

neighborhood news



December 2018

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods

Holiday Happenings!



Snowflake Lane, Magic Season runs through Dec. 24

The Bellevue Magic Season made its annual debut downtown on Friday, Nov. 23. Nightly performances at the popular Snowflake Lane will run through Dec. 24 and require daily closures of the following streets:

- Bellevue Way Northeast, from Northeast Fourth Street to Northeast Eighth Street, will be closed 6:45-7:45 p.m. The parade begins at 7 p.m.
- Northeast Sixth Street, from 105th Avenue Northeast to Bellevue Way Northeast, will be closed 6-7:45 p.m.
- During closures on Bellevue Way Northeast, visitors to the Bellevue Arts Museum may park in the Westin Hotel parking garage, accessible from 105th Avenue Northeast.

Other Magic Season activities include: Garden d'Lights at the Bellevue Botanical Garden; the Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink, presented by Alaska Mileage Plan, at Downtown Park; holiday productions at the Meydenbauer Center Theatre; and Gingerbread Workshops at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. More information is available on the Magic Season website: BellevueDowntown.com/Events/Magic-Season.

Please drive carefully this holiday season, take a little extra travel time to reach your destination safely and watch for pedestrians in crosswalks and driveways.

Also, consider your transportation options to avoid traffic congestion. Tools and resources are available at ChooseYourWayBellevue.org.

Keep up to date on traffic impacts by checking the city's advisories at BellevueWA.gov/Traffic Advisories, the real-time Bellevue traffic map and cameras at trafficmap.bellevuewa.gov, or by following @BvueTrans on Twitter.



Connect with friends and family while getting exercise at the Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink presented by Alaska Mileage Plan through Jan. 13. The rink, located one block south of Bellevue Square at NE 1st Street and 100th Avenue NE, is open daily including holidays. Hours vary. \$15 admission includes skate rental; 8-year-olds and under \$10 includes skate rental. For information, visit BellevueIceRink.com.





Garden d'Lights

Nightly through Dec. 30

Bellevue Botanical Garden

12001 Main Street, Bellevue

Garden d'Lights at the Bellevue Botanical Garden is in its 24th year! The event features over half a million sparkling lights created into the shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals, and a cascading waterfall, all backed by the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

The event runs through December 30, 2018, including holidays, from 4:30-9:00 pm, and the lights go out at 9:30 pm. Cost to enter is \$5 per person 11 and over, children 10 and under are free.

Refreshments are available for purchase at the Copper Kettle Coffee Bar in the Aaron Education Center. You can also view the Gingerbread Village which was created especially for Garden d'Lights by neighbors in the Wilburton Community. The Trillium Store will be open every night of the event except December 25.

Free parking is available at Wilburton Hill Park, a 5-minute walk from the Garden. Premium parking in the Botanical Garden lot is \$5 per car, cash only, as space permits. A limited number of free disabled parking spots are available in the parking lot for visitors with limited mobility (with disabled parking permit). For more information visit GardenDLights.org, or call 425-452-6844 for a recorded message.



During this holiday season, there are many families in Bellevue who may be facing financial hardship. The Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation is hosting its annual toy and food drive to help by accepting donations at all nine stations. For more information and location of the stations, follow this link: BellevueWA.gov/city-news/toy-food-drive-18

Cultural Conversations

Tuesday, December 4, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Crossroads Community Center
16000 NE 10th St, Bellevue



Six-Word Reflection: "Through my eyes: identity, connection, community"

Join us and share six-word stories, written in your own language, choosing either of these three topics: who you are, places where you call home, or what community means to you. This conversation was inspired by a 2008 article from the New York Times, "[Summing It Up \(in Six Words\).](#)"

During this conversation, we will "travel" with new or familiar companions and connect in small table conversation while remaining in the comfort of Crossroads Community Center. You are invited to wear cultural dress, bring a picture or another small item to help you tell your story.

Cultural Conversations, a program in its ninth season, has transformed relationships and perspectives among diverse women in our community through a range of topics and storytelling.

Please join us for tea, conversation and connection with other community members. Women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. To fully participate in the sharing, attendees are encouraged to plan arrangements for childcare.



Save the Date:

Cultural Conversations Evening Forum

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

This is the event to join with your friends, family and neighbors, for the fifth annual Cultural Conversations evening forum of storytelling and community conversation. Come and hear diverse cultural perspectives from both female and male storytellers who work and/or live in Bellevue. More details to come!

For more information and to RSVP, contact Carol Ross at NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.

The votes are in! Northwest Bellevue chooses two projects as part of Neighborhood Enhancement Program

Thanks to all Northwest Bellevue neighbors who participated in the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) over the past several months. The program kicked-off in April, with the city receiving 81 resident-identified project ideas for how to spend the more than \$300,000 budget allocated for the Northwest Bellevue Neighborhood Area. City staff reviewed each of the submitted project ideas for accessibility, feasibility, cost, timeline and future upkeep. Then in September, the city presented 17 projects on the ballot for consideration. 472 ballots were returned, and two projects were chosen for funding;



- **Bellevue Way Landscape Enhancement**

This project will provide for the beautification of the Bellevue Way streetscape on the west side of the boulevard that currently consists of common turf between curb and sidewalk and a mix of aging shrubs in right-of-way back of sidewalk. This project will remove the water inefficient turf, improve the soil and irrigation, and design and implement a landscape of plant combinations that will unify the streetscape of Northwest Bellevue. Opportunities on the east side of Bellevue Way such as the Northtowne Park frontage will be researched for possible upgrades.

- **100th Ave NE and NE 18th Street Raised Intersection**

This project will install a raised intersection at 100th Ave NE and NE 18th Street to improve visibility of pedestrians crossing the street and encourage motorists to drive at a slower speed. The raised intersection will include high visibility school crosswalks and enhanced street lighting to improve safety at this key connection point.

NEP is a city-funded, capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select small-scale projects that improve the quality of life and enhance the character of their neighborhood area.

In August 2015, the City Council dedicated \$5 Million to NEP. The allocation is distributed among the city's 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas based on the number of households in each area. NEP rotates through the 14 Neighborhood Areas at a rate of two per year.

Next on the list for NEP, in 2019, are the Downtown/BelRed and Lake Hills neighborhoods. Downtown/BelRed will Kick off on Jan. 29, at Kids Quest Museum. Look for NEP to come to Lake Hills in April. To find out which NEP Neighborhood Area you call home, when NEP will be in your area, and how much funding your area has been allocated, please visit BellevueWA.gov/NEP or contact NEP Coordinator, Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov, 425-452-4186.

Good Neighboring tips

Usually in this column we talk about what to do if a neighbor is doing something that may annoy you. We share how best to approach someone when you have an issue, in a way that maintains the relationship of being good neighbors.



This month, we're turning the story around! What if your neighbor has issues with you? Conflicts can often be avoided if you give a little more thought to how things might actually impact your neighbors.

Below is a "Good Neighbor Checklist" to consider:

- Have you brought your trash cans in?
- Are your dogs barking outside?
- Have you brought your doggie bag along with you on your walk?
- What is the state of the fence you share with your neighbor? Do you need to make a date to discuss its repair or replacement?

- Do you know your surveyed boundary lines?
- When planning on planting a large tree or shrub, do you consider the height, width and root extension of the tree for years in the future which may impact your neighbor?
- Is your yard maintained? Are there limbs that could fall on your neighbor's yard or car? Is there debris that could harbor vermin?
- How strong are your outside lights? Are they pointed away from your neighbors' windows?
- When you install new heating and cooling equipment, do you consider how your neighbors might be impacted by sound and vibration?
- If you have extra cars at your house, do you let your neighbor know when you will be parking in front of their house?
- If you have an HOA, are you familiar with your CC & R's?
- If you live in an apartment or condo, do you move about and communicate with awareness that sound passes through floors, ceilings and walls?
- When you need to talk to your neighbor, do you contact them in a respectful and friendly way? When you have an issue, do you talk to your neighbor first?
- Do you know your neighbor? Have you introduced yourself? Do you have their names and numbers in case of an emergency?

'Tis the season of goodwill to all! Please take a moment to check this list, and check in with your neighbors.

Council discusses feasibility study for year-round shelter

During the Nov. 5 study session, councilmembers agreed to further evaluate a year-round men's shelter at Lincoln Center (116th Avenue Northeast). The council approved the expenditure of up to \$135,000 for additional testing, abatement analysis and contracting for design services.

The proposal for converting Lincoln Center to a year-round facility was raised in July in the wake of the council's [adoption](#) of a Land Use Code Amendment governing shelter uses. Lincoln Center began hosting the men's winter shelter during the 2015-2016 season. Although the building received minor upgrades last year, in order for it to serve as an interim year-round site for up to 100 men, additional

changes would be required. One component of this is increased fire protection.

The additional funding will go towards design work; allowing for accurate cost estimates. Councilmembers are expected to review the additional information early next year. The emergency winter shelter at Lincoln Center opened for the season on Nov. 1. More information on the city's work to address homelessness can be found at BellevueWA.gov/Homelessness.

Wilburton Neighborhood Sidewalk Project Wraps up for 2018



The finishing touches are being made to the Wilburton Area Sidewalk Projects. We'll be back next spring to complete the landscaping and to hold a neighborhood project completion celebration.

The city's Transportation and Parks & Community Services departments, the Bellevue School District, International School, Wilburton Elementary, the Wilburton Neighborhood Association and others, worked collaboratively in the planning and coordination of this project. The improvements constructed on the following streets better connect families and others to nearby schools and parks:

- 118th Ave SE, south of Main Street;
- 128th Ave SE, between SE 7th Place and NE 2nd Street;
- NE 2nd Street, between 124th and 128th Aves SE; and
- a reconstructed path on the south side of Main Street

This project is one example of our commitment to improving pedestrian safety for people walking in the community. This improvement was made possible by funding from The City of Bellevue's Neighborhood Sidewalk Program; Neighborhood Safety; Connectivity, and Congestion Levy Project; Major Maintenance Program; Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program; Parks Renovation & Refurbishment Program; and the Bellevue School District.

New type of bus platform installed downtown



A new type of bus platform – the first in this region – was installed downtown in late November on 108th Avenue Northeast, south of Northeast Second Street in the southbound direction.

The platform is made of durable plastic sections that fit together and have the potential to be reused at a different location. The installation took two nights to complete; a [time lapse video](#) provides an accelerated view.

Benefits of the new bus platform include:

- Smoother, safer operations for buses, which will no longer need to pull alongside the curb;
- A reduction in travel time of five to 20 seconds for each of the 65 buses per weekday that stop at the platform; and
- More space for bicyclists to safely pass buses, which will no longer block the bike lane when stopping for passengers.

Installation of the platform is the latest component of the [Downtown Demonstration Bikeway project](#), launched in July. Purchase of the platform was made possible by a \$55,000 grant from King County Metro.

Manufactured by Barcelona-based Zicla, the platform is made of molded, recycled, black plastic. For the installation, workers fit together nearly 300 pieces, then drilled, bolted and epoxied them into place.

Prepare now for Winter Weather!

It is that time of year again, time to get ready for winter weather.

Know the outside conditions

The weather may affect your ability to leave your home or others' ability to safely get to your home. Know

where to get current local information on weather, road conditions, public facility closures, public and para-transit changes, and changes in snow routes. The MyBellevue mobile app is a great place to see current road conditions through Bellevue Traffic cameras.

Prepare to stay in your home for long periods of time (7-10 days).

If you are advised to stay indoors, do not leave your home unless absolutely necessary or in the event of an emergency. Stock up on emergency supplies, know and activate your emergency plan, and prepare your home for winter weather.

Stock up on supplies

- **Stay healthy:** Nutritious, higher calorie meals, water, non-perishable food, can opener, formula for infants, medication supply, personal hygiene items, and first aid kit. Don't forget food and items for pets and service animals.
- **Keep warm:** Blankets, coats, hats, snow boots, gloves, wool socks, and scarves (remember extra blankets for service animals or pets!)
- **Stay informed:** Radio, extra batteries, extra chargers and/or low-tech backups of any devices that you rely on that require electricity.
- **Stay safe:** A snow shovel, table salt or cat litter to clear walkways and ramps of snow and ice (rock salt can harm service animals and pets). Also have a good source of light such as battery flashlights and light sticks. Avoid candles!
- **Be ready:** Print or write your updated list of emergency support contacts and medical information including medications and doctors' contact information.

For more information, check out the City of Bellevue website at

[Fire.BellevueWA.gov/Emergency-Management/Preparedness-Information](https://www.fire.bellevuewa.gov/Emergency-Management/Preparedness-Information)

Have a safe winter!



Boards and Commissions Meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the City web pages listed below to download agendas.)

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

(6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bdan.htm>

East Bellevue Community Council (6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) First Tuesday of each month
<http://bellevuewa.gov/ebcc.htm>

Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-109) First Tuesday of each month
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

Environmental Services Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month
http://bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

Planning Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second and fourth Wednesday of each month
http://bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

Transportation Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second Thursday of each month
http://bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

Human Services Commission (6 p.m., 1E-113) First and third Tuesday of each month
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

LEOFF 1 Disability Board (6 p.m., Room 1E-118) First Tuesday of each month
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/leoff-1-disability-board.htm>

Library Board (5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or Newport Way Library) Third Tuesday of each month
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

Parks & Community Services Board (6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) 8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

Special Events Committee (8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Second Thursday of each month
http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

Youth Link Board (6 p.m., 1E-120) Second Wednesday of each month
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm

Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, please visit our website at:

<https://planning.bellevuewa.gov/community-development/neighborhoods> or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit:

<https://planning.bellevuewa.gov/community-development/neighborhoods/neighborhood-news>

City Council <https://bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

| Day | Scheduled Meeting(s) | Location | Public Comment Opportunity |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 and 3 Mondays except in August and December | 6 p.m., Study Session | Council Conference Room | None |
| | 8 p.m., Regular Session | Council Chambers | 8 p.m., Oral Communications |
| 2 and 4 Mondays except in August and December | 6-10 p.m., Extended Study Session | Council Conference Room | 6 p.m., Oral Communications |
| August - first Monday only | 6 p.m., Study Session | Council Conference Room | None |
| | 8 p.m., Regular Session | Council Chambers | 8 p.m., Oral Communications |
| December - first and second Mondays only | 6 p.m., Study Session | Council Conference Room | None |
| | 8 p.m., Regular Session | Council Chambers | 8 p.m., Oral Communications |