

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

April 2008

Share your opinions on size, scale of new houses

If you have some thoughts on neighborhood redevelopment – including the positive and negative impacts of tearing down existing housing to build big, new homes – the City wants to hear from you. Call, write, attend a Planning Commission meeting, or do something different – like attending an “automated” community conversation on Tuesday, April 8.



As the City launches Phase Two discussion of the Neighborhood Character project – targeting the impacts of redevelopment and infill – staff and Planning Commissioners are seeking a broad range of public opinion on several important questions. Should the City, for instance:

- Enact regulations to limit the bulk of new homes or to protect neighboring homes from the loss of sunlight and privacy?
- Restrict the ability of residents to combine lots?
- Establish separate setback requirements for mechanical equipment and guest cottages?
- Reduce remodeling construction hours?

On April 8, the City will host a 7 p.m. community conversation on the above issues. The meeting will feature an Automated Audience Response System similar to those used by certain television programs to obtain immediate audience feedback. All are welcome to come learn more about neighborhood redevelopment issues and register your opinions on the possible solutions.

The Planning Commission also will discuss Neighborhood Character (size and scale issues) at its regular 6:30 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, April 23. For more information, visit <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-character.htm>, or contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836. You may also register your opinion by e-mail at NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Earth Day, Arbor Day – fun by any name

Bellevue’s annual Earth Day-Arbor Day Family Festival is bigger and better this year. The date is set for Saturday, April 19 at Lewis Creek Park and Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd SE. Activities include:

8:30-11 a.m. – Volunteer park enhancement projects throughout Bellevue and at Lewis Creek Park.

Interested volunteers should contact Bob Schafer at 425-452-7225 or rschafer@bellevuewa.gov.



10 a.m.- 3 p.m. – Family Festival at Lewis Creek Park, featuring family arts and crafts, recycling and green products displays, kite flying and inflatables for the kids, orienteering, foot races, and cycling demonstrations.

11:30 a.m. – Earth Day-Arbor Day Ceremonial Tree Planting and recognition ceremony.

In celebration of Earth Day-Arbor Day, Lewis Creek Visitor Center will feature a display of posters created by Bellevue elementary school students to help raise community awareness of the importance of trees in the city.

Parking is limited so please – **think green** – bicycle, carpool, or walk to Lewis Creek Park. For more information about the Bellevue's Earth Day-Arbor Day Family Festival, contact Laura Hughes Parsons at 425-452-4195 or lhughes@bellevuewa.gov, Debbie Pettersson at 425-452-7106 or dpettersson@bellevuewa.gov, or visit www.bellevuewa.gov.

Comment on Surrey Downs master plan

City staff invite residents to participate in the third Surrey Downs Master Plan community meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at Bellevue City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain feedback on a preferred alternative master plan. The plan to be presented is based largely on community comments received to date, including comments on the four alternatives shared at a previous meeting. While much of the first two meetings' focus has been on the merits of a community recreation facility, the emphasis at this meeting will shift to the park itself, including those elements that will create the “heart and soul” of Surrey Downs Park.

The format of the meeting will be similar to the first two – beginning with a presentation of the preferred park plan followed by facilitated breakout groups to discuss the details and merits of the plan. For more information, contact Scott Vander Hyden at 425-452-4169 or e-mail svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov.

Boards need your expertise

Some Bellevue boards and commissions are seeking talented residents for appointment to positions expiring on May 31. The Parks & Community Services Board requests that interested persons submit applications by 5 p.m., Friday, April 25. For complete information on board vacancies, or to request an application, contact the City Clerk's Office, 425-452-6805. You can also obtain the application online at www.bellevuewa.gov/apply-boards.htm or pick up a copy at the City Hall Service First desk, the Crossroads Mini City Hall, the Bellevue Regional Library or the Lake Hills Library.

Best Practices draft report under review

The Light Rail Best Practices project is entering an important phase as the Committee begins its review of the draft report of best practices for Bellevue beginning in May. The Committee was to receive a draft of one section (Station Security) at its April meeting and will be receiving the rest of the topics for its meeting on May 6. A May open house also is planned to get public comments on the draft best practices for the Committee to consider before it makes its final report in June. Copies of the materials presented to the Committee so far are located on the project website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_info.htm. Announcements about the open house and upcoming Committee meetings will also be posted on the website.

Join us for jazz

If you've been meaning to visit City Hall, or the Neighborhood Resource Center at City Hall, the Bellevue Jazz Festival provides the perfect opportunity. Drop in for a visit with Neighborhood Outreach staff and see what the new Resource Center has to offer on Wednesday, April 30 – before you listen to jazz beginning at 5 p.m. in the Concourse. Again this year, City Hall will host one of the six free afternoon concerts scheduled for downtown locations during April and May. The City Hall concert will feature music by Thomas Marriott. For more information, see www.bellevuejazz.com/schedule.html.



April meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

4/1 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Public hearings on 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments pertaining to the Capital Facilities and Utilities General Elements, and a Land Use Code Amendment relating to Electrical Utility Facilities http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

4/1 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Update on Wrap-Around Services Pilot Program, summary of State Legislative issues http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

- 4/1 Light Rail Best Practices Committee** (6:30, room 1E-108) Best practices report topics and remaining project schedule http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/light_rail_best_practices_info.htm
- 4/2 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) 2008 Comprehensive Plan Amendments; Bel-Red Corridor Study (Redmond Overlake presentation, Incentive System, off-street parking) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm
- 4/3 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-112) Bel-Red Corridor project update, Capital Investment Program (CIP) update, Lake Tapps acquisition and water right http://www.bellevuewa.gov/envirom_serv_comm.htm
- 4/3 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Bel-Red Corridor project update, Network promotional materials discussion, committee reports http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm
- 4/3 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), 2008 Ped-Bike Plan – Draft Network Plan and Project List http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm
- 4/7 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Swearing in of new Councilmember, update on Voter Initiative for Parks, Transportation CIP quarterly update (8:00 regular session, Chambers) Proclamations for Library Week and Arbor Day/Earth Day, management brief on Light Rail Best Practices calendar, Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
- 4/8 Neighborhood Character Community Meeting** (7 p.m., Council Chambers) Interactive discussion of redevelopment impacts on neighborhood character (See article above.)
- 4/8 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm
- 4/9 Youth Link Board** (6:00, Room120) Agenda to be determined http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/youth_link_board.htm
- 4/10 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Ped-Bike Plan/Network Plan update; overview of combined Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) and CIP project list; Bel-Red Corridor final recommendation on project list http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm
- 4/10 Public meeting on Temporary Encampment Permit** application to allow location of Tent City IV at Temple B’Nai Torah (6:00 p.m. at the Temple, 15727 NE 4th St.)
- 4/14 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Long-range strategic planning discussion, Bel-Red planning/financing principles and amenity incentives, Bellevue-Redmond Rapid Ride Corridor, pilot program for job order contracting, general Downtown projects update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
- 4/15 Human Services Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Joint meeting with commissions/advisory committees from Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah; ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) presentation of Affordable Housing 101; presentation of East King County Plan to End Homelessness http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm
- 4/16 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Light Rail Best Practices CPA introduction, Bel-Red incentive system, standards and design guidelines, capital projects http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm
- 4/21 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Transportation Impact Fees, Botanical Garden Master Plan (8:00 Regular Session, Chambers) Recycler of the Year awards, Consent Calendar, public hearing on Wright Runstad Development Agreement http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
- 4/23 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Character Phase Two, Bel-Red – finalize public hearing materials including Subarea Plan, projects, and Land Use Code http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm
- 4/23 Neighborhood Enhancement Program Workshop for Bridle Trails** (7-9 pm, Cherry Crest Elementary School) Opportunity to review and comment on projects proposed for NEP funding <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/nep.htm>
- 4/24 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) TFP, CIP and TIP project list discussion http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm
- 4/28 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues, Bel-Red/BROTS discussion, electric reliability, Light Rail Best Practices update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

Watch for closures --
Southbound ramps to I-405 from NE 6th and NE 4th are closed 10 p.m.-5 a.m. through April 5.