

# Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

June 2007

## Redevelopment – a boost or a bust for neighborhood character?

Imagine that the single-story, 50s-era ranch house next door gets torn down one day. First come the ‘dozers, then the backhoes, followed by the concrete mixers and pumps. Then the framers and the builders and the roofers and the finishers – finally giving way to a brand new two-story Mediterranean-style house that’s three times the size of its predecessor.

For some, it’s a welcome investment in the neighborhood – an exciting new addition and a boost to property values. For others, it’s a sore thumb – an out-of-scale affront to traditional neighborhood character. And for others, it’s just a fact of life – a change that’s neither positive nor negative, but simply inevitable.

Redevelopment and infill, and their impacts on neighborhood livability, are at the center of public discussion this spring. Some neighborhoods – particularly the communities west of I-405 – are focusing their own meetings on redevelopment issues. Meanwhile, City staff are studying redevelopment impacts, and bringing their findings forward for consideration by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

An open house on June 13 will offer residents and stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about redevelopment in Bellevue neighborhoods and the options for addressing redevelopment impacts, such as loss of trees and greenscape, changes in architectural character, and construction disturbances. Interested persons are invited to drop in at the open house between 5 and 7 p.m. in City Hall Room 1E-108 and express their opinions on the issues. Another opportunity for the public to share viewpoints will be hosted by Planning Commissioners during their regular 7:00 meeting immediately following the open house.

Current plans call for the Planning Commission to finalize its recommendations on redevelopment and neighborhood character on June 27. The Commission’s recommendations will be presented to the City Council on July 16. For more information on these issues, contact Cheryl Kuhn, 452-4089, or Steph Hewitt, 452-2564.

## Bretton Wood honors neighborhood leader

On May 12, residents of Bretton Wood recognized neighbor Doug Decker for his years of dedicated service toward neighborhood improvement.

Among Doug’s achievements were his efforts to organize grassroots support and obtain funds from the city’s Neighborhood Match Program for improving the neighborhood entry sign and surrounding landscaping. In recognition of his contributions, neighbors surprised Doug with a plaque bearing his name on the neighborhood entry wall.

For more information about the Neighborhood Match Program, please contact Patricia Knight at (425) 452-7917 or [pknight@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pknight@bellevuewa.gov).



## Happy Birthday to you, Surrey Downs and Vuecrest

Bellevue's neighborhoods are growing up. This year, two neighborhoods will hit major milestones – Vuecrest celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and Surrey Downs marks its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



On Sept. 6, the Vuecrest Community Association will close off the esplanade of Park Road between Vineyard Crest and Belfair Road for its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Extravaganza.

On July 21, Surrey Downs neighbors will celebrate their “50<sup>th</sup>” at the annual summer picnic.

If you would like the city to participate in a special neighborhood event, please contact your Neighborhood Liaison in the Neighborhood Resource Center at (425) 452-6836.

## Lake Hills projects complete; time to celebrate

The work is done, and the party has begun! Construction is now completed on 18 capital projects identified by residents through the West Lake Hills Neighborhood Investment Strategy (NIS). Everyone is invited to join the celebration beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 30, at the Lake Hills Greenbelt Farm Fresh Produce Stand, SE 16<sup>th</sup> and 156<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE. The event will include refreshments, followed by a walking tour of nearby improvements near the greenbelt.

Approved and funded by the City Council beginning in 2003, NIS has built more than \$7 million in neighborhood improvements, including the recently completed:

- Lake Hills Boulevard improvements – new sidewalks, planter strips, landscaping, fences, medians and crosswalk;
- 145<sup>th</sup> Place SE -- sidewalks, landscaping, intersection and roadway safety improvements;
- 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE – boardwalk through the wetlands and sidewalks;
- Major enhancement of the SE 16<sup>th</sup> produce stand site as a monument to Lake Hills’ agricultural heritage (with funding augmented by a Starbucks Neighborhood Parks Grant); and
- Identity treatments at three other key sites in Lake Hills.

## Ivanhoe neighbors do spring cleaning

Residents of the Ivanhoe/Northeast Bellevue area are taking spring cleaning to a new level, with the City’s help. The neighborhood is staging a community garage sale June 8, 9 and 10, followed by a collection of charity donations on June 11, and culminating in a garbage collection and community get-together on Saturday, June 16. The events are being planned in collaboration with the City’s Neighborhood Fitness program – a program designed to keep Bellevue’s older neighborhoods looking their best. For directions to June 8-10 garage sale locations, or for other information, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 452-6836.



## Strawberry Festival coming up this month

The annual Eastside Heritage Strawberry Festival moves this year to the Crossroads International Park. Scheduled for June 23 and 24, the festival features music and entertainment, games and activities, cultural and historic displays including a mini museum, and – of course – lots of strawberry shortcake. Hours are 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

## And coming up on JULY 4: Celebration!

The Eastside’s largest 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and fireworks display begins at 6 p.m. with music, food, and kids’ activities in the Downtown Park. The evening’s entertainment culminates in a brilliant 20-minute fireworks display set to an Independence Day musical tribute by the Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra.

*Remember: all private fireworks are illegal in Bellevue.*



## June meetings

*(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. Please feel free to confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. You can also consult the city web pages listed below and download agendas.)*

**6/4 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Municipal Court feasibility, Economic Development update (8:00 regular meeting, Council Chambers) Adoption of the 2008-13 Transportation Improvement Plan; Sign Code amendment relating to hospitals; ordinance concerning Domestic Partner benefits; various professional services agreements; bid award for Norelius/41/5 Open Space boardwalk

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**6/5 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Staff report on Samena Club Phase V Application for a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit.

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)

**6/7 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave NE) Aging and Disability Services presentation [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network\\_on\\_aging.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm)

**6/7 Neighborhood Enhancement Workshop for Eastgate/Cougar Mountain** (7:00, Lewis Creek Park Visitors Center) Opportunity to review and comment on projects proposed for NEP funding

**6/11 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room). Municipal Court; Commute Trip Reduction (CTR); threshold discussion for 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments; Environmental Stewardship Initiative; Light Rail Best Practices Committee scope of work and policies

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**6/12 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm)

**6/12 Public meeting on First Presbyterian Church proposal** (5:30, First Presbyterian, 1717 Bellevue Way NE) Conditional use application to demolish two buildings and build a new 54,394-square-foot building with associated landscaping and play area

**6/13 Neighborhood Character Open House** (5:00-7:00, Conference Room 1E-108) Opportunity to review and comment on alternatives for addressing impacts of neighborhood infill and redevelopment

**6/13 Planning Commission** (7:00, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Character comment period and discussion; study session on Crossroads Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA), Great Streets briefing

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**6/14 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-112) Utilities collection charges; Asset Management Program update; Bel-Red Corridor Project briefing – Preliminary Preferred Alternative

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm)

**6/14 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room ) Sound Transit/RTID briefing; Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center Plans; Meydenbauer project update; Bel-Red Corridor project update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm)

**6/18 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Budget Workshop

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**6/19 Human Services Commission** (6:30, Conference Room 1E-120 ) Briefing on Major and Minor Home Repair Programs, update on A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), preliminary data from Human Services Needs Update phone survey

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**6/20 Planning Commission** (7:00, Council Conference Room) Study session on Commercial Retail Design District guidelines; discussions on Wilburton/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Retail Village and Electrical Facilities portion of the Utilities Element, Sound Transit briefing

**6/21 Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee** (*Tentatively* scheduled to begin at 5:00, Council Conference Room) Please check the project web page for confirmation.

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer\\_project\\_intro.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer_project_intro.htm)

**6/25 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues; Municipal Court (8:00 regular meeting, Council Chambers) 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Threshold decisions

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**6/27 Planning Commission** (7:00, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Character study session and recommendations to Council; briefings on Meydenbauer project, Bel-Red preliminary preferred alternative

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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.