



Neighborhood News

November 2023


Try out Bellhop this holiday season!

Learn more and view the service area map at VisitBellevueWA.com/bellhop.

Bellhop is a free all-electric shuttle service and the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. It launched in Bellevue this summer and is ready to take you to the BelRed Arts District, Garden d'Lights at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, Snowflake Lane and more! This pilot program is run by Visit Bellevue, and is available to anyone looking for a free, fast and convenient way to get around central Bellevue. In addition to providing an enjoyable ride experience for Bellevue residents and visitors, Bellhop has the potential to significantly reduce CO2 emissions, possibly by up to 50 metric tons in six months. The Bellhop enclosed shuttles will also keep you dry on wet Bellevue fall and winter days!

To get started with Bellhop, download the Ride Circuit app, available on the Apple App Store and Google Play. Next, drop a pin for your destination, and the driver will confirm



 For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

they're on the way. Enjoy your free ride within the six square mile service area that includes downtown Bellevue, the Bellevue Botanical Garden, Meydenbauer Bay Park, the Spring District and more. Pets are welcome, as long as they sit on your lap or on the floor directly next to you.

Bellhop currently runs

9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and
10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Free Computer Coaching and Cellphone Help at Mini City Hall

Thursdays, 10a.m.-Noon

Mini City Hall | Crossroads Shopping Center
5600 NE 9th St., Bellevue

Mini City Hall is offering computer coaching and cell phone user help at Crossroads Shopping Center with a new program named Smartlab.

With advances in technology, many everyday tasks are becoming digitized which can present challenges in completing basic responsibilities. Mini City Hall partners with the nonprofit organization Kin On to help bridge the digital gap and help those who are interested in improving their digital technology skills. Smartlab assists clients of all ages with various computers and cell phone issues. Sessions are usually 30-60 minutes.

Appointments are highly recommended as spots fill up quickly. Registration can be done either in person at Mini City Hall, by phone: 425-452-2800 or by email: minich@bellevuewa.gov

Examples of services provided by the program:

- Device setup
- Digital file organization and email setup
- Translation tools setup
- Basic device operation

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- Scam and virus identification and prevention
- Home Wi-Fi tips
- Smart device assistance

Mini City Hall has been serving customers for 29 years and specializes in personalized customer services provided by friendly staff in multiple languages. Many local nonprofit organizations and programs also have office hours at Mini City Hall. Besides processing city water bill payments and selling pet licenses, Mini City Hall offers information and referrals for a long list of items, including Medicare, English language learner classes, affordable housing and shelters, legal and financial services, family counseling, childcare, job search resources, senior services and resources for people with disabilities.

Mini City Hall is open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Services are also available by phone at 425-452-2800 and by email at minich@bellevuewa.gov. Staff offers help in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, Hindi and Telugu.

For more information, please visit BellevueWA.gov/mini-city-hall



Centering Communities of Color Open House Event

Thursday, Nov. 16
6:30-9:30 p.m. Dinner provided
Stevenson Elementary School
14220 NE 8th, Bellevue

The City of Bellevue and the Centering Communities of Color Coordinating Team invite you to attend our upcoming event, which marks the culmination of our community dialogue series. We have received invaluable input and insights from Bellevue's diverse communities. Now, it's time to transform this input into actionable recommendations for city leadership.

This is an opportunity for us to come together, listen, learn, and create a brighter future for our city. We can't wait to see you there!



Please confirm your attendance by scanning the QR code or visiting: forms.office.com/g/d8dudQLGyK

"What Can We Dream Up?"

Holiday Mixer and Look Ahead
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1-2:30 p.m.
Crossroads Community Center
16000 NE 10th St, Bellevue



This gathering will be an opportunity to celebrate the change of the season together! We invite new and returning Cultural Conversations

participants to an opportunity to share ideas for future Cultural Conversations and hear from



Sarah Ballard, the new Community Relations Coordinator on themes for the year ahead.

To let us know you're coming or for more information about the event, please contact the Neighborhood Outreach Team by email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or call: 425-452-5291.



Important Medicare changes that might help you!

Schedule Medicare advice appointments with Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA). Appointments are required and are hour-long sessions.

Mini City Hall

Crossroads Shopping Center, 15600 NE 8th St.
Call Mini City Hall: 425-452-2800
minich@bellevuewa.gov

SHIBA advisors' appointment schedule

at Mini City Hall:

First and second Friday of each month, 2-4 p.m.

Third Tuesday of each month, Noon-3 p.m.

Fourth Monday of each month, Noon-4 p.m.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2023 contained some significant provisions for Medicare, especially regarding prescription coverage. The provisions include:

- A \$35 monthly out-of-pocket cap on Medicare-covered insulin delivered through a durable medical equipment pump. There is no deductible.
- An increase in the number of free vaccines for Part D and Medicare Advantage plans.
- A requirement starting in April 2023 that manufacturers pay rebates to Medicare if their price increases for certain drugs exceeds inflation.
- A maximum of \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cap on drug costs starting in 2025 for people enrolled in a Medicare Part D or an Advantage Plan.
- Price negotiations of ten high-cost, brand-name prescriptions with the negotiated prices starting in 2026.
- The automatic conversion of people enrolled in the partial Extra Help program to the full Extra Help program. Extra Help is a low-income subsidy program for prescriptions for enrollees with income up to 150% of the federal poverty level.

The 2023 income limit is \$21,870 for single people and \$29,580 for two people in a household.

Other changes affecting Medicare Advantage Plans include requiring:

- Plan networks to include clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers.
- Wait time standards for behavioral health and primary care services.
- Plans to notify patients 45 days before termination dates for primary care and behavior health providers and 30 days for other providers.
- Plans to include behavioral health services in care coordination programs.

Medicare open enrollment begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. Medicare.gov has a useful tool for enrollees who want to consider changing plans during open enrollment at this website: [medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare). Enrollees can use the tool to compare Part D Plans and to compare Medicare Advantage Plans. Once an enrollee has entered a zip code and a list of the medications, the person will be able to compare plans.

If you have questions about accessing the Plan Finder website, recent Medicare changes or additional help, you can contact a Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) volunteer at 1-800-562-6900. SHIBA provides free, unbiased information about Medicare and other health care coverage to all Washington state residents. It is a program of the Washington state Office of the Insurance Commissioner and is sponsored in King County by Solid Ground.

Lists of the 2024 Part D Plans for Washington State and the 2024 Medicare Advantage Plans for King County will be on the SHIBA website (insurance.wa.gov/medicare) in late October.

STARTUP425

Startup 425 CoWorking continues in November!

Bellevue City Hall

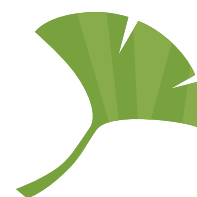
450 110th Avenue NE

Thursday, Nov. 9 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Learn more about Startup 425 events at startup425.org

Join us for a dynamic day of coworking, created specifically for entrepreneurs, founders and business owners in the beautiful city of Bellevue! Hosted by the City of Bellevue and Startup 425, Startup and Small Business CoWorking is designed to foster collaboration, inspire innovation and provide valuable resources to help you thrive in your entrepreneurial journey along with fellow entrepreneurs, founders and business owners.

Join us for the entire day or come in at the times that work best for you. Instead of working from your house, office or local coffee shop, join us at City Hall for the day!

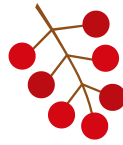


Open Office Hours with Entrepreneurs in Residence

Bellevue City Hall
450 110th Avenue NE

Thursday, Nov. 9 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

You can also gain valuable insights and advice entrepreneurs, accelerator directors, and venture partners, who have successfully navigated the challenges of building their own businesses and have been supporting entrepreneurs. Our EIRs are eager to share their knowledge, offer guidance, and help you tackle your most pressing business concerns. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to engage in one-on-one conversations and receive personalized feedback.



Bellevue Essentials

Save the date!

Bellevue Essentials Graduation Celebration

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

The community is invited to celebrate with 35 civic leaders who have completed the 2023 Bellevue Essentials civic engagement program. Opening the program will be Mayor Lynne Robinson and the keynote speaker is Dr. Kelly Aramaki, superintendent of the Bellevue School District.



This is a great opportunity to learn more about Bellevue Essentials and to determine if you want to apply for the 2024 cohort! Email jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov to receive an invitation.

Virtual job fairs offered this month

Eastside Virtual Job Fair

Monday, Nov. 6 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Registration required:

<https://tinyurl.com/msu3uxas>

Looking for a job? Every year, the Workforce Development Council, Chambers of Commerce and Eastside cities bring together employers who are actively hiring for hundreds of positions ranging from entry-level to management roles. Register for the Eastside Virtual Job Fair at no cost. We expect more than 40 employers from various industries to attend. Interested in improving your resume? Connect for a free resume review during the event.

2023 Virtual STEM Career Fair

Exclusively online

Wednesday, Nov. 8 | 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Registration Required: <http://tiny.cc/WKSCSTEM>

Virtual STEM Career Fair to chat with regional employers hiring for jobs and internships.

Whether you are in the market for a new career path or wanting to advance in your current career, register today!

WorkSource is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Call: 1-800-833-6384

Fall fire safety reminders

In November the days grow shorter, the air is cooler and hearts warm with gratitude. As we begin to move gatherings and activities, it's the perfect time to ensure the safety of our homes and living spaces. With gratitude as our guide, let's explore nine thoughtful ways to prevent fires in the spaces we hold dear.



■ Cherish smoke alarms

Express thanks for the protective tech of smoke alarms, which should be properly installed in homes and regularly checked. Their beep is a reminder of the shield they provide. Test them monthly and ensure they're always in top shape.

■ Cook with presence

The kitchen is where many memories are made and savored. Show gratitude for these moments by staying present while cooking. Every attentive minute spent here safeguards

our homes and loved ones. If you must leave the kitchen, grab a pot holder or spoon to remind yourself you have food cooking.

■ **Give space heaters room to breathe**

Like us, space heaters need room to breathe. Place them in open areas as a token of appreciation for the warmth they share, ensuring they have at least 36" of distance from potential hazards like fabrics or flammable materials.

■ **A fireplace can be the heart of the home**

A fireplace isn't just a source of warmth; it's where stories are shared, thoughts are imagined and even songs sung in some homes. If you have a fireplace, show your gratitude by using a sturdy fire screen, disposing of ashes carefully, and maintaining a 3-foot kid-free and pet-free zone.



■ **Candles give a gentle glow of thanks**

Every candle flicker can be a reminder of the things we're thankful for. As they light up our spaces, ensure they're distanced from flammables. Or better yet, consider flameless candles for a risk-free glow.

■ **Electrical cords: thankful connections**

Our devices connect us to the world. Show appreciation by ensuring their cords are in good shape, avoid running appliances through extension cords, and never hide cords underneath rugs or string them across walking paths.

■ **Festive gratitude**

This holiday season, as some of us dress our homes with decorations, let's do so mindfully, keeping them away from open flames and heaters. Our thoughtful placements are a nod of thanks for festive times spent safely.

■ **Gratitude in preparedness**

Let's give thanks by preparing and practicing home escape plans. By being ready, we're

valuing every moment and person under our roof.

■ **Teaching the next generation**

Imparting safety knowledge to our young ones is a profound act of gratitude. Model the behavior you want them to follow, talking about it as you go!

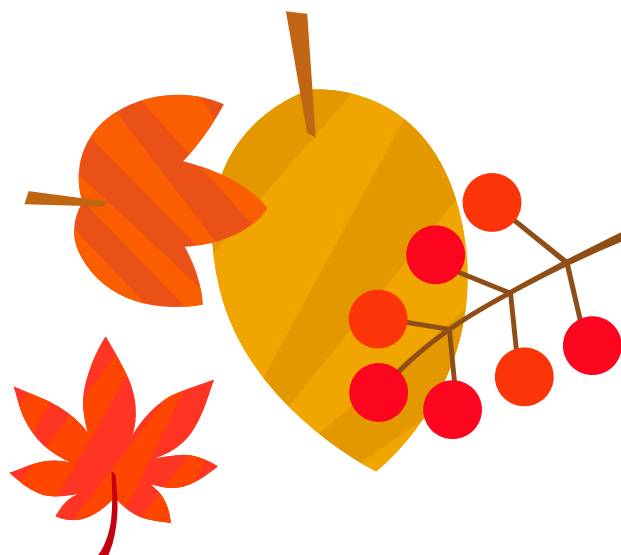
As we express our gratitude this November, let's remember that every act of prevention is an act of love for the places we live and the memories they hold. Cheers to a safe and thankful month!

Bellevue asks residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce water use

It may be surprising during the start of our rainy season, but Bellevue Utilities is asking residents to voluntarily reduce water use. After an unusually dry summer, we need to stretch the region's water supply until significant and sustained rainfall replenishes the mountain reservoirs. A few ways you can help conserve water:

- Check for and fix leaks now, especially running toilets
- Delay car washing or use a car wash that recycles water
- Do not water your lawn
- Only run full loads of dishes and laundry

For more information, including water-saving tips, a map highlighting regional water customers and answers to frequently asked questions, visit BellevueWa.gov/reduce-water-use.





Greener Living for the Holidays

Winter holidays often involve gathering with friends and family for large meals and gift-giving. Bellevue Utilities is offering free, interactive Greener Living classes to help make your holidays eco-friendly and fun this year. You will learn how to eliminate wasted food and shop sustainably.



To register for the class, email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call 206-949-1787. More information at BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes.

In-person classes

Reduce Wasted Food
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6-7 p.m.
At Lake Hills Library

Responsible Reorganizing
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6-7 p.m.
At Bellevue Downtown Library

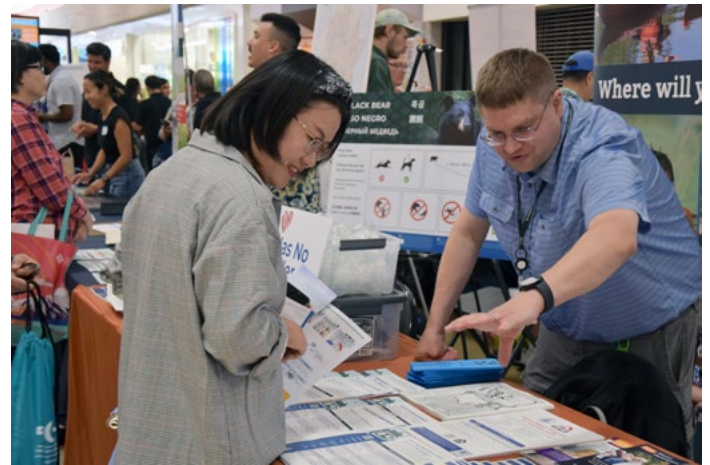
Sustainable Shopping
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6-7 p.m.
At Newport Way Library

Virtual classe

Super Sorter
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6-7 p.m.

Welcoming Week Resource Fair

In a vibrant display of unity and diversity, the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network and the Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) came together to host the Welcoming Week Resource Fair at Crossroads Bellevue. This event, held on Saturday, Sept. 16, was a celebration of community, inclusion, and shared dreams. It showcased the community's dedication to creating a sense of belonging where every individual, regardless of their background, feels welcomed and valued.



Portion of Lakemont Boulevard to close for eight months

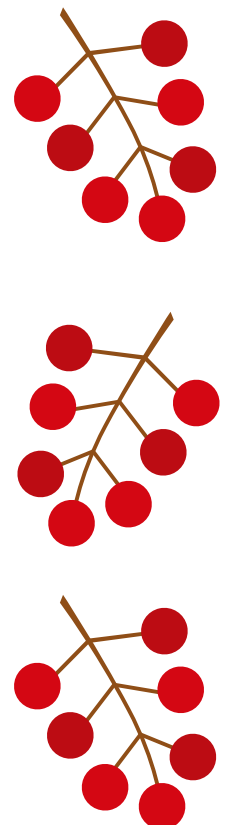
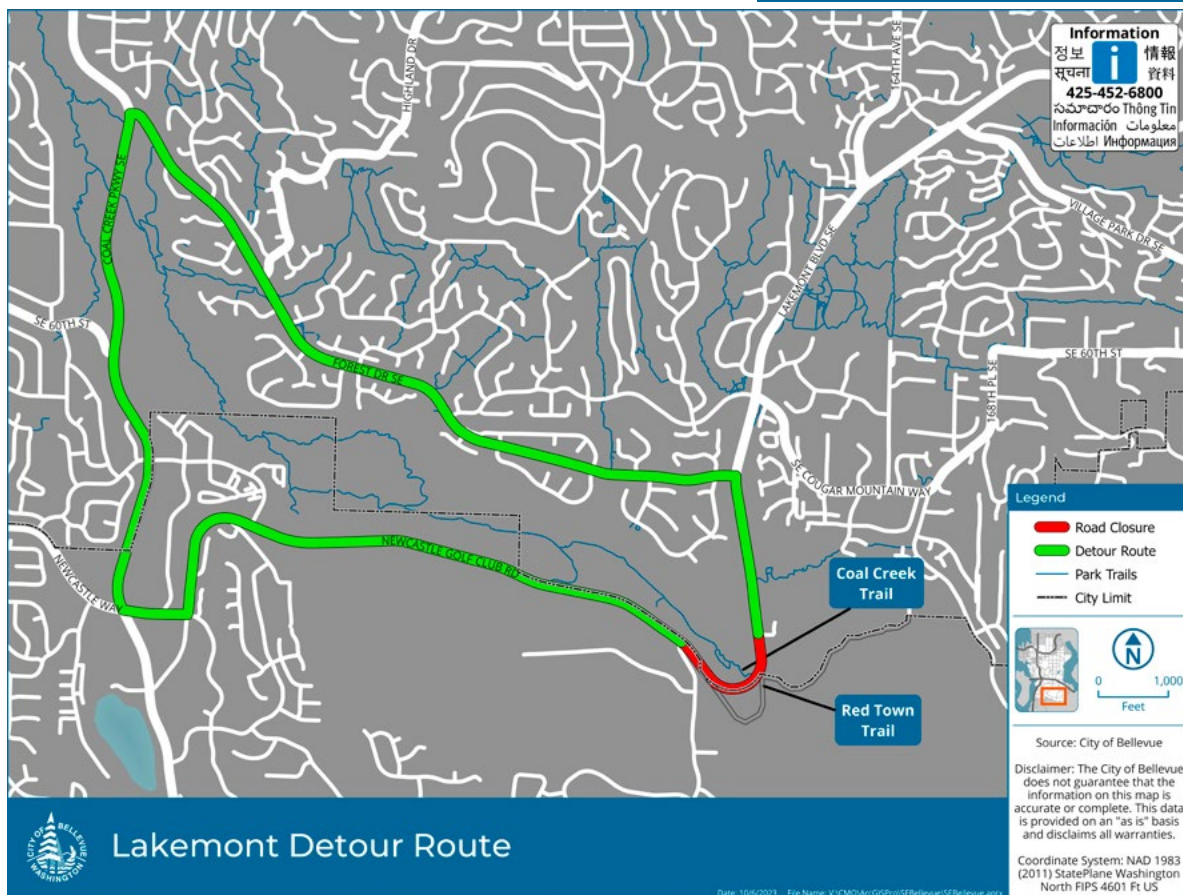
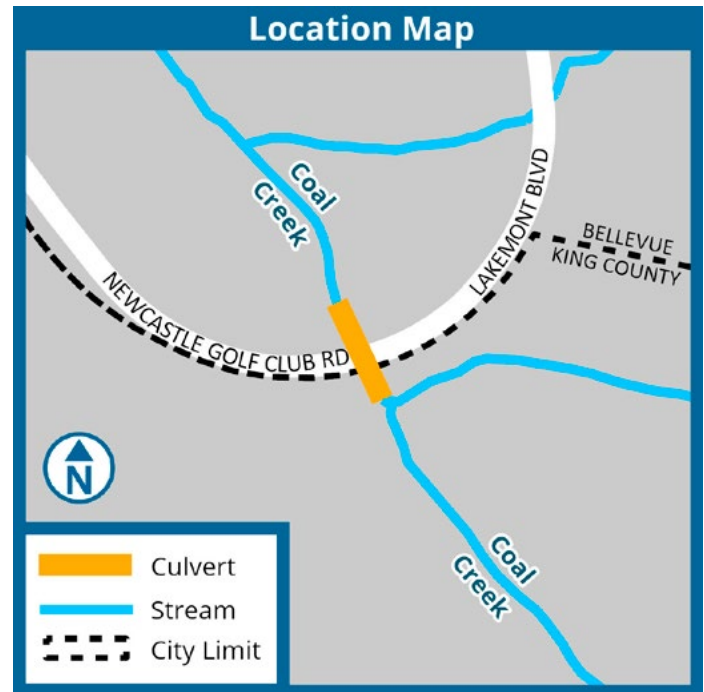
Lakemont Boulevard is closed between Forest Drive and 155th Avenue until June 2024 for the emergency construction of a bridge over Coal Creek. A detour will direct drivers along Forest Drive Southeast to Coal Creek Parkway, then connect to Newcastle Golf Club Road.

The City of Bellevue declared an emergency earlier this year to address public safety and environmental hazards caused by a failed culvert where Lakemont Boulevard crosses Coal Creek. The culvert can no longer ensure adequate flood protection or road stability due to erosion and aging infrastructure. The city is building a bridge to secure the stability of Lakemont Blvd. at the location of the culvert. In the meantime, the city is daily monitoring the stability of the road.

"We understand the impact this closure will have on drivers traveling Lakemont Boulevard and appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work diligently on this accelerated emergency project," said Lucy Liu,

director of Bellevue Utilities. "Public safety is our top priority, and it's imperative this work is done to ensure the ongoing stability of the roadway."

The latest project updates and a detour map are available at Lakemont Boulevard Culvert (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/utilities-projects-plans-standards/utilities-capital-projects/lakemont-boulevard-culvert).



Boards and Commissions Meetings

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

Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-113)

First Wednesday 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 Wednesday 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 and fourth 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 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	Council Chamber 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			