

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

June 2009

NeighborLink builds community, meets human service needs, promises fun

Launching June 1 through the Neighborhood Outreach Office is **NeighborLink**, a program to engage neighborhoods in activities that both strengthen community connections and help local families cope with the practical impacts of recession. NeighborLink gives neighborhoods the opportunity to select a community building activity or a community service project and take advantage of City support and resources.

NeighborLink activities include participation in the “**End Summer Hunger**” effort, “**Know Your Neighbor**” activities and the “**Adopt-a-Cause**” program. Neighborhoods can also brainstorm their own projects that serve the neighborhood or the greater community. For project details or suggestions, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or visit the NeighborLink webpage at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighbor-link.htm>.



Neighborhoods that participate in any NeighborLink activity will be invited to a gala summer picnic on the lawn at City Hall, with musical entertainment by the Two Scoops combo and picnic fare donated by Whole Foods Market, Bellevue. In addition, neighborhoods sponsoring a project will be given a “Party-in-a-Box” to assist with their own neighborhood celebration.

NeighborLink participants are also eligible to apply for NeighborLink awards which will be presented on July 23 at the picnic and concert event. Top awards include a catered event for your neighborhood, provided by NeighborLink sponsor, Whole Foods Market of Bellevue. To learn more about NeighborLink or to request an award application, contact Julie Ellenhorn, 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

Take a look at West Lake Sam design and phasing

Design is nearly complete for a multi-million-dollar project to reconstruct West Lake Sammamish Parkway between I-90 and the Bellevue-Redmond city limits. Participants at an open house on Wednesday, June 10, will see the unveiling of the project’s final design and recommended phasing plan.

Parkway improvements – including roadway, landscaping, drainage, retaining walls and multi-use trails – will be built in five mile-long segments, each estimated to cost between \$8 million and \$13 million dollars. For more information, attend the June 10 open house from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Sambica, 4114 W. Lake Sammamish Parkway, or see the web site at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/west_lk_samm_prkwy.htm. Also, questions may be directed to Paul Krawczyk, project manager, 425-452-7905.

Height / bulk of new homes, maintenance of vacant homes on Council agenda

The City Council will decide this month whether to adopt new regulations addressing the impacts of both vacant homes and large new homes built in existing neighborhoods. On Monday, **June 22**, the Council will receive a recommendation from the Bellevue Planning Commission, which has been studying the issue of neighborhood redevelopment for the past two years.

Based on extensive input from neighborhoods and other stakeholders, the Planning Commission is asking the Council to consider “Neighborhood Character” code changes that would:

- Establish maintenance standards for vacant homes and abandoned building sites;
- Require new homes which are built in existing neighborhoods and which exceed a specific size threshold (house square footage more than 50 percent of lot square footage) to be built in a way that protects the privacy and access to sunlight of neighboring homes;
- Establish new height limits – 35 feet to the top of a pitched roof, and/or 40 feet maximum height for any building façade;
- Require new homes to provide sound screening for mechanical equipment or place it in the rear yard;
- Reduce the ending hour for remodeling construction noise from 10 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily
- Reduce the lifespan of single family home building permits from three years to two years.

An initial phase of regulations to protect the character of existing neighborhoods was adopted by the City Council in December of 2007. Council will discuss Phase Two during their June 22 study session beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room. Public comment can be submitted during the oral communications portion of the meeting, or in writing to Bellevue City Council, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue 98009. For more information, please see the web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-character.htm> or contact Cheryl Kuhn at ckuhn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4089.

(Green) Power to the people

Puget Sound Energy's voluntary Green Power Program makes it easy for residents to buy renewable energy equal to the amount of electricity they use. When community members choose green power, they support renewable energy projects located right here in the Pacific Northwest. You decide how much green power you want to purchase. You can participate for as little as \$4 per month, which allows PSE to buy 320 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy on your behalf from renewable sources right here in the Northwest. Green power charges are in addition to your monthly electric bill. What an easy way to help the environment! For more information on the Green Power Program please visit www.pse.com. Click on the "Choose Green Power" link. For more information, contact Fran Kwak at 425-213-5301 or fkwak@3degreesinc.com.



Ongoing Water Quality Improvements

Bellevue, along with most other Western Washington communities, is required to adopt new development stormwater standards and revise codes controlling illicit (non-stormwater) discharges as part of a federal Clean Water Act permit to minimize stormwater pollution. Are you concerned about polluted water in Western Washington? Do you want to find out about the proposed code revisions that will enhance Bellevue's ongoing efforts to improve our water quality?

City staff and the Bellevue Environmental Services Commission will host an open house and public meeting on Thursday, June 4, to provide an opportunity for residents, businesses, and developers to learn about and comment on proposed permit-required revisions to the city's Storm & Surface Water Utility and Clearing & Grading Codes. The open house will be held at Bellevue City Hall, Conference Room 1E-112, starting at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed immediately by the public meeting at 6:30 in the same room. In July, City Council will address the proposed code revisions, with adoption slated for Aug. 3 and implementation currently proposed for Aug. 15.

Proposed code revisions are available for review at the Service First desk (under Project File #09-113895AB) on the first floor of Bellevue City Hall or online at www.bellevuewa.gov/development-services.htm (see What's New). Call or e-mail the following with your questions concerning:

- Stormwater Standards / Vesting: Joy Ramshur, 425-452-4855, jramshur@bellevuewa.gov
- Construction / Erosion Control: Tom McFarlane, 425-452-5207, tmcfarlane@bellevuewa.gov
- Illicit Discharges: Phyllis Varner, 425-452-7683, pvarner@bellevuewa.gov
Mike Graves, 425-452-2030, mgraves@bellevuewa.gov

June 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.)

6/1 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Discussion of options to address abandoned shopping carts (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Proclamation for Mountains to Sound Greenways Days and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Consent Calendar, public hearing on pre-annexation zoning, ordinance regarding annexation of Coal Creek Natural Area, ordinance regarding Community Development Block Grant funds http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/2 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Preliminary findings from the Human Services Needs Update and Phone Survey, update from Bellevue Network on Aging on 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Work Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

6/2 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) Courtesy hearing on the Carrington Apartments rezone application and update on the Shoreline Master Plan project http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

6/4 Environmental Services Commission (5:30, 1E-112) Open house for draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/Non-NPDES Code revisions (6:30, 1E-112) Public meeting on draft NPDES/Non-NPDES Storm and clear and grade code revisions, Phantom Lake update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

6/4 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Bel-Red transformation update, City Recession Response update, committee reports, outreach, and legislation http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

6/8 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood tree protection, job order contracting process, public hearing on The Spring District Development http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/9 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

6/15 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Off-leash Study report and recommendation, multi-family housing tax exemption, Andrews Glen rezone (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/16 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Update on A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), update on Major & Minor Home Repair Programs http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

6/22 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Transportation Development Review Code amendments, electrical reliability, Neighborhood Character – Phase 2, Regional Issues http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/24 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program, wayfinding kiosk presentation http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

6/25 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Mode Share Survey Results update, citywide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan – initial phase input http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

6/25 West Bellevue Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Workshop (7:00, 1E-108) Opportunity to review and comment on projects proposed for NEP funding <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep.htm>



City, county, library and shopping center officials participated in the May 20 groundbreaking of the new Lake Hills Shopping Center and Lake Hills Library. The library is the first building underway in a shopping center redevelopment plan created by the community.