

# Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

October 2007

## Residents share in Governor's award for neighborhood project

Bellevue has received a 2007 Governor's Smart Communities Award for its Neighborhood Investment Strategy (NIS) – a neighborhood planning effort that led to extensive community-building and physical improvements in West Lake Hills. The award was presented in a Sept. 26 ceremony at the Capitol.

The seven-month NIS planning effort – led by the City's Neighborhood Outreach Team and a 21-member Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) – involved hundreds of residents in strategizing how to preserve the quality and character of the Lake Hills neighborhood. Implementation of high priority community projects began in 2003 and concluded this year.

Members of the West Lake Hills CAC were among those honored by the Governor's award: Chairs Iris Tocher and Doug Mathews; members Bob Bengford, Lindy Bruce, Tom Conover, Joel Glass, Jeffrey Hummer, Steve Kasner, Sherrie Mill, Dick Morris, the late Bill Serr, Michele Stanelun, Jan Watson, and Faye Williamson; and ex-officio members Jim Bell, Jane Bennett, Sharon Carpenter, Tom Duenwald, Diane Pottinger, Larry Shannon, and Stephanie Warden.

## Have a say in Surrey Downs Park plan

Residents south of downtown will have a voice in the planning of their newest local park as the Parks Department launches its Surrey Downs Park master planning process.

Last month the City Council approved the appointment of Berger Partnership as the consultant for the Surrey Downs Master Plan. This fall, the consultant team and city staff will begin the public involvement process, working closely with citizens throughout the coming year to finalize a plan for Council consideration in 2008.

How can you get involved? Contact Scott Vander Hyden via e-mail at [svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov) or by phone at 425-452-4169.



## **A great day for turning 60**

The Vuecrest neighborhood celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sept. 6 with sunny skies and scenic vistas of downtown Bellevue.

## Speeding, parking concerns easy to report

Speeding and parking on neighborhood streets pop up frequently on city questionnaires as common sources of neighborhood irritation. The Bellevue Police web site makes it easy to report concerns about parking and speeding; residents can report violations online at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/Traffic\\_Service\\_Request.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/Traffic_Service_Request.htm) and officers will respond at the earliest possible time. Laws aimed at preserving neighborhood quality give police the authority to impound any vehicle parked on a city street if its license plate is expired by more than 45 days, and to ticket a properly licensed vehicle parked on a neighborhood street if the vehicle has not been moved for 24 hours.

## Learn to mediate disputes

The Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program is offering 16 hours of free training to residents interested in learning the techniques of conflict resolution. Classes are scheduled Wednesdays, Oct. 10 and 17, from 6 to 10 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants will learn coaching, active listening, problem solving, and convening of cases for mediation. Upon completion, trainees may choose to volunteer as conciliators in addition to applying the techniques in their own daily lives. For more information, or to register, call 425-452-5222 or e-mail [ccohen@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ccohen@bellevuewa.gov).

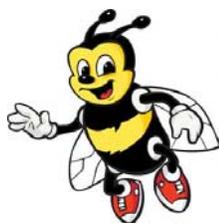
## NEP focusing on east Bellevue

**Sammamish/East Lake Hills** residents reviewed 13 potential Neighborhood Enhancement projects at a recent workshop, leading up to a late October vote. Voters' Pamphlets and ballots will be mailed to all households in the area, inviting residents to select their top three priority projects. After the votes have been counted in early November, the results will be announced, and the top choices will be funded up to the limit of the \$275,000 available for the area. The potential projects can be reviewed on the city's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep.htm>.

**Northeast Bellevue** residents are busy submitting ideas for projects that they believe will enhance the livability, safety, and/or aesthetics of their neighborhood. Proposals submitted last month will be reviewed in October and November to determine their eligibility as potential NEP projects. In January, all residents in the area will be invited to see a presentation on the proposed projects and to discuss them with city staff and their neighbors. Voting will take place in February.

**Bridle Trails** will be the last area to begin the NEP process this year. In December, residents will receive newsletters and Customer Action Request forms to propose projects in the Bridle Trails area. A workshop will be held in April and selection of projects by a vote will occur in May of next year.

If you have any questions about the Neighborhood Enhancement Program in any of these areas, you can contact the NEP Coordinator, Ron Matthew at (425) 452-4075 or [rmatthew@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rmatthew@bellevuewa.gov).



## Keep young pedestrians safe; get a free safety video and workbook

Each year, more than 50,000 children are injured in pedestrian accidents, and elementary school students are at greatest risk. Most of the accidents result from kids crossing streets unsafely and darting in front of cars.

As part of its annual effort to promote pedestrian safety among school-age children, the Transportation Department staff has created a free workbook and video. Designed for children ages five to 12, the workbook and karaoke video feature Pedbee, the city's pedestrian safety mascot.

The video is available online at [http://bellevue.granicus.com/ASX.php?publish\\_id=254&sn=bellevue.granicus.com](http://bellevue.granicus.com/ASX.php?publish_id=254&sn=bellevue.granicus.com); the workbook is at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/Pedbee\\_Workbook.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/Pedbee_Workbook.pdf). The project's release coincides with "International Walk to School in the USA" day on Wednesday, Oct. 3.

## Public comments keep Light Rail Best Practices project 'on track'

As Sound Transit works to bring light rail to Bellevue, the City is continuing to seek “best practices” for suiting the system to the community. A Sept. 13 open house fielded more than 150 comments, divided into four subject areas: neighborhoods; stations; streets; construction & operations.

The comments will provide the framework for research into the best practices of other light rail systems. The Light Rail Best Practices consultant team will present findings on the first set of topics at a public open house on Tuesday, Nov. 6, at City Hall. The topics to be discussed at that time include:

- Connecting people to light rail;
- Community and neighborhoods;
- Protecting and enhancing property values;
- Station security.

The remaining topics are expected to be presented at an open house in January 2008. Meetings of the Best Practices Committee meetings also are open to the public. The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 16, 7-9 p.m. in City Hall. Information about the Best Practices project, including upcoming meetings and other ways to get involved can be found online at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light\\_rail\\_best\\_practices\\_intro.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_intro.htm) or by contacting Mike Kattermann, 425-452-2042, [mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov) or Maria Koengeter, at 425-452-4345, [mkoengeter@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mkoengeter@bellevuewa.gov).

## Park Department invites you to . . .

**A green grand opening** – of the Robinswood Turf Sportsfield on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. Come see for yourself why the grass is always greener at Robinswood Sportsfield! There will be a ribbon cutting celebration, sports demonstrations, and free refreshments at the event. The field is located at 2430 148th Ave. SE. Please contact the Parks & Community Services Department at 425-452-6881 for more details.

**Fair time** – at Kelsey Creek Farm. Bring your family and enjoy a variety of old-time activities, live entertainment, heritage demonstrations, kids' crafts, tractor-pulled hayrides, pony rides, barnyard animals, and more. The event runs 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 13-14. There is no entrance fee; the cost for food and activities varies. Please call Heidi Cox at 425-452-7688 or e-mail [hcox@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:hcox@bellevuewa.gov) for more information. Kelsey Creek Farm Park is located at 410 130th Pl. SE. No pets please.

## October 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.)*

**10/1 City Council** (6:00 p.m. study session, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Corridor Steering Committee recommendations; Light Rail Best Practices project update (8:00 regular meeting, Chambers) Reports on Bellevue Golf Course management, American Public Works Association accreditation; cultural arts funding  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**10/2 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Clubhouse) Neighborhood Livability Action Agenda update; Walk & Roll 2007 Ped/Bike Transportation Plan; process based Land Use Code Amendments  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)

**10/2 Human Services Commission** (6:30-8:30 p.m., Council Conference Room) Mid-biennium review of contracts funded under the goal areas of “supportive relationships” and “safe haven from violence and abuse”; Reserve Fund request – Healthy Start Consortium [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**10/4 Network on Aging** (8:30-10:30 a.m., 1E-120) Review of city initiatives and committee reports  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network\\_on\\_aging.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm)

**10/4 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30 p.m., 1E-112) Public hearing – Water Conservation Goal  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/water\\_public\\_hearing\\_news\\_release.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/water_public_hearing_news_release.htm)

**10/4 Public meeting on Bellevue Plaza proposal** (5:00 p.m., 1E-108) Discussion of design review application for a residential/retail mixed use project with four 21-story residential towers atop a two-story retail base and six levels of underground parking at 139 106<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE.

**10/8 City Council** (6:00 p.m. extended study session, Council Conference Room) Long-range strategic planning workshop [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**10/9 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room) Walk & Roll Plan update; Great Streets Art Walk; Meydenbauer Bay Plan – Conceptual Alternatives; Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm)

**10/10 Planning Commission** – Time and agenda to be determined  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**10/11 Transportation Commission** (6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room) Comprehensive Plan and Zoning; Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan; Transportation Facilities Plan; Great Streets; Department Strategic Plan [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm)

**10/11 Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan Steering Committee** (4:00-8:30 p.m., Highland Community Center multi-purpose room, 14224 Bel-Red Road) Committee members will participate in a workshop format; the public is invited to listen and observe.

**10/11 Strengthening Preparedness Among Neighbors (SPAN)** (7:00-8:30 p.m., Council Conference Room) Emergency preparedness presentation [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/span\\_class\\_news\\_release.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/span_class_news_release.htm)

**10/15 City Council** (6:00 p.m. study session, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Corridor Steering Committee recommendations; ARCH/affordable housing; Washington State Department of Transportation presentation on SR 520 (8:00 regular meeting, Chambers) Consent Calendar; Sign Code Amendment (Factoria Area)  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**10/16 Human Services Commission** (6:30-8:30 p.m., Council Conference Room) Mid-biennium review of General Fund Contract [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**10/16 Light Rail Best Practices Committee** (7:00-9:00 p.m., 1E-108) Briefing on existing city policy related to high capacity transit (including light rail); a comparison of other systems for the case studies; and an update on the public outreach plan for the project [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light\\_rail\\_best\\_practices\\_info.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_info.htm)

**10/22 City Council** (6:00 p.m. extended study session, Council Conference Room) 2008-11 Community Development Block Grant discussion; regional issues, Bel-Red Corridor Steering Committee recommendations (Tentative); Ped-Bike Plan; Shoreline Master Program Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**10/24 Planning Commission** (7:00 p.m., Council Conference Room) Utilities Element Electrical Facilities Siting; Neighborhood Livability; 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments; Process Amendments to the Land Use Code  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**10/25 Transportation Commission** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Corridor implementation; Ped/Bike Plan Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.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.