

# neighborhood news



March 2020

news for and about  
Bellevue neighborhoods

## The 2020 Census is nearly here!

Watch the mail in  
mid-March for your  
official invitation to  
be counted.



**BELLEVUE  
COUNTS**  
2020 Census

It will take just 10 minutes to answer 10 questions that will shape investments in our community for the next 10 years.

Check out our website at [bellevuewa.gov/2020census](http://bellevuewa.gov/2020census) for materials to support your efforts, including Bellevue 2020 Census videos in multiple languages.

The census is easy, important and confidential. The U.S. Census Bureau is **prohibited by law from sharing anyone's personal information** with any other government agency for 72 years. Confidentiality of census responses is taken seriously because the census is a cornerstone of our country's democracy, and everyone's participation is needed to ensure we have fair representation.

**Everyone counts. Together we thrive!**

## Save the Date: Next Cultural Conversations "Leaping Beyond Language"

Tuesday, March 17

1-2:30 p.m.

Crossroads Community Center

16000 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Bellevue, WA 98008



On Tuesday, March 17, join us at Crossroads Community Center from 1-2:30 p.m. as we kick off spring!

Spring is a great time for renewal, connection and getting outside - both out in the community and out of our comfort zone. In this conversation, we'll learn more about the groups that newcomers use to navigate Bellevue, the Eastside and the Pacific Northwest. Joining us will be long-time and new residents who are bridge builders with ESL (English as a Second Language) and for-credit programs such as the Learning English

in Action Program (LEAP) at Bellevue College. We'll hear how these programs build language skills and provide opportunities for rich cross-cultural exchange through new relationships. What might be some surprising points of connection as we learn together? Join the conversation and find out!



## Welcome to City Hall!

Thursday, March 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### Family Event in Spanish and English

To help our Spanish-speaking residents feel at home, the city is hosting "Welcome to City Hall!" with program information and resources available in Spanish and English. Don't miss this family-friendly night of fun and activities, giveaways, dinner at no cost and a chance to meet your Bellevue neighbors.

The fun takes place Thursday, March 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Families can interact with local fire and police officers, try on gear, get a close-up view of equipment and learn how the city works for you. Visitors can tour the city's traffic center where a bank of video screens shows traffic flow, participate in interactive learning about water and recycling, and experience natural resource activities with park rangers.

The Welcome to City Hall! event for the South Asian community will be held on Friday, April 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and for the Mandarin-speaking community on Friday, May 8, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Welcome to City Hall! events are co-sponsored by King County Libraries, Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) and the Bellevue School District.

## Neighborhood Enhancement Program

### Wilburton Kickoff

Tuesday, April 7

7-8:30 p.m.

Wilburton Elementary School Cafeteria

12300 Main Street

In April, the NEP process will be launching in the Wilburton neighborhood area with an allocated budget of \$133,000 for enhancements.



The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) is a \$5 million, city-funded, capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select projects that improve their neighborhood's quality of life and enhance its character. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas, serving two areas each year. Since 2015, NEP has rotated through the Eastgate/Factoria, Cougar Mountain/Lakemont, West Lake Sammamish, Northeast Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Northwest Bellevue, Downtown/BelRed, Lake Hills and Crossroads neighborhood areas.

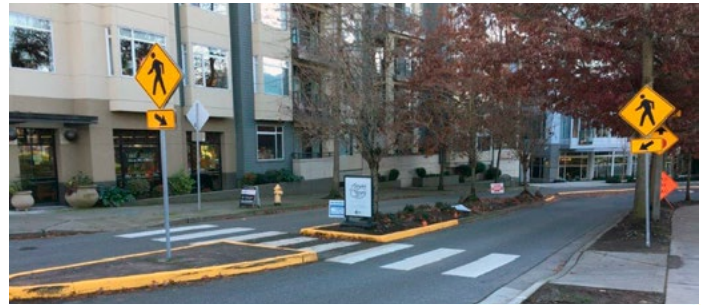
At the April 7 Wilburton Kickoff meeting, city staff will provide attendees with a brief overview of the program guidelines and schedule, answer questions, and invite folks to share, discuss and submit project ideas. Each household in the Wilburton area will receive a prepaid NEP Project Request Form in the mail. We encourage all residents in the Wilburton area to use this form, or the online project request form on the NEP website beginning April 7, to submit as many NEP project requests as they like by May 19.

To find out which NEP Neighborhood Area you call home, when NEP will be in your area, and how much funding your area has been allocated, please visit <https://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep>. For more information about NEP, please contact Theresa Cuthill at [tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-462-4186.

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[BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news](https://BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news)

## Work will improve crosswalks and medians near Downtown Park

Work is scheduled to begin in March on the Downtown Park Median Expansions and Crossing project. The roadway and sidewalk improvements will enhance safety and provide better accessibility for people traveling to the park. Construction is expected to wrap up in May 2020.



The street and sidewalk upgrades build on the Downtown Park Complete the Circle and Inspiration Playground projects, which brought major upgrades to Bellevue's city center green space in 2017.

Features of the project will include:

- ◆ New median on 100th Ave. NE, between NE 1st Street and NE 4th Street;
- ◆ Mid-block crossing and sidewalk rebuild on NE 1st Street, between 100th Avenue NE and 102nd Avenue NE; and
- ◆ Median and crosswalk rebuild on NE 2nd Street at NE 103rd Avenue NE.

Travelers can expect daily lane closures on 100th Avenue NE and on NE 1st Street. Sidewalks will be closed near construction zones and detours will be in place.



## New child restraint law in Washington state

A new child restraint law went into effect in Washington state on Jan. 1, 2020, and there are several new requirements. These simple safety precautions will help ensure your child rides safely every time.

- ◆ Children up to age 2 must ride in a rear-facing car seat.
- ◆ Children ages 2-4 must ride in a car seat with a harness, either rear or forward-facing.
- ◆ Children ages 4-13 must ride in a car or booster seat until they are 4'9" tall.
- ◆ Children up to age 13 must ride in the back seat when practical.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1-13. Using the correct seat can reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71%. The NHTSA also reports that nearly 60% of all car seats aren't correctly installed.

To make sure your child restraint or booster seat is correctly fitted to your child and that it is installed correctly, you can locate a car seat inspection site through the NHTSA website [NHTSA.GOV](https://www.nhtsa.gov).

Learn more about the Washington State Car Seat Law at [wacarseats.com](https://www.wacarseats.com)

## Happy Anniversary Paws on Patrol!

The Bellevue Police Department Paws on Patrol (PoP) program is celebrating its first anniversary, and many of its members are wagging their tails with excitement! To date, there are just over 200 human volunteers and even more of their four-legged, crime-fighting friends patrolling the streets of Bellevue daily. Heck, there's even one cat on patrol.



The PoP program principle is simple; when you're out walking your dog, be aware of your surroundings, and report any suspicious activity. No one knows our neighborhoods better than the

residents who call them home, so PoP volunteers are asked to be on the lookout and let the police know what's going on. It doesn't hurt to have more trained eyes and ears out there, preventing crime.

PoP volunteers receive basic training on how to spot and report suspicious activity, and your pup gets a special "Paws on Patrol" tag. "This is an opportunity to give back to your community while doing what you normally do every day. We ask that you pay attention to what's happening around you and report it if it doesn't seem right," said Volunteer Coordinator Marji Trachtman.

If you'd like to volunteer for Paws on Patrol, you can apply at [bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/police](https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/police). If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Crime Prevention Officer at 425-452-6915 or email [crimeprevention@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:crimeprevention@bellevuewa.gov).

## Become a neighborhood tree ambassador!

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a positive difference in your community, learn about trees, collect volunteer service hours, and develop your public speaking skills? Consider becoming a neighborhood tree ambassador!



Neighborhood tree ambassadors are volunteers who create and lead walking tours of the trees in their neighborhood to help promote the value and benefits of trees in the city. Ambassadors do not need any prior knowledge or experience. As volunteers within the 2020 pilot program, neighborhood tree ambassadors will receive training in tree identification and environmental education techniques and will work with Bellevue's urban forestry specialist to create and lead tree tours in their neighborhoods.

Neighborhood tree ambassadors must attend two training workshops:

- 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 21 at Bellevue Library
- 5:30–7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 1 at Bellevue City Hall

To learn more and apply, visit [BellevueWA.gov/trees](https://BellevueWA.gov/trees).

Please email [pmogilevsky@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pmogilevsky@bellevuewa.gov) with questions.



## Greener Living Class Series

### How can Bellevue be more sustainable?



Last fall the city heard from over 400 people and the message was clear: residents, major employers, small businesses, non-profit leaders and regional partners all believe that Bellevue should strive to be a leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship.

With direction from city council, environmental stewardship team members drafted [bold goals](https://bit.ly/2Vhbbj1) ([bit.ly/2Vhbbj1](https://bit.ly/2Vhbbj1)) for the community including achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045, 30% less energy use by 2050, 40% tree canopy by 2050, and more. Now the plan is entering the next phase of community engagement, which focuses on potential actions and methods used to achieve those goals.

- ◆ In March there are three opportunities for residents to provide input on the city's Environmental Stewardship Plan:
- ◆ Open House and Community Conversation, Tuesday, March 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Interlake High School
- ◆ The Open House is a drop-in event where you will be able to:
  - Learn more about the potential actions the city is considering,
  - Share your ideas for how the city can promote sustainability, and
  - Discuss your priorities in small focus-group conversations.
- ◆ **Family Sustainability Fair**, Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
- ◆ Learn how you can support sustainability with educational activities, tours and information on city programs.
- ◆ **Online Survey** – Learn more about the city's plan and share your priorities by taking our short survey.
- ◆ Each of these events are free and open to the public. To find out more information about these events and other opportunities to share your ideas, visit [EngagingBellevue.com/environmental-stewardship](https://EngagingBellevue.com/environmental-stewardship).

## Bellevue Network on Aging

### King County Partial Property Tax Exemption

The Bellevue Network on Aging reminds you to check if you qualify for reduced property taxes through new income thresholds to receive property tax exemptions.




For 2020, King County senior citizens and persons with disabilities are now entitled to a partial property tax exemption if their household income is \$58,423 or less, compared to the \$40,000 maximum income level to receive the exemption in 2019.

King County senior citizens and persons with disabilities may be eligible for a property tax deferral if their annual household income is \$67,411 or less.

For more information or to apply, go to [senior-exemption.kingcounty.gov/intro](https://senior-exemption.kingcounty.gov/intro) or call 206-296-7300.



 For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email [mheilman@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mheilman@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.



## Conflict Resolution Center

Have an issue with your neighbor? Tenant? Landlord? Parent? Teen? Could you use some help with a conflict? Think that you might need some help some day? Keep this article because the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center is ready to listen!



If you live or work in Bellevue, you already know that our city is something special. What you may not know is that we are the only city in the state of Washington that offers free conflict coaching and mediation services to our residents and workers. We give you the tools to tackle the difficult conversations that can come up between neighbors.

When you call our office, you will be invited to share your story with a highly-trained volunteer who will listen, without giving advice or judgment, so that you can get perspective and clarity. They will help you to think through options and approaches to resolving the issue, talking you through the roadblocks that may be keeping you from facing the other person.

The volunteer can also call the other person to learn about their perspectives and possible ideas for solutions. The volunteer can then negotiate a solution through shuttle diplomacy (we call it "conciliation"). In some cases, we can arrange a face-to-face mediation where mediators help you come to a written agreement, hopefully bringing peace between all people involved.

One resident wrote in her confidential evaluation, "Having this program available allowed me to move forward to try to resolve the issue through peaceful and fair means. It gave me a feeling of support, and I no longer felt all alone in my endeavor. It gave me a feeling of confidence that there was a fair solution, and the resolve to see that a solution was secured."

Know that we are here to help you sort things out. You can reach us at: 425-452-4091, or at [bcrc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bcrc@bellevuewa.gov)

## Groundbreaking ceremony for new Islamic Center of Eastside

Three years after devastating arson attacks destroyed the Islamic Center of Eastside, community members joined city officials to break ground on a new center. Mayor Lynne Robinson, Council Members John Stokes, Janice Zahn and Conrad Lee, as well as City Manager Brad Miyake were on hand to help celebrate the big step forward. Members of Bellevue's police and fire departments also attended. These departments have a personal connection to the center; they responded to the arson attacks and investigated the fires.

The new center will be built on the same site, 14700 Main Street, but will feature some major changes. What was once an old office building will now feature traditional Islamic architecture and high-quality materials such as stone, tile and metal. The new center will also better serve those who come to worship and receive services through improved ADA accessibility.



## Boards and Commissions Meetings

All meetings are conducted at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. If a holiday occurs on a Monday, please check the updated calendar. Agendas can be downloaded from the city's web pages listed below. Meeting alerts are available through subscribing to the City's Special Meeting Notices page. [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/special-meeting-notice](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/special-meeting-notice)

### Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

(6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-managers-office/diversity/bellevue-diversity-advisory-network](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-managers-office/diversity/bellevue-diversity-advisory-network)

**East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) First Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/east-bellevue-community-council](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/east-bellevue-community-council)

### Arts Commission

(4:30 p.m., 1E-109) First Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission)

### Environmental Services Commission

(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month [Utilities.BellevueWA.gov/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission](http://Utilities.BellevueWA.gov/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission)

**Planning Commission** (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second and fourth Wednesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission)

**Transportation Commission** (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second Thursday of each month with fourth Thursday as needed. [BellevueWA.gov/planning/transportation-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/planning/transportation-commission)

### Human Services Commission

(6 p.m., 1E-113) First and third Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/human-services-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/human-services-commission)

### LEOFF 1 Disability Board

(6 p.m., Room 1E-118) First Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/human-resources/retirees-former-employees/leoff-1-disability-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/human-resources/retirees-former-employees/leoff-1-disability-board)

### Library Board

(5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or Newport Way Library) Third Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/library-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/library-board)

### Parks & Community Services Board

(6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board)

### The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA)

8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/bnoa](http://BellevueWA.gov/bnoa)

### Special Events Committee

(8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Second Thursday of each month [Parks.BellevueWA.gov/special-events/special-events-committee](http://Parks.BellevueWA.gov/special-events/special-events-committee)

### Youth Link Board

(6 p.m., 1E-120) Second Wednesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board)

*Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division 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: [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods) or call 425-452-6836 or email: [neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov). To subscribe to this newsletter, visit: [BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news](http://BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news)*

## City Council [Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx](http://Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Day	Scheduled Meeting(s)	Location	Public Comment Opportunity
First and third Mondays except in August and December	6 p.m., Study Session	Council Conference Room	None
	8 p.m., Regular Session	Council Chambers	8 p.m., Oral Communications
Second and fourth Mondays except in August and December	6-10 p.m., Extended Study Session	Council Conference Room	6 p.m., Oral Communications
August – first Monday only	6 p.m., Study Session	Council Conference Room	None
	8 p.m., Regular Session	Council Chambers	8 p.m., Oral Communications
December – first and second Mondays only	6 p.m., Study Session	Council Conference Room	None
	8 p.m., Regular Session	Council Chambers	8 p.m., Oral Communications