



## EBCC talks off-leash dog areas

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

The East Bellevue Community Council has discussed a wide range of issues at its meetings this year.

To give readers an idea of what we're talking about in our monthly meetings at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, I offer this summary of the action. The EBCC minutes, which offer a complete record, are available at [www.bellevuewa.gov/ebcc-minutes-2012.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/ebcc-minutes-2012.htm).

The EBCC wants to continue to be a positive presence in Bellevue. If there are issues that residents in our jurisdiction want considered in a thoughtful and respectful manner, we would be honored to spend the time and effort to find solutions that work for all of Bellevue.

### May

Bellevue Airfield Park, Robinswood Park and off-leash dog areas: Balancing the needs of dogs and their owners and how we interact as a community.

The Parks & Community Services Department is still seeking feedback on the best ways to serve all user groups.

### April

Graffiti - How bad is it and what can we do about it? Bellevue relies on all of us to report the graffiti we see as we move throughout the city. Graffiti on public property is cleaned as soon as possible; on private property it is the owner's responsibility to make sure that it is removed. ~~For more information on the Service First desk at 425-452-6800. See contact information below Map.~~

### March

Human services update including school district challenges: More than 70 children in Bellevue public schools have no permanent place to live.

Many other families are on the free and reduced lunch program. The school district has programs to support these students.

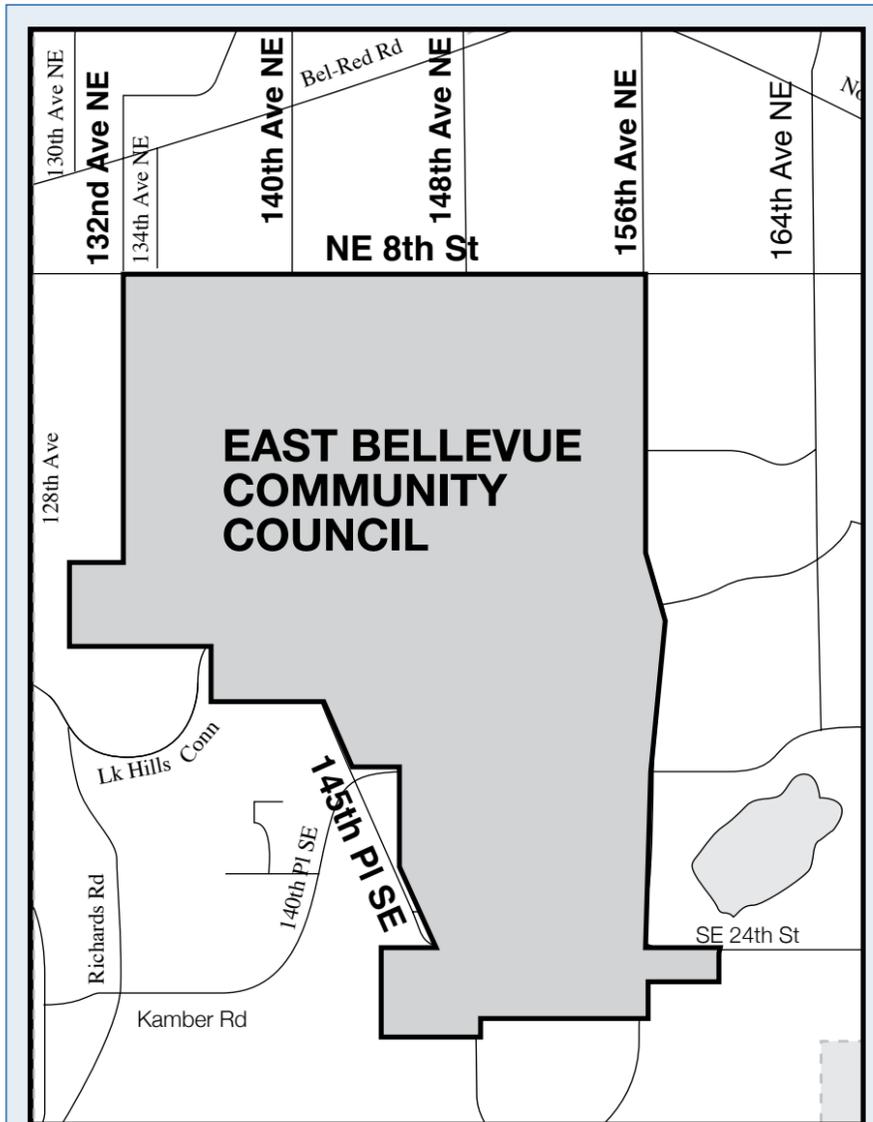
### February

Legislative bill eliminating community councils defeated: The State Senate continues to see the value of community councils. In 1969 communities were given the right to form community councils upon annexation and ask for reauthorization every four years.

### January

Conditional use permit for Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Teen Center: The Club will open a new teen center this year in the former Lake Hills Library site to serve families of East Bellevue.

This year-round facility will give children one more place to be safe and have a great time.



For more information about the East Bellevue Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Michelle Murphy, 425-452-6466, or contact Steven Kasner, Chairman for the EBCC.

**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

Gerald Hughes, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Ken Seal, William Capron

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

Citizens can report graffiti on city property at [www.bellevuewa.gov/crmportal/Registration/Default.aspx](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/crmportal/Registration/Default.aspx)

## Traffic lights on 148th Avenue get smart

By Steve Kasner, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

Traffic will flow faster along 148th Avenue after Intelligent Traffic Systems software and hardware are installed this fall. The traffic lights will get smarter in a way, reducing wait times by sensing and responding immediately to variations in traffic.

The city is in the middle of a five-year plan to upgrade the computer system that controls the traffic signals throughout Bellevue. In September the software will be installed along 148th.

In addition, there is capital improvement money to replace the signal at Main Street in 2013. We will all benefit from improved traffic flow in these key East Bellevue corridors.

### 145th Place Makeover Complete

The makeover of 145th Place Southeast between Southeast 16th and Southeast 24th streets is nearly complete. Now the arterial features bike lanes, sidewalks, medians and a center turn lane. Improvements to Southeast 22nd Street, including a sidewalk, are also almost done.

The paving is done and the projects should finish in June or July, depending on the weather. This project - which follows a previous makeover for 145th Place between Southeast Eighth and Southeast 16th streets - was requested by the neighborhoods to improve safety and aesthetics on a key arterial that enters Bellevue College. A grand opening is scheduled for July.

### Kmart building no longer vacant

The former Kmart building at Kelsey Creek Center is now occupied by LA Fitness, which opened its doors in April. The beautiful facility includes a swimming pool, racquetball courts, shiny new fitness machines and, of course, free weights. I have even skipped using my car when I have gone to work out on occasion.

By the end of June, Walmart will open a grocery store at Kelsey Creek Center, which will give our residents another choice for their shopping dollars. Join your neighbors at one of the stores on the site or at the

outdoor tables among the creative landscapes. More stores are expected to come to the shopping complex through the summer and fall.

### Landscape enhancements to Lake Hills Boulevard

The western half of the street, between 143rd and 148th avenues Southeast, will be renovated. The existing birch trees within this area are in a state of decline and will be removed. Landscape beds will be reconstructed and an irrigation system will be updated. New trees and shrubs will be installed.

### West Lake Hills better today?

In 2002 the West Lake Hills Citizen Advisory Committee issued the following recommendations to maintain the quality and character of the neighborhood:

- Revitalize neighborhood shopping centers. Strongly encourage improvements in appearance, functionality and community integration.
- Improve the safety and appearance of arterials.
- Develop strategies for maintaining and improving the value, appearance and quality of neighborhoods.
- Preserve and protect the area's parks and open space assets, and acquire properties whenever possible to enhance local parks, trails, and green spaces.
- Develop a stronger sense of community in Lake Hills neighborhoods.

Ten years later, how did we do? The report also acknowledged that much more work is needed to successfully implement these suggestions.

I believe that all neighborhoods would benefit from taking objective looks at their local community. One of the key questions moving forward is what is a strong sense of community and is it important to make our city a better place?

If you are interested in these issues and want to be part of the discussion, please contact me at [EBCC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:EBCC@bellevuewa.gov).