

# neighborhood news



March 2021

news for and about  
Bellevue neighborhoods



## Save the Date:

### Virtual Cultural Conversations Evening Forum of Storytelling

## “More Stories from the Heart”

Wednesday, March 24

Zoom doors open 6-6:30 p.m.


Program 6:30-8 p.m.

Join with family, friends and neighbors for the 7th annual evening of Cultural Conversations, now gone virtual, and still connecting community through storytelling and small group conversation. During this special evening program, we invite all the public to connect, share and inspire through this program.

Bellevue storytellers will share insight and action shaped by the events of 2020 and their hopes for 2021 to reimagine and create an inclusive, engaging

and just community. Opening to the challenges and opportunities we've faced over the past year and the



 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.

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

emerging “new normal.” These storytellers create a space for us to consider many perspectives from a changing community.

Cultural Conversations was inspired by women who had a desire to increase their cultural awareness and build bridges of friendship within Bellevue's growing community of diversity. While the program has gone virtual during the 2020-2021 season, long-time residents and newcomers continue to make and renew connections, learn, and share in conversation through a variety of cultural topics. The annual evening program provides an opportunity for men to participate as storytellers, for the program to reach a wider audience and for participants to inspire us all to build a more resilient community.

The event is free and recommended for all members of the public ages 13 and up. Registration is required to receive the meeting link. You can also visit our city website for more details. For further information, alternate formats, interpreters or other reasonable accommodation requests, please contact at least 48 hours in advance 452-452-6836 (voice) or email [NeighborhoodOutreach@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@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.

## Bellevue Fire Department launches mobile vaccine program

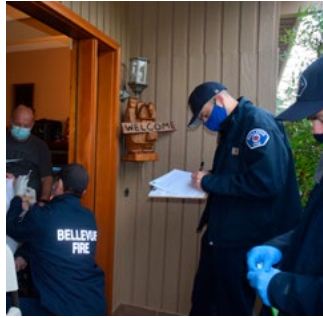
Under the guidance of King County Public Health and King County Emergency Medical Services, Bellevue firefighter/ EMTs and paramedics have been sending teams into the community to provide COVID vaccines to vulnerable residents. This program, fully supported by Mayor Lynne Robinson and the Bellevue City Council, was formed as a pilot program on the Eastside. Once



Continued on next page

*Continued from previous page*

the program was approved, a crew was assembled to outline the procedures and documentation, sent members to shadow a similar program in Seattle and provided training for team members. The initial effort was focused on residents and staff at local adult family homes, a high-risk population in Phase 1A of the state vaccine distribution plan.



Within three weeks of initiating this effort, more than 800 people in nearly 90 adult family homes were vaccinated with their first dose. The goal is to have the second doses for those individuals completed by March 16.

With the speed that the teams have been working, and the state entering Phase 1B Tier 1, Public Health gave guidance to start vaccinating in senior independent living facilities. Bellevue Fire is working with community partners, including the King County Housing Authority and the Senior Housing Authority Group, to identify other groups in our area that could benefit from mobile vaccination efforts.

The Bellevue Fire Department program has served as a model, and has provided training to other local fire departments, enabling them to start similar programs in their communities.

Members of the team have described a deep sense of satisfaction at being able to provide this potentially life-saving service to these high-risk community members and at seeing the relief in their faces as they receive their shots.

The department is not in a position to administer vaccines to the general population, but more information on public vaccinations can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2NuHjXG>

## Bellevue youth collect nearly 1,000 coats for residents

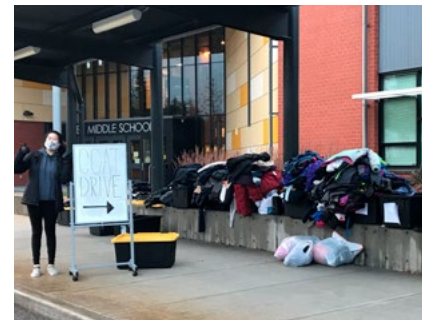
Participants in Bellevue Youth Link's 17th annual Kids Care Coat Drive collected nearly 1,000 new and gently used coats since December for local families.

Newport High School ninth graders Alessandra Azure and Jasmine Liu



and senior Katie Shi collected, donated, sorted, and counted the coats.

"The coat drive responds to the continuing and urgent needs of many in our community — needs that don't stop despite the additional hardship created by COVID-19," said Azure. "Youth Link empowers youth in the community to become leaders and provides them with support to take action wherever they see a need."



The coats will support Bellevue School District students and families through the BSD Family Connection Center and Bellevue Fire CARES program.

For more information about Youth Link, go to [youthlink.com](https://youthlink.com) or call 425-452-5254.

## NEP News for West Bellevue and Woodridge areas

**West Bellevue Neighbors: March 4 is the deadline to send in your NEP project ideas.**

Don't miss the opportunity to let the City of Bellevue know what you'd like to see done in your neighborhood!



The project idea submission period is now open for the West Bellevue Neighborhood Enhancement Program. NEP is a capital improvements program that provides you and your neighbors with 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 \$294,000 for you and your West Bellevue neighbors to spend on projects.

Your ideas can be submitted in two easy ways:

1. BY MAIL: Return the prepaid Project Idea Request Card that all West Bellevue residents received in the mail in late January.
2. ONLINE: [BellevueWA.gov/nep](https://BellevueWA.gov/nep)

There is no limit to the number of project ideas that you can submit, but all ideas must be received by mail at City Hall or submitted online by Thursday, March 4.

## Woodridge

### NEP Virtual Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

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

A virtual kickoff meeting will be held for the Woodridge NEP on Wednesday, April 7, at 6:30 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 discussion. Each household in Woodridge will receive a prepaid NEP Project Request Form in the mail in early April. \$161,000 in NEP funding is available to the Woodridge neighborhood area.

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](http://BellevueWA.gov/nep).

The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas, serving two areas each year. Since 2015, NEP has rotated through the Eastgate/Factoria, Cougar Mountain/Lakemont, West Lake Sammamish, Northeast Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Northwest Bellevue, Downtown/BelRed, Lake Hills and Crossroads neighborhood areas.

Questions? Please contact Theresa Cuthill at [tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-462-4186.

## Neighborhood Enhancement Program Spotlight

### Lattawood Park Lighting and Artwork

In 2016, residents of the Eastgate/Factoria neighborhood area suggested and selected a lighting project in Lattawood Park as part of their Neighborhood Enhancement Program. This project provided funding to install new lighting along the



pathway through the park. The project was enhanced through a partnership with the City of Bellevue's Arts Program, which installed two art pieces along the pathway to contribute to the lighting feature.

Thanks to Parks Department staff members Jeff Pittman and Ryan Popke, and Arts Community Manager Scott MacDonald, for taking the lead on this project. Residents in the area can now enjoy a safer and more beautiful pathway experience while visiting Lattawood Park, one the city's hidden gems!

## Be part of the Rain Village art production!

Community members are invited to take an active role in creating a visual representation and sharing the character of our "village" through a unique, interactive



art project. Soo Hong, a Bellevue-based artist, is bringing her community art project, "Rain Village," to the City of Bellevue this spring. To create "Rain Village," the artist invites community members to make a digital line-drawing in the shape of a raindrop, which represents home. Each digital raindrop drawing will be collected and become

part of the artist's final art piece, shown in animation. Everyone, regardless of age or cultural background, is welcome to be part of the workshop! The workshop will walk participants step-by-step through the process of creating these line drawings. Each workshop will

have a translator

(Español, 普通话, 日本語, 한국어).

This project is expected to connect community members in a

creative, visible and meaningful way.



The "Rain Village" project opens with four sessions of Zoom workshops on Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14. A final virtual exhibition will feature Bellevue workshop participants' artworks and the artist's new work. The opening reception will be held virtually on Saturday, May 22. To sign up for a Zoom workshop, visit [rainvillagewa.com/workshop](http://rainvillagewa.com/workshop)



## Mini City Hall's COVID-19 Resource Navigator program

Bellevue's Mini City Hall provides a program called COVID-19 Resource Navigators to help residents locate needed resources during the pandemic. The resource navigators are highly experienced in different systems and are knowledgeable about organizations that provide help during these difficult times.

As the pandemic continues to impact Bellevue, human service needs also have increased in the community. For many who are unfamiliar with the resources available to them, or those who have never needed financial and other assistance before, it can be overwhelming to navigate through all the complex government resources and application processes. The COVID-19 Resource Navigators provide personalized assistance and customized recommendations to help you make sense of all the programs and community resources available.

Here are some of the resources that the COVID-19 Resource Navigator can help you find:

- Food assistance programs
- Small business loans
- Unemployment claims
- Housing or rent assistance programs
- Healthcare resources and COVID-19 testing sites
- Immigration issues and legal referrals

What you can expect when you call the COVID-19 Resource Navigator program:

- A person who will listen to you
- Someone who is patient and empathetic to your situation and concerns
- A navigator to research your questions, and customize solutions that best fit your situation
- A connection to the best resources that can help solve your problems

The COVID-19 Resource Navigator program is a free public service through Mini City Hall.

Phone consultations are available by appointments only on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A typical appointment is 30 minutes, depending on needs.

Appointments are available in English, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Somali and many other foreign languages. Call 425-452-2800 or email [minich@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:minich@bellevuewa.gov) to get started!

## Finding ease during stress

*Dr. Gina Johnson, BNOA board member*

Stress, both physical and emotional, can leave us with difficult feelings and physical health concerns. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



(CDC) explains that, "Strong emotions like fear, sadness, or other symptoms of depression are normal, as long as they are temporary and don't interfere with daily activities." Know that you are not alone and there are many resources to help us during times of stress.

Signs of stress may be both physical, such as aches or fatigue, or emotional with feelings of worry and anger. Difficulty sleeping or concentrating may be a concern. Chronic stress can be associated with serious health impacts. This is a good time to check in with your medical provider for preventative health screenings and support to include both physical and mental well-being.

Self-care is essential during times of increased stress. Seek support and stay safely connected to loved ones and community. Keep up gentle, daily movement. Stay well-nourished and hydrated. Promote calm with rest periods, time in nature, peaceful music, warm baths, or a cup of herbal tea. Limit or avoid alcohol and recreational drugs. My personal favorite habits to promote calm include reflective practices such as journaling, meditating, biofeedback, prayer, or gratitude.

Following are some resources to support healthy stress resilience:

- **Self-Care:** If you need someone to talk to about stress due to COVID-19, call **Washington Listens** at 1-833-681-0211. Someone is available to talk Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. TTY and language access services are available.  
**Warm Line** for people living with emotional and mental health challenges: 877-500-WARM (877-500-9276).
- **Mental health:** Resources are available for students and families in the Bellevue School District: [bit.ly/3unPd65](https://bit.ly/3unPd65)
- **Crisis: Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 800-273-8255  
**Crisis Text Line** provides confidential text access from anywhere in the U.S. to a trained crisis counselor. Text "HOME" to 741741 (24/7/365)

**Crisis Connections** is a 24-hour crisis line that connects people in physical, emotional and financial crisis to services. Call 866-4-CRISIS (866-427-4747)

National **Disaster Distress Helpline**:  
800-985-5990 or text "TALKWITHUS" to 66746.

## Greener Living community classes offer tips and tools

*By Erin Hislop, Conservation and Outreach Program Administrator*

Bellevue Utilities is offering another round of our popular "Greener Living" virtual classes on a variety of environmental conservation topics. Classes are taught live over Zoom and participants will receive digital resources, strategy guides and tools after each class to implement what they learn. Classes



are geared toward adults, however families with younger kids can join two "all ages" classes during April's Earth Month. Registration is required to receive class link.

2021 classes include:

- Safer Cleaning
- Curbside Composting and Beyond
- Super Sorter
- Plastics: Problems and Possibilities
- Reduce Wasted Food
- Sustainable Shopping
- Responsible Reorganizing

For class times and dates visit [BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes](https://BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes). TO REGISTER: Email [recycle@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:recycle@bellevuewa.gov) or call 425-452-6932.

## Sustainable Shopping:

### Reduce your environmental impact when shopping

*By Erin Hislop, Conservation and Outreach Program Administrator*

Sharpen your skills for reducing consumption and making environmentally friendly choices while

shopping. Use these tips to reduce the environmental impacts from the items you purchase.

1. Use what you have. Try using something you already own before making a new purchase, try to repair items before replacing them and avoid impulse shopping.
2. Borrow what you need. Borrow or rent items to get what you need without taking up space at home.
3. Buy used. Buy used items to conserve natural resources and still gain unique products.
4. Support local businesses. Buying locally can benefit you, your community, and the environment!
5. Choose reusable products made from a recycled material or renewable resource. If a product can't be reused, purchase products that can be recycled or composted when you're finished with them.

Visit [BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes](https://BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes) to learn more and to register for a variety of environmental conservation classes offered throughout the year, including our Sustainable Shopping class!

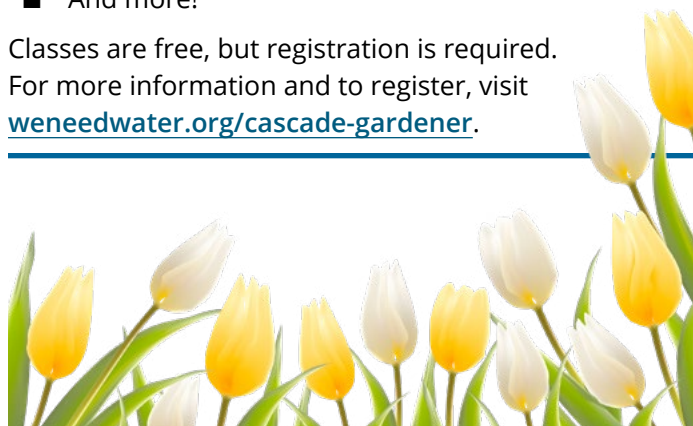
## Virtual Sustainable Gardening Classes

In the mood to improve your outdoor spaces this year? As a member of Cascade Water Alliance, Bellevue residents have access to free classes in sustainable landscaping and gardening. This is a great opportunity to learn from the pros how to build beautiful, healthy landscapes and gardens with less water and fewer chemicals.

Classes will be hosted through Zoom this year – on Saturdays at 10 a.m., between March and April. Taught by regional gardening experts, classes will cover a range of topics, including:

- Small space food gardening
- Tips and techniques for first-time gardeners
- Choosing the right plant for the right place
- Building healthy soil and composting
- And more!

Classes are free, but registration is required. For more information and to register, visit [weneedwater.org/cascade-gardener](https://weneedwater.org/cascade-gardener).



## New section of Greenway Trail opens in March

People who walk, ride and roll in Bellevue will have a safer trip with the official opening on March 5 of a new Mountains to Sound Greenway trail



section in the Factoria area. It's the first step to fill the 3.6-mile "Eastgate Gap" in the regional trail, which runs along the Interstate 90 corridor from Seattle to central Washington.

The City of Bellevue built the project, with funding support from the state of Washington and in partnership with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. The 0.8-mile long, 12-foot wide section, from Interstate 405 to 132nd Avenue Southeast, cost \$17.3 million and features both a pedestrian-bicycle tunnel under ramps from I-405 to eastbound I-90 and a ped-bike bridge over busy Factoria Boulevard.

"This is the first step in completing the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail through Bellevue and it will make travel safer for everyone who uses it," said Mayor Lynne Robinson. "It's also a milestone in our effort to create a comprehensive and connected pedestrian-bicycle network in our city. As a frequent bicycle rider, I'm delighted and look forward to seeing the remaining segments completed."

In addition to improvements for people who walk and bike on the trail, drivers will benefit from the project because there is more vehicle capacity on the highway exit ramp, helping them avoid long backups onto I-405.

Construction on the next section of the Greenway Trail in Bellevue, between 132nd Avenue Southeast and 142nd Place Southeast, has already started. Design and construction funding for the trail segment from 142nd Place Southeast to Lakemont Boulevard is not yet available.

Information on the Bellevue trail segments is available at <https://bit.ly/3dVutgp>

## Paved section of Eastrail nears completion

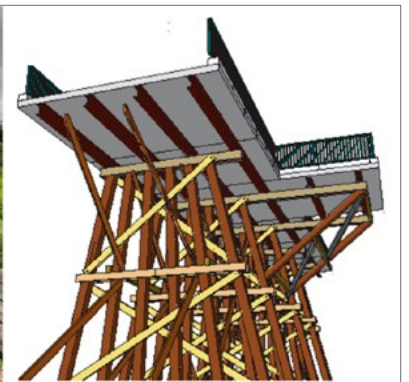
The first paved section of Eastrail in Bellevue – south of Coal Creek Parkway – is now under construction, with completion expected in May. Eastrail, a former railroad line previously known as the Eastside Rail Corridor, is a 42-mile long regional trail running from Renton north to Snohomish County. The Bellevue segment, totaling about seven miles, is owned by King County, except for a 1.1-mile stretch owned by Sound Transit.

Bellevue's City Council has long expressed support for Eastrail, beginning in 2013, and has budgeted \$2.5 million for improvements in its 2021-2027 capital budget, in addition to previous contributions totaling \$132,000.

So far, King County has completed an interim gravel section of the trail from the South Kirkland Park and Ride to SR 520. The paved section in south Bellevue is being built by the state Department of Transportation as part of its I-405 Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes project.

Future improvements to Eastrail in Bellevue will include: a pedestrian-bicycle bridge over Northeast Eighth Street; rehabilitation of the landmark Wilburton Trestle for trail use; a crossing over I-405, south of Southeast Eighth Street; and key trail connections at Spring Boulevard, Northup Way and elsewhere.

Bellevue participates in the planning process for the trail through the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council. Businesses and property owners participate in private-sector fundraising activities through the non-profit Eastrail Partners. More information on Eastrail is available at [BellevueWA.gov/eastrail](https://BellevueWA.gov/eastrail).





## 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			

