



DECEMBER 2006

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## Bel-Red Corridor options emerge

### Public comment invited in January

Do you want to have a say in how the Bel-Red Corridor will develop over the next 30 years? In January a draft environmental impact statement with alternatives for how the area could develop in the future will be released for public comment.

A broad swath of mostly industrial and commercial land between State Route 520 and Bel-Red Road, the Bel-Red Corridor faces change. Some major employers who have long called the area home are leaving, and a light rail line proposed by Sound Transit could pass right through the corridor.

Seeking to ensure that changes benefit the area, city planners are working with businesses, residents and a City Council-appointed steering committee to determine future land uses in the corridor. Housing and businesses could be encouraged to develop in Bel-Red in various concentrations, and streets and sidewalks could be modified.

The draft environmental impact statement offers details about four development scenarios and, with public input factored in, will help the Bel-Red Steering Committee select a preliminary preferred alternative in the coming months.

Three "action" alternatives, developed with significant input from area businesses, property owners and the general public last spring, will be compared with a "no action" alternative. Each action alternative includes various transportation components – such as light rail, arterial expansions and connections and sidewalks and bike lanes – as well as neighborhood protection.

- **No Action Alternative:** This alternative assumes no major changes in land use in the corridor.
- **Alternative 1:** Allows future employment and housing, with concentrated development near light rail stations at 122nd Avenue Northeast near Northeast 16th Street and 152nd Avenue Northeast at Northeast 24th Street.
- **Alternative 2:** Allows more housing and less employment than Alternative 1, with three light rail stations – at



*An updated land use and transportation vision is being crafted for the Bel-Red Corridor Project, a 912-acre area in central Bellevue. This is the most comprehensive review ever undertaken of this light industrial and commercial district, much of which was first developed four decades ago. The effort is overseen by a 15-member steering committee that represents a broad range of community interests.*

116th Avenue Northeast near Northeast 12th Street, 130th Avenue Northeast near Northeast 16th Street, and west of 148th Avenue Northeast at Northeast 24th Street.

- **Alternative 3:** Allows more housing and more employment than the other options, with two light rail stations at the same locations as in Alternative 1 – 122nd Avenue Northeast near Northeast 16th Street, 130th near Northeast 16th Street and 152nd Avenue Northeast at Northeast 24th Street.

To view the alternatives in detail and get additional information on the project, see the Bel-Red Corridor Project section of the Bellevue website: [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bel-red\\_intro.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bel-red_intro.htm).

The public will have several ways to comment on the draft EIS. During a 45-day public comment period, the city will hold a public meeting (likely in mid-February), at which the draft EIS will be discussed and comments will be

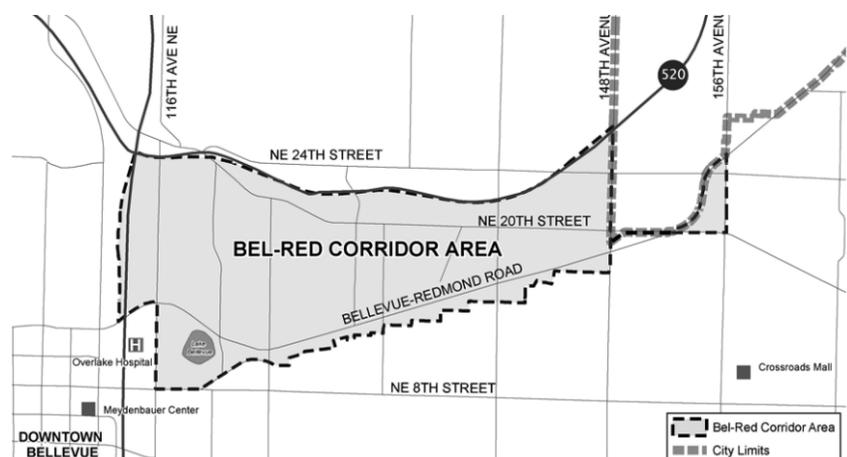
taken. Comments can also be submitted in writing or sent via e-mail to [belred@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:belred@bellevuewa.gov) during the comment period.

There will be additional community meetings, likely in March, focused on the development of a preliminary preferred alternative.

If you have questions or would like to provide input, please contact city planners Kevin McDonald (425-452-4558) or Kevin O'Neill (425-452-4064).

Information from the draft EIS, together with public comments, may point toward one option or lead to a mixing and matching of the best features of the current alternatives into a new, hybrid choice.

The Steering Committee will likely come up with a preliminary preferred alternative this spring. Following additional opportunities for public input, the Committee is expected to recommend a preferred alternative to City Council in mid-2007. Following Council consideration, work to implement the preferred vision would begin later in 2007.



*The Bel-Red Corridor is one of the city's major employment centers, centrally located between Bel-Red Road and State Route 520.*



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## Council Corner

# City Council expands Neighborhoods agenda

*By Bellevue Mayor Grant Degginger*

Preserving the outstanding quality of life in Bellevue's neighborhoods is one of the City Council's highest priorities.

For most of us, the environment in which we raise our children is the most important environment on the planet. We need to know that our families are secure in their homes, in their schools and on their neighborhood streets.

The City Council is committed to continuing the city's investment in neighborhoods. All of our basic services – from public safety and street maintenance to providing quality drinking water and protecting streams and slopes – are designed to protect and enhance the livability of our community. Neighborhood quality is our bottom line and our top priority.

To focus even more attention on our neighborhoods, the City Council has made two important commitments, over and above the provision of high-quality basic services.

The Council provides funding for an array of programs and services that address the ongoing needs of neighborhoods for infrastructure, improved communication, civic engagement and self-determination:

- Our Neighborhood Enhancement Program provides funding for neighborhood projects that are proposed and selected by residents themselves.
- Our Neighborhood Match Program partners with neighborhoods wishing to improve neighborhood appearance, organize a community association or revitalize an existing association.
- Our Neighborhood liaisons attend community meetings, respond to residents' questions, address concerns and connect neighborhoods to needed resources.
- Our Neighborhood Mediation Program works with residents to resolve local conflicts in a peaceful, non-litigious atmosphere.
- Neighborhood Traffic Calming helps residents resolve problems with speeding and cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets.
- The Mini City Hall at Crossroads is a neighborhood service center for Bellevue's most diverse and densely populated neighborhood.
- And the Neighborhood Investment Strategy focuses resources on the special needs of our older neighborhoods.

All of these programs – and others not mentioned here – have earned national recognition for their success in meeting the significant and varied needs of today's neighborhoods.

Recently, the City Council took another step forward in the realm of neighborhood protection and enhancement. To ensure that the city is responding to new and emerging neighborhood needs, the City Council on Sept. 25 approved the Neighborhood Livability Action Agenda. In adopting the Action Agenda, the Council provided staff with the resources to address three neighborhood concerns of increasing significance to Bellevue residents.

Those concerns included:

- **Property Maintenance** – For residents of certain mature neighborhoods, a major priority is arresting the decline in appearance of private property. Responding to this concern, the Council directed staff to focus additional Outreach and Code Compliance resources in affected neighborhoods. Resulting activities include stepped-up communications and education programs in these neighborhoods, community-building and clean-up events, enhanced code enforcement, mobilization of volunteers and human service resources and accelerated response to community needs based on citizen surveys. (See related article in this issue of *It's Your City*).
- **Neighborhood Character** – In response to concerns about loss of neighborhood character due to infill, mega-houses and other development impacts, the City Council directed staff to conduct research into the nature and impacts of development, and to propose remedies based on the results of that research and additional community outreach. Outcomes of the project could include code amendments and/or procedural changes to recognize and protect neighborhood character.
- **Neighborhood Investment** – Responding to community requests for sidewalks and other neighborhood infrastructure, the City Council directed staff to formulate a clear picture of unmet infrastructure needs and to develop plans to meet those needs.

It is anticipated work on these components of the Neighborhood Livability Action Agenda will be completed within the next two years. The City Council and I look forward to sharing information on the progress of these initiatives, and we welcome your comments and involvement.

## Holidays are good time to remember those in need

With the holidays here, it's a great time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Here in Bellevue and the Eastside, there are many organizations dedicated to helping those families and individuals. They include:

- **Overlake Service League.** With the holidays here, the Overlake Service League will once again be coordinating the Adopt-a-Family Program that matches community sponsors with needy Bellevue area families. The league can be reached at [www.overlakeserviceleague.org](http://www.overlakeserviceleague.org), or by calling 425-451-1175.
- **Hopelink.** Through Hopelink's efforts, food, clothing and toys are distributed to needy individuals and families during the holidays. For more information on the group's holiday programs and how you can get involved, call 425-869-6000.
- **United Way.** United Way is seeking volunteers to help in a wide array of endeavors. An easy way to contact their volunteer center is to go to their website site at <http://www.volunteersolutions.org>. This is United Way's national website, but if you type in your zip code it takes you to a page with local resources.
- **2-1-1.** If you simply call 2-1-1, you will be directed to various agencies throughout King County that connect people to volunteer opportunities, as well as agencies that donate, and accept, donated goods.

On behalf of the entire City Council, have a joyous and safe holiday season.





# Auto thefts down 35 percent in Bellevue

## City ranked 57th safest in U.S.

An aggressive campaign against car thieves by Bellevue Police is paying off, with auto theft dropping by 35 percent in the first half of 2006. There were 199 car thefts in the city over the first six months of this year, compared to 308 in that same period in 2005.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police this month recognized the city's efforts by awarding Bellevue Police its 2006 Vehicle Theft Award of Merit. Police Chief Jim Montgomery presented the award to members of the Police Department at the Oct. 30 City Council meeting.

Meanwhile, Bellevue has been ranked the 57th safest city in America, according to the 2006 edition of City Crime Rankings released in November.

While most crime has been dropping in Bellevue, auto theft had been rising since 2002, from 545 that year to a high of 607 in 2004. As a result, all divisions in the Police Department, from detectives to bike officers to crime lab technicians, began focusing on car thieves.

At National Night Out and other occasions, officers educated the public about how to protect their cars from theft. Detectives also pursue leads and conduct surveillance beyond Bellevue's boundaries to apprehend the worst offenders in the city and region. One suspect, arrested in Pierce County, complained that he had stopped coming to Bellevue, but was getting arrested anyway.

"Bellevue is becoming known as a place not to steal cars," said Chief Montgomery. "The Special Enforcement Team began operations late in the summer of 2005, and we began to implement many of the community-based actions the last half of that year. I suspect that accounts for the beginning of the downward trend in later 2005, with the real drop kicking into gear the first half of this year."

The drop in auto thefts in Bellevue, at a time when car thefts are a growing problem regionally, can be attributed to a combined effort of different divisions in the Department as well as cooperation from King County prosecutors.

**Enforcement:** The Special Enforcement Team (mostly plain-clothes detectives who target offenders tied to recurring crimes) and property and auto crimes detectives have tracked down prolific vehicle crimes offenders. Additionally, patrol officers process the scene of vehicle crimes, including fingerprinting, and bike officers patrol car theft hot spots.

**Technology:** Police employ "bait cars," portable agent alarms, covert cameras and other technological tools to watch, even when no one is around. Crime lab analysis and processing links offenders to multiple crimes, resulting in higher bail and longer sentences. Crime analysis generates bulletins and area watch lists that keep officers informed of the most active offenders and their preferred methods.

**Education:** During the 2005 Night Out event, officers instructed more than 2,000 people how to protect against car theft. Community station officers continue this activity year-round by giving informational meetings, providing flyers and tips and contacting businesses to gain cooperation with good lighting, signage and landscaping in their areas. At the Citizen's Academy, offered twice a year, people who live or work in Bellevue can take a series of classes taught by Department experts on a variety of subjects.

**Prosecution:** Bellevue Police have worked closely with the King County Prosecutor's Office to ensure that suspects face high bail while awaiting trial and receive longer sentences. The Department cited the assistance of three prosecutors in particular: Shaya Calvo, Alexandra Voorhees and Doug Young.

Bellevue's success in all forms of crime prevention is reflected in its ranking as the 57th safest city in the United States, according to City Crime Rankings, an annual reference book of crime statistics published by Morgan Quitno Press (<http://www.morganquitno.com/index.htm>). Bellevue was the only city in Washington included among the top 100 safe cities in the country.

# Braid to eliminate weave on I-405

Every day motorists on Interstate 405 North who want to get onto State Route 520 weave across lanes, causing traffic jams and sometimes accidents. The state Department of Transportation wants to put a stop to the weave with a braid.

The \$250 million "Braided Crossing" project, focused on the section of I-405 between Northeast 8th Street and 520, will:

- Add new structures on northbound I-405 to separate traffic exiting to SR 520 from downtown Bellevue traffic entering I-405;
- Replace the Northeast 12th Street Bridge over I-405, widening it and adding bicycle lanes and wider sidewalks;
- Build an eastbound lane along SR 520 to separate the on- and off-ramp traffic between I-405 and 124th Avenue Northeast;
- Add a northbound on-ramp to SR 520 eastbound from Northeast 10th Street.

"We strongly support this project because it is vital to the continued growth of downtown Bellevue, the city as a whole and the broader region," said Mayor Grant Degginger in a letter to the Department of Transportation.

WSDOT is conducting an environmental assessment for the project, which is already fully funded. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009 and be completed in 2012, and an open house is set for this spring.

The City of Bellevue began construction this month on the Northeast 10th Street extension project, which will provide new access to the Overlake Hospital Medical Center campus and Group Health's new Bellevue Medical Center. A second phase of the project, led by WSDOT, will add a bridge at NE 10th from downtown across I-405. See [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/ne\\_10th\\_extension.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/ne_10th_extension.htm) for details.

The braid project will have construction and right of way impacts, and the City Council has urged WSDOT to fully disclose, minimize and mitigate those impacts. WSDOT has committed to minimizing the project impacts as much as possible and to working closely with city staff as the project's environmental studies and design continues.

For more information about the braid project, see [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520).

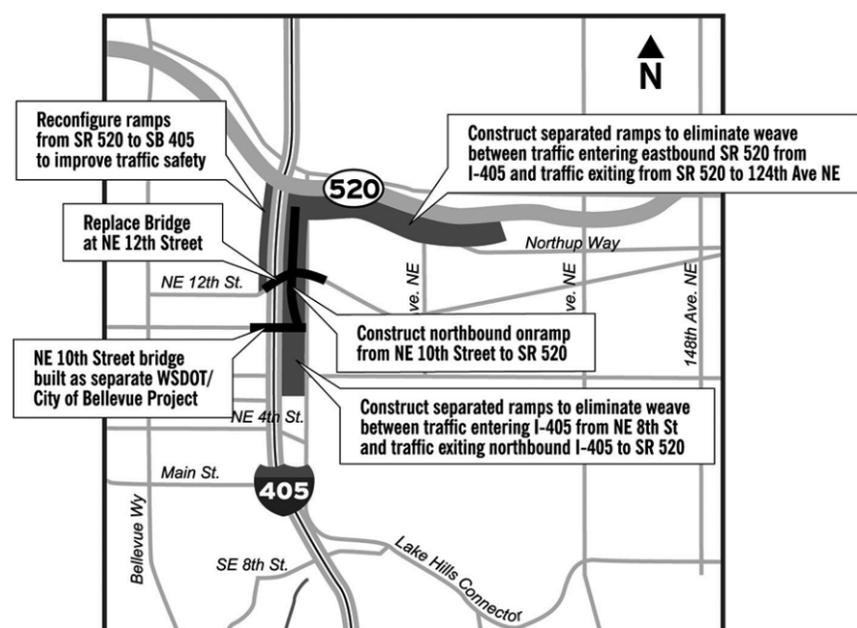


Illustration of I-405 improvements in the works.

## Lake Hills Shopping Center advances to design review

Construction could start in spring 2008

By James E. Bell, East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) Chair

At the September East Bellevue Community Council meeting Mike Upston, senior land use planner with the Bellevue Planning & Community Development Department, and Oscar Del Moro, Senior Vice President for Cosmos Development, reviewed the current plans to completely redevelop the shopping center. The current design will have approximately 69,200 square feet of retail space, approximately 44,800 square feet of office space and 90 residential units on the 6.7-acre site.

This is about the same retail space as the current shopping center. Parking will be provided for about 600 vehicles on the surface and under ground garage. The Lake Hills Library will relocate to this site from the present building and increase to 10,000 square feet. The library will become a key feature on the corner of 156th Avenue Southeast and Lake Hills Boulevard.

The plan includes demolishing the existing five buildings and constructing 14 new ones. The north and west sides of the site will include nine, two-story, multi/residential units that face inward to a pedestrian/vehicle access way. A residential street will run from 156th around the perimeter to the Lake Hills Boulevard entrance. This permits emergency response and heavy moving vehicles access to the residential units.

Two buildings inside the circle will provide retail shopping on the ground floor facing into the plaza/surface parking area and two or three levels of residential units. A third building on the inner circle provides a community/recreation/meeting facility. Finally the two main buildings, one next to 156th and the other adjacent to Lake Hills Boulevard will house retail space on the ground floor that opens to the parking plaza and retail/office space on the second/third floors.

The underground parking facility will house gated parking for the residential units in a separate, secure area. Access to the residences will be by elevators and/or stairs.

While the City of Bellevue design review has imposed some detailed changes, the total plan is almost identical to the conceptual plan developed by the stakeholders group in 2004. It closely matches the Master Redevelopment Plan proposed for the zoning changes approved in 2005. Some of the city's requirements have been 30-foot buffers against the adjacent residential areas and 20-foot buffers against the street sides. Special effort is being made to shield the single-family dwellings on the west side from sight/glare/noise impacts.

Del Moro said Cosmos Development is in design review and negotiations. The next step will be to get firm bid contractors selected. The most favorable schedule is to start construction in the spring of 2008. The decision about a one or two-phase construction plan depends on the design details and the contractor proposals. Overall construction time is estimated to be 18 months.

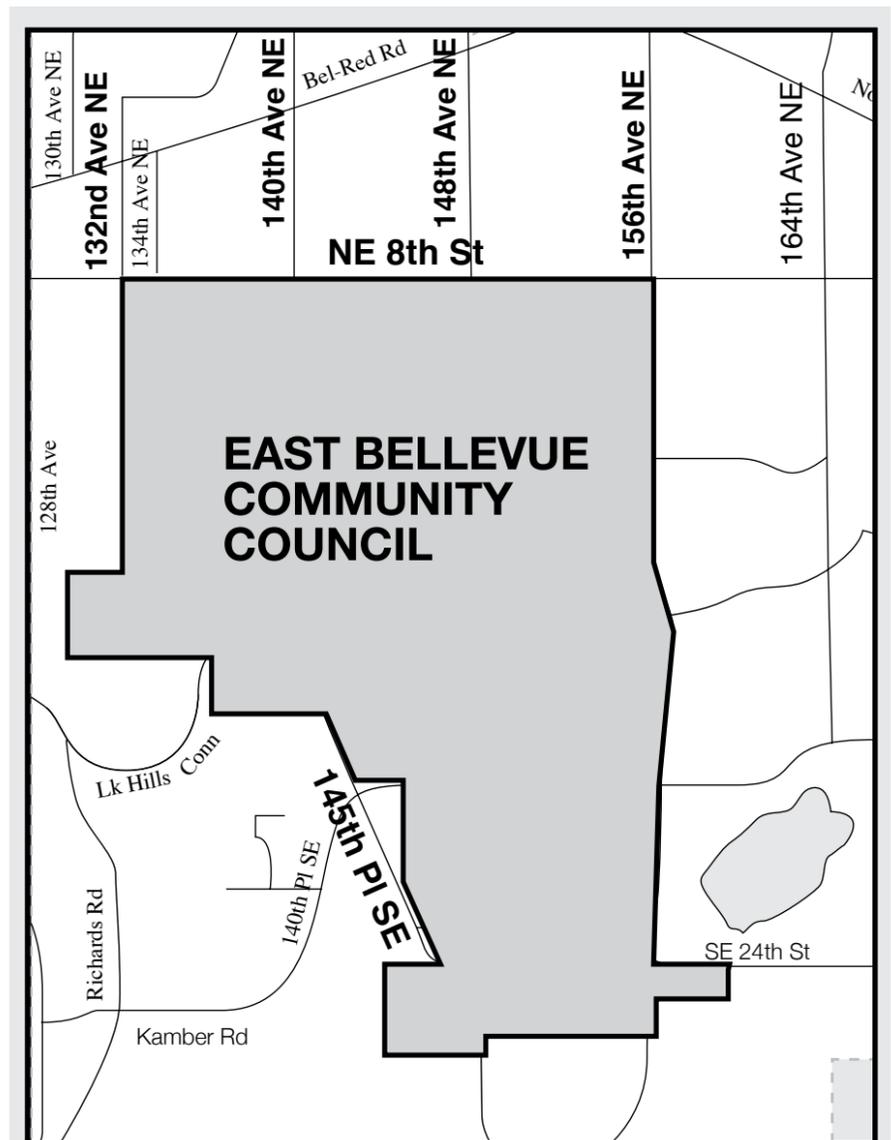
## Kasner and Gooding join the EBCC

**Neil Penrose** and **Jim Keffe** recently resigned their positions on the East Bellevue Community Council. Penrose moved out of the area and was no longer eligible to serve. Keffe resigned for manifold personal reasons after serving 27 years on the council.

Following the procedures to fill vacant positions, EBCC advertised for interested candidates, reviewed the applicants in open meeting and then voted to fill the positions. The new members are:

**Steven Kasner**, a 16-year resident of our area, will fill position 3 until the end of term in December 2009. He is a teacher at the Jewish Day School. Kasner has considerable experience in Bellevue community programs, including two years as chair of the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board and the East Bellevue Neighborhood Improvement Task Force.

**Ross Gooding**, an eight-year resident of the EBCC area, will fill position 5 until December 2009. He is an investment advisor and retirement planning specialist at Wachovia Securities. Gooding has experience as the 48th District precinct committee member. He has a master's degree in business administration and has served as an Air Force cost analyst, dealing with large responsibility financial decisions.



For information about the city's Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Michelle Murphy, 425-452-6466, or contact the East Bellevue Community Council Chairperson, James Bell.

**East Bellevue Community Council** meets the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

### Members

James E. Bell, Jim Eder, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal

## Critical areas ordinance creates new rules for subdivisions

The City of Bellevue adopted four critical area ordinances this past summer. Three of them dealt with technical requirements, a Shoreline Overlay District and impervious surface standards. These were outside the jurisdiction of EBCC so no action was taken. The fourth ordinance (5682) established a new "zoning density calculation" for subdivisions with critical areas or critical area buffers. EBCC approved it at the Aug. 1 meeting. The ordinance also included density incentives for planned unit developments that incorporate conservation design features.

Under the city's existing Land Use Code, residential density for sites without critical areas is generally controlled by the allowed minimum lot size. See LUC 20.20.010 and note 15.

Under Ordinance 5682, density is calculated somewhat differently for sites with critical areas. See LUC 20.45A, 20.45B.060 and 20.25H.045. Density is based on the allowed dwelling units per acre, with some portion of the development potential of the "unusable" critical area portion transferred to the "buildable" portion of the site. In order to accommodate that transferred potential, and to place the critical area in a separate tract, minimum lot sizes may go below the minimum lot size required for sites without critical areas. In no event would density for a short plat exceed the density allowed for the site if it had no critical areas.

An example of the allowances for a two-acre short plat in R2.5 zoning that includes an acre of critical area would look like this:

Number of dwelling units for parcel with one-acre critical area, nominal density and development factor = 3 units

(The density calculation provides 3.75 units, which are rounded down to the nearest whole unit). In order to accommodate three units within the one-acre buildable area, minimum lot size may be reduced to 65 percent of the otherwise required minimum lot size, or 8,775 square feet.

The same "buildable" one-acre lot without the critical area restrictions could have three units based on the minimum lot size for R2.5 zoning, 13,500 square feet. (The density calculation would provide 3.23 units, which are rounded down to the nearest whole unit.)

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the Community Council via e-mail at [EBCC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:EBCC@bellevuewa.gov). To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC go to [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm).



## Lake Hills gets special attention

### Other neighborhoods will get city assistance too

More than 160 adults and kids gathered at Lake Hills Elementary School on Nov. 15 to celebrate a successful partnership between the city and the Lake Hills neighborhood.

As a result of the City of Bellevue's "Neighborhood Fitness" program, which has included a major clean-up campaign and extra attention from code compliance staff, carpools and lawns in Lake Hills are getting rid of clutter and this proud area is losing some of its ragged edges.



Lake Hills residents dance at an outdoor party July 12 at Lake Hills Park to celebrate the "Neighborhood Fitness" program, which helps residents improve their area's appearance.

"Almost every house on our street participated and it looks great in our neighborhood!" one resident noted in a survey.

Part of the City Council's new Neighborhood Livability Action Agenda (see Mayor Degginger's column on page 2), the Fitness program creates partnerships that help residents improve the appearance and quality of their neighborhoods.

Lake Hills is the first neighborhood to get "fit." Neighborhood Outreach staff first focused on east Lake Hills, then moved west to an area that includes Spiritwood, Robinsglen and West Lake Hills.

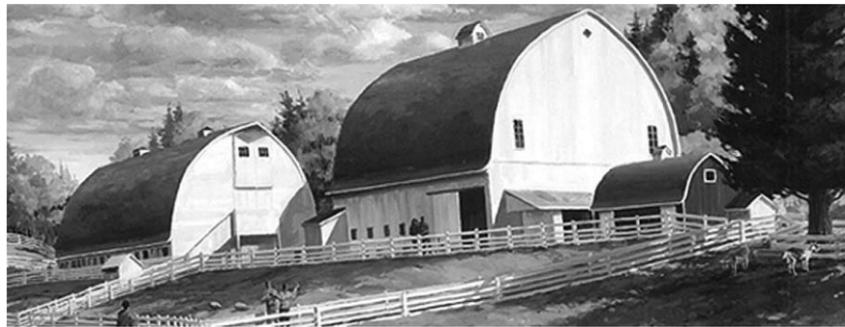
Neighborhood Fitness starts with a survey. Residents in both areas said there were spots "looking neglected and a bit out of shape." A series of clean-ups followed, along with other events intended to help build a sense of community and improve neighborhood appearance.

Multiple departments responded to concerns raised in the surveys. At the Nov. 15 chili feed and an earlier event at Lake Hills Park on July 12, City Council members and city staff reported on the city's response to such high-priority issues as speeding, property maintenance and animal control.

On Sept. 25, the City Council authorized the addition of a new code compliance officer to help residents come up with effective strategies for keeping up their homes and yards.

The Neighborhood Fitness team will continue working in Lake Hills until late spring, when it will move on to designated neighborhoods in other parts of the city. For more information about the project, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836.

## County grant boosts Kelsey Creek restoration



City plans to restore salmon habitat in Kelsey Creek got a boost this year with a \$94,000 grant from the King Conservation District in September. Residents can view project designs and offer input at a public workshop at Kelsey Creek Park on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Historically, significant numbers of chinook, coho and sockeye salmon returned every fall to spawn in the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek, which runs through the park. Over the last 15 to 20 years however, sedimentation has made the stream channel so shallow and narrow, salmon can't spawn there easily.

Together, the Parks & Community Services, Planning & Community Development and Utilities departments are planning ways to enhance and maintain the stream – including restoring the channel and increasing native vegetation that would reduce flooding in the park. Project design is currently underway and construction is expected to begin in 2007.

The Member Jurisdiction Grant awarded in September by the King Conservation District, a natural resources assistance agency authorized by the state, supplements city funds dedicated to the project.

For more information about the project, please contact Bellevue Parks & Community Services at 425-452-6048 or by e-mail at [ddewald@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ddewald@bellevuewa.gov).

## You may qualify for a utilities rate reduction

On Feb. 1, the city will begin taking applications for the utilities low-income rate reduction program. A rebate is available in 2007 for qualifying renters and a reduction is available for qualifying homeowners.

To qualify, you must be disabled or over 62 years of age, have lived in Bellevue for most of 2006, pay utility bills and have an income of \$25,118 or less if single; and \$28,840 or less if a married couple. A household of four can make up to \$35,277 and still be eligible.

Please make an appointment to meet with Utilities staff at City Hall (450 110th Ave. NE), Crossroads Mini City Hall, Factoria Mini City Hall or North Bellevue Senior Center. Those who received a rebate or reduction in 2006 need to reapply for 2007. For more information, call Utilities at 425-452-5285.

## Latest Crossroads plan ready for review

A draft plan for development at the Crossroads commercial area is set for review by the Planning Commission and the City Council. Modified after considerable public input, the plan calls for more open spaces, mixed-use buildings and better connections between the shopping center and the park.

Having identified Crossroads as the commercial, civic and community center of east Bellevue, the city began developing a plan this year to promote its development as a great place. The plan includes a set of long-range organizing principles to guide future development, and it also identifies a potential first phase of new development.

To develop the plan, city planners worked closely with a community group and property owners. About 30 community members met on six occasions in the spring and fall of 2006 to discuss Crossroads' future and to help the city create the organizing principals. The participation of this "workshop group" was vital in coming up with ideas that address the interests of the community. In addition to the workshops, three community open houses were held during the year.

The draft plan includes recommendations for improving connections between the shopping center and the park, establishing additional open spaces and public gathering locations, improving streets and pedestrian amenities and allowing mixed-use residential development on the site. The plan also calls for a milestone review after a specific amount of residential development has occurred.

Community participation will continue to be important as the draft plan is developed into policy and code amendments are presented to the Planning Commission and City Council.

For more information visit [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/crossroads\\_plan\\_intro.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/crossroads_plan_intro.htm) on the city website or contact Andrew Kidde, 452-5288, or Paul Inghram, 452-4070.



## East Link light rail in the works

*This article is a summary of a FAQ page on Sound Transit's website. For more details go to <http://www.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml>. Learn about Bellevue's position on this and other regional transportation initiatives at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/regional\\_transportation\\_projects.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/regional_transportation_projects.htm).*

Sound Transit has started work on East Link, a high-capacity transit connection between the Eastside and Seattle, across the I-90 bridge. After extensive study of many options, in July 2006 the Sound Transit Board identified light rail as the preferred mode for East Link due to its superior performance over all of the other alternatives. The Bellevue City Council in August endorsed light rail on the Eastside.

This project is part of a larger "Sound Transit 2" effort to develop a transportation system that will meet the needs of this growing region in the decades ahead. An integrated Roads & Transit package including Sound Transit 2 projects and Regional Transportation Investment District projects will go to the region's voters in November 2007.

The following is intended to provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the East Link project. For further information, contact Brooke Belman at 206-398-5238 or [belmanb@soundtransit.org](mailto:belmanb@soundtransit.org).

### Q: What is East Link?

**A:** East Link will extend up to 19 miles between downtown Seattle, Bellevue and Redmond via Interstate 90 and Mercer Island. The project's length will depend on the funding level provided by the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure and decisions of the Sound Transit Board.

### Q: What is Sound Transit 2?

**A:** Sound Transit 2 is the effort to build upon the foundation of the regional transit system approved by the voters in 1996, with the majority of those projects either completed or well underway. That foundation includes Sound Transit express bus service, along with freeway and parking investments that make the transit system work better. It also includes Sounder Commuter rail from Tacoma and Everett to Seattle and will include light rail from downtown Seattle to the Sea-Tac Airport, which is scheduled to open in 2009.

Sound Transit 2 recognizes that there is still much work to be done as the region's population grows by a projected 1.2 million by 2030. Between now and 2030 the region will see an estimated 45 percent increase in employment and 45 percent increase in vehicle travel. Our major roadways will experience rush-hour congestion almost all day. Sound Transit began working on Sound Transit 2 with citizens, cities and other stakeholders throughout the region in 2004 to plan for the next wave of mass transit investments. That work has progressed to point where the Sound Transit Board has developed three draft investment options for public review and comment. You can find out more about this work at [www.soundtransit.org/st2](http://www.soundtransit.org/st2).

Sound Transit 2 is part of an even larger Roads & Transit partnership, which is developing a comprehensive and balanced set of investments in the entire regional transportation system, to make sure that this region can move goods and people effectively in the years and decades ahead. The transit projects identified by the Sound Transit Board will go to voters alongside road projects identified by the Regional Transportation Investment District. By state law, both measures must pass for either to take effect. The joint plan will address traffic growth, improve safety and keep people and freight moving throughout the region's most congested corridors, especially during peak commute times in Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties.

### Q: What are the advantages of light rail?

**A:** Light rail is an electric railway powered by an overhead power source. Light rail is versatile and flexible enough to run at street level, through tunnels or in elevated right of way, depending on individual routes. It also can expand and grow with increasing demand. It may use high- or low-platform loading, and multi-car trains or single cars.

Sound Transit's light rail trains will offer two-way, rapid service 18 to 20 hours each day, running frequently throughout the day. Sound Transit's Link light rail line will serve residential and business areas, making fast, reliable travel a breeze. Light rail trains will operate in their own right of way, providing fast, smooth and reliable service no matter what the weather or traffic conditions.

Light rail stations will be developed with each city and neighborhood to ensure transportation and community objectives are met. Electric light rail trains are environmentally friendly since they do not emit harmful contaminants into the air and lure people out of their vehicles.

### Q: Does Sound Transit have a preferred East Link alignment?

**A:** No. In late 2006 or early 2007, the Sound Transit Board is anticipated to identify a reasonable range of route alternatives to be studied in a draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sound Transit will prepare the draft EIS and conduct conceptual engineering on several alternative routes and stations beginning in 2007. In early 2008, Sound Transit, the state Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration anticipate releasing the draft EIS, which includes a 45-day public comment period. Once the comment period is complete, the Sound Transit Board will identify the project's preferred alignment and station locations.

### Q: Will the exact route and station locations be known before the November 2007 vote?

**A:** The Sound Transit Board does not intend to identify a preferred alternative, including route and station locations, until the project team has



completed the draft EIS and gone through a level of environmental analysis and engineering that support a level of confidence needed when identifying a preferred alternative.

### Q: What is an environmental impact statement and how long does it take to produce?

**A:** An EIS is the often-lengthy document that a federal, state or local agency uses to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a proposed major project. A team of experts prepares a draft EIS that includes:

- A description of the proposed action and why it is necessary;
- The environment that would be affected;
- Potential benefits and impacts of the proposed project alternatives; and
- A comparison of alternatives to the proposal.

### Q: What are the impacts along the alignments?

**A:** At this time, the impacts of specific alignments are unknown.

### Q: What property will be needed for the East Link project?

#### What is Sound Transit's real estate policy?

**A:** It is too early to know what property will be needed to construct the East Link project. This December the Sound Transit Board will identify which alternatives will be studied in the draft EIS. Potential displacements and relocations will be analyzed and identified in the draft EIS, which will be released in early 2008. At that time, Sound Transit will have a clearer indication of what properties are impacted by which alternative. A preliminary list of the affected properties will be developed for preliminary engineering by 2009 and the final determination of properties to be acquired would take place during final design.

Sound Transit's relocation and acquisition program works closely with the affected parties throughout the process. Property owners and tenants are compensated for relocation costs. The law guarantees fair market value will be paid when a property must be acquired, and the owner is entitled to initiate court proceedings if a negotiated purchase cannot be reached. There are provisions for property owners to be compensated for costs such as appraisals and attorney fees.

### Q: Are the routes under consideration in Bellevue consistent with the Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan?

**A:** Yes. All routes are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, which provides policy guidance and objectives for the regional transportation system, including connecting major centers and providing multiple access points to the system. The city's future High Capacity Transit Interest Statement contains more specifics, including guiding principles. This interest statement can be found at: [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/east\\_link\\_bellevue\\_participation.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/east_link_bellevue_participation.htm). The City of Bellevue submitted a letter during the public scoping period that asked for multiple routes to be thoroughly evaluated through the environmental process.

### Q: Why is light rail being considered on I-90 instead of SR 520?

**A:** There are several reasons why I-90 works more effectively than SR 520 for an initial cross-lake light rail line. I-90 was built for use as a high-capacity transit facility, and the connections into the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel are already in place. Recent WSDOT studies found that the I-90 floating bridge can support the weight of a light rail system. Sound Transit studies confirm that a light rail track system can be designed to accommodate the movements of the bridge.

Additional operation considerations stem from the fact that light rail ridership will be heaviest on the line north of downtown Seattle and roughly equal to the ridership on the south and east lines combined. Ideal operations match train capacity with expected ridership. Using I-90, Sound Transit would operate two separate routes— east-to-north and south-to-north.

### Q: What is the decision-making process and how can I be involved?

**A:** Sound Transit Board meetings are open to the public and public comment is taken before Board meetings where the topic is on the agenda as an 'action item', meaning the Board is asked to take action versus receiving a staff report. Letters or e-mails can be sent to the Board at any time. Information on Board meetings and the agenda for the meetings are available on the Sound Transit website and a direct link to Board information is: <http://www.soundtransit.org/x1224.xml>.

To get on the Sound Transit mailing list, request a briefing for your organization or for more information contact Brooke Belman at 206-398-5238 or [belmanb@soundtransit.org](mailto:belmanb@soundtransit.org).



## “Wrap-Around” services offer families a foundation

On a recent evening at Lake Hills Elementary School, a crowd is gathered. The 3 o'clock school bell rang a long time ago, but many students are still at the school, with their families and neighbors, to learn about city services, enjoy a family dinner and hear the school choir.

Celebrations like this occur several times a month, all part of a program called Wrap-Around Services.

Wrap-Around Services is a three-year pilot project that began in 2005. Now in its second year, the product of a partnership with the Bellevue School District, the City of Bellevue and United Way of King County is paying off.

Wrap-Around Services uses the neighborhood school as a focal point for integrating health, human services and recreation programs for children and families. These programs are coordinated with school resources – to support a child's social and academic success and to enhance overall neighborhood vitality.

“If we can get into a kid's life early and provide the additional support the student needs, the chances increase drastically that we're going to provide a foundation for that kid's education,” said Bellevue Schools Superintendent Mike Riley. “It's a program where the community comes together to try to help kids, each member of the community making a contribution to the overall effort.”

Wrap-Around Services places a full-time coordinator at the school to help connect students and families to services, provide coordination among the many service providers and communicate with participants regarding outreach activities.

“We found that no one had the time to dedicate full-time to this,” said Patrick Foran, Bellevue Parks & Community Services Director. “Many people were making valiant efforts but were just overwhelmed with their regular work. There may have been multiple community service

organizations interacting with schools, but their efforts weren't coordinated and potential resources were left untapped. The coordinator is an investment that pays off through the increased effectiveness and efficiency of the collective resources.”

Wrap-Around Services assists with a long list of needs, including: food and clothing; academic support; parenting education; health and mental health services; English classes for adults; mentoring and tutoring; legal assistance; before- and after-school activities.

At Lake Hills Elementary, students speak 40 different languages and more than half of all students there receive free or reduced-price lunches. Lake Hills Principal Judy Buckmaster said this is one of the most exciting projects she's been involved in during her 20-plus years in the Bellevue School District, and she believes the program is already having a great impact in the classroom.

“I attribute this to the fact that our communication has become more and more seamless,” Buckmaster said. “All of the people supporting children are able to communicate what's happening before school, after school and in the classroom.”

An additional impact is seen in the community.

“We believed that the relationship of the neighborhood school to neighborhood vitality was very strong, and that it could be a catalyst for bringing the neighborhood together, whether you had kids in school or not,” Foran said. “We have seen this program have that effect in Lake Hills.”

Ricardo Perez, Jr., a third-grader at Lake Hills, and his family are believers in Wrap-Around Services.

“Every time Ricardo is struggling with something, they always find activities or something to help,” said Alma Benitez and Ricardo Perez Sr., Ricardo's parents. “There is nothing better for Ricardo in terms of his development. We are very pleased with what this school has provided for us.”

## Your input is requested for proposed 2007 special events

The City of Bellevue Special Events Committee is requesting your written feedback regarding several special events proposed to occur in 2007. The Special Events Committee has received proposals regarding the following new events or recurring events with proposed significant changes:

**April 28: YMCA Rotary Walkathon**, Start/finish at Bellevue City Hall lawn. Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon. A five-mile fundraising walk to benefit Bellevue YMCA. Proposed route is from Bellevue City Hall east on NE 6th St. to 114th Ave. NE; south on 114th NE/114th Ave. SE/118th Ave. SE to Mercer Slough Nature Park; through Mercer Slough Nature Park to Bellevue Way; north on Bellevue Way SE; right (north) on 112th Ave. SE; east on SE 8th St.; north on 114th Ave. SE/NE; and west on NE 6th St. to return to City Hall. Hosted by Bellevue Breakfast Rotary and Bellevue YMCA. *(Proposed new event.)*

**June 23 and 24: Strawberry Festival** at Crossroads International Park, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A celebration of Bellevue's strawberry farming heritage hosted by Eastside Heritage Center in partnership with the City of Bellevue. *(Recurring annual event with proposed new location.)*

**Aug. 11 and 12: SweetFest at Bellevue Downtown Park**, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A two-day family festival featuring sweet treats and entertainment. Hosted by Tokita Bethune, Inc., a local event management company, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Moyer Foundation. *(Proposed new event.)*

**Aug. 19: Jewish Community Festival at Bellevue Downtown Park**, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A community celebration of “all things Jewish” – culture, music, food and art, featuring an in-park walk in support of Israel and other family activities to help the Greater Seattle community share and experience Jewish culture for the day. Hosted by Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. *(Proposed new event.)*

There are several ways you can comment on potential conditions or routing of event(s) for final committee approval:

- Visit the City of Bellevue's website at [www.bellevuewa.gov/special\\_events\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/special_events_comm.htm) and complete the brief “Special Events 2007-Public Comment Survey”; or
- Complete the comment section below and mail it to City of Bellevue Special Events Committee, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012; or fax it to 425-452-7221.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Your input must be received by Feb. 5, 2007.** Additional events may be added after this publication has been printed. To view or comment on the complete list of proposed events, visit [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/special\\_events\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/special_events_comm.htm) between January 16 and March 1, 2007. For more information about how these events may impact our community, please contact Robin Haaseth, Special Events Committee Chair, at 425-452-6182.

## Special Events Committee 2007 Event Feedback

I wish to comment on the following event(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(optional):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or fax to:

City of Bellevue

Special Events Committee

PO Box 90012

Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

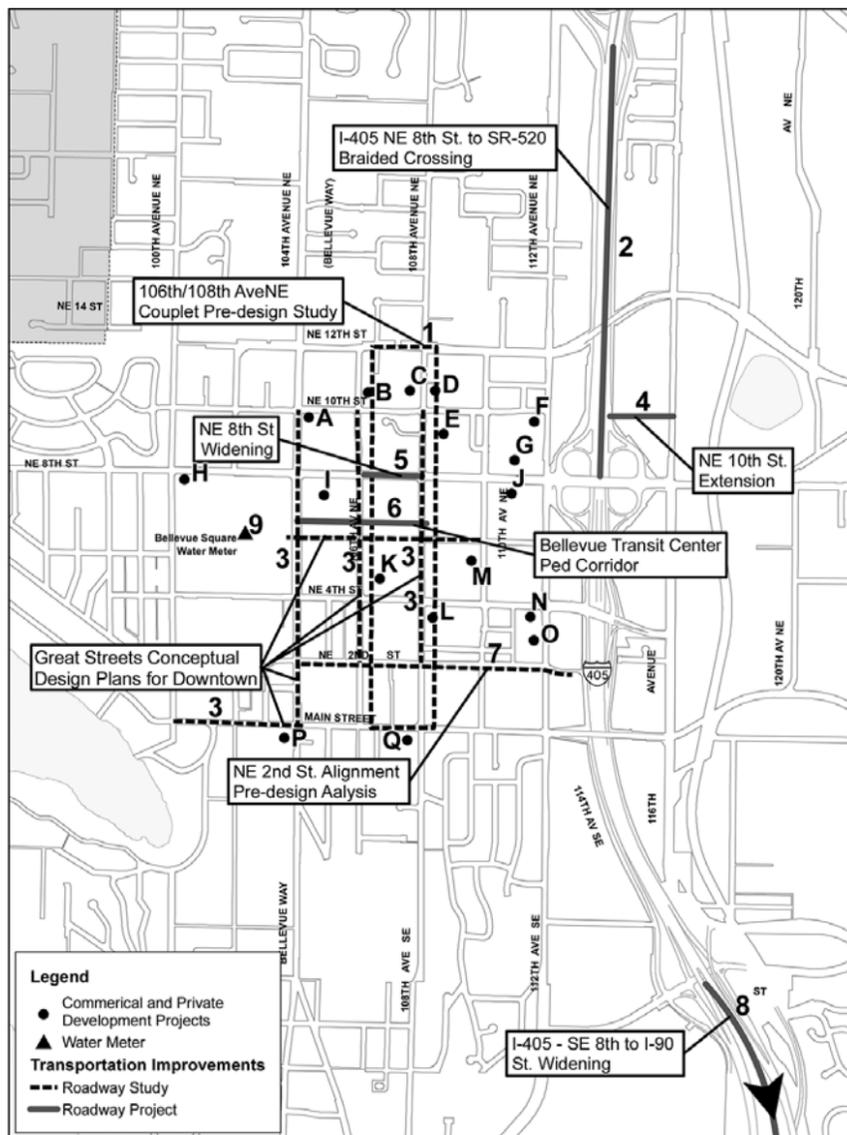
Fax: 425-452-7221

Your comments can also be submitted on-line at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/special\\_events\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/special_events_comm.htm)

## Array of improvements planned for downtown

Aiming to ensure that downtown Bellevue is attractive and easy to navigate, city officials have drawn up plans for improvements to arterials and Interstate 405, including converting 106th and 108th avenues to one-way streets, making it safer and easier to get on and off I-405 downtown and guiding development of key corridors so they have more character.

The city and the state Department of Transportation are moving forward on these and other key transportation projects. Some are in the pre-design phase while construction is beginning on others. All of the projects are part of a growing and improving downtown.



## All part of the plan

In 2003, the City Council adopted the Downtown Implementation Plan to manage growth in Bellevue's booming business and commercial district consistent with a community vision. The plan defined specific projects and principles for downtown Bellevue over the next 15 to 20 years.

The Bellevue Comprehensive Plan includes sections for each of the city's 15 subareas. The city updated the Downtown Subarea Plan in 2004.

These bulleted projects are included in the Downtown Implementation Plan and/or the Downtown Subarea Plan:

- 106th/108th Avenues One-Way Couplet
- Northeast 10th Street Extension
- "Great Streets"
- Northeast Second Street Alignment
- Northeast Eighth Street Widening

### 1. 106th/108th Avenues Couplet Pre-design Study

**Project Need:** This project is identified in the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Subarea Plan and the Downtown Implementation Plan to improve traffic flow through downtown.

**Proposed Improvements:** Convert 106th Avenue Northeast and 108th Avenue Northeast to one-way streets between Main and Northeast 12th streets.

**Benefits:** Traffic modeling indicates the entire downtown traffic system would work better with 106th and 108th operating as a one-way couplet rather than as two-way streets. "Traffic modeling" is a tool for analyzing the major ways people travel using a computer to forecast, assign and analyze traffic flow.

**Current Status:** Staff is updating the downtown land use changes and re-evaluating traffic forecasts, including intersection layout and function. Community workshops are planned for early next year.

**Schedule:** Pre-design analysis will be completed by spring 2007.

**Budget:** \$53,125

**Project Manager:** Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382, [Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov)

### 2. I-405: Northbound Northeast 8th Street to SR 520 Braided Crossing:

**Project Need:** Congestion is prevalent in this area of I-405 because of conflicts between the northbound I-405 traffic exiting to SR 520 and traffic entering the freeway from Northeast Eighth Street. There is also constant weaving on eastbound SR 520 between traffic entering from I-405 and exiting to 124th Avenue Northeast.

**Proposed Improvements:** The state Department of Transportation is partnering with the city to build new structures on northbound I-405 to separate the merging and weaving traffic flows. The Northeast 12th Street bridge over I-405 will be replaced with a wider one, adding bicycle lanes and wider sidewalks. The project also includes adding an eastbound lane along SR 520 to separate the on- and off-ramp traffic between I-405 and 124th Avenue, and adding a northbound on-ramp to SR 520 eastbound from the new Northeast 10th Street extension. (See page 3 in this publication).

**Benefits:** Improves safety by eliminating traffic weaves that cause congestion and sideswipe accidents, and accommodates future regional growth.

**Current Status:** The I-405 Project Team is holding open houses in the community. Environmental work is underway.

**Schedule:** Construction is expected to start in 2009 and continue through 2012.

**Budget:** \$250 Million (In 2005, the state Legislature provided funding for this project by passing the Transportation Partnership Funding package).

**Project Manager:** Bernard Van de Kamp, 425-452-6459 or [Bvandekamp@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Bvandekamp@bellevuewa.gov)

**WSDOT Project Manager:** Denise Cieri, 425-456-8509, or [cierid@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:cierid@wsdot.wa.gov)

**Project Information:** Colleen Gants, 425-456-8500 or [colleen.gants@i405.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:colleen.gants@i405.wsdot.wa.gov)

For more information, please refer to: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/NE8thtoSR520)

### 3. Great Streets Conceptual Design Guidelines



**Project Background:** The Downtown Implementation Plan established an urban design vision for downtown as a "Great Place" and outlined certain principles to advance the livability and memorability of downtown, including identifying the preferred function and character of certain streets and a number of "districts" within downtown.

**Project Need:** Most streets in the downtown currently lack design guidelines. The incremental improvements constructed by private developers and by city projects often do not serve to reinforce the desired identity of the particular street or district. As more of downtown is built out, opportunities are lost to create more aesthetically-pleasing and pedestrian-friendly corridors.

**Proposed Improvements:** This project will develop designs for five key corridors in downtown: Northeast Fourth Street, Northeast Eighth Street, 106th Avenue Northeast, 108th Avenue Northeast and Bellevue Way. It will also develop a palette of "pre-approved" options for hardscape and landscape materials and design features for other streets in downtown.

Corridors and street frontages in downtown will be built according to an overall vision for what is desired along each street and in each district. Individual street frontages constructed by various developers and the city will coordinate into a coherent whole. Developers will have a palette of options for street frontage treatments.



**Benefits:** The quality of the experience and the memorability of downtown street corridors will be enhanced for all users, whether on foot or by motor vehicle.

**Current Status:** Selecting a consultant to provide urban design and landscape architecture services.

**Schedule:** Project will start in January 2007. Project designs will be developed through summer 2007, followed by any necessary revisions to city development codes and standards. Great Streets conceptual designs will be implemented over time, as new property developments build out street frontages and as city roadway projects impact street frontages in the downtown.

**Budget:** \$115,000

**Project Manager:** Michael Ingram, 425-452-4166 or [Mingram@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Mingram@bellevuewa.gov)

#### 4. Northeast 10th Street Extension

**Project Need:** The city's Downtown Implementation Plan identified the need for improved access and circulation to/from downtown and the city's medical district, preservation of future opportunities for access to/from SR 520 or I-405, and improved access to high-quality medical care for the greater Eastside.

**Proposed Improvements:** The Northeast 10th Street Extension, Stage 1 improvement includes constructing a new five- to seven-lane arterial from I-405 to 116th Avenue Northeast, between Overlake Hospital to the north and Group Health facilities to the south, which are under construction. 116th will be widened, adding one additional southbound lane. Two new signalized intersections, sidewalks, landscaping and urban design elements will also be added.

**Benefits:** Improved access and circulation to/from downtown and the city's medical district, ultimately future regional transportation access to/from SR 520, and improved economic vitality through continued development of a regional medical district.

**Construction Schedule:** Construction is scheduled to begin by early 2007 and will continue into the spring of 2008. To maintain safety and traffic flow during construction:

- Through traffic on 116th Avenue Northeast will generally be maintained, with some lane closures for construction.
- Mid-block vehicle movement will be restricted to right-turns only. Left turns will be allowed at signalized intersections.
- Turn lanes at Northeast Eighth Street/116th Avenue Northeast, and at the existing signalized hospital entrance (near 10th), will be maintained.
- Emergency vehicle access to/from Overlake Hospital will be maintained.
- To minimize impacts night work will occur in constructing utilities, paving, signal and illumination systems and the delivery of materials.

**Total Project Cost:** \$67 million (approximately).

**Project Manager:** Rick Logwood, City of Bellevue, 425-452-6858 or via E-mail: [Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Rlogwood@bellevuewa.gov) or Carl Haslam, construction inspector, at 425-452-6937 or [Chaslam@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Chaslam@bellevuewa.gov)

#### 5. Northeast Eighth Street Widening

**Project Background:** This project is identified in the City of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Subarea Plan, and in the Downtown Implementation Plan to improve traffic flow.

**Project Need:** This project will support the conversion of 106th and 108th avenues to one-way streets in the downtown area.

**Proposed Improvements:** Convert existing westbound right-turn lane on Northeast Eighth Street to a through lane. This lane will continue to 106th Avenue Northeast, where it will become a right-turn only lane.

**Benefits:** Project will improve intersection capacity and traffic flow on Eighth Street at 108th by allowing traffic in the westbound curb lane to proceed through 108th to 106th.

**Current Status:** Project is proposed to be part of the 2007-2013 Capital Investment Program plan. City Council will decide early this month whether this project will be adopted into the CIP.

**Schedule:** To be determined

**Budget:** \$4 million

**Project Manager:** Paul Krawczyk, 425-452-7905 or [Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov)

#### 6. Downtown Wayfinding

**Project Background:** The city recently developed a Downtown Wayfinding Design Manual that provides guidance for investment in a hierarchy of wayfinding elements. The hierarchy includes a unified family of kiosks, directional signage, banners, landmark identifiers and publicly accessible open space signage.

**Project Need:** Downtown Bellevue currently has a fledgling pedestrian and bicycle wayfinding system in place. Some pieces are outdated or poorly maintained. Many areas are without any direction signing of any sort.

**Proposed Improvements:** Phase 1 implementation will include a series of directional signage in and around the Bellevue Transit Center as well as new kiosks on the Northeast Sixth Street pedestrian corridor.

**Benefits:** New wayfinding will improve the downtown pedestrian environment and enhance elements of neighborhood character.

**Current Status:** Finalizing construction documents.

**Schedule:** Construction will occur in early 2007.

**Budget:** \$100,000 (federal grant)

**Project Manager:** Kevin McDonald, 425-452-4558, or [Kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov)

#### 7. Northeast Second Street Alignment



**Project Need:** This project is identified in the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Subarea Plan, and in the Downtown Implementation Plan to improve traffic flow.

**Proposed Improvements:** Widen from three lanes with on-street parking to five lanes. The design will accommodate left-turn movements and dedicated right-turn lanes, where possible, at some intersections.

**Benefits:** While this project has been identified to improve traffic flow through the downtown area, it will also look at urban design features, such as benches, sidewalk elements, light fixtures, etc., that can enhance the non-motorized elements throughout the corridor.

**Current Status:** Staff is working to define the alignment and identify urban design features. Community workshops are planned in winter 2007.

**Schedule:** Pre-design Analysis Report to be completed by spring 2007.

**Budget:** \$354,000 (Surface Transportation Program Grant)

**Project Manager:** Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382, [Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov)

#### 8. I-405 Widening

**Project Background:** In the spring of 2003, the state Legislature approved a gas tax increase known as the Nickel Funding Package, that would fund a number of projects, including adding lanes to Interstate 405 where it gets most congested.

**Project Need:** I-405 has extreme congestion more than six hours a day, with daily congestion at the Wilburton Tunnel. If the highway is not expanded, the state Department of Transportation estimates that rush hour trips on I-405 through Bellevue in 2020 will take about 40 percent longer than today.

**Proposed Improvements:** WSDOT is partnering with Bellevue to make improvements in both the northbound and southbound directions on I-405:

Northbound:

- One new northbound lane from 112th Avenue Southeast to Southeast Eighth Street will be added.
- A new northbound structure over Coal Creek Parkway will be added.
- Converting the existing southbound structure to a northbound HOV lane.
- A new ramp meter at 112th Avenue Southeast.

Southbound:

- One southbound lane from Southeast Eighth Street to I-90.
- A new three-lane southbound bridge over I-90 to the west of and adjacent to the existing southbound bridge.

**Benefits:** This project will reduce congestion into and out of Bellevue on I-405 from the south and fix the “Wilburton Weave,” which occurs between Southeast Eighth Street and I-90. This project will help address continued growth in Bellevue and the greater Eastside. It is also expected to attract regional trips to the freeway, thereby alleviating congestion on Bellevue city streets and reducing traffic that cuts through nearby neighborhoods. Other project benefits will:

- Improve safety
- Improve one of the worst congestion chokepoints along the I-405 corridor
- Increase travel speeds during peak commuter hours
- Move freight more efficiently through the corridor

**Schedule:** Construction is expected to begin in 2007, and the new lanes will open to traffic in 2009.

**Budget:** \$208 million (approximately).

**Project Managers:** Bernard van de Kamp, 425-452-6459, or [Bvandekamp@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Bvandekamp@bellevuewa.gov) and Nancy LaCombe, 425-452-4382 or [Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Nlacombe@bellevuewa.gov)

**WSDOT Project Manager:** Denise Cieri, 425-456-8509, or [cierid@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:cierid@wsdot.wa.gov)

**Project Information:** Colleen Gants, 425-456-8500 or [colleen.gants@i405.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:colleen.gants@i405.wsdot.wa.gov)

## 9. Commercial Water Meter Replacements

**Project Need:** Water meters have aged over the past years and need replacing.

**Proposed Improvements:** Replacing aging commercial water meters in five locations in Bellevue Square to bring service to the current standard

**Benefits:** This project will improve reliability, integrity and safe operation of the water meters.

**Current Status:** Under design.

**Construction Schedule:** Construction is expected to start in January 2007 and be complete by Summer 2007.

**Estimated Budget:** \$500,000

**Project Manager:** Vanaja S. Rajah, 425-452-4881 or [Vrajah@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Vrajah@bellevuewa.gov)

## Commercial & Private Development Projects

Because private developers and franchise utilities conduct their work in and around city streets, the city coordinates construction efforts with theirs. Please be aware that because these development projects require construction vehicles that enter or leave the sites, there may be associated traffic delays in the area.

Drivers and pedestrians should anticipate periodic lane and/or sidewalk closures adjacent to several of the commercial developments in Bellevue. These projects are as follows:

	Project	Address	Description
A.	Bellevue Place Hyatt Expansion	10500 NE 8 <sup>th</sup> St	19-story hotel.
B.	BRE – Belcarra Apartments	1032 106 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	320 apartments, parking stalls, and retail in a five-story building.
C.	Vue Hanover	10710 NE 10 <sup>th</sup> St	Apartments, retail and parking in a 20-story building.
D.	1020 Residential Tower	1020 108 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	Mixed-use 20-story residential tower with 129 units, Ashwood Park expansion, ground floor retail and theater.
E.	Pacific Regent Phase II	919 109 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	22-story senior housing/care community; 168 units.
F.	Ashwood II	909 112 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	22-story high-rise and 13-story mid-rise
G.	8 <sup>th</sup> Street Gateway	11011 NE 9 <sup>th</sup> St	130 apartments, retail and parking stalls in a six-story building.
H.	Bellevue Square Northwest Garage Expansion		Garage addition at fourth level.
I.	Lincoln Square Skybridge #2		Pedestrian skybridge from Lincoln Square to Bellevue Place over NE 8 <sup>th</sup> St.
J.	The Bravern - Tower 1 & Tower 2	11025 NE 8 <sup>th</sup> St	24-story office building. Four towers with parking, retail and restaurants.
K.	Bellevue Towers	10608 NE 4 <sup>th</sup> St	558 condominiums in twin 43-story towers, parking stalls and retail.
L.	The Summit III	320 108 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	15-story office building
M.	City Center II	10903 NE 6 <sup>th</sup> St	26-story office tower, parking and retail.
N.	112 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Mixed Use – Simpson Housing	317 112 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	300 residential units. 25,000 sf of commercial use, and parking.
O.	Meydenbauer Inn	211 112 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	59 multifamily units, parking and retail.
P.	Bellevue at Main Street	15 Bellevue Way SE	138 residential units; 75,000 sf office; 37,000 sf of retail and parking.
Q.	Vantana on Main	10713 Main Street	Mixed use and apartments

## For additional information

Contact Patti Wilma, Department of Planning & Community Development, 425-452-2725, or [Pwilma@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Pwilma@bellevuewa.gov)

### Staying Informed

Do you like to know what is going on downtown? There are a number of tools available for you to stay informed:

- [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_projects\\_map.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_projects_map.htm) Find your neighborhood on the map, and scroll through the quick-review index of current and pending projects in your area. “Projects in Your Neighborhood” outlines important details about the improvements the city builds every year all over town – including streets, sidewalks, trails, parks, sewer and water main line upgrades – plus projects selected by neighborhood residents. You can learn what projects

are in your area, when they’ll start and finish, what phase of development they are in, and other useful details. Each listing includes the project manager, phone number, and an E-mail link so you can ask questions.

- Commercial and Private Development Project Information – Available at [www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/MajorProjectsUpdate\\_4qtr\\_06.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/MajorProjectsUpdate_4qtr_06.pdf)
- Variable Message Signs – These are the large electronic signs (orange lights with a black background) that are placed along the roadway, before a major construction zone.

If you have questions or comments about transportation projects, please call 425-452-4638 or write Tresa Berg, Public Involvement Manager, City of Bellevue Transportation Department, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 or [Tberg@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Tberg@bellevuewa.gov).

# Community Calendar

## Seattle Civic Christmas Ships

Beach celebrations to welcome the Seattle Civic Christmas Ships to Bellevue. Bonfires and hot cider will be provided at Newcastle and Meydenbauer parks. No bonfires or hot cider at Chism Beach Park. For information, call 425-452-4106.

*Sunday, Dec. 3: 6:50 – 7:10 p.m.*

### Newcastle Beach Park,

4400 Lake Washington Blvd. SE  
*Monday, Dec. 4: 8:50 – 9:10 p.m.*

### Chism Beach Park,

1175 – 98th Ave SE  
*Thursday, Dec. 21: 8:20 – 8:40 p.m.*

### Meydenbauer Beach Park,

419 – 98th Ave NE

## Family Fireside Storytelling

Storytellers recount the Eastside's history by the fireside at the historic Winters House. Historic and modern toys will be on display, as well as a special Santa collection. Visitors can make a toy to take home and tour the house and grounds. Free. Winters House, 2102 Bellevue Way SE. For information, call 425-450-1049

*Saturday, Dec. 9: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

## Historic Winters House Tour

Winters House, 2102 Bellevue Way SE. Tour this Spanish Eclectic home built in 1929 by Cecilia and Frederick Winters. An Eastside Heritage Center docent will explain the early life and industry of this Mercer Slough family who bought the land in 1917. For more information, call 425-450-1049.

*Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

## “Let Freedom Ring”

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. play will highlight the struggles for equality in our country, celebrating the impact of Dr. King's contributions. This is a free performance at the Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16661 Northup Way, presented by Bellevue youth.

*Friday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m.*

## Valentine “Friendship” Dance

Teens from all Bellevue middle schools dance to the latest tunes at Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St. All students must show their school ASB cards to attend. \$4 per student.

*Friday, Feb. 9, 7 – 10 p.m.*

## Lewis Creek Park welcomes display on wildfires

A display explaining the function and importance of wildfires will be on exhibit at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center Dec. 28 through January.

Not all wildfires are bad. The display explains the important ecological benefits wildfires provide. The Lewis Creek Visitor Center is located at 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.

*Dec. 28–Jan. 31  
Wednesdays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.*

## Family Night Out

Families enjoy this free evening of sports, games, arts and crafts, a movie and refreshments Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St. Parents must accompany and supervise their children at all times.

*Friday, Feb. 16, 8 – 10:30 p.m.*

## Garbage pickup days change over holidays

Allied Waste, the city's garbage contractor, does not pick up garbage on Christmas or New Year's days. If your pickup day is Monday, collection will be on Tuesday. Collection will be one day later for everyone else the rest of each holiday week also. (There will be a special Saturday pickup for Friday customers.) Please call Allied at 425-452-4762 if you have a question.



## Hellebore Open House and Plant Sale

Displays of Hellebores, plants for sale, Northwest Perennial Alliance (NPA) Seed Exchange packets at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St. Proceeds support the NPA Perennial Borders at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

*Sunday, March 4, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.*



## D'Lightful time of year at Botanical Garden

When the Bellevue Botanical Garden's impressive collection of trees and shrubs get festooned with lights, visitors know it's that holiday time of year. The annual Garden d'Lights Festival will continue through Dec. 31.

Thousands of twinkling lights transform the Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St., into a winter wonderland. The colored lights have been strung on the trees and shrubs to represent characters, including a swan in a lily pond, Charlotte in her web and a large green frog by his favorite pond.

Garden d'Lights is open daily, 5 to 9:30 p.m., free, with a suggested donation of \$1 per person, \$3 per family.

There will be a \$5 charge for parking at the Botanical Garden during the hours of the Garden d'Lights, but free parking is available at Wilburton Hill Park, the Bellevue School District Headquarters across the street and the Bellevue School District Service Center.

Garden d'Lights is not the only winter event sponsored by the City of Bellevue's Parks & Community Services Department. See the list of activities below:



## Cut down on holiday waste

During the five weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's, Americans produce an extra 1 million tons of trash per week. Follow a few of the tips below to cut back on holiday waste:

- If you use traditional gift wrapping, buy the kind that can

be recycled. Foil and tissue paper wrappings cannot be recycled.

- Make gift tags from last year's holiday cards.
- Use a decorative tin, flowerpot or basket to hold your gift instead of wrapping it.
- Give gift certificates, tickets, baked goods and other items that do not need additional wrapping.
- Reuse or recycle your gift wrapping, ribbons, bags and boxes.
- If you have yard debris service, put food waste and food-soiled paper in your yard debris cart.

For details of what can be recycled, please visit Allied Waste (Rabanco's) website at [www.Rabanco.com/collection/Bellevue](http://www.Rabanco.com/collection/Bellevue) or call 425-452-4762.

## Prevent sewer backups

Each holiday season, sewer backups increase because extra food is put down garbage disposals. Over time, the build up of food and grease in sewer pipes can lead to costly repairs.

To avoid problems, recycle food scraps in your yard debris cart. If you live in an apartment or condominium and don't have yard debris service, put food scraps in the garbage. For more information about food waste recycling, visit [www.rabanco.com/collection/Bellevue](http://www.rabanco.com/collection/Bellevue)



## Tips on disposal of Christmas trees

When the season's over, yard debris customers can put their Christmas trees at the curb for pickup on their regular collection day:

- The tree must be cut into four-foot lengths and tied into bundles less than two-feet wide. Use biodegradable string or twine – no nylon, plastic or other synthetic materials. Set the cut up tree next to your yard debris cart.
- Christmas trees should be free of all flocking, tinsel, ornaments and metal hangers. Flocked trees will not be accepted. Cut up flocked trees and put in garbage.

If you have questions, please call Allied Waste at 425-452-4762.

### Other Options:

- Take your tree to Pacific Topsoils in Bellevue at 1733 127th Ave. NE. There is a fee of around \$3 per tree. Call 800-884-7645 for details.
- Boy Scout Troop 600 will collect trees from the area between Lake Washington and I-405 and from I-90 north to State Route 520, plus Yarrow Point, Hunts Point and Evergreen Point. Or you can take your tree to Clyde Hill Elementary School, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 7. A \$10 donation is requested for pickup or drop off. Call 206-748-1656 to schedule a pickup.
- Boy Scout Troop 662 will collect trees on Sunday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 6 in Bellevue, north of I-90, east of I-405, and all areas south of I-90. To schedule a pickup, send an e-mail to [troop662treepickup@hotmail.com](mailto:troop662treepickup@hotmail.com). Include a contact name, phone number and address, with unit number. A \$10 donation is requested. Details about when tree will be picked up and preparation will be emailed.

Please do not dump trees in or near streams, as they can block water flow and cause flooding.

## City Contact Information

### Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

**City of Bellevue web site: [www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)**

**Information Center: 452-6800**

**City Council Office: 452-7810**

### City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.  
2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

### Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

### Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6805 for meeting locations/agendas  
Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.  
Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.  
Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 7 p.m.  
Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Library Board: 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.  
Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.  
Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m.  
Transportation: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

### City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6464

City Manager: 452-6810

#### Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874  
Highland: 452-7686  
North Bellevue Senior: 452-7681  
South Bellevue: 452-4240

Community Council: 452-6805

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

#### Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911  
Business and Information: 452-6892  
Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or [www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)

Information Technology: 452-4626

Marina Hotline: 452-6123

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

#### Parks & Community Services

Parks Information: 452-6881  
Recreation Registration: 452-6885  
Youth Sports: 452-6887  
Ballfields: 452-6914  
Picnics/Rentals: 452-6914  
Park Maintenance: 452-6855  
Human Services: 452-6884  
Cultural Diversity: 452-7886  
Probation: 452-6956  
Recreation & Special Services Division: 452-6885

Planning & Community Development: 452-6800

New permit applications and application status: 452-6800

Code compliance: 452-4570

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

#### Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891  
Factoria Station: 452-2880  
D.A.R.E.: 452-7895  
Emergency Only: 911  
Administration: 452-6952  
Complaints and Information: 452-6917  
Detective Division: 452-5373  
Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-6915; Residential 452-6916  
Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-6940

#### Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

#### Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-2977  
Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973  
Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

#### Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS  
Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)  
Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

# Bellevue

## IT'S YOUR CITY

*It's Your City* is published for people who live or work in Bellevue, WA. If you have questions or comments about this publication or city services, call 425-452-4090; or write: Editor, *It's Your City*, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012;

or send e-mail to [trwaters@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:trwaters@bellevuewa.gov)  
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[www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)



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## Bellevue City Council



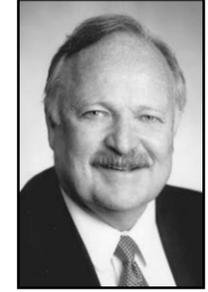
Grant Degginger  
Mayor



John Chelminiak  
Deputy Mayor



Claudia Balducci



Don Davidson



Conrad Lee



Connie Marshall



Phil Noble

## Open-air Wi-Fi to soon be available downtown

People sitting at sidewalk tables, bus stops or benches in downtown Bellevue will soon be able to access the Internet from their laptops.

The City of Bellevue this month began installing an open-air wireless network (often called Wi-Fi) so that anyone outdoors in the central business district, from City Hall to the Downtown Park and Bellevue Square will be able to connect to the Internet. The system is expected to be up and running by the end of the month.

The city is testing out Wi-Fi in a six-month pilot project, seeing how well it works and serves people's needs in a "Hot Zone" downtown before it considers making the downtown system permanent or expanding the Wi-Fi network elsewhere in the city. The downtown pedestrian corridor provides a concentration of potential customers for commercial wireless Internet service providers.

The Information Technology Department is gauging the effectiveness of the technology in a challenging urban landscape and gaining an understanding of what it takes to manage a wireless network over a wide area.

The downtown Hot Zone covers approximately 150 acres, along the pedestrian corridor (that includes the Downtown Park) bounded by 112th Avenue Northeast on the east, 100th Avenue Northeast on the west, Northeast Fourth Street on the south and Northeast Eighth Street on the north.

Accessing Bellevue's Wi-Fi network downtown will be quite simple. Computers equipped with wireless network devices will sense the Wi-Fi network and notify users of the presence of the "BELLWIFI" network.

Initially, a company called HarborLink will provide free, advertising-supported, access to the Internet. It is expected that users will eventually get to a service provider menu, with links for up to four service providers with descriptions of the type of service offered, such as "free with ads" or "subscription."

See *It's Your City* on  Bellevue TV

Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
and every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

or see previous editions on the web.  
Go to [bellevuewa.gov](http://bellevuewa.gov) and click on "city videos".