

neighborhood news



June 2021

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods

Downtown Park's Northeast Gateway unveiled

In early June, Downtown Park will feature a new Northeast Gateway, a pedestrian entrance with a plaza, seating areas and water feature that creates a connection between the park and downtown's commercial district.

The park's northeast corner, located at one of the busiest intersections in Bellevue at Northeast Fourth Street and Bellevue Way, is the primary connection between the park and downtown. The entrance is highly visible, with an estimated weekday average of 26,000 people traveling daily past the entrance down Bellevue Way.

"This project provides a distinct sense of place in the northeast corner of Downtown Park while connecting the park to downtown's commercial district," said Mayor Lynne Robinson.

"Since ground was first broken for the park in the 1980s, it has been every bit the well-loved landmark that city leaders envisioned," said Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services director. "Each major improvement since then has made it more accessible and beautiful."

Bellevue bought most of the land that is now Downtown Park from the school district in 1983. An international design competition the following


year yielded the park master plan. Three phases of construction on the park were completed by 2017 but the northeast entrance concept was unfinished.

The historic archway from Union High School, which stood on the site of Downtown Park from 1923 to 1989, has been reinstalled in the formal garden as part of the northeast entrance project.

The park entry design creates a welcoming transition between downtown and the park. The new entrance will be part of the Grand

Connection – a pedestrian-focused, interactive and connected 1.5-mile corridor through the heart of Bellevue. Public art will be installed in the plaza in late summer.



 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.

Subscribe to Neighborhood News electronically:
BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Bellevue Fire Department Covid-19 vaccination effort expands

Since mid-January, mobile vaccination teams consisting of Bellevue firefighters, EMTs and paramedics have been working under the guidance of Public Health – Seattle & King County (Public Health)



Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

to provide doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to residents. The program is fully supported by the Bellevue City Council and was formed as a pilot program on the Eastside. The department spent a day observing the already-established Seattle Fire Department's program, trained Bellevue Fire staff, and coordinated paperwork requirements with Public Health. Within just four days, the first doses had already been given through Bellevue's program.

The teams, following applicable phase eligibility guidelines, began by vaccinating residents and staff of adult family homes.



From there, they ventured into senior living facilities, long-term shelter facilities for those experiencing homelessness, and the residences of homebound people. In March the teams began staffing pop-up clinics at various locations around the city, now an ongoing effort. The teams have also been setting up sites in the City of Newcastle as the department provides fire protection services to that community. As of the third week in May, a total of 2,800 doses had been administered. This number includes first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine and the single-dose J&J vaccines given. On May 24, the team received access to the Pfizer vaccine and will begin vaccinating anyone ages 12-18 years of age with those doses.

Pop-up location dates are being added regularly. To check the schedule and sign up for alerts:

BellevueWA.gov/vaccines

Save-the-Date: Virtual Cultural Conversations – Bold Made

Tuesday June 1, 1-2:30 p.m.

What Games Teach Us

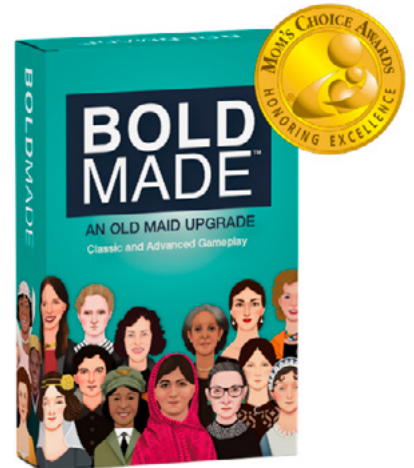
"Bold Made" flips the script on "Old Maid" card game

Join as we wrap up this season of Cultural Conversations on Tuesday, June 1, 1-2:30 p.m. During this session you will meet Leslie Pierson, creator



of Bold Made, a reimagination of the Old Maid card game. Leslie is a serial entrepreneur who is passionate about creating infectious card games and finding ways to make learning fun through games. Her son, Alex, created a card game called Taco vs. Burrito when he was seven years old. The game has become wildly popular, selling over \$3.5 million in 2020. After the success of Taco vs. Burrito, they set their sights on remaking the Old Maid card game. It had been a constant frustration for Leslie that people still played Old Maid, considering that the goal was to avoid the older woman deemed too old to marry.

Bold Made flips the script on this outdated game and includes bold women who made huge impacts on our world. The game has a more aspirational goal of ending the game with the Bold Made card in your hand. The game includes bold women such as Malala Yousafzai, Temple Grandin, Ellen Ochoa, Roberta Bondar, Georgia O'Keeffe, Sally Ride, Maya Angelou, Amelia Earhart and more. Bold Made's mission is to introduce a new generation to these bold women through play to spark their curiosity and meaningful conversations.



Following Leslie's sharing, we will move to conversations in small groups, sharing on the games we played as children, what they taught us and where we might be open to inspiration and risk taking.

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

Registration is required (email neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov) to receive the meeting link. You can also visit our city website. For more information or accommodation needs, please contact NeighborhoodOutreach@Bellevuewa.gov or call 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).

All About Bellevue!

Virtual information meetings:

Wednesday, June 2, 6-7 p.m., and

Thursday, June 3, noon-1 p.m.

Join your neighbors for an overview of the program, hear firsthand experiences of several graduates and ask your questions. Attendance is not required to apply, but you will get a clear picture of what Bellevue Essentials is all about!

If learning about the structure and daily operations of Bellevue city government intrigues you, then apply to join the 2021 Bellevue Essentials class. If you have a passion for learning more about your local city and our government and you want to connect with others interested in civic engagement, then Bellevue Essentials is perfect for you!

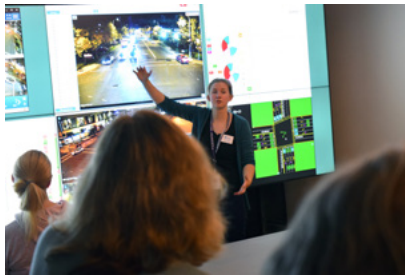
Throughout the ten-week course, participants will engage with city council members, city staff and leadership and will learn about the past, present and future of Bellevue through presentations, interactive experiences and tours. The program will be a combination of in-person and online learning based on COVID restrictions this fall.

Applications are due by July 23 at 5 p.m.

Virtual application workshops will be held June 9 at noon and June 10 at 6 p.m.

Class meets every Wednesday night, beginning Sept. 22, and concluding on Nov. 17. Each year, a diverse group of 35 people are selected to participate. Tuition is \$125 and fee waivers are available if needed.

Brochure, meeting information and an easy application for the 2021 class is at BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials.



If you have questions or wish to receive the zoom link for an information or application meeting, RSVP to jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372.

Neighborhood Enhancement Program updates

West Bellevue Projects Open House

June 9 Virtual Meeting

Attention West Bellevue residents! Join your neighbors at a virtual public open house on Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. to preview the 10 small capital projects that will be included on your NEP ballot and eligible for funding from the \$294,000 West Bellevue NEP budget allocation. A brief overview of the project scoping and NEP voting processes will also be provided. Let us know that you plan to attend by emailing neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov for the Zoom link.



Project scoping begins for Woodridge NEP

The project submission phase for the Woodridge NEP closed on May 19. City staff are now in the scoping and review phase for the **80 project ideas** that were submitted for your neighborhood area and will present projects eligible for funding from the \$161,000 Woodridge NEP budget allocation at a Sept. 9 virtual open house.

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 the NEP neighborhood areas, according to the number of households in each area. In 2022, NEP will come to the Newport and Somerset neighborhood areas.

Questions? Contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov. Detailed program information can be found at BellevueWA.gov/nep.

NEP Project Spotlight: Cherry Crest Elementary Intersection Improvements

Completed during the Summer of 2020, the resident-initiated Cherry Crest Elementary intersection improvement project enhanced the three-leg intersection at the entrance to Cherry Crest Elementary School.

The project encourages stop compliance and provides a safer pedestrian crossing condition for students and parents. The project included the installation of a new streetlight on the



southwest corner of 124th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 32nd Street, the replacement of existing STOP signs with flashing STOP signs to enhance visibility and fun, crayon-themed crosswalk paint was added inside of the existing north-south crosswalk. Thanks to Transportation department project managers Jeremy Chin and Max Scheideman for their work to bring this project to the Bridle Trails community.

Openings on Youth Link Board

Bellevue Youth Link is seeking seven high-school aged candidates and two adult Bellevue residents for vacancies on its volunteer board. Applications are due by 5 p.m., Monday, June 14.



Board members serve two-year terms, attending two meetings in various community locations each month. The City of Bellevue values diversity and encourages anyone interested to apply. People interested in serving on the board may apply directly online: bit.ly/3fCLMSz

For additional information about the Youth Link Board, please contact Patrick Alina, Youth Link coordinator at 425-452-5254 or palina@bellevuewa.gov.

BELLEVUE FARMERS MARKET

Bellevue Network on Aging is hosting a monthly information table at the Bellevue Farmers' Market, 3-7 p.m., the second Thursday of each month.

Stop by and see us!

June is "Adult Abuse Awareness Month"

The Bellevue Network on Aging would like to share information on elder and vulnerable adult abuse.



Washington state designates June

as Adult Abuse Awareness Month. Our state uses the term "adult abuse" rather than "elder abuse" in that our state investigates all reports of vulnerable adult abuse. However, most vulnerable adult reports involve seniors. In 2020, of the 65,106 adult abuse reports received by Adult Protective Services (APS), at least 76% involved persons aged 60 and older.

What is Adult Abuse?

"Adult abuse" describes a range of behavior including financial exploitation, physical abuse, mental abuse, neglect, personal exploitation, self-neglect and sexual abuse. Adult abuse can occur in homes, institutional settings such as nursing homes or assisted living facilities, and within businesses in the community. Adult abuse is often perpetrated by a known, trusted person, for instance an adult child, grandchild, or spouse. The National Council on Aging reports that "Two thirds of perpetrators are adult children or spouses."

ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-elder-abuse

Signs of Abuse

There are multiple signs of vulnerable adult abuse, including lack of food or medicine, bills not paid, unusual purchases, bruises, black eyes and welts, sudden or unexplained changes in behavior, harassment and humiliation, withdrawal from social interactions and panic attacks. Unfortunately, adult abuse is underreported. A victim may not report abuse for varied reasons, including inability to report,



dependency on the abuser for care and basic needs, embarrassment, or fear that reporting will lead to placement in a nursing home.

Protecting Oneself from Abuse

APS gives several tips on how vulnerable adults can help protect themselves from abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation including:

- Stay busy and engaged in life
- Take care of yourself
- Recognize your right to be treated with dignity and respect
- Know your legal rights
- Trust your instincts

APS also gives tips to protect yourself from financial exploitation including:

- Don't give personal information to persons you hardly know
- Donate only to known charities
- Secure legal advice for questions regarding power of attorney
- Make a will and carefully considering all revisions

To Report Vulnerable Adult Abuse:

Phone 877-734-6277 or complete the online report at dshs.wa.gov/altsa/reportadultabuse. However, if you believe a crime has occurred or the person is in immediate danger, call 911.

Need help maintaining your home?

The city's Minor Home Repair program may be able to help!

The City of Bellevue's Minor Home Repair program serves younger, disabled homeowners, low-income family homeowners and older adult homeowners who are faced with the challenge of affording home repairs.

Minor Home Repair provides home maintenance for Bellevue homeowners who are on limited budgets or have moderate incomes. The program helps adults of all ages maintain independence and remain safely in their homes for as long as possible. Our staff technicians provide repair



services at no cost to our clients. We have a suggested donation of \$10 per hour for labor plus the cost of parts, but there is no obligation to pay.

Examples of Minor Home Repair Service Projects:

- Plumbing
 - ◆ Fix leaking pipes and faucets
 - ◆ Clear clogged drains
 - ◆ Replace broken toilets and sinks
- Electrical
 - ◆ Replace lightbulbs
 - ◆ Install battery-operated smoke detectors
- Carpentry
 - ◆ Rebuild broken steps
 - ◆ Repair rotted and unsafe porches
 - ◆ Replace broken doors and windowpanes
 - ◆ Install locks and deadbolts
- Disability Access
 - ◆ Build wheelchair ramps
 - ◆ Install grab bars and handrails

The Minor Home Repair program provides referrals to other programs to ensure that clients are able to solve all repair issues, even if they're outside the scope of our program.

Call us to learn more: Phone: 206-448-5751, Toll Free: 1-888-435-3377, TTY: WA Relay 711.

soundgenerations.org

Natural Yard Care Tips to help you and our environment!

Looking to make improvements to your landscapes and gardens? Consider practicing natural yard care principles to build beautiful spaces that need less water and maintenance and avoid pesticides and chemicals.



Adding a few inches of quality mulch around plant beds is a great way to help lock in soil moisture and keep weeds out.

You can find step-by-step guides to work smart, not hard in your yard at BellevueWA.gov/natural-yard-care.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Cascade Gardener provides short how-to videos at [Cascadewater.org](https://cascadewater.org).

Here are the natural yard care basics:

- Build healthy soil and give plants a good base to start with good compost, mulch and organic fertilizers. Healthy soil means healthier plants that need less water and care.
- Plant right for your site for healthy, lower-maintenance landscapes. Choosing native plants and the plants that fit your landscape's unique sun/shade and soil conditions means less fuss, more fun!
- Water smart to save money and make every drop count. This means watering deeply but infrequently and right at plant roots – use soaker hoses or drip irrigation, if possible. And water with the weather – turn off irrigation when it rains or consider installing a rain sensor on automatic systems.
- Think twice before using pesticides to keep your family and pets safe. Strong, healthy plants resist pests. Attracting beneficial bugs can also help reduce unwanted invaders.

Bonus tip: Don't know if a weed or bug is harmful? Contact the Garden Hotline, staffed with experts ready to answer all your bug (and natural yard care) questions. Call 206-633-0224 or visit gardenhotline.org for email form.

- Practice natural lawn care for a great-looking, low maintenance lawn. One top tip: mow higher to protect your lawn in intense heat, and leave the clippings (also known as "grass-cycling") to fertilize your lawn and hold in moisture. Bonus: less yard waste to manage!

End result of putting these principles to work? A healthier place for your family, pets and our environment, more money in your wallet from water savings, and more time for you to relax and enjoy!

Spring into Summer: Join the Great Bellevue Scavenger Hunt!

Play now through June 20

Join your friends, family, and neighbors this month in another Great Bellevue Scavenger Hunt using the free Goose Chase app! Players can join any time during the game. Win prizes such as cool city swag!

Players earn points completing scavenger hunt missions by taking photos or videos of unique features in Bellevue, answering trivia questions, or completing

challenges at home and throughout the City. Missions vary but may include finding local public art, exploring local parks, showing off your favorite local businesses and eateries, sharing favorite old memories of Bellevue, making Earth Day every day with spring challenges, or even activities with your pets!

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.



Work to improve 112th Avenue NE, north of Downtown, starts this month

Construction is scheduled to begin in early June on the 112th Avenue Northeast Corridor Improvements project, from Northeast 12th Street to Northeast 24th Street. The upgrades will increase safety and accessibility for people who walk, roll, bicycle and drive.

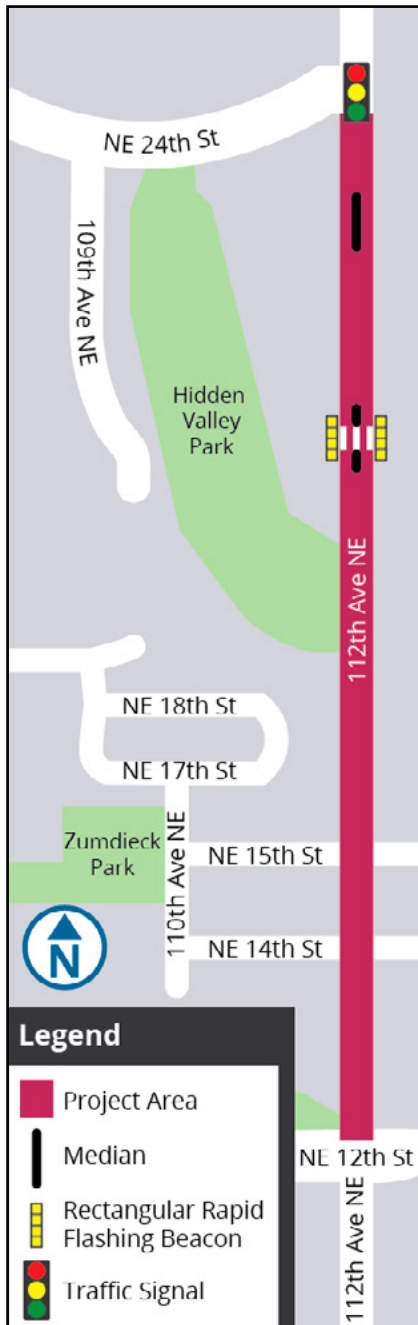
The project, expected to conclude by the end of 2021, will include:

- Replacing sidewalk panels on both sides of the street where street trees have caused cracking and heaving; replacing curb ramps to meet federal accessibility standards.
- Adding a new mid-block crosswalk, median island and flashing beacon north of the entrance to Hidden Valley Sports Park, where an earlier crossing was installed in 2018.
- Installing a new traffic signal at 112th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 24th Street to improve traffic flow.
- Repaving the roadway to improve the pavement and extend its life.

Street trees are a valued part of Bellevue's urban forest, providing aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits. On 112th Avenue Northeast, however, tree roots have caused sidewalk panels to buckle or heave, resulting in trip hazards for pedestrians. City staff have determined that for safety and accessibility reasons nearly 60 street trees along the sidewalk must be removed.

Unfortunately, there is insufficient space within the public right-of-way to replace the trees and make the sidewalk wide enough to meet today's accessibility standards. The trees removed will be replaced with approximately 100 trees at nearby Hidden Valley Sports Park, in an area currently overgrown with invasive vegetation.

The project is primarily funded by the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy; the estimated construction cost is \$2.5 million. More information, including FAQs about the tree removal work, is available on the project webpage at BellevueWA.gov/112th-ave-corridor



Safer crosswalk style coming to signalized intersections citywide

Bellevue is going continental, but not in the way you might think. Gradually, over the next few years, the city's Transportation Department will transition to "continental" crosswalks at all 210 signalized intersections citywide.

Currently, crosswalks at signalized intersections are a style called "traverse" – two parallel lines that run from one side of a street to the other, perpendicular to the roadway being crossed. Continental-style crosswalks, by contrast, include several white bars that are parallel to each other and parallel to the roadway being crossed.



The continental-style crosswalks already are used at mid-block crossings and other locations citywide. The reason for the change is that research shows continental crosswalks are safer, providing better visibility for drivers, than traverse crosswalks.

Also, other cities in the region have moved away from parallel bar crosswalks and Bellevue is an outlier that still uses them at signalized intersections. Changing the city's crosswalk standard will increase the consistency of pavement markings across the region.

Most of the pavement markings for the city's 750-plus crosswalks at signalized intersections citywide are made of thermoplastic, rather than painted on. It typically costs approximately \$2,500 to install one new crosswalk.

The new crosswalk pavement markings will be phased in over time as new development takes place, roadways are repaved and through other, smaller projects.



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

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

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. Regular Meeting	Virtual Bellevue TV channel 21 and BTV YouTube channel youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington	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 bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx
August – first Monday only			
December – first and second Mondays only			