

# Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

March 2011

## Crossroads area residents invited to talk about safety, livability

Crossroads area residents and other interested individuals are invited to participate in an open discussion of community safety and livability on Wednesday, March 16, at Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10<sup>th</sup> St.



Hosted by Bellevue Police, Neighborhood Outreach and Code Compliance staff, the event gets underway at 7 p.m. with a chance for residents and City staff to get acquainted and talk with one another on an informal, face-to-face basis. Police Chief Linda Pillo and BPD officers will be on hand to open the discussion with an introduction to the department's services and its community policing approach. The bulk of the evening will be devoted to hearing from residents.

As Crossroads continues to grow and develop as one of Bellevue's most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, the City is interested in hearing:

- ✚ What residents especially like, and don't like, about living in the greater Crossroads area;
- ✚ What kinds of problems or concerns residents may have;
- ✚ What kinds of solutions residents suggest for addressing local issues;
- ✚ What neighborhood services or improvements are most important to local residents.

For more information, contact Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-6836.

*Acclaimed author at Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum*

## Be part of the dialogue: help build a more vibrant, connected community

Please join Bellevue neighborhood leaders, city staff and nationally acclaimed author Peter Lovenheim on Wednesday, April 6, for the first installment of The Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Bellevue City Hall.

The Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum is a two-part education and discussion forum for and about neighborhoods. The Forum will bring neighbors together for two separate events designed for networking and brainstorming about ways to create and maintain strong neighborhood connections.

Kicking off Part One of the forum will be keynote speaker Peter Lovenheim, New York journalist and author of *In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time*. In a book of deeply personal and touching stories and anecdotes, Lovenheim describes one man's quest for community following a tragic event in his own neighborhood of Rochester, NY. Recalling the neighborhood of his childhood, when more families were well acquainted, kids played together, and neighbors looked out for each other, Lovenheim sets out to meet his neighbors and establish real and lasting relationships that go far beyond occasional and casual greetings.



**Peter Lovenheim**

After the keynote talk, forum participants will enjoy refreshments provided by The French Bakery while talking with other residents about creating neighborhood connections. Participants will explore how to move forward, overcome obstacles, and find support for their community building efforts.

The second installment of The Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum, continuing the theme of building vibrant and connected communities, will be held Thursday, May 12, at the Crossroads Community Center, with dinner hosted by forum sponsor, Chipotle Mexican Grill. Both forums are made possible by the generous sponsorship of Surrey Downs Community Club, Sunset Community Association, and Somerset Community Association, in partnership with the City of Bellevue.

For more information on the Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or e-mail [NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov).

## Community invited to second open house on B7-Revised route

A second public meeting and open house will be held Tuesday, March 8, to present preliminary work on the B7-Revised alternative for Sound Transit's East Link light rail project. The event is from 5 to 7 p.m. on the first floor of City Hall. It will include two presentations, at 5:15 p.m. and again at 6:15 p.m., to unveil work completed to date. Topics will include route alignment, station and park-and-ride layouts, environmental issues, private property considerations, and traffic.



In December the City Council hired a consulting firm, Arup North America Ltd., to study the B7-Revised route in order to get an “apples to apples” comparison with the B7 route studied by Sound Transit in its draft environmental impact statement. The B7-Revised route is a variation on B7, the route that would generally follow I-90 east across Mercer Slough, then north along I-405 into downtown Bellevue. The Sound Transit Board has expressed its preference for a different route, running north from I-90 along Bellevue Way and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue toward downtown.

An initial open house was held on Jan. 25 and attracted about 185 attendees. A third public meeting also is planned, along with City Council discussions. Arup will produce a concept design report on the B7-Revised alternative this summer. Once the report is completed, additional environmental and engineering work would be needed to bring the B7-Revised analysis up to a level similar to the various route alternatives already studied by Sound Transit.

For more information, see the city's light rail web pages at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm> or Sound Transit's East Link project pages at <http://www.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml>. Questions and comments can be directed to Maher Welaye, project manager, Bellevue Transportation Department, 425-452-4879 or [mwelaye@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mwelaye@bellevuewa.gov).



## Plan for weekend I-405 closure

The NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street bridge in downtown Bellevue is coming down, and that means I-405 will be closed for the entire first weekend of April. The state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is tentatively scheduled to close I-405 from NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street to SR 520 for 53 hours, from 11 p.m. Friday, April 1, to 4 a.m. Monday, April 4. Crews also will close NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street between 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

It's the first time in several years the Eastside's main north-south transportation corridor has closed in both directions for an entire weekend. Local detour routes will help guide drivers, but motorists heading to destinations north or south of Bellevue should use the regional detour via Interstate 5, SR 520 and Interstate 90.

Removal of the 40-year-old NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and construction of a new, bigger structure is part of WSDOT's Bellevue Braids project, reducing congestion and improving safety between downtown Bellevue and SR520. The closure is needed so workers with Guy F. Atkinson Construction, WSDOT's contractor, can safely demolish the bridge. Crews will take further advantage of the closure by doing other needed freeway work at the same time. For more information visit the project website at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520/>.

## Neighborhoods on the move

**Sunset** Community (which includes the College Hill, Skyridge area) is one of several neighborhood associations electing officers for the new year. At right, re-elected board members Lindy Bruce and Dick Morris join Bellevue City Manager Steve Sarkozy, who spoke at the group's annual meeting on Feb. 17.



**Somerset** Community Association members elected Kathy Judkins as their new president, replacing Gary Albert.

**Mockingbird Hill** residents are reorganizing their neighborhood association after coming together to form a Block Watch.

## Eastside Timebank seeking board members

The Eastside Timebank is looking for board members who live in Bellevue. The board typically meets on the fourth Friday of the month from 9 to 11 a.m. The expected commitment is to attend the board meetings regularly and to participate in another committee or activity outside the meetings, for a total of 2-5 hours total per month.

The Timebank, launching this spring, is a mechanism for sharing and receiving services; each member donates time doing something he or she is good at— house painting, haircuts, dog walking,—and in return can receive services offered by other members. For more information see [www.eastsideimebank.org](http://www.eastsideimebank.org) or contact Cindy Jayne, Eastside Timebank Project Administrator, at [cindy@eastsideimebank.org](mailto:cindy@eastsideimebank.org), or (206)818-4606.

## Public comments requested on changes for SR520 tolling

As the area gears up for the introduction of tolling on the SR 520 bridge, Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) staff are looking for public feedback on proposed changes in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The changes, part of implementing new processes to collect and enforce tolls, will be codified as WAC [468-305](#). Comments should be submitted by March 4 via [email](#) or by mail to Marina Walters, 401 2nd Ave. S. Suite 300, Seattle, WA, 98104. For a link to the contents of proposed WAC 468-305 or to learn more about the rules making process, visit the WSDOT [Web site](#).

Meanwhile, crews continue to test and adjust [tolling equipment](#) on the SR 520 bridge, meaning more overnight closures and detours for drivers. Crews are closing one direction of the bridge overnight between Montlake Boulevard in Seattle and 92nd Avenue NE in Clyde Hill through March 2. Occasional closures of the bridge will continue as crews test equipment leading up to tolling this spring. For the latest closure schedule, visit [construction update report](#).

## 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 Arts Commission** (4:00, Music Works Northwest, 14360 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue) Eastgate Land Use Update and a limited update for the Cultural Compass [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm)
- 3/1 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Hearing on proposed health club at Kelsey Creek Center; Electric Vehicle Infrastructure; and a Land Use Code amendment related to nonconforming building height [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)
- 3/1 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Coordinated Mobility – King County Mobility Coalition and Eastside Easy Rider Coalition; minor amendment to Consolidated Housing & Community Development Plan 2008-2011 [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)
- 3/3 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30-10:30 a.m., 1E-112) King County Veterans and Human Services Levy, committee reports, boards and commissions reports [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network\\_on\\_aging.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm)
- 3/3 Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee** (5:30, 1E-108) <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>
- 3/3 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-112) Public meeting on the Draft 2011 NPDES Stormwater Management Program; 2010 year-end financial report; Shoreline Master Program Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm)
- 3/7 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) SCATS Traffic Adaptive System Phase I progress report; update on Photo Enforcement Program (8:00 regular session, Council Chamber) City Manager's Report on I-405 weekend closure, update on Census Process and Data, Consent Calendar, action on formation of Wilburton Connections LID [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)
- 3/8 Public Meeting on B-7 Revised Light Rail Route Study** (5-7 p.m., Council Chambers) See details above
- 3/8 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)
- 3/9 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)
- 3/14 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
- 3/15 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined
- 3/21 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Housing Work Program, update on Meydenbauer Center marketing, Human Services Needs Assessment (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, public hearing on Utilities Disposal of Surplus Property [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)
- 3/23 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)
- 3/28 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues, update on neighborhood shopping centers, update on auto row, ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) funding round approvals [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

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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.