

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

July 2007

More Neighborhood Match funds available

More money has become available for neighborhood matching grants, so if you missed the initial March 1 deadline, you still have time to apply for City dollars toward your community project.

To qualify for funding, projects must have the support of all affected neighbors, and the neighborhood must agree to provide 50 percent of the project cost in dollars or labor. Matching grants of up to \$5,000 may be awarded for such projects as entry signs, community mailbox stands, landscaping, street furniture, or art projects.

To obtain an application or additional information, contact Patricia Knight at (425) 452-7917 or log on to the city's web site at www.bellevuewa.gov/match_proj_application.htm.

Join Lake Hills neighbors at the Blueberry Festival

Big slices of blueberry pie will be served up at the July 21 Blueberry Festival sponsored by the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association. Everyone is invited to join in the fun, which includes music by Latin and African bands, games for kids, artist and vendor booths, and lots of food and drinks.

Blueberries and blueberry products will be for sale at the event, scheduled for 1-4 p.m. at Lake Hills Elementary School, 14310 SE 12th. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Lake Hills PTSA.



The Lake Hills Neighborhood Association covers a diverse community that includes long term residents, young professionals, people new to the country, and families with young children. A goal of the association is “working to strengthen our sense of community in our ever-changing neighborhood.”

Neighborhood redevelopment ideas going to Council

After several weeks of discussion and public input, the Bellevue Planning Commission agreed on June 27 to recommend several areas of further study in response to neighborhood concerns about the impacts of infill and redevelopment.

Among the general ideas that the Commission considers worth pursuing are:

- Requiring preservation of significant trees on single family properties undergoing redevelopment;
- Requiring greenscape to comprise a certain amount of front yards;
- Prohibiting lot combinations, rooftop HVAC, and “pop-up” carports in front or side yards;
- Changing the method by which residential building height is measured;
- Requiring regular debris removal on single family building sites; and
- Establishing performance standards for building projects that exceed a certain size threshold. Standards could address such elements as shadowing (loss of light), side yard setbacks and roof pitch.

The Planning Commission's preliminary recommendations are scheduled for City Council consideration on July 16. At that time, the Council may decide to pursue all or some of the ideas. Additional discussion would take place at the Planning Commission level to flesh out code language or other details. For more information about the study of redevelopment impacts on neighborhood character, contact Cheryl Kuhn, 452-4089, or Steph Hewitt, 452-2564.

[Claim a voice in future of Bellevue waterfront](#)

For many years, Bellevue residents have envisioned reconnecting their community to the waterfront. Now, with nearly a quarter-mile of shoreline on the north shore of Meydenbauer Bay in public ownership, this vision can be realized. The city has begun to prepare a Master Plan for a new waterfront park at Meydenbauer Bay and a Land Use Plan for the adjacent upland area. These two plans will combine to create a remarkable and memorable



shoreline experience and help distinguish Bellevue as a waterfront city.

You can help shape the future public waterfront, define its relationship to neighborhoods and the downtown, and influence the land use vision for the adjacent upland area. You are invited to participate in two public workshops – July 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the South Bellevue Community Center or July 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the North Bellevue Community Center.

For more information, visit the project web site at www.bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer_project_intro.htm to read articles and background information, stay abreast of public events and meetings, send in a comment form, or contact project managers.

[Surrey Downs hits the big 5-0](#)

This month marks the 50th anniversary of Surrey Downs – one of Bellevue’s oldest neighborhoods. In recognition of this milestone, the Surrey Downs Community Club is hosting a 50th anniversary celebration at the Surrey Downs Park on Saturday, July 21.

In addition to being one of the oldest neighborhoods in Bellevue, Surrey Downs has an active neighborhood association and an involved citizenry. President Joe Rosmann notes that residents pride themselves on their commitment to each other and to the broader community.

“Our Surrey Downs community today represents an ideal model, we believe, of what is necessary to building and maintaining a strong community among a folk of highly diverse backgrounds,” Rosmann says.

If your neighborhood is having a special event, and you would like the city to participate, please contact your Neighborhood Liaison at 425-452-6836 for assistance.

[City launches Light Rail Best Practices project](#)

As Sound Transit considers the options for extending light rail to Bellevue the Mayor and Council want Bellevue to learn from the “best practices” other communities have used when building light rail. They also want the City to be in the best position to influence the decisions that will be made by the Sound Transit Board regarding the location, design and operation of light rail in Bellevue.

Several strategies are in the works to help the City prepare. In late June, the Council confirmed the Mayor’s appointments to the new Best Practices Committee. This Committee is comprised of members from four of the City’s boards and commissions in addition to a city council liaison. The members are:

Jennifer Robertson and Douglas Mathews, Planning Commission
Joel Glass and Lise Northey, Transportation Commission
Francois Larrivee, Environmental Services Commission
David Karle and Faith Roland, Parks and Community Services Board
Claudia Balducci and Don Davidson (alternate), City Council

The committee is charged with the following tasks:

- Review other light rail systems that have dealt with the same or similar issues and opportunities;
- Engage the broader community in a discussion about these “best practices” and how they could be applied in Bellevue;
- Develop a “catalog” of best practices;
- Develop Comprehensive Plan and other policy recommendations to address local issues and opportunities

The committee’s first meeting will be scheduled in late July, with regular monthly meetings beginning in September and continuing through June 2008. All of the meetings are open to the public and will include opportunities for public comment. For more information, please contact Michael Kattermann in Planning at (425) 452-2042 mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov or Bernard Van de Kamp in Transportation at (425) 452-6459 bvandekamp@bellevuewa.gov

[Construction impacts expected with I-405 South Bellevue widening](#)

Construction will begin July 9 on the widening of I-405 between SE 8th Street and 112th Avenue SE. The state Department of Transportation and its contractor, Atkinson Construction, will modify ramp widths and alignments to accommodate the work. As crews widen the bridge over Coal Creek Parkway, drivers should expect:

- Daily lane closures on Coal Creek Parkway in July;
- Up to five nighttime full closures of Coal Creek Parkway under the bridge in July and August;
- Re-stripping of Coal Creek Parkway from five lanes to four just east of and under the I-405 bridge, from mid-July through the end of the year;
- Narrowing of the bike path under the bridge between the northbound off-ramp and the west side of I-405 through the end of the year.

In August, bicyclists should be aware of narrowing on the Lake Washington Bike Path (part of the Lake Washington Loop Bike Route) near Coal Creek Parkway and anticipate possible delays for crews to move trucks and equipment across the path during construction of a detention tank.

All lanes on I-405 will remain open during the day with a few lanes closed at night. For more information or to sign up for e-mail updates, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/112thAvetoSE8th/

[Weigh in on plan for dealing with regional hazards](#)

The City of Bellevue has scheduled three public meetings to inform the community and solicit input regarding the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Annex. The city is developing a Bellevue-specific annex to King County’s Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan with the goal of reducing the impacts of natural, technological or man-made disasters in Bellevue to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. By identifying potential hazards in the community and assessing potential impacts, the city can develop strategies to help mitigate the impacts before, during and after a disaster. Development of the annex will involve city departments, local agencies, the business community, landowners, developers and citizens, and will reflect local values and concerns. If you would like to be a part of this effort by providing comments and input, please plan to attend one of the following public meetings:

- Thursday, July 26, 7-8 p.m., Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St.
- Monday, July 30, 12 – 1 p.m., City Hall, Room 1E-112
- Monday, July 30, 7- 8 p.m., City Hall, Room 1E-112

Please contact Lisa Scott at the Bellevue Fire Department Emergency Preparedness Division at 425-452-7923 if you have any questions regarding this meeting or the City’s Hazard Mitigation Plan.

[July 4 celebration just around the corner](#)

The Eastside’s largest 4th 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.

July meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas for July are still being finalized; also, agendas are always 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.)

7/3 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Department reports (home occupation application); discussion of council retreat http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

7/4 Independence Day holiday – all city offices closed

Remember: all private fireworks are illegal in Bellevue.

7/9 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Update on motorized mobility devices; additional agenda items to be determined (8:00, Council Chambers) Consent calendar

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

7/10 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

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

7/10 Meydenbauer Bay Public Workshop (5:30, South Bellevue Community Center) Opportunity to review and comment on development of the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan

http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/meydenbauer_project_steering_committee.htm

7/11 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Utilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan, focusing on electrical facilities http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

7/12 Environmental Services Commission (5:00, Capital Investment Program tour, 7:00 meeting, 1E-112) Water Conservation Program, Mid-Term NPDES Process/Update

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

7/12 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan; Ped/Bike Plan update; State of Mobility report; Northup Way project; curb ramp upgrade; downtown projects update

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

7/12 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-109) Kirkland Senior Council presentation and discussion; committee reports. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

7/16 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Livability Action Agenda; Youth Court, Cultural Arts funding for Kids Quest; Inclusive Communities

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

7/17 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Review of 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

7/19 Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee (5:00, City Hall Room 1E-108) Regular committee meeting

http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/meydenbauer_project_steering_committee.htm

7/23 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Qwest cable franchise and related code amendments; Neighborhood Enhancement Program update, vision for NE 6th Street Corridor and Downtown project coordination (8:00 regular meeting, Council Chambers) Consent calendar; public comment opportunity on Sound Transit Phase 2/Regional Transportation Investment District joint ballot initiative

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

7/25 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

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

7/26 Bel-Red Corridor Steering Committee (4:00, Council conference room). Agenda to be determined

http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/BelRed_Steering_Committee.htm

7/30 City Council (6:00, Council Conference Room) Extended study session: Regional issues, Bel-Red Study implementation plan, community volunteer initiative

7/31 Meydenbauer Bay Public Workshop, 5:30-8:30 (Crossroads Community Center) Opportunity to review and comment on the development of the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan

http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/meydenbauer_project_intro.htm