

# neighborhood news



January 2021

news for and about  
Bellevue neighborhoods



## Presenting Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit

Friday, Jan. 8 | 1-4 p.m.

In acknowledgement of six years of work through the city's Diversity Advantage Initiative, the City of Bellevue presents the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit

The summit aims to create a virtual space for participants to come together to reflect, have dialogue and take collective action toward creating a more equitable community for all. The summit will explore the history, progress and vision of the city's diversity, equity and inclusion work, and the work of others in our communities to promote equity.

During the summit, the city will share lessons learned and explore the important work that remains. As part of this collective work, the summit will include breakout sessions to learn, share and re-envision together a more equitable future for all. Peers and partners in government, nonprofits, education and business are invited to join in the discussion on topics of racial equity, accountability and skills building for driving a more inclusive and equitable culture in the community.

Presenters will cover topics around racial equity and results-based accountability, a future state planning of our community, and universal design in outreach and engagement of Black, Indigenous and people of color communities.

To register and for more information, visit:  
[BellevueWA.gov/diversity-advantage-summit](https://BellevueWA.gov/diversity-advantage-summit)

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual Celebration and Health Fair

Monday, Jan. 18 | 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. invite you to join us for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Health Fair, hosted virtually on MLK Day.

This special event will include:

- ◆ Remarks by elected officials, input from community leaders, and live entertainment to honor Dr. King's legacy of a healthy, thriving community.
- ◆ Virtual highlights of health prevention resources and at-home demonstrations.
- ◆ A showcase of local businesses and nonprofits with opportunities for door prizes.
- ◆ Partnership with BloodWorks Northwest for the *Bellevue MLK Blood Drive* – you can schedule a donation from Jan. 15-29 at [dslnk.co/CityOfBellevue](https://dslnk.co/CityOfBellevue) as part of the celebration.

Register to attend the virtual celebration here:  
[bellevue-mlk2021-healthfair.eventbrite.com/](https://bellevue-mlk2021-healthfair.eventbrite.com/)

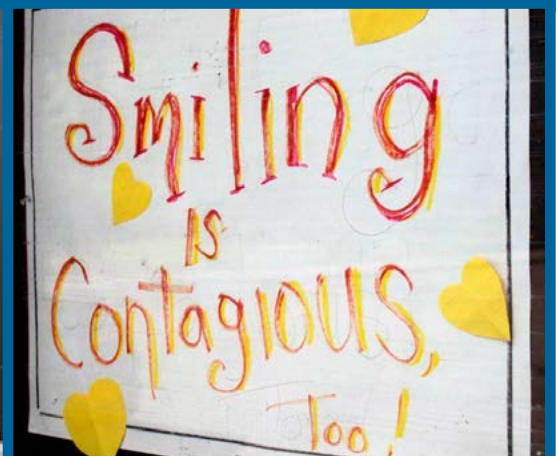
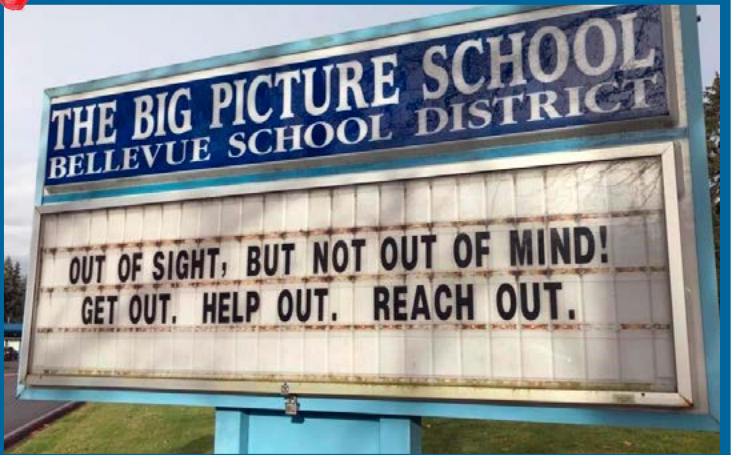
For additional information or accommodation requests, contact Yuriana Garcia Tellez at 425-452-7886 or [diversity@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:diversity@bellevuewa.gov).



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



# Signs of Hope





## Free high-volume COVID-19 test site comes to Bellevue

There is a new option for convenient, free COVID-19 testing in Bellevue. A new site at Bellevue College is now open, expanding efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 in east King County and along the I-90 corridor. This is the first no-cost, high-capacity COVID-19 test site on the Eastside. This site is free and open to anyone, regardless of insurance or immigration status.

If you have COVID-like symptoms or have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, Public Health – Seattle & King County urges you to avoid contact with others and get tested immediately. Stay home and away from others while you are waiting for test results.

The new test site is located at Bellevue College, 2645 145th Ave SE, Bellevue. The entrance is on 148th Ave SE. Drive-through and limited walk-up testing is available. The test site is accessible via the 221, 226, 245, and 271 bus lines.

The test site is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. People are strongly encouraged, but not required, to register for a testing appointment. Visit [ichs.com/free-covid-19-testing](https://ichs.com/free-covid-19-testing) for scheduling and registration. Visit [kingcounty.gov/covid/sites](https://kingcounty.gov/covid/sites) to see information on all free test sites, including Bellevue College.

The test site will be operated by International Community Health Services (ICHS) and hosted by Bellevue College, with support from King County and the City of Bellevue.

## Neighborhood Enhancement Program coming to West Bellevue area this month

[BellevueWA.gov/nep](https://BellevueWA.gov/nep)

### West Bellevue NEP Virtual Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to [Neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov) for Zoom Link

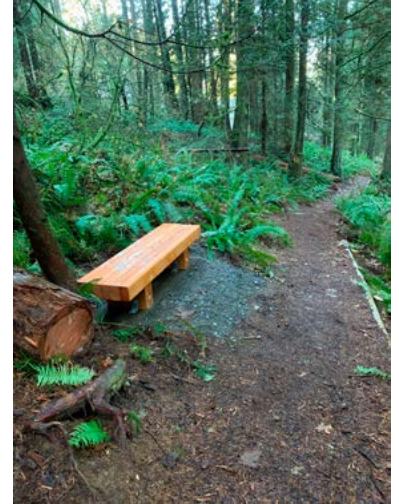
The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) is a \$5 million, city-funded, capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select projects that improve their neighborhood's quality of life and enhance its character. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas, serving 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, Crossroads and Wilburton neighborhood areas. This month, the NEP process will be launching in the West Bellevue area, which has been allocated \$294,000 for enhancements.

A virtual kickoff meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 6:30-8 p.m. 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. City project managers will be available in breakout rooms for specific project discussions. Following the kickoff meeting, each household in West Bellevue will receive a prepaid NEP Project Request Form in the mail. Residents are encouraged to use this form or the online project request form on the NEP website to submit as many NEP project requests as they like by March 4.

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](https://BellevueWA.gov/nep). For more information about NEP, please contact Theresa Cuthill at [tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov)



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.

## Coaching and Conciliation Training 2021

24 hours of virtual training

Feb. 8-10 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zoom link provided upon registration.

Are you a natural listener and a good communicator? Do you want to learn skills to help create peace in our community? Are you culturally sensitive? Do you speak a second language? Do you live or work in Bellevue? Got time?



If so, you are encouraged to apply to become a conciliator with the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center which helps people in the Bellevue community resolve their conflicts. Conciliators assist callers in understanding their issues, exploring options and developing strategies for problem resolution. In this training, you will learn conflict theory, advanced communication skills, negotiation, coaching, database usage and procedural tools. These skills are useful even if you don't volunteer with BCRC!

During COVID, we need your skills more than ever to help resolve conflicts in a remote world. Working under the guidance of Governor Inslee, and in partnership with the attorney general's office, and with other dispute resolution centers throughout the state, our volunteers are helping renters and landlords work together to create repayment plans for past due rent, in addition to other community conflicts. We hope you will consider becoming a part of this vital work.

There is no charge for the training. Attendance at all sessions of the training is required. Both the training and subsequent volunteering are steps to becoming a future certified mediator with our program.

Please email us at [bcrcc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bcrcc@bellevuewa.gov) to express interest in this training. We will send you details and a registration form. Class size is limited. The application deadline is Jan. 29.

Questions? Call 425-452-4091.

## Take a different kind of walk – a Data Walk!

One thing that people are doing a lot more of during the pandemic is walking. We're spending more time walking around our neighborhoods, connecting with neighbors, and making new discoveries. This past November, residents in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue got to take a different kind of walk – a Data Walk.

A data walk is an interactive way for community members to learn about their neighborhood through the lens of data. Attendees looked at data related to housing, transportation, parks, safety, people and more. Then participants reflected on what those numbers said about each neighborhood's strengths and challenges.



Participants called out the beauty of their neighborhoods and the access to nature and parks as an important strength. They also expressed appreciation for the diversity of their neighborhoods. Some of the biggest challenges that participants mentioned were related to affordability and mobility. People noted that the high cost of living makes aging-in-place difficult and impacts economic diversity. Attendees also expressed a desire to have more safe options for walking and biking.

If you missed this event, there is still an opportunity to participate.

Visit our online engagement website [engagingbellevue.com](https://engagingbellevue.com) to find out more and join a Virtual Data Walk. There are five sections – Neighborhood Overview, Community Connections, Access & Safety, Environment & Sustainability, and Diversity. Each section includes a short video overview

of the data and space for you to share your reflections on what the data says to you about the strengths and challenges facing your neighborhood.

Northeast Bellevue – [tinyurl.com/NE-Bell-Data-Walk](https://tinyurl.com/NE-Bell-Data-Walk)

Northwest Bellevue – [tinyurl.com/NWBell-Data-Walk](https://tinyurl.com/NWBell-Data-Walk)

These data walks are part of our Great Neighborhoods program, which is a collaboration between the city and residents to create neighborhood area plans. These neighborhood area plans serve as a roadmap to the future. They start with an inspiring and positive vision of what the community wants to be and then provide directions to city staff, elected officials, developers and other stakeholders on how to get there.

Neighborhood plans are a reflection of the community's hopes and dreams and that means we need to hear from you! Your voice matters. If you have questions about the neighborhood planning process or would like to find out more about how to get involved, please reach out to Brooke Brod at [bbrod@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bbrod@bellevuewa.gov).

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## Winter weather is here! Are you prepared?

*By Ellen Montañana  
Emergency Planning Program Administrator  
City of Bellevue Fire Department  
Office of Emergency Management*

It's that time of year again: Winter has officially begun! We have all dreamed about building snowmen and racing



down hills on our sleds, even as we've been staying indoors and practicing social distancing for the last few months. The National Weather Service has predicted we will have La Niña conditions this year, which are known to bring colder and wetter winters to the Pacific Northwest. However, it's important to remember that while often beautiful and fun, snowstorms and windstorms can result in downed trees, icy roads and extended power outages that can pose challenges to our day-to-day activities and become hazardous if we are not properly prepared.

This year has highlighted how important it is for all of us to maintain our emergency kit and make sure

our family emergency plans are up-to-date. However, here are some key steps you can take this winter to make sure you and your loved ones are ready for the season ahead:

### Preparing your home

Help make your home "winter ready" by taking some simple steps:

#### Clear debris from gutters

- ◆ Repair roof leaks
- ◆ Clear debris from storm drains
- ◆ Remove hazardous tree limbs
- ◆ Insulate water pipes and faucets
- ◆ Make sure heating equipment, furnaces and chimney are properly maintained
- ◆ Install battery-operated carbon monoxide and smoke detectors and check the batteries regularly

### Preparing your vehicle

You never know where you may be when a windstorm or snowstorm hits. Take some steps now to prepare your vehicle so you'll be ready for an emergency no matter where you are:

- ◆ Keep an emergency kit with warm clothing in the car.
- ◆ Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- ◆ Install snow tires or purchase tire chains.
- ◆ Maintain proper windshield fluid levels and replace wipers when they are no longer functioning well.
- ◆ Ensure your vehicle's heater and defroster work properly.

### Stay Informed

Learning more about our local hazards and staying updated on possible storms is essential in making sure you're prepared. Fortunately, there are many resources to help you stay connected and know what to expect:

- ◆ Sign up for Alerts for the City of Bellevue [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WABELLE/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WABELLE\\_102](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WABELLE/subscriber/new?topic_id=WABELLE_102) and for King County [public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF0D5C5CC09C](https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF0D5C5CC09C)
  - ◆ Keep up to date on local power outages using the PSE Power Outage Map [pse.com/outage/outage-map](https://pse.com/outage/outage-map)
  - ◆ Learn more about winter weather preparedness on the Bellevue Fire Department Office of Emergency Management's Snow and Ice website [bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/fire/emergency-management/hazards/snow-ice](https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/fire/emergency-management/hazards/snow-ice) which has links to The City of Bellevue Winterize guide and Take Winter by Storm preparedness tips.
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## Update on Bellwether arts festival!

Bellwether is the City of Bellevue's annual arts festival. The festival planned for 2020 has been moved to 2021, which means next year will be two big years in one. As a way to celebrate our growing roster of artists and curators, we have created a Winter Market and Gift Guide with large and small artworks on sale by our talented roster of artists and curators from past Bellwether festivals. All sales are made directly with the individual artists, so 100% of the proceeds go directly to artists in this challenging time. The Winter Market and Gift Guide will be open through Lunar New Year on Feb. 12. Visit [bellwetherart.org](http://bellwetherart.org) for more information.

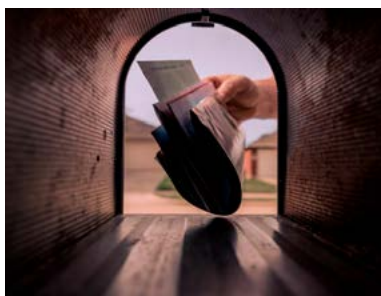


## USPIS Inspector joins Bellevue Police Department as mail theft skyrockets

An inspector with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is now embedded in the Bellevue Police Department to help crack down on mail and package theft. This partnership comes as Bellevue has seen a 72% increase in mail theft reports recently compared with the same time period in 2019. Additionally, package theft reports have also more than doubled.

"Unfortunately, the actual numbers are probably much higher because people often don't report the thefts," says Major Andrew Popochock. "We hope that by working closely with the postal inspector, we'll increase awareness, safety precautions, and arrests across Bellevue and the Eastside," Popochock added.

The postal inspector is currently coordinating with BPD officers to investigate cases and respond when officers find crimes in progress. The USPIS is also deploying a Bait Parcel Operation across the Eastside. During



this operation, detectives place trackers inside bait packages, and investigators follow the box and arrest the porch pirates in possession of the stolen package. The USPIS plans to continue its work well into 2021. Stressing the importance of reporting mail and package theft, the inspector continuously analyzes the data to identify patterns and links to Bellevue cases.

Here's what you can do to help prevent being a mail or package theft victim:

- ◆ Promptly pick up your mail.
- ◆ Deposit mail close to pick up time.
- ◆ Sign up for Informed Delivery [informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action](https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action)
- ◆ Inquire about overdue mail.
- ◆ Don't send cash.
- ◆ Use Hold for Pickup.
- ◆ Arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail.
- ◆ Request signature confirmation.
- ◆ Designate a delivery location for packages.
- ◆ Sign up for a package tracking service.
- ◆ Promptly report any theft.

For more prevention tips, visit [USPIS.gov](https://USPIS.gov). Please report mail or package theft online: [shorturl.at/ryADF](https://shorturl.at/ryADF).

## Senior resource ideas from the Bellevue Network on Aging

The Bellevue Network on Aging would like to increase awareness of services, programs and products that can serve seniors, people with disabilities and, in some instances, a broader range of adults with important information.



### Access to food:

The Meals on Wheels program is available to adults aged 60+ who have difficulty shopping or cooking. Frozen meals can be delivered weekly. To learn more or apply, go to [soundgenerations.org/our-programs/food-security/meals-on-wheels/](https://soundgenerations.org/our-programs/food-security/meals-on-wheels/) or call 206-448-5767. Food can also be obtained from **Hopelink Food Bank**, 14812 Main St., Bellevue on Tuesdays from noon until 4 p.m., on Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Masks:

The Bellevue Chamber of Commerce distributes free masks. Call 425-454-2464.

## Transportation:

- ◆ The **King County METRO** website at [kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/travel-options/bus.aspx](http://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/travel-options/bus.aspx) provides general information for bus transportation, including DART and ACCESS (disability support.) Call 206-263-3113.
- ◆ For specific **ACCESS** qualification requirements go to: [wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access/eligibility.cfm](http://wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access/eligibility.cfm).
- ◆ **Crossroads Connect** is a new, on-demand (gives a ride from home to bus stop) service available to Crossroads and Lake Hills neighborhoods five days per week, see [bellevuewa.gov/city-news/crossroads-connect-launch](http://bellevuewa.gov/city-news/crossroads-connect-launch) or call 1-855-233-6043.
- ◆ Transportation to medical Medicaid appointments can be arranged by **Hopelink**, see [hopelink.org/needhelp/transportation/medicaid-transportation](http://hopelink.org/needhelp/transportation/medicaid-transportation) or call 1-800-923-7433.
- ◆ **The Sound Generations Volunteer Transportation Program** will drive King County residents aged 60+ who meet program requirements to medical appointments. The service requires advance notice, call 206-448-5740. Some Medicare Advantage plans cover medical appointment transportation. Check your policy coverage.

## Internet connections, computers, technology training and online meetings:

- ◆ To locate **free internet access** (public wi-fi hotspots) provided by the City of Bellevue, check the outdoor locations listed at [bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/ITD/services/public-wifi](http://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/ITD/services/public-wifi).
- ◆ **Low-cost internet subscriptions** (income qualified) are available from Comcast. Additional information is available at [internetessentials.com/](http://internetessentials.com/). As an Internet Essentials customer, you will qualify for a refurbished computer/laptop at reduced cost.
- ◆ Additional information on **other low-cost internet access** can be found at [highspeedinternet.com/resources/are-there-government-programs-to-help-me-get-internet-service](http://highspeedinternet.com/resources/are-there-government-programs-to-help-me-get-internet-service).
- ◆ During this difficult time of social restriction, **King County Library System** offers a wide range of technology assistance via a one hour

1-on-1 meeting, on-line or by phone. To set up your training meeting, go to [1.KCLS.org/TechHelpOnline](http://1.KCLS.org/TechHelpOnline) or phone 425-369-3389.

- ◆ For those with hearing loss, **closed captioning** can enable you to see on your computer screen the words that are spoken at a virtual meeting. For example: [otter.ai/zoom](http://otter.ai/zoom). For captioning at City of Bellevue meetings, contact the meeting host or the Bellevue ADA Coordinator at [bamson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bamson@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6168.

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## “Support Local” efforts key for small businesses

*By Philly Marsh, Economic Development Manager*

The City of Bellevue encourages residents to support local shops, restaurants and organizations after Gov. Jay Inslee announced further tightening of public health restrictions. The new restrictions were in response to increasing COVID-19 case numbers in the state.



The public can be a key part of the effort to keep local businesses afloat through the pandemic.

There are a variety of ways for residents to adapt their consumer behavior in relatively minor ways that may provide meaningful support to local businesses.

- ◆ **Shop locally online from the many local establishments equipped with a web store.** Many retail locations offer curbside pickup or private store appointments, which still are allowed within the current restrictions. Special business features are also available through the Bellevue Downtown Association's Heart of Bellevue feature to learn more about the businesses operating in downtown Bellevue.
- ◆ **Utilize curbside pick-up or delivery from local restaurants.** While indoor dine-in service is restricted, takeout is available. The What's Open Eastside online map shows which restaurants are open and their service options.
- ◆ **Embrace the season and dine outdoors.** While indoor dining is restricted, outdoor dining is allowed, but limited to a maximum of five people

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per table. Many restaurants have expanded outdoor dining areas or made their outdoor spaces more comfortable for year-round al fresco service. Call ahead to understand availability and amenities.

- ◆ **Get (and give) gift cards.** Purchasing gift cards now for post-COVID outings gives local shops, attractions and restaurants a boost when they need it most. Gift cards are also an easy way to shop and offer something to look forward to.
- ◆ **Keep physically active online.** While fitness facilities and gyms are closed for indoor operations, many have online programming.
- ◆ **Share your favorites.** Sharing positive business experiences and products helps spread the word about local businesses, especially small shops, and can help businesses establish a following that will continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city is providing assistance to Bellevue businesses in a variety of ways including \$660,000 in financial support for small businesses and business support organizations, business assistance through (re) Startup425 to help small businesses adapt and navigate all available sources of relief and helping restaurants expand their outdoor dining options. More information on assistance for businesses can be found at [BellevueWA.gov/bizresources](http://BellevueWA.gov/bizresources).

## A time for giving: A homeowners' association responds to local needs

*By JJ Ewing and Catherine Zimmerman*

Every day, we read about individuals and families impacted economically and emotionally by the pandemic. And food insecurity, an issue for too many people, is on the rise - including in our city.

The Forest Highlands homeowners' association has modest annual dues used to support a garden area at the neighborhood entrance, mailbox repairs, parties for the neighbors in the summer and a dinner for all the members at the annual fall HOA meeting. As we get together twice a year, share a meal and catch up on what's been happening with one another, over the years the events have created a sense of community and togetherness. With COVID-19, these happy events had to be cancelled or conducted via Zoom.

At our recent annual meeting, one of our residents suggested, "Could our HOA donate those unspent funds "extending the hospitality" to those in need in



our area?" Residents at the meeting voted unanimously for the board to review options and to select a recipient organization. The board focused on Bellevue-based organizations providing food relief and made a donation to Jubilee Reach. It's hoped that other HOAs in Bellevue will also support charities as unemployment and food needs persist. We are all lucky to live in a great community and it's important to help those that may need help now.



## Bellevue College Winter Campus Community Conversation

Tuesday Jan. 26 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Online, via Zoom

Join our online meeting with Vice President of Administrative Services Dennis Curran to learn about what's happening on campus, share your concerns, and ask questions. These informal conversations are designed to improve communication and create connections with our surrounding residential and business communities. There is no set agenda for these meetings, just an open Q&A.

Join the meeting via Zoom online at: [bellevuecollege.zoom.us/j/82518542713](https://bellevuecollege.zoom.us/j/82518542713) or by calling 1-253-215-8782 and entering the meeting ID 825 1854 2713.

For questions, please email [nadescha.bunje@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:nadescha.bunje@bellevuecollege.edu).





## Simple Resolutions for a Zero Waste Year!

Kickstart the new year with Zero Waste goals for yourself and your family. Let's incorporate waste reduction and recycling actions as part of our "new normal." The City of Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Plan includes a goal to reach Zero Waste of Resources citywide by 2050. Bellevue Utilities can help! Check out these resources for actions you can take to protect our environment.

- ◆ Recycle Right! Keep your eyes out for the new 2021 residential recycling guide from Republic Services inside the next Bellevue *It's Your City* newsletter.
- ◆ Become a Super Sorter and learn responsible reorganizing, how to reduce food waste and ditch disposables, and more in our Greener Living community classes! Classes on a variety of zero waste topics will be offered at no cost throughout the year. Visit [BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes](https://BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes) to view class topics and register.
- ◆ Recycle More! Do you have unusual or bulky items you want to avoid sending to the landfill, but you're not sure what to do with them? Check out the Recycle More guide for local year-round disposal options. [BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more](https://BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more)
- ◆ When in doubt, find out! Still have questions about waste reduction, recycling, or composting? Contact us at [recycle@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:recycle@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6932.

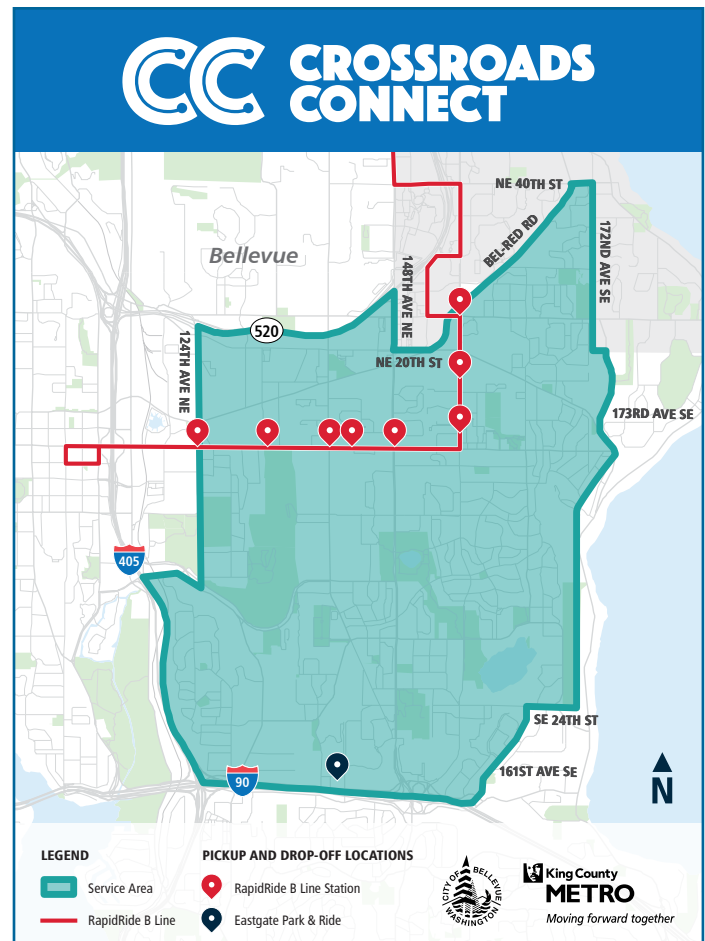


## Crossroads Connect ride service area expands south to I-90

Following its launch in October, the app-based rider service called Crossroads Connect recently expanded its service area a second time to better serve the public. The revised service area in northeast Bellevue now extends roughly from SR 520 south to I-90, and west to 124th Avenue Northeast or I-405.

The new service area includes Bellevue College and the Eastgate Park and Ride, linking homes, jobs, schools and shopping to Metro bus routes that serve the broader Eastside.

Customers can now take a trip to or from any of eight RapidRide B Line station pairs within the Crossroads



area, as well as the Eastgate Park and Ride. A map of the expanded service area is available on the project web page [BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect](https://BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect). The web page includes information in seven languages.

Other features of the Crossroads Connect service remain the same:

- ◆ **Booking a ride:** To request ride, use the Crossroads Connect On-demand app (available in your preferred app store) or call 1-855-233-6043. Passengers will be picked up in a Crossroads Connect-branded, wheelchair-accessible passenger van. If wait times are long, passengers may be offered a cab ride instead at no additional charge.
- ◆ **Connecting to buses:** Pick-up/drop-off areas at Metro's RapidRide B Line stations and the Park and Ride offer connections to downtown Bellevue and Redmond. Metro routes 221, 226 and 245, serve Eastgate, downtown and Factoria in Bellevue, plus Kirkland and Redmond. From the Park and Ride, connect to downtown Seattle on Metro routes 212 and 218, and Sound Transit Express route 554, or Metro route 240 to Renton
- ◆ **Cost and how to pay:** Standard King County Metro rates apply; the cost is the same as a bus ride and

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includes a free transfer to connecting bus lines. Fares may be paid using an ORCA card, cash (exact fare required), Transit GO ticket or a valid transfer.

- ◆ **Health and safety:** Masks are required. At this time, for safety and physical distancing, service is limited to one rider per vehicle; additional riders are allowed if they are members of the same party as the rider booking the trip. King County Metro vehicles are disinfected daily; partitions separate riders from drivers.

## Online forums make it easy to learn, comment on transportation projects

Digital engagement seems to be more the rule and less the exception these days. The pandemic has required the city to use online public involvement tools more because in-person gatherings are not allowed under the Governor's COVID-19 restrictions.

The Transportation Department often uses online engagement and wants your feedback on three upcoming projects. Online open houses will be held at [EngagingBellevue.com](https://engagingbellevue.com) in the coming months.

### South Downtown I-405 Access Study

Since spring, the city, in partnership with Washington State Department of Transportation, has been evaluating the feasibility of a possible new interchange that would improve vehicle access to and from Interstate 405, in the south downtown area. An initial online open house in August netted a wide range of comments on seven proposed alternatives, including a no-build option.

In mid-January, a second virtual open house will share the analysis of five alternatives as directed by the City Council:

- ◆ Lake Hills Connector southbound on-ramp;

- ◆ Southeast Sixth Street extension with a southbound on-ramp;
- ◆ Southeast Sixth Street extension with express toll lane access to and from the south;
- ◆ Northeast Second Street extension to the Wilburton area; and
- ◆ No new interchange.

Look for engagement opportunity information at [BellevueWA.gov/access-study](https://BellevueWA.gov/access-study).

### 120th Avenue NE roadway improvements

Bellevue is advancing design of the final phase of 120th Avenue Northeast corridor. The project proposes to realign and widen 120th Avenue Northeast, between Northeast 16th Street (future street) and Northup Way, with pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project also proposes to replace the existing culvert crossing of West Tributary of Kelsey Creek underneath 120th Avenue Northeast, habitat restoration, and other improvements.

Community input about desired improvements will inform the design work. An online open house is planned for March.

For more background about the design project, go to [BellevueWA.gov/120thavenuecorridor](https://BellevueWA.gov/120thavenuecorridor).

### Transportation Facilities Plan

The city's Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) identifies, over a 12-year horizon, priority improvements to roadways, intersections, bikeways and other transportation amenities. The Transportation Commission has been considering the draft 2022-2033 TFP in which 70+ candidate projects are now identified. Come late January, community input on the proposed projects will be accepted online. Input will be shared with the Commission as well as the City Council as the TFP heads toward adoption in late 2021. To learn more about the TFP and subscribe to receive updates, visit [BellevueWA.gov/TFP](https://BellevueWA.gov/TFP).



*EngagingBellevue.com is an online hub for community engagement*

**ENGAGING**Bellevue

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## Welcome to Engaging Bellevue

This is the place to learn about what is happening in Bellevue, ask questions, share ideas, and connect with your neighbors. Below is a list of active projects that are seeking input from community members. Simply click on the project you are interested in to learn more and find out how you can get involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

[Get Involved](#)



## Boards and Commissions Meetings

As of April 1, no meetings are taking place at City Hall. Stay updated on meetings and cancellations: [BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)

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 [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/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 [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/special-events-committee](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/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 four Mondays of each Month, except August and December	6 p.m.  Regular Meeting	Virtual Bellevue TV channel 21 and BTV YouTube channel <a href="http://youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington">youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington</a>	Emails to Council are accepted at <a href="mailto:council@bellevuewa.gov">council@bellevuewa.gov</a> at any time. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at <a href="http://bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>
August – first Monday only			
December – first and second Mondays only			

*Happy New Year!*



2021

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