

neighborhood news



February 2015

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods

Cultural Conversations Presents: An evening of connections across cultures

*February 4, 7-9pm
Bellevue City Hall, City Council Chambers*

Through their personal journeys, four Bellevue residents will help us explore how our diversity builds connections and resilience in our community

Immigration: The Promise and the Loss

In a story about the universal longing for a place to call home, Adriana Prengler shares her family's journey from their Venezuelan homeland in search of safety and a better future.

Journey to Education: Path to a New Home

Education changes lives, but may require brave choices and significant sacrifices. Follow Faisal Jaswal from Pakistan to Bellevue, facing challenges, garnering community support and shaping his values of today.



A Bond Across Cultures

Jane York born in the Pacific NW and Nura Adam from Somalia, appear to have little in common, but it was personal risk, generosity, and openness that created a surprising bond between the two. Hear how their friendship touched the lives of their families, their friends, and the community.

Join with your friends, spouses, partners and neighbors to share in an evening of heartfelt expression from fellow Bellevue residents, followed by open discussion tables that explore how diversity and culture impact us in our neighborhoods and our lives today. Free and open to the public; recommended for individuals of all ages, abilities, cultures and faiths, age 14 and up. Visitor parking is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information: www.bellevuewa.gov/seasonal-events.htm or email: NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov

Neighborhood Leadership Gathering

How Bellevue's economic growth and neighborhoods can prosper together

*February 26, 6:30-8pm
Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-108*

Don't miss the bi-annual Neighborhood Leadership Gathering hosted by Neighborhood Outreach. These gatherings are an opportunity for neighborhood leaders to meet each other and



Neighborhood Leadership Gathering

You are invited

Thursday, February 26

6:30-8 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-108 • Light Refreshments

to learn about community issues focused at the neighborhood level. This gathering will feature an introduction to the City of Bellevue's new Economic Development Director, James Henderson. James was born and raised in Bellevue and attended the University of Washington. Since 2005, he has worked in San Antonio where he most

recently served Assistant Director of the Economic Development Department. At the Leadership Gathering, James will brief us on how Bellevue's economic growth and neighborhoods can prosper together.

Neighborhood association members, emerging leaders and those interested in becoming more involved in their neighborhood are invited to attend. There is no cost to attend and light refreshments will be served. Please reserve your space by contacting neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.

Wilburton Streetscapes



Construction on streetscape enhancements for 124th Avenue NE will begin in late February or early March. A committee of neighborhood volunteers met several times to help select these enhancements. Streetscape changes such as planted medians, neighborhood signs, gateway treatments and colored or stamped concrete crosswalks will address future potential impacts along 124th Ave NE (between Main St and NE 8th St) and will enhance the look and feel of the roadway through the Wilburton neighborhood. In addition, curb ramps will be updated and the road will be overlaid with new asphalt and pavement markings. Contact Marina Arakelyan, project manager, at marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4632 with questions or comments. Learn more at www.bellevuewa.gov/124th-ave-improvements-wilburton-streetscape.htm.



Draft Comprehensive Plan Available for Review

Open Houses

February 25, 5-7pm, City Hall

February 26, 5-7pm, Interlake High School

After two years of collecting comments from the public and performing



a detailed analysis, the city is getting ready to present a draft Comprehensive Plan in mid-February. The Comprehensive Plan is Bellevue's 20-year, long-range planning document. It lays out a community vision for the future and spells out policies to guide the way, addressing a broad range of issues and opportunities, such as growth and changing demographics, transportation, affordable housing and homelessness, environmental stewardship, and economic development. The plan also is intended to help neighborhoods maintain their distinctive character even as they evolve to meet changing needs. Information about the Comp Plan Update is available on the project website <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm>. The public is encouraged to share comments on the draft plan by March 4th. An "online open house" will be available from February 13 to March 3 at <http://bellevue2035.publicmeeting.info/> which will provide visitors a convenient way to learn more about the plan and provide feedback. If you prefer to attend a meeting in-person, public open houses will be held from 5-7 p.m. on February 25 at City Hall, from 5-7 p.m. on February 26 at Interlake High School (see the calendar for details). A public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission at 6:30 p.m., March 4, at City Hall.

Mediation Training Course

Deadline to apply: Monday, February 16

The City's Neighborhood Mediation Program offers a variety of conflict resolution services to the Bellevue



community. As part of the program, the city offers a 40-hour Basic Mediation Training course to people who live, work or go to school in Bellevue.

Training is designed for those interested in developing mediation and conflict resolution skills. The cost for the training is \$395 and attendance at all sessions is required. The deadline to apply is Monday, February 16. Course days, times and locations are:

- Wednesdays, February 25 and March 4 at City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE: 5 to 9 p.m.;

- Fridays, February 27 and March 6 at City Hall: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and
- Saturdays, February 28 and March 7, Northwest Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mediation is a facilitated negotiation that encourages people in conflict to resolve their own disputes and shape their own agreements. In 2014 the Mediation Program facilitated 105 mediations on sensitive issues such as property lines, trees and noise.

The course curriculum includes conflict theory, communication skills, conflict styles and mediation tools. The training is also one of the prerequisites to becoming a mediator with the Neighborhood Mediation Program.

For more information or to register for the training, call 425-452-4091 or email mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov.

Alarm Registration to Cut Costly False Alarms



In an average year, Bellevue police officers respond to an estimated 3,300 false alarms, costing about \$85,000 in staff time. In an effort to cut the number of false alarms, the City Council in December

passed an ordinance requiring annual registration of all residential and commercial alarms in the city.

The city has hired Public Safety Corporation to track and collect payment for repeat false alarms through its CryWolf software. Other jurisdictions using CryWolf have seen false alarms drop by 40 to 80 percent.

Many false alarms occur because of homeowners' and businesses' inexperience with their alarms; the alarm triggered as people try to disarm or reset it without the right code. Pets may also set off alarms when they are picked up by motion sensors. Police

must go to the location when dispatchers can't reach the home or business owner because of outdated contact information.

The new ordinance will require from you and your alarm company:

- **\$25 annual registration** (\$12 for seniors and permanently disabled citizens);
- **enhanced call verification:** two calls are made by the alarm company to homeowners upon alarm activation; and
- **false alarm fines:** \$100 for burglar alarms and \$200 for panic/holdup alarms. The penalty will be waived the first time for either kind of alarm if the owner takes an alarm user class.

Annual registration allows residents and businesses to update all contact information at the time of renewal, which maintains the effectiveness of enhanced call verification. Alarms will need to be registered every January for the following calendar year.



Upon implementation of the program, alarm registration will be available online through the Bellevue website or by visiting the Service First Desk on the first floor of City Hall. Please contact the Bellevue Police for any questions or comments at CrimePrevention@bellevuewa.gov.

Construction Impacts

Construction continues on several private development, roadway and utility projects. These projects may impact traffic, and several will require lane or roadway closures. When traffic control is needed, please use caution when traveling through a construction zone, especially if you are walking or bicycling. Comply with roadway signs and obey flaggers and police officers. Safety is our number one goal for all.

To stay informed about the city's main projects, lane closures and road closures, become familiar with these online tools:

- Subscribe to E-Alerts on project web pages
- Traffic Advisories, updated weekly: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm
- Real Time Bellevue Traffic Map: www.bellevuewa.gov/trafficmap/
- An interactive map of current capital projects: www.bellevuewa.gov/capital-projects-map.htm
- Follow the Transportation Department on Twitter: @BvueTrans
- Download the MyBellevue App to access all of these tools on your mobile phone or tablet

Also, look for the next edition of It's Your City to see a complete listing of the city's capital projects and a story about construction projects happening this spring.

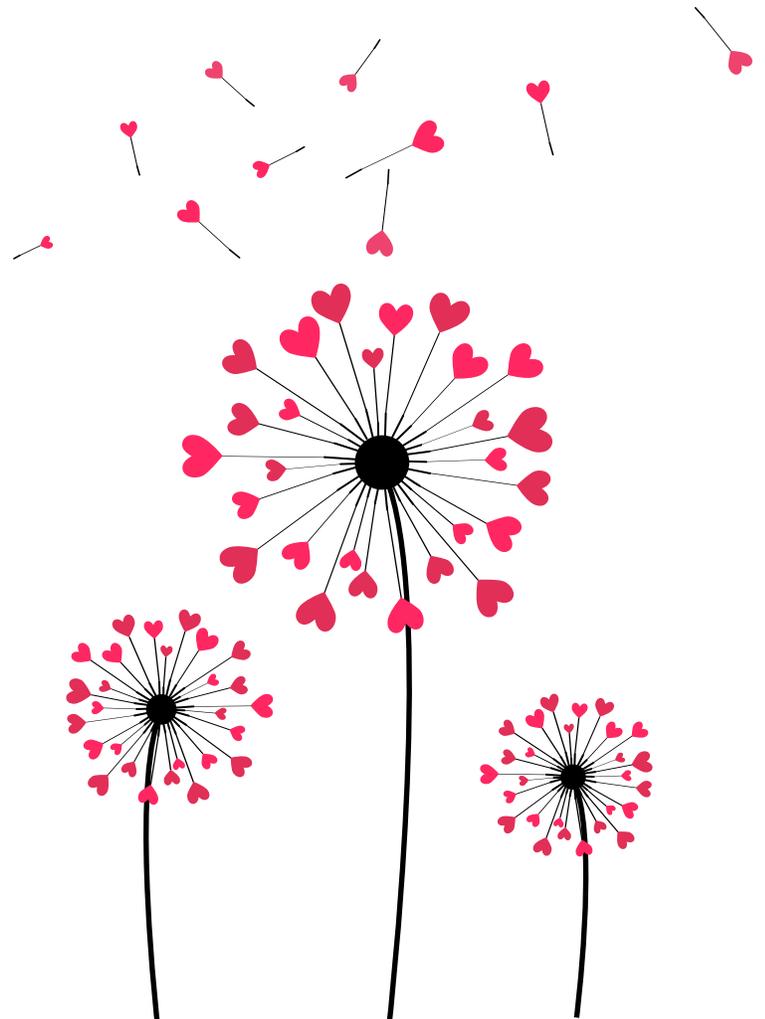
Assisted Listening Devices Available at City Hall Self-service Kiosk

Assisted listening devices are now available at a new self-service kiosk located just outside the Council Chamber at Bellevue City Hall.



Devices amplify sound for people who may have difficulty hearing and may be used by anyone attending meetings in City Hall.

In the past, assisted listening devices have been available but needed to be checked out from staff. The implementation of "self-serve check out" improves accessibility and doesn't require a reservation. Each device is clearly labeled and includes instructions.



February 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.)

2/3 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Update on Comprehensive Plan process and timeline, Bond refunding at recommendation of Financial Advisor (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, PSERN Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/3 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Energize Eastside presentation, Update on Lake Hills Shopping Center
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

2/3 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Review of CDBG applications
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

2/5 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30a.m., 1E-121) Emergency Preparedness, Committee Reports
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

2/9 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) East Link MOU, Report from City/Pace Team, Ped-Bike Implementation Plan (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/10 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-110) Recommendations for 2015 funding for artists and arts groups working in Bellevue, review of a call to artists for public art in Phase 1 of the Meydenbauer Bay beach expansion, and other regular commission business.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

2/10 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

2/11 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

2/12 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Mountains to Sound Greenway Transportation Facilities Plan; Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative; Downtown Transportation Plan Implementation
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

2/13 – 3/3 Online Open House Comprehensive Plan Update from February 13-March 3 at <http://bellevue2035.publicmeeting.info/> The website provides visitors a convenient opportunity to participate and provide feedback.
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm>

2/17 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Housing Discussion, Proposed 116th bike lanes (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Transportation Commission Report on draft scope for Ped-Bike Implementation Plan, Consent Calendar, Public Hearing on Street vacation, Action on Schnitzer FAR request
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/17 Library Commission (5:00 p.m. Lake Hills Library 15590 Lake Hills Blvd. Library Meeting Room) Effective advocacy
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

2/19 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) City Comprehensive Plan Update Status Briefing-Comments for Council Public Hearing; NPDES 2015 Stormwater Mgmt. Program Recommendations; Stream Team Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

2/23 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) City Manager's Report on CAP Requests, Management Brief on East Main Station area update, East Link Project Update, Regional Issues
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/24 East Main CAC (4:00 1E-113) Land Use and Transportation
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.htm>

2/25 Open House (5:00 – 7:00 p.m. City Hall, 1E-108) Comprehensive Plan Update public open house
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm>

2/25 Planning Commission (6:30p.m., City Hall 1E-108) Joint Boards and Commissions meeting
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

2/26 Open House (5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Interlake High School Library 16245 NE 24th St.) Comprehensive Plan Update
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.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.