



FEBRUARY 2011

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Budget tightening: Reduced services, but key projects survive



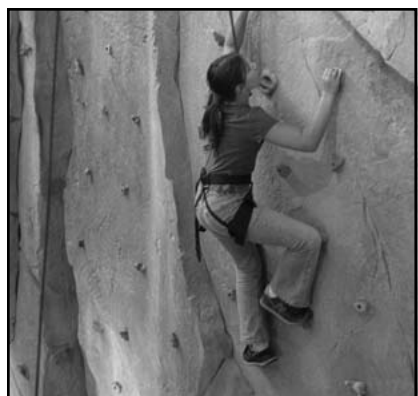
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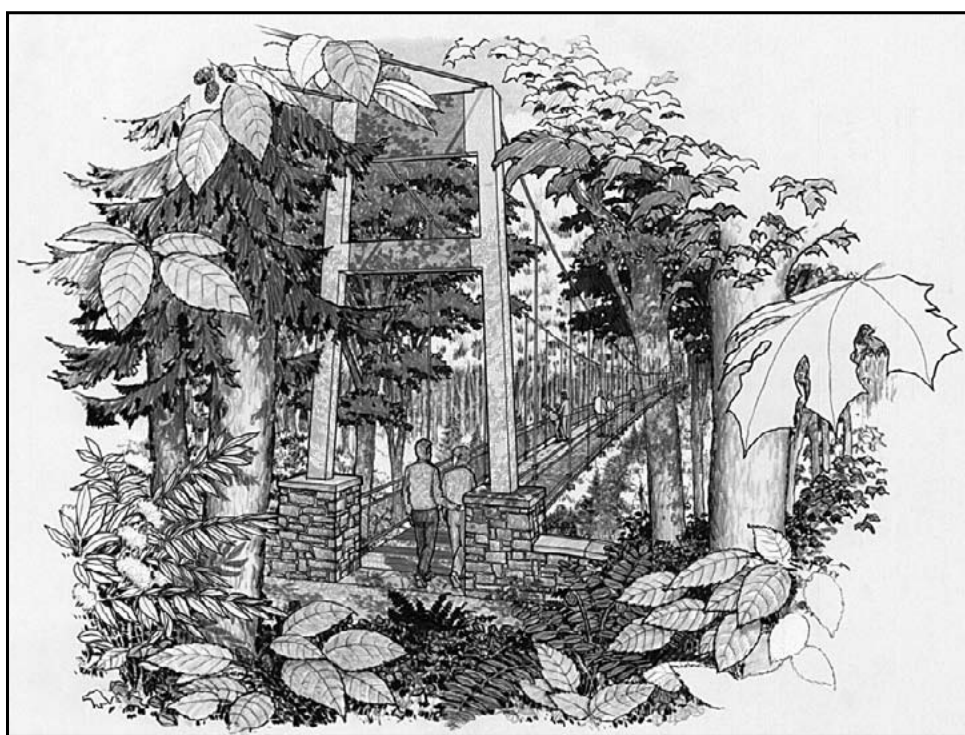
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A suspension bridge will be a key feature of the Ravine Garden, a capital project at the Bellevue Botanical Garden set for construction this year.

In response to the economic downturn, the City Council in December made tough choices to balance spending and revenue in Bellevue's two-year budget, while protecting services and projects that matter most to the community.

The city's operating and capital budgets for the 2011-2012 period continue strong funding for public safety, parks, transportation and human services programs. The great majority of cuts affect internal or support programs, and won't be noticed by the public.

"The City Council adopted a leaner budget, but did so in a way that maintains essential services and protects our most vulnerable residents," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said. "Adhering to our conservative fiscal

policies, the council also was able to reprioritize the capital budget in order to move ahead with construction of key projects."

Service changes that people may notice include: reduced hours at some community centers, some park restrooms closing during the winter; less frequent mowing and other landscape work in parks and along city roadways; and residential streets repaved less often.

At City Hall, cutbacks in staffing mean callers may have to wait longer before someone answers the phone; and there will be no Saturday events or meetings in the building.

In addition to the service reductions, some

increases in business license and park fees are also on the way.

The \$800.4 million operating budget cuts 49 positions from the city's work force and \$16 million in spending reductions over the next two years.

Human services remain a priority for the council during a period of high demand. In addition to maintaining funding for existing human services programs, the council approved an additional \$224,000 to help residents impacted by the recession.

The 2011-2017 Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget is \$357 million, \$100 million less than the

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Open house on city's light rail proposal on March 8

The City of Bellevue will hold a public meeting and open house on Tuesday, March 8, to present preliminary work on its proposed alternative for Sound Transit's East Link light rail project. The event is from 5 to 7 p.m. on the first floor of City Hall, at 450 110th Ave. N.E.

During the open house, there will be two identical presentations, at 5:15 p.m. and again at 6:15 p.m., to present work done so far by the city's staff and consultant. Topics will include route alignment,

station layouts, environmental issues, private property considerations and traffic.

Bellevue's proposal, called B7-Revised, is a variation of the B7 alignment studied in Sound Transit's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the East Link project. The City Council wants to find out if the proposal can improve performance, reduce impacts and reduce costs compared to the Sound Transit B7 alternative.

Bellevue's proposed B7-Revised route generally runs along I-90 and I-405 north to downtown. Sound Transit's Board of Directors' preferred alternative, called B2M, runs from Interstate 90 north along Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue Northeast to downtown Bellevue. The Board is expected to make a final decision on East Link routes in the coming months.

The March 8 meeting is the second opportunity to learn about and comment on the city's B7-Revised alternative. Free parking is available on a first-come, first served basis, in the City Hall visitor lot. Some overflow parking will be available, but space is limited. There are also several pay-for-parking lots in the immediate area.

For more information, visit the project web page at www.bellevuewa.gov/b7-revised-light-rail-route.htm; or contact the city's project manager, Maher Welaye, at 425-452-4879 or mwelaye@bellevuewa.gov.



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Council Corner

The Environmental Culture of Bellevue



By Jennifer Robertson

Bellevue residents know our city is a dynamic place. Our community is among the most diverse, most “wired” and best educated cities in the nation. We’re also ahead of the game when it comes to cultural trends. Whether place-making, urban planning, use of technology, our award-winning parks system or creating a sustainable environment, Bellevue has often led the way. As we start 2011, Bellevue continues to be on the leading

edge in promoting a greener city, both for our citizens and within city operations.

In the past decade, Bellevue has worked to help our citizens and businesses find easy ways to make environmentally-friendly choices. These efforts include requiring Allied Waste to pick up kitchen waste for composting (3,500 tons last year), having compostable pet waste bags available in some parks, providing education to our residents about organic gardening, water and energy conservation, and offering the Home Energy Reports program to help our residents track and reduce energy usage.

At City Hall, we’re conserving as well. Our conservation efforts are not only making Bellevue greener, they are also conserving taxpayer dollars. Most of our environmental efforts are conducted under the umbrella of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative, or ESI. The vision for ESI is to “integrate the natural and developed environment to create a sustainable urban habitat with clean air and water, habitat for fish and wildlife and comfortable and secure places for people to live and work.”

Preserving Open Space

Bellevue is known as a “City in a Park” because we have one of the best park systems in the nation. Part of our park plan includes having significant areas of open space and natural environment. This has a multitude of benefits: absorbing surface water run-off, providing wildlife habitat and furnishing space in our urban areas where we can reconnect with nature.

In 2010, the city restored forest and natural areas at 22 sites totaling more than 15 acres of city-owned property. We also continued to plant street trees and other landscaping, adding 16 new sites for six more acres of green space, and we initiated monitoring of our tree canopy in order to preserve this important natural resource.

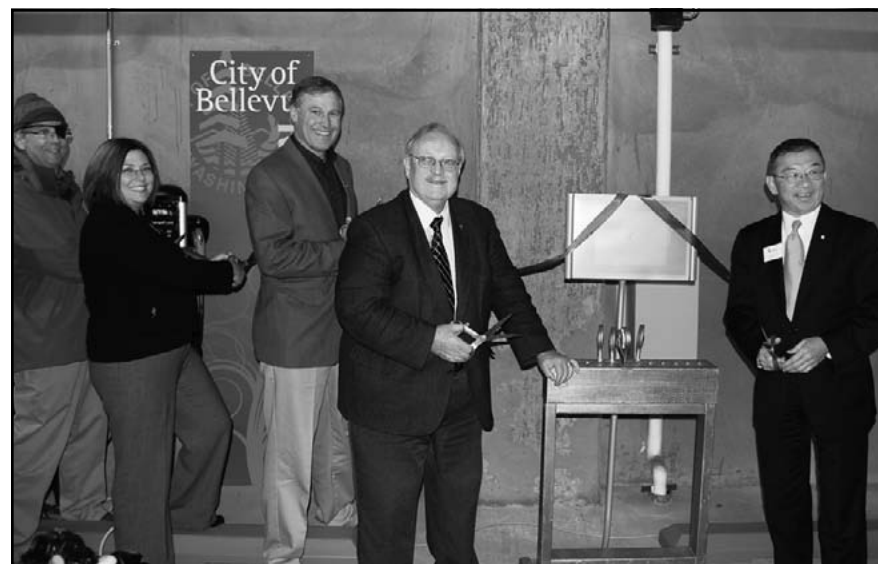
Reducing Pollution and Conserving Energy

When we use less energy and burn less fossil fuel, we reduce pollution and save money. The city has made significant strides in lowering its energy consumption and greenhouse gas output even as needs have increased. The city’s accomplishments in 2010 include such items as changing traffic lights to LED (saving nearly \$200,000 per year); upgrading the lighting systems in our highest-use parks (saving over \$40,000 per year); and changing our copy and printing procedures thereby reducing our paper usage by over 1.2 million sheets of paper (saving nearly \$80,000 per year).

We also added 33 hybrid vehicles to the city’s fleet, saving more than \$30,000 and 11,000 gallons of fuel per year compared to the vehicles they replaced. A portion of the cost of the hybrid vehicles was covered by grant money, so our citizens realized a double savings. These and other city efforts have resulted in a reduction of roughly 1,700 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

We are also preparing for the future. In December, we installed two electric-vehicle charging stations at City Hall, the first charging stations in Bellevue on public property. A donation by the manufacturer, Coulomb Technologies, paid for these charging stations and we expect a separate grant to cover the installation of 14 additional charging stations at other

city-owned locations later this year. Finally, just this month, the City Council passed a new law to permit the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure in the city.



From left, Councilmember John Chelminiak, Councilmember Jennifer Robertson, Congressman Jay Inslee, Mayor Don Davidson and Deputy Mayor Conrad Lee cut the ribbon for new electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall.

Improving Water Quality

Since stormwater run-off from yards and streets drains to our beautiful streams and lakes, one of the best ways to improve water quality is to reduce and clean this run-off. This can be done through reducing the use of chemicals, such as fertilizers, and improving stormwater treatment.

Bellevue is constantly working to improve water quality and riparian habitat in our borders. Last year, our Utilities Department invested \$3.3 million in water quality, flow control, infrastructure and riparian habitat improvements. During that same time period, Utilities responded to 182 reports of pollutants entering the city’s storm drainage system.

In addition to ensuring that pollutants are contained and cleaned up, Utilities worked with business owners on structural improvements to eliminate pollution at its source and also assisted 157 businesses in the reduction of pollutant releases and spills into the storm drain system.

Future plans call for stream improvements along West Tributary and Goff Creek in the Bel-Red Corridor.

How to get involved.

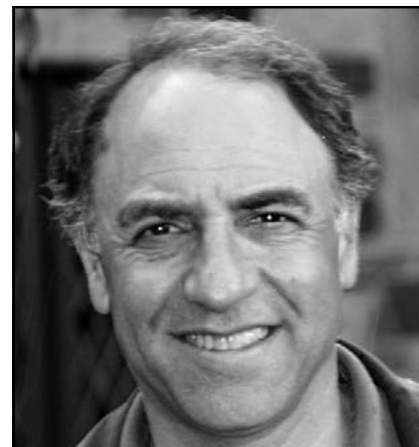
Citywide, our citizens have embraced a “green culture,” but there are still many ways that we can make Bellevue greener. To help local businesses reduce energy use and save money, Bellevue has facilitated a group called the Eastside Sustainable Business Alliance.

For households, some simple methods to improve the environment are to recycle food waste into the yard waste bin, limit pesticides in the garden, use rain barrels to catch roof run-off and keep the thermostat a little lower. At our house, my husband, three children and I have adopted these measures with little difficulty and in the process we have saved money on our garbage, water and energy bills.

Together we can make our “City in a Park” even brighter, more dynamic and more sustainable in the future.

To learn more about Bellevue’s Environmental Stewardship Initiative, see the city’s website at <http://bellevuewa.gov/environmental.htm>. For ideas on reducing the carbon footprint, check out the Facebook page of Carbon Yeti, Bellevue’s environmental mascot at <http://www.facebook.com/bellevuewashington#!/CarbonYeti>

‘Sleepover’ author to kick off neighborhood forums



Author and nationally recognized journalist Peter Lovenheim, who slept over at neighbors’ homes in a quest to create a stronger sense of community, will be the keynote speaker at a forum focused on building vibrant and connected neighborhoods in Bellevue.

Lovenheim will speak at the first installment of the Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum, Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Presented by Bellevue’s Neighborhood

Outreach office, the two-part education and discussion forum is intended to bring neighbors together for an opportunity to learn, share and think about the future of their neighborhoods.

Lovenheim, who wrote “In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time,” will offer a

unique perspective. In the book, Lovenheim, a resident of Rochester, N.Y., for most of his life, recalls the neighborhood of his childhood, when more families were well acquainted, kids played together and neighbors looked out for each other.

Shaken by a murder-suicide in his neighborhood, Lovenheim set out to meet his neighbors and establish lasting relationships that go far beyond occasional, casual greetings. He convinced his neighbors to allow him to spend the night in their homes, share their meals and accompany them to work.

After the keynote talk, forum participants will have a chance to enjoy refreshments and talk about creating their own neighborhood connections. Participants will explore how to move forward, overcome obstacles and find support for their community-building efforts.

The second installment of the Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum will continue the theme of building vibrant and connected communities and will be held May 12 at the Crossroads Community Center, with dinner hosted by forum sponsor, Chipotle Mexican Grill.

For more information on the Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or e-mail NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Arbor Day-Earth Day at Botanical Garden

Bellevue’s Arbor Day-Earth Day event, a fixture at Lewis Creek Park the last few years, will be at the Bellevue Botanical Garden this year.

“The Botanical Garden is the epitome of what happens when volunteers come together with passions and a shared objective,” said Nancy Kartes, manager of the popular park. “Arbor Day-Earth Day has never been done here before. I hope visitors will interact with the garden and broaden their experience of Bellevue parks.”

The Botanical Garden, at 12001 Main St., benefits year-round from the labor of an army of volunteers with the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, which also raises money for the city facility.

On Saturday, April 16, hundreds of volunteers are expected to be at the garden for Arbor Day-Earth Day. From 9 a.m. to noon, they will plant native plants, restore trails and remove invasive species at the garden and at Wilburton Hill and Kelsey Creek parks. Groups and individuals are encouraged to participate.

The Arbor Day-Earth Day celebration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will include a family festival and ceremonial tree planting.



Volunteers planting trees for Arbor Day-Earth Day last year.

People will also be able to participate in a “living lab,” where they can learn about the many uses of native plants, take a closer look at live insects through “bug TV” with the Bellevue Stream Team, and participate in docent-led tours of the gardens. Numerous eco-friendly vendors will be on site giving demonstrations and providing information on greener living.

This year’s Arbor Day-Earth Day marks the 20th consecutive year that Bellevue has been honored with a “Tree City USA” award and the 18th year the city will receive a Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

For a city to qualify for recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation, it must meet four national standards. Standards include the existence of a department that is legally responsible for the management of the city’s trees, an ordinance that gives the department the responsibility of writing and implementing a forestry work plan, a forestry program that has an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita and an observance and proclamation for Arbor Day.

Founded by pioneer and journalist J. Sterling Morton in 1872, Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated holiday that encourages people to plant trees. Trees stabilize soil, contribute to healthy air and water quality, and are essential to the health of the environment.

Since Arbor Day and Earth Day are both observed in April, Bellevue combines the two holidays into one big celebration. This year, the event also coincides with National Volunteer Week. Since hundreds of volunteers participate in Arbor Day-Earth Day, it is a great opportunity to celebrate those who give their time and talents to improve our community.

Last year, more than 300 volunteers, made up of local businesses, scout groups and citizens, planted more than 1,500 plants during the event at Lewis Creek Park.

“Our goal is to bring the community together in the spirit of environmental conservation,” says Christina Brown, a city environmental programs coordinator and the volunteer coordinator for the event. “We want to get people active in parks, working alongside their neighbors and to have a fun and memorable experience.”

To register for this year’s volunteer efforts at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens, contact Brown at 425-452-4195 or ckbrown@bellevuewa.gov.

Council Roundup

Members unite on East Link letter

At a study session on Jan. 10 the City Council debated, then unanimously approved a letter for Sound Transit regarding its updated environmental review of the East Link light rail project.

Sound Transit, the regional agency planning extension of light rail from Seattle to the Eastside, issued a supplemental draft environmental impact statement in November that evaluates proposed routes developed since the original draft environmental review was released in December 2008.

The council’s three-page letter covered the council’s concerns regarding all three segments of proposed routes through Bellevue. “We look forward to continued discussions to ensure that East Link meets the needs of Bellevue and Sound Transit,” the letter concludes.

Also during that session, the council examined a recent study by a city-hired consultant about the potential for noise and vibration caused by light rail. The work is a peer review of Sound Transit’s analysis in its supplemental environmental review.

Council discusses budget belt-tightening

Discussions and a hearing about the proposed 2011-2012 operating budget and the 2011-2017 Capital Investment Program (CIP) plan dominated City Council action in November.

With the economic downturn taking a toll on tax revenues, City Manager Steve Sarkozy proposed a budget in September that identified cuts in spending. The new budget was divided into seven sections, each one associated with a community priority or “outcome” identified by the council. Sections included economic growth and quality neighborhoods.

Thirty-seven people, including many representatives for area arts and human services agencies, spoke at a public hearing on Nov. 15 concerning the proposed budget.

Council reviews design work on future 15th/16th Street

The council in October reviewed concepts for 15th/16th Street, a new roadway that eventually will become the centerpiece for redevelopment of the Bel-Red Corridor. The future East Link light rail line will run near, or on the new east-west arterial.

Discussion included the type and size of features to be included on the roughly 1.5-mile long roadway, such as the number of vehicle lanes, on-street parking, whether to have bike lanes or a bike-pedestrian pathway, and landscaping options. These decisions will determine how the various elements fit together and how wide the new street is.

Those who would like more information or would like to comment on the 15th/16th Street project can find details about it at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/ne-15th-street-construction.htm>.



Chelminiak’s return celebrated

Declaring, “I feel really, really good,” City Councilman John Chelminiak took his council seat in November, his first appearance at a council meeting since being attacked by a bear in September.

Wearing an eye patch and a gray knit cap to cover head wounds still being treated, Chelminiak received applause from staff and others at the council’s study session. Mayor Don Davidson welcomed him back with a distinctive gift – a T-shirt that said, “I Won.”

Chelminiak had joked about getting such a shirt in a TV interview shortly after the attack. Reflecting the council’s sentiments about their colleague surviving the Sept. 17 mauling by a black bear in eastern Washington, the council members got T-shirts that read, “Bellevue Won.”

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Go to bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm.**

Council blesses Meydenbauer waterfront park plan



Depiction of planned waterfront park.

A signature park on Meydenbauer Bay that will connect Bellevue's downtown with its waterfront is a big step closer to reality with the City Council's approval of a master plan in December.

The waterfront park, a city vision for decades, took nearly four years to plan. The Park Board recommended the master plan's adoption last April. The council adopted it after staff drew up a set of "implementation principles" to address lingering neighborhood concerns.

Using waterfront properties acquired over the last 20 years, the city plans to create a new, 10-acre park featuring a shoreline promenade and floating boardwalk. The park will include almost a quarter-mile of shoreline between Meydenbauer Beach Park and the marina.

The Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan also includes proposed zoning changes to encourage new and improved walkways and plazas connecting the new park with downtown.

With funding still to be established, the park won't become a reality right away, but when it does, it will re-establish Bellevue as a waterfront city, and create a memorable, year-round shoreline experience for residents – a pedestrian place that encourages contemplation, socializing and recreation.

When a council-appointed citizen committee began developing plans for the park in early 2007, it was asked to draw something up that would: create a memorable shoreline experience for all Bellevue residents; improve pedestrian access and connections to downtown; reflect environmental stewardship; provide a wide spectrum of activities and experiences; and increase awareness and understanding of the area's rich maritime history.

The park will include the following features:

Pedestrian promenade and pier – a focus of the plan, a shoreline promenade, floating boardwalk and pathways connecting to the downtown will provide year-round opportunities for pedestrians to enjoy the

waterfront experience;

Marina redesign – a reconfigured marina will reduce the amount of long-term moorage in favor of additional day moorage, and will provide facilities to support canoeing, kayaking and sailing;

Activity buildings – the historic whaling building and ice house will be restored, and a small activity building will be added to support educational and other organized programs throughout the park;

Beach and shoreline restoration – the existing beach will be relocated and enlarged, and large portions of the shoreline will be restored to a natural condition with gradual slopes and native vegetation;

Outdoor gathering spaces – a picnic areas, open lawn and a "discovery" playground will allow visitors of all ages to enjoy dramatic vistas of the bay;

Natural stream – a large section of a stream now covered will be opened to daylight, and its ecological functions restored;

Gateway to downtown – a pedestrian promenade and water feature is proposed along 100th Avenue, south of Main Street, to serve as a gateway to the waterfront and connection to downtown.

The plan was adopted after an extensive community process, including many meetings, workshops/open houses and hearings. In February 2010, nearly three years after it was formed, the steering committee presented the plan to the council for approval.

The plan will guide the council, staff and city boards and commissions in developing future policy, regulations and budget proposals for the park and downtown connections to it.

Development is expected to occur in multiple phases over many years, similar to Downtown Park and Crossroads Community Park.

Stove tops safer now at two apartment complexes

Residents at two downtown apartment complexes are safer since firefighters installed new burner elements on their stoves.

Given that unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires and injuries, the safer stove tops at Ashwood Court and Wildwood Court apartments are a big deal. With a \$50,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Bellevue Fire Department retrofitted the electric stoves in all of the apartments at both complexes.

"I was initially apprehensive about the new burner, but honestly, it really is effective and a great idea," said Deborah Donahue, Wildwood Court apartment manager. "Since our tenants tend to be older, it's a comfort to know that the risk of fires is reduced. It heats water a little slower, but the benefits have outweighed the negative so far."

Staff with the Fire Prevention division also conducted home safety inspections at all 51 units in Ashwood Court, as well as the 36 units at Wildwood Court in October and November. Staff with the Office of Emergency Management told residents how to prepare for emergencies too.

The city worked with Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH) to focus on apartment complexes that serve low-income senior populations.

The coiled electric burners on many stoves can reach unnecessarily high temperatures quickly, causing oil or other food to ignite.

The stove modification involved covering the coils with cast-iron plates that limit the temperature. The "Safe-T-Element," made by Canada-based Pioneering Technology, heats more evenly and cooks slightly slower, but virtually eliminates the risk of stovetop fires.

Fire Prevention educator Kathy Barker managed the project and took time to demonstrate the new burners with some of the tenants.

"A paper towel placed between the pan and the element won't even catch on fire," said Barker. "So, we are hopeful that the safer burners will mean fewer fires."



Firefighter Brandon Bothwell installs a Safe-T-Element on an electric range.

"The product is available and can be installed by most electricians," said Barker. "When you consider the costs of restoring a fire-damaged dwelling, it is one investment worth considering."

If you are interested in learning more about the safe burner elements, contact Barker at 425-452-7881.

As to the home safety inspections, they involved much more than testing the smoke detector. Firefighters checked baseboard heaters for proper clearances, identified fall hazards and advised residents how to safely store medications. The safety inspection process would typically last an hour, and provide ample opportunities for tenants to ask questions.

While the city has no more funding for safe burner installations, Barker is hopeful that more homeowners and landlords will consider the same retrofit for their stoves. Including installation, retrofitting a stove can cost about \$280.

Get ready: Tolling poised to begin on SR 520 Bridge

The state Department of Transportation will begin electronic tolling on the SR 520 Bridge in April, but motorists may be able to save themselves a little coin if they plan ahead. Bellevue officials also are exploring ways to address possible traffic impacts on city streets.

WSDOT's new electronic tolling system, called Good to Go!, will use technology to keep traffic moving without toll booths, stopping, or slowing down. Tolling revenue will help pay for construction of a new, safer SR 520 Bridge, which is scheduled for completion in 2014.

People who sign up for a Good to Go! pass, which will automatically deduct money from their account, will save \$1.50 per trip compared with those who don't have a pass and must pay by mail.

Here's where to get a Good to Go! pass in Bellevue before tolling begins:

- Bellevue customer service center: Through July 1 the center, located at 13107 N.E. 20th St., is scheduled to be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Bellevue City Hall: A kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 9, at 450 110th Ave. N.E.
- Crossroads Bellevue: Staff will be set up near the food court in the mall, at Northeast 8th Street and 156th Avenue Northeast, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Feb. 28 to March 6.
- Bellevue Regional Library: Open from noon to 6 p.m. on Feb. 23 and March 19, at 1111 110th Ave. N.E.
- Online: For more information on how to sign up for a Good to Go! account and buy a Pass, visit www.GoodtoGo520.org

In January, the Washington State Transportation Commission made its final recommendations for SR 520 Bridge toll rates, but the Legislature will need to take action during its current session to finalize the proposed rates. The Commission recommended tolls that vary by the time of day and the day of the week to encourage driving during less-congested periods.

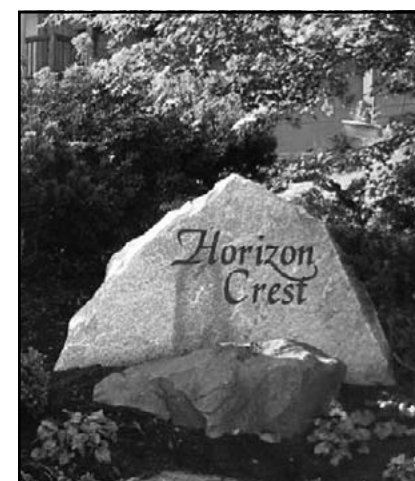
Travel is expected to be free during overnight hours; the toll rate for Good To Go! accounts for weekends ranges from \$1.10 to \$2.20; weekday tolls during off-peak hours would range from \$1.60 to \$2.80; and tolls for weekday mornings and afternoon peak periods would be \$3.50.

One improvement that's already being rolled out to deal with increased traffic volumes is the city's new traffic adaptive system. The system continuously monitors traffic in all directions of an intersection, and adjusts signal timing to maximize efficiency.

To give drivers more choices, King County Metro and Sound Transit have added 130 new bus trips to the existing 600 trips daily on the SR 520 Bridge, along with planned improvements to the Redmond and South Kirkland Park & Ride lots.

Details on the expanded bus routes, as well as vanpool and carpool options, can be found on the Good To Go! website. For a full range of travel options in Bellevue, visit <http://www.choosyourwaybellevue.org/>. The state Department of Transportation has a video that explains how tolling will work. Watch it online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gm2blj4iVV8>.

City offers assistance for neighborhoods



The City Council has allocated \$100,000 annually to help neighborhoods make landscaping or other improvements, have clean-ups or otherwise build community.

For the new Neighborhood Partnerships program, the city will contribute up to \$5,000 to a neighborhood, which must be matched in dollars or labor, for the following kinds of projects:

- Physical improvement projects such as neighborhood entries, landscaping for entry ways or cul-de-sacs, new mailbox stands or public art;
- Community clean-ups: including clearing garages and carports of clutter, tending yards, holding garage sales, junk disposal, including old appliances;
- Community-building: including starting a neighborhood group, revitalizing an association, creating a neighborhood directory, or exploring how your neighborhood wants to form stronger connections.
- Neighborhood celebrations: To celebrate the completion of a project.

Call for details and see how easy it is to secure funding. Contact Patricia Knight in Neighborhood Outreach at PKnight@Bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917.

Shape the future of the Eastgate

There's a little bit of urban planner in all of us. Now, with the help of an online survey tool, participants can help shape a common vision for Bellevue's Eastgate/Interstate 90 area.

The opportunity is part of the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project, an effort to ensure that this important area continues to serve as a regional employment center and provide services to surrounding neighborhoods.

The project was launched early last year; and in October the City Council appointed a citizen committee to advise them and guide the process. The committee's work will include the development and evaluation of land-use concepts for the Eastgate/I-90 corridor and transportation measures to support those concepts.

To help in that process, the committee invites the public to take part in an online survey at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>. It allows participants to compare different versions of what the area could look like in the future and express their preferences. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Street safer now ... and prettier too



The recently completed Safe Routes to School project on 152nd Avenue Southeast, near Eastgate Elementary School, includes mosaic panels by students, new sidewalks and bike lanes. See video of project: <http://www.youtube.com/BellevueWashington>.

Crossroads forum to focus on safety

Residents of the Crossroads neighborhood can learn about safety and livability at a March 16 community forum hosted by the Bellevue Police Department and Neighborhood Outreach office.

Police Chief Linda Pillo and other officers as well as code compliance officers and other staff will be at the event, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St.

To be a discussion with residents, the forum will address personal safety, auto crimes, identity theft, noise enforcement and the overall security of the Crossroads area. Police will also share their insights and strategies on community policing, crime prevention and neighborhood services.

Residents will learn about the community police station in Crossroads and will be invited to voice any questions, concerns or suggestions they have about safety in the area or about relations with the city and the police.

The forum is free and open to the public. Interpretation is available upon request in Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. For more information, or to request interpretation, or to submit discussion questions in advance, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or by e-mail at neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Volunteers wanted for Waterwise and Botanical gardens

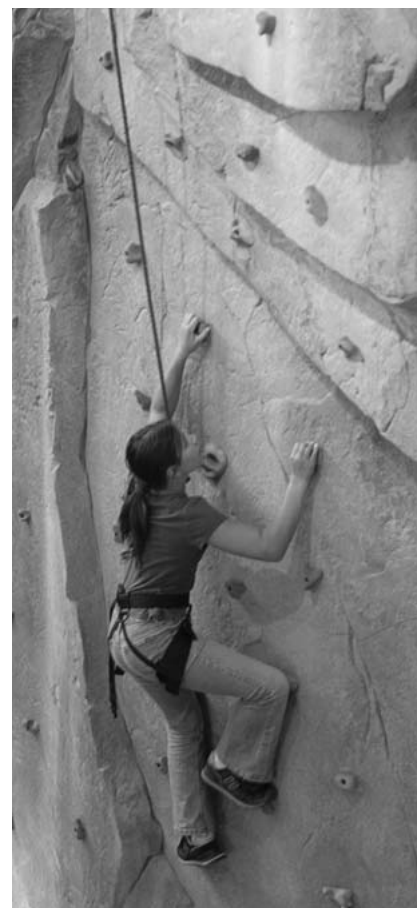
Volunteers are wanted, to serve as docents leading tours of the Bellevue Botanical Garden and to tend the city's Waterwise Garden at the Botanical Garden.

Botanical Garden docents serve as hosts at the visitor center on weekend afternoons, lead tours and participate in Garden events. A training class will be on Thursdays, March 3 through April 7, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Botanical Garden (12001 Main St.). To register, call 425-451-3755 or e-mail bbgsoffice@bellevuebotanical.org.

At the Waterwise Garden, volunteers keep the garden blooming for visitors, learning natural gardening techniques and receiving hands-on experience building soil and composting.

Waterwise Garden volunteer days are the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 1 to 3 p.m., from spring to fall. Contact Patricia Burgess at pburgess@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-4127.

They're climbing the walls here, and it's a good thing



Five short years after it was built to give residents an affordable option for recreation, fitness and education, the South Bellevue Community Center is an essential resource, with an estimated 275,000 visits last year.

The facility at 14509 SE Newport Way, on the grounds of Eastgate Park, features a double gymnasium, a 2,500-square-foot fitness center, tennis court and playground. This community center also offers a "challenge course" and the Crag, a three-story climbing wall.

Programmed in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, the SBCC serves people of all ages and fitness levels.

The outdoor challenge course provides for high- and low-ropes challenges that facilitate team-building for groups. Starting this summer, individuals will also be able to test themselves up to 40 feet off the ground.

In addition to its many fitness programs, the SBCC also has amenities that make it a great option for rentals, including a large open community room, a kitchen and classroom space.

The center is even home to the Natural Start Preschool, with a nature-based curriculum for children ages 3 to 5.

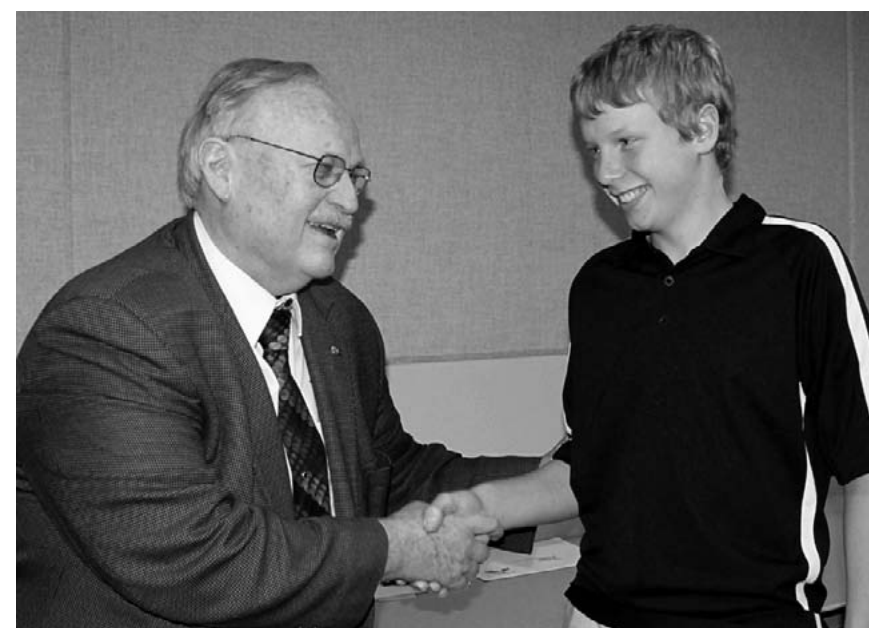


Bellevue resident Julie Anne Diech loves the SBCC because of the diversity of programs there for her children, Vincent (age 5) and Verona (age 3). Vincent attends the preschool there and Verona comes to play in the gym during the drop-in play time.

"We love it here," Diech says. "We can't wait until Vincent turns six, because he can hardly wait to try the climbing wall. It's a big topic of ours right now."



Eight volunteers receive gold awards



Mayor Don Davidson shakes hands with volunteer Reagan Teegarden.

For devoting hundreds of hours to Bellevue programs, eight people have received gold President's Volunteer Service Awards. The City Council presented national President's Service awards to 49 other volunteers as well in December.

"These recipients are role models for all Americans," City Manager Steve Sarkozy said. "Each volunteer hour makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others, and I encourage everyone to contribute to our community by volunteering. Through their commitment, volunteers bring us closer together as families, as communities and as a nation."

Adults must volunteer at least 500 hours to receive the gold award. Four volunteers for the Bellevue Botanical Garden received the award, including: Sharon Graham (1,238 hours); Ruth Edwards (1,197 hours); Dallas Graham (1,014 hours); and Nancy Daar (638 hours). Other gold award winners included Asha Gunabalan, more than 800 hours with Economic Development; Linda Sakamoto, 725 hours for Mini City Hall; and Travis Roberts, 500 hours at Highland Community Center.

Reagan Teegarden, just 12 years old, received a youth gold award for volunteering 140 hours for Bellevue Youth Link, a youth leadership program sponsored jointly by the city and school district.

The other 49 volunteers are being honored for service to these programs as well as for serving as park naturalists and mediators and working at Mini City Hall.

For more information about volunteering for Bellevue, go to <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/volunteer.htm> or contact volunteer program coordinator Shelly Shellbarger at 425-452-5375 or Volunteer@BellevueWa.gov.

Interest-free home repair loans

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 home repair projects including weatherization projects or roof, plumbing, electrical or other repairs. These loans don't have to be repaid until the house is sold and no monthly payment is required.

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 Bellevue Parks & Community Services at 425-452-6884 (TDD: 411).

Free compost offered to Bellevue residents

To show appreciation for residential recycling efforts, the City of Bellevue and Cedar Grove Composting, in partnership with the Bellevue School District, are offering free compost to Bellevue residents during a Compost Days celebration April 30-May 31.

To receive a free bag of compost, Bellevue residents must bring a compost coupon (see below) and be one of the first 1,000 visitors to one of the elementary schools listed below during Compost Days. Each event runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Supplies are limited, and residents must have an original coupon (no duplicates allowed).

- April 30 - Clyde Hill Elementary
- May 7 - Newport Heights Elementary
- May 14 - Phantom Lake Elementary
- May 21 - Sherwood Forest Elementary

In addition to free compost, Cedar Grove is giving Bellevue residents a 25-percent discount on a yard or more of bulk compost, and if a resident buys two bags of compost, the third one is free. (see coupons).

In 2009 almost 20,000 tons of organics (yard debris, food waste and food-soiled paper) was picked up curbside from Bellevue residents and recycled into nutrient-rich compost by Cedar Grove. In 2010, all 16 Bellevue schools started recycling food waste and food-soiled paper, diverting another 150 tons of materials from the landfill.

Adding compost minimizes water usage and adds beneficial microbes, nutrients and structure to the soil. It helps create stronger, healthier flowers, plants and vegetables and a beautiful garden. The city's website also has information on 5 Easy Steps to Natural Yard Care and details about

free yard workshops coming this spring at www.bellevuewa.gov/natural_lawn_intro.htm.

To learn more about Compost Days or compost use, visit www.cgcompost.com or call Cedar Grove at 1-877-SOILS-4U.

To get coupons for discounts at restaurants who recycle their organics, visit <http://atyourservice.seattle.gov/2010/05/05/special-offers-at-green-scene-restaurants/>

COMPOST DAYS ARE COMING TO BELLEVUE!

SAVE THIS COUPON

CITY OF BELLEVUE RESIDENTS GET 1 FREE BAG OF CEDAR GROVE COMPOST

To receive your one FREE bag of Cedar Grove Compost bring this coupon (no copies accepted) to ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS on the following dates only:

- April 30 @ CLYDE HILL
- May 7 @ NEWPORT HEIGHTS
- May 14 @ PHANTOM LAKE
- May 21 @ SHERWOOD FOREST

When: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Details: ONE Free bag of Compost to the first 1,000 residents during each Saturday event.

Limit one coupon per Bellevue resident. Locations will also be posted on-line at www.CGCompost.com & www.bellevuewa.gov. coupon expires 5/21/2011



COMPOST DAYS ARE HERE!

SAVE THIS COUPON

RETAILER COUPON: Buy 2 Bags of Cedar Grove Compost and receive 3rd bag for FREE

May 1 - May 31, 2011
ONLY AT PARTICIPATING GARDEN CENTERS, HARDWARE STORES, & GROCERY STORES in and around Bellevue

List of participating retailers and their locations at www.CGCompost.com or call 877-764-5748.

**Please note not all Cedar grove retailers are participating in Compost Days. coupon expires 5/31/2011



COMPOST DAYS ARE HERE!

SAVE THIS COUPON

Bulk Coupon: BELLEVUE RESIDENTS Pick-up 1 yard or more of CEDAR GROVE COMPOST and get a 15% discount

May 1 - May 31, 2011
NEED A DELIVERY? We have a 3-yard minimum. Delivery fees will apply.

List of participating retailers and their locations at www.CGCompost.com or call 877-764-5748.

**Please note not all Cedar grove retailers are participating in Compost Days. coupon expires 5/31/2011



Year just zipping along

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair
Many things are happening in the East Bellevue Community Council area.

The new Lake Hills Library has been open since last fall and has been very busy. Over the next few years the Lake Hills Shopping Center will continue phased development to add more shopping and eventually living quarters around the perimeter of the property. I believe the shopping center will be a great community resource when it is finished.

The old Lake Hills Library space is for sale, and there has been spirited bidding for the very centrally located space. I am unsure which organization will prevail, but I suspect that each bidder will enhance the community through their programs for children and families.

The new Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget includes improvements to 145th Place Southeast for which we lobbied. Bike lanes and sections of sidewalk will be added to the street between Southeast 16th and 24th streets, which will make it much safer for those that walk to Bellevue college.

One other item I hope to explore over the next few months is our attitudes regarding quality and access to city services that came from the last community survey. Zip code 98007 residents seemed to rank the city lower in most categories than residents in other areas. In addition we also should see updated demographic information, which should be available as a result of the 2010 census. Hopefully this will allow us to make decisions that benefit the greatest number of residents.

In other news, hopefully we will see construction at the Kelsey Creek Shopping Center site (former Kmart). The owner is hoping to be open for business by Thanksgiving. This is a very ambitious timeline, but one that would benefit the neighborhood greatly. Our community should receive an update from city planner Mike Upston at a future East Bellevue Community Council meeting.

In other EBCC news, we have elected officers for 2011. Steve Kasner has been elected chair with Richard Erwin selected as vice chair and longtime member Ken Seal will serve as alternate vice chair.

We have been working on an update to our bylaws, which will include a section on electronic participation for the first time. It is amazing to me the things possible today that were not available even 10 years ago. If you have suggestions to make our community a better place, drop into a meeting or send us a note so we can consider your input.

Try and stay warm and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Visit the Carbon Yeti house

Kids can learn how to reduce their carbon footprint by visiting the interactive house of the Carbon Yeti, Bellevue's mascot for conserving electricity and other resources.



Targeted for grades 4-6, the musical, interactive game features Carbon Yeti, a large, hairy creature who is learning to reduce its impact on the environment. Visitors can put together puzzles, play environmental games, calculate their carbon footprint and submit a Smaller Footprint Pledge online.

The game was tested by Bellevue school children, and changes were made based on their feedback. Visit the house at www.bellevuewa.gov/yetihouse. Become a Facebook friend of Carbon Yeti at: www.facebook.com/CarbonYeti

Weekend closure of I-405



The Northeast 12th Street Bridge in downtown Bellevue is coming down, and that means Interstate 405 will be closing in both directions for an entire weekend.

Guy F. Atkinson Construction, the state Department of Transportation's contractor, will demolish the 40-year-old bridge to make way for a new, bigger one with enough clearance for multi-level, "braided" on and off-ramps.

I-405 is scheduled to shut down between Northeast Eighth Street and SR 520 for 53 hours, from 11 p.m. Friday, April 1, to 4 a.m. Monday, April 4. Northeast 12th Street will be closed between 112th and 116th avenues Northeast.

It's the first time in several years the Eastside's main north-south transportation corridor has closed in both directions for an entire weekend. WSDOT officials urge travelers to plan ahead in order to avoid major delays.

While downtown Bellevue will remain accessible, with local detour routes to help guide drivers, travelers heading north or south through the area should use the regional detour via Interstate 5, SR 520 and Interstate 90.

Another option to avoid the I-405 closure area, where nearly 450,000 vehicles pass through in a typical weekend, is to reschedule trips until a more convenient time.

For more information visit the project website at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520/>. For information on a full range of travel options, visit <http://www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org/>.

Belt tightening cont. from pg. 1

previous CIP. Fewer neighborhood enhancement projects will be funded, but the new CIP maintains commitments for the voter-approved Parks and Open Space Levy, and funds critical street improvement projects.

Parks projects partially funded in the CIP include Bellevue Botanical Garden improvements and construction of a new Bellevue Youth Theatre. Completion of these projects is also contingent upon private fundraising efforts.

Two new gardens and an expanded visitor center are planned for the Botanical Garden, with some funding contributed by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. This year the city aims to build the Ravine Garden – a loop trail featuring a suspension bridge that will take visitors through woodland acquired for the Botanical Garden in 2006.

Important mobility projects that will break ground this year as a result of council decisions on the CIP budget include widening 120th Avenue Northeast, from Northeast Fourth to Northeast Eighth Street, and adding a path for bicyclists and walkers along 108th Avenue Southeast, from Interstate 90 to Bellevue Way.

Also slated to get under way this year is work to add bike lanes, sidewalks and other improvements on 145th Place Southeast, from Southeast 16th to Southeast 24th Street. The project will feature environmentally friendly features such as pervious sidewalks and rain gardens that promote natural drainage.

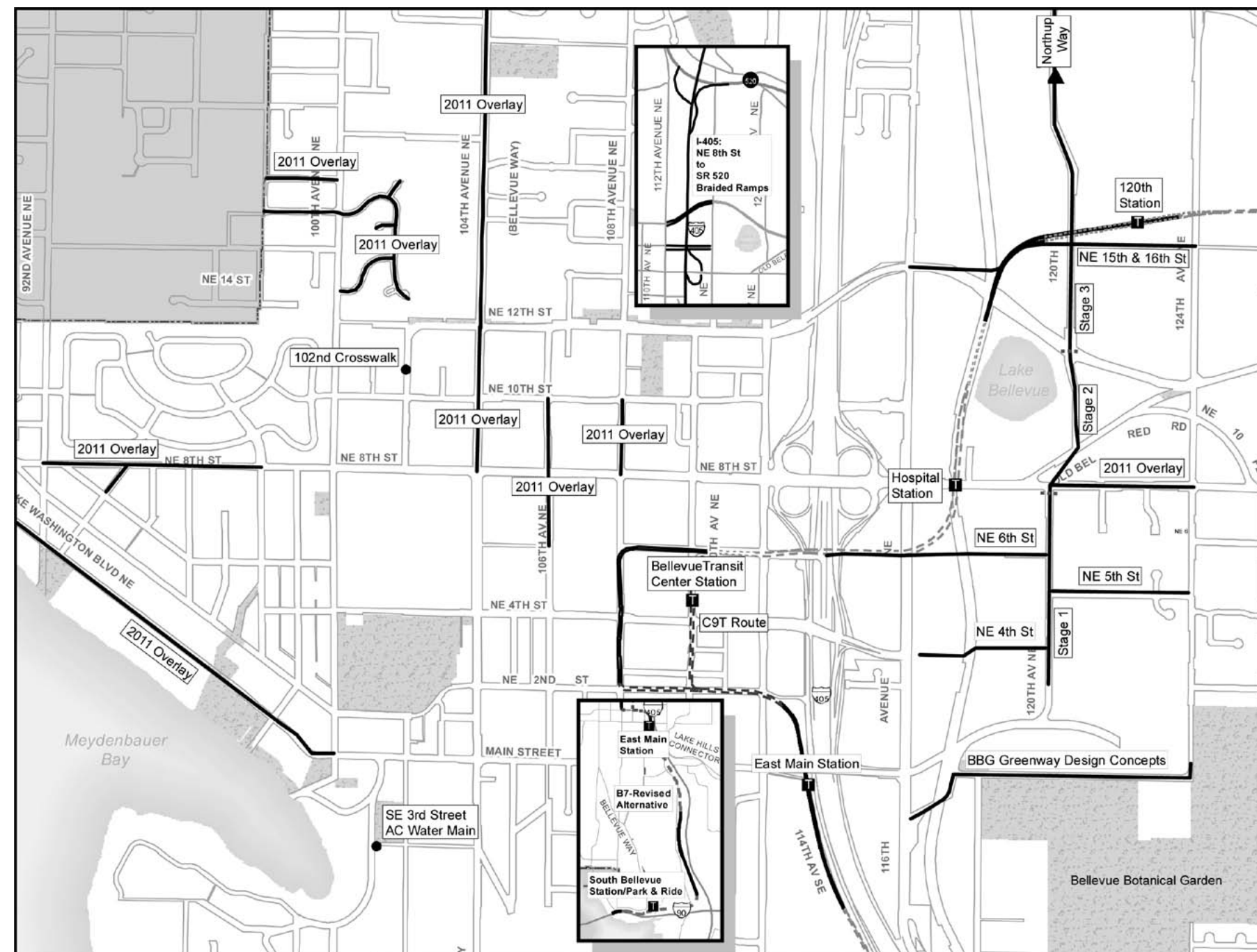
Though reductions were necessary in the operating budget and CIP, Bellevue has fared better during the economic downturn than many municipalities, aided by its tradition of strong fiscal leadership and, in recent years, healthy economic development. The city took steps at the start of the recession to contain costs, implement mandatory spending cuts and impose a citywide hiring freeze.

In conjunction with the budget cuts, council members also approved water, sewer and storm water rate increases that allow Bellevue to remain in compliance with regulations, provide for growth and maintain systems. Regional costs for water purchases and sewage treatment account for almost half of utilities costs, and are reflected in the rate increases.

Water rates are going up an average of 3.3 percent this year, and 7.9 percent in 2012. Storm water rates increase 3.2 percent each year, and sewer rates increase 8.9 percent this year and 1.5 percent next year. The typical residential customer's monthly utilities costs are going up about \$7 in 2011, and \$5 in 2012.

Downtown Projects Update

The city is working on about a dozen projects oriented in or near downtown. These projects, which are in various stages, are from the Planning & Community Development, Transportation and Utilities departments as well as the Mobility & Infrastructure Initiative.



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN GREENWAY DESIGN STUDY

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Greenway Design Study is the first of a series of boulevard or greenway concept plans which will provide the city with the tools to develop a network of civic streets and greenways connecting unique neighborhoods, public services and ecosystems as part of a larger framework implementing the vision of Bellevue as a "City in a park."

A report was recently completed that outlines a concept plan for transforming the streets in the study area into a greenway. The concept development included analyzing and identifying a number of opportunities for portions of Southeast First Street, Main Street and 124th Avenue Northeast based on the project goals and functional requirements previously identified for these streets.

At the core of this plan is the objective of bringing the best qualities of the Bellevue Botanical Garden and Wilburton Hill Park into the corridor to welcome visitors to a unique city district and their respective entrances.

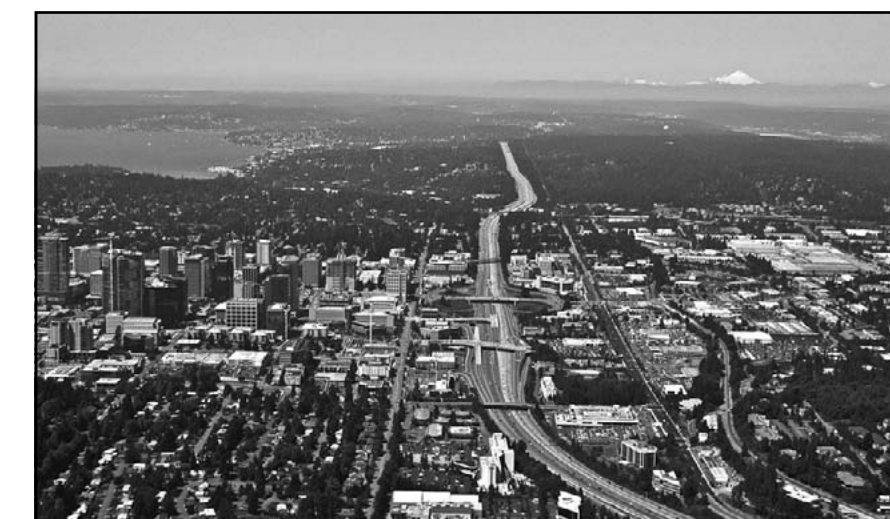
Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan calls for a greenway and boulevard system, distinctive from other streets in the city, that will reinforce the image of Bellevue as a "City in a Park." Both within the right of way and on private development, features such as gateways, street trees, landscaping, median plantings, special lighting, separated and wider sidewalks, crosswalks, seating, special signs, street names, decorative paving patterns, and public art should be used to accomplish a cohesive civic system.

Greenways will be part of a citywide network of streetscape enhancements that will help enhance neighborhood livability and character by creating attractive and memorable gateways and streetscapes for use by all modes. Though each greenway concept plan will be unique, a future citywide master plan will provide consistent framework. For more information, contact Patti Wilma at 425-452-4114 or pwilma@bellevuewa.gov.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

STUDY OF EAST LINK LIGHT RAIL B7-REVISED ROUTE

The city is conducting a study to determine if a new light rail route through South Bellevue compares favorably with one previously considered by Sound Transit for its East Link light rail service through Bellevue.



The study is intended to find whether the "B7- Revised" route would offer improved performance, reduced costs and less impacts on South Bellevue than the B7 route studied in Sound Transit's draft environmental impact statement for the East Link project. The study will consist of conceptual engineering, environmental screening, ridership analysis and cost estimating to provide an objective "apples to apples" comparison to the Sound Transit B7 alternative.

The next public meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 5-7 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers. Presentations will be made at 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. The same presentation will be made each time.

Bellevue wants to make sure that the East Link light rail project, the largest and most expensive transportation project in Bellevue's history, best serves the needs of Bellevue businesses, commuters, residents, and visitors. For more information: Maher Welaye at 425-452-4879 or mwelaye@bellevuewa.gov

102ND AVENUE NORTHEAST MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK

To enhance safety for pedestrians trying to cross the busy section of 102nd Avenue Northeast near QFC, just north of Northeast Eighth Street, improvements will be made to this mid-block crossing. For more information: Chris Masek at 425-452-4619 or cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

PAVEMENT OVERLAY PROGRAM 2011

This program is an annual effort to repave city roadways – before they deteriorate to the point when more costly repairs are needed.

This year, about 20 lane miles of roadway will be repaved; several roadways in downtown Bellevue will be overlaid this coming summer. Please see the map for the locations.

Before the pavement overlay is started, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) will be installing new lines on Bellevue Way between Northeast 12th and approximately Northeast 24th Street. The PSE work will take approximately a month and will most likely take place in the spring.

This year's overlay program will focus on arterial roadways and neighborhood collectors with only a few lane miles of overlay on residential streets. The total cost of this year's overlay program will be determined when the project is bid in March.

In addition to repaving, the project will repair curbs, gutters and sidewalks where needed and, to meet requirements of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), will install ADA curb ramps.

Begun in 1982, the intent of the overlay program is to maximize previous investments to the city's 942 lane miles of roadway by repaving targeted sections before a more costly rebuild is needed. Street segments are reviewed every two years and repaving work is prioritized according to need. For more information: Teresa Becker at 425-452-7942 or tbecker@bellevuewa.gov

MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE PROJECTS

The Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative projects are a group of high-priority projects adopted by City Council to meet the growing needs in downtown, west Wilburton, and the Bel-Red area. These projects will respond to increased travel spurred by downtown development and planned growth in the Bel-Red and Wilburton areas. Some of the projects provide early investments in the Bel-Red area where substantial new growth is planned in conjunction with the future East Link light rail line. There are six projects that will be included in this downtown update:



120TH AVENUE NORTHEAST: NORTHEAST 300 BLOCK TO NORTHEAST 700 BLOCK, STAGE 1

This project will include the widening of the existing roadway to five lanes, two lanes in each direction with center-turn lane pockets, bike lanes, sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, landscaping, street lighting, and utility improvements from the 300 block to the 700 block. This project will also include a new traffic signal at the NE 6th Street and 120th Avenue NE intersection.

In December, the City Council approved funding for design, right-of-way, and construction. For more information: Steve Costa at 425-452-2845 or scosta@bellevuewa.gov

120TH AVENUE NORTHEAST: NORTHEAST EIGHTH STREET TO NORTHEAST 12TH STREET, STAGE 2

This project includes the realignment, reconstruction, and widening of 120th Avenue Northeast from Northeast 8th Street to Northeast 12th Street to accommodate a five-lane roadway, eight-foot-wide sidewalks, five-foot-wide planter, and five-foot-wide bike lanes on both sides of the street. In December, the City Council approved funding for design, right-of-way, and construction. For more information: Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

120TH AVENUE NORTHEAST: NORTHEAST 12TH STREET TO NORTHPUR WAY, STAGE 3

This project includes widening the existing two-lane roadway to accommodate a five-lane roadway, eight-foot-wide sidewalk, five-foot-wide planter, and five-foot-wide bike lanes on both sides of the street. In December, the City Council approved funding for 60% design. For more information: Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

NORTHEAST FOURTH STREET EXTENSION: 116TH AVENUE NORTHEAST TO 120TH AVENUE NORTHEAST

This project will extend Northeast Fourth Street from 116th Avenue Northeast to 120th Avenue Northeast. This project proposes five travel lanes, sidewalks, planter strips, bike lanes on both sides of the roadway, and other utility improvements. It also includes modifications to the existing traffic signal at the Northeast Fourth Street/116th Avenue Northeast intersection, and a new signal at the Northeast Fourth Street/120th Avenue Northeast intersection.

In December, the City Council approved funding for design, right-of-way, and construction. Final refinements are being made to the preferred alternative. Please refer to the project website to learn more about these refinements: www.bellevuewa.gov/ne-fourth-street-extension.htm An update was provided to City Council on February 7, 2011.

The project team is working closely with adjacent businesses, property owners, and private developers in the immediate vicinity. For more information: Marina Arakelyan at 425-452-4632 or marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

NORTHEAST FIFTH STREET NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN

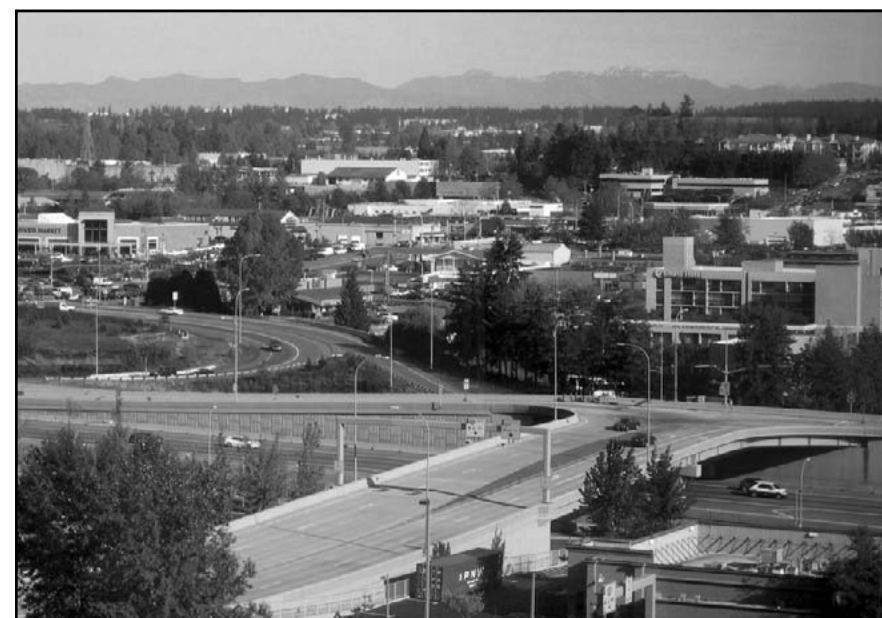
A public involvement process is underway with a traffic committee comprised of staff, resident volunteers, and adjacent businesses to review the traffic analysis of Northeast 5th Street in regards to future projects, and to identify possible options to address community concerns.

The Traffic Committee will be sending out a questionnaire to the Wilburton neighborhood to gauge priorities and receive feedback on Northeast Fifth Street's possible alternatives. Proposed alternatives and results from the questionnaire will be presented at a Wilburton Connections open house for public comment this spring. For more information: Vangie Garcia at 452-6103 or vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov

NORTHEAST SIXTH STREET EXTENSION: I-405 TO 120TH AVENUE NORTHEAST

This project includes an analysis for the extension of the Northeast Sixth Street HOV/Transit only connection from the median of I-405, to a new "T" intersection at 120th Avenue Northeast. The design will include two travel lanes and a 14-foot wide non-motorized pathway. The non-motorized pathway will be integrated with the Northeast Sixth extension to connect to the future regional trail within the BNSF corridor.

We are preparing the base mapping, working with agency stakeholders, and beginning conceptual pre-design. For more information: Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382 or nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

SOUTHEAST THIRD STREET: 101ST AVENUE SOUTHEAST & BELLEVUE WAY AC WATER MAIN AND COMMERCIAL METER REPLACEMENT

The AC water main under Southeast Third Street is being replaced in advance of the City of Bellevue/King County joint upgrade of the Bellevue Influent Trunk Wastewater Pipe Upgrade project. The AC water pipe is among the oldest pipe in the city's service area, and is near the end of its expected life. Replacing the pipe now will increase reliability in water service to businesses and residents in the area, and minimize construction and repaving time by combining two construction projects. For more information: Mark Dewey at 425-452-6179 or mdewey@bellevuewa.gov

The Downtown Bellevue Projects Update is published for people who live, work, or do business in or near downtown. If you have questions or comments about these projects, 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

Title VI Notice to the Public - It is the City of Bellevue's policy to assure that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated may file a complaint with the Title VI Coordinator. For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at 425-452-4270.

Community Calendar

Family Movies at Mercer Slough

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625-118th Ave. SE., 5 to 6:30 p.m. Free.

Feb 25, *Wolf/Legendary Outlaw*
Witness the stunning life of wolves. Best for ages 8+. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 425-452-2565

"Woof" Walks

Feb 26, 10 to 11 a.m. at *Weowna Park* (Meet at West Lake Sammamish Entrance, 565 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE)

March 26, 10 to 11 a.m. at *Robinswood Park*. (Meet at the Robinswood House, 2430 148th AVE SE)

April 23, 10-11 a.m. at *Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station* (Meet at the Ranger Station, 15416 SE 16th St.)

Bring your dog and join a park ranger and discover fascinating ecological facts about Bellevue parks. Learn how you and your dog can both help the City steward these valuable lands. Free. Info/Pre-register: 425-452-7225

Fiction Fridays

March 4, *A Log's Life* by Wendy Pheiffer

Learn about logs and some of the ways they contribute to our environment.

April 1, *The Very Best Bed* by Rebekah Raye.

Follow a grey squirrel's search for the perfect place to sleep.

11 a.m. -12 noon at Lewis Creek Park, 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.

\$2. Pre-registration required. Primarily for ages 3-6.

Info: 425-452-4195 Register: 425-452-6885

Family Movie at Lewis Creek

March 12, *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air*

April 10, *Bees: Tales from the Hive* Part of PBS Nature Series.

Stunningly beautiful, high-definition high-speed footage that helps us understand these creatures as we never have before. 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.

\$1. Pre-registration required. All ages welcome. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a registered adult.

425-452-6885

The Last Unicorn

March 25-27 & April 1-3

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northrup Way

\$10. The delightful retelling of the story of the last unicorn. Suitable for all ages, but some parts may be intense for pre-school age children. 425-452-7155

Pinocchio

April 15-17 & April 22-23

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northrup Way

\$10. Fun and light-hearted telling of the classic tale of Pinocchio. Appropriate for all ages. 425-452-7155

Earth Day-Arbor Day Celebration

April 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteer projects in various locations, 8:30 to 11 a.m. & Community celebration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St. Volunteer projects, interactive displays and activities. 425-452-4195

Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale

April 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street

Featuring a great selection of plants from Eastside Fuchsia Society. 425-452-2750



Children get crafty at a Kelsey Creek Park day camp.

April Pools Day

April 16, noon to 2 p.m.

Bellevue Aquatic Center, 601 143rd Ave NE

This event promotes water safety and proper lifejacket use. Free swimming, raffles, and water safety demonstrations.

425-452-4444 or sarmstrong@bellevuewa.gov

Hua Yuan Chinese Floral Art Exhibition

April 23-24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.

Exquisite floral arrangements created by members of the school will be on display in the Visitor Center. Free. 425-452-2750

Cinderella

April 29-May 1

Meydenbauer Theatre, 11100 NE 6th Street, Bellevue.

\$10. Performed by a large Bellevue Youth Theatre cast at the Theater at Meydenbauer.

In this retelling of the classic story, Cinderella comes to life on the stage. 425-452-7155

Sheep Shearing

April 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kelsey Creek Farm, 410 130th PL SE

See the sheep being shorn of their winter coats, spinning demonstrations, children's crafts, tractor rides, pony rides, food and more! Free admission. Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM on site, and no charge cards are accepted. 425-452-7688 or kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov

Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale

April 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street

Featuring a great selection of plants from Eastside Fuchsia Society. 425-452-2750

Spring/Summer Recreation Programs & Day Camps

March 14 - Registration begins for many parks spring and summer camps and other recreation programs.

425-452-6885 or www.myparksandrecreation.com

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 & 156th Ave SE/ SE 16th St.

Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

425-260-2266

Bellevue Botanical Garden Tours

April - October, Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden 12001 Main St.

425-451-3755

Sit, Sip & Stroll

Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

1625 118th Ave. SE

Take in the magnificent views of Mercer Slough as you sip on coffee or tea. Use a spotting scope to find and watch wildlife, then a park ranger will lead a guided stroll along the trails. No registration necessary. 425-452-2565

Mercer Slough Nature Walk

Saturdays, 2-3 p.m.

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Ave. SE. Join us for a free guided tour of the new Environmental Education Center and wetland walk in the Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Visitor Center. No registration necessary. All ages are welcome. 425-452-2565

2011 Picnic Shelter Reservations

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

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

City Contact Information

Bellevue City Hall

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

Service First (general information): 452-6800

City of Bellevue website: www.bellevuewa.gov

City Council Office: 452-7810

City Council Meetings

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

2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

Community Council Meetings

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

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

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

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

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

Library Board: 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.

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

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

Transportation: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

City Manager: 452-7228

Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874

Highland: 452-7686

North Bellevue/Aging Services: 452-7681

South Bellevue: 452-4240

Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services Center: 452-6800

New permit applications: 452-4898

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

Simple permits, inspection requests: MyBuildingPermit.com

Application and inspection status: MyBuildingPermit.com

Code Compliance: 452-4570

Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911

Business and Information: 452-6892

Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or www.bellevuewa.gov

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

Emergency Only: 911

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

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

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-7658

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-2977

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

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

Volunteering: 452-5375

Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS

Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

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
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Bellevue City Council



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Deputy Mayor



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John Chelminiak



Jennifer Robertson



Kevin Wallace

Newport Hills field and lighting improvements underway

The new synthetic turf soccer field at Newport Hills Park should be ready in time for the spring season. Come summer, baseball players will be able to play ball on a diamond with a new synthetic-turf infield.

A field that would often turn too muddy to use in the rainy months, will now be available year-round.

Thanks to a federal stimulus grant, the city was also able to install state-of-the-art lights at Newport Hills Park. The new lights are more energy-efficient and precise, meaning less spillover into the neighborhood.

In addition to the turf and lighting improvements, the project will also provide for additional parking, fencing, an upgraded restroom and improved park access, irrigation and drainage.

With synthetic turf installation at Newport Hills soon to be completed and last year's installation of synthetic turf at Wilburton Hill Park, the \$3 million sports field improvements portion of the voter-approved 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy will be completed. The Wilburton field has already experienced more than double the use of previous years.

For more information, call Scott VanderHyden at 425-452-4169.



The old lights at Newport Hills Park spilled over into the neighborhood.

Planning Commission looks at shoreline regulations

Wondering about the status of the city's update to its Shoreline Master Program? The updated master program will contain shoreline policies and regulations governing how properties around Bellevue's shorelines are developed and used.

The Planning Commission continues to review revised draft Shoreline Master Program provisions at its study sessions and is working to prepare the draft for consideration at a public hearing. Anticipated this spring, the hearing will give the community a formal opportunity to comment on the draft plan. However, comments on the draft can be submitted to staff or the commission at any time for consideration.

Prior to the public hearing, the city will hold an open house for all interested parties and property owners affected by the new regulations. Notices will be sent directly to shoreline property owners about the open house and upcoming changes. At the open house, staff will be on hand to answer questions about the draft provisions.

For more information regarding scheduled meetings and to review the most up-to-date draft documents, see the project web page at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/shoreline-master-plan.htm>.