



OCTOBER 2008

## INSIDE

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## Parks levy on November ballot

The City Council has unanimously endorsed the Parks & Natural Areas Levy to appear on the November ballot. Council took action on Oct. 6, after a public hearing during which several residents spoke in favor of the levy and no one spoke against it.

With the city's existing park levy expiring this year, the City Council voted in July to place the new levy on the Nov. 4 ballot. The proposed levy would effectively replace the existing park levy.

"It is part of our signature as a city, a great system of parks that we have," Mayor Grant Degginger said. "This will provide additional fields for developed recreation. It will also preserve some of the natural areas we hold dear."

The city has prepared the following fact sheet to give residents details about the levy.

### Background

With the city's existing parks levy expiring this year, voters are being asked to consider a new funding measure to provide additional investments in Bellevue's nationally accredited park system. The measure would replace the purchasing power of the expiring bonds. Following significant public input, Bellevue City Council approved the measure for the Nov. 4 ballot.

public access to lake shores, preserve open space, protect water quality, increase trail connectivity and create opportunities for new neighborhood parks.

- **Eastgate Area Community Park (\$6 million)** This 27-acre undeveloped site will be improved following a community-based plan to preserve natural areas and add new recreational amenities.
- **Neighborhood Park Development (\$5 million)** Smaller-scale parks will be developed with amenities such as play equipment, open space and trail connections. Proposed sites are along Lake Sammamish and in the Bridle Trails neighborhoods.
- **Downtown Park (\$5 million)** Complete additional phase of the Downtown Park master plan, including completion of the circle around the waterfall and reflecting pond.
- **Surrey Downs Community Park (\$3.5 million)** Transferred to the City from county ownership in 2005, this park will be improved to offer new sport and recreational amenities for the neighborhood and broader community.
- **Sports Field Improvements (\$3 million)** Building



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*Volunteer makes magic at theater. Page 10*



*Completing the loop trail at Downtown Park is one of the improvements included in the parks levy.*

*David Johanson Vasquez/Big Picture*

### Levy Summary

This measure includes funding to enhance and maintain Bellevue's parks and open spaces. If approved, the package would accomplish the following:

- Protect water quality in Bellevue's lakes and streams and preserve natural areas throughout the city;
- Enhance existing parks such as Bellevue Downtown Park, Surrey Downs, Crossroads Community Park and the Bellevue Botanical Garden;
- Invest in sportsfields, trails, community parks and neighborhood parks; and
- Maintain improvements consistent with Bellevue Parks' standards.

### Specific Projects

Specific project funding details are further described below:

- **Acquisition Opportunity Funding (\$10 million)** Dedicate resources to obtain land that complements the existing parks system to increase

on the expanded capacity of Robinswood Sports Fields, additional synthetic fields will be installed to improve safety and play at Wilburton Hill and Newport Hills parks.

- **Bellevue Botanical Garden (\$2 million)** Planned improvements will expand opportunities for visitors to experience botanical displays and educational programs.
- **Expansion of Crossroads Community Center to Support Youth Performing Arts (\$2 million)** A larger, improved facility will help meet the facility needs of the City's youth performing arts programs.
- **Lewis Creek Park Phase II (\$2 million)** Group picnic areas and more trail connections will complete the planned improvements to this community park.

### Trail and Natural Area Improvements (\$2 million)

Investments within the city's 1,800-acre open space system will improve forest conditions and stabilize slopes to reduce erosion in the Coal Creek Natural Area, and create hiking and walking trails throughout the city.

### Cost

If approved, this measure would cost a typical homeowner about \$71 per year for the next 20 years, or 12 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. This measure was set to replace the expiring 1988 Bellevue Park Bond, which had an average property tax rate of 17 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

### Additional Information

If you have questions about the Bellevue Parks & Natural Areas Levy, please call the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department at 425-452-2805.



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# Council Corner



## Environmental efforts moving forward

By Mayor Grant Degginger

I was honored last year to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement on behalf of the City Council and the City of Bellevue. The agreement set a goal to reduce emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 – a goal our council is committed to on both a municipal and citywide level.

Is this goal achievable? I believe it is, and I believe it is worth pursuing to maintain Bellevue's quality of life. Climate change is projected to have far-reaching impacts on cities around the world. Having recently visited China, I saw firsthand the huge challenges that country is facing with increasing carbon emissions and air and water pollution.

Here at home, climate change could cause water shortages, reduced mountain snow packs, flooding, interrupted electricity supply and disruptions to our marine ecosystems and the native salmon and other species that depend on them to survive and thrive.

Council members are making sure Bellevue steps up to the plate and does its part to make our environment healthy. Under the Council's direction, the city has been moving forward with an ambitious Environmental Stewardship Initiative, working hard on a number of levels to ensure we reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Since the signing of the Climate Protection Agreement, for example, we have completed an inventory of municipal as well as citywide greenhouse gas emissions. This fall, council members are expected to discuss numerous strategies on how emissions caused by municipal operations can be reduced. We hope to engage the city as a whole in a reduction effort in 2009.

We have also obtained satellite imagery of the ground cover for the entire city. An analysis of this data, which is expected to be completed shortly, will provide valuable information about the rate of change in both tree canopy and the amount of impervious surface in the city. Among other important things, this information will be used to shape strategies to protect or enhance tree canopy. The council last year increased the amount of tree canopy that must be retained on single-family lots being redeveloped, and in recent years has renewed or created new capital improvement projects to support tree planting citywide.

Other examples of our efforts include:

- Bellevue's recent expansion of parks and playground recycling containers has been a great success, with 3.6 tons of material being diverted out of the solid waste stream each month. Many city-sponsored events now aim for "zero-waste" standards, and the city earned a "Best Workplace for Recycling" award this year from King County.
- The city recently purchased its first all-electric truck. Powered by six large batteries, the vehicle generates zero direct greenhouse gas emissions. It is recharged by being plugged into a standard electrical outlet, and costs about 27 cents to travel 18 miles compared to a gas pickup truck, which costs about \$4 per 18 miles.
- The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center has been awarded a King County Green Building Award. The MSEEC, a partnership between the city and the Pacific Science Center, showcases a variety of green building techniques, technologies and materials. The facility will be a regional center for teaching environmental education. The grand opening was Oct. 11.
- Increased education and outreach has resulted in higher recycling rates citywide. In 2007 residents in single-family households recycled 67.5 percent of their waste (up from 65.9 percent the previous year), and those living in apartments and other multifamily structures recycled 18.1 percent of their waste (up from 16.4 percent). Participation in food waste recycling by residents living in single-family houses has steadily grown – from 12 percent in 2005 to 32 percent in 2007.
- Nearly 100 city employees participated in Group Health's Bike to Work Month Challenge this year, logging approximately 10,560 miles and saving approximately 10,093 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. The city ranked 14th in mileage among the 648 organizations that participated.
- An innovative city program that helps people reduce their carbon footprint was implemented through the sixth-grade science Powerful Choices curriculum in the Bellevue school system. So far, more than 300 households have sent in pledge cards listing what they are doing now and what they will do in the future to reduce their carbon footprint.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a complex and long-term effort. But I am confident we can make notable progress in the months and years ahead. Bellevue has a long history of environmental stewardship, a legacy that will continue as we face these new challenges together.

## City rolls out first electric truck

The city, which already has 30 hybrid vehicles in its fleet, has now purchased a battery-powered truck. Used by the Facilities department, the little truck can be converted from a pickup to a flatbed or dump truck.



Made by Miles Electric Vehicles of Santa Monica, Calif., the truck has six large batteries and plugs into a regular outlet. Charged overnight, it is ready to roll in the morning.

At \$25,000, the truck is comparable in cost to a gas-powered truck. Its top speed is only 35 mph, and 55 miles is as far as it can go on a single charge, but the truck generates zero emissions and will save the city money. It only costs 27 cents to travel 18 miles, compared to \$4 for the equivalent distance in gas truck.

The innovative truck is small enough to access garages and confined outdoor city facilities, making it easy for staff to perform routine maintenance and make short trips around Bellevue.

## Fire Department reaccredited

The Bellevue Fire Department has earned accreditation for another five years, Fire Chief Mario Treviño announced Monday.

Under City Manager Steve Sarkozy, all of Bellevue's major operating departments have achieved national accreditation.

"By becoming accredited we can be assured we are achieving operational excellence," Sarkozy said. "And that means we are serving our city in the best way we can."

The Fire department first obtained accreditation in 1997, becoming the first in the state and one of just eight in the world. Currently, only 127 fire agencies are currently accredited worldwide.

## Following Council gets easier



### Want an easy, no-hassle way to stay up to date on City Council actions?

Every week the Council meets, significant council actions or discussions are summarized in a "Council Roundup" posted on the city website. The headline will be on the home page (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov>).

You can sign up for E-Mail Alerts for Council news and you will receive an e-mail when any news release about the Council, including the roundups, is posted. The online subscription is available at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/news\\_releases.htm#CityCouncil](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/news_releases.htm#CityCouncil).

Also, Council meetings are televised live on Bellevue TV, Channel 21. Study sessions begin at 6 p.m., while the regularly-scheduled council meetings start at 8 p.m. Videotapes of the meetings are typically posted on the city's website the day following the meeting.

The City Council meets every Monday, except the fifth Monday of every month, at Bellevue City Hall. The Council is in recess most of August and December.

Council agendas are posted at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_agendas\\_2008.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_agendas_2008.htm) before each week's meeting. If you have a question or comment on a council action or activity, call the Council Office at 452-7810, or send an e-mail to [council@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:council@bellevuewa.gov).



# New era dawns at Mercer Slough

A cluster of buildings rising out of the wetland forest on steel pilings, with slanted roofs and glass walls, the new Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is not your average school by a long shot.

With special features, including slough overlooks, a wet lab and a “treehouse,” the facility will allow thousands of school children and families to experience wetlands in a hands-on way.

The education center just opened on Oct. 11, with an all-day event that included workshops, hikes, native planting and pond explorations.

The center is located in the Mercer Slough Nature Park, an environmental oasis just a mile from downtown. Home to hundreds of diverse plants and animals that depend on the wetlands ecosystem for survival, the park is ideal for environmental study.

“I can think of no better place to observe and practice the balance between our urban way of life and the vibrant natural systems around us than this outdoor laboratory on Mercer Slough,” Jim Ellis, project co-chair said. “This is a place where the children of our cities can see, touch and smell life at the edge between land and water.”

In a partnership with the Pacific Science Center, the city has offered classes at Mercer Slough for the past 15 years. But the original educational center was the Sullivan House, a retrofitted Parks property that could only accommodate 8,000 students each year.

The new education center includes the Sullivan House (remodeled), a new classroom, wet lab, community building and a visitor center. A second phase of expansion will add a classroom and wet lab. The new center will ultimately be able to serve 40,000 students annually from throughout the region.

Of course, the education center is not just bigger than the old one. The treehouse, overlooks and a network of boardwalks enable visitors to see the Slough without disturbing it. The wet lab is a rugged classroom that allows for hands-on study of water, animals, plants and soils.

The education center has been designed to have minimal impact on the environment, with roofs that either collect rainwater into a gentle, stream-like runoff or that nurture native plants. The complex has earned a King County “Excellence in Building Green Award.”

Puget Sound Energy helped lead the fundraising effort to make the expansion possible.

“This partnership will allow more children to learn about environmental stewardship in an ideal lab, a 320-acre wetland in the heart of

our city,” Mayor Grant Degginger said. “Few cities have had the foresight to protect sensitive lands so close to their downtown core. This is a testament to Bellevue’s longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship,” he added.

The second phase of expansion is on the drawing board. The co-chairs, Jerry Henry of PSE and Ellis, a longtime community leader, will continue raising funds for construction of the additional space.



*The treehouse offers great views of the Mercer Slough Nature Park.*

“Mercer Slough provides an extraordinary venue for our environmental education programs,” said Bryce Seidl, president and chief executive officer of the Pacific Science Center. “There is no substitute for learning in the real environment.”

The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, located at 1625 118th Ave. SE, offers programs for individuals and groups. For more information, call 425-452-6881 or 425-450-0207, or visit <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/mseec.htm> or <http://www.pacsci.org/slough>.



*The new Community Building and Visitor Center, with a boardwalk leading to them, at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.*

*Duell Fisher/Team Photogenic*

# Revamped police substation opens at Factoria Mall



If you live or work in the Factoria neighborhood, there is a new police resource at Factoria Mall. A new community substation is now open near Nordstrom Rack and Red Robin.

Last month Chief Linda Pillo cut the ribbon on the new office, sited at the mall and remodeled for \$175,000 by Kimco Realty. Although a substation has operated in other locations in Factoria over the past 13 years, the new office is easy to find and offers expanded services.

The forward “storefront” half of the facility is designed to be an open and welcome contact point for citizens. The back section is set up to support the work of patrol officers.

The Bellevue Police Department’s main office is at City Hall, but residents can get information and assistance with non-emergency issues at any of three community stations in Bellevue. In addition to the Factoria station, there are ones at the Downtown Transit Center Station and the Crossroads Community Center. These substations are part of the department’s ongoing commitment to community based policing.

At each community station, volunteers and officers connect citizens to their Police Department in a positive and constructive way. Staff at each station establish and maintain partnerships with business leaders and home owners in a collaborative effort to reduce crime and solve problems.

## It's Your Neighborhood

### HELP AVAILABLE FOR KEEPING NEIGHBORHOODS BEAUTIFUL

By Cheryl Kuhn, Neighborhood Outreach Manager

It happens to just about everyone: you're casually strolling or bicycling through the neighborhood, inhaling the aroma of freshly mowed grass, admiring your neighbor's new fence or paint job, enjoying the sounds of kids playing and generally absorbing the familiar "feel" of community when suddenly – Oh, NO!

You turn a corner and come to the house – the one with lawn like Kansas wheat fields, a fur coat of moss shrouding the roof and shrubbery dense enough to hide a buffalo. Uncollected newspapers on the driveway and empty garbage cans in the street complete the picture.

Many Bellevue neighborhoods have such eyesores – overgrown or neglected properties in otherwise attractive areas. The question is what, if anything, to do about them.

#### Lending a hand

There are lots of reasons for property neglect, and many involve circumstances beyond the resident's control, from illness to death of a family member to age and infirmity.

Whether these circumstances are temporary or permanent, help one way or another is often appreciated. You can offer help yourself or rally your neighbors to take turns lending a hand.

Or you can be the gatekeeper, helping to connect people to outside assistance. Calling 211 is one way to find the right source of help for a neighbor in need. Also, Senior Services of King County (206-448-3110) offers group training on how to be an effective gatekeeper – how to spot signs of distress.

In any case, the important first step is determining what underlying cause may exist for the property neglect.

Some neighborhoods, such as Monthaven – a 70-home community north of Somerset – are setting up networks of compassionate neighbors to help each other with maintenance issues. In addition, there are faith-based volunteer groups – such as Jubilee Services in Lake Hills – that are happy to help people get their homes and yards back in shape.

#### Contacting authorities

Of course, not all cases of home neglect are due to age or illness. Sometimes, people are not aware of their responsibility to help maintain a well-kept neighborhood and a few simply ignore that responsibility. Fortunately, some alternatives do exist for the neighbors living next to the eyesore:

- **Code Compliance** – Bellevue does not have a property maintenance ordinance (a law that restricts grass height, paint condition, etc.), but there are certain requirements in the Land Use Code that apply to home maintenance. For instance, inoperable vehicles, cars parked on lawns, unscreened junk or vegetation that harbors rodents can be violations. You don't have to be the one to decide what is legal or illegal; you can simply call Code Compliance and ask an officer to check out the situation. (452-4570)

- **Potential legislation** – Bellevue is currently considering legislation to require maintenance of properties that are vacant or abandoned. This would address some instances of neighborhood property neglect. (452-6836)
- **Neighborhood covenants** – Some neighborhoods have their own covenants intended to protect the community from the impacts of property neglect. Such covenants are private agreements – enforceable not by the city, but in civil court. Many neighborhood associations get involved with covenant enforcement – or with property maintenance on another level – so getting in touch with your neighborhood association is a good place to start. (452-6836)



#### Finding other sources of help

Healthy and attractive neighborhoods are the very heart of the community, so don't suffer the eyesores in silence. Let the city help you explore some other options for maintaining quality neighborhoods.

- **Neighborhood Mediation** – Use this free service to resolve a conflict between you and your neighbor. It may be easier than you think to reach a meeting of the minds on a maintenance issue. (452-4091)
- **Neighborhood Outreach** – Contact Outreach for advice on neighborhood maintenance and assistance with neighborhood clean-ups. (452-6836)
- **Maintenance Workshop** – Sign up and attend the Outreach Team's free March 12 workshop on how to keep your neighborhood in tip-top shape. (452-5372)
- **Home and Neighborhood Maintenance Resource Guide** – Call and order a copy of this free Outreach publication listing home repair and maintenance resources, funding sources, and neighborhood improvement tips. (452-6836)
- **Home Repair Program** – Learn more about free and low-cost programs for assisting qualified Bellevue homeowners with needed home repairs. (452-6884)
- **Operations & Maintenance** – Keep your neighborhood looking good by calling the city's maintenance team when you see missing signs, damaged pavement or any other right-of-way problem. (452-7840)

## Workshops offer tips on how to build vibrant neighborhoods

Great neighborhoods don't happen by accident. Residents must mobilize behind worthy causes, pitching in on weekends if necessary. To help you, the city is offering a series of free workshops on the essentials to creating and maintaining a vibrant neighborhood.

Sponsored by Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach team, the "Great Community Workshop Series" includes six workshops, all 7 to 9 p.m. at City Hall.

Each workshop provides an opportunity for residents meet one another, sharpen their leadership skills, learn new things and exchange ideas. Meet and mingle sessions, with refreshments, will be followed by presentations

from and discussions with guest speakers, neighborhood leaders and city staff.

#### Mobilize, Organize and Sustain

The opening workshop, set for Thursday, Oct. 23, will feature Mayor Grant Degginger and Dr. Elton Gatewood, a national expert on community involvement from Tacoma. The theme will be "Mobilizing, Organizing and Sustaining Strong Neighborhoods."

Dr. Gatewood, coordinator for Tacoma's Neighborhood Council Office and vice president of Neighborhoods USA, will discuss how to recruit members, foster involvement and sustain a successful community organization.

A panel of local neighborhood

leaders will join Dr. Gatewood's discussion and share their neighborhood challenges and triumphs. Participants will explore new ways to organize, mobilize and motivate neighbors.

#### Importance of Communication

On Thursday, Nov. 13, Sherry Grindeland, former Seattle Times columnist, journalist and community leader will focus on communication, a key to the success of any organization. The emphasis will be on communications basics that get people involved and effectively spread the word.

Joining Grindeland's discussion, neighborhood leaders will share their hands-on experiences with newsletters and websites. Attendees are encouraged to bring samples of their neighborhood communications to share.

#### "How-Tos" of Neighborhood Projects

At the third workshop, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11, city staff and neighborhood leaders will discuss how to organize tasks, mobilize volunteers and delegate work to complete neighborhood projects.

Neighborhood Match Program Coordinator Patricia Knight and Neighborhood Enhancement Program Coordinator Ron Matthew will highlight project examples and explain the process of navigating both small and large projects through the city system.

The last three workshops are scheduled for Jan. 8, Feb. 5 and March 12, and topics include: conflict resolution; presenting your views to boards and commissions; and maintaining neighborhood value and appearance.

For more information on these workshops, check the City of Bellevue website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/great-community-workshops.htm>.

RSVPs are preferred for the workshops, but last-minute attendees are welcome. To RSVP or to learn more about The Great Community Workshop Series, please contact Julie Ellenhorn in Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-5372 or [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov).



Dr. Elton Gatewood



## Eastside light rail on ballot

Residents of Bellevue and other cities in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties will vote Nov. 4 on a package of regional transportation improvements that includes the extension of a light rail line through Bellevue to the Overlake Transit Center in Redmond.



*Digital rendering of a light rail car and station at Bellevue. Sound Transit produced this visualization for illustrative purposes.*

The measure, called Sound Transit 2, requires approval by a simple majority (more than 50 percent) of voters. It includes 36 miles of new light rail line, with extensions east to Overlake by 2021, north to Lynnwood by 2023 and south to Federal Way by 2023.

If passed, the "East Link" light rail line would connect the Eastside to a central line between downtown Seattle and SeaTac Airport currently that's nearing completion. The new route would run east along Interstate 90, north

to downtown Bellevue, then east through the Bel-Red area to Redmond. It would have four to six stations in Bellevue.

East Link's exact route and configuration through Bellevue are being evaluated. Sound Transit is in the process of completing a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and plans to release it in the coming months, followed by a 60-day public comment period. Later in 2009 Sound Transit and involved cities will select preferred routes and station locations based on public input and technical findings. Environmental studies will be complete in 2010.

Also in the ST2 package are 100,000 hours of immediate regional express bus service, bus rapid transit on SR 520, a 65 percent increase in Sounder commuter rail service, and a potential contribution to a partnership for passenger rail service on the former Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail corridor.

Sound Transit officials estimate the ST 2 package will cost \$9.1 billion in 2007 dollars, or a total of \$17.9 billion through 2023, when inflation, operations, maintenance, reserves and debt service are included. It would be paid for through a 0.5 percent increase in the local sales tax over the next 15 years. That translates to an additional 5 cents on a \$10 purchase, or about \$69 dollars a year for each adult in the Sound Transit taxing district.

In November 2007 voters rejected a "Roads and Transit" package that included significant highway and bridge improvements, in addition to regional mass transit. This year's ST2 proposal calls for mass transit improvements only.

To prepare for a possible light rail route through Bellevue, the City Council has been an active participant in Sound Transit's process and other regional transportation forums. Bellevue has worked closely with the agency on its environmental impact statement and other planning components.

In June 2007 the Council appointed a Light Rail Best Practices Committee, comprised of members from various citizen boards and commissions. The panel was asked to study how light rail works in other North American cities, how best practices in those cities can be applied in Bellevue and what actions the city should take to implement them.

The effort, which included extensive public involvement, was designed to assist the community and the Council in evaluating and planning for a proposed light rail system in Bellevue. It resulted in a final report issued in June 2008, changes to the city's Comprehensive Plan in August, amendments to city codes and standards, other city policies and procedures, capital investments and expectations of Sound Transit.

For more information about ST2, including Bellevue's involvement and an online comment form to relay your thoughts directly to the Council, visit the Bellevue website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>.

## Residents Ask

### WE GET QUESTIONS:

#### What noises are regulated by the city's noise ordinance?

Bellevue's noise control ordinance – Code 9.18 – covers noise from the following: construction sites outside of allowed construction hours – 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (In some cases permits may be issued to allow after-hours construction.); loud parties/music (call 911); commercial activities, such as leaf- or snow-blowing; amplified sounds outside of an approved permit; residential air conditioners and generators; HVAC heat pumps; residential auto repair; residential chainsaws; truck deliveries and dumpster pickups.

To file a complaint, call 425-452-4570 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays or call 911 on evenings and weekends.

These following noise sources are not regulated by the city ordinance: events with approved amplified sound permits; permitted events, such as festivals; school events; vehicle backfires; watercraft or aircraft; emergency vehicle sirens; horns or alarms; barking dogs; or parades.

If you have any questions about whether a sound is covered by the noise ordinance, call Code Compliance at 425-452-6985.

#### How do I register my business, and can I do it at Bellevue City Hall?

The Master Business License from the state doesn't cover everything. To do business in Washington, a business owner must also have a city business license for each city in which the business is physically located and a city business license for each city to which representatives of the business will travel to conduct business.

At Bellevue City Hall you can apply for your Master Business License (proprietorship or partnership only; otherwise, you must apply through the state's Department of Licensing). You can also apply for a Bellevue city license, and licenses from more than 16 "partner" cities in the state.

Contact a Service First coordinator at 425-452-6800 for further information, including fees.

#### Are more big construction projects starting downtown?

Bellevue will continue to see development, and large projects, downtown over the next several years, but not at the current intensity and pace. Some of the recent projects under construction are:

- Belcarra Apartments, 1032 106th Ave NE – 320 units and 11,500 square feet of retail
- The Bravern, 11155 NE 8th St. – 456 condos, 620,000 square feet of office, and 240,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space
- The Summit Bldg C, 320 108th Ave NE – 300,000 square feet of office
- Other projects that are just about through the permit phase or have started to move ground are:
- Avalon @ NE 10th St., 939 Bellevue Way NE – 400 residential units
- Bellevue Plaza, 139 106th Ave. NE – 800 residential units and 160,000 square feet of retail
- Marriott Hotel, 11009 NE 3rd Pl. – 376 rooms and a 7,500-square-foot restaurant

For more information about these or other private construction projects in downtown Bellevue, see the Major Projects Report at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/development\\_activity.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/development_activity.htm)

## Rebates help you stop flushing money down the toilet



Toilets are by far the main source of water use in the home, accounting for nearly 30 percent of residential indoor water consumption. Toilets also happen to be a major source of wasted water due to leaks and/or inefficiency. Whether remodeling a bathroom or simply replacing an old, leaky toilet that is wasting money and water, a new WaterSense labeled toilet is a water-efficient option worth considering.

WaterSense Toilets are certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to use a maximum of 1.28 gallons per flush while still providing reliable performance. These advanced high-efficiency toilets are 20 percent

more efficient than the current 1.6 gallons per flush standard. They have been independently tested and proven to perform.

Bellevue and Cascade Water Alliance now offer a \$50 rebate to homeowners for the replacement of old toilets using 3.5 gallons per flush or greater with new WaterSense Toilets. There are currently limited WaterSense models available at most retailers, but more are coming. When shopping for your new toilet, be sure to look for the WaterSense label.

Visit [http://cascadewater.org/con\\_rebates.html](http://cascadewater.org/con_rebates.html) for a toilet rebate application form and a list of available models or call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-4127.

Old toilets can be recycled. Check the King County Solid Waste Division's "What Do I Do With ...?" web page (<http://www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd/wdidw/material.asp>) for recycling resources.

The WaterSense label makes it easy to save water and protect the environment. Look for the WaterSense label to choose quality, water-efficient products. For more information about the WaterSense program and certified products, visit <http://epa.gov/watersense/index.htm>.

## Development Services Department to enhance permitting/inspections

Mike Brennan has been named director of the city's new Development Services Department, formed in July to better serve individuals and businesses needing construction permits or inspections.

Brennan, a 20-year veteran of the city who was leading Development Services ever since it emerged as part of the city Planning and Community Development Department, now oversees about 100 employees, most of whom were previously assigned to PCD.

The creation of the new department, approved by the City Council, is consistent with the city's continuing commitment to provide excellent customer services.

Five years ago, under the direction of the Council and City Manager Steve Sarkozy, the city launched a major effort to improve delivery of development services, including the time it took the city to complete building inspections, issue permits and approve design and construction documents. Brennan was chosen to lead the effort as a deputy director in the PCD.

"This has been one of our highest priorities, and under Mike's direction, we have made been very successful and made tremendous strides, even as the city has experienced the largest downtown building boom in its history," Sarkozy said.

"With the creation of a separate Development Services Department, we'll be able to build on recent successes and reinforce this very important and critical city function," Sarkozy added.

Sarkozy said creation of the new department will allow longtime Planning and Community Development Director Matt Terry, who previously oversaw the employees who will now be assigned to Development Services, more time to focus on strategic initiatives for the City Manager's Office. Terry will continue to oversee PCD.

"Matt has done a great job, and now we want to free up some of his time so he can focus on some of the major initiatives now facing the community," Sarkozy said.



Mike Brennan

Brennan recently answered questions about development services and the new department:

### Why was a Development Services Department formed? How will customers be better served?

The Development Services Department is focused on building a quality city and delivering exceptional customer service through a coordinated line of business that spans multiple departments and divisions.

Let me give you an example. Previously, if you were a commercial contractor seeking a permit to build a single-family residence, you would have to do the legwork to obtain separate approvals from multiple departments with different processes and timelines. Now a single permit is issued for a new home and the coordination between departments and reviews is managed by the city.

### During the past several years the city has placed an emphasis on improving customer service. Is the city making improvements?

Responses to our 2007 annual customer survey show most customers – 83 percent – had a positive overall impression of the job we do reviewing building documents and performing inspections. Considering the challenges we've faced with record-setting development in our city, that is a very encouraging response.

At the same time, 91 percent of the people who visited our Development Services Center felt they were treated in a helpful, courteous, knowledgeable manner. That too is very encouraging.

### In addition to creating a good customer experience, what are the other benefits that come from the work of your department?

There are significant benefits to Bellevue and developers that come from predictable and timely development review and a stable regulatory environment. A predictable permit process shrinks the risk for developers, creating incentive to build in Bellevue. Shorter permit timelines reduce tenant costs for both new and existing buildings, and working to build an attractive high-quality city brings new investment.

In short, the work of the Development Services Department is part of the city's economic development strategy.

### Bellevue is undergoing an unprecedented building boom downtown. What has it been like to go through this boom and can you give us some indication of just how big it has been?

Well, for one thing, it's been pretty exciting. Those of us who work in Development Services have had a front-row seat to new development that has dramatically changed the complexion and character of Bellevue.

The current development cycle began in 2005 and reached its peak last year, a record-setting year for construction in the Bellevue. During 2007, the value of construction represented by issued permits reached an all-time high, exceeding \$800 million. The number of inspections completed surpassed 70,000, and the number of permits issued reached 13,700.

A number of the projects that received permits in 2007 are still under construction, which is evidenced by the number of cranes towering over downtown.

## Civic Services Department makes service first

Civic Services, one of two new city departments created this summer, manages day-to-day customer service operations at City Hall as well as other employee groups previously assigned to five other city departments.

Creation of the new department allows city operations to become more efficient by consolidating several internal functions under Civic Services, thereby freeing up other departments to focus exclusively on external initiatives and customers.

Facility services, fleet and communications, and real property and land survey are all now managed by Nora Johnson, named to head Civic Services. Service First, the team that provides residents with one-stop help on hundreds of issues, is also in the new department.

Johnson, a former assistant director for the city's Transportation Department, oversees about 70 employees.

"Nora brings a world's worth of solid experience to this new position, and we're fortunate she has agreed to accept the challenge," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said. "And her longstanding commitment to excellent customer service makes her uniquely qualified for the job."

The lion's share of Johnson's work is linked to Bellevue's new City Hall downtown.

Opened in February 2006, the building has quickly become a focal point for the community and a growing number of government and civic activities, including concerts, conferences and the city's biennial sculpture exhibition. Through June of this year, the facility played host to more than 40 events.

"When a new downtown City Hall was first contemplated by the City Council, it was envisioned as a building that would not only symbolize open and accessible government, but become a destination place for Bellevue and the Eastside," Johnson said. "Both these goals have been met."



Johnson said one of the features of the new City Hall – the creation of Service First, the unique customer service operations center on the first floor – has been an unqualified success. Service First representatives routinely handle hundreds of phone calls and walk-in customers daily, taking care of constituents' needs and questions without them having to go anywhere else.

"The concept boils down to looking after the customers' needs from their perspective and making sure they get what they need in one, simple stop with no hassles," Johnson said. "There is no need for them to go anywhere else in City

Hall or even know how we're organized as a city."

As director of Civic Services, Johnson will also oversee fleet services at a time when the city is moving toward a greener, more fuel-efficient fleet as part of the City Council's broader environmental stewardship initiative. The city recently put its first all-electric truck into service, and expects to have 30 hybrid vehicles in the city's fleet by the end of the year, she said.

Johnson said skyrocketing oil prices are expected to have a huge impact on the city fleet's fuel bill this year. The city typically budgets \$900,000 annually for fuel, but that figure is expected to jump 30 to 40 percent. Replacing traditional vehicles with hybrid and electric vehicles will help mitigate these increasing costs and reduce the city's carbon footprint.



## Neighborhood Enhancement Program celebrates 20th anniversary

This year the Neighborhood Enhancement Program celebrates its 20th anniversary of bringing neighbors together to identify and select the city-funded local improvements they want the most. Since its inception in 1988, NEP has built 400 neighborhood projects, including 90 sidewalks and walkways, and a variety of improvements from trails and park enhancements to street lights and landscaping.

Now funded by the City Council at \$1.9 million annually, NEP addresses needs in four or five neighborhood areas each year, engaging residents in a discussion of neighborhood needs and desired improvements. There are 13 neighborhood areas in Bellevue.

The residents of each neighborhood propose projects to enhance their community and ultimately select the projects to be funded. The aim of the program is to:

- Maintain and improve neighborhood safety and quality of life;
- Respond to needs and issues identified by the community;
- Inform and empower citizens to be effective participants in community affairs, and
- Promote community partnerships.

NEP is working harder than ever to keep pace with community growth and changes. Upcoming projects reflect the priorities of Bellevue's changing neighborhoods – a community garden and water park enhancements at Crossroads Community Park; a custom piece of equestrian art for Bridle Trails; reforestation in Weowna Park and wetland enhancements in Mercer Slough.

The program continues to evolve, but the overriding principle of involving residents in identifying needs for their neighborhoods and selecting their preferred projects has continued without change over the two decades of NEP's existence.



*Playground equipment at Ivanhoe Park was an NEP project.*

For more information about the award-winning Neighborhood Enhancement Program, (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep.htm>), contact Ron Matthew, 425-452-4075.

## Residents weigh in on traffic agreement with Redmond

Work continues on the Bellevue Redmond Overlake Transportation Study (BROTS), an agreement between Bellevue and Redmond to cooperatively manage congestion and address transportation problems along the border between the two cities.

A 1999 agreement, due to expire in 2012, pegged transportation projects to be jointly funded and built in the Bel-Red area of Bellevue and Redmond's Overlake district. Many of the projects have been completed; others are being designed.

Since 1999, each city has proposed significant new development in these areas, with traffic continuing to increase, so the agreement is being updated to consider new land use projections in both cities through 2030, along with plans for the transportation system to accommodate that growth.

Two areas receiving particular attention are east Bellevue and a "core area" bounded by 148th Avenue Northeast on the west, 156th Avenue Northeast on the east, Bel-Red Road on the south, and Northeast 24th Street on the north.

Several options are being considered to address traffic congestion in east Bellevue, an area not included in the 1999 BROTS agreement. The main

focus is on north-south arterial streets such as 140th, 148th, 156th, and 164th Avenues, and West Lake Sammamish Parkway. Possible improvements include increasing transit service, reducing the number of commute trips by people who drive alone, improving bicycle and pedestrian access, adjusting signal timing and implementing traffic calming measures.

To learn what residents think about transportation problems and possible solutions in east Bellevue, in recent months city staff briefed community associations and the East Bellevue Community Council, met with individuals to discuss longstanding issues, held four focus groups (two of them in east Bellevue), sponsored a Sept. 17th open house and collected comments via an online questionnaire.

Bellevue's Transportation Commission is scheduled to review work on the 2008 BROTS agreement this fall. The City Council is expected to review it in November and take action on an updated agreement in December.

For more information on BROTS, including an online questionnaire, visit the City of Bellevue website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/brots.htm>; or contact Paul Inghram, Project Manager, at 425-452-4070 or [pingram@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pingram@bellevuewa.gov).

## Pay permit fees over the phone

The city is continually looking for ways to make the permit process easier. Development Services has just expanded the interactive phone system used for scheduling inspections, so people can pay fees and get notice about new permits over the phone too.

Now with VoicePermits, clients can pay almost all outstanding fees by phone using Visa or Mastercard (reinspection fees must still be paid at Permit Processing in City Hall). People can pay up to 10 separate bills per call, either on the same permit or different permits.

Additionally, the system will make automatic phone calls to:

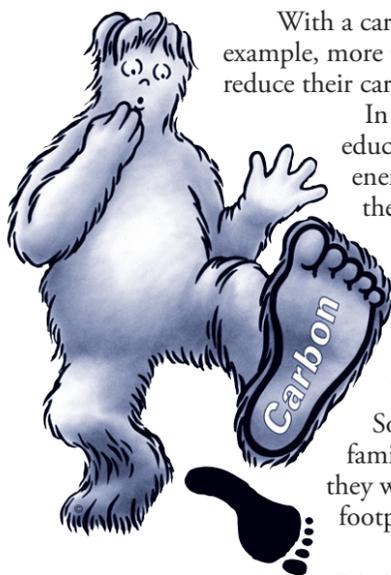
- let clients know a permit is ready to be issued;
- remind clients about permits about to expire; and
- remind them about revisions that need to be submitted.

Selectron VoicePermits was introduced in 2001, and supports the city's cross-departmental Development Services line of business. Calling one number, 425-452-6875, allows the scheduling of any inspection. The system also allows inspectors to post the inspection results using a phone.

In addition, VoicePermits allows clients to hear an inspection result, request a fax of inspection history or review status. There are currently more than 7,000 phone calls a month with 10,000 separate transactions.

The new enhancements are the first phase of a joint project with the Utilities Department. In early 2009, Utilities customers will be able to access information about their accounts and pay their billings using similar technology. This collaboration between separate city functions provides an overall savings to the city, as well as making things easier for the public.

## Carbon Yeti makes a difference



With a cartoon mascot for conservation leading by example, more than 300 households have pledged to reduce their carbon footprints this year.

In March the city launched a campaign to educate residents about the easy ways to save energy in and around one's home. The star of the campaign is the Carbon Yeti, a cheerful cartoon version of Bigfoot's Himalayan cousin, who learns how to shrink his huge carbon footprint.

The Carbon Yeti is featured in Smaller Footprint Pledges, distributed to Bellevue sixth-graders as part of a Puget Sound Energy outreach program, in which families state what they already do and what they will do in the future to reduce their carbon footprint.

The production of gas or electric energy generates carbon dioxide, which is associated with

harmful climate change. The amount of energy you use is your carbon footprint.

Actions people have pledged to do in their living rooms alone, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, turning the thermostat down in winter and up in summer, using a power strip, running ceiling fans instead of air conditioning and opening curtains to use passive solar heat, will save 544,800 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Over the past 50 years, the average global temperature has increased at the fastest rate in recorded history. Scientists agree that certain consequences are likely to occur if current trends continue.

Consequences include reduced snow pack and drinking water shortages, flooding, forest fires, interrupted electricity supply and detrimental impacts to marine ecosystems (including salmon) to name a few. These impacts will likely be felt locally, as well as worldwide.

In June 2007 the Bellevue City Council endorsed steps in a comprehensive environmental stewardship initiative, pushing for preservation of the city's tree canopy, expansion of recycling at parks and ball fields and other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

If you are a Bellevue resident and would like a pledge book, please call Utilities at 425-452-6932.

## Costco cancels Kelsey Creek rezone

By James E. Bell, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

In September 2007 Costco applied to rezone Kelsey Creek Center and build a 140,000-square-foot store. Since then Costco twice asked the city to suspend review of the application. The latest hold happened in August.

In late September Costco cancelled its applications for rezoning and clearing and grading the site.

### Slow redevelopment for Lake Hills Shopping Center

At the February East Bellevue Community Council meeting, Oscar Del Moro, COSMO development vice-president reviewed the current plans for the center.

The bank wants to remain open during construction, which will necessitate a three-phase construction plan. The first phase could be the corner development for the library. The second phase would develop the new section for the bank and retail space. The third phase would complete the retail, office and residential areas.

At the EBCC's September meeting, Wendy Pender, site manager for the Lake Hills Library, said that the library had signed a letter of intent to locate the library on the corner of 156th Avenue Southeast and Lake Hills Boulevard.

The start of construction would be the spring of 2009, with the library moving in 2010. The larger space – 10,000 square feet – would allow more services than the present small location.

### 145th Pl SE and SE 22nd transportation projects in design stage

At the July EEBC meeting, Marina Arakelyan, senior project manager, described the two projects being designed. The West Lake Hills Citizen Advisory Committee through the Neighborhood Investment Strategy program identified improvements to the 145th Place Southeast corridor and Southeast 22nd Street sidewalks as high priority recommendations in 2002.

A first phase of improvements – to 145th Place, Southeast Eighth and Southeast 16th streets – was completed in 2005.

The design for 145th Place Southeast will include two-way left turn lanes from Southeast 16th Street to Southeast 22nd Street, a left-turn pocket at 145th Place Southeast and 144th Avenue, left-turn pockets at the intersection of 145th Place and Southeast 22nd, curb gutter and sidewalks throughout and striped bike lanes. A meandering path feature will be maintained on the north side of 145th Place. Construction should begin in 2009.

The design for Southeast 22nd Street from 145th Place to 156th Avenue Southeast includes curb, gutter and sidewalks on the north side of the street. Curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements on the south side were deleted from the project scope per City Council direction. Construction should begin in 2009.

### Traffic impacts to East Bellevue focus of updated study

At the June EBCC meeting, Nicholas Matz, senior planner for the city, presented an introductory briefing on the Bellevue Redmond Overlake Transportation Study successor agreement.

The 1999 agreement with Redmond identified transportation projects in Bellevue and Redmond to manage the congestion generated by rapid office growth in Redmond. Each city paid for their share of the capital improvements. The agreement runs through 2012.

The successor agreement to be adopted late this year would run through 2030 and recognize changes in land use assumptions and the need to update transportation improvements for the critical growth expected in this area. Light rail would also be an element of the plan.

What is new and different about the successor agreement is that the study will include the East Bellevue area from Bel-Red Road on the north to I-90 on the south and from 140th Avenue on the west to West Lake Sammamish Parkway on the east.

The north-south arterials, 140th, 148th and 156th avenues and West Lake Sammamish Parkway are already impacted by the trips that leave the Bel-Red and Overlake areas to go to regional destinations via I-90 as well as other parts of Bellevue. These arterials will receive further impacts as growth in Bel-Red and Overlake areas increases.

In July, the EBCC documented its views on an updated transportation agreement. There were four objectives and five strategies proposed.

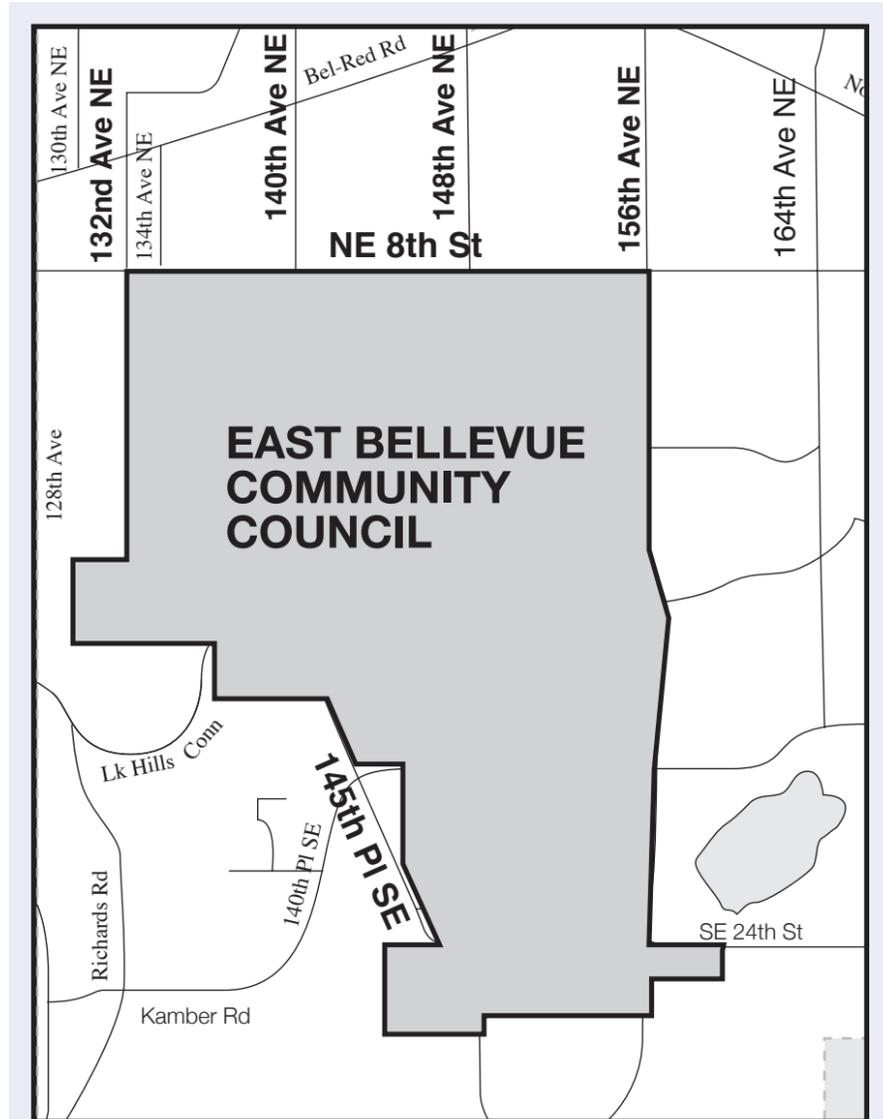
The four objectives were:

- 1) Minimize "peak hour" trips by single-occupancy vehicles on north-south arterials in East Bellevue
- 2) Avoid general purpose lane widening on north-south arterials serving East Bellevue
- 3) Direct "regional" trips that do not have a destination in either Bellevue or Redmond to the regional transportation system
- 4) Identify strategies to minimize cut-through traffic in neighborhoods

EBCC agreed with 3) and 4).

There was some agreement with 2); however there were questions about what is meant by lane widening and which arterials serve the residents of East Bellevue. We completely agreed that 148th should not be widened to three lanes. 140th and 156th appear to be arterials that serve East Bellevue.

There was no agreement on 1). The "peak hour" trips seem vague and hardly achievable. No one in East Bellevue would agree to limit peak hour travel to HOV's during the several hours of regional travel through the area each weekday.



For information about the city's Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Michelle Murphy, 425-452-6466, or contact the East Bellevue Community Council Chairperson, James Bell.

**East Bellevue Community Council** meets the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

#### Members

James E. Bell, Michael Elwin, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the Community Council via e-mail at [EBCC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:EBCC@bellevuewa.gov). To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC go to the website, [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm) and look under city government.

The five transportation improvement strategies proposed were:

- 1) Transit: comprehensive and reliable transit service between I-90 and Overlake
- 2) Transportation Demand Management: reducing commuter trips
- 3) Non-motorized improvements: improving sidewalks and bicycle facilities
- 4) Channelization/Operations: spot improvements and technology to help roadways function more efficiently
- 5) Neighborhood Livability: improving neighborhood amenities

We disagreed with 5) and the statement: Neighborhood Livability implementation strategies will focus less on enhancing mobility and more on reducing impacts and improving neighborhood amenities, such as enhanced traffic calming, streetscape and gateway improvements, sidewalk improvements and other projects.

This strategy concedes that nothing will be considered to mitigate or minimize the impact of greater regional traffic throughout the East Bellevue area. It also seems more concerned with the north-south traffic than the east-west traffic that may be part of the local area mobility and will surely be impacted by greatly increased regional traffic.

Finally, we had two recommendations.

We recommend adding an objective for East Bellevue that says "Identify strategies to improve safety and minimize the impact of regional traffic throughout the East Bellevue area."

We also recommended that the traffic impact studies include schools and churches in the area as stakeholders. Their operational issues can have a great deal of effect on traffic flow.



## Residents check out shoreline



*Chesterfield Park as seen from Lake Washington during the Sept. 20 boat tour.*

In the early stages of updating its shoreline policies and regulations to comply with state standards, the city has invited residents to see waterfront conditions in Bellevue for themselves. More than 50 people joined the Planning Commission and City Council member Patsy Bonincontri for a boat tour of the Lake Washington shoreline in September.

"I found the trip very informative and interesting, even after living in the area for 43 years, 23 of those on Lake Washington," said one resident.

The varied nature of the lake's shoreline lends itself well to discussions of land uses, public access, piers, bulkheads, stormwater runoff, invasive vegetation and property setbacks.

### Updating old plan

The Planning Commission is having these discussions because it is guiding the effort to update Bellevue's shoreline master plan. Essentially a planning and zoning ordinance that governs waterfront development here, the plan hasn't been changed much since it was drafted in 1974.

In 2003 the state revised its shoreline management guidelines to emphasize ecologically appropriate development. Bellevue has to update its shoreline regulations accordingly by 2010.

Since the passage of the Shoreline Management Act in 1970, cities in Washington have managed their shorelines to: encourage water-dependent uses; protect natural resources and promote public access.

### Checking in with the public

Currently taking inventory of the city's waterfronts, the city is also checking in with residents about what they consider most important in Bellevue's shoreline management.

With the assistance of EMC Research, the project team conducted a telephone survey of approximately 520 residents. Of those, 120 were shoreline residents, and their results were broken out separately to test differences in attitudes between these residents and the general population.

A majority of the residents surveyed said they think Bellevue maintains a good balance of the Shoreline Management Act goals – encouraging water-dependent uses, protecting shoreline natural resources and promoting public access.

The city also earned positive ratings for its efforts to provide public access, protect the shoreline, encourage people to make the shoreline ecologically healthy and to provide a mix of water-oriented uses.

## Fire department expands downtown

The Bellevue Fire Department will expand its emergency response capabilities for the growing downtown area by moving a fully-staffed ladder truck there on Nov. 1.

The truck and the firefighters to operate it, approved by the City Council in the city's last budget, will operate out of Station 1 at 766 Bellevue Way SE.

Many construction projects in the downtown core are nearing completion and others are just beginning occupancy. As a result, the number of medical and fire calls downtown is rising.

The new ladder truck will specialize in rescue and firefighting responses, but can also tend to medical calls if necessary. Staffing with cross-trained firefighters gives the department the greatest flexibility to respond to the variety of emergency calls.

With the addition of the ladder truck to Station 1, it now becomes the largest Bellevue station in terms of equipment and personnel. In addition to the ladder truck, a fire engine, aid car and battalion chief continue to operate from that station.

While Station 7 near the Wilburton Train Trestle loses that ladder truck, it keeps staff for its fire engine and can respond more quickly with a crew operating with the fire engine. Due to the expanded coverage of the downtown station, the Wilburton neighborhoods may see even greater service levels than they used to have.

Directly tied to the ladder truck are the 12 firefighters needed to staff it. They were hired in July to begin the four-month training academy. With that training completed this month, they will be assigned to fill positions throughout the department and complete additional training while on the job.

While 68 percent of shoreline property owners thought they were doing a good job keeping the shoreline ecologically healthy, only 33 percent of other residents thought so.

### Residents want shoreline habitat protected

An overwhelming majority of residents (78 percent) say that the city should encourage shoreline landowners, through incentives and regulations, to change their docks, bulkheads and lawns to improve habitat.

If they had to prioritize, residents consistently picked restoring habitat for fish and wildlife first. Public access was the second choice for most, followed by water-oriented uses.

The phone survey will help the Planning Commission to identify issues worth further exploration in focus groups and will also aid staff and the consultant team in preparing appropriate policy options for the Planning Commission to consider later in the process. For more detailed information about the survey and its results please refer to the project web page at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/shoreline-master-plan.htm>

### Next Steps

With the help of EMC research, staff will convene a focus group, probably this month. Participants will be specifically chosen to help probe the results of the survey or to answer questions posed by the Commission to address perceived gaps in the survey.

The project team will conduct open houses in either later November or December to roll out the shoreline inventory and characterization work, and solicit feedback from the community regarding environmental designations and areas of interest.

## BTV receives awards

**ATLANTA** – Bellevue Television has received five awards, including two second-place honors, from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA).

The "It's Your City" program, which placed first in the magazine format series category the last two years, took second place this year. Segments featuring the Root sculpture at City Hall, the Bellevue Youth Theatre and restoration of Coal Creek were winners with the judges.

A police recruitment video placed second in the public service announcement category. Edited and produced by Mei Dayton-Celt, the video is available for viewing online on the police recruitment page.

Other "It's Your City" segments that received awards included: "Voices of Diversity Radio" – third place in the city/county department profile category; "Voices of Diversity program" – honorable mention in the community awareness category; and, for all Bellevue TV programming, an honorable mention in the excellence in government programming category.



*Jim Morris with the city's Utilities Department tests the water at Coal Creek, featured in October 2007 episode of "It's Your City."*

NATOA issues government programming awards each year to recognize excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. The 2008 awards were presented at the annual NATOA conference in Atlanta on Sept. 21.

"It's Your City" is a monthly show featuring city programs and services. It airs several times each month on Bellevue TV (Channel 21), and can also be seen any time, anywhere, online from [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue\\_tv.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm).

"It's Your City" has received NATOA awards four straight years now, since 2005. The show is produced under the direction of Tim Waters, Bellevue's communications director, and production staff includes: John Burwell, executive director; Dave Bruckner, producer/director; Robin Haaseth, executive director/host; and David Richardson, editor. Bellevue Television is operated under a joint franchise agreement of the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Community College.

Other editors and producers who worked on this year's award-winning video segments are Jay Strevey and Marilyn Mayers.

NATOA is a nonprofit professional association whose mission is to support and serve the telecommunications interests and needs of local governments. For more information about NATOA, visit <http://www.natoa.org/>.

## Volunteer coordinator makes magic at Youth Theatre



Angela McInnis

The Bellevue Youth Theatre is a magical place where dreams come true for aspiring actors of all ages and abilities, but an army of volunteers working in the wings makes the magic possible with old-fashioned elbow grease.

If volunteers could get stars on their doors, Angela McInnis would surely have one. The stay-at-home mom with a passion for theater coordinates the 200 people sewing costumes, building sets and managing the lighting, among other things, for BYT.

“Oh my goodness,” exclaimed Sheila Framke, senior office assistant with the Parks and Community Services Department, which manages the theater. “It can’t be overstated what she does for us.”

“Angela’s a critical component in the operation,” said James McClain, who supervises the theater operation. “She’s the first contact for these volunteers; she trains them and takes care of them.

“She started out doing lights when she came here from Canada,” McClain added. “She offered to take over the volunteers, and she’s just done an excellent job.”

Jointly sponsored by the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Public Schools, the Bellevue Youth Theatre presents up to a dozen shows a year, usually performed at the Youth Theatre at 16661 Northup Way or the Meydenbauer Theatre downtown.

The Theatre sets itself apart from others with this guarantee, “if you audition, we will find a place for you.” People with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

“The Bellevue Youth Theatre opens doors to many young people who either could not afford the fees of a traditional youth theater program or whose talents may still need time to grow,” McInnis said.

“I find all of the volunteers at BYT inspiring. Whether a volunteer



A tremendous amount of volunteer labor goes on behind the scenes for BYT shows such as this one.

comes in to help me stuff envelopes for three hours or one decides to spend many hours every week contributing to the creative and personal development of our participants, I am inspired by their enthusiasm and dedication.”

McInnis has a stage background and trains volunteers, but the skilled ones who come back every year are essential to the Youth Theatre’s survival.

If you want to volunteer at the BYT, please contact McInnis at 425-452-7155 or [AmcInnis@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:AmcInnis@bellevuewa.gov).

If you are interested in seeing a show, check this fall’s schedule at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth\\_theatre Productions.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_theatre Productions.htm).

## With planning, weather less frightful

Winter storms often test the region’s patience and endurance. But, with planning and action ahead of time, you can be ready when the weather turns frightful.

### Important resources

The city and Puget Sound Energy are key resources when storms hit.

The Bellevue website offers tips at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/extreme_weather_response.htm)

## EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE

[extreme\\_weather\\_response.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/extreme_weather_response.htm) and you can sign up for an e-mail alerts for updates on that page or when a severe emergency or disaster requires that something be posted on the Emergency Information page.

To report hazardous road conditions, down or damaged stop or yield signs, water main breaks at your home or business or lack of water, residents can call the Bellevue Utilities 24-hour emergency number at 425-452-7840.

To report gas leaks, power outages and down power lines, please call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773. Stay away from downed lines and anything they may be touching. If the line is arcing or sparking, call 911.

### Around your home

In the case of a power outage, don’t start grilling inside and keep the generator outside. Both can produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.

Build an emergency kit for your family to have at home, in the car and at school or work. The Fire Department’s Emergency Preparedness division can tell you what to pack at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/emergency\\_preparedness.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/emergency_preparedness.htm).

## Prepare for ice and snow

November’s coming on nearly as fast as a squall on Cougar Mountain. It’s the month when temperatures drop below freezing and Bellevue often sees its first snowfall of the season.

To help residents prepare for winter driving, especially those in south Bellevue neighborhoods more frequently impacted by snow and ice, three open houses will be held to provide information and answer questions.

The City of Bellevue events, in partnership with AAA Washington, take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on the following dates: Oct. 22 at Somerset Elementary School Library, Nov. 5 at Somerset Elementary School Library, and Nov. 19 at Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center.

Bellevue again will take part in a state and national campaign called “Ice and Snow, Take it Slow.” It’s an effort to raise awareness about driving safely in poor road conditions. Sometimes, however, if conditions are treacherous, the best decision is to simply stay put.

“Bellevue’s 1,400-foot elevation range from Lake Washington to Cougar Mountain is the most of any city in the area and it presents unique challenges when it comes to snow and ice,” said Goran Sparrman, director of Bellevue’s transportation department. “Preparation and patience are even more important as we roll into the winter driving season.”

The Ice and Snow, Take it Slow message includes the following common-sense winter travel tips: check conditions, allow extra time to reach your destination, give yourself room to stop and pump the brakes, don’t slam them.

Bellevue’s Utilities Department prepares early for snow season by getting equipment ready, stockpiling supplies and training staff for emergency responses. The city owns 14 trucks that can be configured as snowplows or sanders, six four-wheel-drive trucks and eight dump trucks.

These resources are geared for Bellevue’s infrequent snowstorms, which usually affect only the roads at higher elevations. During a larger, citywide snowstorm, up to 20 employees at a time will work around the clock to keep key roads in Bellevue passable.

## City honored for performance measurement program

Bellevue has received a Certificate of Distinction Award for its performance management program, Robert O’Neil, executive director of the International City/County Management Association, announced.

Only two cities in Washington – Bellevue and Vancouver – received the coveted award.

“This is a tremendous honor, and one that recognizes our city’s pioneering efforts in this field,” City Manager Steve Sarkozy said.

In order to receive the ICMA Certificate of Distinction, cities must report performance data to elected officials and the public, and use this data in managing their jurisdictions.

Additionally, cities receiving the award must share performance measurement results with other governments.

The ICMA award is only given to jurisdictions that use performance data in their day-to-day management, budget and policy decisions. Fire and

police response times, residents’ satisfaction with their neighborhoods and utility delivery performance are some of the types of data compiled, utilized and reviewed regularly.

“Bellevue is recognized nationally as a high performing city,” Sarkozy said. “By utilizing performance data that measure how we are delivering the many services that make a city work, we can more effectively manage resources for the good of residents and businesses.”

Bellevue has been recognized for its long-history of performance management and its leadership in the emerging field.

In addition to incorporating performance data into the budget and other decision-making processes, Bellevue reports its performance each year in an annual report.

The criteria for the Certificate of Distinction were determined by the ICMA Center for Performance Measurement and its leadership committee.



# South Bellevue Projects Update

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 (WSDOT). There are also quite a few commercial and private development projects underway.

To find departmental projects, please refer to the following map. The neighborhood areas are: West Bellevue, Wilburton, Woodridge, West Lake Hills, Sammamish/East Lake Hills, Newport, Factoria/Sunset, Somerset and Eastgate/Cougar Ridge.

## WEST BELLEVUE

### 1. Enatai Traffic Calming Project

With the assistance of a Traffic Committee made up of neighborhood volunteers, a plan has been developed and approved to install a median and a speed cushion on 108th Avenue SE, a raised crosswalk on 104th Avenue SE and medians on SE 34th Street to address speeding and cut-through traffic. This \$250,000 Neighborhood Traffic Calming/Neighborhood Enhancement Program project is in final design with construction anticipated for early 2009. For more information contact: Rebecca Rodni, 425-452-6160 or Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov or Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103 or Vparico@bellevuewa.gov

### 2. I-90 Two-Way Transit/HOV Sound Transit Project

To address increasing traffic congestion on Interstate 90 between Bellevue and Seattle, the WSDOT 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.wsdot.wa.gov

### 3. Mercer Slough Nature Park Trail and Habitat Restoration

In order to complete additional trails and habitat restoration in the Mercer Slough, a gateway project is underway. This \$150,000 Neighborhood

Enhancement Project is in the permitting stage and construction is expected to be completed in Spring 2009. For more information, contact Geoff Bradley at 425-452-2740 or Gbradley@bellevuewa.gov

## WILBURTON

### 4. Wilburton Traffic Calming Project

To address vehicle speeds and cut-through traffic, City staff and neighborhood volunteers have developed a Traffic Calming Plan for the neighborhood. This plan includes the installation of speed humps on 128th Avenue NE, NE 2nd Street and SE 7th Place, a traffic circle at 128th Avenue SE and SE 4th Street and colored pavement entry treatments at six locations entering the neighborhood. This \$125,000 Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project is anticipated to be constructed in early 2009. For more information, contact Linda Glas, 425-452-2841 or Lglas@bellevuewa.gov

## WOODRIDGE

### 5. Woodridge Elementary School Sidewalk Project

Because children and adults walk to and from Woodridge Elementary, we are adding a new sidewalk and curb ramps on the northwest corner of the SE 20th Place and 126th Avenue SE intersection. This project is expected to be complete by the end of October. For more information, contact Darek Jarzynski, project manager, at 425-452-4277 or Djarzynski@bellevuewa.gov

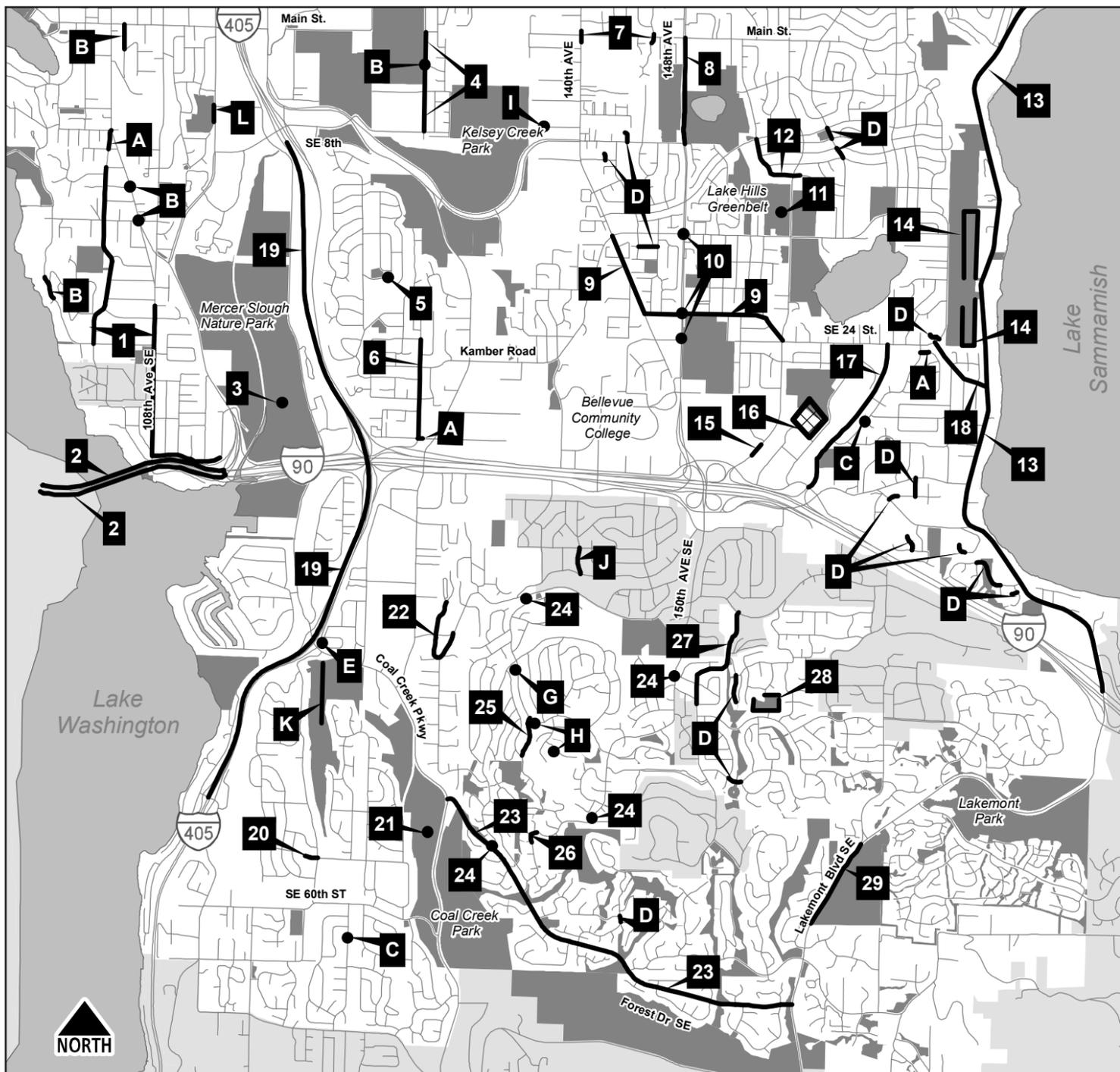
### 6. 128th Avenue Southeast: Southeast 25th Street to Southeast 32nd Street Sidewalk

Because sidewalk is missing on this section of roadway, a six-foot wide sidewalk is being installed on the west side of 128th Avenue SE between SE 25th Street and SE 32nd Street. This project will be complete by October. For more information, contact Chris Masek, project manager, at 425-452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

## WEST LAKE HILLS

### 7. Main Street: 140th Avenue Northeast and 145th Place Northeast Crosswalk Enhancements

In response to area residents, two existing crosswalks on Main Street will have enhancements made to the signing in the center of the traffic median. In both locations, flashing lights will be added to the existing signing for improved visibility of the pedestrian crossings. These lights will be activated by a push-button. This \$40,000 project will be completed by



years end. For more information contact Kurt Latt, 425-452-6020 or Klatt@bellevuewa.gov

### 8. 148th Avenue Southeast: Main Street to Southeast 8th Street – Street Lights

Because streetlights are missing on this section of 148th Avenue SE, residents selected this improvements as one of their Neighborhood Enhancement Projects. We will install new street lights from Main Street to SE 8th Street, near the mid-block trail crossing to enhance visibility for motorists and pedestrians. This \$200,000 project is expected to start construction in early 2009. For more information, contact Mike Whiteaker 425-452-4230 or Mwhitaker@bellevuewa.gov

### 9. 145th Place Southeast: Southeast 16th Street (Kamber Road) to Southeast 24th Street, and Southeast 22nd Street: 148th Avenue Southeast to 156th Avenue Southeast, Phase 2

Because this corridor lacks adequate bike lanes, bus shelters, and complete sidewalk connections, we are adding five-foot bike lanes, intersection modifications, six-foot 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 being designed and construction is expected to start Spring 2009 and be completed in late 2009. For more information, contact Marina Arakelyan at 425-452-4632 or Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

### 10. 148th Avenue Southeast: Southeast 16th Street, Southeast 22nd Street and Southeast 24th Street Traffic Signals

Because median traffic signal poles are being hit by drivers and 148th Avenue experiences traffic congestion and delay, the city is rebuilding the traffic signals at the intersections of SE16th Street, SE 22nd Street, and SE 24th Street to improve traffic flow and safety. This \$377,000 safety project will be completed by the end of the year. For more information, contact Chris Masek at 425-452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

### 11. Phantom Lake Barn Swallow Habitat – NEP Study

Barn swallows eat a large amount of mosquitoes. We will perform a biological assessment of barn swallow populations around the Phantom Lake and Lake Hills Greenbelt area to identify limiting factors and make recommendations to increase barn swallow habitat around the lake. Results of the project will include the biological assessment, creation and distribution of outreach materials to assist homeowners in creating barn swallow habitat, and design of the barn swallow habitat structure for the Lake Hills Greenbelt. This \$20,000 study will be complete in Winter 2009. For more information, please contact Laura Hughes at 425-452-7225 or Lhughes@bellevuewa.gov

### 12. 154th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 11th Street Traffic Calming Project

A traffic calming plan has been developed to address cut-through traffic on 154th Avenue SE and SE 11th Street south of Lake Hills Boulevard. Neighborhood volunteers helped develop the plan, which includes a traffic circle and curb extensions on 154th Avenue SE at SE 8th Street and an entry median at SE 11th Street west of 156th Avenue SE. This \$75,000 project is in final design with construction anticipated for early 2009. For more information, contact Rebecca Rodni, 425-452-6160 or Rrodni@bellevuewa.gov

## SAMMAMISH/EAST LAKE HILLS

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

The West Lake Sammamish Parkway project is an outcome of an extensive public outreach effort that identified some key issue with the parkway: heavy traffic volume, inadequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities, frequent speeding, noisy and rough pavement, and difficulty turning on and off the Parkway. This project will enhance system connectivity, preservation, and safety by providing:

- Consistent four-foot-wide paved shoulder on the east side, unmarked, for northbound bicyclists
- 10.5-foot wide northbound vehicle lane
- 10-foot wide southbound vehicle lane
- Repaved roadway surface
- 10-foot-wide multi-purpose trail on the west side with a landscaped buffer, when feasible, in varying widths of two-to-five feet
- New signal at SE 34th Street
- New pedestrian crossings at SE 40th Street, the Little Store, Weowna Park, Northup Way, Rosemont and NE 24th Street
- Storm drainage and water quality improvements

We are currently preparing the Design Report for the entire five and one-half mile-long corridor. The Design Report phase reflects approximately 25% completion of the design process, which is a critical element. It will identify and evaluate major design elements such as the pedestrian trail alignment, retaining wall types and location, storm water collection, treatment and discharge to Lake Sammamish, and existing pavement restoration options.

This report will develop a more accurate cost estimate and a phased implementation plan for construction, which is expected to be completed Summer 2009.

A public open house is expected to be held this fall, which will solicit feedback from the public on major design elements such as trail alignment,

retaining wall location and fascia type, landscaping and other aesthetic features.

Another public open house is planned for Spring 2009 to present a final conceptual plan and a proposed phasing plan for final design and construction. This project currently has a budget for \$6,560,000. For more information, contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

### 14. Weowna Park Reforestation: 1420 168th Avenue Southeast

We will plant disease-resistant native trees and shrubs in areas of the southeast corner of Weowna Park in order to re-establish the forest cover and shrub layer. The project includes site preparation, planting 3,300 native shrubs, planting 360 native trees, and pruning existing native vegetation to increase forest health. This \$45,000 project will be complete in Winter 2009. For more information, contact Jim Bennett at 425-452-6855 or Jnbennett@bellevuewa.gov

### 15. 156th Avenue Southeast north of SE Eastgate Way Crosswalk Enhancements

We will add a stop bar on the pavement and signs to raise awareness of the existing crosswalk, which will require motorists to stop approximately 40' back from the crosswalk to provide greater sight of crossing pedestrians. This work is in addition to last year's flashing crosswalk system upgrades. This \$5,000 project is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. For more information contact, Kurt Latt at 425-452-6020 or Klatt@bellevuewa.gov .

### 16. Park Master Plan for Eastgate Area Property (former Boeing site)

In 2003 and 2005, the City purchased a 14.5-acre parcel in the Eastgate I-90 business park from The Boeing Company, and a 10.5-acre parcel from the Bellevue School District for the purpose of developing an active, multi-use community park.

City staff and the design team continue to receive and incorporate public input. Two to three park programming alternatives are being pulled together for discussion at the next meeting, based on community input, recreation needs, as well as site and citywide opportunities. Following a public involvement process, the proposed plan will be reviewed by the Parks & Community Services Board and the City Council. After a State Environmental Policy Act review process, the City Council is expected to review and adopt a master plan and park name. For more information, contact Pam Fehrman at 425-452-4326 or Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov

### 17. 161st Avenue Southeast: Southeast Eastgate Way to Southeast 24th Street Sharrows

Earlier this month, we installed pavement markings to raise awareness of bicyclists along this corridor. The pavements markings, termed "Sharrows," are bicycle legends with arrows at the top and indicate the travel lane is shared with bicyclists, rather than a separated bicycle lane. Sharrows also help to align bicyclists within the roadway while traveling near parked vehicles. The pavement symbols are used in many agencies across the country, including Seattle and have showed to improve drivers awareness that the street is used by bicyclists. This is a pilot project and includes an evaluation element to assure project objectives are being met. This \$15,000 project was recently completed. For more information, contact Kurt Latt at 425-452-6020 or Klatt@bellevuewa.gov

### 18. Southeast 26th Street: 168th Avenue Southeast to West Lake Sammamish Parkway Sidewalk

We will be adding a continuous six-foot-sidewalk on the south side; a five-foot-wide bikelane on the north side of SE 26th Street and four-foot-wide landscaped planters between the curb and sidewalk along SE 26th Street, where feasible. We will also improve the drainage system and add a new detention system, a street lighting system, and bus pads at existing bus stops. This \$750,000 project is under design, with construction expected by Spring 2009. For more information, contact Chris Masek at 425-452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

## FACTORIA/SUNSET

### 19. I-405 South Bellevue Widening WSDOT Project (112th Avenue Southeast to Southeast 8th Street)

This section of highway through Bellevue is one of the worst congestion bottlenecks along the I-405 corridor. To improve it, WSDOT is widening I-405 between 112th Avenue SE and SE 8th Street. This year, WSDOT is adding one additional northbound lane from 112th Avenue SE to SE 8th Street.

Other work that will occur as part of this project includes a new bridge for southbound I-405 traffic over I-90, removal of the Wilburton tunnel on southbound I-405, and additional lanes on southbound I-405 between SE 8th Street and I-90. The \$208.3 million project is scheduled for completion in 2009. For more information, contact Steve Peer at 425-456-8624 or steve.peer@i405.wsdot.wa.gov

## NEWPORT

### 20. Southeast 56th Street - Street Tree Replacement

Working with Puget Sound Energy, we will identify, remove and replace trees within the city's right-of-way that are incompatible with overhead power lines along the north side of SE 56th Street from 119th Avenue SE to 125th Avenue SE. This \$15,000 NEP project will start construction this fall and be



complete by Winter 2009. For more information, contact Don McQuilliams at 425-452-7865 or Dmcquilliams@bellevuewa.gov

**21. Coal Creek Park Trail**

The Coal Creek Natural area was recently acquired by the city. We will create a new nature trail connecting the Newport Hills, Factoria, and Somerset neighborhoods and will expand hiking and walking in the area. It will also provide a safe pedestrian crossing of Coal Creek Parkway at the crosswalk on Forest Drive. This \$197,000 Well-KEPT program project will be constructed by Bellevue youth and is expected to start this fall and be complete by Winter 2009. For more information, contact Geoff Bradley at 425-452-2740 or Gbradley@bellevuewa.gov

**22. 130th Place Southeast: Southeast Newport Way to 129th Place Southeast Sidewalk**

Because this area lacks a sidewalk, the City will install one on the east side of 130th Place SE from the existing sidewalk on Newport Way southward. This NEP project will be constructed later this year. This \$200,000 project will also receive funding from the city's Pedestrian Bicycle Program. For more information, contact Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103 or Vparico@bellevuewa.gov

**23. Forest Drive Streetscape**

We will be improving the appearance and functionality of Forest Drive through a public streetscape design process. As funding allows, landscape and right of way improvement projects along the street will be implemented.

The goals of the process are to:

- Identify and address streetscape and forest management issues and inequities within the public right-of-way
- Prioritize early implementation of landscape projects
- Develop a tool kit for Neighborhood Enhancement and Neighborhood Match projects
- Provide a design vision for future streetscape improvement projects along Forest Drive. This will also be useful in guiding landscape enhancements by identifying opportunities and constraints

For more information, contact Don McQuilliams at 425-452-7865 or Dmcquilliams@bellevuewa.gov

**SOMERSET**

**24. Somerset Entry Treatment NEP Project**

We will remove the existing fountain in the city's right-of-way between SE Newport Way and Somerset Boulevard and construct a new and more natural entry with water features, stone, wood, and vegetation. Work will also include signs and new landscaping, using a similar look, at three other locations in the area: 148th Avenue SE and SE 45th Place intersection, Highland Drive near 52nd Place SE median, and Forest Drive and Somerset Drive intersection. This \$150,000 project will start and end construction this fall. For more information, contact Brian J. Krause at 425-452-6992 or Bjkrause@bellevuewa.gov

**24. Somerset Avenue Southeast: Somerset Avenue Southeast Boulevard to Somerset Place Southeast Sidewalk**

Because walkway facilities are lacking in the area, we will add a continuous curb, gutter, and five-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of Somerset Avenue SE. This \$1.5 million project is expected to start construction in early December. For more information, contact Chris Masek at 425-452-4619 or Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

**25. Highland Drive Southeast and 137th Place Southeast Flashing Beacon**

To raise greater awareness of a severe curve in the roadway, a flashing beacon will be installed on the existing curve warning sign approaching 137th Place SE for drivers traveling downhill. This \$20,000 project will be completed by the end of the year. For more information contact Kurt Latt at 425-452-6020 or Klatt@bellevuewa.gov

**EASTGATE/COUGAR MOUNTAIN**

**26. 152nd Avenue Southeast and Southeast 45th Street: Southeast 46th Street to Southeast Newport Way to Southeast 46th Way**

The 152nd Avenue SE project will construct a six-foot wide sidewalk on the west side of 152nd Avenue SE between SE Newport Way and SE 46th Street and evaluate the feasibility of a wide curb lane for bikes heading uphill. The project will also include roadway side slope stabilization, pavement restoration, and storm drainage improvements along the 152nd Avenue SE. The project design will begin in late 2008, with construction expected to begin Fall 2009. For more information, contact Paul Krawczyk 425-452-7905 or Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

**27. Lattawood Park Improvements NEP Project**

We will expand the existing playground in Lattawood Park to install swings and provide year-round use for the portable restroom with a decorative wooden fence. This \$90,000 project will begin this fall and be complete by Winter 2009. For more information, contact Randy Ransom at 425-452-2036 or Rransom@bellevuewa.gov

**28. Lewis Creek Park Trail Extension along Lakemont Blvd**

We will extend the existing multi-purpose asphalt trail along the Lewis Creek Park frontage to the existing sidewalk system just south of 164th Way SE. We will also improve the landscaping and restore the wetland

associated with the pathway. This project completes the multi-purpose trail providing a safer connection between Lewis Creek and Lakemont Park. This \$150,000 NEP project is expected to begin and end next Spring 2009. For more information, contact Vangie Parico, 425-452-6103 or Vparico@bellevuewa.gov

**UTILITIES PROJECTS**

There are several types of Utility Department projects underway in South Bellevue. Each improvement is identified by an alphabet letter which you will find on the map.

**A. Storm Drain Dig & Repair Projects 2007**

These projects replace broken storm pipes, and at times, update curbs, gutter, and sidewalks.

**B. Sanitary Sewer Repair Projects 2008, Phase 1 & 2**

This Phase 1 project is located on 105th Avenue SE between Main Street and SE Cliff Street and will replace the existing 10-inch vitrified clay sanitary sewer mainline and laterals are being replaced with new 10-inch PVC pipe.

Phase 2 involves repairing sanitary sewer over various streets. This is a continuation of an ongoing program. This \$643,000 project is underway and will be complete this fall.

**C. AC Water Main Replacement Projects**

These projects replace 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.

**D. Upper Vasa Creek Storm Drainage Repairs**

The creek will be undergoing repairs to ten existing rock check dams. These dams were damaged during a December 2007 storm event. Interim repairs were scheduled for last month to prevent additional damage from occurring during the upcoming winter months. A larger more extensive repair project is currently under design with construction planned for July through September 2009. The city applied for and has received FEMA funds for these repairs.

**E. Coal Creek/I-405 Regional Detention Pond Bypass Pipe Installation**

This project will construct a new bypass pipeline around the pond's perimeter. Currently, crews need to install an in-stream bypass in Coal Creek. A permanent pipe will more effectively bypass the stream flows during annual maintenance activities.

**F. Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Replacement**

This project will replace existing pressure reducing valve assemblers with new pressure reducer valve assemblers throughout various locations around the city.

**G. Somerset Reservoir #1 Seismic Upgrades**

This existing concrete water reservoir at the Somerset Reservoir #1 site is not in service. This existing reservoir is undergoing structural and hydraulic engineering assessment to confirm a proper method to stabilize the structure and to abandon the water reservoir facility. This engineering study effort will continue until next Spring 2009.

**H. Somerset Reservoirs #2 and #3 Upgrades and Water Quality Improvements**

These two existing concrete reservoirs, #2 and #3, will remain in service, while they are re-roofed and minor improvements will be made to protect and improve water quality. This work will start this winter and continue until Spring 2009.

**I. Water Service Saddle (between Kelsey Creek Farm and 140th Avenue SE)**

We will be replacing aging and deteriorating water service saddles and or service lines at the following locations: 25 saddles and service line off of SE 7th Street between Kelsey Creek Farm and 140th Avenue SE. This \$62,5000 project will start construction later this year and will be complete in early 2009.

**J. King County (Bellevue Water Service Area)**

We will be replacing aging and deteriorating water service saddles and or service lines of 140th Avenue SE between SE Allen Road and SE 40th Street. This \$30,000 project is underway.

**K. Lower Newport Creek Restoration**

Earth Corps returned this summer to add some additional wood to the street restoration project on Lower Newport Creek, which started during the summer of 2007. Logs were carried up the creek by hand and strategically placed to stabilize stream banks and create improved fish habitat.

**L. East CBD Sewer Trunkline Improvements**

To provide sufficient sewer capacity to allow planned development in the eastern part of the CBD, we will replace approximately 1,600 feet of 12" and 20" diameter sanitary sewer pipe with a 27" pipeline that will service the eastern side of the Central Business District. The pipeline will be located in the 112th Avenue SE right-of-way, running from the 600 block near Surrey Downs Park to the Bellefield Pump Station located of 112th Avenue SE near the entrance to Bellefield Office Park. Preliminary design of the project has begun, and the final design will be completed in 2009. Construction is expected to be complete by the year 2010.

### M. West Lake Sammamish Culvert Investigation

An evaluation of 21 culvert crossings along West Lake Sammamish Parkway found eight pipes needing repairs. In light of heavy traffic demands on West Lake Sammamish Parkway, “trenchless technology” repair options are being considered. Design is expected to be complete by the end of 2008, with construction occurring in 2009.

### N. Coal Creek Sediment Pond Diversion Weir

To perform maintenance and sediment removal at the city’s Coal Creek sediment pond, we need to install an in-stream bypass in Coal Creek. We will install a weir that will more effectively redirect stream flows into a bypass pipe during maintenance activities. This \$80,000 project is under construction and will be complete this fall.

### O. Somerset Woods AC Watermain Replacement

Replacing four-inch and eight-inch water mains, install new hydrants, replacing existing service saddles, restoring water main connection, and restoring disturbed surface areas at the following locations:

- 146th Avenue SE: 145th Place SE to SE 45th Place
- 145th Avenue SE: 146th Avenue SE and SE 45th Place
- SE 45th Street, SE 45th Place, SE 45th Court
- SE 46th Street: 145th Place SE to 148th Avenue SE
- 145th Place SE

This \$760,00 project is underway and will be complete in early 2009. Commercial & Private Development Projects

**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)

## Commercial and residential development projects

These are the commercial and residential developments under review in the Transportation Department, contact Chris Dreaney at 425-452-5264 or [Cdreaney@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Cdreaney@bellevuewa.gov) for more information.

Project	Address	Description
305 Bellevue Way Town-homes	305 Bellevue Way	Nine unit townhome project to be platted into nine lots.
Newport Shores Vista	12010 Southeast 32nd Street	Demolish two wood frame buildings and construct new two story building with parking lot. Top floor use is offices and lower level is storage space.
COB - Bellevue Botanical Gardens	12001 Main Street	Environmental review and SEPA threshold determination for the Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan Update, which includes two new garden rooms, new visitor center, expanded parking, new maintenance facility, new pedestrian bridges and paths, new tree house structure and relocation of existing Sharp’s cabin.
Silver Bright Court II	4326 129th Lane Southeast	Division of existing parcel into three single family lots.
Clawson Short Plat	157 West Lake Sammamish Parkway Southeast	Five lot short plat
Cougar Mountain Short Plat	17845 Southeast Cougar Mountain Drive	Create nine single-family residential lots and a stormwater detention facility.
Wangs Subdividing Project	4535 125th Avenue Southeast	Two lot short plat from 1.53 acre lot set a side separate tract for protecting wetlands stream and trees.
Kwong Short Plat	4625 130th Avenue Southeast	Proposed nine lot short plat.
Bella Vista Condos	117-118th Avenue Southeast	Clear and grade site for two multi-family buildings (14 units) and required infrastructure improvements.
Newport Presbyterian Church		Courtyard infill and remodeling of existing fellowship hall.
Highcroft Apartments	1501 145th Place Southeast	Parking lot and entrance modifications at Highcroft Apartments.
Murphey Short Plat	16523 Southeast Cougar Mountain Way	Four lot short plat
Cairnes Short Plat	14538 Southeast 26th Street	Seven lot short plat.
Mercer Marine Short Plat	3911 Lake Washington Boulevard Southeast	Subdivide approximately 10.8 acres into eight single-family lots.
Seattle Boat Newport	3911 Lake Washington Boulevard Southeast	New office and boat service facilities, site work for boat rack storage - racks under separate permit.
Torello	1004 Bellevue Way Southeast	For multi-family PUD with 10 units on site Zoned R-10.
Walton Short Plat	250 145th Avenue Southeast	Four-lot short plat.
Benridge Final Short Plat	13050 Southeast 41st Street	Final Short Plat application for six lots.
Hunter Lindor PUD	2008 Kamber Road	This PUD proposes 15 lots requiring clearing and grading for roads, water, sewer, storm drainage, dry utilities and plat landscaping.
108th Short Plat	1215 108th Avenue Southeast	Two-lot short plat.
Hasson Short Plat	17710 Southeast 60th Street	Three-lot short plat.
Martin Phase II	6031 168th Place Southeast	Utility and road improvement clearing and grading associated with an 11-lot plat.
Costco Wholesale	15015 Main Street	Rough grading and temporary erosion control measures to prepare site for future building construction.
The Belvedere	7021 171st Avenue Southeast	101 residential lots
Willow Brook Condominiums	10201 Southeast 3rd Street.	Construct a 41,808 square foot 25-unit condominium building (four stories). The proposal includes associated parking, landscaping, a play area and utilities. Critical area buffers/setbacks (steep slopes) are present onsite.
Parkland Estates	1860 132nd Avenue Southeast	Final 14-lot plat
Meydenbauer Bay Town-homes	312 101st Ave SE	Proposed 22 single-family residence townhome.
Tulum Downs	515 102nd Avenue Southeast	New 39 unit apartment building.
Bellewood Assisted Living	148 102nd Avenue Southeast	Construction of 86 unit assisted living facility consisting of four stories above parking garage.

# Community Calendar

## October

### Grimsby Manor - A Dinner Play

Oct. 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
South Bellevue Community Center  
14509 SE Newport Way  
Dinner, music and a mystery to solve. \$8, preregistration required.  
425-452-4240

### King County Master Gardeners Workshop

Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m. - noon  
Lake Hills Greenbelt Demonstration Garden  
156th Ave. SE and SE 16 St.  
Free gardening workshop "Easy Bonsai for the House."  
425-452-7225

### Stewardship Saturday

Oct. 18, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Sweylocken Boat Launch  
3000 Bellevue Way SE  
Volunteers work in groups or as individuals to plant trees and shrubs, restore trails or remove invasive plants. Preregistration required. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.  
425-452-4195

### Heritage Harvest Tea

Oct. 21, 1 and 3 p.m.  
Winters House  
2102 Bellevue Way SE  
Traditional English tea at the historic Winters House. Ages 10 and up recommended. \$15, reservations required.  
425-450-1049

### Spooky Skeletons & Skulls

Oct. 25, 10 - 11 a.m.  
Lewis Creek Park  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.  
Bat skeletons and bear skulls are featured in wildlife lesson. Ages 6+.  
\$5, preregistration required.  
425-452-6885

### Halloween Luncheon

Oct. 31, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave NE  
Mexican "Day of the Dead" themed lunch prepared by Senior Services. Ages 65+. \$3 suggested donation. Preregistration required.  
425-452-7681

## November

### Bye Bye Birdie

Nov. 1, 6, 7 and 8, 7 p.m.;  
Nov. 2 and 9, 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16661 Northup Way  
Nostalgic romp to 1960, revolving around rock 'n' roll idol Conrad Birdie: \$9.  
425-452-7155

### Home Sweet Home Fair

Nov. 8, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Bellevue City Hall  
450 110th Ave NE  
Speakers and exhibitors offer tips for aging in place. \$5 suggested donation.  
425-452-7681

### Winter Bazaar

Nov. 12, 2 - 8 p.m. ;  
Nov. 13, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave NE  
Holiday and winter craft items from local artisans. A portion of the proceeds benefits the North Bellevue Advisory Board. Free.  
425-452-7681

## December

### Seattle Civic Christmas Ships

Dec. 2, 8:50 - 9:10 p.m.  
Newcastle Beach Park  
4400 Lake Washington Blvd. SE  
Large bonfire and hot cider, carolers on the boat. All-ages, free.  
425-452-4106

### Hilltop Holiday Craft Show

Dec. 3, 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;  
Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Northwest Arts Center  
9825 NE 24th St.  
Thousands of quality crafts from some of the Northwest's finest artists and craftspeople. Free.  
425-452-4106

### Stewardship Saturday

Dec. 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Weowna Park  
1420 168th Ave. SE  
Volunteers work in groups or as individuals to plant trees and shrubs, restore trails or remove invasive plants at city parks. Preregistration required. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.  
425-452-4195

### Seattle Civic Christmas Ships

Dec. 18, 8:35 - 8:55 p.m.  
Meydenbauer Beach Park  
419 98th Ave. NE  
Large bonfire and hot cider, carolers on the boat. All-ages, free.  
425-452-4106

### Winter Holiday Dance

Dec. 20, 7 - 9 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave NE.  
With the Sounds of Swing band.  
\$3.  
425-452-7681

## SEASONAL

### Crossroads Par 3 Golf Course

March 1- Oct. 31  
15801 NE 15th St.  
Beginner and family course, with holes ranging from 63 to 107 yards.  
425-452-4873

### Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

October Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
425-451-3755

### Seasonal Fresh Produce Stand

Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm and Bill Pace Fruit & Produce  
Through Oct. 31  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily  
Mercer Slough Nature Park  
2380 Bellevue Way SE  
425-467-0501

### Garden d'Lights

Nov. 28 - Jan. 2, 5 - 9:30 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
Lighted holiday display. Donations requested. \$5 fee for parking in the Botanical Garden parking lot. Free parking available to the east at Wilburton Hill Park.  
425-452-2750

### Group Health Ice Arena

Nov. 28 - mid-January; open daily, hours vary.  
Bellevue Downtown Park  
NE First Street & 102nd Ave. NE  
Partial open-air rink and a heated tent for spectators. \$10 admission includes skate rentals. \$7 admission if with skates.  
425-453-3110



On one Stewardship Saturday, a team of volunteers installs plants along Lake Hills Connector.

### Stewardship Saturday

Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Various locations.  
Volunteers work in groups or as individuals to plant trees and shrubs, restore trails or remove invasive plants at city parks. Preregistration required. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.  
425-452-4195

### Veterans Day Dance

Nov. 18, 2 - 4 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave NE.  
With the Sounds of Swing band.  
\$3.  
425-452-7681

### Thanksgiving Luncheon

Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave NE.  
Turkey, trimmings and entertainment. Ages 65+. \$5, preregistration by Nov. 10 required.  
425-452-7681

### The Wizard of Oz

Nov. 21, 22, 28 and 29, 7 p.m.  
Nov. 23 and 30, 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16661 Northup Way  
Musical about a girl's adventures in the land of Oz. \$9.  
425-452-7155

### A Christmas Carol

Dec. 5 and 6, 7 p.m.  
Dec. 7, 2 p.m.  
Meydenbauer Theatre  
11100 NE Sixth St.  
Charles Dickens' Christmas classic, presented by the Bellevue Youth Theatre. \$12.  
425-452-7155

### Seattle Civic Christmas Ships

Dec. 6, 8:30 - 8:45 p.m.  
Chism Beach Park  
1175 98th Ave. SE  
Carolers on boat; no bonfire or cider. All-ages, free.  
425-452-4106

### Holiday Dance

Dec. 9, 2 - 4 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center,  
4063 148th Ave NE.  
With the Sounds of Swing band.  
\$3.  
425-452-7681

### Holiday Luncheon

Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave NE.  
Chicken and trimmings feast with entertainment. Ages 65+, \$5, preregistration by Dec. 8 required.  
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 452-6805 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: 452-6810

#### Community Centers

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

Community Council: 452-6805

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services Center: 452-6800

New permit applications and application status: 452-6800

Inspection Requests: 452-6875

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)  
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[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



Don Davidson



Conrad Lee



Phil Noble

## New commuter service at Transit Center

A new service that opened recently at the Bellevue Transit Center downtown features commuter assistance and the city's first 24-hour, indoor bicycle parking.



*A commuter scores some swag at the Commuter Connection's grand opening in September. The new office at the Transit Center includes indoor bike racks.*

Called Commuter Connection, the operation is located in the Rider Services Building on Northeast Sixth Street, between 108th and 110th avenues Northeast. It's downtown Bellevue's latest transportation resource for commuters who choose alternatives to driving alone.

The facility will be staffed Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for planning trips by bus, carpool or vanpool. Downtown Bellevue workers and residents can stop in to purchase transit passes, pick up travel information and learn about incentives for choosing transportation options. Employers can learn about adding commute and other benefits for their employees.

Bicycle amenities at Commuter Connection include 27 indoor racks with wire mesh lockers, key card membership that allows 24/7 access and space for changing clothes. In addition, a bicycle commute specialist will be available on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon to provide free assistance for route planning and help with minor repairs.

Commuter Connection is funded by a grant from the state Department of Transportation, with additional funding from King County Metro and Sound Transit. It's sponsored by the City of Bellevue and operated by TransManage, the transportation service of the Bellevue Downtown Association, along with the Bicycle Alliance of Washington.

For more information about Commuter Connection and options for getting around, visit [www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org](http://www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org)

## Utilities tax rebate offered

Bellevue Utilities is offering a tax rebate for all eligible, low-income residents who pay utilities. To qualify, total household income in 2008 must be \$27,250 or less for a single person; \$31,150 or less for married/co-tenant.

The deadline for applications is Nov. 29. 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 452-5285 for an application or for more information.