neighborhood news

August 2016

news for and about Bellevue neighborhoods

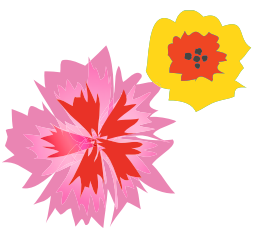
City's Affordable Housing Strategy Progresses

Survey Submission Deadline: August 21

The City's Affordable Housing Strategy got off to a running start at the Community Education Forum last month. A big thank you to the nearly 70 people who attended, in addition to our wonderful panelists and local human service providers. While the forum provided residents with a great deal of information about affordable housing need and the challenges of providing additional affordable housing in Bellevue, it also provided City staff and stakeholders the opportunity to hear firsthand from city residents who are struggling with the cost of housing. The city appreciates the forum attendees who shared their housing views and personal experiences. These testimonials, as well as the entire forum presentation, can be found at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/affordable-housing-engagement.htm.

The Community Education Forum was also the launch of the Affordable Housing Survey, which will continue until August 21. The City is asking community members to provide input on a range of initial actions that will help determine which types of affordable housing actions should be evaluated by staff and Council. This survey can be accessed online, at www.bellevueaffordablehousing.com, or in printed form at Mini City Hall or at City Hall. Everyone is encouraged to complete this survey to inform the specific actions that will be discussed and evaluated by staff and Council.

Throughout the summer, staff will continue to meet with the public and various stakeholders groups to gather feedback on the potential list of actions to increase affordable housing that will be considered by Council in the fall. If your organization is interested in learning more about the Affordable Housing Strategy, or if you would like project information to share with others, please send your request to affordablehousingtag@bellevuewa.gov. For more information about the Affordable Housing Strategy process, please visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/affordable-housing.htm.



Telephone Conciliation Training

Now accepting applications

Are you a natural listener? Do you want to learn skills to help create peace in our community? Got time? This special Telephone Conciliation Training is for you!

The Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program is committed to utilizing volunteers to resolve conflicts in our community. We are seeking volunteers to provide telephone intake and conflict coaching services. There is no charge for the training but both the training and volunteering are a pre-requisite to becoming a future mediator with the Mediation program. Upon completion, those who are selected are expected to volunteer in the mediation office in three hour weekly shifts during business hours.

Telephone intake volunteers assist callers in understanding their issues, exploring options and developing strategies for problem resolution. Training includes conflict theory, communication skills building, conflict styles, database usage and procedural tools. Attendance at all sessions is required:

Wednesday, September 28, 6-9pm
Friday, September 30, 9am-5pm
Wednesday, October 5, 6-9pm
Friday, October 7, 9am-5pm

Qualifications for volunteering: You must live, work or go to school in Bellevue to be eligible. Desired qualities include: good communication skills, a positive attitude, the ability to empower people to resolve problems, and the ability to respect confidentiality and remain impartial. For more information, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/mediation.htm or email: mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov. Application deadline is September 7. Interviews will follow.

Crossroads Outdoor Movies in the Park

Pre-movie children activities at 7:30, Movie begins at desk

Crossroads Park, 16000 NE 10th Street

Thursday, August 4 – Inside Out
Thursday, August 11 – Minions
Thursday, August 18 – Good Dinosaur
Thursday, August 25 – Pan

Come join us for some old-fashioned summer fun the Crossroads Park. The City partners with Crossroads Shopping Center to bring the 5th Annual Movies in the Park series to our community!

Grab a blanket, a lawn chair and your family, friends, neighbors or co-workers to watch blockbuster movies under the stars on a 40-foot screen with a state-of-the-art projection and sound system. Free family activities include games, crafts and activities for children before the movie and popcorn is on us!

For more information, please call 425-452-4240 or email outdoormovies@bellevuewa.gov Movies will be canceled in the event of rain.

Downtown Park Improvements Underway

If you've been to Bellevue's iconic Downtown Park recently, you've probably noticed construction fencing and heavy machinery — along with a lot of people playing Pokémon GO. The southern half of the park closed on July 11 for construction of both the last segment of the circular promenade and a play area for children of all abilities.

Completing this work will bring us full circle — literally and figuratively — with what started as a community vision in 1983 for a world-class park downtown.

Key elements of "Complete the Circle" project include:

- Completion of the circular canal and tree-lined promenade;
- Creation of a "grand entrance" and water feature at the south end of the park;
- Terraced seating, stairways and accessible paths;
- Closing the current parking lot off Northeast Second Street and expanding the parking lot off 100th Avenue Northeast;
- Additional landscape plantings.

The existing play area will be transformed into the "Inspiration Playground" through a partnership with the local Rotary.

The new play area will have interactive features that engage the senses, including tactile sculptures that encourage touching and climbing, and an interactive music plaza allowing users to create and respond to sound. A central "Whimsy Plaza" will feature a tree sculpture that evokes Dr. Seuss.

Most of the northern portion of the park will remain open to the public during construction, with parking for park users available throughout the project. Currently, the southeast lot is open to park visitors, and work is taking place on the expansion of the 100th Avenue Northeast parking lot. Once this lot reopens, likely by the end of the year, the southeast parking lot will close. The southwest playground parking lot will be closed to the public throughout the project. We will be enforcing the posted "Park Use Only" restrictions to ensure that parking is available for park users.

Construction is expected to be completed in time for next year's annual Fourth of July event held at the park.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the construction at Downtown Park, please contact Ken Kroeger, project manager, at 425-452-4624 or kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov

Free Kitchen Composter

Are you dumping your food scraps in the garbage, or worse, putting them down the garbage disposal in your sink and increasing your risk of a sewage backup? Time to get your FREE kitchen composter from Republic Services.

You can line the composter with a compostable bag and put all your food scraps in it. Once it's full, place the compostable bag with food scraps in your food and yard waste cart. It's that easy and mess free. Plus you're recycling a valuable resource that will become rich compost that will feed gardens around Bellevue instead of sitting in a landfill forever.

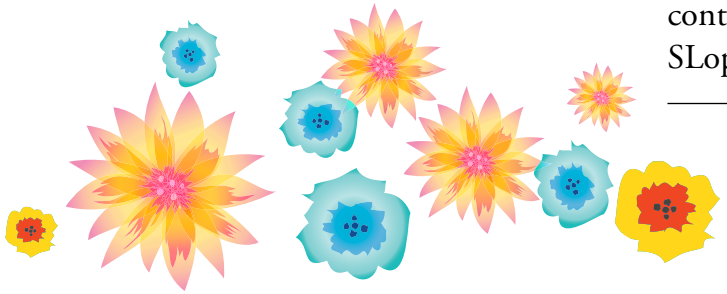
All single-family residences are eligible. Just call Republic Services at 425-452-4762.

Office of Emergency Management

Don't Wait, Communicate!

September is National Preparedness Month and it serves as a reminder that we must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, learn and worship. Now is the time to talk about being ready and preparing for the unexpected.

Take advantage of the upcoming August events for more information and training in the community:



City of Bellevue National Night Out

Tuesday August 2, 12-5 pm

Crossroads Farmer's Market, 15600 NE 8th St, Bellevue

"Night Out" is a free community event during the day with police vehicles and equipment, games, activities, a KCLS story time, giveaways for the kids, as well as safety related informational booths.

NW Citizens Corp Expo

Saturday August 13, 7am-6pm

Renton Technical College, 3000 NE 4th St, Renton

NW Citizen Corps Expo is chock full of some fun and educational trainings related to emergency preparedness, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Map Your Neighborhood, and a whole bunch more! The cost is $20 and it's a great event for anyone who is interested in becoming more involved, more prepared, or is just plain curious about how to get started in neighborhood preparedness coordination. http://www.nwcitizencorps-expo.org/

City of Bellevue Office of Emergency Management Library Evening Series

Wednesday, August 31, 6:30-8pm, Lake Hills Library, 15590 Lake Hills Blvd, Bellevue

Join the staff of Office of Emergency Management to discuss activities you can do to get more involved in your community and neighborhood. For more information, contact Sophia Lopez, at 425-452-4161 or SLopez@bellevuewa.gov

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Traffic Corner: Summer Projects Update

Construction Ahead

Construction is in full swing and we have several projects starting this month. We apologize ahead of time for any traffic delays; unfortunately, it is a symptom of a busy construction season.

Use an alternate route: The following project locations serve a high volume of traffic. Please watch for electronic message boards, which will post road closures seven days in advance. And, if at all possible, use an alternate route on the dates and times provided below:

August lane or full road closures:

- 148th Avenue: Main St to SE 8th St - Pavement overlay & traffic signal upgrades: Lane closures at these intersections through mid-December.
- BelRed Road and 148th Ave NE to 152nd Ave NE intersections: Utilities sewer project will reduce traffic to one lane in each direction, August – fall 2016.
- 120th Avenue NE, Stage 3: NE 12th St to NE 16th St: Roadway improvement project. In mid-August, construction begins on a five-lane roadway, with bike lanes, landscaping and sidewalks between NE 12th Street and the NE 1600 block. Road closed between the 1400 block and 1600 block mid-August to March 2017.

**Can you guess when this picture was taken?*

- NE 24th St: BelRed Road to 166th Ave NE – Pavement overlay. Lane closures August – September.
- NE 8th St: 156th Ave to 164th Ave NE – Pavement overlay. Lane closures August – September.
- 108th Avenue NE & NE 4th St intersection improvements. Lane closures through early September. A full Saturday closure in August. Watch for information on the electronic message boards.
- 120th Avenue NE, Stage 2: NE 8th St to NE 12th St roadway improvement project. Lane closures through the end of the year.
- Northup Way Corridor: NE 33rd Place to NE 24th St: Roadway improvement project continues until January 2017. Alternating one-way traffic between 5:30am to 4pm.

  Two Weekend Closures:

  - Friday, August 12, 7pm to 5am Monday, August 15.

- Friday, August 19, 7pm to 5am Monday, August 22.

Only access to businesses will be provided. It will be closed to thru traffic. Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians will need to take an alternate route.

Besides City of Bellevue projects, here are other construction projects worth noting:

- Sound Transit's East Link light rail tunnel work on 110th Avenue NE between Main Street and NE 6th Street – A portion of the road closed between NE 4th to NE 6th St until early September. (24-hour construction line: 888-398-5465).
- City of Kirkland's Lake Washington Boulevard/Cochran Springs utilities project, just north of Northup Way – 30-Day closure August 1 – September 2016. (Construction outreach: 425-587-3831).

Please note: This list does not include the current lane closure due to private development projects being constructed in downtown Bellevue. For information about those projects, please refer to: www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Development%20Services/lu_MajorProjects.pdf

Construction Information Tools: To stay up-to-date about where construction has lane or full road closures, please use the following information tools:

- Electronic Message boards: Gives dates or times of upcoming lane or road closures.
- Real-time Traffic Map & Cameras: www.bellevuewa.gov/trafficmap
- Traffic Advisories webpage: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm
- Follow the Transportation Department on Twitter: @BvueTrans
- Capital Project (Interactive) Map: www.bellevuewa.gov/capital-projects-map.htm
- Sign up for email alerts on project webpages: www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation.htm

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these improvements around Bellevue this summer!

**Answer to construction photo question: Summer 2012*

August 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.)

8/1 City Council (6:00pm Study Session, Council Conference Room1E-113) Critical Areas Ordinance Update Review; East Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Project (8:00p.m. Regular Session, Council Chambers) Consent Items; Public Hearing on Utilities Property Surplus http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

8/2 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30pm, Lake Hills Club House) Energize Eastside Presentation; Courtesy Hearing on Low Impact Development Principles http://www.bellevuewa.gov/ebcc.htm

8/4 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30am, 1E-113) Human Needs Update Report http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

8/11 Special Events Committee (8:30am, 1E-112) Post Event Evaluations of Strawberry Festival, Four on the 4th and Family 4th, Upcoming Events for August and Early September http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

8/16 Arts Commission (4:30pm, 1E-109) Grant Guidelines http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.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 425-452-6836.

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