

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

September 2009

New web site offers resources for maintaining homes, yards, neighborhoods

The City of Bellevue's web site has a new resource: *Home, Neighborhood, and Yard Maintenance – A Resource Guide*. The guide provides many ways to improve your home, neighborhood and yard appearance and bolster your sense of community identity and pride.

This updated on-line resource provides tools, tips, links and a broad range of resources to help Bellevue residents maintain the kind of homes and neighborhoods they can be proud of! Visit the site; keep your neighborhoods healthy, attractive, and livable.

Find information about:

- Keeping your neighborhood attractive with city assistance
- Strategies for residents to work together to improve their neighborhoods
- Finding funding and assistance for home repair
- Remodeling, repair, and permit information
- Exchanging building materials or household goods and selling goods over the Internet
- Home repair checklist and how-to guides
- Reducing reusable home clutter
- Making money while getting rid of clutter; garage sale tips
- Donating electronics and cell phones
- Recycling appliances and "white elephants"
- Maintaining your yard and garden



The Internet guide is another step in Bellevue's continuing commitment to providing programs, services, and education to enhance neighborhood livability. Log on at www.bellevuewa.gov/Home_Maintenance_Guide.htm For questions, comments, or further information, contact Patricia Knight, Neighborhood Outreach Team, at pknight@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917.

Help shape future of Bellevue park and open space system

Bellevue Parks & Community Services is updating its Park & Open Space System Plan, and would like to hear from you! Several opportunities are being set up to provide you with the ability to tell the City what is important to you. One way you can help shape the discussion is to visit the [Parks & Community Services Blog](#) and add a comment or two on any of the subjects being discussed. The blog is available any time day or night and you don't have to leave the comfort of your home to be part of the planning process.

Throughout the remainder of the year the staff will be collecting input in other ways as well – through surveys, presentations to community groups and other methods. Whenever a new opportunity to become involved comes up – details will be posted in the blog. If your community organization would be interested in a presentation on the Parks & Open Space System Plan update, or if you have any questions about the project, please contact Camron Parker at cparker@bellevuewa.gov or (425) 452-2032.

Neighbor Link fun, food drives continue through summer

Neighborhoods throughout Bellevue continued to gather food and money for local families as warm summer days marched on.

Working with the City's Neighbor Link program, residents took on projects that strengthened neighborhood ties while generating resources for people in need. Above, younger and older residents of the Crofton neighborhood enjoy a summer evening picnic to round out their earlier food drive and garage sale. Crofton, with 118 homes, collected 842 pounds of food and \$80 in cash for the Hopelink food bank.

As August turned into September, more neighborhoods were planning Neighbor Link events, with the help of the City's Neighborhood Outreach Team and Whole Foods Market, the program sponsor. You can still get in on the project by calling Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836.



New rules aim to clean up shopping cart clutter

Under new laws adopted by the City Council this summer, shopping carts are not to be removed from store property. The ordinances are intended to curb the abandonment of carts that currently pose obstacles for pedestrians and bicyclists using city sidewalks and clutter the lawns and landscapes of homes and businesses surrounding retail centers.

Anyone taking a shopping cart more than 100 feet from a store could receive a \$112 ticket. And store owners that don't collect abandoned carts within 24 hours also are subject to daily fines. After years of complaints about cart clutter, Bellevue joined other Puget Sound cities such as Renton, Burien and Auburn in adopting laws to rein in abandoned carts. Council members said Bellevue's new laws provide a balanced approach by giving police a tool to combat the problem, and establishing performance expectations for retailers. Information is being distributed to businesses, shoppers, residents and property owners to advise them of the new regulations. For more information, contact Liz Krzyminski, 425-452-4219, ekrzyminski@bellevuewa.gov.



Network on Aging will come to you

Members of the Bellevue Network on Aging would like to visit your neighborhood association, church group, business group or club, and tell you more about their work. Established in 2006, the Network is a group of volunteers who promote healthy aging and public awareness of the resources available to older adults, families, friends and caregivers. The Network also advises the City on matters related to aging.

Network members offer the presentation, "Aging in Bellevue" to interested groups at mutually convenient dates and times. To learn more, contact Cathy VonWald, 425-452-4200 or cvonwald@bellevuewa.gov.

Senior Day at the Farmers Market is scheduled 9-2 Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Bellevue Downtown Farmers Market, 410 Bellevue Way NE. Sponsored by the Market and the Network on Aging, the event will feature information, exhibits and demonstrations geared to senior citizens.

Please pick carefully!

Edible surprises may be found in some Bellevue parks as the harvest season approaches fruits and nuts ripen. Generally speaking, the Parks Department doesn't mind if people pick berries from bushes or nuts from trees. The problem arises when trees are damaged by pickers.

Last year, Resource Management received complaints from homeowners living near a park with hazelnut trees. Visitors, gleaning the hazelnuts, were breaking and tearing branches, disfiguring the trees. Staff placed signs in the park, asking the public to be respectful of the trees. You can help by watching out for the trees in your neighborhood parks and open spaces, and asking others to pick carefully.



Vacant homes must be maintained

In response to widespread neighborhood concerns about the eyesores created by vacant and neglected houses, the City Council has adopted standards for maintaining structures and yards of vacant homes and abandoned building sites. The new regulations, now in effect, are enforced on a complaint basis. To learn more about the maintenance standards, or to register a complaint, residents may call 425-452-4570. Complaints also may be submitted on-line at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/code_compliance_complaint.htm.

September 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.)

9/1 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Update on Adults Day Health, review first draft of 2009-2010 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

9/1 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) Public hearings on Ordinances 5892 and 5896 related to abandoned shopping carts and Neighborhood Livability Phase II http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

9/3 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Asset Management/Failures & Claims Program update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

9/3 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Presentation by Walt Bowen, Washington State Senior Lobby, committee reports, upcoming agendas, and new business http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

9/7 Labor Day - All city offices closed

9/8 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Non-NPDES Code Amendments (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

9/9 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Tentative: Housing work program http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

9/9 Medina Open House on NE 12th Street / Lake Washington Boulevard traffic study (5-7 p.m., Medina City Council Chambers, 501 Evergreen Point Rd.) The City of Medina is considering steps to control traffic and address safety issues on Lake Washington Boulevard. Call 425-233-6439 for more information.

9/10 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-112) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

9/10 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Microsoft Shuttle Program, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Quieter Pavement, SR-520 update, Choose Your Way Bellevue http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

9/14 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Budget workshop, Second Quarter Budget Monitoring Report http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

9/15 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Public hearing on 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) preliminary funding recommendations, mid-biennium review of General Fund Contracts http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

9/15 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition program development, regular Commission business http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

9/21 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) NPDES and Non-NPDES Code Amendments, Arts Work Program (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Proclamations for Census Awareness and Mayors Month of Concern for Hungry, Whole Foods recognition for Neighbor Link Picnic, Consent Calendar

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

9/23 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Tentative: Shoreline Master Program

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

9/28 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

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

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.