

neighborhood news



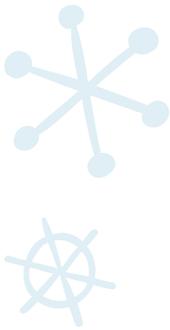
December 2015

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods



The Power of Neighborly Relationships

Having a strong community around you can be comforting if your family should suffer from a fire, burglary, or even just the stress of a new baby or family illness. Nowadays, we often know more about the lives of someone across the globe than the person across the street. We seem to have forgotten the simple art of communicating with those who live just steps from our door.



There is common wisdom in a Chinese proverb “It never rains on your neighbors without you getting your feet wet.” This rings especially true

for our family and community in a disaster, and a disaster doesn't have to be quite so grand either. When the weather turns bad, that neighborly interaction becomes more important than ever. And for some residents, extreme cold weather changes everything. They may have no heat when the power goes off; they may have no water if their pipes break; they may be unable to pick up needed medications. Your neighbors may not have access to information about cold weather shelters, or they may have difficulty finding help due to illness, disability or language

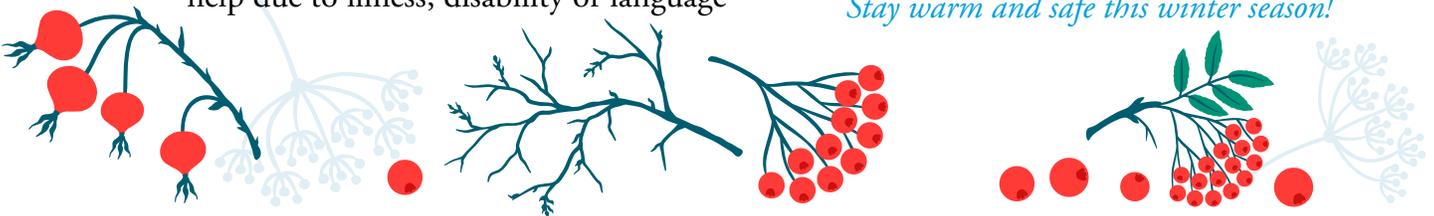


barriers. At times like this, neighborhood connections are vital.

The key to a strong neighborhood is knowing your neighbors before an emergency arises – not just saying a quick hello when passing by in the neighborhood, but spending the time to connect with one another, knowing who would need help, or who would help you when needed. From creating a neighborhood directory, joining the social network Nextdoor to building a project together or celebrating the holidays at a neighborhood party. The City of Bellevue Neighborhood Outreach Team has the tools and resources (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-outreach.htm>) to help you and your neighbors get to know each other. We believe the resiliency of a neighborhood relies upon a solid foundation where personal relationships are strong among neighbors.

Some Bellevue neighborhoods have plans for helping one another during bad weather. If you have a tip or idea for helping those around you – particularly in extreme weather conditions – share it with others. Please take time to review the “What to do to make it through” website (<http://makeitthrough.org/>) about what you can do to protect your family and neighbors in an emergency or sign up to receive emergency or extreme weather alerts from the City (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/emergencies-extreme-weather.htm>).

Stay warm and safe this winter season!





Garden d'Lights

Now through January 2

4:30-9pm every evening including holidays

Come to the Bellevue Botanical Garden to enjoy one of the Pacific Northwest's most popular holiday events - Garden d'Lights. This year the garden features over half million lights which transform the space into a blossoming winter wonderland. The route has changed, grown, and become more magical than ever.

The display is outdoors on a well-lit pathway. You can plan on walking 3/4 mile including the walk from your car. Inspired by plants found in Northwest gardens, hundreds of volunteers work year round to bundle strings of lights into three dimensional flowers, shrubs, and vines. In addition to artistic interpretation of plants, hidden through the garden are favorite animals like Charlotte in her web and Willie the Slug, making it an adventure for our younger visitors.

The garden will be open, even if it rains. Tickets are available for purchase at the display entrance on a first-come first-served basis for \$5 per person; children 10 and under are free. For more information, visit <http://www.gardendlights.org/index.htm>

Winter, a Time for Storytelling

Cultural Conversations

Traditions and stories worth preserving and choosing space for something new



Tuesday, December 8, 1-3pm

Crossroads Community Center

Cultural Conversations is a women's group that was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City of Bellevue. It provides an opportunity for women to enhance knowledge and understanding of different cultural practices and world views. At the next gathering, the group will explore the season of winter storytelling as both a time of reflection and celebration of the beginning of a new year, where there is sharing of cultural traditions, wisdom of elders, the history of a family and the community called "home".

Elaine Acacio, the City of Bellevue's Diversity Inclusion Program Manager, will share her story of family rooted in Filipino culture and her experience in the Dominican Republic studying, living abroad and embracing new family. How does one honor traditions and rituals in a multi-cultural family and make room for the new? How might we all participate in preserving our stories, by telling them or capturing them? What happens when we tell the stories? What happens when we don't?

The event is free, refreshments are served and women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend. To fully participate in the sharing, attendees are encouraged to make arrangements for childcare. For more information on this event or future Cultural Conversations programs, please contact Carol Ross at 425-452-7917 or cross@bellevuewa.gov; or Barb Tuininga 425-452-2800 or btuininga@bellevuewa.gov.



Take the I-405 Pledge, Log Trips and Earn rewards

On The Move Bellevue is an ongoing city program that encourages ways of getting around other than solo driving. By joining at www.OnTheMoveBellevue.org you can:

- Log your trips by bus, carpool, vanpool, walking, biking, teleworking, and trips reduced due to a compressed work week;
- Get assistance with planning your trip or finding a carpool/vanpool partner; and
- Earn “Perks” discounts to Bellevue restaurants and shops and the chance to win \$25-\$100 rewards!

And take note:

At www.OnTheMoveBellevue.org, we can

also help you to understand the recent changes in eligibility for free use of the high-occupancy lanes on I-405, and assist you with finding a third carpool partner or joining a vanpool so you can use the lanes for free in the peak hours.

For more information, please contact info@OnTheMoveBellevue.org or call 425-990-3097. Visit www.ChooseYourWayBellevue.org for additional travel option tools and resources.

Rewards are available while supplies last. To be eligible for rewards, participants must be 18 years of age or older, and must live or work in the City of Bellevue. Funding for this program is provided by federal and state grants. These grants are not available to pay for transit services. Emergency Rides Home expire June 15, 2016.

New this fall: The city, in collaboration with King County Metro’s I-405 Communities In Motion program, aims to improve congestion in areas surrounding the I-405 corridor.

PLEDGE and EARN \$25: Commit to changing eight round trips from driving alone to another mode each month for three months – vanpool, walk, bike, take transit. Or eliminate a trip, stay home, or telework!

Here’s how:

Sign up at www.OnTheMoveBellevue.org by January 31, 2016 in order to:

- Take a short survey and pledge
- Log trips on On The Move Bellevue
- Take a follow-up survey

Pledge-takers will be invited to join the I-405 Diamond Club and qualify for the Emergency Ride Home benefit: up to eight taxi rides home in case of emergencies.



December 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.)

12/1 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Lake Hills Shopping Center update and Executive Session
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

12/1 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Presentation by Artist for Midlakes East Link station and public hearing and Commission action on art proposals for Meydenbauer Bay Park.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

12/1 Human Services Commission (6:00, Mercer Slough Environmental Center) Holiday meeting and dinner with Parks & Community Services Board
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

12/3 Environmental Services Commission (6:00, Robinswood Hospitality Suite, 2430 148th Ave. SE) Celebration of ESC accomplishments of 2015 and discussion of the Commission's work
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/envIRON_serv_comm.htm

12/3 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30a.m., 1E-121) New member introductions
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

12/7 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Wilburton Plan, Amenity Incentives Principles (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, Public Hearing on Utilities Easement Relinquishment, Budget Adoption
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

12/9 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Eastgate Land Use Code, Downtown Livability/Land Use Code – Public Hearing on “Early Wins”
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

12/10 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Intersection Treatments; Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

12/14 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Affordable Housing, ST3 Briefing (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Swearing In Ceremony for Council Positions 1, 3, 5, and 7, Selection of Temporary Chair to Preside over Mayor's Election on January 4, Establish Election Method for January 4, Consent Calendar, Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) Fund
http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office 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, call 425-452-6836.

