neighborhood news

September 2016
news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods

A New Season of Cultural Conversations

"Creating a more Welcoming America"

Tuesday, September 20, 1-2:30pm

Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St, Bellevue

This month marks the beginning of season six of Cultural Conversations, a program that has transformed relationships and perspectives among diverse women in our community through education and storytelling since 2010. The women's group will join Welcoming America Week September 16-25th in which communities bring together new and long-time residents in a spirit of unity to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone.

In this month's program, we'll meet the founder of ELLA - English Language Learners Alliance, Suzanne Sievert, who has been providing skills, connection, and understanding of culture for newly arrived immigrants as they transition to the U.S. ELLA's grassroots founding started with informal lunch and conversation one day a week where new English language learners could practice their skills. The program has grown and includes conversation, field trips, fun seasonal activities and play groups where mothers and their young children can connect.

We'll also meet Dr. Larissa Chuprina, Professor, ESL and culture coach who attends Cultural Conversations and has an amazing and humorous story of her journey from Ukraine, to Tennessee to the Eastside. Following our storytellers, participants will share their own welcome stories. Please join us for tea and conversation and be inspired to connect with others in your community. 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.

About Welcoming America

Welcoming America is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that partners with the White House for its Building Welcoming Communities Campaign. Welcoming America is leading a movement of inclusive communities becoming more prosperous by making everyone who lives there feel like they belong. Its unique focus is helping communities move beyond divisiveness and fragmentation to a coordinated web of policies and programs that ensure that all residents—including immigrants—can fully participate and belong.

About Welcoming America Week

During the annual Welcoming America week, communities bring together new and long-time residents in a spirit of unity to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone. Last year there were 245 events in over 80 communities throughout the U.S. with more than 22,000 people participating. The Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (ERIC) is encouraging individuals, groups, organizations, city governments, faith communities, etc. to consider hosting an event during this special week. ERIC is a member of Welcoming America.

All events are welcome as long as they promote a spirit of welcoming, and provide an opportunity for people from all backgrounds — newcomers and long-term residents — to come together. Events can be small such as a poetry reading, book discussion, or potluck. Or, some may want to host larger events like a dance performance or panel discussion. There are many possibilities!

To host your own event or to get more information about Welcoming America in East King County, please visit ERIC's website at https://ericmembers.wordpress.com/welcoming-week/

EASTSIDE MEN'S SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Project

Community Meetings being scheduled

We want to hear from you!

On August 1st the City Council voted to move forward with a partnership with King County to explore the use of land adjacent to the Eastgate's Public Health Clinic–Seattle & King County to site the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing. The City has supported the operation of the Eastside Men's Winter Shelter which does not have a permanent location and has needed to change locations over the years. Identifying a permanent site for the Eastside Men's Shelter was identified in the Council's Vision for 2016-17. The City is currently seeking input from the community about locating the Eastside Men's Shelter at this specific location at 14350 SE Eastgate Way. Information about the project and a link to sign up for alerts and submit comments can be found at http://bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm.

Community meetings are currently being scheduled for September and October. Please check the website for updates on the times and locations.

For more information, to send in your comments, or to schedule a stakeholder briefing please contact: Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager City of Bellevue 425-452-4089, mmhuent@bellevuewa.gov. For information on Eastside Men's Shelter programs and operations please contact: Steve Roberts, Managing Director Congregations for the Homeless 206-295-7803 stever@cfhomeless.org.

New Community Panel to Advise Bellevue on Diversity Issues

Application deadline: September 21

As part of an effort to provide better service to our increasingly diverse population, the City of Bellevue is seeking volunteers to serve on the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network. The 16-member panel will advise the city on how to better reach, serve, communicate and collaborate with everyone in the community.

Members of the Advisory Network will serve as a conduit between the community and city to ensure that Bellevue is a culturally responsive organization guided by the principles of equity, access, inclusion, opportunity and cultural competency.

Interested applicants need to meet the following requirements:

- Work or live in Bellevue;
- Have cultural connections and knowledge of the city's diverse population;
- Possess a willingness, curiosity and interest in bridging cultural gaps to strengthen community;
- Volunteer two-four hours a month, including monthly network meetings; serve a two-year term.

Members will be selected in the fall. The deadline for applications is Sept. 21.

A panel of city staff and community members will rank applicants based on their ability to represent a broad range of the community's population and willingness to bridge cultural gaps. The city manager will appoint members to the Advisory Network, considering the panel's recommendations.

Over the last 25 years, Bellevue's diversity has become a defining characteristic of the city. The percentage of Bellevue's population made up of ethnic minorities increased from 15 percent in 1990 to 41 percent in 2010. The city defines diversity broadly and is looking for a wide range of representation.

Bellevue has embraced diversity as a major asset positively impacting the community's economy, culture and education. In 2014, the City Council adopted the vision statement: "Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength."

To request an application or learn more about the panel, please contact Mark Manuel, diversity outreach and engagement administrator at mmanuel@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7886.

SAVE THE DATE:

Neighborhood Leadership Gathering

You are invited

"Picturing the future of Bellevue's neighborhoods"

October 4, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-108, 450 110th Ave NE

What is your picture for the future of your neighborhood? What values matter the most for your neighborhood moving forward? Come join the discussion!

Terry Cullen, Comprehensive Planning Manager, will briefly introduce Neighborhood Area Planning and listen to what is important to you in planning together for Bellevue's neighborhoods.

We will also have table discussions and a large group conversation about the things that we want to see happen in our neighborhoods in the years to come. Anne Jess from The Doodle Biz will be graphically illustrating our conversation to create a visual picture of what we share together.

Neighborhood Leadership Gatherings are open for anyone who is interested in investing in the health and quality of life in Bellevue's neighborhoods. Come share your perspective, learn from other neighborhood leaders across Bellevue and enjoy an evening that will provide a snapshot of what we would like to see for Bellevue's neighborhoods in the future. Please RSVP to neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov. Light refreshments will be provided.

Low Impact Development Principles Project

PUBLIC HEARING

What changes are proposed to manage stormwater runoff related to development?

Low Impact Development Project Open House

Public Hearing: Wednesday, September 14, 6:30pm

Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-113, 450 110th Ave NE

This month the Bellevue Planning Commission will receive and consider public comment on proposed amendments to the City's Land Use Code to incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) Principles at a public hearing. LID principles minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and storm water runoff related to redevelopment and new development. This project is just one requirement under the state's Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit to address stormwater runoff from development and redevelopment. If you are interested in stormwater, development, healthy waters or all three, this public hearing is for you!

To incorporate the LID principles the City is considering the following changes to its Land Use Code:

1. Minimizing impervious surfaces:
   - Reducing the amount of allowed impervious surfaces (like buildings, walkways, patios, driveways and sport courts) on a lot
   - Adding a new standard - hard surfaces – which combines traditional impervious surfaces and newer permeable surfacing techniques (like permeable pavements and pavers)
   - Allowing impervious surfaces at current allowed thresholds when LID is infeasible
2. Minimizing vegetation loss:
   - Modifying tree retention standards for development by defining and prioritizing significant Landmark trees for retention
   - Modifying pervious pavement allowances
3. Reducing stormwater runoff:
   - Allowing required landscaping to function as required stormwater facilities
   - All of the above!

The public hearing will be your opportunity to provide input to the Planning Commission before the Commission makes its recommendation to the City Council on the proposals. For more information, please visit the LID Principles Project webpage: http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/low-impact-development.htm or contact Catherine Drews, cdrews@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6134.

TRAFFIC CORNER

Fall Projects Update

September construction update: Construction continues into the fall for many of the projects that were already underway this summer. Again, we apologize for any traffic delays that you encounter as we continue to improve Bellevue's roadways.

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:

September lane or full road closures: For full road closures, the best source of information are the portable message boards located near the construction sites:

120th Avenue NE, Stage 2: NE 8th St to NE 12th St roadway improvement project. Lane closures through the end of the year.

120th Avenue NE, Stage 3: NE 12th St to NE 16th St: Roadway improvement project. In September, 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-September to March 2017.

148th Avenue: Main St to SE 8th St - Pavement overlay & traffic signal upgrades: Lane closures at these intersections through October.

BelRed Road and 148th Ave NE to 152nd Ave NE intersections: Utilities sewer project will reduce traffic to one lane in each direction, September – fall 2016.

Northup Way Corridor: NE 33rd Place to NE 24th St: Roadway improvement project continues until January 2017. Alternating one-way traffic between 5:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. One or two full weekend closures will happen in September. Watch for details on Transportation social media sites and on portable message boards.

Sound Transit's East Link – Construction continues on the East Link downtown tunnel with tunneling expected to begin this fall. All lanes on 110th Avenue NE between NE 4th Street and NE 6th Street are now open. Sound Transit will begin its outreach efforts for the South Bellevue segment, including the closure of the South Bellevue Park and Ride. As more construction activities begin to gear up, it's more important that you stay informed. East Link information can be found at www.soundtransit.org/eastlink or at www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm. Subscribe to receive East Link Construction updates via email at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe.

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 continue to make these improvements around Bellevue.

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 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-113) Jean Corr, "One Step Ahead", Fall Prevention Program http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

9/6 City Council (6:00 p.m. Study Session, Council Conference Room1E-113) Affordable Housing Update, Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park (on 140th) Design (8:00p.m. Regular Session, Council Chambers) Sister Cities Award, Senior Citizens Day Proclamation, Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

9/6 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Club House, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) Presentation on the relaunch of MyBellevue app http://bellevuewa.gov/ebcc.htm

9/6 Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-109) Sound Transit Public Art Update, Cultural Access Washington Presentation http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

9/8 Special Events Committee (8:30 a.m., Bellevue Youth Theatre) Review Upcoming September Events, Discuss August Events http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

9/8 Transportation Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Complete Streets Ordinance, Transportation Demand Management, Newport Way Sidewalk http://bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

9/8 Human Services Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-120) Affordable Housing Strategy, Finalize 2017-2018 Funding Recommendations http://bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

9/12 City Council (6:00 p.m. Extended Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) ESI Update, Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment, Bellevue School District School Bus Safety, Wilburton/Grand Connection Public Engagement Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

9/13 Parks and Community Services Board (6:00 p.m., 1E-113) Crossroads Community Center Programs and Crossroads Afterschool Youth Academy (CAYA), Park Board Roles and Responsibilities http://bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

9/14 Planning Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Low Impact Development Standards Public Hearing, Downtown Livability http://bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

9/19 City Council (6:00 p.m. Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) Transportation Management Programs, Arts Program Update, Critical Areas Ordinance Update Review (8:00p.m. Regular Session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

9/20 Human Services Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Update on Best Starts for Kids Levy Implementation; Renewal of Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Sales Tax http://bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

9/20 Library Advisory Board (5:00 p.m., Newport Way Library, 14250 SE Newport Way, Meeting Room) Outreach Follow-Up and Planning for Presentation to City Council on Board Activities http://bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

9/22 Transportation Commission (Time TBD, 1E-113) Multi Modal Level of Service http://bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

9/28 Planning Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Downtown Livability http://bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

9/26 City Council (6:00 p.m. Extended Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) Development Services Customer Outreach Report, Quarterly Eastlink Update, Smart Cities Overview http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.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, please visit our website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-outreach.htm or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov