



Neighborhood News



October 2024

Acting city manager Diane Carlson selected for permanent role

The City Council has selected acting City Manager Diane Carlson to run city operations on a permanent basis. The Sept. 17 vote was unanimous, with an employment contract formalizing the appointment expected to be signed in October.



“To be able to hire someone of Diane Carlson’s caliber into a major leadership position, with her historic knowledge and without having to have a transition period...is just invaluable,” Mayor Lynne Robinson said on Sept. 17.

Carlson has served in an acting capacity since the retirement of former city manager Brad Miyake in November 2023. A Bellevue resident, she has a long and impressive career in local public administration and government relations.

From 2002 to 2012, Carlson was the City of Bellevue’s government relations director before taking a position as the capital division director for King County Metro. She subsequently took


leadership positions with the Office of County Executive Dow Constantine, the state Department of Transportation and the Association of Washington Cities before returning to Bellevue in 2022 as deputy city manager.

“I’m passionate about Bellevue and recognize that the role of city manager is the highest level of responsibility to serve our community and carry out this council’s vision,” Carlson said. “I appreciate the council’s confidence in me. We have a lot of work ahead of us and I’m looking forward to it.”

Bellevue operates under a council-manager form of government. The council hires a city manager to run the operations of the city while the council provides the vision, policies and priorities for the city.

The city used community input in the development of a candidate profile for the permanent city manager position, as well as the drafting of questions put to Carlson during public interviews in September. The council also interviewed her in a separate public meeting.

The council decided in May to proceed with a transparent and community-involved interview process for Carlson after she was found to possess the qualities and competencies identified in the candidate profile.

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Bellevue Jazz & Blues Music Series

bellevuejazz.com

The Bellevue Jazz & Blues Music Series is back Oct. 2-6 with live performances from local and regional musicians at Downtown Bellevue's gathering spaces.

The series returns with more than 20 shows, including two ticketed shows at Meydenbauer Center Theatre featuring headliners the dynamic Joel Astley Band featuring Johnny Burgin and Northwest jazz hall-of-famer Greta Matassa & Friends.

Audience members can follow along with the jazz crawl by exploring the featured popular venues like Bake's Place Bar & Bistro, El Gaucho, Paddy Coyne's Irish Pub, Lincoln Square North & South, The Bellettini and more. The 2024 Bellevue Jazz & Blues Music Series has garnered tremendous support from event partner City of Bellevue and media partners 425 Magazine and Cascade PBS, KNKX Radio, reflecting the significance of this cultural celebration for the region.

Cultural Conversations presents: Building Bridges & Leaving Legacy

Thursday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE

A light dinner will be provided.

Registration link: rb.gy/9g2j7e

Leaving a legacy is about more than personal achievements; it's about creating a lasting, positive influence on those around us. It starts with the family, where we first learn and practice values like empathy, respect and cooperation. By nurturing these values at home, we set an

example that inspires others to build bridges and contribute to a legacy of unity and kindness in the broader community.

Co-hosted by Fadumo Roble the following will be speakers at this event:

Violet Hobokela is a seasoned life coach and mentor. She has a background in anti-corruption work in Tanzania and has transitioned to life coaching in the United States since 2019.



She overcame personal adversity, including the abduction and reunion with her children, which drove her to found Unique Journey Life Coaching. As a speaker and life coach, Violet empowers immigrants, refugees and survivors of domestic violence, helping them thrive through positive mindset and resilience.

Tshishiku Henry is the Refugee Congress delegate for Washington state and the founder and CEO of Wide World for Refugees, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting immigrants and refugees. His extensive experience includes working with UNHCR and Plan International Malawi, where he focused on human rights, child protection and combating gender-based violence.



Otgon Yondon, a former US Department of State professional with 25 years of experience, is now applying her extensive background in both public service and finance to help individuals and businesses with financial strategies. Her unique perspective, gained from living in diverse financial systems, drives her commitment to educating clients on comprehensive financial planning.



For alternate formats, interpreters or reasonable accommodations please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6507 (voice) or email NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact the city's ADA/Title VI administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice).





Neighborhood Enhancement Program Updates

Northeast Bellevue area residents: Now is the time to vote for your top three project choices!



Please return the postage paid ballot that each household received in the mail in September. Voting is by mail only and is limited to one ballot per household. Ballots must be postmarked by **Monday, Oct. 21**.

Information on the **seven enhancement projects** on your ballot can be found on the Northeast Bellevue webpage in the Neighborhood Areas section of the NEP website at BellevueWA.gov/nep

West Lake Sammamish area residents: Please let us know how you liked the NEP process in your area. You have four new capital improvement projects that will be coming to the West Lake Sammamish neighborhood area:

- Weona Park Ivy Out!
- SE 34th St Streetlights
- Spiritridge Median Landscape Enhancements
- South West Lake Sammamish Parkway Landscape Improvements

Please return the postage paid evaluation postcard each household received in the mail last month or submit your comments online using the NEP Evaluation Form found at BellevueWA.gov/nep

Evaluations must be postmarked or submitted by **Monday, Oct. 28**.

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a city-funded program that allows residents to

propose and select modest capital projects to enhance their neighborhoods. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP neighborhood areas, serving two areas each year. The \$7 million program allocation is distributed among each of the NEP neighborhood areas, according to the number of households in each area.

Adopt-A-Street program helps to care for city's environment

Keep Bellevue Beautiful Adopt-A-Street volunteers have stepped up to keep our streets litter-free, caring for the natural beauty of our city while fostering a deeper sense of community.



The Adopt-A-Street program is bringing people together for a shared purpose. Whether it's neighbors bonding over a weekend cleanup or businesses partnering with their community, the program has become a powerful way to unite people. When individuals work side-by-side to clean up our streets, they create connections that go beyond picking up litter.

The program is also an opportunity to inspire younger generations and promote environmental stewardship. We encourage families and school groups to join as a fun and educational way to come together and create a positive impact.

We owe much of the program's success to our amazing adopters. They have shown what's possible when we come together to care for our shared spaces.

A huge thank you to the following Adopt-A-Street adopters for their hard work and dedication:

- Antidebris
- Beautiful Lakemont
- Bellevue Green & Clean
- Clean Forest Clean!
- Cleanup Bel-Red!
- Crossroads-East
- Donkey Lady
- Enatai Triangle



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- Expedition Pediatric Dentistry
- FORCE Suisse
- FREIHEIT Architecture
- Friends of 1st Street
- Friends of SE 8th
- GCU Overlake Team
- Golde Diggers
- Heritage Lane
- Imperial Dynasty
- JPC Architects
- Maxam Family
- Meydenbauer Center/Visit Bellevue
- Nieuwenhuis Family
- Primrose's hood
- Racer
- Recycling is like magic
- Save Our Meadow at Airfield Park
- Somerset Community Association
- SOP
- Target Factoria
- Target Wilburton
- Team Foster
- Teeny-Tiny Ave
- Temple B'nai Torah
- The Brazens @ 520 Bar & Grill
- Tidy B's
- Transcendent Closets and Blinds
- Walking Loops



Over 30 groups have already committed to keeping Bellevue beautiful, and we invite you to join! Whether you're an individual, a business, or a community group, your involvement can make a big difference.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/KeepBellevueBeautiful, where you can view our web-map to see which streets have already been adopted and find the perfect spot for you to contribute.

Let's keep Bellevue beautiful—one street at a time!

Round Two of Great Neighborhood launches in Crossroads and Newport areas

Brooke Brod, Community Engagement Lead – Planning Division

Bellevue is known for its diverse, vibrant and welcoming neighborhoods. The high quality of life that residents enjoy is no accident - it's the result of thoughtful and collaborative planning with the people who live, work and play here.

The Great Neighborhoods program is the process for developing neighborhood area plans that reflect the community's values and vision for the future. Neighborhood area plans inform future growth and change by providing guidance to city staff and developers about how to enhance the livability of the neighborhood. These plans are important tools for addressing the changing needs and conditions at the local level.

The Great Neighborhoods program began in 2018 and focused on the updates to the Northeast Bellevue and Northwest Bellevue neighborhood area plans, which were adopted by City Council in 2021.

The next round of neighborhood area planning will be in the Crossroads and Newport neighborhood areas. The planning process will be rooted in extensive community engagement to define specific neighborhood values and policies. The focus will center on strengthening the neighborhood area's unique identity, community gathering places and neighborhood connectivity.

Community members are invited to join the planning team at a Great Neighborhoods Virtual Kickoff on Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m. During this meeting, city planners will provide an overview of the program, answer questions and engage in dialogue with residents. Community members are invited to register for the Oct. 10 event on eventbrite.com/e/great-neighborhoods-crossroads-newport-kickoff-tickets-1020600783417.

To learn more about the project, sign-up for updates, or provide input visit our online engagement hubs at:

Crossroads: engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-crossroads

Newport: engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-newport

For alternate formats, interpreters or reasonable accommodations please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6930 (voice) or email bbrod@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact the city's ADA/Title VI administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice).

Silver Linings

Barbara Carey, member of Bellevue Network on Aging

The words “You have cancer” are some of the hardest words to hear. I know, because I have heard them. Fear suddenly engulfs you—fear of treatment, fear of the unknown, fear of death. Suddenly you feel you are not like everyone else—you feel marked, different and you just want the diagnosis to go away.



But of course, it doesn't.

Action is needed just as you feel nearly paralyzed with uncertainty. Almost immediately you are asked to make choices about things that you had never heard of before. Surgical and medicinal options are given to you: which doctors to choose, which course of treatment, which surgical procedures do you prefer? Sometimes it seems that getting cancer is just an opportunity to increase your vocabulary.

Yet, with sound medical advice, time to digest your situation, evaluate your options, and find your path of treatment, you will find your outlook improving. You will learn you are not alone. You are on a path traveled by many. You will find support groups of all kinds abound. Most hospitals and treatment centers either offer excellent groups or can provide references to groups in your area. Don't be afraid to reach out for support. Everyone needs it and everyone can give it, even you. There truly is strength in numbers.

As I searched for options, I was lucky to find Team Survivor Northwest (TSNW), a local

nonprofit organization that provides physical fitness programs for women cancer survivors in all stages of current and post treatment. Rather than discussion groups, TSNW offers a variety of fitness programs including walking, hiking, biking, workout groups, triathlon training, mountain climbing, the oh-so-popular dragon boating and more. All programs are offered at no cost to members. TSNW women form strong bonds of friendship and support as they work together to regain strength and confidence in their own bodies.

Many women find they are healthier than they have ever been in their lives and remain in the organization long past their treatment and recovery because of the camaraderie and extensive fitness opportunities. TSNW is a marvelous resource and a true silver lining for local women cancer survivors of any age. It was for me, and if you need it, it will be there for you as well.

You can find more information about the program at teamsurvivornw.org or by phone at 206-732-8350.

The Grand Connection Crossing has reached a milestone: Visit the open house to learn about the preferred design!

Over the past year, the Grand Connection Crossing team has been hard at work designing a multi-use crossing over Interstate 405 for people walking and rolling. We're excited to announce that the city has selected a preferred alignment and is currently developing preliminary/concept design (30% design). Visit our online open house Oct. 16 to Oct. 31 at engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing open-house to explore conceptual images, learn more about the design process, and see how community input has shaped the project so far.

The Grand Connection program is 1.5 miles of interconnected public and pedestrian-focused spaces that stretches from Meydenbauer Bay Park and continues east through Downtown Bellevue across I-405 to the Eastrail. The Grand Connection Crossing is the most high-profile element of the program.

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The crossing will start at the City Hall Plaza and finish at the Eastrail, ultimately connecting downtown Bellevue into a 175-mile regional trail network that serves more than half a million Eastside residents. The crossing will connect downtown Bellevue to Eastrail and Wilburton for people traveling without a car. When complete, the crossing will enable people of all ages and abilities to safely and conveniently access a network of events, jobs and recreational opportunities beyond the downtown core, and will create a vibrant destination with activated outdoor spaces that celebrate and serve the community.



Help shape Bellevue's preparations for natural hazards

Last month, we mentioned that we had started work on developing a citywide, natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Natural hazards include things like droughts, earthquakes, severe weather and floods. The HMP will help the city identify areas that are vulnerable to natural hazards, assess existing risks and formulate actions that will help reduce or eliminate the impacts of these hazards.

From now until Nov. 6, 2024, visit our online open house at EngagingBellevue.com/hmp to share your experiences and concerns about natural hazards. The online open house includes:

- More information on the HMP
- A short survey including questions on your experience with natural hazards and how prepared you feel for a natural hazard
- A mapping exercise where you can place a pin on areas you're concerned about
- A space to ask questions.

Your knowledge and insights will help provide us with information that will make the plan a success! The information we gather will be used to learn more about the community's concerns and help us identify actions we can take to make our community safer.

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New tree code changes aim to preserve Bellevue's urban forest

In July, the Bellevue City Council approved updates to our tree protection codes to help preserve the city's cherished tree canopy. Trees are a huge part of Bellevue's character—they clean the air, provide wildlife habitat, manage stormwater and keep our community beautiful. While young trees are planted to replace those removed, it takes years for them to mature and provide the same benefits, so preserving our mature trees is essential.

If you're a property owner, you'll need a permit to remove any significant or landmark tree. The process has been simplified to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners. A significant tree is now defined as one with a diameter of six inches or more, and a landmark tree is one with a diameter of 24 inches or more.

For larger developments, a "tree credit" system sets minimum tree density requirements. Developers can either preserve trees, plant new ones, or pay a fee to fund city replanting projects if they can't meet the requirements on the site.

To prevent illegal tree removal, the city is enforcing fines based on a tree's value but is also offering plenty of guidance for anyone unsure of the rules. If you're thinking about removing a tree, the city's Land Use planners are happy to help you through the process. These changes are designed to keep Bellevue green and beautiful for years to come. For more details, visit BellevueWA.gov/development-services.

Boards and Commissions Meetings

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/special-meetings

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network
 (6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/city-government/bdan

Arts Commission (4:30 p.m., 1E-113)
 First Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/arts-commission

Environmental Services Commission
 (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/environmental-commission

Planning Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113)
 Second and fourth Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/cdplanning-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 Monday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/human-services-commission

LEOFF 1 Disability Board (6 p.m., Room 1E-118)
 First Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/leoff-1-disability-board

Library Board (5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or Newport Way Library) Second Wednesday of each month.
BellevueWA.gov/library-board

Parks & Community Services Board
 (6 p.m., 1E-113) Third Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/pcs-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/events

Youth Link Board (6 p.m., 1E-120) Second and fourth Wednesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/youth-link-board

Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division offers a variety of programs and partnerships for residents and community members.

To learn more about involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, please visit our website at: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhoods or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit:
BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

Day	Scheduled Meeting(s)	Location	Public Comment Opportunity
First four Tuesdays of each Month, except August and December	6 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chamber Bellevue TV channel 21 and BT 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 Tuesday only			
December – first and second Tuesday only			

