

Bellevue

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FEBRUARY 2013

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The only tower crane in downtown Bellevue is at the construction site for Soma Towers, a 266-unit apartment complex being built at Northeast Second Street and 106th Avenue Northeast. More cranes may be on the way.

Downtown cranes coming back?

Remember the “crane index”?

It was an informal gauge of development activity - and economic health - in downtown Bellevue. The index consisted of the number of tower cranes hovering above large construction sites across the city.

The crane tally topped out at 21 in 2007, at the height of the last development cycle. Most everyone knows what happened after that: a major recession followed by a slow recovery. For a long time there were no tower cranes downtown.

But the crane index may be ready to rise again. Currently there is one big crane downtown, at Soma Towers Phase I, a residential high-rise under construction at Northeast Second Street and 106th Avenue Northeast.

Other crane-worthy projects could be in the wings, according to Mike Brennan, director of Bellevue’s Development Services Department. He said Bellevue is seeing early permitting for some work downtown, and interest clearly is growing for big developments around the city.

City Manager Steve Sarkozy added, “I’m hearing from developers who say they’re ready to pull the trigger on some major projects, and I’m hearing from folks on the other end - tenants - who are primed for those projects. So I do think we’re getting close, especially downtown.”

Another area expected to be part of the next development cycle, said Brennan, is the 900-acre Bel-Red corridor, northeast of downtown. It will create new opportunities for higher-density development that will be connected to downtown Bellevue and Seattle by the future East Link light rail line.

“There are more conversations, especially about downtown projects, and that’s a prelude to the formal development process,” Brennan said. “The question for us is not so much whether big projects will get rolling, but when, how big and how fast the development will come.”

Based on one set of numbers from 2012, it appears the development cycle may have turned already. The value of major projects in 2012, based on permits issued, more than quadrupled compared with 2011, rising from \$46 million to \$194 million. And, the total valuation (including major projects, new residential projects, commercial and residential remodels) citywide more than doubled, from \$168 million in 2011 to \$375 million in 2012.

Brennan expects the next expansion to look different than the previous one. He described the last development cycle, which started to ramp up in 2005, peaked in 2007, and bottomed out in 2011 (tracked by total valuation based on permits issued), as relatively short, but dramatic.

“It was exciting, but at times overwhelming to the community to deal with growth that fast,” Brennan said. “I expect the next cycle will be more moderate than the last cycle.”

The steep development slowdown forced the City Council to cut Development Services’ budget by \$4.2 million and eliminate 30 staff positions from 2010 to 2012. Now, as construction increases, the department will add staff to keep pace with development activity.

Like the last development cycle, current signs point toward a range of big downtown projects, including residential (mostly apartments), hotels and office buildings.

Big projects in various stages of the development pipeline currently include the Lincoln Square Expansion, a large office-hotel-condominium-retail complex that will mirror the original Lincoln Square property nearby; a new 376-room Marriott Hotel; and a new office tower planned on Northeast Eighth Street, expected to be among the largest in the city.

“I have a high level of confidence we’ll see significant investment in a wide range of project types,” Brennan said. “It’s difficult to predict exactly what the next cycle will look like, but I do know that when the financial commitments return, so will the cranes.”



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Council Corner



A valiant quest

By Kevin Wallace

As the City Council liaison for the Human Services Commission I am often struck by the dramatic impact our local human services organizations make on the lives of people in our community – certainly on those who receive assistance, but also on those who give it. Bellevue’s commitment to human services sustains a platform for the greatest adventures the city has to offer – service to others.

Whether it’s caring for people who are homeless at The Sophia Way, providing food and shelter through Hopelink, or making a difference in the lives of our youth at Jubilee Reach, getting involved is a chance to step out on a valiant quest to help our neighbors. The rewards for merely attempting the journey are among the greatest life has to offer – purpose, significance and meaning.

So if the Xbox no longer holds the same allure, if eradicating alien planets with video game cannons just doesn’t do it anymore, consider getting involved. Taking that first step to help transform a life can be the first step toward transforming our own lives.

One of the foundations that make Bellevue a great place to live and work is our network of human services organizations. This capable group of nonprofit organizations effectively combines public dollars with the time, talent and treasure of committed volunteers and social workers to create a safety net for our neighbors who need a hand up, or for those unable to help themselves.

The public sector cannot, and should not, take care of all of Bellevue’s human service needs. Truly caring for children, the poor and people with disabilities requires the efforts of all of us who have time or money to dedicate to the task. The ever-dwindling supply of available financial help from local, state and federal governments makes individual participation more important than ever.

Every other year the city completes a Human Services Needs Assessment and then works with the Human Services Commission to allocate funds to service organizations to address the following priorities:

- Providing food and a roof overhead (Hopelink, Congregations for the Homeless, Friends of Youth, The Sophia Way);
- Fostering supportive relationships in families, neighborhoods and communities (Youth Eastside Services, Bellevue School District Human Services, Chinese Information Services Center);
- Providing a safe haven from all forms of violence and abuse (LifeWire, Sound Mental Health, Crisis Clinic);

- Enabling health care so people are as physically and mentally fit as possible (HealthPoint, Therapeutic Health Services, Sound Mental Health); and
- Providing education and job skills to lead an independent life (Child Care Resources, Jewish Family Service, Bellevue College).

Additional information about the city’s human services program and organizations, including a list of the groups supported by the city, can be found on the Human Services web page at www.bellevuewa.gov/human_services.htm.

Each of these organizations has something in common: a need for our contributions of time and money. Likewise, each of their current donors and volunteers has this in common: they are too busy to volunteer or they don’t have enough money to spare, but they find a way to contribute anyway. They choose to take the valiant quest.

Now, instead of making it to the final game credits of Halo 4, they get to help feed and shelter a family whose breadwinner is unemployed; they get to be the first adult to tell a little boy that they are proud of him; or they get to help save the life of a woman trapped by domestic violence. So each of these donors and volunteers all have one other thing in common: they go to bed at night knowing they make a difference.

If you are ready to stretch out of your comfort zone and make a difference, please contact any one of the organizations the city supports, or one of the many that it does not, and ask how you can get involved. The life you change will be your own.



A volunteer enjoys a moment of togetherness with residents.

Council Roundup

Federal grant for 120th widening

A plan to widen and improve 120th Avenue Northeast got a boost in January, with the City Council’s acceptance of a federal \$1.1 million grant.

The project – which calls for realigning and widening 120th Avenue from two lanes to five and adding bike lanes and sidewalks between Northeast Eighth and 12th streets – is in design. Construction would likely begin when right of way acquisition is complete in 2014.

State and federal grants, the \$1.1 million Surface Transportation Program grant and an earlier \$3 million grant from the state Transportation Improvement Board, now cover a third of the project’s estimated \$12.2 million construction cost.

The four-block stretch of 120th Avenue is one of three sections of the street the city plans to widen as part of its Mobility and Infrastructure initiative, intended to accommodate anticipated growth downtown and in the Bel-Red and Wilburton areas.

Adopted by the council in 2009, the initiative calls for extending Northeast Fourth and Sixth streets east to 120th Avenue, and widening 120th from Northeast Fourth Street to Northup Way. A new arterial is also planned for the Bel-Red area.

‘Status quo’ budget approved

The council in Dec. 3 adopted a “status quo” 2013-2014 budget, which includes just incremental growth. The economy’s slow recovery means no cuts in services are in the budget, a welcome change from 2011 and early

this year, when \$24 million was pared from Bellevue’s budget because of the recession.

“I’m proud to have the council approve a budget meets all our goals without increasing property tax,” Mayor Conrad Lee said. “It provides for public safety, community development, parks, human services, light rail, environmental stewardship, planning, administration and everything else the city does, and does well.”

The council voted 5-2 for adoption of the budget. The general fund, which covers core services such as police, fire, transportation and parks, is budgeted to grow 4.4 percent in 2013 and 3.2 percent in 2014. The capital and operating budgets total \$1.29 billion for 2013 and 2014.

Highlights from the budget

- No general tax increases or layoffs;
- New programs related to economic growth and competitiveness.
- Advances for many of the city’s most important capital needs, including Parks Levy projects, the Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative and East Link commitments; and
- Utility rate increases necessary to fund regional wholesale cost increases and infrastructure maintenance; as well as Development Services rate increases to ensure fees match the cost of providing services.

The 2013-2019 Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget includes \$6.2 million reserved for emerging, high-priority capital needs for

economic development and neighborhoods.

Public outreach concerning the budget included three public hearings, two forums and a focus group.

More information, including the preliminary budgets, is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/budgets.htm.

No thanks to light rail maintenance facility

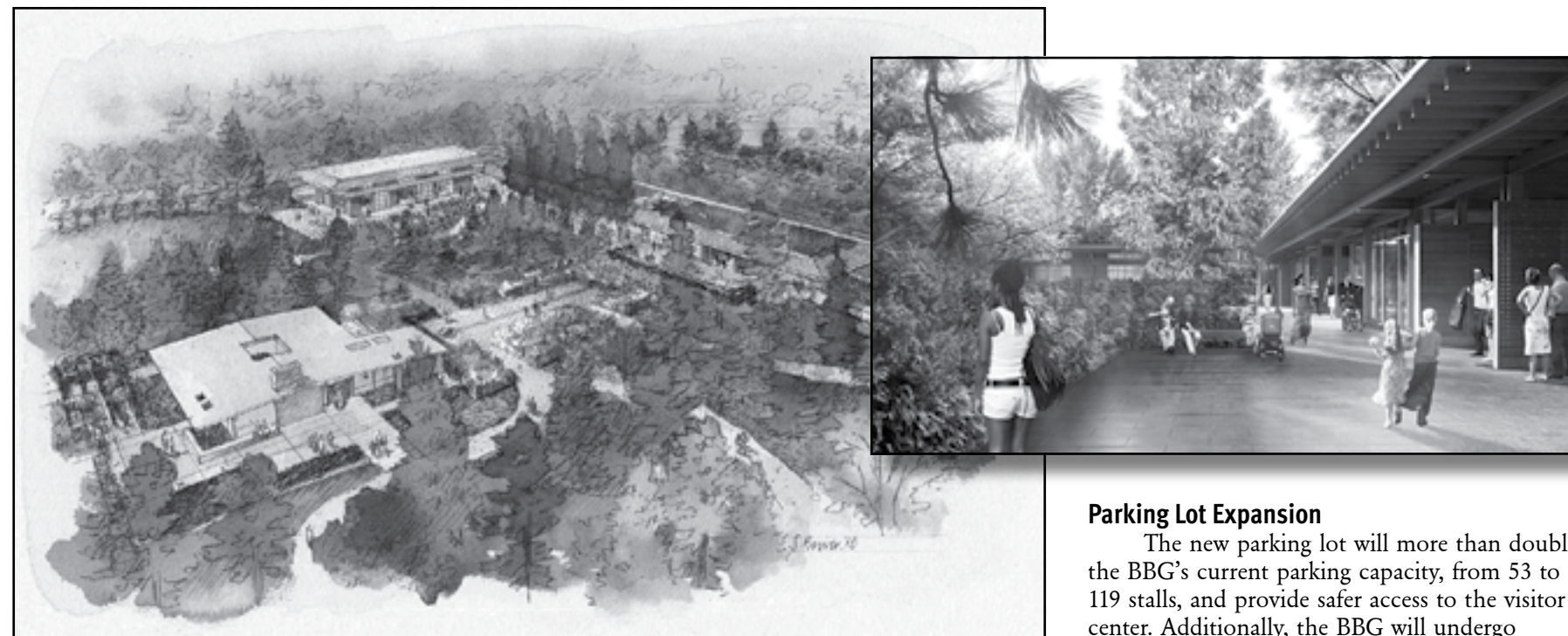
The council on Nov. 6 expressed strong opposition to a light rail operations and maintenance facility in Bellevue.

Sound Transit has identified four potential sites in Bellevue and one site in Lynnwood for the rail yard, which would support the agency’s regional network, including East Link. Sound Transit officials told the council they need a 20- to 25-acre site to accommodate about 80 light rail vehicles, in addition to the 100-plus vehicles they will keep at their existing maintenance base south of downtown Seattle.

In a letter that councilmembers approved sending to the Sound Transit Board, they called the timing of a study of the Bellevue sites an “unwelcome surprise to the city. We were assured by Sound Transit ... that a maintenance base was not needed for East Link or on the Eastside.”

All four Bellevue sites are located in the city’s Bel-Red corridor, and councilmembers said the proposals “would clearly be incompatible” with the city’s plan for the area. Officials rezoned the Bel-Red area in 2009, and it’s slated to be transformed from a light industrial area to a mix of residential and office uses focused around development near two future light rail stations.

New visitor center for Botanical Garden



An architect’s drawing shows the current visitor center (the Shorts House) in the foreground and the three buildings that will comprise the new visitor center in the background. A digitally enhanced photograph shows the fern plaza to be located behind the new visitors center.

Plants won’t be all that’s growing at the Bellevue Botanical Garden this spring. To accommodate a steady increase in popularity, the Garden is set for some dramatic growth of its own, including the construction of a new visitor center and expansion of the parking lot.

In addition to making room for more visitors, the planned facilities designed by Olson Kundig Architects of Seattle are aimed at accommodating expanded educational programs. Included in the city’s 2013-2019 capital budget, the project is expected to begin construction in May.

With more than 300,000 visitors a year, the Bellevue Botanical Garden is one of the city’s most popular destinations. The Garden opened in 1992 and thrives because of strong community support, including a partnership between the city and the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society.

The BBG project was approved by voters in the 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy. The project is expected to cost about \$10 million and the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society has

committed \$5 million to it through its Growing a Living Legacy fundraising campaign. Donations can be made at www.growingalivinglegacy.org/news.htm.

New Visitor Center

Three buildings, one fronting Main Street, will offer a total of about 8,500 square feet of space, including an outdoor covered orientation space, gift shop, meeting space, offices and restrooms.

An education center will provide flexible spaces for meetings, programs and workshops, as well as housing administrative offices and a catering kitchen. Multi-purpose classrooms and meeting spaces are designed to meet the rising interest in education for children and adults at the BBG and accommodate a wide range of programming.

The Shorts House (now used as a visitor center) will continue to be used for informal gatherings, meetings and banquets and as a place for contemplation.

Parking Lot Expansion

The new parking lot will more than double the BBG’s current parking capacity, from 53 to 119 stalls, and provide safer access to the visitor center. Additionally, the BBG will undergo extensive landscape work and the development of outdoor circulation space.

New Gardens

A few of the existing gardens will be enhanced, and new gardens will be developed, including a Sun Courtyard, Tateuchi Loop Trail and Spring Courtyard.

The Sun Courtyard, to be located outside of the new Education Center, will provide a 3,000-square-foot outdoor room for visitors attending education programs and other events. An inviting gathering place, the courtyard will provide a natural flow between the building’s interior and the surrounding gardens.

The Tateuchi Loop Trail will include a new section of elevated walkway that brings visitors from the new Fern Plaza into the heart of the Garden. It joins the existing half-mile long trail, which is the most travelled pathway within the Garden.

The Spring Courtyard will provide a dramatic central point of access to other areas of the Garden. This tranquil, hard-scaped clearing contains the Garden’s symbolic source of water and a rill that will deliver water to the Fern Plaza below. The courtyard will be enclosed and framed by a Tapestry Hedge.

Construction nears for new Bellevue Youth Theatre

The city is expected to break ground in May for construction of a new Bellevue Youth Theatre. To be nestled in a hillside near the Crossroads Community Center, the 12,000-square-foot building will accommodate growing demand and address several concerns with the theater’s current location.

Founded in 1990, the BYT has grown into one of Bellevue’s most popular programs. The theater presents 10 productions each year, entertaining thousands, and provides summer and school-break day camps and theater classes.

The innovative new space, designed by Becker Architects of Bellevue, will be a 150-seat black-box theater that offers extremely flexible seating options, including a “theater in the round” indoor space and a stage that can open to the outdoors. With a natural green roof, the building will be less expensive to heat and cool.

Voters approved \$2 million for the project in the 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy. The BYT Foundation is raising \$1 million for the \$8.5 million project, and funding is also coming from a King County Green Building Grant and 4Culture. The project was included in the city’s 2013-2019 capital budget.

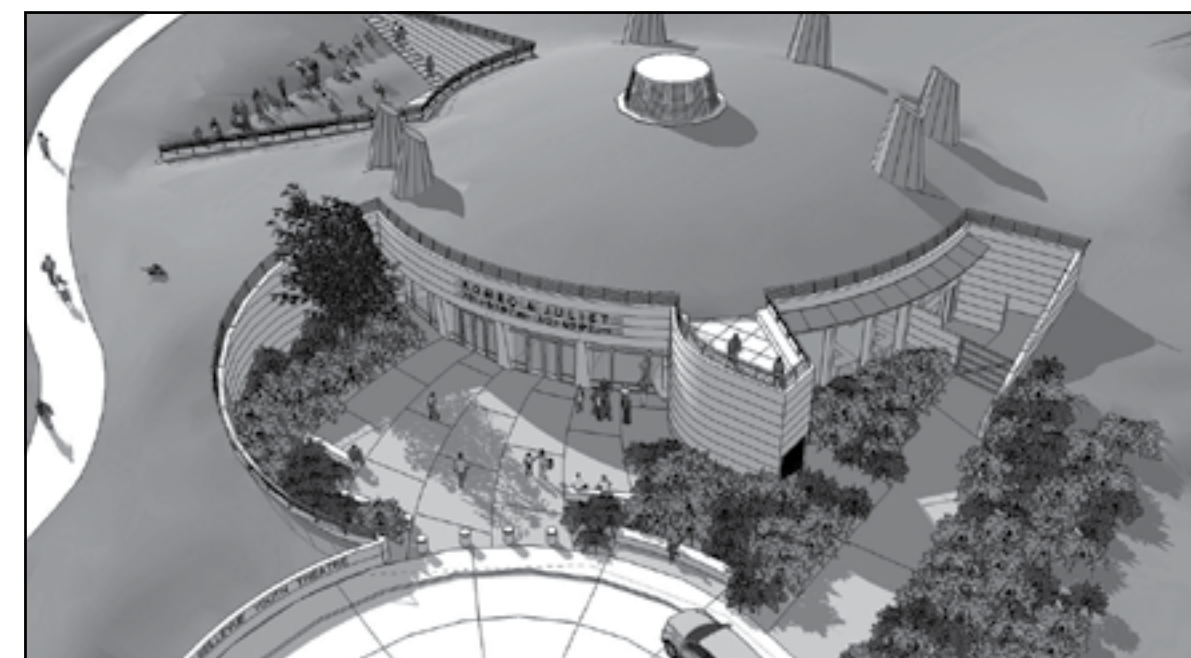
Since 2001, BYT has been operating out of a part of the former Ivanhoe Elementary School under an agreement with the Bellevue School District. The school, on Northup Way, was originally built in 1962, and in 2005, plans were

developed to renovate the school for the Youth Theatre’s needs.

However, renovation was estimated to cost approximately \$3.5 million, with roughly half the costs needed to bring the building up to code. The high cost, with limited expansion capabilities at Ivanhoe, and the fact that the city does not own the Ivanhoe site, prompted volunteers and staff to

explore other expansion alternatives through a site and building feasibility study.

BYT has received numerous local, state and national awards for its commitment to meet the needs of all youth participants by forming a diverse community that supports and encourages everyone. The expansion will allow the theater to continue to serve the community for many years to come.



The new Bellevue Youth Theatre will be nestled into a hillside at Crossroads Park, with a green roof and a stage that can open to the outdoors.

East Link design process begins



Bellevue's vision for development around the East Link station to be located at 130th Avenue Northeast in the Bel-Red area.

Sound Transit will kick off the final design process for East Link with an open house in the Bel-Red area in March.

At the open house, for which the schedule wasn't finalized at press time, residents will be invited to weigh in on the design of the trackway, stations and art installations, as well as construction methods, including sequencing and mitigation.

Cost savings ideas chosen

After more than a year of collaboration with the city on the design of the light rail line through Bellevue, Sound Transit and the city will present additional information about proposed

cost-saving modifications to the route at an open house at City Hall on April 3.

In order for a downtown tunnel to fit in the budget for the East Link line, the city agreed to provide \$100 million in low- or no-cost contributions toward the cost of the tunnel. The city also agreed to provide \$60 million in contingent contributions.

Working together on the project's design last year, city and Sound Transit staff came up with options aimed at eliminating the need for the contingent contributions. In October, after a considerable public process, city and transit agency officials settled on a handful of ideas,

including moving the downtown station out of the tunnel.

Sound Transit will present the results of environmental analysis of those ideas at the April meeting. The City Council is expected to choose from those ideas this spring.

Field Work

Over the next several months residents may notice Sound Transit staff conducting field work along the East Link route. They will collect information to help advance the project design throughout the process.

Operations and Maintenance Facility Site

Sound Transit is in the process of selecting a location for an operations and maintenance satellite facility. Two of the three sites under consideration are in Bellevue.

The three sites will undergo environmental review through much of this year, and a draft environmental impact statement is expected to be issued for public comment in the first quarter of 2014.

Details

The 14-mile East Link line promises to give riders a fast and reliable connection between the Eastside's biggest population and employment centers, with 10 stations serving Seattle, Mercer Island, south Bellevue, downtown Bellevue, Bel-Red and Overlake in Redmond.

Information about the project and upcoming meetings will be posted on Bellevue's website: (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>), where people can also sign up for "Alerts" to be notified when new information is posted.

Information is also available on the Sound Transit website (<http://projects.soundtransit.org/eastlink>). For more information or to request a briefing from Sound Transit, please contact East Link Community Outreach (206-398-5470 or eastlink@soundtransit.org).

New chief communications officer named

Emily Christensen started her new position as the city's chief communications officer on Feb. 12. Christensen, selected following a nationwide search, will be in charge of overall communications for the City of Bellevue, including external and internal communications, as well as leading marketing and branding efforts for the organization. She will supervise a small communications staff in the City Manager's Office.

"Bellevue has long been recognized as one of the country's best places to live and do business. Coupled with a dedicated city workforce that strives for excellence in service for the community, I can think of no better place to rejoin the public sector," said Christensen, a native of Washington state who grew up in Yakima. "I am very excited about being part of the Bellevue team and helping to steer the city into a bright future."

Previous experience includes Christensen's work as Director of Strategic Communications for AREVA, a global energy company, as manager of corporate affairs for Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and as a press secretary in the U.S. Senate. She has a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University and an undergraduate degree in political science from Brigham Young University.

Christensen plans to make her home in Bellevue and looks forward to taking advantage of all the city has to offer - from the outdoors and cultural attractions, to shopping and dining.



Emily Christensen started her new position Feb. 12.



Mike McCormick Huentelman joined Neighborhood Outreach in November.

Neighborhood Outreach manager on board

Mike McCormick Huentelman, who was director of Urban Ministries at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle for 11 years, is Bellevue's new neighborhood and community outreach manager.

"I am very excited about joining Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach team," McCormick Huentelman said. "Bellevue

is a world-class city known for its diversity, its innovation and its great neighborhoods. I am eager to connect to the people who make Bellevue such a great place to live."

McCormick Huentelman has a background of working with diverse communities, building effective partnerships and engaging people for the common good. He took the Bellevue position in November, after longtime Neighborhood Outreach manager Cheryl Kuhn stepped down in early September.

Neighborhood leaders will have a chance to meet with McCormick Huentelman and the entire Neighborhood Outreach staff at a Neighborhood Summit, 5:30-7 p.m., at City Hall on Feb. 26. This meeting is for leadership of neighborhood associations, boards and emerging neighborhood leaders (which may include you!) to share their priorities for their neighborhoods in the coming year.

New bridge over Coal Creek to replace culvert

Construction of a new bridge to replace a deteriorating culvert on Coal Creek Parkway is set to start the end of April. The new bridge, between Forest Drive Southeast and Southeast 60th Street, will keep the parkway safe for the nearly 28,000 commuters who use this route each day.

The project also includes a new pedestrian walkway underneath the roadway that connects to the Coal Creek Trail. Replacing the culvert, a nine-foot-diameter corrugated steel pipe, with a bridge over the stream will make it easier for fish to navigate through the area.

Because construction of the bridge requires relocation of complex utilities, such as fiber optic cables, a natural gas main and high-pressure fuel pipe lines, the project will be done in two phases. During each phase, Coal Creek Parkway will be reduced to one lane in each direction through the project area, between Forest Drive Southeast and 60th Street from the end of April through November in 2013 and again during that period in 2014.

All lanes are planned to be open for about four months during the winter of 2013-2014 before construction resumes in spring 2014. Completion of the project is expected in November 2014.

For more information or to sign up for email updates, visit <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/coalcreekbridge.htm>. Questions about the project should be directed to Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240.



Before



After

West Lake Sammamish Parkway detour starts in March

Work on long-awaited improvements to West Lake Sammamish Parkway, including widening the shoulder on the east side and paving a multiuse path on the west side, began in January. The first phase of a five-stage project will be on the roadway between Interstate 90 and Southeast 34th Street.

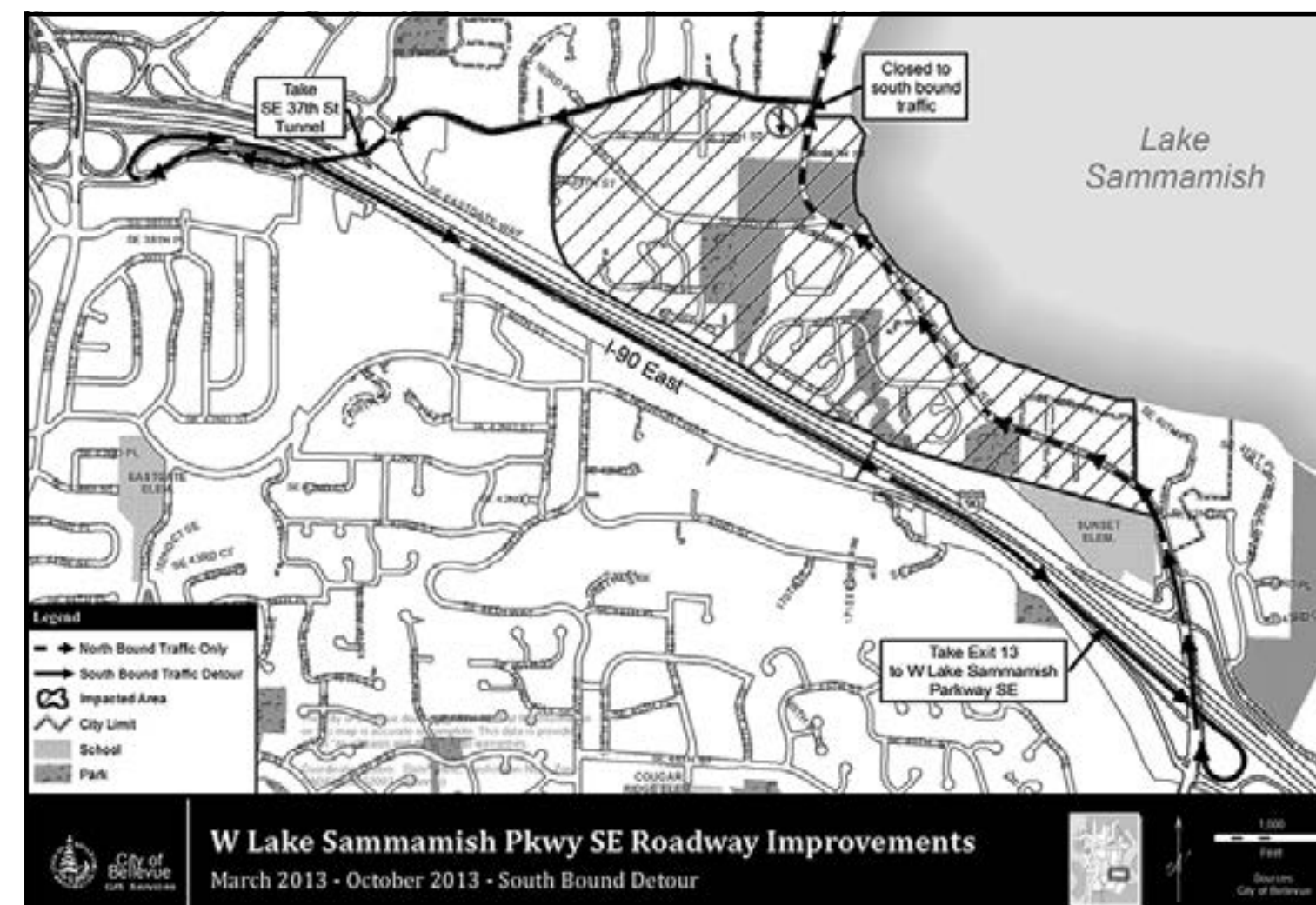
Starting in mid-March, southbound traffic will be detoured at Southeast 34th Street for approximately eight months, to allow room and safe access to a lane for construction crews and equipment. Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians will only be able to travel north.

Access to all homes in the area, as well as the French Immersion School of Washington, SAMBICA, Sunset Elementary School and Vasa Park Resort & Ballroom, will be allowed from the northbound direction.

Drivers travelling north - as well as pedestrians and bicyclists - should expect ongoing traffic delays. Unfortunately, this will be a major impact to users. The project on an accelerated schedule to shorten the duration of the roadway impacts and save taxpayers' dollars.

Whether you are walking, biking or driving through the construction zone, these safety tips can help make the commute less challenging:

- **Be Alert** - Watch out for moving equipment, vehicles and workers.
- **Be extra cautious** - Especially, pedestrians



- and bicyclists. The shoulder may be very narrow in areas.
- **Follow the construction signs and obey the posted speed limit** - We recommend that drivers travel at a slower speed through the construction zone both day and night.
- **Obey the Flaggers** - They will guide you safely through the construction zone.
- **Plan Ahead** - There will be traffic delays; allow extra time.
- **Be aware of changing construction activity** - Due to the environmental sensitivity of the area, construction may be halted on days when it rains.

Up-to-Date Construction Information:

To obtain up-to-date weekly construction

information, please refer to: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm or follow the Transportation Department on Twitter: @BvueTrans. To obtain specific project updates about WLSP, please check www.bellevuewa.gov/west_lk_samm_prkwy.htm.

On the Parkway, please watch for brief construction messages on the electronic variable message signs at the north and south ends of the project.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Paul Krawczyk, project manager, at 425-452-7905 or pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov or construction inspectors Bill Cross, 425-452-5365 or bcross@bellevuewa.gov or Clint Nelsen, 425-452-6960 or cnelsen@bellevuewa.gov.

New law calls for CO detectors

Carbon monoxide detectors, which alert residents when dangerous levels of the odorless gas are reached, are now required in many homes in Washington state.

Carbon monoxide poisoning most often occurs when people try to heat their homes during a power outage by bringing a grill or gas generator inside. Annually in the U.S., more than 500 people are killed and an estimated 20,000 visit hospital emergency rooms. After Washington's wind storms in December 2006, an estimated 1,000 people in our state were seen at emergency rooms with symptoms of CO

poisoning, and eight people reportedly died of CO exposure.

A law requiring carbon monoxide detectors that took effect Jan. 1 does not apply to owner-occupied, single-family residences, but building officials and firefighters recommend installation of them in all homes, on each floor, near bedrooms especially. To sell a house, the owner must equip the home with CO detectors.

Motels, hotels, college dormitories, boarding homes and residential treatment facilities may install a common-area carbon monoxide system when certain conditions are met.

Detectors can be plug-in, battery-operated, or hard-wired. Combined CO and smoke alarms are permitted. Prices for detectors start at about \$15.

In late 2012 the Bellevue Fire Department sent notices to management companies and landlords of thousands of apartments in the city, informing them of the new state requirement for CO detectors.

More information about carbon monoxide detectors is available at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Fire/mc10730_Corbon_Monoxide_Info_Sheet-1.pdf.

NEP finishing strong

With hundreds of critical, resident-nominated neighborhood projects completed and the lingering recession forcing the city to cut costs, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program is drawing to a close.

Still committed to listening to neighborhoods and looking for new ways to invest in their health and vitality, the city this year will convene "Neighborhood Leadership Gatherings" to identify emerging areas of need and help shape the next vision for neighborhood investment.

NEP's 24 years of success

Originally launched in 1988, NEP provided residents the opportunity to select small capital projects for their neighborhoods. The city then completed the projects, which included improving or installing playgrounds, parks, trail connections, sidewalk links, landscaping and public art.

Save the dates

Feb. 26 Neighborhood Leadership Gathering - An opportunity for the leaders of neighborhood associations, boards and others to share their neighborhood priorities and meet new Neighborhood Outreach staff. 5:30-7 p.m. at City Hall.

April 18 Neighborhood Forum - Keeping Kids Safe in our Community, 7-9 p.m. at Crossroads Community Center

May 14 Neighborhood Forum: Climate Change - To focus on local efforts to reduce our region's carbon footprint and what the community can do to help. 7-9 p.m. at City Hall.

NEP's success has been attributed to its guiding philosophy - that residents themselves are in the best position to decide how to improve their neighborhoods. After 24 years, the most critical small neighborhood projects (more than 430) have been completed.

The city completes NEP projects across the entire city over a three-year cycle. Beginning in 2011, the city prioritized completing its commitments for NEP projects. All previously approved projects will be completed, but no further applications for NEP projects will be considered.

The guiding philosophy of NEP, that residents know best how to improve their neighborhoods, still holds true today.

This year, Neighborhood Outreach will revitalize the Neighborhood Match program to leverage community collaboration and provide small matching grants for neighborhood projects.

Neighborhood forums will provide platforms to deepen neighborhood conversations about the issues that matter most, including topics such as keeping kids safe in our community and responding to climate change.

Most importantly, Neighborhood Outreach will be responsive to new ideas and community input on how to best strengthen neighborhoods and work together to maintain the quality of life that residents have come to enjoy.

If you would like to comment, share a success story of how NEP impacted your neighborhood or participate in new neighborhood initiatives, please contact Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood and Community Outreach Manager, at mmhuent@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4089.

'Happy Hour' car prowlers strike

Recently, "happy hour" car prowlers have been breaking into vehicles between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. while parked in/or near restaurants. Police have received several of theft reports from the Factoria area this winter.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when leaving your vehicle parked in a parking lot.

- When leaving your vehicle, close and lock all the doors and windows.
- Don't leave items visible that may tempt a thief to break into your car.

- If you place valuables in the trunk, do it prior to arriving at your destination.
- When possible, park in well-lit areas and places with a lot of pedestrian traffic.
- If available, use parking lots with attendants.
- If you have a car alarm, use it.
- Consider purchasing an alarm system that is not only audible, but has the ability to page you if the alarm is activated.
- Record the serial numbers of valuables

routinely left inside your vehicle, such as stereo equipment including amps, radar detectors, GPS units and cell phones. This could help police recover property if it is stolen.

The Bellevue Police Department provides crime prevention tips throughout the year. You can review safety tips by visiting the Crime Prevention and Safety section on the city's website, at www.bellevuewa.gov/police-crime-prevention.htm.



LED street lights to save energy

In a gradual transition that could ultimately result in Bellevue cutting \$340,000 from its energy bill annually, the city is replacing high-pressure sodium street lights with light emitting diode (LED) lights.

In addition to using 40 percent less electricity, the LED lights provide a more uniform light than sodium lamps. The LED lights are brighter, but can be focused on the street better, for less spillover onto front yards. While they cost more upfront, they are becoming cheaper, and they don't need to be changed as often.

In 2008 and 2009, Bellevue successfully tested LED street lights in Factoria and then in Wilburton, along a stretch of 118th Avenue Southeast. The city just completed the retrofit of its traffic lights from incandescent to LED, saving more than \$225,000 in energy costs annually.

Bellevue now has 140 LED street lights. That's a mere fraction of the 8,000 total the city maintains, but the plan is to replace many sodium lights with LEDs over time. Most new street lights will be LED.

Bellevue's 2013 work plan includes converting all incandescent lights on Cougar Mountain Way to LED, as well as portions of Northeast 24th Street and Northup Way. An additional 100 street lights in Lake Hills will be converted.

Cutting energy consumption supports Bellevue's environmental agenda, through the reduction of carbon emissions associated with the production of electricity.

LED lights use solid state technology, with features that could one day allow for better light management directly from City Hall, such as light dimming during certain hours for additional energy savings.

It is estimated that if Bellevue retrofitted all of its 8,000 street lights to LED, an annual cost savings of \$340,000 would be achieved through lower energy bills, and 1,400 metric tons of carbon emissions would be prevented.

A wealth of details about Bellevue's LED street lights is available on the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services group's SAFE blog (<http://bellevuentss.wordpress.com/2013/01/14/leds-added-to-bellevue-streets/>). For more information on LED street lights in Bellevue, please contact Mark Poch, Transportation Signals and Lighting manager, at mpoch@bellevuewa.gov.

Volunteers key in launching new Botanical Garden database



Ruth Edwards (left) and Joanne White (right) at Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Even with a \$118,000 grant, the Bellevue Botanical Garden relied on volunteers to make a comprehensive, searchable database of its plants a reality. Ruth Edwards and Joanne White devoted thousands of hours over two years to help the Botanical Garden map 5,010 plants in seven display gardens.

Thanks to their efforts, visitors can access

the database from their mobile phones, a kiosk in the BBG visitor center or from their home computers.

Edwards and White are good examples of the dedicated volunteers for the City of Bellevue. In 2012 some 6,349 people volunteered in 53 programs. These volunteers served a total of 142,893 hours, a 12 percent increase over

volunteer hours in 2011.

"Ruth Edwards and Joanne White approach their volunteer positions with a level of professionalism appropriate to high-performing staff," BBG manager Nancy Kartes said. "Their extraordinary dedication is an inspiration to all. They will continue to use our new equipment and methods to assist staff in keeping our plant records current and accurate, to the benefit of many thousands of BBG visitors each year."

For the Botanical Garden, a two-year Collections Stewardship grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2010 funded an intern for two years, the purchase of computer mapping equipment and upgrades to the BBG plant database.

Still, highly trained volunteers were essential to advance the project.

Edwards, chief plant records volunteer, assisted staff with plant collections inventory, evaluation, mapping and tagging. White, database engineer for the BBG, led the plant database design upgrade. This included improved graphic design and search results pages and expansion to include art collections and tribute benches in tracking and mapping systems. The value of volunteer time counted toward the required funding match.

Utility rate relief offered to low income seniors, disabled

The City of Bellevue offers low-income seniors (62 and older) and low-income permanently disabled persons relief on their utility costs for water, wastewater and drainage.

Rate Relief offers up to 75 percent off utility costs for seniors and permanently disabled persons who meet specific residency and income guidelines. The form of relief and household income guidelines depend on how utility costs are paid:

- If you pay a Bellevue utility bill directly, you may qualify for a rate reduction on your 2013 utility bills if your 2012 household income was \$30,070 or less for one person or \$34,375 or less for two persons.
- If your utility costs have been paid through rent or other third party, you may qualify for a rate rebate check on 2012 utility costs

if your 2011 household income was \$29,480 or less for one person or \$33,700 or less for two persons.

Additional requirements apply. Complete program guidelines and application materials will be available in February at www.bellevuewa.gov/utilityrelief.htm or by calling Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932. The application deadline is Oct. 31, 2013.



Future brighter for solar power here



Ever thought about installing solar panels on your roof? Concerned about the complexity of the permit process? Wondering where to go for help? Bellevue Development Services staff can help.

This spring the city will implement an improved process for permitting and inspecting solar photovoltaic panels on your roof. As part of a federal Department of Energy grant, Bellevue and other grant partners (Seattle, Edmonds and Ellensburg) developed a streamlined process to facilitate the permitting of small-scale solar installations.

Process improvements include a tip sheet explaining solar technology and its benefits, as well as clear step-by-step guidance on the permitting process. In addition to the tip sheet, the city has created a screening checklist to determine the appropriate permitting path for a particular project.

And finally, the improvements include template electrical plans available for use in residential solar panel projects. The template consists of an electrical diagram you can modify to reflect project-specific details. When you submit the plan sheets along with the manufacturer's specifications for the proposed PV panels, the project qualifies for over-the-counter review.

The City of Bellevue will also launch a solar-specific web page containing information about the permit process, staff contacts and resources for installing solar on your home. Staff familiar with solar PV installations are available to answer questions and help you through the permitting process.

For more information contact Heidi Bedwell at 425-452-4862 or hbedwell@bellevuewa.gov.

Seeing our future and planning for it

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

The city's accomplishments last year - annexation of Eastgate and other South Bellevue neighborhoods and revival of Kelsey Creek Center - did not happen by accident. Integrating unincorporated islands and revitalizing neighborhood centers were goals we had laid out long ago for our great city.

Now residents have an opportunity to help the city set new goals for the next 10, 20 and 50 years. Bellevue's comprehensive plan, which guides growth and development here, is undergoing a major update.

The comp plan, available online at: www.bellevuewa.gov/comprehensive_plan.htm, is made up of many parts and broken up into two volumes.

Volume One includes the community vision that looks out to the year 2025 and chapters concerning transportation, utilities, parks, the environment and facilities throughout the city. Volume Two contains "subarea" plans, which detail specific goals and objectives, as well as the history, for 13 neighborhood areas, including yours.

Residents in the area represented by the East Bellevue Community Council live in one of four neighborhood areas - Wilburton, Crossroads, Southeast Bellevue or Eastgate.

It is a little confusing to understand which property is covered in each subarea due to changes to the city over time. I hope subarea boundaries and names are updated during this comp plan update.

So now that you know where the current plan is and how to navigate it, how can you be part of the update?

Many people came to two community meetings in January concerning what topics the comp plan update should address. I attended both meetings, where participants discussed what they think will make Bellevue a great community in 10, 20 and 50 years and how the city's natural and business environments would be served best in those same time frames.

Finally, we were asked what will make Bellevue a great place for our children or grandchildren.

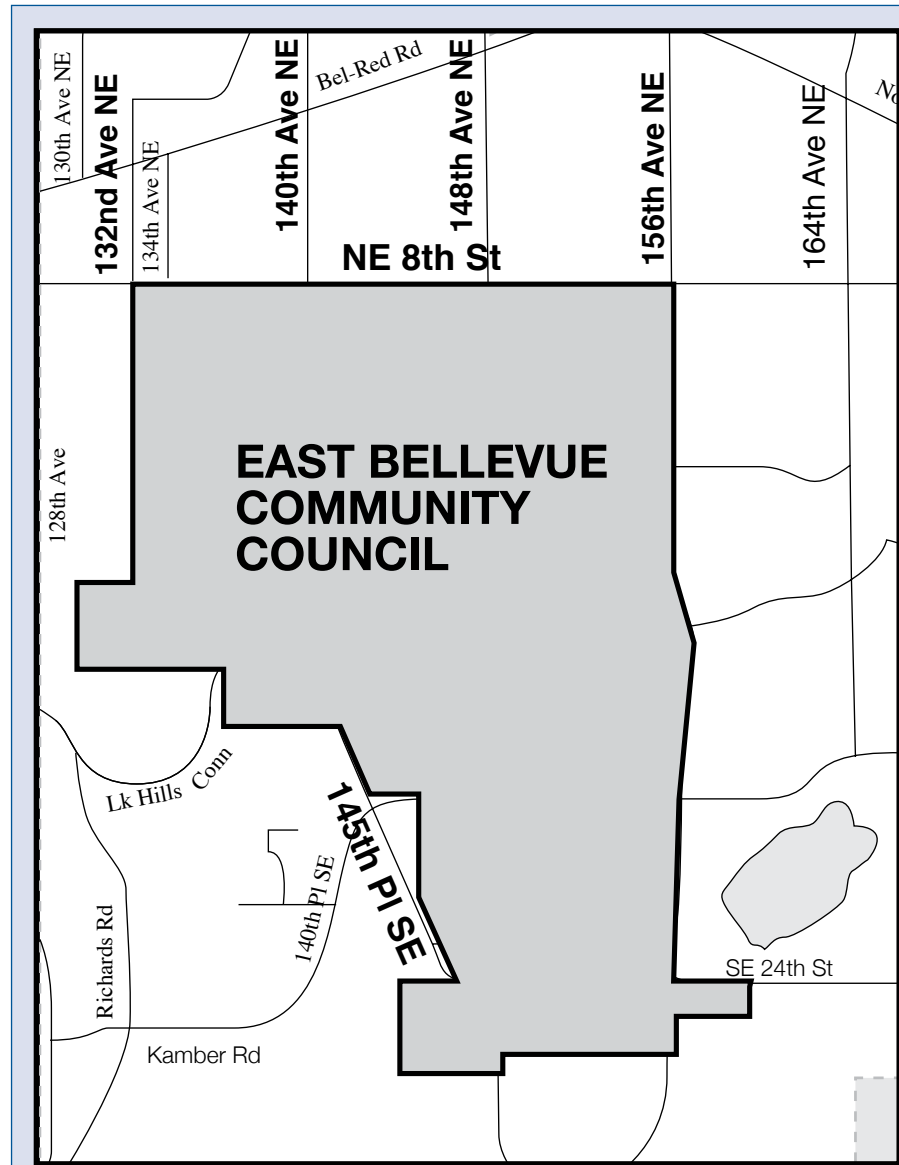
There will be more community meetings throughout the year and opportunities to be involved through the city's website at www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm such as surveys and event notices.

One of Bellevue's core values is timely citizen input, and I hope each of us takes the time to put our personal stamp on the city we call home.

One final note: this process involves tradeoffs. I have heard many ideas that might not be compatible together. The beauty of this process is that we can view all ideas equally and then weigh the pluses and minuses of each course of action. For example:

- Some say Bellevue needs to be a world-class city. I'm not sure what that means, and I wonder if we really see ourselves becoming like New York, Paris, London or Tokyo.
- How do we structure our business communities to minimize their impacts on residential neighborhoods? Currently we have more jobs in Bellevue than we have residents, and more than half of these jobs are outside downtown.
- With a population of 130,000, and capacity for tens of thousands more residents throughout the city, how will we manage traffic so we move safely and quickly in our daily lives? I am hoping that new technologies will allow us to reduce our carbon footprint and keep our city livable for many years to come.

As a fan of the "Back to the Future" movies (The future was shown as January 2013), I believe each of us has ideas that will keep this city one of the best places to live in the world. Please contribute any and all ideas



For more information about the East Bellevue Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Michelle Murphy, 425-452-6466, or contact Steven Kasner, Chairman for the EBCC.

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

Gerald Hughes, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal, William Capron
We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the Community Council via e-mail at EBCC@bellevuewa.gov. To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC go to the website, www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm.

that you have that will continue to build on what was started more than 50 years ago.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the city as the chair of the East Bellevue Community Council, and please drop in on our meetings with questions or concerns the first Tuesday of every month at the Boys and Girls club. Meeting time is 6:30 p.m., or check out our web page site at: www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm.



The revival of Kelsey Creek Center, a highlight for East Bellevue, was a part of the city's vision for the area.

Citywide Projects Update

Throughout the city, there are many projects in various stages of development. This update includes all projects with an estimated budget of \$100,000 or more, sorted by neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact the project manager.

Bridle Trails

Project	Contact
Bridle Trails Park Levy Projects: Developing a neighborhood park in the Bridle Trails neighborhood at the corner of NE 24th Street and 134th Avenue NE. Construction late summer through fall 2013. \$0.7 million	Scott VanderHyden, 425-452-4169 Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/bridle_trails_levy.htm
SR 520 Bridge Replacement & HOV Project: Rebuilding the floating bridge and replacing highway and interchanges between I-5 and Medina. For 520 closures, refer to WSDOT webpage. Construction underway. \$6.5 billion	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/sr520_bridge_intro.htm wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge
Eastside Transit & HOV Project: Completing and improving the 8.8-mile HOV system from Evergreen Point Road to the SR 202 interchange. It will provide a six-lane corridor; two general purpose lanes and one transit/HOV lane in each direction. Complete end of 2013. \$306 million	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/MedinaTo202/
Pikes Peak 4.5-Million-Gallon Reservoir: Replacing 1-million-gallon reservoir in Bridle Trails State Park with a new 4.5-million-gallon reservoir. Estimated construction 2014-2015. \$8 million	Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

Crossroads

Project	Contact
Bellevue Youth Theatre Expansion: Constructing a new 12,000 square-foot multi-functional theater in Crossroads Community Park. Construction spring 2013 to summer/fall 2014. \$8.5 million	Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326 Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/youth_theatre_expansion.htm
Valley Creek - NE 21st Street Flood Control: Reducing flooding with a range of hydraulic improvements, including restoring the storm channel and the NE 21st Street culvert. Construction Summer 2013. \$500,000	Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240 BJensen@bellevuewa.gov
Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2012, Ph. 2: Repairing existing sewer system throughout the Crossroads area. Complete Winter 2013. \$305,000	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

East Lake Hills

Project	Contact
SE 16th Street: 148th to 156th Avenue SE: Adding sidewalks and bike lanes between 148th and 156th Avenues SE. Designing to 60%. 2013. Budget TBD	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate/Cougar Mountain

Project	Contact
Lakemont Boulevard & SE Cougar Mountain Way/SE 63rd Street Intersection: Conducting a design analysis, followed by traffic operation improvements that will enhance safety for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists at this intersection. Under design; construction complete by 2014. \$1.5 million for implementation.	Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov
Horizon View #3 Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation: Installing new pumps and a standby generator. Planning, design, & permitting. Construction: Fall/Winter 2013 - Spring 2014. \$1.2-1.8 million.	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
Newport Reservoir Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation: Installing new pumps and adding a standby generator. Construction through Spring 2013. \$880,000	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
Regional Detention Pond (Lakemont Boulevard SE near I-90): Improving storm drainage runoff water quality before it's released into Lewis Creek. Complete Fall 2013. \$700,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Newport Hills

Project	Contact
Coal Creek Culvert: See page 5. Phase 1 construction: April to November 2013. Coal Creek Parkway will be reduced to one lane in each direction. \$6.5 million	Bruce Jensen, 425-452-7240 BJensen@bellevuewa.gov Bellevuewa.gov/coalcreekbridge.htm#print=true

Northeast Bellevue

Project	Contact
Hidden Valley Park: Construction of a multi-use gymnasium and sports field improvements in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue. Fall 2014. \$10 million.	Scott VanderHyden, 425-452-4169 Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov
Northrup Way at 156th, 160th, and 164th Avenues NE: Upgrading traffic signals to improve pedestrian safety at these intersections. Relocating crosswalk at 160th Avenue NE. Complete Spring 2013. \$700,000	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Northwest Bellevue

Project	Contact
Northrup Way: NE 24th Street to 108th Avenue NE Corridor Improvements: Adding a bike facility and improving sidewalks between NE 24th Street and 108th Avenue NE. At 108th Avenue NE, a new regional pedestrian/bike path will be built. Final design Fall 2013. \$12 million	Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 Scosta@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/northrup-corridor-pedbike.htm
Bellevue Way & NE 24th Street Traffic Signal Upgrade: Replacing the existing span wire signal, updating the curb ramps, and overlaying the intersection. Complete Spring 2013. \$500,000	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Sammamish/East Lake Hills

Project	Contact
West Lake Sammamish Parkway, Segment 1: Building the first phase (of five) between I-90 to SE 34th Street. Project includes a multi-use trail, retaining walls, landscaping, and improved roadway drainage. Southbound detour begins mid-March through October 2013. \$6.56 million.	Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/west_lk_samm_parkway.htm
Bellevue Airfield Park: Constructing sports fields, trails, picnic facilities and storm water improvements over an existing landfill. Phase 1 design and permitting. Begins Spring 2013. \$1.6 million	Pam Fehrman, 425-452-4326 Pfehrman@bellevuewa.gov

Somerset/Sunset

Project	Contact
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail: Developing early design of 3.6 mile trail between Factoria Boulevard SE and Lakemont Boulevard SE. Project includes lighting, crosswalks, seating, landscaping and public art. Design to 60%. \$430,000	Chris Masek, 425-452-4619 Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

Project	Contact
Downtown Transportation Plan: Evaluating transportation alternatives for new roadway capacity, improving non-motorized and transit facilities to ensure mobility through 2030. Plan complete Spring 2013. \$300,000	Kevin McDonald, 425-452-4558 KmcDonald@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm
Sewer Lake Line Replacement at Meydenbauer Bay: Replacing existing sewer lake line with 1,200 lineal feet of new sewer line on shore between Meydenbauer Beach Park and SE Bellevue Place. Construction starts Fall 2013. \$2.9 million	Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov
Sewer Lake Line Condition Assessment, Ph. I - Lake Washington: Studying location and condition of about 13 miles of buried sewer pipe from Yarrow Point to Renton. Phase 1 study complete early 2013. \$450,000	Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

Community Calendar

Wilburton

	Contact
Bellevue Botanical Garden - Visitor Center Expansion: Constructing a new 8,500 square foot visitor center with an outdoor covered orientation space, gift shop, meeting areas, classrooms, and restrooms. Est. construction May to Fall 2014. \$10 million	Ken Kroeger, 425-452-4624 kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/bbg_master_plan_update.htm
NE 4th Street Extension - 116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE: Extending NE 4th Street with five lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides, landscaping, storm drainage, street lighting, and a new traffic signal at 120th Avenue NE. Construction Fall 2013. \$38.4 million	Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov
NE 5th Street Neighborhood Traffic Plan: Constructing a temporary one-lane zone (near the BSD maintenance facility) to limit cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. Construction Spring/Summer 2013. \$150,000	Vangie Garcia, 425-452-6103 Vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/NE-5th-traffic.htm
NE 6th Street Extension: I-405 to 120th Avenue NE: Extending NE 6th as an HOV/transit only facility from the I-405 interchange east over 116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE, with four lanes and a non-motorized path. Conceptual design report complete. Design: TBD. \$1 million (Pre-design only)	Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov
120th Avenue NE Improvements - 300 Block to 700 Block, Stage 1: Widening to five lanes with center-turn lane, bike lanes, curb, gutter, and sidewalk, and adding a traffic signal at NE 6th Street. Century Link and Puget Sound Energy will be doing joint utility trench and utility relocation work prior to construction starting Summer 2013. \$7.5 million.	Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 Scosta@bellevuewa.gov
120th Avenue NE Improvements, Stage 2: Widening the roadway to five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, and sidewalks from NE 700 Block to NE 12th Street, with utility work. Construction Spring/Summer 2014. \$31 million	Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov
120th Avenue NE Improvements, Stage 3: Widening the roadway to four or five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, and sidewalks from NE 12th Street to NE 16th Street, with utility work. Design final in 2015. \$17.2 million	Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov
NE 15th Street (Zone 1): 116th to 120th Avenues NE: Widening NE 12th Street east of 116th Avenue NE to a new roadway connection west of the existing BNSF corridor and a new four-lane roadway (two lanes in each direction) between NE 12th Street and 120th Avenue NE. Design and proposed construction needs to coordinate with 120th, Stage 3, Sound Transit's East Link light rail project and potential development. Designing to 60% \$1.4 million.	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov
NE 15th Street (Zone 2): 120th to 124th Avenues NE: Adding a four-lane roadway (two lanes in each direction) with a center median, wider lanes for shared non-motorized use, landscaping, sidewalks, and on-street parking along the north side between 120th and 124th Avenue NE. Designing to 60%. \$1.3 million.	Rick Logwood, 425-452-6858 Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov
NE 16th Street: 130th to 132nd Avenues NE: Adding a new two-lane roadway by extending NE 16th Street from 130th Avenue NE to 132nd Avenue NE. In the future, an East Link Light Rail Transit Station will be built in the center of the roadway. Coordinating design with the 130th Avenue NE East Link light rail station area plan. Designing to 15% end of 2013 and 60% design Summer 2015. \$740,000.	Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 Scosta@bellevuewa.gov
124th Avenue NE: Proposed NE 14th to Northup Way: Widening 124th Avenue NE to five lanes. Project is only funded for construction between NE 14th and NE 18th Streets. Design completion in 2015. \$8.9 million	Marina Arakelyan, 425-452-4632 Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov
124th Avenue NE & SR 520 Interchange: Developing a report, partnering with WSDOT, that will evaluate and investigate modifying the existing interchange to include 124th access ramps to and from SR 520. WSDOT began work in November 2011. Report complete end of 2013. WSDOT budget: \$2.2 million.	Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov
130th Avenue NE: Bel-Red Road to NE 20th Street: Widening this roadway to a two-lane pedestrian-oriented street with on-street parking and bicycle lanes north of the future NE 16th street intersection. South of the intersection includes only on-street parking. Also includes sidewalks, landscaping, lighting and pedestrian crossings, etc. Establishing the framework for Sound Transit's Park & Ride facility near the planned East Light Rail Transit station. Designing to 30% by end of 2013. \$423,000	Steve Costa, 425-452-2845 Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Woodridge

	Contact
East Creek/Richards Creek Fish Passage Improvement & Stream Modification: Providing stable streambed control and channel and bank modifications. Construction Summer 2013. \$420,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
Sunset Creek/Richards Creek Flood Control & Habitat Improvement Project: Improving habitat along the stream channel to providing a healthier aquatic environment. Construction Summer 2013. \$620,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Various Locations

	Contact
East Link Light Rail: Working collaboratively with Sound Transit on the alignment from I-90 through the Bel-Red Corridor. City and Sound Transit select final cost-savings options by early 2013. Construction starts in 2014. \$2.8 billion Please see page 4 for an update of upcoming event and further project details.	Bernard van de Kamp, 425-452-6459 Bvandekamp@bellevuewa.gov bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm www.soundtransit.org/eastlink
Bellevue Transit Master Plan: Developing a comprehensive 20-year look ahead to the type of transit system that will be required to meet transit needs through 2030. Plan complete Spring 2013. \$170,000	Franz Loewenherz, 425-452-4077 Floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov
2013 Pavement Overlay Program: Paving will begin in May and continue until November 2013 on the following streets: Northup Way, Bel-Red Road, 156th Avenue SE, SE Eastgate Way, Factoria Boulevard, 164th Avenue SE, and SE 60th Street. \$5,393,000	Teresa Becker, 425-452-7942 Tbecker@bellevuewa.gov
AC Water Main Replacement 2013, Ph. 1: Replacing approximately 1.5 miles of aging asbestos cement (AC) water main with ductile iron pipe. Construction Winter 2012/early 2013. \$1.4 million; Phase 2, 3, & 4 – Construction Spring and Fall 2013. \$4.5 million	Abe Santos, 425-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
Bellevue Pump Station Capacity Improvements: Replacing existing sewer pump station with one that is larger at SE 15th Street and 112th Avenue SE. Construction 2014-2015. \$10 million.	Jay Hummel, 425-452-4160 Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov
PRV & Commercial Meter Vault Modifications 2013: Upgrading a control valve vault, a PRV vault and two commercial water meter vaults for improved maintenance access. Construction Fall 2013. \$200,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
PRV Replacement 2013: Replacing aging pressure reducing valve stations to regulate water pressure in three neighborhoods. Construction Fall 2013. \$290,000	Abe Santos, 425-452-6456 Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2012, Phase 2: Repairing existing sewer system at many locations. Construction Fall 2012/ Winter 2013. \$305,000	Stephen Noeske, 425-452-5271 Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

"The Great Migration" Nature Movie

Feb 22, 5-6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave. SE. Ages 8+
mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565

Living with Wildlife: Crows

Feb. 24, 1-2 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Learn about one our most common and smartest wildlife residents. Ages 8 +. Free. Preregistration required. 425-452-4195

March Mania Plant Sale

March 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center, 12001 Main St.
Featuring unique specialty plants and spring ephemerals.
www.n-p-a.org

"Winged Migration" Nature Movie

March 3, 2-3:30 p.m.
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE. Ages 12+ 425-452-4195

"Tons of Fun: World's Biggest Animal Babies" Nature Movie

March 10, 2-2:30 p.m. Ages 3+
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE 425-452-4195

"The Little Prince"

March 16-24
Bellevue Youth Theatre 16661 Northup Way
A boy's pursuit of adventure, love and meaning. All ages. \$10-\$12 425-452-7155

"The Great Flood" Nature Movie

March 29, 5-6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave. SE. Ages 8+, Free.
No preregistration required. mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565

"Puss in Boots"

April 4-7
Bellevue Youth Theatre 16661 Northup Way
A wise cat creates royal havoc. \$10-12 425-452-7155

"Robin Hood"

April 19-28
Bellevue Youth Theatre 16661 Northup Way
A delightful retelling of the classic English tale. \$10-12 425-452-7155

National Take Back Drugs Day

April 27 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at police stations.
www.DEA.gov

Emergency Preparedness Fair

April 13, 1-4 p.m.
Crossroads Shopping Center 15600 NE 8th Street
Come find emergency preparedness information and resources to help be better prepared to respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. 425-452-6033

Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale

May 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wilburton Instructional Service Center, 12241 Main St. (1/2 block E. of Bellevue Botanical Garden)
Featuring a great selection of plants from Eastside Fuchsia Society. 425-452-2750

Spring & Summer Day Camps & Recreation Programs

Registration is now open for spring and summer day camps and many other great recreation programs provided by Bellevue Parks & Community Services. To register, visit www.myparksandrecreation.com. 425-452-6885

Seasonal Fresh Produce Stands

Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm and Bill Pace Fruit & Produce

April-October, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily.
Mercer Slough Nature Park 2380 Bellevue Way SE 425-467-0501

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and Cha Family Farms

Lake Hills Greenbelt, 2 locations: 700 148 Ave. SE and 156th Ave SE/ SE 16th St. Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 425-260-2266

Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

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

Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Walks

Saturdays, 2-3 p.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station 15416 SE 16th St.

Learn the history of the park, tour community gardens, and learn about local wildlife. No registration necessary. All ages are welcome. Free. Note: No walk on Apr. 20. 425-452-7225

Lewis Creek Ranger Hikes

First Saturday of each month 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Lewis Creek Park, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE

Join a ranger to explore the natural history of Lewis Creek Park. Look for signs of local wildlife and learn what to do when encountering animals in the wild. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. All ages welcome. Free. 425-452-4195

Mercer Slough Nature Walk

Saturdays, 2-3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Ed. Center 1625 118th Ave. SE. Guided tour of the MSEEC and wetland walk in the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Visitor Center. No registration necessary. All ages are welcome. Free. Note: No walk on Apr. 20. 425-452-2565

2013 Picnic Shelter Reservations

Planning a special occasion or casual summer gathering at one of Bellevue's beautiful parks? Picnic shelters are now available for reservation. For more information, call 425-452-6914



Chua Pao Cha shows off his produce at Cha Family Farms. Cha's produce stand, at the Lake Hills Greenbelt, and Bill Pace Fruit & Produce at Mercer Slough Nature Park both open for business in April.

Earth Day-Arbor Day

April 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Volunteer projects in various locations, 9-11 a.m.;
Community celebration, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lewis Creek Park, 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Volunteer registration required by April 6. First come, first-served. 425-452-4195

Spring Forward Expo

April 24, 4-7 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall Concourse 450-110th AVE NE
An open house to learn about projects in Bellevue's future. 425-452-4638

Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing

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

"Narnia: The Musical"

May 3-5
Bellevue Youth Theatre presentation at Meydenbauer Theatre, 11100 NE Sixth St. 425-452-7155 \$10-12

Mother's Day Social

May 12, 1-5 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden 12001 Main St.
Open house with light refreshments and music.
Free and open to all. Donations welcome. 425-452-2750 or www.bellevuebotanical.org

Rhododendron Show and Sale

May 18 and 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wilburton Instructional Service Center 12241 Main Street (1/2 block E. of Bellevue Botanical Garden)
Proceeds benefit the Cascade Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. 425-452-2750

SEASONAL

Crossroads Par 3 Golf Course

Opens March 1 15801 NE 15th St.
An excellent beginner and family course that takes about an hour to play. The holes range in length from 63 to 107 yards. 425-452-4873
www.bellevuewa.gov

City Contact Information

Bellevue City Hall

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

Service First (general information): 452-6800

City of Bellevue website: www.bellevuewa.gov

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.

East Bellevue Community Council Meetings

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

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Library Board: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Network On Aging: 1st Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

City Manager: 452-7228

Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874

Highland: 452-7686

North Bellevue: 452-7681

South Bellevue: 452-4240

East Bellevue Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services: 452-6800

New permit applications: 452-4898

Inspection requests, application and inspection status, pay fees: 452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: MyBuildingPermit.com

Application and inspection status: MyBuildingPermit.com

Code Compliance: 452-4570

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

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

Information Technology: 452-4626

Marina Hotline: 452-4883

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 452-4200

Parks Information: 452-6885

Recreation Registration: 452-6885

Youth Sports: 452-6885

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

Planning & Community Development: 452-7892

Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

Emergency Only: 911

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-2979; Residential 452-6915

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-7658

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

Volunteering: 452-5375

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

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Bellevue City Council



Conrad Lee
Mayor



Jennifer Robertson
Deputy Mayor



Claudia Balducci



John Chelminiak



Don Davidson



John Stokes



Kevin Wallace



Well it is driverless. When it comes to electric cars, the future is now with these Chevrolet Volts added to the city's fleet last year.

Driverless cars and smart homes in Bellevue's future?

Ever think about what Bellevue will be like in the future? Will cars drive themselves on Lake Hills Boulevard or will your home's lights be controlled by the Internet?

Think about how much has changed in the past 30 years. Bellevue has gone from a sleepy bedroom community to a diverse regional center of commerce with global connections.

The next 30 years are sure to bring more dramatic changes. What will our neighborhoods look like? How will we get around? Where will we play, shop, and work? Will it still be a city you want to live in – and leave to your children?

Bellevue city planners want to hear your hopes, concerns and visions about the future as they begin to update the Comprehensive Plan, the city's vision for the future. At a scoping meeting at Crossroads in late January, people had a chance to share what they want the city to address in the new plan.

The Comprehensive Plan will look to what Bellevue will be like in 2030, 2040 and beyond. It helps the city plan for places to live, learn and play, for jobs and a strong local economy, and for creating and preserving a healthy environment.

Your participation is vital to provide thoughts on what issues should be the focus of the update, to help guide and shape the plan, and to ensure that the plan continues to embrace the community's vision.

The scoping meeting was only the first step in the comp plan update process. At www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm you can learn more about the process and sign up for alerts regarding progress.

If you have a minute, please share with staff (email pingram@bellevuewa.gov) what's best about Bellevue and what you would like for the future.

Bellevue IT'S YOUR CITY

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or ciosso@bellevuewa.gov P.O. Box 90012 Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

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www.bellevuewa.gov



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