

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

January 2008

Enhancement funding moves to new areas in 2008

With the beginning of a new year, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program is gearing up for a sweep across north Bellevue, inviting residents to decide how City funds should be spent to enhance neighborhoods in 2008.

First up are the Northeast Bellevue and Bridle Trails neighborhoods, where residents are already involved in the process of selecting improvements for funding. A Jan. 23 workshop will offer Northeast Bellevue folks an opportunity to review proposed projects scheduled for the neighborhood balloting in February/March. Bridle Trails residents will attend a project workshop in April, with voting to follow in May.

Four other areas scheduled for Neighborhood Enhancement in 2008 are:

- Northwest Bellevue, where proposals for improvement projects will be invited beginning in February, with a workshop to be held in June, and voting to take place in July.
- West Lake Hills, getting underway as early as April, with the project workshop to be held in September, and voting to take place in November;
- Crossroads, beginning in August; and
- Wilburton, beginning in December.

Both Crossroads and Wilburton areas will be completed in 2009. If you live in any of the above areas, look for information in the mail. The process begins by inviting you to send in requests for projects that you believe will enhance the livability and safety of your neighborhood. Later you have the opportunity to vote for your highest priority projects. The selection of projects through NEP is completely dependent on your project requests and voting, so your participation is critical to the process. Questions about NEP can be directed to Ron Matthew at 452-4075 or rmatthew@bellevuewa.gov.



What to do when weather creates neighborhood problems

Winter weather can wreak havoc in neighborhoods. There's one number to call – **452-7840** – for winter woes such as flooded roadways, clogged catch basins, trees down in rights-of-way, potholes, erosion, damaged street signs or other types of storm damage to public property.

Toss the rulebook; learn to make community decisions by consensus

Have you been at a community meeting where there was a vote on an emotional issue? As you watched the losing side, have you ever worried that deep divisions might sour community spirit? Ever wondered if there was a better way? Many civic groups use Robert's Rules of Order because they insure that meetings are productive, orderly, and fair. But are they the best way?

Voting means that 49 percent of the people can leave unhappy and the formal structure inhibits creative solutions. What if a decision-making process not only promoted productive, orderly, and fair meetings, but also helped you find creative solutions that work for the vast majority? "Impossible!" You say? Come learn about a structured approach to consensus based decision making.

Andrew Kidde, co-manager of the Neighborhood Mediation Program is offering a class just for neighborhood and community association leaders and members on making decisions by consensus. The class is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5, in Room 1E-112 of Bellevue City Hall. The training is free but reservations are requested. Please call Mediation at 452-4091 for reservations or more information.

Light rail 'Best Practices' project keeps rolling

Although funding for construction of the light rail line to the east side wasn't approved in November, Sound Transit is continuing with the analysis of light rail for the East Link extension and is expected to issue a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in fall 2008. The City also is proceeding with its Best Practices project to be better informed and better positioned to influence Sound Transit's decisions about light rail in Bellevue. The City wants to find the right fit for Bellevue by exploring the "best practices" of other light rail systems to learn what works and doesn't work elsewhere and apply those lessons to Bellevue. This project will not decide specific routing or station locations – those are being analyzed by Sound Transit as part of the EIS.

Based on nearly 150 public comments from the Sept. 13 open house, plus comments received prior to that event, the best practices project is focused on eight topics:

1. Connecting people to light rail
2. Protecting and enhancing property values
3. Community and neighborhoods
4. Station security
5. *Land use*
6. *Street design and operations*
7. *Elevated, at-grade and tunnel integration*
8. *Construction impacts and mitigation*

Topics 1 through 4 were discussed by the public at the November outreach event and have been through a first round of review by the committee. Comments and transcripts of the discussion from the first group of round tables are available on the project web site.

Topics 5 through 8 are the focus of the next public outreach event scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 4 to 7:30 p.m., first floor at city hall. The event includes an open house and round table discussions on the topics.

The public is invited to stop by the open house any time between 4 and 7:30 p.m. to review and comment on the research conducted to date and best practices identified from other light rail systems and cities. Round table discussions will begin at 4:15 and will be repeated every 45 minutes so people can participate in any or all of the topic discussions. The round tables will end at 7:15 p.m.

Best Practices Committee members will receive a presentation of the research on topics 5-8 at their next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Jan. 2, and will discuss the topics in depth at their regular meeting on Feb. 5. The public is always invited to attend these meetings and provide comments in person or in writing via USPS or e-mail.

Please visit the website http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_intro.htm to get more information about the Light Rail Best Practices project or sign up to receive e-mail bulletins about meetings, open houses and additional information. E-mail the Best Practices Committee or project staff at LRBestPractices@bellevuewa.gov or contact Mike Kattermann, Planning and Community Development, at 452-2042 or Maria Koengeter, Transportation, at 452-4345.

January 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.)

1/1 New Year's Day – All city offices closed

1/2 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Neighborhood Character Phase One Land Use Code amendments http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

1/2 Light Rail Best Practices Committee (7:00, 1E-108) Initial briefing on research (see related article above) http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/light_rail_best_practices_committee.htm

1/7 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, response to Wright Rundstad & Company's request for a Development Agreement (8:00 Regular Session Council Chambers) Robinswood Tennis Center Recognition, Consent Calendar
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/8 City Council Special Meeting (7:30 a.m., 1E-112) Legislative breakfast with representatives from the 41st and 48th Districts http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/8 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

1/9 Light Rail Best Practices Open House (4:00, City Hall first floor) Discussion of public feedback on draft "Best Practices" research http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/light_rail_best_practices_public_involvement.htm

1/9 Youth Link Board (6:00, Room 1E-120) Agenda to be determined
http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/youth_link_board.htm

1/9 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Joint public hearing with Environmental Services Commission: 2008 Storm Water Management Program, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit (Following 6:30 joint meeting with Environmental Services Commission, Council Conference Room) Regular meeting: Follows conclusion of the joint hearing, Bel-Red Subarea Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

1/9 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Joint public hearing with Planning Commission: 2008 Storm Water Management Program, NPDES Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit (Following 6:30 joint meeting with Planning Commission, 1E-112) Regular meeting: Bel-Red Corridor Project recommendations/policy discussion http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

1/10 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:00 a.m., 1E-108) Review of bylaws, 2007 accomplishments, 2008 goals planning http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

1/10 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Corridor Implementation, Major Maintenance Program, Impact Fee Program background and review, Northrup Way Project open house update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

1/14 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/15 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

1/17 Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee (4:00, Council Conference Room) Final review of land use alternative http://www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer_project_steering_committee.htm

1/21 Martin Luther King's Birthday – All City offices closed

1/22 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/22 Newport Hills/Lake Heights Neighborhood Identity Community Meeting (7:00, Newport Hills Community Church) Second workshop, inviting community to refine ideas for neighborhood identity treatments

1/23 Neighborhood Enhancement Program Workshop For Northeast Bellevue (7:00, Bennett Elementary School Library) Opportunity to review and comment on projects proposed for NEP funding by residents
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/northeast.htm>

1/23 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Subarea Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

1/24 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Pedestrian-Bike Plan update, Great Streets Project draft final http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

1/28 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

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 programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.

CITY OF BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD MATCH PROGRAM

What could your neighborhood do with \$5,000.00?

Does your neighborhood need a new entrance sign? Or right of way landscaping?



Have you thought of redoing your mail box stands?



Or maybe you would like to see a creative art project in your neighborhood?



These are examples of projects receiving Neighborhood Match grants.

Funding is available for neighborhood improvements when matched by the community in cash, donated professional services, materials or volunteer labor.

ASK US HOW YOU CAN APPLY!
Contact Neighborhood Outreach, 452-6836.