



FALL 2017
INSIDE

Jump-starting affordable housing

By Janet Lewine, AICP, Associate Planner

When the City Council adopted an affordable housing strategy in June, it was a considerable milestone. But the culmination of more than a year of research, analysis and community input was more of a beginning than an end, as the city now considers programs and regulatory updates that could add up to 2,500 affordable homes to Bellevue over the next 10 years.

The Affordable Housing Strategy consists of five broad, interrelated strategies with over 20 specific actions designed to create affordable homes and provide new or expanded assistance for residents struggling to remain in Bellevue.

On Aug. 7, staff presented the council with a two-phase work program for carrying out the actions. The program will unfold over the next two to three years,

with additional council and public review required for several of the actions.

Work is already underway on several “jump-start” actions identified as high priorities by the council, including updating the multifamily tax exemption program to encourage more private development to include affordable housing and increasing the amount of housing that can be built on nonprofit housing sites and faith-based owned properties that are appropriately located for housing.

More information on the project, including the Affordable Housing Strategy report and additional background information, can be found on the city website at <http://planning.bellevuewa.gov/planning/planning-initiatives/affordable-housing-strategy/>.



Signature I-405 crossing
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New TV show
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Anjana Murali rides the frog (or toad) at Downtown Park's Inspiration Playground. Built in partnership with the Bellevue Rotary, the play area has many features that engage the senses. Seattle Magazine rates the playground among the area's best of 2017.

Homelessness management discussions to continue

By Lenka Wright, Chief Communications Officer

The City Council this year has been discussing how to make the 2016-2017 Council Vision priority of establishing a permanent Eastside men's shelter a reality. Items related to homelessness will come before the council for action and discussion through the remainder of 2017 and into the new year.

In September the council held two public hearings regarding interim regulations adopted on Aug. 7. The hearings concerned Ordinance 6369, which prohibits safe injection sites citywide, and Ordinance 6368, which concerns the permit process required to establish a permanent homeless shelter and identifies land use

districts where a such a shelter may be permitted.

Following the hearing for Ordinance 6369, the council directed staff to prepare a permanent ordinance prohibiting safe injection sites in Bellevue. That ordinance was expected to come before the council on Monday, Oct. 16.

The council took no action after the hearing for Ordinance 6368. The temporary regulations will expire in February 2018. Council discussions are expected to continue through this six-month period to establish permanent regulations regarding permitting and land use districts for homeless shelters.

Several study sessions on Bellevue's response to homelessness and moving people into permanent housing are anticipated through the end of 2017 and into 2018. In addition to the continued discussions on regulations for homeless shelters, the council will receive an update on homelessness in Bellevue and provide direction on RV/car camping regulations and giving input on education and outreach materials regarding panhandling.

The Interim Men's Shelter is located at Lincoln Center, 555 116th Ave. NE, and is set to open sometime in November.

You can stay updated on upcoming council discussions by signing up for Alerts at <https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/city-council/council-meetings/council-agendas-and-minutes/>.



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