



FEBRUARY 2008

INSIDE

www.bellevuewa.gov

Grant Degginger re-elected mayor



Linda Pillo is new Police Chief.
Page 5



Children's Hospital. Page 7



Downtown Projects. Pages 12-14



New Marathon Route Proposed.
Page 11



The City Council selected Claudia Balducci to be deputy mayor and Grant Degginger to be mayor for the next two years.

Grant Degginger, who has been Bellevue's mayor since January 2006, will hold the office for a second two-year term after his fellow City Council members re-elected him Jan. 7.

Councilmember Claudia Balducci was chosen to replace John Chelminiak as deputy mayor.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve as mayor," Degginger said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance the Council agenda and maintain the excellent quality of life in Bellevue."

In Bellevue, the mayor presides over council meetings and study sessions, represents the city in local and regional forums and serves as the chief spokesperson for the Council.

Degginger, a Bellevue resident since 1982, was elected to the City Council in 1999, after serving on the Planning Commission, including a term as chair. He served as deputy mayor in 2002 and 2003.

A partner with the law firm Lane Powell PC, Degginger has been active in numerous regional issues, and presently serves as chair of the Cascade Water Alliance.

His current City Council assignments include the Growth Management Planning Council; the 520 Mediator Panel; the Jail Advisory Task Force; Planning Commission liaison, the Bellevue

Economic Partnership and the Regional Issues Committee.

Balducci also is a lawyer by profession and presently serves as the Regional Jail Coordinator for King County. She was re-elected last fall to a second term on the council.

Balducci's current council assignments and appointments include the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Committee; the Eastside Transportation Partnership; the Disability Board; and the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board. She

serves as the Council's liaison to the Youth Link Board.

Bellevue's seven City Council members are elected at large, and serve staggered four-year terms. The Council is responsible for adopting the general policies for the city, which are then implemented by the city manager and staff.

The City Council meets Monday nights in public session at City Hall. The meetings can be viewed on Bellevue Television 21 (BTV 21) or on the city's website (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov>), where they are video streamed live.

Connie Marshall steps down

Three-term Bellevue City Council member Connie Marshall announced in January that she would resign. In a statement read during the Council's Jan. 14 study session, Marshall said she had "accomplished what I came here to do."

"I've helped to guide Bellevue's vision to position itself as the 'hub' of the Eastside without being the gorilla," Marshall said. "We have transformed ourselves to be the transportation hub, the cultural hub, the economic hub and the medical hub."

Before a crowd of family and friends, including King County Councilman Reagan Dunn, the City Council and supporters on Jan. 22 presented Marshall with flowers and plaques for her nearly 10 years of service.

Marshall's present term would have expired in two years. The Council is expected to decide soon how to fill her position until the next municipal election in 2009.

"Connie has been an outstanding leader, someone who kept her eye on the big picture and got things done," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said. "We are going to miss her immensely."

Marshall began her career on

the council in 1998, and served two consecutive terms (2002 to 2005) as mayor. She has also served as a Sound Transit board member since 2004.

During her tenure, Bellevue underwent many significant changes, including:

- Transformation of the central business district into a regional employment center for the retail, high-technology and banking industries;
- Construction of a regional transit center downtown;
- Construction of a new City Hall downtown;
- Major expansion of cultural and arts programs throughout the city;
- Major arterial improvements, including the Northeast 10th Street overpass, now under construction.

In her remarks, Marshall said Bellevue was on the right track, poised to become a "world class and memorable city."

"It's been a privilege and honor to serve on the City Council for the past 10 years," she said. "And I want to thank everyone who helped me get here – there are so many of you. I have loved my experience and will cherish the memories."



City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

PRSTD STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellevue, WA
Permit NO. 61

ECRWSS-C

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

Council Corner

Slicing the property tax pie



By Bellevue City Councilmember Don Davidson

It's that time of year again. Property taxes are due soon, and a lot of people will be asking themselves the same question:

"Where do my property tax dollars go, anyway?"

If you think the City of Bellevue receives the majority of the property taxes you pay, you're in for a surprise. The fact is that last year, despite imposing a

modest tax increase to pay for critical capital improvement projects, the city received only 14 percent of the total property taxes paid by Bellevue homeowners.

State and local schools combined collected the most, 57 percent, while King County came in second, with 17 percent. Special districts, such as the Port of Seattle, together collected 12 percent.

It's important we know where our tax dollars are going, and what they are being used for. We deserve maximum value from our tax dollars.

For many years now, the Bellevue City Council has practiced this philosophy. We have largely held the line on property tax increases, while delivering top value for the tax dollars collected.

We have lived within our means and controlled spending by identifying efficiencies and encouraging innovation through new technologies and other means. And we have attempted to balance residential and business tax responsibilities by creating an environment that encourages businesses to locate and invest here.

Indeed, for eight years, from 1998 through 2006, the council imposed no increases in city property taxes. And the 2 percent increase approved by the Council for 2007 translated into a property tax increase for the average Bellevue homeowner of about \$11 each year. This year's 2 percent tax increase will boost taxes by about the same, small amount.

In comparison, the average Bellevue taxpayer this year will pay an additional \$148 in property taxes to King County to pay for voter-approved parks expansion and maintenance levies, as well as ferry and flood control district levies adopted by the King County Council.

It's easy to determine where our tax dollars go, and the value we receive. Low crime, great parks, excellent public safety services, quality residential neighborhoods and robust commercial areas – all are hallmarks of our community and the reasons why we are considered one of the best places in

the nation in which to live, work and play.

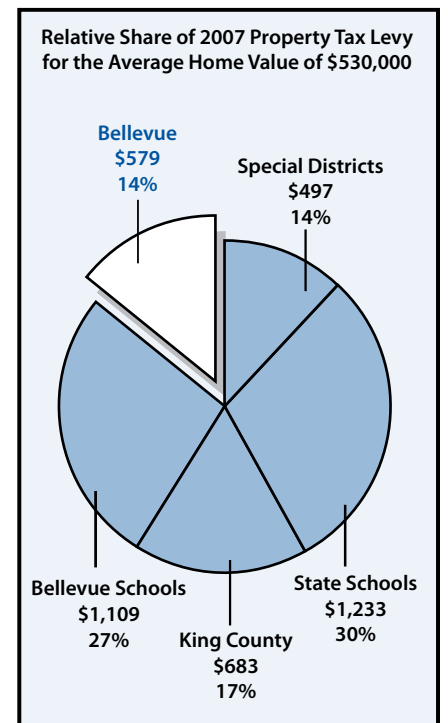
In coming months, the topic of property taxes is likely to surface again as the City Council begins public deliberations on the next biennial budget and the city's long-range financial plan. The deliberations will focus on how we maintain the current level of services and meet new demands in the face of rapid growth and other challenges.

For example, the city's Parks and Recreation Improvement bonds will expire this year, decreasing property taxes by an average of \$26, but leaving the city with no steady revenue stream to replace the funds.

Questions the Council will likely face are:

- How do we ensure the long-term viability of our city's economic engine?
- How do we maintain the integrity of our neighborhoods in the face of continued growth?
- How do we provide the cultural and recreational amenities that residents and visitors demand?
- How do we build a transportation system that meets current and long-term mobility needs?
- How do we make sure we're doing what we need to do to promote environmental stewardship?
- How do we maintain high levels of citizen satisfaction as they relate to city services such as public safety?

Residents and others will have ample opportunity to engage in frank discussions with Council members as we tackle these and other questions. I encourage all of you to stay informed and get involved.



Residents Talk

If you had the time, what kind of volunteer activity would you choose to do? If you are already volunteering, what are you doing now?



Nick Ayers: "I haven't volunteered for a while. I built houses in Mexico as part of a church group, and that was fun. I'd do that again. My second choice would be to volunteer for the Humane Society."



Noriko Obata: "I volunteer in Bellevue schools. I'd like to volunteer at the downtown library. My kids are still small and the library volunteers always help me with me with my questions."



Marilyn Campbell: "I've volunteered for the Bellevue Police Department since last fall. I went through the Community Academy. It's so fascinating. I work at the Crossroads Police Station. I just wanted to give back and say 'Thank you for keeping us safe.' I love it."



Matt Stermer: "It would be a community service to help keep the neighborhood clean and safe, or maybe the Boys and Girls Club. Something that helps kids."



Crime in Bellevue down across the board

Crime was down significantly in Bellevue during the first half of 2007, according to statistics released in January by the FBI.

"It's really gratifying to see the continued efforts of the Police Department and citizens pay off."

Police Chief Linda Pillo

With no murder cases, only one traffic fatality and a continued downward trend in property crimes, Bellevue continues to be one of the safest communities in the nation.

"It's really gratifying to see the continued efforts of the Police Department and citizens pay off," said Police Chief Linda Pillo. "The partnerships we've forged throughout the community are an extremely important reason for our success, and will grow increasingly important as we work to meet future challenges."

On Jan. 7, the FBI released its preliminary crime statistics for the first six months of 2007.

Five Washington cities with populations over 100,000 were included in the data: Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver and Bellevue.

In Bellevue, violent crime is down from 98 incidents in 2006 to 64 in 2007. This category includes murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Property crimes, which include burglary, larceny (theft), motor vehicle theft and arson, are down from 2,237 in 2006 to 2,073 in 2007.

The number of arsons in Bellevue plummeted 45 percent.

The only category to see an increase for the same time frame in 2007 was motor vehicle theft, rising from 199 incidents to 251. However, a preliminary analysis of the auto theft statistics for the entire year show that

by the end of 2007, the motor vehicle theft rate had leveled off and was down approximately 5 percent overall from 2006. This follows a dramatic 17 percent reduction from 2005 to 2006.

With only two traffic fatalities in Bellevue in 2006 and one in 2007, the police department's extensive enforcement of traffic laws continues to bear fruit. There are usually 15 to 20 traffic fatalities a year in cities of comparable size, so Bellevue's numbers are extraordinarily low.

Questions about crime in Bellevue can be directed to Officer Greg Grannis, public information officer for the police department, at 425 452-4129 or ggrannis@bellevuewa.gov.

Offenses	2006	2007	% Change
Homicide	2	0	-100%
Rape	22	14	-36%
Robbery	41	26	-36%
Aggravated Assault	33	24	-27%
Violent Crime Total	98	64	-34%
Burglary	303	256	-15%
Larceny	1715	1555	-9%
MV Theft	199	251	+20%
Arson	20	11	-45%
Property Crime Total	2237	2073	-11%
Total Part 1 Crimes Comparison	2335	2137	-9%

Wall Street says Bellevue is AAA-OK

BELLEVUE—Citing the city's strong financial management and buoyant economy, Standard and Poor's has assigned its highest rating – AAA – on Bellevue's general obligation bonds.

"This is great news and yet another sign of our commitment to fiscal stewardship," said City Manager Steve Sarkozy. "It's especially gratifying given the fact other cities have had difficulty maintaining their top bond ratings due to the uncertainty over the housing market and overall economy."

Standard and Poor's issued its rating prior to the city's issuance of \$14 million in bonds to pay for street and sidewalk improvements. Wall Street's other major bond rating service, Moody's Investors Services, Inc., also assigned a high rating to the bonds, Aa1, or excellent.

Jan Hawn, Bellevue's Finance Director, said the two ratings position the city well in the bond marketplace.

"It's a major accomplishment for the city to continue to receive high ratings from both services," Hawn said. "It's not only an indication of our strong economy, but also how our financial practices are perceived by the experts."

In its analysis, Standard and Poor's noted the "vibrant and diverse" Puget Sound area economy and its above-average wealth and income levels. The service also noted the city's low unemployment rate – 3.6 percent in 2006 – and its position as a major retail trade center with per capita retail sales at 173 percent of the national average.

The bond rating service also noted the city's robust downtown development.

"Development activity in downtown Bellevue remains strong, despite recent slowdowns in the economy," the company remarked. "During 2007, 5.4 million square feet of office, retail and multi-family units were under construction. In addition, there is roughly 7.6 million square feet of new development planned for the next few years."

Both Standard and Poor's and Moody's also cited the city's effective and well-established financial practices.

Moody's noted Bellevue's "financial operations are characterized by sound reserve levels and a diverse revenue base," comprised of sales, property and business and occupation taxes, while Standard and Poor's remarked that the city's management practices "are strong, well embedded and likely sustainable."

Bellevue to update shoreline plan, address restoration and access



Participating in a statewide effort to reverse the shoreline degradation in Washington, Bellevue will update its shoreline management regulations. City officials hope to come up with changes that will facilitate restoration and more public access.

The shoreline management regulations that typically generate concern among waterfront property owners – standards for docks and bulkheads – were changed when Bellevue's critical-areas ordinances were updated in 2006, so will be largely left alone.

Shoreline management is important in Bellevue, with properties covered by the regulations along Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Phantom Lake, Mercer Slough and Kelsey Creek. The wetlands associated with these water bodies are also covered.

Bellevue's current Shoreline Master Plan, essentially a planning and zoning ordinance that governs waterfront development here, was drafted in 1974. The plan followed the passage by the state in the early 1970s of the Shoreline Management Act, intended to prevent the "inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines."

The law's three broad policies include encouraging water-dependent uses, protecting shoreline natural resources and promoting public access. Cities like Bellevue are the primary regulators, but the state Department of Ecology reviews local programs and permit decisions.

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

The state's guidelines dictate a six-phase planning process between now and then, with public input at each step. The first phase of the update, drafting a public participation plan and completing a shoreline inventory, is set for completion in the spring.

The Bellevue Planning Commission will be the primary forum for public input and review of the components of the updated shoreline plan. In addition, the city will be soliciting feedback through phone surveys, focus groups, open houses and public hearings.

Please refer to the city's web page, <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/shoreline-master-plan.htm>, for more information about this project.

Council OKs neighborhood livability code changes

The Bellevue City Council has approved some code changes aimed at protecting neighborhood character and livability from some of the impacts of new home construction and large-scale remodels, but it's not done yet.

The code amendment package approved in December addresses greenscape, trees, lot build-up and unscreened construction debris. The Council will likely consider a second phase of code changes this year.

All of the regulatory changes address public concerns about the loss of trees, greenscape, light and privacy often associated with the construction of large, new homes, labeled by critics "megahouses."

The "neighborhood character" code amendments came out of months of study and public outreach by the Bellevue Planning Commission and city staff.

Phase Two amendments could include:

- Additional tree retention requirements for single-family residential zones;
- Development standards for building projects exceeding a certain size threshold;
- Separate setback requirements for mechanical equipment and guest cottages;
- Prohibition of lot assembly which would result in a parcel's size exceeding the minimum lot size for that district by more than 10 percent;
- Changes in codes or procedures that define remodels;
- Changes in codes or procedures that allow private streets to count as part of setbacks;
- Requirements for clean-up of abandoned building sites.

In considering Phase Two regulatory changes, the city will make extensive efforts to obtain public comment from all interested parties. Questions and comments may be directed at any time to Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-6836, or NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov. Updates also are available on the city's web site at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_livability_intro.htm.



The City Council is taking action to ensure that attractive neighborhoods like Vuecrest stay that way. Several additional code amendments are proposed.

City expands volunteer programs

Do you have a passion for volunteering or a desire to volunteer in the future?

If you answered yes to either question, the city hopes you will participate in an online survey. The survey – at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/volunteer-survey.htm> – is aimed at helping the city target its efforts to promote and encourage volunteerism. You can also provide input by contacting Charlie Bush, Assistant to the City Manager, at 452-6837 or cbush@bellevuewa.gov.

"Volunteerism is a huge, huge part of what makes Bellevue the first-class community it is," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said. "This short survey is designed to help us better understand the interests of those who give now – and who want to – give back to the community through volunteer activities."

The survey is a part of a larger three-year pilot program launched by the city to promote volunteerism and expand and improve opportunities. The city hopes to seize upon and leverage the surge in volunteer interest in recent years.

"We are very excited about the potential to further harness and target the volunteer energy in our community," said Charlie Bush. "We feel we can accomplish this by improving the efficiency of our own volunteer programs and the way we work with other organizations serving our community."

The city currently has approximately 8,000 volunteers serving across its departments, outnumbering city employees by a ratio of more than six to one. A large concentration of volunteers serve in the Parks & Community Services Department.

"The people truly show their appreciation of what you do," noted Jackie Gray, who volunteers at the Highland Community Center. "It's really rewarding when out of nowhere you get a hug and a thanks."

Information about existing volunteer opportunities with the city are available on the city's website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/vol_opp_intro.htm.

The city is currently evaluating the possibility of expanding this section of its site to include volunteer opportunities with community organizations. If you have an opinion about this or other topics, please take the survey.



Youth volunteers such as Theresa Troyer take care of the animals at Kelsey Creek Farm Park.



MyUtilityBill™

Pay utilities bills online

Bellevue-area utilities customers can now manage their utilities bills online. By registering at MyUtilityBill.bellevuewa.gov, a customer can pay their bill electronically with a credit or debit card, access water consumption history and view account and rate information.

Notice of the service, which took effect Jan. 3, was included with January utilities bills.

For more information, customers can call the Utilities Department at 425-452-6973.

The city provides water, sewer and stormwater services to about 35,000 residential and commercial customer accounts in Bellevue, Medina, Clyde Hill, the Point Cities and some areas of Issaquah.



A visit with new Police Chief Linda Pillo



Following the retirement of Police Chief Jim Montgomery last year, city officials performed a nationwide search for his successor. Linda Pillo, a 22-year veteran of the Bellevue department, who has been serving as interim chief, was chosen.

Pillo sat down for an interview for *It's Your City* BTV shortly after her selection was announced in January.

ICY: How does it feel to be Bellevue's police chief and its first woman chief?

Pillo: It feels fantastic. It is really a great honor to have been selected as the new police chief for Bellevue, especially through a national search. I had some very tough competition.

Overwhelmingly, I had the support of my department and I just feel so grateful to have such a wonderful, dedicated staff. They are so professional. One other good part of my promotion is that that allowed four other of our employees to get promoted. We really want to grow our employees, our young leaders, so they can move up.

ICY: Tell us when you decided to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Pillo: When I was growing up, policewomen were not very common, so I was looking at more traditional careers. But when I went into college, I had always been interested in law and I thought criminal justice might be a really great field to study. I got a degree in criminal justice at Washington State University, but was interested in the rehabilitative field and was looking at probation opportunities. So even getting out of college, I wasn't really thinking law enforcement was going to be my career.

ICY: What was your first job as a police officer?

Pillo: At Mercer Island in 1979, where I thought I'd get some experience as a police officer, and then go into probation work. After about a year as a police officer, I enjoyed it so much that I realized that this was the career for me.

ICY: Can you recall the first day on the job at Mercer Island as a uniformed police officer and what was going through your mind at that time?

Pillo: Well, I was actually the second female officer for Mercer Island. The other had been there for close to a year and had blazed the trail for me. I was excited, but definitely apprehensive, because even though I had a four-year degree, it never prepares you for that on-the-job experience. Fortunately, with Mercer Island, they put new officers with experienced ones right from Day One.

ICY: I would imagine that one of the most rewarding things about being a police officer is that you never know from day to day what's going to happen when you come to work. Was there ever a time over your 28 years in law enforcement when you've actually been afraid for your life?

Pillo: Yes, more than once. I never had anyone pull a gun on me, but certainly there have been incidents where I have had to use force and get into scuffles to make an arrest. I was never seriously injured, thank goodness, but the risk is always there for officers. When you think about it, it is quite odd to have to wear a bullet-proof vest to work. You always have to be aware of your surroundings because you never know. Even when you are pulling somebody over for a minor traffic violation, you may be pulling someone over who is wanted for murder and thinks you know who they are.

ICY: Other than your promotions, tell us about your proudest achievements or most rewarding experiences as police officer?

Pillo: I was Bellevue's very first DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer. I had an opportunity to go from police work into education, teaching fourth- and fifth-grade students in Bellevue's schools. It was very rewarding when you could see the light bulb go on in a child that they need to develop skills to be able to say no to drugs and alcohol. DARE lasted at Bellevue for about 14 years in all. I started that program, and it was quite successful.

ICY: Do you think it is easier today for women to enter the law enforcement profession than when you started?

Pillo: Most definitely. Although in any occupation, you need to prove yourself. Even way back in 1979 when I started, once I had proven to my fellow officers and to community members that I could do the job as well if not better than some, people accepted me. That is the same today. However, there have been so many dramatic changes that it is easier to come into this field as a female now.

ICY: Bellevue, along with other police departments around the country, faces challenges when it comes to recruiting new officers. What are your goals?

Pillo: There is a problem recruiting quality people to become Bellevue Police officers. Regionally, we have a very level unemployment rate and because of the Iraq war, the pool of candidates we would normally get from the military is smaller. We are already specifically recruiting folks getting out of the military and have changed our standards so recruits do not need a two-year degree if they have an honorable discharge from the military. We are also waiving that requirement for people who have previous law-enforcement experience. The thought is, having previous law-enforcement or military experience is as good, if not better, than having a two-year degree.

ICY: What would you say to a person who is thinking about joining the force?

Pillo: Well, people can learn a lot on ride-alongs – two- to three-hour rides with officers, observing what the job entails. People should definitely take an opportunity to talk to our personnel services unit staff and ask as many questions as they can. To be a police officer, you need very good communication skills and good common sense. Law enforcement requires shift work, which can be very stressful. You need to be a very strong person emotionally to be able to set aside shifts during which you see very disturbing things. You have to be able to compartmentalize and not take your work home with you. However, police work is extremely rewarding and a career I highly recommend to someone who wants to make a positive difference in their community.

ICY: The FBI recently released statistics on crime nationwide, and once again, Bellevue was shown to be one of the safest cities in the country. The rate of major crimes and property crimes, never high here, continue to drop. What accounts for that? Why has Bellevue Police Department been so successful in keeping our crime rates so low compared to other cities the same size nationwide?

Pillo: Well, I wish I could take credit completely for the crime differences but there's several factors involved with crime and jurisdictions. The socio-economic level is one and Bellevue's is a bit higher than other areas in the region, with a low unemployment rate.

Along with that though, we have some very, very good programs, some introduced very recently and some several years ago. Back in the early 1980s, when domestic violence was first really getting some press, our prosecutors and police were aggressive about enforcement, including mandatory arrests and counseling. We were national leaders in that. In most murders, the victim knows the attacker and many times is or has been a partner, so I think our approach to domestic violence has made a difference.

I think our school resource officer program has made a difference, helping young people starting to go the wrong way get on the right path. Over the past three years, we've had a new special enforcement team that has made a significant impact on car prowls and car thefts. Overall, our community is so aware and so willing to help that they make that phone call when they see something suspicious and let us know before the crime occurs.

ICY: One term we keep hearing is the term "community policing." What does that mean to you? Do we practice that here in Bellevue?

Pillo: Absolutely. It means being proactive. It really means going out there, meeting with the community, finding out what the issues are, and having residents feel comfortable to call us. Community policing is getting the word out, if there are crime trends in neighborhoods or businesses, so people can be even more on the lookout for suspicious activity. We're taking care of the smaller crimes before they turn into bigger crimes.

You pay attention to disorder types of crimes such as graffiti and vandalism, and work with residents and businesses. We can't do it alone. We absolutely have to depend on the community to be the eyes and the ears, also, of what's going on out there and calling us quickly and partnering up.

ICY: What are some of the ways you form those types of partnerships and relationships?

Pillo: One of the things we have is a very good volunteer program, with citizens staffing substations, ticketing illegally parked cars and other activities. Resident Bush acknowledged one of our volunteers last year for his hours of service. And those volunteers help us to get even more volunteers.

Another thing that we have is the Community Academy. Twice a year, residents meet with police officers once a week for three months and get to know their police department. From that, we get quite a cadre of volunteers, too. Out block watches are very active too.

I would like to get to know more of our diverse community members and build stronger relationships with them so that they know they have a voice with our department.

ICY: What is your policing philosophy? How would you sum that up?

Pillo: My police philosophy, and I touched upon that a little bit earlier is proactive, community policing. I want to work hand-in-hand with the community to ensure that our city remains one of the safest in the nation.

ICY: What do you hope to accomplish as police chief over the next five years?

Pillo: I would like to utilize technology to facilitate on-line reporting and more information sharing, pushing information about suspects and warrants out to officers on the street fast.

I aim to continue to have one of the safest cities in the nation and have our police department be one of the best in the nation. I want to develop processes that make us work smarter, so we become a premier agency that other agencies try to learn from.

Rubber sidewalks are something new underfoot in Bellevue

The city's first sections of "rubber sidewalk" are about to be laid down as part of a test program to determine how well the new material works in areas where tree roots have buckled traditional concrete sidewalks.

Made of ground-up used tires and a urethane resin binder, rubber sidewalk pavers are flexible enough to accommodate root growth, helping to reduce cracking and decrease potential tripping hazards. The pavers can even be removed for tree root maintenance.

Starting Feb. 11, contractors will remove old, damaged sidewalk blocks and install rubber sidewalk pavers downtown, near problem trees, along a half-block stretch of Northeast 10th Street, west of 102nd Avenue Northeast.

Bellevue planners and transportation engineers are hopeful the technique will prove useful elsewhere, since there are more than 700 sidewalk locations across the city with heaving problems.

In addition to being less prone to heaving, rubber sidewalks offer important environmental benefits that help the city meet its environmental stewardship goals. They can save trees that might otherwise need to be removed, and the use of recycled rubber means fewer tires will wind up in landfills.

The disadvantages are that rubber sidewalks cost more and it's not yet known how long they will last. The test project will help Transportation Department staff evaluate their durability and the long-term maintenance costs of rubber sidewalks compared with other materials.

While the cost of materials and installation for rubber sidewalks is about 37 percent higher than for the concrete sidewalks being installed at the same location, those expenses represent less than one-third of the project's overall price tag of \$44,500. Removal of old sidewalks, traffic control and other expenditures account for most of the total cost.

What transportation managers want to learn from the project is whether the long-term savings – the "life-cycle cost" – of using rubber sidewalks near trees offsets the upfront costs, and whether those costs will drop as the product is more widely employed.

Rubber sidewalks have been around since 2001 and about 60 cities nationwide, including Kirkland, Seattle, Olympia and Tacoma, are testing the surface as a substitute for concrete.



Rubberized squares are now being used on some sidewalks in more than 60 cities. The squares are up to three times more expensive than concrete slabs but last longer because they are less susceptible to cracking.

Rubber sidewalks
NOTE: Dimensions for 4- or 5-foot-wide sidewalks

Surface has crumb rubber texture.

2.5 ft.
2 ft.
1.875 ft.

Rubber reduces sound of pedestrians and traffic.

Blocks can be removed for maintenance and tree root management.

SOURCE: Rubbersidewalks, Inc.

Transportation group makes getting around easier for seniors

Getting around can be challenging for many older adults who lack the money or ability to continue owning and driving a car. Without affordable transportation options, seniors become isolated and struggle to live independently.

With the number of Americans aged 65 and older expected to double over the next 20 years, the demand for transportation assistance will only grow. Local government agencies and nonprofit groups have formed the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative to coordinate existing services and develop new ones.

Currently, seniors can get individual trip planning assistance and refresher driving classes designed for them. Volunteers deliver meals to seniors and shuttle them to doctor appointments. King County Metro Transit offers specially-equipped Access shuttles for people with disabilities.

Easy Rider recently received funding for two new programs expected to be implemented by this summer. The Bus Buddy program will offer one-on-one training to help seniors confidently ride the bus, and Dial a Ride will provide transportation from outlying areas to transit centers served by multiple bus routes.

Partners in Easy Rider include the Bellevue Transportation and Parks & Community Services departments, Aging and Disability Services, Hopelink, Sound Transit, King County Metro and the United Way of King County East Community Council.

In 2006, the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative conducted a random survey mailed to 10,000 Bellevue households in which at least one person over the age of 60 resided. Approximately 1,700 households responded to the survey, representing 2,499 individuals. The input is helping the collaborative address local demands, and they continue to solicit input about transportation needs of older adults.

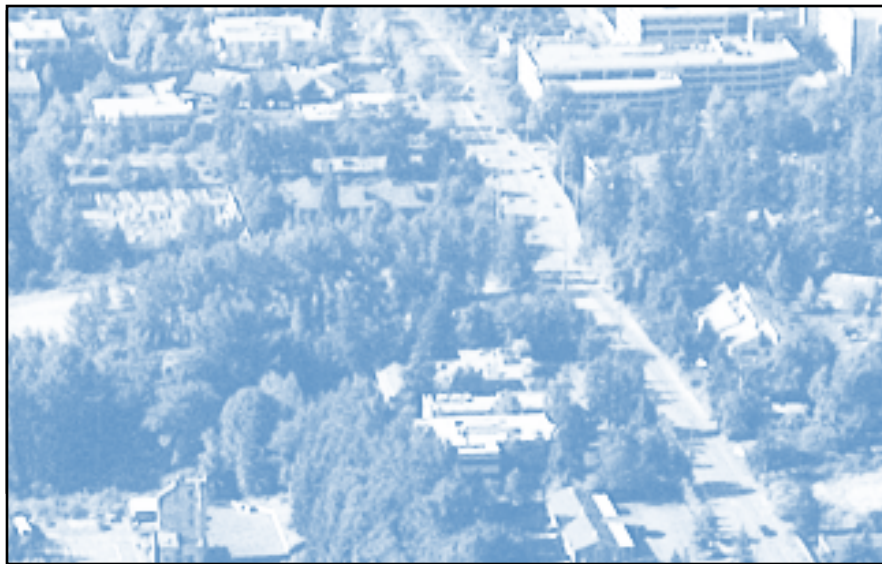
To provide feedback or to learn more about the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative, contact Bellevue's Aging Services staff at the North Bellevue Community Center, 425-452-7681.

Transportation Resources for Older Adults

Resource	Contact information
Driver Education Classes	AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) 1-888-AARP-NOW (1-888-227-7669) http://www.aarp.org/families/driver_safety/wrapper_driver.py AAA Washington 1-800-562-2582 Online or traditional classes available http://www.aaawa.com/insurance/driving_improvement/ids.asp
Trip planning, Access Transportation	Metro Transit: 206-263-3113 Metro Dial-Ride: 1-866-261-3278
Defensive driving courses and other transportation resources	North Bellevue Community 425-452-7681
Sound Transit Senior Bus Pass	1-800-201-4900
Senior Services Senior Shuttle	206-727-6262
Senior Services Volunteer Transportation	206-448-5740
Senior Services Nutrition Transportation	206-748-7586
American Cancer Society	1-800-729-5588
Hopelink	1-800-923-7433
Northwest Kidney Centers	206-292-2771 ext. 5355
Faith in Action	425-391-2817
Group Health Shuttles	206-901-4949
Volunteer Chore Services	425-284-2240
General information about human services	Phone: 211



The Bus Buddy program will offer training for seniors, so they can ride the bus confidently.



Even before Children's Hospital purchased property nearby, Bellevue's medical district has seen plenty of recent construction by Overlake Hospital and Group Health Cooperative.

Children's Hospital on the way

Bellevue's rapidly expanding medical district received a major boost in December when City Council members unanimously approved the sale of 6.6 acres to Children's Hospital for a new ambulatory care facility. The sale is expected to close in April.

"We are pleased to be part of the Bellevue medical district and are looking forward to finalizing the purchase so we can bring these much needed services to Eastside residents -- all in an effort to treat children closer to where they live," said Lisa Brandenburg, chief administrative officer at Children's.

Councilman John Chelminiak hailed the Council's decision as one of the most important of the year.

"We have literally saved the best for the last," Chelminiak said, referring to the fact that Dec. 10, the day Council approved the sale, was the last Council meeting of the year.

"In a year of significant accomplishments for the city, this may be the greatest. With Children's Hospital, we now have three major facilities present in our medical district, and that fulfills a long-term vision for the city."

The land is located just northeast of the existing Overlake Hospital Medical Center and Group Health Cooperative. Overlake presently is expanding its facility, while Group Health is constructing a new medical center across the street.

Bellevue City Manager Steve Sarkozy said the sale accomplishes two important goals for Bellevue and the Eastside.

"It will expand world-class medical services for children living on the Eastside," Sarkozy said, "and it will also provide much needed funds to provide future jail services."

The property at 116th Avenue Northeast, just north of Northeast 12th Street -- just outside the city's central business district -- was originally purchased by King County for a future jail and justice center. It was deeded to Bellevue and 37 other cities by King County when the county announced several years ago it would stop contracting with the municipalities in 2012 to provide misdemeanor jail services.

Proceeds from the sale of the property, which will range from \$10.5 million up to \$13 million depending on future zoning of the site, will be used by the cities to either build a jail at a different location or contract with a provider for services, Sarkozy said.

A Children's spokesperson said the hospital plans to build a 50,000-square-foot ambulatory care facility to add outpatient specialty services, urgent care and pediatric specialty offices to treat Eastside children closer to where they live.

Interest-free loans available for weatherization projects

Bellevue homeowners with low to moderate incomes can receive up to \$35,000 in zero-interest loans and grants from Bellevue's Home Repair Program for weatherization projects, including roof repair and installation of energy-efficient furnaces, insulation and storm windows.

To be eligible for assistance, you must have owned and lived in the house for which you are requesting assistance for at least a year, the house must be within the Bellevue city limits and you must meet the program's income requirements.

To determine eligibility, count the number of household members residing in the house (household size) and check the maximum allowable income on the city website, at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/homerepair_assistance_eligibility.htm.

For more information about Bellevue's Home Repair Program, call the Parks & Community Services Department at 425-453-6884 (TDD: 411).

Bellevue launches youth court

Bellevue Youth Court, where juvenile offenders are sentenced by a judge and jury of their peers, is now in operation. Convening for its first session at City Hall last month, Bellevue's is the first youth court in King County where misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases are handled.

One of just two such juvenile courts in Washington, the Youth Court is modeled after Whatcom County's Teen Court, which officials there link to a sharp decline in recidivism among second-time juvenile offenders.

"Peer pressure can exert a positive influence on teen behavior by providing a meaningful and immediate effect upon the offender," said Cathy Beaty of Northwest Youth Services, which coordinates Whatcom County's program.

Bellevue Youth Court is a three-year pilot project, with high school students trained by professionals to perform court duties. Thirty to 40 student volunteers will serve at each session as judges, jurors, bailiffs, clerks, prosecutors and defense advocates/attorneys.

The program will primarily serve second-time offenders and, in its first year, will sentence misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases. Other youth courts in the region focus on truancy, graffiti or traffic school.

Bellevue Youth Court respondents are referred for sentencing by King County Diversion Court. In order for a respondent's case to be sentenced by Bellevue Youth Court, the respondent must admit responsibility for their actions and agree to be sentenced by this court of their peers. The Youth Court is required to sentence respondents under King County Diversion program guidelines, which includes a provision that the respondent must complete disposition within six months.

The program is funded by Bellevue Youth Link, which will contribute up to \$50,000 over the three years. Bellevue Youth Link initiated the program in 2003 and also manages the Bellevue Youth Court volunteer program. Court coordination services are provided by Youth Eastside Services and are supervised by Bellevue Probation Services. The program is authorized by King County Superior Court and the state.

Other program partners include: King County Juvenile Court, King County Prosecutor's Office, King County Diversion Program, Bellevue School District and Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts. Community attorneys, including some City of Bellevue attorneys will also serve as mentors to teen volunteer attorneys.

The court will operate on the "restorative justice" model, a national initiative of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that seeks to provide for accountability, competency development and community safety.

An independent professional program evaluation will be conducted at the conclusion of the three-year pilot program.

For information about Bellevue Youth Court volunteer opportunities, contact Bellevue Youth Link at 425-452-2834.



City of Bellevue
Youth Link
King County

Websites now in four languages

In an effort to reach more residents with important news and information about city services and facilities, the City of Bellevue now offers websites for Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese speakers.

When the city set out to revamp its website in 2006, it planned to develop additional sites with basic information about key services in foreign languages spoken by large numbers of residents.

The Spanish site was rolled out along with the redesigned main city site in August of 2006. A Chinese site was made available in September, a Russian one in October and, finally, a Vietnamese one in December.

"Census Bureau surveys indicate that non-native English speakers represent 32 percent of Bellevue's population, so we're gratified when we find effective ways to reach them," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said.

The foreign language sites, all accessible from links on the left column of all city web pages -- <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/> -- are just one of several ways Bellevue has upgraded its Internet presence to improve communications with citizens.

Staff in the Communications Department worked with the Neighborhood Outreach team to develop the foreign-language websites.

Residents representing each minority group were polled about the information they considered essential, and a private translation service was hired to render that information in the foreign languages. Staff in the Outreach office who speak the other languages reviewed pages for accuracy.

The sites feature numerous links to pages in the "Helpful Connections" booklet, produced and translated into several languages by the Eastside Human Services Forum and the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition.

Bellevue's foreign-language websites are distinct from the English site, each one focused on key topics not subject to frequent change.

The city continues to refine its website to make key information more accessible. If users have suggestions, they can share them with online editor Claude Iosso at ciosso@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4448.

Costco applies for zoning change to build Kelsey Creek store

By James E. Bell, East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) Chair

Costco applied in September 2007 to change the zoning at Kelsey Creek Center and allow construction of a 140,000-square-foot retail center where the old K-Mart sits vacant.

The first public meeting for this application was Dec. 4 before the East Bellevue Community Council. About 25 area residents heard presentations by the city and Costco. Everyone who spoke or submitted written comments became a party of record. They will receive notice of the upcoming Hearing Examiner's meeting.

You can become a party of record and comment /advise the outcome by contacting Mike Upston (452-2970 or mupston@bellevuewa.gov) at Bellevue's Planning and Community Development department.

If the Rezone, Design Review and construction permits are approved, work could start this summer with opening of a new retail Costco in late 2008 or early 2009.

Mike Upston, the city's lead planner for this application, described how the current property is zoned Community Business (CB) with a concomitant zoning agreement (CZA). This CZA has zoning requirements, land uses allowed and not allowed, and development standards that are specific to this site. It also requires Kelsey Creek to be opened if the retail area is increased.

Upston said that this application is different than the Costco Fresh proposal of several years ago. This application is for a standard store, albeit a little bit smaller to fit on the site. An average Costco is about 160,000 square feet. This one would be about 140,000 square feet.

In 2002-2003 Bellevue was talking about requiring Kelsey Creek to be opened. Now we are looking at leaving it to function the way it does but providing a better culvert that's clean and provides the necessary flow.

In exchange, the applicant would put the money and resources somewhere else. The first obvious option is to improve the Larson Lake area. The Parks Department has a project there that Costco could add value to and make it better than we have today. This includes pedestrian connections to the park and trail system and improved habitat.

Specifically the city is looking at the site zoning reverting back to Community Business. In exchange for taking away the concomitant agreement, Bellevue would ask for a binding agreement that would require a number of improvements to the site and a mitigation plan for improvements to Larson Lake. The list includes: reconstructing the culvert, providing storm water detention, putting filters in the catch basins, putting in landscape improvements, putting in a trail and doing the off-site mitigation. So, if for some reason the rezone were granted but the Costco store weren't built, there would be certain improvements to the property and mitigation improvements in the connection to the Larson Lake.

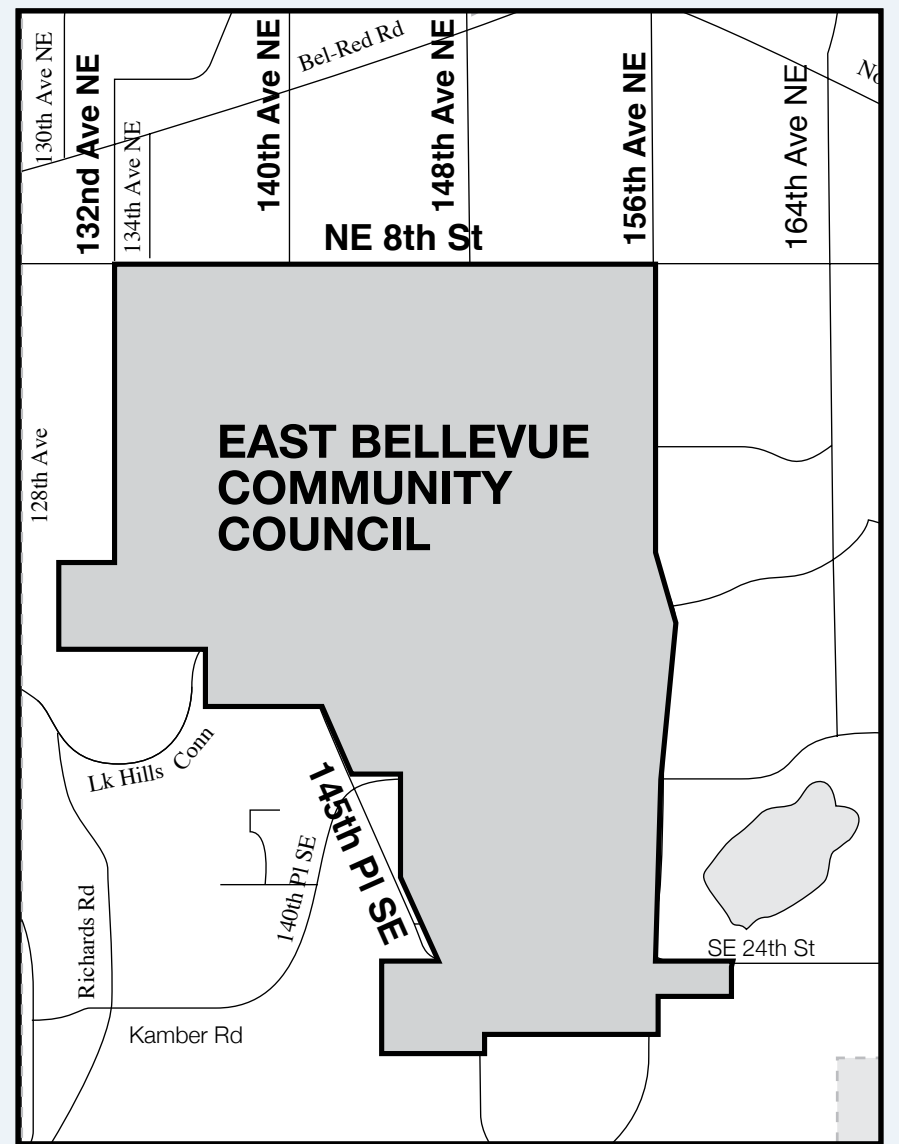
Andy Dempsey and Transportation Solutions Inc. (TSI) are the traffic engineers hired by Costco for this project. They are working with the Bellevue transportation engineers to develop solutions that minimize the impact of Costco traffic.

The initial part of the analysis was for concurrency. This indicated that the Costco store would have about 850 trips going in and out of the parking lot during the peak P. M. hours. That is 425 cars in and 425 cars out. About 25 percent of those cars were already on 148th or Main. This level passes the concurrency management standards for Bellevue during the week and shows that the overall road network in this area of Bellevue could handle the traffic that's expected from a Costco of this size.

TSI also did a Saturday traffic analysis because Costco generates more traffic on Saturday than weekdays. They estimate there would be about 575 cars in and 575 cars out during the busiest time on a typical weekend. Of course the normal level of traffic on 148th is lower on the weekend.

TSI also did a neighborhood analysis at the community's request. This was to determine whether there was a significant potential for folks travel through the neighborhood rather than using 148th. They found that it would take 1 1/2 to 2 times longer to go through the neighborhoods than to use 148th for access the site.

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, http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm and look under city government.



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, Jim Eder, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal

Next step is the Hearing Examiner

A public hearing by the Hearing Examiner is tentatively scheduled for March. The Hearing Examiner holds the public hearing for the City Council.

At the hearing, city staff will present their staff report with recommendations for the rezone and the required conditions for removing the concomitant zoning agreement. The Hearing Examiner will also take public testimony regarding the rezone application.

Following that, the Hearing Examiner will submit a recommendation to the City Council for approving the rezone.

Costco describes plans

Peter Kahn, the Costco representative, said that the company proposes to build a 140,000-square-foot Costco warehouse without the automobile amenities, without the tire center and without a gas station.

It will have the standard Costco one-way in and one-way out of the building access. Parking will increase from 742 to 856 spaces. Costco will also acquire the Shell Station property and convert that to parking spaces.

Currently there is no stormwater treatment on the site. Costco will provide stormwater treatment to substantially reduce the pollutants going into the creek. Some of this will incorporate low-impact development technologies in the landscaping plan.

Landscaping will increase to meet current Bellevue standards. Increased perimeter landscaping will soften the view of the site from 148th Avenue and Main Street.

Transportation is a big issue. Costco has three goals: 1) Keep the traffic moving on 148th 2) Get people in and out of the site and 3) Ensure member traffic doesn't cut through neighborhood streets.

Costco thinks the addition of this retail store will save overall travel trips on the road system. There are about 51,000 Costco members in the Bellevue zip codes area. Of these, about 33,000 shop the Issaquah and Kirkland stores about 34 times a year. The rest shop other area stores.

The travel distances to the Issaquah and Kirkland are 7.2 and 7.7 miles each way from the corner of 148th and Main. If this project moves forward and the average shopper drove 3.7 miles back and forth for a round trip, it could save an annual average of 8 million miles by Costco members. That would save just under 400,000 gallons of gasoline at 20 mpg.



New website for Bellevue commuters



Call it an encyclopedia for Bellevue commuters, a fountain of transportation options or a one-stop source of travel alternatives for workers, students and employees.

Chooseyourwaybellevue.org, is a new website launched recently by the City of Bellevue, King County Metro and TransManage, the transportation arm of the Bellevue Downtown Association. The online resource provides tips on how to keep moving during roadway construction projects and provides alternatives to driving alone, including:

- Commute options for walking, biking, bus, carpools, vanpools, Flexcar, ferry and rail.
- Real-time traffic maps and cameras for Bellevue and the Seattle area.
- Travel resources such as trip planners and bicycle routes.
- Special features such as a “Tips and Testimonials” section, a “Commute Cost Calculator” and “Tracker,” which provides real-time bus arrival predictions at specific route locations.
- Information organized both by travel option and by the type of traveler (commuter, resident or student).

Chooseyourwaybellevue.org encourages travelers to try an alternative, even if it's just one trip a week. Making a difference doesn't mean giving up driving entirely; it's about finding new ways to match the travel mode to the trip.

For example, saving one gallon of gasoline by not driving alone prevents 19.4 pounds of carbon dioxide (the most prominent greenhouse gas) from going into the air; and every mile saved by walking, biking or telecommuting saves about one pound of carbon dioxide.

Sponsors of Chooseyourwaybellevue.org maintain that as the number of employees and residents in Bellevue grows, the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to maintain accessibility on city streets is to promote alternatives to driving alone.

To illustrate the challenge, sponsors point out that the number of people now working in downtown Bellevue, about 35,000, is expected to increase by 80 percent, to 63,000, by 2020. The residential population is forecast to jump from 4,500 today to 14,000 in 2020, an increase of more than 210 percent.

Meanwhile, the percentage of travel downtown by transit, vanpool, carpool, biking and walking was just 29 percent in 2005, meaning that 71 percent of the travel was by solo drivers. By 2020, planners say, that share needs to increase to about 50 percent for the street network to remain functional.

Golf course tabbed wildlife sanctuary

The greens are green in more ways than one at the Bellevue Golf Course. The Audubon Society has certified the course in North Bellevue as a sanctuary for wildlife.

Located at 5500 140th Ave. NE, the golf course features increased plantings of native vegetation for birds and wildlife and enhancement of natural corridors to other habitat areas.

The ponds are protected now, with cart paths relocated away from them and pesticides banned from use near them. Water quality is tested regularly on the site. Invasive blackberry and ivy has been removed; and nest boxes, feeders and brush piles have been built for wildlife.

In addition to certifying the course, Audubon International is recognizing course superintendent Randy Leifer for environmental stewardship. Bellevue Golf Course, managed by Premier Golf Centers for Bellevue, is the 11th course in Washington to receive the certification.

“Our community has a proud tradition as a steward of the environment,” Mayor Grant Degginger said. “This honor is another reflection of that.”

Over the years, Bellevue's ongoing environmental programs have helped earn the city the nickname, “City in a Park.” Last year, the City Council adopted an expanded environmental stewardship initiative, and as part of that initiative, approved a Bellevue Climate Action resolution to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

Several other environmental projects are currently underway, including an expanded focus on the city's tree canopy, utilization of natural drainage and green building practices, and expansion of recycling efforts throughout the city, including parks and ball fields.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources.

Golf courses from Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.



Bellevue High School students plant native vegetation by a pond at Bellevue Golf Course to improve habitat for wildlife.

Bel-Red Corridor vision moves a step closer to reality

Plans to transform the Bel-Red Corridor from a light industrial district into high- and mid-rise neighborhoods featuring office buildings, retail space and housing took a step toward reality with recent changes proposed for the city's comprehensive plan.

The draft Bel-Red Subarea Plan may not sound interesting, but it will guide the development of zoning changes that allow for new uses in the 900-acre corridor just east of downtown. The plan is based on a vision crafted over two years by a steering committee, with considerable public input.

There will be more opportunities for public involvement while the Planning Commission and City Council consider the draft plan.



The vision for the Bel-Red Corridor includes more parks than are currently in the area.

Residents can learn about and comment upon the draft plan at a Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, in room 1E-113 of Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. N.E. The Commission will consider recommendations from four other city boards and commission on proposals for Bel-Red.

For copies of the draft Bel-Red Subarea Plan or for more information about the project, please visit the Bel-Red project website http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bel-red_intro.htm, or contact Paul Inghram at pingram@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4070.

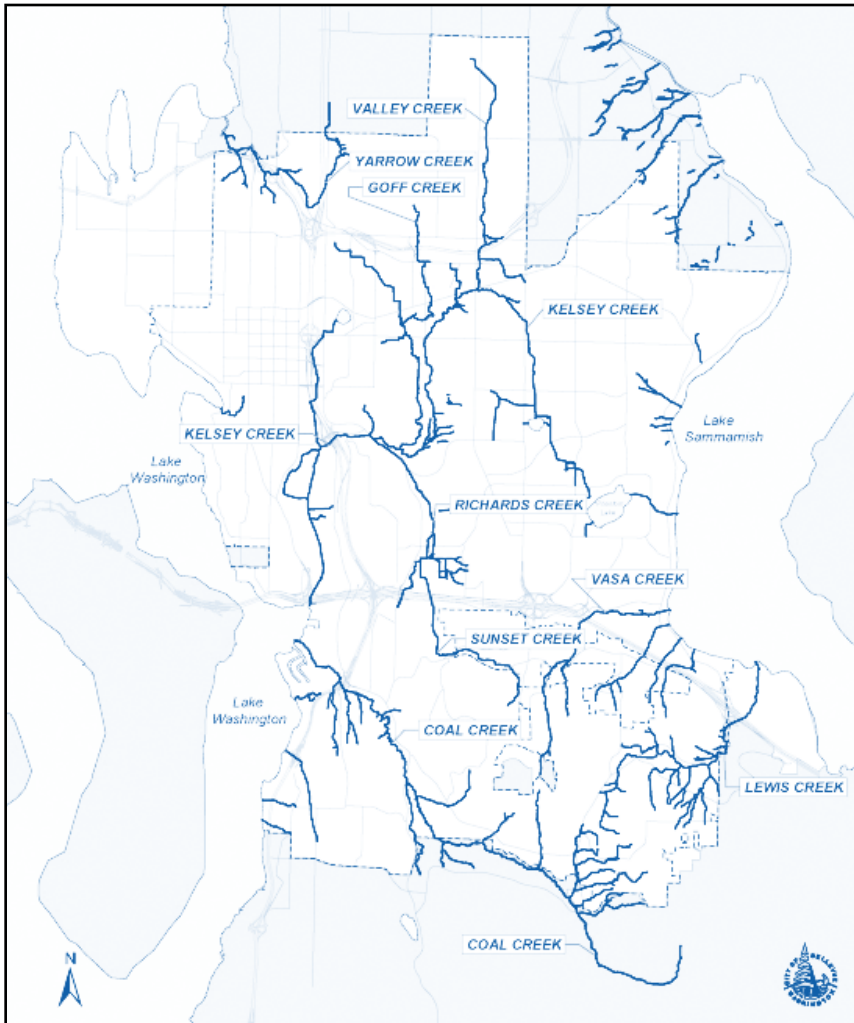
Protecting floodplains pays off

The rain storm that lashed this region in December set a new 24-hour rainfall record for Bellevue – 6.1 inches of rainfall overwhelmed storm drains and caused local streams to surge over their banks.

The flooding was dramatic, but protection of the city's floodplains paid off, with Bellevue residents and businesses sustaining relatively little property damage. Cities in Washington that took a more casual approach to floodplain protection saw entire commercial districts submerged by muddy water.

To ensure that Bellevue's floodplains continue to accommodate surging waterways, residents are advised to determine whether they are in floodplains and to act accordingly. All residents are cautioned to take steps to prevent flooding.

In Bellevue, the major streams are Kelsey Creek and its tributaries (Valley, West Trib and Richards creeks), Coal Creek to the south, Lewis Creek draining to Lake Sammamish and Sturtevant Creek draining Lake Bellevue and the downtown area.



Wherever you live in Bellevue, you're probably near water. The city has more than 60 miles of streams, more than 800 acres of wetlands, three small lakes and is bordered by Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

The Bellevue stormwater system is made up of streams and pipes, which collect and carry rainwater in a manner that preserves natural habitat and minimizes flooding. Floodplains hold the water when the streams and pipes are temporarily overwhelmed.

Do you live in a floodplain?

Most floodplains in cities have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and are included in the community Flood Insurance Study, available at Bellevue's Regional Library, 1111 110th Ave. NE and at Development Services, City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE.

To find out if your property is located in a floodplain, call Utilities at 425-452-7869 and have your address handy. You can also search for your parcel by visiting the city website, at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/floodplain_map.htm.

A standard homeowner's insurance policy typically does not cover flood damage. Federally-backed flood insurance is available to Bellevue residents through the National Flood Insurance Program. Residents owning properties within a floodplain can purchase flood insurance at a 25-percent reduction.

All development projects near streams and wetlands must meet setback requirements. For further information on permit requirements in floodplain areas, call the Development Services at 425-452-6864. Report non-permitted activities within a floodplain to the city's Code Compliance Office at 425-452-4570.

If you own a structure in a floodplain and are considering reconstructing, remodeling, repairing damage, making an addition or other improvements, contact Development Services regarding construction requirements in Special Flood Hazard Areas.

When building improvements equal or exceed 50 percent of the building's market value, the city and NFIP will require new building construction code requirements. Elevation certificates for legal non-conforming structures—buildings built in the floodplain prior to floodplain regulations—are maintained by the city and are available to the public.

Call Utilities 24-hour emergency number 425-452-7840 to report: flooding, drainage problems, dumping in streams or lakes, hazardous road conditions, pollutant spills, water interruptions, wastewater overflows and water main breaks.

New initiative geared to maintaining health of city's transportation system

As the rapid growth in jobs and population continues, particularly in downtown Bellevue where an unprecedented building boom is taking place, the city has responded with a new initiative that seeks to insure the future viability of the transportation system.

City Manager Steve Sarkozy launched the Bellevue Mobility Initiative with the idea that maintaining a healthy system will require a variety of transportation options appropriate for the city's transforming urban environment. Because it's a complex challenge, Sarkozy also said the solutions will require cooperation that cuts across departmental boundaries.

"As our city continues to grow and our challenges become more complex, it will be increasingly important that we employ a cross-departmental approach to problem-solving," Sarkozy said. "That means our Transportation, Planning and Community Development, Utilities, Parks and other departments must work together on solutions to our mobility issues."

The initiative comes as the Bellevue City Council, which sets transportation policy for the city, continues working with federal, state and regional leaders on transportation issues.

To maintain livability, support a strong economy and ensure residents and visitors get around the city, it is important to not only reduce travel delays, but to provide a variety of traveling options, the Council has stated.

New transportation approaches are needed because there will be fewer ways to increase road capacity in the future, council members have asserted.

To achieve these goals, a broad approach is anticipated, as reflected in the main elements of the Bellevue Mobility Initiative:

Develop a downtown traffic management plan to maximize traffic flow on existing roadways, using techniques such as "intelligent transportation systems," including the use of cameras, signal synchronization, transit signal priority and message signs.

Complete projects already in the pipeline, such as the extension of Northeast 10th Street across Interstate 405; also, plan, finance and begin new projects designed to ease congestion, such as the widening of Northeast 2nd Street, and the extension of the Northeast 6th Street transit and HOV ramp across I-405.

Take a proactive approach to protecting neighborhoods from downtown spillover traffic. One idea is to develop an enhanced "toolkit" of traffic calming options that could include road closures or turn restrictions.

Address issues related to "concurrency," which requires that a city's transportation infrastructure keep pace with development. Ways must be found to make sure Bellevue's traffic volumes don't outstrip the system's capacity.

Create a transit plan for downtown that supports infrastructure improvements to expand regional bus service, extend the light rail system through downtown Bellevue and improve highways to provide better downtown access. Also, improve the pedestrian and bicycle system downtown to encourage walking and riding as an alternative to single occupancy vehicles.

About 35,000 currently work in downtown Bellevue, but the number is expected to increase by 80 percent, to 63,000, by 2020. The residential population is expected to jump from 4,500 today to 14,000 by 2020, an increase of more than 210 percent. Computer modeling predicts a 33 percent increase in the afternoon traffic delay downtown over the next 10 years.

For more information about transportation projects downtown, see the Downtown Bellevue Projects Update on page 12-14.



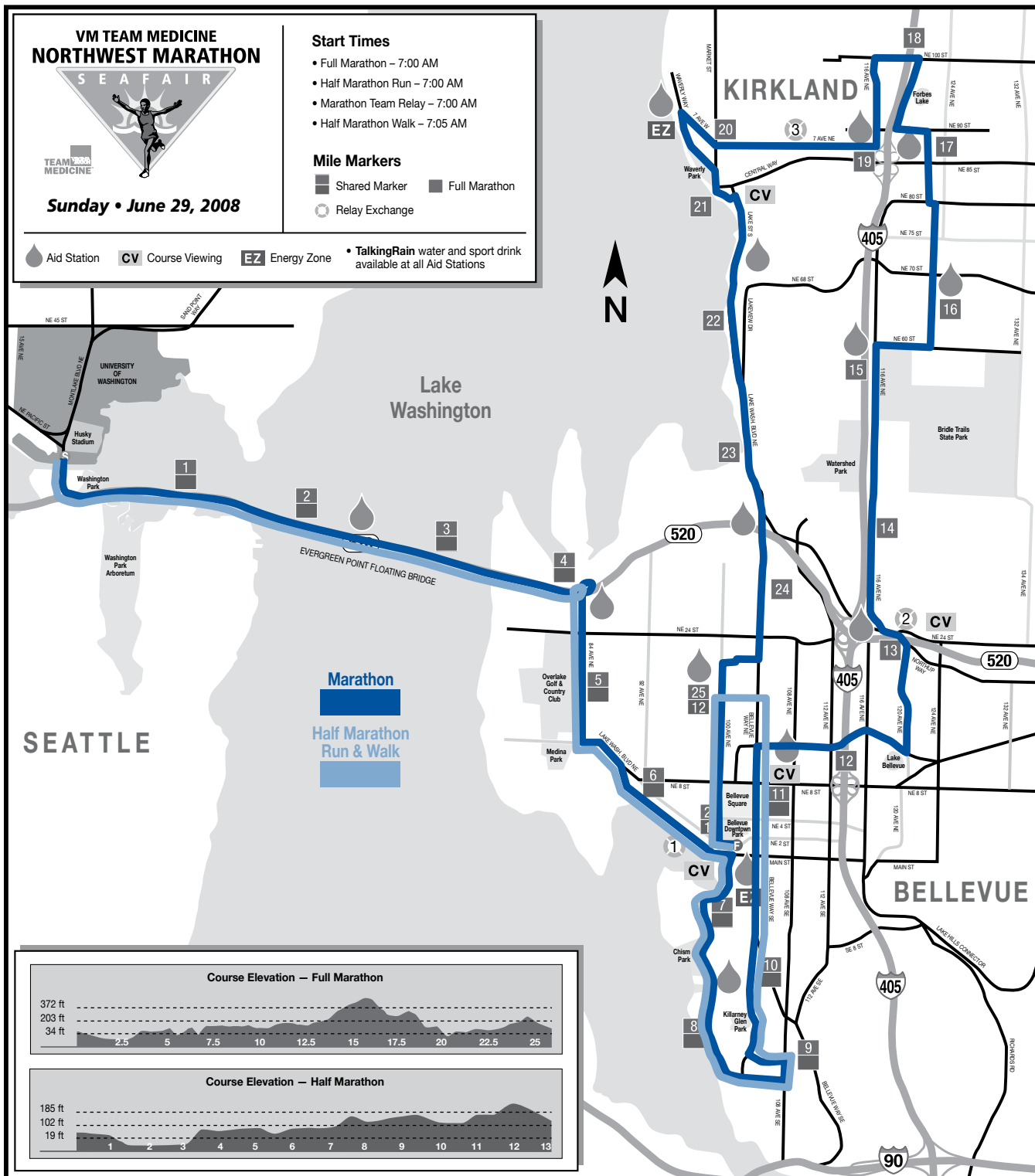


Seafair Marathon could cross 520, comments sought on route

The Seafair Marathon, a source of pride for many residents and aggravation for some when Bellevue hosted it the past three years, may follow a dramatically different route this year. Instead of weaving exclusively through Bellevue streets, the proposed routes for the marathon and half-marathon, set for June 29, would start in Seattle and cross the 520 Bridge.

The City of Bellevue Special Events Committee an application from Seafair to significantly alter their route. To comment on potential

conditions or routing of the event for final Committee approval, please complete the comment section below and mail to City of Bellevue Special Events Committee, PO Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012; by fax to 425-452-7221; or e-mail sec@bellevuewa.gov. For information about how this event will impact our community, please contact Victoria Hollerbach, Special Events Committee Chair, at 425-452-6850. Comments are due by February 28, 2008.



Full Marathon Textual Description

Start on Montlake Blvd NE
 South on Montlake Blvd NE to Interstate 520/Evergreen Point Floating Bridge
 East on Evergreen Point Floating Bridge to Hunts Point Rd/84th Ave NE
 South on 84th Ave NE to NE 12th St
 East on NE 12th St to Lake Washington Blvd NE
 Southeast on Lake Washington Blvd NE to Main St
 East on Main St to 101st Ave SE
 South on 101st Ave SE/SE 5th St to 98th Ave SE
 South on 98th Ave SE/99th Ave SE/97th Ave SE/Killarney Way SE/100th Ave SE/Killarney Way SE to SE 25th St
 East on SE 25th St to 108th Ave SE
 North on 108th Ave SE to SE 23rd St
 West on SE 23rd St to 104th Ave SE
 North on 104th Ave SE/Bellevue Way to NE 12th St
 East on NE 12th St to 120th Ave NE
 North on 120th Ave NE to NE 20th St/Northup Way
 West on NE 20th St/Northup Way to Northup Ave
 Northwest on Northup Ave to 116th Ave NE
 North on 116th Ave NE to NE 60th St
 East on NE 60th St to 122nd Ave NE
 North on 122nd Ave NE to NE 80th St
 West on NE 80th St to 122nd Ave NE
 North on 122nd Ave NE to NE 90th St
 West on NE 90th St
 North through Costco Parking Lot to Slater Ave NE
 North on Slater Ave NE to NE 100th St
 West on NE 100th St to 116th Ave NE
 South on 116th Ave NE to NE 87th St
 West on NE 87th St/7th Ave to Waverly Way
 Southeast on Waverly Way to Market St
 South on Market St to Lake Shore Plaza
 South on Lake Shore Plaza to Kirkland Ave
 East on Kirkland Ave to Lake St S
 South on Lake St S
 Continue South on Lake Washington Blvd NE
 Continue South on Bellevue Way NE to NE 21st Pl
 West on NE 21st Pl/102nd Ave NE to NE 21st St
 West on NE 21st St to 100th Ave NE
 South on 100th Ave NE to NE 1st St
 East on NE 1st St to FINISH

Half Marathon Textual Description

Start on Montlake Blvd NE
 South on Montlake Blvd NE to Interstate 520/Evergreen Point Floating Bridge
 East on Evergreen Point Floating Bridge to Hunts Point Rd/84th Ave NE
 South on 84th Ave NE to NE 12th St
 East on NE 12th St to Lake Washington Blvd NE
 Southeast on Lake Washington Blvd NE to Main St
 East on Main St to 101st Ave SE
 South on 101st Ave SE/SE 5th St to 98th Ave SE
 South on 98th Ave SE/99th Ave SE/97th Ave SE/Killarney Way SE/100th Ave SE/Killarney Way SE to SE 25th St
 East on SE 25th St to 108th Ave SE
 North on 108th Ave SE to SE 23rd St
 West on SE 23rd St to 104th Ave SE
 North on 104th Ave SE/Bellevue Way to NE 17th St
 West on NE 17th St to 100th Ave NE
 South on 100th Ave NE to NE 1st St
 East on NE 1st St to FINISH

Special Events Committee 2008 Event Feedback

I wish to comment about the Seafair Marathon: _____

Comment: _____

(optional):

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail or fax to: *City of Bellevue Special Events Committee*
 PO Box 90012
 Bellevue, WA 98009-9012
 Fax # 425-452-7221

Your comments can also be submitted by email to: sec@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown Bellevue Project Update

The building boom in downtown Bellevue shows no sign of letting up, as permit requests in 2008 are continuing at a record pace. As both the residential population and work force continue to increase rapidly, several new projects have been launched to enhance livability and support walkers, riders and drivers in the city's fastest growing neighborhood.

This Downtown Bellevue Project Update provides a roundup of projects undertaken by the city and the state, as well as construction activity by private developers. Many of the projects are in the planning stages; others are under construction.

To help you locate where these projects are, please see the map below.

Ashwood Park Plaza

The Plaza will provide easy access to Ashwood Park and to the Ten20 Tower building, now under construction, creating a strong civic presence on a prominent downtown corner. The space will include benches, signage at the entrance, a water feature and public art. The \$1.2 million project is now under construction and will be finished this spring. For more information, please contact Brian Krause at 425-452-6992.

Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan

After acquiring land along Meydenbauer Bay, the city is developing a master plan for a public waterfront easily accessible from downtown Bellevue and nearby neighborhoods. To implement the plan, changes to the city's Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Code are expected to be adopted early this year. The city has expanded the planning process to include the area surrounding the new park. Work on the \$400,000 planning effort will continue until the middle of this year. For more information, please contact Robin Cole, 425-452-6195, or Mike Bergstrom, 425-452-4474.

Downtown Circulator

Because the downtown population is growing in both the employment and residential sectors, it's becoming increasingly important to provide transportation options for linking downtown together. A downtown circulator, using a bus or van, has been proposed to serve employees, residents and visitors. Phase 1 of the project is, now underway and it will evaluate routes and service frequency, forecast ridership, and estimate costs. Phase 2 will determine how to implement the circulator over the next five years. The \$1 million total cost of the planning effort is being paid for jointly

by the City of Bellevue and King County Metro. For more information, please contact Maria Koengeter at 425-452-4345.

Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center

The Downtown Bellevue Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center (GTEC) program seeks to maintain an efficient transportation system by providing alternatives to driving alone. The employer-based program will provide help and incentives for employees choosing travel alternatives such as transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking or riding a bicycle. Currently, a Commute Trip Reduction plan update (which is the city's program for larger employers) and the GTEC plan are under review by the Puget Sound Regional Council and the state Department of Transportation. Public comment will be accepted through Feb. 22, 2008. For more information, please contact Kate Johnson at 425-452-7896.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan Update

An update of the city's 1999 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan is nearing completion. The 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan project will:

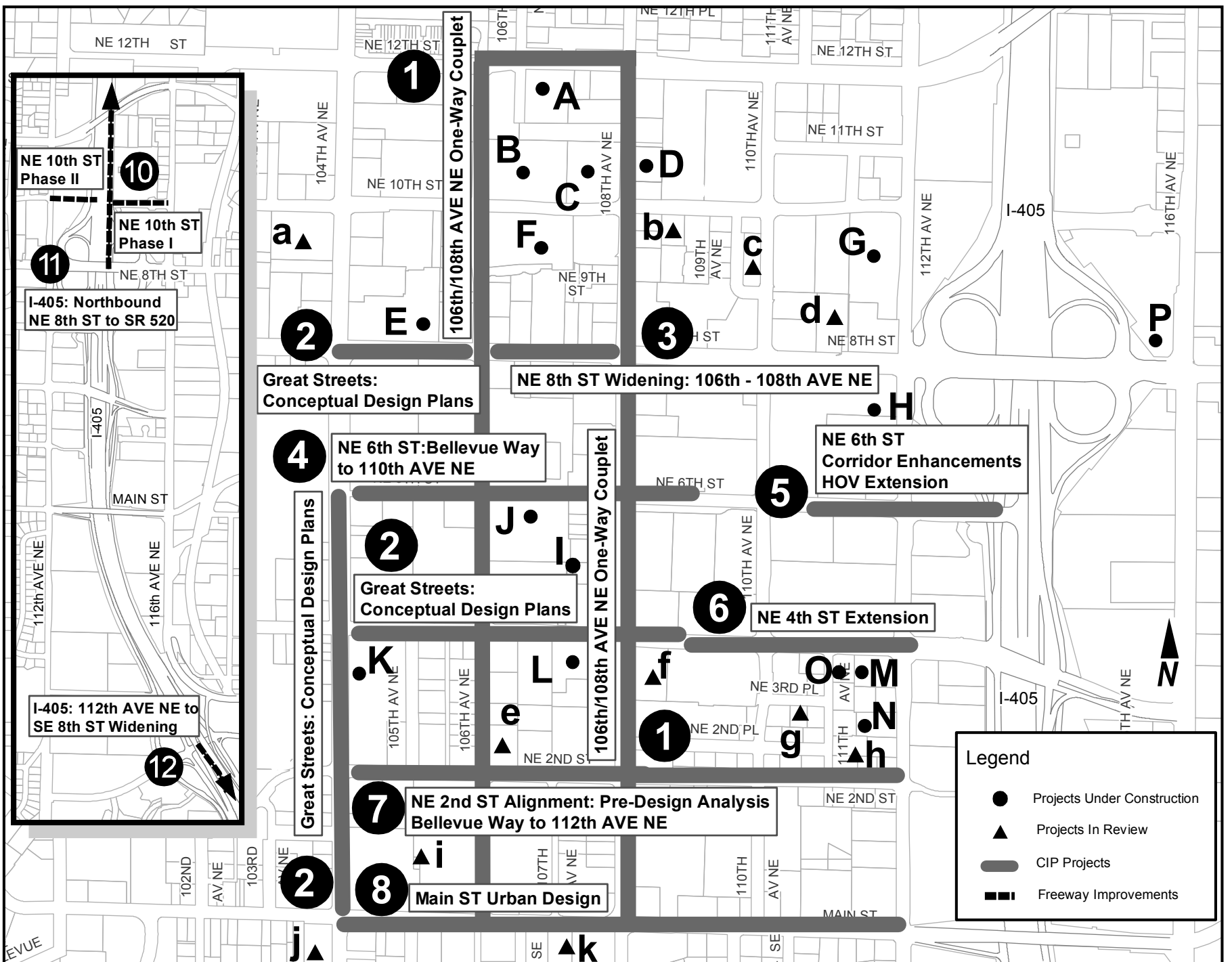
- Produce an updated blueprint to make walking and bicycling in the city an attractive, safe travel mode for commuting and recreation.
- Develop a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to support continued growth, development and neighborhood livability.
- Coordinate with other non-motorized planning efforts under way regionally.
- Provide a mechanism to inform and involve the community about pedestrian and bicycle planning.

This plan is expected to be finalized in March and presented to City Council for approval this spring. You can provide input on the draft plan at <http://www.Bellevuewa.gov/pedbikeplan.htm>. For more information, please contact Franz Loewenherz at 425-452-4077.

Downtown Wayfinding

Because many of the signs and kiosks that help guide pedestrians in Downtown Bellevue are outdated or in need of significant maintenance, the city has embarked on a "wayfinding" project.

Phase 1 of the project will include signs in and around the Bellevue Transit Center, as well as new kiosks on the NE 6th Street Pedestrian Corridor between Bellevue Way and Meydenbauer Center. The budget for





the project is \$100,000, plus \$53,559 from the Bellevue Arts Program. For more information, please contact Kevin McDonald at 425-452-4558.

PROJECTS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PLAN

Please note that some of these projects are in the conceptual design stage, with the expectation that they will be funded this year.

1. 106th/108th Avenue NE One-Way Couplet

A one-way couplet (a pair of one-way streets) has been proposed for 106th Avenue NE 108th Avenue NE between Main Street and NE 12th Street to improve traffic flow. This project was identified in the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Subarea Plan and the Downtown Implementation Plan. Further analysis of one-way streets in the downtown has been deferred until 2010, when more information will be available on the alignment of a proposed light rail line through downtown Bellevue. For more information, please contact Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382.

2. Downtown Great Streets Conceptual Design Plans

Making downtown a better place to walk is a priority of the community and a key recommendation of the Downtown Implementation Plan. Current city standards for downtown street frontages offer a limited range of materials and design options.

The Great Streets project is producing conceptual design plans for five key corridors in downtown: Bellevue Way, NE 4th Street, NE 8th Street, 106th Avenue NE and 108th Avenue NE. It will provide a palette of pre-approved options for building and landscape materials and design features for use along other downtown streets. Another element will be a plan for public art along downtown streets and an "art walk" from City Hall to the Meydenbauer Bay waterfront. Conceptual design plans for this \$156,000 project will be finalized in early 2008, following review by City Council. The Council has allocated \$3.8 million to invest in constructing Great Streets recommendations by the end of 2009. For more information, please contact Mike Ingram at 425-452-4166.

3. NE 8th Street Widening: 106th Avenue NE to 108th Avenue NE

This project will add a third lane on Northeast Eighth Street from 108th Avenue Northeast to 106th Avenue Northeast, where it will become a right-turn only lane. It was recommended by the Downtown Implementation Plan to improve traffic flow along Northeast Eighth. Sidewalks will be reconstructed next to the new lane. The \$4 million project is 50 percent designed. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2008 and wrap up by November 2008. For more information, please contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905.



4. NE 6th Street: Bellevue Way to 110th Avenue NE (Pedestrian Corridor)

Northeast Sixth Street, called the "pedestrian corridor," is the central east-west pedestrian route through downtown. It connects the shopping and entertainment district along Bellevue Way with the office core, transit center, and the city hall/convention center district to the east. Bellevue's City Council has urged a strong vision and a coordinated approach to transform the corridor into a signature element for the city.

Three locations have been identified along Northeast Sixth where new landscaping and walkways are proposed: 105th Avenue to 106th Avenue, north side; 106th Avenue to 107th Avenue, north side; and 107th Avenue to 108th Avenue, south side. The budget for this project is \$3 million. For more information, please contact Emil King at 425-452-7223 or Patti Wilma at 425-452-4114.

5. NE 6th Street Corridor Enhancements and HOV Extension

This project would extend Northeast Sixth Street across I-405, allowing buses and carpools (high occupancy vehicles or HOV) to cross the freeway without the traffic signal delays found on Northeast Fourth, Eighth and 12th streets. The need to reduce transit travel times will become increasingly important with the future implementation of King County Metro's Rapid

Ride, a bus rapid transit service connecting downtown Bellevue and downtown Redmond. A project budget, design schedule and construction timeline has not yet been determined. For more information, please contact Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382.

6. NE 4th Street Extension

The extension of Northeast Fourth Street between 116th and 120th avenues was evaluated within the context of the redevelopment of auto row, and as a component of both the Wilburton/NE 8th Street Study and the Bel-Red Corridor Study planning efforts. It is a critical project, extending the grid of arterial streets serving both the downtown and the redeveloping area just to the east. It would offer needed relief to traffic on Northeast Eighth Street between 116th and 120th avenues. A project budget, design schedule and construction timeline have not yet been determined. For more information, please contact Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382.

7. NE 2nd Street Alignment Pre-Design Analysis: Bellevue Way to 112th Avenue NE

The widening of Northeast Second Street was identified in the City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Subarea Plan and in the Downtown Implementation Plan to improve traffic flow through downtown. Plans call for widening Second Street from three lanes with on-street parking to five lanes between Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue Northeast, with eventual connection to a future interchange at I-405. The current project budget is \$6.29 million for preliminary design and property acquisition, which is anticipated to be complete this summer. For more information, please contact Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382.

8. Main Street Urban Design

The Downtown Implementation Plan recommended a review of the Main Street corridor from Bellevue Way to 112th Avenue Northeast to evaluate design concepts that would enhance the street's character, improve the pedestrian environment and add landscaping. This urban design study is just getting underway, with completion anticipated by the end of 2008. For more information, please contact Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382.

9. Downtown Mid-Block Crossings

Because downtown's "superblocks" are much longer in length than typical city blocks, this project calls for identifying and installing mid-block crossings with signals to make it easier for pedestrians to get around. This \$1.3 million project will consider location, geometric design elements, weather protection, lighting, aesthetic treatments, and traffic progression and delay. A construction timeline has not yet been determined. For more information, please contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905.

FREEWAY IMPROVEMENTS

10. NE 10th Street Extension, Stages I and II

The city's Downtown Implementation Plan identified the need for improved access and circulation between downtown and the city's medical district along 116th Avenue NE, east of I-405. The NE 10th Street Extension is one of several steps that will address growing travel demand. Stage I, currently under construction by the City of Bellevue, creates a five- to seven-lane arterial from I-405 to 116th Avenue NE, between Overlake Hospital and the new Group Health building located on the northwest corner of NE 8th Street. The project will also widen 116th Avenue NE by adding one additional southbound lane, two new signalized intersections, sidewalks and landscaping. The project is expected to be completed this spring.

Stage II of the project, led by the state Department of Transportation, will extend NE 10th Street east from 112th Avenue NE, over I-405 to connect with the Stage 1 section of NE 10th Street adjacent to the Overlake Hospital campus. The NE 10th Street bridge over the freeway is being designed to accommodate future "braided" ramps to and from SR 520, a short distance to the north. The total cost for both stages of the project is estimated at \$62.6 million. For more information, please contact Rick Logwood at 425-452-6858.

11. I-405: Northbound NE 8th Street to SR 520 Braided Crossing

Freeway congestion is common on I-405, from NE 8th Street to SR 520, due to northbound traffic entering I-405 from the NE 8th ramp and exiting the freeway to SR 520. To reduce that congestion and improve safety, a new structure is being built on northbound I-405. A joint effort by the state Department of Transportation and City of Bellevue, the "braided crossing" structure will be built to separate the merging and weaving traffic flows. The total cost of the project, which is funded by Washington State, is \$255 million. Construction is scheduled to start in 2009 and continue through 2012. For more information, please contact Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382 or visit the state DOT website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520.

12. I-405: 112th Avenue SE to SE 8th Street Widening Project

The state Department of Transportation has partnered with the city to make improvements in both the northbound and southbound direction on I-405 to address the extreme congestion south of downtown Bellevue. This project will reduce congestion and fix the "Wilburton Weave," which occurs

between SE 8th Street and I-90. The following improvements are under construction:

Northbound:

- One new northbound lane from 112th Avenue SE to SE 8th Street is being added.
- The existing I-405 southbound structure over I-90 is being converted to a northbound HOV lane.
- A new ramp meter at 112th Avenue SE is being added.
- The existing bridge over Coal Creek Parkway is being widened.

Southbound:

- One southbound lane from SE 8th Street to I-90 is being added.
- The Wilburton Tunnel for the new southbound lane is being removed.
- A new three-lane southbound I-405 bridge is being constructed over I-90.

Be Aware: Crews will close southbound I-405 for three weekends this summer

This coming August, crews will close southbound I-405 completely from SE 8th Street to I-90 during three full weekends, beginning Fridays at 11 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. each Monday: August 8-11, August 15-18, and August 22-25. The closures are needed to remove the Wilburton Tunnel safely and efficiently.

This \$211 million project is underway for the northbound I-405 improvements; the southbound I-405 improvements will begin this spring. Completion of the full project is expected in 2009. For more information, please contact Rick Logwood at 425-452-6858.

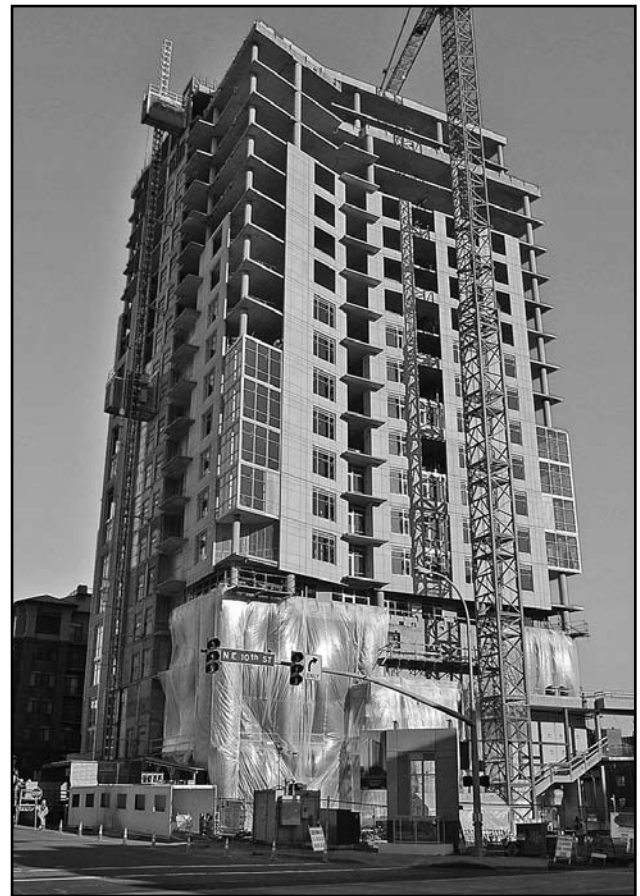
COMMERCIAL & PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Because developers and utility companies conduct work in and around city streets, the City of Bellevue coordinates its construction efforts with those of private companies. Drivers and pedestrians should anticipate periodic lane and sidewalk closures adjacent to several of the commercial developments in downtown Bellevue. Downtown projects include the following projects listed in the table below:

For more information on commercial and private development projects, please contact Patti Wilma, Department of Planning & Community Development, 425-452-4114, or pwilma@bellevuewa.gov

Questions/comments: If you have questions or comments about the Downtown Bellevue Projects Update, 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.

To learn more: For additional information about many of the projects listed in the Downtown Bellevue Projects Update, visit the City of Bellevue web pages at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_construction_update.htm or http://www.bellevuewa.gov/city_initiatives.htm



Commercial and private development projects

Project	Address	Description
In review		
a. Avalon at NE 10th	939 Bellevue Way NE	400 residential units
b. Pacific Regent Phase II	919 109 th Ave NE	168 units of senior housing in 22-story addition
c. European Tower I	930 109 th Ave NE	18 residential units
d. Vida Condominiums	11011 NE 9 th St	241 residential units and retail
e. Legacy Apartments	200 106 th Ave NE	250 units
f. The Summit Building C	320 108 th Ave NE	15-story office building
g. Marriott Hotel	11009 NE 3 rd Place	376 rooms and restaurant
h. Odegard Bellevue Apts.	204 111 th Ave NE	50 apartments
i. Bellevue Plaza	139 106 th Ave NE	800 residential units
j. Bellevue at Main	15 Bellevue Way SE	138 residential units; 75,000 square feet (sf) of office; 37,000 sf of retail
k. Ventana on Main	10713 Main St	68 apartments
Under construction		
A. Belletini	1115 – 108 th Ave NE	150 senior housing apartments
B. Belcarra	1032 106 th Ave NE	320 apartments
C. Vue Bellevue	10710 NE 10 th St	202 apartments and retail
D. Ten20 Residential Tower	1020 108 th Ave NE	175 condos; 20-story tower with ground floor retail, theater
E. Hyatt Expansion	10500 NE 8 th St	350 hotel rooms
F. Washington Square	10620 NE 8 th St	400 condos, two levels of retail
G. Ashwood II	909 112 th Ave NE	274 apartments
H. The Bravern	11155 NE 8 th St	620,000 sf office, 456 condos, 240,000 of retail and restaurant
I. Bellevue Towers	10608 NE 4 th St	480 condominiums in two, 43-story towers
J. City Center East	10903 NE 6 th St	700,000 sf office and retail
K. Avalon Meydenbauer	250 Bellevue Way NE	368 apartments, retail, grocery
L. Tower 333	333 108 th Ave NE	348,000 sf office
M. 112 th Avenue Mixed Use	317 112 th Ave NE	300 residential units and 25,000 sf of commercial use
N. Meydenbauer Inn	211 112 th Ave NE	59 multifamily units and retail
O. Metro 112 (One Main)	317 – 112 th Ave NE	300 apartments
P. Group Health/Overlake	925 116 th Ave NE	Ambulatory care facility

Community Calendar

February

Valentine's Day Dance

Feb. 12, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave NE
\$3 per person at the door. The
20-piece "Sound Of Swing"
performs.
425-452-7681

Bird Walk at the Bellevue Botanical Garden

Feb. 13, 9 a.m. - noon
12001 Main St.
With East Lake Washington
Audubon Society. Preregistration
required.
425-576-8805

King County Master Gardeners Workshop

Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Lake Hills Greenbelt Demonstration
Garden,
156th Ave SE and SE 16 St.
Learn how to prune and espalier
fruit trees and grape vines.
425-452-7225

Heritage Series

Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall
450-110th Ave. NE
Entertaining and informative
program about Eastside history,
presented by the Eastside Heritage
Center in partnership with the City
of Bellevue.
425-450-1049

March

King County Master Gardeners Workshops

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.- 12 noon
Lake Hills Greenbelt Demonstration
Garden,
156th Ave SE and SE 16 St.
425-452-7225
March 1 - Pruning Shrubs and
Ornamentals
March 8 - Hellebores
March 15 - Roses in Puget Sound-
Selection, Planting and Care
March 29 - Asian Vegetables

Environmental Education Workshops

Select Saturday workshops, 10-11
a.m. at Lewis Creek Park, 5808
Lakemont Blvd. SE. Pre-registration
required. Free, for ages 6+.
425-452-4195
March 1 - *Wetland Filters*
Unearth the mystery of wetlands
and see how they store and clean
water.
March 15 - *Watershed Basics*
Learn about our watersheds and
how we can keep them healthy.
March 22 - *Forest Ecology*
Explore Lewis Creek Park and learn
about all of the other exciting types
of forests in our region.

Hellebore Open House & Plant Sale

March 2, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
Displays and sales of hellebores.
Proceeds support Northwest
Perennial Alliance Perennial Borders
at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.
425-452-2750
www.bellevuebotanical.org

Senior Showcase

March 7 & 8, Friday, 1 & 7 p.m.
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661
Northrup Way. \$5/festival seating
425-452-7155

St. Patrick's Day Dances

March 11, 2 to 4 p.m., \$3
March 15, 7 to 9 p.m., \$5
North Bellevue Community Center,
4063 148th Ave NE
425-452-7681

Family Night Out

March 14, 8-10:30 p.m.
Crossroads Community Center,
16000 NE 10th St. Enjoy sports,
games, arts and crafts, a movie
and refreshments. Free. No pre-
registration is required. Parent must
accompany their child at all times.
425-452-4874



A dramatic moment with Bellevue Youth Theatre's Senior Showcase.

Stewardship Saturdays

March 15 & 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,
locations to be announced.
Community volunteer events to
provide opportunities to participate
in the care of our city's park
resources. Sign up as a group or
participate as an individual.
425-452-7225

St Patrick's Day Luncheon

March 17, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center,
4063 148th Ave NE. \$3 suggested
donation. Ages 60+. Includes lunch,
music and more. Pre-registration is
requested by March 10.
425-452-7681

Heritage Series

March 20, 7 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall, 450-110th
Ave. NE. Discover the history of
the Eastside presented by Eastside
Heritage Center in partnership with
the City of Bellevue.
425-450-1049

Crossroads March Madness

March 28, 8-11:30 p.m.
Crossroads Community Center,
16000 NE 10th St. March Madness
is here, so bring your game to
Crossroads. This is a night full of
basketball and fun. No need to have
a team, as staff will form teams. For
ages 15-19. Free.
425-452-4874

March/April

Peter Pan Returns

March 28- Apr. 6
March 28 & Apr. 4, 7 p.m.; March
28 & Apr. 5, 7 p.m.; March 30 &
Apr. 6, 2 p.m. Bellevue Youth
Theatre, 16661 Northrup Way.
A sequel to the classic tale. \$9/
assigned seat.
425-452-7155

April Pools Day

Apr. 19, 12 noon to 3 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601-143rd
Ave. NE. Free swim, raffles, safety
and lifejacket demonstrations.
425- 452-4444

Wild-N-Wooly Sheep Shearing,
Apr. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kelsey
Creek Farm, 410 130th Pl. SE. Free
parking at the International School,
445 - 128th Ave. SE. Free shuttle to
farm and entrance. Sheep shearing,
spinning demonstrations, children's
crafts, tractor rides, pony rides, food
and more.
425-452-7688

20th Annual Senior Housing Fair

Apr. 26, 1 to 4 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center,
4063 148th Ave NE. Free open
house and education sessions on
topics including living in your own
home, subsidized housing, adult
family homes, nursing assistance,
retirement and assisted living. Co-
sponsored by Overlake Hospital
Senior Care and City of Bellevue.
425-452-7681

Seasonal

Crossroads Par 3 Golf Course Opens March 1

15801 NE 15th Street
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

Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

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

Nature Walks in Mercer Slough

May - Oct., Saturdays, 2 - 3 p.m.
at Winters House, 2102 Bellevue
Way SE. Free guided nature walk in
Bellevue's largest wetland park.
425-452-2752

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, 10:00 a.m. -
6:00 p.m.
425- 260-2266

April

King County Master Gardeners Workshops

Free gardening workshop from
10:30 a.m.- 12 noon
At Lake Hills Greenbelt
Demonstration Garden,
156th Ave SE and SE 16 St.
425- 452-7225

Apr. 5 -You Can Grow Figs in
Puget Sound Country

Apr. 12 - Bees in the Garden

Apr. 19 - Planting Lively Containers

Apr. 26 - Growing Tomatoes

Sleeping Beauty

Apr. 18-27-Apr. 18, 19, 25, 26, 7
p.m.; April 20 & 27, 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661
Northrup Way. The story of the
beautiful princess who slept for a
hundred years. \$9/reserved seat.
425-452-7155

Earth Day-Arbor Day Community Celebration

April 19, 8:30 a.m. -3 p.m..
Volunteer projects in various
locations, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;
Community celebration family
festival, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Lewis
Creek Park, 5808 Lakemont Blvd.
Plant trees and build a healthy
community. Volunteer projects,
interactive displays, activities and
entertainment.
425- 452-7106

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

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

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
D.A.R.E.: 452-7895
Emergency Only: 911
Administration: 452-6952
Complaints and Information: 452-6917
Detective Division: 452-5373
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
City Manager: Steve Sarkozy
Communications Director: Tim Waters
Editor: Claude Iosso
Graphics: Ted Van Dyken

www.bellevuewa.gov



It's Your City is printed on recycled paper. Please recycle.

Bellevue City Council



Grant Degginger
Mayor



Claudia Balducci
Deputy Mayor



John Chelminiak



Don Davidson



Conrad Lee



Phil Noble

Light rail routes still being studied

Although voters last November turned down Proposition 1 – which would have funded construction of a light rail line through Bellevue – city officials are still preparing for commuter trains to possibly come through.

Sound Transit continues work on an environmental analysis of routes and alignments, and expects to issue a draft environmental impact statement in the fall. One of the best opportunities for Bellevue to influence any future light rail decision for the Eastside will come during the months before Sound Transit identifies a preferred route and releases a final EIS.

Bellevue officials are moving forward with the city's Light Rail Best Practices Project, intended to allow residents and staff to learn from the light rail "best practices" of other cities – what works and doesn't work – and to put Bellevue in a better position to influence future decisions by Sound Transit.

For online information about the Light Rail Best Practices Project, including schedules for committee meetings and other events, visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_public_involvement.htm

To provide comments on the project, e-mail LRBestPractices@bellevuewa.gov; send paper mail to Light Rail Best Practices, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009; contact Mike Kattermann, planning project manager, at mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2042; or Maria Koengeter, transportation project manager, at mkoengeter@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6459.

For more information on Sound Transit's East Link light rail proposal see <http://www.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml>

The Best Practices effort began in July 2007 and will continue through June of this year. So far, three open houses have been held, as well as monthly meetings by the Light Rail Best Practices Committee, comprised of members from city boards and commissions and one City Council member. All meetings are open to the public.

In recent months, committee members have met to discuss information compiled by a team of consultants about what other cities with light rail systems have done to address specific topics identified as important by Bellevue residents. Those topics include: connecting people to light rail, property values, community and neighborhoods, station security, land use, street design and operations, construction impacts and mitigation, as well as elevated, at-grade and tunnel options.

Committee members or city staff have visited light rail systems in Dallas, San Diego, San Jose and Portland to learn first-hand what's been done and how well it's working.

In the coming weeks, Committee members will continue collecting information, comments and ideas from the public as they consider what the best practices should be for Bellevue. In May or June, the panel will produce a catalog of best practices for Bellevue and propose policies for the city's comprehensive plan in order to assist the Council in responding to Sound Transit's draft environmental impact statement.

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

Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
and every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

or see previous editions on the web.
Go to bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm.