of days later. Peace Winds is a non-profit organization supporting disaster relief and recovery in Japan and elsewhere. The evening’s program, which begins at 7:30 p.m., also will feature a recent Bellevue exchange student to Japan, who has raised more than \$15,000 for Japanese recovery efforts.

The May 10 meeting is open to all interested members of the public. For more information, contact Hugh Burlson, hughburlson@comcast.net.

May 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.)

5/2 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Recent 2010 Census and American Community Survey data releases, Affordable Housing Principles and Work Program, Affordable Housing funding request for Evergreen Court Senior Apartments (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) National Older Americans Month Proclamation, Proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week, Management Brief

providing update on Shorelines Management Program, Consent Calendar

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/3 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) 2011 funding recommendations; briefing on Diversity Plan update; Commission elections http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

5/3 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Update on the Lake Hills Shopping Center development project; update on the 2010 U.S. Census; Courtesy Hearing on the Shoreline Master Program Update. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

5/3 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Wrap-around Program update, B-GLAD video http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

5/5 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30 a.m., 1E-112) Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative presentation, committee reports http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

5/5 Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee (4:30, 1E-108) <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>

5/5 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Shoreline Master Plan, Storm Comp Plan Policies, Storm Comp Plan Evaluation Criteria, Sewer Lake Line Study http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

5/9 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Update on King County Metro Transit Strategic Plan for Public Transportation (2011-2021), Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative/NE 4th Street extension; discussion of Conditional Use Application for a health club within an existing commercial center (Kelsey Creek Center) at 15015 Main Street, and within jurisdiction of the East Bellevue Community Council. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/10 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

5/11 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Public hearing on 2011 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

5/12 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Ped/Bike Status Update, Eastgate/I-90 Land Use & Transportation Plan, and WSDOT's I-405 Congestion Pricing http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

5/16 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Update on B7-R light rail alignment study (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) State of the County Report by King County Councilman Reagan Dunn, National Police Week 2011 Proclamation, Report from The Bellevue Network on Aging, Management Brief reporting on efforts to improve the terms of the Washington Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network Mutual Aid Agreement, Consent Calendar, Proposed Ordinance on Helistop; Proposed Ordinance on CUP for health club at 15015 Main Street http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/23 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues, development agreement with Kelsey Creek Shopping Center, Comprehensive Plan Amendment Threshold Review, proposed ordinance to create a new Gross Misdemeanor of Loitering with the Intent of Engaging in Drug-related Activity, Arts funding recommendations http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/25 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Chambers) Public hearing on draft Shoreline Master Program Update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

Recycling event – Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way NE -- Bring TV sets, computer monitors, electronic equipment, appliances, scrap metal and wood, auto batteries, tires, toilets, sinks, mattresses, No. 6 plastics and household goods. Info: 425-452-6932

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.