



Cultural Conversations – “Girl Rising”

Tuesday, January 13, 1-3pm
Bellevue City Hall 1E-108

In this month’s Cultural Conversations, the women’s group will screen “Girl Rising”, a global documentary highlighting the life changing impact of education on the lives of three young girls living in Haiti, Peru and Afghanistan. Living in poverty, isolation and often conflict torn parts of the world, the girls recognize that to be educated both empowers their lives, improves the condition of their families and potentially can change their nation. The gathering will be at City Hall on Jan. 13th, 1-3pm.

On hand to introduce the topic and facilitate our conversations are Annie Liu from Charles Schwab (film sponsor), Financial and Wealth Management services, Rita Egrari from the Mona Foundation, an international charity working to eradicate global poverty through education, and representatives from Eastside Pathways, a local non-profit whose mission is to help children succeed from cradle to career, and representatives from the Bellevue School District. You’ll want join the rich conversations following the screening. There will also be resources provided for individuals interested in making a local or global impact for education.

CULTURAL
CONVERSATIONS

Cultural Conversations was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City of Bellevue. It was initiated by women with a desire to get better connected with their community and enhance their understanding of different cultural practices. Gatherings include women from around the world. The events are 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 at 425-452-2800 or btuininga@bellevuewa.gov

Save The Date: Cultural Conversations Presents: An Evening Of Connections Across Cultures

Wednesday, February 4, 7-9pm
Bellevue City Hall

This evening forum is open to ALL*. Join with your friends, spouses, partners and neighbors to share in an evening of heartfelt expression from immigrants to Bellevue, followed by open discussion tables that explore how diversity and culture impact us in our neighborhoods and our lives today.

Debbie Lacey, professional coach and consultant is passionate about bridging cultures and improving communications. Debbie will introduce the stories of four remarkable Bellevue residents:

Immigration: The Promise and the Loss

In a story about the universal longing for a place to call home, Adriana Prengler will share what happened when her family made the heart wrenching decision in 2010 to leave their beloved Venezuela in search of safety and a better future: what she lost, what she gained, and the powerful moment when she reconnected with her early life experience through the eyes of a childhood friend.

Journey to Education: Path to a new home

Securing a good education is an important goal in many cultures. Universally, families sacrifice for better opportunities for their children hoping to realize the dreams of both past and future generations. Education changes lives but do we understand the significant sacrifice and brave choices people are forced to make for education? Faisal Jaswal will share his journey from Pakistan to Bellevue as a young man, the challenges he faced and the unconditional support he received from community that continues to shape his values to this day.

A Bond Across Cultures

On the surface, Jane York an active senior born and raised in the U.S. and Nura Adam

business owner and mother of 3, sent from Somalia to safety in the U.S. as a teen, appear to have little in common. Nura and Jane are from different countries, different cultures and different faiths.

The Cultural Conversations community gatherings brought them together, but it was personal risk, generosity, and openness that created a surprising bond between the two. Hear how their friendship touched the lives of their families, their friends, and the entire community.

Through their personal journeys, these Bellevue residents, will help us explore how our diversity can help build connections and resilience in our community.

*Recommended for individuals of all ages, abilities, cultures and faiths, age 14 and up. For more information on this event, contact Carol Ross at 425-452-7917 or ross@bellevuewa.gov, Barb Tuininga at 425-452-2735 or btuininga@bellevuewa.gov.



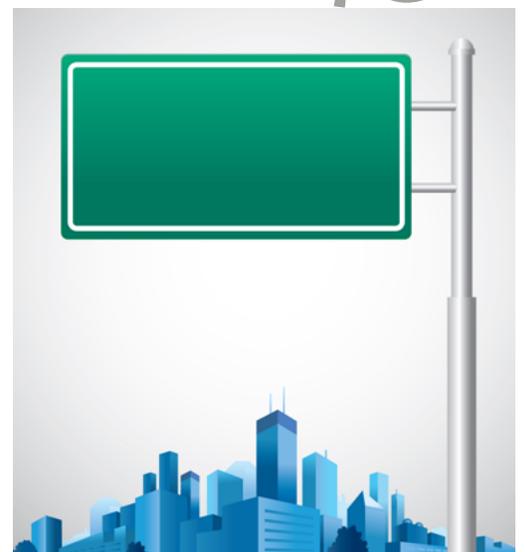
New Street Names in Bel-Red

In March 2014, City Council approved name changes for five new streets in Bel-Red. The new names stem from a list of nearly 300 ideas provided by the public, narrowed by the Transportation Commission based on the area's industrial past, agricultural and ethnic heritage, landmarks, events or the area's future. New street names include:

Northeast Spring Boulevard (formerly NE 15th/16th St.): This name evokes the renewal of the Bel-Red District and references the Spring District development on the west edge of Bel-Red.

Northeast Ichigo Way: "Ichigo" is the Japanese word for strawberry. This name commemorates the Japanese American community that farmed the Midlakes area in the early-to-mid 1900s.

Northeast Goff Creek Way: Goff Creek runs north/south through Bel-Red in the vicinity of 132nd Avenue Northeast.



Northeast District Way: This name signifies the intended character of the locals and reflects the desired characteristic of the area as an urban center.

Northeast Midlakes Way: Midlakes is the name used for the area near Lake Bellevue since the early 1900s, when the Northern Pacific Railroad connected eastside cities. The name highlights the Bel-Red area's prominent setting between Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

Northeast 16th Street, the street that will serve as the key corridor through the Bel-Red transit-oriented development area, is changing its name to Northeast Spring Boulevard. City

crews began replacing the street name signs between 132nd Avenue Northeast and Bel-Red Road in mid-December.

Northeast District Way is under construction from 124th Avenue westward as part of the Spring District development. Construction has yet to begin on the other streets. When built out, the street network will serve vehicles, transit, pedestrians and bicycles.

Questions about the street name projects can go to Patti Wilma, project development manager, (425-452-4114 or Pwilma@bellevuewa.gov). For more information about what's happening in the Bel-Red area, visit www.bellevuewa.gov/bel-red_intro.htm.

5-Evening Film Series & Community Dialog

Tuesday, January 20, 6:30pm

St. Margaret's Episcopal

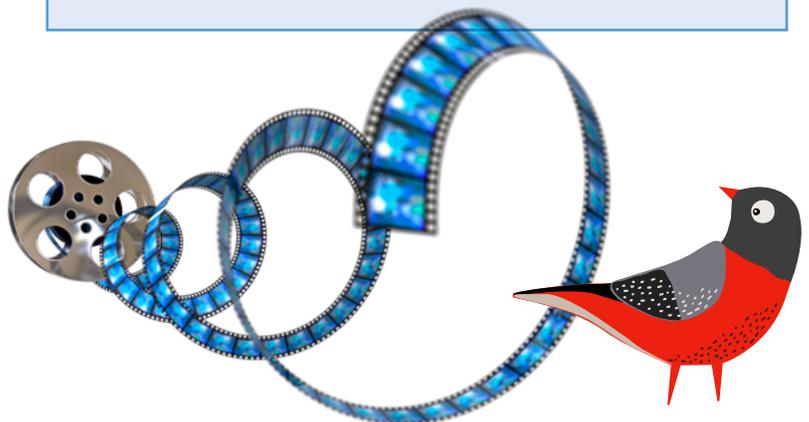
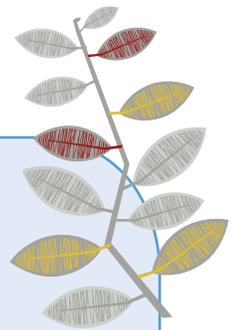
4228 Factoria Blvd. SE

Gather with other community members to engage in entertaining, educational and topical films as part of a 5-month film series on Tuesday evenings starting on January 20th. Sponsored by Holy Cross Lutheran and St. Margaret's Episcopal, the movies have been chosen based on quality and educational value and potential for community dialog, with goals to promote community relationship, healthy conversations, and learning. All films will be shown at St. Margaret's, 4228 Factoria Blvd. SE.

Films are free and open to the public. \$5/ person donation is encouraged but not required. Funds will be used to support independent filmmakers. Refreshments will be served before the film begins.

For more information, please email Janet Farness at jkftahiti@comcast.net.

- **January 20**
The Happy Movie
Is there a formula for happiness?
- **February 17**
Food Stamped
Will Food Stamps help solve hunger & health problems in America?
- **March 17**
The Wisdom to Survive
Climate change, Capitalism and Community
- **April 21**
One Big Hapa Family
A closer look at inter-racial families
- **May 19 – Two “Ted Talks”**
Seas of Plastics
Floating islands of trash in the Oceans?
How Not to Be Ignorant About the World
How to communicate the Facts That Matter!



“Trouble Next Door”

Bellevue Mediation Program Helps Neighbors Resolve Conflicts

In the last months, the police and firefighters had come to the transitional housing project next door to Cathleen’s condo a lot. There were other disturbing trends – late in the evenings Cathleen heard loud music and saw young children out unattended. When she learned that a recent police visit had been caused by a gunshot...it was the last straw!

Cathleen contacted the city and was connected to Mediation. After listening to her concerns, the mediators offered to contact the group that ran the housing project to see if they would meet with her and her neighbors. Cathleen agreed. Meghan at the transitional housing project was contacted, and she agreed too. She acknowledged that things had been rough and wanted to explain what had happened and how they were going to fix it.

Two weeks later, a meeting was held about the public safety issues in the neighborhood – in attendance: five concerned neighbors; three representatives from the transitional housing program; and representatives from the police and fire departments. Everyone at the meeting spoke. Neighbors expressed anxiety about the police activity next door, the unsupervised children, and the noise and disturbance. The housing group representatives stated that recent county government changes had limited their control over the screening of residents. They were aware of security issue and planned to install cameras and hire security. Police and fire representatives acknowledged the situation and described their community-based policing programs.



Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program

Improve Your People Skills

Basic Mediation Training: A 40-hour course

The Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program offers a variety of conflict resolution services to the Bellevue community. As part of our program, we offer a 40-hour Basic Mediation Training to those who live, work, or go to school in Bellevue. This training is designed for people who are interested in developing mediation and conflict resolution skills. It is also one of the prerequisites for those who may be interested in volunteering with the program.

Mediation is essentially a facilitated negotiation that encourages people in conflict to resolve their own disputes and shape their own agreements.

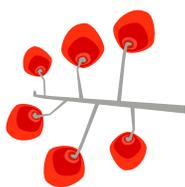
This basic course curriculum includes conflict theory, communication skills, conflict styles and mediation tools.

When: Wed. Feb. 25 & Mar. 4 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Fri. Feb. 27 & Mar. 6 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sat. Feb. 28 & Mar. 7 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Attendance at all sessions is required.

Where: Wednesdays and Fridays: Saturdays
Bellevue City Hall Northwest Arts Center
450 110th Avenue NE 9825 NE 24th St.
Bellevue, WA 98004 Bellevue, WA 98004

Cost: \$395.00

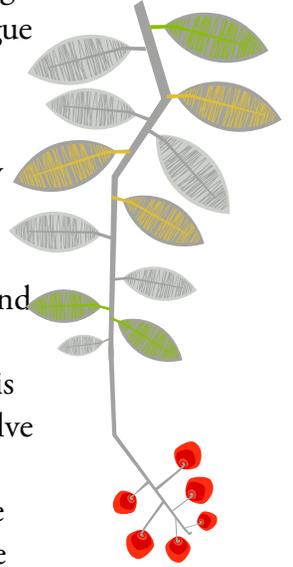


Early in the meeting the mood was formal – but after an hour, it became collaborative and conversational. Neighbors appreciated that the housing group had explained the situation and outlined the steps they were taking. The housing group representatives acknowledged the neighbors’ concerns, and promised to work hard to insure that the facility would be safe. The manager of the facility provided contact information, and said that the neighbors could contact him. The police worried about the unsupervised children, and said they would respond whenever called to see to their welfare.

Three months later the situation had improved. Cathleen had seen a “huge drop” in police visits. There were no unsupervised kids out late, and it was quieter. She recalled that she and her neighbors had gone to the mediation feeling angry and confused, but had left feeling that

real solutions were possible. Meghan said that her housing group team felt it was a positive meeting. For the mediators, it confirmed again the power of connecting people in a dialogue and building relationships.

The Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program Mediation provides a voluntary process in which people in dispute meet with a neutral third party (a “mediator”) who guides them through a structured and confidential negotiation. Over the years, many Bellevue residents have utilized this free and confidential service to help resolve conflicts in their neighborhood. If you are interested in learning more about the program, or becoming a mediator, please look to the announcement for the upcoming training opportunity, or call 425-452-4091 or email mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov to get more information.



olarize bellevue

Solarize Bellevue

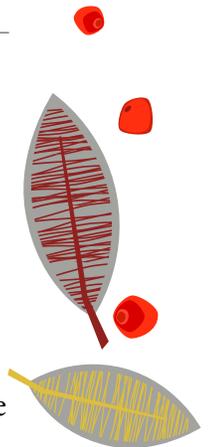
Giving the Gift of Solar this Season

Solarize Bellevue, the community campaign helping to reduce the cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for Bellevue residents and businesses, is giving the gift of solar this season. Thanks to the tremendous interest and solar adoption rate of Bellevue residents, the campaign exceeded its target of 30 new installations and is therefore donating a free solar array to the Bellevue Boys & Girls Clubs!

“Our residents recognize the environmental and financial value of investing in this clean energy technology and the city wants to continue to support the community’s progress toward reducing our collective impact.” said Paul Andersson, Program Administrator for the city’s Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

The solar PV system being donated is a “Made in Washington” product valued at over \$16,000. The 3.5 kW system is expected to generate just under 4,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year. This will not only save nearly \$400 worth of electricity, but will also earn roughly \$2,150 annually from the State Production Incentive program until it expires in June, 2020.

The Solarize Bellevue campaign, which leverages the power of a group purchase to garner more affordable solar systems for Bellevue residents and businesses, is now setting its sights on the stretch-goal of installing 50 solar systems. Visit www.GreenWA.org today if you want to give the gift of solar this holiday season. For more information about the campaign, please contact Paul Andersson at pandersson@bellevuewa.gov



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



Two electric vehicle charging stations will be relocated to on-street locations downtown this winter to expand the city's popular downtown charging network. One will be on the east side of 106th Ave. NE, just south of NE 6th St., and one will be along the east side of 110th Ave. NE, just south of NE 10th St. The stations have been removed from the Bellevue Aquatic Center due to construction and are being relocated to downtown, where demand is highest throughout the city. The parking spots will maintain their current two-hour parking limit but will be restricted to charging electric vehicles only.

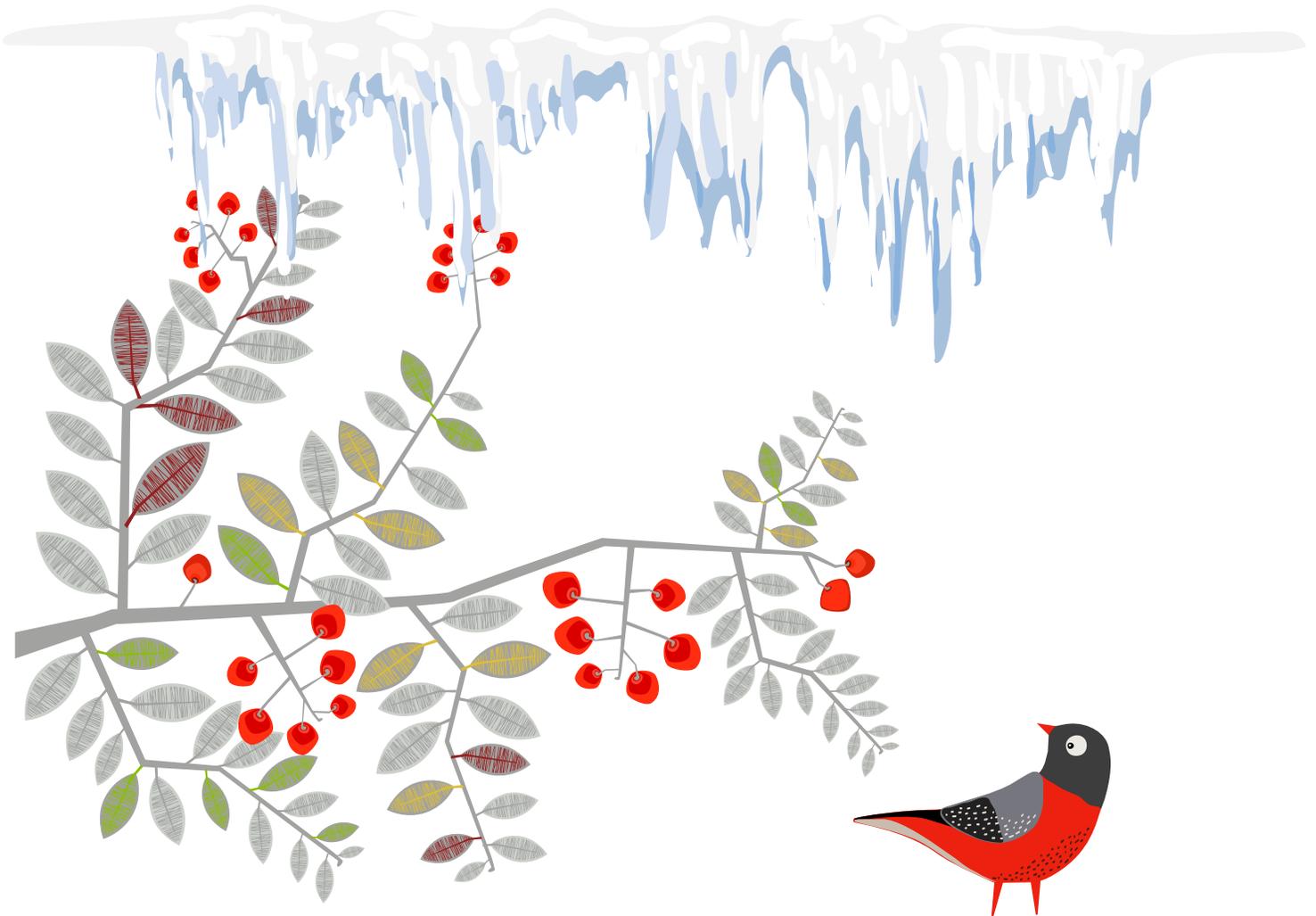
The City of Bellevue already operates 16 public-use charging stations that cost 50

cents per hour for use. Over the past two years, there has been a 240% increase in use of city-owned stations, resulting in savings of over 10,000 gallons of gasoline.



The installation of on-street electric vehicle charging infrastructure was recommended by the city's Transportation Commission to support the city's leadership in environmental stewardship and innovation.

For more information about electric vehicles and charging stations, visit www.bellevuewa.gov/electric-vehicles.htm. Contact Paul Andersson at Pandersson@bellevuewa.gov or Darcy Akers at Dakers@bellevuewa.gov with questions or concerns.





TRAFFIC CORNER

Lakemont Blvd./SE 63rd St./ Cougar Mountain Way Intersection Improvements

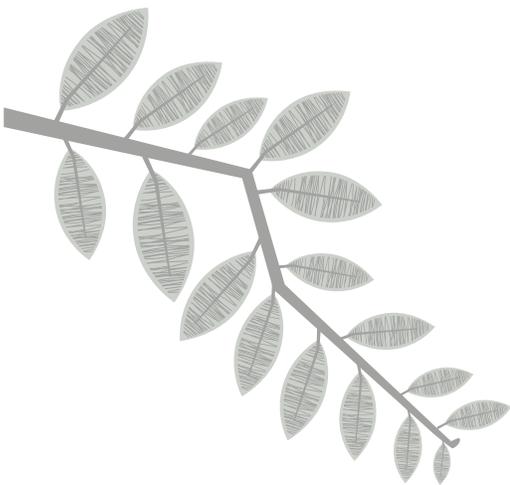
The intersection of Lakemont Blvd. SE, SE 63rd St., and SE Cougar Mountain Way currently experiences long delays on SE 63rd St. and SE Cougar Mountain Way during high traffic periods. After analyzing several options, staff and the community chose a traffic signal as the preferred alternative. The signal will be installed to improve safety and traffic operations at the intersection for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

SE Newport Way Sidewalk: 150th Ave. SE to 152nd Ave. SE

A sidewalk will be constructed on the south side of SE Newport Way, between 150th Ave. SE and 152nd Ave. SE, near Eastgate Elementary School. The new sidewalk will improve safety and visibility for those who live near or walk to and from the school. This project also includes enhancing the landscaping and repairing the roadway.

Construction on both of these projects will begin in the next couple of months and will be completed this summer.

For questions on either of these projects, contact Chris Masek, project manager, at cmasek@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4619. See this project and others in design or construction in our online interactive map at www.bellevuewa.gov/capital-projects-map.htm.



January 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.)

1/5 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Parks property acquisition long-range planning update/strategy; Multi-family tax exemption-review draft ordinance; State Legislative Agenda (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Report of Planning Commission - Comprehensive Plan Update. City Manager's Report - Recognition of Bellevue Fire Department's 50th anniversary. Consent Calendar-Code Amendment to comply with state tax exemption relation to marijuana growers
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/6 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) NO REGULAR MEETING IN JANUARY
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

1/6 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Discussion: Overview of upcoming state legislative session; 2015 work plan; Application process for additional 2014 CDBG funds
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

1/7 East Link Permitting CAC (3:00-5:00p.m., 1E-113) CANCELLED
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-permitting-cac.htm>

1/8 (note date) Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) NE 4th/120th (briefing); Eastside Rail Corridor (briefing); 116th Avenue NE Bike Lanes (discussion and recommendation); Transportation Facilities Plan (discussion); Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (discussion)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

1/8 Special Events Committee (8:30 -10:30 a.m. City Hall, 1E-120) http://bellevuewa.gov/special_events_committee.htm

1/12 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Proclamation: Anti-trafficking; Economic Development update-focus on "high speed connectivity" foundational strategy; LED street light conversion scope, work plan, timeline, public info strategy.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/13 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-113)
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

1/14 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

1/15 (note date and time change) Bellevue Network on Aging (9:00-12:00 p.m., 1E-108) Annual Planning Retreat
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

1/15 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda: To be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

1/19 Martin Luther King Day – City Offices Closed

1/20 (note date) City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Downtown Livability (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Ordinances: Energize Eastside EIS consultant; Energize Eastside Interlocal agreement with other affected cities; Recreational marijuana permanent regulations
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/20 Library Commission (5:00 p.m. Bellevue Library, Room 3, 1111 110th Avenue NW Bellevue, WA 98004) Review of Open Public Meetings Act training and topic planning for 2015
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

1/20 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Introduction to Neighborhood Outreach Program; Meydenbauer Beach Expansion Artwork Panels
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

1/21 East Link Permitting CAC (3:00-5:00p.m., 1E-113) Agenda: To be determined
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-permitting-cac.htm>

1/22 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Agenda: To be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

1/26 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) East Link monthly update-station naming, mitigation; Regional Issues: Public safety emergency radio network, State legislative agenda, Federal legislative agenda; ESI/K4C update; Discussion: Hearing Examiner's recommendation on PSE CUP application-148th facility
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/27 East Main CAC (4:00 1E-113) Agenda: To be determined
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.htm>

1/28 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.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.