

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

February 2008

Applications invited for City Council position

The City Council is accepting applications until Feb. 4 from individuals interested in serving the remaining term of Councilwoman Connie Marshall. Information on how to apply can be found on the city's web site, http://www.bellevuewa.gov/City_Council_Public_Notice.htm. State law requires that a council member be a resident of the City for at least one year and a registered voter at the time of application. Ms. Marshall began her council career in 1998 and served consecutive terms as mayor, 2002-05. She also served on the board of Sound Transit. She resigned in January with two years remaining in her third term.

Parks projects sizzlin' on the front burner

New recreational opportunities are emerging throughout Bellevue with the planning and construction of several major Parks projects. Looking around the community, residents will find:

- ❖ The new **Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center** – built in partnership with Pacific Science Center and Puget Sound Energy – is now at 60 percent completion. The \$11.5 million phase one project at 118th Avenue SE near Enatai is being constructed with funding from city, state, federal, county and private sources. A September phase one completion date is anticipated.
- ❖ The **Crossroads Park Water Play** area is about 40 percent complete and aiming for a May opening. Some \$850,000 has been raised – primarily from grants and fundraising by the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club – toward the \$1 million project goal.
- ❖ **Highland Skate Park**, scheduled for opening in April, is about 50 percent complete.



In the meantime, planning is underway for major improvements at the following locations.

- ❖ **Surrey Downs Park** – Work on a master plan continues with significant community involvement.
- ❖ **Meydenbauer Bay** – Master planning will resume in spring for the park and surrounding land use.
- ❖ **Bellevue Botanical Garden** – Community feedback has played a key role in the development of recommendations to update the existing Botanical Garden Master Plan, including development of a 17-acre addition to the park. A preferred option for updating the garden master plan will be presented to the Parks & Community Services Board on Feb. 12.
- ❖ **Bellevue Youth Theatre** – Parks staff and architects are exploring alternatives for this popular program currently located at Ivanhoe Park. Alternative locations being studied include Crossroads Park and locations within Bel Red Corridor.
- ❖ **Eastgate (former landfill and airport property)** – The city is working with Schnitzer West on completing road and methane system modifications. Planning for the park is expected to get underway this spring.



For more information about these and other current or planned parks projects, call Glenn Kost, 452-5258 or e-mail gst@bellevuewa.gov.

CrimeWeb connects you to the facts

The Bellevue Police Department is offering a new, free service to facilitate communications between police officers and residents. CrimeWeb.net uses the latest internet technology to deliver timely community and crime-related messages. Coupled with the basic principles of a neighborhood watch, this information system can help citizens take an active role in reducing the overall crime rate in their neighborhoods.

To receive alerts, residents only need to visit www.crimeweb.net and provide an e-mail address, password, and a zip code. Registration is free of charge and once registered, citizens can begin receiving notifications and alerts by e-mail and text messaging. You can use CrimeWeb for:



- Crime alerts and information about wanted persons
- Crime prevention tips
- Missing persons information
- Crime and scam tips for businesses
- Providing anonymous tips on specific crimes
- Reporting registered sex offenders
- Information on financial crimes and illegal scams
- Crime Watch information and meetings
- Reports on recently resolved crimes
- Community information alerts
- Upcoming police and safety programs
- Homeland Security alerts

CrimeWeb.net is a patented, centralized clearinghouse used by public safety agencies across the nation to distribute information to the communities they serve. The system has the ability to map incident locations, and features a built-in Spanish translation link. For more information, call Detective Richard Chinn, 452-6915.

[Light Rail Best Practices moves to next phase](#)

The Light Rail Best Practices Committee has been learning about light rail systems from around North America for the past few months. In January, the committee visited with city and agency staff and transit riders in San Jose and San Diego (photo at right) to explore first-hand the lessons learned and “best practices” applied for the systems there. A similar visit to Portland is scheduled for February.

The committee – two members each from four city commissions and a councilmember – has also drawn upon extensive discussions with local residents and business people to identify issues and receive suggestions on light rail practices that could fit Bellevue. Over the next few months the committee is taking all of this information and feedback and developing a catalog of best practices that could be applied to a light rail project in Bellevue. Part of the Committee’s work will also result in amendments to the City’s Comprehensive Plan and other policies to guide the planning, construction and operation of a future light rail line.

Even though funding for light rail and roadway projects was turned down by voters in November, a light rail line is still in the long term plans for Sound Transit and they are still working on the environmental analysis of the different alignment options through Bellevue.



There are still several ways for you to be involved in this project. The committee will be meeting at **7:00 p.m. in room 1E-108 at City Hall on the first Tuesday of each month** from now through June of this year. The public is always invited to speak at those meetings or submit written comments. In addition, an open house is planned on April 16 for public review and comment on the committee’s draft report and draft policies.

Please visit the web site to get more information or to sign up for e-mail bulletins about meetings, open houses and additional information: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_intro.htm. You can e-mail the Best Practices Committee or project staff at LRBestPractices@bellevuewa.gov or contact Mike Kattermann, Planning and Community Development at 425-452-2042 or Maria Koengeter, Transportation at 425-452-4345.

Neighborhood Liaisons – they’ve got the answers



Neighborhood Liaisons – they may not be super heroes. But they can leap over red tape in a single bound. And they can get to the root of a problem – almost as fast as a speeding bullet.

If you aren’t calling on your Liaison when you have a question or concern that you don’t know how to pigeonhole, it’s time to get acquainted with the person who’s standing by to help. Each neighborhood area in Bellevue has a City staff member designated as your personal contact inside City Hall. Give us a call to get connected: 452-6836.

Police launch Citizen’s Academy March 12

On Wednesday, March 12, the Bellevue Police Department launches the spring session of the Community Academy, a three-month program to familiarize participants with philosophy and methods of the city’s police force. The Community Academy is open, free of charge, to anyone who lives or works in Bellevue, is 18 years old or older and able to pass a background test. The class size is typically 20 to 30.

The Community Academy engages participants in learning first-hand what police officers do. Graduates of the Academy often become resident ambassadors for the Police Department. Classes are taught by sworn officers as well as civilian staff, all experts in their respective law enforcement fields. Topics include patrol, community policing, traffic, gangs, recruitment and training, domestic violence, narcotics, dispatch and records, bike patrol, investigations, crimes scene analysis, forensics, SWAT, K-9 and the Bomb Squad. Hands-on experiences include firearms instruction and, for some, a ride-along with an on-duty patrol officer.

Weekly classes are 7 to 10 p.m. each Wednesday, running for three months. Space is limited, and classes fill quickly. For more information and to print an application form, go to the Community Academy page, or contact the Academy coordinator, Sheila Evans, at 425-452-7853. Questions can be directed to the Police department public information officer 452-4129 or by e-mail.

Still time to sign up: consensus-building for neighborhoods

Learn a better way to engage meeting participants, avoid divisive methods and make group decisions that everyone can accept. Mediation Manager Andrew Kidde has a few spots left in his Feb. 5 class Building Consensus in Community Organizations. To register or get more information on this free training, call 452-4091.

February 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.)

2/4 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) PSE Electrical Reliability, 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Expiration of Meydenbauer Bay Moratorium, Consent Calendar, public hearing addressing Utilities property disposition, adoption of ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) 2008 work plan, budget and funding recommendations
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/5 Light Rail Best Practices Committee (7:00, 1E-108) Discussion of the committee’s tour of case study cities, San Jose and San Diego; studies on topics of land use, street design and operations, elevated, at-grade and tunnel integration, and construction impacts and mitigation
http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/light_rail_best_practices_committee.htm

2/5 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Update on Lake Hills Shopping Center redevelopment plans http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

2/5 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Election of officers, presentation on Easy Rider Initiative, update on State Work Force Program http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

2/6 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red housing
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

2/7 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Bel-Red policy discussion and Stream Team update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

2/7 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

2/11 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Review of applications for Council vacancy, NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Phase II Permit update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/12 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

2/12 Public hearing on Hunter-Lindor single-family Planned Unit Development at 2008-2010 140th Place SE (7:00 p.m., Council Chambers)

2/13 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Housing Incentives and Strategies, Bel-Red Subarea Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

2/13 Youth Link Board (6:00, 1E-120) Agenda to be determined
http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/youth_link_board.htm

2/18 President's Day – All city offices closed

2/19 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Deployment of red light camera technology (tentative), Bel-Red infrastructure financing principles (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, action on 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (tentative)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/19 Public meeting on Meydenbauer Townhomes application for Planned Unit Development and Preliminary Plat approval to build 22 residential units at 312 101st Ave. SE (6:30 p.m., 1E-109)

2/21 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

2/25 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues, update on work of Light Rail Best Practices Committee
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/27 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Character Phase II, Bel-Red Subarea Plan, Shoreline Master Program update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

2/28 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Impact Fee Program policy discussion, Ped/Bike Plan policy, Great Streets Implementation Draft, Major Maintenance Program
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.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.