The holiday season is fast approaching. Consider making this holiday extra special by helping those in need in our community:

Bellevue Fire Foundation Collecting Toys and Food

The Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation is hosting a food and toy drive from November through December. Donations are accepted at all Bellevue fire station locations and Bellevue City Hall.

New, unwrapped toys collected for infants, youth and teens received by December 8 will be distributed at the Youth Holiday Party on Dec. 16 at Crossroads Community Center. Non-perishable food collected will provide support during the holidays to our local food banks.

Requested donations include new, unwrapped toys for infants, youth and teens, including books, games, sports equipment, arts and crafts kits, cars/trucks, dolls and plush animals. Ideas for infants include age appropriate plush animals, toys and gift cards for parents to purchase needed items. Ideas for teens include gift certificates to clothing, restaurants, malls and music stores.

The greatest needs for nonperishable food include: canned meals, canned meat, cereal, dry beans, fruit (canned or fresh), pasta, peanut butter, rice, soup, tomato products and vegetables (canned or fresh).

Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted to help purchase toys or food items. To donate, make checks payable to the Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation.

Donations sites include:

- Bellevue City Hall – 450-110th Ave. NE (Downtown Bellevue)
- Fire Station One – 766 Bellevue Way SE (Downtown/West Bellevue)
- Fire Station Two – 2802 148th Ave. SE (Eastgate/Lake Hills/W. Lake Sammamish)
- Fire Station Three – 16100 NE Eighth St. (Crossroads/Northeast Bellevue)
- Fire Station Four – 4216 Factoria Blvd. SE (Factoria/Somerset)
- Fire Station Five – 9621 NE 24th St. (Northwest Bellevue)
- Fire Station Six – 1850 132nd Ave. NE (Bridle Trails/Willburton)
- Fire Station Seven – 11900 SE Eighth St. (Willburton/Woodridge)
- Fire Station Eight – 5701 Lakemont Blvd. SE (Eastgate/Cougar Mountain)
- Fire Station Nine – 12412 SE 69th Way (Newport)

For more information, please contact Vicki Drake at 425-452-4874 vdrake@bellevuewa.gov or Capt. Bill Evans at bevans@bellevuewa.gov.
Kids Care Coat Drive

Bellevue Youth Link needs your help in collecting new and gently used coats and other outerwear for Bellevue families, teens, and children.

Last year, the Kids Care Coat Drive collected and distributed over 3,500 coats for Bellevue families in need, and the need may be even greater this year.

Coats and outerwear donations can be dropped off through Monday, January 12, at Bellevue City Hall, Crossroads Mall Mini City Hall, all community centers, and Bellevue public schools.

Volunteers are also needed to help sort and distribute the donations. For information about other donation locations or volunteering, contact Patrick Alina, Youth Link Program Coordinator at palina@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5254.

Donated coats and outerwear will be distributed to Bellevue families in need on Jan. 12 from 5-7 p.m. at Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St., while supplies last. For information about the coat distribution event, contact Vicki Drake, Community Services Supervisor at vdrake@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4874.

The coat drive is a project of the Bellevue Youth Council and is supported by local businesses like Bel-Red Self Storage who provides the storage and the Bellevue Home Depot for the donation boxes. Bellevue Youth Link is a partnership of the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Public Schools that provides teens with opportunities to have an active voice and make a positive difference in the community.

Picture Yourself behind the Wheel of a Bellevue Police Patrol Car

The Bellevue Police Department is looking for volunteers to help ensure that our Patrol cars are in good working order and fully supplied with items that officers need when they are out on the street. You’ll transport Patrol cars to and from the City’s vehicle service center and conduct a monthly vehicle supply inventory. This assignment will have you working with officers, City vehicle maintenance staff and other volunteers as you coordinate vehicle service requests and availability. You will be helping to keep officers on the street responding to calls instead of using their time to move vehicles for service.

We need volunteer help every day of the week except Saturdays. You can work any time before 9am or after 4pm: the length of time on any given day will depend on the number of vehicles that need to be transported but typically will be 1-2 hours.

You must have a spotless driving record, no criminal history, demonstrate mature judgment and be willing to complete a thorough background investigation, including a polygraph exam. For more information or to request an application, contact Marji Trachtman at mtrachtman@bellevuewa.gov, or (425) 452-6017. The application form also is available on the Police website at: http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/vol_police_admin.htm.
Stay Warm at the Eastside Winter Shelters

The City of Bellevue has leased a portion of the former International Paper site at 1899 120th Ave. NE to provide a temporary Eastside Winter Shelter for homeless men. From November through March, the shelter is open daily, 8pm to 7:30am at the site currently owned by Sound Transit. The vacant building is in a light industrial, non-residential area.

A women’s shelter operated by Catholic Community Services through a partnership with The Sophia Way is also open. This shelter will be at the St. Peter’s United Methodist Church in Bellevue through the end of January, when it will move to the Redmond United Methodist Church.

The shelters also seek to provide hot meals for the men, women and children. The meals are provided by volunteers, and donations are needed from the community. For more information about the meal program, visit www.tinyurl.com/lt7dg9r.

For more information about the Eastside winter shelters, contact Congregations for the Homeless at 425-372-7252 or dwightj@cfhomeless.org; or Catholic Community Services at 206-437-7448 or eileenm@ccsw.org.

Nightly Closures for Snowflake Lane Performances

It’s hard to believe that the holiday season already is upon us! The Bellevue Collection’s annual Snowflake Lane kicked off with a parade on November 28, the Friday after Thanksgiving. This festive extravaganza occurs every evening and closes Bellevue Way Northeast between NE 4th St and NE 8th St through December 24. The Lincoln Square parking lot and Bellevue Art Museum are still accessible. Find more information about the Snowflake Lane event at www.bellevuecollection.com/SnowflakeLane.

Whether you are walking, biking or driving, be safe at this popular entertainment and shopping destination. Keep track of these and other traffic impacts at www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm or follow @BvueTrans on Twitter. Check real-time traffic conditions at www.bellevuewa.gov/trafficmap. To avoid traffic congestion, try using alternative modes of transportation. Choose Your Way Bellevue has several tools and resources to help you change it up this winter at www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org.
Health Insurance Enrollment Opportunity at Mini City Hall

The Crossroads Mini City Hall (MCH) partners with the International Community Health Services (ICHS), a nonprofit community health agency to provide health insurance enrollment services to Bellevue residents. Open enrollment for affordable health insurance on the Washington exchange marketplace is from November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015.

ICHS and MCH will provide personal support for health care enrollment and consultation services at the Crossroads Shopping Center where MCH is located. Hindi/Punjabi/English appointments are available every Tuesday from 10:30am to 12:30pm and Chinese/Hindi/Punjabi/English appointments are available every Friday from 12pm to 2pm.

For more information about the services MCH provides or to make an appointment, please call 425-452-2800.

Gateway Signage for Northtowne

Northtowne neighborhoods are slated for new gateway signs in 2015! A resident steering committee is being formed to work with City staff on site selection and design elements for new neighborhood identity signs for Northtowne neighborhoods. Steering committee members will meet 2-3 times, January – March, 2015 and work with staff and designer to come up with sign designs that will be presented at a community open house in Spring 2015. If you live in the NW Bellevue area and would like to serve on the steering committee, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or email jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.
Signal Upgrades through City Safety Program Grants

Last month’s issue described pedestrian signal upgrades at intersections in the Bel-Red and Overlake areas. Installation of improved pedestrian countdown displays and push buttons began in mid-November. Installation of displays and buttons should be completed in early 2015.

Upgrades to the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS) will occur at 29 of the intersections later in 2015, after other priority locations have been upgraded.

Work takes place between 7am and 6pm, Monday through Friday. Please obey officers and use caution when traveling through the work zone, especially if you are a bicyclist or pedestrian.

Questions? Contact Kyle Potuzak, project manager, at 425-452-2027 or kpotuzak@bellevuewa.gov, or Clint Nelsen, construction inspector, at 425-452-6960 or cnelson@bellevuewa.gov.
December 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.)

12/1 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Review of draft Code language for Shoreline Master Program, 2014 Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Mountvue Place (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, Adoption of Budget-related Ordinances and Resolutions, Ordinance amending Bellevue City Code Chapter 4.36.30 Damage Claims Against the City, and Resolution approving the Lease Agreement with Impact Hub for use of portions of the Lincoln Center north building as an interim startup/incubator facility
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

12/2 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Topic: final public hearings on Camp and Conference Center designation and land use clean-up amendments.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm


12/2 Human Services Commission (6:00, Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center) Topic: Annual Holiday Celebration for the Human Services Commission and the Parks & Community Services Board

12/3 East Link Permitting CAC (3:00-5:00p.m., 1E-113) Continued discussion of Sound Transit’s South Bellevue Design and Mitigation permit application

12/4 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30a.m., 1E-120), Committee Reports, Year End Celebration
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

12/8 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Review of draft Code language for Shoreline Master Program, City Manager Performance Evaluation (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, Public Hearing on extending the interim regulations for recreational Marijuana, Diversity Initiative, and False Alarm Ordinance
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

12/9 Parks & Community Services Board – NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER

12/10 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

12/11 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Topics: 116th Avenue NE Bike Lanes (discussion) (preceded by an open house in City Hall 5:00 – 6:30), Northup Way Bike Lanes/SR 520 Trail (briefing). Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (discussion), Transportation Facilities Plan (discussion)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

12/15 City Council – ON RECESS UNTIL JANUARY 5
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

12/16 Library Commission (5:00 p.m. Newport Way Library 14250 S.E. Newport Way Bellevue, WA 98006) NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

12/24 Planning Commission – NO REGULAR MEETING 4th Wednesday IN DECEMBER
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

12/17 East Link Permitting CAC (3:00-5:00p.m., 1E-113) Continued discussion of Sound Transit’s South Bellevue Design and Mitigation permit application

12/18 Environmental Services Commission – NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

12/22 City Council – ON RECESS UNTIL JANUARY 5
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

12/23 East Main CAC – NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.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 425-452-6836.