

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

February 2007

Get an inside look at law enforcement

The Bellevue Police Department is inviting applications for its Spring 2007 Community Academy, a three-month training that introduces community members to the daily challenges and issues facing police officers. Scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays, the Academy runs March 14-May 30, offering both classroom learning and hands-on experiences.

Subjects include patrol, community policing, traffic, gangs, domestic violence, narcotics, dispatch, investigation, crime scene analysis, forensics, and S.W.A.T., K-9 and bomb squads. Applications are available on the city's web site, www.bellevuewa.gov, but don't delay. Class size is limited to 23 individuals. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and able to pass a background check. For more information, contact Sheila Evans, 425-452-7853.

Deadline coming up for Neighborhood Match funding

March 1 is the deadline to apply for Neighborhood Match Program funding for 2007. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for neighborhoods who can match city funds for building small neighborhood improvements such as neighborhood entry signs, landscaping, or community mailbox stands. Preference is given to projects that are creative and well supported by residents, and to neighborhoods that have not received matching grants in previous years. Information and applications are available on-line or from Patricia Knight, 425-452-7917 or pknight@bellevuewa.gov.

Get ready for the next storm – with preparedness workshops

The windstorm of December 14 was not only a natural disaster of huge proportions, causing extensive property damage and widespread power outages, but also it was a personal disaster for many families who were caught unprepared. The fact, however uncomfortable, is that it could happen again. Most disasters are weather-related and Washington State is highly susceptible to that threat.

Bellevue's Emergency Preparedness Division wants you and your neighborhood to be prepared to withstand a major storm or other disaster. Division staff are offering two presentations this month, focusing on Strengthening Preparedness Among Neighbors (the SPAN program) to give you the tools to be prepared.

You are invited to attend a workshop on Feb. 7 at City Hall, or Feb. 28 at Crossroads Bellevue Shopping Center for information of critical importance to your family and neighborhood. For the Feb. 7 event, parking is limited and reservations are requested. Please RSVP by Feb. 5 by calling 425-452-6807 or by e-mailing Cbolanos@bellevuewa.gov and leave your name, telephone number, e-mail address and how many people will be attending from your neighborhood. The Crossroads workshop will feature interpretation for Spanish and Russian speakers. Reservations are not required for the Crossroads event.

1 – Downtown

Wednesday, Feb. 7

7:00– 8:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall – Council Chambers
450 110th Avenue NE

2 – Crossroads

Wednesday, Feb. 28

7:00– 8:30 p.m.

Crossroads Shopping Center
15600 NE 8th Street

Neighbors raise helping hands

December's windstorm produced its share of hometown heroes – neighbors looking out for neighbors. Throughout Bellevue, residents stepped forward to meet the needs of others. Just a few examples were:

- **Horizon Heights** – Neighborhood leaders put together an inventory of resources – Who had generators? Who had firewood to share? Chain saws? Pick-up trucks for hauling debris?
- **Crossroads** – One local resident started what may become a trend by checking on five of his neighbors: paying it forward, each person checks on five more neighbors, offering “a handful of help.”
- **Surrey Downs** – Taking an even more systematic approach, leaders in the Surrey Downs Community Association canvassed every home without power to identify people with various needs. The group then matched up needs with neighborhood volunteers offering hot meals, transportation, warm baths and beds.

Speak out on Bel-Red Corridor environmental impacts

The city is seeking public input on the recently issued Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Bel-Red Corridor project. A Feb. 15 open house and public hearing will provide an opportunity for residents to review and comment on four alternatives for development between now and 2030.

The DEIS assesses the impacts of development alternatives (three “action alternatives” and one “no action alternative”) within the study area between SR 520 and Bel-Red Road, from I-405 to the city's border with Redmond at 148th Avenue NE. Public input on the DEIS, plus the information in the document itself, will help a 15-member project steering committee develop a preferred alternative and a recommendation to the Bellevue City Council – anticipated this spring or summer

The Feb. 15 open house will get underway at 5 p.m. and the public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers and Concourse of Bellevue City Hall. Public comment about the DEIS also may be submitted through March 12 via e-mail at BelRed@bellevuewa.gov, or in writing to Carol Helland, Department of Planning & Community Development, PO Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Compact disks (free) and paper copies (\$10) of the DEIS may be obtained from the Service First desk at City Hall, or by calling 425-452-6800. The document may be downloaded and on-line comments may be submitted at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/Bel_RedDEIS.htm. For additional information, please contact Kevin O’Neill at 425-452-4064 or Kevin McDonald at 425-452-4558.

City Council may consider rules for scooters

Motorized scooters: are they an efficient, environmentally friendly mode of transportation, or a noisy and annoying threat to the safety of pedestrians and other vehicles? The jury may be out on that question, but meanwhile, residents have asked the City Council to consider restricting operation of these devices.

Several cities have adopted regulations over and above state laws pertaining to motorized scooters, but Bellevue has no special requirements for operating the popular vehicles. Areas of possible regulation, according to Police Chief Jim Montgomery, include: age of the operator (minimum is 12); location of operation (streets by posted speed limit, trails, parks, public spaces); hours of operation; and required safety gear (helmets, mufflers, lights, etc.)

Some Bellevue Council Members have expressed interest in discussing the matter of motorized scooter regulation before warmer weather brings more of the vehicles onto city streets.



February 2007 meetings

(All meetings in City Hall unless otherwise noted)

- 2/1 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30 Council Conference Room) Stream Team update, weather events report, 2007 Commission work plan
- 2/1 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30-10:30 a.m., Conference Room 1E-120) Senior Services overview, reports from Transportation, Housing, Support Services committees
- 2/5 City Council** (6:00 Council Conference Room) Study session: Meydenbauer Bay Park and the park connection; Arts Funding Program procedures; privately initiated 2006 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (8:00 Council Chambers) Regular session: Network on Aging report; Clyde Hill water and sewer franchise fee decreases; nine-parcel rezone associated with Factoria Area Transportation Study; 2006 AC Water Main Replacement, Phase 2
- 2/6 Human Services Commission** (6:30 Council Conference Room) Overview of early learning, school readiness
- 2/6 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Election of officers, announcement of vacant council position, proposed home-based business for day spa services, Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Plan in East Bellevue, proposed preliminary short plat
- 2/7 Planning Commission** (7:00, Council Conference Room) Study session, public hearing and decision on Land Use Code (LUC) clean-up amendments; study session on Electrical Facilities/Utilities Element Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA), Evergreen Highlands LUC Amendment, Factoria LUC Amendment; Bel-Red Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) review
- 2/12 City Council** (6:00) Executive session
- 2/13 Parks and Community Services Board** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be announced
- 2/14 Neighborhood Enhancement Workshop** (7:00, Puesta del Sol Elementary School) Review of Factoria area projects proposed for funding
- 2/15 Bel-Red Corridor Project meeting** (5:00 open house, 6:30 public hearing in the Council Chambers and concourse) Open house and hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- 2/19 Presidents' Day** – All City offices closed
- 2/20 City Council** (6:00 Council Conference Room) Study session: Qwest franchise agreement/FCC order; Bel Red Corridor project briefing; direction on ranking criteria and prioritization for sidewalk projects to be funded by the supplemental Capital Investment Program (8:00 Council Chambers) Regular session: Presentation by King County Council Member Reagan Dunn; 2007 Comprehensive Plan amendments; Land Use Code clean-up ordinance; noise code amendments relating to amplified sound; land use noticing requirements; ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Overlay program; ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) budget and work program; Federal Legislative Agenda
- 2/22 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-120) Agenda topics to be determined
- 2/22 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Preliminary discussion of plans to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan
- 2/26 City Council** (6:00 Council Conference Room) Extended study session: City Hall finance plan; Land Use Code Amendment relating to Wilburton; inclusive communities/diversity presentation
- 2/28 Planning Commission** (7:00 Council Conference Room) Public hearing and decision on Factoria LUC Amendment; study session on Factoria LUC Amendment, Bel-Red DEIS review
- 2/28 Sound Transit** (4:30-7:30, Bellevue High School, 10416 Wolverine Way) Open House on East Link, a proposed extension of light rail from Seattle to Bellevue and Overlake

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 activities to enhance neighborhood quality, contact Cheryl Kuhn, 452-4089, or your Neighborhood Liaison.