

neighborhood news



March 2015

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods

Cultural Conversations

"Disconnected by Relocation - Unintended Consequences of Placing Women's Careers On-hold"

***Tuesday, March 24, 1-3pm
Crossroads Community Center***

In this month's Cultural Conversations, the women's group will explore the challenges and opportunities for individuals who relocate with their spouses and are unable to work due to government visa restrictions and/or lack of personal and professional connections.

This topic affects women residing on the Eastside, as communities such as Bellevue have become increasingly diverse due to companies hiring talented individuals to meet the demands of a global society. When new employees arrive, most are relocating their families to our community, many times from across the US or the world, leaving behind connections, support, attained education and work/life experiences.

While many women place their dreams of career on-hold and are initially excited for their families' relocation adventure, they are suddenly faced with the reality of having sacrificed personal fulfillment and purpose. The recognition of this sacrifice is often met with loneliness, isolation and depression.

You'll hear from a diverse group of women from different countries who will share their stories of that journey including the challenge of feeling alone, finding humor in unlikely friendships, and the courage to recognize

pivotal moments. These women will provide insight on how they have been able to begin to re-invent themselves and how connection with others from all over the globe have become their lifeline.

Cultural Conversations is a women's group that was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City of Bellevue providing an opportunity to enhance knowledge and understanding of different cultural practices and world views. The events are free, refreshments are served and women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. To fully participate in the sharing, we encourage you to make arrangements for childcare. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please contact cross@bellevuewa.gov

Gateway Signs Coming to Northtowne

Open House

***Wednesday, April 1, 6-8pm
NW Arts Center, 9825 NE 24th St. Bellevue***

Northtowne neighborhoods, a collection of smaller neighborhoods spanning 98th Ave NE to I-405 and NE 12th St to Hwy 520 wants to welcome you to Northtowne! The neighborhood has organized and is working on a project to bring identity signs to the neighborhood. New signs will be located southbound near Spring Hills and northbound at NE 15th and Bellevue Way.

Northtowne residents are invited to a public open house to help choose a final sign design. Potential sign designs will be available to





view at an open house this month. Residents will be able to vote on their choice. Those unable to attend the open house can also vote on the city website.

Immediately following the open house, at 7pm, residents are invited to stay for a Northtowne Community Club meeting. In 2013 the City undertook a major effort to update its comprehensive plan. The process was both collaborative and innovative, and involved people from across the community through classic and innovative outreach tools. One of the

key changes proposed in the draft update is a new Neighborhoods Element that supports updating the individual neighborhood area plans. Paul Inghram, Comprehensive Plan Manager, will come and talk about the new draft Comprehensive Plan and the future neighborhood planning work. You can review the draft plan here: <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/comp-plan-update-drafts.htm>

For more information on the sign project, contact Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach, jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov. For information on the neighborhood meeting, contact northtownecommunityclub@outlook.com.

Residential Energy Savings Could Earn City \$5 Million Prize



The City of Bellevue has advanced to the semifinal round of 50 cities chosen to compete for the Georgetown University Energy Prize, a \$5 million award to the small- or medium-sized U.S.

community that can reduce the most energy over the next two years.

Bellevue's strategy for winning the prize includes an increased commitment to promoting resources already available to residents through Puget Sound Energy. Residents are encouraged to start saving energy by taking advantage of the following resources right away:

- Residents who live in single family homes are encouraged to take advantage of PSE's free HomePrint service, which provides customers with an overview of their home's energy use and on-the-spot installation of up to 20 high-efficiency LED light bulbs;
- Multi-family residents are encouraged to take advantage of PSE's multi-family "Direct Install" program;
- All residents are encouraged to call PSE's Energy Advisor Hotline at 800-562-1482

(Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm) to learn about the range of services, subsidies, and behaviors that can help you cut your home energy bills.

The City is already beginning work with local schools and youth groups to make a community call to action, creating the Eastside Energy Corps program that will provide students with valuable career skills in communications, organizing and energy management, while problem solving local environmental issues.

The latest efforts build on past successes and are part of the city's Environmental Stewardship Initiative. For example, the popular Solarize Bellevue campaign in 2014 will result in the installation of over 45 new solar arrays across Bellevue. And, in working to make its own government operations more efficient, the city has cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 20 percent and saved nearly \$1 million in energy costs since 2009.

For more information about Bellevue's efforts and how you can save energy, visit www.GreenWA.org or contact Paul Andersson at pandersson@bellevuewa.gov. For more information about the Prize, visit www.GUEP.org

Public Hearing on Draft Comprehensive Plan

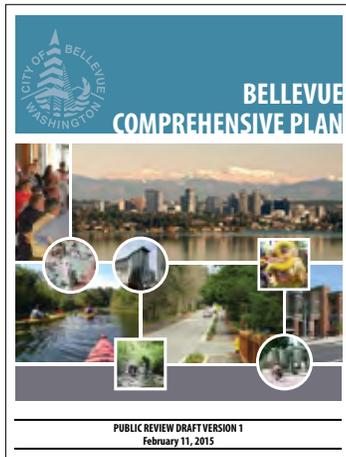
*Wednesday, March 4, 6:30pm
Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-113*

Following the release of the first draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan in February, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on March 4 to hearing public comments.

The Comprehensive Plan is the citywide policy document that encapsulates the community's vision and guides the city's approach to growth and development over a 20-year planning period. Mandated by the state, the plan was last updated in 2004.

People can read about and comment on the draft using an "online open house" <http://bellevue2035.publicmeeting.info/> that will run through March 3. The website offers a convenient way to participate and give feedback on the Comprehensive Plan. A limited number of printed copies of the plan are available for review at City Hall and at Bellevue libraries.

The City's Comprehensive Plan Update web page <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm> offers extensive information about the update process, background material and videos. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission is anticipated to hold a number of deliberations on March 11, 18 and 25 (tentative dates) before making a recommendation to the City Council.



2nd Annual School & Family Fair

*Wednesday, March 11, 6-8:15pm
Interlake High School,
16245 NE 24th St, Bellevue*

A district wide fair co-sponsored by the Bellevue School District, Family Connections Centers, Bellevue PTSA Council and Eastside Pathways will provide families with an opportunity to connect and learn all the available resources in the district and the community. Come explore summer camps, childcare resources, sports camps, enrichment programs, counseling, health care, high school programs, higher education, and more!

The event will also feature special presentations on social & emotional learning, summer learning opportunities, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education (STEM) in elementary schools and college planning. There will be over 50 organizations represented and 6 parent education sessions for k-12 families. As families arrive, a program with the list of the organizations represented at the fair will be provided.



New Bellevue Youth Theatre at Crossroads Park Grand Opening Celebration

*Saturday, March 14, 11am-1pm
16000 NE 10th St. Bellevue*

Come celebrate the grand opening of the new Bellevue Youth Theatre, an innovative new 12,000 square foot round space featuring an outdoor amphitheater and grass-topped roof. The event will feature a ribbon cutting at 11am, followed by refreshments, tours and demonstrations. To learn more about the event or the Youth Theatre project, visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_theatre_expansion.htm or call 425-452-7155 or email byt@bellevuewa.gov.



New Gym & Park Improvements at Hidden Valley Park

Saturday, March 28, 9:30 to 11:30am
1905 112th Ave NE, Bellevue

Come celebrate a new gymnasium, new turf sports fields and other park improvements at the Hidden Valley Park this month! The project is a partnership of Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue and Bellevue Parks & Community Services. For more information about the event or gym scheduling, call Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue at 425-454-6162. For field reservations, call Bellevue

Parks & Community Services
at 425-452-6914 or
email ballfieldrental@bellevuewa.gov



remain unfinished, currently functioning as a temporary vehicular entrance and parking area. In 2008, Bellevue voters passed the Parks & Natural Areas Levy that included funding to complete the circular promenade and canal, a major entry at 102nd Avenue NE, and relocation of parking to an expanded parking lot off of 100th Avenue NE.

Additionally, the existing playground will be expanded through a partnership with the Bellevue Rotary. Known as Inspiration Playground, the playground will retain the popularity of the existing playground with an added focus on inclusive, accessible play opportunities “dedicated to fun, imagination and learning, where all ages and abilities play and explore at their own pace.”

Attend the upcoming Open House to learn more about these exiting DTP projects.

For more information, contact Ken Kroeger – 425-452-4624 or kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov.

Changes Coming to Your Downtown Park

Open House

Thursday, March 26, 5:30-7pm
Bellevue City Hall Concourse

The Downtown Park (DTP) has become one of the most recognizable and well-loved



places in Bellevue, and plays a pivotal role in making

downtown Bellevue an appealing place to live, work and play.

The Bellevue City Council took a bold step in 1984 by adopting the DTP Master Plan. Since then, the city has worked to fulfill the vision of that plan, completing two major construction phases. However, the distinctive circular promenade and entry at 102nd



Wilburton Streetscapes Enhancement Project

Construction will soon start for the Wilburton Neighborhood. A neighborhood committee helped develop streetscape features that will be built between Main Street and NE 8th St on 124th Ave NE. The project will include a gateway Wilburton Neighborhood sign, planted medians, crosswalks, pavement markings, lighting for pedestrians and landscaping. The traffic calming features have the potential to reduce vehicle speeds, enhance pedestrian safety and provide aesthetic improvements that accentuate the identity of the Wilburton Neighborhood. The goal is to have motorists recognize that they are driving through a residential neighborhood and not in a business or commercial area. The neighborhood committee's goal was to address potential future impacts in and near this 124th

Ave Corridor south of NE 8th St. Construction work hours will be Monday through Thursday, 7am to 6 pm. The project is expected to be completed by June. Please expect frequent lane closures for this project; you may want to consider alternate routes over the next several months. We know that construction delays are an inconvenience; we appreciate your patience and understanding as we make these streetscapes enhancements on 124th Avenue NE.



For project questions or comments, please contact Marana Arakelyan, project manager, at 425-452-4632 or marakelyan@bellevue-wa.gov. For construction questions, please contact Clint Nelsen, construction inspector, 425-452-6960 or cnelsen@bellevuewa.gov.

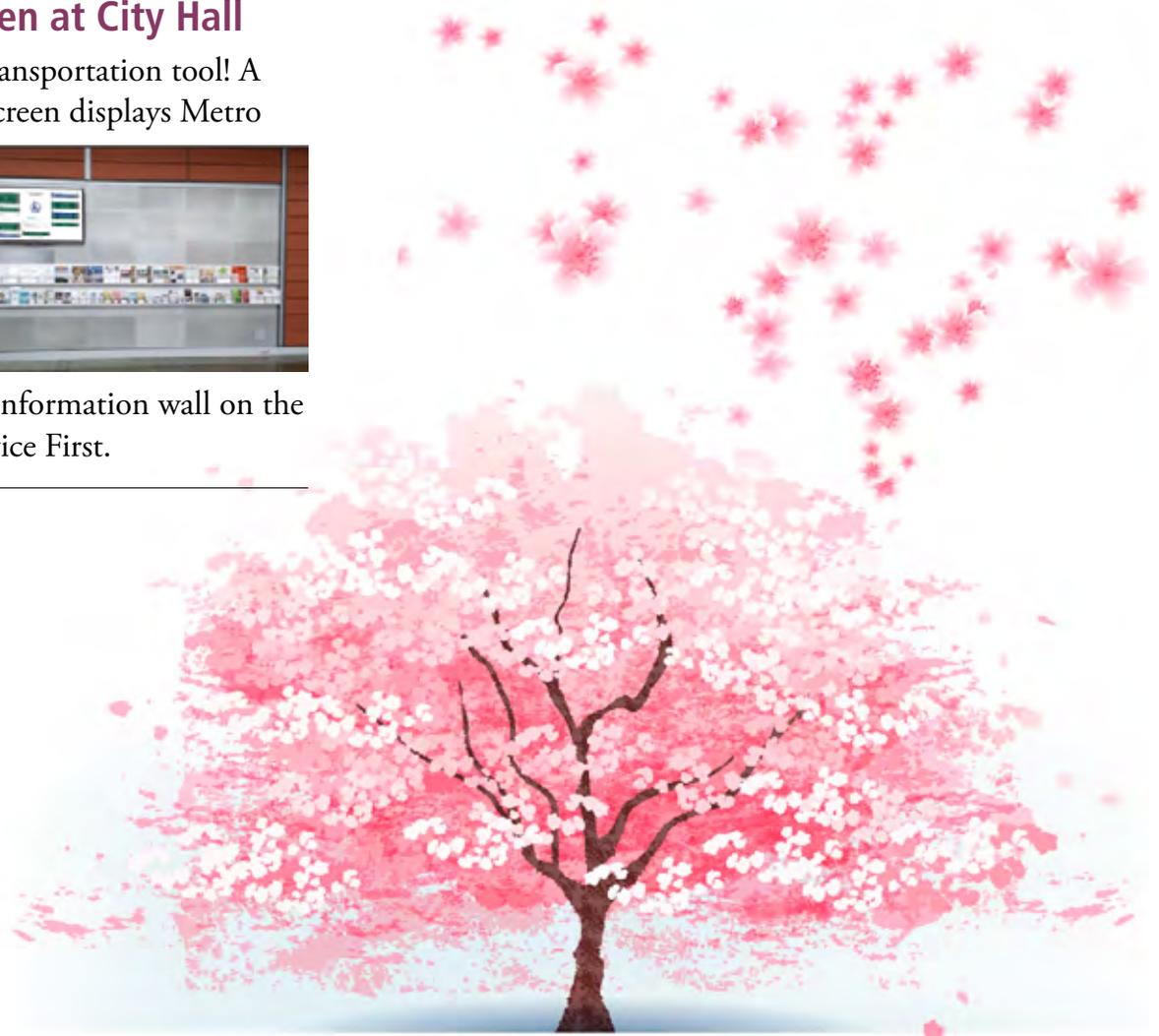
New Transit Screen at City Hall

City Hall has a new transportation tool! A shiny new television screen displays Metro and Sound

Transit bus departures from the Bellevue Transit Center in real time. Find



the new screen at the information wall on the first floor, next to Service First.



Sewer Project will affect Traffic in Bellefield Area

April-September

The City's Utilities Department will start construction of the Bellefield Pump Station Capacity Improvements project this month involving the replacement of an existing sewer pump station and discharge pipe with a larger station and pipes at 112th Ave SE and SE 15th St.

From April through September, the two northbound lanes on 112th Ave SE will be closed from SE 15th St south to Bellevue Way. During this time, traffic will be diverted to the two southbound lanes (one lane in

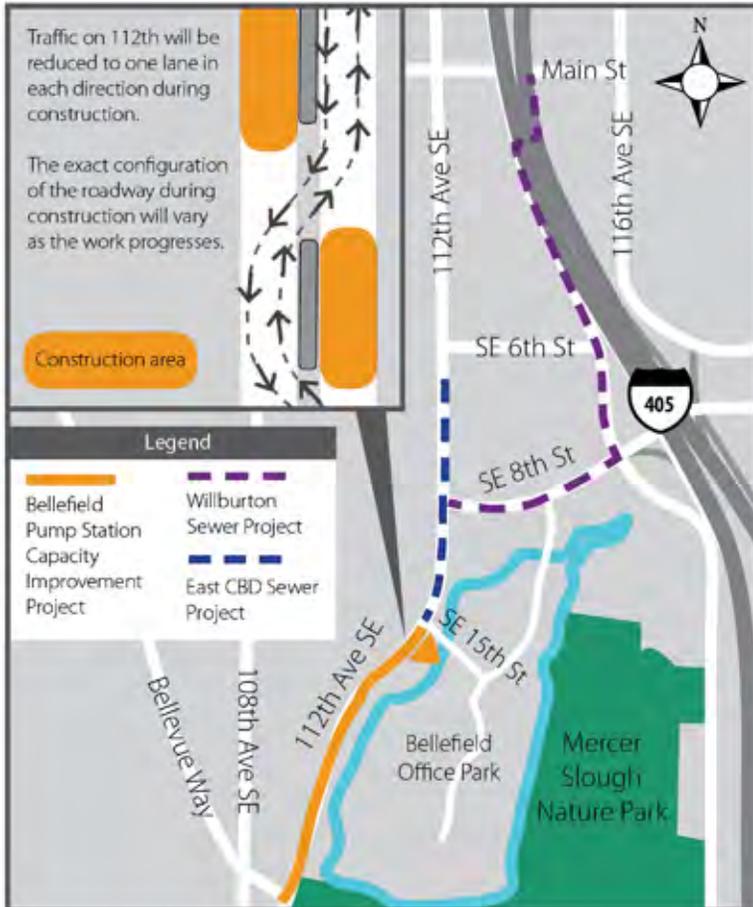
each direction will remain open). SE 15th St (Bellefield Office Park entrance) will also be closed for three weeks to construct pipe crossings (time period will be determined once construction starts). Message signs will be posted in advance to inform motorists.

Improvements are needed to meet increased sewer capacity that will serve the downtown area as it continues to grow, and to replace aging infrastructure. Work hours will be between 7 am and 5 pm Monday-Friday, with potential weekend and evening work for limited periods as necessary for working through intersections. Expect heavy equipment, delivery of materials, construction noise, and traffic delays. The

project is scheduled for completion in spring of 2016.

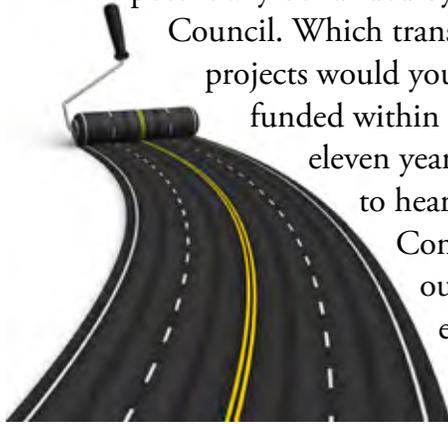
Two other large sewer projects in the area—the East Central Business District (CBD) Sewer Trunkline Improvements and the Wilburton Sewer Capacity Improvements will begin construction later in 2015.

Questions? Please call Jay Hummel, PE/Senior Engineer at 425-452-4160. For information updates on these projects, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/bellefield.htm



Transportation Facilities Plan Update for 2016-2027

The Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) represents project candidates that could potentially be funded by City Council. Which transportation projects would you like to see funded within the next eleven years? We'd like to hear from you. Come to one of our outreach events to share your thoughts:



***Thursday, March 12 at Bellevue City Hall
4:30-6:30 pm, Room 1E-108
450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue***

***Tuesday, March 17 at Crossroads Mall
4:30-6:30 pm, just outside Mini City Hall
15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue***

***Thursday, March 19
at Marketplace at Factoriat
11:30 am-1:30 pm,
4055 Factoria Square Mall SE, Bellevue***

You can also take an online survey and drop your comments on an interactive map. Learn more at www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation-facilities-plan.htm Email TransportationTFP@bellevuewa.gov with questions or comments about this plan update.

New Bike Lane at 108th and Main

Part of 108th Ave NE, just north of Main St, will soon have a dedicated green bike lane and an improved landscaped median. The new bike lane will provide a designated place for southbound cyclists to wait at the signal, reducing potential conflict with right-turning vehicles. A median extension will provide a significant amenity for Downtown residents and will create an attractive transition between downtown Bellevue and adjacent neighborhoods.

Construction will begin in March and continue through April. Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians are encouraged to find alternate routes during construction. Safety is our priority!



Contact Kyle Potuzak, project manager, at kpotuzak@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2027, with questions or comments.



March 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.)

3/2 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Management Briefs on East Main and South Bellevue Station Area Update and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report(8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Arts Commission Funding Allocations Recommendation, Consent Calendar, Option Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Bonus Floor Area http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/3 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Extension of the room rental ordinance and a courtesy hearing on Comprehensive Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

3/3 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Reports on public art projects in process, allocations decision by City Council, and other regular business. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

3/3 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Reports on public art projects in process, allocations decision by City Council, and other regular business. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/3 South Bellevue Station Area Planning Open House (5:00-7:00, 1E-108) Open House to share potential station area strategies with South Bellevue community before including in final South Bellevue Station Area Plan <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.htm>

3/4 Planning Commission (6:00, 1E-113) 6:00 – Executive Session; 6:30 – Public Hearing Comprehensive Plan; Comprehensive Plan Deliberations http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/5 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30a.m., 1E-108), Comprehensive Plan Update, Committee Reports http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

3/9 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Energize Eastside Update, Water System Plan and Interest Statement (first of two discussions) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/10 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Bellevue Youth Theatre-Crossroads, 16051 NE 10th Street) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

3/10 East Main CAC (4:00 1E-120) Pedestrian/bicycle access <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.htm>

3/11 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan Deliberations http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/12 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Transportation Facilities Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Transportation Demand Management program http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

3/12 Transportation Facilities Plan Update Open House (4:30-6:30, 1E-108) Opportunity for public input on candidate project list for the 2016-2027 Transportation Facilities Plan update <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation-facilities-plan.htm>

3/16 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Plan (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Board Report, Consent Calendar, Multifamily Tax Exemptions (MFTE)Public Hearing, Council Rules Amendments http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/17 Library Commission (5:00, Newport Way Library 14250 S.E. Newport Way) E-books and new developments in buying materials for KCLS collections http://www.bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

3/17 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/17 Transportation Facilities Plan Update (5:00-7:00, Crossroads Mall just outside Mini City Hall) Community Conversation Table; Opportunity for public input on candidate project list for the 2016-2027 Transportation Facilities Plan update <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation-facilities-plan.htm>

3/18 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan Deliberations http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/19 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) 2014 Financial Performance Review, Solid Waste Contract Performance Audit & Customer Satisfaction Surveys Review http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

3/19 Transportation Facilities Plan Update (11:30-1:30, Marketplace at Factoria) Community Conversation Table; Opportunity for public input on candidate project list for the 2016-2027 Transportation Facilities Plan update <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation-facilities-plan.htm>

3/23 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) State of the County Report from KC Councilmember Hague, East Link Monthly Update, Regional Issues, Planning Commission Transmittal Regarding Rental Housing Permanent Regulations, Water System Plan and Interest Statement (second of two discussions) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/24 East Main CAC (4:00 1E-113) Land Use Redevelopment <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.htm>

3/25 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan Deliberations http://www.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, call 425-452-6836.