



OCTOBER 2009

## INSIDE

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## Challengers for four Council seats

At least two people are contending for each of the four City Council seats that will be open in January. When residents vote in the Nov. 3 election, they will have the following candidates to choose from:

### Position 2

**Conrad Lee:** The incumbent, Lee was first elected to the council in 1994 and has twice been re-elected.

**Vicki Orrico:** Orrico is serving her second term as a member of Bellevue's Planning Commission. She has served as chair of that board.

### Position 4

**Patsy Bonincontri:** Bonincontri was appointed to fill her seat when Connie Marshall resigned in 2008.

**Kevin Wallace:** Wallace is an executive with the Bellevue-based real-estate company Wallace Properties.

### Position 6

**Don Davidson:** Davidson is the incumbent, and has served on the council for 23 years over three separate terms,

including a two-year term as mayor in 1994 and 1995.

**Michael Marchand:** Marchand is a communications executive with Microsoft.

### Position 7

**Mike Creighton:** Creighton was appointed following Phil Noble's untimely death. Creighton served on the council before, from 1996 to 2003, including a two-year stint as mayor in 1998 and 1999.

**Jennifer Robertson:** Like Orrico, Robertson is serving a second term on the Planning Commission. She has chaired the commission.

**Betina Finley:** Finley is in her second term on Bellevue's Arts Commission; now serving as chair.

Additional information about the candidates can be found on the King County Elections website at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/elections/200911/contestscandidates.aspx>.



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### Position 2.

*Conrad Lee and Vicki Orrico*



### Position 4.

*Patsy Bonincontri and Kevin Wallace*



### Position 6.

*Don Davidson and Michael Marchand*



### Position 7.

*Mike Creighton,  
Betina Finley and  
Jennifer Robertson*



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## Council Corner



### Connecting with your neighbors and city through Neighbor Link

By Bellevue Mayor Grant Degginger

Bellevue is the epicenter of the Eastside's high-technology corridor. Thousands work in the software and wireless industries. We are told that the vast majority of homes in Bellevue have computers. Cell phones, Blackberries, iPods and other devices have become commonplace, even though some of us still rely on our teenagers to program the darn things.

We surf the Internet. We e-mail. We blog. We Tweet. Yet, despite all of our wired and wireless connections, we still seek a sense of community—a personal connection to our neighbors and to this city that we all call home.

Our neighborhoods have long been an essential part of what makes Bellevue such a great place to live. Recognizing the important role that neighborhoods play in creating a positive sense of community, the City Council established and the staff of our Neighborhood Outreach Team delivered the Neighbor Link program which debuted during the summer.

Neighbor Link has two important goals. The first is to build a sense of community and strengthen relationships within neighborhoods by uniting people in both service and celebration, within their neighborhoods and on a citywide basis. The second goal was to raise awareness of our community's human service needs and to focus the energy of our neighborhoods on helping to meet those needs.

The results of Neighbor Link's first summer were astounding. Here is a brief recap:

- Twenty-three neighborhoods participated in a variety of service projects.

- Fourteen food drives collected 5,000 pounds of food for the Hopelink and World Renewal Food banks.
- Nearly \$1,500 in cash donations to Hopelink and to Congregations for the Homeless were generated.
- Three neighborhoods in South Bellevue worked together for the first time and collected more than 500 pounds of pet food for the Humane Society as well as 500 pounds of food for the World Renewal Food Bank.
- Neighborhood block watches, community resource directories, community litter pick-ups were conducted.
- Some neighborhoods sponsored school supply drives, toiletry drives and cell phone drives for those in need of assistance.
- Many of the participating neighborhoods put on celebrations as part of their events. A big thanks to Whole Foods Market in Bellevue, which donated a delicious cake for each of these events and who catered the Neighbor Link picnic at the City Hall plaza in July.

On behalf of the City Council, thanks to all who participated in the Neighbor Link events. We both reconnected with our neighbors and, in helping others, we strengthened our community. Let's do it again next summer!

If you want to know more about Neighbor Link, call Julie Ellenhorn in Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-5372, or visit the Neighbor Link page on the city's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighbor-link.htm>.



Residents at Neighbor Link picnic in July.

## Council Roundup

### Bellevue still among safest cities

Bellevue continues to be a very safe city, with the lowest per capita violent and property crime rate among the state's 10 largest cities, City Manager Steve Sarkozy told the City Council in September.

Sarkozy noted that statistics recently released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that while the total number of violent crimes increased from 138 in 2007 to 168 in 2008, the number remained low for a city the size of Bellevue. The fifth largest city in the state, Bellevue experienced no homicides for the second year in a row in 2008.

The FBI's 2008 property crime statistics showed burglary incidents in Bellevue increased from 583 in 2007 to 687 in 2008. However, motor vehicle thefts continued to decrease, from 446 in 2007 to 275 in 2008. Car thefts have decreased for five consecutive years.

The city's own statistics show that since 1996, the overall number of major crimes has trended downward despite Bellevue's population growth.

**Feedback:** Tim Waters, Communications Director, 425-452-4090 or [trwaters@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:trwaters@bellevuewa.gov)

### More 'wayfinding kiosks' coming downtown

Council members in September approved the creation and installation of five additional "wayfinding kiosks" to help downtown pedestrians navigate to significant cultural, entertainment, shopping, transit and civic attractions.

The new kiosks will cost \$73,695 and will be paid for through a federal grant, administered by Sound Transit. Wayfinding is considered a key element of an established, complex downtown and the installations are seen as contributing to the character of public spaces.

Four wayfinding kiosks were installed last spring along the pedestrian corridor and Northeast Sixth Street. The new kiosks will be located on Main Street, Bellevue Way, at 110th Avenue Northeast at Northeast 10th Street, and near the Bellevue Transit Center.



Like the kiosks already in place, the new ones will feature a downtown map, a panel that tells a story related to the kiosk location and directional signs to various destinations. Three of the new stations will also include the same tree-like form of forged and fabricated steel that look like branches growing from the tops of the older kiosks.

**Feedback:** Kevin McDonald, Senior Planner, 425-452-4558 or [kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov).

### Soon a safe route to new school

The City Council in September helped make sure students at the newly built Eastgate Elementary School soon have a route to school that matches the quality of the building.

The council approved an agreement with the state Department of Transportation for a grant that will help pay for construction of a long-awaited sidewalk along 152nd Avenue Southeast.

Under a Safe Routes to School grant from the state DOT, Bellevue will receive an additional \$192,500 for education and enforcement efforts, and to help build new curb, gutter and six-foot wide sidewalks on the west side of 152nd Avenue, from Southeast 46th Street to Southeast Newport Way. Total cost of the project is \$5.07 million.

The goal of the improvements is to create a safe walking route from several residential developments to the school, located at 4255 153rd Avenue Southeast.

Construction on the sidewalk project is scheduled to begin in 2010 and be complete in time for the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

**Feedback:** Jen Benn, Program Manager, 425-452-4270 or [jbenn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jbenn@bellevuewa.gov)

### New regulations to address "megahomes"

The City Council voted in August to limit the overall height of new single-family homes, and to impose additional development standards on large new homes built in existing neighborhoods.

The new regulations were proposed by the Planning Commission as the second phase of a "Neighborhood Character" package addressing residents' concerns about the negative impacts of so-called "megahomes" -- new or remodeled homes out of scale with those around them. An initial phase of Neighborhood Character regulations was adopted by the council in December 2007.

When built in existing neighborhoods, large houses (those whose square footage exceeds 50 percent of the lot size) will be required to have minimum 7.5-foot setbacks on each side and roof pitches that reduce "shadowing" of adjacent houses. Also included in the new regulations are:

- Further limitations on building height (maximum of 35 feet to roof peak, 40 feet for any single facade);
- New rules regarding placement of mechanical equipment associated with new or remodeled homes;
- Change in ending time for residential construction noise (from 10 p.m. to 8 p.m.);
- Increase in significant tree retention for new subdivisions (from 15 percent to 30 percent).

**Feedback:** Matthews Jackson, Neighborhood Development Planning Manager, 425-452-2729 or [mjackson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mjackson@bellevuewa.gov)



# 'The conscience of our council' remembered fondly at City Hall tribute



Three-term City Council member Phil Noble passed away June 21 due to complications from a blood disorder. A tribute to his life and long career in public service was held at City Hall on June 29.

Many of Councilman Noble's friends and colleagues shared memories of a man known for his deep devotion to Bellevue and passion for helping those less fortunate than himself. Before his election to the council, Noble served eight years on the Bellevue School Board and eight years on the Bellevue Transportation Commission.

Following are excerpts from some of the speakers:

**Council member Don Davidson:**

"It's amazing the words that come to mind when I think of Phil Noble – sincerity, thoughtfulness, caring, integrity, intelligence. He was a wonderful, wonderful man who had an amazing knack for putting things together."

**Council member Conrad Lee:**

"He was a wonderful friend, husband and father. We always respected each other's viewpoints. That wasn't difficult with Phil because he was always thoughtful, deliberate and articulated his position well."

**Deputy Mayor Claudia Balducci:**

"He could take an issue and digest the gnarliest details. Sometimes I tell people that regional transportation around here is a little like peace in the Middle East, too much history and too unattainable to actually ever solve the problem. But Phil could grasp all the history and all the details and marshal them at will in meetings and move people to resolution. He was so good at that."

**Council member John Chelminiak:**

"Phil was the conscience of our council. When all of us got excited about all the great things going on in the city and buildings going up and projects going on, Phil was always there to remind us of the most important thing about our city, and that is making sure everyone has opportunity. He was an incredible leader regionally for human services."

**Council member Patsy Bonincontri:**

"When I first asked Phil for advice when I was appointed to the City Council, he said 'This is your city now, so you have to take care of it.' He knew how to succinctly tell you what you ought to do, and inspired us to do the best we could."

**Former Bellevue Mayor and Council member Nan Campbell:**

"He would carefully weigh my arguments and those of others he received, and only then would he act upon these ideas, doing what he thought was in the best interest of all of Bellevue."

**Former Bellevue City Council member Kurt Springman:**

"I look at Phil's years of service and I am just humbled... We are going to see Phil's legacy deliver year after year."

**Former Bellevue Council member Margot Blacker**

"Words cannot express our depth of sadness, but nor can words express the height of joy that Phil lived and the height of appreciation of what he gave to the community."

**King County Councilman Reagan Dunn:**

"Phil's work for a quarter of a century guided this community through tough times, and brought it to its place today as one of the top-notch regional cities in the nation, with some of the highest standards of living."

**Kirkland Mayor Jim Longyear:**

"He was known as this quiet giant of a man, well-trained, well-educated, well-schooled, highly competent, someone who never regarded himself differently from those who sought help through human services programs. That is a great legacy."

**Newcastle City Council member Jean Garber:**

"I was one of the many, many people who was fortunate enough to associate with Phil on a regional level, and I always thought he lived up to the word 'noble' with his consistent, friendly demeanor and his advocacy for those in need."

**Mercer Island Mayor Jim Pearman:**

"He was a gentle leader. He wasn't the kind who pushed his leadership on you. It kind of just happened... As my fellow council members know, in our business friends come and go, enemies accumulate. Phil was the exception. It seemed like the longer he hung around, the more he got elected, the more friends he had."

**Jan Stout, Chairperson, Bellevue Human Services Commission:**

"Phil's ability to concisely summarize different points of discussion and move wandering dialogue to a rational group decision was one of his greatest attributes. He was totally outwardly unruffled by the conflict that was inevitably part of the work of all elected officials."

**Marilyn Mason Plunkett: CEO of Hopelink:**

"You could do anything on a handshake with Phil. He had immense compassion, and spoke and acted on the truth. In the time I knew him, he never sought the spotlight. His focus was on the issue or the service."

**Leslie Lloyd, president of the Bellevue Downtown Association:**

"Phil was always a great council member and it was never about him. It was always about what was best for Bellevue. He was really a great guiding post for all of us."

**Betsy Black, Surrey Downs resident:**

"He listened and listened and never yelled. And having been known to be a bit of yeller myself, I take that as my legacy from Phil Noble. If you start yelling, people stop listening."

**Bellevue City Manager Steve Sarkozy:**

"Every time I had to chance to meet with Phil one-on-one, he would always ask about family, he would always want to talk about what was going on in your life. He was not just a key contributor to the community, but he was on the 'A' list of all-stars as a person and as a public servant."

**Bellevue Mayor Grant Degginger:**

"He brought the level of discourse on our council to a very high level. We really respected his skills and sense of fairness. What else can you ask for in an elected official and leader but to be fair and listen to everyone and do your best? That is really what he was all about and that's the legacy he leaves us. We have big shoes to fill because Phil set a great example for all of us."

**Shelly Noble, his wife:**

"People have asked, from time to time, how did he manage (the time he spent in public service), how did he do that and how did you manage that in your family. Actually there was never a problem sharing Phil with the community because public service was such an intricate part of him, something he needed to do."

## Gandhi statue comes to Bellevue

Mahatma Gandhi is coming to Bellevue.

A statue of the revered “Apostle of Peace” who led India to independence is scheduled to be placed at the Bellevue Regional Library downtown this month. The six-foot, bronze figure is a gift from the government of India to Bellevue, honoring the people of the city where many Indian nationals who have settled and found success.

Designed by Indian sculptor and architect Anil R. Sutar, the statue is similar to memorials at the Indian embassy in Washington D.C. and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta. A dedication is scheduled at the library on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 2 p.m.



Fifteen percent of the state’s Indian population – more than 6,000 people – live in Bellevue, 10 Indian firms have U.S. headquarters on the Eastside and 30 percent of the global workforce for Redmond-based Microsoft is Indian. The State Bank of India is even considering opening a branch in Bellevue.

At a World Trade Club dinner at City Hall in August, a high-ranking Indian official said the country may soon locate a consulate in Bellevue. One of just a handful of Indian consulates in the U.S., it would be the first

consulate from any country here.

Indian Consul General Susmita Thomas said that India has applied to the U.S. State Department for permission to establish a consulate in Bellevue.

The Bellevue office would be a full general consulate equal to the San Francisco consulate, and it would serve the entire Pacific Northwest region. While Seattle has 28 consulates, many are honorary or satellites. Thomas, whose office is in San Francisco, said India wants a consulate office in Washington state because the volume of business and trade with the state is large and could grow even more.

According to the Bellevue Office of Economic Development, India’s exports to the U.S. doubled between 2000 and 2008 to \$20.7 billion while the United States’ exports to India rocketed from \$3.7 billion in 2000 to \$21 billion in 2008.

Trade with India, the second fastest-growing economy in the world, benefits the city, along with Indian companies establishing offices in Bellevue, so the Office of Economic Development last year launched “Initiative India” to facilitate trade and cultural cooperation with India.

“What we’re doing in Bellevue is trying to position ourselves so our businesses can benefit from this opportunity,” said economic development manager Tom Boydell. Aerospace, medical device and the full range of technology companies, as well as legal, architectural and financial-services firms, stand to benefit the most from this new trade relationship.

“We also expect Bellevue to become the place of choice to start new companies,” Boydell added. “Indians will be attracted to invest in local real estate and to establish the U.S. offices here.”

## New fire chief appointed

Mike Eisner, a longtime veteran with the Bellevue Fire Department, has been appointed chief, City Manager Steve Sarkozy announced.

A 35-year member of the department, Eisner served as interim chief since from the fall of 2008, when then-Chief Mario Treviño retired due to medical disability, Eisner’s appointment became permanent in July.

“We are extremely fortunate to have someone with Chief Eisner’s leadership skills and experience able to step in and assume the department’s helm,” Sarkozy said. “Chief Eisner is widely respected by his peers as one of the finest fire professionals in the nation.”

As chief, Eisner oversees 244 personnel who provide basic fire protection services for Bellevue and six surrounding communities. The department also provides Medic One, or advanced life-support medical services, for approximately 300 square miles.

Eisner spent the last two decades in the department in senior management positions. He served in most of the department’s divisions, and was commander of both the Training Division and Bureau of Operations. Prior to becoming interim chief, Eisner was commander of the Bureau of Support Services.

Eisner is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer program through the National Fire Academy. He played a major role in the Bellevue department’s successful 2003 and 2008 efforts for reaccreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.



Chief Mike Eisner

## TV magazine wins national awards

“It’s Your City,” Bellevue’s television magazine, took first place in this year’s National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) government programming awards competition.

The honor, in the magazine format series category for cities equivalent to Bellevue in size, follows a second-place finish last year and first-place awards in 2006 and 2007.

One segment on boating safety scored the top honor in the public safety category, and two other “It’s Your City” features (about the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center and the Dream Hoops Basketball program) received honorable mention.

“It’s Your City” is a monthly magazine show featuring Bellevue’s services and programs. The show is produced under the direction of Tim Waters, city communications director; John Burwell, multimedia program manager; Robin Steel Haaseth, executive producer/host; David Bruckner, producer/director; and David Richardson, editor.

The show airs several times each month on Bellevue Television (Channel 21), and can be seen anytime on the city’s website, at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue\\_tv.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm) <[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue\\_tv.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm)> . Bellevue TV also features City Council meetings and arts, cultural and educational programming.

The city operates Channel 21 in partnership with Bellevue College, sharing the costs of a state-of-the-art studio facility. Student crews provide staffing support, while gaining hands-on training.

NATOA issues government programming awards each year to recognize excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. NATOA receives entries from more than 150 agencies throughout the United States and Canada. The 2009 awards were presented at the annual NATOA conference on Oct. 2, in New Orleans.

## City clamps down on abandoned shopping carts

After years of complaints and much debate, the Bellevue is taking steps to put a stop to abandoned shopping carts piling up in spots around the city. Store owners must collect runaway carts within 24 hours or face a fine.

The city reminds residents that they should not remove carts from store property in the first place. It’s theft. Bellevue supports stores in their efforts to keep carts on their premises and police can fine people taking carts.

Abandoned shopping carts have long been a problem for some neighborhoods near supermarkets or malls. The carts have been left in large numbers in some places, posing obstacles for pedestrians and bicyclists using sidewalks and cluttering parks and parking lots.

This summer Bellevue joined other Puget Sound cities such as Auburn, Burien and Renton by adopting ordinances to keep shopping carts at the supermarkets.

Retailers are now required to have containment areas and signage on their property and carts, notifying patrons that removal of the cart from the premises is illegal. Store owners who do not collect abandoned carts within 24 hours after notice by the city face a \$100 fine. It can be assessed to the both the retailer and the property owner/landlord.

Council members said Bellevue’s new laws provide a balanced approach. They give police a tool to combat the problem, and they establish expectations for retailers.

Information continues to be distributed to businesses, shoppers, residents and property owners to advise them of the new regulations. Several area retailers are trying to fill a need by selling personal-use carts.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Krzyminski at 425-452-4219 or [ekrzyminski@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ekrzyminski@bellevuewa.gov).



# This is Your Neighborhood

## Neighborhoods rise to recession challenges

By Cheryl Kuhn

For Bellevue neighborhoods and neighborhood programs, 2008-09 was an extraordinary mix of challenge and progress. Residents faced unprecedented shifts in the local economy and watched major changes taking shape in neighborhoods. In response, neighborhood programs refocused priorities and resources to address the most pressing concerns.

Weathering the recession, maintaining neighborhood quality and character in the face of change, and accommodating Bellevue's growing diversity – these were the challenges that absorbed a major share of neighborhood and city staff energy in 2008-09.

### Riding the recession wave

For many Bellevue residents, those most harmed by the recession, it was a scary and even tragic year. Families lost their livelihoods, their homes, and their dreams. With the national economic prognosis uncertain, Bellevue programs and neighborhoods fought back locally.

- The Mini City Hall at Crossroads added new services for recession-buffed families, including: weekly Job Days, with a YWCA Job counselor on hand; a weekly appointment schedule with a Shiba Health Insurance counselor; expanded hours for the counselor from King County Public Health. The Mini City Hall and the Neighborhood Resource Center at City Hall continued to offer Hopelink emergency food supplies to walk-in customers.
- The Parks & Community Services Department offered more free and low-cost entertainments and neighborhood activities for Bellevue residents, and stepped up its scholarship funding for day camps and fee-based programs.
- The city developed the Bellevue Cares web pages and other electronic and printed resource information to help residents with recession-related problems. Staff received specialized training to help residents find needed resources. And city employees continued to hold food drives and other events to benefit the needy.
- Neighbor Link, a unique program established and funded by the City Council, was hugely successful in its first year (see the Council Corner on page 2 for details).

### Preserving neighborhood character

Changes in neighborhood character demanded the full attention of some residents and city staff in 2008-09. An upcoming light rail system, news and planned projects to expand freeway corridors and rebuild bridges, the trend of tearing down older neighborhood homes and replacing them with huge houses – these and other changes kept neighborhood leaders on the alert. Again, the city worked with neighborhoods to address emerging issues.

- Extensive public discussion led to “Neighborhood Character” regulations that protect existing neighborhoods from certain negative impacts of infill and redevelopment – loss of sunlight and privacy (when large homes are built to overshadow existing homes), loss of trees and greenscape, and careless construction activities. New laws, adopted by Council in 2007 and 2009, help neighborhoods retain their natural character and “green-ness.”
- Neighborhood Fitness partnerships combine neighborhood initiative and city technical resources to keep older neighborhoods looking healthy and well-maintained. Neighborhood clean-ups, volunteer projects and community-building activities are part of the mix, along with stepped up code enforcement for persistent problems. A new Home, Yard and Neighborhood Maintenance Resource Guide is now posted on Neighborhood Outreach web pages to provide residents with handy maintenance information, and a series of Great Community Workshops invited residents to engage in guided discussions of neighborhood maintenance and other issues.



Neighbors join in a clean-up event at Ivanhoe.

- Neighborhood shopping centers still held the key to neighborhood quality as far as some residents were concerned. There were increased concerns in keeping with the economic decline, but there was a major step forward with the start of Lake Hills Shopping Center redevelopment. In May, residents helped celebrate the breaking of ground for a new library and retail/office building which launches the construction of a modern center designed by neighbors and stakeholders.
- Throughout Bellevue, neighbors continued to work on small improvement projects funded by the Neighborhood Enhancement and Neighborhood Match programs. One very visible project – the Somerset entries project – combined resources from both programs with neighborhood planning and resources to fulfill the community's vision.

### Surviving in a new country

As for recent arrivals in the community – new residents with different cultural backgrounds and limited English skills – making sense of the year's complex social, political and economic issues while surviving in a new world was a daunting challenge. Bellevue's neighborhood programs helped to ease that transition.

- The Crossroads Mini City Hall increased services for limited English speakers. Working with bilingual neighborhood volunteers and partnering with the Cultural Navigator Program, the facility serves residents who speak Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Hindi, Urdu and Bengali. Mini City Hall, the Neighborhood Resource Center and the Service First center at City Hall are all equipped with language line phones connecting residents to interpreters in 150 languages.
- Disputes involving cultural differences were on the rise in 2008-09, and the Neighborhood Mediation team stepped in to resolve them. The program increased its volunteer training in cross-cultural dispute resolution and boosted outreach to diverse communities.

### Looking ahead

The economic situation continues to take a toll, Bellevue's diversity continues to increase, and new issues of neighborhood character continue to emerge. A major role of Bellevue neighborhood programs in the “new” year of 2009-10 is to pay attention to trends, continue being responsive, and engage with active and involved residents to address an ever-changing landscape of challenges, while taking advantage of opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of our neighborhoods.

## Police foundation raises money for new police dog

With the help of the new Bellevue Police Foundation, the police have been able to land a key recruit, a German shepherd puppy named Roc. After training with a K9 officer, the dog will take over for Bosco, the oldest of Bellevue's three police dogs, who is retiring from tracking suspects and locating evidence this year.

With the recession shrinking the city's budget, the Police Department has a great ally in the Police Foundation, a nonprofit organization led by local civic leaders that formed to raise money for state-of-the-art equipment and other items.



Roc, a new recruit.

With guidance from the New York Police Foundation, the Bellevue Police developed a model for a nonprofit support organization and began forming the local foundation last year. With a website now in place, the Bellevue foundation is truly on its feet.

With the acquisition of a police dog already achieved, the foundation is now focusing on funding the acquisition of taser guns, a good option to have in close combat, for all uniformed officers.

Visit the foundation's website (<http://www.BellevuePoliceFoundation.org>) for a listing of current police needs and donors. For further information regarding the website, please call Detective Michael Chiu at 425-452-2979.

## County deal eases Bel-Red development

Smart urban growth is linked with rural land protection in a visionary agreement between the city and King County.

Under the Transfer of Development Rights or "TDR" agreement -- brought to fruition by the city and the county, as well as the Cascade Land Conservancy and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust -- developers in Bellevue's Bel-Red Corridor can purchase development rights from rural private properties to build additional square footage in their future commercial and residential projects.



*A vision for new development at Bel-Red.*

Rural lands in King County that have a direct connection to Bellevue and its residents will be protected under the proposed agreement, which includes forestlands visible from Interstate 90 in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, farmlands in the Snoqualmie Valley that supply Bellevue's weekly farmers markets, and forests in the White River watershed where Bellevue gets its drinking water.

Last year Bellevue completed a planning process that resulted in zoning changes transforming the Bel-Red Corridor -- a 900-acre area east of Interstate 405 and south of State Route 520 -- from its current light industrial use to a series of vibrant, walkable and mixed-use new neighborhoods.

*"What's happening in Bel-Red is a great example of how environmental stewardship and economic development can be linked to benefit not just a single community, but an entire region," said Bellevue Mayor Grant Degginger.*

The city's Bel-Red vision includes affordable housing, urban parks, restored streams and waterways, walking and cycling paths, plus Sound Transit's East Link Light Rail line, which is scheduled to start servicing the area in 2021.

In Bel-Red, the TDR option gives developers the ability to increase their projects' buildable square footage. Thanks to the flexibility the TDR agreement provides, Bellevue's Bel-Red plan is the Puget Sound region's latest and greatest "smart growth" ambition.

"What's happening in Bel-Red is a great example of how environmental stewardship and economic development can be linked to benefit not just a single community, but an entire region," said Bellevue Mayor Grant Degginger. "This agreement proves that it's possible to protect our farmlands and forests and pristine waterways while pursuing the creation of needed jobs and housing. That is smart growth exemplified."

In exchange for the city's acceptance of rural development rights, King County is using \$750,000 in dedicated open space funds to help Bellevue acquire a key ecological property along Kelsey Creek in the middle of the Bel-Red area.

Through the agreement, the property will be restored to a higher ecological value. Currently covered by pavement and with a concrete-lined ditch for a creek bed, the land will be transformed into a beautiful city-owned urban park that will help improve water quality in Lake Washington.

"Increasing zoning density, walkability and urban open space around transit hubs is the half-way point to smart growth," said King County Executive Kurt Triplett. "Getting all the way to smart growth means protecting farmlands and forests, which adds to and helps protect the quality of life for the whole region.

"This agreement is also smart use of the county's open-space preservation dollars," Triplett said. "The TDR agreement harnesses the private market to protect lands, rather than using increasingly scarce public dollars to buy them outright."

Underscoring the growing interest and momentum behind TDR programs, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill during its recent session that affirms TDR as a growth management tool and seeks to put in place agreements across the greater Puget Sound region that are similar to the Bellevue-King County agreement.

## Take precautions against possible swine flu outbreak

Wash your hands often. Stay home if you're sick. Cough into your sleeve. Avoid crowds if you can.

These are some of the major recommendations from health experts who predict swine flu could spread to tens of thousands of people this year before a vaccine becomes available.

The city is preparing for the possibility of a pandemic by modifying appropriate leave policies and city operations guidelines.

To help you stay on top of the latest recommendations and news, and when and where vaccinations will become available, here are some links:

- Federal Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1Flu/>
- State Department of Health: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/h1n1/>
- Public Health – Seattle and King County: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/pandemicflu/swineflu.aspx>
- Mayo Clinic - <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/swine-flu/DS01144>

## State, city set to complete two big road projects on I-405

A pair of major road projects adding new bridges and providing congestion relief in Bellevue are wrapping up after more than two years of construction work.

The state Department of Transportation, in partnership with Bellevue, is putting the finishing touches on added lanes to Interstate 405 in South Bellevue and the extension of Northeast 10th Street over I-405.

"These efforts are all about improving access and building better, safer connections to the places in Bellevue where people need to go," said Goran Sparrman, director of Bellevue's Transportation Department. "We're grateful for the on-time, on-budget work by WSDOT and we look forward to partnering with them again in the future."

An event marking completion of the I-405 South Bellevue Widening Project is planned for later this fall. Total funding for the work, which was begun in spring 2007, was approximately \$200 million, with \$197.7 million coming from gas taxes and \$2.3 million from city and federal sources. The contractor is Atkinson Construction, LLC.

Designed to reduce congestion from Renton north into Bellevue and from Bellevue south to I-90, the South Bellevue Widening project adds a new northbound lane from 112th Avenue Southeast to I-90, and a new lane in each direction from I-90 to Southeast Eighth Street.

Other significant milestones of the project include: demolition of the Wilburton Tunnel; construction of a new three-lane, southbound bridge over I-90; widening existing bridges over Coal Creek Parkway and Southeast Eighth Street; enhancing wetlands near Kelsey Creek Park, building two new stretches of quieter pavement test sections in the northbound lanes of I-405; and adding new sound walls.

The extension of Northeast 10th Street between 112th to 116th avenues Northeast this fall will ease congestion on Northeast Eighth Street and improve access for emergency vehicles and others traveling between downtown and the city's booming medical district east of the freeway.

The first stage of work, a short section of road from 116th Avenue to the eastern edge of I-405, was started by the City of Bellevue in January 2007 and completed in spring 2008. The bridge and the roadway west of I-405 was built by WSDOT and its contractor, Kuney Construction, which broke ground on the second stage in March 2008.

A total of \$64.1 million was budgeted for the project, including \$52.3 million in gas tax revenue, \$9.6 million in federal funding and \$2.2 million in local funds.

Noteworthy for the project was construction of a pedestrian tunnel connecting a recent addition to Overlake Hospital with the new Group Health Cooperative building, removal of the old Paragon Hotel and extensive landscaping along 112th Avenue Northeast.

Next up for WSDOT and Bellevue: the so-called "braided" ramps project, which will separate vehicles entering and exiting northbound I-405 between Northeast Eighth Street downtown and SR 520.

The \$278 million project, including \$30 million in federal stimulus funds, is designed to increase safety and reduce congestion by eliminating the infamous "weave" on I-405 north of downtown. Construction is expected to begin in late 2009.



*The Northeast 10th Street overpass, near completion.*



## “Gateway” design gets consumer testing



Bellevue is testing a possible design for signage and landscaping that would mark major entry points to the city. Residents are being asked to register comments online about a prototype “gateway,” a modernist blue and gray boundary marker at the intersection of Northeast First Street and Lake Washington Boulevard.

In 2003 the City Council approved funding for four gateways, each to cost about

\$8,000. The council is now considering a total of nine boundary markers, though bare-bones Capital Investment Program budgets this year and next could delay construction and installation.

Locations being considered for gateways include the boundaries between Bellevue and several neighboring cities as well as the unincorporated Eastgate neighborhood.

The prototype gateway has been installed at a key intersection along the border with Medina. That was not on the original list of possible gateway locations, but the city saved money by combining with other street improvements being made along Northeast Eighth Street.

The design, including the colors and the font in the word “Bellevue,” echo the signage at City Hall, which was dramatically remodeled before the city moved in in 2006, as well as that of many of Bellevue’s other newer facilities.

The city is soliciting resident opinions in the online Gateway Questionnaire at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/gateway-questionnaire.htm>. Four questions cover whether residents like the design under consideration, identify it with Bellevue, can read it from a distance and/or would like other elements included.



## Traffic cameras aim to make school zones safer

Bellevue has started using cameras to enforce speed limits and enhance children’s safety near Stevenson and Lake Hills elementary schools.

As part of a pilot program the City Council agreed in April to try using cameras to catch speeders in selected school zones as well as motorists running red lights at major intersections. A dozen cities in Washington use red light cameras.

Council members asked for regular reports so they can monitor the pilot program’s effectiveness at enhancing safety.

In September, cameras began capturing still images and video of motorists exceeding the 20-mph speed limit in the Stevenson and Lake Hills school zones. Only warnings were issued in September; \$124 fines were levied, starting in October.

“This safety program will help protect children in busy, high-traffic school zones,” said Capt. John Manning. “The warning period gives drivers the opportunity to check their speed and comply with our school zone safety program before actual citations begin.”

The city selected the location of speed cameras based on a history of violations and proximity to two schools. In 2008 there were 522 speed violation citations during school zone hours at the two schools.

During the hours when children are going to and leaving school, the cameras will monitor westbound traffic along Northeast Eighth Street at 143rd Avenue Northeast, and along Southeast Eighth Street at 143rd Place Southeast.

The city contracts with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. (ATS) to administer its safety program, but Bellevue Police will review each apparent violation prior to issuing warnings.

The system’s speed detection technology has been synchronized with the flashing school zone lights to capture images of every vehicle exceeding the school zone speed limit. The fixed-speed site is posted with photo enforcement signs, giving drivers ample warning of the speed cameras and up to 150 feet to slow down.

This fall cameras to catch red-light runners are to be installed at still-to-be determined locations on Northeast Eighth Street, Bel-Red Road and 148th Avenue Northeast.

ATS provides red-light and speed camera enforcement programs for more than 170 communities across North America.

## New stormwater standards to improve water quality



Jim Morris from Utilities tests water going to Kelsey Creek.

Efforts to reduce pollutants going into streams, lakes and wetlands will be bolstered under new stormwater standards adopted by the City Council on Oct. 5.

Bellevue, along with more than 100 other municipalities across the state, was required to adopt new development stormwater standards as part of a federal Clean Water Act stormwater permit to reduce water pollution.

“Bellevue has a history of preserving streams and protecting our waterways,” Mayor Grant Degginger noted. “The permit requirements are consistent with city programs and supports our Environmental Stewardship Initiative to maintain Bellevue’s quality of life and keep streams and lakes clean.”

Past surveys indicate that many Bellevue residents do not realize that what flows into a storm drain goes directly to the city’s waterways. To enhance education and outreach, the city is participating in an extensive regional public education campaign called, “Puget Sound Starts Here.”

The campaign is sponsored by a coalition of more than 300 Puget Sound organizations, supporting the message that the Sound’s problems start in our own backyards. Stormwater runoff picks up pollutants from cars, yard

chemicals and pet waste that wash into storm drains and end up in local waterways.

Things residents can do around their homes to reduce stormwater pollution include the following:

- Use fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides sparingly or just use compost. When stormwater flows over yard and gardens, it picks up these chemicals and carries them into streams and lakes where they can poison fish and wildlife and pollute water.
- Take the car to a commercial car wash. The water from car washing contains soap, oil, lead, copper and solvents that can flow into storm drains and end up in waterways. At a commercial car wash, some of the water is recycled, and dirty water goes to the sewer system where it is treated. Other options for washing a car at home are to use one of the new waterless car wash products or to park the car on the grass, vegetation or gravel where dirty water can soak into the soil.
- Fix car oil leaks. Motor oil doesn’t dissolve in water and sticks around for a long time, harming people, wildlife and plants.
- Scoop up pet poop, bag it and throw it in the garbage. Pet waste is raw sewage that contains bacteria that can wash into streams and lakes, making water unsafe to drink or swim in.

As a requirement of the federal permit, Bellevue also added fines and revised existing escalating enforcement code provisions to stop pollutant discharges from construction, business and residential activities.

However, the city will continue to rely on educational programs and voluntary compliance. Fines would only be imposed as a last resort. Bellevue’s goal is to protect the environment, not to penalize citizens.

For questions about new stormwater standards, vesting and other development-related questions, contact Joy Ramshur, Utilities Development Review Manager, 452-4855 or [jhramshur@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jhramshur@bellevuewa.gov)

For questions about new enforcement provisions for pollutant discharges, contact Tom Campbell, Code Compliance Manager, 452-6985 or [tcampbell@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:tcampbell@bellevuewa.gov)

For tips and information on reducing stormwater pollution, visit [www.pugetsoundstartshere.org](http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org)

For information on joining Bellevue’s Stream Team, visit [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/stream\\_team.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/stream_team.htm).



## Marking 40 years as sister cities

Mayor Grant Degginger presents commemorative gifts to Seita Tanaka, mayor of Yao, Japan and Hiromi Kakiuchi, chairman of Yao's City Council. A delegation from Yao visited Bellevue this summer to celebrate the 40th anniversary of being sister cities.

## New guide on grants, teamwork for home projects

Bellevue has brought back its popular home maintenance resource guide in a new, searchable, online format. Unlike commercial how-to books, the guide offers tips on obtaining city assistance and teaming up with neighbors on neighborhood improvement projects.

There are suggestions about home repair, but also about finding grants or other government funding to help pay for it.

The city used to offer a home maintenance guide a few years ago, and it was a popular resource. The new version, created by the city's Neighborhood Outreach office, is more concise, targeting information users found most helpful, and directed toward neighborhood livability.

The new guide, "Home, Neighborhood and Yard Maintenance -- A Resource Guide," available online at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Home\\_Maintenance\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Home_Maintenance_Guide.pdf), is also much easier to use, with users able to follow links to the exact chapter or section they want. The guide includes information about:

- Keeping neighborhoods attractive with city assistance and neighbor teamwork;
- Finding funding and assistance for home repair;
- Permits for remodeling or repair;
- Home repair checklist and how-to guides;
- Exchanging building materials or household goods;
- Reducing reusable home clutter;
- Making money while getting rid of clutter; garage sale tips; and
- Recycling appliances and "white elephants."

The Internet guide is another step in Bellevue's continuing commitment to providing programs, services and education to enhance neighborhood livability.

## City maintenance protects against water main breaks

The City Council has taken steps to prevent Bellevue homes from being flooded by bursting water pipes the way they have been this fall in several U.S. cities.

While aging infrastructure is a hidden, neglected challenge in many cities, Bellevue has regularly maintained its water pipes, and the council recently increased the capital budget for water main replacements to support five miles of new pipe each year instead of 1.5.

With the support of the Environmental Services Commission, the council more than doubled the water main replacement budget, from about \$16.6 million per year to \$36 million annually. Damages from catastrophic water main breaks in Baltimore, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. in September alone ran into the millions.

Bellevue has fewer water main breaks than most cities – on average, four per 100 miles of main annually compared to 25 nationwide, but a slight increase in recent years in breaks in neighborhoods such as Somerset convinced the council to take an aggressive stance.

Bellevue's infrastructure includes 1,500 miles of water, wastewater and stormwater pipes, 27 drinking water reservoirs and 69 water and wastewater pump stations. Aging asbestos-cement water mains are being replaced with new ductile iron pipes.

For more information about the Bellevue's Asset Management Program, contact Bill Heubach, Utilities Asset Manager at 452-2067.



## Eastside food drive this month

With the need for food assistance surging, recent food donations have been trending downward. Proclaiming September 26 through October 24 as "Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry," the mayors of several Eastside cities, including Bellevue, are encouraging residents to donate what they can to local food banks this month.

In addition, Walmart, a corporate sponsor, is challenging other businesses to contribute money to the cause. Every dollar goes directly to local food programs including Hopelink, Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County, World Impact Network-Renewal Food Bank, Issaquah Food Bank, Mercer Island Food Bank and ARAS Foundation-Sammamish

Non-perishable food items will be accepted at many city facilities, including City Hall, Mini City Hall, North Bellevue, South Bellevue and Crossroads Community Centers, Bellevue Aquatic Center, Bellevue Golf Course, Bellevue Botanical Garden and Lewis Creek Visitor's Center. Donations will also be taken at Hopelink (14812 Main St.) and the World Impact Network Renewal Food Bank (2015 Richards Rd.)

Donations are vital as requests at local food banks are up almost 50 percent compared to 18 months ago. Forty-four percent of client households said they had to choose between paying for food and paying for rent or mortgage. For more information, visit [www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive](http://www.eastsideforum.org/fooddrive).



## The time is now to help things happen

By Steve Kasner  
Chair, East Bellevue Community Council

As we hit the election season, it is up to you to make your views known. It is exciting to see a wealth of new ideas available to choose from as we move forward as a city and many great candidates to choose from. Please take the time to examine each candidate's positions and support the candidates that you believe will best be able implement those things that are important to you.

I am excited to live in a city with so many creative and take-charge individuals. When the residents of Bellevue see a problem, they bring it to city staff and/or boards, commissions or councils. Together we come up with ideas to keep our city a wonderful place to live. Recent examples include shopping cart removal and megahomes.

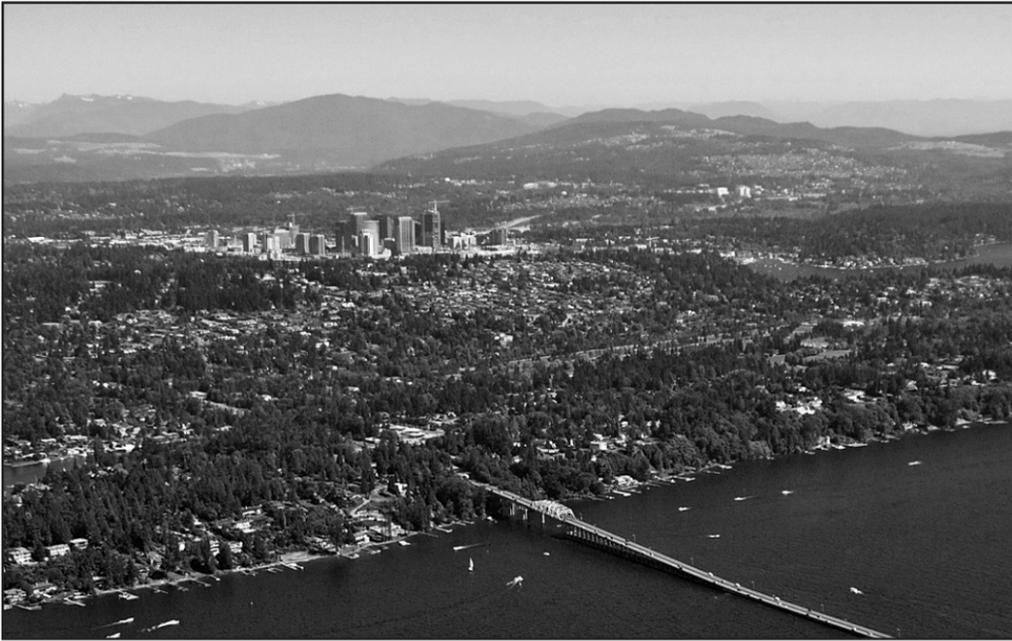
There are many ongoing activities for continued development of different areas of the city including the downtown and the Bel-Red area. Many projects that have been in the works for years will begin to open within a very short period of time.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the East Bellevue Community Council – Ken Seal, Ross Gooding, Michael Elwin and Richard Erwin – for their careful consideration of issues over the last year. We have worked with citizens and staff to craft and approve policies that make our city a great place to live.

Remember, if you are interested in a specific department or project, you can get detailed information from the city website. It has been an honor to serve as the chair of the East Bellevue Community Council, and I look forward to supporting the needs of our neighbors as we move into the next decade.



# Mayor: Council improving transportation on several fronts



Regionally, the City Council is working to remove the remaining impediments to construction of a new State Route 520 bridge and improve that vital corridor.

Recognizing that transportation is a top priority for Bellevue residents, the City Council has focused a great deal of energy on projects and initiatives that help people get around and in and out of Bellevue. Mayor Grant Degginger recently answered questions about the many ways the city is working to improve mobility. *This also appeared in the Bellevue Reporter.*

**Q: Transportation is a critical concern in Bellevue, with residents perennially listing it as a top issue in the city's annual performance measures survey. What is Bellevue doing to help commuters, residents and visitors get around?**

**A:** We are working on several fronts to improve our transportation system. Regionally, we're working to remove the remaining impediments to construction of a new State Route 520 bridge and improve that vital corridor. Also, we have devoted a great deal of attention to the expansion of light rail to the Eastside.

In Bellevue, the council has identified critical mobility projects necessary to improve traffic flow into and out of downtown. Some of these improvements are underway on Interstate 405; others are road projects within downtown, the Wilburton area and the Bel-Red corridor.

Keeping in mind that we cannot just pave our way out of congestion, we are expanding critical roadways in a very targeted way that will get us maximum mobility for our money. Other efforts include commuter programs providing good options to driving alone and upgrades to our pedestrian and bicycle networks.

**Q: What are some examples of roadway projects that make travel in Bellevue more convenient?**

**A:** In recent years Bellevue has partnered with the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) on major projects designed to make it easier to get in and out of Bellevue. One of those, called Access Downtown, expanded the capacity of downtown interchanges to I-405 and added a special bus and carpool ramp that conveniently connects the freeway to the Bellevue Transit Center.

Currently, we're partnering with WSDOT to extend Northeast 10th Street across I-405, tying downtown to the city's growing medical district. We're also coordinating with WSDOT on the I-405 South Bellevue Widening Project to reduce congestion on one of the region's toughest stretches of freeway, south of downtown approaching I-90.

Finally, the so-called braided ramp project on I-405, north of Northeast Eighth Street, will begin soon. This project, designed to eliminate the freeway "weave" between downtown and SR 520, is funded in part by the federal stimulus package.

**Q: Why is it so important to improve the transportation system downtown?**

**A:** Downtown Bellevue is the second largest employment center in the region. Currently there are roughly 40,000 people who work downtown, but that number is expected to jump to 63,000 by 2020. The number of downtown residents, approximately 5,500 now, is projected to hit 14,000 by 2020.

We simply must find new ways to move people more efficiently if we are to keep up with anticipated growth. We think the key to our transportation future is a gradual shift away from solo driving and toward alternatives that are convenient, economical and environmentally friendly.

**Q: What other steps is Bellevue taking to maintain a balanced transportation system in the future?**

**A:** Last year, the City Council approved a Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative designed to improve access to and from downtown and the Bel-Red area. The initiative features a mix of road building, "intelligent transportation" improvements to the city's traffic signals system, improvements that compliment Metro's "Rapid Ride" bus service between Bellevue and Redmond – scheduled to begin in 2011 – and improvements to our pedestrian and bicycle system. Another significant improvement, albeit one that won't arrive for a while, is Sound Transit's light rail service.

**Q: Sound Transit's light rail line expansion approved by voters last year includes East Link, which will run from Seattle, through Bellevue to the Overlake area of Redmond. What has Bellevue done to make sure the route best serves local and regional interests?**

**A:** Prior to the release of a draft environmental review of East Link late last year, Bellevue embarked on a year-long "Best Practices" effort. A panel of citizens who serve on our boards and commissions studied light rail systems in other West Coast cities in order to learn lessons that could be applied in Bellevue. The work resulted in many changes to the city's comprehensive plan and serves as a guide to help protect neighborhood character and make sure the East Link route delivers efficient, reliable service in a manner that's compatible with our city's goals and values.



**Next stop, Bellevue**

Light rail cars stop at Columbia City in Seattle, one of the stations for Sound Transit's link light rail line, which opened this summer. Sound Transit is still determining which route the Eastside line will take through Bellevue. Residents had a chance to provide input at a series of workshops in Bellevue this month.

**Q: Council members and others have expressed a desire to have a light rail tunnel beneath downtown Bellevue, rather than the street-level system recommended by the Sound Transit Board. Why is a tunnel important?**

**A:** The council is very concerned that running light rail on the surface through downtown will seriously back up traffic and slow down the light rail service. A tunnel option would prevent both of these impacts. Plus, projections show that a tunnel would attract higher ridership than the surface option. We are continuing to work with Sound Transit in finding ways to address the tunnel option.

## Volunteers can help at tent city

Tent City 4 comes to Bellevue's First United Methodist Church (1934 108th Ave. NE) for three months, beginning the end of October, and volunteers can help with set-up and other tasks.

Operated by SHARE/WHEEL, a nonprofit organization, the tent city is a portable, self-managed community of up to 100 homeless men and women.

There is a food preparation area, but volunteers bring hot meals most evenings. Anyone wishing to provide assistance can call 425-894-3355 beginning Oct. 31. If you are interested in volunteering prior to the arrival of the residents on the 31st, call 425-454-2059.

To learn more about volunteering or donating, go to <http://www.sharewheel.org/Home/tent-cities>.

## Downtown commuters shift to transit

More and more commuters to downtown Bellevue are choosing buses and vanpools, or even telecommuting, rather than driving to work.

The percentage of people driving alone to downtown Bellevue dropped significantly last year, to 61 percent compared with 71 percent in 2005, according to a mode share survey commissioned by the City of Bellevue.

Factoria also registered a double-digit decrease, with solo commutes at 69 percent, down from 79 percent. However, the percentage of solo driving was up slightly in the Crossroads and Bel-Red/Northrup areas of the city.

"The survey shows Bellevue is on the right track in moving solo commuters out of their cars and into alternative forms of travel," said City



Manager Steve Sarkozy. "But it also tells us we have a lot more work to do if we want to maintain a healthy transportation system."

With employment in downtown Bellevue expected to jump from about 40,000 workers today to 63,000 in 2020, Sarkozy said, it will become increasingly important to shift from drive-alone commutes to other types of transportation.

Other results from the 2008 Mode Share Survey include:

- In most areas of Bellevue only about 20 percent of employees surveyed said they lived in Bellevue (in Crossroads it was 30 percent).
- Average one-way commute distances range from a high of nearly 17 miles for employees in Eastgate to 12 miles in Crossroads.
- Downtown commutes by bus bumped up to 19 percent last year, from 14 percent in 2005; carpool commutes rose to 11 percent from 10 percent; commutes by other modes such as vanpool, walking, biking and telecommuting are each 3 percent or less.

Likely factors to account for the reduction in drive-alone commuting include higher parking and fuel costs, the higher proportion of commuters who work for large employers, improved transit service and more outreach.

In stepping up its outreach effort, Bellevue has partnered with organizations such as King County Metro and TransManage, a service of the Bellevue Downtown Association. In early September, TransManage won a national award as the 2009 Outstanding Transportation Management Association. The award was given by the Association for Commuter Transportation.

The margin of error for the study, which was based on surveys at both large and small workplaces in Bellevue, was plus or minus 2.2 percent or less in most areas (in the Crossroads area, with a smaller sample size, it was 7.9 percent).

One of the tools Bellevue uses to promote commute options is a recently enhanced website, [ChooseYourWayBellevue.org](http://ChooseYourWayBellevue.org), a one-stop resource for alternative transportation information.

The revamped site, geared for commuters, residents, employers, students and visitors has information about transit, ride-sharing, biking and walking; promotions and rewards programs; a Choose Your Way Bellevue blog and Commuter Connection newsletter; commute cost and carbon emissions calculators; and real-time traffic conditions.



## When a light pole is a home

This light pole at Hidden Valley Sports Park has done more than illuminate softball games; it's been a home to a family of ospreys. Now that the Parks & Community Services Department is replacing all of the wooden light poles this fall as a part of a general renovation, the ospreys will move.

The birds' nest, atop the light pole by third base, has led to sticks and other debris landing on spectators and necessitated that some lights stayed off, to avoid causing a fire. In addition to new steel light poles, the city will install a nesting pole at Hidden Valley and reconstruct the ospreys' nest on it.

## Carbon pledges make ton of difference

With more than 500 Bellevue households pledging to use less energy and recycle more, the city will generate 5,379 less tons of carbon dioxide. That's good for the planet, meaning less greenhouse gases, which trap the sun's heat in our atmosphere.

It's only a start though, and the city is still issuing pledge books, which offer tips on easy ways to cut carbon emissions around the house.

Residents began reducing their "carbon footprints" (the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent created from everyday activities) in an organized way in March of 2008, when the city introduced the pledge books, which feature the Carbon Yeti mascot.

Those 5,000 tons of carbon dioxide cut from emissions so far are equivalent to:

- The annual greenhouse gas emissions of 894 passenger vehicles.
- The carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity use of 677 homes for one year.
- The carbon sequestered by 125,106 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.
- The greenhouse gas emissions avoided by recycling 1,682 tons of waste instead of sending it to a landfill.

Rechargeable batteries, one way to save money and reduce the number of used batteries going to the landfill, just got better. Nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries don't have to be charged before the first use and do not lose their charge quickly when not in use.

NiMH batteries, now for sale at most stores, are also as easy to charge as a cell phone. Save energy by unplugging the charger when you're not using it.

For information on where to recycle all kinds of old batteries, visit [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Utilities/Battery\\_recycling.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Utilities/Battery_recycling.pdf) or call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.

If you are interested in taking the pledge to shrink your carbon footprint, please call Utilities at 425-452-6932 for a copy of the pledge book.

## Where do food and yard waste go?

Food scraps and yard debris collected at the curb in residential areas is covered, aerated and "cooked" for 50 to 60 days to create nutrient-rich compost.

Since 1989, Cedar Grove has diverted more than 4 million tons of organic material from landfills. For more information on what food scraps can be recycled in with yard debris, call City of Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.

### Where do baby wipes not go?

Although many cleaning, baby and personal hygiene wipes advertise being flushable, they are clogging Bellevue's sewer pipes and getting tangled in regional pumping equipment. In 2008, King County spent more than \$100,000 to haul and dispose of sewer system trash in a landfill.

This doesn't include additional operation and maintenance costs of removing these materials and responding to backup problems – costs that can eventually be passed on in the form of increased rates.

To avoid sewer backups and costly repairs, both in your home and public systems, please put wipes in the garbage instead of flushing them down the toilet.



## When snow flies ...

It seems unlikely we'll see the kind of snowstorms that blanketed Bellevue streets with snow and ice last winter, but when or if snow flies this winter, the Transportation Department has some tips.

**Check conditions:** The Utilities Department, which is in charge of snowplows, posts current information about street conditions on the city website, at [http://bellevuewa.gov/extreme\\_weather\\_response.htm](http://bellevuewa.gov/extreme_weather_response.htm). If you don't have this web address handy, just go to the city website and click on the Extreme Weather Response logo in the right column.

When roads are icy, remember to plan ahead and check conditions before leaving, prepare your vehicle, slow down and avoid slamming your brakes, give snowplows plenty of room to work, and watch out for black ice on bridges, ramps and shaded areas.

## Open houses offer tips on coping with extreme weather

This year, Bellevue will again host open houses at the following locations:

- Bellevue City Hall: 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, on the first-floor concourse of City Hall, 450 110th Ave. N.E., focusing on wind and rain as well as ice and snow.
- Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center: 4:30 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Lewis Creek Park, 5808 Lakemont Blvd., focusing on ice and snow concerns of residents in south Bellevue, where steep roads and higher elevations present particular challenges.

**Snowplows' priorities aren't always obvious:** City crews don't necessarily clear the biggest arterials first. If a street is too steep, it can suck limited resources to keep it clear, so alternate arterials will be plowed first.

To learn the priority ranking of streets citywide, check the Bellevue's snow response priorities map at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/snow\\_response\\_priorities\\_map.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/snow_response_priorities_map.pdf). To monitor the condition of city streets in real time, check the City's network of intersection cameras

using the traffic map at <http://trafficmap.cityofbellevue.net>.

**Who clears the sidewalks?** You do. Bellevue does not have the resources to clear sidewalks of snow or sand. According to city regulations, the property owner is expected to clear sidewalks of snow, and, later, sand so rainfall won't wash away and clog storm drains.



**If it snows a lot, try to stay off the streets.** Bellevue's Utilities Department prepares well in advance of snow season, but the city's resources are geared for infrequent snowstorms, which usually affect only the roads at higher elevations. During a larger, citywide snowstorm – or series of storms like the ones in December 2008 – up to 20 employees at a time will work around the clock to keep key roads in Bellevue passable.

When there's widespread snowfall Bellevue's limited resources can become severely strained and many residential streets must go uncleared.

## Avoid flooding this winter

Bellevue residents don't face the threat of flooding that our neighbors to the South do, but they should still clear gutters and take other steps to prepare for winter rain and wind storms.

Residents in Kent, Auburn and other South King County cities face a greater risk of high water because the weakened Howard Hanson Dam won't hold as much water back from Green River, but you don't have to live near that river or in a floodplain to face the possibility of a flood.

First of all, if you do live in a floodplain, you may want to get flood insurance. Citizens owning property in a floodplain can purchase flood insurance at a 25 percent reduction. Even if you live outside a floodplain, flood insurance might be a good idea in case of a water or sewer main break.

There's a 5 percent discount on flood insurance for Bellevue residents who live outside a floodplain. Check with your insurance carrier to see what your policy covers.

To find out if your property is located in a floodplain, call Utilities at 425-452-7869. You can check online by going to [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/floodplain\\_map.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/floodplain_map.htm). For advice about drainage around your home, call 425-452-7840.

To be prepared for heavy rains and avoid flooding, follow the tips below.

- If you've experienced water in your crawlspace, you may want to install a sump pump. If you already own a pump, test it now.
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts and remove leaves from clogged storm drain grates near your home.
- Preserve natural drainage systems by not filling in ponds, wetlands, or ditches. Debris like trash and grass clippings can block stream flow.
- Leave natural vegetation on steep slopes and along streams and lakes. Plants slow stormwater runoff and help stabilize the earth so it won't wash away.
- All development projects near streams and wetlands must meet setback requirements. For information on development projects near streams or in floodplain areas, call Permit Processing at 425-452-6864. Report non-permitted activities within a floodplain to the Code Compliance Office at 425-452-4570.
- Remember that during a storm it's normal for streams to rise and that some parking lots and parks are designed to fill with water.
- Do not put storm debris in the street where it can cause accidents and make access difficult for emergency or city vehicles.



## New customer assistance portal rolled out

Bellevue has launched a new customer assistance web portal to make it easier for residents and customers to ask questions, report issues and request services from the city.



Accessible on the city's website, the portal allows residents to search for information, report issues, request services and ask questions all in one place, and without needing to know who to contact or which department is responsible.

The portal also enables the city to track the status of requests, so none slip through the cracks.

The Customer Assistance portal is at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/crmportal/Registration/Default.aspx>, or residents can click on the green circle on the home page with the "i" in it and the words "Report Request Ask."

Residents can enter a subject keyword, and the system will offer suggested topics that may be relevant, similar to a Google search. If the right topic doesn't come up, residents can type in their own and submit a request.

City staff begins working on most requests within two business days (public disclosure requests are five business days). Once an issue is resolved or a request satisfied, residents receive e-mail notification of the resolution and can provide feedback on their experience in a short survey.

**See It's Your City on**  **21**  
Bellevue TV

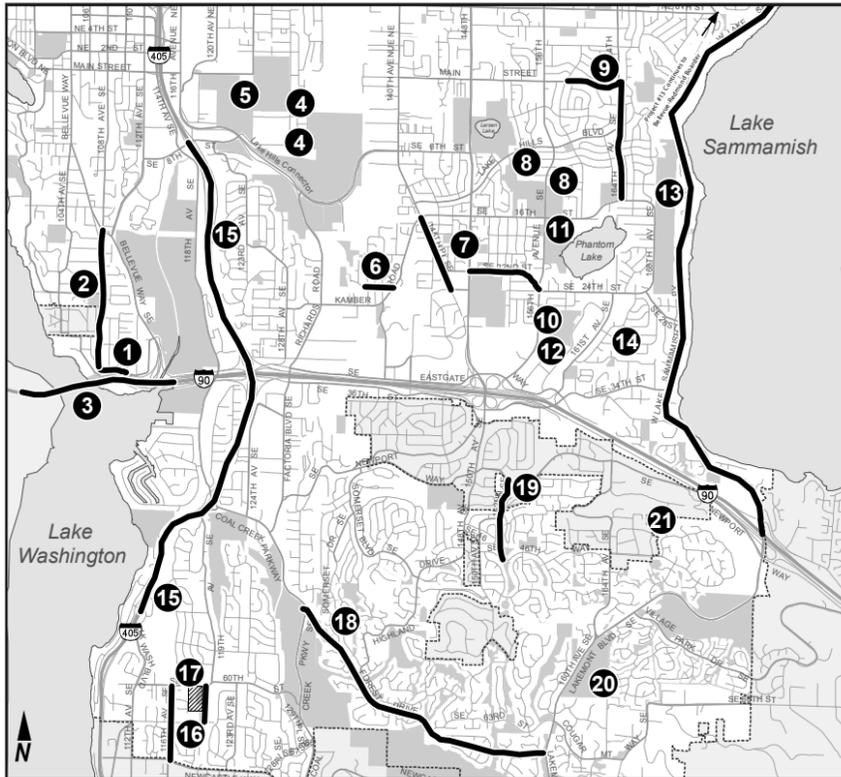
**Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
and every Friday at 9:30 p.m.  
or see previous editions on the web.  
Go to [bellevuewa.gov/bellevue\\_tv.htm](http://bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm).**

# South Bellevue Projects Update - October 2009

## Introduction

There are numerous city projects underway this fall from the Parks & Community Services, Planning & Community Development, Utilities and Transportation departments. A couple of the projects are regional and include partnerships with Sound Transit and the state Department of Transportation.

To find where these projects are located, please refer to the following map showing these Bellevue neighborhood areas: **West Bellevue, Wilburton, West Lake Hills, Sammamish/East Lake Hills, Newport, Factoria/Sunset, and Eastgate/Cougar Ridge.**



## WEST BELLEVUE

### 1. Enatai Traffic Calming

With the assistance of a traffic committee made up of neighborhood volunteers, a plan has been approved to install a raised crosswalk at 104th Avenue Southeast and Cedar Crest Lane, a speed cushion on 108th Avenue Southeast, and two landscaped medians on Southeast 34th Street, east of 109th Avenue Southeast. This \$250,000 Neighborhood Traffic Calming/Neighborhood Enhancement Program project is under construction. For more information, contact Rebecca Rodni at 425-452-6160 or [Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov).

### 2. 108th Avenue Southeast Walkway/Bikeway



To provide adequate walking and bicycling facilities where missing, we are proposing to add a five-foot wide bike lane on both sides of the roadway and a six-foot wide sidewalk on the west side. This project also includes new street lights, storm drainage and water quality system improvements, low walls or fencing, and landscaping. Community outreach on this project will begin soon.

This \$7 million project is currently in design and is expected to start construction in 2011. For more information, contact Steve Costa at 425-452-2845 or [Scosta@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Scosta@bellevuewa.gov).

### 3. I-90 Two-Way Transit/HOV

To address increasing traffic congestion on Interstate 90 between Bellevue and Seattle, the state Department of Transportation is adding a westbound High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane to the outer westbound roadway.

The first stage includes widening the outer roadway through Mercer Island, constructing new ramps on Mercer Island, reconstructing the barrier between the center and westbound roadways, modifying the Bellevue Way Southeast ramp, replacing the bridge expansion joints, and building detention and drainage facilities.

This \$128 million Sound Transit/WSDOT project is currently under construction and is expected to be complete by the end of 2009. For more information, contact Steve Peer at 425-456-8624 or [steve.peer@i405.usdot.wa.gov](mailto:steve.peer@i405.usdot.wa.gov).

## WILBURTON

### 4. Wilburton Traffic Calming

To address vehicle speeds and cut-through traffic, speed humps have been installed on 128th Avenue Northeast, Northeast Second Street and Southeast Seventh Place; a traffic circle at 128th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Fourth Street; and, colored pavement entry treatments at six locations entering the neighborhood. This \$125,000 Neighborhood Traffic Calming project is now being evaluated for its effectiveness. For more information, contact Linda Glas at 425-452-2841 or [Lglas@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Lglas@bellevuewa.gov).

### 5. Wilburton Hills Park Synthetic Sports Field

In September, installation began of a synthetic-turf sports field at Wilburton Hills Park, to replace a dirt field that has been unavailable between December and June. Funded by the 2008 parks levy, this has been a high-priority park project for many years. This \$1.5 million project will be complete by spring 2010. For more information, contact Scott VanderHyden at 425-452-4169 or [svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov).

## WEST LAKE HILLS

### 6. Southeast 24th Street: 137th Place Southeast to Kamber Road—Neighborhood Enhancement Program Sidewalk

To improve pedestrian access, a five-foot wide concrete sidewalk with curb and gutter will be installed on the north side of Southeast 24th Street from 137th Place Southeast/139th Avenue Southeast east to Kamber Road. This \$150,000 project will start construction winter 2009 and be complete in winter 2010. For more information, contact Vangie Garcia at 425-452-6103 or [Vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov).

### 7. 145th Place Southeast Improvements, Phase 2



Because this corridor lacks adequate bike lanes, bus shelters, and complete sidewalk connections, we are adding five-foot wide bike lanes, intersection modifications, six-foot wide sidewalks, and a center two-way left-turn lane and landscaped medians to improve access for bicyclists and pedestrians. Improvements will also be made to the landscaping, storm water drainage/detention system, signing, striping, lighting and irrigation. This \$6.9 million project is currently in design. For more information, contact Marina Arakelyan at 425-452-4632 or [Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov).

### 8. 154th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 11th Street Traffic Calming

A traffic circle with curb extensions has been installed on 154th Avenue Southeast at Southeast Eighth Street, along with a landscaped entry median and brick pavement feature on Southeast 11th Street, west of 156th Avenue Southeast to discourage cut-through traffic. This \$75,000 project will be evaluated this fall to determine how effective these improvements have been.

For more information, contact Rebecca Rodni at 425-452-6160 or [Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov).



## SAMMAMISH/EAST LAKE HILLS

### 9. Main Street & 164th Avenue Southeast Traffic Calming



With the help of a volunteer neighborhood traffic committee, we will determine what type of improvements will be made to calm traffic along Main Street and 164th Avenue Southeast. This \$150,000 project is expected to be constructed spring 2011. For more information, contact Rebecca Rodni at 425-452-6160 or [Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov).

### 10. 156th Avenue Southeast south of Southeast 27th Street Flashing Crosswalk

To improve pedestrian access, a new flashing crosswalk will be installed on 156th Avenue Southeast, south of Southeast 27th Street. This is where the trail connects the Boeing campus and the city's new park/trail to the existing trail on the west side of 156th Avenue Southeast. This \$35,000 project is under construction and will be completed this year. For more information, contact Kurt Latt at 425-452-6020 or [Klatt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Klatt@bellevuewa.gov)

### 11. Phantom Lake Barn Swallows

Barn swallows eat a large amount of mosquitoes. This project will perform a biological assessment of barn swallow populations around the Phantom Lake and Lake Hills Greenbelt area. Results of the project will provide informational materials to assist homeowners in creating barn swallow habitat, as well as design and construct a barn swallow habitat structure for the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

This \$20,000 project is waiting for permits, with construction expected winter 2010. For more information, contact Laura Hughes at 425-452-7225 or [Lhughes@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Lhughes@bellevuewa.gov)

### 12. Park Master Plan for Eastgate Area Property

City staff and the design team continue to receive community input and work on the environmental analysis. A summary of communications from the community, including meeting feedback, web surveys, and emails, will be shared with the Parks and Community Services Board and the city council to convey their recommendations and adopt a design alternative and new park name. For more information, contact Pam Fehrman at 425-452-4326 or [Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov).

### 13. West Lake Sammamish Parkway: North City Limits to Interstate 90

This past spring, the West Lake Sammamish Parkway project was broken into five segments with each segment being approximately one-mile long. Residents had an opportunity to select which segment they would like to see constructed first. The outcome was to start with the segment from the I-90 roundabout to the Southeast 34th Street intersection. In June, the Transportation Commission passed a motion recommending that we start the final design on this segment.

We are currently scheduling time with the city council to solicit their approval to proceed with final design on the segment. For more information, contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or [Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov).

### 14. Southeast 29th Street at 165th Avenue Southeast Traffic Calming



A traffic circle is being planned to address traffic concerns at the intersection of Southeast 29th Street and 165th Avenue Southeast. This \$50,000 traffic calming project is expected to start construction in early 2010. For more information, contact Brian Casey at 425-452-6867 or [Bcasey@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Bcasey@bellevuewa.gov).

## FACTORIA/SUNSET NEIGHBORHOOD

### 15. I-405 South Bellevue Widening

The \$124 million South Bellevue widening project wraps up this month. Drivers will experience faster travel times on a four-mile stretch between 112th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Eighth Street. See story on page 6.

For more information, contact Craig Kanaya, WSDOT Communications at 425-456-8606 or [KanayaC@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:KanayaC@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov).



## NEWPORT

### 16. 116th Avenue Southeast and 120th Avenue Southeast Traffic Calming



A traffic committee made up of neighborhood volunteers is assisting staff to develop a traffic calming plan for 116th Avenue Southeast between Southeast 60th Street and Newcastle Way, and on 120th Avenue Southeast between Southeast 60th and Southeast 64th Street. After the plan is developed, neighborhood residents will vote on whether to move forward with the final design and construction.



Meanwhile, a demonstration project consisting of split speed humps and medians has been installed on 116th Avenue Southeast south of Southeast 64th Street until the end of the year. This will allow staff to evaluate how effective this new type of speed hump performs and whether the residents see any benefit from their installation. For more information, contact Rebecca Rodni at 425-452-6160 or [Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov).

### 17. Newport Hills Synthetic Sports Field

The city is expected to begin installation in the spring of a synthetic-turf sports field at Newport Hills Park to replace a grass field that has been unavailable during the wet months between December and June. Installing synthetic turf, which can be used year-round, has been a high-priority park project for many years. The estimated cost is \$2 million. For more information, contact Scott VanderHyden at 425-452-4169 or [svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov).

## 18. Forest Drive Streetscape



An open house this past summer allowed public review of the planting plan. It is anticipated the planting will take place this fall, along with the Neighborhood Gateway Portal installation. For more information, contact Tom Kuykendall at 425-452-7924 or [Tkuykendall@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Tkuykendall@bellevuewa.gov)

### EASTGATE/COUGAR MOUNTAIN

## 19. 152nd Avenue Southeast: Southeast Newport Way to Southeast 46th Way

This project will build new curb, gutter and a six-foot wide sidewalk on the west side of 152nd Avenue Southeast from Southeast 46th Street to Southeast Newport Way. The project will also include roadway side slope stabilization, pavement restoration, and storm drainage improvements along 152nd Avenue Southeast, as well as an evaluation of an uphill bike lane.

Under a Safe Routes to School grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation, Bellevue will receive an additional \$192,500 for education and enforcement efforts, and a portion of the construction costs. The grant will pay entirely for a Safe Trips Education Program and for a student art project to paint tiles with safety messages that will be installed along the new sidewalk. It will also cover the costs of 20 extra enforcement patrols by the Bellevue Police Department.

This \$5.07 million project is expected to start construction in early 2010 and be completed by fall 2010. For more information, contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or [Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov).

## 20. Lewis Creek Trail Stream Crossing

This project will construct two footbridges over Lewis Creek to allow trail users to cross the creek. They will be located at the west and east ends of the Lewis Creek Trail in Lakemont Park. This \$95,000 project will be finished this fall. For more information, contact Kevin Husemann at 425-452-4154 or [Khusemann@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Khusemann@bellevuewa.gov).

## 21. Cougar Ridge Elementary Sports Wall

Concrete wall to be constructed for practicing tennis, soccer and baseball. Additional asphalt paving will be added for a hitting surface on both sides of the wall. This project will be constructed in coordination with the Issaquah School District, which has already approved the design and location. This \$65,000 project is under construction and is expected to be complete winter 2010. For more information, contact Ken Kroeger at 425-452-4624 or [Kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov).

### UTILITIES DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

There are several types of Utility Department projects underway this fall in South Bellevue.

- **2010 AC Water Main Replacement** – Replace the deteriorated elements of the water system, as well as upsize water mains to improve fire flow. Replacements will take place at various locations around the city and are currently under design.
- **Upper Vasa Creek Storm Drainage Repairs** – The creek will be undergoing repairs to 10 rock check dams. These dams were damaged during a December 2007 storm. Interim repairs were completed earlier this year to prevent additional damage from occurring during the winter months. The more extensive repair project is currently under design, with construction planned between May and October of 2010. The city has received Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to pay for the repairs.
- **Pressure Reducing Valve Replacement** – Replace pressure reducing valve assemblies reaching the end of their expected life. New ones will be installed at 12000 Coal Creek Parkway Southeast and 17000 Southeast 26th Street within the next few months.

- **Water Service Saddle Replacement** – Aging and deteriorating water service saddles and/or service lines will be replaced at the following locations: 181st Avenue Southeast, north of West Lake Sammamish Parkway Southeast, and 140th Avenue Southeast, between Southeast 44th Place and 140th Avenue Southeast. This project is currently in design.
- **King County (Bellevue Water Service Area)** – Aging and deteriorating water saddles and/or service lines are scheduled for replacement on 140th Avenue Southeast between Southeast Allen Road/Southeast 42nd Street and Southeast 40th Street. Construction is expected to begin this month.
- **East Downtown Sewer Trunkline Improvements** - To provide sufficient sewer capacity for planned development in the eastern part of downtown, 1,600 feet of 12- and 20-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipe will be replaced with a 27-inch pipe. The pipeline will be located in the 112th Avenue Southeast right of way, from the 600 block near Surrey Downs Park to the Bellefield Pump Station located near the entrance to the Bellefield Office Park. Preliminary design of the project has begun, but the project is temporarily on hold until Sound Transit makes a final decision on rail alignment through the project location.
- **West Lake Sammamish Parkway Culvert Investigation** – Eight storm drainage culverts are in need of repairs. Design has been completed, but the project is on hold for easements and permits. Construction is planned for 2010.
- **Somerset Woods Water Main Replacement 2009** – The asbestos concrete water mains are being replaced with ductile iron pipes in the following locations: 148th Avenue Southeast, between Southeast 45th Place and Southeast 46th Street, and Southeast 46th Street, between Highland Drive and 148th Avenue Southeast. This project is under construction.
- **Sanitary Exposed Lake Lines** – This project will place washed rock on the exposed sanitary sewer Lake Washington lines at various locations. This project is still under design.
- **Storm Drainage Pipe & Repair** – About seven storm drainage pipes will be repaired along 152nd Avenue Southeast, between Southeast Newport Way and Southeast 46th Street. This project is under design and will be combined with the 152nd Avenue Southeast Transportation project. These pipes will be under construction in November.
- **Kelsey Creek Fish Barrier Removal** – This project will address stream bank erosion, and make it easier for salmon to swim through weirs in Kelsey Creek. Erosion at the base of several weirs has deepened the pools of water, making it more difficult for salmon to swim up the creek. This project is currently in the design stage. Once the design is approved by city staff, the design will be evaluated by local, state and federal agencies, and their requirements will be incorporated into the design. The final design will then be used to apply for permits from the local, state and federal agencies. The permitting stage can take one to two years, depending on the complexity of the project.
- **Coal Creek/Lower Coal Creek Off-Line Sediment Pond** – Project will construct a sediment pond next to Coal Creek near 125th Avenue Southeast, which will be engaged during flood events to capture sediment. Property purchase was finalized in August 2009. Project is currently in design and permitting, with construction taking place in 2010 or 2011.
- **Coal Creek Upper Reach Stabilization and Grade Control** – This project stabilized eroding stream banks and installed grade control structures in Upper Coal Creek downstream of Lakemont Boulevard. It was completed this past summer. Re-vegetation will take place late fall or winter.
- **Somerset Reservoirs #2 and #3** – Somerset Reservoir #2 is scheduled to be re-roofed later in the year. Somerset Reservoir #3 is being evaluated to determine if it is necessary to keep it in service. If the reservoir is kept in service, it will need extensive repairs and water quality improvements.

The **South Bellevue Projects Update** is published for people who live, work, or do business in the area south of Main Street. If you have questions or comments about this information, please call 425-452-4638 or write Tresa Berg, Public Involvement Manager, City of Bellevue Transportation Department, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 or [Tberg@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Tberg@bellevuewa.gov)



# Community Calendar

## October

### Grimsby Manor Pancake Breakfast

Oct 17, 8:30-10 a.m.  
South Bellevue Community Center  
14509 SE Newport Way.  
Halloween breakfast.  
\$8, ages 2 and under free.  
Preregistration is required. Please register each family member.  
425-452-4240

### Grimsby Manor - A Dinner Play

Oct. 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
South Bellevue Community Center  
14509 SE Newport Way  
Dinner, music and a mystery to solve.  
\$10. Preregistration is required. Please register each family member. Suitable for ages 7+.  
425-452-4240

### Halloween Luncheon

Oct. 30, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave. NE.  
Costume contest, lunch, prizes and bingo.  
Cosponsored by Catholic Community Services.  
Preregistration required by Oct 23.  
\$3 suggested donation per participant, ages 65+.  
425-452-7681

### Skeletons and Skulls

Oct. 24, 10–11 a.m.  
Lewis Creek Park  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.  
Learn about skeletons and touch a real skull.  
Preregistration is required. \$10 per participant, all ages welcome.  
425-836-2697

### Monster Mash

Oct. 30 & Nov. 6, 7, 8 at 7 p.m.;  
Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, 7, 8 at 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northrup Way  
Join Boris in his lab as he reveals his newest experiment in a fun and festive rock'n'roll spooktacular.  
Tickets are \$10 per reserved seat.  
425-452-7155

## November

### Thanksgiving Luncheon

Nov. 18, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center,  
4063 148th Ave N.E.  
Join staff and Boeing employees for a delicious turkey and trimmings feast. Entertainment provided.  
Preregistration required by Nov. 10.  
\$5 per participant, ages 65+.  
425-452-7681

## Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov 24, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Crossroads Community Center,  
16000 NE 10th St  
Cosponsored by Aldersgate Methodist Church  
(Family Crafts: 5:30 p.m.; Dinner: 6 p.m.) Free event for Bellevue families in need.  
425-452-4874



*A resident takes a dog for a walk by the barn at Kelsey Creek Park on a snowy day.*

### KidsCare Coat Drive Giveaway

Nov 23-25, 3-8 p.m. nightly  
Crossroads Community Center,  
16000 NE 10th St.  
Bellevue families in need can shop for a free coat for each family member while supplies last. Please bring photo ID.  
425-452-4874

### “Fit for the Feast” Masters swim workout,

Nov. 26, 9-11 a.m.  
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Ave NE.  
Cost is \$9, includes a t-shirt.  
425-452-2806

### Youth Appreciation and Safety Day

Nov. 27, 12-3 p.m.  
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Ave NE.

This event for children ages 12 & under promotes water safety and offers free swimming. Free T-shirts to the first 50 children, and free raffle drawings throughout the event.  
425- 452-2806

### Once Upon a Mattress

Nov. 27 & 28, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 28 & 29, 2 p.m.  
Meydenbauer Theatre, 11100 NE Sixth St.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre's production of the musical comedy based on "The Princess and the Pea."  
\$12 per reserved seat.  
425-452-7155

## December

### Hilltop Holiday Craft Show

Dec. 2-4, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Northwest Arts Center  
9825 NE 24th St.  
Thousands of quality crafts from more than 80 of Northwest's finest artists and crafters. Free admission.  
425-452-4106

## Holiday Luncheon

Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center,  
4063 148th Ave NE.  
Join the North Bellevue Community Center's staff and volunteers as we serve you a festive holiday meal. Enjoy seasonal music preceding.  
Pre-register by December 10. \$5 per participant, ages 65+.  
425-452-7681

## Youth Holiday Party

Dec. 15, 4-7 p.m.  
Crossroads Community Center,  
16000 NE 10th St.  
Bellevue infants, youth and teens in need can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy entertainment and refreshments and receive a gift. Must be present to receive a gift. Free event for Bellevue families in need.  
No registration needed.  
425-452-4874

## Bellevue Magic Season Events

### Garden d'Lights

Nov. 28 – Jan. 2, 5 - 10 p.m. nightly  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
No admission fee; donations requested. \$5 fee for parking in the Botanical Garden parking lot, though free parking is available to the east at Wilburton Hill Park.  
425-452-2750  
[www.bellevuebotanical.org](http://www.bellevuebotanical.org)

### Bellevue Magic Season: Group Health Ice Arena

Nov. 27-Jan. 10; open daily, hours vary.  
Bellevue Downtown Park,  
Northeast First Street and 102nd Avenue Northeast  
Partial open-air rink and a heated tent for spectators.  
\$10 admission includes skate rentals. \$7 admission if with skates.  
425-453-3110 or [www.magicseason.com](http://www.magicseason.com)

### Snowflake Lane

Nov 27-Dec. 31, nightly at 7 p.m.  
Bellevue Way and Northeast Eighth Street  
Snow falls nightly as live toy soldiers and winter characters, music, and a dazzling light show brighten the night.  
425-454-8096 or [www.magicseason.com](http://www.magicseason.com)

### The Theatre at Meydenbauer

A special holiday series of musical and dramatic productions by regional and local performance groups. For complete information, visit [theatreatmeydenbauer.com](http://theatreatmeydenbauer.com)

### The Velveteen Rabbit

Dec. 4, 5, 11 & 12, 7 p.m.  
Dec. 6, 12 & 13, 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northrup Way  
This delightful tale will make children and adults smile.  
\$10 per reserved seat.  
425-452-7155

### Seattle Civic Christmas Ship Celebrations

Dec. 5, Chism Beach Park, 8:45 - 9:05 p.m.  
Dec. 17, Newcastle Beach Park, 8:50 – 9:10 p.m.  
Dec. 20, Meydenbauer Beach Park 6:35-6:55p.m.  
Welcome the Seattle Civic Christmas Ship. Free event.  
With the exception of Dec. 5, this event includes bonfire and free hot cider.  
425-452-4106

### Holiday Dance

Dec. 8, 2 - 4 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center,  
4063 148th Ave NE.  
Enjoy favorites of the Big Band era with the Sounds of Swing band.  
\$3 per person at the door.  
425-452-7681

## City Contact Information

### Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

City of Bellevue website: [www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)

Information Center: 452-6800

City Council Office: 452-7810

### City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.  
2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

### Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

### Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas  
Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.  
Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.  
Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 7 p.m.  
Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Library Board: 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.  
Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.  
Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m.  
Transportation: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

### City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6464  
City Manager: 452-7228

### Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874  
Highland: 452-7686  
North Bellevue Senior: 452-7681  
South Bellevue: 452-4240

Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services Center: 452-6800

New permit applications: 452-4898  
Inspection requests, application and inspection status, pay fees: 452-6875  
Simple permits, inspection requests: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)  
Application and inspection status: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)  
Code Compliance: 452-4570

### Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911  
Business and Information: 452-6892  
Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

### Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or [www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)

Information Technology: 452-4626

Marina Hotline: 452-6123

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

### Parks & Community Services

Parks Information: 452-6881  
Recreation Registration: 452-6885  
Youth Sports: 452-6887  
Ballfields: 452-6914  
Picnics/Rentals: 452-6914  
Park Maintenance: 452-6855  
Human Services: 452-6884  
Cultural Diversity: 452-7886  
Probation: 452-6956  
Recreation & Special Services Division: 452-6885

### Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891  
Factoria Station: 452-2880  
Transit Center Station: 452-7933  
Emergency Only: 911  
Complaints and Information: 452-6917  
Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-6915; Residential 452-6916  
Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-6940

### Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

### Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-2977  
Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973  
Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

### Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS  
Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)  
Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

# Bellevue

## IT'S YOUR CITY

*It's Your City* is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. If you have questions or comments about this publication or city services, call 425-452-4448; or write: Editor, *It's Your City*, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012;

or send e-mail to [ciosso@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciosso@bellevuewa.gov)  
**City Manager:** Steve Sarkozy  
**Communications Director:** Tim Waters  
**Editor:** Claude Iosso  
**Graphics:** Phyllis Hall

[www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)



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## Bellevue City Council



Grant Degginger  
Mayor



Claudia Balducci  
Deputy Mayor



Patsy Bonincontri



John Chelminiak



Mike Creighton



Don Davidson



Conrad Lee

## Committee to make sure everyone's counted in census

The Bellevue City Council has thrown its support behind a "Complete Count" Committee formed to raise awareness among residents of the safety, ease and importance of the 2010 census.

In a proclamation in September, the council pledged the city to join the Census Bureau "in issuing a call to action to every resident in this city, state and nation to be counted, especially members of population groups that are traditionally undercounted."

In March, the U.S. Census Bureau will send a questionnaire to every household in the country for its 10-year tally of people who live in the United States. Almost 30 percent of Bellevue's residents are foreign-born and may have difficulty with or be leery about responding.

If the city's population is undercounted, it could cost Bellevue millions over the next 10 years in federal and state grants, and mean less representation for the city in the federal and state government. In addition, the picture of Bellevue captured by the census would be incomplete.

The Complete Count Committee, to include city staff as well as community leaders, will work with the Census Bureau to make sure people are comfortable filling out the Census form.

In the coming months, the committee will reach out to neighborhood, cultural and faith-based groups to deliver the message to hard-to-reach populations that the census is easy and that information about individuals or individual families will be confidential.

If you have questions about the census or the Complete Count Committee, contact associate planner-demographer Gwen Rousseau at 425-452-2743 or [grousseau@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:grousseau@bellevuewa.gov).



### IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## Utilities tax rebate offered

Bellevue Utilities is offering a tax rebate for all eligible low-income residents who pay utilities and live within city limits. To qualify, total household income in 2009 must be \$28,231 or less for a single person; or \$32,271 or less for married/co-tenant.

The deadline for applications is Nov. 30.

Those who qualify will get a rebate of up to \$102 the third week in December, right before the holidays. This rebate is for local taxes paid on Bellevue's utilities (water, wastewater and drainage) and private utilities.

Call 425-452-5285 for an application or for more information.