

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

March 2009

Last in series of Great Community Workshops: Maintaining the value and appearance of your neighborhood

Your home and yard are in pristine condition, but the front of your neighbor's home looks like a used car lot. The grass is three feet high. The carport is full of junk. How can you maintain good relations with your neighbors and keep your neighborhood looking good? The Great Community Workshop series will present its final workshop, *Maintaining the Value and Appearance of Your Neighborhood*, Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in Room 1E-108 at City Hall.

❖ Local appraiser Graham Albertini has 25 years of experience evaluating homes in the Bellevue community. He will be on hand to provide a broad perspective on pride of ownership, the importance of neighborhood esthetics, and what amenities and specifics most affect value.



❖ Bellevue Code Compliance Officer Liz Krzyminski will address such topics as noise, nuisances, litter, handbills, construction impacts, permits, vehicle storage, and yard maintenance. Learn what Bellevue city code permits, and how you can work with your neighbors to assure that your neighborhood looks good. Participants are invited to pre-submit code related questions via email to ekrzyminski@bellevuewa.gov and they will be addressed at the workshop.

❖ Sam Ezadean, home loan repair specialist, will discuss the City's home loan repair program, and copies of the newly updated City of Bellevue *Home Repair and Maintenance Guide* will be available to participants.

An RSVP is preferred, but last minute attendees are welcome. To reserve a place at the workshop, or for more information, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 452-5372 or see <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/great-community-workshops.htm>.

We need your Voice! Brainstorming Session – Community Celebrations



Neighborhood Outreach is working on a 2009 plan for neighborhood activities and celebrations that build community connections.

What types of events would most interest you and your neighbors? Join us for a brainstorming session on Thursday, March 5, in City Hall conference room 1E-110, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Patricia Knight at 425-452-7917 or pknight@bellevuewa.gov.

Impacts of large homes, vacant homes back on front burner

On March 25, the Planning Commission will resume its discussion of proposed regulations to address the impacts of large new homes on existing neighborhood character. The Commission's 7:00 p.m. study session is a continuation of the public discussion initiated in 2007 when residents asked the city to consider limiting the impacts of "teardown/rebuilds"—when existing homes are torn down and replaced with homes much larger than those on neighboring lots.

An initial set of regulations to address neighborhood character concerns was adopted by the City Council in December of 2007 after months of study and outreach by the Planning Commission and staff. In 2008, the Planning Commission forwarded a second set of proposed regulations, addressing more complex neighborhood character issues. One of the Commission's proposals – to establish development standards for homes exceeding a certain size threshold – prompted the City Council to request additional options for addressing large home impacts.

When the Planning Commission revisits the topic in March, members will discuss additional limitations on the heights of new single family homes, as well as the development standards originally proposed. In addition, the Planning Commission will continue its discussion of other proposals: to establish maintenance standards for vacant homes; to require sensitive placement of mechanical equipment on single family lots; to reduce evening hours for construction on remodeling projects; to reduce the lifespan of building permits; and to increase the tree retention requirement for subdivisions.

At the March 25 study session, the Planning Commission will review the proposed code language for the above regulatory changes and set a public hearing date in April. A decision by the City Council is expected in May. For more information about the Neighborhood Character project and proposed code changes, see the web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-character.htm> or call Cheryl Kuhn, 425-452-4089.

Nix on homemade signs; find better ways to keep kids safe

Homemade “Children at Play” signs pop up with regularity along neighborhood streets – and the City takes them down. While it may seem like the right thing to do, posting these signs is not only illegal; but it's also potentially harmful to children.

According to Rebecca Rodni of the Transportation Department's Neighborhood Services team, “Children at Play” signs do not work. They don't cause motorists to drive differently, and they create a false sense of security for children and their parents.



Children, not drivers, are at fault in most accidents involving youthful pedestrians. Rodni notes that educating children about traffic safety is a far more effective way to protect kids from cars. The Transportation Department offers a number of tools to help keep neighbors keep local streets safe, including:

- ❖ **Traffic safety packets** – available for both children and adults;
 - ❖ **Portable radar dolly** – loaned to neighborhoods that want to remind drivers of speed limits;
 - ❖ **Neighborhood Speed Watch** – empowering neighbors with the equipment to record speeds for city follow-up with speeding motorists;
 - ❖ **Neighborhood Speed Reduction Program** – a program equipping the neighborhood with techniques to encourage responsible driving; and
 - ❖ **Neighborhood Traffic Calming** – a program to address severe speeding and cut-through traffic problems.
- For more information, contact Rebecca Rodni at 425-452-6160 or rrodni@bellevuewa.gov.

Night, weekend closures on SR 520 start March 4

Drivers who use SR 520 between Bellevue and Redmond should plan ahead for a state Department of Transportation paving project that gets underway on Wednesday, March 4, and continues through August.

During that time, traffic will be reduced to one or two lanes Sunday through Thursday nights. In March and April lanes also will be closed on the weekends. The closures are needed while crews repave SR 520 between I-405 and West Lake Sammamish Parkway and rebuild approaches to five concrete bridges in the area.

Weather permitting, work will be done overnight on eastbound SR 520 over 130th Avenue NE on Wednesday and Thursday, March 4-5, from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Crews also plan to reduce eastbound SR 520 at 130th Avenue NE to two lanes over the weekend, starting at 11 p.m. Friday, March 6. Lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. Monday. For more information, see www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520/i405ToWLakeSamPaving.

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.)

3/2 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Land Use Code amendments, Traffic Standards Code amendments, Transportation Facilities Plan update (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Agenda, including resolution ratifying amendments to Countywide Planning Policies

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/3 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

3/3 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Panel presentation on mental health system and mental illness drug dependency funding, report on data collection for human services needs update

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/5 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) In-house recycling campaign results & Yeti presentation, Solid Waste 101 series update, 2008 budget year-end report

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

3/5 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Adult protective services overview, city services for older adults presentation, network outreach discussion, regional partnership discussion, legislative update, committee reports

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

3/9 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/10 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room)

Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

3/11 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) 2009

Comprehensive Plan Amendments study session

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/11 Youth Link Board (6:00, 1E-121) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm

3/12 The Great Community Workshop Series—A Roadmap for Creating

& Maintaining Vibrant Neighborhoods (7:00, 1E-108) The last of six

monthly community workshops sponsored by the City of Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Team. Topic:

Maintaining the Value and Appearance of Your Neighborhood

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/great-community-workshops.htm>

3/12 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

3/14 Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee Special Meeting (10:00 am – Noon, 99th Ave NE Whaling Bldg,

Bellevue Marina at Meydenbauer Bay) Site walk http://www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer_project_intro.htm

3/16 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers)

Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/17 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/19 Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee Meeting (5:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be

determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer_project_intro.htm

3/23 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/25 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program study session,

Neighborhood Character Phase 2 http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/26 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

Agendas delayed – City Council agendas for March 9, 16 and 23 were not available at press time. Call Outreach at 425-452-4089, or see the Council web site at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/city_council_meetings.htm for details.