

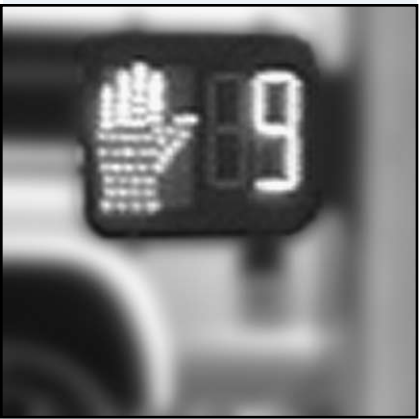
B E L L E V U E It's Your City

www.cityofbellevue.org

MARCH-APRIL 2006
INSIDE THIS ISSUE



*New City Hall open for business.
Page 4, 5*



*Pedestrian count down signals
installed. Page 3*



*Public shapes future of Bel-Red
Corridor. Page 3*

City code officers seek voluntary compliance through education

Does your neighbor's lawn look a little like the county dump? Does it seem like the people next door permanently dry docked their boat in their driveway? Are there more dogs and cats living next door than you care to count?

If so, you need to contact a city code compliance officer. Each year the city's six code officers respond to nearly 1,700 inquiries from residents on what they and their neighbors can and cannot do under city code. The goal is to keep Bellevue safe, healthy, and attractive.

"We are complaint driven," said Jim Gough, who oversees Bellevue's code compliance program. "We teach people about what a violation is, we monitor them, and we try to point them in the right direction to comply. Of course, if they don't comply, we can take enforcement action."

By far, the most common complaint received by code compliance officers revolves around building codes and whether a proper permit was obtained before a homeowner commenced with a project, Gough said. The second most common type of complaint received falls into the nuisance category. Until recently, people complaining about their neighbor's recreational vehicle parked in the driveway topped this list.

"We used to get 300 complaints a year about RVs," said Gough, "but the last couple of years we've had about 90. Recently, most of our complaints have focused on building codes."

Gough said officers respond to complaints based on their severity. Typically, an officer will visit the site and review applicable codes. If a violation is discovered, citizens are asked to voluntarily comply with the code and are



A home with an inoperable junk car and violations of the Anti-Litter and Nuisance Codes, compounded by rat infestations.

given a specific timeframe to do so. If the citizen refuses to comply, a Notice of Civil Violation can be issued, which sets a time for a hearing and may include fines of up to \$500 a day.

People with questions or concerns about possible code violations are encouraged to call 425-452-4570 or e-mail (codecompliance@ci.bellevue.wa.us). Complaints can also be faxed to 425-452-7930. And complaint forms are available on-line at www.cityofbellevue.org/planning. While people are required to provide their names and addresses, city and state law protects disclosure of that information if requested.

Frequently, concerns brought to the attention of code compliance are not violations at all. The Neighborhood Mediation Program was established to address these issues. To find out more about the mediation program, call 425-452-4091, or go on-line at www.cityofbellevue.org/planning. Mediation services are free of charge.

Following are some of the most common code compliance concerns received by the city:

Q. I'm sure there are two families living in the house across the street. Can they do that?

A. Yes, but only (1) if they have a permitted separate dwelling unit (often called an Accessory Dwelling Unit or ADU) within an owner-occupied home and it has been safety inspected, registered with the city, and recorded with the county, or (2) if the house is permitted as a duplex. There are also codes that limit room rentals to only two per house—and then only with a Home Occupation permit.

Q. I think my neighbor is doing work without proper permits.

A. Officers investigate concerns regarding building, clearing and grading, electrical, mechanical, and/or plumbing work without

continued on page 7



This dangerous building is termed an "attractive nuisance" and a fire hazard.



City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

PRSTD STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellevue, WA
Permit NO. 61

ECRWSS-C

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL



Council Corner



Bellevue's unique vision – a vibrant, sustainable downtown

By Conrad Lee

How quickly things change.

Consider Bellevue's downtown. Three short years ago, a drive through our city center would have revealed abandoned, crater-sized holes, signs of developments on indefinite hold. Office vacancy rates hovered at 30 percent.

Fast forward to now. Giant cranes punctuate the skyline, and construction crews seem to be on every corner. Seldom a month goes by that some publication doesn't trumpet the turnaround of downtown:

- "A Business Power Center," proclaims Seattle Business Monthly magazine.
- "Boomtown 3.0," writes Washington CEO Magazine.
- "A Powerful Economic Engine Emerging," predicts The Business Report.

The publications are right: Downtown Bellevue is back, and is undergoing a major transformation with new office buildings, retail stores, hotels and luxury condominiums and apartments. This rapid growth, expected to continue for the foreseeable future, has turned downtown into a thriving regional economic center that is the envy of other cities.

To be sure, the activity we are now seeing is a reflection of larger national and regional economic trends. But what some people may not realize is the activity is also the product of a well thought-out growth plan promulgated by city leaders more than two decades ago.

Simply stated, that plan boiled down to this: Encourage commercial and other high-density development into a clearly-defined downtown core and, in the process, protect neighborhoods from over-development, create

strong tax revenues for city services, and provide Bellevue residents with a vibrant downtown for living, shopping and cultural activities.

That is precisely what we are now seeing in our 410-acre downtown, where more than 30 projects estimated to be worth at least \$2 billion are in the construction, design, or permit phases.

Already, this new development has resulted in a huge increase in a mid- and high-rise office space. Likewise, retail space has grown tremendously, with Bellevue now having 60 percent as much as downtown Seattle. With this growth comes a larger workforce. By the year 2020, the city predicts the number of people working in downtown Bellevue will grow to 63,000 people from its present 35,000.

At the same time, a new urban residential neighborhood has emerged as more people are attracted to the convenient urban lifestyle downtown offers. The city center now has an estimated 3,500 residences, and that number is expected to grow threefold, to 10,000 homes, over the next 14 years at the current pace.

The positive changes we are witnessing in downtown would not have been possible were it not for our "vision," and will not be sustained if we do not address present and future challenges, resisting the temptation of urban sprawl that is a constant challenge to good urban planning.

For example, we must find ways to tackle the traffic congestion that threatens to choke off future growth. We must work to improve our major arterials such as I-405 and other infrastructures. We also must find ways to move people in, out and around downtown, keeping it people-friendly to live, work and visit.

The City Council remains hard at work on both these challenges. The recent downtown development has helped us keep the city's tax base strong, reduce sprawl and maintain the character of our neighborhoods. That is precisely what city leaders envisioned in the late 70s when they first adopted a growth plan for downtown. Now we have to remain true to this vision and develop innovative ways to keep downtown vibrant.

There is no doubt our downtown has become a major urban center. While we rank fifth statewide in terms of population, Bellevue ranks second in terms of statewide economic importance. We have accomplished this while preserving the unique characteristics that have made our city great.

In my mind, it all adds up to a city on the right track.

ARCH volunteer position available



Make your voice heard on affordable housing issues by joining A Regional Coalition for Housing's Citizen Advisory Board (CAB).

CAB consists of 15 community residents and housing professionals who work with ARCH staff to evaluate local

housing funding proposals and increase awareness of housing issues on the Eastside. Board members contribute their understanding of housing and community issues, as well as their specialized perspectives on real estate, finance and other topics.

CAB typically meets one Wednesday evening a month for two hours. More information about ARCH and CAB is on the ARCH website: www.archhousing.org. To apply, contact Janet Lewine at ARCH: 425-861-3677 jlewine@ci.bellevue.wa.us.

City works to ease school traffic congestion

Concerned about traffic near your child's school?

The City of Bellevue Transportation Department is working with five Bellevue elementary schools to help alleviate the problem by encouraging students and parents to walk, bike, carpool or ride the bus to and from school.

The city is recruiting other Bellevue School District elementary schools to participate in the "Trips to School" program during the 2006-2007 school year. Each participating school will identify a volunteer or school employee who will serve as a primary contact and be available to work with the city to implement the program.

The city has worked with staff and the Parent Teacher Student Association at Clyde Hill, Enatai, Newport Heights, Phantom Lake, and Sherwood Forest elementary schools to develop customized programs to reduce traffic congestion during the peak drop off and pick up times. Each school developed its program by selecting elements that included:

- Developing an information campaign about school travel options;
- Setting up "walking school buses" (a parent-guided walking route with specific stops at specific times);
- Establishing a "Walking Wednesday" program;
- Participating in an incentive-based program that rewards students with ribbons and prizes;
- Coordinating carpool efforts;
- Developing special assemblies and presentations to educate and encourage students; and
- Applying for grants to help improve pedestrian safety at the schools.

If your school is interested in participating in the pilot program please contact Francine Johnson, Transportation Outreach Coordinator at 425-452-6967 or FJohnson@ci.bellevue.wa.us.

Food banks need your help

March and April are the months of the year when food banks struggle the most to meet the demands of the community.

Beginning March 1 through March 31, all fire stations in the City of Bellevue will be accepting donated non-perishable food items. These items will be collected at Bellevue fire stations and then delivered by fire department personnel to the Hopelink Food Bank. The goal is to ease the burden on the local food banks and give them a boost for the upcoming year.

To find the location of your local fire station call 425-452-6892.

If you have questions about the Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation, call Bruce Kroon at 425-452-6995.

Free tax preparation services

Beginning January 17th through April 15th, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites will be open to help residents prepare their taxes electronically by trained multilingual volunteers. Rapid refunds will be filed at no cost.

The VITA location in Bellevue will be located at Hopelink Bellevue Center, 14812 Main St., Tuesdays, 5 to 8 p.m. (English), Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m. (English and Russian) and Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon (English, Spanish and Chinese).

Public helping plan Bel-Red Corridor's future



Work is progressing toward development of a long-range transportation and land use vision for the Bel-Red Corridor with significant input from area residents, businesses and other interested parties.

"Public involvement has been critical in our progress on the Bel-Red project so far," said Matt Terry, Director of city's Planning & Community Development Department. "It's exciting to see the ideas emerging."

Since the fall, city staff, a citizen steering committee, and other interested parties have been hard at work on the Bel-Red Corridor Project. Community interest has been high, with about 65 people attending a November "scoping meeting" and providing their ideas for the area. Staff, consultants and the steering committee are incorporating public comments as the project moves forward.

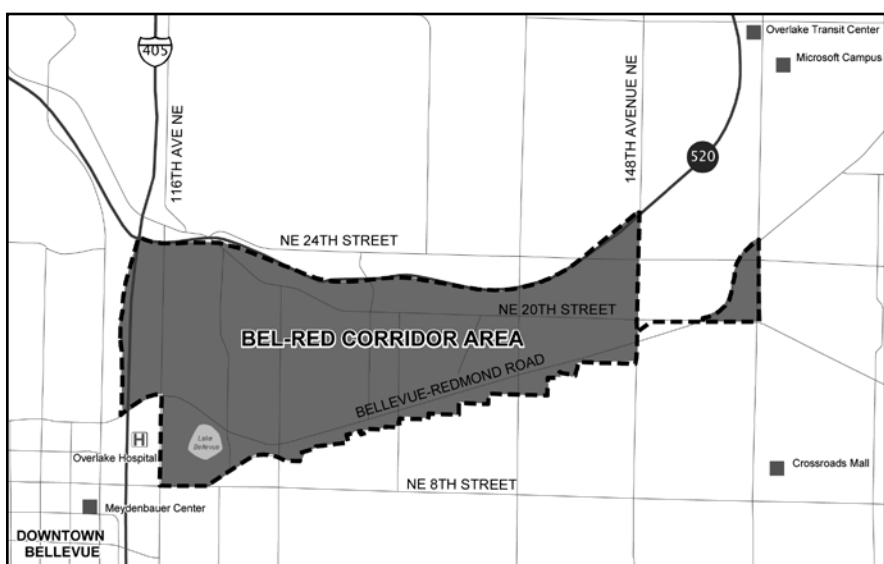
The next project milestone is to determine several alternative visions for what Bel-Red might look like in 2030. The community will have an opportunity to provide input on preliminary alternatives at a public meeting scheduled for April 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Stevenson Elementary School, 14220 NE 8th Street. The alternatives also will be evaluated through an Environmental Impact Statement, with the selection of a preferred alternative by fall.

"Given what's happening regionally in transportation planning, this is an ideal time for Bellevue folks to weigh in on the Bel-Red project," said Goran Sparrman, Director of the Transportation Department. "Together we can determine what type of transportation options – better connections to the freeways, perhaps high capacity transit, improved bus service, and better pedestrian and bicycle routes – may be coming in the future."

The public is welcome to attend Bel-Red steering committee meetings, held on the first Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. at Bellevue City Hall. The steering committee consists of 16 members selected by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The committee's role is to guide city staff as they develop the project vision.

When complete in early 2007, the plan will include recommendations for land use changes and related infrastructure (such as utilities, streets and parks), a preferred route for high capacity transit with station locations, identification of needed amenities, and financial strategies to put the plan into action.

For additional details on the project and opportunities for public involvement, see the city's Web site at <http://www.cityofbellevue.org/belred.asp>. For more information, e-mail BelRed@ci.bellevue.wa.us or contact Kevin O'Neill in Planning and Community Development at 425-452-4064 or Kevin McDonald in Transportation at 425-452-4558.



Caption for map: The Bel-Red Corridor is situated between Bel-Red Road and State Route 520, and from Interstate 405 east to 148th Avenue Northeast. The area is about 900 acres.

Pedestrian countdown signals installed along Factoria Boulevard

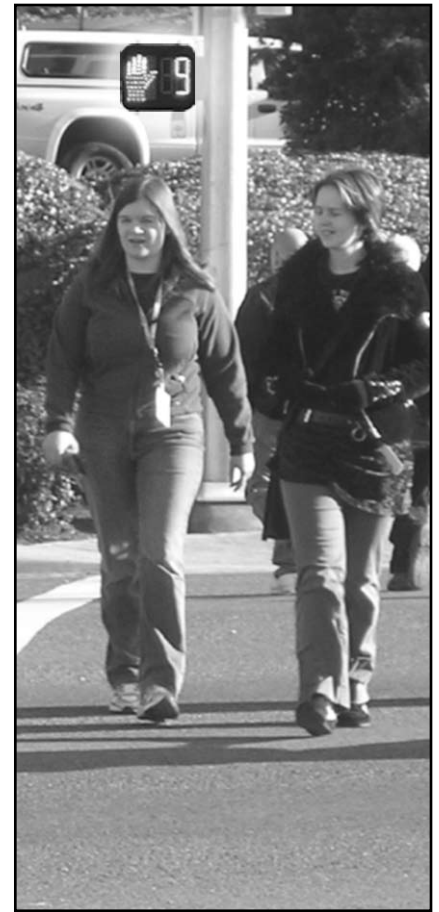
In an effort too improve pedestrian safety, the city has installed new "pedestrian countdown signals" at two busy intersections on Factoria Boulevard.

The new signals display the number of seconds left for pedestrians to cross before traffic has the right of way, instead of just the flashing "Don't Walk" or a flashing hand warning. These devices give pedestrians information to decide whether to start crossing – considering their walking speed, the crossing distance, and time remaining.

The installation is the first of its kind in Bellevue, and came after the community requested the signals on Factoria Boulevard at both Southeast 38th Street and Southeast 40th Lane as part of the Factoria Area Transportation Study (FATS) Update.

Bellevue transportation planners are collecting data to determine the new signals' effectiveness.

Pedestrian countdown signals have been used nationwide with generally positive results. In San Francisco, for example, the signals were associated with a 52 percent reduction in collisions resulting in pedestrian injuries.



Summer job opportunities for teens with Bellevue parks



The Well K.E.P.T. (Kids Environmental Project Training) Program has twenty openings for teens looking for employment in July and August.

The Well K.E.P.T. Program is offered through the Natural Resource Division of Bellevue Parks & Community Services. The program combines on-the-job work experience with environmental education and career development training to instill strong self-esteem, good work habits, and sound environmental ethics. Typical youth projects include trail construction, forest enhancement work, and wetland restorations.

Eligible Well K.E.P.T. applicants must be between 14 and 18 years of age, live in Bellevue, and be enrolled in high school. Applicants also must possess an enthusiasm to work outdoors and should have an interest in learning about park resource management activities. The position is intended to be a learning experience so no prior work experience is required.

For more information about the program and to receive an application, please visit the city's job page at www.cityofbellevue.org or contact the Bellevue Park Ranger at 425-452-7225 or e-mail rschafer@ci.bellevue.wa.us. All applications must be received by Friday June 2, at 4 p.m.



Flag raising ceremonies marking the official opening of the new city hall building were held Feb. 22 (see top left photo). The seven-story building houses the most city departments, with a Service First customer service center, a large auditorium, and conference rooms (top right) equipped with technical equipment accessible by the public; a terrazzo floor graces the concourse (middle left photo). The building is situated just outside the 6th Avenue and 110th Avenue intersection.

Stay tuned for details on a public grand opening.

Hall Opens

It's Your City



of the new City Hall at 450 - 110th Avenue
tory building (center photo) consolidates
center on the 1st and 2nd floors. (top)
LCD, screens and portals can be reserved
bottom left and middle). A public plaza
ue NE entrance. (middle-left).



Community Calendar

Annual Sheep Shearing at Kelsey Creek Park

Bring the whole family to the Wild-N-Wooly Sheep Shearing on Saturday, April 29, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kelsey Creek Farm, 13204 SE 8th Pl. Shearing is done each spring on the farm before the warm weather arrives. Each sheep produces from 6 to 10 pounds of wool each year.

The event also features spinning, weaving and dyeing demonstrations, kid's crafts and entertainment. Parking is available at the International School, 445 - 128th Ave. SE. For more information, call Bellevue Parks and Community Services, 425-452-6885.

Save on efficient washers

The right thing to do for the earth can be the right thing for your pocketbook, too.



If you are in the market for a new clothes washer, buy an efficient mode and get \$200 in savings.

From April 1 through May 31, the City of Bellevue, Cascade Water Alliance, and Puget Sound Energy are teaming up for an Earth Day promotion that gives residential customers increased rebates on new Energy Star® high-efficiency clothes washers.

High-efficiency clothes washers help conserve resources and save money by using less water, energy and detergent. The washing process shortens drying time and is gentler on fabrics, so your clothes will also look better longer. For more information, visit www.cascadewater.org or www.pse.com, or contact your local retailer.

Learn about salmon and get involved

Attend the annual Stream Team Meeting to find out how you can get involved in helping Bellevue's salmon and streams.

Learn about volunteer highlights from 2005, find out what projects the city is working on, and discover what volunteer opportunities are coming up in 2006.

The meeting will benefit all who attend—whether you are interested in volunteering, have been a volunteer for years, or just want to learn about Bellevue's salmon and streams. Meetings occur at the Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd., Bellevue, on Tuesday, March 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. RSVP by sending an email to streamteam@ci.bellevue.wa.us or call 425-452-5200.

Community Volunteer Fair, April 29

Held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at Crossroads Bellevue Shopping Center, NE 8th & 156th Ave. NE. Visitors will enjoy more than 40 resource booths, as well as cultural entertainment.

For more information, contact the Bellevue Cultural Diversity Office at 425-452-7886, email khenry@ci.bellevue.wa.us; or call Paula Matthyse, Project Coordinator at 425-869-6699.

Multi-Cultural Fair, May 6

The whole community is invited to the Multi-Cultural Fair May 6 at the Bellevue Community College Cafeteria, 3000 Landerholm Circle, Bellevue. The event will include cultural entertainment, children's activities, food, and a Kids Fair. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact the Bellevue Cultural Diversity Office at 425-452-7886, email khenry@ci.bellevue.wa.us.

Buy yard care products at a big discount

Now in its tenth year, the Northwest Natural Yard Days program will take place from April 15 to May 15, 2006. During the promotion, natural yard care products will be discounted at 25 percent or more at participating retailers.

Featured products include electric mulching mowers, push reel mowers, organic lawn fertilizers, long-handled weed pullers, compost, watering wands, soaker hoses, insecticidal soap, bark mulch and less-toxic moss control and slug bait.

Northwest Natural Yard Days is a partnership of King County, Bellevue, and other area government agencies and retailers. The program recommends five steps of natural yard care:

- Build healthy soil with compost and mulch
- Plant right for your site
- Practice smart watering
- Think twice before using pesticides
- Practice natural lawn care

For more information on Northwest Natural Yard Days program, participating retailers and environmentally-friendly yard care practices, visit: www.yarddays.com



Garden Volunteers Needed

Do you have some time to give to your community this year? How about joining the Waterwise Garden volunteer team?

Volunteers keep the Waterwise demonstration garden in shape for visitors. Located within the growing Bellevue Botanical Garden, this award-winning garden offers volunteers the chance to:

- Learn natural gardening techniques that can easily be applied at home;
- Get hands-on experience soil building; composting and caring for a variety of plants through the growing season;
- Meet new people and build friendships through similar interests; and
- Have fun while achieving important resource conservation goals in the community.

Volunteer days are the first and third Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. spring-fall. No experience is necessary. Information about the garden and driving directions can be found at www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/page.asp?view=1744. For more details, call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-4127.

Community Meetings scheduled to discuss Crossroads planning effort

Citizens and property owners are invited to get involved in the city's new planning effort for the Crossroads area by attending a series of workshops starting in early May. Dates will be publicized soon.

The purpose of the city's new planning effort is to reinforce the economic vitality of the Crossroads commercial area, improve the connections to the Crossroads Park and Community Center, and create additional community gathering places.

The City Council initiated the Crossroads project in 2005 to improve the long-term vitality of the Crossroads center, an area including the major community shopping center and nearby commercial properties.

Last fall, city staff introduced several conceptual alternatives for public review. After listening to the community's concerns about the alternatives, the city decided to work with stakeholders and the public on a new set of potential alternatives. The first step in this new public process is the community meeting.

A unique feature of this commercial area is the proximity to the 37-acre Crossroads Park which is located directly east of the Crossroads Bellevue Shopping Center.

The park includes the recently expanded community center, international picnic area, 9-hole golf course, open spaces and other uses. Major open spaces and recreational resources create unique opportunities for Crossroads.

People can learn more about the Crossroads Center Plan by logging onto the city web site at www.cityofbellevue.org/planning, or contacting Andrew Kidde, akidde@ci.bellevue.wa.us, at 425-452-5288, or Kathleen Burgess, 425-452-6866, kburgess@ci.bellevue.wa.us.



Ready to Serve

Pictured above are some of the Bellevue Fire Department members who prepared and served lunch at the annual "Valentine Volunteer Recognition Celebration" luncheon. In 2005, over 160 volunteers worked in programs for older adults in the Bellevue area. The Fire Department Members pictured are: back row - Mark H. Anderson, Mike Ryan, John Batts, Mark Weldon, Rich Evans, John McNeil, Derik Pope, Greg Clifford, Mark Vinup, Tim Andruss. front row - Tony Hightower, Don Cowdrey, Jim Dorney, Bill Evans, Tom Dixon.

continued from page 1

proper permits (and the inspections that assure safety). If a permit(s) is needed, the officer will post a Stop Work Order until the proper permits and inspections have been obtained.

Q. My neighbor's yard is a mess with stored junk, garbage, debris, lumber, and auto parts. I have to keep my drapes closed, and I'm afraid my property values may be affected.

A. Code compliance officers enforce the Nuisance and Anti-litter Codes. These codes specify the type of materials allowed and how they can be stored. Generally, excess, unorganized storage or piles of yard debris, auto parts, construction materials, etc., need to be stored out of public or private view. Each case is unique and the officer will make the determination. Property maintenance such as long grass, overgrown shrubs or weeds, unpainted houses, deteriorated roofs, etc., are not code violations.

Q. The family two doors away treats the front lawn like it's a used car lot. There are five cars parked there at any given time.

A. There is no limit to the number of vehicles per residence. However, all vehicles must be operable and parked on a driveway or other impervious surface. Vehicles which are inoperable and stored on the property must be stored out of public or private view. No vehicles may be parked in the front-yard setback on the lawn.

Q. My neighbor bought a motor home, and it's been parked in his driveway for six months.

A. There are very strict restrictions about storage of recreational vehicles, boats, and trailers on residential property. Depending on the area, utility trailers may be restricted as well. Code compliance officers will investigate concerns regarding RVs and determine if there is a code violation. If so, the officer will work with the resident to either store the vehicle in compliance with the Land Use Code or to have the vehicle stored elsewhere.

Q. My neighbor is a nice lady, but I've counted fourteen cats and six dogs that live in her small house; and there are lots of noisy, smelly chickens in her backyard.

A. City codes regulate the number of animals on residential property, based on zoning, size of property, and type of animals. Typically, only three pets – dogs or cats – are allowed per household. Six fowl are allowed without special restrictions as well. Code compliance officers will work with a resident to determine what is allowed and require excess or illegal animals be removed. In some zoning areas on large lots, large domestic animals such as goats, horses or cows are allowed. Pigs, hogs, and exotic animals are prohibited in all zones.

Q. My neighbor's business is in her home. It's like Grand Central Station there. Is it legal for her to have so many people coming and going?

A. Bellevue code allows for home businesses under very specific conditions. If there are no client visits, no outward indication of a business, and no deliveries or noise or odor, there may not be any regulation. However, if there are up to six client visits a day, an employee that is not a resident, or deliveries during the week, the resident must get a Home Occupation permit, which sets specific criteria for the home business. Code compliance officers will investigate concerns regarding home businesses and require permits where applicable. They will also require that they relocate to proper zoning if necessary.

Q. The kids call it a spooky house because the fence in the front yard is probably 8 feet high and we never see those neighbors. Isn't there a law against fences that high?

A. The Land Use Code regulates fences. Fences along the side- and rear-yard property lines may be up to 8 feet high without permits. Higher fences are allowed, but only under a building permit. In the front yard, fences may be no more than 4 ½ feet high, with exceptions to 6 feet for corner lots and lots on arterials and for other specified reasons.

Q. There's a new pizza place a few blocks away with banners and A-frame signs in front. Somebody keeps tacking up signs on the trees and poles in our neighborhood.

A. The city's sign code is very strict and is enforced. Please call Code Compliance (425-452-4570) to report any Sign Code problems. (See separate story on signs in this newsletter.)

Q. The man next door who just moved in is adding a bedroom and a bathroom to the house himself, and he's doing all the work at night when I'm trying to get my kids to sleep.

A. The city's noise code regulates the type and loudness of noise from various sources. Construction noise is limited to certain hours, depending on the type of construction and the location, residential or commercial. New home construction noise—that is noise from building a completely new structure—is limited to between the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays, with no noise being allowed on Sundays or federal holidays. Noise from additions, temporary repair, or maintenance of a single-family home is exempt from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The Bellevue Police Department enforces those noise violations and can be reached by calling 911 to report the violation. Code compliance officers respond to complaints of noise emanating from fixed sources such as hot tub motors, air conditioning units, ventilation fans, vacuum systems, and the like. The officer will measure the sound with a sound level meter and determine if there is a violation of the Noise Code. If so, the officer will work with the property owner to mitigate the sounds to meet decibel limits.

Bellevue's Sign Code strictly enforced

Why are there so few A-board signs, signs on telephone poles, banners, and road-side stake signs in Bellevue?

In 1999 the City Council determined that there were too many portable and junky signs cluttering the city, causing a visual blight as well as clogging the sidewalks and sides of the road. Everything from Giant Gorilla balloons to "Lose 40 lbs in 40 days" signs were everywhere and were contributing to a cluttered, unattractive environment in Bellevue.

So the City Council passed new enforcement regulations which effectively squelched the proliferation of signs that were the problem. The specific requirements of the Sign Code didn't change, but enforcement regulations did.



Prohibited sign in the right of way

Since that time, the code compliance team has enforced Sign Code requirements. There is even a group of Sign Code volunteers that assist with finding and documenting violations and removing illegal signs from the right of way. Code compliance officers photograph and document violations of the Sign Code, such as the display of balloons, banners, pennants, signs on utility poles and traffic control signs, signs in the right of way, A-frame signs, real estate pointer arrows, auto price signs, and certain real estate signs.

Any illegal signs found in the right of way are removed by the city immediately. (For a complete list of prohibited, temporary, and exempt signs, please contact Code Compliance.)

Once the illegal signs are documented, the persons responsible are cited and must attend a hearing unless the penalty is paid within 72 hours. Violations carry a mandatory penalty of \$100 per sign per day.

If a violator is found to be in violation repeatedly within a two-year period, penalties are doubled for each successive violation. Some violators have paid as much as \$3200 per sign due to repeat violations.

Owners and operators of businesses in Bellevue are notified of the Sign Code requirements at the time they receive their business registration with the city. The code compliance team also gives presentations to various business groups such as realtors and works with organizations to get the word out to businesses. Owners are encouraged to contact a code compliance officer at 425-452-4570 to learn about Sign Code requirements and how to avoid being found in violation and fined.

City Contact Information

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012

Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

City of Bellevue web site: www.cityofbellevue.org

Information Center: 452-6800

City Council Office: 452-7810

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.

2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6805 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Library Board: 4th Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6805

City Manager: 452-6810

Community Centers

Crossroads: 452-4874

Highland: 452-7686

North Bellevue Senior: 452-7681

South Bellevue: 452-4240

Community Council: 452-6805

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911

Business and Information: 452-6892

Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or www.cityofbellevue.org

Information Technology: 452-4626

Marina Hotline: 452-6123

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Parks & Community Services

Parks Information: 452-6881

Recreation Registration: 452-6885

Youth Sports: 452-6887

Ballfields: 452-6914

Picnics/Rentals: 452-7158

Park Maintenance: 452-6855

Human Services: 452-6884

Cultural Diversity: 452-7886

Probation: 452-6956

Recreation & Special Services Division: 452-6885

Planning & Community Development: 452-6864

New permit applications and application status: 452-6864

Code compliance: 452-4570

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

D.A.R.E.: 452-7895

Emergency Only: 911

Administration: 452-6952

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Detective Division: 452-5373

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-6915; Residential 452-6916

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-6940

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Transportation Construction Hotline: 452-7933

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-2977

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS

Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000



B E L L E V U E
It's Your City

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue, WA. If you have questions or comments about this publication or city services, call 425-452-4090; or write: Editor, *It's Your City*, City of Bellevue, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012;

or send e-mail to trwaters@ci.bellevue.wa.us.

City Manager: Steve Sarkozy

Communications Director: Tim Waters

Graphics: Ted Van Dyken

www.cityofbellevue.org



It's Your City is printed on recycled paper. Please recycle.

Bellevue City Council



Grant Degginger
Mayor



John Chelminiak
Deputy Mayor



Claudia Balducci



Don Davidson



Connie Marshall



Phil Noble



Conrad Lee

Celebrate Arbor and Earth Day on April 22nd

Plant trees and bring life to your community at Bellevue's annual Arbor and Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22.

Volunteer projects will be held throughout the city from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., allowing people to participate in the stewardship of our city's park resources by planting native trees and shrubs, building trails, and performing other park enhancement projects.

As part of these festivities, the annual Arbor Day / Earth Day Celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lewis Creek Park, 5808 Lakemont Blvd. People enjoy free nature arts and crafts, as well as environmental displays. The Community Celebration will be held at 12:30 p.m., with volunteer recognition, Arbor Day Poster Contest winners and planting the ceremonial Arbor Day tree.

Individuals, community groups, schools, and businesses are invited to volunteer by pre-registering with the Bellevue Park Ranger at 425-452-7225 or rschafer@ci.bellevue.wa.us. Groups of 15 or more please register by April 3.

For more information about Bellevue's Arbor Day / Earth Day Celebration, please call Bellevue Parks & Community Services at 425-452-7106 or visit www.cityofbellevue.org.



Planning a picnic just got easier

Customers can now use the Bellevue Parks Online website to search for a park picnic site. Bellevue Parks Online offers an easy-to-use search tool to select your criteria. The search results will list the parks that best meet your needs and schedule.

Bellevue Parks Online is available 24 hours a day at <http://parksreg.cityofbellevue.org>. Simply click the Facilities tab to begin searching. Follow the prompts to identify which criteria are important for your search.

From the list of results, click any facility to view a park description and photo. Click the "Availability" button to check date and time availability.

Customers who have an online account at Bellevue Parks & Community Services can use their client identification number to email a completed Facility Use Request Form. This feature eliminates the need for customers to print, sign, and fax or mail the forms to make a reservation.

Customers needing to set up an account can do so by completing the online form at <http://parksreg.cityofbellevue.org/forms/ParksRefForm.htm>.

For additional information, please contact the scheduling office at 425-452-4279, or via email: ParksRental@ci.bellevue.wa.org.