neighborhood news

October 2016

news for and about Bellevue neighborhoods

Voters to Decide on Fire, Transportation Levies Targeting Backlog of Capital Projects

On Nov. 8, city voters will weigh in on two important ballot measures that address a backlog of capital projects related to fire facilities and neighborhood transportation projects in Bellevue.

Following a concentrated public outreach effort that included three open houses and an online survey that garnered 800 responses, the City Council on July 25 approved the two measures for the ballot. The online survey showed that 67 percent supported a Fire Facilities ballot measure and 64 percent supported a Transportation Safety and Connectivity ballot measure.

If approved, the combined cost of the two measures for a typical Bellevue homeowner (whose home has the median assessed value of $640,000), would be approximately $176 per year.

The Fire Facilities measure (Proposition 1) would increase the city's property tax levy by 12.5 cents per $1,000 of assessed value, or about $80 per year for the owner of a home with a median assessed value. Over the 20-year life of the levy it would raise approximately $120 million for upgrades to Fire Facilities.

The Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion measure (Proposition 2) would increase the city's property tax levy by 15 cents per $1,000 of assessed value, or about $96 per year. The 20-year levy would raise about $140 million for transportation system improvements.

Fire Facilities

The Fire Department has 10 facilities to maintain, and each one must operate 24 hours per day. In 2014, Fire produced a master plan that identified several challenges in the current system. The proposed fire facilities ballot measure would address these challenges in several ways:

- **Seismic retrofits:** Upgrade facilities to ensure that every fire station meets seismic standards to withstand a major earthquake and allow a first response in any emergency;
- **Build a new downtown fire station:** Construct a fire station to serve Bellevue's fastest-growing neighborhood, taking response pressure off other neighborhood fire stations;
- **Upgrade existing fire stations:** Remodeling, expanding or replacing fire stations in Bellevue and aligning facilities to better serve the community; and
- **Logistics center space:** Obtain warehouse space to consolidate reserve equipment and to provide a central location for the repair of special equipment.

Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion

The Transportation Department has a backlog of safety and neighborhood connectivity needs. Examples are: neighborhood sidewalk projects that would take more than 30 years to complete at current funding levels; 55 pedestrian crossing projects, 35 neighborhood traffic calming projects and 12 school traffic improvement projects; and a funding shortfall for 52 identified projects for new or upgraded bike facilities citywide. In addition, the city has heard of growing concerns about increased traffic congestion near or within neighborhoods.

New, sustained funding is needed to help reduce these backlogs. Improvements eligible for funding by the transportation ballot measure include:

- **Projects that reduce neighborhood congestion:** Easing congestion for motor vehicles within or near neighborhoods and services to improve access and mobility;
- **Neighborhood safety projects:** Traffic calming, speed reduction, reducing the potential for collisions, adding mid-block crossings and crosswalks with enhanced safety features;
- **New sidewalks/trails/paths:** Adding sidewalks to provide walking access within, and to neighborhoods, schools, parks, shopping and other destinations;
- **Technology for safety and traffic management:** Upgrades that improve safety, traffic flow, traveler information; and emerging technology such as autonomous vehicles;
- **Projects to enhance maintenance:** Repairs to transportation facilities with outstanding maintenance needs, such as sidewalks, trails, walls, lighting and street cleaning; and
- **New bike facilities:** Adding facilities to create a safe and connected bike network for commuting, recreational and family activities.

Neighborhood Leadership Gathering

You are invited

Tuesday, October 4
6:30–8 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-108 • Light Refreshments

More information is available on the city's ballot measures webpage (http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-safety.htm).

Leaders and active residents of Bellevue neighborhoods are invited to create a vision for the future of their neighborhoods at this month's Neighborhood Leadership Gathering with the topic "Picturing the Future of Bellevue Neighborhoods".

The evening will begin with an introduction to the neighborhood area planning process from the city's comprehensive planning manager, Terry Cullen. Attendees will then engage in small group discussions regarding their neighborhood values and physical changes envisioned for the future of Bellevue's neighborhoods, facilitated by Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager.

Artist Anne Jess, who practices the art of "graphic recording" through her company The Doodle Biz, will illustrate the conversation and assemble a portrait, featuring pictures and words, of shared values and ideas.

If you are interested in investing in the health and quality of life in your neighborhood, sharing your perspective and learning from other neighborhood leaders, please join us as we create a vision for the future of Bellevue's neighborhoods.

Neighborhood association board members, emerging leaders and those interested in becoming more involved in their neighborhood are invited. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.

EASTSIDE MEN'S SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

A partnership between City of Bellevue, King County, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing.

Community Meetings – September 29, October 27

Second Community Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 7-9pm

Champion Centre, 2649 145th Pl SE, Bellevue

The City of Bellevue and King County are working in partnership with Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing to site a permanent men's shelter and supportive housing on King County property at 14350 SE Eastgate Way in Bellevue.

Come join us for a second meeting, hosted by Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach team, who will report back what has been heard from the community. Participants will have the opportunity to clarify and prioritize the feedback and identify and evaluate possible solutions to issues identified thus far in the process. The meeting will be facilitated in a workshop format with table discussions, and will be held on October 27th, 7-9 pm, at the Champion Centre church, 2649 145th Pl. SE.

The site being considered for the shelter is in a mixed-use area of Eastgate, just north of Interstate 90, on property shared with Public Health - Seattle & King County, adjacent to a King County Metro park-and-ride.

The "One Night Count" of the homeless in January found nearly 4,500 people in King County living without shelter. On the Eastside in selected urban areas, 245 were found unsheltered.

Eastside cities have been working together to provide a regional solution to homelessness on the Eastside. Redmond provides shelter for homeless youth and Kirkland is working to provide a shelter for homeless women and children.

Bellevue has partnered with Congregations for the Homeless in the operation of the Eastside Winter Shelter in Bellevue for homeless men since 2008. The men's shelter, however, does not have a permanent location and has needed to change location over the years.

This new partnership between the City of Bellevue and King County with Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing will include a permanent men's shelter (capacity of serving 100 men a night), with additional supportive housing units (approximately 60 units), a drop-in day center, accommodating public health services, as well as space for social service providers.

The goal is to have a permanent location for the men's shelter by late 2019. To sign up for alerts or for more information about the project, check out www.bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm

SpookFest

Come celebrate Halloween with your family, friends and neighbors at SpookFest! Join us for many fun and "spooky" activities at varying dates and times at the South Bellevue Community Center.

SpookFest Zip Scare

Experience the Bellevue Zip Tour in the dark! Tours start at 6 pm
Oct 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29

The Great SBCC Pumpkin Race

Design and decorate a pumpkin on wheels to compete, also new this year, the Pumpkin Jump!
Saturday, Oct 22, 10am

SpookFest Carnival

Games! Food! Inflatables and a performance my Xakary the Magician!
Saturday, Oct 22,11am-4pm

Pumpkin Race Workshop

Learn to build. You design and decorate a pumpkin on wheels to compete to be the best pumpkin racer!
Thursday, Oct 13, 7pm

Night Watchman Tour

A Haunted Tour of Eastgate Park
Saturday, Oct 22, 7 & 8pm

SpookFest Dessert Theatre

Enjoy sweet treats while you watch "Alice in ZombieLand" presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre
Saturday, Oct 22, 7pm

Haunted Golf

Nine Holes of petrifying putt-putt
Saturday, Oct 22, 6-9pm

There is a mix of FREE and paid activities. Some activities require registration. For full event details please visit our web page https://www.bellevuewa.gov/sbcc.htm, call 425-452-4240 or e-mail sbcc@bellevuewa.gov.

Cultural Conversations

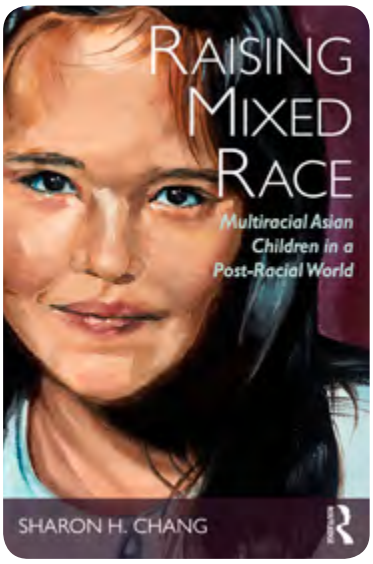
Being Multiracial: Identity, Culture and Perception

Tuesday, November 1, 1-2:30pm

Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St, Bellevue

Cultural Conversations is a program that was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City of Bellevue. The women's group gathers regularly to have "cultural conversations" to enhance their knowledge and understanding of different practices and world views in a nurturing and safe environment where they feel free to share. This month the group will meet local author Sharon H. Chang who will share her own story of being multi-racial and the catalyst for researching and writing her book, "Raising Mixed Race: Multiracial Asian Children In a Post-Racial World".

If there is one thing we've learned in the process of meeting the women who participate in Cultural Conversations, it's that you cannot quickly assess based on appearance who is in the room by way of a cursory glance (be it their identity or their experience). Yet, it's human nature to be curious about others, especially those who appear different from us. Similar to wanting to know where they are from, we are also curious to know "what" they are in terms of race and ethnicity and how one identifies culturally.



In our next Cultural Conversations, we'll reveal some of the many layers of identity and race. What happens when individuals are categorized to specific groups? What is lost? What is gained? What does it mean when we hear others say they are just "ordinary" in respect to race and culture?

Following Sharon's storytelling, we will share our own experience. Please join us for tea and conversation and be inspired to connect, share and learn.

Women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. To fully participate in the sharing, attendees are encouraged to make arrangements for childcare. Please RSVP to Carol Ross at cross@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917.

Green Clean at Home: Free Workshops

Monday, October 3, 7-8pm
Bellevue Downtown Library
1111 110th Ave. NE

Tuesday, October 18, 7-8pm
Newport Way Library 14250 SE Newport Way

Monday, October 24, 7-8pm
Lake Hills Library 15590 Lake Hills Blvd.

Wednesday, November 2, 7-8pm
Bellevue Downtown Library 1111 110th Ave. NE

Thursday, November 10, 7-8pm
Newport Way Library 14250 SE Newport Way

Wednesday, November 16, 7-8pm
Lake Hills Library 15590 Lake Hills Blvd.

The City of Bellevue is pleased to offer six special green clean workshops this fall. These fun, hands-on classes will cover information on avoiding toxic cleaners and resources for making your own green cleaners. Attendees will receive a free green cleaning kit to take home. Adults and children over 7 are welcome to attend. All events are free and registration is required.

Please email us at recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-6932 to register. Spaces are limited to 20 people per session. First come, first served.

Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Update

Cougar Mountain/Lakemont

Ballots due: October 28

West Lake Sammamish Kick-off Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 6:30-8pm
Phantom Lake Elementary School Gym, 1050 160th Ave. SE, Bellevue

As Cougar Mountain/Lakemont enters the final stages of the NEP process, the West Lake Sammamish NEP process begins later this month. Each household in Cougar Mountain and Lakemont has the month of October to vote for three of the 27 ballot projects proposed for the Neighborhood Area to be funded with their NEP allocation. Ballots are due by October 28, so don't waste any time!

More than $175,000 has been allocated to enhance the West Lake Sammamish neighborhood, and we need you to tell us how to spend it! Round three of NEP will launch in West Lake Sammamish at the kick off meeting. City staff will provide attendees with a brief overview of the program guidelines and schedule, answer questions, and invite participants to share, discuss and submit project ideas. Following the kick-off meeting, each household in West Lake Sammamish will receive a prepaid NEP Project Request Form in the mail. We encourage all West Lake Sammamish residents to use this form, or the online project request form on the NEP website, to submit as many NEP project requests as they like. All project requests must be received by December 1, 2016.

For more information about the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, please visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep.htm, or contact the NEP Coordinator, Emily Kish at ekish@bellevuewa.gov.

It's Broken. Now What?

Repair Fair

Monday, October 10, 3-6 pm

Bellevue Botanical Garden's Education Center, 12001 Main St, Bellevue

Do you have something lying around your home that could be useful again if only you knew how to repair it? Come join us at the Repair Fair in Bellevue this month! The event is a partnership between the City of Bellevue Environmental Communications & Outreach Group and the The King County EcoConsumer public outreach program. People can bring various items and help each other fix them. Volunteer and paid "fixers" experienced and in repair will be on hand to repair the items brought in by the public.

People can bring in household items including:

- small furniture such as chairs and tables
- small appliances such as blenders, coffee makers, lamps and fans
- personal electronics such as cell phones with broken screens
- clothing and curtains that ripped or need minor alterations

For questions or to let the repair team know in advance what items you are planning to bring, please contact Tom Watson at 206-477-4481 or tom.watson@kingcounty.gov.

How Will Candidates Surf the Age Wave?

Bellevue Candidates and Legislators Forum

Monday, October 10, 1:30pm

North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue

Washington State legislators and candidates from the 1st, 5th, 41st, 45th and 48th districts will participate in a candidates and legislative forum to address issues affecting aging adults in Bellevue this month.

The forum will focus on Washington State's Aging readiness and will include a presentation about how Washington State can take the lead to create age friendly communities, strengthen the long-term support system, promote economic security in retirement, and increase protections against abuse, neglect and exploitation. Legislators and candidates will comment and take questions from the audience.

Washington is facing a massive shift in the aging demographic which will affect infrastructure at all levels. By 2035, population estimates for King County are that older adults (ages 60+) will represent 25% of the population; and the population age 85+ is expected to double.

The demographic shift will stretch our community long term support programs, place increased pressure on paid and unpaid family caregivers and highlight the need for many of our aging workers to find a way to plan ahead for the costs of retirement and long term care.

The age wave also presents tremendous opportunities. According to AARP, nationwide, over $7 trillion in economic activity is generated by people 50+ every year and this is expected to nearly double by 2032. By making our communities more age-friendly we will be able to maximize the positive contributions of older adults.

This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 1:15. Seating is limited and people are encouraged to RSVP in advance by clicking the link http://svy.mk/2be2EiL, calling Gigi Meinig at 206-684-0652 or emailing gigi.meinig@seattle.gov.

The forum is jointly hosted by the Bellevue Network on Aging, Kirkland Senior Council, AARP Washington, Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services, Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging, LeadingAge Washington and the Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby.

TRAFFIC CORNER

East Link Construction in South Bellevue Begins as Early as January 2017

Park-and-Ride to Close for Up to Five Years

Residents encouraged to "Choose Your Way" by trying a different transportation option

Sound Transit has announced that the construction of the South Bellevue segment of East Link will begin as early as January 2017. One of the first construction activities will be the closure of the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride for approximately five years.

Construction on Bellevue Way Southeast will involve the relocation of public and private utilities followed by the station and guideway construction. Then Sound Transit's contractor will restore Bellevue Way pavement, sidewalk, striping and landscaping.

To stay informed, neighbors are encouraged to subscribe to Sound Transit's Construction Updates. By doing so, you'll receive notice about a Construction Kick-off meeting as an opportunity to meet Sound Transit's contractor and learn more about the construction process. Additionally, you will receive information about replacement parking that will be made available for those commuters who typically use the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride. Sound Transit will provide a closure date for the park-and-ride at least 60 days prior to the closure occurring.

The South Bellevue Station includes a five-level parking structure offering about 1,500 parking stalls. To view an animated video of the East Link extension, go to www.soundtransit.org/eastlink.

Bellevue residents will soon receive information in the mail on how to try out a different transportation option other than driving alone to help get around Bellevue and the region more smoothly.

Information Resources:

- City of Bellevue Traffic Advisories: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm
- Bellevue Transportation Department on Twitter: @BvueTrans
- Choose Your Way Bellevue: www.ChooseYourWayBellevue.org
- Community In Motion/Just One Trip: https://justonetrip.org/
- Sound Transit/East Link Construction Alerts: http://www.soundtransit.org/east-link-construction
- Sound Transit Schedules: http://www.soundtransit.org/schedule
- King County Metro Transit Trip Planning: http://tripplanner.kingcounty.gov

October construction update: Construction continues and we want to keep you informed of any traffic impacts. Again, we apologize for any traffic delays that you encounter as we continue to improve Bellevue's roadways.

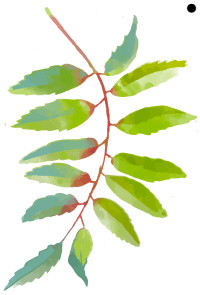
Use an alternate route: The following project locations serve a high volume of traffic. Please watch for electronic message boards, which will post road closures seven days in advance. And, if at all possible, use an alternate route on the dates and times provided below:

Lane or full road closures:

Projects are listed from the north to south areas of Bellevue.

- Northup Way Corridor: NE 33rd Place to NE 24th St: Alternating lane closures will continue weekdays, 7am to 4pm until summer 2017
- 120th Avenue NE, Stage 2: NE 8th St to NE 12th St: Lane closures through the end of the year.

- 120th Avenue NE, Stage 3: NE 12th St to NE 16th St: Road is closed between the 1400 block and 1600 block until April 2017 to build a five-lane roadway with bike lanes.
- BelRed Road and 148th Ave NE to 152nd Ave NE intersections: Utilities sewer project will reduce traffic to one lane in each direction.
- NE 6th Street: Bellevue Way to 105th Avenue NE: Roadway will be closed to replace pavement and sidewalk and reconstruct the 105th Avenue NE and NE 6th Street intersection.
- 148th Avenue: Main St to SE 8th St: - Pavement overlay & traffic signal upgrades: Lane closures at these intersections through October.



- 152nd Place/154th Ave SE and SE 4th St and 155th Ave SE: One week closure at these locations between Oct. 3 and Oct. 17, weather permitting, to install landscaped medians and entry treatments. Week 1: 152nd Place SE, south of Main St. and 155th Ave SE, north of Lk. Hills Blvd. Week 2: 154th Ave. SE, north of Lk. Hills Blvd. and SE. 4th St., west of 156th Avenue.

- Allen Road from SE 38th Street to 138th Ave SE in the Eastgate Neighborhood: This month this roadway will be repaved to include a bike lane and on-street walkway on the south side of the road.
- SE 40th Place east of Factoria Boulevard: This roadway will be rebuilt. Access will be maintained when possible.

Besides City of Bellevue projects, here are construction impacts related to East Link light rail:

- 110th Ave NE from Main St/112th Ave SE to 110th Ave NE/NE 6th St: On-going. Tunnel monitoring equipment installation along the alignment through late 2016. Lane closures along Main St and 110th Ave NE. Traffic control set up will change day to day as the work progresses from south to the north.
- Main St/& 112th Ave: On-going. Expect intermittent lane and sidewalk closures for installation of temporary sound wall.
- NE 2nd Pl from 110th Ave NE to 111th Ave NE: On-going through 2018 (minimum two-year closure) to allow use of the right of way as a staging area for Sound Transit (24-hour construction line: 888-398-5465).

Please note: This list does not include the current lane closures due to private development projects being constructed in downtown Bellevue. For information about those projects, please refer to: www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Development%20Services/lu_MajorProjects.pdf

Construction and Traffic Information Tools: To stay up-to-date about where construction has lane or full road closures, please use the following information tools:

- Electronic Message boards: Gives dates or times of upcoming lane or road closures.
- Real-time Traffic Map & Cameras: www.bellevuewa.gov/trafficmap
- Traffic Advisories webpage: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm
- Follow the Transportation Department on Twitter: @BvueTrans
- Capital Project (Interactive) Map: www.bellevuewa.gov/capital-projects-map.htm
- Sign up for email alerts on project webpages: www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation.htm
- Choose Your Way Bellevue: www.ChooseYourWayBellevue.org
- Community In Motion/Just One Trip: https://justonetrip.org/
- Sound Transit/East Link Construction Alerts: http://www.soundtransit.org/east-link-construction
- Sound Transit Schedules: http://www.soundtransit.org/schedule
- King County Metro Transit Trip Planning: http://tripplanner.kingcounty.gov

October 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.)

10/3 City Council (6:00, Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) Marijuana Land Use – Permanent Regulations (8:00, Regular Session, Council Chambers) Visit by King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn, Proclamations, Consent Calendar
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/4 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Club House, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) Update on Critical Areas Ordinance Amendment
http://bellevuewa.gov/ebcc.htm

10/4 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Grand Connection Art and Cultural Element Workshop, Public Art Donation: Daniell Foushee, "Delight in Green", Public Art Relocation: "Wild in the City"
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

10/6 Environmental Services Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Public Hearing on Proposed Utilities Budget & Rates; Asset Management Update, Stream Team Annual Overview
http://bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

10/7 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30am, 1E-113) Paul DuBois – Compliance Analyst, Office of the Insurance Commissioner's Carolyn Smith, discussing long term insurance and Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) programs
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

10/7 Human Services Commission (6:00 p.m., 1E-113) Update on Winter Shelter (Congregations for the Homeless, Catholic Community Services, The Sophia Way), Update on Siting Permanent Men's Shelter, Finalize 2017-2018 Human Services Funding Recommendations
http://bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

10/10 City Council (6:00, Extended Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) Public Hearing – Critical Areas Ordinance, Low Impact Development (LID) Principles Project, Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Design
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/11 Parks and Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-113) Grand Connection/Wilburton Land Use Plan, Review & Discussion of Ordinance 6241 (Park Board Ordinance), Board Retreat Planning
http://bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

10/12 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Downtown Livability Code Amendments
http://bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

10/13 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Bellevue Kirkland Redmond Travel Demand Model Update, Concurrency Report, Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative
http://bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

10/13 Special Events Committee (8:30am, 1E-112) Review of Summer Events, Upcoming Holiday Events, Discussion of Special Events Committee fees
http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

10/17 City Council (6:00, Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) Preliminary Budget Discussion (8:00, Regular Session, Council Chambers) Public Hearing – Marijuana Land Use – Permanent Regulations
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/18 Human Services Commission (6:00, 1E-113) Debrief 2017-2018 Human Services Funding Process, Successes and Challenges
http://bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

10/18 Library Advisory Board (5:00 p.m., Bellevue Library, 1111 110th Ave NE, Room 3) OneDrive Site Demo/Tutorial and Council Outreach Planning/ Follow-Up http://bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

10/24 City Council (6:00, Extended Study Session, Council Conference Room 1E-113) Diversity Advantage Program Update, Regional Issues, Bellevue Way SE HOV Lane Project, Affordable Housing Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/26 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Downtown Livability Code Amendments
http://bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.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, please visit our website at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-outreach.htm or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov

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