



Neighborhood News

October 2025

Bellevue Community Court grand opening

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1-2:30 p.m.

By Christina Faine

Parks and Community Services Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue, in partnership with the King County District Court and the Bellevue Library, launched the new Bellevue Community Court (kingcounty.gov/en/court/district-court/courts-jails-legal-system/therapeutic-specialty-courts/community-courts) in July, which provides an alternative, problem-solving legal option for eligible, non-violent and less serious cases.

The public was invited to a grand opening celebration hosted at the King County Bellevue Library. Speakers from King County and the City of Bellevue welcomed guests and invited them to stay for a community court session and a tour of the Bellevue Community Resource Center, an essential part of community court.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email jwetzstein@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



Unlike most court systems, Bellevue's Community Court goes beyond legal ramifications, helping to identify and address underlying challenges often existing in the lives of those facing legal issues. The two-fold approach seeks to hold offenders accountable, while also helping them to improve their lives and reduce the risk of recidivism.

Bellevue Community Court is held Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., at the Bellevue Library, with King County District Court Judge Lisa O'Toole (kingcounty.gov/en/court/district-court/courts-jails-legal-system/court-calendars-locations-operations/judges/bios/judge-o-toole) presiding.

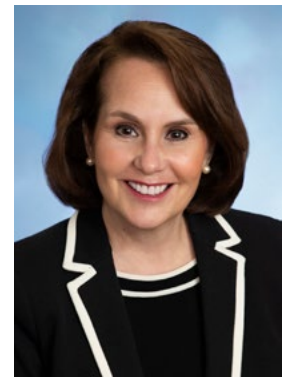
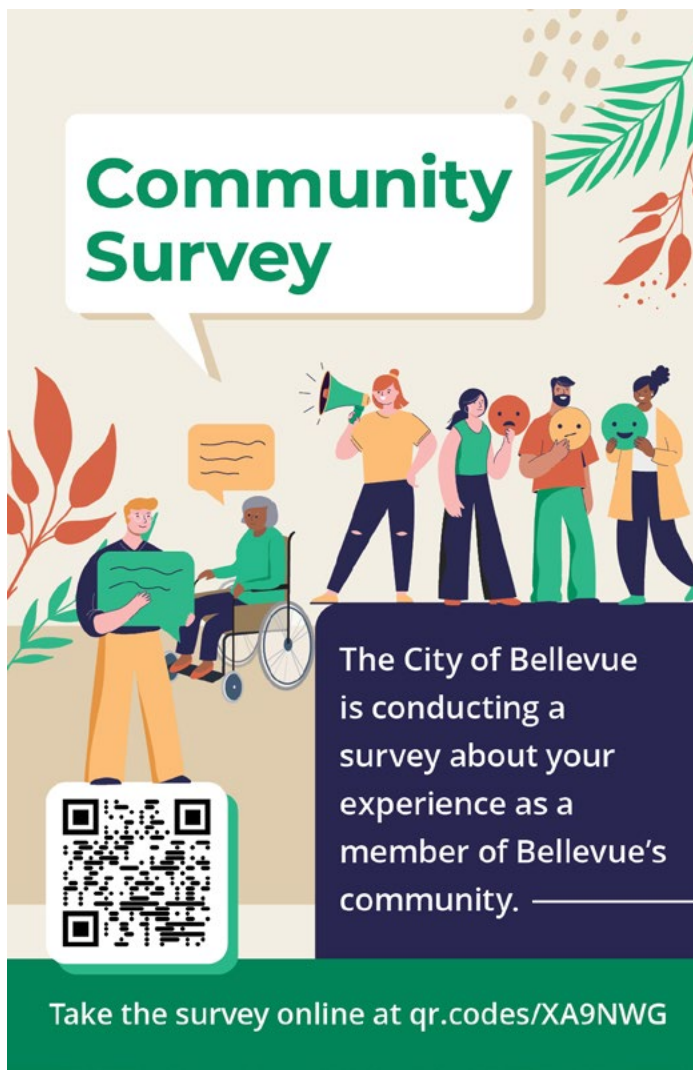


Photo of Judge O'Toole

King County District Court also operates several other community courts in Auburn, Redmond and the Shoreline-Kenmore area.



City survey seeks insights into sense of belonging and engagement

The City of Bellevue is conducting a survey to gain a better understanding of how community members feel about living in Bellevue and whether the city is meeting the diverse needs of the community. The city will use findings from the survey to better understand the effectiveness of city services and identify areas where there are unmet needs and opportunities for improvement. The survey will also inform efforts to enhance the city's approaches to community engagement.

The survey (qr.codes/XA9NWG), available in multiple languages, is open through Friday, Oct. 31.

2026 FIFA World Cup light rail activations informational session Oct. 22

By Lizette Flores

The City of Bellevue invites small businesses, local artists, cultural organizations, nonprofits, and creative entrepreneurs to come to City Hall Council Chambers on **Oct. 22 at 4 p.m.** for an informational session for World Cup 2026-themed activations along the light rail corridor.

We're seeking right-sized, imaginative, inclusive, and globally inspired ideas that celebrate the spirit of the tournament and enhance not only the transit experience of residents and visitors making their way to these very exciting events, but for our entire community as they go about their days.

Activations will take place on six match days in June and July 2026, coinciding with Seattle's World Cup games. Selected proposals will be brought to life in collaboration with local partners who you will be able to meet and chat with at this meeting.

Funding and support will be provided through district organizations, who will work directly with selected groups to ensure smooth implementation, community engagement, and logistical coordination.

2026 FIFA World Cup light rail activations info session

- Meet City staff and community partners
- Learn about the activation timeline and key dates
- Get details on funding and partnership opportunities
- Share your ideas and express interest in future partnerships
- Discover how to stay involved as we approach 2026

Stay for a soccer themed mixer after the presentation to ideate and brainstorm with others interested in World Cup activation events.

NEP Update for Northwest Bellevue and Bridle Trails

By Theresa Cuthill
Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator

Northwest Bellevue residents. Vote for your top three project choices. Please return the postage paid ballot each household received in the mail in September. Voting is by mail only and is limited to one ballot per household. Ballots must be postmarked by Monday, Oct. 20 to be valid. Information on the nine enhancement projects on your ballot can be found on the Northwest Bellevue webpage in the Neighborhood Areas section of the NEP website at BellevueWA.gov/nep



Bridle Trails residents. Please let us know how you liked the NEP process in your area. You have four new capital improvement projects that will be coming to the Bridle Trails neighborhood area:

- Viewpoint Park Forest Enhancement
- Bridle Trails Medians Landscape Enhancement
- Bridle Trails Neighborhood Identity Signage Replacements
- Goff Creek Clean Up

Please return the postage paid evaluation postcard each household received in the mail last month or submit your comments online using the NEP Evaluation Form found at BellevueWA.gov/nep

Evaluations must be postmarked or submitted by Monday, Oct. 27.

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.

Get help during this year's Medicare open enrollment period

By Bellevue Network on Aging

Medicare's Open Enrollment period, Oct. 15-Dec. 7, is the annual window for people to sign up for new benefits or for those currently enrolled to review and change their coverage for 2026.



Topics include:

- What you can do during Open Enrollment
- Choosing and changing plans
- Available Medigap plans
- How to get help paying for Medicare

Join us for a free Medicare Open Enrollment presentation

Monday, Oct. 13 | 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
St. Madeleine Sophie Parish
4400 130th PI SE

Whether you're new to Medicare or considering a plan change, it's a good idea to start reviewing your options early, as plans and benefits can change each year. Helpful resources include:

- Medicare.gov, which offers tools to compare plans
- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for 24/7 assistance
- SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) (insurance.wa.gov/insurance-resources/medicare/get-free-medicare-help-shiba/how-we-can-help-you-medicare), a volunteer program that provides free, unbiased help with Medicare questions sponsored by Solid Ground (solid-ground.org/) and Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) (cisc-seattle.org/)

You can contact SHIBA in King County for phone consultations year-round. Contact Solid Ground SHIBA at **206-753-4806** or shiba@solid-ground.org. If you need help in Chinese or Vietnamese, contact CISC SHIBA at **206-957-8539**.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

This year, the newly introduced Medicare Open Enrollment Jumpstart Toolkit can help clients prepare for Medicare counseling or independently explore their options. These guides are available at King County Public Libraries or online at insurance.wa.gov/medicareoep.

Additional support offered at Mini City Hall

Schedule an appointment at Bellevue's Mini City Hall, Crossroads Shopping Center, 15600 NE 8th St. (entrance near Party City)

Appointments are required:
Email minich@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-2800.

- 1-5 p.m., first and second Tuesday of the month
- Noon-4 p.m., third Tuesday of the month
- Noon-4 p.m., fourth Monday of the month

Housing opportunities in mixed-use areas advances

*By Mathieu Menard
Code and Policy Senior Planner*

The Planning Commission will hold a study session on Wednesday, Oct. 8 on the Housing Opportunities in Mixed-Use Areas (HOMA) proposal, which aims to make it easier to develop housing in areas where housing, shops and services can exist side-by-side. The proposal would allow taller buildings, higher density and other changes that remove barriers to development while still providing transitions to surrounding, lower-density neighborhoods. It also includes a program to create more affordable housing in these mixed-use areas.

A detailed overview and current draft of the code are now available on the project webpage, where updates and a recording of a recent community information session can be reviewed: BellevueWA.gov/homa.

The city has held several community information sessions, including two in September, to share the latest draft of the code and gather feedback. Updates addressed topics such as residential

floor area ratio (FAR), building heights, setbacks, lot coverage and more. HOMA will also rezone property within mixed-use areas, consistent with Bellevue's updated Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map.

A detailed overview and the current draft of the code are available on the project webpage, which will be updated as the amendment process continues this fall. Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/homa.

State law offers additional housing choices for Bellevue

*By Charlie Engel
Code and Policy Associate Planner*

In 2024, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1998, a new law that requires cities to allow co-living housing on certain properties. Though it may be described by different names, co-living housing refers to private, lockable bedrooms or small living units that share a kitchen and other common facilities.

To meet the state's requirements by the end of 2025, the city must update its land use code to allow for the development of co-living housing on all lots that allow for at least six multifamily residential units.

HB 1998 applies statewide to all cities that plan under the state's Growth Management Act, which includes most urban areas in Washington. While each city must adopt its own local code language, the obligation to allow co-living housing applies broadly across all cities.

What's ahead for co-living updates? The project is expected to officially launch in November with a public hearing and potential action in December. Before the hearing, the city will host an educational info session for the community to explain the new state law, the code amendment process and what the required code changes mean for Bellevue. Additional information on this project is available on our website and more updates will be added. Visit BellevueWA.gov/co-living-housing-luca.

Recommended Sustainable Bellevue Plan Goes to City Council

By Loren Pacheco
Urban Forestry and Climate Engagement Specialist

Bellevue is taking the next step in its commitment to climate action and sustainability.



Following nearly a year of work and input from community members, City staff will present the recommended updates to the Sustainable Bellevue Plan to Council on **Tuesday, Oct. 14.**

The Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update, which outlines goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate impacts, will guide city actions from **2026 to 2030** and includes strategies focused on climate, energy use, mobility, waste, and natural systems, as well as a focus on sustainability municipal operations.

The plan is targeted for adoption in November.

BelRed Look Forward plan

Learn more at upcoming Oct. 25 Residential Permitting Expo

By Josh Steiner
Code and Policy Senior Planner

Fifteen years ago, the City of Bellevue adopted the first BelRed subarea plan and land use code, envisioning a former industrial area transformed into a lively, walkable neighborhood with residential living, shopping and access to transit. That vision has guided new housing, parks and business and continues to shape how BelRed grows today.

In 2024, the city updated the BelRed Subarea Plan to reflect current growth trends and community needs. The new “BelRed Look Forward” plan builds on what’s already working and strengthens policies that support a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood with updated housing and job targets. A key feature of this update is the BelRed Arts District, designed to celebrate and sustain the creative economy.

The next step in fulfilling the vision for the future of BelRed is updating the land use code. The BelRed Look Forward Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) will put policies into action. This code amendment will guide future development while honoring the neighborhood’s unique personality and balancing priorities like housing, jobs, transportation, environment, urban design and the arts.

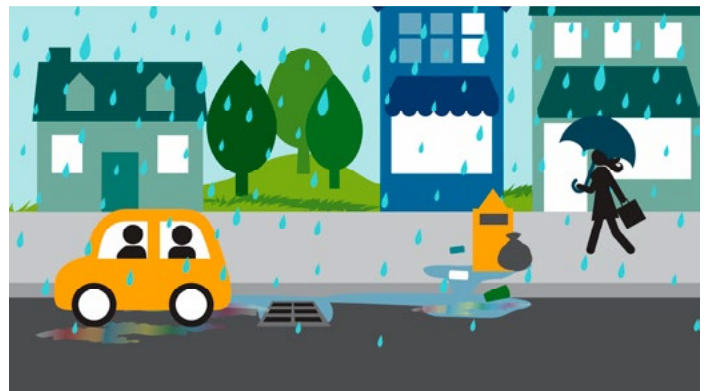
Community input matters in this project. The city wants to know what is most important to the people who live, work and visit BelRed.

Learn more:

Visit BellevueWA.gov/belred-look-back

Take the survey: Share your thoughts on BelRed’s future at BellevueWA.gov/belred-survey

Help shape the next chapter for BelRed!



Talk Water with Bellevue Utilities

By Thania Barrios
Utilities Environmental Project Planner

The Bellevue Utilities Department is knee-deep in all things water, updating three different water-related utility plans. These plans help the city to manage Bellevue’s drinking water, wastewater and storm and surface water. While the first two plan updates are still in their early stages, activities for the Storm and Surface Water System Plan are well underway.

Stormwater consists of rain that runs off streets, roofs and sidewalks. If not properly managed, it can cause flooding, erosion, polluted waterways and declining plant and animal habitats. Bellevue Utilities is committed to addressing these challenges—but we want to hear from you.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

We want to know your top priorities! Reducing flooding? Protecting creeks and wetlands? Planting more trees?

Let us know what matters most to you by visiting the project website BellevueWA.gov/ssw-plan and take the survey by Oct. 31. You can also apply to join a paid focus group for deeper conversations to help guide Utilities Department work for the next 10 years.

Switch your trip this October!

By Choose Your Way Bellevue

Join the statewide travel challenge, Switch Your Trips WA this month! This challenge pushes people who live, study or work in Washington State to replace drive-along trips with sustainable travel options such as walking, biking, rideshare and transit.

Targeting commutes, errands and social outings, Switch Your Trip WA asks you to try new travel options like carpooling to work, taking the bus to the grocery store and bicycling to a friend's house. All will help you qualify for the prize drawing and have a chance to win \$1,500, an electric bike, or one of many other great prizes!

To sign up, visit bit.ly/cywbtriplog. If you already log your trips with the Choose Your Way Bellevue Rideshare Online portal, you are automatically entered!

A green promotional graphic for the 'Switch Your Trips WA' challenge. At the top, the text 'SWITCH YOUR TRIPS WA' is written in a white, hand-painted font. To the right of this text is a small white circle containing 'Oct. 1-31'. Below the text are five circular images: a person on a bicycle, a person standing next to a blue bus, a person standing next to a blue train, a person in a car, and two people walking on a sidewalk. At the bottom, the text '\$1,500 GRAND PRIZE' is written in large white letters, followed by '\$500, \$250, \$100, \$75, \$50 prizes, \$25 social media prizes, and more!' in smaller white letters.

SWITCH YOUR TRIPS WA Oct. 1-31

\$1,500 GRAND PRIZE
\$500, \$250, \$100, \$75, \$50 prizes,
\$25 social media prizes, and more!



NEP Project Spotlight – NE Eighth St. pedestrian enhancements over Interstate 405

How one resident's request helped to realize a major project!

By Theresa Cuthill

Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator

The recently completed pedestrian improvement project on NE Eighth Street over Interstate 405 in Downtown Bellevue started with a 2019 resident request submitted through the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP).

The NE Eighth Street Pedestrian Enhancements Over Interstate 405 project improves safety for pedestrians crossing the I-405 ramps along NE 8th Street by marking crosswalks, adding rapid rectangular flashing beacons and signaling crossings at select locations. Existing concrete islands received shortener crosswalks, new vegetation and had excess pavement removed.

NEP is a city-funded, capital improvements program that allows Bellevue residents the opportunity to propose and select moderate enhancement projects for their neighborhoods. The project was funded by the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP-2) and the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy (CIP R-199) program.

Nourish neighbors by donating food and hygiene items

City and community partners collecting items Oct. 1-Nov. 15

By Christina Faine

Parks and Community Services Public Information Officer

About one in four school-age children in Bellevue experiences food insecurity, putting their health, development and academic success at risk. To address the community's growing lack of access to sufficient, nutritious food and an increasing need for essential products and services in the community, the City of Bellevue and nearly a dozen partners are collecting food and hygiene products.

The "Essentials for All" drive will include collection points at various locations throughout the city, including community centers, City Hall and Mini City Hall at Crossroads Mall. Details on what to donate can be found at Essentials for All (BellevueWA.gov/essentials-for-all).



"By collaborating with community organizations, we want to do our part to help address increasing food prices and cuts to support systems and give everyone the chance they deserve to thrive," said City Manager Diane Carlson. "The food and hygiene products drive is an opportunity for neighbors to care for and support each other."

At the end of the collection period, items will be distributed to local food banks and community nonprofits, which will then get them to community members. Neighbors can also donate to the Human Services Fund (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/parks/community-services/human-services/donations-success-stories) to help community members access the vital services and resources they need.



Learn, ask and explore at the upcoming Residential Permitting Expo

By Amanda Rich Anderson

Development Services Public Information Officer

Discover how Bellevue plans, reviews and supports development projects of all types and sizes.

The city's Development Services Department invites you to a Residential Permitting Expo on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Bellevue City Hall.

This free event brings together city experts who handle every step of development: updating city and land use code, reviewing project designs and permits, carrying out inspections and overseeing code compliance. Planning and project staff from Community Development will also have information for the community.

Meet experts, ask questions and learn how the permitting process works – all in one place.

Continued on next page

This family-friendly event welcomes community members of all ages and will include fun activities for kids.

Throughout the day, city experts will be available to answer questions and share guidance, provide advice for home projects large and small and help property owners navigate permitting steps and requirements. Join city staff for workshops on using [MyBuildingPermit.com](https://mybuildingpermit.com) and for a panel discussion on permitting and building your accessory dwelling unit (ADU).

City Hall is easily reached by light rail, bus, walking or rolling and free visitor parking is available. Registration is encouraged but not required. Learn more: bellevue-permitting-expo.eventbrite.com.

Celebrate Conflict Resolution Month by changing the story

By Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center staff

October is Conflict Resolution Month and you can celebrate by setting aside your well-rehearsed tale of good and evil and allowing a new, more useful story to emerge.

Consider this sequence of thinking: "I am a good person, but someone behaved in a way that caused me harm. Therefore, they must have intended harm, and they must be bad."

By changing this narrative and allowing new stories to take their place, we can begin to shape our experiences and relationships differently, allowing for resolution stories to emerge.

People use stories as a means for making sense of life and relationships. We organize our experiences into narratives and often act accordingly, shaping the direction of our larger story plot. We rehearse, we edit and we elaborate. We begin to experience our story accounts as truth.

In conflict stories, we tend to shape the plot to reinforce our sense of injustice, betrayal and mistreatment. These conflict stories have a cost and place limits on the characters within. The opponent often becomes one-dimensional and seen as evil. Meanwhile, the storyteller often becomes the victim, powerless to influence a hopeless situation.

Here at the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center, we listen to these stories of conflict, but we also listen for the untold plot lines. What does the accusation say about the storyteller? What has been left out of the story? What metaphors are being used, and what do they mean?

Conflict resolution storytelling tools are easy to understand but take time to master:

- **Drop assumptions:** Allow yourself to be surprised by what you don't know
- **Stay curious:** Seek to understand someone's underlying needs and feelings
- **Speak only for yourself:**
Speak without blaming
- **Really listen:** Pause and actively listen
- **Separate the person from the problem:**
Discuss ideas, not the person with the ideas
- **Take a break:**
Step away when you need a break

Need a little extra help re-writing your conflict story? Contact the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center at 425-452-4091 or bcrcc@bellevuewa.gov. You can also fill out our webform at BellevueWA.gov/resolve.

We are the stories that we tell. Take the time to change the narrative.



Discover the Art of Listening

By Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center Staff

Do you listen well? Have you experienced what it is like to be truly listened to?

In the two-week Art of Listening workshop series you will learn how to be a more skillful, peaceful and attentive listener.

Over time, the Art of Listening workshop has changed, addressing needs to help us navigate our current society. In this series, we will pay special attention to how we can be open to and celebrate each person's uniqueness, their personality, values, lifestyle, beliefs and experiences different from our own. These practices may widen our mental scope, allowing us to build deeper connection, embracing the differences in our community, country and world.

Taught by "The Listening Lady," Marci McReynolds, former manager of the City of Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center. Sponsored by the City of Bellevue in partnership with KCLS. Workshops tend to fill quickly. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis at kcls.org.

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is available by request. Email access@kcls.org at least seven days before the event. Automated closed captioning is always available for online events.

The Art of Listening

Sundays, 1-5 p.m. | Nov. 2, 9
Bellevue Downtown Library, Room 1

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

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/planning-commission

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

Parks & Community Services Board
 (6 p.m., 1E-113) Third Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/park-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

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/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			