



Neighborhood News

March 2025

New Office of Housing to guide housing and homelessness response initiatives

By Janelle Wetzstein
Community Development and Office of Housing
Public Information Officer



Bianca Siegl, Office of Housing Director

Increased housing affordability, availability and options are key city priorities set by Bellevue's City Council. To guide these efforts, the city recently combined housing and homelessness outreach staff into a centralized citywide Office of Housing. The team has already begun tackling action items to advance affordable

housing initiatives and is holding events to share progress and information with the community and city partners.

The mission of the Office of Housing is to partner in delivering policy, projects and resources that accelerate production and preservation of housing in Bellevue. Their work also centers on addressing homelessness and building a welcoming community. The office aims to strengthen partnerships, leverage city resources and align teams to expand housing in Bellevue so people of all incomes can afford to reside within the city.

"This work is critical in our community and supports our vision to be a welcoming, supportive and accessible city for all," said City Manager

Diane Carlson. "Having a dedicated team focused on all aspects of our housing priorities will help us reach our goals and serve the community more effectively."

Assistant Director in the City Manager's Office Bianca Siegl was selected to lead the team as Office of Housing Director. Other team members include existing housing and homelessness outreach roles that are now coming together to form this office.

Bellevue's council priorities include housing, leading the council to approve the creation of the Office of Housing during the 2025-2026 budget process.

Near-term areas of focus include accelerating affordable housing opportunities on city-owned properties, streamlining processes citywide to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing and leveraging resources to invest in developing additional affordable housing units. As part of this work, the city is hosting a unique Office of Housing event, the Better Cities Film Festival, on March 6, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The featured films will showcase innovative and inspiring solutions being pursued by several leading cities to model what is possible toward achieving accessible, affordable communities.

The city is also updating its Affordable Housing Strategy (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/housing-affordability/affordable-housing-strategy), a plan initially launched in 2017. Development of the Affordable Housing Strategy update will occur over the next year and include a range of community engagement opportunities.

Better Cities Film Festival to showcase inspired housing strategies

Thursday, March 6, 6-8:30 p.m.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

At Bellevue City Hall Council Chambers

Registration is required:
better-cities-bellevue.eventbrite.com

As part of the 2025 Affordable Housing Strategy, the City of Bellevue has partnered with the Better Cities Film Festival to present a night of short films showcasing the world's most inspiring stories about making better cities, towns and neighborhoods for all.

Bellevue is not alone in its efforts to ensure affordable housing for a range of income levels.



Photo Credit: Stanton J. Stephens

This movie night will highlight places and partners across the United States and world that are finding innovative solutions to create accessible, affordable communities. The film screening will be followed by small group discussions to share what you took away.

To learn more about this event or the 2025 Affordable Housing Strategy, visit EngagingBellevue.com or contact Hannah BahnMiller at hbahnmille@bellevuewa.gov.

More opportunities to engage on middle housing

The Middle Housing land use code amendment is moving forward with ongoing review and public engagement. Community members have contributed valuable feedback and thoughtful questions, helping to refine the draft code updates. You can view the latest draft and share your input on our website: BellevueWA.gov/middle-housing-code.

Upcoming opportunities to participate:
Virtual Information Session, March 3
middle-housing-draft-code-info-session.eventbrite.com

Planning Commission Study Session, March 12

Middle housing, such as accessory dwelling units and other housing types between single-family homes and mid-rise buildings, creates more diverse and affordable housing options. By allowing these homes in more residential areas, we can support a wider range of housing needs and increase opportunities for people to live and thrive in our community. The proposed updates align with recent state laws requiring cities to expand middle housing options.

Your voice is essential in shaping these updates! Join the conversation and help plan for a more inclusive and livable Bellevue.



GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

Great Neighborhoods begins Public Space Series

Brooke Brod, Community Engagement Lead,
Planning Division

The Great Neighborhoods planning team recently completed the Discover phase in neighborhood area planning. Over 350 people in Crossroads and over 300 people in Newport provided input about what makes their neighborhood special and what challenges and opportunities exist through a mailed questionnaire, small-group meetings and an ideas fairs.

People had a lot to say about what makes their neighborhood special. Community members in Crossroads value the neighborhood's convenience and diversity. People appreciate that it's easy to access services and amenities like the mall and the community center, and to access Downtown and other neighborhoods.

Community members in Newport value the community's friendliness, safety and convenience. The many trails and natural areas give the neighborhood a sense of beauty and quiet.

NEP Updates

Bridle Trails Neighbors

The Project Submission phase of the Bridle Trails NEP is now closed, and the Scoping phase has begun. City staff are now reviewing all the project suggestions that were submitted for consideration for possible NEP funding from your neighborhood area's \$445,000 allocated budget amount. Keep an eye on your mailbox for an invitation to a Public Open House at the Northwest Bellevue Community Center on Wednesday, June 11 when you'll be able to meet with City project managers to discuss those projects that will be included on your ballot.



**Northwest Bellevue
NEP Virtual Kickoff Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.
For Zoom Link email**

Neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov

Throughout March, the planning team will engage community members in a Public Spaces Series, during which you can explore locations in the neighborhood and participate in a variety of hands-on activities designed to identify ways the city can enhance public spaces by making them more enjoyable and welcoming.

For more information, please visit the event webpage for each neighborhood area or reach out to Brooke Brod at bbrod@bellevuewa.gov.

Crossroads: tinyurl.com/GN-Crossroads-Events

Newport: tinyurl.com/GN-Newport-Events

**Neighborhood Pop-Ups in Crossroads and Newport
Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m.-noon**

Public Space Workshop in Crossroads

Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Public Space Workshop in Newport

Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Pop-Ups in Crossroads and Newport

Thursday, March 27, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

These are all drop-in events and you can come at any time. No registration is required. With family-friendly and accessible activities for kids and adults, people of all ages and abilities are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

Northwest Bellevue Neighbors

**A virtual Kickoff meeting will be held on
Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m.**

City staff will provide attendees with a brief overview of the program schedule, answer questions, and invite residents to share, discuss and submit project ideas. Project managers will be available in breakout rooms for specific project discussions. Each household in Northwest Bellevue will receive a postage-paid NEP Project Request Form in the mail later this month. \$380,000 in NEP funding is available to the Northwest Bellevue neighborhood area.

To find out which NEP Neighborhood Area you call home, when NEP will be in your area, and how much funding your area has been allocated, please visit BellevueWA.gov/nep.

Questions? Please contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov



Curious about installing rooftop solar panels this year?

Workshops will be held April 2 and May 19 at 6-8 p.m., at Bellevue City Hall. Sign up for a workshop and learn more at SolarizeEastside.org.

Solarize Eastside is open for enrollment starting March 1! Sign up for this limited-time offering where you'll get discounted prices, vetted local installers and quality made-in-Washington equipment.

Installing solar panels on your home can have enormous economic and environmental benefits, but it can also feel like a daunting process, from perceived costs to technical details and figuring out which installers to choose. To address these challenges and support homeowners, the City of Bellevue is sponsoring Solarize Eastside, a group purchasing program used nationally to reduce costs and simplify the installation process. Solarize installers provide discounted prices, made-in-Washington equipment, and free public workshops to help answer all your questions.

Solarize programs have accelerated residential solar adoption across Washington. The City of Bellevue's sustainability team is thrilled to offer this program!



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

Subscribe to Neighborhood News electronically: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Save money and resources with Greener Living Classes

Bellevue Utilities is hosting community classes focused on building sustainable behaviors such as reuse, repair, and rethink.

The free classes include utilizing the Bellevue Library Makerspace to repair household items by 3D printing replacement parts. Other classes



cover how to get rid of almost anything to declutter or reorganize, crafting with upcycled materials and making your own cleaners with common household items.

For more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes.

To register, email recycle@bellevuewa.gov or call 206-949-1787.

Choose to Reuse:

Crafting with Upcycled Materials

Saturday, March 22, 2-3 p.m. at Lake Hills Library

Easy Repair: 3D Printing Replacement Parts

Tuesday, April 1, 6-7:30 p.m. at Bellevue Library Makerspace

How To Get Rid of Anything:

Recycling, Composting, Hazardous Materials and Unusual Items

Wednesday, April 16, 6-7 p.m. virtual

Tuesday, May 13, 6-7 p.m. virtual

Make and Take Home Your Own Natural Cleaners

Tuesday, April 22, 6-7 p.m. at Bellevue Library

Effective Strategies to Reorganize and Declutter at Home

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Newport Way Library



National Healthcare Decisions Day

The Bellevue Network on Aging is offering a free

“Empowering Your Future: Making Confident Healthcare Decisions and Understanding Advance Directives” presentation with Maureen Kures R.N., on Tuesday, April 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the North Bellevue Community Center, located at 4063 148 Ave NE.

Register by calling 425-452-7681.

April 15 is Tax Day. The day after, April 16, is National Healthcare Decisions Day, which is important in empowering you to make the choices for the type of healthcare you receive.

National Healthcare Decisions Day was founded in 2008 by attorney Nathan Kottkamp to encourage people to begin or continue conversations about their wishes for healthcare choices. The date was selected based on Benjamin Franklin’s quotation: “In this world there is nothing certain except death and taxes.”

Provide your input on Eastgate’s newest neighborhood park

Join Parks & Community Services staff at the second community meeting for Eastgate’s newest neighborhood park on Thursday, March 27, 6-7:30 p.m. at South Bellevue Community Center. We’ll ask for feedback on the new name and proposed designs for the park.

The Eastgate Neighborhood Area south of I-90 has long been underserved in parks and trails access. To address this need, voters passed the 2022 City of Bellevue Parks and Open Space levy, which generated funds for acquiring, planning and developing a new park in the Eastgate neighborhood. With these funds, the city acquired two properties on the corner of 147th Avenue SE and SE 39th Street, totaling about a half-acre of land for the proposed park.

We look forward to working with the community to plan and name Eastgate’s newest park!

It’s important to make your wishes known and there are tools to do this. The process is called Advance Care Planning and includes three very important facets:

- Completing an Advance Directive, also known as a living will
- Appointing a healthcare power of attorney, sometimes called a surrogate or proxy, who can make healthcare decisions on your behalf if you can’t
- Sharing your wishes with loved ones

All of these can be done by you and your family using tools that are available online and without an attorney. Another document, called a POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment), is a form you can complete with your physician that identifies specific types of care you want.

Online Sources of information and downloadable forms include:

The Conversation

Project <https://theconversationproject.org/>.

Caring Info <https://www.caringinfo.org/planning/advance-directives/by-state/washington/>

Choose Your Way Bellevue Travel Workshop

Whether you’re new to the city, recently started a job here or want to learn how to get around sustainably, you’ll learn everything you need to know, from bus and light rail routes to bikeways, carpool options and more at the Choose Your Way Bellevue Travel Workshop.

Join us on Friday, March 21, noon-1 p.m., to explore how to traverse Bellevue in fun, safe and eco-friendly ways.

Don’t miss out on this essential guide to exploring your city. You will receive swag and a \$25 pre-loaded ORCA card as part of our Try Transit program!

Registration is required at bit.ly/cywbtravelworkshops.





Bold for the Blue Fundraising Breakfast

Join the Bellevue Police Foundation on April 1 at 7 a.m. to celebrate the work of the Bellevue Police Department.

This year's free Bold for the Blue Fundraising Breakfast will be held at the Bellevue Hilton Hotel. Funds raised will be used to purchase innovative equipment, training and community engagement programs that enhance the safety of all who work, live and play in Bellevue.

To learn more and register: bellevuepolicefoundation.org/events/2025-breakfast/



Designing transportation improvements at Bellevue College

This year, in partnership with Bellevue College and King County Metro, the city's Transportation Department is advancing the Bellevue College Multimodal Connection project.

The goal of the project is to design and ultimately construct an enhanced transportation corridor to accommodate future bus access through the Bellevue College campus from SE 32nd Street to SE 24th Street along Snoqualmie River Road SE.

The city hired an engineering firm in December to finish the design for the corridor by early 2026. The preliminary design completed in recent years includes the construction of a transit corridor with two through lanes, upgrading bus facilities and implementing intersection improvements.

By delivering a corridor that improves traffic flow, bus service, and safety for people biking, walking and rolling, the project will help meet the transportation needs of students, nearby community members and employees commuting along the I-90 corridor.

For more information visit the project website: BellevueWA.gov/college-connection or contact project manager, Paul Krawczyk at pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov.



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

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

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



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			



Happy
Spring!