Bellwether arts festival strikes gold

Dianne Walker of Kansas City, Kansas views “Creating the King’s Company” by Ari Glass, a mixed-media installation at the Bellevue Arts Museum (BAM) that was part of the city’s Bellwether arts festival in September.

Bellwether was reimagined this year, from a three-month sculpture exhibition primarily at City Hall and Downtown Park to a 10-day show with two- and three-dimensional art mostly at BAM. Bellwether also featured performances, a workshop and a poetry reading.

Bellwether drew over 500 people to an opening party, and more than 1,600 flocked to the museum Sept. 14-22. Details at BellwetherArtsWeek.org.

‘Great Neighborhoods’ kicks off in NE and NW Bellevue

By Mark Heilman, Community Development Community Lead

An effort by the city to draw up strategic plans for each neighborhood area in Bellevue will begin with the Northeast and Northwest neighborhood areas, according to sequencing approved by the City Council in August.

The “Great Neighborhoods” planning effort is a grassroots, collaborative effort with residents to ensure each of Bellevue’s neighborhoods can adapt to changing needs while preserving their distinct character. Replacing existing subarea plans, each neighborhood area plan will include:

- a community profile;
- a neighborhood opportunities map;
- the plan’s relationship to the larger Comprehensive Plan; and
- vision, goals and strategies.

Residents in the Northeast and Northwest Bellevue neighborhood areas will work on their plans this year and next, with completion scheduled for December 2019.

Throughout the process, residents will partner with the city to identify the unique and distinct character of their neighborhoods and envision and plan for their area’s future.

In September, Community Development staff visited with residents at the Crossroads Farmers Market and Bellevue Farmers Market, and walked with residents in both areas. Community Development staff are continuing to meet with residents in their neighborhoods and planning “pop-up offices” and informal times to chat.

In October, residents in both areas shared what they believe will enrich their neighborhood. Northeast Bellevue residents met with staff at Sherwood Elementary School on Oct. 10 and Bennett Elementary on Oct. 13. Northwest residents gathered on Oct. 18, at the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, and Oct. 20 at Chinook Middle School.

We’re excited to meet you and to learn about your area over the next year – and to help enrich our city together. Please reach out to our team (gn@BellevueWA.gov) with your thoughts and ideas! Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/nap.
IT'S YOUR CITY  page 2

COUNCIL CORNER

By Councilmember John Stokes

Great places draw companies and skilled workers
Bellevue is a great place to live, work and play, and major companies recognize the city’s focus on placemaking as a prime reason to have headquarters here. A positive business climate is a big draw, but a skilled workforce is even more important these days!

Talent is the life-blood of Bellevue’s economy. And, the need to attract, retain and grow that talent is becoming more critical to Bellevue and the region’s economic fortunes. As the U.S. has shifted from an industrial to a knowledge-based economy, workers are no longer moving to where their employers are located, as they have in the past. They now live where they can enjoy a high quality of life. Employers have to find them. In short, jobs are moving to workers.

Because of this reality, placemaking is an integral part of attracting, retaining and growing talent. With jobs and industry no longer tied to natural resources or commodities, competition for knowledge economy jobs is increasingly tied to quality communities.

In light of these facts, we’re working to make sure Bellevue is not only desirable for top businesses, but is also attractive to all the skilled people they might want to employ. How do we do that? Fostering the city’s arts and culture is one way.

Through the Creative Edge initiative we launched last year, we’re developing a strategy that uses the arts to generate economic and aesthetic value for Bellevue. To achieve the promise of this effort, we must work in partnership with businesses, creative organizations and developers.

Bellevue is already strong in arts education, digital and interactive technologies, and diversity. We aim to look the part by:

• transforming our built environment through creative placemaking;
• continuing to nurture creative entrepreneurship;
• helping artists and cultural organizations stabilize and thrive in our rapidly changing community; and
• adding more variety and excitement to our artistic and cultural landscape.

Focusing on placemaking will help Bellevue retain and support the talent that fuels our creative and knowledge economy. The future is bright, with loads of potential, but we still have plenty of work to do.

To learn more about our economic and cultural development efforts, visit BellevueWA.gov/Economic-Development.

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By Claude Issos, It's Your City Editor

Update on neighborhood levy projects
The City Council on Sept. 17 reviewed progress on the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy approved by voters in 2016. The levy generates approximately $7.4 million annually to address a backlog of neighborhood transportation projects, including new bicycle facilities and crosswalk improvements.

Of the 40-plus projects identified during the levy’s initial two-year cycle in 2017-2018, 13 have been completed, with eight others under construction. Forty-six additional projects are slated to begin in the 2019-2020 period.

Ley projects are identified in community input received through a variety of channels, such as the MyBellevue app and web portal.

To keep the community informed about current and future projects, an interactive map is being developed and is scheduled to be online in October.

Neighborhood area planning schedule
On Aug. 6, the council agreed on the initial sequencing of the city’s highly anticipated “Great Neighborhoods” planning program. The schedule calls for plans for two neighborhood areas to be completed each year. The process will kick off in 2018-19 with the Northeast and Northwest Bellevue areas, followed by the Crossroads and Newport areas in 2019-20.

Bellevue has 16 neighborhood areas. The new neighborhood area plans will replace outdated subarea plans drafted many years ago. The downtown and BelRed areas were left out of the Aug. 6 discussion, because plans had been adopted for those two areas in 2004 and 2009, respectively.

When complete, each neighborhood area plan will include a community profile, an opportunities map and visions, goals and strategies for the future. Each plan will require a multi-layered process of engagement, draft development, and council review and action.

Comprehensive plan amendments threshold review
On July 23, the council reviewed the Planning Commission’s recommendations for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The council unanimously agreed to move three proposals to final review: City Dacha LLC in Wilburton, Bellevue Nursery in southwest, and Red Town in Cougar Mountain.

A fourth proposal, from Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH), was directed into the Wilburton commercial area study implementation program. The DASH-Glendale comprehensive plan amendment would establish a land use and density for the site consistent with recommendations issued by a resident advisory committee.

The action on DASH-Glendale directly implements the Affordable Housing Strategy, aimed at maximizing opportunities to increase Bellevue’s affordable housing stock.

The Comprehensive Plan is the city’s foundational policy document, which helps guide growth and development. Under the Growth Management Act, plans can only be amended once a year so that the cumulative effect of all proposed changes can be considered. As part of this process, Bellevue works on private and city-initiated proposals.

The Planning Commission’s final review of the City Dacha, Bellevue Nursery and Red Town proposals is scheduled for Oct. 24.

‘Smart City’ accomplishments
On July 9, the council was briefed on the substantial progress made in implementing the “Bellevue Smart” plan. Developed in 2017, the plan established a comprehensive and phased approach to leveraging technology to increase livability, sustainability and resiliency throughout the community.

The six focus areas of the plan include connectivity, transportation, public safety, water, buildings and energy. Accomplishments reported in the annual Smart City update include:

• Deploying an electronic patient care system for emergency medical services to streamline patient information sharing with hospitals
• Expanding public Wi-Fi access in city parks and affordable housing properties
• Piloting streetlight management for greater control and awareness of outages

If it’s a great place to play, it’s a great place to work. The fountain at Downtown Park shimmers on a sunny day.
City exploring year-round shelter operations
By Brad Harwood, Acting Chief Communications Officer

The City Council is studying whether operations at the temporary men's shelter at Lincoln Center could be expanded to year-round. Currently, the emergency shelter, which has existed since 2008 at various sites around Bellevue, has only been open during the winter months.

The council in July asked staff to explore several issues related to extending services at the temporary shelter on 116th Avenue Northeast or another similar location, excluding any of the sites that have been studied for a permanent shelter. Issues include funding strategies for the operator (Congregations for the Homeless) and required upgrades to the Lincoln Center facility. The goal is to have a proposal ready for the council's 2019-20 budget discussion.

The information generated by the feasibility study was expected to be reviewed by the council sometime this fall. Opportunities for public feedback will be included as part of development of the plan.

During the July council discussion, councilmembers noted their continued support for developing a permanent shelter to assist individuals experiencing homelessness. However, with a permanent shelter several years away, concern was expressed over how the intermittent availability of an overnight shelter impacts the success of moving people into stable housing.

New shelter regulations adopted

New regulations are in place for how and where homeless shelters can be sited in Bellevue since the council approved an amendment to the land use code for housing services uses on July 16. The vote did not involve the selection of a site for a permanent men's shelter.

The land use code amendment allows for development agreements between the city and organizations seeking to build shelters, and ensures community involvement in the siting of a shelter through a good neighbor agreement advisory committee.

Following the vote, Mayor John Chelminiak thanked the community for its engagement and involvement in the process of developing the regulations. Outreach to the community about siting a permanent men's shelter began in 2016, with public input sought on the land use code amendment starting in March of this year.

The final ordinance and background materials on the process are available at BellevueWA.gov/ShelterLUCA.

Aiming for 100 percent paperless permitting in 2019
By Steph Collier, Development Services Public Information Officer

Seven years after the City of Bellevue launched paperless permitting, the city aims for all customers to apply for permits online by the end of 2019. The number of permits processed electronically has been steadily rising, from just 36 percent of permit applications submitted electronically in 2011 to 84 percent so far this year.

Using the regional portal MyBuildingPermit.com, customers can:
- apply and pay for permits;
- request and cancel inspections;
- check permit status and history; and
- find construction tip sheets and inspection checklists.

The 24/7 permitting portal reduces the cost customers traditionally paid submitting project plans in paper. Estimates for savings range from $500 for small residential remodels to $65,000 and hundreds of pounds of paper for large commercial buildings.

Understanding that some customers may need assistance using online permitting services, Development Services plans to host workshops later this year and in early 2019. There will also be how-to videos on the city's website and in-person assistance in the permit center at City Hall.

Bellevue began offering online permitting services in response to customer requests for it. The Paperless Permitting Initiative transforms not only the way customers access permitting information and services, but also how Development Services staff do their work, enabling beginning-to-end electronic application processing, review and inspection.

For more information about the Paperless Permitting Initiative, contact Monika Chalik at 425-452-6128 or mchalik@BellevueWA.gov.

All sidewalks lead to new Wilburton Elementary
By John Murphy, Transportation Senior Planner

It’s not every day that a new elementary school opens in the Bellevue School District. In fact, there has not been a new, non-replacement, school since 1972. That all changed when Wilburton Elementary School opened on Aug. 30.

The new facility at 12300 Main St. creates a good opportunity for children to walk to school. More kids walking more lessens congestion and can decrease tardiness, not to mention being fun and healthy.

To encourage walking, the city and school district worked together before Wilburton opened to plan safe pedestrian routes. Today, more than a mile of new sidewalks and pathways are on the way to completion in the coming weeks.

City and school district staff also collaborated on a creative funding strategy to pay for the roughly $3 million project. Sources include: the city’s Neighborhood Sidewalks Program; Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy; Major Maintenance Program; Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program; Parks Renovation and Refurbishment Program and the Bellevue School District.

Project improvements include:
- New sidewalk on the east side 118th Avenue Southeast, south of Main Street;
- New sidewalk on the west side of 128th Avenue Southeast, from Southeast Sixth Place to Northeast Second Street;
- New sidewalk on the north side of Northeast Second Street, from 124th to 128th avenues northeast; and
- A reconstructed path on the south side of Main Street.

Approved by voters in 2016, the 20-year property tax levy generates approximately $7.4 million per year to help address a backlog of neighborhood safety, connectivity, sidewalk, bicycle, technology, congestion relief and maintenance projects. More levy information is available at BellevueWA.gov/TransportationLevy.
**Home repair loans make difference for Robinswood resident**

*By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer*

With the help of zero-interest home repair loans from the City of Bellevue, retiree Priscilla Castro still lives comfortably in her home of 33 years. Loans in 2007 and 2017 funded a new roof, a paint job, new gutters, new plumbing and more.

"Needless to say, I am very grateful to the Bellevue Home Repair Program for the assistance I received," Castro said. "I even told my friends about this program."

When Castro received a letter in her mailbox about the Home Repair program in 2007, the timing was fortuitous. Castro, retired from the City of Seattle and on a fixed-income, had orange water coming out of her taps, short-circuiting electrical breakers and aging gutters.

Bellevue homeowners with low to moderate incomes may be eligible for zero-interest loans and grants up to $35,000 for repairs to roofs, plumbing, furnaces, driveways, electrical wiring, as well as weatherization projects.

After submitting an application and documents including income tax returns for two years, pay check stubs and proof of home ownership. When her hot water tank started leaking, it, too, was included in the project.

When Castro's garage roof started leaking last winter, she reached out to the Home Repair program again. The roof was replaced in March, and exterior painting was completed in May.

These loans don't have to be repaid until the house is sold, and no monthly payment is required.

To be eligible for assistance, you must have owned and lived in the house for which you are requesting assistance for at least a year, the house must be in Bellevue, you must not have a reverse mortgage and you must meet the program's income requirements.

To determine eligibility, count the number of household members residing in the house (household size) and check the maximum allowable income on the city website, at BellevueWA.gov/Home-Repair.

For more information about Bellevue's Home Repair Program, call the Parks & Community Services Department at 425-452-6884 (TDD: 411).
Why are parts of the street green?

By Transportation staff

As part of an effort to make it easier for people to bike in Bellevue, the city has been adding bike lanes to streets in many neighborhoods. These and other facilities for folks on two wheels feature markings unfamiliar to some people.

Our high-profile Downtown Demonstration Bikeway on 108th Avenue Northeast has generated a number of questions since it opened July 31. The answers can be helpful when talking about pretty much any bike facility in Bellevue.

**Question:** I’m seeing more bike lanes painted green, on 108th Avenue Northeast and on other streets as well. What do they mean for bicyclists and motorists?

**Answer:** The green paint helps raise the visibility of cyclists. In Bellevue, the markings prompt drivers and other roadway users to be on the lookout for bikes. On 108th Avenue Northeast, green markings are found in potential conflict points such as busy driveways and bus stops. The white paint bordering the bike lane is a traffic marking. When the line is solid, cars may not cross it, except to enter a driveway. When it’s dashed, cars may cross the bike lane when safe to do so.

**Question:** At the intersection of 108th Avenue and Main Street, there’s a big green box in the northbound lane. What is that?

**Answer:** It’s called a “bike box.” Reserved for bicyclists, it allows those northbound on 108th Avenue Southeast to move ahead of vehicles waiting in line at the traffic signal, behind the bike box. Being positioned in front of vehicle traffic raises visibility and enhances safety for bicyclists. The bike box was used because the roadway narrows just north of Main Street, preventing the addition of a dedicated bike lane.

**Question:** On Main Street where it crosses Bellevue Way there are green stripes on the pavement through the intersection. What are those?

**Answer:** Similar to other green markings, these are sometimes known as “crossbikes.” Think of them as a crosswalk for bikes. They increase the visibility of bicyclists as they cross this wide, heavily-travelled intersection. They are intended to help both riders and drivers know where bicyclists will be crossing.

**Question:** What are the pavement markings on 108th Avenue Northeast and elsewhere that show a bike rider with two arrows?

**Answer:** These pavement markings, called “sharrows,” depict a bicyclist with two chevrons (V-shaped arrows). Sharrows are now found in many locations across the city. They’re a reminder for drivers that bicyclists use these sections of roadway and to “share the road” with them. For bicyclists, the markings are placed to indicate where they should position themselves on the roadway to heighten their visibility.

Want to share your thoughts about the 108th Avenue bikeway so far? An online questionnaire, available through Nov. 1, provides an opportunity: surveymonkey.com/r/108thBikeDemo.

New moniker for mediation

After more than 20 years helping residents resolve conflicts, the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program has changed its name to the more fitting Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center.

“We are changing the name to reflect the breadth of our services instead of focusing just on mediation,” said Marcia McReynolds, co-manager for the program. In fact, while the Conflict Resolution Center team of trained staff and volunteers still performs face-to-face mediations, they more often act as conciliators these days, helping people in conflict find peace over the phone.

According to recent studies, most people around the world prefer an intermediary when they have conflict, so they don’t have to meet face-to-face when angry, McReynolds noted. “At the Conflict Resolution Center, 85 percent of our cases are handled over the phone, helping people resolve conflicts without the discomfort of meeting face-to-face,” she said.

The Conflict Resolution Center (BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution or BCRC@BellevueWA.gov) can help resolve conflicts involving neighbors, parents and teens, landlords and tenants, consumers, business partners, and landlords and tenants – often just by coaching the caller on how to resolve the issue themselves.

‘Facilitation Cadre’ to help with neighborhood planning

By Marcia McReynolds, Conflict Resolution Center Co-Manager

To ensure the drafting of new, long-term plans for Bellevue’s neighborhood areas is a responsive, grassroots process, the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center’s “Facilitation Cadre” will listen to residents and help them to listen to each other.

Facilitators will make sure that all people at listening sessions and other planning meetings get heard equally, and that their suggestions are clearly stated and recorded. Over the months, the facilitators will guide residents through the decision-making process about what they want in their neighborhood’s plan.

All facilitators have been trained in conciliation skills and live in Bellevue. The cadre was formed in 2016 to support south Bellevue neighborhoods impacted by East Link's imminent construction. The group helped residents suggest ways to minimize construction impacts by putting stars, dots and Post-it notes on maps.

Since then the group, all Bellevue residents trained in conciliation, has facilitated story-swapping among diverse people at a Cultural Conversations meeting, guided Eastside seniors looking for ways to age in place and helped the local Islamic community explore safety issues with police officers.

A cyclist rides across a crossbike on 108th Avenue Northeast.

The Facilitation Cadre assists at a workshop concerning a code change.
By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

With a top-notch baseball stadium, Bannerwood Sports Park is a home field for some serious teams, including the Seattle University Redhawks. But with Richards Creek running through a wetland next to the 12-acre park, the Redhawks aren’t the only birds who roost here.

The creek is a magnet for wildlife, and people in the neighborhood visit the park regularly for exercise and as a place to connect with nature. At the request of resident Chris Johnson, who walks the park daily, the city has added a picnic table and bench facing the wetland.

Mike Bowers in Parks maintenance agreed with Johnson that a birdwatcher’s nook would be a good, low-cost addition to the park. An ivy-covered spot next to the parking lot was cleared and graded for the outdoor furniture.

“I thought this was a great example of staff nimble responding to a constituent request,” said Johnson, who contacted Parks & Community Services. “Thanks to Mike Bowers and his colleagues, Bannerwood now has a picnic table and wonderful bench that residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy.”

Chris Johnson, right, who walks regularly at Bannerwood Park, poses by the new bench with Parks staff Mike Bowers.

---

By Steph Collier, Development Services Public Information Officer

Online services such as Airbnb and VRBO have made short-term and single-room rentals in single-family homes increasingly popular, but there are limitations on how and where rooms in homes can be rented in Bellevue.

In response to resident concerns about widespread room rentals negatively impacting surrounding properties, eroding neighborhood character and adding on-street parking and traffic, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 6223 in 2015.

Under Ordinance 6223, homeowners can rent rooms in their homes to other parties as a boarding house or bed-and-breakfast, both of which require owner occupancy, a maximum of two rooms rented, a maximum of two renters total and an approved home occupation permit from the city.

Homeowners can also operate a rooming house, which is non-owner-occupied and subject to multiple leases, or in which rooms are offered for rent on an individual room basis. Rooming houses are not allowed in single-family residential districts and have additional requirements.

If you are thinking about renting your home and have questions, please consult bit.ly/bellevue-rentals or contact a code compliance officer in Development Services (425-452-2047, codecompliance@BellevueWA.gov).

---

Thinking about renting out rooms in your home?

By Claude Iosso, It’s Your City Editor

Planners and program managers at the City of Bellevue are always looking for ways to deliver better services. This year University of Washington faculty and students will help us, studying selected city programs and exploring potential improvements based on data, research and best practices.

The Livable City Year program has selected the City of Bellevue as its partner for the 2018-19 academic year, and classes from several UW schools have already begun studying ways to improve the work tied to several city initiatives. The city has enlisted the university’s help on about 30 projects and notable programs, including:

• Best practices for trail-oriented development by the Eastside Rail Corridor and other multi-use trails in Bellevue;
• Early planning for a civic center district downtown around City Hall;
• Development of a neighborhood walkability score that would help planners determine where sidewalks and other facilities would be most cost-effective; and
• Research into the resources needed to establish a mobile mini city hall.

The program will wind up with a presentation of the completed projects in June. All of the projects will advance City Council priorities, specifically around livability and sustainability.

Projects encompass many of the council’s strategic target areas: Economic Development, Transportation and Mobility, High Quality Built and Natural Environment, Great Places You Want to Be, Achieving Human Potential, and High-Performance Government.

The Livable City Year program, now in its third year after UW partnerships with Tacoma and Auburn, matches faculty, courses and students across all UW schools, colleges and campuses to best match the projects identified by the city. Through the partnership, city staff are connected to the research and project work at the university.

Danielle Verwahren, Management Fellow in the City Manager’s Office, is leading the city’s participation in the program.

The UW’s Livable City Year program is led by faculty co-directors Branden Born with the Department of Urban Design and Planning and Jennifer Otten with the School of Public Health.

More information about the program is available at washington.edu/livable-city-year.
Prevent flooding this fall and winter
By Jerry Shuster, Senior Stormwater Engineer

In the fall and winter, heavy rains here can overwhelm the city's storm drain system occasionally, and it's good to be prepared. Bellevue's drainage system includes storm drains, flood storage ponds, pipes and ditches that mostly discharge to wetlands, lakes and streams. Properties next to wetland, lakes and streams are most susceptible to flooding. Floodplains near these surface waters benefit the entire community by providing temporary storage of floodwaters until a storm subsides.

Of course, you don't need to be in a floodplain to experience flooding. Most flooding in Bellevue is caused by storm drains in streets and parking lots getting clogged with leaves and debris, so your help clearing them is much appreciated.

Floodplain boundaries are shown on FEMA flood insurance rate maps. To find out if your property is in a floodplain, call Utilities at 425-452-6977 or check Bellevue's floodplain maps at BellevueWA.gov/floodplainmap. Flood insurance is required for structures in the floodplain that also have federally-backed mortgages. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers policies to protect property both in and outside of floodplains from floods.

Ask your insurance carrier for information about the NFIP. Keep in mind that Bellevue residents receive a 25 percent discount on NFIP policies due to Bellevue's floodplain management program. There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy goes into effect.

Other helpful tips:
• Utilities staff can help you with flooding or other drainage problems that affect your property. Call 425-452-7840.
• Know how to shut off your electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves, if your property floods. For information on gas and electric shutoff procedures, call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773. If you need help finding your main water shut off valve, call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-7840.
• Prevent erosion and slow stormwater runoff by preserving trees, plants and grasses on steep slopes and near streams and lakes.
• Routinely clear leaves, debris, sediment and rocks from storm drains, driveways culverts, drainage ditches, swales, gutters and downspouts.
• If your crawl space or basement floods or has standing water, you may want to install a sump pump. If you already have a pump, test it regularly.

Where to find information when the weather gets bad
It's time to get ready for winter weather! Here are some telephone numbers and webpages that can help:

Who to call: For life-threatening emergencies, call 911. To report flooding, blocked or hazardous streets and sidewalks, fallen trees, damaged traffic signs or signals, and similar problems, call the city's 24-hour response line at 425-452-7840. Call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773 to report a power outage.

Social media information during a weather emergency: Check the city's general Twitter page (twitter.com/BellevueWA) and Facebook page (facebook.com/BellevueWashington) for the latest developments;

Website information: During significant weather events, get information about local impacts, including the city's response, on the city's website, at BellevueWA.gov. Also, the Emergencies and Extreme Weather page (under Communications) has tips and information about preparedness, reporting trouble, driving in difficult conditions, power outages, garbage collection schedules and warming centers; and

Smart phone information: Use the MyBellevue app and click on the Emergencies and Extreme Weather widget.

In case of snow and ice, city crews have seven medium-sized, four-by-four trucks and eight dump trucks ready that can be configured with plows and sanders to clear roadways.

City leaders walk neighborhoods with residents
By Mark Heilman, Community Engagement Lead

Embracing a suggestion from residents, City Manager Brad Miyake and other city staff strolled six of Bellevue's neighborhoods with residents and their pets this summer. On each two-hour walk, leaders learned about the area's distinctive history and assets, as well as emerging issues and concerns.

In addition to the city manager, various department directors and other staff joined each walk. Staff visited with residents of downtown, Lake Hills, Crossroads, Newport, as well as the areas around Lewis Creek Park and Bellevue College. A total of 94 residents attended the walks.

Participants hiked the pedestrian bridge over Northeast 12th Street, strolled through small parks, noticed the change in neighborhood home character and bought some fresh produce at the farmers market. They took some detours around city projects, noted a fence covered with graffiti, walked past community gardens and were greeted by residents waiting in their driveways for us. Also, staff learned about a popular elementary school special needs program, walked with college students, saw and heard about wildlife, and residents received water bottles from firefighters.

Finally, city staff heard concerns about development, homelessness, safe crosswalks, traffic, multifamily complexes and the tree canopy. At the end of each stroll, attendees took a few minutes to catch their breath, and staff shared what they had heard and learned during the walk.

It was enjoyable to see your neighborhoods with you and have extended conversations about what we all love about Bellevue. Staff looks forward to continuing the conversation in our neighborhoods. The city is exploring the possibility of future neighborhood walks at additional locations and as part of the neighborhood planning effort in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue.
No new shelter regulations in EBCC area
By Betsi Hummer, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

Regulations for homeless shelters remain unchanged in part of East Bellevue after the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) voted in September to disapprove code changes that would have applied in its area.

In July, the City Council adopted a land use code amendment for homeless services uses that added regulations concerning where and how a homeless shelter could be sited in Bellevue. That amendment continues to apply to the rest of the city.

On the EBCC, we believed the code change would not be in the best interests of residents in our jurisdiction, since it didn’t include provisions recommended by the EBCC following a public hearing it held in June.

EBCC members had recommended buffers between shelters, residential areas and schools, alternate appointment methods for a good neighbor agreement advisory committee, mandatory tracking and no option for a development agreement.

Additionally, since the code amendment requires homeless services uses to be approved through a development agreement or process-I conditional use permit, the EBCC would have no official say in the approval of a shelter permit in the East Bellevue jurisdiction. Without the amendment, all shelters in East Bellevue would require a process-III conditional use permit, which the EBCC could disapprove.

Upper Kelsey Creek Stream Channel Improvement

In June, Utilities staff gave the EBCC a report on improvements to the upper Kelsey Creek stream channel. Maintaining the integrity of Kelsey Creek is important not just to the EBCC and the City of Bellevue. All culvert replacement projects in the region, including this one, are scrutinized by numerous parties including the Army Corps of Engineers and the Muckleshoot tribe for their effects on stream and salmon.

The King County Flood Control District provided a grant to the city to replace culverts with a pedestrian bridge where Kelsey Creek flows into Larsen Lake. The bridge will minimize flooding and improve the creek’s flow.

One of the first land use projects that came before the EBCC in the early 1970s was the city’s purchase of Larsen Lake with Forward Thrust funds. Larsen Lake and the greenbelt around it became the core of our “city in a park,” featuring acres of trails, a refreshing lake and blueberries.

Highland Village Renovation Phase 2

The EBCC in May held a courtesy hearing regarding the second phase of renovations the King County Housing Authority (KCHA) is planning for the Highland Village apartment complex on Northeast Eighth Street near 148th Avenue Northeast.

A couple years ago the EBCC held a courtesy hearing when it appeared Highland Village might be torn down. The city and developer explained their vision for renovating the property instead. Many residents of Highland Village attended the hearing and expressed concerns about losing their homes.

Subsequently, KCHA, with a contribution from the city, purchased the property to maintain it as affordable housing. Most of the original residents kept their homes at Highland Village.

For a first phase of renovations, KCHA remodeled 10 of Highland Village’s 12 multifamily buildings. For phase 2, KCHA intends to replace the remaining two buildings with a single, 36-unit one. To better accommodate the services KCHA provides, an office, playground and service rooms are planned.

EBCC Meetings

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd., beginning at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing and hearing from constituents and others at the meetings.

Send your comments and questions to EBCC@BellevueWA.gov or see our web pages at BellevueWA.gov/EBCC.

Meydenbauer Bay Park takes shape

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

The pier that curves out into Meydenbauer Bay is in place. So are the terraces that divide the new park’s steep hillside into broad steps. Meydenbauer Bay Park is expected to be completed by New Year’s Day, but many of the park’s distinctive features are already in place.

A ravine on the north side of the park has replaced a big, underground pipe. A new beach house, with a roof that will serve as a viewing area, is nearly complete.

“It’s exciting to see the park take shape,” Parks & Community Services Director Patrick Foran said. “There are still backhoes and piles of boulders and gravel on the site, but it’s easy to envision the 30-year community vision coming to life.”

Construction started in May 2017 for this phase of the 10-acre park, which will considerably expand the old Meydenbauer Beach Park.
BelRed

Mid Lakes Pump Station Capacity Improvements
Replace pump station in BelRed area. In design. Construction January 2019. $4 million (est.)
Vanaja S. Rajah, vrajah@BellevueWA.gov

136th Ave NE Water Inlet Station and Transmission Main
Install water inlet station and 5,700 feet of 16-24-inch diameter transmission water main pipe on NE 8th St for additional capacity and improved water supply. Design thru 2019; Construction 2019-2020. $8.4 million
Jay Hummel, jhummel@BellevueWA.gov

Downtown

Downtown Park – Northeast Corner
Design and permitting to improve pedestrian access and public art at the northeast corner of the NE 4th St and Bellevue Way intersection. $5 million
Ken Kroeger, kkroeger@BellevueWA.gov

Meydenbauer Bay Park
Relocate and expand the public swimming beach; build a new beach house with restrooms and showers; create a pedestrian pier and hand-carry boat launch; add walking paths, picnic areas, pedestrian promenade and children's play area. Construction through end of 2018. $14.5 million
Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@BellevueWA.gov

Meydenbauer Basin NE 8th & 100th
Design and construct stormwater conveyance improvements on 100th Ave NE and NE 8th St to reduce and eliminate local flooding. Construction 2020. $4 million
James B. Nicolls, jbnicolls@BellevueWA.gov

Eastgate
Cougar Mountain #3 Pump Station Rehabilitation or Replacement: Construction 2018-2019. $2 million
James B. Nicolls, jbnicolls@BellevueWA.gov

SE Newport Way: 150th Ave SE to Somerset Blvd
Build a 10-foot wide multipurpose path on the north side and a five-foot bike lane on the south side of SE Newport Way. In design. Construction spring 2019. $9.7 million
Paul Krawczyk, pkrawczyk@BellevueWA.gov

150th Ave SE at SE 37th Street
Add turn lanes and a southbound through lane at the intersection. Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy project. Funded for 60 percent design only.
Jun An, jan@BellevueWA.gov

150th Ave SE at SE Newport Way
Add a southbound right-turn lane at the intersection. Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy project. Design complete February 2019. Construction: to be determined. $2.6 million (est.)
Jun An, jan@BellevueWA.gov

Factoria

Factoria Blvd Storm Conveyance Improvements
Improve stormwater conveyance system along Factoria Blvd between SE 38th St and Richards Creek inlet. Construction 2019-2020. $7.5 million (est.)
Birol Shaha, bshaha@BellevueWA.gov

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail – 132nd Ave SE to 150th Ave SE
Design a new 12-foot-wide trail, including crosswalks, landscaping and lighting. Design complete winter 2018. $1.2 million design only
Chris Masek, cmasek@BellevueWA.gov

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail: I-405 to 32nd Ave SE
Construct a 12-foot-wide multi-use trail including bridge over Factoria Blvd SE. Improve the I-90 off-ramp to Factoria Blvd.
Construction fall 2018. $14 million
Chris Masek, cmasek@BellevueWA.gov
Newport

Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Project
Replace five culverts and two outfalls in Newport Shores. One culvert completed. Construct two culverts in 2018. Two culvert construction cost: $3.4 million (est.)
Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@BellevueWA.gov

Newport Sewer Basin Capacity Improvements
Construct an offline wastewater storage facility adjacent to Bagley Pump Station and retrofit Newport lift station with new pumps to alleviate sewer capacity issues in the Newport sewer basin. Construction 2019-2020. $3.2 million (est.)
Birol Shaha, bshaha@BellevueWA.gov

Lake Hills

158th PL SE Sidewalk - Lake Hills Blvd to Main Street
Add a six-foot-wide sidewalk on the east side of 158th PL SE between SE 6th Street and Main Street. Replace water main from Lake Hills Blvd to Main St and upgrade crosswalks at Lake Hills Blvd and 158th Ave SE to include rectangular rapid flashing beacons. Construction winter 2019. $2.3 million (est.)
Mike Rodni, mrodni@BellevueWA.gov

Northeast Bellevue

NE Bellevue Crosswalk Improvements Project
Improve five existing crosswalks and add one new crosswalk with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, curb ramp and extend sidewalks for improved pedestrian crossing. Construction 2019.
$1.2 million (est.)
Sara Haile, shaille@BellevueWA.gov

Northwest Bellevue

Pikes Peak Reservoir Replacement
Replace, expand and improve existing 1 million-gallon steel water reservoir with new 1.25 million-gallon prestressed concrete reservoir. Design 2018-2020; Construction 2020-2021. $5.2 million.
Jay Hummel, jhummel@BellevueWA.gov

Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation
Rehabilitate the existing sewer system. Construction 2018. $1.1 million (est.).
Regan Side, rside@BellevueWA.gov

West Bellevue

Surrey Downs Park Development
Implement the updated park master plan. Construction underway, with completion by the end of 2018. $5 million.
Pam Fehrman, pfehrman@BellevueWA.gov

West Lake Sammamish

West Lake Sammamish Parkway (Phase 2): SE 200 block to NE 800 block
Build a 10-foot wide multipurpose path on the west side and a four-foot shoulder on the east side of the parkway. Coordination with the Utilities Department on the water main project. In design. Construction spring 2019. $8.1 million.
Paul Krawczyk, pkrawczyk@BellevueWA.gov

Wilburton

NE 8th Street Culvert Replacement at Kelsey Creek
Replace culverts with a new fish-passable culvert. Construction underway, with completion end of 2018. $3.2 million.
James B. Nicolls, jbnicolls@BellevueWA.gov

Wilburton Area Sidewalk Projects
Build sidewalks on 118th Ave SE, 128th Ave SE/NE, and NE 2nd St. Neighborhood Levy project. Construction June through early November 2018. $2 million (est.)
Jun An, jan@BellevueWA.gov

Various Locations

East Link Light Rail
Find and subscribe to receive current East Link construction updates at BellevueWA.gov/East-Link
Marie Jensen, mjensen@BellevueWA.gov

Wastewater Pump Replacement
Replace aging pumps at eight wastewater pump stations: Grange, Killarney, Meydenbauer, Bagley, Pleasure Point, Yarrow Point and lift stations along Lake Washington Blvd. Construction: 2018-19; $1.8 million (est.)
Birol Shaha, bshaha@BellevueWA.gov

Get in the Huddle!

Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement
Get a pet license from Regional Animal Services of King County. Protect your pet and help your community.
Recycle lost pets with their owners
Help find the one and adoption of shelter animals
Protect your community from unneutered felines

So, start scrambling!
Don’t get stuck with costly fees for noncompliance.
Create online www.improveyourpets.com/logo.png

Stay Connected

“Like” or “Follow” Bellevue’s pages to receive the latest news.
**October**

**South Bellevue Halloween on the Hill**
South Bellevue Community Center
14509 SE Newport Way

**Bellevue Zip Scare**
Oct. 19, 20, 26, 27; Tours start at 6 p.m.
Cost: $30/youth 9-17; $45/ages 18 & up
Experience one suspension bridge and three zip lines in the dark!
Register at register.BellevueWA.gov or by calling 425-452-4240

**Great SBC Pumpkin Race**
Oct. 27, 10 a.m. and noon
Buy ($25) pumpkin racer supplies kit if needed.
Free workshop Oct. 18, 7 p.m. (registration required)
Ages 6 & up
Free; Registration required at register.BellevueWA.gov or by calling 425-452-4240

**Halloween on the Hill Carnival**
Oct. 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Carnival games, food, bouncy houses and entertainment including magical ventriloquist Vikki Gasko Green
All ages. Free and paid activities.

**Dessert Theater on the Hill**
Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre presents “Nightmare Funhouse”
Family friendly. Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Suitable for 7 years & up.
$10/person
Register at register.BellevueWA.gov or by calling 425-452-4240

**Haunted Movie on the Hill**
Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.
“Hotel Transylvania” on a 17-foot inflatable screen.
Free movie and popcorn.

**Pumpkin Pals**
Oct. 27, 10-11:30 a.m.
Northwest Arts Center 9825 NE 24th St.
Art, music, snack and a pumpkin relay race. Ages 2 to 5. $21/resident and $26/non-resident.
Each additional family member is $5/resident and $6/non-resident.
Preregistration required. Course #1803616 NWAC@BellevueWA.gov or 425-452-4106

**“Fit for the Feast” Masters Swim Workout**
Nov. 22, 9-11 a.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center 601 143rd Ave. NE
Ages 19 and up. All abilities welcome. $12, includes a t-shirt.
425-452-2806

**Youth Appreciation & Safety Day**
Nov. 23, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center 601 143rd Ave. NE
A special swim session with safety demonstration and raffles.
Free admission and open swim for children 12 & under; $7 for ages 13 and older.
425-452-4444

**“Clara and the Nutcracker”**
Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre
Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 9, 15, 16 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre-Crossroads
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. $15 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or BYT@BellevueWA.gov

**Sounds of Swing Dances**
Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE
$3 at the door
425-452-7681

**Bellevue Magic Season**

**Garden d’Lights**
Nov. 24 to Dec. 30, 4:30-9 p.m. every evening including holidays.
Lights go out at 9:30.
Bellevue Botanical Garden 12001 Main St.
$5 Admission. Free for children 10 and under.
Free parking is available at Wilburton Hill Park.
$5/premium on-site parking; free for limited mobility with disability parking permit.
Tickets are available online starting Oct. 15.
www.gardendlights.org
425-452-6844

**Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink**
Presented by Alaska Mileage Plan
Nov. 23-Jan. 13; open daily, hours vary
Downtown Park
One block south of Bellevue Square at NE 1st Street and 100th Avenue NE
Region’s largest covered open-air ice skating experience. Featuring a warming tent for spectators and large ice surface.
$15 admission includes skate rental; 8-year-olds and under $10 includes skate rental.
BellevueIceRink.com or 425-452-1223

**Snowflake Lane presented by Alaska Mileage Plan**
Nov. 23-Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.
This nightly parade features falling snow, dazzling lights, festive music and toy drummers and dancers along the sidewalks of Bellevue Way between NE 4th and NE 8th Streets.
For the nightly parade route and more holiday fun, visit snowflakeLane.com or 425-454-8096.
2019-20 budget process underway

By Brad Harwood, Acting Chief Communications Officer

Continuing a public process that started in March, City Manager Brad Miyake was scheduled to present a preliminary 2019-2020 operating budget and 2019-2025 capital projects budget to the City Council this month. Residents are invited to attend the third of three public hearings concerning the budgets, tentatively scheduled for Monday, Nov. 19, at City Hall.

Councilmembers will review and adopt the general and capital project budgets sometime before the end of the year.

If you are interested in attending the November public hearing, please check the council agenda calendar (bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) to confirm the date and time. The previous budget hearings were held on June 4 and Aug. 6. To date, 26 comments on a variety of budget-related topics have been received. The council also held a budget workshop on March 26.

Bellevue's budget is produced every two years and includes the seven-year capital budget. Together, they are major policy documents, describing how the city intends to finance its services and infrastructure.

As part of the process, Bellevue uses a “budgeting for outcomes” (also known as “priorities of government”) process called “Budget One,” to develop the budget. This model puts the emphasis on community expectations for government services, as opposed to departmental priorities as in the past. Bellevue uses a seven-year capital budget and a variety of operating budgets.

By Brad Harwood, Acting Chief Communications Officer


A seven-year capital budget and a variety of operating budgets.

Continuing a public process that started in March, City Manager Brad Miyake was scheduled to present a preliminary 2019-2020 operating budget and 2019-2025 capital projects budget to the City Council this month. Residents are invited to attend the third of three public hearings concerning the budgets, tentatively scheduled for Monday, Nov. 19, at City Hall.

Councilmembers will review and adopt the general and capital project budgets sometime before the end of the year.

If you are interested in attending the November public hearing, please check the council agenda calendar (bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) to confirm the date and time. The previous budget hearings were held on June 4 and Aug. 6. To date, 26 comments on a variety of budget-related topics have been received. The council also held a budget workshop on March 26.

Bellevue's budget is produced every two years and includes the seven-year capital budget. Together, they are major policy documents, describing how the city intends to finance its services and infrastructure.

As part of the process, Bellevue uses a “budgeting for outcomes” (also known as “priorities of government”) process called “Budget One,” to develop the budget. This model puts the emphasis on community expectations for government services, as opposed to departmental priorities within the organization. For the latest updates and budget-related information, please check BellevueWA.gov.