

neighborhood news



June 2013

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods



Bellevue Diversity Initiative

Join a community conversation on diversity

If you are interested in learning more about diversity and civic engagement in our community, please join the City, your neighbors and friends in a series of conversations sponsored by the Bellevue Diversity Initiative this month. The initiative explores diversity in economic development, human services, education, civic engagement and public safety.

Over the last three decades, Bellevue has become one of the most diverse cities in Washington. Today, Bellevue is 41% ethnically diverse and that is but one slice of the demographic pie. This diversity in age, race and ethnicity and other types of culture brings with it a unique range of skills, assets and capacities of the people that live and work here.

Engaging diverse community members allows the entire community to benefit. The City is interested in leading and facilitating conversations in the community on how to engage diverse individuals and communities. One goal of these discussions is to determine what role the City of Bellevue, local organizations, businesses and the community as a whole plays in facilitating and promoting civic engagement.

Some of the topics that will be discussed include how diverse members of our community can be more involved in public forums, what are the issues that affect diverse communities, possible recruitment to boards and commissions, and how community members can be more aware of City of Bellevue services as well as other community resources.

Bring your experience of being part of Bellevue's diverse community. Share your stories and help shape the Bellevue Diversity Initiative by participating in the following events:

Diversity Advantage: Putting the positive power of diversity to work for our community

Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 -8pm

Lake Hills Elementary (14310 SE 12th St)
(Discussion tables offered in English and Spanish)

Wednesday, June 19, 6:30 – 8pm

City Hall (450 110th Ave NE)

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 -8pm

South Bellevue Community Center (14509 SE
Newport Way)

(Discussion tables offered in English and Chinese)

These events are wheelchair accessible; American Sign Language (ASL), listening devices and translation are all available on request with 72 hour notice. For more information about the events, contact Julie Ellenhorn, 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov. RSVP appreciated, but not required.

Neighborhood Match Program gets "make-over", grants increased to \$10,000

What could you do with \$10,000 in your neighborhood? All Bellevue neighbors are encouraged to think about this question, as the Neighborhood Match Program is getting a mini "make-over" this summer. With changes such as the grant amount doubled from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per project, construction management process streamlined, another deadline being added, the program is expected to serve the Bellevue community at a new level and to accomplish more neighborhood improvement projects through partnerships in the years to come.



The Neighborhood Match Program is also the only neighborhood program that builds projects that are initiated by residents, and where matching funds are directly accessible by residents. To accommodate rising construction costs and project demands, the grant amount will be increased to \$10,000 to allow neighborhoods to envision the kind of projects that can make a difference in their community, and encourage relationships to be strengthened over the long term. Staff at the city will also provide assistance and guidance for permitting and construction management for neighborhoods. In addition to the March deadline, another deadline will be added in June to give neighborhoods another chance to submit applications. Neighborhoods will also be encouraged to partner with local business, schools and other organizations for their projects.



The Neighborhood Match Program was created in the 1990's as a response to residents who requested small local projects to improve their neighborhood. The Program provided matching grants up to \$5,000 per project for small-scale neighborhood improvements. For every dollar awarded by the City, the applying neighborhood is required to provide an equal or greater match consisting of cash, professional services, building materials, and/or volunteer labor. Last year alone, the program funded more than 30 small improvement projects in the City - the Vuecrest Pedestrian walkway enhancement, Forest Ridge neighborhood entry treatment, Vuemont Meadows' Fence project, etc. All the projects helped neighborhoods to be active and cohesive communities, where neighbors get to know one another by building a project together, and take pride in maintaining and caring for their neighborhood.

For more details about the Neighborhood Match Program and its criteria, please contact the Program Manager Ying Carlson at 425-452-4342 or ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov to discuss your neighborhood project.

Microsoft to host Bellevue's Best Ideas Campaign Event



The City's Comprehensive Plan sets the vision for Bellevue for the year 2035 and beyond. Community participation is critical to ensure that this plan reflects your BEST IDEAS for our future. With the Bellevue's Best Ideas campaign launched last month <https://bellevuesbestideas.ideascale.com>, the online forum has generated more than 40 ideas and more than 200 votes. City staff want to continue to hear your thoughts about how Bellevue should grow and adapt to change over the next twenty or more years.

On Friday, June 21st from 6-8pm, the Microsoft Store in Bellevue Square will host an event where you can submit your own best ideas. You'll be able to submit your ideas while you demo a surface tablet, enjoy refreshments and enter to win \$100 gift cards at the Microsoft store. City planners will be on hand to discuss your ideas with you and answer questions on the Comprehensive Plan Update.

For more information about the Comprehensive Plan Update, please visit the city website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm> or contact Paul Inghram at 425-452-4070 pinghram@bellevuewa.gov

Onramp to civic leadership – Bellevue Essentials

Bellevue Essentials, a civic leadership class will launch on September 25, 2013 with eight weekly evening sessions and one Saturday workshop. The program is targeted at emerging leaders who are focused on learning more about their local community and engaging at the neighborhood or city level. A variety of learning tools, including speakers, panels, interactive exercises and site visits will be used to create an interesting and dynamic program. Participants will have opportunities to meet with neighborhood leaders, decision makers and elected officials. Sessions will cover areas such as transportation, education, arts and cultural diversity.



Bellevue Essentials will have open enrollment, but will give preference to applicants who are new to

public service and represent the geographic and neighborhood diversity across the City of Bellevue. The initial class size will be limited to 30 participants to ensure a quality experience.

The program tuition is \$95.00 per participant, with financial assistance available. Tuition includes all classes, materials and a light dinner at each of the eight sessions. To request an application for yourself or to recommend a candidate, please contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

The Lake to Lake Bike Ride

The Bellevue Lake to Lake Bike Ride is set for Saturday, June 15. This annual event benefits the City of Bellevue youth camp scholarship fund to help kids in our community. The ride starts and finishes at Lake Hills Park (1200 164th Ave SE) and takes riders to and through the City's award winning parks and showcases some great areas to ride in the area.

The routes utilize a combination of low traffic roads, bike lanes and gravel trails. A bike that can handle a variety of terrain is recommended. The routes are fun and appealing to all levels:

- The mostly flat, shorter, approximately 9 mile loop is perfect for a family or less experienced cyclist.
 - The longer loop is 22 miles with some challenging climbs. Courses were tweaked to offer more trails and a better route through downtown Bellevue.
- This ride is **NOT** suggested for children under 8 years old unless riding in a trailer or tag-along.*

All participants will receive a Pace brand custom bike hat, and goodies. Refreshments and a prize give-away will also be provided after the event.

The number of riders will be limited and pre-registration is recommended. Pre- entry admission is \$12 and \$17 at day of event. The first 150 to register will receive custom event socks by SOS socks. Registration system: www.myparksandrecreation.com Activity code 75029. For more information, visit the event website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/lake-to-lake-bike-ride.htm> or contact Ted Mittelstaedt at 425-45- 4882 or TMittelstaedt@bellevuewa.gov. See you on the road and trail!



You have the tools to stop burglaries

It is a weekday at about 10 a.m. I walk up to a home and knock loudly at the front door. I wait for a response and I get none. I walk to the back door where I am hidden by overgrown shrubs or a privacy fence. I kick in the door and steal your jewelry and electronics. Unfortunately, too many burglars targeting Bellevue homes can tell this story. Residential burglaries in Bellevue rose 8 percent last year compared to 2011. And Bellevue police are working hard to investigate crime scenes and identify burglars, with much success.

Still, there is more that can be done to prevent burglaries.

To help neighborhoods deter crime, Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach team has joined forces with the police to offer a new crime prevention tool, Neighborhood ACTS. Neighborhood ACTS will provide neighborhood association leadership a detailed assessment on how their local community can improve their efforts to prevent future crimes. It includes the following components:

- Assessment of property crimes in neighborhood and identify commonalities
- Community neighborhood audit (a walking tour with BPD, Neighborhood Liaison & neighborhood association leadership to identify how their neighborhood could improve their property to deter crime.)
- Tips for crime deterrence
- Services to support neighborhood action to deter property crime

If your neighborhood association is interested in learning more about Neighborhood ACTS, please contact Detective Richard Chinn, RChinn@bellevuewa.gov. This service will be provided once or twice a month and scheduled in the order requested.



Some things a resident can do to protect themselves from being victimized:

- If you have an alarm, use it. Post alarm signs in the front and back of your house.
- Take pictures of your jewelry and do not store it your master bedroom. Consider a safe deposit box and/or be creative where you store your jewelry at home.
- Cut back shrubbery around windows and doors.
- Lock your doors and windows. With warm weather coming, even a second-story open window can be used as an entrance for a burglar. Safely store your garbage bins. A recycle bin can be used as a step ladder that can reach the low part of your roof.
- When someone knocks at the door, you need to verbally answer to show that someone is home. You do not need to open the door.
- Start a block watch. The police can assist with getting one started in your neighborhood.



Neighbor Link Celebration & Community Service Planning

The planning for Bellevue's Symetra

4th of July events <http://bellevue.com/fireworks.php> is well under way and promising to be a fun day for all! Do you have plans for gathering with neighbors in your community and joining the festivities later that evening? We need to hear from you by June 3rd to help you with your planning. Now is the perfect time to plan your summer block parties and neighborhood gatherings for the 4th, Night Out, or you-choose-the date, up through September 29th. Neighborhood Outreach can help by providing your group with colorful flyers or a banner to promote the event and give you guidance on related organizing topics. For those neighborhood groups planning a community celebration along with the coordination of a food drive with proceeds to benefit Hopelink, "End Summer Hunger" or the Renewal Food Bank, we are offering while supplies last, first come, first party reserved, 4 tickets from our generous sponsor, the Seattle Mariners. Remember, one block party per neighborhood will be eligible for these benefits. Please contact us in Neighborhood Outreach, Carol Ross 425-452-7917, or email neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov to get the party started.

June Meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

6/3 City Council

(6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Neighborhoods discussion, East Link Cost Savings Update (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Transportation Commission Transmittal of TIP Recommendations, Consent Calendar, Amendments to Umbrella MOU/Transit Way Agreements to Reflect Sound Transit Board Decision on Cost Savings

6/4 Human Services Commission

(6:30, 1E-113) Overview of Needs Update Data Collected to Date: Presentation on agency successes & challenges http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

6/4 East Bellevue Community Council

(6:30, Lake Hills Boys & Girls Teen Center, 15228 Lake Hills Blvd.) Report: Quality of Life in East Bellevue for Seniors; Courtesy Hearing: Eyas Global Montessori Design Review; Courtesy Hearing: PSE Conditional Use Application for new Transmission Line connecting Lake Hills & Phantom Lake Substation. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

6/4 Arts Commission

(4:30, 1E-109) Cultural Compass Update; cultural demographic survey update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

6/6 Environmental Services Commission

(6:30, 1E-113) Election of Commission Chair & Vice Chair; City Comprehensive Plan Update; Wastewater System Plan-Findings & Recommendations http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

6/6 Bellevue Network on Aging

(7:30-9:30am, North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE) Eastside Human Service Forum Business Meeting (9:30-10:30 a.m. North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE) Getting Real About Homelessness on the Eastside http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

6/12 Planning Commission

(6:30, Council Conference Room) Comprehensive Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

6/13 Transportation Commission

(6:30, 1E-113) 1. Downtown Transportation Plan Update –Kevin McDonald 2. TFP –EIS Final Recommendation (If needed) - Mike Ingram 3. East Link Project Update – Maria Koengeter http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

6/10 City Council

(6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Economic Development Strategy, Auto Dealership Study, Discussion on Electrical Reliability MOU http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/11 Parks & Community Services Board

(6:00, 1E-112) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

6/17 City Council

(6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Comprehensive Plan Update – Part 2, 2013 Site-specific CAP Threshold Review Recommendations (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Update on Newport Way Sidewalk Options, Select Executive Search Firm to Manage City Manager Search, Consent Calendar, Public Hearings on Relinquishing Utility Easements, and Declaring Utility-owned Property Surplus, Amending the International Fire and Building Codes http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/18 Human Services Commission

(6:30, 1E-113) 2014 CDBG Application Reviews http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

6/19 Downtown Livability

(6:30, 1E-112 or 1E-113) Review of draft audits of Land Use Code elements under consideration for future revisions <https://cobweb.ci.bellevue.wa.us/projects/downtown%20livability/default.aspx>

6/24 City Council

(6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) East Link Work Program Quarterly Update, TFP and Transportation Impact Fees Discussion, Cultural Compass Update, Regional Issues http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/26 Planning Commission

(6:30, Council Conference Room) Comprehensive Plan Update. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

6/27 Downtown Livability

(5:00-7:00p.m., Concourse) Open House and Focus Group Sessions <https://cobweb.ci.bellevue.wa.us/projects/downtown%20livability/default.aspx>

6/28 Downtown Livability

(8:00-10:00a.m., Concourse) Open House and Focus Group Sessions <https://cobweb.ci.bellevue.wa.us/projects/downtown%20livability/default.aspx>