

# neighborhood news



February 2019

news for and about  
Bellevue neighborhoods

**Cultural Conversations presents:**

## **Transcending Boundaries, Transforming Community**

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

Bellevue City Hall  
450 110th Ave NE

Join family, friends and neighbors for the 5th annual evening edition of Cultural Conversations. The program will feature storytellers who broke boundaries in their youth to pursue individual dreams and are now sharing their gifts with the wider community.

Following storytelling, be inspired to connect, learn and share in table conversation. The evening forum is free and open to the public and welcomes women and men, as well as children, age 13 and up.

### **Po: "I Belong in Both Places"**

Po, a graduate of Interlake High School, immigrated to Bellevue as a child from Bangkok, Thailand. His involvement in the city's Youth Link program helped him feel a sense of belonging and taught him that being part of community involved taking responsibility. Previously, civic engagement felt foreign to Po, given a lack of visible role models. Now he's passionate about youth contributions to the community and inspires students both in Bellevue and Thailand.



### **Daniela: "Seeds of a dream"**

Amidst the chaos following a military coup during the '70s in Santiago, Chile, a family was exiled to Seattle to begin a new life. Two decades later, when the family was free to return home, two young people met and were married. Daniela dared to dream of the promise of life in the U.S., she was determined to learn English and American customs and shatter stereotypes. The boxes Daniela is asked to check don't fully describe who she is or how she inspires her children to dream.

### **Jean D'Arc: "Power in the moment"**

Facing death taught Jean D'Arc the power of being in the moment. He strives to make change for good every day. Jean D'Arc was a child in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a refugee in Rwanda and Kenya. He is now a dean and senior international officer at Bellevue College. He has faced hardship and still thrived in many parts of the world by finding the humanity in others.

Event parking is available in the P2 level of the city's parking garage on a first-come basis. For more information, accommodation needs or to RSVP, please contact [NeighborhoodOutreach@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@BellevueWA.gov), or 425-452-6836.

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## Neighborhood Leadership Gathering to focus on trees

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 6:30-8:30pm

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave NE  
Room 1E-108

The 2019 bi-annual Neighborhood Leadership Gathering on Tuesday, Feb.26, kicks off with an evening focused on "Talking about Trees."

In 2017, the city performed a Tree Canopy Assessment, using aerial photography to survey Bellevue's trees. The assessment measured both public and private property, documenting forests in parks, trees in the right-of-way, and the trees on residential land. Overall, Bellevue's tree canopy covers 37% of the city's land area, with 65% of all trees located on residential land.

The Tree Canopy Assessment also quantified some of the benefits this canopy provides. For a more detailed look at the state of Bellevue's tree canopy and more on the benefits it provides, find the full assessment online at [BellevueWA.gov/trees](http://BellevueWA.gov/trees).

The City Council adopted a goal of 40% tree canopy cover. To obtain this vision, the community will play a vital role. Through maintenance, restoration, volunteer tree planting, community partnerships and efforts of everyday residents, Bellevue is working towards achieving this goal. We also need your help!

"Talking About Trees" is the latest topic of the Neighborhood Leadership Gathering, an evening event where people can gather to discuss pressing local issues. At this event, a staff panel will share more about Bellevue's Tree canopy assessment and overall trends, trees in our parks and development. Following these short talks, there will be a facilitated discussion of tree-related issues. Residents will be asked for their ideas on how the city can partner with the community to preserve and grow Bellevue's urban tree canopy.

Neighborhood Leadership Gatherings are open to all who are invested in the quality and health of their neighborhoods. Dessert and coffee will be served. RSVP is appreciated to [neighborhoodoutreach@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@BellevueWA.gov).

## Help eliminate traffic deaths by answering a brief questionnaire

Vision Zero is the city's ambitious effort to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries in Bellevue by 2030. Members of the public can help make that vision a



reality by responding to an online questionnaire at [surveymonkey.com/r/visionzerobellevue](https://surveymonkey.com/r/visionzerobellevue). It's live through Monday, Feb. 11.

The City Council approved an ordinance in 2016 incorporating Vision Zero into the city's comprehensive plan. Today, staff from several departments, as well as partner organizations, are contributing to an action plan that will guide the sustained effort necessary to achieve the Vision Zero goal.

The questionnaire gauges attitudes about traffic safety. Responses will be incorporated into the action plan and be used to identify new efforts to make city streets safe for everyone – people who walk, bike, use transit and drive. Bellevue is just the second city in Washington to adopt Vision Zero.

While Bellevue's street safety record compares favorably with other cities, every 17 days someone is killed or seriously injured on Bellevue's streets. Nationwide, more than 37,000 people were killed by traffic-related crashes in 2017.

The Vision Zero movement, which originated in the 1990s, is founded on the belief that roadway deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable and preventable.

More information is available on the city's Vision Zero webpage: [BellevueWA.gov/visionzero](http://BellevueWA.gov/visionzero)



## Fire training helps Bellevue

### resident save her home

On Jan. 9, 2019, Vasundhara Jain was preparing to have a group of children join her family for a study session at her home. She was heating oil in a pan on her electric stove as she was coordinating with parents for this event. When she returned to the kitchen, she immediately saw that the pan of oil had caught fire. Although the hallway smoke alarm had not yet sounded, flames extended to the cabinets above the stove. She quickly called 911, grabbed the



extinguisher that she keeps in her garage and put the fire out before fire department crews arrived. They only had to clear the smoke from her residence.

Vasundhara was able to use the knowledge and skills that she acquired from the Bellevue

Fire Department's recent Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) courses to minimize the extent and damage of the fire. She recognized Battalion Chief Chuck Heitz on-scene as one of her instructors in the class and was excited to tell the crews that she credits the course with giving her the confidence to use the extinguisher.

When interviewed later, Vasundhara stated that before taking the CERT classes, she had an extinguisher in the home, but it was outdated – and she learned in the class that it had been recalled. She purchased a new one and kept it in the kitchen where most house fires start. Asked if she would have had the confidence to use it prior to the class, the answer was definitely “no.” She also indicated that learning about the different classes of fires and types of extinguishers appropriate for those classes helped her safely use the multi-purpose extinguisher on the oil and electric stove.

The Bellevue Fire Department's Emergency Management office offers regular CERT courses throughout the year. CERT is a federal program that

educates people about disaster preparedness and basic response skills.

For more information on the CERT courses, please check out this link: [Fire.BellevueWA.gov/emergency-management/volunteer-training-opportunities/community-emergency-response-team](https://www.fire.bellevuewa.gov/emergency-management/volunteer-training-opportunities/community-emergency-response-team) or email [oempublied@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:oempublied@BellevueWA.gov).

## Take a Saturday Tree Tour!

### Upcoming tours:

**Ardmore Park (meet at the park playground):**  
Saturday, Feb. 9 at 11:00 a.m.

**Weowna Park (meet at 168th SE and SE 9th Ave):**  
Saturday, Mar. 2 at 11:00 a.m.

Our region has a wealth of mountains and wilderness, and Bellevue also has plenty of its own natural wonders to explore! The city's new Tree Tour program helps participants to discover the wonderful nature right outside our front doors.

On Jan. 12, 19 people came out to explore Weowna Park. The morning sunlight shone through the trees and made for a beautiful stroll in the woods. August Franzen, urban forestry specialist working with Bellevue's Environmental Sustainability program, shared the natural history of Bellevue. While the tours are educational, they're also lighthearted. (Each tree species got a 'personality' based on how it grows: Cedars are laid-back and maples are the life of the party!)



You're also welcome to share your stories, too. One resident pointed out an eagle's nest that is hidden from three sides, while another shared pictures of the owls that she has seen in the park. Join one of the two scheduled walks listed above, or contact August Franzen ([AFranzen@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:AFranzen@BellevueWA.gov)) and visit [BellevueWA.gov/trees](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/trees) for more information.



# Great Neighborhoods

## Phase 1 Discovery

**EngagingBellevue.com**

The Great Neighborhoods planning effort launched last year in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue, with residents identifying opportunities and issues for both neighborhood areas. The process will continue this spring, as planners work with residents to develop strategies that address local priorities such as the tree canopy or neighborhood character.

Great Neighborhoods is a collaboration with residents to produce neighborhood area plans, included in the Comprehensive Plan, that ensure Bellevue's neighborhoods can adapt to changing needs while preserving their distinct character.

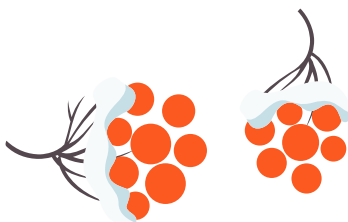
Formerly known as Neighborhood Area Planning, Great Neighborhoods started with a discovery phase September through December 2018. Community Development staff met more than 280 residents in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue at farmers markets, pop-up offices, neighborhood walks and small group meetings. Staff also spent focused time with residents during four public meetings in the neighborhoods in October.

In those 20+ community meetings we learned what residents love about their neighborhoods as well as their concerns and specific ideas. The 500 comments received identified opportunities and issues, which will be the focus of strategies developed in 2019 by residents and city staff.

To develop those strategies, the city will work with residents and stakeholders at workshops in March and through a new online engagement tool. Input will refine issues and opportunities that may serve as the foundation for strategies.

Have an idea to contribute now? The city's engagement platform – [EngagingBellevue.com](http://EngagingBellevue.com) – is live. People in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue are encouraged to visit and share their input on ways to make their neighborhoods better.

Engage with us and keep the conversation going with your neighbors!



## Neighborhood Engagement by the Numbers to Date

- ✓ 350+ participants engaged, in-person and online
- ✓ 500 comments received
- ✓ 18 topic areas/community values identified by neighborhood residents
- ✓ 28 events and meetings in the neighborhoods
- ✓ 848 visits to [EngagingBellevue.com](http://EngagingBellevue.com)



Northeast Bellevue – Sep. 18, 2018 Tabling at Crossroads Farmers Market.



Northeast Bellevue – Oct. 10, 2018 Listening Session at Sherwood Forest Elementary School.



Northwest Bellevue – Jan. 7, 2019 Tabling at the Downtown Park Ice Rink.

## Good Neighboring Tips

### Changing our listening habits

#### from within

This is the second in a series of "Good Neighboring Tips"

promoting the art of listening. We are focusing on learning to be conscious of one's listening so that others can feel heard and appreciated, misunderstandings are minimized and relationships can prosper.

Many of us have learned the outer techniques of good listening, basic "active listening." It's changing our inner listening habits that is challenging. In order to change our way of listening it helps to address our beliefs about how we relate to people and what role we serve in each other's lives. Here are some of the beliefs that might help one make an inner shift in the way we listen.

#### When we listen deeply we:

- Put ourselves aside while others are speaking and become present to the separate reality of the other person.
- Believe that others are responsible for their own lives, and that they inherently have the wisdom to make choices for themselves.
- Hear the importance of another's opinion even if we don't agree with it.
- Hear what they need in their words, and needs we may have, too.
- Let them know what we heard them say.
- Check for understanding, yours and theirs. When we really listen, we seek understanding.
- Ask questions which help them hear themselves. They are aimed at unlocking the speaker's wisdom or clarifying details,

#### Basic beliefs for deep listening:

- Every person on the planet wants to be heard.
- Often the things we do, positive and destructive, are means to get seen or heard.
- When we don't get heard, often we resort to destructive behavior, inward or outward.
- Each person is ultimately responsible for their own decisions and actions.

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RESOLUTION  
CENTER



- Anger is lack of understanding of either oneself, another, or the facts.
- There are many perspectives on any issue, most of them, are relatively true.
- We help each other most when we are detached rather than attached.
- The most helpful form of listening is when we allow and encourage another person to lead their own life, rather than overly advising, judging or demanding. This is a healthy detachment.

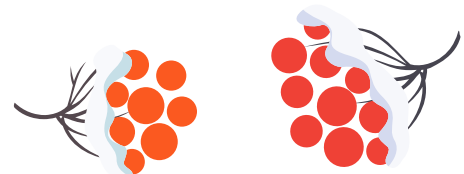
#### Benefits for the speaker:

- Emotions are calmed.
- Confusion is sorted out.
- Feeling of being understood.
- Conflicts and decisions resolved more easily.
- Personal wisdom is rediscovered.
- "Aha! Moments" are increased.
- Great ideas are expressed and potentially manifested.
- Respect for the listener is enhanced.

#### Benefits to the listener:

- Calmness in the face of strong emotion or confusion.
- Ability to help create order out of chaos.
- Conflicts resolved more easily.
- Increased understanding and appreciation of others.
- Improved intimacy and understanding in relationships.
- Greater peace through controlling of the mind.
- Spiritual deepening.

If you would like to develop your listening skills, Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center is offering a 4-week workshop series in the "Art of Listening" at Newport Way Library, Tuesdays in February, 6:30-8:30 p.m. You can register by contacting us at [BCRC@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:BCRC@BellevueWA.gov). for more details, please visit the "Community Workshop and Events" page of our website at: [BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution](http://BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution).



## Neighborhood Enhancement

### Program: Downtown/BelRed

The project idea submission period is now open for the Downtown/BelRed Neighborhood Enhancement Program; a capital improvements program that provides you and your neighbors with the opportunity to propose and select small-scale physical projects that improve the quality of life and enhance the character in your neighborhood area. The city has a budget of \$491,000 for you to spend on projects.



Don't miss the opportunity to let Bellevue know what you'd like to see done in your neighborhood. Send in your NEP project ideas. The submission deadline for ideas is March 12!

Submit your ideas in two easy ways:

- **BY MAIL:** Return the prepaid Project Idea Request Card all Downtown/BelRed residents received in the mail in late January.
- **ONLINE:** [BellevueWA.gov/nep](http://BellevueWA.gov/nep)

There is not a limit on the number of project ideas that you can submit, but all ideas must be received at City Hall or submitted online by Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

NEP rotates through Bellevue's 14 Neighborhood areas, serving two areas each year. 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](http://BellevueWA.gov/nep). For more information about NEP, please contact Theresa Cuthill at [tcuthill@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:tcuthill@BellevueWA.gov) or 425-462-4186.

## Open Houses on Neighborhood

### Congestion Reduction Studies

The Bellevue Transportation Department is hosting open houses to receive community feedback on neighborhood congestion reduction studies. The purpose of the studies is to evaluate how to improve traffic flow and safety at various intersections.



- **Open House:** SE 8th Street and Lake Hills Connector Intersection Studies, Feb. 11, 6-7:30 p.m., Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street.
- **Open House:** Lakemont Blvd SE at Forest Drive SE and at SE Newport Way Feb. 20, 6-7:30 p.m., Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, 5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE.

These studies are part of the Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program aimed at easing traffic congestion in neighborhoods. The program is funded by the 2016, voter-approved, Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy.

Levy funding also supplements existing safety, sidewalk, maintenance, traffic management and bicycle facilities programs, helping the city address a backlog of important projects. Levy funding pays for the planning, design, construction and public outreach associated with selected projects. Levy projects are typically selected for funding every two years.

To learn more about levy-funded projects, view an interactive map and subscribe to receive project updates at [BellevueWa.gov/transportationlevy](http://BellevueWa.gov/transportationlevy)





## 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 [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-managers-office/diversity/bellevue-diversity-advisory-network](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-managers-office/diversity/bellevue-diversity-advisory-network)

**East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) First Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/east-bellevue-community-council](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/east-bellevue-community-council)

**Arts Commission** (4:30 p.m., 1E-109)

First Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission)

### Environmental Services Commission

(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month [Utilities.BellevueWA.gov/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission](http://Utilities.BellevueWA.gov/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission)

**Planning Commission** (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second and fourth Wednesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission)

**Transportation Commission** (6:30 p.m., 1E-113)

Second Thursday of each month transportation. [BellevueWA.gov/planning/transportation-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/planning/transportation-commission)

**Human Services Commission** (6 p.m., 1E-113)

First and third Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/human-services/human-services-commission](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/human-services/human-services-commission)

**LEOFF 1 Disability Board** (6 p.m., Room 1E-118)

First Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/human-resources/retirees-former-employees/leoff-1-disability-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/human-resources/retirees-former-employees/leoff-1-disability-board)

**Library Board** (5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or

Newport Way Library) Third Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/library-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/library-board)

### Parks & Community Services Board

(6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/parks-community-services-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/parks-community-services-board)

### The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA)

8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/network-on-aging](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/network-on-aging)

**Special Events Committee** (8:30 a.m., 1E-112)

Second Thursday of each month [Parks.BellevueWA.gov/special-events/special-events-committee](http://Parks.BellevueWA.gov/special-events/special-events-committee)

**Youth Link Board** (6 p.m., 1E-120)

Second Wednesday of each month [BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board](http://BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-services/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board)

*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: [Planning.BellevueWA.gov/community-development/neighborhoods](http://Planning.BellevueWA.gov/community-development/neighborhoods) or call 425-452-6836 or email: [neighborhoodoutreach@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@BellevueWA.gov).*

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## 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

