

neighborhood news



December 2019

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods



Magic Season is here!

The Bellevue Magic Season made its debut downtown on Friday, Nov. 29, with the opening of Snowflake Lane – The One Place Where Snow Falls Every Night! For information on all events, visit bellevuedowntown.com/events/magic-season

Snowflake Lane

7 p.m. nightly, through Dec. 24

Bellevue Way, between Northeast 4th and Northeast 8th Streets

Experience the region's most festive holiday scene on the sidewalks between Bellevue Square and Lincoln Square from Northeast 4th



to Northeast 8th Streets! Experience all your favorite characters along with falling snow, beautiful lights and delightful holiday music.

- Bellevue Way Northeast, from Northeast Fourth Street to Northeast Eighth Street, will be closed every evening, 6:45-7:45 p.m. The parade begins at 7 p.m.
- Northeast Sixth Street, from 105th Avenue Northeast to Bellevue Way Northeast, will be closed 6-7:45 p.m.

Garden d'Lights

4:30-9 p.m. nightly, Nov. 30-Dec. 31

Bellevue Botanical Garden

12001 Main Street

Over half a million sparkling lights, formed into the shapes of plants, animals and water features, transform the Bellevue Botanical Garden



into a fantastic winter wonderland. Inspired by plants found in Northwest gardens, hundreds of volunteers work year-round to fashion strings of lights into three dimensional flowers, shrubs and vines.

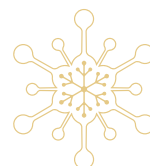
Refreshments are available for purchase at the Copper Kettle Coffee Bar in the Aaron Education Center. You can also view the Gingerbread Village, which was created especially for Garden d'Lights by neighbors in the Wilburton Community. The Trillium Store will be open every night of the event except Dec. 25.

Admission is \$5 per person ages 11 and over; children 10 and under are free.

Free parking is available at Wilburton Hill Park, a five-minute walk from the Garden. Premium parking in the Botanical Garden lot is \$5 per car, cash only, as space permits. A limited number of free disabled parking spots are available in the parking lot for visitors with limited mobility (with disabled parking permit). For more information visit GardenDLights.org, or call 425-452-6844 for a recorded message containing event details.

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Bellevue Ice Rink

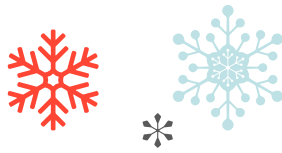
Nov. 29-Jan. 20

Downtown Park

Northeast First Street and 100th Ave. Northeast

Connect with friends and family while getting great exercise at the Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink presented by Symetra. The rink is open daily including holidays. Hours and pricing vary. Weekdays*:

General Admission: \$12; Children (11 and under): \$10 (*not applicable Dec. 23-Jan. 3), Weekends/Holidays: General Admission: \$15; Children (11 and under): \$13. For information, visit BellevueIceRink.com.



Holiday Performances

Meydenbauer Center Theatre
Holiday Performances

Dec. 2-31

11100 Northeast 6th St.

Meydenbauer.com

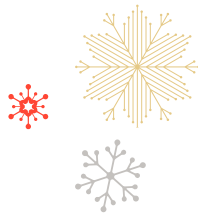
Hilltop Holiday Craft Show

Dec. 4-7

Northwest Arts Center

9825 NE 24th St.

Keep it local with thousands of hand-crafted items from over 60 selected Northwest crafters! The show features one-of-a-kind products, including holiday ornaments, decorations, pottery, jewelry, wood and knit items, and more. Learn more at NWAC@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4106.



Celebrate “greener” holidays with these eco-friendly tips

One million extra tons of trash will hit U.S. landfills each week between November and January! How can we create holiday joy without adding extra waste? Here are a few tips for eco-friendly celebrating.

- **Ditch disposable tableware** if you can. A few extra dishes can save tons of plastic waste from going into landfills. If you use disposables, opt for recyclable or compostable brands.
- **Reuse gift wrap:** Save durable items like bags, boxes and bows for second use. Or use beautiful

reusable materials, like cloth wrappings inspired by the Japanese Furoshiki tradition. Make it a family game to find the most creative zero-waste wrapping.

- **Get creative with holiday greetings:** It's estimated the U.S. sells enough holiday cards to fill a football field 10 stories high – and most will end up as trash! Consider e-cards or give greetings over the phone. Pro-tip: repurpose old cards as gift tags or donate for others to reuse.
- **Waste less food** during your big holiday meals by hosting a potluck or sending guests home with leftovers in reusable containers.
- **Give green:** Experiences need no packaging! Give certificates or tickets to favorite events your loved ones can enjoy together - like restaurants, massages, plays, concerts or sports events. Plan a day trip or an adventure to somewhere new. Gift memberships, classes or even donations to a cause that's important to a loved one.
- **Make room for the new:** Instead of tossing, take outgrown toys, clothes and other items in good condition to local charities that support community members in need.
- **Remember to recycle** when the holiday is over. Most wrapping paper can be recycled in your curbside cart. See plasticfilmrecycling.org to find out where you can take plastic packaging. Many local retailers and organizations host holiday light recycle events, and you can compost your holiday tree and other greenery. See Republic Services' recycle guide or visit BellevueWA.gov/RecycleRight for more information.



You can find more great tips to help make holiday memories without making waste at KCGreenHolidays.com. Questions about holiday recyclables, or have more great tips to share? Email us at recycle@bellevuewa.gov.



The votes are in!

Lake Hills chooses six projects as part of Neighborhood Enhancement Program



Thanks to all Lake Hills neighbors who participated in the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) over the past several months. The program kicked off in April with the city receiving 182 resident-identified project ideas for how to spend the \$508,000 budget allocated for the Lake Hills Neighborhood Area. City staff reviewed each of the submitted project ideas for accessibility, feasibility, cost, timeline and maintainability. 24 projects were presented on the mailed ballot for residents' consideration in September. 746 ballots were returned and six projects were chosen for funding:

1. Bat Houses at Lake Hills Greenbelt
This project will install a series of bat houses along the Lake Hills Greenbelt trail system. Bats provide many benefits:

- Bats are a vital part of the ecosystems in which they live.
- Many are considered "keystone species" because so many other plants and animals depend on them for survival.
- Bats are predators of night-flying insects such as mosquitos, moths, beetles and flies.
- Bat droppings are one of the world's best fertilizers.

2. Wetland Improvements at Phantom Lake Park
This project will restore roughly two acres of wetland buffer around Phantom Lake. Restoration will include removing invasive plant vegetation and planting native conifer trees and shrubs to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

3. Flashing Crosswalk at Southeast 4th St. and 156th Ave. Southeast
This project will install a new marked crosswalk and a new push-activated flashing crosswalk over 156th Ave Southeast at Southeast 4th St. A new concrete bus pad will be added at the existing northbound bus stop. The project will require clearing shrubs and reconstructing a curb ramp on the east side of the street.

4. Northeast 6th St. Wetlands Improvements: South side of Northeast 6th St., between 148th Ave. Northeast and 150th Place Southeast
This project will improve the Kelsey Creek wetland habitat by removing invasive vegetation and

replanting with native trees and shrubs. The focus of this project will be to introduce suitable conifer tree species within the existing tree canopy that is currently dominated with short-lived, deciduous pioneer tree species. This increase in biodiversity will provide a functional lift to the existing wetland ecosystem.

5. Main Street Median Landscape Refurbishment

This project will include landscape renovation and beautification to the medians on Main Street between 140th Ave. Northeast and 156th Ave. Northeast. This project will replace the existing landscaping where practical, with plant selection to specifically avoid sight distance problems while enhancing neighborhood character. Existing trees will remain in place. Actual areas to be renovated will be determined after investigation of the site and any determination of future impacts to the area. Irrigation will be upgraded to a more efficient system to advance water conservation goals.

6. Robinswood Park Adult Exercise Equipment

This project will add five or six pieces of adult exercise equipment similar to those at the Wilburton Park Play Area. The project will include curbing and surfacing.

NEP is a city-funded capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select small-scale projects that improve the quality of life and enhance the character of their neighborhood area. In August 2015, Bellevue City Council dedicated \$5 million to NEP. The \$5 million allocation is distributed among the city's 14 NEP neighborhood areas based on the number of households in each area. NEP rotates through the 14 neighborhood areas at a rate of two neighborhood areas per year.



Next on the list for NEP in 2020 are the Crossroads and Wilburton neighborhood areas. Crossroads will kick off Jan. 22 with a meeting at Stevenson Elementary School, and NEP will begin in Wilburton in early April. 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 BellevueWA.gov/nep or contact NEP Coordinator, Theresa Cuthill, at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4186.



Next Cultural Conversations

Tuesday Dec. 3, 1-2:30 p.m.

“How a Game Provides a Window to Understanding Local Indigenous Culture”

Crossroads Community Center
16000 NE 10th St.

Dr. Jeanette Bushnell, as an educator and citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota, will share why and how she and her partners developed an educational game, “Potlatch: A Game about Economics.” Combining a presentation with time to play the game, Dr. Bushnell will provide an overview of the game and what we can learn about local native people, history, language and cultural values. Following her presentation, we will have table conversation to share what we’ve learned and ask any additional questions.

Dr. Bushnell is a mostly-retired professor from the University of Washington. Born and raised in Olympia, WA, she is Anishinaabe and Irish. She also started the N.D.N. Players Research Group that critiques, writes about, discusses and develops games as they relate to indigenous peoples.



Cultural Conversations, a program in its tenth season, has transformed relationships and perspectives among diverse women in our community through education and storytelling. Please join us for tea and conversation. To fully participate in the sharing, attendees should plan for childcare. RSVP appreciated for planning purposes at NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-6836.

Join a Robinswood Park Tree Tour!

Friday, Dec. 13, 12-1:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Meet next to the western parking lot at 148th Ave. Southeast and Southeast 24th St.

RSVP at BellevueWA.gov/trees

Winter is the perfect time to explore the many majestic evergreens in Bellevue’s parks. The city’s Tree Tour program guides attendees through the forests right

outside their doors.

Participants at the fall tours of Downtown Park and Weowna Park learned



to identify some common tree species and gained new perspectives on the role of trees in cities. This December, the tours are expanding to Robinswood Park!

You’re invited to join the city’s urban forestry specialist to learn about Bellevue history, urban tree canopy and our area’s iconic tree species. The tours are lighthearted, educational and suitable for all ages. For more information, go to BellevueWA.gov/trees, or email PMogilevsky@BellevueWA.gov.

Holiday Fire Safety

Family, friends and festivities! These come to mind when we think of the winter holiday season. What most of us don’t consider is that the holidays also can pose an increased threat of home fires. The good news is, with minimal effort, a few small behavior changes can help you create new traditions and keep your loved ones safe.



Unattended cooking is still the leading cause of home fires and fire injury. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, boiling or broiling your holiday meals. Encourage your family and friends to join you in the kitchen, but be sure to maintain a three-foot “kid-free” zone around any area where hot foods or drinks are prepared. While we all appreciate the smell of warm cookies, don’t rely on your nose to remind you that the oven is on. Set a timer when baking or roasting foods.

Candles are an integral part of many holiday celebrations, so it is no surprise that December is the peak month for candle fires. More than half of the fires start because the candles have been placed too close to items that could catch fire. Consider replacing open-flame candles with battery-operated ones. There have been a lot of innovations in replicating traditional ambience, including cherished scents and flickering candlelight. Battery-operated is best, but if you are burning candles, a good rule of thumb is to keep them at least 12” away from anything that can burn, use

sturdy candle holders, and always extinguish the flame when leaving the room.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one of every 52 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death. And 25% of Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems. When decorating your tree, use lights that have a label of a recognized testing laboratory and follow manufacturers recommendations for the appropriate number of strands to connect. If your tree is artificial, make sure it's labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant. If your tree is fresh, water it daily. Keep all trees far from any heat source, including fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles, heat vents and lights.

For more information on holiday safety, visit [nfpa.org/holiday](https://www.nfpa.org/holiday) and [usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html)

Internet marketplace: Buyer and seller beware

Buying and selling stuff using internet sites such as Craigslist or OfferUp is a great way to repurpose things or make a little extra cash. Most times, the sale goes off without a hitch. You find something, make an offer and meet the seller to buy it.

But recently, a 17-year-old from Bellevue used OfferUp to commit two armed robberies in two days. He posted an ad on OfferUp to sell a laptop, but when the victims showed up at the designated spot to buy the computer, he pulled out a gun and demanded their money.

OfferUp cooperated with the Bellevue Police, and detectives were able to identify and locate the suspect quickly. In less than 36 hours from the first robbery, the suspect was in jail.

These two incidents should serve as a warning for anyone meeting up to buy or sell items over the internet. There are a few simple things you can do to help protect yourself.

- Meet in a very public place that's brightly lit.
- Make sure there are cameras present.
- Do not go at night.
- Bring someone with you, don't go alone.
- Be wary of offers that sound "too good to be true"; they probably are.
- Trust your gut. If something just doesn't feel right, cancel the sale and leave.

For more information on online marketplace transactions, go to the OfferUp website (<https://blog.offerup.com/staying-safe-on-offerup-the-dos-and-donts-of-online-marketplace-transactions-541cacd28e34>).

Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center Wishes You Happy Holidays!



The fall weather can bring blowing leaves, clogged gutters, trees hanging over your property and more, especially as we spruce up our houses for the holidays! Unfortunately, conflicts can arise between neighbors about how we use our outdoor spaces, where guests park their cars and party noise.


It can be hard to raise these concerns with a neighbor, or perhaps you have a neighbor who has raised a concern with you. Maybe they approached you in an unfriendly manner. It's important to remember that just avoiding issues can result in long-term resentment that will sour relations with your neighbor, but there are ways the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center can help!

We have trained volunteers who want to hear about these situations. They can help you find ways to raise your concerns with your neighbors while maintaining a positive relationship with them. We can also provide mediation services. Our mediators will sit down with you and your neighbors to help create agreements that address the needs for both sides. Mediators ask questions such as "Could you tell me your perspective?" and "Can we discuss options?" to truly understand the issues and find workable solutions for all.

We believe that conflict is an opportunity to improve relations, build trust and respect, and to think creatively about how neighbors can collaborate so everyone can enjoy the holidays. Happy Holidays!

Call us at 425-452-4091 or email BCRC@bellevuewa.org



 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. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

Making the 2020 Census Count for Your Neighborhood

Have you considered any of these questions: How do I advocate effectively for traffic



safety improvements along my street? How do I illustrate the need for English as a second language programming at my community center? How can I help ensure that children and older adults in my neighborhood are prioritized for assistance in the case of an emergency? Making a strong case for all of these important priorities begins with providing accurate data on how many people will be impacted.

Having accurate population data helps decision makers direct the right amount of resources to the right places so that tax dollars are spent on programs and facilities that are most effective. The census is the critical source for much of that data.

Knowing how many people walk, bike, take transit or drive along your street will illustrate the magnitude of safety benefits for any street or sidewalk improvements. Knowing the number of people who speak English "less than very well" in my neighborhood and the specific languages that they speak would enable managers of community centers to design programs and schedules for the needs of people in the community. Knowing where older adults and children are concentrated in your neighborhood would enable emergency service providers to prepare plans ahead of time for helping the most vulnerable populations in neighborhoods during emergencies.

Data on the number and the demographics of people living in a neighborhood originates with the decennial census, which counts everyone residing in the United States once every ten years. April 1, 2020 is the next decennial Census Day. Getting an accurate count of everyone next spring will have a lasting impact on Bellevue, as the number of people counted in 2020 will be the basis for all future population estimates and associated projects for the next ten years.

The 2020 Census helps decision makers use accurate data to allocate funding for important community improvements and activities.

You can help ensure a complete and accurate count in your neighborhood by:

- Understanding the importance of the 2020 Census to your community
- Sharing what you learn about what the 2020 Census is, why it is important to our local community and how it will be conducted

- Hosting a census party to make filling out the questionnaire a celebration of everyone counting for the future of our communities

For more information on the 2020 Census, its importance to Bellevue and how you can get involved, go to the city's 2020 Census webpage at BellevueWA.gov/2020census.



East Link Construction: Traffic revisions reflect final configuration

As with any traffic revision, drivers are adjusting to the road-over-rail segment on 112th Avenue Southeast and the two-way traffic configuration on 136th Place Northeast. These revisions were implemented last month as East Link light rail construction continues. They reflect how the lane configurations will look once trains start running in 2023.

Two-way traffic on 112th Avenue Southeast, between Bellevue Way Southeast and Southeast Eighth Street, will eventually be expanded to two lanes in each direction when roadway construction is completed in summer 2020.

In BelRed, a two-way traffic configuration has been established on 136th Place Northeast. To access businesses on the west side, use eastbound Northeast 20th Street. To reach businesses on the east side, use Northeast Spring Boulevard. U-turns for southbound traffic are allowed at the intersection of 136th Place Northeast and Northeast Spring Boulevard. The light rail trackway is being built in the center of the roadway.

Ways you can learn about traffic revisions in Bellevue:

- View traffic cameras from the MyBellevue app 
- Subscribe to receive traffic alerts at BellevueWA.gov/trafficadvisories
- Follow @BvueTrans or @BvuePD on Twitter 



Rendering of road-over-rail segment on 112th Avenue SE



2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

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

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

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

Environmental Services Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month 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

Transportation Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second Thursday of each month with fourth Thursday as needed. 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

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

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

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

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

Special Events Committee (8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Second Thursday of each month 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

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 or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov. To subscribe to this newsletter, visit: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

City Council 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