

# Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

May 2009

## Will your neighborhood take the 'End Summer Hunger' challenge?

The City of Bellevue is challenging all neighborhoods to gather food for needy local families, and win admission to a gala summer celebration. Your neighborhood can make a difference! Doing a food drive is easy and fun. Anyone in the neighborhood can get it started and everyone can pitch in. Call today to get started.



- Join the “End Summer Hunger Challenge” June 1- 30.
- Register your neighborhood by calling Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-5372 or [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov).
- Receive an “End Summer Hunger Challenge Kit” including directions for a successful food drive, food collection bin, a neighborhood banner, customized flyers for your neighborhood, access to the “End Summer Hunger” webpage, food pick-up and more
- Celebrate your success! Every participating neighborhood will be invited to a major city celebration!

## Regulating new homes, vacant homes – what’s the right approach?

The City wants to hear what you think of proposed regulations to address the neighborhood impacts of both vacant houses and large new houses that may be out of scale with surrounding homes.

Bellevue Planning Commissioners will accept public comment on proposed Phase Two Neighborhood Character regulations during a public hearing, scheduled **Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Council Conference Room. Also, for those who wish to ask questions or discuss the proposals more informally, city staff will hold an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. on the previous Thursday, May 7, in City Hall conference room 1E-109.

Proposed code changes are part of the Neighborhood Character project initiated by the City Council to examine the impacts of redevelopment (teardown and replacement of existing homes) on the character of older neighborhoods. An initial phase of regulations, adopted by City Council in December of 2007, addressed the more obvious problems of redevelopment by limiting tree removal, requiring front yard greenscape, restricting unnecessary lot build-up, and dealing with construction debris.

The current proposal looks at some of the tougher issues facing single family neighborhoods. Under consideration are regulations that would:

- Establish maintenance standards for vacant homes and abandoned building sites;
- Require new homes exceeding 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.

Public testimony is invited at the public hearing, by e-mail to [jchristensen@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jchristensen@bellevuewa.gov), or by mail to Planning Commission, 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](mailto:ckuhn@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-4089.

## Boards and commissions have openings

The City needs *your* perspective on community issues. Residents are invited to apply for vacant positions on four Bellevue advisory boards and commissions, to be filled by City Council appointment next month. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, May 8, for four-term terms on the:

- **Arts Commission**, advising the Council on arts activities in the city. (Meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 4 p.m.)
- **Human Services Commission**, representing the diversity of the community, responsible for developing human services issues for the Council. (Meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.)
- **Parks and Community Services Board**, advising the Council on expansion and operation of the city's parks and recreation facilities and programs, as well as human services needs and programs. (Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.)
- **Bellevue Regional Library Board**, serving as an advisory body to the King County Library System. (Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m., alternating between the Lake Hills and Bellevue Regional libraries.)

Applications can be downloaded from the web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/apply-boards.htm> or picked up at City Hall, Crossroads Mini City Hall, the Bellevue Regional Library, or the Lake Hills Library. To request more information or an application by fax, call 452-6466. Completed forms can be submitted online, delivered to City Hall, mailed to PO Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009, faxed to 425-452-5247, or emailed to [mmurphy@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mmurphy@bellevuewa.gov).

## Groundbreaking set for Lake Hills Shopping Center, Library

The long-awaited redevelopment of Lake Hills Shopping Center will get underway next month with a groundbreaking for the new Lake Hills Library – centerpiece of the shopping center – on Wednesday, May 20, at 1 p.m. The groundbreaking will take place at the shopping center, on the corner of 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and Lake Hills Boulevard.

Design concepts developed in 2003 by a group of citizen stakeholders – including neighbors of the center – will guide the plan to transform the declining, 1950s-era Lake Hills Shopping Center into a heavily landscaped, mixed-use project with a library, underground parking, and places for local residents to gather. The redevelopment plan calls for retail, office and residential uses to be constructed in phases, along with an interior pedestrian street and a distinctive pedestrian entrance at the corner of 156<sup>th</sup> and Lake Hills Boulevard.

The new 10,000-square-foot library will include more books, materials, computers, space for children and teens and a community meeting room. The current library will remain open until the new library is completed.



## Let's talk about shorelines

The City will hold an open house for the Shoreline Master Program update on Thursday, May 21, at Bellevue City Hall. You should attend if you:

- ✓ Enjoy water related activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, or wildlife viewing.
- ✓ Would like to see improvement to shoreline public access.
- ✓ Have an interest in natural resource protection and water quality.
- ✓ Would like to learn more about shoreline restoration.
- ✓ Own shoreline property.



The open house will begin at 6:30 with a presentation on new state guidelines for Shoreline Master Program Updates and key shoreline inventory and characterization findings. Also as part of the presentation there will be a visioning exercise to get feedback on how citizens may envision Bellevue's shorelines in 20 years. Following the presentation at 7:15 staff will be available at information stations focusing on: general state requirements, restoration opportunities and techniques, reliance on existing residential regulations, marina uses and development. Staff will be on hand with computer access to the City's Geographic Information System to answer questions and provide detailed information about an individual's property within shoreline jurisdiction. Printouts of aerial photographs showing the property and existing buffers will be provided.

Additional public meetings regarding policy and regulations will be held with the Planning Commission through the winter of 2009, with new regulations anticipated in late 2010.

## Plan ahead to avoid I-90 delays in May and July

If you travel to or from Bellevue across the Interstate 90 floating bridge, get ready. The state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will close the I-90 express lanes around the clock May 4-23 to replace huge steel expansion joints which are wearing out. Traffic engineers estimate it could take up to 30 minutes to get from Bellevue to Seattle during peak commute times.

An even bigger closure, with potentially longer delays, will take place from July 5 to July 28 when crews will close all lanes of the westbound I-90 mainline. WSDOT is also retrofitting several I-90 bridges on the Eastside to make them safer during an earthquake. Crews will close the right lane of northbound Richards Road under I-90 from May to July and the right lane of southbound Richards Road from July to October.



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For online information on floating bridge work:

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i90/HomerHadleyBridgeRepair](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i90/HomerHadleyBridgeRepair) For

information about work on Richards Road: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i90/EastsideBridgesSeismic](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i90/EastsideBridgesSeismic)

## Sam Stone saves the Surrey Killdeer

You can save the world – or one little piece of it – at any age. All you have to do is pay attention to the wonders around you, and care enough to take action when you see something bad about to happen.



Nine-year-old Sam Stone recently found a Killdeer nest with mom and four eggs nestled into the lawn near the courthouse at Surrey Downs. Recognizing that neither eggs nor baby birds would survive the mowing machine, Sam came to the City and enlisted help to protect the nest. After staking off the area of the nest, Sam enlisted his friends to help keep watch over the little Surrey Down hatchery.



## Can you help get the food out?



Hopelink needs help sorting food at its Bellevue location. Thousands of pounds of food will be collected by letter carriers on Saturday, May 9, and volunteers are needed to sort and bag this food for needy families in the community.

Neighborhoods can help by gathering groups of 10-30 individuals to take a shift at the food bank. Children are welcome with an adult. Shifts are: May 11, 3-5 p.m.; May 13, 12-2 p.m.; May 13, 3-5 p.m.; May 13, 5-7 p.m.; May 16, 10-12 p.m.; May 16, 12-2 p.m. Additional shifts are available on request. Choose a shift for your neighborhood and contact Julie in Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-5372 to sign up!

## Suggestions sought for new downtown bike rack locations

As the weather warms and bike riders take to the streets, they'll need a secure place to park their two-wheelers. To help, the City of Bellevue is planning to install up to 25 new bike racks downtown and is seeking suggestions on where to place them.

Bicyclists may e-mail suggestions for downtown bike rack locations (along with a brief description of the exact placement) to [pbumcgrath@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pbumcgrath@bellevuewa.gov) or call 425-452-2931. The deadline to submit suggestions is May 15. Bike racks must be in the City of Bellevue right-of-way and are typically installed on sidewalks where they do not interfere with other sidewalk users. The best sites are well lit, visible from the street, and near the entrances to popular destinations.

## Somerset celebrates

Residents of the Somerset neighborhood are invited to a celebration of the newly completed Somerset Avenue sidewalk between SE Somerset Boulevard and 136<sup>th</sup> Place SE. Come take a look at the new, safer sidewalk and enjoy refreshments with City staff from 3 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 7.

## May 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.)*

**5/4 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red code amendments (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Volunteer of the Year recognition; proclamations for National Older Americans Month, Public Service Recognition Week, National Safe Boating Week; update on Network on Aging; Consent Calendar; public hearing on vacation of a portion of SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street; Impact Fees

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**5/5 Human Services Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, briefing on Severe Weather Shelter (January-March 2009), planning for shelter for winter of 2009-2010, recap of state legislative actions

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**5/5 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Update on the Lake Hills Shopping Center redevelopment project

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)

**5/7 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-112) Wastewater Comprehensive Plan planning criteria, MyUtilityBill and MyUtilityBillbyPhone services, Reserves 101 & Policy Change

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**5/7 Neighborhood Character Open House** (5-7 p.m., 1E-108) Neighborhood Character Phase 2 proposed regulations review <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-character.htm>

**5/7 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Elder abuse in Bellevue presentation, regional partnerships & outreach, committee reports [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network\\_on\\_aging.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm)

### Check Council agendas

City Council agendas are particularly prone to change. The Council office advises you to go online on the previous Friday to verify each Monday agenda.

**5/11 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) City Manager's Report responding to East Link B7 proposal; Philharmonic, Human Services and City capital funding needs; Bel-Red code amendments; Rapid Ride update; Downtown character codes and policies update; 2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendments; KG Development Agreement [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**5/12 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)

**5/13 Youth Link Board** (6:00, 1E-120) Agenda to be determined [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth\\_link\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm)

**5/13 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Character Phase 2 public hearing, Shoreline Master Program study session

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**5/14 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Election of Chair & Vice Chair, Rapid Ride & Circulator update, Transportation Development Code updates, discussion of Main St. & NE 2nd conceptual design [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm)

**5/18 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Electrical reliability; dog park off-leash area report; American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Update on Meydenbauer Bay planning and park; Consent Calendar; Bel-Red code amendments

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**5/19 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-120) Update on 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**5/19 Main Street & NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House & Project Update** (4-7 p.m. City Hall Concourse) Opportunity to learn more about conceptual designs for enhancing the Main Street corridor (Bellevue Way to 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE) and widening NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Bellevue Way to 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE)

**5/25 Memorial Day** – All city offices closed

**5/26 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Environmental Stewardship Initiative; traffic computer system upgrade; regional issues; first quarter budget monitoring report

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**5/27 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program study session

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**5/28 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Public hearing on 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Step II and adopting Transportation Development Code

[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.