



Neighborhood News



March 2023

Cultural Conversations: "What Connects Us"

Evening Forum at City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE

Wednesday, March 8, 7-9 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

On International Women's Day, everyone is welcome to an evening with four storytellers from around the world and an opportunity to connect and share! The storytellers' determination, empowerment and support across continents remind us of what connects us.



Register at Eventbrite ([eventbrite.com/e/526082255187](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/526082255187)). Learn more about Cultural Conversations (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods/building-community/cultural-conversations).



 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.

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Police and Fire departments to host meeting on behavioral health, transit safety

Tuesday, March 14, 6:30-8 p.m.

North Bellevue Community Center

4063 148th Ave. NE



The Bellevue Police and Fire Departments continuously work together to expand and improve public safety. Recently, the City Council approved an investment in public safety, creating new positions and allocating resources for a Community Crisis Assistance Team and a Police Transit Team. **Bellevue Police Chief Wendell Shirley** and **Bellevue Fire Chief Jay Hagen** invite the community to learn more about these programs and to provide input.

The Crisis Assistance Team pairs mental health professionals from Bellevue Fire CARES and specially trained plain-clothes police officers to address calls from people in crisis. The Police Transit Team will provide community engagement, safety and security in and around light rail stations in Bellevue.

As we develop and begin these programs, we want your feedback to ensure we are creating a safe and equitable environment for everyone. In this community conversation, learn more about these programs, ask questions and provide feedback.

March 3 deadline for Eastgate/ Factoria NEP project ideas

Don't miss the opportunity to let the city know what you'd like to see your neighborhood.

The project idea submission period is now open for the Eastgate/Factoria Neighborhood Enhancement Program. NE

is a capital improvement program that provides residents in a neighborhood area the opportunity to propose and select small-scale physical projects that improve their quality of life and enhance the character in their neighborhood. The city has a budget of \$370,000 for the Eastgate/Factoria area to spend on projects.

Eastgate/Factoria residents can submit ideas online (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods/neighborhood-improvement-5) or by mail on the prepaid project idea request card Eastgate/Factoria residents received in the mail in late January. There is no limit on the number of project ideas you can submit, but all must be received at City Hall or submitted online by Friday, March 3.



Kickoff meeting for Cougar Mountain/Lakemont NEP

March 30

At the virtual meeting, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 30, city staff will provide Cougar Mountain/Lakemont residents with a brief overview of the program guidelines and schedule, answer questions and invite residents to share, discuss and submit project ideas.

Project managers will be available in breakout rooms for specific project discussion. Each household in the Cougar Mountain/Lakemont neighborhood area will receive a postage-paid NEP project request form in the mail in late March. \$377,000 in NEP funding is available to the Cougar Mountain/Lakemont area.

Email neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov for the meeting Zoom Link.

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? Please contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov or 425-462-4186.



Better Together! Nights of Neighborhood Learning

Orientation via Zoom

Noon, Thursday, March 9 or
5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 14

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



Neighborhood Outreach is offering a menu of great programs on various topics, April 15 to June 15. The learning events are offered for neighborhood associations as well as for any group of at least 10 neighbors who want to gather for a night of learning together.

There are 12 topics, and each session is provided at least twice. You can learn about all the topics at orientation. Topics include:

- A day in the life of a code compliance officer
- You, me and diversity: Creating more inclusive meetings and events
- The "Why" and "How" behind civic engagement
- Dos and Don'ts for waste and water
- Toward Zero Together: Road safety is our North Star

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

Join us March 9 or March 14 for a virtual orientation during which you will meet the presenters, hear a brief description of each program and learn how to bring a program to your neighborhood. A list of event descriptions and available dates will be shared. Spaces are limited. It's easy and a great opportunity for a neighborhood gathering!

To learn more, please request the Zoom link by emailing jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or call Julie at 425-452-5372.

New hours for employment and entrepreneurship assistance

The City of Bellevue's Employment and Entrepreneurship Assistance program at Mini City Hall at Crossroads Shopping Center will now be on Fridays, 1-3 p.m., beginning Feb. 24.

Whether getting into a career or turning a business idea into reality, the Employment and Entrepreneurship Assistance program can help connect you to resources for your journey. Assistance has been provided for a variety of requests for items such as:

- Hearing-based assistance in connecting to careers
- Spanish-language assistance in getting into a new career
- Finding a career closer to home
- Guidance starting a house painting business
- Guidance for a piano coach wanting to grow her business

Come visit the Employment and Entrepreneurship program on Fridays or visit BellevueWA.gov/biz for more information or to schedule appointments with the navigators at a different time.

There is a vast network of other assistance for careers and business on the Eastside too, including the newly released Eastside Job Board.



Exploring future housing options

By Brooke Brod

Housing that meets the needs of people at all stages of life is a key component of a thriving city. Housing contributes to a strong economy and workforce by helping people to live close to their jobs. Putting housing near transit helps to maximize those investments and reduce overall carbon emissions, and providing a variety of housing options allows people to find housing in their neighborhood of choice throughout their lives.

A young family might be looking for a starter home in a neighborhood with a school that they like, while an older couple might be looking to downsize and find a more walkable neighborhood with nearby amenities.

That's the Bellevue City Council's vision includes direction to create a "wide variety of housing types and affordability to attract people who desire a safe, sustainable, inclusive and accessible community."

Planning for housing is a key part of the update to the Comprehensive Plan now underway and

one of the issues raised most by people. Bellevue has worked with other cities, counties and regional agencies to set some overarching goals for this planning process, including:

- Create more housing options such as duplexes, townhomes and other modest scale housing.



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- Create options that are affordable at all income levels, especially for households that have low incomes.
- Ensure that housing has access to jobs and transit.

There are many ways to achieve these goals and it's important to not take a "one-sized-fits-all" approach. Bellevue is home to many different types of neighborhoods, from urban high-rises to more quiet, residential areas. The planning team has also heard strong interest in having more mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods, more smaller starter home options, senior-friendly housing and family-sized apartments.

Balancing these various needs will require consideration of housing data, environmental and economic analysis, and feedback from the community.

Community members are invited to discuss this important issue at one of three upcoming **Housing Forums**. Participants will have the opportunity to explore data around the city's housing needs, ask questions and engage in small group discussion. Input from these events will be used to inform policy. There are three opportunities to participate:

- **Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Crossroads Community Center.** This will be a drop-in event. People may come at any time and stay for as long as they like.
- **Tuesday, March 21, 6-8:30 pm at East Shore Unitarian Church.** This will be an interactive workshop and presentation with opportunity for in-depth, small-group discussion
- **Thursday, March 23, Noon-1 p.m., virtual event.** Hear a short presentation from city staff with time for questions.

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served at in-person events. Learn more and sign up (bellevue-2044-housing-forums.eventbrite.com).

Greener Living community classes this spring

Bellevue's free "Greener Living" classes are updated regularly based on need and interest. This spring includes a new virtual workshop, "Dare to Repair" with resources and tips for repairing broken household items and an in-person Reducing Wasted Food workshop during National Food Waste Prevention Week! A mix of virtual and in-person workshops will be held throughout the year.



Spring 2023 workshop topics include:

- Dare to repair!
- Responsible reorganizing
- Reduce wasted food
- Curbside composting and beyond
- Plastics: Problems and possibilities
- Safer cleaning and healthy home
- Super sorter

For class dates, times, and locations visit BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes.

Registration is required to attend classes. To register, email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call 206-949-1787.

#ChooseReuse by bringing your own coffee cup

Join other Eastside residents who choose to reuse! The cities of Bellevue, Bothell, Kirkland and Redmond have partnered to reduce waste from single-use coffee cups this spring. Keep your eyes out for more information and join the campaign by bringing your own cup (BYOC) to participating coffee shops and celebrating reuse efforts in your community.



Single-use plastic and paper items fill our landfills, pollute waterways and impact precious natural resources. However, they are often avoidable. Choose to BYO coffee cup, water bottle,



utensils, straws and shopping bags when grabbing takeout or shopping this spring.

Why Reuse?

- Reusables save the planet: Over their lifecycle, reusable cups have lower greenhouse gas emissions compared to disposable alternatives.
- Reusables reduce litter: Transitioning to reusables could reduce trash on community streets by 67%.
- Reusables are safe: The state's retail food code allows businesses to refill personal beverage containers. Reusables are safe and do not spread COVID-19.
- It feels good to do your part to reduce pollution and other harmful environmental impacts!

What is Pickleball?

It's the sport with the goofy name you read about or see being played at a tennis court near you.



Pickleball was invented by three Bainbridge Island friends in 1965 and is a cross between tennis and badminton. Some people say it's like playing ping pong, except that you get to stand on the table.

Pickleball has grown steadily in popularity, but has experienced explosive growth with the onset of the pandemic. It is the fastest growing sport in the United States right now, especially among seniors.

Pickleball's popularity is due to several factors:

- Played with a plastic whiffle ball, pickleball is easier on the body than many other sports
- It's relatively simple to learn and a new player can become proficient enough to enjoy it in just a few sessions
- The games are short and players exchange partners often, so pickleball is highly social and creates opportunities for friendships, which can often be difficult for seniors to establish.

Pickleball is certainly popular in Bellevue, where community centers, the YMCA and many local parks have established pickleball courts and hours of play. These are often tennis courts lined also for pickleball or gym floors with lines for pickleball. Efforts are currently in place to establish additional dedicated courts for Bellevue players.

Pickleball provides an excellent opportunity for fun exercise. Studies have shown that 30 minutes of pickleball play burns 40% more calories than a 30-minute

walk. It can raise your heart rate and improve cardiovascular health.

Regular playing also

improves balance and coordination. However, it is important to keep in mind that pickleball is an active sport and must be approached with an eye to safe playing.

To help address recent requests for pickleball, Bellevue Parks & Community Services has committed to add pickleball lines to city outdoor tennis courts when they are renovated, if there is sufficient distance from residences.

The city currently has 37 tennis courts, with 17 pickleball courts. Sixteen courts have been added to the park system since 2018. This year, 12 additional pickleball courts are scheduled to be added. Pickleball is also offered at most city indoor facilities.



Volunteers needed to assist seniors with tech challenges

SeniorTech of Puget Sound is a Washington nonprofit with experienced volunteers who provide technical support with the use of computers, tablets, smartphones and similar devices. Support focuses on seniors, but is not limited to them.

SeniorTech has been providing these services at the North Bellevue Community Center since 2014, with one-on-one technical support offered on the

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second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, and the fifth Tuesday when there is one. The technical support labs are 9:30-noon. NBCC is at 4063 148th Ave NE.

SeniorTech anticipates a shortage of volunteers beginning this spring, and would like to increase its group of knowledgeable support people by one or two. If you would like to join them in this satisfying activity, please email info@seniortechps.org.

Let us know what you think about travel options in Bellevue

The city is updating its Transportation Demand Management plan and wants your input!



There is an online survey open now for people who live and work in Bellevue, including employers and property managers who manage commuting for employees at their worksites. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, and survey takers can enter a drawing for one of six \$50 gift certificates for family-friendly Paddy Coyne's Irish Pub in Bellevue, contributed by the restaurant and the city.

To take the survey, visit bit.ly/BellevueTDM by April 21. Your input will help to inform the Transportation Demand Management plan update, which covers 2023-31.

Transportation demand management maximizes the efficiency of the city's transportation system. It aims to limit the impact of traffic on Bellevue neighborhoods, and reduce air and water pollution. The TDM plan helps provide more options for traveling around the city, lists goals and targets, and includes strategies to reach these goals.

Interested in learning more about transportation options and services in Bellevue? Visit ChooseYourWayBellevue.org or download the Choose Your Way Bellevue app on Google Play or the Apple App Store.



Proposed code amendments to boost ADU development

By Caleb Miller

The City of Bellevue is updating its regulations for attached accessory dwelling units. Sometimes referred to as in-law suites or "granny flats," ADUs provide diversity in housing size, type, geographic location and cultural options to help ensure all residents are welcome and that older residents can remain in the city. Attached ADUs have been allowed in Bellevue since 1993, but regulatory barriers can sometimes make building ADUs too difficult.

On Jan. 17, the City Council initiated the regulation update and directed the Planning Commission to process proposed code amendments. The council directed the work to focus on removing barriers to ADU construction and creating a pathway for ownership of ADUs. Some amendments under consideration would change off-street parking and owner occupancy requirements, design controls regulating the size and door placement, and process requirements. The Planning Commission will begin reviewing the code changes at a study session on March 22.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/ADU-reform for more information. You may also contact senior planner Caleb Miller (cwmiller@BellevueWA.gov or 425-452-4574) for questions and information.

East Link testing resumes in Bellevue

Sound Transit's light rail testing has resumed in Bellevue. Over the next few months, trains will run on the tracks along the portion of East Link between the South Bellevue and Redmond Technology stations, a stretch that includes stops downtown and in BelRed and Wilburton.

Exercise caution in BelRed, where the trains will move through street-level intersections twice per day, once in the morning and once in the evening.

Testing is subject to change depending on inclement weather and other factors.

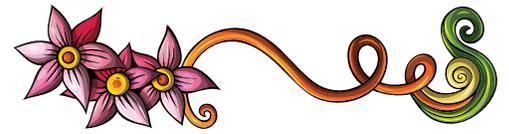


As testing restarts, trains will not go full speed, but will in the future. To ensure the safety of those walking, rolling and driving, safety professionals and flaggers will be on-site to guide motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists when needed. Safety is of utmost importance and moving forward, pedestrians and motorists should expect trains to be running at all times.

Tips for how to stay safe near active trains:

- Look both ways
- Headphones off, screens down
- Take crosswalks only, not shortcuts
- Stay behind the yellow line

You can also view our light rail safety video, available in eight languages on the city's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNOMjqsB9eIcDi_i5j1TUsvQmz7kJPF](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNOMjqsB9eIcDi_i5j1TUsvQmz7kJPF)).



Cutting-edge artwork takes shape at Downtown Park

It takes a long time to put together a large, 3D jigsaw puzzle. With over 6,600 parts and 180,000 rivets, the new artwork being installed at Downtown Park might be one of the largest! Over the next few weeks, take some time for a walk by the installation site at the park's Northeast Gateway and see Bellevue's newest art commission take shape (literally!)

This cutting-edge artwork by THEVERYMANY, a New York art and architecture studio, consists of fluted columns that rise to form an artistic, perforated canopy with light filtering through, and was designed to reflect Bellevue's innovative technology sector, its 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, 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.



Artwork by THEVERYMANY

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			