



Neighborhood News

February 2023




Bellevue's Bluegrass Festival

Wintergrass Festival 2023, Bellevue's four-day, family-friendly bluegrass and acoustic music festival, with concerts and dances on five different stages returns to the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Westin Hotel. There are also music education programs for kids and adults, workshops, impromptu jams and opportunities to enjoy lots of great music!

Wintergrass has been held in Bellevue since 2010, and will spotlight the rich musical heritage of the state of Louisiana, and will feature four bands with artists from that state and showcase the artistry of Torch and Twang. A host of other great singers and players from around the world, exuding the soul of bluegrass and Americana, will perform throughout the festival.



 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.

Weekend and single-day tickets are available and there is no admission cost for children aged twelve and under.

Visit Wintergrass.com for more information and to purchase tickets.



Eastgate/Factoria Area residents: NEP idea submission deadline is March 3!

The project idea submission period is now open for the Eastgate/Factoria Neighborhood Enhancement Program. NEP is a capital improvements program that provides residents with the opportunity to propose and select small-scale physical projects that improve the quality of life and enhance the character in their neighborhood area. The city has a budget of \$370,000 for the area to spend on projects.



Don't miss the opportunity to let the city know what you'd like to see done in your neighborhood, and send in your NEP project ideas. The submission deadline for ideas is March 3.

Submit your ideas in two easy ways:

- **BY MAIL:** Return the prepaid Project Idea Request Card all Eastgate/Factoria households received in the mail in late January

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

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■ **ONLINE:** BellevueWA.gov/nep

There is no limit on the number of project ideas that you can submit, but all ideas must be received at City Hall or submitted online by Thursday, March 3.



Cougar Mountain/Lakemont residents: Mark your calendars for the March 30 NEP Virtual Kickoff meeting, and watch your mailbox for your invitation!

NEP rotates through Bellevue's 14 NEP areas, serving two areas each year. 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. Questions? Contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov

SAVE THE DATE!

Evening of Cultural Conversations

Tuesday, March 8
7 p.m. at City Hall



Coaching and Conciliation Training 2023

March 8-10 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Application deadline is Monday, Feb. 27.

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? Do you have some 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 community resolve conflicts. 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 Coaching and Conciliation 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 the center!

We encourage you to be part of the 24 hours of free and engaging online training. Teams link will be provided upon registration.

We need your skills more than ever to help resolve conflicts. Under the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program passed into state law 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. We hope that you will consider becoming a part of this vital work.

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

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

Questions? Please call 425-452-2897

Spring 2023 Tree Giveaway

300 Trees, a Bellevue-based nonprofit, is offering free trees to Bellevue residents until Feb. 23 as part of its annual Spring Tree Giveaway. Eligible households can sign up for





up three free native trees for pickup at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on March 3 or 4.

Order your free tree(s) online now at 300trees.org/freetrees. Faith communities, schools, neighborhood associations, or small businesses interested in partnering with 300 Trees for future giveaways, planting events, or educational collaborations are encouraged to email info@300trees.org.

Better Together! Nights of Neighborhood Learning

April 15-June 15

Would you like to bring your neighbors together for a night of learning and connection?



Neighborhood Outreach is piloting a new program in your neighborhood! Choose from a menu of one-hour city programs on a variety of topics, facilitated by expert city staff.

Program topics include neighborhood safety, transportation, civic engagement, diversity and more. These “plug and play” learning events are offered for established neighborhood associations as well as for any group of at least ten neighbors that want to gather for a night of learning together.

It’s easy! We provide the speaker, help identify an event location, create a flyer, provide A-board signs and an email template for invitations to your neighbors.

Join us on Thursday, March 9, at noon, or on Tuesday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m. for a 30-minute virtual orientation during which you will meet the presenters, hear a brief description of each program and learn how to bring this program to

your neighborhood. A menu of event descriptions and available dates will be shared, so don’t miss this chance to schedule your neighborhood’s preferred date and topic.

Dates and programs are limited.

It’s easy and a great opportunity for a neighborhood gathering! To learn more, please register for the Zoom link with jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or call Julie at 425-452-5372.

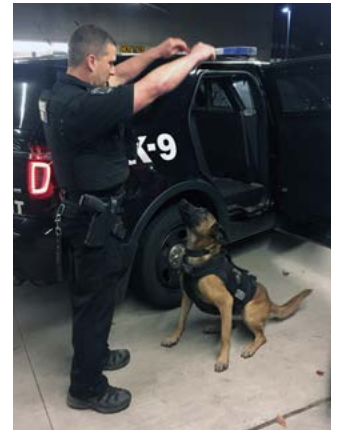
Bellevue Police Community Academy



Why do police officers do what they do? What’s their training? Join us to answer these and more of your questions at the Bellevue Police Department Community Academy!

The 12-week-long course examines the different specialties within the Bellevue Police Department and includes classroom discussions, interactive demonstrations and a police ride-along. Including patrol and investigations, bomb squad, and K9 dogs, you’ll take a deep dive into how the police department strives to protect and serve.

Organize your questions, thoughts and concerns, and then join us for a robust conversation.



The spring Community Academy is scheduled for March 9-May 25, and meets Thursday evenings, 6-9 p.m. Participants are asked to commit to attending at least 10 of the 12 sessions.



For more information and to register visit: BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/police/about-police/community-academy



Prevent storage locker theft!

There has been an increase in storage locker theft reports, including in public storage facilities and apartment complexes. As a result, investigators urge you to use caution when considering putting sentimental or valuable items in these lockers.

There are some precautions that you can take, such as keeping an inventory of all items in storage. Also, keep a list of serial numbers and photograph your belongings. Never share your access or key code, and make sure that you have a high-quality lock.

Additionally, ask if the facility has video cameras, then find out where they are located and if they are monitored. It's also important that the access gates are protected for employee and customer-only access. There should also be adequate lighting.

These simple steps can help prevent you from becoming a victim of storage locker theft.

February is American Heart Month!

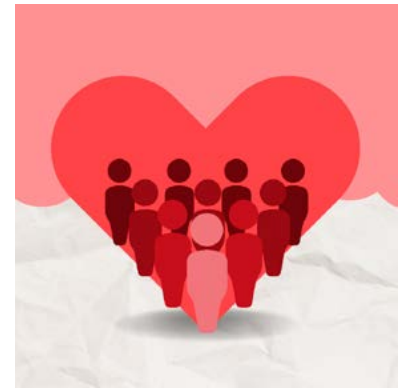
By Heather Wong, Fire Department Public Involvement Officer

Did you make a health-based new year's resolution? Have you stuck with it? If you're like most of us, you probably went hard for the first week, tapered off a bit the second week, and by now that resolution is happily (or is it regrettably?) filed away in a memory bank that won't be accessed for a while. We get it. We often approach creating healthy habits with "go big or go home" methodology. Yet that's not sustainable and often leads to healthy-habit deficits.

February is American Heart Month. And there's no better time than now to reinvigorate your desire for a healthier lifestyle. This month, we're encouraging everyone to embrace their inner tortoise and join us in the race for a healthier heart. We've created a [calendar: BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2023/February%202022_0.pdf](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2023/February%202022_0.pdf)



that includes one small change you can incorporate into your routine each day. It's only one change a day, often repetitive, for the shortest month of the year. You can do this!



Each day of February will focus on eating smart, moving more, or simply being well. From doing squats for one minute to picking a healthy snack to eat while watching your favorite movie, we promise these suggestions won't be painful. And if at the end of the month you've only picked up one new heart-healthy habit...great! You'll be one giant step ahead of where you were 28 days earlier.

Start small. Live big!

Bellevue College's TELOS Program: Seniors, do you like learning about new things?

Bellevue College Continuing Education-TELOS Program has courses designed primarily for older adults. TELOS is a Greek word meaning ultimate goal. The TELOS program has operated since 1976. Here is the website: [bellevuecollege.edu/ce/retiree-programs/](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/ce/retiree-programs/)



Classes: The wide variety of classes includes topics on arts, creative writing, current events, geology, health and well-being, history, literature, psychology, philosophy, religion, science and technology. The classes are small and informal, ranging in size from eight to 39, and most have 15 and 20 students. There are no entrance requirements, grades or tests.

Students: Most students are seniors, but there are no age requirements. Faculty and students interact as peers, making learning a creative exchange of ideas.

Schedule: Classes are generally 1½ or 2 hours long and meet once a week, Monday through Friday.

Registration usually opens two months before classes begin. There is also a summer program which usually has fewer offerings.

Instructors: Classes are taught by people who have expertise in their subject matter and have excellent teaching skills. Many are active or retired faculty from colleges and universities. Others are professionals with accomplishments in many fields. All share a keen interest in contributing to the mental, physical and spiritual fulfillment of older adults.

Location: Classes are currently on Zoom. Normally, classes are in the Continuing Education building near the intersection of WA-520 and 148th Ave. NE, Bellevue.

With as many as 70 courses offered each quarter and over 1,000 students participating in TELOS, there will be a course that is right for you!

Understanding Bellevue's Housing Needs Assessment

By Brooke Brod

As part of the Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan and in support of other work related to affordable housing, the city recently completed a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) in 2016, which led to the adoption of Bellevue's 2017 Affordable Housing Strategy. The 2022 HNA looks at a variety of topics, including housing affordability today, gaps in housing types and areas of the city that are at risk for displacement. The HNA provides a wealth of information that will help inform decision-making.

Some key highlights from the HNA:

- One quarter of all Bellevue households earn less than 80 percent of the Area Median Income (meaning that they earn less than \$107,680 for a four-person household or \$75,376 for a one-person household), which would qualify them for affordable housing.
- Housing costs have been rising significantly faster than typical incomes in Bellevue. Rental and ownership vacancy rates in Bellevue are extremely low. Limited supplies contribute to increased housing costs.

- Black and Hispanic households in Bellevue are less likely to own their home than other groups, with White households more than twice as likely to own their home (59 percent) as Black households (24 percent).
- While just over half of Bellevue's housing units have three or more bedrooms, this percentage is shrinking significantly as smaller apartments have dominated residential construction in recent decades. If these trends continue, the share of available family-sized housing in the city will decrease further.

The Housing Needs Assessment also looks at likely changes in demographics to better understand the kinds of housing that is needed today and in the future. Bellevue's future population is expected to include more seniors which indicates a need for more housing for people with mobility challenges. The diversification of Bellevue is also expected to continue, and this may indicate a need for more multi-generational housing.

Ensuring that there is housing available to people across a variety of incomes is another important planning priority. The Housing Needs Assessment shows that 40 percent of new housing would need to be affordable for households making below 80 percent Area Median Income.

These are just some of the findings. The full Housing Needs Assessment can be found on the city's website at tinyurl.com/Bellevue-HNA.

The Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan will also look at other data to inform policy and direction including a Displacement Analysis, Equity Analysis and Environmental Review.

Finally, community input will also be a critical component. Past engagement has included a Vision Questionnaire, in-person and virtual Open Houses, Community Deep Dives, presentations to different community groups and a Missing Middle Housing Questionnaire.

Coming up in March will be two Housing Forums, during which community members are invited to learn more about the various analyses and participate in small group discussion housing.



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- Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. at Crossroads Community Center
- Tuesday, March 21, 6–8:30 p.m. at East Shore Unitarian Church

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to attend, and refreshments will be served. To learn more and sign up to attend, visit: bellevue-2044-housing-forums.eventbrite.com

New funding opportunity for human services organizations

Human services organizations serving Bellevue are invited to apply to the City of Bellevue for funds that they can use to address critical human services needs in the community. Proposals are due by 4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 10.

Organizations must attend a pre-application meeting by Feb. 3 with Saada Hilts, human services planner, at shilts@bellevuewa.gov to be considered for funding.

The funding totals \$3.1 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act grants that went to the city in 2021. These funds are available to support: services that address basic needs, behavioral health services, childcare, civil legal aid, domestic violence and sexual assault survivor services, food insecurity, fostering well-being in the face of racial and ethnic discrimination and services for residents experiencing homelessness.

Priority will be given to applications and services addressing the needs of communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations awarded funding are required to evaluate their programming to reduce barriers for marginalized populations and enhance access to this funding to serve our historically underserved communities.

Translated requests for proposals and applications are available upon request.

The city's Human Services Commission will review the proposals and provide funding recommendations to the city council in the spring of 2023. Programs that are awarded funds will enter a contract with the city to spend the funds between June 1, 2023, to Dec. 31, 2024.

Keep Bellevue Beautiful: City will launch program to clean Bellevue streets this summer

Responding to resident requests, city council has provided funding in the 2023-24 budget for Safe, Clean and Vibrant City investments, including an Adopt-a-Street program. Called "Keep Bellevue Beautiful," the program will begin to provide opportunities for residents to adopt a street or participate in citywide cleaning events.

The city will provide safety equipment (grabbers, vests, gloves, bags, etc.) for volunteers and arrange for free pickup of bags of litter. Residents will be able to sign up to adopt a street through the myBellevue app or online. You will also be able to stay updated on this new initiative through a webpage for Keep Bellevue Beautiful, Neighborhood News and outreach efforts in future months.

The program will collaborate with city departments for education to reduce, reuse and recycle, and there will be citywide opportunities for volunteer groups.

Would you like more information as the program begins to develop? Contact Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, mheilman@bellevuewa.gov.



Help make streets near schools safer: Participate in a road safety assessment!

Help the Transportation Department gather real-world observations and experiences of those walking and rolling near schools. City staff will host Saturday "walking audits" as part of its series of road safety assessments. The scheduled

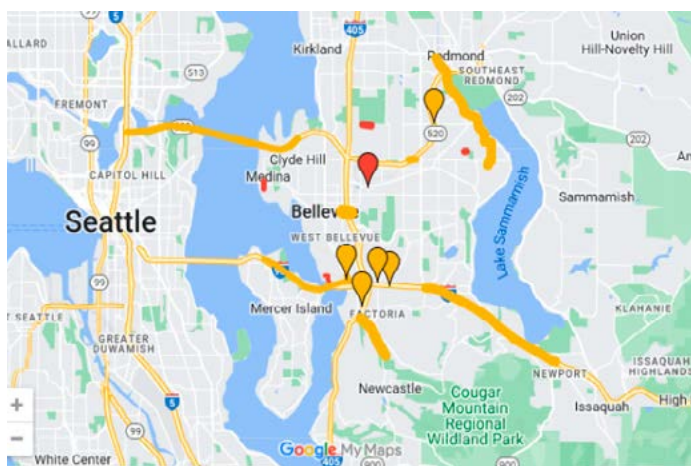
walks on Feb. 4 and 11 will focus on areas around International School, while the March 25 and April 1 walks focus on Newport High School.

Improving walking and bicycling safety and comfort on routes near schools is a top priority and part of Bellevue's "Vision Zero" effort to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injury collisions on city streets by 2030. Results from the walking audits and questionnaires will be used to make future safety improvements on roadways.

Parents, students and neighbors are invited to sign up for a walking audit. You can also share your thoughts by responding to a short online questionnaire or "dropping a pin" on an interactive map available in eight languages. Both online feedback opportunities can be accessed at BellevueWA.gov/road-safety-assessments.

The city is also coordinating with the Bellevue School District on the safety assessments. The previous assessments covered streets close to Lake Hills, Phantom Lake, Sherwood Forest and Stevenson elementary schools; Tillicum, Highland and Odle middle schools; Interlake and Sammamish high schools; and Big Picture School.

Learn more about Vision Zero at BellevueWA.gov/vision-zero.



Receive weekly traffic advisories by email or text

The Transportation Department offers timely information on current and upcoming traffic impacts in Bellevue.

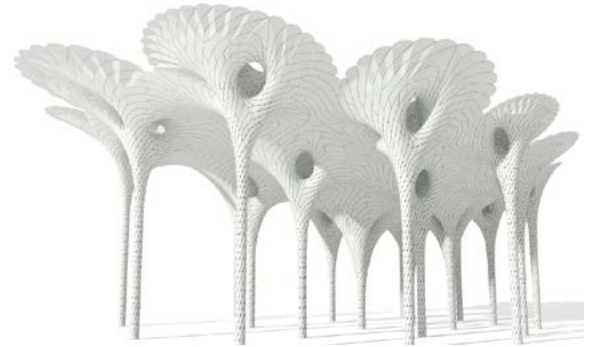
Keep updated by:

- Bookmarking the traffic advisories webpage and map

- Signing up to receive weekly traffic advisory emails or text messages
- Following the Transportation Department on Twitter at [@BvueTrans](https://twitter.com/BvueTrans)
- Checking Bellevue's real-time traffic map and cameras at trafficmap.bellevuewa.gov

Learn more and sign up

at BellevueWA.gov/traffic-advisories.



New signature artwork being installed in Downtown Park: 6,665 parts, 180,000 rivets and a lot of elbow grease!

Bellevue's Downtown Park is always a hub of activity for the community, and over the next 6-8 weeks, residents and guests have something new to watch as artists and fabricators install an innovative permanent public artwork. The artwork is the final piece of the Northeast Gateway project at Northeast Fourth Street and Bellevue Way. The plaza and water feature were completed in May 2021.

This cutting-edge artwork by THEVERYMANY consists of fluted columns that will rise to form an artistic canopy with perforated light filtering through. The artwork, made up of over 6,600 unique panels with over 60,000 handmade folds and fastened with over 180,000 rivets, reflects Bellevue's innovative technology sector, love of natural forms and its robust creative community of thinkers and makers.

Conceived as a key location on the Grand Connection, this artwork is funded by the City of Bellevue, selected by the Bellevue Arts Commission and will be included in the City's Public Art Collection. To learn more about Bellevue's Public Art Collection, please visit BellevueWA.gov/publicart.

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-109)

First Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission

Environmental Services Commission

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

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

Transportation Commission

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

Human Services Commission (6 p.m., 1E-113)

First and third Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/human-services-commission

LEOFF 1 Disability Board (6 p.m., Room 1E-118) First 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			