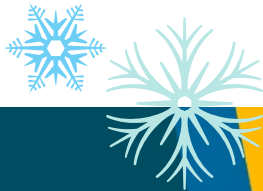




# Neighborhood News



January 2024



## MLK Day Health Fair scheduled for Jan. 15

The City of Bellevue's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Health Fair returns as an in-person event on Monday, Jan. 15 (MLK Day), 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Crossroads Shopping Center, 15600 NE Eighth St, Bellevue.

After three virtual events from 2021-2023, the 2024 celebration will feature live health resources and wellness presentations, along with performances from local artists, door prize drawings and remarks from city councilmembers and other community leaders. The theme of the event is "Health Equity."



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](mailto:mheilman@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at [ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov).

Subscribe to Neighborhood News electronically:  
[BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news](https://BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news)

Tracy Brown, who coaches organizations on how to be equitable, will deliver a keynote address. There will be live music and spoken word performances, with performers including Roz McCommon, Lucia Francine, Rosie Grant and Sonny Byers.

The city's long-time community partner, the Bellevue Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., will again co-produce the event.

The event is free and registration is encouraged. For more event information, please contact [diversity@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:diversity@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-7886.



## Bellevue 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update: Key policy updates are ready for review

*By Brooke Brod, Community Development Department*

In Oct. 2023, the Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan entered its final phase – Draft Review. The draft review process began with a review of the updated vision for the entire city and the draft vision statements that anchor each element of the Comprehensive Plan, the city's 20-year guiding document for future planning. The updates reflect new direction from City Council, guidance from state and regional partners, technical analysis and community input collected over the last [18 months?].

*Continued on next page*

Community members who participated in the process appreciated that the updated vision statements emphasize equity and inclusion, focus on the environment and sustainability, and are supportive of a community where everyone can thrive.

Participants gave feedback, saying they saw the following values expressed in the city's updated vision:



Next up is consideration by the City Council of the draft policies recommended through the Comprehensive Plan Update process. Throughout the first part of 2024 the public and the city's boards and commissions will have the opportunity to review draft policies for each element of the Comprehensive Plan before a final draft is released.

Beginning Jan. 15, the community is invited to share feedback on key policy updates via the following options.

- **Online and On-Demand**  
[engagingbellevue.com/bellevue-2044](https://engagingbellevue.com/bellevue-2044)

- **In-person Open House**

Saturday, Jan. 20 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Stevenson Elementary School, 14220 NE 8th St, Bellevue, WA 98007

Registration is not required, but you can find more information at [Bellevue-2044-Policy-OpenHouse.eventbrite.com](https://Bellevue-2044-Policy-OpenHouse.eventbrite.com)

The Planning Commission has primary responsibility for making a final recommendation to the City Council on comprehensive planning policy updates. Other boards and commissions also provide key input and recommendations.

During January, the following meetings are scheduled to discuss elements of the Comprehensive Plan Update:

- **Planning Commission**

[tinyurl.com/bellevue-planning-commission](https://tinyurl.com/bellevue-planning-commission)

Wednesday, Jan. 10 | 6:30 p.m.

Review results of affordable housing analysis and tree canopy analysis.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Review Community Engagement and Economic Development elements.

- **Parks and Community Services Board**

[tinyurl.com/bellevue-parks-board](https://tinyurl.com/bellevue-parks-board)

Monday, Jan. 8 | 6 p.m., Policy review

- **Transportation Commission**

[tinyurl.com/bellevue-transpo-commission](https://tinyurl.com/bellevue-transpo-commission)

Thursday, Jan. 11 | 6:30 p.m., Policy review

Community members are encouraged to attend and provide comments at these meetings and can also do so in writing, in person or virtually. To learn how to provide comments in this process, visit the links provided above.

If community members have any questions about upcoming events or how to participate, they can email Brooke Brod: [bbrod@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bbrod@bellevuewa.gov)

## Neighborhood Enhancement Program coming to West Lake Sammamish area this month!

[BellevueWA.gov/nep](https://BellevueWA.gov/nep)

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) is a 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. This month, the NEP process will be launching in the West Lake Sammamish area, which has been allocated \$219,000 for enhancements.

A virtual kickoff meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8 p.m. City staff will



provide a brief overview of the program and schedule, answer questions and invite residents 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 West Lake Sammamish 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. You can submit as many NEP project requests as you like by Feb. 29.

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)

## West Lake Sammamish NEP Virtual Kickoff Meeting

Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Email for Zoom Link  
[neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov)



## Coaching and Conciliation Training

24 hours of free training

February 12-14 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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? Possibly speak a second language? Got time?



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. Common areas of conflict 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 with BCRC!

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. Day one will be in-person at City Hall. Days two and three will be virtual on Microsoft Teams.

Please email [bcrc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bcrc@bellevuewa.gov) to express interest in this training. We will send you details and a registration form. Class size is limited.

**Questions? Call 425-452-2897.**

**Application deadline is Jan. 30.**







## Navigating “post-holiday blues” with seniors

Depression and mental health have become serious emerging issues for the growing numbers of seniors

across the nation and within our communities. Bellevue’s older adults make up more than 17% of our population. The holiday season often brings joy, festivities and cherished moments with loved ones. However, as the decorations come down and the calendar flips to a new year, some elderly individuals may find themselves struggling with “post-holiday blues.”

Addressing depression in seniors during this period requires a thoughtful approach that considers both emotional and practical aspects of their well-being. While there are many articles on the subject from respected and established institutions regarding signs and symptoms of depression, BNOA would like to provide a few simple suggestions to help begin and encourage wellness:

### 1. **Acknowledge and validate feelings**

Understanding that the post-holiday period can be challenging for seniors is the first step in providing support. Feelings of loneliness, nostalgia or even disappointment are common. Encouraging open communication and actively listening to their thoughts and emotions can help validate their experiences.

### 2. **Foster social connections**

One of the primary contributors to post-holiday depression is a sense of isolation. Encourage seniors to maintain social connections through phone calls, video chats or in-person visits. Community centers, local

clubs and religious organizations often host events that can facilitate social interaction and combat feelings of loneliness.

### 3. **Establish a routine**

Routine, stability and predictability can be particularly beneficial for combating post-holiday blues. Help set a daily schedule that includes activities they enjoy such as reading, walking or hobbies. A structured routine can create a sense of purpose and prevent the void left by the end of holiday festivities.

### 4. **Encourage physical activity**

Physical activity has well-documented benefits for mental health. Encourage them to engage in light exercises, such as walking, gardening or yoga. Not only does exercise release endorphins, but it also promotes overall well-being and can serve as a positive outlet for any post-holiday stress.

### 5. **Volunteer opportunities**

Engaging in volunteer work can be a fulfilling way to combat post-holiday blues. Encourage them to explore volunteer opportunities within the community or at local organizations. Contributing time and skills to others not only provides a sense of purpose but also fosters a positive social environment.

### 6. **Encourage healthy habits**

Promoting a healthy lifestyle is essential for mental well-being. Encourage a balanced diet, sufficient sleep and regular medical checkups. Adequate nutrition and proper rest can significantly impact mood and energy levels and help to counteract the post-holiday slump.

### 7. **Seek professional help**

If the signs of depression persist or worsen, it’s crucial to seek professional help. Mental health professionals can provide valuable support, offering counseling or therapy tailored to the unique needs of older adults. Healthcare providers can also assess if medication may be a beneficial component of the treatment plan, or if current medications are potentially causing or contributing to mental health challenges.

Addressing depression in our aging population after the holidays requires a holistic and



compassionate approach. The above suggestions are all vital elements of a comprehensive strategy. By addressing both the emotional and practical aspects of well-being, these tips can provide valuable support to ourselves and our loved ones during a potentially challenging time.



## Free SeniorTech computer and cell phone support

SeniorTech of Puget Sound (STPS) will provide one-on-one technical support for your computer and mobile devices at the STPS lab at the North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue. Volunteers answer questions and resolve issues with your devices on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bellevue provides this service to the community on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month, 9:30 a.m.-noon, except for the second Tuesday in February. The standard attendance fee will be waived in Jan., Feb. and March 2024.

For additional information, please see the STPS website: [seniortechps.org](https://seniortechps.org)

## PSE Bill Discount Rate

[pse.com/en/account-and-billing/assistance-programs/bill-discount-rate](https://pse.com/en/account-and-billing/assistance-programs/bill-discount-rate)

Puget Sound Energy has launched a Bill Discount Rate program to save customers money on their monthly energy bill. Income-eligible customers can now reduce their PSE energy bills by up to 45% a month. The program is designed to be easily accessible and in most cases no proof of income is required. The program can be used in addition to PSE's other assistance programs: [pse.com/en/account-and-billing/assistance-programs](https://pse.com/en/account-and-billing/assistance-programs). To quickly find their eligibility, customers can go to [pse.com/discount](https://pse.com/discount). The only information needed: household size, county of residency and monthly household income.

## Become a Neighborhood Tree Ambassador!

Do you love Bellevue's urban forest, and want to share your passion for trees with your community?

Consider applying to become a Neighborhood Tree Ambassador today!

Applications are now open for the 2024 cohort, and you don't need any prior knowledge or experience to apply – just a love of trees and a desire to engage your friends and neighbors.



Neighborhood Tree Ambassadors play a vital role in promoting and preserving our tree canopy, which delivers countless benefits to city residents. From cleaning the air and water to providing restorative and beautiful places to enjoy greenery, Bellevue's trees are essential to what makes our city such a great place to live.

Ambassadors assist in citywide events like the Tree Giveaway, but also use their passion to make lasting change through individual projects. Whether you lead a tree-planting campaign, develop or guide a tree tour, write a research article or organize educational sessions for your neighborhood, you can create a meaningful impact as a Neighborhood Tree Ambassador.

For more information and to apply, please visit [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/environmental-stewardship/trees-open-space/neighborhood-tree-ambassadors](https://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/environmental-stewardship/trees-open-space/neighborhood-tree-ambassadors)

Please direct additional questions to [trees@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:trees@bellevuewa.gov).



# Be Part of Bellevue's Electric Vehicle Transition!

*By Colin Munson, Climate and Electric Mobility Coordinator*

The Environmental Stewardship team is hard at work on our Electric Vehicle (EV) roadmap, which will guide Bellevue's transition to electric vehicles and other forms of electric mobility in the coming years. The EV transition is critical to achieving Bellevue's greenhouse gas reduction targets of 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

To help achieve these goals, the city aims to reach 100% of registered vehicles in Bellevue as electric by 2050. Bellevue also aspires to reach one in four of our community's vehicles being electric by 2030, and that we will drive alone less than 60% of the time by then.

We know that everyone in our community will need access to affordable, convenient EV charging infrastructure in the not-so-distant future. The Environmental Stewardship team is committed to doing our part to ensure all members of our community benefit from the EV transition and to make the transition as smooth as possible for people.

To meet our ambitious targets and bring our whole community along, we need your help! We've launched a **Community EV Adoption Survey** ([engagingbellevue.com/electric-vehicle-roadmap/surveys/general-public-ev-adoption-survey](https://engagingbellevue.com/electric-vehicle-roadmap/surveys/general-public-ev-adoption-survey)) to help us understand the EV-related needs of our community. We're also premiering a **Public EV Charging Map** ([engagingbellevue.com/electric-vehicle-roadmap/maps/public-ev-charging-map](https://engagingbellevue.com/electric-vehicle-roadmap/maps/public-ev-charging-map)). You can use the interactive map tool to drop pins to suggest a future public charging site at your workplace, multifamily building, or favorite public space. Your responses to both the survey and the map will be used to shape our policies and programming for EVs and other forms of electric mobility in 2024 and beyond.

You can find the survey and the map on the Engaging Bellevue EV Roadmap project page. The survey is available in English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. Be sure to subscribe for project updates.

We look forward to hearing from you!



## Sound Transit 2 Line trains running frequently through the winter months

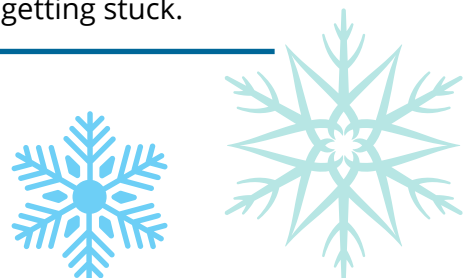
**Cross at designated crosswalks and always look both ways before crossing.**

Sound Transit operators and maintenance staff are actively training on the 2 Line. Simulated service will begin soon, which is an important step towards opening the 2 Line to the public this spring.

With trains running more frequently, it is more important than ever to cross at designated crosswalks and wait for the pedestrian signal before stepping into the street.

Remember these five messages when you're walking, biking or rolling near light rail stations:

- Look both ways. Trains come from both directions, so always expect a second train!
- Headphones off, screens down. It's important to stay alert to stay safe.
- Take crosswalks, not shortcuts. Trains always have the right of way, so pay attention to crossing signals.
- Stay behind the yellow line. The yellow strip creates a barrier between the train and the station platform.
- Bike smart, ride safe. When you're riding a bike, always cross tracks at a 90-degree angle to prevent getting stuck.





## Bike Bellevue

Participate in paid online interviews or focus group.

As part of the Bike Bellevue project, the City of Bellevue is looking for community members to participate in paid online focus groups or interviews about how to improve the bicycle network in the city's urban core, including Downtown, Wilburton and BelRed.

The focus groups and interviews will be conducted online in January and February in English, Mandarin and Spanish. You can easily participate from the comfort of your home, workplace or anywhere you are able to use a phone or computer and engage in a conversation.

Participants will be paid \$100-150 as a thank you for participation.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/47UBkzK> to complete a brief survey to determine your eligibility. We're especially interested in participation from people who live, work or play along NE 1st/NE 2nd Street between 100th Ave NE and 112th Ave NE, which is the Bike Bellevue Candidate Corridor 06. This corridor-specific focus group will consider Bike Bellevue's proposed design for this corridor that converts the westbound travel lane on NE 1st Street and NE 2nd Street to a two-way curb-separated bike lane on the north side of the street between 100th Avenue NE and Bellevue Way.



## Know Before You Go!

South Bellevue road users will experience possible disruptions from a number of ongoing and upcoming construction projects by the City of Bellevue and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). These projects will result in traffic impacts, so we encourage drivers to consider alternate routes and travel times during construction.

### **A portion of Lakemont Blvd. is closed until June 2024**

The City of Bellevue declared an emergency to address public safety and environmental hazards caused by a failed culvert where Lakemont Boulevard crosses Coal Creek.

As part of the emergency, the city is building a bridge to secure the stability of Lakemont Boulevard at the location of the culvert. The culvert conveying Coal Creek under Lakemont Boulevard and the roadway embankment surrounding it can no longer ensure adequate flood protection or road stability due to erosion and aging infrastructure. Therefore, the road is at risk of collapsing or flooding without the emergency repairs.

**Traffic:** During construction, traffic on Lakemont Boulevard SE and Newcastle Golf Club Road will be closed entirely while major construction activities are occurring. This traffic restriction will be in place 24 hours a day throughout the construction period. Flaggers will be on site to minimize traffic delays.

**Detor:** Lakemont Boulevard SE/Newcastle Golf Club Road will be closed between Forest Drive SE to 155th Avenue SE. A detour will be directed

along Forest Drive SE to Coal Creek Parkway SE, connecting to Newcastle Golf Club Road via Newcastle Way.

For more information on this project, visit [BellevueWA.gov/lakemont-culvert](https://BellevueWA.gov/lakemont-culvert).

### **Factoria Blvd SE will have lane closures starting in January**

To reduce the risk of flooding during heavy storms, the City is replacing a segment of stormwater pipe with a larger rectangular concrete stormwater conveyance system along the northbound lanes of Factoria Boulevard Southeast, next to the Factoria Village commercial area. This system will continue to drain into a modified Richards Creek channel at the north end of the project near I-90.

**Traffic:** The City will need to partially close Factoria Boulevard for an extended period. Both northbound Factoria Boulevard lanes will be closed, and one of the current southbound lanes will become a northbound lane for approximately five months. There will also be changes to normal traffic patterns and times from January to November.

**Bus routes:** The two King County Metro bus stops in the project area will be temporarily relocated. The City will coordinate with King County Metro to minimize impacts to transit service and alert riders of the new temporary bus stop locations.

**Business access:** Access to the businesses on both sides of Factoria Boulevard will be maintained throughout project construction. The City will provide clear signage to highlight business access locations. For more information on this project, visit [BellevueWA.gov/factoria-stormwater-project](https://BellevueWA.gov/factoria-stormwater-project).

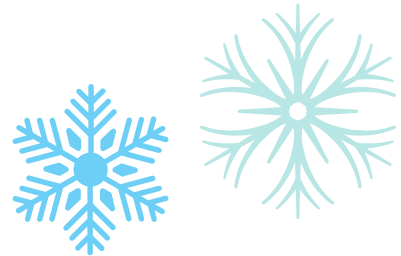
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## **WSDOT I-90 West Fish Passage – Sunset Creek**

The Washington State Department of Transportation is restoring and improving access for native fish species to streams and rivers by removing culverts and other barriers to fish passage. This project will periodically impact traffic along SE 36th St. in the Factoria neighborhood.

For more information on this WSDOT project, visit [engage.wsdot.wa.gov/i-90-sunset-creek-fish-passage-project](https://engage.wsdot.wa.gov/i-90-sunset-creek-fish-passage-project).

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## 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)

### 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](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 Wednesday 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 and fourth 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).

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit:

[BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news](http://BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news)

## 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	Council Chamber 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			