



City of Bellevue

# BELLEVUE IT'S YOUR CITY

February 2020

Page 3



MLK Day speaker

Page 4



Environmental Stewardship Update

Page 12



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Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis (left) and Mayor Lynne Robinson sit at the City Council dais.

## Robinson elected mayor, Nieuwenhuis deputy mayor

By Michelle DeGrand, Deputy Communications Officer

At its first meeting of 2020, the City Council unanimously chose Lynne Robinson as Bellevue's mayor. In a separate vote, Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis was elected deputy mayor. Both will serve two-year terms expiring at the end of 2021.

First elected to the council in 2014, Robinson served as deputy mayor in 2018 and 2019. Previously, she served on the Parks & Community Services Board for five years; chairing the body from 2011 to 2013.

Robinson holds a doctorate in physical therapy, is a small business owner and has been a resident of Bellevue since 1997.

Nieuwenhuis was elected to the council for a four-year term beginning in 2018. Before joining the council, he also was a member of the Park Board. He manages marketing and communications for HeR, a Bellevue-based educational software company, and lives with his wife and daughter in the Lake Hills neighborhood.

The mayor presides over council meetings and study sessions, helps set the meeting agenda,

represents the city at public events, and acts as the primary spokesperson for the council.

Bellevue operates under a council-manager form of government, with the council hiring a city manager to oversee all city operations. The council is made up of seven members who are elected at large and serve staggered four-year terms. The councilmembers, in turn, select a mayor and deputy mayor from among themselves.

Learn more about the council, including meeting dates, at [BellevueWA.gov/city-council](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-council).

## Data expert: census participation equals dollars for Bellevue

By Michelle DeGrand, Deputy Communications Officer

Invitations to respond to the 2020 census will arrive in Bellevue mailboxes in mid-March. As the city works to help people participate, local data expert Guang-an "GW" Wu has emerged as an unofficial census ambassador.

Wu, who lives in Somerset with his family, understands how accurate census data leads to more state and federal dollars for Bellevue services and projects, so he's passionate about promoting the 10-year population count. He shares census information on social networks, and encourages neighbors to take the census, offering one-on-one meetings to answer questions or concerns. Wu talks about the census every chance he gets - even at parties!

"It is important because accurate data of local communities and cities is ... key data for many decisions to be made, including various financial grants from the federal government," Wu said.

A software engineer with Microsoft who holds two U.S. patents related to data, Wu understands and trusts the census process and he knows how important it is to the overall economy. "Many corporations and businesses are referring to census data for business growth and development opportunities," Wu noted.

In Bellevue, an accurate count in the 2010 census resulted in \$112.2 million in federal grants for the Bellevue School District, \$76.2 million for city transportation projects and \$5.8 million for local human services. Bellevue also received

\$40.9 million in state tax distributions over the last 10 years based on population figures from the census.

Apart from being confidential and important to our community, the census is also easy. It takes just 10 minutes to answer 10 questions that will shape investments in our community for the next 10 years.



If you are interested in promoting the census like Wu and others, go to [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov) and [BellevueWA.gov/2020census](http://BellevueWA.gov/2020census). All it takes is some knowledge and passion to encourage an accurate count in your community.

## COUNCIL CORNER



By Councilmember Janice Zahn

### Bellevue is planning for continued success

Welcome to the new decade! As 2020 begins, we recognize the visionary work of previous city councils in creating and following a road map for Bellevue's continued success.

Since our incorporation in 1953, we've blossomed from a small Eastside suburb into a diverse community of nearly 150,000, with over 45 corporate headquarters here. Bellevue is a happening place! People come here from all over the world to live and do business.

But all of this didn't happen overnight. In 1958, we adopted our first Comprehensive Plan, and planning has been a key focus ever since. It guided major annexations in the '60s and the transformations of the downtown, first as a high-rise business district and more recently as a vibrant residential neighborhood.

### Planning for a vibrant economy

Bellevue has a vibrant economy, serving as both a high-tech and retail hub for the Eastside. A strong sustainable business environment is central to our success. Strengthening and diversifying that economy has long been a priority for the City Council, which adopted a five-year economic development plan in 2014.

Our community has seen dramatic changes in its continued diversity, employment mix and development growth since then. Last summer, the council approved goals for an update to our Economic Development Plan with a work plan focused on five themes:

- Independent retail
- Small businesses and startups
- Creative economy
- Capacity-building and partnerships
- Workforce development

Supporting an inclusive economy, we are gathering valuable input from residents and businesses. Avalanche, the city's consultant, conducted one-on-one interviews and focus groups in December and January.

Common themes from this research are already surfacing – connection, communication and collaboration. Staff plan to present an updated plan to

the council to approve, possibly this spring. Learn more about the process and read about our preliminary findings at [BellevueWA.gov/economic-development-plan](http://BellevueWA.gov/economic-development-plan).

By taking a holistic approach to our vision and priorities, Bellevue will continue to be proactive in bringing sustainable growth, transportation choices and housing affordability here.



Supporting small businesses like many of the restaurants and shops on Main Street is a goal of the city's draft updated economic development plan.

### Preparing for our future

Bellevue is expected to continue steady growth. The council remains committed to our city being the top choice for businesses and residents. Our six strategic target areas in getting this done include:

- economic development
- transportation and mobility
- high-quality built and natural environment
- great places you want to be
- achieving human potential
- high-performance government

We strive to do all this while meeting our environmental goals, achieving Vision Zero for roadway safety and enjoying a high quality of life.

Our diverse community, our precious environment and our future generations are relying on us to work together, with urgency, so Bellevue is a place where all can thrive. Your voice matters, so please weigh in on the city's Environmental Stewardship Plan update and participate in the 2020 census. Let's do this!

## COUNCIL ROUNDUP

By Claude Iosso, *It's Your City* Editor

### Honoring Mayor Chelminiak

John Chelminiak, who served on the City Council for 16 years, including as mayor in 2018 and 2019, was honored by the council at his last meeting on Dec. 9. The council presented Chelminiak with a commendation, a plaque and his own street sign.

"You're an outstanding leader because you're trustworthy and true to your word," said Lynne Robinson, then deputy mayor and now mayor. "If you say you're going to support something you are unwavering. You've been strong and reliable on the council and in the community."

Chelminiak joined Bellevue's Planning Commission in 2002, then ran for and was elected to the council in 2004. He served as deputy mayor twice, in 2006 and 2007 and again in 2016 and 2017, before being elected mayor by his colleagues in 2018.

At a reception prior to his final council meeting, many former and current colleagues spoke about Chelminiak's hard work and integrity over the years.

Citing Chelminiak's efforts solidifying plans for a permanent men's shelter in Bellevue, Robinson said, "We will always remember you for your courage, compassion and perseverance for the less fortunate in our communities."



The council honors outgoing Mayor Chelminiak, third from right.

### Grand Connection placemaking pilot

Also on Dec. 9, the council received a recap of a placemaking project in downtown last summer. In partnership with the city, the Bellevue Downtown Association placed yellow lanterns and orange bistro tables along parts of the planned Grand Connection route.

The Grand Connection is a non-motorized corridor through downtown still in the planning phase. The lanterns and bistro sets were put along the pedestrian route between Bellevue Square and City Hall.

People surveyed about the placemaking pilot were overwhelmingly supportive, with 84% saying they liked the concept, and 90% saying they would like to see similar creative activation activities in the future.

### Mid-biennium budget changes

The council on Dec. 2 approved adjustments to the 2019-2020 budget as part of the mid-biennium review process. The council approved modest increases in funding for public safety, affordable housing and development services to address demand due to growth in the city.

Development services fees, transportation impact fees and fire inspection fees were all adopted unanimously.

To support the budget adjustment, councilmembers voted to adjust the property tax levy for 2020 by 1%, or approximately \$8 for a median home valued at \$936,000 in Bellevue.

# Equity in schools takes center stage at MLK event

By Michelle DeGrand, Deputy Communications Officer



Azure Savage stands on the concourse at City Hall.

Azure Savage is just 18 years old, but he's on a mission to shine a light on racial biases in education. The high school senior wrote a book published in 2019, "You Failed Us: Students of Color Talk Seattle Schools," to draw attention to the issue.

"I was really upset with the experiences I had as a student of color in school," Savage said shortly before delivering a keynote speech at Bellevue's Martin Luther King Jr. Day event at City Hall on Jan. 16. "I was upset about what I had heard from my peers of color, and I wanted to do something about it."

After years feeling isolated and different as the only student of color in his Seattle classrooms, Savage sought out other students of color and asked about their experiences in school. In roughly 40 interviews that are the foundation for Savage's book, students of color recounted ways in which they felt marginalized by an educational system that neglected their identities and perspectives.

Equality for students of color was an essential goal of the civil rights movement that the Rev. King helped lead. Savage, who

identifies as transgender and queer, also spoke out for equality and representation for the LGBTQ community. During the keynote, Savage addressed the significance of speaking out for equity in education for all marginalized groups during an event celebrating the legacy of one of the country's most well-known social justice activists.

"I always loved and looked up to Dr. King; he was a hero for me, a dream in action and a symbol of change," said Savage. But Savage also cautioned the audience not to wholly attribute the civil rights accomplishments to just the few, famous names. "The accomplishments during the '60s were accomplishments of the people," he said.

That collective spirit is at the heart of Savage's activism.

"There's a plethora of quantitative data from research about inequitable and racist trends in education," he said. "I want to reframe the conversation we have around education and other societal issues to no longer center statistics and start centering human voice and experience. Movements aren't started by numbers. They're started by people, stories and emotion."

In the months since publishing his book last year, Savage has met with administrators and teachers in Seattle and other school districts to talk about possible improvements, one of which Savage said would make a huge difference for him.

"I think that one of the most impactful changes is for more educators of color to be present in schools. Having educators of color for students of color is really important. It's so interesting how that changes my relationship in the classroom, how that makes me feel more comfortable, more seen in the classroom," Savage said.

As he closed his keynote speech, Savage challenged attendees to visualize an ideal future state in much the same way Martin Luther King Jr. had the courage to envision brighter, more equitable days ahead.

"I think that one of the greatest gifts we as humans have is our imagination, and when we're looking for creating big changes, we have to begin by imagining what we're looking for in order to take the steps to get there," he said. "I will never forget the past, but we need to focus on what we can build for the future."

## Emergency shelter gets needed retrofit, now year-round

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

Bellevue's emergency shelter for men in Wilburton reopened in January, after an \$800,000-plus retrofit that made the facility safe for year-round occupation. Local businesses raised all of the funds for the project, which brought the 100-bed shelter back on line after an April 30 closure.

"Now when we find a man sleeping or living outside, we can direct him to this shelter, year-round, and know he'll receive the assistance he needs to recover, recuperate and thrive," Mayor Lynne Robinson said at an opening celebration on Jan. 13.

The building at Lincoln Center on 116th Avenue Northeast, just across Interstate 405 from downtown, is a temporary location for the men's shelter. Congregations for the Homeless, which operates the shelter, has

announced a potential location in Eastgate for a permanent shelter.

The temporary shelter now meets code for year-round operation. Following through on a City Council priority, the city provides funding for CFH to operate it year-round instead of just the coldest six months of each year.

Raising the money for the Lincoln Center remodel, which included installation of sprinklers and other safety measures, was led by Kevin Wallace, CEO of Wallace Properties and a former City Councilmember. John Chelminiak, who just stepped down from the council in December, was also honored at the shelter opening for supporting the project as mayor.



From left: Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale; David Bowling, executive director of Congregations for the Homeless; Mayor Lynne Robinson; and Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis.

## Rule changes for church-hosted encampments

By Brad Harwood, Chief Communication Officer

Religious organizations in Bellevue will continue to host temporary encampments for people experiencing homelessness, after the City Council approved changes to the land use code. The changes set one regulatory standard for temporary encampments in the city, incorporating stakeholder input from several public meetings and presentations.

Prior to the council action in December, temporary encampments had been governed by both a federal consent decree and city land use code. The council acted to amend the land use code because the consent decree was going to (and did) expire in January.

The amended code (20.30U) allows one religious organization in the city to host an encampment on its property at a time. After 90 days, the encampment must move. Another religious organization can host an encampment immediately thereafter, as long as the new host location is at least a mile away from any temporary encampment held within the last 180 days. No single organization can host an encampment more than once in the city within an 18-month period.

The council approved the final code amendments 6-1, with Councilmember John Stokes voting against, arguing for a less restrictive approach. More information on the process can be found at [BellevueWA.gov/temporary-encampments](http://BellevueWA.gov/temporary-encampments).

## Bold goals for environmental stewardship

By Brooke Brod, Community Outreach, Community Development

The city has bold goals for protecting the environment, and we want your feedback. Residents can weigh in at three upcoming events this spring.



Residents participate in an Environmental Stewardship Plan event at the Bellevue Library.

As Bellevue updates the road map for its Environmental Stewardship initiative, it has communitywide goals of 100% renewable energy by 2045 and 30% less energy use by 2050. For municipal operations, we're aiming for 100% renewable energy by 2030 and 40% less energy use by 2040.

Residents, businesses and the City Council embraced these ambitious goals during outreach for the Environmental Stewardship Plan update last fall. The second phase of public engagement for the update – which focuses on potential actions – includes:

- **Open House and Discussion**, Tuesday, March 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Interlake High School: Residents can learn more about the Environmental Stewardship Plan, share their priorities and discuss ideas with fellow community members.
- **Environmental Stewardship Fair**, Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center: At this family event, adults and kids learn how to reduce their impact on the environment and support sustainability.
- **Earth Week Community Forum**, Tuesday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Bellevue College: Jennifer Atkinson will lead a discussion on how individuals can channel their concerns about climate change into action.

To find out more information about these events and other opportunities to share your ideas, visit [EngagingBellevue.com/environmental-stewardship](https://engagingbellevue.com/environmental-stewardship).

Protecting and enhancing the environment is a core value for Bellevue, and the Environmental Stewardship initiative has been in place here since 2007, with 2009-2012 and 2013-2018 plans to help guide it.

## Welcome to City Hall events in Spanish, Mandarin and for South Asian/Indian residents

By Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager

City staff enjoy serving people from around the world who have chosen to make Bellevue their home, but new residents can find learning about Bellevue intimidating. To reduce some of that fear factor, Bellevue is hosting "Welcome to City Hall!" events this spring for Spanish and Mandarin speakers, as well as residents from South Asia.

The idea is to help make residents' first visit to City Hall easier, and also to share vital city services in a friendly setting. Each program presented in a foreign language will also be presented in English.

The events are scheduled:

- Spanish (Español) and English: March 19, 5-8 p.m., light dinner
- South Asian/Indian: April 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., light lunch
- Mandarin (普通話) and English: May 8, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., light lunch

Last year, the city presented its first Welcome to City Hall! in English and Mandarin – designed to welcome our growing Chinese-speaking community, which numbers over 18,000. More than 90 residents attended, many meeting city staff for the first time and engaging with them around a meal.

Welcome to City Hall! helps residents to understand how our government works and how they can be an active part of Bellevue. A customized, accessible program is created for each event.

Interpretation matches the culture and language of the participants. Guests meet city leadership and staff, learn a little bit about government and get a chance to ask questions. Civic engagement and volunteer opportunities are covered, as well as city resources.

The chance to meet other first-language neighbors from all over the area is an added bonus.

Activity stations may include:

- Tours of the Traffic Management Center;
- Interactive learning about water and recycling;
- Police officers and firefighters introducing police and fire services; and
- Information on city parks.

### ¡Bienvenidos al City Hall de Bellevue!

Jueves, Marzo 19, 5-8 p.m.

Una noche familiar que incluye una cena ligera y amigable para niños, con actividades divertidas para todas las edades.

Presentaciones serán en Inglés y Español.

Para más información, utilice el correo electrónico [wch@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:wch@bellevuewa.gov)

### Welcome to City Hall! for South Asian/Indian residents

Friday, April 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Includes light lunch, presentation and tours.

Presentation and activities in English.

Email [neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov)

歡迎蒞臨市政廳!

五月八日, 星期五早上11點到下午2點

精彩內容: 簡單免費午餐, 市政府運作演講和參觀市政廳

活動全程普通話(國語)翻譯, 如果您需要廣東話(粵語)翻譯, 請聯系我們報名本次活動, 請發電子郵件: [neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov)

## City budgeting through a neighborhood lens

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach

We often don't notice our city services, because they are so seamlessly delivered. If you turn on the faucet, high-quality water is readily available. Medical emergency? The best-trained medics in the world show up in four minutes.

Permits for building projects are easily accessed online. City parks and streets are well-maintained. A strong police department keeps the crime rate here low.

Curious about how the city budgets for all these services?

At the Neighborhood Leadership Gathering on Feb. 25, 7-8:30 p.m. at City Hall, residents are invited to learn about Bellevue's budget and share their thoughts on the city's budget priorities. Dessert and coffee will be served and parking is accessible from 112th Avenue Northeast, on the P2 level of the City Hall garage. Reserve your space by calling 425-452-6836 or emailing [neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov).

At the Neighborhood Leadership Gathering, Toni Call, director of Finance & Asset Management, and her staff will present an overview of Bellevue's budget – which

emphasizes community expectations for government services.

The budget describes how the city intends to finance its services and infrastructure. The city government is responsible for building and repairing streets and providing police and fire protection, as well as maintaining parks, open space and recreational centers, which help contribute to the high quality of life that Bellevue residents enjoy.

Following an overview of the budget, participants will dive deep into a hands-on exercise and experience the challenge of making city budget decisions.

## Groundbreaking ceremony for Bellevue mosque

By Kate Stone, Development Services Public Information Officer



Development Services Director Mike Brennan swings a pick while Imam Fazal Hassan (far right) and mosque members cheer him on.

Two years after devastating arson attacks destroyed it, the Islamic Center of Eastside is returning to Bellevue with a new and improved building.

During a late January groundbreaking attended by members of the mosque, city officials, area faith leaders and residents, the project was hailed as the return of an important community resource.

In January 2017, an arson fire initially feared to be a hate crime caused significant damage to the Islamic Center. More than 500 people joined the police and fire chiefs at a community gathering after that attack, offering resources and support to those affected.

A second, unrelated arson attack in March 2018 reduced the building to rubble. Throughout the permit process for reconstruction of the mosque, many residents have advocated for the building and expressed the positive impact it has had on the community.

The new Islamic Center will be built on the same site, 14700 Main St., but will feature some major changes. While the old structure was a retrofitted office building, the new one will be a purpose-built mosque with traditional Islamic architecture and stone, tile and metal. The site and building will offer accessibility for people with disabilities, and will include fire and building safety improvements.

Recognizing that the Islamic Center was lost through arson, the city's Development Services Department guided mosque officials through the permitting process.

The applicant collaborated with planners to ensure the proposal is a rebuild of the previous religious use rather than an expansion, with the building's floor space, height and number of parking spots very close to those of the old mosque.

According to the Islamic Center of Eastside, funds were still being raised for the building. Construction is expected to take about 14 months, with completion targeted for the spring of 2021.

## Improving roadway safety together

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

2019 was a tragic year for walking and bicycling in Bellevue. In four separate incidents in four different locations, drivers struck and killed two people who were walking in crosswalks and two people who were riding their bicycles on city streets.

Including a single-vehicle crash in which the driver was killed, there were five fatal crashes last year in Bellevue, significantly more than in previous years. From 2009 through 2018, 17 people in all were killed on Bellevue streets.

The increase in fatalities locally reflected a national trend that showed more pedestrians and bicyclists killed in 2018 than in any year since 1990, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Vision Zero ([BellevueWA.gov/vision-zero](http://BellevueWA.gov/vision-zero)) is Bellevue's effort to eliminate serious-injury and fatal collisions on Bellevue streets by 2030. A principle of Vision Zero is that these injuries and deaths are unacceptable and preventable.

To implement its Vision Zero effort, the city is taking a systems-oriented approach to safety that focuses on streets, people, vehicles and speeds. In January, the Transportation Commission endorsed the safe-systems approach and approved sending a letter to the City Council asking for direction on how to integrate the approach into Bellevue's comprehensive plan.

A safe systems approach means that everyone must be on board to improve traffic safety.

Transportation staff are working to design safer streets and

sidewalks, and Bellevue police are enforcing traffic laws. When collisions and even near-misses do occur, we're trying to analyze the data and use it to help make the transportation system safer.

Road users can help, too. Drivers can purchase vehicles with an eye toward the best safety features, obey traffic laws, assume they are not seen by others, slow down and watch for walkers or people on bicycles when it's dark or roads are slippery, and stay off their phones.

Pedestrians and bicyclists should also assume they are not seen by drivers, obey traffic laws and consider wearing bright or reflective clothing and using lights at night.

The last time there were zero traffic-related fatalities in Bellevue was in 2010 – way too long. It's a number for everyone

to strive for in 2020 and every year after that.



## I can recycle "that"?

### Getting rid of unusual items sustainably

Maybe your New Year's goal is to declutter your home, or you simply want to keep more items out of the landfill. Our "Year-Round Recycling Guide for Unusual Items" can help.

The guide shows how many items – such as small appliances, batteries, light bulbs and old textiles – can be recycled at your curb for free. Plus, learn how to get rid of that old refrigerator (and

get paid for it), how to give dead electronics new life, and how to dispose of chemicals, cleaners and expired medicines safely.

Visit [BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more](http://BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more) to explore the full guide online. Printable guides are also available on that web page in English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. Questions about recycling options? Contact [recycle@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:recycle@bellevuewa.gov).

## Something fishy in Kelsey Creek?

By Laurie Devereaux, Stream Team Coordinator



In addition to being a sight themselves, peamouth attract other wildlife like this great heron.

Every spring, hundreds of peamouth minnows, a foot-long fish native to Lake Washington, spawn in Kelsey Creek. A spawning event may last only 12 to 48 hours from start to finish, but if you're there at the right time, you can watch amazing nature in action. You might even witness a great blue heron on the hunt!

Volunteers can help the city track the peamouth by joining the Peamouth Patrol. Participants check the stream for fish for 15 minutes, twice a week. In return, they receive advanced notice when the fish arrive, so they are always among the first to know and experience this wonderful sign of spring.

To participate or just to learn more, residents can attend a Peamouth Patrol workshop on Wednesday, March 25, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center Community Room. To RSVP or request more information, please contact [streamteam@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:streamteam@bellevuewa.gov).

## Hear this! Art of Listening workshops

Being a better listener can dramatically improve people's focus, relationships, inner peace and professional lives. The Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center is ready to help, offering "Art of Listening" workshops this winter and spring.

In Art of Listening, "you will learn how to be a more artful, peaceful and attentive listener, and have the experience of being truly listened to," says Marci McReynolds, manager of the Conflict Resolution Center and facilitator for the workshop.

"The class is definitely mind-blowing, if not life-changing," one participant in a workshop last year wrote in their anonymous class evaluation.

Art of Listening is presented over three two-hour, evening sessions at the Lake Hills Library, 15590 Lake Hills Blvd., on April 15, 22 and 29.

People who have already taken Art of Listening or a similar class or consider themselves good listeners already can benefit from Advanced Art of Listening. The class is designed to help people further improve their listening skills, particularly in challenging situations such as when there is anger or when receiving difficult feedback.

The advanced class is on Feb. 20 and 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Bellevue Library. It's also offered in evening sessions at the Newport Way Library on May 5 and 12.

Both workshops are cosponsored with the King County Library System. Registration is recommended for the basic and advanced classes. Please contact [BCRC@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:BCRC@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-4091 to reserve your spot.

If all these workshops aren't enough, the Conflict Resolution Center also offers one-night listening salons on the following dates:

- March 5, 6:30-8:30, Lake Hills Library
- March 25, 6:30-8:30, Newport Way Library
- April 28, 6:30-8:30, Lake Hills Library
- May 28, 6:30-8:30, Bellevue Library

## Free sustainable gardening classes

As part of Bellevue's membership in the Cascade Water Alliance, Bellevue residents have access to free gardening classes. Here's your chance to learn from the pros how to build beautiful, healthy landscapes and gardens with less water and fewer chemicals.



Between February and April, 25 free classes will be taught throughout the area by a team of expert gardeners and sustainable landscapers on a wide range of topics, including:

- Favorite Northwest native plants;
- Natural yard and lawn care;
- Small-space food gardening; and
- Building healthy soil and composting.

Classes are free, but registration is required. People can learn more and register at [CascadeWater.org/classes.php](https://CascadeWater.org/classes.php) or call 425-453-0930.

## Volunteers to lead tree tours

By Pauline Mogilevsky

The city is launching a new volunteer opportunity for residents to get involved in tree preservation. Trained "neighborhood tree ambassadors" will lead tree tours in neighborhoods around Bellevue, educating their fellow residents about the essential role trees play here.

In 2019, Bellevue's AmeriCorps urban forestry specialist led tree tours at Ardmore, Weowna, Downtown and Robinswood parks. This year, the tree tours will expand beyond parks, with the tree ambassadors making it possible.

Trees provide many health and environmental benefits in cities, including storing carbon, reducing air pollution and decreasing flooding. Increasing Bellevue's tree canopy cover from 37 percent of land area to 40 percent is a city goal.

As volunteers within this pilot program, neighborhood tree ambassadors will receive training in tree identification and environmental education techniques, and will work with the urban forestry specialist to create and lead tree tours for their neighborhoods. By leading the tours, the tree ambassadors will help their neighbors develop deeper connections with local trees.

If you are passionate about trees, looking for a way to get involved in your community and/or want to learn more about trees, consider becoming a neighborhood tree ambassador. No prior knowledge or experience is necessary. The time commitment will vary depending on the volunteer's schedule.

To be a tree ambassador, you must attend a pair of training sessions – Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Bellevue Library, and Wednesday, April 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Spaces are limited. Please email [pmogilevsky@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pmogilevsky@bellevuewa.gov) to learn more or register for the training. Additional information about tree tours and how to become a neighborhood tree ambassador is available at [BellevueWA.gov/trees](https://BellevueWA.gov/trees).



Residents attend a tree tour in 2019 at Weowna Park.

# Work starts soon to improve two key streets

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

Construction to improve key arterials Southeast Newport Way and West Lake Sammamish Parkway for people who walk, bicycle and drive is anticipated to begin this spring.

## Southeast Newport Way

This neighborhood-initiated project will extend nearly one mile, from Somerset Boulevard Southeast to 150th Avenue Southeast. Newport Way is an important east-west link that carries about 10,900 vehicles per day. The project cost is approximately \$10.7 million; completion is scheduled for fall 2021.

Currently, there are no sidewalks or bike lanes along this part of Newport Way. People biking and walking must navigate narrow shoulders, with no crosswalks, making it challenging to reach the community center, library, churches, parks and schools. The planned improvements will make it safer for all roadway users.

Nearby residents advocated for the upgrades after unincorporated Eastgate neighborhoods were annexed into the city in 2012. Project features will include:

- New multipurpose path for pedestrians and bicyclists on the north side of the road;
- New sidewalk on the south side of the road, between 150th Avenue Southeast and the South Bellevue Community Center; and
- New crosswalks, retaining walls, guardrails, lighting and drainage.

During construction, a detour will be in place for local traffic and flaggers will control work zones. Project information is available at [BellevueWA.gov/newport-way](http://BellevueWA.gov/newport-way).

In a separate but connected improvement, work is already underway on a congestion reduction project that will add a new southbound, right-turn-only lane and adjacent sidewalk on 150th Avenue Southeast where it intersects with Southeast Newport Way. That project is slated for completion in the summer.

## West Lake Sammamish Parkway

Transportation improvements on West Lake Sammamish Parkway – to include a multipurpose pathway – will extend from the Northeast 200 block to the Northeast 800 block. This is the second of five segments of the street to be improved. The street was improved between Interstate 90 and Southeast 34th Street in 2013.



Students will soon have a 10-foot-wide multipurpose path on Southeast Newport Way.

The upgrades will be coordinated with replacement of nearly two miles of water main and about a third of a mile of pressurized sewer pipe by the Utilities Department. Utilities will also improve local water pressure in the neighborhood and increase flow for firefighting.

West Lake Sammamish Parkway is an important north-south transportation link for Bellevue; more than 11,700 vehicles travel this section of the street each day. The cost for the transportation portion of the project is approximately \$9.6 million; completion is expected in late 2021.

Like the first phase of transportation improvements on West Lake Sammamish Parkway, Phase 2 will include:

- An 8-10-foot wide multipurpose pathway on the west side of the street;
- New pavement, with two 10-foot wide vehicle lanes and a four-foot shoulder on the east side;
- Other improvements include new lighting, landscaping, irrigation and storm drainage; and
- A signed detour for southbound traffic will be provided, with local access maintained.

Information about the transportation project is available at [BellevueWA.gov/wlsp-roadwork](http://BellevueWA.gov/wlsp-roadwork); information about the utilities project is at [BellevueWA.gov/wlsp-pressure-project](http://BellevueWA.gov/wlsp-pressure-project).

## A Glance at History

By Angeline Nesbit, Eastside Heritage Center Director

This photograph, in the Eastside Heritage Center's archive, shows an aerial view of Meydenbauer Bay in Bellevue in 1911. While the city has obviously changed in many ways since then, this picture notably predates the lowering of Lake Washington.



With some fluctuation depending on time of year, the lake was nine feet higher than it is today, and the shoreline of the wilderness that was then Bellevue was consequently farther back. Much of what is today the marina and new park was underwater.

In 1916, the lake was lowered to allow access through canals (cuts) in Seattle to the Pacific Ocean. When cofferdams connecting Lake Washington and Lake Union were opened, the impact on those who lived and worked on Lake Washington was dramatic.

Real estate speculators bought up land still underwater in 1915, and were able to re-sell it as waterfront property the next year.



# Choose Your Way Bellevue

## Countering congestion with commute options for companies

With regional traffic challenges, a commercial building boom and East Link construction slowing employees' commutes, what's a Bellevue business to do? The city can help with tailored, cost-effective solutions.

The city's Choose Your Way Bellevue Business Services program ([CYWB.org/business](http://CYWB.org/business)) is a collaboration with King County Metro and TransManage, a service of the Bellevue Downtown Association.

The program offers Bellevue employers with five or more employees a free consultation to inform them of commute options and resources customized for their worksites. Taking part can boost your company, help your employees and ease the strain on the transportation system.

Resources include financial support for employee transit passes, ORCA starter cards, help with pre-tax commuter benefits, rideshare matching and information about telework. The products and services provide Bellevue companies of all sizes and budgets a way to increase commute options for employees.

Get started by filling out a form ([CYWB.org/business-packet](http://CYWB.org/business-packet)) to receive a business commute starter packet.

# Courtesy hearings at EBCC

By Betsi Hummer, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

The EBCC held two courtesy hearings at its November meeting, one concerning a conditional use permit for construction of the new Puesta del Sol Elementary School and the second regarding proposed land use code changes for temporary encampments hosted by local churches.

Over 70 residents crowded the Lake Hills Clubhouse to speak on the record, sharing concerns and kudos for the new school, which will be built on 151st Place Northeast where Bellewood Elementary now stands. The permit application will next go before the city's Hearing Examiner, probably in late February or early March.

The City Council will then vote on the application before it returns to the EBCC for approval or disapproval.

The EBCC also heard from city staff regarding proposed code changes related to temporary encampments permitted by the city to accommodate religious exercise. The City Council approved the amendments on Dec. 9, and the EBCC approved them on Jan. 7.

## Larsen Lake Restoration

At the October meeting, the EBCC heard about restoration of wetlands at Larsen Lake. The project included removal of invasive weeds, tree and shrub plantings, and placement of logs and other woody debris to provide habitat.



While it may not look like much, Larsen Lake's restored wetland has been cleared of invasive weeds and features new native trees and shrubs.

Jammie Kingham, environmental programs supervisor with the Parks & Community Services Department, answered questions from residents and EBCC members, who are intimately familiar and concerned with the Greenbelt, which is the center of EBCC jurisdiction. The development of the park in the 1970s was one of the first projects the EBCC addressed.

The restoration mitigated for impacts from a transportation project to improve 120th Avenue Northeast, Kingham noted. The restoration was completed in January. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is monitoring the results.

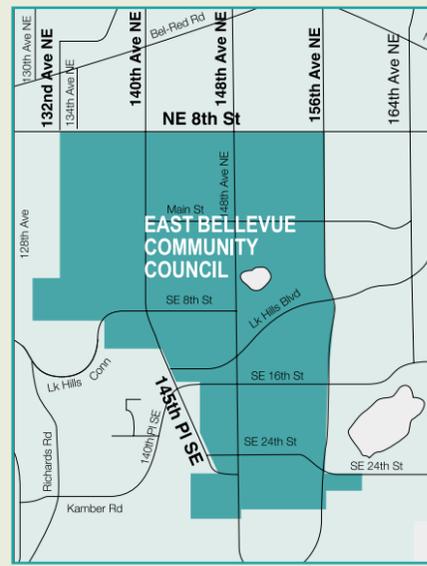
## Room Rental Ordinance Update

The EBCC receives two updates per year from the city's Code Compliance division regarding enforcement of the single-family room rental ordinance. The December report is available at [BellevueWA.gov/ebcc](http://BellevueWA.gov/ebcc) in the meeting details. The next report will be in May.

## Monthly Meetings

Established in 1969, the EBCC is empowered by state law with approval/disapproval authority over certain land-use actions in a part of East Bellevue. The EBCC may also act in an advisory capacity on other land-use issues that affect its jurisdiction.

The EBCC typically meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3. The meetings have dedicated time for public comment when residents, activists and others can express their opinions. City staff is also on hand to answer questions and provide input.



For more information about the EBCC, call Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts, 425-452-6806.

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

**Members:** Hassan Dhananjaya, Ross Gooding, Betsi Hummer, Steven Kasner, Stephanie Walter

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the EBCC via email at [ebcc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ebcc@bellevuewa.gov). To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC, [BellevueWA.gov/ebcc](http://BellevueWA.gov/ebcc).

## Utilities discounts and rebates

By Heather DeWitt, Program Administrator

The City of Bellevue offers programs to assist low-income residents with utility costs for water, wastewater and drainage. Applications, as well as complete guidelines and requirements, are available at [BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief](http://BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief). Or call 425-452-5285 for more information.

### Rate Relief

Rate relief offers 70 percent off basic utility costs for low-income seniors (62 and older) and low-income persons with permanent disabilities who meet specific residency and income guidelines. You may qualify for rate relief if your 2019 household income was \$38,750 or less for one person or \$44,300 or less for two.

The form of relief depends on how utility costs are paid:

- **Utility Rate Discount:** If you pay a Bellevue utility bill, you may qualify for a rate reduction on your 2020 utility bills. This program is open through Oct. 30.
- **Utility Rate Rebate:** If your 2019 utility costs were paid through rent or another third party, you may qualify for a rebate check. This program is open April 1 to Oct. 30.

### Emergency Assistance Program

If you pay a Bellevue utility bill directly and are not eligible for a rate discount, you may qualify for a 100 percent discount for up to four months of basic utility service (excluding charges such as Capital Recovery Charges and Direct Facility Connection Charges), 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 for the Emergency Assistance Program. This assistance is available once every three years.

### Additional Requirements

Additional requirements apply for rate relief discounts and rebates as well as the Emergency Assistance Program.

## BellevueTV

24/7 live stream and video on demand



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click on the **YouTube SUBSCRIBE** button.

For more information, email [btv@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:btv@bellevuewa.gov)

# Capital improvements: Projects in construction and design

The city is ambitious with its capital projects this year, with construction of a new boulevard and major improvements to other streets in BelRed to start, as well as more than a dozen transportation levy projects. The Neighborhood Enhancement Program will tap into the Crossroads and Wilburton neighborhoods in 2020. Sound Transit's East Link, now more than 70 percent complete, will see significant progress on station and trackway construction.

The list below features major projects continuing or beginning construction in 2020, with anticipated timelines and estimated costs. Improvements to Southeast Newport Way and West Lake Sammamish Parkway are covered in an article on page 7. Also listed are projects funded by the city or other agencies that are in the design phase. Work in the BelRed area to improve mobility for all modes of transportation continues. More than a dozen transportation levy projects are slated to be done this year.

## BelRed

### 124th Ave NE: NE Spring Blvd to Ichigo Way

Widen and raise 124th Avenue Northeast to five lanes, install sidewalk on both sides of Northeast Spring Boulevard to Northeast 16th Street and construct a bridge for East Link light rail undercrossing. A portion of roadway is closed through May; access to businesses available from either direction. Construction through the fall (\$33 million).

*Marina Arakelyan, marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov*

### NE Spring Blvd: 116th Ave to 120th Ave NE

Widen Northeast 12th Street to six lanes from 116th Avenue Northeast to a new intersection west of the Eastrail. Construction continues through the spring, with the new street opening when the 120th to 124th avenues segment (listed below) is complete in late 2020 (\$33.4 million).

*Steve Costa, scosta@bellevuewa.gov*

### NE Spring Blvd: 120th Ave to 124th Ave NE

Build new four-lane roadway with turn pockets or center medians, landscaping, sidewalks, off-street paths for bicycling and on-street parking. Construction continues through fall/winter 2020; road will open in late 2020 (\$26 million).

*Steve Costa, scosta@bellevuewa.gov*

## Bridle Trails

### Pikes Peak Reservoir Replacement

Replace aging 1-million-gallon steel reservoir with 1.25-million-gallon concrete reservoir to address seismic and storage deficiencies. Construction fall 2020 to fall 2021 (\$7.1 million).

*Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov*

## Downtown

### 100th Ave NE at NE 10th St: Mini-roundabout

Replace all-way stop intersection with a mini-roundabout at the intersection of 100th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 10th Street. Intersection closure planned for 28 days. Project is coordinated with the Meydenbauer Flood Control Project and water main replacement. Construction February through May (\$1.25 million).

*Jun An, jan@bellevuewa.gov*

### Downtown Park Median Expansion and Crosswalk

Enlarge existing medians on the south side and west side of Downtown Park. All curb ramps at the existing three mid-block crosswalks will be rebuilt to meet accessibility standards. A flashing beacon system will be installed at the existing crosswalk Northeast Second Street near 103rd Avenue Southeast. Construction this spring (\$402,000).

*Darek Jarzynski, djarzynski@bellevuewa.gov*

### Meydenbauer Flood Control Project

Project will address street flooding by adding a bypass pipeline to better carry stormwater during heavy rains. It will improve capacity of the storm drain system on 100th Avenue Northeast between Northeast Eighth and 12th streets. Construction spring - winter 2020 (\$5.6 million).

*James B. Nicolls, jnicolls@bellevuewa.gov*

## Eastgate

### 150th Ave SE Corridor: Roadway improvements (SE Newport Way to SE 38th St)

Construct southbound right-turn lane and adjacent sidewalk at the intersection of 150th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Newport Way. Construction through the summer (\$1.73 million).

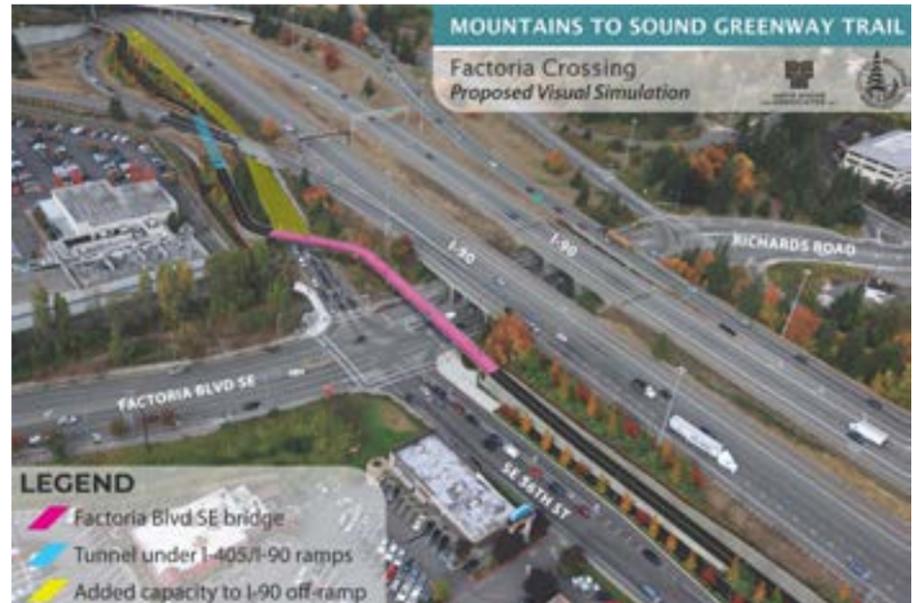
*Jun An, jan@bellevuewa.gov*

## Factoria

### Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail: I-405 to 132nd Ave SE

Construct a 12-foot-wide multi-use trail; including bridge over Factoria Boulevard Southeast. Improve the I-90 off-ramp to Factoria Boulevard Construction complete by end of 2020 (\$14 million).

*Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov*



## Newport

### Neighborhood park on SE 60th St

Features of the new 3-acre neighborhood park include an off-leash dog area, playground, walking trails and an open lawn. Park will connect to additional 10 acres of open space with trails. Official park name to be determined. Construction fall - winter 2020 (\$3 million).

*Scott VanderHyden, SvanderHyden@bellevuewa.gov*

## Northeast Bellevue

### Northeast Bellevue Crosswalk Improvements Project

Improve five crosswalks and add a new crosswalk with rapid flashing beacons, curb ramp and extend sidewalks. Construction complete by March 2020 (\$1.2 million).

*Sara Haile, shaile@bellevuewa.gov*

## Northwest Bellevue

### Cherry Crest Pump Station Replacement

Replace water pump station, combining Pikes Peak and Cherry Crest pump stations into one. Construction through fall 2020 (\$8.7 million).

*Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov*

### Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Upgrade sewer system. Construction through spring 2020 (\$2 million).

*Regan Sidie, rsidie@bellevuewa.gov*

## Wilburton

### 136th Ave NE Water Inlet Station and NE 8th St Transmission Main

Capacity and water supply improvements due to growth in the downtown and BelRed areas. Construction spring 2020 - winter 2021 (\$8.4 million).

*Jay Hummel, jhummel@bellevuewa.gov*

## Various Locations

### Pavement Preservation Program

Pavement condition data is collected for all 1,100-plus lane miles of public streets biennially. It's used to predict needed preservation work and determine the best timing to maximize resources. A five-year pavement preservation plan is used to coordinate with

other public and private projects. The types of work done under this program include: routine street sweeping, pothole repairs, resurface long stretches of roadways with fresh asphalt, new pavement markings, upgraded curb ramps and new sidewalks. Resurfacing of roadways is typically done between April and October. A map of resurfacing projects scheduled for 2020 and the five-year pavement plan can be found at [BellevueWA.gov/pavement](https://BellevueWA.gov/pavement).

*Kyle Potuzak, program manager, [pavement@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pavement@bellevuewa.gov)*

### Wastewater Pump Replacement

Replace aging pumps at seven wastewater pump stations: Killarney, Meydenbauer, Bagley, Pleasure Point, Yarrow Point and lift stations along Lake Washington Boulevard. Construction through 2020 (\$2.4 million).

*Biorol Shaha, [bshaha@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bshaha@bellevuewa.gov)*

## Other Agency Projects

### King County

#### Sunset and Heathfield Pump Stations Upgrade

Both pump stations and the connected force main pipe will be upgraded, along with the Eastgate trunk structure near I-90. Pipe installation is complete; final landscaping and restoration of Southeast 35th Place and 164th Place Southeast will be complete early this year, pump station work continues into late 2020.

*KingCounty.gov (Search: Sunset and Heathfield)*

#### North Mercer Island/Enatai Sewer Upgrade

King County is replacing sewer pipes that serve areas in North Mercer Island, the southwest portion of Bellevue near Enatai Beach and the Town of Beaux Arts Village. This pipeline carries wastewater from the North Mercer Island Pump Station to the Sweyolocken Pump Station in Bellevue. Construction is expected to begin in late 2020 and end in 2024.

*KingCounty.gov (Search: North Mercer Island/Enatai)*

### Sound Transit

#### East Link

Sound Transit continues to build six light rail stations in Bellevue and associated trackway. One year of systems testing will occur prior to light rail service starting in 2023.

*SoundTransit.org/eastlink.*



photo by Sound Transit

Sound Transit's East Link light rail line is 70% complete, with progress on trackways and stations expected this year.

## State Department of Transportation

### I-90 Eastgate – SR 900

This project will add capacity on both directions of I-90 between the Eastgate and West Lake Sammamish Parkway interchanges, by

restriping the existing roadway and creating auxiliary lanes. Crews will also build sound walls in strategic locations within the project area to minimize traffic noise. Construction in winter suspended until April. Completion is expected by fall 2021.

*WSDOT.wa.gov/projects/i90/eastgate-sr-900/home.*

### I-405: Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes

Adding new capacity to create a two-lane express toll lane system between State Route 167 in Renton and Northeast Sixth Street in Bellevue. Construction begins in 2020 and will be open to traffic in 2024.

*WSDOT.wa.gov/projects/i405/rentontobellevue*

## Projects in the design phase

### Transportation improvements

#### 120th Ave NE: NE 16th St to Northup Way

In coordination with Sound Transit and King County, design begins this year on the fourth and final phase of corridor to widen and align 120th Avenue Northeast from Northeast 16th Street to Northup Way.

*Jun An, [jan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jan@bellevuewa.gov)*

#### 124th Ave NE: NE Ichigo Way to Northup Way

Design work is underway to widen and raise another section 124th Avenue Northeast, build a multipurpose path on the west side of the road, install sidewalk and landscaping and build a fish and wildlife passable culvert under Northeast Ichigo Way. Construction is anticipated to start winter 2022 through 2024 (\$30 million). Additionally, design continues on the replacement of the lattice towers with mono-tube towers which will allow space for the multipurpose path. The replacement is anticipated to start in the summer and be complete by the fall.

*Marina Arakelyan, [marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov)*

#### 124th Ave NE: NE 12th to NE Spring Blvd

The design continues to widen 124th Avenue Northeast from Northeast 12th Street to Northeast Spring Boulevard to build a separated multipurpose pathway on each side of the roadway. Construction is anticipated to start in winter 2021 and last for about a year (\$21 million).

*Marina Arakelyan, [marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov)*

#### 130th Ave NE: Bel-Red Rd to NE 20th St

This project will redevelop 130th Avenue Northeast. Features will include two vehicle travel lanes, protected bike lanes, sidewalks, landscaping and on-street parking. Construction is anticipated in 2021 (\$21 million).

*Greg Lucas, [glucas@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:glucas@bellevuewa.gov)*

#### NE Spring Blvd: 130th Ave NE to 132nd Ave NE

Currently in design, this project will extend Northeast Spring Boulevard east to 130th Avenue Northeast, from 132nd Avenue Northeast. Features include a vehicle lane, a buffered bike lane, sidewalks in each direction and landscaping. Construction is anticipated to start this year (\$16 million).

*Greg Lucas, [glucas@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:glucas@bellevuewa.gov)*

### Utilities improvements

#### Factoria Storm Conveyance Improvements

Improve stormwater conveyance system capacity along Factoria Boulevard between Southeast 38th Street and Richards Creek inlet to reduce the risk of flooding during high-intensity storm events. Public feedback opportunities are planned for 2020. Construction expected in 2021-2022 (\$8 million).

*Biorol Shaha, [bshaha@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bshaha@bellevuewa.gov)*

#### King County Wastewater Treatment Division: Coal Creek Sewer Upgrade

The existing Coal Creek Trunk is approximately 2.5 miles long and primarily follows the banks of Coal Creek in the Coal Creek Natural Area between Newcastle and I-405. The new alignment will move much of the pipeline away from Coal Creek offering better protection to this sensitive environmental area. Project design to be complete in 2020; construction begins in 2021.

*KingCounty.gov (Search: Coal Creek Sewer)*

#### Sound Transit: Bus Rapid Transit

I-405 Bus Rapid Transit will connect communities along I-405 and State Route 518 from Lynnwood to Burien. Buses will run as often as every 10 minutes. The service will connect to Link light rail at Lynnwood, Bellevue and Tukwila along with other transit services. It will add a new transit center in South Renton and 10 bus stations, three of which will add parking, totaling 1,300 new spaces. Construction is planned for 2023-2025 and service in 2024.

*SoundTransit.org (Search: Bus Rapid Transit)*

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2020

## Lewis Creek Ranger Hike

March 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE  
Free  
425-452-4195 or  
[lcvc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:lcvc@bellevuewa.gov)

## Mercer Slough Ranger Hike

March 8, 2-3:30 p.m.  
Mercer Slough Environmental  
Education Center  
1625 118th Ave. SE  
Free  
RSVP at 425-452-2565 or  
[mseec@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mseec@bellevuewa.gov)

## March Mania Plant Sale

March 14, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
Featuring unique specialty  
plants and spring ephemerals.  
Indoor location.  
[NorthwestPerennialAlliance.org](http://NorthwestPerennialAlliance.org)

## "Once on This Island JR"

Presented by Bellevue Youth  
Theatre  
April 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.;  
April 5 and 11 at 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.  
Musical adaptation of Hans  
Christian Anderson's "The Little  
Mermaid" appropriate for all  
audiences.  
\$15 per ticket.  
425-452-7155 or  
[byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)

## Lewis Creek Ranger Hike

April 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE  
Free  
425-452-4195 or  
[lcvc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:lcvc@bellevuewa.gov)

## Garden Lectures

March 10: An Evening with  
Ciscoe, 6 p.m.  
March 18: "The 21st Century  
Botanic Garden: Where We've  
Come From and Where We're  
Going" with Dr. Ari Novy, 7 p.m.  
March 22: "Claire Takacs –  
Exquisite Beauty: A New Way  
of Seeing Gardens" by the  
Northwest Perennial Alliance,  
noon  
April 14: Expanding Our Interest  
in Native Plants Through  
Photography, Washington  
Native Plant Society Lecture by  
Donovan Tracy, 7 p.m.  
April 15: "The Pleasure Garden,"  
BBG Society Lecture by Jeffrey  
Bale, 7 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
Lectures provided in conjunction  
with various partners.  
Prices vary.  
[BellevueBotanical.org/events](http://BellevueBotanical.org/events)

## Eastside Fuchsia Society Plant Sale

May 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

## "Cinderella"

Presented by Bellevue Youth  
Theatre  
May 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7 p.m.;  
May 16 and 17 at 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.  
Features music from Rodgers  
and Hammerstein.  
\$15 per ticket.  
425-452-7155 or  
[byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)

## Mother's Day Social

May 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.  
Free and open to all. Music,  
"plein air" artists, flowers for  
mom, docent tours and more.  
Donations welcome.  
425-452-2750 or  
[BellevueBotanical.org](http://BellevueBotanical.org)

## Terra Tillers present a National Garden Club Standard Flower Show

May 30-31: Saturday noon-  
4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

## Summer Day Camps

Registration now underway for  
spring and summer recreation  
program and day camp  
registration (May through  
August)  
March 30: resident registration  
begins  
April 8: non-resident registration  
begins  
425-452-6885 or  
[Register.BellevueWA.gov](http://Register.BellevueWA.gov)

## Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm Fresh Produce Stand

Larsen Lake, 700 148th Ave. SE  
March through June  
Hours vary, please call farm to  
confirm.  
346-298-0193

## 2020 Picnic Site Reservations

Planning a gathering at one  
of Bellevue's beautiful parks?  
Picnic sites are available  
for reservation on March  
2 (residents) and March 16  
(non-residents). For more  
information, call 425-452-6914  
or [parkrental@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:parkrental@bellevuewa.gov)



Park ranger Suzy Karl leads a hike of Mercer Slough Nature Park.

## Puget Sound Dahlia Association Tuber Sale

March 20-21, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

## "Rapunzel"

Presented by Bellevue Youth  
Theatre  
March 20, 21 and 28 at 7 p.m.;  
March 22, 28 and 29 at 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.  
Learn the who, what, where,  
when and why behind a fairy  
tale you thought you already  
knew.  
\$15 per ticket.  
425-452-7155 or  
[byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)

## Coal Creek Area Ranger Hike

March 22, 10:30-noon  
Cinder Mine Trailhead  
Newcastle Golf Club Road, west  
of Redtown Trailhead  
Free  
425-452-4195 or  
[lcvc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:lcvc@bellevuewa.gov)

## Mercer Slough Ranger Hike

April 5, 2-3:30 p.m.  
Mercer Slough Environmental  
Education Center  
1625 118th Ave. SE  
Free  
RSVP at 425-452-2565 or  
[mseec@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mseec@bellevuewa.gov)

## North American Rock Garden Society Plant Sale

April 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.

## "The Taming of the Shrew"

Presented by Bellevue Youth  
Theatre  
April 24, 25 and May 2 at 7 p.m.;  
April 26, May 2 and 3 at 2 p.m.  
Bellevue Youth Theatre  
16051 NE 10th St.  
Shakespeare's comedic romp  
about the struggle for control  
in a relationship, the story of  
witty, eccentric, passionate and  
sometimes bruising true-ish  
love. Appropriate for all ages.  
\$15 per ticket.  
425-452-7155 or  
[byt@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:byt@bellevuewa.gov)

## Arbor Day-Earth Day Family Festival

April 18, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Lewis Creek Visitor Center  
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE  
425-452-4195 or  
[lcvc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:lcvc@bellevuewa.gov)

## Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing

April 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Kelsey Creek Farm  
410 130th Pl. SE  
Watch the sheep being shorn  
of their winter coats. Wool  
spinning demonstrations,  
children's crafts, tractor-pulled  
wagon rides, pony rides, food,  
animal viewing areas. Free  
shuttle at Wilburton Park &  
Ride and Bannerwood Sports  
Park. No entrance fee. Costs  
vary for food and activities.  
425-452-7688 or  
[kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov)

# CITY CONTACTS

## City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

**Service First (general information):** 425-452-6800

**City of Bellevue website:** [BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)

**City Council Office:** 425-452-7810

## City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.

2nd and 4th Mondays: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

## Board & Commission Meetings

Call 425-452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Library Board: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Network On Aging: 1st Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

## City Offices

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 425-452-6464

City Manager: 425-452-7228

Community Development: 425-452-7892

Conflict Resolution Center: 425-452-4091

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 425-452-2800

Development Services: 425-452-6800

New permit applications: 425-452-4898

Inspection requests, application and status, pay fees: 425-452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)

Application and inspection status: [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com)

Code Compliance: 425-452-2047

Diversity Program: 425-452-7886

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.: 425-452-6806

Fire Emergency Only: 911

Fire Non-Emergency

Business and Information: 425-452-6892

Inspection: 425-452-4254

Fire prevention: 425-452-6872

Human Resources: 425-452-6838

Information Technology: 425-452-4626

Neighborhood Outreach: 425-452-6836

Northwest Arts Center: 425-452-4106

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 425-452-4200

Recreation Program Registration/Parks Info: 425-452-6885

Youth Sports: 425-452-6885

Ballfield Rental: 425-452-6914

Picnics/Facility Rentals: 425-452-6914

Park Maintenance: 425-452-6855

Human Services: 425-452-6884

Probation: 425-452-6956

Community Centers:

Crossroads Community Center: 425-452-4874

Highland Community Center: 425-452-7686

North Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-7681

South Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-4240

Marina: 425-452-4883

Police Emergency Only: 911

Police Non-Emergency

Crossroads Station: 425-452-2891

Factoria Station: 425-452-2880

Complaints and Information: 425-452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 425-452-2979; Residential 425-452-6915

Traffic Enforcement: 425-452-6940

Transportation

Administration/Information: 425-452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 425-452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 425-452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, &

Surface Water Maintenance & Emergency: 425-452-7840

## Other Numbers (Not city government)

Regional Animal Services of King County: 206-296-PETS

Republic Services: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

**It's Your City** is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or [ciosso@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciosso@bellevuewa.gov).

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# CITY COUNCIL



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MAYOR



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COUNCILMEMBER



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COUNCILMEMBER

## New fire station to cut response times

By Lt. Camari Olson, Fire Public Information Officer

The city is building a new fire station to better serve residents in the Northwest Bellevue, BelRed and downtown areas.

Fire Station 10, set to begin construction in 2021 on the 1200 block of 112th Avenue Northeast, will help the city close a growing gap in service by improving response times for fire and medical emergencies.

In November 2016, 57 percent of residents voted for a fire facilities levy that funded seismic retrofits of all nine existing fire stations, along with construction of the new station.

On Jan. 23, residents attended an open house at City Hall to learn more about Fire Station 10's construction – including the process, timeline and goals. People had a chance to view visual displays and speak with staff and consultants. Fire Chief Jay Hagen gave a presentation, and subject matter experts took questions.

Residents will be invited to a second meeting to be scheduled in late March.

For more information please visit [BellevueWA.gov/fire-station-10](http://BellevueWA.gov/fire-station-10) or email [firestation10@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:firestation10@bellevuewa.gov) or contact project manager Marina Stefanovic (425-452-4486).



Residents attend a January open house to learn about Fire Station 10.