

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

March 2010

Feeding wild animals makes for bad neighborhood relations

Spring seems to bring more wild animals out on the prowl for food; often the females have new babies to feed. As cute as raccoons and other small animals may be, feeding them is a big mistake – and a sure-fire way to alienate your neighbors.



According to wildlife experts, feeding raccoons does not make them tamer; it makes them more aggressive as they come to depend on an artificial food source. Artificial feeding also tends to concentrate raccoons in a small area, where overcrowding can spread diseases and parasites. And raccoons frequently carry diseases such as canine distemper and parasites such as raccoon roundworms which are dangerous or lethal for domestic animals.

Finally, raccoons are unwelcome visitors at most households, where they are prone to engage in such destructive behavior as nesting in attics, chimneys and crawlspaces, digging up sod to get at insects, leaving their parasite-infected droppings, and even attacking small pets. So don't create problems for your neighbors by attracting raccoons and other wild animals to the area. For more information about living with and/or avoiding contact with wildlife in your neighborhood, contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife, <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regions/region4/index.html>.

More tea and conversation on tap at Crossroads

Twenty-eight women met in January for a ground-breaking event based on tea and conversation. Representing a variety of cultures, languages and faiths, the women were determined to cast aside cultural differences and get better connected with their neighbors.

The group will have its second meeting Tuesday, March 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Crossroads Community Center. The agenda will include “personal storytelling” from several group members and a presentation on Neighbor Link, a City program which encourages group participation in community service projects. To get involved or learn more about this involvement opportunity, contact Barb Tuininga, 425-452-2800, or Julie Ellenhorn, 425-452-5372.

Last chance to apply for neighborhood matching grants

March 15 is the application deadline for 2010 Neighborhood Match Program grants. Don't miss the fun of working with neighbors on a local improvement project – and having the city pay half the cost! For more information, to discuss your project ideas, or to get help with the application process, contact Patricia Knight at 425-452-7917 or pknight@bellevuewa.gov. Project guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from the web site, http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_match_program.htm.

Wellness Walks connect people, parks, nature and art

Wellness Walks promote individual and family fitness and environmental awareness, while showcasing Bellevue's spectacular parks and open space system. Four different walking events, varying in length and degree of difficulty, are scheduled this spring and fall.

Little Lake-to-Lake Earth Day 5K Walk

Wednesday, April 21, 2-6 p.m.

Starting from Lake Hills Greenbelt Park, 156th Avenue SE & SE 16th Street – Celebrate Earth Day with an easy 5K walk following the Lake Hills Greenbelt trail connecting Larsen and Phantom Lakes. Visit Earth Education stations, natural, historic and agricultural areas.

Bellevue Downtown Art & Park 10K Walk (6K option also available)

Saturday, May 22, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Starting from Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th Street – View more than 20 pieces of public art in the heart of Downtown Bellevue. Highlights include art at the Northwest Art Center, Downtown Park, Meydenbauer Beach Park, the Bellevue Arts Museum, and city hall campus.



Lake-to-Lake Trail 15K Walk (6K option also available)

Saturday, Sept. 18, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Starting from Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm, 2380 Bellevue Way – Enjoy the beauty of Bellevue’s Park & Open Space System along the Lake-to-Lake Trail. Participants will be shuttled from the blueberry farm to Weowna Park trailhead. (Trail is not suitable for small children or strollers.)

Lewis Creek 5K Walk

Sunday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Starting from Lewis Creek Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd. – Enjoy the colors of fall as you hike through pristine natural areas. A great family walk with some limited stroller access. Nature education station will be set up in the park.

Wellness Walks are sponsored by Whole Foods Market Bellevue and produced by the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department and the American Volkssport Association. Participants who complete all four walks will be entered to win a prize. Walking Passports are available at the April 21 Earth Day Walk. Registration will take place the day of the event at the start table. For more information, contact Debbie Pettersson, Bellevue Parks & Community Services, 425-452-7106 or dpettersson@bellevuewa.gov.



Wednesday, March 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, March 18, 5-8 p.m.

Open house events launch 2010 community service projects

Last year twenty-three Bellevue neighborhoods rolled up their sleeves and completed 38 community service projects. You worked hard and we hope you can't wait to do it again in 2010!

Bring your creative ideas and energy to the Neighborhood Resource Center to a “project coaching” open house. Neighborhood groups and individuals who want to organize a community service project are encouraged to come in and receive personal coaching for your own project.

Not sure what you want to do? Staff will be on hand to help individuals and groups select projects, identify resources, mobilize support and get organized. If you want to get involved in community service, this is your opportunity to get the help and direction you need to get started. Opportunities will be available to plug into existing community needs or to create your own project. Neighborhoods, individuals, high school students (community service hours available) and younger children are all encouraged to come in and participate.

Appointments are available during the open houses, but walk-ins are welcome too! Organized projects will be eligible for awards and recognition at the Neighbor Link Celebration of Service picnic and

concert on September 11, 2010. For more information on Neighbor Link or a coaching appointment, contact Julie Ellenhorn in Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov

Interested in volunteering?

Learn the skills of neighborhood mediation

Bellevue's Neighborhood Mediation Program is offering 40 hours of training in Basic Mediation, beginning in mid April. The training is designed for people who are interested in developing mediation and conflict resolution skills, and is a prerequisite for those who wish to volunteer with the program. Classes focus on conflict theory, communication skills building, and mediation techniques.

Basic Mediation Training 2010 is offered in six sessions, and participants must be able to attend every session. Classes are: 5-9 p.m. on April 14 and April 21; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 16, 17, 23 and 24. All are held in City Hall Conference Room 1E-112. Cost of the training is \$250.00; scholarships are available. For more information or to register for the training, please call 425-452-4091 or email gjones@bellevuewa.gov.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

NeighborWorks® America, the HOPE NOW Alliance and the Making Home Affordable program are conducting Foreclosure Prevention Workshops across the country, and coming to Bellevue March 25 and 26. This free 2-day borrower outreach event is designed to help bring together homeowners in financial distress for a face-to-face meeting with a representative from their mortgage lender and/or local housing counselor. The housing counseling that happens at these events is powerful and very important. For many borrowers, it provides a realistic understanding of their options from which to make sound financial decisions. Thursday, March 25, 1:00 - 7:30 and Friday, March 26, 1:00 - 7:00, Hyatt Regency Bellevue 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue WA 98004. For further information contact Julie Ellenhorn in Neighborhood Outreach at (425) 452-5372, jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

March 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.)

3/1 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) East Link; NE 15th/16th project and consulting agreement (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers). Consent Calendar; potential approval to create NE 15th/16th project and related consulting agreement. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/2 Wilburton Connections Open House (4-7 p.m., City Hall Concourse) Opportunity to get information, comment on high priority transportation projects west of Wilburton (NE 4th extension from 116th to 120th NE, NE 6th extension from I-405 to 120th NE, 120th NE widening from 300 to 700 block) www.bellevuewa.gov/wilburton-connections.htm

3/2 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) Presentation on the Census and demographics; various project updates http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

3/2 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Presentation by King County Children and Family Commission - "The Irreducible Needs of Children" Initiative http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/2 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) Demographic view of The Changing Face of Bellevue http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

3/4 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 2010 Storm Water Management Program public meeting; Capital Investment Program (CIP) update - policy review & anticipated issues, review of existing programs & projects, review of proposed changes & new projects http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

3/4 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Bellevue demographics update, Parks & Open Space Plan update, committee reports http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

3/8 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) *Tentative* – East Link. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/9 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Chambers) Public hearing on Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

3/10 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/10 Youth Link Board (6:00, 1E-120) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm

3/11 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project list and discussion, Ped-Bike Plan implementation, Eastgate Subarea Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

3/15 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) ARCH work program and budget; ARCH Fall 2009 funding round recommendations; *Tentative* – East Link (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar; NPDES 2010 Annual Report. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/16 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public hearing on human services needs http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/22 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues; *Tentative--*East Link; *Tentative--* 2011-2012 Budget process. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/24 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/24 Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Workshop for Newport (7:00, Newport Heights Elementary School Library, 5225 119th Ave SE.) Opportunity to review and comment on projects proposed for NEP funding

3/29 City Council No Meeting. 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.