

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

August 2007

Costco introduces new plan for Lake Hills

Costco representatives were peppered with questions for two hours July 26 by residents eager to learn more about plans for a new store in the Kelsey Creek Center, 140th Avenue and Main Street.

The retailer hosted the open house to introduce a development plan centered around demolition of the old K-Mart store and construction of a 140,000-square-foot Costco outlet on the eastern edge of the shopping center. Plans also showed extensive parking lot improvements and a general facelift for Kelsey Creek Center, including an exterior remodel of the retail building that currently houses Starbucks and several other restaurants and retail stores. Costco representatives said they do not intend to uncover Kelsey Creek but will replace the current culvert which contains the stream as it flows beneath the parking lot.

Costco plans for the Kelsey Creek Center will require a change in the concomitant zoning agreement that is currently applied to the site. Before the zone change application is filed, residents will have another opportunity to review and comment on the development plan. Costco representatives will discuss the plan at the next meeting of the East Bellevue Community Council, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the Lake Hills Clubhouse.

Costco representatives said they plan to file applications with the City shortly after the Aug. 7 meeting. They hope to obtain the necessary approvals and begin construction next year.

Newport residents committed to community service

Compassionate members of the Newport Hills Community Club are making a daily difference in the quality of life for countless individuals and families. The organization is reaching out in an effort to ensure that all residents get the help that they need and give the help that they can.

President Gary Thrasher says his “theme” is “random acts of community service.” He encourages residents to volunteer their time and talents, and he regularly recognizes people for efforts that improve the neighborhood. Among those residents recognized in the recent club newsletter were: high school sophomore Andrew Stinson who does yardwork for residents who are unable to do the chores themselves; Pat Taylor who paints over graffiti on local buildings; and Jim Arnone who cleans storm drains and mows grass in medians.

Meanwhile, folks at Newport Hills Community Church are developing a program that identifies residents in need of help, and matches them with high school community service volunteers. Church volunteers provide the coordination and supervision.

Ivanhoe looking good

Everyone got into the act when Ivanhoe neighbors participated in the June 16 Neighborhood Fitness Spring Clean-up and Get-Together.



Council takes next step to address redevelopment concerns

City Council members said July 16 that they are interested in considering changes in City codes and policies to address residents' concerns about the impacts of redevelopment on neighborhood character. After receiving a package of recommendations from the Bellevue Planning Commission, the Council asked staff to develop specific code language dealing with such issues as tree loss, building height, and construction impacts associated with the tear-down and replacement of homes in Bellevue neighborhoods.

Council members singled out height measurement as an item to be addressed immediately. (Currently, Bellevue limits single family residential height to 30 feet, measured from average finished grade to the midpoint of a pitched roof. This measurement method allows build-up of the grade before the house is built, exacerbating its impact on neighboring residences.)

Development of code language will take place in discussions with the Planning Commission. Work on the initial code amendments, including height measurement, is scheduled to begin in mid September. Development of more complex code changes could continue into 2008. Public comment will continue to be an important part of the process.

For more information, contact Cheryl Kuhn, 452-4089, or Steph Hewitt, 452-2564, or e-mail NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

County work in southwest and central Bellevue – expect traffic detours

In August, King County Wastewater Treatment crews will begin construction on a new wastewater force main connecting the Bellevue Pump Station at SE 6th Street and 102nd Avenue SE to a regional pipeline east of I-405 near the Wilburton Trestle.

Crews will stage drilling equipment and supplies along SE 6th in front of the Bellevue Pump Station and on the southeast corner of 115th Ave SE and SE 5th St. The project requires three primary work sites, resulting in the following road closures:

- SE 6th Street between 100th & 102nd Ave SE (Aug – Nov)
- SE 6th Street (just east of the Bellevue Club) to 114th Ave SE (Aug – Dec)
- Lake Hills Connector (westbound) reduced to one lane near the Wilburton Trestle (Sept – Dec)

The project should be finished in early 2008. For more information or to request monthly e-mail status reports, please call the 24-hour construction hotline at (206) 296-4081, e-mail Doug Marsano at doug.marsano@kingcounty.gov or visit the project website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/projects/bellevue/>.

I-405 work underway

Construction is now underway on the state's I-405/South Bellevue widening project. For more information or to sign up for e-mail updates, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/

August 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.)

8/6 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Updates on Meydenbauer Bay planning study and shopping carts (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent calendar, rezone applications of Holly Smith of Polygon Homes and John Hancock and Earl Muren (Council is on recess for remainder of month.)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

8/7 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Costco presentation (see related article)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

8/21 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Preliminary 2008 Community Development Block Grant funding recommendations http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.