

# neighborhood news



April 2021

news for and about  
Bellevue neighborhoods

## Foundations

The Startup425 Foundations Series Provides Free Help For  
Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses  
Tuesdays 6 - 7:30 p.m. starting March 16

**March 16**  
**March 23**  
**March 30**  
**April 6**  
**April 13**  
**April 20**

Visit: [www.Startup425.org/Foundations](http://www.Startup425.org/Foundations)

# STARTUP425

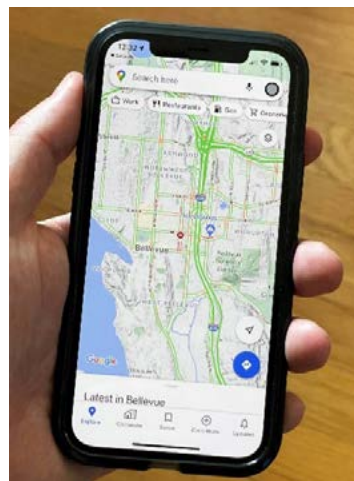
## Spring Business Education Programming

Looking to launch your own business? The Startup425 Business Foundations seminar series is a free business education opportunity to gain an overview of the business startup process. The curriculum is designed for any industry, and the 2021 spring series includes a special focus on ways to adapt in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Courses include small business planning, finance, cybersecurity, running a business remotely, marketing and creating a digital presence.

The education program is online and you can take one or all of the courses! Visit [www.startup425.org](http://www.startup425.org) under Programs for the schedule and to register. Courses take place on Tuesday evenings and run through April 20. Sign up today!

## How are navigation apps impacting Bellevue?

The City of Bellevue is working with the Safe Routes Partnership, a nonprofit organization working to promote safe walking and rolling to and from schools, to better understand how navigation apps (Google, Waze, etc.) are impacting Bellevue.



While navigation apps offer many benefits to users, they can also bring unintended consequences that negatively impact safety, including increased traffic, speeding, and more crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians. We are interested in learning how these navigation apps are affecting your ability to safely walk, bike and ride in your daily life.

Your input will be included in a report with recommendations for addressing the challenges of navigation apps. Please complete this short, anonymous questionnaire between April 1-15: <https://forms.gle/YXaUjEjgau38JNuX8>

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

# Neighborhood Enhancement Program Updates



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, NE Bellevue, Bridle Trails, NW Bellevue, Downtown/BelRed, Lake Hills, Crossroads and Wilburton Neighborhood Areas.

## NEP is coming to Woodridge area with \$161K for improvements!

A virtual Kickoff Meeting is planned for Wed. April 7 for Woodridge residents to learn how they can participate in the City's Neighborhood Enhancement Program online and via mail. RSVP to [neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov) to receive the Zoom meeting link.



Each Woodridge household will receive a return postage-paid NEP Project Request Form in the mail in early April. Residents are encouraged to use this form or the online project request form on the NEP website ([www.BellevueWA.gov/nep](http://www.BellevueWA.gov/nep)) to submit as many NEP project requests as they like by May 19.

Examples of past projects throughout city neighborhoods include art elements, crosswalk improvements, trail connections, street lighting and streetscape improvements.

## West Bellevue area NEP currently in scoping and review phase

City staff are in the process of evaluating and reviewing resident-submitted project ideas for the West Bellevue

Neighborhood Area to determine which eligible projects will appear on the final West Bellevue NEP ballot.



West Bellevue residents should watch for a mailed Voter's Pamphlet and ballot to arrive in early June, then vote for their top three project choices. Voting is by mail only and limited to one ballot per household. A virtual public Open House is planned for June during which projects on the ballot will be presented and residents can meet with city project managers in breakout rooms to discuss any questions they may have. Look for more details to come.

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

## Distracted Driving Awareness Month



What do you consider lethal? The most common answers among teens are drugs, guns, cancer and poisonous snakes. Yes, you read that correctly. Poisonous snakes! But what if we told you that lip gloss, coffee and music were also lethal? More lethal among teens, in fact, than anything else?

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. This year, it also coincides with the return of students to their physical classrooms. Statistics show that reckless and distracted driving is the leading cause of teenage fatalities in America. As more novice drivers return to the road, there is no better time to reflect on, and change, our own driving habits.

Be the driver that you want your teen to be by setting the example:

*Continued on next page*

1. Always buckle up.
2. Minimize all distractions, not just cell phone use. This includes eating and drinking in the car, adjusting the radio, carrying on conversations and drowsy driving.
3. Make sure that your teen abides by the graduated licensing rules. Safety should always override convenience.
4. Normalize speaking up if you feel unsafe as a passenger.
5. Talk regularly with your teens about the importance of being an undistracted driver and passenger.



Motor vehicle crashes are preventable. It just takes constant, mindful action. And practice. Drive safely and share the importance of safe driving with kids, especially this month.

## Bellevue College Spring Campus Conversation



Join an online meeting with Vice President of Administrative Services Dennis Curran to learn 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 open Q&A.

Join the meeting via Zoom online at:

[Bellevuecollege.zoom.us/j/83814472735](https://bellevuecollege.zoom.us/j/83814472735) or by phone, call +1-253-215-8782 and entering the meeting ID 838 1447 2735.

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

## April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month

Parkinson's is a long-term degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that mainly affects the motor system. Learn about early indicators and assistance at [Parkinson.org/parkinsons-awareness-month](https://Parkinson.org/parkinsons-awareness-month)

## Seniors, do you like learning about new things?



Bellevue College Continuing Education-TELOS Program has courses designed primarily for older adults. TELOS is a Greek word meaning ultimate

goal. The TELOS program has operated since 1976. Here is the website: [bellevuecollege.edu/ce/retiree-programs/](https://bellevuecollege.edu/ce/retiree-programs/).

**Classes:** The wide variety of classes include topics on arts, creative writing, current events, geology, health and well-being, history, literature, psychology, philosophy, religion, science and technology. The classes are small and informal, ranging in size from eight to 39, and most have 15 and 20 students. There are no entrance requirements, grades or tests.

**Students:** Most students are seniors, but there are no age requirements. Faculty and students interact as peers, making learning a creative exchange of ideas.

**Schedule:** Classes are generally 1½ or 2 hours long and meet once a week, Monday through Friday. Registration usually opens two months before classes begin. There is also a summer program which usually has fewer offerings.

**Instructors:** Classes are taught by people who have expertise in their subject matter and have excellent teaching skills. Many are active or retired faculty from colleges and universities. Others are professionals with accomplishments in many fields. All share a keen interest in contributing to the mental, physical and spiritual fulfillment of older adults.

**Location:** Classes are currently on Zoom. Normally, classes are in the Continuing Education building near the intersection of WA-520 and 148th Ave. NE, Bellevue.

With as many as 70 courses offered each quarter and over 1,000 students participating in TELOS, there will be a course that is right for you!

## Spring Into Action gift card drive



Bellevue Parks & Community Services and the Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation are receiving monetary donations through April 16 to help neighbors in need. Gift cards will be purchased and distributed to those experiencing food insecurity. Online donations are encouraged at [bfcsf.org/product/neighbors-helping-neighbors](https://bfcsf.org/product/neighbors-helping-neighbors).

Participating community partners include: Bellevue School District, Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, Fred Meyer, Jubilee REACH and the YMCA.

For more information, please contact the Crossroads Community Center at [ccc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ccc@bellevuewa.gov).

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## Bellevue Smart Water Meter project news & FAQs

Your water is about to get a lot smarter! Bellevue Utilities is replacing old manually read water meters with new “smart” meters that can be read wirelessly. Once connected, this system will allow customers to track water usage online, making it easy to manage water consumption and catch leaks much faster – which can save water and money.

We want to keep you as informed as possible during the upgrade process. Below are some answers to common customer FAQs. You can find more project information, and a short video covering the meter upgrade process, at [BellevueWA.gov/Smart-Water-Meter](https://BellevueWA.gov/Smart-Water-Meter).

We are here to help! If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact us anytime at [smartwater@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:smartwater@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6973.

### When will my meter be upgraded?

Most commercial meters were upgraded in 2020. Beginning in April 2021, through approximately mid-2022, we will be upgrading all residential meters and remaining commercial meters. Look for a mailed postcard to alert you of when work will be performed

in your neighborhood. Installers will knock on your door first before performing the upgrade.

### What impact will the meter upgrade have on my home?

During the install, your water service will be interrupted for a short time - typically 15 minutes or less. You do not have to be home. Installers will work outside at the water meter box.



Watch our 2-minute video covering all the details on your water meter upgrade at [BellevueWA.gov/Smart-Water-Meter](https://BellevueWA.gov/Smart-Water-Meter).

### Do I need to do anything to prepare for the upgrade?

You can help the install go as quickly as possible by clearing any plants, debris or other objects that might restrict access to the water meter box. Not sure where your water meter box is located? They are typically installed on the edge of your property near the right-of-way.

### What if I don't want a smart water meter?

Smart Water Meters are common technology used safely across the country – more info about how the technology and components work is on the project website. However, we will have a “non-standard” option available for existing customers who request it. Under this option, meters will be upgraded without the data transmitter. This option will carry additional fees to cover administrative costs for ongoing manual meter reading and bill preparation. If you are interested in learning more about this option, please contact [smartwater@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:smartwater@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6973.

### When will I be able to access my water use information?

We anticipate the online customer portal, which will enable customers who currently receive a water bill to view, track and manage their property's water use data, will be available after all meters have been installed—about mid- to late-2022. We will share more information on the portal as its release gets closer.

## Paint Recycling Now Available!



Recycling unwanted paint just got easier! Starting April 1, PaintCare is offering drop-off locations throughout Bellevue and statewide for leftover paint. There is no cost to drop off your paint, it's covered by a fee applied to new paint sales.

Drop-off sites accept:

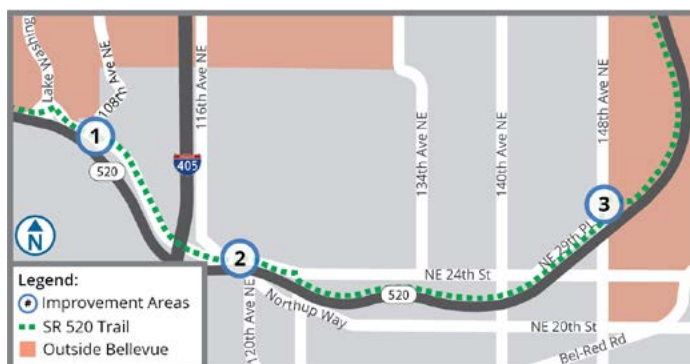
- latex and oil-based house paints and primers
- stains
- deck and concrete sealers
- clear finishes, such as varnishes or shellac

Paint must be five gallons or less and in original containers with original label and secure lid.

Wondering what happens to the paint? Latex paint can be easily recycled into new paint in a suite of colors and can be used in other products such as landscaping materials and concrete mixtures. Paint recyclers process and sell recycled latex paint products at paint retailers and reuse stores. Oil-based paint products will be offered for reuse, collected and used as fuel, or will be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Visit [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) or call 855-724-6809 for locations near you!

## Work starts in April to improve Bellevue segment of SR 520 Trail



Construction is expected to begin in April on the city's SR 520 Bicycle Corridor Safety Improvements project. The work aims to make conditions safer and more

comfortable for people riding bikes on the regional trail in areas where it runs on busy city streets – alongside vehicle traffic – rather than on trail segments exclusively created for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Spot improvements will primarily focus on three intersections: Northrup Way and 108th Avenue Northeast, Northrup Way and Northeast 24th Street and 148th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 29th Place. Additional striping work will occur on Northrup Way between NE 24th Street and 124th Avenue NE. Upgrades will include lane restriping, pavement markings, new bike signal installations, traffic signal modifications and curb ramp rebuilds.

Work at the three intersections will require closing vehicle and bicycle lanes at times. Hours will vary depending on location and may include daytime, nighttime and weekend lane closures for both drivers and bicyclists. The project is anticipated to take about three months to complete. For the latest information on traffic impacts, please check [BellevueWA.gov/trafficadvisories](http://BellevueWA.gov/trafficadvisories).

The project is a collaboration between Bellevue, Redmond and the state Department of Transportation. The construction contract for \$353,844 is partially funded by the voter-approved Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy.

## Repaving season commences with work on Bel-Red Road

The city's annual repaving program got rolling in late March with work on a long stretch of busy Northeast Bel-Red Road, from 124th Avenue Northeast to Northeast 30th Street.

Most construction will happen weekdays, both during the day and at night when grinding and paving will be



done to avoid significant traffic impacts. The Bel-Red Road work, which is weather-dependent, is slated for completion this summer.

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Impacts will include some construction noise and lane closures, though at least one vehicle lane will remain open in each direction. Drivers should expect delays in the work zone and use alternate routes if possible. For the latest information on work hours and traffic impacts, check [BellevueWA.gov/trafficadvisories](https://BellevueWA.gov/trafficadvisories).

This year, Pavement Preservation Program plans call for repaving a total of 34 lane miles citywide, from April to October. Included in the work will be the replacement of more than 60 curb ramps to improve accessibility for people who walk and roll.

In a new program element for 2021, the city will pilot a type of pavement sealing known as micro surfacing on residential streets in two neighborhoods. The application, in which a thin, protective layer of emulsified asphalt is applied to the roadway, takes significantly less time and is less expensive than the typical treatment of pavement grinding and overlay.

More information on the program, including a map, project location list, weekly update and video, is available at [BellevueWA.gov/pavement](https://BellevueWA.gov/pavement).

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## Crossroads Connect ride service adds service hours, other perks



Crossroads Connect, the app-based rider service launched in October, has expanded its service hours to include weekday mornings and Saturdays, and introduced other improvements. The changes are part of the pilot program's ongoing effort to better serve riders. The new hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other newly added services include pick-up and drop-off points at designated King County COVID-19 vaccination locations listed on the app, and the addition of a bike rack to the Crossroads Connect van.

The latest improvements follow changes made in January to expand the Crossroads Connect service area – for a second time. The service area in northeast Bellevue now extends roughly from SR 520 south to I-90, and west to 124th Avenue Northeast or I-405. It 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 take a trip to or from any of eight RapidRide B Line station pairs (bus stops across the street from one another) within the Crossroads area, the Eastgate Park and Ride and designated vaccination locations.

Crossroads Connect is a partnership between the City of Bellevue and King County Metro. More information, including a service area map, information on how to book a ride, King County Metro bus connections, health and safety protocols, and cost is available at [BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect](https://BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect). The web page includes information in seven languages.

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## Open house seeks ideas on 120th Avenue NE improvements

The BelRed area continues to transform as planned. Public improvements such as the new Northeast Spring Boulevard and the future light rail, as well as private development, are realizing the vision for BelRed as a vibrant thriving neighborhood. The latest corridor improvement project envisions 120th Avenue Northeast, between the future Northeast 16th Street and Northup Way, as a safer, more inviting place to walk, bike, drive and connect to transit.

The city is hosting an online open house to encourage comments on preliminary design concepts for roadway sections, a trail crossing and urban design features such as directional signs and wall finishes. Please visit [EngagingBellevue.com/120thavenue](https://EngagingBellevue.com/120thavenue) between March 29 and April 16 to learn more about improvements under consideration and share your ideas.

More specifically, the following improvements are being evaluated:

- Widen 120th Avenue Northeast to two lanes in each direction with turn pockets or a center turn lane to improve vehicle circulation.
- Add new sidewalk and bike lanes on both sides of the street to provide safe access to the future light rail station and nearby trail.

- Replace the existing Kelsey Creek West Tributary culvert under the roadway to allow improved passage for fish and other wildlife and associated stream restoration.
- Replace and stripe the pavement.
- Improve traffic signals, landscaping, street lighting, retaining walls, and signage.
- Upgrade utility and stormwater facilities.

This project is the final phase of the 120th Avenue Northeast Corridor Improvement Project which encompasses multimodal improvements between Northeast Fourth Street and Northrup Way. Design for this phase is anticipated to be complete in late 2022. Funding for right-of-way property acquisition and construction has not yet been secured.

Visit [BellevueWA.gov/120thavenuecorridor](http://BellevueWA.gov/120thavenuecorridor) for more information or contact Jun An, project manager, Transportation Department, at 425-452-4230 or [jan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jan@bellevuewa.gov).



## Boards and Commissions Meetings

As of April 1, 2020, 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)

### City Council [BellevueWA.gov/Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx](http://BellevueWA.gov/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 BTU 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			

**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)