



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SPRING DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 03 International December Holidays
- 04 Eastside Men's Shelter
- 05 GIX Professional Learning
- 05 Meet Your Barista
- 06 Buddy the Elf Comes to TSD
- 06 Bellevue Season of Cheer
- 07 Neighborhood Updates & Blood Drive
- 08 Holiday Gift Card Drive
- 08 Popcorn Cake Recipe
- 09 Sound Transit East Link Update
- 09 Reduce Reuse Recycle Holidays

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Eastside Men's Shelter

Holiday Gift Card Drive

Buddy the Elf Visits TSD



# INTERNATIONAL DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

There are many holidays celebrated in December. Winter is a time for going indoors and taking stock, planning for the coming season, and celebrating with loved ones. In the Northern Hemisphere, the winter solstice represents the longest night of the year. For centuries cultures around the world have honored the return of the sun – as the solstice marks the days getting longer. From the Chinese celebration of Dong Zhi to the Roman celebration of Saturnalia, cultures have embraced the significance of storing food and wine for the long cold winter months by coming together as a community and feasting and giving gifts.

Many ancient rituals are recognizable in modern traditions across the world, such as bringing greenery from the outdoors into the home, lighting candles, fireworks and gift giving. These family celebrations are holiday traditions that are centuries old.

[Christmas](#), [Hannukkah](#), [Kwanzaa](#), [Yule](#), [Bohdi Day](#), and [Lunar New Year](#) are some of the many wintertime cultural celebrations and holidays celebrated today.



## For Additional Reading:

- [Winter Holidays Celebrating the Solstice \(learnreligions.com\)](http://learnreligions.com)
- [List of Winter Holidays Around the World | Punchbowl](#)
- [The Other Side Of Christmas: Pagan Winter Solstice Festivals \(babbel.com\)](http://babbel.com)



## EASTSIDE MEN'S SHELTER

People living unsheltered is a growing problem nationwide. There are many root causes of homelessness including lack of affordable housing, low-paying jobs, domestic violence, chronic health problems, substance abuse and mental health issues.

The [2020 Point in Time count](#), counted more than 1,000 people as homeless on the Eastside and the Bellevue School District reported 375 homeless youth attending school in the district during the 2020-2021 school year.

The city is investing in facilities such as shelters, transitional housing and affordable housing units for those living in vehicles or unsheltered in our community. Property on Eastgate Way in Bellevue has been purchased and approved for the construction of shelter facilities, and additional funding has been allocated to support shelter and housing services. (Read more here: [Eastside Homeless Shelter to Move Forward Following Council Actions - King County](#))

[Congregations for the Homeless](#), a Bellevue nonprofit that has been serving men on the Eastside experiencing homelessness for nearly three decades, will operate the shelter. [Plymouth Housing](#), a non-profit developer and operator of supportive housing for homeless individuals, will operate the permanent supportive housing. And [Inland Group](#), a Spokane-based developer of affordable housing will build the workforce housing. The purchase and project are also being facilitated by Horizon Housing Alliance, a non-profit developer of affordable housing.

Expect completion in 2023 and the campus will include:

- A 100-bed men's enhanced shelter and services center (Congregations for the Homeless)
- 92 permanent supportive homes for homeless individuals being referred from Eastside shelters (Plymouth Housing)
- 360 homes for low-income wage earners. This part of the campus will also include a 10,000 square foot early learning center (Inland Group)

[Congregations for the Homeless](#) Executive Director David Bowling said "This campus has surpassed our initial expectations by becoming a cornerstone for ensuring affordable homes and safe shelter exists within our community. All the public and private parties came together toward a common vision, setting the stage for providing coordinated, efficient and effective housing and services."

"This property sale will enable the first and only permanent men's shelter on the Eastside, and it will go further, with the first permanent supportive housing constructed on the Eastside and affordable homes for hundreds of families. This project has become more than I could have dreamed thanks to the tenacity and dedication of Congregations for the Homeless and their partners, with critical support from local government."

To learn more about how Congregations for the Homeless has re-imagined shelter, visit this website: <https://www.cfhomeless.org/shelterreimagined/>



RENDERING OF THE FUTURE EASTSIDE MEN'S SHELTER



# GLOBAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE

## GIX PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE LATEST GIX PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM COURSE SERIES DESIGNED TO HELP WORKING PROFESSIONALS HARNESS THE POWER OF DATA IN THEIR WORK.

THIS COURSE SERIES IS DESIGNED FOR WORKING ENGINEERS, BUSINESS, AND RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS INTERESTED IN OPTIMIZING AND AUTOMATING OPERATIONS OR DEVELOPING DATA-DRIVEN STRATEGIES FOR THEIR BUSINESS. EACH COURSE CAN BE TAKEN INDIVIDUALLY OR TAKEN TOGETHER AS A LINKED SERIES. PARTICIPANTS IN INDIVIDUAL COURSES WILL FOCUS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS AND CAN EARN AN OPTIONAL 2 CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUS) PER COURSE.

SEE THE COURSES AND REGISTER: [HTTPS://GIXNETWORK.ORG/  
PROFESSIONAL/DATA-SCIENCE/](https://gixnetwork.org/professional/data-science/)

## MEET YOUR BARISTA

Ian has worked at [The Spring Cafe](#) for just over one year. He started making our favorite drinks in November of 2020 and brings 4 years of experience to The Spring District. You may have noticed his hobby without even realizing it; he enjoys collecting and caring for houseplants and the café reflects him in that regard.

When asked about his favorite thing about his job, his answer is amazing: "I get to see many people's faces go from sad to happy. Some come into the cafe half asleep, tired, thirsty, or cold. But they all leave happier than how they came in. I'm glad I could be a part of that."

When not enjoying The Spring District, his favorite restaurant is John Howie's. When asked why: "John Howie's happy hour bacon cheeseburger is the bomb dot com!"

Stop in and order Ian's favorite drink to make AND enjoy: an iced cappuccino. He says, "It's simple, easy and quick to down for a caffeine boost."

Thank you, Ian, for keeping us caffeinated!

LATTE ART BY IAN





**Buddy the Elf visits The Spring District!**

**Friday, December 17, 2021! 2:00—4:00 p.m. @  
Tract C Park!**

**We'll have cocoa and treats and a few surprises!**

## 2021 BELLEVUE SEASON OF CHEER

Get out and enjoy Bellevue during the holidays. Bellevue Downtown Association curates a wonderful lineup of events and performances to perfectly compliment everyone's holiday season.

This year you can [ice skate](#), catch a performance of [The Nutcracker](#) at Meydenbauer Theatre, performed by Issaquah Dance Theatre, and enjoy [Snowflake Lane](#) all in one day! A highlight for many families each year is the Bellevue Botanical Garden's [Garden d'Lights](#) featuring over half a million sparkling lights

To learn more about Bellevue's Season of Cheer, go to <https://www.bellevuedowntown.com/events/season-of-cheer>





# NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES

## BLOCK 24

Welcome Facebook employees to Block 24!

Facebook has moved into Block 24 and we are thrilled to have the buzz and excitement throughout The Spring District that comes with having new faces around the neighborhood!

To learn more about The Spring District:

<https://thespringdistrict.com/connections/>



HELP BLOODWORKS PREPARE FOR THE WINTER

MAKE ONE MORE LIFESAVING DONATION IN 2021

Extreme cold weather and seasonal illnesses often make it difficult for Bloodworks to maintain a sufficient blood supply at this time of year. Make your appointment to help us keep a stable blood supply through this season.

Donating blood is an essential and encouraged activity critical to sustaining community healthcare, especially during emergencies. Your one-hour donation appointment is a safe action to support local hospitals and patients. Pop-Up Donor Centers are being conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

No walk-ins, guests, or people under age 16 are permitted onsite. Donors are required to wear a face mask, and have photo ID. To make your appointment, visit [schedule.bloodworksnw.org](https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org) or call 800-398-7888. Please see [bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus](https://bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus) for more information on steps we're taking to keep our donors and staff safe.

"My brother got in an accident at work and lost a lot of blood before and during surgery.

You were able to help bring his blood count back to the normal amount and I can't thank you enough."

Pop Up @ Marysville

December 20, 21, 28, 29

[Book a Donation Appointment](#)

Pop Up @ Sammamish Rowing-Redmond

December 29 & 30

[Book a Donation Appointment](#)

Pop Up @ Renton Community

December 28 & 29

[Book a Donation Appointment](#)

Pop Up @ Kirkland Urban

January 3 & 4

[Book a Donation Appointment](#)

Pop Up @ City of Normandy

December 6 & 7

[Book a Donation Appointment](#)

Bellevue Donation Center

Open 7 days a week

[Book a Donation Appointment](#)

800-398-7888 | [schedule.bloodworksnw.org](https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org)

@bloodworksnw  
Instagram Facebook Twitter

/ FOR SAFETY, APPOINTMENTS ONLY

 **Bloodworks**  
Northwest

# THIS MONTH'S PHILANTHROPY

## Gift Card Drive Benefiting Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation



[Bellevue Firefighters Community Support Foundation](#) is a local organization created to support local community members in need. Created in 1999, this dedicated group strives to reach every community member whether a firefighter or not.

Your donation of a gift card to a family in need helps ensure that the Foundation is able to meet the needs and wishes of local children and families in our Bellevue community.

**Drop Off your gift card donations at  
The Spring District Management Office, 1230 121st Pl NE,  
Unit C114—Sparc Apartments  
Deadline: December 17, 2021**



[To learn more about the holiday gift card drive, click here!](#)

## Popcorn Cake

This nostalgic popcorn cake is like a giant popcorn ball to feed a crowd!

Prep Time 5 minutes Total Time 20 minutes

### Ingredients

- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 2 10 oz. bags mini marshmallows
- 1/2 t. Vanilla
- 2 1/2 2.69 oz. bags popcorn
- 1/2 C. M&Ms

### Instructions

1. Pop popcorn and separate kernels.
2. Heat butter on the stove on low heat in a large high-wall pot (like a pasta pot) When melted, incorporate the marshmallows and vanilla.
3. Once completely mixed together, incorporate the popcorn into the marshmallow mix.
4. Spray an angel food cake pan with a non-stock spray (Or a smooth sided cake pan; we were looking for a wreath shape.)
5. Spoon in a first layer of popcorn into the pan. Sprinkle in a small handful of M&Ms.
6. Continue to alternate with popcorn and M&Ms until the pan is filled.
7. Using a greased hand, press popcorn down until tightly packed, and the total cake is about 3 inches tall.
8. Turn out onto a flat surface and rest.
9. Slice with a serrated knife.
10. #enJOY!







WITH LIGHT RAIL SERVICE COMING TO BELLEVUE IN 2023, WE HOPE TO BRING YOU INFORMATION TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH RIDING THE TRAINS, OBTAINING SCHEDULES, AND SAFELY ACCESSING STATIONS.

SOUND TRANSIT HAS INITIATED SOME OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS TESTING THAT WILL EXPAND INTO 2022 WITH MORE TRAINS ON TRACKS. TRACK AREAS BEING ASSESSED ARE ENERGIZED.

THE BELRED AREA IS UNIQUE IN THAT THERE ARE FOUR AT-GRADE CROSSINGS WHERE THE TRAIN TRACKS ARE WITHIN THE ROADWAY AND NOT ELEVATED ON A GUIDEWAY.

- NE SPRING BOULEVARD AT 130TH AVENUE NE
- NE SPRING BOULEVARD AT 132ND AVENUE NE
- NE SPRING BOULEVARD/136TH PLACE NE
- 136TH PLACE NE AT NE 20TH STREET/NORTHUP WAY

PLEASE WATCH THIS SAFETY VIDEO AND REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CROSS AT DESIGNATED CROSSWALKS WHEN NEAR TRAIN TRACKS. DO NOT EVER WALK ON TRAIN TRACKS. [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/QZLIPJGLPQG](https://youtu.be/QZLIPJGLPQG)

EAST LINK LIGHT RAIL WILL BE KNOWN AS THE 2 LINE ONCE IT IS IN SERVICE. LEARN MORE ABOUT SOUND TRANSIT'S LIGHT RAIL AND BUS SERVICE AT [SOUNDTRANSIT.ORG](https://soundtransit.org).

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE:

### CHEERS TO ZERO WASTE HOLIDAYS AND BEYOND

This holiday season is a good time to start new, greener traditions. Here are a few suggestions for you and your family:

Wrap with reusables: Save durable items like bags, boxes and bows for a second use, or use reusable cloth wrappings! Make it a family game to find the most creative zero-waste wrapping.

Flatten and recycle cardboard boxes: Save space and keep cardboard clean and dry to ensure boxes can be made into new products.

Ditch disposables: Say no to single-use plastic straws, utensils and water bottles. A few extra dishes can save a ton of plastic waste from landfills.

Remember to recycle when the holiday is over: Most wrapping paper can be recycled in your curbside cart, and you can compost your holiday tree and other greenery. Many organizations also offer holiday light recycling.

Thanks to the Bellevue Downtown Association you can read more about how to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle, [here](#).





PRODUCED BY

WRIGHT RUNSTAD & COMPANY