Carlos still taking stand for human rights

By Claude Iosso, It’s Your City Editor

In the 1968 Olympics, U.S. track stars John Carlos and Tommie Smith bowed their heads and raised gloved fists while they stood on the medals podium, sending a message worldwide. Fifty years later, Carlos is still taking a stand against injustice.

“I have to stand up for something before I leave here,” Carlos told an overflow crowd in City Hall during a Martin Luther King Jr. Day event on Jan. 17. He encouraged the audience to fight for justice in their lives too, even if they don’t have an international stage.

“You can do it right here in Bellevue,” he urged the audience. “You can’t say, ‘It’s not my job.’ It’s everyone’s job.”

Indeed, the City of Bellevue has been pursuing a Diversity Advantage initiative over the last five years, working on several fronts to ensure all residents receive equitable services. “The city hosts speakers such as John Carlos to help staff and residents reflect on our collective purpose and how that informs the way we navigate the world,” said diversity and inclusion administrator Elaine Acacio.

Carlos, 73, was a counselor, in-school suspension supervisor and track coach at Palm Springs High School in Los Angeles for 25 years, but the image of him raising his fist is how millions know him. It doesn’t seem to bother him if people think of him as a “troublemaker.”

Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks and Jesus Christ were all given that label, he noted. “I’m in good company,” he said.

Before the Olympics, Carlos met the Rev. King in New York, shortly before King’s assassination. The young runner, just a college student at the time, was a little in awe. King expressed support for a boycott. Carlos said King equated it to Carlos throwing a rock from a boat into a still lake, sending ripples far and wide, telling people around the world, in a peaceful way, that something was amiss.

Carlos couldn’t speak from the podium in Mexico City about what moved him to raise his fist, but in his presentation in Bellevue, the entertaining storyteller recounted growing up in Harlem, seeing and experiencing discrimination. Traveling with the Olympic team, he also saw injustice throughout the world.

He and other Olympic athletes formed the Olympic Project for Human Rights, and they were considering boycotting the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City altogether. Ultimately, the Olympics team backed away from a boycott, but Carlos and Smith were still inspired to make a statement. Australian silver medalist Peter Norman wore an OPHR badge on the podium in support.

“Before there’s a fist, there’s five fingers,” Carlos told the audience at the end of his speech. “Each of the fingers can be a different ethnic group. The five of them realize, ‘If we come together, we become a very powerful force.’

“That was the essence of the fist – unification, unity, to be one on a mission to make something better,” Carlos concluded. The audience gave him a standing ovation.

The City of Bellevue and King County Library System co-sponsored the Jan. 17 presentation. On MLK Day itself, the city hosted a celebration and health fair at Crossroads Bellevue and a tree-planting at Eastgate Park.

COUNCIL CORNER

Bellevue gets smart with small cell technology

Last month your City Council reached an agreement with AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon that makes it possible for these companies to bring Bellevue residents and businesses into the new frontier of fifth-generation (5G) data transmission, while helping to alleviate the immediate issue of congestion with 4G data transmission.

Small-cell technology is the foundation of 5G networks, and requires the installation of small antennas on existing utility poles and placement of some electrical equipment at their bases. The equipment is nowhere near the size of the major cellular antennas that have caused concern previously, and the agreement pins down important design criteria to protect the aesthetics of our city, and more specifically, your neighborhood.

5G technology will enable a wide range of new and exciting services. A few examples include:

- **Public safety and transportation strategies,** emphasized in the Vision Zero traffic safety initiative, which will save lives and improve mobility.

- **The Internet of Things (IoT)** which allows for more choices for consumers and new possibilities in health care, education, retail and sustainability, while reducing traffic and environmental impacts of accessing those services in person.

- **Faster download speeds** that will facilitate telecommuting and provide Bellevue’s workforce with the level of wireless connectivity they need and expect from a tech city such as Bellevue.

Many of you have asked the city to enable a wider variety of high-speed data options, and 5G wireless will do just that. But 5G is just one aspect of Bellevue’s progress toward being a smart city, where technology is leveraged to increase livability, sustainability and resiliency. In 2017, the city adopted a “Bellevue Smart” plan that calls for advances in connectivity, transportation, public safety, water, buildings and energy.

**Advanced Water Metering**

The Utilities Department will launch advanced water metering this year. The plan is to replace all the city’s water meters, which currently must be read manually every two months, with smart meters that will track and wirelessly transmit water usage for customers in real time. The smart meters, to be installed by the fall of 2020, will provide early leak detection and the ability to proactively monitor water usage to control bills online or via your smartphone.

**Smart Mobility Plan**

In October, the Transportation Department completed a Smart Mobility Plan, which details ways the city will use technology to improve the safety, efficiency and accessibility of Bellevue’s streets and sidewalks.

Transportation advances outlined in the plan include newsworthy items such as:

- Real-time information about street conditions during and after winter storms;

- Additional charging stations and more electric vehicles in the city fleet;

- Powering CommutePool that will provide electric, autonomous and connected vanpools between employment and transportation centers.

In Bellevue, we strive to be tech-forward, making life substantively better for the people who live and work here. The future looks extremely bright as we continue to see the city just keep getting smarter and better.

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By Claude Iosso, It’s Your City Editor

**Assessing accessibility**

The City Council learned Jan. 14 about a comprehensive effort to assess the accessibility of the city’s facilities and programs. While the Self-evaluation and Transition plan are federal mandates, councilmembers praised the effort for extending beyond just compliance to help make Bellevue an even more inclusive city.

The assessment, led by the Diversity Advantage team, is expected to be finalized the first quarter of this year. Bellevue is dedicated to ensuring that all city programs, services, activities and facilities are fully accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.

The self-evaluation is required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. It will include a transition plan for how the city will improve accessibility where there are barriers to facilities and services.

As part of the assessment, the city’s ADA/Title IV administrator, Blayne Armon, facilitated focus groups and met with people living with disabilities at open houses. Hundreds responded to an online survey about their experiences.

**Exploring lid for Grand Connection I-405 crossing**

On Nov. 19, the council was briefed and provided direction on their preferred option for the Interstate 405 crossing of the “Grand Connection.”

Councilmembers unanimously agreed to proceed with further study of “alternative 3,” which incorporates a park into the lid-like crossing.

According to the city’s analysis, the design presents the best opportunity for creating a memorable public space, fostering a range of placemaking opportunities and catalyzing additional development.

The proposed Grand Connection will begin at Meydenbauer Bay Park, extend through downtown and ultimately connect with the regional Eastside Rail Corridor in a re-envisioned Wilburton commercial area. Moving forward, city staff will complete an Environmental Impact Statement review, continue stakeholder outreach, explore funding options and report back to the council for additional input.

**Updating Environmental Stewardship plan**

Staff briefed the council on Nov. 13 on how the city’s Environmental Stewardship Initiative will be updated to help the community achieve its environmental goals.

The initiative, an 11-year-old effort to protect the environment here, has been guided in recent years by the ESI 2013-18 Strategic Plan. Over that time the community participated in the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition and the Solarize Bellevue program, and the city made energy-saving changes at City Hall.

The new strategic plan will be developed for the next five years like the previous plan and the one before that, the updated version will focus on air quality, green building, energy conservation, tree canopy, climate change and other issues.

The process to update the plan will involve outreach to residents, businesses and other stakeholders throughout 2019. The aim is to build community support for goals in the plan.
Preparedness training pays dividends

By Lt. Camari Olson, Fire Department Public Information Officer

“Smart” water meters coming to Bellevue

By Brian Pugliese, Smart Water Meters Project Manager

Great Neighborhoods focuses on strategies

By Doug McIntyre, Senior Planner

When Vasundhara Jain decided to enroll in emergency response training last year, she figured the skills she learned would come in handy. She had no idea. On the evening of Jan. 9, when Jain briefly left her kitchen, oil was heating in a pan caught fire. Although the hallway smoke alarm had not yet sounded, flames already extended to the cabinets above the stove when she returned to the kitchen. Following directions she received in a Community Emergency Response Team class in September, Jain quickly called 911, then grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out before firefighters arrived. A blaze that easily could have destroyed her home on the 3600 block of 116th Avenue Northeast had only singed her cabinets and the wall behind the range. The battalion chief on the scene had been one of Jain’s CERT instructors, and she excitedly told the fire crew how the training gave her the confidence to use the extinguisher effectively. Not only that, based on information from the CERT class, Jain had earlier replaced her old, outdated extinguisher – which had been recalled – with a multi-purpose model that worked just right on the oil and electric burner.

CERT is a federal program that supports residents learning basic response skills so they can help their neighborhoods should disaster strike and first responders are delayed. The Fire Department’s Office of Emergency Management offers CERT classes throughout the year. You can sign up for CERT classes at BellevueWA.gov/cert or email oempublic@Bellevuewa.gov. For residents who can’t commit three hours a week for eight weeks to the training, Emergency Management also offers CERT Lite, a three-hour course focused on critical, life-saving skills.

CPR training also available

King County is a leader in cardiac arrest survival, in great part because bystanders here often recognize the signs of cardiac arrest, call 911 and know how to start CPR immediately, while paramedics are on the way. The Fire Department offers CPR classes that follow the American Heart Association’s Heartsaver CPR curriculum. This includes doing effective compressions, breathing for the victim without or with a barrier mask and using an automated external defibrillator.

Classes are offered regularly to residents at our downtown fire station as well as to business groups by request. For more information or to register call 425-452-6885 or go to BellevueWA.gov/cpr.

‘Smart’ water meters coming to Bellevue

By Brian Pugliese, Smart Water Meters Project Manager

“Smart” water meters, which track and wirelessly transmit your water usage in near real time, are coming to Bellevue. The city will begin replacing water meters later this year, with all smart meters set to be installed by the end of 2020. In December, the City Council approved a contract for the Utilities Department to begin the planning and installation of advanced metering infrastructure. This upgrade in meter reading, a part of the city’s “Bellevue Smart” plan, is being done with no upgrade in meter reading, a part of the city’s advanced metering infrastructure. This to begin the planning and installation of a contract for the Utilities Department

In December, the City Council approved this year, with all smart meters set to be wireless transmit your water usage in “Smart” water meters, which track and

By Lt. Camari Olson, Fire Department Public Information Officer

Great Neighborhoods focuses on strategies

By Doug McIntyre, Senior Planner

The Great Neighborhoods planning effort launched last year in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue, with residents identifying opportunities and issues for both neighborhood areas. The process will continue this spring, as planners work with residents to develop strategies that address local priorities such as the tree canopy or neighborhood character.

Great Neighborhoods is a collaboration with residents to produce neighborhood area plans, included in the Comprehensive Plan, that ensure Bellevue’s neighborhoods can adapt to changing needs while preserving their distinct character.

Formerly known as Neighborhood Area Planning, Great Neighborhoods started with a discovery phase September through December. Community Development staff met more than 280 residents in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue at farmers markets, pop-up offices, neighborhood walks and small group meetings. Staff also spent focused time with residents during four public meetings in the targeted areas.

In those 20 plus community meetings we learned what residents love about their neighborhoods as well as their concerns and specific ideas. The nearly 500 comments received identified opportunities and issues, which will be the focus of strategies developed in 2019 by residents and city staff.

To develop those strategies, the city will work with residents and stakeholders at workshops in March (see calendar on page 11) and through a new online engagement tool. Input will refine issues and opportunities that may serve as the foundation for strategies.

Have an idea to contribute now? The city’s engagement platform – EngagingBellevue.com – is now live. People in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue are encouraged to visit and share their input on ways to make their neighborhoods better.

Engage with us and keep the conversation going with your neighbors!

Changing out each meter will take less than 20 minutes. Utilities staff will begin informing customers when meters in their neighborhoods will be changed later this year.

Before large-scale meter replacements take place, there will be a pilot test of the technology. The Utilities Department is collecting the names and contact details of those customers who would like to participate in the pilot. If you’re interested, please send your name, address and phone number to SmartWater@bellevuewa.gov.

Great Neighborhoods focuses on strategies

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Northeast Bellevue residents participate in an Oct. 10 listening session.
**Budget supports sustainability, Grand Connection**

By Brad Harwood, Acting Chief Communications Officer

The operating and capital budgets adopted by the City Council on Dec. 3 support priorities in the Council Vision, with funding for affordable housing and the Grand Connection.

The $1.7 billion 2019-20 budget includes $1.1 billion in operating costs, $72 million in special purpose expenditures and $535 million for the seven-year General and Utilities capital budgets.

The 2019-25 Capital Investment Program (CIP) plan funds many transportation projects, but also includes $11.5 million to help fund implementation of the city's affordable housing strategy, including construction of a permanent men's shelter.

The “Grand Connection” pedestrian-bicycle corridor planned to stretch through downtown is backed in the capital budget ($2.5 million), along with a northeast gateway to Downtown Park ($5.25 million) that will be destination in the corridor.

Bellevue's budget, adopted after seven council briefings and three public hearings, also:

- Makes significant steps toward long-term fiscal sustainability through working with employees on health care costs, a 1 percent property tax increase and a new fire inspection fee;
- Increases police officers’ time in the community with the addition of non-commissioned staff and adds fire inspectors;
- Reiterates the city’s commitment to environmental protection through support of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative;
- Adjusts Development Services rates to account for growth and Utility rates to replace aging infrastructure; and
- Meets many of the community’s infrastructure priorities, including all voter-approved levy projects.

**In partnership, city targets distracted driving among teens**

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue has formed a new partnership around a campaign to raise awareness and reduce the damaging impact of distracted driving. The campaign, called “Tune In/Not Out” (TINO) is a joint effort with the Bellevue School District and Washington DECA, a student organization that prepares members for careers in business and marketing.

Leaders from the three organizations announced the effort during a Vision Zero Summit on Feb. 13 at Overlake Medical Center in Bellevue. Vision Zero is the city’s ambitious effort to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030.

The partnership will address a critical issue. Crashes are the leading cause of teen deaths in the nation. In Bellevue, one in four drivers involved in a fatal or serious-injury collision is under 25 years old, though young people of driving age, 16-25 years old, make up only 10.6 percent of Bellevue’s population.

TINO In is billed as a campaign by students, for students that will bring together high schoolers, families, the music community and others. Organizers intend to launch the campaign in October 2019.

Plans call for Washington DECA students to: develop and administer surveys in September to gauge attitudes and behavior of their peers; hold a series of pop-up concerts at district high schools; collect testimonials from victims, friends and families; and use social media to engage other students.

The city’s role, after bringing the three organizations together, will be to provide communications support for the TINO campaign and to help analyze its impact. The school district will help promote and coordinate campus events.

Information about Vision Zero is available on the city website, BellevueWA.gov/visionzero.

**PSE work on Lake Hills transmission line expected in spring**

By Steph Collier, Development Services Public Information Officer

After several years of planning and preparation, Puget Sound Energy will add a 115-kilovolt transmission line between its Lake Hills and Phantom Lake substations this year. Construction, including tree removal along the route, is expected to begin in the spring.

PSE will complete the project in phases, starting with tree removal, followed by installation of transmission poles and wire. New landscaping is scheduled to be added in the fall. During tree removal, construction and landscaping, please expect delays along Northeast Eighth Street and 148th Avenue. Signs and flaggers will safely direct traffic through the construction area.

PSE applied for construction permits in December, and the Development Services Department is reviewing the applications. In 2015, the city approved a conditional use permit for the Lake Hills-Phantom Lake transmission line.

According to PSE, the new line will improve electric service reliability for more than 12,000 residential and commercial customers in the Crossroads, Robinswood, Lake Hills, Eastgate, College Hills and Phantom Lake neighborhoods.

If you have questions about the project, contact PSE’s Bob Parker (majorprojects@pse.com or 1-888-404-8773). PSE offers details about the transmission line at PSE.com/lakehills-phantomlake.

Currently, PSE’s Lake Hills, Phantom Lake and College substations are each served by only one transmission line. According to PSE, if that line goes out, all customers served by that substation lose power. Design and operating standards now require substations to be served by two transmission lines, so if one loses power, the other can pick up the load.

To mitigate the removal of trees required for the project, which has raised concerns in the community, PSE will plant nearly $900,000 worth of new trees, vegetation and irrigation along the route.

PSE began planning for this project in 2007, determining a route for the line after public outreach required by the city. The route is along Northeast Eighth Street (between 164th and 148th avenues), 148th Avenue (between Northeast Eighth and Southeast 16th streets) and Southeast 16th Street (between 148th and 156th avenues).
Meydenbauer Bay Park almost ready for prime time

First envisioned over 30 years ago, the new Meydenbauer Bay Park will open on Saturday, March 16. The community is invited to attend a grand opening celebration 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The park considerably expands the old Meydenbauer Beach Park and features a large public swimming beach, pedestrian pier, walkways and overlook. With a new beach house and seasonal boat rentals, the park will be a destination for residents and visitors. The new path also increases public access to Lake Washington.
Neighborhood Leadership Gathering to focus on trees

By Mike McCormick Huentelman, Community Development Assistant Director

The Neighborhood Leadership Gathering this month will focus on trees, which provide beauty to Bellevue’s natural environment, as well as health and economic benefits. Resident input is wanted as the city considers how to increase our tree canopy from 37 percent of Bellevue’s land area to 40 percent.

“Talking about Trees” is set for Tuesday, Feb. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, room 1E-108. This edition of the twice yearly Neighborhood Leadership Gathering series will feature a staff panel presenting Bellevue’s tree canopy assessment and trends related to it along with information about trees in our parks and trees and development.

Following these short talks, there will be a facilitated discussion of tree-related issues. Residents will be asked for their ideas on how the city can partner with the community to preserve and grow Bellevue’s urban tree canopy.

In 2006, the city launched its Environmental Stewardship Initiative with a goal of bringing a more focused and integrated approach to Bellevue’s environmental efforts. Preservation of the tree canopy is among the efforts in the ongoing initiative.

In 2017, the city performed a tree canopy assessment, using aerial photography to survey Bellevue’s trees. The assessment documented forests in parks, trees in the right of way and the trees on residential land. Of the estimated 1.4 million trees that constitute Bellevue’s tree canopy, 65 percent are on residential land.

To increase the benefits that trees provide, the City Council adopted a goal of 40 percent tree canopy in Bellevue. Through community partnerships as well as maintenance, restoration, volunteer tree planting and other efforts of everyday residents, Bellevue is working toward achieving this goal.

Neighborhood Leadership Gatherings, where people discuss pressing local issues, are open to all who are invested in the quality and health of their neighborhoods. Dessert and coffee will be served. RSVPs are appreciated to neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Tree tours in parks

The city is adding a new approach to conservation in Bellevue. As part of its Environmental Stewardship initiative, the city is going beyond emissions reporting and canopy assessments by launching a series of quick tree tours in city parks.

The city’s urban forestry specialist teaches attendees to recognize the different plants that make up the Pacific Northwest forest. At Weowna Park, attendees learned about edible berries and the history of Phantom Creek.

Another tree tour is scheduled at Weowna Park on Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m. (meet at 168th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 19th Street).

So far, tree tours have been held in Weowna and Ardmore parks, but the program will expand to other locations soon. For more information, please visit BellevueWA.gov/trees.

Transportation projects ramping up in 2019

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

After a typical pace for transportation projects last year, 2019 is shaping up as a busy one in Bellevue. Below is a summary of important projects that will begin or continue construction this year.

• BellRed street projects: Construction will start this year to widen and improve 124th Avenue Northeast, from Northeast Spring Boulevard to Ichigo Way, and to build two more new sections of Spring Boulevard, from 116th Avenue Northeast to the Eastside Rail Corridor and from 120th to 124th Avenue Northeast. The combined budget for these projects in the booming BellRed area is about $50 million.

• Projects in east and south Bellevue: Also starting in 2019 will be the second phase of improvements for West Lake Sammamish Parkway, from the southeast 200 block to the northeast 800 block ($8 million); improvements on Newport Way Southeast, from Sonerset Boulevard to 150th Avenue Southeast ($9.7 million); and major upgrades for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail along Interstate 90, from Interstate 405 to 132nd Avenue Southeast ($19.3 million, which includes $14 million in state funding).

• Levy projects: More than 20 projects funded by the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy, approved by voters in 2016, are set to begin construction this year. The projects fit a range of categories: neighborhood safety; bicycle facilities; sidewalks, trails and paths; technology for traffic management and neighborhood congestion reduction. The levy generates $7.4 million per year for project planning, design, construction and public outreach.

• Annual overlay program: It will be a big year for street repaving in 2019 with more than 40 lane miles scheduled, about double the annual average. The annual budget for the program is approximately $5 million, which also covers bridge inspections and maintenance.

• East Link light rail: Construction on Sound Transit’s $3.8 billion East Link line will roll on in 2019, including work on more than five miles of guideway and six stations in Bellevue. The project is on schedule and passenger service is projected to begin in 2023.

More information on the programs and projects mentioned, as well as Traffic Advisories concerning roadway impacts in your area, is available via BellevueWA.gov/transportation.
Bellevue welcomes new city attorney

Kathy Gerla, a lawyer with over 30 years of legal experience in both the public and private sectors, has been appointed Bellevue’s new city attorney. A Bellevue resident, Gerla comes to the city from the King County Prosecutor’s Office. She was selected in December after a nationwide recruitment.

“Kathy has an impressive resume and a broad range of experience, including handling delicate municipal issues,” said City Manager Brad Miyake. “I’m very pleased she’s decided to join us.”

Gerla spent the last seven years as a senior deputy in the County Prosecutor’s Office. Previously she worked in the Seattle City Attorney’s Office and served for 17 years in the State Attorney General’s Office, representing the Governor’s Office and the departments of Natural Resources and Ecology.

Gerla also worked in the private sector, practicing for several years at Foster Pepper, a regional law firm based in Seattle. Her clients included municipalities and private companies.

“This is an exciting time to serve as Bellevue’s city attorney,” said Gerla. “I look forward to working with city leaders in continuing to provide excellent services to our community. I’m really excited about the opportunity to represent the city I live in.”

Raised in Eastern Washington, Gerla graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Washington University and received her law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law. She lives in the Newport Hills neighborhood of Bellevue, where she enjoys taking in the beauty of the outdoors by hiking and gardening.

She replaced former City Attorney Lori Riordan, who retired from the position in October.

Bellevue Fire inspection fees coming in 2020

By Ken Carlson, Fire Marshal

To support fire inspections that prevent injury and property loss, the city will begin charging annual fire inspection fees in 2020. Fire inspectors check multifamily and commercial buildings every other year, ensuring there are working sprinklers, alarms and other provisions that prevent fires. Multifamily buildings (apartments and condominiums) lacking fire alarm or fire sprinkler systems are inspected annually.

The inspection fees will start at $180 for buildings larger than 1,000 square feet and multifamily complexes, with the precise fee depending on the square footage and complexity of the building.

In December the City Council approved an ordinance that established the fire inspection fees for recovery of the costs associated with the inspection program. To ensure a smooth transition to the fee implementation, the Fire Department will work with building owners and managers throughout 2019 to answer any questions you may have and to collect building and tenant information.

If you have further questions, please email fire_prevention@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-6872.

Utilities discounts and rebates

By Heather DeWitt, Program Administrator

The City of Bellevue has programs to assist low-income residents with utility costs for water, wastewater and drainage.

Rate Relief

Rate relief offers 70 percent off basic utility costs for low-income seniors (62 and older) and low-income persons with permanent disabilities who meet specific residency and income guidelines. You may qualify for rate relief if your 2018 household income was $37,450 or less for one person or $42,800 or less for two. The form of relief depends on how utility costs are paid:

• Utility Rate Discount: If you pay a Bellevue utility bill, you may qualify for a rate reduction on your 2019 utility bills. This program is open through Oct. 31.

• Utility Rate Rebate: If your utility costs have been paid through rent or other third party, you may qualify for a rebate check on 2018 utility costs. This program is open April 1 to Oct. 31.

Emergency Assistance Program

If you pay a Bellevue utility bill directly and are not eligible for the Rate Discount, you may qualify for a 100 percent discount for up to four months of utility service if you are experiencing a one-time financial shock that interferes with your household’s ability to cover basic needs.

There are no age or disability requirements for the Emergency Assistance Program. This assistance is available once every three years.

Additional Requirements

Additional requirements apply for rate relief discounts and rebates as well as the Emergency Assistance Program. Guidelines and applications will be available when the programs open at BellevueWA.gov/utilityrelief or by calling Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-5285.

‘Paws on Patrol’ help fight crime

By Marji Trachtman, Police Volunteer Coordinator

Bellevue Police invites residents to become a “Paws on Patrol” partner.

Dog walkers are out in their neighborhoods daily, but miss signs of crime when they are consumed with texts, music or chatting on their phones. With just a little more awareness, they and their dogs can be extra eyes and ears on the block, sniffing out and reporting suspicious activity on their walks.

“‘We’re excited to launch Paws on Patrol in Bellevue,” said Detective Jeff Borsheim. “It’s been successful and well-received in Redmond and Mercer Island.

“Who knows their own neighborhood better than people who are out walking it every day?” Borsheim added. “They are in the best position to spot something that looks suspicious or out of place, and that’s a tremendous help to the Police Department.”

Some things to watch for:

• People without an apparent destination

• A person or child resisting the advances of another individual.

• People walking to the rear of a property.

• A vehicle parked in an unusual location.

• Property in a vehicle (i.e. television, laptop, pillow cases, etc.).

• A vehicle traveling at an extreme rate of speed, low or high.

You will receive basic training on how to spot and report suspicious activity, and a “Paws on Patrol” tag for your crime-fighting partner. To join, go to Police.BellevueWA.gov and click on Crime Prevention.
Revamped website offers travel solutions for regional squeeze

By Kate Johnson, Transportation Program Manager

You may have learned about the “Seattle Squeeze” recently when Highway 99 in downtown Seattle was closed for three weeks, impacting travel across the region. But what you may not know is that traffic challenges are expected to continue for the next five years as crews tackle other transportation projects that will affect Bellevue commuters.

To help workers, residents and students get to and from Bellevue, the city has ChooseYourWayBellevue.org, a one-stop online resource for transportation options. The website, first launched in 2007 has been redesigned to better serve users. Among its features:

- How-to information on using travel modes such as transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking and biking;
- Free trip planning assistance to help you navigate around construction;
- Incentive programs such as Choose Your Way Bellevue Rewards and JustOneTrip.org to encourage people to use new commute modes; and
- Rewards for trying biking facilities and services in Bellevue, such as the Downtown Demonstration Bikeway and bike share pilot.

For more information, visit the Choose Your Way website or send an email to info@cywb.org.

Wash car at commercial car wash

Washing your car at home is a dirty business. Did you know that all storm drains in Bellevue lead directly to a stream, lake or wetland? When you wash your car in the street or a parking lot, toxic motor oil, brake pad dust, tire wear and other chemical residues—along with soap—go down storm drains, untreated, into the waterways we swim, fish and play in.

Dirty wash water contains oil, solvents, anti-freeze and toxic heavy metals such as zinc, lead and copper. Soap is a significant problem and is harmful to fish and the insects they eat. Even biodegradable soap can kill fish before it degrades.

Instead, take your car to a commercial car wash that reclaims the wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

Updated volunteer resource guide

What’s your passion? Whether it’s preserving the beautiful scenery that surrounds us, protecting our furry friends or helping those in need, Bellevue’s Volunteer Resource Guide will give you the contacts you need to make an impact.

First published by the City of Bellevue in 2016, the third edition of the comprehensive guide lists over 70 eastside agencies seeking volunteers. Alumni from the Bellevue Essentials program updated the volunteer guide. Organized by topic, the guide can be accessed online at BellevueWA.gov/volunteer-guide or you can request a hard copy from Julie Ellenhorn (jellenhorn@BellevueWA.gov or 425-452-5372).

Volunteering in the community provides a chance to make a difference and give back in a meaningful way, while learning about new experiences and connecting with others. For more information about the volunteering guide or the Bellevue Essentials civic engagement class, please contact Julie Ellenhorn.

Free gardening classes

Cascade Water Alliance and the City of Bellevue are partnering to offer free gardening classes that can help you have beautiful, healthy landscapes while using water efficiently. Taught by a team of expert gardening professionals, the following will be offered in Bellevue. Registration is required.

Knock Out Gardens
Win the war on water use with great plants and planting techniques. Saturday, March 9, 10-11:30 a.m. Bellevue Nursery, 842 104th Ave. SE Register: KnockOut.brownpapertickets.com

Natural Lawn Care
Saturday, March 16, 10:30 a.m.-noon Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, 15500 SE 16th St. Register: NaturalLawn.brownpapertickets.com

Gardening in Small Spaces
Grow more food in a tiny footprint. Saturday, March 23, 10:30 a.m.-noon Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, 15500 SE 16th St Register: SmallSpaces.brownpapertickets.com

Eat Your Yard: Edible Landscape Design
Saturday, March 30, 10-11:30 a.m. Bellevue Nursery, 842 104th Ave. SE Register: EatYourYard.brownpapertickets.com

Contain Yourself: Smart Ideas for Gardening in Pots
Saturday, April 6, 10-11:30 a.m. Bellevue Nursery, 842 104th Ave. SE Register: Containers.brownpapertickets.com

Visit CascadeWater.org/water-efficiency/cascade-gardener for other classes offered throughout the Cascade Water Alliance service area.
Islamic Center of Eastside to be rebuilt

At the East Bellevue Community Council’s Dec. 4 meeting, we heard from the architect who will rebuild the Islamic Center of Eastside (also known as the Bellevue Mosque) where the former mosque was destroyed by arson fires in 2017 and 2018. The plans show a two-story structure with white stone and artistic design features occupying about the same square footage as the previous building.

Faheem Darab, senior planner with the city, reported that the project was in design review. To meet code, the new building at 14700 Main St. will be accessible to people with disabilities. The parking lot will be reconfigured to include ADA parking stalls.

The meeting was well-attended, with many members of the Islamic Center in attendance.

New school planned for Bellewood site

On Jan. 8, the Bellevue School District provided a courtesy hearing to the EBCC concerning plans for construction of a new school at 301 151st Pl. NE, where the Bellewood Elementary School now stands.

The school district plans to relocate Puesta Del Sol Elementary School, the Spanish immersion program currently at Somerset Elementary, to the Bellewood site. The Bellewood school, used since 2001 as a transition location while other elementary schools have been built, is scheduled for demolition this summer. Construction of Puesta Del Sol is set to begin shortly after, with completion targeted for summer of 2020.

Empty, clean, dry – these are words you can recycle by

It only takes an extra minute to empty, clean and dry your recycling. That ensures it will get made into something new. Recycling is an important thing we can do to benefit both the environment and the economy. You keep lots of material out of the landfill, and making products from recycled content decreases the need to extract new materials, such as petroleum, wood, minerals and water from the environment.

Bellevue residents continue to benefit both the environment and the economy by recycling their plastic, paper, cardboard, glass and metal cans. No matter what, we should all continue recycling and strive to recycle right.

Containers that previously contained food or liquid should be rinsed to remove residue. Shake out excess liquid and air dry. When putting recycling in your curbside bin, make sure you don’t overfill the bin and keep the lid shut tight to keep out rain.

As long as they are empty, clean and dry, you should always recycle:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles, jugs and tubs
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal cans
Every two years as part of the budget adoption, the City Council approves a seven-year Capital Investment Program budget. Featured below are some transportation, utilities and parks projects under construction in 2019 to sorted by neighborhood area and listed with estimated cost. Construction schedules often change, so for specific project information, please contact the project manager listed. For information about projects in the planning or design phase, visit the Projects In Your Neighborhood interactive map at Transportation.BellevueWA.gov.

BelRed

Midlakes Pump Station
Replace pump station to improve capacity. Construction first quarter 2019 to first quarter 2020 ($4 million).
Vanaja S. Rajah, vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

136th Ave NE Water Inlet Station and Transmission Main
Capacity and water supply improvements on Northeast Eight Street. Construction third quarter 2019 to second quarter 2020 ($8.4 million).
Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

NE Spring Blvd: 116th to 120th Aves NE
Widen Northeast 12th Street to six lanes from 116th Avenue Northeast to a new intersection west of the Eastside Rail Corridor. Construction second quarter 2019 to first quarter 2020 ($53.4 million).
Steve Costa, scosta@bellevuewa.gov

NE Spring Blvd: 120th to 124th Ave NE
Build new four-lane roadway with turn pockets and center medians, landscaping, sidewalks, off-street paths for bicycling and on-street parking. Construction second quarter 2019 to fourth quarter 2020 ($26 million).
Steve Costa, scosta@bellevuewa.gov

124th Ave NE: NE Spring Blvd to Ichigo Way
Widen and raise 124th Avenue Northeast to five lanes, install sidewalk on both sides of Northeast Spring Boulevard to Northeast 16th Street, construct a bridge for East Link light rail undercrossing. Construction second quarter 2019 to fourth quarter 2020, pending right of way acquisition ($33 million).
Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown

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 first quarter 2019 ($14.5 million).
Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate

Cougar Mountain #3 Pump Station
Upgrade aging pump station. Construction through second quarter 2019 ($2 million).
James B. Nicolls, jbnicolls@bellevuewa.gov

SE Newport Way Multipurpose Path
Build a 10-foot wide multipurpose path on the north side and a five-foot bike lane on the south side of Southeast Newport Way, between 150th Avenue Southeast to Somerset Boulevard. Construction second quarter 2019 to third quarter 2020 ($9.7 million).
Paul Krawczyk, pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

Factoria

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail: I-405 to 132nd Ave SE
Construct a 12-foot-wide multi-use trail; including bridge over Factoria Boulevard Southeast, improve the I-90 off-ramp to Factoria Boulevard. Construction second quarter 2019 to fourth quarter 2020 ($14 million).
Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Newport

Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Project
Jim Stockwell, jstockwell@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 Place Southeast, between Southeast Sixth Street and Main Street. Replace water main from Lake Hills Boulevard to Main Street and upgrade crosswalks at Lake Hills Boulevard and 159th Avenue Southeast to include rapid flashing beacons. Construction first quarter to third quarter 2019 ($2.5 million).
Mike Rodni, mrodni@bellevuewa.gov

Northeast Bellevue

NE Bellevue Crosswalk Improvements Project
Improve five crosswalks and add a new crosswalk with rapid flashing beacons, curb ramp and extend sidewalks for improved pedestrian crossing. Construction first to third quarter 2019 ($1.2 million).
Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov

Northwest Bellevue

Cherry Crest Pump Station Replacement
Replace water pump station, combining Pikes Peak and Cherry Crest pump stations into one. Construction third quarter 2019 to second quarter 2020 ($8.7 million).
Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

Vucrcrst Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation
Upgrade the sewer system. Construction third quarter 2019 to first quarter 2020 ($2 million).
Regan Side, rsidie@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

Surrey Downs Park
Renovation includes a “great lawn,” meadow bordered with picnic tables, benches and new restrooms and a viewing platform overlooking the light rail tracks. Construction through February 2019; park opening anticipated for March 2019 ($5 million).
Pam Fehrman, pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov

West Lake Sammamish

West Lake Sammamish Parkway: Multipurpose Path
Build a 10-foot wide multipurpose path from the Southeast 200 block to the Northeast 800 block on the west side and a four-foot shoulder on the east side of the roadway. Coordination with Utilities on water main project. Construction second quarter 2019 to third quarter 2020 ($8.4 million).
Paul Krawczyk, pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

Various locations and other agency projects

Wastewater Pump Replacement
Replace aging pumps at eight wastewater pump stations: Grange, Kilarney, Meydenbauer, Bagley, Pleasure Point, Yarrow Point and two lift stations (Eastgate Lift Station #1 and #2) along Lake Washington Boulevard. Construction: third quarter 2019 to first quarter 2020. ($8.7 million).
Biror Shaha, bshaha@bellevuewa.gov

Sound Transit: East Link Light Rail construction
Find and subscribe to receive East Link construction updates at Transportation.BellevueWA.gov/EastLink or SoundTransit.org/EastLink.
Marie Jensen, mjensen@bellevuewa.gov

State Department of Transportation: I-405: Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes
This project will add new capacity to create a two-lane express toll lane system between State Route 167 in Renton and Northeast Sixth Street in Bellevue. Construction fall 2019 through 2024.
WSDOT.wa.gov/projects/I405/rentontobellevue
Lewis Creek Ranger Hike
March 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Free. 425-452-4195 or lvcc@bellevuewa.gov

Mercer Slough Ranger Hike
March 3, 2-3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Free. RSVP at 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov

March Mania Plant Sale
March 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
Featuring unique specialty plants and spring ephemerals, indoor location and kids’ activities.
NorthwestPerennialAlliance.org

Great Neighborhoods
Workshop for NW Bellevue
March 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
1934 108th Ave. NE
EngagingBellevue.com

Peamouth Patrol Workshop
March 27, 6:30-8 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Register at streamteam@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5200

“Exile of Lord Rama/What About Us”
April 19, 20, 26 and 27 at 7 p.m.;
April 27 and 28 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
Two one act plays. “Lord Rama,” a classic tale told with dance, is suitable for all ages. “What about Us” explores timely topics impacting young people today – appropriate for 10+.
Cost: $15 per ticket. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Garden Workshops and Lectures
April 4: Creating Your Dream Garden: A two-part workshop,
6:30-8:30 p.m.
April 6: Expressive Acrylic Painting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
March 15: Mindfulness in the Garden: Nourishing Peace
Within, 10:30 a.m.-noon
March 16: Hydrangea How-To, 10 a.m.-noon
March 21: Garden d’Lights Orientation
April 16: Kids in the Garden, 10 a.m.-noon.
Workshops provided in conjunction with various partners. Prices vary.
BellevueBotanical.org/classes.htm

“Bobby’s World of Adventure”
May 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.;
May 5 and 11 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
Bobby wakes up in a world where the characters he’s read about are not what he expects.
Appropriate for all ages.
Cost: $15 per ticket. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Mother’s Day Social
May 12, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
16051 NE 10th St.
Free and open to all. Posy making, music, dancing, docent tours and plein air artists.
Donations welcome. 425-452-2750 or BellevueBotanical.org

“Midsummer Night’s Dream”
May 17, 18 and 25, 7 p.m.; May 19, 25 and 26 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
Shakespeare’s journey into a world of fairies and mystery.
Appropriate for all ages.
Cost: $15 per ticket. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Great Neighborhoods
Workshop for NE Bellevue
March 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Overlake Park Presbyterian Church
1836 156th Ave. NE
EngagingBellevue.com

“Exile of Lord Rama/What About Us”
April 19, 20, 26 and 27 at 7 p.m.;
April 27 and 28 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
Two one act plays. “Lord Rama,” a classic tale told with dance, is suitable for all ages. “What about Us” explores timely topics impacting young people today – appropriate for 10+.
Cost: $15 per ticket. 425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Coal Creek Area Ranger Hike
March 30, 10:30-noon
Cinder Mill Trailhead
Newcastle Golf Club Road, west of Redtown Trailhead
Free. 425-452-7225

Lewis Creek Ranger Hike
April 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Free. 425-452-4195 or lvcc@bellevuewa.gov

Mercer Slough Ranger Hike
April 7, 2-3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Free. RSVP at 425-452-2565 or mseec@bellevuewa.gov

Arbor Day- Earth Day Family Festival
April 20, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
425-452-4195 or lvcc@bellevuewa.gov

Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing
April 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm
410 130th Pl. SE
Sheep shearing, spinning demonstrations, children's activities, tractor-pulled wagon rides, pony rides and food. Free admission. Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM on site, no charge cards accepted. 425-452-7688 or kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov

Chinese Floral Art Exhibit
May 18-19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Members of the Hua Yuan School of Chinese Floral Art create exquisite floral displays, on view all weekend in the Gathering Place at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.
16051 NE 10th St.
Free, open to the public.

Spring Tea Exhibit
May 18, 2-4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
16051 NE 10th St.

Repair Fair
May 29, 9-6 p.m.
Bellevue Library
1111 110th Ave. NE
Bring small household items for repair including clothing. Free. Tom Watson, 206-477-4481 or tom.watson@kingcounty.gov

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm Stand
700 148th Avenue SE
March through June
Hours vary, call to confirm. 559-274-5942

2019 Picnic Shelter Reservations
Planning a gathering at one of Bellevue’s beautiful parks? Picnic shelters are now available for reservation. For more information, call 425-452-6914 or parkrental@bellevuewa.gov

Seattle Garden Club Flower Show: “Nature’s Poetry”
June 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center
16051 NE 10th St.
View exhibits in Floral Design, Horticulture and Photography.
Free, open to the public.

Summer Day Camps
Registration now underway
Spring and Summer Recreation Program Registration
(May through August)
March 26— Resident registration begins
April 4—Non-resident registration begins
425-452-6885 or Register.BellevueWA.gov

Lake Hills Farm Fresh Produce Stand
156th Ave.SE and SE 16th St.
April through June
Hours vary, please call farm to confirm 425-233-1198

Latex Paint Collection Event
June 1, 1-3 p.m.
Stevenson Elementary parking lot, 14220 NE Eighth Street
Fees apply. kingCounty.gov/takeitback
BelRed coffee and conversation

What’s happening in BelRed?

Glad you asked...

The changes are coming thick and fast in the BelRed neighborhood, with construction of brand new streets and the East Link light rail line transforming the landscape of this historically light industrial area northeast of downtown.

Are you curious what changes have taken place and what’s still in store in BelRed? You can learn about transportation, community planning and other city projects and programs changing the BelRed corridor at the BelRed Transformation – Coffee and Conversation on Tuesday, March 26, at the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) Commons Area, 12280 NE District Way, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

There will be no formal presentations, allowing attendees to go to information tables with presentations about developments including East Link, major city transportation projects, BelRed Lookback and the Neighborhood Enhancement Program.

Staff from the Transportation, Community Development and Development Services departments will be on hand, as well as from Sound Transit, the state Department of Transportation and King County. The forum is part of the city’s Access Bellevue effort to provide complete information about major projects around the city. Refreshments, including coffee and bagels, will be provided.