

neighborhood news



May 2021

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods

Spring into Summer: The Great Bellevue Scavenger Hunt Returns!


May 28-June 20

The Scavenger Hunt is back by popular demand! Join friends, family and neighbors in fun challenges from Memorial Day weekend through the first official day of summer in another Great Bellevue Scavenger Hunt. Participants will have a chance to win prizes such as cool city swag!



Teams are encouraged to download the free Goose Chase app and to sign up early, but players can register at any time during

the game. Players earn points by answering trivia or taking pictures or videos to complete at home and throughout the city. Missions vary, but may include exploring local parks, showing off your neighborhood, saving the planet with eco challenges or even activities with your pets!

 For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Check out what last year's players said:

"My family and I had such a fun time with the challenges and actually learned quite a few new tips and places around Bellevue."

"We used the scavenger hunt as a way to foster greater community in the neighborhood. It was a fun way to bring people together"

"The kids had fun doing some of the 'work' and sleuthing. It was so fun."

If you played last year, defend your winning title or try to beat your last score with new missions!

To participate:

1. Download the free GooseChase app.
2. Create an account or log in as a guest. Only one account is needed per team.
3. Enter game code "BELLPLAY" or search "Spring into Summer: The Great Bellevue Scavenger Hunt Returns"
4. Select or create your team. Teams can have a single member.

"Are you listening?"

Cultural Conversations to focus on Asian Heritage Month

Tuesday, May 4

1-2:30 p.m.

Reflecting on Asian Heritage Month and recent incidents of anti-Asian hate sentiment, the May Cultural Conversations will focus on the topic of "voice."

There are many ways in which voice is expressed, and what brings us to courageously speak our truth and support others to do so. What does an inclusive and supportive community feel and look like, particularly in the context of current events and historical trends? What support could be provided to women who may



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be experiencing fear or hesitancy? What inspiration and strengths do our Asian-American neighbors draw upon from their rich cultural heritage and community ties?



Joining us will be a panel of five inspirational Asian-American leaders: a woman who built a business that is a gathering place and a hub for giving back to community, a pioneer in the computer technology industry, a change agent for ethical leadership, an artist whose creative vision is community building and an insightful student who challenges the notion of the model minority.

Following the panel, we will move to deeper conversations in small groups sharing what we heard.

Cultural Conversations is a program entering its eleventh season, and has transformed relationships and perspectives among diverse women in our community through education and storytelling.

Registration is required to receive the meeting link. You can also visit the city's website. For more information or accommodation needs, please contact NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 452-452-6836.

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6917 (voice) or email cross@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711.



Bellevue Centers Communities of Color Initiative begins

On January 20, the City Council approved the Bellevue Centers Communities of Color Initiative, a community-led effort centered on advancing racial equity and building trust and awareness across the city's diverse population. The initiative aims to do this using the following three-tiered approach:

1. developing trust and awareness through dialogue,
2. building racial literacy and skills through education and training, and
3. partnering with the city and other institutions to co-create recommendations and actions that will advance racial equity in our community.

The City of Bellevue invites you to be part of the Communities of Color Coordinating team!

The Communities of Color Coordinating (CCC) team is an opportunity for individuals who live or work in Bellevue to organize, inform, and coordinate efforts in creating a greater sense of community in Bellevue where people of color feel welcome, valued and centered through this new initiative. This community-led team will be comprised of eleven appointed members. The city is looking for a diverse and intersectional representation of members from the community.

Please join us to learn more in three informational sessions hosted virtually via Zoom:

- **Session 1: Tuesday, May 11, 4-5 p.m.**
- **Session 2: Thursday, May 13, 6-7 p.m.**
- **Session 3: Saturday, May 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m.**

Register for the information sessions at:

bellevuecenters-communitiesofcolor.eventbrite.com.

The CCC team application will be open from Monday, April 26 through Sunday, May 16. For more information or questions, please email Diversity@bellevuewa.gov.

Bellevue Essentials Information Meetings

June 2 and 3

If learning about the structure and daily operations

of Bellevue city government intrigues you, consider joining the 2021 cohort of Bellevue Essentials. The ten-week course is for individuals who are curious about civic engagement and eager to understand and participate in local government. Participants engage with city council members, city staff and leadership. Each cohort learns about the past, present and future of Bellevue through presentations, interactive experiences and tours.

In its ninth year, Bellevue Essentials launches Sept. 22, with nine weekly Wednesday evening sessions and a tour day on Saturday, Oct. 9. Class size is limited to no more than 35 students, and there has been a waiting



list every year. Following a successful 2020 virtual class experience, Bellevue Essentials is planning to return to a format that will meet in-person with appropriate social distancing and will include a combination of engaging in-person and virtual tours and activities. The mix of in-person and online learning will be determined by current COVID restrictions this fall.



Bellevue Essentials has 276 graduates representing a broad range of cultures, backgrounds, occupations and perspectives. The program seeks participants who will represent Bellevue's diverse demographics and a broad range of neighborhood areas. Many of the alumni now give back by serving on city boards and commissions, advisory committees and at many nonprofit organizations in the community.



“What makes this program amazing is the opportunity to explore diverse perspectives and to learn from expert city planners. I've developed a new sense of appreciation for the complexities of decision-making that the city & council go through to make our city thrive for all: youth, aging and all economic levels. With hands-on games like budget allocations and mock public hearings in city council chambers, we got a real-life experience of how democracy works at the local level.”

– Eva Orłowska-Emadi ('19)

Information sessions for potential applicants will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 2, 6-7 p.m. and Thursday, June 3, noon-1 p.m. The sessions provide a detailed overview of the Bellevue Essentials program including schedule, curriculum and application process. You will hear from Bellevue Essentials graduates who will share their insights and experience, and you will have the chance to ask them your questions. 30-minute application workshops are also available on June 9 at noon and June 10 at 6 p.m. Attendance at these meetings is beneficial, but not required to apply.

Tuition is \$125.00 per participant and fee waivers are available. The simple application with three short essay questions is due Friday, July 23 by 5 p.m.

To register and receive the Zoom link for the information meeting or application workshop, contact Julie Ellenhorn, jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372. Brochure and applications now are available at BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials

Neighborhood Enhancement Program scoping continues for West Bellevue

Woodridge project ideas are due May 19

West Bellevue residents:

City staff is currently finishing the scoping phase of the numerous project ideas that were submitted for your neighborhood earlier this year. Please plan to join city staff and your neighbors at a **virtual public open house on June 9 at 7 p.m.** to preview the projects that will be included on your NEP ballot and eligible for funding from the \$294,000 budget allocation. A brief overview of the project scoping process and NEP voting process will be provided. Register at NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov to receive the Zoom meeting link.



Woodridge residents: NEP kicked off for your neighborhood area last month with a budget of \$161,000 allotted to your area. Now is the time to submit your project ideas for how you'd like this money spent.

It's easy to share your ideas! Simply return the Postage-Paid Project Idea Card each Woodridge household received in the mail in April or submit your ideas using the online submission form found at BellevueWA.gov/nep. All project ideas must be postmarked or submitted online by **Wednesday, May 19**.

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a city-funded program that allows residents to propose and select modest, capital projects to enhance



their neighborhoods. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP neighborhood areas over the course of seven years, serving two areas each year. The \$5 million program allocation is distributed among each of

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the NEP neighborhood areas, according to the number of households in each area.

In 2021, NEP is in the West Bellevue and Woodridge neighborhood areas. NEP comes to Newport and Somerset in 2022.

Please contact NEP Coordinator, Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4186 with questions. Detailed program information can be found at BellevueWA.gov/nep.



City of Bellevue
Cultural & Economic
Development

Cultural and Economic Development updates

By Philly Marsh, City of Bellevue Economic Development Manager

Employment Resources

BellevueWA.gov/employment-resources

If you are looking for your next job, make sure to visit Bellevue's Employment Resources page to explore the various no-cost programs available to Bellevue residents in helping you reach your full employment potential.

Heart of Bellevue

bellevuedowntown.com/post/welcome-to-the-heart-of-bellevue

Interested in supporting local businesses during the pandemic? Check out the Bellevue Downtown Association's Heart of Bellevue to learn more about the small businesses that make downtown such an exciting place to live, work and play — and the people who make those small businesses possible. Follow the BDA on social media and subscribe to their email list to get connected with downtown shops, restaurants and venues offering deals and unique experiences.



Outdoor Dining

BellevueWA.gov/outdoor-dining

The city is supporting restaurants again this summer in expanding outdoor dining options, whether on the sidewalk, on the street, in parking lots or on private property. As people begin to return downtown and to our business districts, outdoor dining can add a new and exciting experience for residents and visitors alike.

Additionally, restaurants can join the Bellevue Downtown Association's Heart of Bellevue program for marketing assistance, and receive financial advising from our team of technical advisors for help making outdoor dining work for your business.

Stay Connected!

Sign up for the Cultural and Economic Development newsletter for the latest business, arts and workforce opportunities, including events and news at bizsupport@bellevuewa.gov. Connect with us through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @thinkbellevue.

Coordinated homelessness work in Bellevue

Bellevue and other Eastside cities and nonprofits continue to work together to address homelessness. Impacts of the pandemic have increased the level of need in our community and the city strives to find a balance between enforcement and compassion. The strategies and tactics used include:

- Identifying risk factors to help prevent individuals from falling into homelessness
- Providing affordable housing
- Leveraging community partnerships in hosting shelters
- Enforcing city codes

The ultimate goal is to prevent homelessness and, when it does occur, to transition individuals back into stable housing as soon as possible.

For more information on the city's coordinated work and to learn how you can help, please visit:

BellevueWA.gov/homelessness.



May is “Better Hearing Month”

According to the National Institutes of Health, nearly 25% of those in the United States aged 65 to 74 years, and 50% of those who are 75



years and older have disabling hearing loss. Hearing loss can be mistaken for dementia due to the similarity of some symptoms. Learn more at hearingloss-wa.org. The public is encouraged to contact a medical professional if they suspect hearing loss for themselves or a loved one.

Signs of hearing loss may include:

- Turning up the volume on the television, radio or computer and having others complain that the volume is too loud.
- Difficulty understanding people speaking to you and asking them to repeat themselves.
- Inability to hear the doorbell, the dog barking and other household sounds.
- Struggling to understand speech, especially in noisy environments.
- People telling you that you speak too loudly.

Hearing loss is caused by numerous factors, including ear infections, certain medications, deterioration related to aging and excessive exposure to loud noise,



including loud sounds from musical instruments. The Centers for Disease Control gives examples of the length of time before exposure to different items and situations can damage your hearing. To protect your ears, avoid exposure to loud sounds, move away from the noise or turn down the volume. If these options aren't available, hearing protection through earplugs or protective ear muffs can help. nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-protectors

Hearing aids help most persons with hearing loss to hear better. Before making an appointment to discuss hearing aids, it's helpful to gather information. Hearing Loss Association of America-Washington (HLAA-WA) has a useful brochure entitled "Buying Hearing Aids in Washington": hearingloss-wa.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/New-Hearing-Aid-Brochure-Final-Aug-23-updated-April-6-2021.pdf. The HLAA-WA website also includes information on financial help for buying hearing aids and answers many frequently asked questions. Prior to buying hearing aids, check if your choice will work with your cell phone and whether they have telecoils.

Age Friendly Seattle will present the "Better Hearing Month Panel on Close to Home" featuring Bellevue Network on Aging member Diana Thompson, Cheri Perazzoli & Dr. Brad Ingrao, May 6, at 10:30 a.m. Register at bit.ly/AgeFriendlyLive. The program will be captioned so that persons with hearing loss can understand the speakers.

Staying safe from fire

Working smoke alarms and sprinklers kept residents safe during April apartment fire.



Bellevue Fire Department crews were recently dispatched to a fire in a

mid-rise apartment building downtown. A resident on the second floor had been cooking when some combustible materials too close to the stovetop caught fire, and the flames quickly started extending to the



cabinets above. A working smoke alarm alerted the resident as well as others in the building, and by the time crews arrived, many had safely evacuated the building. Only one resident needed to be rescued from the second floor by firefighters.

When crews made entry into the apartment, they found a single sprinkler head had activated and put out most of the fire. They were easily able to put the rest of the fire out with their fire hoses. Although a number of residents were displaced because of water damage, the outcome of the fire could have been much worse without the functioning systems.

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Some tips to keep yourself safe from fire:

- Change the batteries in your smoke alarms twice each year and test the alarms monthly
- Do not store combustible materials close to your stovetop, heating vents or other hot surfaces
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Follow the "Close Before You Doze" advice and sleep with your bedroom door closed
- Create and practice a home escape plan
- If you live in an apartment building and your unit catches fire, close the door behind you if you exit into the hallway

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) ([nfpa.org/Public-Education](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education)) offers information on these and other fire safety topics for the whole family.

2021 Leaders of Today competition

Are you a student in grades 6-12 with an idea for change your community? Sign up for the 2021



Leaders of Today Competition sponsored by Bellevue Youth Link! You'll get the opportunity to collaborate with industry-leading professionals, ranging from the Mayor of Bellevue to an MIT professor, to help transform your ideas into reality.

The competition closes on May 2, so be sure to sign up now at leadersoftodaynw.org/.

Pictured pre-pandemic are contest co-sponsors Harshitha Rebala and Isabella Wang.

Important resources to address Fentanyl use

In just two weeks, Bellevue firefighters and police were called to two unresponsive young adults, an 18-year old female and a 19-year old male, who had overdosed on opioid pills. In both cases, resuscitation attempts were unsuccessful. These tragic deaths bring the total number of deaths in Bellevue due to opioid overdose to six already in 2021. The deaths occurred in people aged 18-49 years.

Officers are seeing a sharp increase in the number of fentanyl-laced pills circulating in Bellevue and the region. This coincides with a large narcotic seizure involving the Homeland Security Investigation's Narcotics Taskforce and other local law enforcement agencies March 23. During this investigation, 410,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills, which were actually fentanyl, were confiscated along with several other illicit drugs.



Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is far more potent and addictive than other opioids. It suppresses the nervous system causing people to stop breathing. It's cheap to make and lucrative to sell. The amount of fentanyl in counterfeit pills is inconsistent and unpredictable.



"It only takes a minuscule amount of fentanyl, a couple of grains of sand worth, to kill someone," said Bellevue Police Captain Shelby Shearer. "People buy pills on the streets or at a party, and they think they're getting Percocet or Xanax. But unless the pills are obtained with a doctor's prescription, you must assume it's laced with fentanyl," Shearer added.

There is a medication available called Naloxone or "Narcan" that can reverse opioid effects. If you or someone you know is at risk for opioid overdose, you should keep this on hand. For more information on where to get Naloxone and other related topics: King County Public Health Overdose and Prevention Response (kingcounty.gov/depts/health/overdose-prevention.aspx).

The Washington Recovery Helpline ([warecoveryhelpline.org](https://www.warecoveryhelpline.org)) offers a 24-hour help line (1-866-789-1511) and other resources for those suffering from an opioid use disorder.



More students in schools requires increased vigilance from drivers

With in-person learning offered to all Bellevue School District students as of April 26, there are more children walking and more people driving to and from schools.

Please be aware of the increased foot and vehicle traffic and take appropriate precautions. In school zones the speed limit is 20 mph when children are most likely to be walking or rolling to or from school; fines for speeding are double in these zones.



In some school zones, flashing lights operate according to the bell schedules of nearby schools. More information is available at BellevueWA.gov (search for "School Zones").

In case you're rusty on school-year safety tips, here are some reminders:

- Slow down in school zones and when you see children in the area. The stopping distance of a vehicle traveling 30 mph is nearly twice the stopping distance of a vehicle traveling 20 mph.
- Watch for pedestrians when entering a school driveway or turning a corner and stop behind the crosswalk at intersections to allow room for pedestrians.
- Pedestrians should obey traffic signs and signals, use crosswalks and look both ways to find a gap in traffic before crossing the street. If your kids walk to school, make sure they know the rules of the road and your expectations.
- It's unlawful to pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing. Watch for children and other pedestrians waiting for school buses.
- Pay attention while driving. Washington's distracted driving law makes it illegal to use a handheld electronic device while driving, even when stopped at a signal.

Council identifies Lake Hills Connector on-ramp as recommended alternative

Following a year of study and public engagement, the City Council unanimously supported a project

team's recommendation of the Lake Hills Connector southbound on-ramp to Interstate 405 (I-405) as the alternative that best meets the evaluation criteria and the goals of the South Downtown I-405 Access study.

The study was conducted in collaboration with the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) as a conceptual planning effort to identify alternatives that meet the city's transportation needs in furtherance of WSDOT's I-405 Master Plan. Identifying an option preferred by the city will inform WSDOT's future environmental review and freeway access revision



request processes, which will be initiated when state funding is available. It will also enable the city to communicate to property owners and developers about right-of-way needs and site access options.

The Lake Hills Connector southbound on-ramp concept adds vehicle access to I-405 southbound with minimum property and environmental impacts at a reasonable cost (estimated at \$150 million in 2030 dollars) compared to the other alternatives. It also aligns with city land use and urban design policies and allows the East Main Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) land use code amendment process to continue.

In a related discussion, councilmembers urged the Transportation Department to accelerate a separate project that would provide pedestrian and bicycle access along Southeast Eighth Street to compliment the Lake Hills Connector alternative.

Input was provided by stakeholders who represent properties and neighborhoods within the study area, business and transportation interest groups and the community at-large.

For details on the analysis, go to BellevueWA.gov/access-study.



Boards and Commissions Meetings

As of April 1, no meetings are taking place at City Hall. Stay updated on meetings and cancellations: 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

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

(6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-managers-office/diversity/bellevue-diversity-advisory-network

East Bellevue Community Council (6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) First Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/east-bellevue-community-council

Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-109) First Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission

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

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

City Council 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.	Virtual	Emails to Council are accepted at council@bellevuewa.gov at any time. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at bellevueWA.gov/Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx
August – first Monday only	Regular Meeting	Bellevue TV channel 21 and BTU YouTube channel youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington	
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

LEOFF 1 Disability Board (6 p.m., Room 1E-118) First Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/human-resources/retirees-former-employees/leoff-1-disability-board

Library Board (5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or Newport Way Library) Third Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/library-board

Parks & Community Services Board (6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board

The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) 8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month BellevueWA.gov/bnoa

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

Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, please visit our website at: BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov. To subscribe to this newsletter, visit: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news