

[BellevueWA.gov/covid-19](https://BellevueWA.gov/covid-19)

中文 [BellevueWA.gov/chinese/covid-19](https://www.belleuvewa.gov/chinese/covid-19)

**Español** [BellevueWA.gov/spanish-espanol/covid-19](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/spanish-espanol/covid-19)

Русский [BellevueWA.gov/russian/covid-19](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/russian/covid-19)

한국어 [BellevueWA.gov/  
korean/covid-19](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/korean/covid-19)

Neighborhoods have always played an essential role in Bellevue. During difficult times, residents rise to the challenge together with hope, innovation and generosity. As we spend more time in our neighborhoods to “Stay Home, Stay Healthy,” Bellevue residents have put kindness into action: offering all kinds of service, writing notes of encouragement, supporting local businesses, donating to meet crucial needs, sharing flower bouquets and creating new ways to meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbors. Our neighbors and neighborhoods are showing why Bellevue is such a great place to live!



City staff are working diligently to maintain essential services and to address the emerging needs of those directly impacted by COVID-19. Bellevue's medical community and first responders are focused on keeping residents safe and healthy. Numerous community efforts

are underway to meet the current human service needs and to support our businesses. Within this environment, the community is finding new ways to connect virtually and to support one another. We encourage you to share your story or discover more “WAYS TO HELP” at [EngagingBellevue.com/covid-19-building-community](https://EngagingBellevue.com/covid-19-building-community).

**REMINDER:** Bellevue's parks and open spaces can provide some rest and renewal during this time. Please explore parks near your home and look out for yourself and one another while in these spaces by maintaining proper social distancing of at least six feet from other people, and respecting areas that are closed to public use. Thank you!

**Call 425-452-2800**

Email [minich@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:minich@bellevuewa.gov)

**Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

Do you need food or financial assistance? Having trouble paying rent and utilities? Would you like some counseling on healthcare options? These are some common questions that staff at Crossroads Mini City Hall receive.



During the COVID-19 crisis, there are a lot more people in our community who need help, and they may face difficulty in navigating systems or connecting to services during this unprecedented time when so many are in need, some for the first time in their lives. While the physical Mini City Hall location at Crossroads Mall is temporarily closed, our services are still available virtually and in multiple languages.

Mini City Hall staff are committed to listening to your concerns and supporting families as they navigate available services to find the best match. While we don't provide many of the direct services, we partner with nonprofit organizations to help deliver them. One example is the Cultural Navigator Program, which provides confidential social service assistance to individuals and families in English, Russian and Spanish.

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Another partnership is the International Community Health Services (ICHS), which provides drive-thru testing at their clinics. ICHS also assists people getting insurance coverage through the state insurance marketplace which has a COVID-19 special enrollment period that is extended through May 8. This is particularly helpful for those who have lost health insurance coverage as a direct result of job loss, or who are experiencing income changes due to COVID-19. For inquiries about the many community resources and social assistance programs, call us at 425-452-2800 or email us at [minich@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:minich@bellevuewa.gov) Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Our staff speak English, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), Spanish, Russian and Somali. In addition, staff can connect to phone interpretation for over 100 languages.

We are here to serve you, and we are in this together!

## Supporting our local businesses and organizations

*Philly Marsh, Economic Development Manager*

The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impacts on individuals, arts and cultural organizations, and businesses in Bellevue. As city staff work to assess these impacts and connect people to resources, we are continually uplifted by the supportive spirit of our community.

We are heartened by the large number of residents wanting to know how they can support local businesses and arts and cultural groups. While many businesses and organizations are closed based on the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, there are many ways that you can support your favorite places.

- ◆ Get takeout or delivery from your favorite restaurant. Find options or add open restaurants at [re.startup425.org/restaurants](https://re.startup425.org/restaurants).
- ◆ Many small businesses are struggling with cash flow. Shop online or purchase gift cards for future use at these establishments.
- ◆ Many nonprofits have had to cancel fundraising events in addition to being unable to proceed with ticketed programming and educational opportunities that generate revenue. Explore the array of amazing Bellevue nonprofit organizations. Many have added online programs, online stores and are planning to host virtual events to keep the community connected. Individual donations are also very meaningful during this time.

- ◆ Take the time to leave a positive review or comment on social media. Words of support are particularly encouraging.

This crisis has brought out the "Best of Bellevue" and we are collecting stories of businesses and organizations stepping up to support our community at: [engagingbellevue.com/covid-19-building-community](https://engagingbellevue.com/covid-19-building-community). These actions - both big and small - should be shared and celebrated. Help us to grow the list by adding others who are stepping up to the challenge through the stories of encouragement tab on [engagingbellevue.com](https://engagingbellevue.com).

If you need business or community resources related to COVID-19, visit the City of Bellevue's COVID-19 resources pages: [BellevueWA.gov](https://BellevueWA.gov)

Si necesita recursos empresariales o comunitarios relacionados con el COVID-19, visite las páginas de recursos con respecto al COVID-19 de la ciudad de Bellevue. Este mensaje se publicó en varios idiomas.

如果您需要與 COVID-19 相關的商務或社區資源，請瀏覽 Bellevue 市的 COVID-19 資源頁面。該資訊以多種語言發佈。

Nếu quý vị cần các nguồn tài nguyên cho doanh nghiệp hoặc cộng đồng liên quan đến COVID-19, hãy truy cập các trang tài nguyên về COVID-19 của Thành Phố Bellevue. Thông báo này được đăng bằng nhiều ngôn ngữ.

코로나19와 관련한 비즈니스 또는 지역사회 자원이 필요한 경우, Bellevue 시의 코로나19 자원 페이지를 확인해 주세요. 본 메시지는 다양한 언어로 게시되어 있습니다.

Если вам необходимы коммерческие или общественные ресурсы, связанные с COVID-19, посетите страницы ресурсов администрации города Bellevue, посвящённых COVID-19. Это сообщение опубликовано на нескольких языках.





## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### Winchester Estates resident:

"We're seeing a lot of our neighbors now more than ever (from a safe distance). Many more people are walking through the neighborhood and taking a moment to catch up from across the street or just give a friendly smile and head nod. We have people checking on their elderly neighbors. We're seeing neighbors put teddy bears and hearts in their windows as well which is very cheerful on our walks."

### Northwest Bellevue resident:

"I am checking on a small group of folks - a couple of older neighbors - 80+ gals."

### Northeast Bellevue resident:

"We've been doing virtual happy hours that neighbors have organized. Our neighborhood has always been well connected, but I met an older couple I didn't know, and have been helping them. Looking forward to meeting them in person down the road!"

### Chinese American Civic Association:

"We decided to fund initiatives to help our local communities fight the virus a few weeks ago, specifically on the PPE shortage within the community. So far, we have donated around 45,107 different kinds of masks to local hospitals, elder apartments and assisted living facilities, other non-profits like food banks and so on."

### Jubilee REACH staff member:

"Lots of personal hygiene items and diapers were given out today to families. Today also was a large delivery day for so many people donating these same items. It's no longer novel to me when I find bundles of donated items suddenly appearing near my office. They show up all the time, and I'm so grateful to those who are bringing them. 17 churches are currently providing groceries during the week. Together, they are serving about 270 families twice per week. Thank you!"



**A Bridle Trails resident** organizes flower bouquets for you, or as a donation of thanks to Overlake Hospital staff – supporting Hmong and Mien Pike Place and other market sellers.

**A Lakemont resident** has been purchasing bouquets to support local vendors, and leaving out for residents to pick up – for free. One neighbor received a bouquet from her son:

"My 11-year-old son came home from scooting asking me if I wanted flowers. I was on the phone so I just whispered to him that I wasn't sure what he meant but that he shouldn't pick flowers from anyone's yard. He left, and a few minutes later came zooming back on his scooter with a HUGE smile and a beautiful bouquet for me. It was such a lovely moment. I won't ever forget it."

### Norwood Village resident:

"Our neighborhood of about 15 houses has connected in a group to help each other."

## Somerset's Neighbor to Neighbor Directory



Somerset Community Association created a COVID-19 page, including suggestions for connecting with neighbors that

are not online, links to helpful information, a directory of neighbor to neighbor services specific to their community, including: errand running; grocery and pharmacy pick-up, or meal delivery.

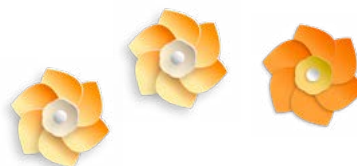
### West Bellevue resident:

"The Seattle freeze is thawing, which is nice. At first, I noticed most of the neighbors pretty stern and unfriendly, but as the days have gone on, my fellow neighborhood walkers have all lightened up a bit and I often get a 'hello' in return. I hope that continues! And,



I am so impressed with how the neighborhood seems to be complying. I've not seen large groups or folks not practicing social distancing. I am grateful the parks are still open for us to walk and enjoy the outdoors."

*A sign in Cougar Mountain area.*

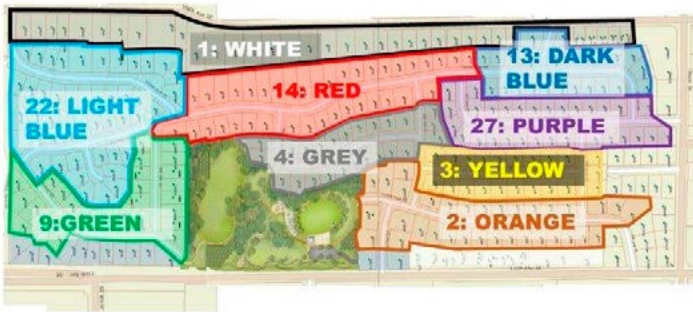


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## Bellevue Essentials Alumni provide shelter meal and supplies

Each spring, Bellevue Essentials Alumni (BEEs) prepare and serve a meal at the Men's Shelter. Plans for serving an April 30 meal came to a halt as COVID-19 safety measures were put into place. The BEEs still wanted to help, so two alums took the lead to partner with Seastar restaurant, which generously provided a great meal for the men. The BEEs quickly raised over \$1,800 to purchase a hearty dinner and to donate funds toward shelter needs during this extraordinarily challenging time. Thank you, Bellevue Essentials Alumni!



**Emergency preparation:** know your neighbors, your Zone Captain, where the water is, how to turn the gas off and how to respond or get help.

## Surrey Downs' Neighborhood Zone Map, Phone Number and Walking Captains

Surrey Downs Community Club instituted their emergency planning team with zone captains as local points of contact. The neighborhood has established a central phone number for neighbors to ask for assistance, while reminding them to call 9-1-1 if a person's life is threatened. Residents can text or call the number if they need help from a neighbor, and people have offered to help with groceries or to talk from a safe distance. Zone captains are walking the streets each day, and neighbors can ask for or offer help.



"People are making efforts to express gratitude to the many people who are still out working to help our lives continue with as little disruption as possible... grocery staff, UPS and Amazon delivery personnel, restaurant staff and delivery people making the best of difficult situations. I believe

most people really are trying to do the right things and make the best of this situation."

## Woodridge resident:

"My daughter and I came up with a neighborhood map with a contact information page so that neighbors could feel more connected to each other. We asked

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

How can your neighbors help you? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Shopping for groceries
- ☐ Walking a dog
- ☐ Remotely checking in to say hello
- ☐ Sending a cooking ingredient if you need one
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ We don't anticipate needing any help

How would you be able to assist others? Check all that apply.

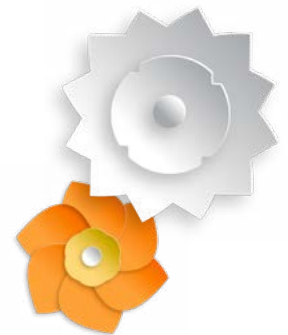
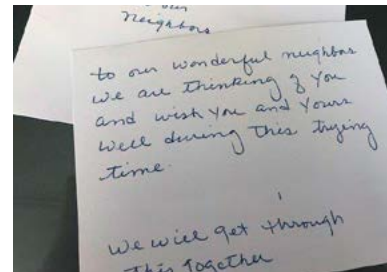
- ☐ I can walk dogs
- ☐ I can check in on others
- ☐ I can send over a cooking ingredient if I have it
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I can't help others right now

people to give us their contact information on one side of a form and to let us know their needs and abilities to help others on the other side of the form. We knew there were ways people could offer to help each other in small ways like helping provide a missing ingredient to a recipe or walking a dog of a person who couldn't. We also wanted to let people know that it was okay to ask for help of different kinds if they needed it and to help provide contact information for families to provide greater connection in our neighborhood."

## Northeast Bellevue resident:

"I've loved hearing that kid musicians are playing for neighbors!"

## A Cougar Mountain family left cards on their neighbors' porches.



## Backpack Meals for Kids

BPM has continued, even though schools are closed, which makes it difficult to get the packs to the kids that need them. But BPM is providing them and working with the Family Connections staff of the schools. I have been amazed at the care and concern of the staff for their students during this time. BPM is giving out about 550 packs of food each week. In addition, we are giving bulk food items and grocery cards so that the Family Connections staff can give them to kids and families in need.

## Wilburton resident:

"Many Chinese immigrants here ask their relatives and friends in China to ship them multiple personal packages, put them together, and then donate them to local hospitals, senior care centers, and pharmacy labs."

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### Northeast Bellevue resident:

"I have seen tons of parents implement schedules and crafty solutions to get through the days. We have had virtual play dates where we have played hide and seek, I Spy, or 20 questions. I had a virtual happy hour with a few moms at the end of the week to reward ourselves for a week's job well done."



### School parents donate masks to neighborhood

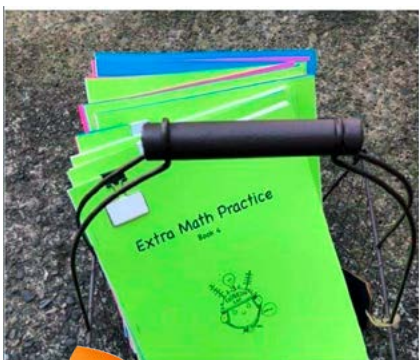
A Woodridge resident received 900 "community grade" masks from Chinese parents of students in her first grade class to help distribute in the community. Through

social media, she let her neighbors know of the gift, and then left the masks with names on her front porch for her neighbors to pick up.

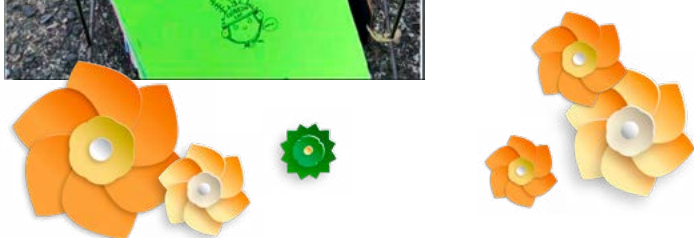


### Somerset resident:

"Neighbors are helping neighbors by bringing things home from the grocery store and sharing food if one runs out to avoid quick trips to the store."



*A first grade teacher provided extra learning materials to first grade children in her neighborhood.*



## Inside Look at Overlake Medical Center through COVID-19

Our region's healthcare workers have been on the front lines of fighting COVID-19 since the virus first showed up in Washington in late January. In Bellevue, Overlake Medical Center is a key component to keeping the community healthy during this pandemic. In staff interviews shared with the City of Bellevue, the hospital's clinical leaders gave a behind-the-scenes look at their work, their messages to the community and their hope for the end of the crisis.

Dr. Eric Shipley, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Overlake Medical Center, remembers exactly when COVID-19 became a local reality for him and the rest of the hospital staff.

"So, I got a phone call on February 29 at midnight from one of our infectious disease specialists that we had the first COVID case at our hospital, which coincided with the first COVID U.S. death at Evergreen [Hospital] just to the north of us," Shipley said. "It was a wake-up call; it was one of those phone calls I'll never forget."

Our local healthcare heroes went to work treating a virus with no immunity in the population and very little early data about its reach or effects. Shipley said there were challenges for medical staff as they adjusted operations to care for COVID patients and prevent spread of the virus. Much like our city's emergency responders, medical staff planned out the needed supply of personal protective equipment and other supplies, and worked through the fatigue of battling an infectious virus that doesn't rest.

"I've been really impressed with truly the heroics of staff," Shipley said. "They're not sleeping in the same bed as their spouses, they're changing everything about themselves because they're worried about infecting their peers and their family members, and that's pretty heroic."

Together, those heroic staff members filling all functions to keep the hospital running created systems to deal with the operational changes and uncertainty.

"It's not mayhem and chaos," said Dr. David Knoepfler, Chief Medical Officer for Overlake. "If you approach it carefully and thoughtfully, and have very robust emergency planning, you can create order that keeps everybody on a more level playing field and keeps the morale up. Essential to that is being able to supply necessary equipment for them to remain safe in these environments."

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As it relates to equipment and food, the community stepped up to help Overlake and other medical providers. Donations nearly filled a large auditorium at the hospital. Donated supplies came from individual community members, churches, daycare centers, dentists, physicians' offices and surgery centers.

"There's a lot of supplies that we would be in a lot worse position if we hadn't had the donations from the community," said Knoepfler. "Any one person, yeah it's a small contribution, but...we've had hundreds of those small contributions and when you add it all up? BIG difference."

Food from local restaurants, donated by the restaurants themselves, other businesses or community members, also made its way to every kind of worker in the hospital.

"[The people donating food] recognize how hard everybody's working and I can't tell you how much joy it brings and how much community support it brings to the staff," said Knoepfler.

"The kindness of the community and their contributions has been wonderful; it's been heartwarming," added Shipley.

"A crisis like this tends to foster community as well and that feeling amongst all of us that we're in this together and to be supportive to one another," said Dr. Thomas Miller, the Medical Director of Quality & Safety at Overlake, adding that this kind of perspective also has helped healthcare professionals truly appreciate the rare quiet moments. "...when you're not having to focus directly on a serious problem to solve, to take a moment to give yourself a breath of air."

That sense of community extends to the social distancing practices the entire population is striving for at the direction of public health and government officials. Those efforts are proving effective at flattening the curve of COVID-19 infections in Washington, protecting our hospital capacity and our fellow community members.

"You know we all joke about how great it is to drive in to work now because there are literally no cars on the road, but that is an incredibly strong marker of how effective the social distancing is," said Knoepfler, adding a congratulations to people throughout the region for following "a very aggressive and successful social distancing model."

But doctors also want to remind community members that the stay at home order doesn't mean you need to delay getting crucial medical treatment, especially

for conditions unrelated to COVID-19. Healthcare professionals are working hard through the pandemic to ensure safe treatment for all those who need care.

"I want them to know you can still come to the hospital if you're sick," said Knoepfler. "If you need the hospital, don't delay, especially as it relates to stroke and heart symptoms. Every emergency room in the Seattle area right now is a safe place to be if you need the care."

And for as long as COVID-19 is a part of our lives, you can be assured that these healthcare workers will still be there serving, adapting and learning how best to treat and fight this virus and any others that come through their doors.

"We'll make it through this together," said Miller. "We'll be stronger as a result of having gone through this."

To follow the work of Overlake's healthcare heroes, follow their dedicated [Facebook group \(facebook.com/groups/overlakeheroes/\)](https://facebook.com/groups/overlakeheroes/).

The City of Bellevue [Facebook \(business.facebook.com/bellevuewashington/?business\\_id=125403558949346&ref=bookmarks\)](https://facebook.com/bellevuewashington/?business_id=125403558949346&ref=bookmarks) and [Twitter \(twitter.com/bellevuewa\)](https://twitter.com/bellevuewa) (@BellevueWA) pages are also sharing the good work being done throughout our community to support each other during COVID-19. You can share your own story of encouragement and explore ways to help at [engagingbellevue.com](https://engagingbellevue.com).



## Bellevue police launch Medical Support Team

To better ensure the safety of the public and police officers, every patrol squad will now have four officers dedicated to a Medical Support Team (MST). These teams will be the first officers to respond to enhanced risk locations, such as a known COVID-19 subject, a CPR in progress, medical facilities, or locations with large groups of people.

"We have been very fortunate to have zero cases of COVID-19 at the Bellevue Police Department, and we are working hard to keep it that way," says patrol Major

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Andrew Popochock. "We believe having these specially trained officers will help us accomplish that."

MST members have received enhanced personal protective equipment (PPE) and training. Each member of the MST is equipped with special masks, including N95s and an Avon Air Purifying Respirator, Tyvek suits, and gloves. Most of the equipment can be decontaminated and reused.

The specialized training includes proper use of the equipment, donning and doffing, and decontamination. In addition to keeping everyone safe, having four-member dedicated teams will help preserve the department's supply of PPE.

"Protecting the health of our residents and our officers is a top priority," explained Popochock. "To create these teams, we have taken measures to increase our patrol staffing levels so that we have enough officers to cover all regular calls for service, while also having the MST officers available to safely handle potential COVID-19 calls." There are 33 officers assigned to the Medical Support Teams.



## Healthcare Worker Appreciation

*Lieutenant Camari Olson, Bellevue Fire Department*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers across the world have labored for long hours, overcoming equipment shortages and ensuring their own safety while protecting the health and safety of family members and patients. Every shift presents the possibility of exposure. They've witnessed the toll the virus has taken on their patients and the families that must remain distant from their loved ones. They often are the ones to provide vital emotional comfort, in addition to meeting medical needs.

In an expression of appreciation for these crucial healthcare workers, Bellevue Fire and Bellevue Police recently pulled up outside of Overlake Hospital Medical Center with signs and cheers. Police and fire departments applauded healthcare workers for their commitment and compassion, letting them know that they are fully supported and appreciated by our community. [Mercer Island Fire Department](#), Redmond Fire Department and [Tri-Med Ambulance](#) were also

part of this event. Healthcare workers across King County received similar receptions.

Bellevue Television captured the heartwarming scene: [youtube.com/watch?v=o1wfh-GyFTI&feature=youtu.be](https://youtube.com/watch?v=o1wfh-GyFTI&feature=youtu.be)

## Update for seniors from Bellevue Network on Aging

The Bellevue Network on Aging wants to make residents aware of COVID-19 scams. For updated, accurate information call Washington State Coronavirus Response at 1-800-525-0127 or visit [coronavirus.wa.gov](https://coronavirus.wa.gov) or the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website, [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus).



Following are examples of known COVID-19 scams currently circulating:

- ◆ The unauthorized sale of vaccines or medicines. For up-to-date accurate information on Coronavirus call the Washington State Coronavirus Response at 1-800-525-0127 or visit [coronavirus.wa.gov](https://coronavirus.wa.gov) or Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) websites such as [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus).
- ◆ The "grandparent scheme." This scam involves calling a grandparent, pretending to be their grandchild, and demanding immediate funds so that the "grandchild" can secure needed treatment for COVID-19 or return to the United States.
- ◆ The sale at exorbitant prices of high-demand virus supplies such as respirator masks or other products. The scammer requires advance payment and then fails to deliver the items.
- ◆ Scammers are using phone, email and texts to try and get money or banking information from people related to the federal government economic stimulus payments (economic impact payments). The scammers are trying to fraudulently receive payment from you or obtain personal information such as your social security or bank account number. The following IRS website describes which persons do not need to take any action to receive the economic impact payment and which persons will need to fill out a form: [irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here](https://irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here)

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For more examples of scams, visit: [cdc.gov/media/phishing.html](https://cdc.gov/media/phishing.html), and [consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing](https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing)

Here are a few methods to protect yourself from scams:

- ◆ If you receive a robo call (a phone call that uses a pre-recorded message), hang up and don't press any buttons.
- ◆ Do not trust caller ID. Scam calls may not be from the organization or phone number shown on your phone.
- ◆ To protect your computer from viruses, don't open emails from people and sources you don't know, and don't click on links from persons or sources you don't know. Be aware that emails which appear to be sent from an organization you trust may be from another organization. This is particularly true with emails that appear to be from government agencies such as CDC or WHO.
- ◆ Don't respond to questions from strangers or give out personal information such as account numbers, social security numbers, Medicare numbers or your mother's maiden name.
- ◆ Review the Washington state attorney general's website to learn more about senior fraud: [atg.wa.gov/senior-fraud](https://atg.wa.gov/senior-fraud). For additional information on COVID-19 fraud and on price gouging, visit [justice.gov/coronavirus](https://justice.gov/coronavirus).

## Neighborhood Enhancement Program in Wilburton

The project idea submission period is now open for the Wilburton Neighborhood Enhancement Program, a capital improvements program that provides you and your neighbors the opportunity to propose and select small-scale physical projects that improve the quality of life and enhance the character in your neighborhood area. The city has a budget of \$133,000 to spend on Wilburton projects. Don't miss the opportunity to let the City of Bellevue know what you'd like to see done in your neighborhood!



Tuesday, May 19 is the deadline to send in your Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) project ideas and it's easy to do from the comfort of your own

home! Simply go to the NEP website [BellevueWA.gov/nep](https://BellevueWA.gov/nep) to submit your ideas using the online form. Share your thoughts online or by returning the POSTAGE PAID NEP Project Request Form that each Wilburton household recently received in the mail.

There is no limit to the number of project ideas that you can submit, but all ideas must be received at City Hall or submitted online by May 19.

The program rotates through Bellevue's 14 NEP neighborhood areas, serving two areas each year. To find out which NEP neighborhood area you call home, when NEP will be in your area and the NEP funding that 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) or 425-452-4186.

## Bellevue's Neighborhood Tree Ambassadors begin virtual volunteering



Bellevue's Urban Forestry education program is demonstrating great flexibility and creativity in a challenging time, and is transitioning the new Neighborhood Tree Ambassador program online. In early 2020, a group of 15 Bellevue residents were selected to volunteer as neighborhood tree ambassadors. These volunteers are taking part in a new pilot program aimed at building community support for trees by creating and leading walking tours of the trees in their neighborhoods.

Trees play an important role in the health and resilience of our community. Trees in cities have been shown to support residents' physical and mental health by improving air quality and reducing stress. Urban trees are also associated with a greater sense of community and social cohesion. Learn more about the social benefits of trees at [greenhealth.washington.edu](https://greenhealth.washington.edu).

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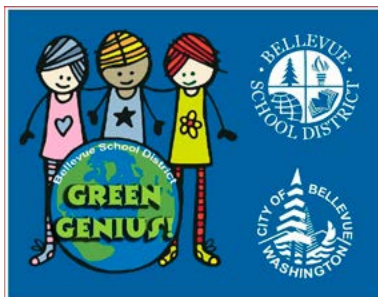
In consultation with the volunteers, we have decided to move the Neighborhood Tree Ambassador program forward while staying safe during the COVID-19 crisis. This has resulted in some changes to the program structure. Tree ambassadors will not lead neighborhood tree tours until it becomes safe to meet in groups. In the meantime, ambassadors are beginning the behind-the-scenes work of researching and planning their tours from home – a welcome activity for our volunteers during a challenging time.

Throughout April, Neighborhood Tree Ambassadors have been participating in virtual training sessions and communicating with each other online. Their support and enthusiasm for Bellevue's trees, even during a pandemic, will help to pave the way to a greener and healthier community.

## Become a Green Genius!

### Introducing activity guides for students at home

Make every day an Earth Day! The City of Bellevue and Bellevue School District introduce



"Green Genius" at-home activity guides for grades K-5 and 6-12. All BSD schools have a Green Genius team of staff and students that educate their school community on ways to conserve resources. Now everyone can be a Green Genius at home! Download the guides: [bit.ly/2VrxdIG](https://bit.ly/2VrxdIG)

The guides will help students and adults learn how to:

- ◆ store food to keep it fresh longer;
- ◆ properly sort recycling, food scraps, and garbage and how to conduct a home waste audit;
- ◆ recycle unusual items like batteries and broken electronics;
- ◆ conserve water and energy at home; and
- ◆ make crafts from reusable materials at home, such as a soup can instrument.

Households can do the activities together or students can work through the guides on their own. Even though they are designed for youth, the actions apply to adults, too! Share photos of any projects that you complete from this guide to [recycle@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:recycle@bellevuewa.gov). The City of Bellevue or Bellevue School District may post your photos on their websites or social media in the future.

## High school students from Bellevue raise awareness of 2020 Census

Recognizing the power that communities gain when every resident gets counted in



**BELLEVUE**  
**COUNTS**  
2020 Census

the decennial census, a group of five high school students launched a Census Outreach Team last fall. The Bellevue students are interning for Pathway Foundation, with the goal of educating students about the importance of the 2020 Census. Their hope was that students would educate their families about the census and help to encourage a complete count of every Bellevue resident.

Over the past several months, the team has been busy! They established a presence on Instagram ([instagram.com/censusoutreach2020/](https://www.instagram.com/censusoutreach2020/)) for the East King County Communities Count Committee, took part in a series of educational videos and they were interviewed by [Chinese Radio Seattle 1150 AM KKNW](https://www.chineseradioseattle.com/2020/03/03/census_2020/) ([chineseradioseattle.com/2020/03/03/census\\_2020/](https://www.chineseradioseattle.com/2020/03/03/census_2020/)). Most notably, the team researched information about the census and put together a lesson plan for social studies teachers to use in their classrooms. Bellevue School District has distributed the plan to middle school and high school social studies teachers.



When asked why they started the project, Jiawei Hu, project leader of the team, said, "The voices of our community need to be heard and there is no easier way to support

the community than by responding to the census, which directly influences our political representation and the distribution of federal funds back to our community for critical public programs and services."

Deepnath Dey, the team's co-lead, added, "This will impact our state for the next ten years; let's get counted for a better future."

There is still time to be counted in the 2020 Census! Field operations have been pushed back three months due to the pandemic, which means households have until August to self-respond before census workers are sent out to collect information in person.

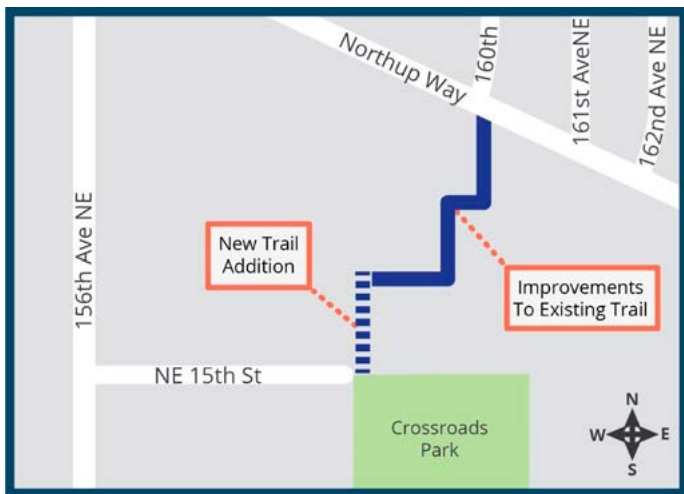
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It has never been easier to self-respond, whether online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov), by phone at 844-330-2020 or by mail.

Members of the student Pathway Foundation 2020 Census Outreach Team include:

- ◆ Jiawei Hu, Interlake High School
- ◆ Deepnath Dey, Interlake High School
- ◆ Cindy Chen, Tesla Stem High School
- ◆ Chloe Liu, Bellevue High School
- ◆ Keira Wong, International School



## Crossroads Pedestrian Trail poised for progress

Work by Bellevue's Transportation Department on major improvements to the Crossroads Pedestrian Trail, from Northup Way to Northeast 15th Street, is set to begin May 4, with completion expected in summer 2020.

During the roughly two months of construction, the trail will be closed and users can take alternate routes along 156th or 164th avenue northeast. Work hours will be Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The trail provides a convenient link between schools and residences to the north, and Crossroads Shopping Center and Crossroads Community Center to the south. Currently, however, the trail is in poor condition, underused and a source of concern for neighbors due to vandalism and loitering.

The intent of the project is to develop a safer, more attractive and more useful route that's appealing to residents and accommodates strollers and wheelchairs. It's anticipated more people will use the upgraded trail,

helping to reduce the concerns of nearby residents.

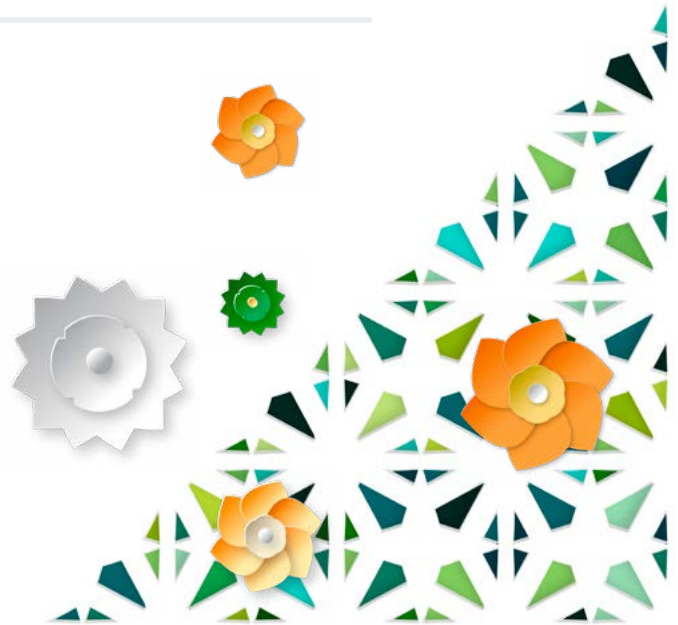
The project will:

- ◆ Upgrade the trail surface and widen a section where the walkway is narrow;
- ◆ Remove several trees located in the walkway that pose a potential hazard;
- ◆ Extend the trail at the south end through the Crossroads Apartments parking lot and connect it to Northeast 15th Street; and
- ◆ Install lighting to improve safety, add trash cans, repair or replace fencing, add landscaping and install irrigation.

The anticipated construction cost is approximately \$750,000, primarily funded by the city's Pedestrian Access Improvement Program, with support from the Neighborhood Partnerships Program.

A key development for the trail project came in 2017 when city staff worked with the owner of the Crossroads Apartments to secure an easement needed to fully develop the trail.

More information is available at [BellevueWA.gov/transportation](https://BellevueWA.gov/transportation) (Search: Northup Way to Crossroads Trail).



Subscribe to Neighborhood News electronically:  
[BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news](https://BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news)



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.



## New state law makes roads safer for vulnerable users

A new state law that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020, provides an extra margin of safety for people who drive, walk, use a wheelchair or ride a bike. It makes the rules clearer and it's intended to reduce the number of collisions and risks for vulnerable users of the roadway.

According to the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and state law, vulnerable road users include pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists and moped riders, people riding an animal, as well as others.

The new law – Substitute Senate Bill 5723 – affects drivers overtaking bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users. WSDOT says:

- ◆ When there are two or more lanes in the same direction of travel, the driver must move left into the adjacent lane to pass, after making sure it's safe to do so.
- ◆ When the driver has only one lane for traffic moving in the direction of travel, the driver must move into the lane going in the opposite direction to pass, if it's safe to do so. If not, they should pass when it's possible to do so at a distance of at least three feet and slow down to a safe speed for passing relative to the speed of the individual being overtaken.
- ◆ Drivers must also allow enough space for safety when following behind a vulnerable user.

Further, the new law clarifies lane positioning for people on bicycles. It specifies that riders may position themselves in the lane as needed to avoid grates, debris and other hazards. They may also bike in the right-hand turn lane even if it's discontinued after the intersection; this enables them to maintain position at the right side of the through lanes. To see the entire bill, go to [app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/) and search for the bill number, 5723.

## West Lake Sammamish Parkway improvement work starts soon

Construction is scheduled to begin the week of May 4 on the latest phase of improvements on West Lake Sammamish Parkway. It's the second of five anticipated segments of the Parkway slated for long-term improvements.

The early part of the project will start with Utilities' sewer and stormwater system work at Northeast Second Place to just north of Northup Way. Flaggers will maintain two-way traffic. Once work continues



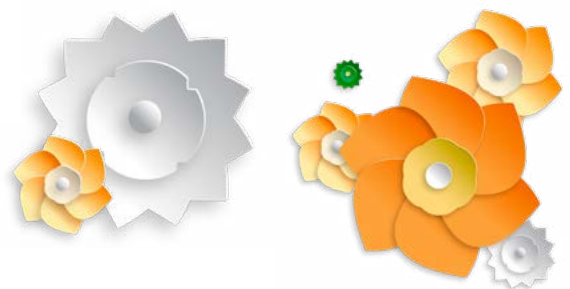
north of Northup Way, a detour will be in effect, tentatively scheduled to start in July.

Southbound

traffic will be detoured at NE 24th Street to 173rd Ave SE. Northbound traffic will be detoured along West Lake Sammamish Parkway. Local access will be maintained throughout construction.

The project also includes transportation improvements, from the Northeast 200 block to the Northeast 800 block of the Parkway. They will include new pavement, an 8-10-foot wide multi-use pathway on the west side, a landscaped buffer, two 10-foot wide travel lanes and a four-foot shoulder on the east side. In addition to the Utilities work, other improvements will include new lighting, landscaping, irrigation and storm drainage.

Work is projected to be substantially completed in late 2020. The transportation work is being done in coordination with Bellevue Utilities' West Lake Sammamish Parkway Water Pressure Project. Find more information on the project: [BellevueWA.gov/wlsp-pressure-project](http://BellevueWA.gov/wlsp-pressure-project).



## 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 [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