

BRIDLE TRAILS COMMUNITY CLUB

www.bridletrailscommunity.org

January 2009

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BRIDLE TRAILS COMMUNITY CLUB GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2009
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Cherry Crest Elementary School

Agenda

1. NEP Art Project in Bridle Trails
2. Ped /Bike Plan
3. Bel -Red Corridor Rezoning
4. Park Levy-\$2.5 million for parks in Bridle Trails
5. Power in Bridle Trails/Electrical Update
6. Bridle Trails Park Foundation
7. Club Business/New Business
8. Refreshments at 8:30

WINTER IN BRIDLE TRAILS

We have posted new photos of snowy Bridle Trails on the BTCC website. Go to the website for reminders of our December weather. Happy New Year to all.

BEL-RED CORRIDOR REZONING - LORETTA LOPEZ

The City Council continues to move forward in reviewing the major land use changes to the entire Bel-Red corridor. The development of the Bel-Red corridor from light industrial to high density residential and commercial will result in many changes to the Bridle Trails area including increased traffic along 134th, 140th and 116th. There is also an issue of the placement of the Sound Transit Line and the placement of a Sound Transit station. In addition, there is the issue of how and who will pay for the infrastructure which is necessary to support such development.

The City Council will vote on the changes in March. Check the City website for details. Go to the City Home Page and search for Bel-Red.

PED/BIKE PLAN: CITY COUNCIL VOTE ON FEBRUARY 17 -JIM BINDER

The Ped/Bike Plan Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) for the entire city has been forwarded from the Transportation and Planning Commissions to the City Council for the Council's review and approval. In the plan, 140th Ave NE is included as a component of a potential north/south corridor.

After many meetings and hearings, the Bridle Trails Community Club (BTCC) has the attention of the Council, the Transportation Department and Planning Departments. In December, over 18 Bridle Trails (BT) residents testified at a public hearing. The BT 140th Ave. Steering Committee has proposed some alternatives for a north/south connector that ties major destination centers together (e.g. Redmond Urban Center, Overlake, 520 Bike Path and NE 20/24th). These are under study now.

The Council will consider the PED/Bike CPA at the February 17 meeting. You are invited to attend. Comment is limited to 3 individuals per topic.

The BT Steering Committee has circulated a petition regarding 140th and collected signatures. The BTCC has already presented over 55 signatures to the City Council. If you wish to circulate a petition in your neighborhood, please contact Jim Binder at 881-6276 or Norm Hansen at 861-7333.

BTCC ORGANIZES FOR PARK LEVY FUNDS - ELLEN KERR

As you know, Bellevue voters approved the Park Levy in the November election. Bridle Trails is supposed to receive approximately \$2.5 million to enhance and develop parks in our neighborhood. The BTCC is in the process of forming a group to work with the city on this project as well as assess community needs.

Please check the BTCC website or the city of Bellevue website for further information. Anyone interested in joining the group and having an impact on where and how these monies are spent should contact Norm Hansen or Ellen Kerr.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (NEP) - PUBLIC ART IN BRIDLE TRAILS

The City allocates NEP funds to neighborhoods on a 3 year cycle. Last year the Bridle Trails area was one of the neighborhoods in Bellevue which was in the funding year of the 3 year cycle. As result, the City mailed requests to BT residents for suggested NEP projects. The City then mailed NEP ballots to residents.

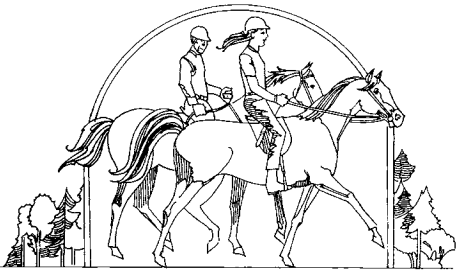
Many residents of the Bridle Trails area voted for the installation of equestrian themed art in the Bridle Trails area. The City designated the use of City NEP funds for the public art project. The City has appointed a panel to interview and select artists. The panel will also select a site for the public art.

The City has scheduled meetings of the selection panel for January and February. The meetings are open to the public. If you have any comments or suggestions about possible sites please contact Mary Pat Bryne, City Arts Specialist at 425 452-4105 or mpbyrne@bellevuewa.gov

The meeting dates are:

1. **Tuesday, January 27, 1:00- 3:00 p.m.** The selection panel will review images of possible sites and finalize sites for artist selection, and review artist submissions. The panel will select 3-5 artists for interviews. The meeting will be at City Hall in room 1E-109

2. **Wednesday, February 4, 1:00 - 6:00pm.** The selection panel will interview finalists and select one artist to recommend to the Arts Commission for endorsement. The length of this meeting will depend on the number of finalists selected. Location TBD.



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P.O. Box 1534
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KEEPING THE POWER ON IN BRIDLE TRAILS - ELLEN KERR

The Bellevue City Council recently passed the Capital Improvement Budget (CIP). The budget includes the allocation of \$350,000 for an electrical reliability study. The scope of work is yet to be defined. The City will hire an outside national consultant to evaluate the current electrical distribution system for the city as well as make recommendations for the future. If you have questions or would like to provide input, please contact Ellen Kerr or Norm Hansen.

In addition, the update on the PSE merger: The State has recently approved the merger of PSE and an international consortium.

LIGHTING ON NE 24TH

The lighting on NE 24th was finally turned down! Yeah! There was a 53% decrease in overall wattage. Thanks to the city for finally accomplishing this task. Any questions or for further information, please contact Ellen Kerr.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There are vacancies on some of the City's Board and Commissions. If you are interested, then consider applying for a position. Go to the City's Home Page for more information.

GREAT COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES

The City is presenting a series of workshops about building community. The workshop series continues with the workshops in February and March. All workshops are at City Hall and are from 7:00-9:00 p.m. RSVP Julie Ellenhorn, 425 453-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov

The workshops are:

1. Making Your vote count:
Presenting Your Views to Boards and Commissions, February 5.
2. Maintaining the Value and appearance of your Neighborhood, March 12.

BRIDLE TRAILS PARK FOUNDATION

- ALICE PRINCE

The first thing I would like to tell everyone who values our beloved Bridle Trails State Park is that eight years ago, when the legislature once again made a drastic cut to the State Parks budget, Bridle Trails was number one on their list of 10 parks that were to be closed. Would it have been sold for development, who knows? Probably not directly. But it very likely would have been deeded to either Bellevue or Kirkland or split between the two, divided up for different purposes; baseball and soccer fields, I remember hearing mention of an aquatic center, etc. If there was any property left over after all of that, then the new owners of that property could have done whatever they wanted to with it. That's when we formed the Bridle Trails Park Foundation and drafted an agreement whereas, as long as we paid for 50% of the net operating costs, the State would keep Bridle Trails a State Park with upkeep and staffing equal to or better than it was at the time of the signing of that agreement.

Fast forward from there. The people who live around, use, and in any way value the existence of Bridle Trails as a State run equestrian/pedestrian, passive park, pitched in and have helped us meet that financial obligation from day one. We are in the process now of continuing to raise money so that we can one day have enough money set aside to create an endowment fund that will pay these costs just from the interest. We're still not there yet, but we are making great strides in meeting our commitment as well as putting some monies into "enhancements" like the trail signage, and eventually, we hope, an environmental trail.

Programs to get people involved include Earth Day cleanup, the Party in the Park, the inscribed brick program, and merchandise sales. So far, our merchandise is somewhat limited, but we plan on adding to our inventory in the months ahead. Right now, you can buy our Bridle Trails State Park mugs at our local Bridle Trails Red Apple Market in the coffee aisle where you'll also find our Bridle Trails Coffee. (We get full price for the mugs and \$2.00 for every bag of coffee sold.)

We want to thank all of you for your continued support and to let you now that we were told by the Director of State Parks, himself, that when they met this year to name the 13 State Parks to be closed, Bridle Trails was NOT even mentioned. Congratulations to all of you. You showed the State what our Park means to you and they heard you loud and clear.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **January 27, 1:00-3:00**, BT Public Art Meeting, City Hall, Room 1E-109 (see article)
- **February 4, 1:00- 6:00**, BT Public Art Meeting, City Hall (see article)
- **February 5, 7:00-9:00**, Great Community Workshop Series , City Hall (see article)
- **February 17, 8:00 p.m.**, Bellevue City Council Vote on Ped/Bike Plan
- **March 12, 7:00-9:00**, Great Community Workshop Series, City Hall (see article)

BTCC MEETINGS

- **January 22 at 7:00**, BTCC General Meeting at Cherry Crest School
- **February 26 at 7:30**, BTCC Board and Advisory Board Meeting at Cherry Crest School
- **March 19 at 7:00**, BTCC General Meeting at Cherry Crest School
- **April 16 at 7:30**, BTCC Board and Advisory Board Meeting at Cherry Crest School
- **May 22 at 7:00**, BTCC General Meeting at Cherry Crest School