

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

September 2006

NEP engages residents from W. Bellevue to Newport

Voting will soon be underway in West Bellevue neighborhoods, where residents will decide how to spend \$250,000 in Neighborhood Enhancement funding. Voters have until Sept. 26 to return ballots with their choices for sidewalks, entry treatments, trail enhancements, park improvements, or playground upgrades. In the meantime, residents of Newport Hills and adjacent neighborhoods are just reaching the Aug. 31 deadline for submitting project ideas.

Next up for Neighborhood Enhancement are Somerset and Factoria. Residents of those neighborhoods can be thinking about potential projects as they look forward to a community brainstorming process beginning in late fall. For more information, or to find out when your neighborhood is scheduled for NEP, contact Ron Matthew at 425-452-4075.

Hot dry summer boosts fire calls

The Fire Department warns that extended periods of hot, dry weather equal fire danger – not only in forests and grasslands, but also in neighborhoods. According to Deputy Chief Warren Merritt, the department has responded to three times more fire calls this summer than during the same time last year. Most of those fires could have been prevented.



Chief Merritt has asked that residents take a look at the attached flyer, “Summer Fire Safety,” and perhaps even share copies with neighbors in order to reduce fire risk and enjoy the rest of the long hot summer. For more information about fire safety, please contact the Fire Prevention Division at 425-452-6872.

Leadership positions still open

At the time of this newsletter’s e-mail distribution, the City was still accepting applications for a vacant position on the Environmental Services Commission. Interested residents have until Aug. 30 to apply for appointment to the commission which advises City Council on matters relating to water, sewer, storm and surface water, and solid waste utility programs. Another deadline is coming up for a vacant position on the East Bellevue Community Council. Sept. 1 is the final date to apply for appointment to the five-member Council which has authority over specific land use decisions in the East Bellevue area. Applications for both positions can be found at Bellevue City Hall or Crossroads Mini City Hall, at the Bellevue Regional or Lake Hills Libraries, or on-line at www.cityofbellevue.org.

More changes in store for I-405 in Bellevue

North Bellevue neighborhoods in the vicinity of NE 8th and SR 520 may be interested in an upcoming study of I-405 improvements to improve access and safety, reduce congestion, and accommodate future regional growth. The state study anticipates the need for new structures on I-405 to separate traffic exiting to SR 520 from downtown Bellevue traffic entering I-405, and an eastbound lane along SR 520 to separate the on and off-ramp traffic between I-405 and 124th Avenue NE.

A community meeting to receive public input on the proposed project will be held Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-108.

Meanwhile, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is planning a flurry of activity along Interstate 405 this fall, reaching major construction milestones and beginning new projects on I-405 between Bellevue and Lynnwood. Northbound commuters will notice an immediate reduction in travel time as new travel lanes are opened, according to Denise Cieri, WSDOT Project Manager.

For its next round of I-405 improvements, WSDOT is currently evaluating the potential for High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes north from SR 520 in Bellevue to Lynnwood. For more information on these and other related projects, contact the WSDOT web site, www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405.

September meetings calendar

(Note: All meetings are on the first floor of Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, unless otherwise noted..)

- 9/4 Labor Day** - All City offices closed
- 9/5 City Council** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Study session – Update on SR-520 bridge replacement and HOV project, 145th Place SE Neighborhood Investment Strategy project update, Forest Drive Phase 2 update, quasi-judicial rezone application for Lochwood Commons (8:00, Council Chambers) Pesticide use in parks, discussion of AFIS levy, Consent Calendar
- 9/5 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Presentation by developer on plans for Lake Hills Shopping Center redevelopment
- 9/7 Human Services Commission** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Full review of human services applications from Goal Areas 3, 4 and 5
- 9/7 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, Bellevue Service Center - Note location change) Failures/Claims Analyses, Budget Process 101
- 9/11 City Council** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Extended study session – Wilburton/NE 8th Study update, Vision 2020 preferred growth alternative, I-933 briefing, Interlocal Agreement relating to Overlake urban center, 145th Place SE project budget and contract award
- 9/12 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
- 9/12 Human Services Commission** (6:00, 1E-120) Preliminary Community Development Block Grant funding recommendations with contingency plan, beginning of general fund allocation deliberation.
- 9/13 Planning Commission** (7:00, Council Conference Room) Study session on Wilburton/NE 8th Study and Crossroads Center Plan
- 9/14 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Wilburton Transportation/Land Use Study update; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan
- 9/18 City Council** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Study session – Convention Center refurbishment proposal, amendments to Utilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan relating to electrical facilities (8:00, Council Chambers) Regional growth alternatives, proposed pedestrian bridge on NE 8th, quasi-judicial rezone application for Lochwood Commons
- 9/19 Human Services Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Finalize general fund recommendations (if necessary)
- 9/23 Parks & Community Services Board Retreat** (South Bellevue Community Center) Time and agenda to be determined
- 9/25 City Council** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Extended study session – Development Services management model, Great Streets program, SR520 preferred alternative recommendation, regional issues including hospital district legislative options, Sound Transit/RTID update, Katrina/Rita follow-up, Homeland Security interest statement
- 9/27 Planning Commission** (7:00, Council Conference Room) Study session on Wilburton/NE 8th Study, Sound Transit
- 9/28 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) To be determined.

Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and activities to enhance neighborhood quality, contact Cheryl Kuhn, 452-4089, or your Neighborhood Liaison.