

neighborhood news



November 2020

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods

Continuing to be resilient!



Our community has shown profound care for one another and resiliency while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic this year. At this point in Phase

2 of the Safe Start Washington guidelines, opportunities for outdoor

activities and smaller gatherings are allowed under recommendations from the state and King County Public Health, but there are still significant concerns about safety during the holidays and flu season. Included in this edition of Neighborhood News you will find the updated Resource Guide for community needs and businesses.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "Fall and holiday activities will likely need to be different this fall to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Avoid activities that are higher risk for spread. Consider fun alternatives that pose lower risk of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19."

The CDC has offered the following activity suggestions ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#fall-celebrations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#fall-celebrations)) for the fall and winter months.

Thanksgiving is a time when many families travel long distances to celebrate together. Travel increases the chance of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. If you travel, be informed of the risks involved.

Save the Date!

Virtual Cultural Conversations

Tuesday, Dec. 8 | 1-2:30 p.m.

Contact Carol Ross:

cross@bellevuewa.gov



Lower-risk activities

- ◆ Having a small dinner with only people who live in your household.
- ◆ Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others.
- ◆ Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family.
- ◆ Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the next Monday.
- ◆ Watching sports events, parades, and movies from home.

Moderate-risk activities

- ◆ Having a small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community. Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on hosting gatherings or cookouts.
- ◆ Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing.
- ◆ Attending small outdoor sports events with safety precautions in place.

High-risk activities

Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- ◆ Going shopping in crowded stores just before, on, or after Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Attending crowded parades.
- ◆ Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors.
- ◆ Attending large indoor gatherings with people from outside of your household.

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Serve up fire safety in the kitchen!

By Heather Wong,
Community Risk Reduction Specialist
Bellevue Fire Department

If cooking fires were an Olympic sport, Thanksgiving Day would take the gold. With more than three times the number of cooking fire occurrences than an average day, and double that of the silver (Christmas) and bronze (Christmas Eve) medalists, Thanksgiving Day leaves many people with more than just burnt turkey.

If your family is anything like ours, your kitchen is probably the heart of your home, especially during the holidays. As you start to plan the festivities, incorporate a few simple safety tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safer from fire.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fire and fire deaths on Thanksgiving Day. Stand by your pan while cooking on the stove-top, so that you may sit with your loved ones later. Always keep a tight-fitting lid nearby. Stay in your home when roasting turkey or baking anything in the oven. Keep pets and children at least three feet away from the stove or any surfaces where hot food and liquids are placed. While cooking, plan an activity for younger children that makes them feel involved, but keeps them out of the kitchen. And lastly, but most importantly, test your smoke alarms to make sure they are working.

If your feast catches fire in the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. If you experience a small cooking fire on the stove-top, and feel it is safe to attempt to put it out, slide a lid on top of your pot or pan, turn off the burner, and keep the lid securely in place until the pan is completely cool. Do not move the pot to the sink and never try and extinguish the fire with water, baking soda or flour.

If in doubt, get everyone out and call 9-1-1.



Bellevue Utilities fall and winter reminders

By Jessica Guthrie,
Utilities Public Information Officer

Don't let clogged storm drains flood your street!

As fall and winter bring long stretches of wet, windy weather, fallen leaves and debris can create big



problems for our storm drains. Utility crews monitor storm drains regularly, but with 20,000 drains around the city, we can use your help! One important way you can help prevent flooding on your street is by keeping your storm drain surfaces clear.

Please only clear drains if it is safe and you can work from a sidewalk, out of the street. If you see a drain flooded below the street surface - or if you experience any flooding issues - contact us 24/7 at 425-452-7840. Our crews are ready to help! For more tips to prevent flooding on your property, visit bit.ly/PreventFlooding.

Who to call, where to turn when bad weather arrives

Fall and winter storm season can mean power outages and the potential for flooding and snow. The following list of emergency contact information resources can help you be prepared to protect your home and your loved ones in critical weather events. The city is also prepared for snow and ice with seven 4x4 trucks and eight dump trucks that can be configured with plows and sanders to clear roadways.

Who to call:

- ◆ For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.
- ◆ To report flooding, blocked or hazardous streets and sidewalks, fallen trees, damaged traffic signs or signals, and similar problems, call the city's 24-hour response line at 425-452-7840.
- ◆ For power outages, call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773.

How to get emergency information:

- ◆ Sign up for alerts to receive email or text notification during emergencies or extreme weather situations. The city of Bellevue alert sign-up link is located at BellevueWA.gov/emergency-management. You can also subscribe to Alert King County at norcom.org.

- ◆ Follow the city's social media sites: Check your Nextdoor feed or the city's Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest developments.
- ◆ Website information: During significant weather events, get information about local impacts, including the city's response, on our homepage at BellevueWA.gov or under the Emergencies and Extreme Weather page at BellevueWA.gov/emergencies. The page also includes Winter Weather Tips with information on preparedness, reporting trouble, driving in difficult conditions, power outages, garbage collection schedules and warming centers. Flood protection information also is available at BellevueWA.gov/befloodready.

Smart phone information: On the MyBellevue app, click on the Emergencies and Extreme Weather widget.

Three ways to help keep streets and sidewalks safe

By David Grant,
Transportation Public Information Officer

During the darker, stormier days of fall and winter, residents – especially property owners – have an important



role in keeping Bellevue's streets and sidewalks safe for people who walk, bicycle and drive. Here are three ways you can help:

- ◆ **Use the MyBellevue app to report burned out streetlights:** Functioning streetlights make the community safer for everyone. If you see one that's not working, please report it using the MyBellevue app. Just download the app in your preferred app store, log in to MyBellevue, click on "New Request," then "Street Lights and Traffic Signals." Select "Street Light Issues" and fill in the required fields. You can also report dark streetlights by calling 425-452-6950.
- ◆ **Trim back vegetation from streets and sidewalks:** Street sweeping is an important tool in keeping roadways safe for people. Property owners are asked to help the street sweeping effort by trimming back tree branches and shrubs that hang over their street (trim even with the curb to 14.5 feet in height) or sidewalk (trim even

with the edge of the sidewalk to 7 feet in height), and moving vehicles off the street in advance of sweeping in your neighborhood.

- ◆ **Clear your sidewalk of snow and ice:** When it snows, city staff work to clear streets based on a snow response priorities map. For sidewalks, however, the city needs your help and asks that adjacent property owners clear sidewalks of snow and ice. Residents who walk, use wheelchairs or need to access transit will appreciate this assistance. Have a snow shovel available and apply deicer, sand or non-clumping kitty litter to clear snow or ice.

Thanks for helping to keep Bellevue neighborhoods safe. More information for each of these topics is available at BellevueWA.gov/transportation and search for "streetlights," "streets and sidewalks" or "snow and ice."



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GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

Great Neighborhoods updates

By Brooke Brod

Fall brings many changes – back to (virtual) school, changing leaves and pumpkin spice. Fall also means that the Great Neighborhoods program has kicked into high gear. In Northeast Bellevue and Northwest Bellevue, we are rolling up our sleeves and working our way through our neighborhood planning template.

We have focused on building out the Vision Statement, which is the neighborhood plan's North Star. It is a positive and inspiring description of what the community hopes to look like in the future. We have provided many ways for residents to provide input on the Vision Statement:

- ◆ Over 30 people attended our online Vision Workshops.
- ◆ Over 200 people have taken our online survey to share the neighborhood values that matter to them.
- ◆ Over 1000 people have checked out our project pages.

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Imagining the Future

A neighborhood plan is fundamentally a roadmap to the future and understanding what an ideal future might look like is an important part of the planning process. In our Vision Workshop participants were asked to consider what the future might hold if we are successful in implementing community identified values. They made predictions based on the following questions:

- ◆ What will be the same in the future?
- ◆ What will be different in the future?
- ◆ What will spark joy?
- ◆ What innovations will change the way we live, work, and play in the future?

What's Next

The next step in Great Neighborhoods is the creation of a Neighborhood Profile. This section combines narrative and data to describe present conditions and future trends. To help create this section we'll be doing a Data Walk. A Data Walk is an interactive way for community members to learn about their neighborhood and begin to identify strengths and challenges they want to see addressed in the plan.

During a Data Walk, participants have time to look at their neighborhood through the lens of data – what do the numbers say about housing, transportation, parks, safety and the people living there – and then engage in conversation to help understand the stories behind the data.

Residents in Northeast and Northwest Bellevue are invited to attend one of our upcoming Data Walks:

- ◆ **Northwest Bellevue Data Walk – Tuesday, November 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** RSVP at tinyurl.com/NW-Bellevue-DataWalk
- ◆ **Northeast Bellevue Data Walk – Thursday, November 19 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** RSVP at tinyurl.com/NE-Bellevue-DataWalk.

We are still in the early stages of this planning process and we are looking forward to continuing to work with you to create **great** neighborhood plans. You can learn more by visiting our project pages at engagingbellevue.com/northwest-bellevue or engagingbellevue.com/northeast-bellevue.



2020 Bellevue Essentials Graduation

Lisa Rosenblum,
Executive Director of
the King County Library
System to provide keynote address



On Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m., the City of Bellevue will graduate its eighth cohort of 40 emerging leaders from its civic engagement program, Bellevue Essentials. Due to COVID-19, this year's class experienced learning through interactive Zoom presentations and activities. The graduation ceremony will take place via Zoom as well.

When COVID-19 restrictions relax, the class will get to know each other in person as part of the Bellevue Essentials Extended alumni. This year's applicant pool had a record 73 applicants. The accepted cohort is a very diverse group, ranging in age from 20 to 70+ years, and 39% of the class was born outside the United States, a number that matches Bellevue's demographic numbers.



Join the graduates, their families and friends for an inspiring evening with keynote address by Lisa Rosenblum, Executive Director of the King County Library System (KCLS). The KCLS story during COVID-19 is one of resilience and adaptability. To continue to serve King County residents while its physical

buildings are closed, KCLS has expanded their digital collections and resources, developed enriching online programming and added curbside service for contactless materials pickup.

Despite the pandemic, KCLS has remained focused on addressing the needs of its diverse communities by offering a wide range of programming and resources in multiple languages; supporting social justice initiatives; partnering with nonprofit organizations and other public agencies to expand access to resources for underrepresented communities; and continuing to advocate on a local and national level for digital equity.

Lisa doesn't view the public library as just a place to pick up books. "Libraries can be vital community hubs



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Resources - Coronavirus

Caring and Resilient

English BellevueWA.gov/covid-19

中文 BellevueWA.gov/chinese/covid-19

Español BellevueWA.gov/spanish-espanol/covid-19

Русский BellevueWA.gov/russian/covid-19

한국어 BellevueWA.gov/korean/covid-19



Emergency Financial Assistance



Catholic Community Services

Wed. 2-4 p.m. and Fri. 10 a.m.-Noon

425-213-1963 or 206-323-6336

Hopelink

425-943-7555

India Association of Western Washington (IAWW)

253-234-9989

LifeWire (Domestic violence support available)

425-746-1940

Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC)

1-888-404-6272

Salvation Army

425-452-7300

Solid Ground (Available through 2-1-1)

2-1-1

Bellevue LifeSpring

help@bellevuelifespring.org

Legal Assistance



Catholic Community Services (Tenant Legal Assistance Center)

206-324-6890

Eastside Legal Assistance (Immigration and tenant assistance)

425-747-7274

India Association of Western Washington (IAWW)

253-234-9989

King County Bar Association

206-267-7090

Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS)

425-861-9555


Tenant Services Hotline

206-723-0500 or 206-694-6767

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King County Novel Coronavirus Call Center 	
If you have a cough or fever, call your regular doctor before going to the emergency room. If you believe you were exposed to COVID-19—or if you're a healthcare provider with COVID-19 questions—contact our call center between 8 a.m.-7 p.m. PST	206-477-3977
For general questions about COVID-19 in Washington State, please call the Washington State Novel Coronavirus Call Center.	800-525-0127

BellevueWA.gov – City of Bellevue website for up-to-date Coronavirus information and resources. The website also has accurate information in different languages.

Mental Health Support for Adults, Youth and Families

Organization	Contact Service
Asian Counseling & Referral Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 206-695-7600■ acrs.org/services/behavioral-health-and-wellness/
Crisis Line (24-hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 866-427-4747-youth■ 206-461-3222-adults
Consejo Counseling and Referral Service	206-461-4880
Friends of Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 425-869-6490■ friendsofyouth.org/ <p>For young people needing access to services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Daytime services hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.■ Shelter program hours: 8:30 p.m.-8 a.m.■ 425-449-3868

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Organization	Contact Service
India Association of Western Washington (IAWW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ypdirectors@iaww.org ▪ executivedirector@iaww.org ▪ 253-234-9989 ▪ iaww.org ▪ Age served: all ages
LifeWire – Together Against Domestic Violence (24-hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 425-746-1940 ▪ lifewire.org/get-help/
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Eastside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 425-885-6264 ▪ nami-eastside.org/
National Suicide Prevention Hotline	800-273-8255 (or Text: 741-741)
NUhope Community Counseling Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 425-889-5261 ▪ northwestu.edu/nuhope/
Samaritan Center Puget Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 206-527-2266 ▪ samaritanps.org/
Sound (fka Sound Mental Health) – Bellevue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 206-302-2300 ▪ hsound.health/
Teen Link	1-866-833-6546
Washington Recovery Help Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1-866-789-1511 ▪ Connecting people with emotional support and treatment resources related to substance use disorder, mental health, and/or problem gambling.
Westminster Chapel – Counseling Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 425-747-1461 ext. 115 ▪ westminster.org/counseling/
Youth Eastside Services (YES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 425-747-4937 ▪ youtheastsideservices.org/ ▪ Onsite and telehealth available



如需其他格式、翻译人员或合理的住宿申请，请至少提前 48 小时拨打电话 425-452-2735（语音电话）或发送电子邮件至 mheilman@bellevuewa.gov。如要投诉住宿问题，请联系贝尔维尤市 ADA/Title VI Administrator，电话：425-452-6168（语音电话）或电子邮件：email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov。如果您是聋哑人士，请拨打 711。所有办公场所都提供无障碍通道。



Để nhận định dạng thay thế, yêu cầu phiên dịch viên hoặc nếu có yêu cầu điều chỉnh hợp lý, vui lòng gọi điện trước ít nhất 48 giờ theo số 425-452-2735 (cuộc gọi thoại) hoặc gửi email tới mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. Đối với các khiếu nại liên quan đến việc điều chỉnh, hãy liên hệ với Quản Trị Viên ADA/Tiêu Đề VI của Thành Phố Bellevue theo số 425-452-6168 (cuộc gọi thoại) hoặc gửi email tới ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. Nếu quý vị bị khiếm thính hoặc khó nghe, hãy quay số 711. Tất cả các cuộc họp đều hỗ trợ người dùng xe lăn.



Para obtener formatos alternativos, intérpretes o solicitudes de adaptaciones razonables, comuníquese con al menos 48 horas de antelación al 425-452-2735 (teléfono) o envíe un correo electrónico a mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. Para presentar una denuncia sobre las adaptaciones, comuníquese con el administrador de la ADA o del Título VI de la ciudad de Bellevue al 425-452-6168 (teléfono) o envíe un correo electrónico a ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. Si usted es sordo o presenta dificultades auditivas, marque 711. Todas las reuniones disponen de acceso para sillas de ruedas.



По вопросам альтернативных форматов, услуг устных переводчиков или рационального размещения, пожалуйста, звоните по телефону 425-452-2735 (голосовая связь) или пишите по эл. адресу mheilman@bellevuewa.gov как минимум за 48 часов. Для подачи жалоб в отношении размещения свяжитесь с администратором программ по Закону о правах американцев с инвалидностью (ADA) / Разделу VI Закона о гражданских правах города Бельвю по телефону 425-452-6168 (голосовая связь) или по эл. адресу ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. Если Вы глухой или слабослышащий человек, наберите номер 711. Все встречи доступны людям на инвалидных колясках.



대체 형식, 통역사 또는 합리적인 편의 수단 요청에 대해서는 적어도 48시간 전에 미리 425-452-2735(음성)로 전화하거나 mheilman@bellevuewa.gov로 이메일을 보내주십시오. 편의 수단에 대한 불만이 있는 경우, City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI 관리자에게 425-452-6168(음성) 또는 ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov으로 연락해 주십시오. 청각 장애인이거나 난청인 경우 711로 전화하십시오. 모든 미팅은 휠체어를 타고 참석하실 수 있습니다.



لحصول على نُسخ بديلة، أو مترجمين فوريين، أو طلبات إقامة معقولة يُرجى الاتصال قبل 48 ساعة 425-452-2735 (صوت) أو أرسل بريدًا إلكترونيًا إلى mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. للشكاوى المتعلقة بأماكن الإقامة، اتصل بمسؤول City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI على 425-452-6168 (صوت) أو أرسل بريدًا إلكترونيًا إلى ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. إذا كنت أصم أو تعاني من صعوبة في السمع فاطلب الرقم 711. يمكن الوصول إلى كافة الاجتماعات بالكراسي المتحركة.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

when they keep up with the pace of what's happening around them," Rosenblum says. "We're always going to be about literacy and books, but we're also uniquely positioned to help people and respond to community needs. Plus, we have the added benefit that our public relies upon: we don't judge anyone, no matter where they come from, who they are or what they do; we just provide the services they need."

Lisa will speak about the ever-evolving role of libraries, her career path through city government directing libraries in highly diverse communities and her personal experience with civic engagement and providing equitable services. She will be joined by a speaker representing the 2020 graduating class and a Bellevue Essentials alumni speaker.

The event is open to the public, and provides an opportunity to learn more about Bellevue Essentials, the city's nine-week civic engagement program.

To RSVP for the graduation and to receive the Zoom link, or for information on future participation in the Bellevue Essentials program, please contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.



City of Bellevue
Arts & Culture

Your input matters!

BelRed Arts District Survey

Link to survey: surveymonkey.com/r/HH7YRK3

The BelRed Arts District was first designated as an "arts village" as part of the 2009 BelRed Land Use Code Update that transformed the vision for BelRed from a light industrial and commercial area into a mixed-use dense urban district.

The "arts district" term began to be used because it more closely aligns with the current makeup of BelRed – a wide array of arts organizations, businesses, artists, musicians and makers working across the district.

The City of Bellevue is invested in bringing the BelRed Arts District vision to life and requests community feedback to begin the development of a 3-5 year Arts District Action Plan. The survey has fifteen questions and should take 7-10 minutes to complete. Responses will remain confidential. Thank you!

Crossroads Connect ride service expands area, hours of operation

By David Grant,
Transportation Public Information Officer

In October, Bellevue and King County Metro launched a new, app-based ride service called Crossroads Connect. It serves people in the greater Crossroads and Lake Hills neighborhoods, linking homes, jobs, schools and shopping to Metro bus routes that serve the broader Eastside.



Starting Nov. 2, the service area and hours of operation will expand in response to community feedback. The new hours of

operation will be noon to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday (previously, the hours were 3-9 p.m.)

The expanded service zone also will allow customers to take a trip to or from any of the six RapidRide bus station pairs within the Crossroads area. Previously, trips had to start or end only at the RapidRide station at Crossroads Shopping Center.

A map of the expanded service area is available on the project web page BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect. The web page includes information in seven languages.

Other user-friendly features of the Crossroads Connect service remain the same:

- ◆ **Booking a ride:** To request ride, use the Crossroads Connect On-demand app (available in your preferred app store) or call 1-855-233-6043. Passengers will be picked up in a Crossroads Connect-branded, wheelchair-accessible passenger van. If wait times are long, passengers may be offered a cab ride instead at no additional charge.
- ◆ **Connecting to buses:** Pick-up/drop-off areas at Metro's RapidRide B Line stations offer connections to Redmond and downtown Bellevue. Other nearby Metro routes include the 221, 226 and 245, serving Eastgate, downtown and Factoria in Bellevue, plus Redmond and Kirkland.
- ◆ **Cost and how to pay:** Standard King County Metro rates apply; the cost is the same as a bus ride and includes a free transfer to connecting bus lines.

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Fares may be paid using an ORCA card, cash (exact fare required), Transit GO ticket or a valid transfer.

- ◆ **Health and safety:** Masks are required. At this time, for safety and physical distancing, service is limited to one rider per vehicle; additional riders are allowed if they are members of the same party as the rider booking the trip. King County Metro vehicles are disinfected daily; partitions separate riders from drivers.

Covid Resources

COVID-19 Community and Business/ Nonprofit Resources



English BellevueWA.gov/covid-19

中文 BellevueWA.gov/chinese/covid-19

Español BellevueWA.gov/spanish-espanol/covid-19

Русский BellevueWA.gov/russian/covid-19

한국어 BellevueWA.gov/korean/covid-19

Mini City Hall offers COVID-19 Resource Navigator Program

Bellevue Mini City Hall offers a COVID-19 Resource Navigator program. The program has “navigators” to help residents locate and understand available resources during the pandemic. The resource navigators are highly experienced in navigating different systems and knowledgeable about various organizations that provide help during these difficult times.

The COVID-19 Resource Navigator will provide personalized assistance and customized recommendations to help residents make sense of all the programs and community resources.

Here are some of the referral topics and information the COVID-19 Resource Navigator program can help find the best resources for:

- ◆ Food assistance programs
- ◆ Small business loans
- ◆ Unemployment claims
- ◆ Housing or rent assistance programs
- ◆ Healthcare resources and COVID testing sites
- ◆ Immigration issues and legal referrals

What residents can expect when calling the COVID-19 Resource Navigator Program:

- ◆ A live person who will listen
- ◆ Someone who is patient and empathizes with concerns
- ◆ Someone who will research questions and customize solutions to best fit each situation
- ◆ Someone who can connect residents to the best resources to help solve problems

The COVID-19 Resource Navigator Program is a free public service through Mini City Hall. Phone consultations are available by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A typical appointment is 30 minutes and follow-up appointments may be longer depending on needs.

Appointments are available in English, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Somali and many other languages. Call 425-452-2800 or email minich@bellevuewa.gov to get started!

Bellevue Utilities COVID-19 updates

Help to pay utility bills

We know that the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has caused financial stress for many households. Bellevue Utilities continues to offer several bill support options that can help.

Emergency Assistance Program: This program is designed to help residents facing a one-time financial shock, such as a job or income loss. It can cover up to four months of basic water, sewer and drainage service charges. To be eligible, customers must meet the program’s low-income guidelines for the past 30 days and not receive other Utilities financial assistance.

Learn more about the Emergency Assistance Program and receive application information at BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief. You may also contact us directly at 425-452-5285 or utilityrelief@bellevuewa.gov.

Payment Plans: Utilities staff continue to work with customers to set up payment plans that work with their needs. During the COVID crisis, we are not assessing late fees for past-due payments, or taking water shut-off actions for non payment. If you need to request a payment plan option, please call 425-452-6973 or email utilities@bellevuewa.gov.

Information on other rate relief programs for low-income seniors and persons with permanent disabilities can be found at BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief, or call 425-452-5285.

COVID-19 Business updates from Economic Development

We've partnered with (re)STARTUP425 (re.startup425.org) to provide free technical assistance to small businesses and nonprofit organizations located in Bellevue. Also, reach out to us (surveymonkey.com/r/bellevuecovid19), if you have questions about resources, or if we can offer more help.

To help local businesses and nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and social distancing orders, the City of Bellevue has taken a number of actions, including:

- ◆ Deferred first- and second-quarter local B&O tax payments for certain small businesses until October.
- ◆ Halted water service disconnections and waived late fees for non-payment. Business customers may be eligible for payment plans.
- ◆ Created temporary curbside food pick-up zones in certain areas of downtown Bellevue with street parking and nearby restaurants and cafes.
- ◆ Adapted our Eastside Arts Partnership and Special Projects arts programs to, in some situations, allow for early invoicing and payment.
- ◆ Increased funding for local nonprofits providing key services to the areas most vulnerable residents.

We continue to monitor the situation, and are developing additional resources and tools.

Most importantly, please do not forget to document the impacts of COVID-19 on your business or nonprofit as the situation is unfolding. It will assist with relief efforts by local, state and federal agencies.

COVID Wisdom-With a little help from my friends!

By Marci McReynolds

Manager, Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center

Nine months into the COVID-19 crisis, our coping strategies may need some invigoration and renovation.

Since we are all figuring this out as we go along, why not access the wisdom of one's Facebook friends?

So I posted this: "OK, I'm writing a short article on ways to be resilient, to deal with boredom, rage, fear, loneliness, etc. during COVID/election season/winter coming. What tactics have you successfully employed to keep on keeping on, and maybe even thrive? What holes did you fall into and get out of?"



Friends from Bellevue, and all over the country and world responded. The answers can be divided into two themes. **Doing:** What to do with oneself during a pandemic? And **State of Being:** How to manage one's thinking to stay sane and calm?

Doing

The posts suggest having a tactile, creative, measurable accomplishment every day, a task that involves some sort of creative or analytical thought, working with objects and images, which accumulates incrementally toward completion, measuring days. Below are some sample posts.

"LEGOs," was all that one friend wrote at first.

"Legos?"

"Yes, Legos. A sensory delight. Soothing to sift and sort pieces, satisfying to click into place, engrossing to watch the thing develop—either following a kit's directions (the designs



are awesomely clever, with lots of internal jokes) or making stuff up myself. I adore architectural sets—which do a lot with very simple bricks. The VW camper is pretty much the model my husband and I drove all over Europe in 1966. The inside has the bed, the sink, the shelving, the curtains..."

Another friend: "I have created a list of projects outdoor and indoor. I have tackled these projects one by one so that I can see things through and feel accomplishment. With weather changing, I will tackle some indoor projects. Redesigning my guest room. Cleaning out closets and getting rid of clothes I don't wear anymore. I want to do more paintings and take some online classes. We have been getting out into the wilderness, getting a vacation without being around people. Facetime calls and Zoom cocktail hour. Outdoor socially distanced meetups."

Many friends are doing puzzles, some trading with others or borrowing from libraries. "Lisa and I found some jigsaw puzzle mini trading libraries nearby. Keeps us happily entertained for hours. Sweet!"

Doing for others was another through-line in the responses: "My own sanity was being able to volunteer for an essential service (food bank). I found it helped me keep in touch with the larger world and possibly keep me from falling into the spiraling I've seen friends go through..."

Continued on next page

State of Being

There was also a theme about how we think about all this, how we maintain a positive mindset while feeling what we naturally feel in such an unprecedented (in our lifetime) situation.

"Remembering how many good things I have in my life has helped so much. Life is good despite also being difficult."

"It's been a back and forth kinda year for me. I've struggled with missing out on things I was accustomed to or planning for, and I've found ways to be thankful for the wonderful things I already have."

When grief and worry arise? "After a period when I wallow in grief and anger, I just start doing."

And another important quality of resiliency: "A sturdy sense of humor."

"Finding loving humor everywhere and reasons to smile and laugh."

"Bingeing on hundred-year old Buster Keaton films—makes for some good escapism."

Washing the dishes. Buster Keaton films. Legos. Zoom. Outdoors. Clean closets. Art making. Supporting those in need. Reaching out. Gratitude. Mindfulness. Being and doing here and now. Making inroads to fresh futures. So many ways to get through this.

Bellevue friends, we've got this!

From the Washington state Department of Health

The Washington state Department of Health (DOH) has advised the importance of getting a flu vaccine this year. From the DOH website: doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Flu

- ◆ It's more important than ever to get a flu vaccine this year.
- ◆ We can all do our part to prevent illness and hospitalizations caused by flu.
- ◆ The flu vaccine is your best protection against flu.
- ◆ For seniors, Medicare Part B covers vaccines that protect against flu and pneumococcal disease.



Here are some resources from King County Public Health for healthcare providers and pharmacies that offer vaccines: kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/immunization/clinics.aspx

Use the HealthMap Vaccine Finder (vaccinefinder.org) to search for a clinic or pharmacy near you.

For Uninsured Adults:

The Department of Health is collaborating with Safeway, Inc. and Albertsons Companies LLC to offer free influenza (flu) vaccination for uninsured adults over 18 years of age this flu season. This no-cost opportunity is offered to help prevent flu illness during the pandemic. Flu vaccine only protects against the flu virus and does not prevent, nor cause, any other respiratory infection including COVID-19 disease.

Twenty-three Albertsons and Safeway pharmacies across the state will offer flu vaccine free of charge now through June 2021, or while supplies last, to any adult who does not have health insurance. No proof of residency or immigration status will be required. All flu vaccine recipients will be pre-screened for COVID-19 symptoms and be expected to fill out standard consent forms.

The following are the three locations closest to Bellevue:

- ◆ Safeway Pharmacy (Store #1563)
200 S 3rd Street
Renton, WA 98057
425-226-0325
- ◆ Safeway Pharmacy (Store #1508)
3820 Rainier Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98118
206-725-9887
- ◆ Safeway Pharmacy (Store #3213)
15332 Aurora Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133
206-539-5500



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

Boards and Commissions Meetings

As of April 1, no meetings are taking place at City Hall. Stay updated on meetings and cancellations: BellevueWA.gov

All meetings are conducted at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. If a holiday occurs on a Monday, please check the updated calendar. Agendas can be downloaded from the city's web pages listed below. Meeting alerts are available through subscribing to the City's Special Meeting Notices page. BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/special-meeting-notice

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

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

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

Environmental Services Commission

(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/utilities/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

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

Human Services Commission

(6 p.m., 1E-113) First and third Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/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

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

Parks & Community Services Board

(6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-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/bnoa

Special Events Committee

(8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Second Thursday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/special-events-committee

Youth Link Board

(6 p.m., 1E-120) Second Wednesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/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: BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov. To subscribe to this newsletter, visit: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

City Council BellevueWA.gov/Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

Day	Scheduled Meeting(s)	Location	Public Comment Opportunity
First four Mondays of each Month, except August and December	6 p.m. Regular Meeting	Virtual Bellevue TV channel 21 and BTV YouTube channel youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington	Emails to Council are accepted at council@bellevuewa.gov at any time. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at bellevue.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx
August – first Monday only			
December – first and second Mondays only			

GIVE
THANKS

