

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

October 2008

Mayor, neighborhood expert speak at first 'Great Community' workshop

Mobilizing, Organizing, and Sustaining Strong Neighborhoods is the theme for the first Great Community Workshop on Thursday, Oct. 23., 7-9 p.m. at Bellevue City Hall.

Elton Gatewood, nationally recognized expert on neighborhood involvement, will lead participants in an interactive discussion of citizen participation, focusing on new ideas, innovative approaches, and creative solutions. The evening begins with an informal "meet and mingle" and refreshments with Mayor Grant Degginger, Dr. Gatewood, and local neighborhood leaders.

Dr. Gatewood is coordinator of the Neighborhood Council Office in Tacoma. He also serves as vice president of Neighborhoods USA (NUSA), one of the nation's largest grassroots organizations on community concerns. He will be joined by a panel of local neighborhood leaders who will share their neighborhood challenges, triumphs and insights: Gary Thramer of Newport Hills; Jeannie Vahlsing of Spiritridge; and Joy Stewart of West Bellevue.

An RSVP is preferred for each of the six workshops sponsored by the Neighborhood Outreach Team, but last minute attendees are welcome. To RSVP or for more information, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

Save the Dates!

Future workshops in the *Great Community Workshop Series* include:

Nov. 13	The Importance of Communication in Your Neighborhood
Dec. 11	The "How-To" of Neighborhood Projects
Jan. 8	Got Conflict? Make it Work for You
Feb. 5	Making Your Voice Count: Presenting Your Views to Boards & Commissions
March 12	Maintaining the Value & Appearance of Your Neighborhood

For a complete list of workshop descriptions or to print a brochure, visit <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/great-community-workshops.htm>.

Voter registration deadline coming up Oct. 4

Saturday, Oct. 4 is the last day to register to vote in the November general election. Registration forms are available at City Hall and at Mini City Hall in Crossroads Shopping Center. The Nov. 4 election includes not only the presidential, gubernatorial, and other state elections, but also a chance to decide on important local issues, including:

- ❖ **The \$17.9 billion Sound Transit proposal** to fund regional transportation improvements, including the extension of light rail to Bellevue and Redmond; and
- ❖ **Bellevue's Parks and Natural Areas Levy**, a measure to fund investments in the city's nationally accredited park system. The levy would replace the purchasing power of expiring 1988 bonds and enable the City to: increase public access to waterfront, build new trails and neighborhood parks, and improve such major assets as the Bellevue Botanical Garden, the Downtown Park, Lewis Creek Park, Surrey

Downs Park, and the new 27-acre Eastgate area park. Estimated cost of the levy is 12 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Facing ice and snow: Bellevue's annual winter challenge

To help residents prepare for winter driving, especially those in south Bellevue neighborhoods more frequently impacted by snow and ice, three open houses will be held to provide information and answer questions. The events, in partnership with AAA Washington, take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 22 at Somerset Elementary School Library, on Nov. 5 at Somerset Elementary School Library, and on Nov. 19 at Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center.



For more information, visit the City of Bellevue website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov> and click on the orange and blue "Extreme Weather Response" button on the right side of the page. The website also contains information on topics such as storm response measures, a snow response priorities map, emergency preparedness for homes, post-storm garbage and debris collection, and power outages.

The above scene on steep and winding Lakemont Blvd, in January 2007, shows what can happen when drivers ignore a temporary "Road Closed" sign. Abandoned vehicles in the roadway make it difficult for snowplows to operate.

NEP celebrates 20 years of success

Bellevue's popular Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) celebrates its 20th anniversary this month.



Since its first project—a Woodridge community entrance project in 1988—NEP has built 400 neighborhood projects, including 90 sidewalks and walkways, and a variety of trails and foot bridges, playgrounds, mini-parks, picnic shelters, landscaping projects, sports courts, street lights, interpretive signs, reforestation, habitat enhancement, and traffic calming projects.

Funded at \$1.9 million annually, NEP visits four or five neighborhood areas each year, engaging residents in a discussion of neighborhood needs and desired improvements. The residents of each neighborhood propose projects to enhance their community and ultimately select the projects to be funded. For more information about NEP, see the website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep.htm> or contact Ron Matthew at 425-452-4075 or rmatthew@bellevuewa.gov.

Don't miss your chance to vote for NEP projects

Recent publicity about mail and identity theft has prompted residents to take precautions—and that's a good thing! One precautionary trend is the move away from home mailboxes, to post office or private mailboxes—and that's both good and bad. A welcome consequence may be less junk mail. But an unintended consequence is disenfranchisement when it comes to voting on neighborhood improvements.

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) offers residents a chance to select local improvement projects for city funding. The final prioritization of projects takes place by neighborhood vote—with each current household entitled to vote on the ballot sent to their home address. That's where the problem comes in: those who no longer use a home address do not receive a ballot.



If you live in Bellevue, but use a post office or private mailbox other than your street address, and would like to maintain your opportunity to participate in NEP project selection for your neighborhood, please contact Neighborhood Outreach, 452-6836, to provide your postal delivery information.



Summer sun, summer fun

Neighborhoods know how to enjoy the warm weather that fades away all too soon. Above, the Sunset Community Association hosts an old-fashioned picnic in the park—one of the many held throughout Bellevue this summer.

Want to advise the City on issues about aging?

The city is recruiting new members for its Network on Aging—a volunteer advisory board that promotes “awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life’s transitions.” Members serve two-year terms and must live or work in Bellevue. Applications and information are available on the website, http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm, or by calling Cathy VonWald, 452-7681. Applications are requested by Oct. 3.

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.)

10/2 Open House for NE 8th Street Project (4-7 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 9625 NE 8th) Opportunity to learn about, comment on plans for sidewalks on NE 8th, Lake Washington Boulevard to 96th Avenue NE
10/2 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Budget review, Renewal and Replacement Fund 101
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/6 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Plan update, Ped-Bike Plan update, Sound Transit East Link update, consideration of Zheng Rezone (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, public hearing on street vacation, public comment on the Parks & Open Space Levy proposition on the November ballot http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/7 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Department reports on the Cairnes Short Plat application http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

10/7 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Public hearing on preliminary Human Services funding recommendations for 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and 2009-2010 General Fund, finalize funding recommendations for 2009 CDBG and 2009-2010 General Fund
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

10/8 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) 2008 Comprehensive Plan Amendments study session http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

10/9 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Capital Investment Program (CIP) and Transportation Facility Plan (TFP) non-motorized project list recommendation, Transportation Impact Fees
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

10/10 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-109) City of Bellevue Cultural Diversity presentation, Nominating Committee report, 2008 work plan review, committee reports
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

10/13 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Budget workshop and long-term strategic planning http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/14 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

10/18 Youth Link Board (8:00 a.m., Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center) Orientation and retreat with new board members http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm

10/20 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Winter storm preparation briefing, Bel-Red project update, Environmental Stewardship Initiative (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Recognition of police volunteer, Consent Calendar, action on Zheng rezoning http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/21 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Finalize human services funding recommendations for 2009-2010 http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

10/22 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Ped-Bike Plan update, Comprehensive Plan Amendments study session http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

10/22 Youth Link Board (6:00, 1E-118) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm

10/23 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Capital Investment Program (CIP) and Transportation Facility Plan (TFP) non-motorized project list wrap-up, Council Budget Retreat update, Ped/Bike Symposium presentation, ice and snow removal for city streets http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

10/23 The Great Community Workshop Series—A Roadmap for Creating & Maintaining Vibrant Neighborhoods (7:00, 1E-108) The first of six monthly community workshops sponsored by the City of Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Team. Topic: Mobilizing, Organizing, and Sustaining Strong Neighborhoods <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/great-community-workshops.htm>

10/27 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues, 2009-2010 operating and capital budget kick-off, presentation of Human Service Commission 2009-2010 funding recommendations, 3rd Quarter Economic Development update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm



One City
Committed to Excellence

If you would be interested in learning more about the City of Bellevue job openings and services, log onto www.bellevuewa.gov.

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.