



Neighborhood News



April 2024



Bellevue City Council to meet on Tuesdays starting April 16

The Bellevue City Council meetings will move from Monday nights to Tuesdays beginning April 16. The meetings start at 6 p.m. in council chambers at Bellevue City Hall. They are also accessible virtually via Zoom. This change in meeting day gives the public, city staff and councilmembers additional time for final meeting preparations each week.

During the Feb. 12 council meeting, councilmembers unanimously voted to move forward a proposal to change the council meeting day to Tuesday to give more time between publishing the meeting agenda and holding the meeting, allowing community members and councilmembers additional time to review agenda items and become informed on citywide topics.

The change also results in some board and commission meetings that had traditionally been held on Tuesday to move to other days of the week, including the Human Services Commission and Parks & Community Services Board. A full schedule of meeting changes after the switch occurs on April 16 will be announced on BellevueWA.gov.


The latest available information, including access instructions, for all upcoming council, board and commission meetings is available on the City of Bellevue calendar at BellevueWA.gov/calendar. You can also find a list of near-term council, board and commission meetings on the last page of Neighborhood News.

Celebrate Bellevue's first EarthFest!

Saturday, April 20 will be full of family-friendly interactive activities and games, including rolling garden tours, educational nature-based programs, creative arts and environmental resource booths.



Anyone who lives, works or plays in Bellevue is welcome to drop in at the Bellevue Botanical Garden on **April 20, any time from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** EarthFest is free for all, and no advance registration is required. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the Copper Kettle Coffee Bar inside the garden.

 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

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In the Earth Day spirit, sustainable transportation methods are encouraged. Parking at the Botanical Garden will be limited.

Those looking for a chance to give back before going to EarthFest can join Keep Bellevue Beautiful for a litter cleanup event in Wilburton, beginning at 9 a.m. Visit BellevueWA.gov/keepbellevuebeautiful to learn more and sign up.

To learn more about EarthFest and to see the full schedule of events, visit BellevueWA.gov/earthfest.

We can't wait to see you on April 20!

Neighborhood Enhancement Program Updates

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) is a \$7 million, city-funded capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select small projects that improve their neighborhood's quality of life and enhance its character. The program rotates through the Bellevue's 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas, serving two areas each year. In 2024, the program is available to the West Lake Sammamish and Northeast Bellevue neighborhood areas.



Northeast Bellevue NEP kicks off April 3!

Join your neighbors and City of Bellevue staff to kick off the **Neighborhood Enhancement Program** in Northeast Bellevue! Share your ideas for how to spend \$366,000 for neighborhood improvements. There is no limit on the number of project ideas you can submit, but all ideas must be received at City Hall or submitted online by May 7.

Submit your ideas in two easy ways:

1. **By mail:** Return the prepaid Project Idea Request Card all Northeast Bellevue households received in the mail in late March
2. **Online:** BellevueWA.gov/nep

Northeast Bellevue NEP Virtual Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, April 3
6:30-8 p.m.

Learn about the program, share your ideas with city project managers and connect with your neighbors! Email NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov to let us know you will attend and to receive the Zoom link. Learn more about the program at BellevueWA.gov/nep.

West Lake Sammamish NEP is in project scoping and review phase

City staff are in the process of evaluating and reviewing project ideas West Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Area residents submitted for their neighborhood. Eligible projects will be presented for voting on the West Lake Sammamish NEP ballot.

\$219,000 is available in funding. West Lake Sammamish residents should watch their mail for a voter's pamphlet and ballot to arrive in early June, then vote for their top three project choices. Voting is by mail only and limited to one ballot per household. A public open house is planned for June where projects on the ballot will be presented, and residents can meet with city project managers to ask questions. Watch for more details!

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.



NEP Project Spotlight

During the 2017 Neighborhood Enhancement Program process, residents in Northeast Bellevue proposed and selected a landscaping project along 164th Ave NE, between Northup Way and NE 8th Street.

With support from a Washington State Department of Ecology grant and the Community Development and Parks and Community Services departments, the project is now complete, and pedestrians can enjoy an enhanced experience with new plants and trees in the right-of-way. The appearance of the areas has not only improved, but there is also increased retention and filtration of stormwater in the newly installed bioretention swales.



Ewe won't want to miss this! Bellevue's Annual Sheep Shearing on April 27

See the sheep get shorn before the summer heat sets in at Bellevue's annual sheep-shearing celebration, on **Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.** at Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Pl. SE.

Activities will include spinning demonstrations, children's activities, tractor-pulled wagon rides, heritage displays, animal viewing, food and more.

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

The Kelsey Creek event originated in the early 1990s, when ever-increasing crowds came to



Kelsey Creek Farm Park each spring to watch the wool removal, a traditional farm practice. Each sheep produces six to 10 pounds of wool each year.

Admission is free, with a charge for some activities. Food is available for purchase. No ATM is available on-site. Free parking and shuttle service is available to and from the Wilburton Park and Ride, 720 114th Ave. SE, and Bannerwood Sports Park, 1790 Richards Rd.



Bellevue 2044: Comprehensive Plan Update

With almost two years of technical analysis and community input, the Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan is in the final stages of review. This plan will chart a course for the next 20 years and make sure that people who live, work and play in Bellevue can thrive.

Since launching the update in February 2022, the planning team has heard from over 7,000 individuals, hosted 67 events, and engaged with 60 different community groups, neighborhood associations, business groups, and other partners.

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A summary of all this work can be found in the Bellevue 2044 Engagement Summary.

During the month of April, the Planning Commission will continue to review proposed policy updates to different elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Housing and Human Services,
Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Transportation,
Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.**

Community members are encouraged to attend these meetings and provide comments. People can attend the meeting and provide comments in person or virtually via Zoom. To learn more about how to sign up or submit feedback, please visit the Planning Commission website: tinyurl.com/bellevue-planning-commission.



Property tax relief for seniors and persons with disabilities

King County administers two state programs that provide property tax relief for qualified seniors and persons with disabilities. In King County, the income level for eligibility for both programs has been raised.

The **exemption program** reduces or eliminates property taxes on a principal residence. It freezes the taxable value of the residence as of January 1 of the first year that the exemption is received. Each year, the recipient will be taxed on the frozen value or the current market value, if lower. If qualified, the exemption renews automatically for at least three years, provided the recipient remains eligible.

The deferral program doesn't change the amount of property taxes. Instead, the State of Washington pays taxes and places a lien on the property for the taxes paid and interest.

Applicants can apply for both programs at the same time.

For more information on these programs, search the King County website for [seniorexemption: senior-exemption.kingcounty.gov](https://seniorexemption.senior-exemption.kingcounty.gov). For a deferral, the Assessor's Office suggests contacting them directly for assistance at 206-296-3920 or Exemptions.Assessments@kingcounty.gov.

You may qualify for an exemption this year if:

Ownership

- You owned your residence as of December 31, 2023.
- You occupied the residence for at least six months in 2023.

Age or Disability

- You were at least age 61 by December 31, 2023.
- Or, you are disabled or a veteran with a service-connected disability.
- You might qualify if your deceased spouse/registered domestic partner had an exemption at the time of death and you were at least age 57 that year.

Income

- Your household income, after deduction of qualified expenses (many medically related), was \$84,000 or less in 2023.

You can apply for a property tax exemption for 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021. To be eligible for a refund, you must meet all the requirements for each application year and the application must be received at the assessor's office within three years of the property tax due date.

If you apply for an exemption, remember to pay your current property taxes. Processing your application may take time. If approved for an exemption, you'll receive a refund for any overpayment.





Distracted Driving Awareness Month

As we navigate busy streets and roads, it's crucial for us to remember that our actions behind the wheel don't just affect us, but also influence others' attitudes and behaviors toward driving.

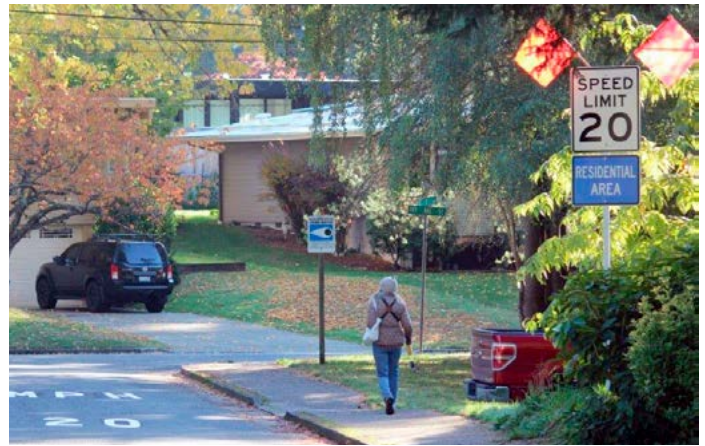
Distracted driving isn't just about texting or talking on the phone. It includes anything that takes our attention away from the street, including eating, grooming, adjusting the radio or even daydreaming. Every distraction increases the risk of a crash, endangering our own lives and those of our passengers and fellow drivers.

Modeling good driving habits isn't just about avoiding distractions. It's also about demonstrating patience, courtesy and responsibility on the road. When we follow traffic laws, use turn signals, maintain a safe following distance and respect other drivers, we also show other drivers and our children the importance of being considerate.

As adults, we have the superpower to shape future attitudes and behaviors toward driving, starting from a young age. By modeling safe and focused driving habits, we instill the importance of being attentive and responsible drivers who prioritize safety.

Together, we can create a safer, more responsible driving culture for ourselves and future generations.

Drive safely!



Learn more about proposed local street speed limit reduction

Speeding on local streets is the top concern heard from residents regarding traffic safety in Bellevue. In response, the Transportation Department uses a variety of different tools, like speed humps, radar feedback signs and traffic circles, to bring down vehicle speeds.

In February, the City Council directed staff to begin outreach to inform the community and answer questions about a proposal to reduce the speed limit on most local streets from 25 mph to 20 mph.

Local streets are designed primarily to provide access within neighborhoods and carry local traffic to collector arterials. A 20-mph speed limit has already been implemented in three Bellevue neighborhoods and the results have been positive. A lower speed limit would also support the city's Vision Zero effort (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/transportation/safety-and-maintenance/traffic-safety/vision-zero), which aims to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes on city streets by 2030. It also represents a culture shift in how speeds are managed on local streets: **Safety starts on your street!**

There are many benefits to reducing the speed limit on local streets, including improving safety for children going to school in Bellevue neighborhoods, creating a more comfortable environment for people walking and rolling and creating predictable speed limits in neighborhoods.

If advanced, the community can expect to see the lower speed limit take effect in 2025.

Want to learn more about the proposed change to speed limits on local streets?

Visit BellevueWA.gov/20-mph.



Spring District Family Festival

12167 NE 14th Terrace - on the Plaza
Saturday, May 18, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free and open to the whole community!

Live music!

Food trucks (Lunch available for purchase)

Kids' fun and games hosted by KidsQuest

KidsQuest
...Children's Museum

City of Bellevue Resource Tables

Getting there is easy!

Free parking in the BelRed Station lot, 13102 NE Spring Blvd

Limited free parking for the festival in the GIX Plaza Garage (by reservation)

From the Botanical Garden, a one-mile flat walk or order BellHop Service, free on-demand shuttle app, visitbellevuewa.com/bellhop

For a free parking space or rail reservation, contact neighborhoodoutreach@BellevueWA.gov or 425-452-6836



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/special-meetings

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network
 (6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/city-government/bdan

Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-113)
 First Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/arts-commission

Environmental Services Commission
 (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/environmental-commission

Planning Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113)
 Second and fourth Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/cdplanning-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/human-services-commission

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

LEOFF 1 Disability Board (6 p.m., Room 1E-118)
 First Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/leoff-1-disability-board

Library Board (5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or Newport Way Library) Third Tuesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/library-board

Parks & Community Services Board
 (6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/pcs-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/events

Youth Link Board (6 p.m., 1E-120)
 Second and fourth Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/youth-link-board

Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division offers a variety of programs and partnerships for residents and community members.

To learn more about involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, please visit our website at:
BellevueWA.gov/neighborhoods or call 425-452-6836 or email:
neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit:
BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Day	Scheduled Meeting(s)	Location	Public Comment Opportunity
First four Tuesdays of each Month, except August and December	6 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chamber Bellevue TV channel 21 and BT YouTube channel youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington	Emails to Council are accepted at council@bellevuewa.gov at any time.
August – first Tuesday only			Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at bellevue.legistar.com/calendar.aspx
December – first and second Tuesday only			