



Neighborhood News



January 2022



City partners with community to honor MLK, celebrate wellness at virtual health fair

The City of Bellevue is again holding a virtual health fair in partnership with the Bellevue Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to honor MLK Day and promote health in the community.

Registration is open now for the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Health Fair to be hosted virtually on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, 10-11:30 a.m. The virtual event offers opportunities to reflect, engage and take action in building a beloved, healthy and thriving Bellevue in the spirit of King's legacy of equity and community.



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.

“We value our longstanding partnership with Delta Sigma Theta, which makes it possible to bring this collection of meaningful health information and resources to our neighbors while raising awareness for the importance of the life and legacy of Dr. King,” said Linda Whitehead, the city’s chief diversity, equity & inclusion officer. “We look forward to welcoming the community and supporting this effort and important message.”

The event will share health and community support resources, feature door prizes donated by Black, Indigenous and People of Color-owned businesses, highlight guest speakers who are civic or health leaders in the community and include musical performances. A full list of event resources and performances will be listed at BellevueWA.gov/MLK-health-fair as they are confirmed.

The virtual health fair is open to the general public and free of cost. Registration is required through tinyurl.com/BellevueMLK. The event will also be recorded and released after the event for video replay on the city’s website at BellevueWA.gov.

This program will be presented in English. For more event information, contact Bellevue’s Diversity Advantage team at diversity@bellevuewa.gov.

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance to 425-452-7886 (voice) or by email diversity@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 in-person meetings are wheelchair accessible.

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Neighborhood Enhancement Program coming to Newport area in January with \$282,000 for improvements

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, Northeast Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Northwest Bellevue, Downtown/BelRed, Lake Hills, Crossroads, Wilburton, West Bellevue and Woodridge neighborhood areas. This month, the NEP process will be launching in the Newport area, which has been allocated \$282,000 for enhancements.

A virtual kickoff meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 6:30-8 p.m. City staff will provide attendees with a brief overview of the program guidelines and schedule, answer questions and invite you to share, discuss and submit project ideas. City project managers will be available in breakout rooms for specific project discussion. Following the kickoff meeting, each household in Newport will receive a postage-paid NEP Project Request Form in the mail. Residents are encouraged to use this form, or the online project request form on the NEP website, to submit as many NEP project requests as they like by March 3. BellevueWA.gov/nep

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. For more information about NEP, please contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov



Newport NEP Zoom Virtual Kickoff Meeting

Tuesday Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.

For Zoom link respond to

neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov

Police chief to provide update on use of force policy reform

Interim Chief of Police Wendell Shirley will host a virtual community meeting to discuss the police department's progress in addressing recommended updates to its use of force policy. Following the murder of George Floyd by a now-



former Minneapolis police officer, Bellevue's mayor and city council pledged to have an independent review of the Bellevue Police Department's use of force policies to determine if any reforms were needed. The pledge included a commitment to review the police policies, solicit community input, and reform where necessary.

In September 2020, the City of Bellevue hired a consultant, the Office of Independent Review Group (OIR), to conduct a comprehensive use of force policy review. In April, OIR issued its final report (BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2021/Use-of-Force-Policy-Review-Final-OIR-Group.pdf), citing 47 recommendations. To date, the police department has addressed 32 of the recommendations. Eight more are expected to be adopted in early January.

"This review process has been invaluable to the police department. The feedback we received improves our policies and enables us to serve our community better," said Chief Shirley. "We are committed to ensuring our policies and practices serve all communities equally and equitably."

Chief Shirley will hold a community meeting to discuss the recommendations on Wednesday,

Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. You may register for the meeting on Eventbrite at [eventbrite.com/e/214285332197](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/214285332197).

Please follow the progress on the review process at engagingbellevue.com. You may also watch Chief Shirley address the city council on the OIR recommendations on Monday, Jan. 18, on the city's YouTube channel:

[youtube.com/bellevuetelevision](https://www.youtube.com/bellevuetelevision)



Coaching and Conciliation Training 2022

24 hours of training via Zoom could make you a valuable resource for your community

Are you a natural listener and a good communicator? Do you want to learn

skills to help create peace in our community? Are you culturally sensitive? Do speak a language in addition to English? Do you live or work in Bellevue? Got time to volunteer?

If so, you are encouraged to apply to become a conciliator with the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center, and help people in the Bellevue community resolve their conflicts.

Training sessions are Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Application deadline is Jan. 21; Zoom link will be provided upon registration.

Common areas of conflict in Bellevue include landlord-tenant issues, property line and fence disputes, trees, noise, and cross-cultural misunderstandings. Conciliators assist callers in understanding their issues, exploring options and developing strategies for problem resolution. In this training, you will learn conflict theory, advanced communication skills, negotiation, coaching, database usage and procedural tools. These skills are useful even if you don't volunteer.



During a pandemic, we need your skills more than ever to help resolve conflicts in a remote world. Under a new state law passed in April 2021, our volunteers are helping renters and landlords work together to create repayment plans for past due rent, before a case can proceed to court for eviction proceedings. We hope you will consider becoming a part of this vital work.

There is no charge for the training. Attendance at all sessions is required. Both the training and subsequent volunteering are steps to becoming a future certified mediator with our program.

Please email us at bcrc@bellevuewa.gov to express interest in this training. We will send you details and a registration form. Class size is limited.

Questions? Please call 425-452-2897.

New year, new safety plans

By Heather Wong, Bellevue Fire Department

Happy new year! We're not going to jinx ourselves by wishing 2021 a fond farewell, (Didn't we do that for 2020? Look where THAT got us!)

Instead, we're ringing in the new year as we hold dear to our hearts the lessons COVID has taught us. After all, we've realized we can no longer take our personal safety, or that of those we love, for granted.

As we move forward into 2022, we'll be

focusing on building or refreshing our emergency preparedness kits. We'd encourage you to do the same. We know that this is overwhelming. It certainly is for us! But if the past two years have taught us anything, it's to expect the unexpected, and that includes being prepared for large-scale emergencies such as major power grid outages or earthquakes.



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Before we get started, remember this is a marathon, not a sprint. Emergency kits do not need to be built in a day, a week, or even a month. Every single item you add is more than you had the day before. Taking a slow and steady approach not only increases your chance of actually building a kit, but it also helps mold the behavior change necessary to maintain a kit.

Let's get started! If you've never built an emergency preparedness kit before, or if you'd like to refresh your kit, gather your household and play this simple game:

1. Give everybody a method to make a list. Think pen and paper, audio recorder, crayons and a napkin.
2. Grab a timer. A phone will work!
3. Ask everybody to spend the next five minutes independently making a list of all the items they'd need for a camping trip.
4. When time is up, share your lists.

Chances are, everyone mentioned something along the lines of shelter, food, warmth, clothing. Congratulations! You now have a basic outline for your emergency kit. That's a victory! Celebrate it. Now amplify that camping trip to a minimum of fourteen days, (the time experts anticipate you could be on your own in a disaster), and you're well on your way.

Still intimidated? We've got a lot of resources that you can check out to make this process easier, and they are conveniently located on our website:

BellevueWA.gov/emergency-management

[4051 Factoria Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006](#)

Across from Nordstrom Rack

[15600 NE 8th St, Bellevue, WA 98007](#)

East side of the mall

Bellevue police substations reopen

The Factoria and Crossroads police substations are once again open for service. The substations closed at the beginning of the pandemic to protect the volunteers and the community. "With vaccinations and precautions in place, such as masks and plexiglass, it's now safe to reopen the substations," said Major Andrew Popochock. "We are very happy to welcome back our volunteers and once again offer services at our community substations."



The Factoria substation (3915 Factoria Blvd. SE, across from Nordstrom Rack) and Crossroads substation (15600 NE 8th St., Unit C3, eastside of the Crossroads Shopping Center) volunteers are a great resource for community members seeking information about police and city operational matters. They help the public complete police reports, fill out forms and help them navigate many police and government processes and procedures.

The Crossroads substation is open

Monday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and
Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Factoria substation is open

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Please stop by and say hello!



Available legal resources in King County

The Bellevue Network on Aging would like to share with seniors and others information about some legal resources available in King County. Many of these resources offer assistance in multiple languages.



- **Catholic Immigration Legal Services (206-328-6314)** CILS provides quality legal immigration assistance to low-income residents of Washington.
- **Conflict Resolution Center, City of Bellevue (425-452-4091)** Helps Bellevue residents and workers resolve multiple conflicts including those involving elders, landlords and tenants, parents and teens, foreclosure, businesses and neighbors
- **Eastside Legal Assistance Program (425-747-7274)** provides free legal advice and resources to King County residents who cannot afford an attorney. Help is provided on multiple issues including wills and estate planning, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, immigration, eviction, foreclosure and veteran's benefits.
- **King County Bar Association (KCBA) (206-267-7100)** The KCBA, on their internet page entitled "Free Legal Assistance," provides links to its legal assistance programs including Neighborhood Legal Clinics, Family Law Mentor Program, Kingship Care Solutions Project, Self Help-Plus Program, Records Project, and the Housing Justice Project, which provides free legal help to eligible low-income tenants facing eviction in King County.
- **King County Department of Public Defense (206-296 7662)** For immediate help: (206-477-8899) "provides legal representation to adults and juveniles who have been charged with a crime and cannot afford an attorney, as well as people facing civil commitment, parents who could lose their children in a dependency action, and people seeking to vacate a past felony or misdemeanor conviction."
- **King County-Legal Assistance (kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/get-help/no-attorney.aspx)** This Superior Court website provides useful links to information on multiple legal issues.
- **Moderate Means Program (855-741-6930) and wsba.org/connect-serve/volunteer-opportunities/mmp/mmpclients** This Washington State Bar Association program is a low fee lawyer referral program, which provides legal assistance on family, housing and consumer law issues to persons with moderate income.
- **Northwest Immigration Rights Project (206-957-8600)** promotes justice by defending and advancing the rights of immigrants through direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community education.
- **Northwest Justice Project (206 464-1519)** provides legal assistance to eligible low-income families and persons with civil (non-criminal) legal issues. For foreclosure, the program assists both persons with low and moderate income and should be contacted at: **1-800-606-4819**.
- **Tenant Law Center- Catholic Community services (206-324-6890)** Provides free legal assistance in King County for low-income persons who are facing eviction or termination of their housing subsidy.
- **Washington Home Ownership Resource Center (877-894 4663)** A non-profit recommended by the Washington Attorney General for persons having problems paying their mortgage and/or facing foreclosure.
- **Washington LawHelp (washingtonlawhelp.org/)** includes videos and court forms on many topics including eviction/housing, money/debt and health. The website includes a section entitled "Planning Ahead/Seniors"
- **Dialing 2-1-1** connects people with the essential community services they need including legal resources and other social service referrals.



Goodbye plastic!

Reusable utensils are now at Bellevue School District elementary schools

In partnership with the City of Bellevue utilizing a Washington Department of Ecology grant, Bellevue School District is eliminating plastic-wrapped plastic utensils and straws at elementary schools and replacing them with reusable metal utensils.

Single-use plastic utensils and straws are not recyclable, are used for less than an hour, and last over 500 years in a landfill. This change will reduce single-use plastics by more than 700,000 plastic utensils and 700,000 plastic straws every year.

Schools began making this switch this fall and all elementary schools currently with dishwashing equipment will have made the change by the end of February 2022. If you have children in these schools and find reusable, metal utensils are accidentally brought home by your child, please send them back to school for reuse.

Thank you to everyone helping to make a positive impact in our community by reducing waste!



Iconic half-marathon to bring runners to Bellevue in 2022

If you visit, live or work in Bellevue, you already know this "City in a Park" that welcomes the world is a beautiful, vibrant location. Next year, runners from around the world will get the chance to experience the beauty of the city in a whole new way. Half-marathoners participating in the 2022 St. Jude Rock n' Roll



Running Series Washington event will race through Bellevue streets on a course that highlights the city's unique features as Bellevue hosts a Rock 'n' Roll event for the first time.

The event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3-4, 2022, with a half marathon, 5K run and a course for children. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the event charity partner. Participants can raise funds for the hospital as they train and receive discounts on registration fees.

Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson expressed excitement about having a Rock 'n' Roll Series running event come to the city, saying, "The opportunity to host this iconic event is an honor for the city, made even more significant by having St. Jude as a charity partner. We look forward to participating in and supporting this international gathering and celebration of health as we showcase our community."

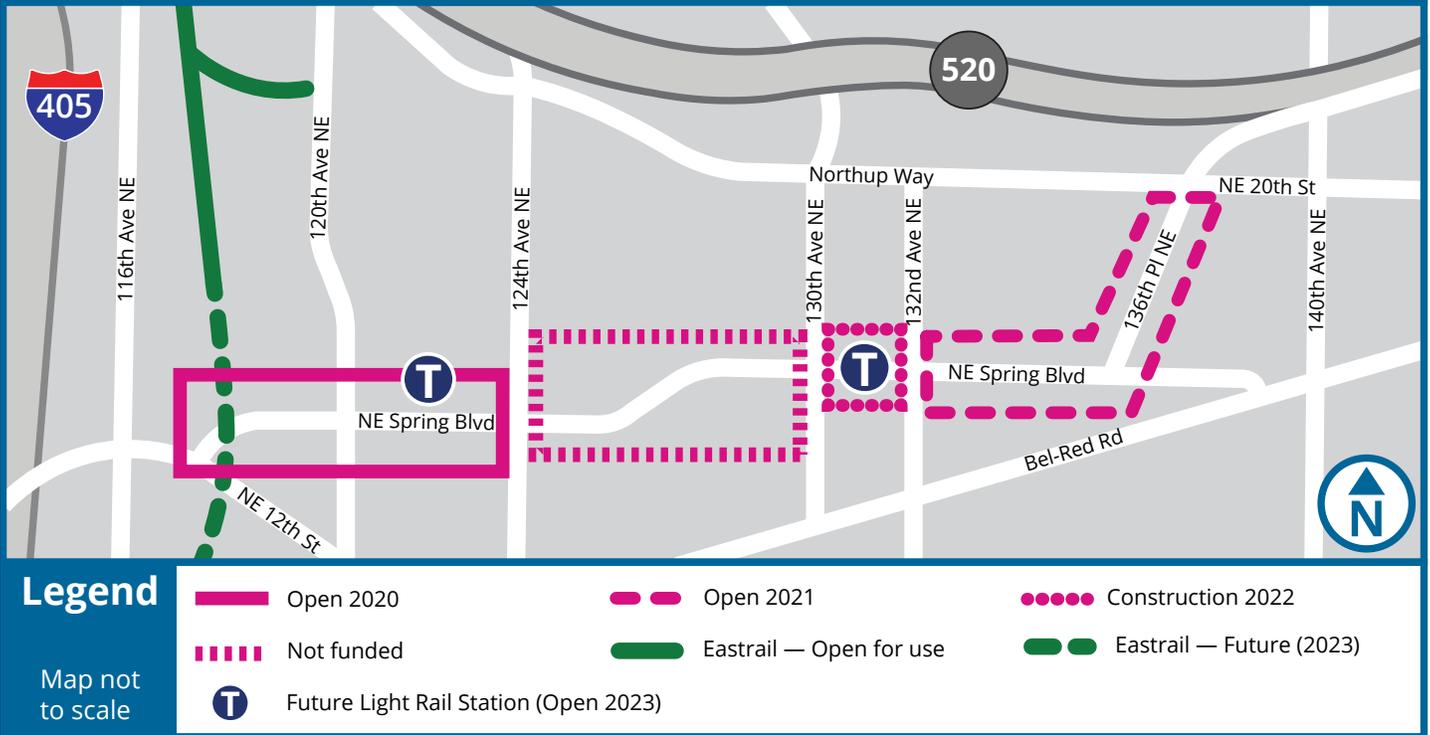
Running routes will be determined in the months leading up to the race. The City of Bellevue has created an informational web page at BellevueWA.gov/rock-n-roll-running-events with event-weekend details and ways the community can participate in the event. The page will be updated as event plans are finalized. Residents can sign up to receive alerts as more information is added.

Rock 'n' Roll Running Series events are characterized by live music and other performances from local talent along the race route, something that reinforces the city's economic development strategies of increasing tourism and arts and culture exposure in Bellevue as the city continues its recovery from the pandemic.

"We will be working closely with race organizers to fully prepare for this event in our community," said Mac Cummins, director for Bellevue's Community Development department. "We are eager to show the best of Bellevue and our region to runners and their families."

Bellevue's Downtown Park will be the event headquarters. Runners and walkers alike can register or find out more information by visiting RunRocknRoll.com/washington.

NE Spring Blvd Corridor Improvements



More BelRed transportation improvement projects on the way

Multimodal improvements to several travel corridors in the BelRed area have been completed and several more are on track to be finished in advance of Sound Transit's light rail service (soundtransit.org/system-expansion/east-link-extension), beginning in 2023. The upgrades will enhance mobility for people walking, biking, taking transit and driving.

In January, construction begins to extend Northeast Spring Boulevard east from 130th Avenue Northeast to 132nd Avenue Northeast. Project features will include a vehicle lane in each direction (on either side of light rail tracks), a new traffic signal, and a buffered bike lane and a sidewalk in each direction. Expect intersection closures at 130th and 132nd avenues northeast to install traffic signals and crosswalks.

- The next phase of improvements to 124th Avenue Northeast, between Bel-Red Road and Northeast Spring Boulevard, will widen the roadway to five lanes and add sidewalks, bike lanes and planting strips on both sides of the roadway. It also will enhance lighting and improve traffic signal operations. Construction is expected to start in early

2022 and be completed within a year. Road closures will be needed to complete the work.

- Construction of a new 300-space parking lot to serve the Bel-Red/130th light rail station is anticipated to be complete in summer 2022. Expect periodic shoulder and sidewalk closures on 130th Avenue Northeast.
- Design work is wrapping up for planned transportation improvements to 124th Avenue Northeast, between Ichigo Way and Northrup Way, and on 130th Avenue Northeast, from Bel-Red Road to Northeast 20th Street. Construction is anticipated to start in summer 2022.
- Design work continues to improve 120th Avenue Northeast, between the future Northeast 16th Street and Northrup Way. Enhancements will include widening the street, adding pedestrian and bicycle facilities, replacing a culvert for better fish passage and other improvements. Construction is not currently funded.

Mobility improvements in BelRed are being designed to serve projected population and job growth in Bellevue. For more information and to subscribe to receive email and text updates, go to BellevueWA.gov/belredtransformation.

Help make streets near schools safer

As part of its Vision Zero work, the city is inviting Bellevue School District students, parents and neighbors to help make walking and bicycling safer on routes near their school buildings.

Starting in January, Bellevue will launch a series of six road safety assessments for streets near schools that are part of the city's "high injury network" – a relatively small number of city streets where most fatal and serious-injury collisions occur. Results of the assessments will be used to make on-the-street safety improvements through city transportation projects.

Those interested in helping can respond to a short online questionnaire and sign up to take part in an upcoming "walking audit" near their school. Both can be accessed from the project webpage at BellevueWA.gov/road-safety-assessments. Bellevue is working closely with the Bellevue School District to encourage suggestions for improving safety. Below is the schedule for upcoming walking audits.

- Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Interlake High School walking audits are on Thursday, Jan. 20, 5-6 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 22, noon-2 p.m.
- Highland Middle School walking audits are tentatively set for March 2022. Sammamish High School, Stevenson Elementary School and Odle Middle School combined walking audits are tentatively set for April 2022. Dates and times for those walking audits will be shared through school communication channels and posted on the project webpage.
- In 2023, three more walking audits will be held for International High School; for Newport High School; and a combined audit for Big Picture School, Lake Hills Elementary School, Phantom Lake Elementary School and Tillicum Middle School.

In addition, for those interested in taking part in a road safety assessment focus group, please contact Franz Loewenherz at floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov.

A road safety assessment is a proven tool to identify safety issues, particularly for vulnerable



travelers such as pedestrians and bicyclists; it's a key strategy of Bellevue's Vision Zero initiative to eliminate traffic deaths and serious-injury collisions on city streets by 2030.



“Compassionate Planet” mural designed by Bellevue resident and former Open Window School student, Sophia S., that was painted and installed by her and the graduating Class of 2021.



Boards and Commissions Meetings

As of April 2020, 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 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 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			

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