neighborhood news

March 2016

news for and about Bellevue neighborhoods

Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum

A Dialogue with Our Muslim Neighbors

Wednesday, March 16, 7pm
Bellevue City Hall Council Chambers

You're invited to join a conversation with our Muslim neighbors at city hall this month. The Neighborhoods Forums is a series designed to engage the community on pressing topics and provide a safe space for respectful civil discourse.

Since the tragic attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, homegrown terrorism and the war with ISIS have placed the issue of public safety and terrorism at the center of the news.

How has this national discussion impacted the Muslim community on the Eastside?

Come join an evening of conversation, where you will meet Eastside Muslim residents who will share their own thoughts and everyday experiences living here in Bellevue. The event is an opportunity to listen and ask questions of our Muslim neighbors in a safe, educational environment.

Panelists will include:

Afshan Ejaz has lived on the eastside for ten years. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her two sons. Originally a petroleum engineer she is exploring a career change and is currently a student nurse.

Ahmed Azmy: Mr. Azmy has worked in the tech industry and is a local environmental advocate.

Ejaz Yusaf: Bismilla Ejaz and his wife, Nancy Yusaf, have been Bellevue residents since 1994, and have had four children grow up in the Bellevue public school system. The couple own Zebra Printing, a business serving Bellevue and the Eastside for the past 28 years. Ejaz is a member of Muslim Community Association of Bellevue (MCAB) at the Islamic Center of the Eastside.

Khizer Sheriff: Mr. Sheriff is a member of Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) and The Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC), a service organization led and managed by a group of community volunteers passionate about helping the less fortunate in our community.

Shaiza Damji: Ms. Damji is a member of the Ismaili Muslim community. She has served in various volunteer capacities with the Ismaili Council for the United States and for the Aga Khan Development Network which focuses on preservation and promotion of arts and culture, economic development, health and education in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Shams Pirbhai: Mr. Pirbhai, a Bellevue resident since 1979, owns International Foods Bazaar, a retail/wholesale Indian food business, and the International Foods Corner restaurant. He serves on the Elder Council for the Islamic Center on the Eastside and has raised four children in Bellevue.

Please send your RSVP to neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov and contact Mark Manuel for questions or to request accommodations at mmanuel@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7886.

City of Bellevue
Diversity Advantage

Cultural Conversations

A window into one family's story of survival; immigration — then and now

Tuesday, March 8, 1-2:30pm

Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St, Bellevue

Cultural Conversations is a program that was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City of Bellevue. The women's group gather regularly to have "cultural conversations" to enhance their knowledge and understanding of different cultural practices and world views in a comfortable space and a nurturing environment. The meeting this month will feature a special guest speaker Cynthia Flash Hemphill. Cynthia is the author and editor of "A Hug from Afar", a book of long-lost letters narrating one family's dramatic journey of determination and perseverance through three continents to escape the Holocaust.

From the young age of 9 on the island of Rhodes (one of many small islands between Greece and the Turkish coast) Clara Barkey started writing to her uncle Ralph and auntie Rachel in the far-away place known as Seattle. This smart and determined young woman reported news of the relatives Ralph had left behind on Rhodes and the happenings of her *Sephardic Jewish community. But what started as friendly letters quickly turned to desperate pleas for help as life for the Jews of Rhodes deteriorated under the control of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, who allied with Adolph Hitler. Forgotten and never thought of again, Clara's letters turned up in Seattle more than 60 years after they were written. Preserved and translated from *Ladino into English, they paint a vivid and detailed 16-year story of how one family triumphed and survived after they became refugees and rode the roller coaster of successes and failures to legally win permission to immigrate to the United States.

Join Clara's daughter, Cynthia Flash Hemphill and Clara's sister, Regina Amira, who will tell their family story and share excerpts of the letters Clara wrote as a young girl. Learn how the treasure of these letters being found was such a gift to their family history. Recently published, "A Hug from Afar" leads you through the journey of exile, community annihilation, dashed hopes, and real-life drama seen through the eyes of a young woman forced to grow up too quickly as she desperately worked to save her family from Hitler's efforts to destroy the Jews. The story unfolds like a suspense novel, but is a true story of a family who immigrated to our own community.

Following the presentation, we will share our own stories and explore how the themes in Clara's story ring true today with the immigration struggles of survival and immigration around the globe. Participants may choose to share their own stories in small groups — of fleeing a homeland to reach for safety, of how family ties, love and trust play into survival, and of how our own stories inform who we are today. Don't miss this special afternoon of storytelling, discussion, tea and refreshments. Women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. To fully participate in the sharing, attendees are encouraged to make arrangements for childcare. Please RSVP to Carol Ross at cross@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917.

**Sephardic*-The descendants of Jews expelled from Spain and Portugal in 1492. The word Sephardic comes from the Hebrew word for Spain, Sepharad.

**Ladino*-The dying language of Sephardic Jews, based on Spanish and mixed with other languages found around the Mediterranean region.

CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

BELLEVUE
PEDESTRIAN
& BICYCLE
IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVE

Show us Where You Want More Bike Lanes in Bellevue!

Bike Lanes Open House

Wednesday, March 23, 5-7pm

Bellevue City Hall Concourse

Come join us this month at city hall to learn about proposed improvements to the city's bicycle network. Your participation and comments will help prioritize candidate projects so the city can invest our resources wisely. Together we'll consider how to create a connected bike network that links our neighborhoods, parks, schools, and workplaces.

Sign-up today for an e-alert to be notified when the bike lane concept map is available for feedback. www.bellevuewa.gov/pedbike-initiative.htm. The interactive map will remain open for comments through April. For more information, contact Franz Loewenherz, Senior Transportation Planner at floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4077

2016 Cultural Crossroads

Friday, March 11: 5-9pm

Saturday, March 12: 10am-9pm

Sunday, March 13: 11am-6pm

Crossroads Bellevue,
15600 NE 8th St, Bellevue

Cultural Crossroads is an annual event that showcases some of the area's best ethnic entertainment in two stages: an international bazaar and exhibits. Come join your friends and neighbors for a weekend of fun and cultural enrichment!

This year the multi-cultural celebration will include a world of entertainment – more than 30 cultural & ethnic music and dance performances. The Cultural Crossroads Marketplace will feature cultural sales booths with imported and hand-crafted gifts from around the world.

There will also be exciting activities for children this year, including an international and interactive LEGO® display—a showcase with models representing many cultures and nationalities all made of LEGO®, provided by Dan Parker, LEGO® Certified Professional Artist (Sat. & Sun. 12-4pm), and "Folk Art for Kids" a coloring activity for children! And for the kid in all of us, "Dolls of the World", a display of dolls in ethnic dress from around the world!

Cultural Crossroads is produced by Crossroads Bellevue & VL Cultural Productions. Sponsors include Crossroads Bellevue, City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services Cultural Diversity Program, 4Culture and 91.3 KBCS. For more information, please call 206-417-2067 or info@velaluka.org

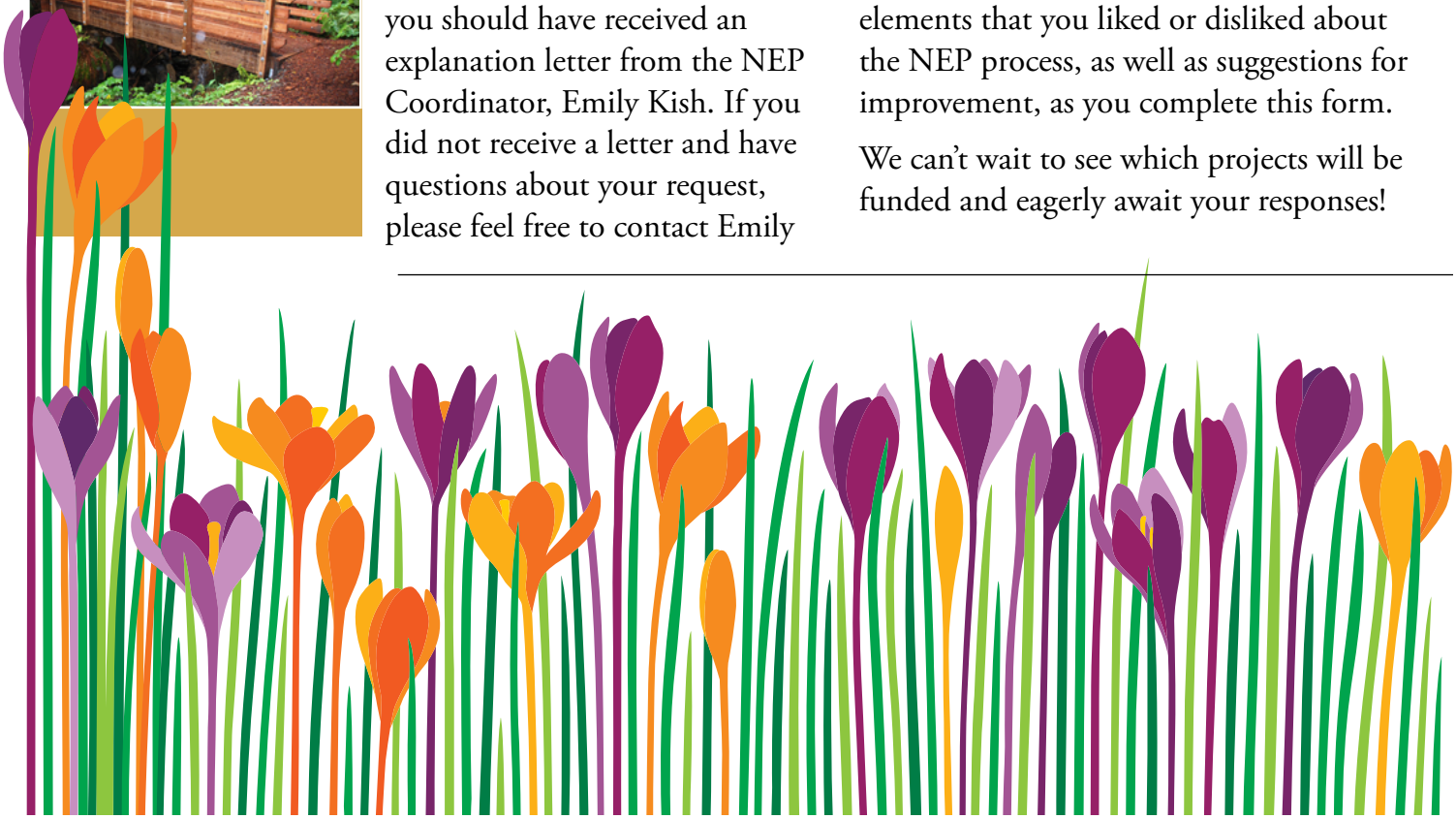
Eastgate/Factoria Neighborhood Enhancement Program Update

Thank you to everyone who came to the Eastgate/Factoria NEP Project Open House on February 10th! We received 85 requests during the solicitation of project ideas last fall, which we used to generate 26 projects for the NEP ballot.

The requests that we received included bike facilities, bus facilities, community spaces, community identity, parks, programming, public art, sidewalks, sports facilities, streetlights, traffic calming and trails. The requests that were not developed into proposed ballot items either did not meet the NEP criteria, were referred to other departments, or are being addressed by ongoing work programs. If your request was not developed into a proposed ballot item, you should have received an explanation letter from the NEP Coordinator, Emily Kish. If you did not receive a letter and have questions about your request, please feel free to contact Emily at 425-452-4186 or ekish@bellevuewa.gov. If you were unable to attend the open house and would like to access the presentation and display materials, please visit the Resources page of the NEP website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep-resources.htm.

During the first week of March, households in the Eastgate/Factoria Neighborhood Area will receive mailed ballots requesting votes for the three projects that each household feels are most deserving of the $293,000 NEP allocation. The votes are weighted by prioritization, with the first choice receiving three points, the second choice receiving two points, and the third choice receiving one point. Each ballot must include the household's address for validation and must be mailed to the city by March 24, 2016 to be counted. City staff will tally all of the votes and send a newsletter announcing the winning projects to Eastgate/Factoria residents in late March/early April. The newsletter will also include an NEP evaluation form, so please be thinking of elements that you liked or disliked about the NEP process, as well as suggestions for improvement, as you complete this form.

We can't wait to see which projects will be funded and eagerly await your responses!



Become a Mediator in Everyday Life

Wednesday, April 6 & 13, 5-9pm | Friday, April 8 & 15, 8:30am-4:30pm

Saturday, April 9 & 16, 8:30am–4:30pm | College North Campus

Do you want to be able to better resolve conflicts and differences? Through this 40-hour basic mediation training, the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program, in collaboration with Bellevue College, will teach you the core skills you need to manage conflicts in your own personal and professional lives as well as tools to help others. This is the core training taught in all dispute resolution centers and is the first step to become a certified mediator.

Mediation is a process that encourages people in conflict to resolve their own disputes and shape their own agreements. It is often an alternative to other processes such as arbitration or litigation. The skills learned here are applicable for everyday life and relationships. Getting unstuck, having difficult conversations are everyday occurrences and we can provide the tools needed to help you resolve them in a win-win way.

In this training you will learn to:

- apply the eight step model of mediation
- understand the ways people approach conflict
- listen skillfully and ask powerful questions
- share perspectives, needs and feelings
- identify what is really important to yourself and others
- work out problems artfully
- reach agreements that everyone can live by

$495 for the training and attendance at all sessions is required. CLE credits available upon request. To register for the training, go to: www.BCconted.com. For more information, please call the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program at 425-452-4091

Better Together – Bellevue Neighborhoods Conference

Saturday, May 21 | 2016

Bellevue City Hall | 8am-4pm

Continental Breakfast and Keynote Speaker, Becky Henchman

Keynote speaker Becky Henchman, author of the local blog, "Eat, Play, Thaw," will set the tone for the day as she shares her story of thawing the "Seattle Freeze" by being intentional about building meaningful relationships with her neighbors.

Twenty workshops in four major themes

- *Building Community in My Neighborhood*
- *The World in My Neighborhood*
- *Staying Safe in My Neighborhood*
- *Navigating the City for my Neighborhood*

Conference registration opens March 15! To receive a registration packet, contact Julie Ellenhorn, jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372. Space is limited!

March 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.)

3/01 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Public Art Project List 2017-2023, Artist for the Grand Connection Project, Grant Program Impact Report 2010-2015, Cultural Compass Update: Vision
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

3/01 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Older Adults Trends and Issues
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/02 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Diversity Initiative presentation and an executive session

3/03 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30a.m., 1E-121) Guest Speakers NaQueia Muse & Tara Senne of Adult Protective Services concerning abuse reporting
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

3/03 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) 2017-1018 Budget Process Overview, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Feasibility Study, Utility Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Update, Waterworks Financial Policies
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

3/7 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Energize Eastside Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), Hearing Examiner Rezone Items(8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Transportation Commission Update – Vision Zero, Consent Calendar, Public Hearing on Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) Code Amendment, Downtown Livability Early Wins Ordinance
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/08 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-113) Natural Resource Division Overview, 2017-2023 CIP Budget Overview
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

3/09 Planning Commission (5:30, City Hall Concourse) preceded by Downtown Livability Open House
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/10 Special Events Committee (8:30 -10:30 a.m. City Hall, 1E-118) Upcoming Special Events, Tentative Ukrainian Festival
http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

3/10 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Transportation Improvement Program, Transportation Management Code, Multimodal Level-of-Service
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

3/14 City Council (6:00 study session, Robinswood House) Follow-up to the January Council Retreat
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/15 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Human Services Funding Process Logistics, Home Repair Program Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/21 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, Hearing Examiner Rezones, OMSF Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) Ordinance
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/22 East Main CAC (4:00 1E-113) Review of open house materials and draft final report
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.htm

3/23 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Eastgate Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) zoning
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/24 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative Workshop http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

3/28 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) 2017-2018 Budget Workshop
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 425-452-6836.