



# Neighborhood News

April 2022

## City Hall and other facilities fully open April 4

The City of Bellevue returns to pre-pandemic operations at City Hall and other city facilities beginning April 4. The transition comes after the recent expiration of state and county health directives, high vaccination rates in the community and dropping COVID-19 infections.

Starting April 4, hours at City Hall and the Service First customer desk are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Masks are not required in the building, but visitors are welcome to wear one based on their comfort level.

City Council meetings will return to Council Chambers in a hybrid format on April 18, with opportunities for virtual and in-person participation for members of the public. Other boards and commissions will resume in-person meetings after April 25.

Development Services department is offering virtual permit center meetings to allow customers to schedule one-on-one time with staff to receive convenient assistance with general permitting questions prior to applying for

permits. More information is at [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/development/permits/virtual-permit-center](https://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/development/permits/virtual-permit-center). The permitting process is completely paperless – customers can submit applications, upload plans and pay permit fees online at [MyBuildingPermit.com](https://MyBuildingPermit.com).

Community centers and other indoor parks facilities are also open to the public. Please contact the facility you plan to visit to check current status and any health requirements.

For the latest information on city facility hours and available in-person services please check [BellevueWA.gov](https://BellevueWA.gov).



## Evening of Cultural Conversations

Join virtually with family, friends, and neighbors on Wednesday April 6, 6:30-8 p.m., for the 8th annual Evening of Cultural Conversations, connecting community through storytelling and small group conversation.

Each of our storytellers has been shaped by history, cultural expectations, and migration, either by choice or by necessity. Driven by fierce



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.

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determination to thrive, they continue to navigate challenges, embrace lessons, and nurture community dreams, and are now providing support to others. Registration is required.

Storytellers from the community will share the following experiences:

- A Congolese Bellevue College graduate gained an understanding of the freedom of vulnerability and transparency through his experiences during the pandemic and the movement for racial equity in the U.S.
- A Latina community connector who grew up near the Mexican border has a passion to help individuals navigate “where they are, to where they need to be.”
- In addition, a reflection will take place on how the community of Bellevue and the Eastside serves as a support to “Welcome the World” in these challenging times.

For more information, to register for the event and receive the Zoom link, or for accommodation needs, please contact [NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov) or call 452-452-6836.

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



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](mailto: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. 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, Northeast Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Northwest Bellevue, Downtown/BelRed, Lake Hills, Crossroads, Wilburton, West Bellevue and Woodridge Neighborhood Areas.



### NEP coming to Somerset Area this month with \$217,000 for improvements

A virtual Kickoff Meeting is planned for Thursday April 7 for Somerset residents to learn how they can participate in the city's Neighborhood Enhancement Program online and by mail.

Register at [NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov) to receive the Zoom meeting link.

Each Somerset household will receive a postage paid NEP Project Request Form in the mail in early April. Somerset residents are encouraged to use this form or the online project request form on the NEP website: [BellevueWA.gov/nep](http://BellevueWA.gov/nep), to submit as many NEP project requests as they like by May 18.

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

### Newport NEP is currently in scoping and review phase

City staff are in the process of evaluating and reviewing resident-submitted project ideas for the Newport Neighborhood Area to determine which will be feasible as eligible projects for the







Newport NEP ballot. Newport residents should keep an eye on their mail for a 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 public open house is planned for June, when projects on the ballot will be presented and residents can meet with city project managers to discuss any questions they may have. Look for more details to come in the months ahead.

To find out which NEP Neighborhood Area you call home, when NEP will be in your area and how much funding your area has been allocated, please visit [BellevueWA.gov/nep](http://BellevueWA.gov/nep). For more information about NEP, please contact Theresa Cuthill at [tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov).

## Summer day camp registration begins April 4!

Bellevue Parks & Community Services looks forward to seeing you and your families back in our summer day camps! Whether you're looking for sports, STEM, arts, theater



or general fun, our camps provide a safe and enriching environment. Financial assistance is available for Bellevue residents meeting certain income guidelines. Priority registration for Bellevue residents begins April 4. Learn more at [BellevueWA.gov/connections](http://BellevueWA.gov/connections).



## Bellevue's annual sheep shearing on April 30; Ewe won't want to miss this!

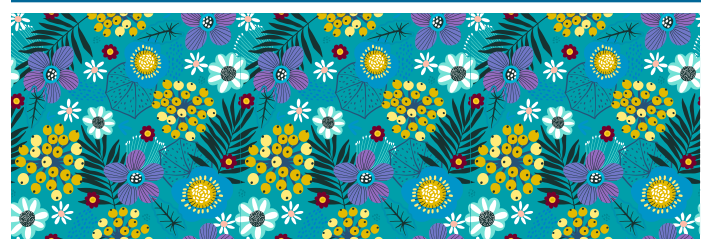
See the sheep get shorn before the summer heat sets in at Bellevue's annual sheep-shearing celebration, on Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place Southeast. Activities will include wool spinning demonstrations, children's crafts, tractor-pulled wagon rides, pony rides, heritage displays, animal viewing, food and more.

The annual sheep shearing at the farm taps into a 5,500-year-old tradition that originated in Central Asia. Sheep shearing started in 3,500 B.C. when people learned to spin wool to make clothing and items such as blankets.



The Kelsey Creek event originated in the early 1990s, when ever-increasing crowds came to Kelsey Creek Farm Park each spring to watch the wool removal, a traditional farm practice. Each sheep produces six to 10 pounds of wool each year.

Admission is free, with a charge for some activities. Food is available for purchase. No cash machine is available on site. Free parking and shuttle service is available to and from the Wilburton Park and Ride, 720 114th Avenue Southeast, and Bannerwood Sports Park, 1630 132nd Avenue Southeast.





## 2022 Bellevue Schools Waste Reduction Update

The Bellevue School District and City of Bellevue Utilities, with funding from a Washington state Department of Ecology grant, are excited to share recent success in reducing plastic waste in schools.

Sixteen elementary school cafeterias have now switched from plastic-wrapped plastic utensils to reusable metal utensils. This saves more than 820,000 disposable plastic utensils and plastic wrap from the landfill each year. The school district is also eliminating plastic straws, reinforcing recycling and composting practices in cafeterias, using reusable lunch trays at elementary and middle schools and so much more.

Thank you to BSD staff and students for making this a success and for helping to protect our planet!



## Comp Plan Corner

*Brooke Brod, Community Development Department*

It's been a month since Bellevue launched the latest periodic update to the city's Comprehensive Plan. This plan is the tool for proactively preparing for growth and change. The plan looks ahead twenty years to anticipate the needs of people who live, work, and play in Bellevue.

Updates to the Comprehensive Plan only happen every eight to ten years and provide an important opportunity to look holistically at issues like housing, transportation, neighborhoods, parks and more.

Bellevue is fortunate to be a community where a variety of stakeholders participate and give back to the community in so many ways, and interest in the Comprehensive Plan is high. More than 150 people attended one of our two kickoff events and over 500 people have responded to our Vision Questionnaire by mail or online.

The entire planning process will take place over the next two years and there will be many opportunities to get involved. People are at the

heart Bellevue's plans for the future, which means we need to hear from you! There are several ways for people to learn more and get involved. Here are some things you can do right now:

- **Learn** about the Comprehensive Plan, download information and ask questions at [engagingbellevue.com/bellevue-2044](https://engagingbellevue.com/bellevue-2044).
- **Share** your voice through our Vision Questionnaire at <https://tinyurl.com/bellevue-2044-vision>.
- **Participate** at our upcoming Bellevue-2044 Open House on **Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-1p.m.** at **Stevenson Elementary**. This is a family-friendly drop-in event where people can meet the planning team, participate in hands-on activities, share ideas, and help us envision the future of Bellevue. Find out more and register at <https://bellevue-2044-open-house.eventbrite.com>

## Pop-up spaces for your business

For entrepreneurs owning an at-home or online business, Pop-Up spaces provide flexible lease terms and an opportunity to re-enter physical space or move into a physical space for the first time.

The City of Bellevue can help connect prospective businesses with business assistance resources and temporary pop-up spaces in various retail districts across the city.

Reach out to the Business Relations team at [bizsupport@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bizsupport@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-5241 with questions and to get connected.





# THREE SECONDS



"Nearly 80% of crashes and 65% of near-crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event." (NHTSA)

## Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Think about the last time you were driving. Where were your hands? Where were your eyes? Where were your thoughts? Be honest! If you answered anything other than on the steering wheel or on the road, you were engaged in distracted driving.

You might be thinking "Okay. At least I wasn't texting," but something as simple as reaching for your coffee or giving "the look" to your kids in the back seat can be just as fatal as sending a text. We're all guilty of going into "autopilot." However, by being intentional we can change not only our behavior, but the behavior of those around us.

For Distracted Driving Awareness Month, we're keeping it simple by encouraging all drivers in Bellevue to take the following drive safe pledge:

For my future and for those I love, I make a commitment to safe driving.

For those I share the road with, I pledge not to drive recklessly or with distractions.

For passengers inside my car, I vow to give driving 100% of my attention.

I will accomplish this by:

- Always wearing my seat belt and assuring others in my car do as well.
- Utilizing GPS, my vehicle dashboard system or my phone prior to putting my vehicle in motion.
- Keeping my hands on the steering wheel and eyes on the road at all times.
- Remembering that all it takes is one moment of inattention for disaster to strike.

With this pledge, I am keeping myself and future generations safer.

## BNOA Housing and Transportation Committee update:

### Universal design for homes

Do you have a toilet that you need to replace, or are you thinking about remodeling or updating your home?



Why not consider a more user-friendly design? Universal Design is a concept that can be confusing, but it is really just about using a design that maximizes usability. For example, a home entrance that has a sloped sidewalk or ramp - instead of stairs - would maximize the number of people who could easily access the house. If you are a teenager using crutches, a parent pushing a baby stroller, a person using a wheelchair, an older adult with a walker or someone with no mobility issues at all, you could use the space, because it was designed to be inclusive. Stairs would **exclude** many, while a universally designed entrance would **include** many.

It's great when universal designs can be incorporated into new construction, but you can also utilize the principles when updating an existing home, especially where the owners wish to "age in place." For example, if you must replace a toilet, you could consider installing a comfort height toilet. Or, if you are redoing your shower anyway, why not make the entrance a no threshold roll-in shower? The use of these inclusive and simple changes would allow more people to be able to use the space.

A great resource that covers "Smart ways to make a home comfortable, safe and a great fit for older adults — and people of all ages" is the **free** AARP brochure entitled HomeFit, which you can access on their website: [aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/housing/2020/homefit/HomeFit-Singles-12320.pdf](http://aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/housing/2020/homefit/HomeFit-Singles-12320.pdf)

Once you decide to make some changes, you may need help. Whether you are converting a tub to a roll-in shower, upgrading to a comfort height toilet, or maybe even making a more substantial repair or modification to your existing



home, the City of Bellevue has a Home Repair Assistance program that covers more than just home repairs. Low income or moderate income residents may be eligible for a grant or no/low interest loan. You can find out about the different levels of services available by calling them or by visiting their website. They will be happy to help you to determine if you are eligible, to explain the process and to answer questions. And if you are eligible, they may even help you screen contractors. To receive more information, call Parks & Community Services' Home Repair Loan Specialist Donna Adair at 425-452-4069. For hearing impaired access, call TDD:425-452-5262, or email [dadair@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:dadair@bellevuewa.gov). You can also visit the website at

[BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/parks/community-services/human-services/home-repair-assistance](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/parks/community-services/human-services/home-repair-assistance)

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## Share your curb area management ideas by April 15

*David Grant, Transportation Department*

In the downtown area and in other dense neighborhoods, the competition for curbside areas – the space between streets and sidewalks – continues to grow along with all of Bellevue. To keep up, the city is working on a Curb Management Plan and is looking for input from the public, employers and others about how curb spaces should be used.



Traditional uses of curb areas include on-street parking, travel lanes and bus stops. But newer uses for the same space – such as employer shuttles, charging stations and on-street dining

areas – have placed a strain on this important segment of the city right-of-way.

The city council has directed the Transportation Commission to work with staff and the community to prepare recommendations for the Curb Management Plan, and to propose amendments to the city's comprehensive plan in support of the effort.

As part of the outreach, the city is inviting people to respond to a short questionnaire, available at [engagingbellevue.com/curb-management-plan](http://engagingbellevue.com/curb-management-plan); it will be live until April 15 at 5 p.m. People will also have opportunities for input at several Transportation Commission meetings ([BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/transportation/planning/transportation-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/transportation/planning/transportation-commission)).

The work, expected to continue through 2022, will result in a high-level planning framework to help guide how curb areas develop. It will assess existing curb conditions, establish a curb usage prioritization framework, analyze costs and benefits of creating a dedicated curb program and create a “curbside playbook” of options for permits, designs, and uses.

More information is available at [BellevueWA.gov/curb-management-plan](http://BellevueWA.gov/curb-management-plan).

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## Second round of assessments focus on street safety near Highland Middle School

As part of its Vision Zero transportation safety efforts, in April Bellevue will launch the second in a series of six road safety assessments to help make walking and bicycling safer on routes that are close to schools. Focusing on streets near Highland Middle School, students, parents and neighbors are invited to take part.

If you're interested in helping, please respond to a short online questionnaire or sign up to participate in one of two “walking audits,” which will take





place on April 24 and April 30. To access the questionnaire or register your interest in participating in a walking audit, visit the project webpage at [BellevueWA.gov/road-safety-assessments](https://BellevueWA.gov/road-safety-assessments).

The city is coordinating with the Bellevue School District on road safety assessments. These assessments are used to identify safety issues, especially for vulnerable travelers such as pedestrians and bicyclists. The Transportation Department will use results from the assessments and walking audits to make safety improvements on Bellevue's streets.

The first walking audits took place in January on roads near Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Interlake High School. More than a dozen people participated.

In May, combined walking audits are planned near Sammamish High School, Stevenson Elementary School and Odle Middle School. In 2023, three more walking audits are planned 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.

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## Experience Bellevue!

Saturday, May 14

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Get a taste of Experience Bellevue in this one-minute video: <https://youtu.be/uukm2JlwAGA>

It's a full-day experience rich with inspiration and community connection!

Experience Bellevue! is all about getting back out into the community. We can't wait to welcome you back to City Hall and on location at various sites in and around the city for a memorable day of experiencing Bellevue!

Get out on the streets for a walking tour of Wilburton, a vibrant transit- and trail-oriented community, or the Spring District, home to the City's newest live, work and play destination. Tour the Botanical Gardens - in the woods, but in the heart of the city. Explore distinctive neighborhoods with amazing history, views, and hidden treasures. Learn about the evolution of Downtown, the Grand Connection, and our changing skyline.

At City Hall, join skills workshops to tackle the art of listening, explore how to respond to cultural bias, learn lifesaving CPR training or how to create an emergency kit on a shoestring budget. Get concrete information about personal safety and crime prevention and check out the newest police body cameras to find out what they can do for public safety.

Kick off your day by meeting and mingling with your city councilmembers and then you can custom design the rest of YOUR experience by choosing from 20 workshops and tours. The \$10 admission includes coffee, a pastry, and all workshops. Lunch is available at an additional cost. Registration is now open. The full catalog and Eventbrite registration link are at [BellevueWA.gov/neighborhoodsconference](https://BellevueWA.gov/neighborhoodsconference). For more information, email [neighborhoodsconference@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodsconference@bellevuewa.gov) or call 425-452-6836.





## Boards and Commissions Meetings

Stay updated on meetings and cancellations:  
[BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)

All meetings are conducted at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. If a holiday occurs on a Monday, please check the updated calendar. Agendas can be downloaded from the city's web pages listed below. Meeting alerts are available through subscribing to the City's Special Meeting Notices page. [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/special-meeting-notice](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/special-meeting-notice)

### Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

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

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

### Arts Commission

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

### Environmental Services Commission

(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission)

**Planning Commission** (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second and fourth Wednesday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission)

### Transportation Commission

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

### Human Services Commission

(6 p.m., 1E-113) First and third Tuesday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/human-services-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/human-services-commission)

### LEOFF 1 Disability Board

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

### Library Board

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

### Parks & Community Services Board

(6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board)

### The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA)

8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center  
4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/bnoa](http://BellevueWA.gov/bnoa)

### Special Events Committee

(8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Second Thursday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/special-events-committee](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/special-events-committee)

### Youth Link Board

(6 p.m., 1E-120) Second Wednesday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board)

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

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## City Council [Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx](http://Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Day	Scheduled Meeting(s)	Location	Public Comment Opportunity
First four Mondays of each Month, except August and December	6 p.m. Regular Meeting	Virtual Bellevue TV channel 21 and BTV YouTube channel <a href="http://youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington">youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington</a>	Emails to Council are accepted at <a href="mailto:council@bellevuewa.gov">council@bellevuewa.gov</a> at any time. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at <a href="http://bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>
August – first Monday only			
December – first and second Mondays only			