

## Vacancy on EBCC offers opportunity for input

For the first time in a long time you see a new name on this article. James Bell who has authored this column for many years, resigned his position with the East Bellevue Community Council after more than 20 years of service. Jim has left the council to spend more time with his family. His contribution to the Council and the community it serves will be missed.

With his departure, a vacancy has opened up on the EBCC. This creates an opportunity for you, if you live in the area, to join the EBCC and participate in land-use decisions in your community. Applications are available on Bellevue's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/ebcc-vacancy.htm>.

So what do we do?

The five-member EBCC has represented the east Bellevue area (see adjacent map) for almost 40 years. It is empowered by state law with the approval/disapproval authority over certain land-use actions in east Bellevue, and advises the City Council on other land-use issues that directly or indirectly affect the area.

Since joining the EBCC two years ago, I personally have had the opportunity to weigh in on some important land use issues that affect each of us in the community.

One of the projects we have been following is the Lake Hills Shopping Center redevelopment plan. There is great news to report about this project, including the fact that the King County Library System has signed an agreement to move the Lake Hills Library from its current location down the street to the corner of the Lake Hills shopping center property.

The 10,000-square-foot building will be brand new and will be a great asset to our community. Wendy Pender, manager of the Lake Hills Library and Crossroads Connection, came to an EBCC meeting to share some of the plans for the library after the move is completed. The library move is the first of three phases of development, which, when completed, will make the Lake Hills Shopping Center one of the crown jewels of our neighborhood.

When and where do we meet?

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday of every month (unless it's a holiday, in which case we meet on Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. in the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

How can you participate?

Read about land-use issues under consideration by the EBCC, the city and the City Council. EBCC meeting agendas, minutes and resolutions are published on Bellevue's website at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm).

Come to an EBCC meeting and listen to the discussion, testimony from the public and/or consider testifying yourself. The meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to testify in person, or send e-mails to [ebcc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ebcc@bellevuewa.gov) with input on land-use issues under discussion.

For those who may not wish to serve on the EBCC, or are not comfortable providing public testimony, but would like to help the Community Council, take a few minutes to think about your neighborhood and what makes it great. As a city grows, it changes – sometimes for the better and sometimes not.

Please share your thoughts on how you would like to see land-use issues develop with one of the EBCC members. We are interested in hearing what changes you support and which ones you do not. You can e-mail your thoughts to the e-mail address noted above, or consider stopping by before or after one of our meetings and share your thoughts directly with one of the EBCC members.

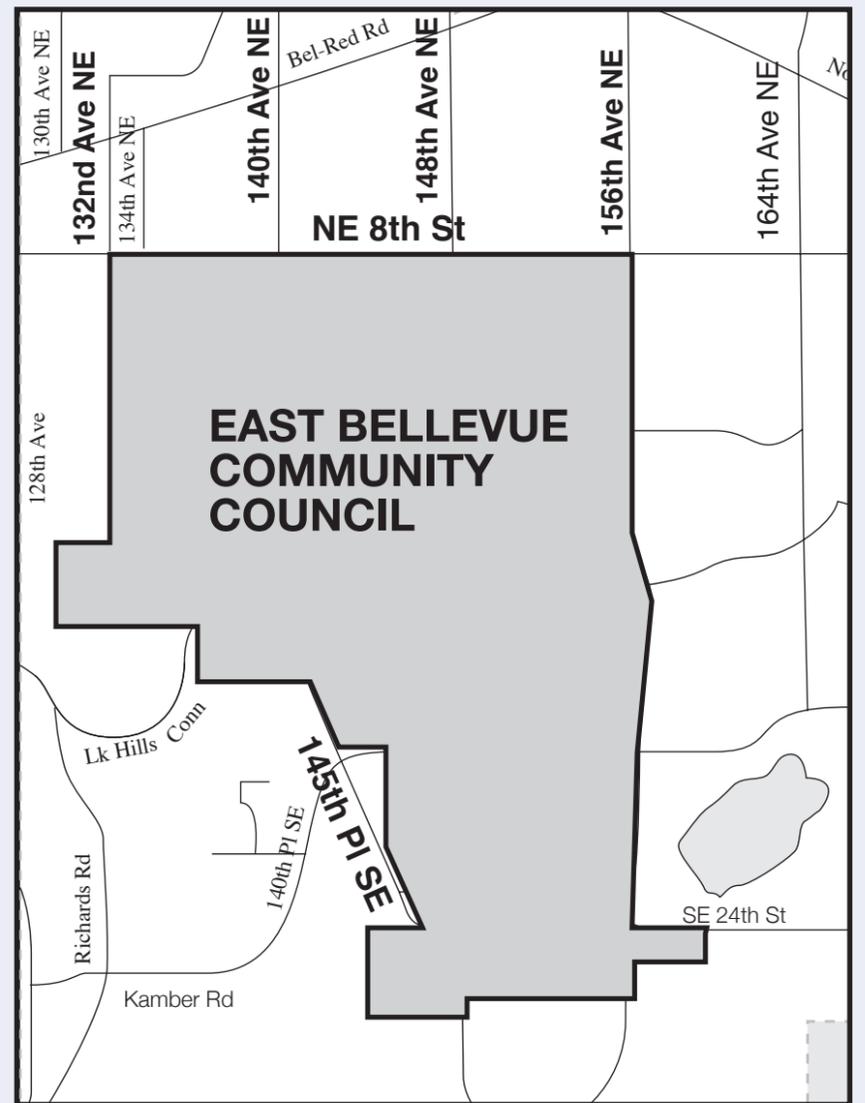
As a social studies teacher and Student Council co-advisor at Chestnut Hill Academy in Bellevue, I have worked with my students to show that an individual can make a difference. Most of my students have great compassion and empathy for the world that we live in, certainly more than I had as a 10- or 11-year-old.

In the fall, my class had a spirited unit discussion regarding both our presidential and gubernatorial races. The idea was for students to participate in a fair and respectful manner that allowed others to share contradicting opinions in a judgment-free and safe environment.

I was humbled by how well they took the lesson to heart and truly learned from each other's perspective. Sometimes I think that children understand the value of others' thoughts better than adults.

I hope that, as we debate the future of land-use in our neighborhood, we can take a lesson from my students and remember to respectfully hear and value each other's perspectives, no matter how passionately we feel about an issue.

There is no one answer to any given problem, and each of us will be affected to differing degrees. It is critical, as a community, that we are engaged and come together collectively to provide input and make sound decisions that impact our community. It is all about the vision. Let's hear yours.



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

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

### Members

Michael Elwin, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal

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

I personally pledge to evaluate each issue through the prism of what will serve our greater community. I value deeply the input of my fellow Council members, citizens in the general community and my neighbors in forming my decisions.

I am hopeful that at least one of you reading this takes the time to fill out an application and join my colleagues and me in participating on the EBCC.

There are many other great projects going on that will make our city even greater. Many of them are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. I thank you for reading this far and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

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](http://bellevuewa.gov/bellevue_tv.htm).