



JAN - FEB 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2

Recipe: Garlic Butter Chicken Bites with Lemon Asparagus

Page 3

Introducing the Downsizing Party

Fun in the Snow Without Skis

Page 4

Don't Wait Forever for "The One" Local Market Update

Page 5

Market Stats

Page 6

2020 Real Estate Projections That May Surprise You

Reheating Pizza for the Just Delivered Taste

Page 7

5 Top Landscaping Trends Redecorate Not Remodel

Page 8

Upcoming Events

It is only through your continuing business, referrals and goodwill that I have been able to build my successful team.

We truly appreciate your continued support!



Awesome Agent

425.462.8000

awesomeagent@windermere.com www.awesomeagent.withwre.com

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE YOU!

"There is only one happiness in this world, to love and to be loved."



- George Sand



Some of The Most Anticipated Family Movies of 2020

Dolittle: Jan 17th

This is the third adaptation based on the Doctor Dolittle character since the classic 1967 film that starred Rex Harrison and 1998's version with Eddie Murphy. This time it's Robert Downey Jr. who talks to the animals in a reimagining of the story.



Mulan: March 27th

Disney's new live-action version of Mulan appears to be a faithful adaptation of the animated film. It features a fearless young woman who risks everything out of love for her family and her country to become



one of the greatest warriors China has ever known.

Sonic the Hedgehog: Feb 14th

Based on the Sonic video game, Sonic has traveled to earth to hide from Dr. Robotnik (Jim Carrey) and asks a small-town sheriff (James Marsden) for help.

The Call of the Wild: Feb 21st

This film brings to the screen the story of Buck, a big-hearted dog whose blissful domestic life is turned upside down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home and transplanted to the exotic wilds of the Alaskan Yukon during the Gold Rush of the 1890s.

My Spy: March 13th

My Spy follows JJ, a hardened CIA operative (Dave Bautista) who has been demoted and finds himself at the mercy of a precocious 9-year-old girl named Sophie (Chloe Coleman) when he has been sent undercover begrudgingly to monitor her family.

Scoob: May 15th

Scooby-Doo is back, and this time the movie promises to be a lot more family-friendly. The movie is sort of a hybrid showing how Scooby and Shaggy first met, how they met Fred, Daphne and Velma, and how they solved their first case.



Jungle Cruise: July 24th

The movie stars Dwayne
Johnson as a riverboat captain/
tour guide offering super cheap
cruises along the Amazon rivers
and providing special effects to
elevate the experience. Although
his fake adventures turn real

when an explorer (Emily Blunt) hires him to help her locate a rare plant that offers special healing powers.

Source: https://bit.ly/2tMWjXb



In honor of Valentines Day...here are the years some of our favorite candies hit the scene.

1854 The first packaged box of Whitman's Chocolate.

1868 Richard & George Cadbury, the second generation of Cadburys, makes the first Valentine's Day box of



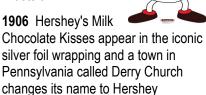
chocolates starting the tradition that continues today



1880s Wunderle Candy Company creates candy corn, still a

best-selling Halloween candy

1896 Leo Hirshfield, New York confectioner, introduces Tootsie Rolls, named after his daughter's nickname, "Tootsie."



1911 Ethel and Frank Mars open a candy company in Tacoma, Washington. The company, later Mars, Inc., would become one of the largest, privately owned candy companies in the entire world.



1922 H.B.
Reese makes
the first peanut
butter candy
coated with
Hershey's Milk
Chocolate, which

we now know as the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.

Source: https://bit.ly/2NmP27g



RECIPE: GARLIC BUTTER CHICKEN BITES WITH LEMON ASPARAGUS

Ingredients

3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-sized chunks

2 bunch of asparagus, rinsed and trimmed

1/2 cup butter, softened

1 teaspoon olive oil

2 teaspoons minced garlic

1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

1 tablespoon hot sauce, optional

1/2 cup (125ml) low-sodium chicken broth

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1 tablespoon minced parsley

Crushed red chili pepper flakes, optional Slices of lemon, for garnish

For the chicken seasoning:

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon fresh cracked black pepper

2 teaspoons onion powder

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Start to slice chicken breasts into bite-sized chunks and season with salt, pepper, and onion powder. Let sit in a shallow plate while you prepare the asparagus.
- 2. Wash and trim the ends of the asparagus, then blanch them in boiling water for 2 minutes then soak in ice water to stop the cooking asparagus. This way the asparagus will cook faster and more even in the skillet. (You can skip this step if you have very thin asparagus.) Drain and set aside.
- 3. Heat half butter and olive oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-low heat. Gently



stir-fry the chicken bites on all sides until golden brown. Lower the heat, add 1 teaspoon minced garlic and Italian seasoning and stir and cook with chicken bites until fragrant. Remove the chicken bites from the skillet and set aside to a plate. You might have to work in batches to avoid crowding the pan and have steamed chicken bites instead of browned.

- 4. In the same skillet over medium-high, add minced garlic then deglaze with chicken broth (or wine). Bring to a simmer and allow to reduce to half the volume. Add remaining butter, lemon juice, hot sauce, parsley. Give a quick stir to combine.
- 5. Add the blanched asparagus and toss for 2 minutes to cook it up. Add the sautéed chicken bites back to the pan and stir for another minute to reheat. Garnish the chicken and asparagus with more parsley, crushed chili pepper, and lemon slices and serve immediately. Enjoy!

Source: https://bit.ly/3a0y1JT



TERRIFIC TRIVIA

Be the first to call me with the correct answer for a prize!

What year did the heart-shaped conversation candies called Sweethearts get their start?

A. 1847

B. 1920

C. 1852

D. 1902

Answer to Last Issue's Trivia: C. 1907. The ball was at this event in1907, according to Times Square's website.





Couple Finds Novel Way to Downsize After 45 Years in The Same House...Have a Party!

"Go through the bookshelves, and if there's anything you want, take it. Linens, dishes, mugs — take them. And please, please take at least one of the champagne flutes home with you. After you've had your mimosa."

All day long on a Saturday, people came in and out of Karen and Fritz Mulhauser's cozy, Capitol Hill rowhouse and cleaned them out. Guests walked out with canvas bags and boxes bulging with mugs, pots and pans, dishes, candles and tablecloths.

Introducing the downsizing party.

Instead of leaving books, old candelabras, Mali baskets and Tibetan singing bowls — among mounds of other treasures — to be picked over by strangers at an estate sale, this couple took a different approach.

They sent out invitations, served food, and poured mimosas into 200 champagne flutes that said "Happy 60th Karen" (she just turned 77) while people they've known during their 45 years in Washington, D.C., came over and took their stuff.

A stroke of good fortune came when another friend named Karen announced that she was turning 60 this month. Take a few dozen!

The Mulhausers are moving barely a block

away, into a new condo building. They needed to be in a one-story unit because mobility issues are beginning to make the two-story rowhouse difficult to navigate.

Their party was full of envious people.

Not envious of their stuff. It was, after all, an opportunity to take anything they've coveted. But they were envious of the approach.

What the Mulhausers did is similar to the Swedish practice of "death cleaning," a downsizing and organizational philosophy as pragmatic as Marie Kondo's, but with some magnanimity in mind, too.

Maybe the Mulhausers have created the American version — the cleaning ritual that comes with a party. And we should totally call it "Mulhausing."

The idea came to the Mulhausers as they contemplated the enormous task of moving decades worth of stuff.

They promised the larger pieces of furniture as donations to community groups. And they set aside enough stuff to furnish their tiny, chic new place. Everything else? Out!



Old friends came to snag something they'd always liked.

Older friends came and tried to simply visit without taking anything (and left with something anyhow).

And as each casserole dish or earthenware mug left her home, Mulhauser told a small story to go along with it.

At the end of the day, just about everything was gone, each item having been explained, regaled and ushered off to begin a second act.

The Mulhausers looked around the emptier home and exhaled. They are ready for their second act.

Source: https://bit.ly/36M67za



NOT A SKIER... OTHER WAYS TO HAVE FUN IN THE SNOW!

Tubing is the new sledding, and the Summit at Snoqualmie spoils you rotten with a covered surface lift up its 500-foot incline for a ride down 20-plus tubing lanes. Two-hour entrance runs \$22–\$28.

Suncadia Resort in CleElum offers a tubing hill, outdoor skating rink, and Snowshoe-and-Brew tours.

Yell "Fore!" Seattle sometimes opens its municipal golf courses to sledders on snow days.

Fat bikes can roll many of the same trails as snowshoes and Nordic skis—plus the mondo

tires recall the ease of a tricycle. Methow Cycle and Sport rents them for \$45 per day.

Mount Rainier National Park offers a free snow play area at Paradise, complete with a smoothed-out sledding section—but you earn your ride by hoofing it uphill yourself.

The American West Coast's only ski jump (BC has some) at Leavenworth Winter Sports Club has a 27-meter launch, best attempted in a supervised lesson.

Do not sled in public streets..."No person... riding a coaster...shall go on the roadway...or engage in any sport, amusement, or exercise

or play in the roadway." —Seattle Municipal code 11.40.250. Bummer.



Courtesy Stephen Matera / Tandem Stock

Source: https://bit.ly/2tZhC7G



Home Buyers: Don't Wait Forever for "The One"

You can drive yourself crazy searching for your dream home. You've found houses that have come close, after all. So the perfect one is bound to appear soon, right?

Not necessarily. We know the hunt can be emotionally draining, but at some point you have to go from house hunter to home owner.

We're not encouraging you to make a choice that will fill you with buyer's remorse. But to borrow a line from the Rolling Stones: You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes ... you get what you need.

Here are three questions to ask yourself; the answers will help you determine whether it's time to settle on a home that might not be what your dreams are made of.

1. Are my expectations realistic?

There's always going to be something not so lovable in each house you view. The key to finding the right home is setting realistic expectations.

Make a list of your dream features and amenities before you start house hunting—but be willing to let some of those features go once you start looking at properties. It helps to score each feature on a scale of 1 to 10—that way you (and your partner, if you have one) are on the same page about which amenities are deal breakers and which are simply nice to have.

2. How many properties have I viewed?

Once you're house hunting, it can be nearly impossible to decide when you've looked at enough houses. After all, the perfect house could be listed any day now.

Go ahead and view online listings as much as you want. There's no harm in real estate stalking in your spare time, but you should set a limit for actual viewings.

Take a moment and ask yourself how many homes have you visited. Have you reached the (self-imposed) cap? If so, make a list of each property's strengths and weakness, and then get ready to compromise.

3. What am I willing to compromise?

If you've set realistic expectations and looked at more than a few houses, it's time to start making some tough decisions. It might feel like settling, but you'll probably thank us later when you're finally a homeowner.

Just make sure you're not compromising on something you'll regret later.

The real estate adage "location, location, location" bears repeating here. After all, a great house won't matter much if you're driving two hours to work every day or the only nearby grocery store closes at 7 p.m.

If you're not sure where to compromise, ask your Realtor. That's what they're there for.



The exception to the rule

After months of searching (especially in competitive markets), you might feel the pressure to choose something—anything—just to achieve homeownership and stop throwing away your money on rent.

We're going to contradict ourselves a bit here and tell you this: Sometimes it's OK to keep looking. When you're deciding on a home, you should always consider the current market, even if it means you'll be shopping for a little while longer.

If you're in a sellers' market, homes can go quickly and you might just be missing the window of opportunity. It might make sense to wait a little longer than rush to try to beat out an overzealous buyer.

Source: https://bit.ly/39ZvQGg



LOCAL MARKET UPDATE: JANUARY 2020

2019 ended with too many buyers chasing too few homes. December marked the sixth straight month of declining supply. The severe shortage of homes, historically low interest rates, and strong job growth are predicted to keep the local housing market strong in 2020. In a region starved for inventory, sellers can expect significant interest in new listings.

King County continues to be a seller's market. Inventory in December was down nearly 40% compared to a year ago and ended the month with below one month supply. The median price of a single-family home rose 6% over the prior year to \$675,000, up slightly from November. More affordable areas saw much higher increases. Southeast King County – which includes Auburn, Kent and Renton – saw home

prices jump 16% over the previous year.

While the median home price in Snohomish County

LOCAL MARKET UPDATE MONTHLY STATISTICS

is less than that in King County, the gap continues to close. Buyers willing to trade a longer commute for a lower mortgage have kept demand and prices strong. Inventory here was off 36% in December as compared to a year ago. The median price of a single-family home rose 9% over a year ago to \$510,000, an increase of \$15,000 from November.'

Source: http://bit.ly/LMU20January.

What's Happening Year-to-date 2019 **PRICE** Year-to-date 2018 LOCATION **Closed Sales thru December Closed Sales thru December CHANGE %** Number Median Number Median Average Average of Homes Sales Price Market Time of Homes Sales Price Market Time East of Lake 2,032 \$882,750 44 days 2,107 \$889,000 22 days Down 0.7% Sammamish West Bellevue 366 \$2,400,000 321 \$2,530,000 37 days Down 5.1% 45 days East Bellevue 704 Down 1.5% \$921,000 24 days 630 \$935,000 13 days South Bellevue/ 928 \$950.000 37 days 903 \$970,000 22 days Down 2.1% Newcastle/Issaquah Up 4.9% Kirkland/Rose Hill 637 \$1,350,000 31 days 602 \$1,286,500 18 days Redmond 606 \$883,750 30 days 597 \$899,950 23 days Down 1.8% Mercer Island 300 289 \$1,695,000 27 days Down 2 4% \$1,655,000 45 days Woodinville/Juanita/ Down 1.1% 1.830 \$775,500 37 days 1.892 \$785,500 23 days Bothell/Duvall Up 3.5% Renton 878 \$584,998 36 days 785 \$565,000 24 days Kent 1.188 \$452,750 34 days 1.251 \$449.950 26 days Up 0.6% Ballard 2,129 1,826 \$800,750 12 days Down 4.1% \$767,000 23 days S. Seattle 270 332 \$480,000 39 days \$475,000 31 days Up 1.1% Leschi/Mt Baker/ 607 \$640,000 31 days 625 \$660,000 19 days Down 3.0% Seward Park/Rainier Beacon Hill/Georgetown 433 \$605,000 32 days 409 \$635,000 17 days Down 4.7% Central Seattle 868 \$935,000 31 days 822 \$950,000 20 days Down 1.6% West Seattle 1,645 \$649,950 28 days 1,474 \$675,000 19 days Down 3.7% 25 days N. Seattle 1,110 \$825,000 Down 4.2% \$790,000 1,069 15 days Queen Anne 693 \$1,011,000 626 \$1,060,000 19 days Down 4.6% 30 days Down 4.9% N. Bothell/Maltby 1.812 \$680,000 38 days 1.700 \$715,500 26 days Lynnwood/ 2,033 \$556,000 30 days 2,105 \$550,000 21 days Up 1.1% Mt. Lake Terrace Up 3.6% Mill Creek/Everett 2,591 \$492,000 27 days 2.762 \$475,000 21 days 1.358 \$485,000 1.124 \$459,975 Up 5.4% Monroe/ Snohomish 41 days 27 days

^{*}All data compiled from information supplied by Northwest Multiple Listing Association on 1/01/2020. Accuracy of information herein is not guaranteed.

This information was only taken of single-family homes, and does not include condominiums or vacant land.





THE 2020 REAL ESTATE PROJECTIONS THAT MAY SURPRISE YOU

This will be an interesting year for residential real estate. With a presidential election taking place this fall and talk of a possible recession occurring before the end of the year, predicting what will happen in the 2020 U.S. housing market can be challenging. As a result, taking a look at the combined projections from the most trusted entities in the industry when it comes to mortgage rates, home sales, and home prices is incredibly valuable.

> 30 Year Mortgage Rate* Projected to Remain Stable Throughout 2020



Mortgage Rates

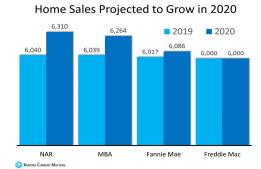
Projections from the experts at the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac all forecast mortgage rates remaining stable throughout 2020.

Since rates have remained under 5% for the last decade, we may not fully realize the opportunity we have right now.

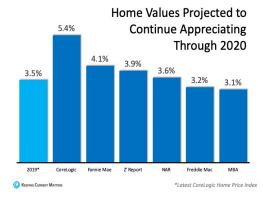
Home Sales

Three of the four expert groups noted above also predict an increase in home sales in 2020, and the fourth sees the transaction

number remaining stable:



With mortgage rates remaining near all-time lows, demand should not be a challenge. The lack of available inventory, however, may moderate the increase in sales.



Home Prices

Above are the projections from six different expert entities that look closely at home values: CoreLogic, Fannie Mae, Ivy Zelman's "Z Report", the National Association of Realtors (NAR), Freddie Mac, and the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA). Each group has home values

continuing to improve through 2020, with four of them seeing price appreciation increasing at a greater pace than it did in 2019.

Is a Recession Possible?

In early 2019, a In early 2019, a large percentage 2929? of economists







began predicting a recession may occur in 2020. In addition, a recent survey of potential home purchasers showed that over 50% agreed it would occur this year. The economy, however, remained strong in the fourth quarter, and that has caused many to rethink the possibility.

For example, Goldman Sachs, in their 2020 U.S. Outlook, explained:

"Markets sounded the recession alarm this year, and the average forecaster now sees a 33% chance of recession over the next year. In contrast, our new recession model suggests just a 20% probability. Despite the record age of the expansion, the usual late-cycle problems—inflationary overheating and financial imbalances—do not look threatening."

Bottom Line

Mortgage rates are projected to remain under 4%, causing sales to increase in 2020. With growing demand and a limited supply of inventory, prices will continue to appreciate, while the threat of an impending recession seems to be softening. It looks like 2020 may be a solid year for the real estate market.

Source: https://bit.ly/37UQOEo



How To Make Leftover Pizza TASTE LIKE IT WAS JUST DELIVERED

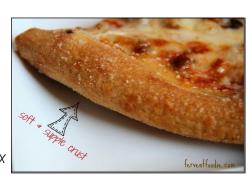
STEP ONE: Freeze leftover pizza in foil or zip top bags. Make sure to freeze the slices in single layers so that the slices don't get stuck together.

STEP TWO: Wrap frozen crust in foil. If you are a crust junkie like me, this is a KEY step in making sure you preserve the texture of the crust.

STEP THREE: Bake at 375 degrees for 12-15 minutes, depending on the size of the slice. (This was a large slice, and it was perfectly done in 15 minutes)

Worth the time. Way better than the microwave. AMAZING crust, every time.

Source: https://bit.ly/2Togm8X





5 Top Landscaping Trends for 2020 From the National Association of Landscaping Professionals



Ornate geometric hardscaping. Intricate patterns for hardscaping including waves, chevrons, lattices, and basket weaves. "From

walkways and patios to retaining walls and fire features, homeowners are looking to integrate popular home decor patterns into their hardscape designs," the NALP notes.

Contemporary & transitional designs.Contemporary, simple designs, which might

be reflected by a contemporary sculpture or modern fire or water feature, are popular. "Multi-season functionality is essential as more homeowners are selecting elements that can survive a range of temperatures, such as native plants, heat lamps, and protective structures," the NALP says.

Shades of blue. Rich tones of blue are the paint forecasters' choices for 2020 color of the year, and these cool colors are also heading outside. Homeowners are bringing in more blues, using sculptures or water features. In gardens, plants like blue fortune, delphinium, hydrangea, globe thistle, or grape hyacinth are popular too.

Gardens. Homeowners continue to add gardens into their landscapes. They're creating gardens that cater to their personal needs, like edible gardens for farm-to-table dining. In smaller spaces, owners are adding container gardens, vertical gardens, or "interiorscaping" to create an outdoor garden oasis, the NALP says.

High-tech water solutions. One-click, remote irrigation systems are gaining popularity. These systems deliver just the right amount of water to a landscape and can save owners money in the long run.

Source: https://bit.ly/2FFp62w



FRESHEN UP YOUR HOME BY REDECORATING INSTEAD OF REMODELING WITH THESE PRO TIPS

Redecorating your home is a great way to give it a quick and easy upgrade without the cost or hassle of a remodel. As you begin to think about how you want to redesign your space, consider these cardinal interiordesign rules to help you in your planning.

Create a focal point. The first question you should ask when planning your room is where the main focus will be. Where can you do something special that will draw the eye? Choose only one focal point — a wall across from the entrance, for instance — and do it well. Pay special attention to lighting. Add texture to a wall, a contrasting color, or a vignette of furnishings and artwork. A room without a focus is lost in space.

Hang art at eye-level. One of the most common mistakes people make when installing artwork is to hang it too high. Art looks best when it hangs where you can see it, at eye level. This means roughly two-thirds of the artwork should be below eye level and one third above. This rule might be slightly altered when hanging art over furniture like a buffet, sofa or console table; in that case, the bottom of the frame should be 4 to 8 inches above the furniture. When artwork hangs above a mantel or headboard — which are often higher than the average sofa — this

gap should be smaller.

Use the right rug size. Rugs should be proportionate to the room. In a bigger room, where the furniture is nearer the center of the space, the rug should be big enough to fit all the furniture on it. In a smaller living room, where the furniture is closer to the walls, the rug should extend into the space under the furniture, but still leave about a foot of bare floor showing at the edges.

Let furniture breathe. Never push your upholstered seating up to the wall. There should always be at least a 2-inch gap between the wall and seating. This will make the room feel more spacious. Equally important is that armoires, console tables and bookcases should never be lined up along the wall next to one another.

Lighting is the most important design element in your home. When done well, it creates a sense of depth and atmosphere, while still providing sufficient light where needed. Lighting should come from different sources at different heights, such as wall sconces and ceiling lights. The soft light of table and floor lamps adds ambiance; you can never have too many lamps. If possible, install dimmer switches.



Use mirrors. Mirrors are indispensable as a design tool. Because they reflect light and objects in interesting and useful ways, designers often use mirrors to correct architectural flaws, create the illusion of more space and bring light deeper into a room. If you have an awkward, dark or narrow room, or want to maximize the view from a window, a mirror in the right spot works wonders.

Design with layers. When a room feels incomplete or wrong, our first thought is to question the bigger things like the layout, the furniture or the colors. While these are important, the answer often lies in the smaller things. In a room that feels right, you will find layers of pillows and throws, artwork, and compositions of accessories, books, lamps and flowers. Layers are like blankets — they make us feel comfortable.

Source: https://bit.ly/36lrGk3



UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Beehive: The '60s Musical

Jan 24-Feb 16

Tacoma Musical Playhouse



Beehive: The '60s Musical is filled with classic hits of empowerment from iconic singers like Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner, The Shirelles, Diana Ross, Connie Francis, and The Supremes at Tacoma Musical Playhouse. Tickets: \$31 tmp.org/



Remodeling Expo

Jan 24-26

Times Vary

WA State Convention Center

The 2020 Northwest Remodeling Expo brings together hundreds of local and regional home improvement companies for one weekend only. It's the perfect way to jumpstart your remodeling project -- meet hundreds of contractors face to face! Tickets: 18 & over \$5.00 (Cash Only)

homeshowcenter.com/details/seattle

Masquerade Dance

Dec 31 I 8:30pm-12:30am Century Ballroom

A night of dancing to Swing, Blues, Latin, Foxtrots and Waltzes of all tempos,

featuring the 10-piece Valse Café Orchestra with vocalists Dina Blade and Lucia Neare. Plus, during band breaks, the always-secret Cabaret d'Artiste.

washingtonhistory.org/visit/wshm/eventsprograms/

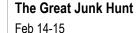


Lunar New Year Celebration

Feb 8 I 11am-4pm Seattle's Chinatown-International District

The celebration include traditional dragon and lion

dances, martial arts, Japanese Taiko Drumming, and other cultural performances on the Main Stage. Visitors are also able to participate in our Annual \$3 Food Walk. Free Admission cidbia.org/lunar-new-vear/



Evergreen State Fairgrounds It's a round up of curated vendors selling their best goods, plus cocktails, live music and aisles of junkin'



treasure. Shoppers walk away with items they can't find anywhere else. Discover farmhouse, industrial, vintage, re-purposed, handmade and much more.

Tickets: \$8.00 -\$20.00 thegreatjunkhunt.com



Wintergrass Bluegrass Festival

Feb 20-23

Hyatt Regency, Bellevue Wintergrass has dozens of acts on multiple stages, plus workshops and impromptu jams in Bellevue.

Tickets: \$20.00-\$155.00 wintergrass.com



Agent Name

100 116th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98004 425-462-8000







Happy Chinese New Year 1.25.2020