

# Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

April 2010

## Finally a future for the Kelsey Creek K-Mart?

First it was a supermarket. Then it was a K-Mart. It was almost a Costco, but that idea fell through. For the last several years, it's been nothing – a vacant building surrounded by asphalt – despite local hopes for redevelopment.

Now, once again, there are signs that progress is afoot at Kelsey Creek Center. The property owner is seeking rezoning of shopping center property at 148<sup>th</sup> and Main Street, which could be a step toward redevelopment. The owner also is seeking a Critical Areas Land Use Permit to allow replacement of the culvert which contains Kelsey Creek as it flows beneath the shopping center parking lot. The issue of how to treat the stream – whether to require “daylighting” of the long-buried stream, or allow replacement of the existing culvert – has been an obstacle to progress in the past.

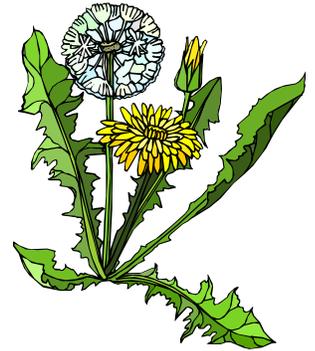
Kelsey Creek Center is one of the 1950s and '60s era neighborhood retail centers that have languished in recent years as shopping habits have changed. A nearby center at 156<sup>th</sup> and Lake Hills Boulevard is already undergoing redevelopment, with the new Lake Hills Library as its centerpiece.

No specific development plan has been filed for the Kelsey Creek Center. The City Council is scheduled to consider the zone change at its 8:00 meeting on April 5. The minimum comment period for the Critical Areas Land Use Permit ends April 8. For more information, contact Mike Upston, 425-452-2970.

## April showers bring May flowers – and weeds

Warm, wet spring weather brings a burst of growth for trees, shrubs, grass and weeds – time to get out the pruners and trimmers. Remember that the City counts on neighbors to keep vegetation from blocking vehicle sight lines and sidewalks adjacent to their property. Vegetation should be trimmed to one foot behind the sidewalk.

If you see vegetation that's blocking pedestrian routes or posing any kind of safety problem, please call the City at 425-452-7840.



## Learn more about CC&Rs

The City gets lots of calls about CC&Rs – Codes, Covenants and Restrictions that establish certain standards for properties within a specific housing development. Most often, residents call because they're upset with a neighbor's alleged covenant violation, and they want help with enforcement.

The City does not enforce covenants, which are private agreements between landowners. These agreements or contracts “run with the land” and remain legally binding on current and future owners of the property in question. But enforcement is an expensive and risky business – risky because legal action may create enmity between neighbors, and risky because the court's decision may not be the one you want. Sometimes homeowner associations take responsibility for seeing that covenants are observed. But more often than not, associations back down from such confrontations because of the expense involved in obtaining judgments.

One alternative to expensive and traumatizing litigation is mediation – a service offered free to local residents by the Bellevue Mediation Program. The most recent Mediation newsletter offers a helpful perspective on CC&Rs and enforcement vs. mediation. Take a look at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/newsletter\\_Mar\\_10.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/newsletter_Mar_10.pdf).

## Help get a complete count

Neighborhood leaders can be influential in making sure that everyone is counted during the 2010 Census. By encouraging every household to complete and return the census form, you can ensure that your community receives its fair share of federal funding.



During the 2000 Census, only 72 percent of occupied households mailed back their forms. This year, the Census Bureau is hoping for a better return in order to reduce expensive follow-up and obtain an accurate count. One tool to encourage participation is the “Take 10” web site, <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>, which allows local areas to track and compare mail-back rates for both 2010 and 2000.

As of March 30, Bellevue’s census mail participation rate was 49 percent. Neighborhoods where the rate was particularly low were Downtown, Crossroads and east Bridle Trails. Seattle was at 48 percent participation and the nation was at 50 percent.

## Now is the time to plan your Neighbor Link project

Neighbor Link is underway! Make sure your neighborhood gets on board by choosing a community service project soon. Last year 23 neighborhoods participated and this year promises to be bigger and better.

There are three ways to choose a project:

- Brainstorm and come up with your own creative project idea.
- Choose from our project idea bank at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Idea\\_Bank\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Idea_Bank_2010.pdf).
- Ask for a list of current needs from human service agencies on the eastside (available by calling the number below).



To qualify for Neighbor Link awards and a “Party- in-a-Box” that can include food, decorations and entertainment, projects must be completed by August 30, 2010. To recognize and celebrate all the great projects accomplished over the summer, the City will once again host a free picnic and concert on the lawn at City Hall on Saturday, Sept. 11, noon-2 p.m. This year’s event will include a volunteer resource fair.

For more information on Neighbor Link or to request an award application, contact Julie Ellenhorn in Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-5372 or [jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov).

## Earth Day activities on tap

Beginning in mid April, Bellevue will offer a variety of ways to celebrate Earth Day/Arbor Day. For civic-minded and environment-minded groups and individuals, there will be opportunities to plant trees and shrubs, remove invasive plants, and improve trails. Volunteers are asked to register no later than April 2 by e-mailing Christina Brown at [ckbrown@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ckbrown@bellevuewa.gov).

For families, Lewis Creek Park will host fun and educational activities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 17. Eco-Stations throughout the park will invite kids to make bird feeders and plaster tracks, investigate the world of insects, and discover wetlands. The park is located at 5808 Lakemont Blvd.

On Wednesday, April 21, families and individuals can celebrate with an easy 5K walk along the Lake Hills Greenbelt. Start any time between 2 and 6 p.m. and stop at interactive components along the route. Parking and starting point are located at the Lake Hills Produce Stand, 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE & SE 16 Street. Don’t forget to sign in

at the start location to receive your free Earth Day Walk Passport. For more information contact Debbie Pettersson, Northwest Arts Center Program Coordinator, 425 452-7106, [DPettersson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:DPettersson@bellevuewa.gov).

## April 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.)*

**4/1 East Link Light Rail Open House for the Bel-Red Overlake Corridor** (5-7:30 p.m., Highland Community Center, 14224 NE Bel-Red Road) Review of preliminary engineering work on extending light rail through Bel-Red and Overlake, with prospective stations at Overlake Village, Overlake Transit Center and either 120<sup>th</sup> or 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE



<http://www.soundtransit.org/Projects-Home/East-Link-Project.xml>

**4/1 Environmental Services Commission** (5:30, 1E-112) Open house at 5:30 to provide information on water and sewer infrastructure improvements proposed for the 2011-2017 Capital Investment Program (CIP); public meeting at 6:30 to hear public comments on the proposals [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm)

**4/1 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Easy Rider bus update, bylaws update, committee reports [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network\\_on\\_aging.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm)

**4/5 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) "Budget One" budget process, consideration of rezone application for Kelsey Creek Center (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Arbor Day Proclamation, update on Development and Implementation of Job Order Contracting, resolution authorizing Recovery Bonds Authority under Federal Stimulus Act, ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) Program resolutions [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**4/6 Human Services Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Panel presentation on Developmental Disabilities Services [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**4/6 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Regular business; written update on Islamic Center Eastside [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)

**4/8 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Public hearing on the 2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), followed by a regular meeting to discuss 2011-2016 TIP recommendations, citywide Transportation Demand Management (TDM), 2011-2017 CIP process [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm)

**4/12 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Budget One budget process; general update on Wilburton Connections; Downtown work program [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**4/13 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Discussion of the proposed Meydenbauer Park plan [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm)

**4/14 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) 2010 annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments; electrical vehicle infrastructure Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA); FEMA flood program LUCA [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**4/14 Youth Link Board** (6:00, 1E-120) [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth\\_link\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm)

**4/19 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Budget One budget process; regional issues (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Volunteer service award presentation for Police volunteer, Bellevue Commercial Recycling Awards, Consent Calendar [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**4/20 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-120) Orientation to 2011-2012 Human Services funding process, presentation on Outcomes Measurement Alternatives [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**4/26 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Budget workshop [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**4/28 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**Find yourself a volunteer job** – Visit the Family Resource Center's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastside Volunteer Fair: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 24, Crossroads Bellevue shopping center