

neighborhood news



April 2016

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods



"Better Together" — Bellevue Neighborhoods Conference

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Saturday, May 21, 8am-4pm, | Bellevue City Hall

Kick off the day with keynote speaker Becky Henchman, author of the local blog, "Eat, Play, Thaw". Choose from 20 one-hour workshops on these themes:

- Building Community in My Neighborhood;
- The World in My Neighborhood;
- Staying Safe in My Neighborhood; and
- Navigating the City for My Neighborhood.

Come on your own or as part of a neighborhood group and walk away with loads of learning, new skills, and valuable connections.

A full brochure with registration materials is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/better-together.htm Have your brochure handy to select your classes when you register. Print the one page form and register by mail or to register by phone, contact Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov



Cultural Conversations

Can fear keep us from opening our doors and our hearts?

Tuesday, April 12, 1-2:30pm

Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St, Bellevue



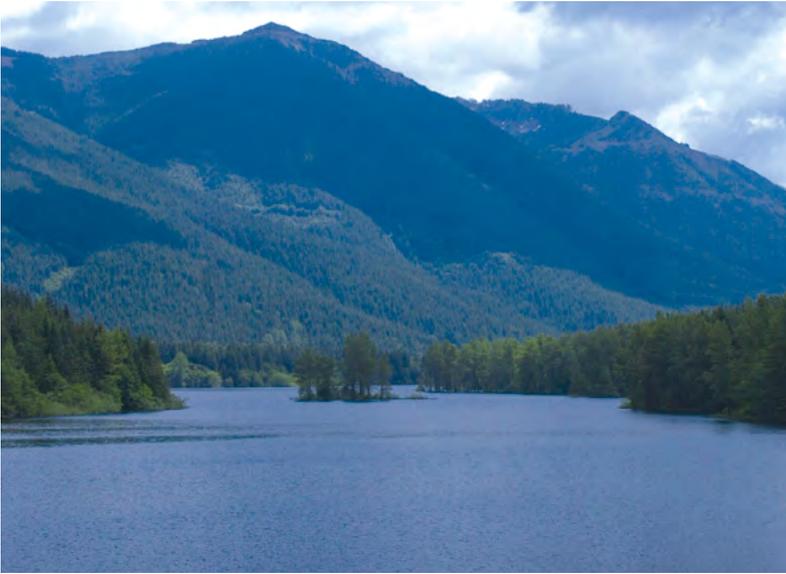
Cultural Conversations is a program that was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City of Bellevue. The women's group gathers regularly to have "cultural conversations" to enhance their knowledge and understanding of different practices and world views in a nurturing and safe environment where they feel free to share. This month we will continue to explore a theme from last month's meeting, whether and why we choose to help others; sharing stories of courage, sacrifice and fear. In a rapidly changing and uncertain world, is it still possible to open hearts and doors where there are perceived and real differences between us? Our storytellers Nura, a Somalian and long-time Bellevue resident, and Hind, a Syrian and newly arrived, had crossed paths in the past, and were remarkably reunited at our last Cultural Conversations meeting. We'll hear from them about the life saving importance of an open door, given recent world events, connections and similarity of family hardship as refugees in war torn countries. We'll also hear familiar stories from Wendy, who

in contrast grew up in the U.S. in small east coast suburban communities where in the past helping others in need, was the norm. These are vastly different parts of the world with surprising similarities in acts of kindness. In table conversation we will discuss where and how these worlds of different life experience of openly helping others intersect today within our local community. Is it easier or harder to help others when people are from a culture, race, or religion different than our own? Is this willingness to help only possible by those who have witnessed hardship or had caring modeled in their communities? What allows some to risk their own well-being to reach out and help others?

Women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. To fully participate in the sharing, attendees are encouraged to make arrangements for childcare. Please RSVP to Carol Ross at cross@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917.



Why Is Bellevue Water So Good?



Cedar River Watershed

Bellevue's water comes from the Cedar River and Tolt River watersheds in the Cascade Mountains – protected areas that are closed to human activity and development. This means our water has fewer contaminants and is treated with fewer chemicals. The following are ways that Bellevue keeps your water safe:

- Monitor drinking water quality throughout the city to make sure it meets or exceeds state and federal water quality standards.
- Manage the Cross Connection Control/Backflow Prevention Program to prevent

contaminants from entering the city's water system. Visit www.bellevuewa.gov/backflow.htm. Establish procedures used during water main breaks and other event responses to protect drinking water quality.

- Conduct water main flushing, sampling and results tracking to ensure freshness.
- Inspect water storage tanks to ensure they have secure and sanitary conditions as well as oversee storage tank cleaning to remove any accumulated sediments.
- Assist customers with water quality issues in their homes.
- Keep abreast of changing state and federal regulations.
- Maintain strong relationships with Washington State's Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water.
- Train for water emergencies with other regional water providers

This means you don't have to turn to expensive bottled water to get great quality, taste, and value. Learn more about your water at www.bellevuewa.gov/drinking-waterquality.htm.

Speaking of clean water...

Keeps Suds Out of Streams

Did you know that all storm drains in Bellevue lead to a lake, stream, or creek?



Washing your car at home is a dirty business. When you wash your car in the street or a parking lot, toxic motor oil, brake pad dust, tire wear and other chemical residues – along with soap – go down storm drains, untreated, into the waterways we swim, fish and play in.

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

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

Eastgate/Factoria NEP Wraps as Cougar Mountain/Lakemont Begins



Kick-Off Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30-8pm

Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center | 5808 Lakemont Boulevard SE, Bellevue

What a great first round of the new NEP! Eastgate and Factoria finished incredibly strong with 26 ballot projects and just under 350 returned ballots! Later this month, residents of the Eastgate/Factoria Neighborhood Area will receive a newsletter announcing the winning projects, and a program evaluation form. We again want to thank everyone in Eastgate and Factoria who participated in NEP, as we very much value and appreciate your time and dedication to creating incredible neighborhoods where Bellevue residents can thrive. As NEP comes to a close in Eastgate/Factoria, it will begin in Cougar Mountain/Lakemont this month at the Cougar Mountain/Lakemont NEP Kick-Off Meeting. Staff will provide a brief overview of the program guidelines and schedule, answer questions, and invite attendees to discuss and share their project ideas. This event is a great opportunity for new residents to meet their neighbors and city staff, as well as for existing residents to reconnect with their community.

If you can't come to the meeting, don't fret! The presentation will be made available on the NEP website (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep.htm>).

Following the kick-off meeting, each household in the Cougar Mountain/Lakemont Neighborhood Area will receive a prepaid NEP Project Request Form in the mail. Each NEP project request must be submitted using either a hard copy NEP Project Request Form, or the online project request form on the NEP website. All requests must be received by May 31, 2016, and we encourage you to submit as many project requests as you wish. More than \$300,000 has been allocated to enhancement projects in Cougar Mountain/Lakemont, and you need to tell us how it should be spent!

For more information about the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, please contact the NEP Coordinator, Emily Kish, at 425-452-4186, or ekish@bellevuewa.gov



Green Clean Workshops

*Monday, April 11, 7-8pm
Bellevue Downtown Library
1111 110th Ave. NE*

*Thursday, April 14, 7-8pm
Newport Way Library
4250 SE Newport Way*



*Friday, April 22, 4-5pm
Lake Hills King County Library
15590 Lake Hills Blvd.*

*Monday, May 2, 7-8pm
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE*

*Wednesday, May 11, 7-8pm
Northwest Arts Center
9825 NE 24th St.*

The City of Bellevue is pleased to offer five special green clean workshops this spring for people who live or work in Bellevue. All events are free!

The fun, hands-on classes will cover information on avoiding toxic cleaners and resources for making your own green cleaners at home. Attendees will receive a free green cleaning kit to take home. Adults and children over 7 are welcome to attend. Registration is required, please email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-6932 to register. Spaces are limited to 20 people per session. First come, first served. Sample Green Cleaning kit. Contents will vary slightly.

Bellevue's Hill'n Dale Garden Club turns 60!

*Saturday, April 30 | 1:30-3:30pm
Newport Way Library | 14250 SE Newport Way, Bellevue*



In the early 60s, Eastgate was still a fairly young community. Neighbors were connected by sharing common interests and the Hill'n Dale Garden Club was one of the examples in creating neighborhood

connections and boosting community pride. This month, the club celebrates 60 years of success and friendship at the Newport Way Library. The public, past members, library patrons and those interested in joining the Hill 'n Dale garden club are all welcome to attend!

The garden club, referenced in an a 1965 Seattle Times article, was active in early landscaping projects involving the planting of trees and shrubbery and maintained landscaped areas in then what was unincorporated King County. The Hill'n Dale Garden Club has been meeting at the local library for the last 45 years. Meeting usually

starts at 6:30pm, the first Monday evening of each month from September through June at the Newport Way Library. Each meeting consists of a one hour program that includes topics like gardening, floral design, conservation and other topics pertaining to the joyous camaraderie between gardeners plus learning the tips and secrets of successful gardening. Members support a Memorial Garden at the library and have a history of planting and maintaining a Hill 'n Dale Garden area that has evolved over the decades with the community. So if you are interested in sticking out your green thumb this spring and to meet some new friends and neighbors in the area, you should give the garden club a try. An informational video of the garden club can be viewed at <http://www.gardenclub.org/about-us/membership-video.aspx> and for more information, please contact the Club at HillnDaleGardenClubBellevue@gmail.com.

TRAFFIC CORNER

New Parking Regulations Kick in May 1

New parking rules and updated penalties will take effect on May 1. The City Council adopted the changes to Bellevue's parking code on March 7, following a staff presentation on the topic at the council's Feb. 22 meeting. City staff emphasized that parking enforcement is important for a variety of safety reasons -- to discourage parking too close to intersections, crosswalks and driveways -- as well as for commerce, to keep Bellevue's system of free, on-street spaces and two-hour limit workable. Nearly 75 percent of the roughly 4,000 parking tickets issued each year in Bellevue are for safety-related violations, rather than for overtime violations. Changes to parking regulations include:

- **Penalties for parking infractions:** Under the old ordinance fines range from \$23 to \$40. Under the revised ordinance, fines will be \$40 across the board, to better match other parking fines in the region. The new amount falls about in the middle range compared with other local cities and King County;
- **Adjusting for inflation:** The revised ordinance streamlines a provision to adjust penalty amounts for inflation every two years, based on the consumer



price index. The first CPI adjustment will be on Jan. 1, 2018. Parking penalties were last adjusted in 2008; and

- **New regulations:** Vehicles with expired tags (more than 45 days) could be ticketed instead of impounded; no parking within 10 feet of mailboxes, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., on mail days; and a \$250 penalty for misusing residential parking zone permits.

Background information about the changes is available online with the council's March 7 agenda material (<https://bellevue.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2596595&GUID=C59773B5-9C03-43D8-B481-13A558B84D04>)

What is the status of the Bellevue



Way SE Southbound HOV Lane?

The City is beginning to analyze design alternatives for a possible southbound high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lane on Bellevue Way SE. If the project is funded for construction in the future, its goal is to increase roadway capacity for traffic leaving downtown and improve transit speed and reliability in the area.

Where is this project on Bellevue Way?

The design analysis area extends from the 112th Avenue SE “Y” to the main entrance of the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride. Currently, we are exploring concepts to widen Bellevue Way by approximately 20 feet on the west side in order to add a new southbound HOV lane to the inside lane of the expanded roadway. The project will consider adding either an outside shoulder or sidewalk on the west side of Bellevue Way SE for the length of the project.

How does Bellevue’s project fit with the I-90 and Sound Transit improvements?

This design analysis is happening in conjunction with Sound Transit’s East Link Light Rail project and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Interstate 90 improvements. Here is a quick overview of how the HOV improvements relate:

- **I-90 HOV lanes and direct access ramps:** In 2007, WSDOT began a series of phased projects to add HOV lanes between Bellevue and Seattle on I-90.



The first phase was completed in 2008. WSDOT is working on the final phase and it is scheduled to be complete in mid-2017. When that happens, there will be permanent HOV lanes between Bellevue and Seattle in both directions on I-90. There will also be direct access HOV ramps to and from Bellevue Way to and from Seattle.

- **Sound Transit HOV lane extension from I-90 on Bellevue Way:** Sound Transit will construct an HOV lane extension on southbound Bellevue Way from the current South Bellevue Park-and-Ride to the I-90 westbound HOV ramp sometime between the 4th Quarter of 2016 and the 4th Quarter of 4th Quarter of 2020.



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Given these other transportation projects in and near this corridor, it makes sense to explore whether a southbound HOV lane extension on Bellevue Way SE would provide additional benefits.

Your involvement will help shape project alternatives: We would like to hear from you. If you live near Bellevue Way SE or use Bellevue Way, please give us your perspective and your ideas. For example,

what are your thoughts on such features as landscaping, retaining wall, shoulder, sidewalk, and street lighting? Hearing from you now will give us the opportunity to consider your ideas while we are in the early stages of developing alternatives. While a community open houses will happen this spring and fall, we are happy to meet you in person or talk with you over the phone about this alternative analysis. Please contact Tresa Berg at 425-452-4638 or email tberg@bellevuewa.gov Learn more at www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-way-hov-lane.htm

Future decision-making on this project: If a preferred alternative emerges from this public process, followed by City Council approval and funding, this project would be constructed after Sound Transit completes their section in 2020.



SE Newport Way: Somerset Boulevard to 150th Avenue SE — Sidewalk or Pathway?

On Wednesday, March 30, the city held their first open house for the SE Newport Way: Somerset Boulevard to 150th Avenue SE Project. Even though that was last week, we are still interested in your comments and will continue to consider them until summer. The project's

goal is to design and build a sidewalk or pathway on one side of SE Newport Way to connect churches, the library, the community center and schools in the area. Currently, city staff would like your help in identifying what the new improvements should be, where they

should be located, and how they will look. The potential design elements may include:

- Pathway or sidewalk on one side of the roadway
- Crosswalks locations
- Bike lane placement, if possible
- Turn-lane placement, where needed
- Street lighting
- Landscaping

Irrigation and storm and water quality treatments If you are interested in providing your thoughts regarding this project, please check out the open house materials at: www.bellevuewa.gov/se-newport-way-somerset-to-150th.html If you have questions or comments, please call Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or email pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

East Link Extension Tunnel Construction Update

What to Expect & When

- Starting Spring 2016: South portal construction begins. Expect lane restrictions on 110th, 112th and Main St, as well as sidewalk closures and pedestrian detours to support construction activities. The SE 1st Place entrance to Surrey Downs is permanently closed. Work is anticipated to occur during standard work hours (Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; regular Saturday work is not anticipated for this phase of the project, though if necessary that work will take place between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
- Starting Summer 2016: Soil replacement on 110th Ave NE. Expect full road closures (5 weeks) between NE 4th and NE 6th streets followed by partial closure with the southbound lane only (5 weeks). Work is anticipated to occur during weekday daytime hours and into the early evening (8 pm), with some Saturday daytime construction.
- Starting Fall 2016: Tunnel construction using a construction method similar to mining, known as sequential excavation method, moves west from south portal below Main St. along the alignment on 110th Ave NE toward the north portal located by City Hall.

*Total tunnel construction timeline:
1st Quarter 2016 to 2nd Quarter 2020
www.soundtransit.org/eastlink*



As Sound Transit's contractor, Atkinson Construction, gears up to start work on the Downtown Tunnel, Bellevue



residents and businesses are encouraged to sign up for construction alerts at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe-to-alerts. The tunnel is the first of several construction segments that include six light rail stations in Bellevue. Initial site preparation work for the tunnel will include clearing and grading, utility disconnections, erosion control, and fencing at the location of the south portal at Main Street/112th Ave NE. Several structures on 112th Ave SE from approximately SE 1st to Main Street and on Main Street from 112th to 110th Place SE will be removed. A temporary wall will be built to shield construction noise prior to 24-hr tunnel excavation work beginning this fall.

The City of Bellevue is responsible for ensuring the design and construction of the East Link Extension meet city codes through permit review and inspection. To report East Link construction issues, contact Sound Transit's 24-Hour Construction Hotline at 1-888-298-2395 or email eastlink@soundtransit.org

Other East Link Updates: Plans are underway by the City to create a Neighborhood Traffic Committee to address traffic mitigation for impacted neighborhoods once construction of the South Bellevue segment begins. Also, the City is beginning the process to develop a public relations campaign that will message that "Bellevue Is Open for Business" during construction.

For more information on these efforts, contact Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach, Bellevue Transportation Department, at 425-452-2064 or mjensen@bellevuewa.gov

April Meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the City web pages listed below to download agendas.)

4/04 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) update, Automated Meter Reading, Downtown Livability Management Brief

(8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Update on Hearing Loop, National Volunteer Appreciation Week, Consent Calendar; Public Hearing – Wasatch
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

4/07 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30a.m., 1E-121) Guest speaker on Hearing Loss Cheri Perazzoli, Director of Advocacy, Hearing Loss Association of Washington (HLA-WA), and Founder/Director of Let's Loop Seattle
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

4/05 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Parking Code Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

4/05 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Cultural Compass Update: Vision Survey Results & Discussion, Cultural Grant Program, Draft Public Art Project List 2017-2023, New Public Art Opportunity: Mini City Hall
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

4/05 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Orientation Human Services Application-budget application walk through, staff review process, Home Repair update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

4/07 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Year-end financial Report; Early Outlook Forecast
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

4/11 City Council (6:00 extended study session, 1E-113 Council Conference Room) Reappointment of Boards and Commission members; Economic Development Quarterly Update; False Alarm Program Update; Grand Connection Charrette Update; Wilburton Study Area
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

4/12 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-113) Programming and Access for People with Disabilities, 2017-2018 Budget/Capital Improvement Projects
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

4/13 Youth Link (6:00, 1E-120) Youth Involvement Conference, 2016 Youth Link Board Goals.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm
<http://www.youthlink.com/>

4/14 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Transportation Improvement Program Transportation Capital Improvement Projects Budget
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

4/14 Special Events Committee (8:30 -10:30 a.m. City Hall, 1E-118) Post Event for March Events – (Child Rights and You) CRY Holi Festival. Parking recommendations for events at Crossroads Park, Upcoming events in April – Sheep Shearing at Kelsey Creek and All in for Autism 10K at Downtown Park, Economic Development staff will discuss Special Events and their positive impact to the community
http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

4/18 City Council (6:00 study session, 1E-113 Council Conference Room) Sound Transit – ST3, Response to Recreational Marijuana Regulations (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Management Brief on Low Impact Development-Principles Project Update, Consent Calendar; Public Hearing –On Growth Management Act (GMA) Development Regulations
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

4/19 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Human Service Funding Goal 1: preliminary application review
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

4/25 City Council (6:00 extended study session, 1E-113 Council Conference Room) Construction Code Update, Regional Issues; King County Metro Long Range Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

4/28 Transportation Workshop (5:30, 1E-113) Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative, Transportation Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Budget
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

4/30 Drug Take-Back Event (10:00-2:00, Bellevue Police Factoria and Crossroad Substation) Drop off your expired or unwanted prescription medication or drugs
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 425-452-6836.