

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

April 2011

Not to be missed:

Two big events focus on making neighborhoods more 'neighborly'

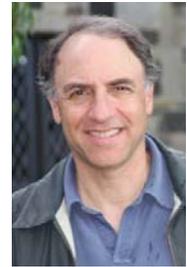
Seven Bellevue neighborhoods and three local businesses are teaming up with the City to bring an important message to everyone who lives or works in the Bellevue community.

The message: Personal connections are the solid building blocks of safe, vibrant, livable communities.

The question: How to move beyond casual greetings to real and meaningful relationships? How to develop personal connections among neighbors who are busy and distracted, increasingly diverse, isolated by age or illness?

Noted author to speak

Inspired by the message of well-known author Peter Lovenheim, participants in the April 6 Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum will begin to answer that question. The first of two community dialogues, the April forum will include the Lovenheim keynote speech at 7 p.m. in city hall, followed by interactive group discussions and dessert hosted by The French Bakery and Vovito Caffe & Gelato.



The second Neighborhoods Forum on May 12 will build a follow-up discussion around local results of the U.S. Census. Forum participants will enjoy dinner hosted by Chipotle Mexican Grill while listening to expert panelists discuss ways to include aging citizens, youth, and people of diverse backgrounds in efforts to connect communities. Both events are free and open to the public, but reservations are required for the May forum which gets underway at 6 p.m. at Crossroads Community Center.

Neighborhood groups, businesses join to sponsor forums

Neighborhood sponsors whose generous donations helped make the forums possible include:
*Surrey Downs Community Club ~ Sunset Community Association ~ Somerset Community Association
Newport Hills Community Club ~ Whispering Heights & Collingwood Community Association
Horizon Heights Community Association ~ Horizon Crest Community Association*

For more information, or to reserve dinner on May 12, please call Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or e-mail NeighborhoodOutreach@Bellevuewa.gov.

Make a difference: serve on a city board or commission

Residents are invited to apply this spring for positions on four city commissions. Applications are due no later than April 22 for:

- The [Arts Commission](#) – advising the City Council on ways to support arts and culture in Bellevue.
- The [Environmental Services Commission](#) – dealing with water, wastewater, storm and surface water and garbage programs, including planning, budget and rates, capital project financing, contracts and policies.
- The [Human Services Commission](#) – addressing human services planning and funding issues.

The City Manager also is seeking candidates for the [Civil Service Commission](#) which oversees the recruitment, selection and placement of firefighters and police officers. Applications for this commission are accepted until the position is filled. See <http://surveys.bellevuewa.gov/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=I6LM4m6> to apply online.

Arbor Day-Earth Day is a family event at the Bellevue Botanical Garden

Bellevue has reason to celebrate at this year's Arbor Day-Earth Day event on Saturday, April 16. The city is receiving its 20th consecutive Tree City USA award and its 18th Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Arbor Day –Earth Day event will include volunteer projects, a tree-planting ceremony and a family festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St. Kids can grab an Arbor Day Passport, get their passports stamped at various eco-stations throughout the garden, and then return the completed passports for prizes.

Other activities include a “living lab” with lessons about the many uses of native plants, “Bug TV” taking a closer look at live insects, docent-led garden tours and more. Eco-friendly vendors also will be on site to provide demonstrations and information on greener living. For more information about the festival call 425-452-2750.

Apply for a gathering place grant

Pomegranate Center and Tully's Coffee are joining forces to help neighborhoods create handcrafted, community gathering places. The partners have issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify communities in greatest need of public gathering spaces.

Selected communities will receive a service and materials grant to plan, design and build a neighborhood gathering place in 2011. Proposals are due by April 15. Click here to [Learn more and get the RFP and application](#). Questions can be directed to Katya at 425-557-6412 or katya@pomegranate.org

Here's what to look forward to with Neighbor Link 2011

Neighbor Link welcomes back **Whole Foods Market** as sponsor of Neighbor Link block parties for 2011. And for this year's citywide Neighbor Link Picnic, three local businesses – **Crossroads Bellevue Shopping Center**, **Stone Gardens-The Climbing Gym**, and **Tim's Cascade Chips** – have stepped forward to make the third annual event special for all Bellevue neighborhoods. You'll want to make sure that your neighborhood gets in on the fun:

- **Neighborhood Block Parties** – **25 neighborhoods** will enjoy delicious and decadent cakes at their neighborhood events, courtesy of Whole Foods Market. Block parties must be held between June 1 and Sept. 30. Neighborhood Outreach can also assist with planning, flyers and banners.
- **Neighbor Link Picnic Saturday -- July 23, 12-2pm** – Save the date to relax and enjoy the simple pleasures of an old fashioned picnic in the park. Crossroads Community Park will host a nostalgic picnic featuring a hotdog lunch, fun and games, entertainment, prizes and more!
- **“What's Special about My Neighborhood” Sign Garden** – All neighborhoods are invited to create a custom neighborhood sign to be displayed at the Neighbor Link picnic. Drawings, photos and/or text may be submitted and Neighborhood Outreach will create a finished product for your neighborhood – a perfect way to involve creative kids and people of all ages. Design guidelines and information are available from Neighborhood Outreach.

For more information on how your neighborhood can participate in Neighbor Link, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or e-mail neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Don't forget: I-405 to close all weekend

The I-405 [Bellevue Braids](#) construction project will close all lanes of I-405 in Bellevue in both directions for 53 hours – from Friday, April 1, at 11 p.m. to Monday, April 4 at 4 a.m.

Crews also will close NE 12th Street from 112th Avenue NE to 116th Avenue NE and many area ramps during the same weekend. With nearly 450,000 vehicles traveling this route on a typical weekend, the closure is the state's biggest this construction season.



Neighborhood streets will close for Bellevue 5k/10k

The Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club will hold its 5th annual 5k/10k Walk & Run on Sunday, April 17, west of I-405. Residents of Enatai and Surrey Downs neighborhoods will be affected by street closures between 8 and 9:30 a.m. Enatai residents entering or leaving the neighborhood are advised to use 100th Avenue SE/Killarney Way north to NE 4th as the only route that won't involve significant delays. The best neighborhood access for Surrey Downs residents will be to and from the north. For more information, contact Tim Stever, 425-452-4294, or see www.bellevuerun.com for a route map.

Years of work nearing completion on Shoreline project

After more than three years, the Bellevue Planning Commission is entering the final phase of involvement with the Shoreline Master Program update project. The Commission is seeking input from a variety of stakeholders and members of the public on the draft they have before them.

The current version of the draft incorporates direction staff received from Commissioners based on their previous discussions and input from the public. The Commission and City staff will hold an open house on Wednesday, April 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the City Hall Concourse, to give the community an opportunity to learn about the regulatory requirements and to offer comments on the draft. Staff and Commission will be on hand to describe the proposal and to answer questions. Displays and handouts will be available to aid in the conversation; however no formal presentation will be made.

After the open house the City and Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft on Wednesday, May 25, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The hearing is the community's opportunity to provide formal feedback and input to Planning Commissioners as they develop their final recommendation. Also, comments on the draft can be submitted to staff or the Commission at any time for consideration. The draft provisions can be found on the City's webpage <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/shoreline-master-plan.htm>.

After the public hearing, the Commission will convene additional meetings to discuss public comments and formulate a recommendation to the City Council. The update project will conclude with Council approval and transmittal of the City's recommendation to the State, which also holds a public hearing prior to final approval.

Bellevue takes part in National "Take-Back" Prescription Drugs Day

The Bellevue Police Department is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as part of a nationwide prescription drug "Take-Back" initiative. It's a chance to get rid of your expired, unused, and unwanted medications, including prescription drugs.

On Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bellevue Police will have three locations set up to collect controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter medications. No identification will be required or requested. There will be a uniformed Police Officer available to assist you. Unused and unwanted medications will be collected at the following locations:

- City Hall Bellevue Police Lobby, 450 110th Ave. NE;
- Crossroads Community Police Station, 1336 156th Ave. NE, next to Chipotle;
- Factoria Community Police Station, 3915 Factoria Blvd. SE, near Nordstrom Rack.

Individuals are encouraged to remove identifying information from prescription labels. For more information and other collection sites visit: www.medicinereturn.com/dea-national-take-back-day. Due to the hazardous nature of some items, the following will not be accepted: intra-venous solutions, injectables, syringes, or medical waste.

Comment on revisions to 27 local bus routes

The Metropolitan King County Council's Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee will take public comments on proposed changes to Metro bus service in Bellevue, Redmond, Clyde Hill, Medina, and South Kirkland at a meeting on April 12. The meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mercer Island Community Center, 8236 SE 24th St.

The recommended changes are described in detail at www.kingcounty.gov/metro/BRConnections/, including route-by-route descriptions, downloadable maps, and an interactive map. To submit comments to the County Council, ask questions or arrange meeting accommodations for people with disabilities, contact Janice Mansfield at janice.mansfield@kingcounty.gov or 206-296-1683.

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.)

4/4 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Human Services Needs Assessment, I-405 Impacts to Newcastle Beach Park (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Arbor Day/Earth Day 2011, Tree City USA Award, April Child Abuse Prevention Month, King County State of the County Report, Consent Calendar, Bellevue Photo Enforcement Program, NE 4th Street alignment options

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

4/5 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) Planning for a limited update to the Cultural Compass, the City's Cultural Plan; updates on public art projects in Newport Hills/Lake Heights and Bridle Trails

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

4/5 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

4/5 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Eastside Winter Shelter update, additional topic to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

4/6 Bellevue Neighborhoods Forum (7:00, Council Chambers) See related article

4/7 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30 a.m., 1E-112) 2010 Census data update, committee reports

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

4/7 Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee (5:30, 1E-108) Transportation focus

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>

4/7 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

4/7 Public hearing on Kelsey Creek Center Conditional Use (7:00, Council Chambers) Opportunity to comment on application to allow a health club within the existing commercial center at 15015 Main St.

4/11 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Capital funding discussion, update on siting Boys & Girls Club facility, update on neighborhood shopping centers

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

4/12 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

4/13 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) 2011 Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications; Camp and Conference Center Land Use Code Amendment; briefing on 130th Station Area Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

4/14 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Transportation Improvement Program/Transportation Facilities Plan Update; Congestion pricing (I-405) – State Department of Transportation http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

4/14 Public meeting for Overlake Specialty School Conditional Use (6:00, 1E-112) Opportunity to comment on application to remodel an existing building at 2610 116th Ave. NE to accommodate Overlake Specialty School

4/18 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Census update (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Commercial recycling awards, update on South Kirkland Park & Ride, consent calendar

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

4/19 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined

4/20 Shoreline Master Plan Open House (6:00, City Hall Concourse) See related article

4/25 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues, continuation of Helistop conditional use permit application (quasi-judicial matter)

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**14th Annual
EASTSIDE VOLUNTEER FAIR**
Saturday, April 16, 2011
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Crossroads Bellevue
156th and NE 8th