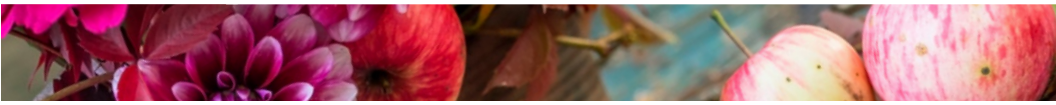




Neighborhood News



September 2024

School's back in session. Let's study up on traffic safety!

Bellevue children are heading back to school at the end of August and beginning of September. We have some helpful tips to keep them — and our whole community — safe on the roads.

- If you are commuting, consider alternative routes around schools to avoid traffic congestion during arrival and dismissal time.
- The speed limit in a school zone is 20 mph when the beacon is flashing or when children are present. Fines for speeding are doubled in school zones!
- If you are driving with a child in your vehicle, ensure they are using the right seat! Washington's Child Restraint Law covers vehicle occupants up to the age of 16 years old. For more information, visit WACarSeats.com

- Interested in learning more about sustainable transportation options? Bellevue SchoolPool can help! Visit BellevueSchoolPool.org.
- If your child is in the Bellevue School District, you can receive real-time updates through the Edulog Parent Bus Tracking Program (bsd405.org/programs-and-services/transportation/edulog-parent-bus-tracking-program)

To learn more about traffic safety around schools, including information on Walk & Roll to School Day, youth riding transit for free and PedBee, visit BellevueWA.gov/SchoolTrafficSafety.

National Preparedness Month: Vital for back-to-school planning!

ready.gov/plan

Many families are currently immersed in back-to-school preparations and this time of year is all about setting the stage for a successful school year. But September is also National Preparedness Month, a timely reminder that readiness for unexpected events is as crucial as ensuring your child has a sturdy backpack and sharpened pencils.


As you prepare your child for this school year, incorporate emergency readiness into your routine to ensure safety and reduce chaos when the unexpected happens.

Here are a few steps to consider:

- Review school emergency plans and familiarize yourself with the emergency procedures at your child's school.

Continued on next page



 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.

Subscribe to Neighborhood News electronically:
BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Continued from previous page

- Create a family emergency plan and involve your children in creating a family emergency plan. Discuss what to do if an emergency occurs while they're at school, at home or in transit. Practice this plan regularly so everyone knows their role.
- Prepare an emergency kit, stocking it with essentials such as water, non-perishable food, first-aid supplies, flashlights and batteries. For school, consider packing a small kit with essentials in your child's backpack, including snacks and a comfort item.
- Communication is key. Ensure that your child knows how to reach you or another trusted adult in an emergency.
- Stay informed! Sign up for local emergency alerts and stay informed about potential risks in your area.



Integrating emergency preparedness into your back-to-school checklist sets your child up for academic success but also ensuring their safety in the face of unforeseen events.

Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Monday, Sept. 23 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.
At Bellevue City Hall

Join Bellevue Fire's Office of Emergency Management on Monday, Sept. 23 to learn critical disaster skills and what you and your family can do to make sure that you are personally prepared. Preparing for emergencies can feel intimidating, but it can be a breeze with the proper tools! This training will help equip residents with the skills and information they need to be prepared for

local hazards, fire safety, home safety, basic first aid and personal preparedness.

Register: eventbrite.com/e/emergency-preparedness-workshop-tickets-615904275267

For more information, email the Office of Emergency Management at: oem@bellevuewa.gov.



Senior Day at Bellevue Farmers Market

Thursday, Sept. 5 | 3-7 p.m.
1717 Bellevue Way NE
bellevuefarmersmarket.org

Senior Day will feature the Sounds of Swing jazz trio and a handbell quartet from Bellevue Presbyterian Church. Community resources for seniors like the Eastside Neighbor Network and the Hearing Loss Association will also be present, plus an indoor plant swap to add a little joy to your windowsill!

Enjoy over 40 vendors, some offering senior discounts, and enter a free raffle to win a gift basket that includes a \$100 wine tasting from Browne Family Vineyards, gift cards from Fig Leaf Charcuterie and Truce Spa and a month-long Strong for Life membership from Invictus Fitness.

Senior FMNP, in addition to EBT/SNAP and WIC benefits, are proudly accepted. And there's plenty of dedicated parking, too!





Welcoming Week

Sept. 13-22

Welcoming Week is an annual campaign and celebration in September that showcases how Bellevue is becoming a more welcoming place for all, including immigrants.

This year's theme, "We're All In," calls on Bellevue to come together in celebration of our strengths and differences, showcasing how we are "all in" on building communities that value all perspectives, backgrounds, experiences and cultures.

Welcoming Week includes events that proclaim welcoming values, host events and lead initiatives to foster a deeper sense of belonging for all.

For more information, please visit the Welcoming Week website (welcomingweek.org/home/).

Welcoming Week in Bellevue

For more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/welcoming-week

Welcoming Week Resource Fair

Sept. 21, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Crossroads Mall

The Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network, in partnership with the City of Bellevue's Diversity Advantage Team, is planning a resource fair that will focus on job skills development and business assistance.

Beyond Engagement:

Leading Together in Communities

Sept. 20, Noon-2 p.m.

Master Builders Association

335 116th Ave SE, Bellevue WA

eastsideforall.org/events/beyond-engagement-leading-together-in-communities/

Presented by Eastside for All as both a Welcoming Week event and part of the City of Bellevue's Cross-Cultural Center without Walls, this event will feature community-based nonprofits sharing how East King County governments can ensure that decisions, policies and investments reflect the broader community.

Celebrate Welcoming Week with dancing at Bellevue Community Centers!

Performers	Date	Time	Location
Urvasi Dance Ensemble	Sept. 9	5-8 p.m.	Crossroads Community Center
Afternoon Swing Dance Workshop	Sept. 9	1-2 p.m.	North Bellevue Community Center
Duo Duoro, Flute and harp performance	Sept. 10	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Crossroads Community Center
Piano Concert and Swing Dance	Sept. 10	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.	North Bellevue Community Center
Xinjiang Dance, Chinese dances	Sept. 11	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	North Bellevue Community Center
IACS Dance, Indian performance	Sept. 12	6:30 p.m.	North Bellevue Community Center
Huayin Performing Arts Group, Chinese dance	Sept. 13	10 a.m.-Noon	Crossroads Community Center
Salsa y Mas Dance Performance	Sept. 13	12:45-2 p.m.	North Bellevue Community Center
Ian Dobson World Music and Guide	Sept. 16	5-7 p.m.	Highland Community Center
Aztec Dance Performance	Sept. 18	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Crossroads Community Center

Join in the process to select the city's next permanent city manager

The city is undertaking a public interview process to select a permanent city manager after the retirement of former city manager Brad Miyake last year. You are invited to attend and weigh in on the interview of current acting city manager Diane Carlson.

Two interview sessions will take place in the Council Chamber and streamed live on the Bellevue Television YouTube channel on Thursday, Sept. 12, 3-4 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 14, noon-1 p.m. A Bellevue community member will moderate the interviews of Carlson, using questions that community members helped develop. Attendees to the in-person forums will have the chance to meet the city manager candidate and fill out a feedback form after the interview. Virtual attendees can also fill out a digital feedback form.

More information on the hiring process can be found at BellevueWA.gov/city-manager-hiring-process.

In a council-manager form of government, one of the roles of the City Council is to select a city manager to lead the operations of the organization. It has been more than a decade since the council last undertook this process.

The council voted March 4 to develop a city manager candidate profile with feedback from the public. The profile revealed the skills, experience and leadership qualities the community wants in their next city manager. The council voted May 28 to adopt the resulting city manager profile and proceed with a transparent and community-involved interview process for Acting City Manager Carlson, who the council felt met the criteria of the candidate profile. During the month of August, community members submitted proposed questions for the interview forums, which the city's human resources department will narrow to the final set of questions for each of the public interview forums.

For alternate formats, interpreters or reasonable accommodations at the interview forums, please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6838

(voice) or email bellevue_hr@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact the city's ADA/Title VI administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice). If you are deaf or hard of hearing, dial 711.

Northeast Bellevue Projects Open House

Thursday, Sept. 12 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Saint Peter's United Methodist Church,
17222 NE 8th Street

Join city staff and your fellow neighbors to learn more about the enhancement projects that are included on the Northeast Bellevue NEP ballot. Visual displays will be available for all projects. A brief overview of the project scoping and NEP voting processes will be provided.



Let us know that you plan to attend, and email neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Voting for the Northeast Bellevue NEP top three project choices will be underway in the month of September. Look for your NEP Voter's Pamphlet to arrive in the mail early in the month and return the enclosed postage-paid ballot. Voting is by mail only and is limited to one ballot per household address. Ballots must be postmarked by **Monday, Oct. 21** to be valid.

West Lake Sammamish residents: The votes are in! Look for your NEP Project Announcement Newsletter to arrive in mailboxes in mid-September with details on the projects that you and your neighbors chose to fund with the \$219,000 allotted NEP budget. Please let us know how you liked the NEP process in your area by returning the postage paid evaluation form postcard or submit your comments online using the NEP evaluation form found on the NEP website at BellevueWA.gov/nep.

Evaluations must be postmarked or submitted online by **Monday, Oct. 28**.

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a city-funded program that allows residents to propose and select modest, capital projects

to enhance their neighborhoods. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP neighborhood areas, serving two areas each year. The \$7 million program allocation is distributed among each of the NEP neighborhood areas, according to the number of households in each area.

NEP Project Spotlight: Main Street Refurbishment

The Main Street Refurbishment Project has been completed and brings improved plantings, trees and irrigation to the medians along Main Street between 140th Ave NE and 156th Ave NE in the Lake Hills neighborhood area.

Pedestrians can now enjoy a softened roadside experience, featuring plants with year-round interest, environmental benefit and mindfulness toward long-term safety. Studies show that streetscapes and street trees assist with urban heat absorption and improve neighborhood safety, connection to nature and mental health.

The project was chosen by residents in 2019 as part of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program. Community Development and Parks & Community Services departments partnered to complete the Lake Hills project.

Thanks to residents for your ideas, engagement and support!



Arts Grants program accepting applications for 2025 programming

Artists and organizations providing art, cultural and educational programming or events for Bellevue residents can now apply for two grant opportunities through the city's Arts and Culture Program.

This year, grants are available for arts, cultural and heritage projects, along with operational support for art and cultural nonprofits serving residents and visitors in 2025. Interested individuals, groups and organizations can apply online. Applications are due Oct. 10.

An eligibility checklist is required before submitting a complete application. Members of the professional arts community and the Bellevue Arts Commission review all applications, and the Arts Commission and the Bellevue City Council approve the grants.

Applicants can expect to know the status of their award in December. Visit BellevueWA.gov/ArtsGrants for more information, including guidelines, timelines and how to apply. Please contact Manette Stamm at mstamm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4064 with any questions.



Help to Keep Bellevue Beautiful with Adopt-A-Street program!

The Keep Bellevue Beautiful Adopt-A-Street program has started, with over 30 adopters already on board. Individual residents, local businesses, neighborhood associations and faith communities are pitching in to keep Bellevue streets and streams clean.



The Adopt-A-Street program is more than just cleaning up. It's about building stronger connections in our community, fostering neighborhood pride and practicing environmental stewardship. On morning strolls, during a lunch break and as a weekend activity, adopters are making cleanups fun by involving friends, families, neighbors and coworkers.

Ready to join? Visit BellevueWA.gov/KeepBellevueBeautiful where you can view the web-mapping platform to see which streets have already been adopted and find the spot where you want to contribute. There's a place for you and your group in this growing effort.

Let's keep the momentum going and keep Bellevue beautiful!



Kelsey Creek Farm Fair

Oct. 5!

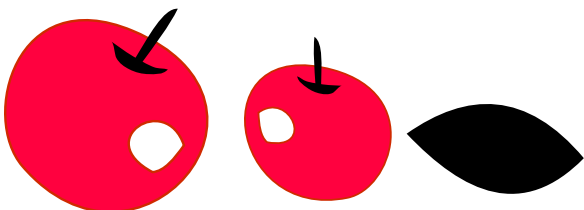
Join us for Kelsey Creek Farm's annual Farm Fair event on Oct. 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Families can enjoy picking and decorating pumpkins from our off-the-vine pumpkin patch, interacting with 4-H animals, taking a tractor-pulled wagon ride, playing in the Country Lane Children's Area, participating in hands-on heritage activities and more! This beloved annual event draws around 4,000 visitors each year.

Free shuttles to Kelsey Creek Farm will run from Bannerwood Sports Park, 1790 Richards Road, and the Wilburton Park and Ride, 720 114th Ave. SE.

Bellevue Development Committee fosters stronger community connections

In September 2023, the Development Services Department established the Bellevue Development Committee (BDC) to strengthen the relationship between the City of Bellevue, the local development community and permitting customers. The committee has been meeting regularly since fall 2023 and includes representatives from development, business groups, city staff and the broader Bellevue community.

The BDC primarily serves as a forum for dialogue and knowledge exchange, engaging with key partners to discuss ways the city is improving permit processing, entitlements and inspections. It also provides a platform for input on proposed code amendments and other city planning efforts. Additionally, the committee offers reciprocal education and exchange of ideas on industry topics, such as tree retention, electric vehicle



charging and recent updates to the International Building Code.

By fostering comprehensive dialogue and collaboration, the BDC represents a significant step forward in strengthening the ties between the city and its development community, ensuring a positive future for Bellevue. For more information on the Bellevue Development Committee, visit BellevueWA.gov/development-activity/bellevue-development-committee.



Key Steps to Preventing Falls

Falls Prevention Awareness Week is Sept. 23-27 and shines a spotlight on preventing falls among older adults.

More than one in four Americans aged 65 and older experiences a fall each year, and understanding and addressing the risk factors can make a significant difference.



Understanding the Risks

While muscle loss and vision impairments increase fall risk, regular exercise and other preventative strategies can help. Medications can also contribute to fall risk, with some potentially causing dizziness or drowsiness. Vision problems are another critical factor. Individuals with impaired vision are more than twice as likely to fall compared to those with normal vision.

Practical Steps

Stay active: Incorporate strength and balance exercises into your routine. Activities like walking, tai chi and resistance training improve muscle strength and flexibility, which are crucial for stability. Check out Bellevue's community centers

for activities designed to improve balance and strength.

Home safety: Make your home fall-proof by removing tripping hazards, securing rugs and installing grab bars in critical areas like the bathroom. Ensure good lighting and clear pathways.

Medication management: Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the side effects of your medications. If any cause dizziness or drowsiness, explore alternatives or adjustments with your healthcare provider.

Vision and hearing: Have your vision and hearing tested regularly. Properly fitted glasses and hearing aids can help maintain balance and prevent falls.

Assistive devices: Use canes or walkers if recommended. Ensure they are the correct size and in good condition.

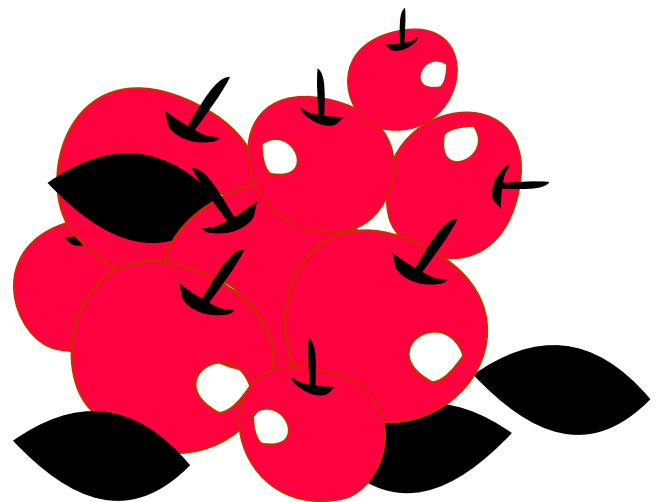
Exercise caution: Be careful on slippery surfaces. Use ice melt or sand on icy paths and avoid walking outside during adverse weather, if possible.

Proper footwear: Wear nonskid, rubber-soled shoes with low heels to prevent slipping. Avoid walking on smooth surfaces in socks or slippers.

Rest and hydration: Ensure you get enough sleep, as fatigue can impair coordination.

Seek Professional Help

Physical therapists can be helpful in fall prevention. They assess balance, strength and walking, identifying risk factors and creating personalized exercise programs.



Do you need help paying your City of Bellevue utility bill?

Bellevue Utilities is committed to ensuring all customers have access to affordable utility services no matter of their financial situation. We understand many households are facing financial hardship in our region, and we want to make sure our customers are aware of their options.

Rate Discount

Bellevue Utilities offers low-income seniors (age 62 and older) and low-income persons with permanent disabilities a discount on basic utility costs for water, wastewater and drainage. Customers must meet specific residency and income guidelines.

Customers who are receiving home kidney dialysis treatments may qualify for a discount on the water and wastewater required to provide those medical treatments without an income requirement.

Emergency Assistance

If you are not eligible for the Utility Rate Discount Program, you may qualify for a 100 percent discount for up to two bills (not to exceed \$333 per bill) if you are experiencing a one-time financial shock that interferes with your household's ability to cover basic needs. There are no age or disability requirements. Certain residency and income requirements must be met. This assistance is available to customers once every three years.

Learn More

Get complete details on both the Rate Discount and Emergency Assistance programs at BellevueWA.gov/rate-relief, call 425-452-5285 or email utilityrelief@bellevuewa.gov.

Rate changes on SR 520 bridge and the 2 Line take effect this summer

In late August, new rates went into effect for the bridge toll over SR 520 and for the cost of a trip on Sound Transit's light rail 2 Line.

On Aug. 15 the cost of a crossing over the SR 520 bridge increased an average of ten percent for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to help manage traffic congestion and maintain the bridge. Drivers with a Good to Go! pass can now expect to pay \$1.35 up to \$4.90 during peak travel times (7 a.m.-10 a.m. and 3 p.m.-7 p.m.). Weekend rates will fluctuate between \$1.35 and \$2.95 depending on the time of day. WSDOT reminds Good to Go! passholders to never click on unknown links or texts requesting toll payment. The only location where the agency requests payment is MyGoodToGo.com.

Sound Transit also adjusted the fare structure for all Link light rail trips as of Aug. 30. Now, an adult one-way trip on the light rail will cost a \$3 flat rate regardless of a rider's station destination. This means riders only need to tap once as they enter the paid-fare zones at Sound Transit stations before they board the train. The simplified fare system is intended to make the cost of travel more predictable for riders to budget their trips. Youth riders (age 18 years and under) in Washington ride transit for free and reduced fares are available for older adults and specific groups. To see if you qualify visit info.myORCA/using-orca/ways-to-save.

Additionally, check out the city's one-stop sustainable transportation resource, ChooseYourWayBellevue.org, which includes information on light rail, bus, carpool, vanpool, bicycling and walking options. CYWB offers commuter assistance and a trip logging program so you can earn credit for your sustainable trips to receive amazing rewards.

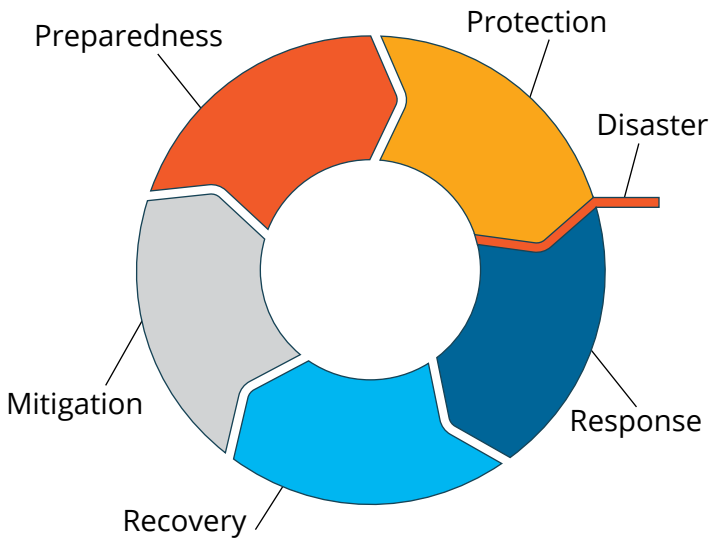


Preparing for natural hazards in Bellevue

To reduce the risk of natural hazards, like flooding, landslides, severe weather and earthquakes, the City of Bellevue is developing a citywide natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). This plan will help the city assess risks, identify vulnerable areas and put in place actions to help reduce or eliminate the impact of the hazard in a disaster.

During the rest of 2024, we'll be undergoing a risk assessment and identifying ways we can lessen the impacts these hazards have on people who live, work, play and study in Bellevue. Throughout this process, we'll be reaching out to the public to better understand how hazards impact you and what we can do to make our community more resilient.

To learn more about Hazard Mitigation Planning and to see what we're currently working on, visit BellevueWA.gov/hmp.



The Office of Emergency Management works on all five steps of emergency management. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is part of our efforts to keep our community safe.

Making sense of the dollars and cents – get to know your city's budget!

Come learn about the city's 2025-2026 proposed budget, including where investments are being made for the city's future and improvements the city is making to increase transparency in the budget process. The proposed budget for the next biennium includes investments in small business support, climate resilience, housing and human services, neighborhood-level improvements and more.

There will be three information sessions where you can explore the focus areas of investment, learn about the budget process, ask questions and discover all the ways to provide feedback to the city council as they prepare to adopt the budget later this fall.

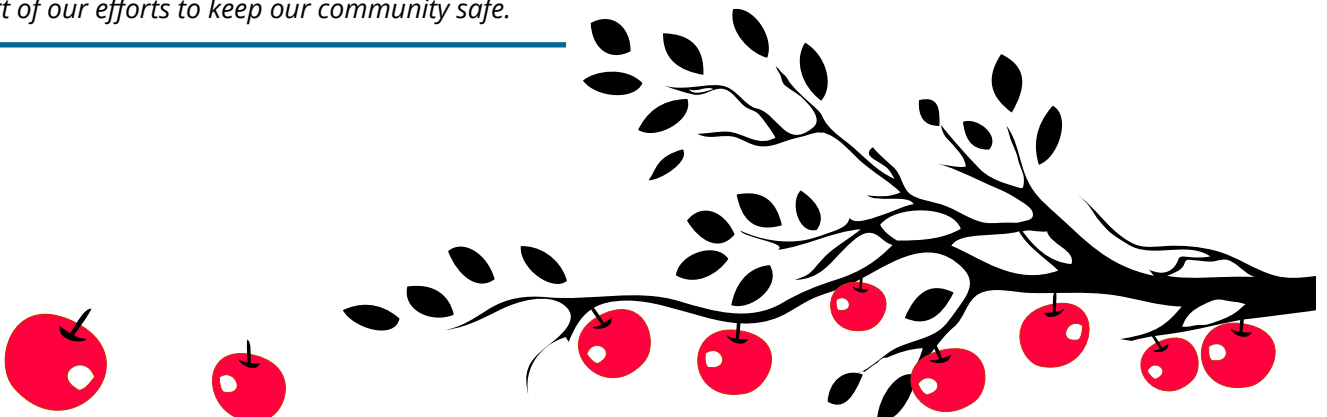
No registration is necessary for the information sessions. Food and interpretation will be provided. If you cannot attend the sessions, a recording of the budget presentation will be available on the Bellevue Television YouTube channel at youtube.com/BellevueTelevision after the event.

Crossroads Community Center
Monday, Sept. 23 | 6–7:30 p.m.

North Bellevue Community Center
Tuesday, Sept. 24 | 1:30–3 p.m.

South Bellevue Community Center
Thursday, Sept. 26 | 6–7:30 p.m.

For alternate formats, interpreters or reasonable accommodations please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-7881 (voice) or email fam@bellevuewa.gov.



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 Monday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/human-services-commission

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) Second Wednesday of each month.
BellevueWA.gov/library-board

Parks & Community Services Board
 (6 p.m., 1E-113) Third Wednesday 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

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

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. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at bellevue.legistar.com/calendar.aspx
August – first Tuesday only			
December – first and second Tuesday only			