

Fall/Winter 2025

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Civic Innovation partners

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People dance to live jazz at the City Hall plaza on July 17 during a Community Programming Fund event hosted by the swing dance teacher Jennifer Lee.

With city grants, they’re dancing at City Hall

BY ANTHONY GILL
Grand Connection Corridor Manager

A new city fund aimed at increasing activities that bring residents, workers and visitors together in public spaces has been a success this year, supporting almost 40 events, including a book giveaway at Downtown Park, a night market in BelRed and participatory dancing on the City Hall Plaza.

The Community Programming Fund, launched in April, provides a total of \$150,000 in grants to organizations hosting free, outdoor activities in parks, plazas and civic spaces, along with fee waivers for permits and certain facility rental charges.

Grantees got creative for this first round of program funding, coming up with a wide range of diverse activities for the community to enjoy.

- A steel-pan drum performance from Seattle Steel Pan Project
- A “book bike” pop-up event featuring free children’s books in Downtown Park, with the pop-up’s long-term home at Stevenson Elementary School
- The BelRed Arts District’s first ever night market, featuring art booths, food trucks and live performances
- Participatory dance events, including salsa, line and swing, at the City Hall Plaza
- Outdoor children’s storytelling sessions, including separate series showcasing South Asian and Chinese traditions

DANCING
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Meeting, survey on Affordable Housing Strategy update

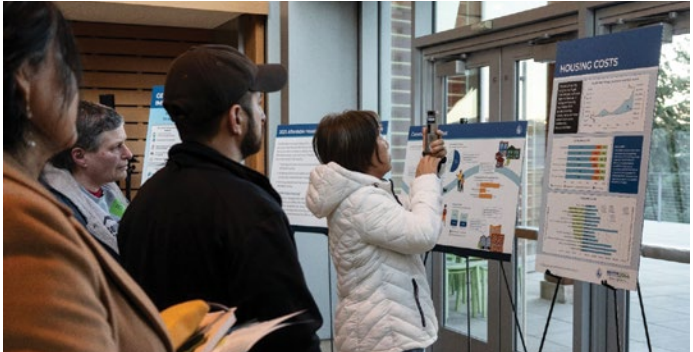
BY JANELLE WETZSTEIN
Office of Housing Public Information Officer

As part of an ongoing effort to ensure there is housing for everyone across incomes and backgrounds in Bellevue, the city has had an affordable housing strategy since 2017. Now drafting an update of the plan, the city will hold an information session Thursday, Nov. 6, 6–7:30 p.m., at City Hall.

Bellevue’s Office of Housing is managing the update, which will implement new policy direction from the city’s 2024–2044 Comprehensive Plan. The plan, adopted last year, has five broad housing goals—affordable housing, housing equity, housing stability, housing for unique needs, and housing supply and diversity. The strategy update will identify actions for each of these goals and help the city meet an overall target of building or preserving 5,700 affordable units in 10 years.

Staff provided a progress report to the City Council on Oct. 21. The draft strategy update is anticipated in January. A public survey will be released following the Nov. 6 information session.

Want to learn more? Stay engaged by visiting EngagingBellevue.com/2025-affordable-housing-strategy.



People at a workshop concerning affordable housing in Bellevue view information panels.

Council Corner

Living well, together in Bellevue

BY MO MALAKOUTIAN
Deputy Mayor



As the holiday season approaches, the pace of life often picks up, and with it, our stress levels. Earlier this fall, the City Council recognized Sept. 19 as Teen Mental Health Awareness Day, a timely reminder to pause and care for our well-being through small, consistent habits that add up.

In my own life and recent conversations, I've noticed how much our daily choices can lift our mental and physical health. If we focus on a few simple areas—nutrition, unplugging, sleep, and movement—we can build habits that help us thrive through these busy months and beyond.

Eat healthy, eat local

Cutting back on added sugars and processed foods can make a big difference, not just for long-term health but for how we feel day to day. We're fortunate to have farmers' markets and local restaurants in Bellevue that bring fresh, whole foods close to home.

The Bellevue Farmers Market's summer season has wrapped up, but it's hosting a special holiday market on Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at its location in the parking lot of the Bellevue Presbyterian Church. Several regional markets run year-round. Eating local not only fuels our bodies, but also supports farmers and small businesses.

Even small changes, like choosing sparkling water instead of soda, and fruit and nuts instead of candy and packaged snacks, can make a difference.

Reduce stress: Unplug, rest and reset

It's easy to get swept up in a news cycle or social media feed that highlights everything going wrong.

Stepping out of that loop by turning off our phones, getting some fresh air or simply noticing what's going well can do wonders for our peace of mind. The Bellevue Botanical Garden occasionally offers "forest bathing," a guided mindfulness walk through nature; and the adventure park at the South Bellevue Community Center is a fun way to get moving. Our park rangers lead regular hikes on popular woodland trails in our parks (details at BellevueWA.gov/lewiscreek).

We also underestimate sleep's impact. Mood, focus and energy all improve when we get enough rest. Getting to bed earlier can be a challenge for many of us, especially with screens tempting us late

into the evening, but putting the phone down an hour sooner can make all the difference.

Step outside, move, stay strong

Sunlight and movement are natural resets. Whether it's a lunchtime walk, a Saturday morning at the lake, a stroll along the Mercer Slough Nature Park trail or a hike on Cougar Mountain, Bellevue's parks and trails make it easy to stay active.

Strength training is a critical piece of the longevity puzzle that often gets overlooked. As we age, keeping muscles strong helps protect our independence. Bodyweight exercises, resistance bands or light weights are effective. Bellevue's community centers have good equipment and classes, some discounted or free.

Let's keep Bellevue healthy, together

Each choice—sleeping better, moving more, eating fresh and unplugging—may seem small, but together they truly add up to a better life. Bellevue gives us a wonderful backdrop to make these changes achievable and enjoyable. Let's take this one step further: look out for your neighbors.

This season, reach out to a friend who might be feeling isolated, invite a family member for a walk on a local trail or simply share a healthy local tip. We thrive when we support one another. I look forward to seeing you out and about—connecting, caring and living well together in Bellevue.



The Bellevue Farmers Market is open weekly late May to early October.

Council Roundup

BY CLAUDE IOSSO
It's Your City Editor

Repeated thefts could mean at least month in jail

The City Council on Sept. 23 voted to prepare a city ordinance that would set minimum sentencing requirements for repeat offenders of certain theft crimes in Bellevue, including shoplifting.

The ordinance would set a 30-day minimum jail sentence for third-degree theft if the offender has two or more prior theft convictions in Washington within the last two years. The ordinance would allow exceptions to the minimum jail sentence for participation in diversion programs, community court and/or mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Councilmembers voted 6-1 to prepare the ordinance for action at a future meeting, with Councilmember Dave Hamilton voting no. The council also requested a check-in on the ordinance after a year.

28% decrease in crime

At the Sept. 16 council meeting, Police Department leaders reported a 28% decrease in overall crime in Bellevue over the last year, along with a 21% decrease in traffic collisions, a 117% increase in speeding tickets and an average response time under four minutes.

The department indicated that lower crime trends are regionwide, but a strong partnership with Bellevue community members has a lasting, positive influence here.

The report also highlighted the department's efforts to curb speeding and racing on Bellevue streets, a concern for many community members. Officers issued significantly more speeding tickets and made more reckless driving arrests. The department has had successes with its Community Crisis Assistance Team and the Bellevue Light Rail Unit this year.

Grand Connection approaches milestones

The council received an update on July 22 regarding the Grand Connection program, the city's series of projects and initiatives designed to improve the pedestrian experience through downtown.

Recent developments included the formation of the Office of the Grand Connection to centralize coordination of the project and the awarding of grants to organizations that will host events along the Grand Connection corridor.

On the horizon are preparations for completing the design and construction of the Grand Connection Crossing, the program's pedestrian-focused crossing over Interstate 405. The city will request state approval to complete the crossing via an alternative delivery method known as general contractor/construction management, which brings construction expertise into the design process at the early stages of a project. This process helps ensure that as the crossing's design progresses, it remains within the project scope and budget.

City offers guidance regarding e-bikes and e-scooters

BY LUKE CASSIDY
Transportation Planning Intern

Did you know you must be 16 years old to ride an e-scooter? Or that electric motorcycles are considered motor vehicles and must follow the same laws as gas-powered motorcycles?

In the brave new world of micromobility, it feels like you can go anywhere fast on electric scooters and bikes, but sometimes you shouldn't. To ensure safety for riders and those around them, the city recently updated its code to align with state law regarding e-scooters and it has launched a page on [BellevueWA.gov](#) to help community members navigate the do's and don'ts.

Micromobility refers to small, lightweight vehicles like e-bikes and e-scooters. The new [BellevueWA.gov/e-mobility-safety](#) page provides clear, practical guidance on how to safely share Bellevue's streets, sidewalks and trails.

Micromobility devices are becoming a common sight across Bellevue, with community members increasingly using e-scooters and e-bikes for running errands, getting to work or zipping around with friends.

Where to read up before you head out

The new webpages are located under the Traffic Safety section of the city's website. They provide:

- **Definitions and rules** – How state law defines e-bikes, e-scooters and electric motorcycles, and how Bellevue's code applies to each.
- **Where you can ride** – A clear breakdown for streets, bike lanes, shared-use paths, parks, sidewalks and trails.
- **Safety requirements** – Minimum age, maximum speeds, required lights/reflectors for night riding, helmet recommendations and passenger rules.
- **Enforcement and reporting** – How Bellevue Police approach enforcement, and how people can report unsafe riding.

E-Bikes and e-Scooters expand travel choices

With clear safety rules now in place, these devices can be used responsibly alongside walking, biking, driving and transit to support Bellevue's Vision Zero and sustainability goals.

Electric Motorcycles

Unlike e-bikes and e-scooters, electric motorcycles are designed for higher speeds and road use. That means riders are required to have a driver's license, carry insurance and register the vehicle with the Department of Licensing. They're not allowed on sidewalks, shared-use paths or trails—they belong in traffic lanes with other motor vehicles.

Building on Bellevue's previous micromobility work

These new resources build on Bellevue's micromobility journey, which began in 2018 with the city's e-bike share pilot and transportation planners' continued efforts to safely integrate bikes and scooters into the transportation system.

Now the city is exploring options to bring a shared e-scooter vendor to Bellevue, expanding access to micromobility beyond personally owned devices.



The e-bike is on the left; the e-motorcycle on the right.



With her clipboard, code compliance officer Heidi Skinner is set to investigate a case.

Code Compliance supports safe and beautiful spaces

Compliance officer Heidi Skinner brings 20 years experience to job

BY AMANDA RICH ANDERSON
Development Services Public Information Officer

For nearly a decade, Heidi Skinner has helped keep Bellevue safe, healthy and welcoming. She came to the city already experienced in the business, having been a code compliance officer with SeaTac for two years and with North Las Vegas for eight.

Heidi's work protects the health, safety and well-being of people and places across the city. Each enforcement case begins with confirming that a complaint involves an issue covered by city code, then reaching out to the complainant and the property owner, renter or business involved.

The process typically includes researching the property, inspecting the site, determining whether a violation exists, contacting responsible parties and requesting voluntary compliance—such as abating a nuisance or securing permits and inspections. Voluntary compliance is always the goal; if that isn't achieved, the case moves to a civil violation and hearing.

Most complaints involve building without permits or unapproved clearing and grading. Guiding property owners and businesses through the permitting steps is often part of the job, ensuring they understand what compliance requires.

Heidi recognizes that a code visit can feel unsettling at first. Once property owners understand she's acting on a reported complaint and that the city must investigate, conversations usually shift toward solutions. She keeps the emphasis on understanding and practical resolution, even if it takes time.

As a senior code officer, Heidi trains new team members, updates procedures, assists the team manager on projects and serves as a subject-matter expert during civil violation hearings.

What motivates Skinner most is making a difference in the community. Whether mentoring a colleague, helping a neighbor resolve a concern or shaping behind-the-scenes improvements, Heidi views code compliance as a way to support everyone who lives, works and plays in Bellevue.

See Skinner in action in a two-minute Bellevue Television feature at [YouTu.be/Oh7ZLeVGvxl?feature](#).

Learn more at [BellevueWA.gov/code-compliance](#) or report a violation on the MyBellevue app.

DANCING

Continued from [page 1](#)

Almost 40 individuals and organizations received funding this year. Already, feedback from attendees has been positive, and several grantees have expressed interest in hosting future programs.

A few more events are taking place this year, including a "trunk or treat" event featuring electric vehicles and a Santa-themed holiday event in Old Bellevue.

The CPF will likely return next year, with emphasis on series-based programming and activities designed to bring community members together for the 2026 FIFA World Cup games coming to Seattle.

More information will be available soon at [BellevueWA.gov/cpf](#), and applications for grants will open in January.

Getting along with the (wild) neighbors



A coyote in the Coal Creek Natural Area (recorded by one of the city’s wildlife cameras).

BY CURTIS KUKAL
Parks & Community Services Park Ranger

Many of us take trips to the mountains, lakes and forests of Washington, reveling in all the wildlife we see there. Of course, nature is not somewhere you drive to. Wildlife such as black bears, bobcats, coyotes and herons are our neighbors – living in Bellevue in our yards, woods and even urban centers.

Even the best of neighbors can get into conflicts.

Mostly, our wild neighbors go about their daily business barely being noticed. But sometimes a beaver will cut down a prized yard tree, a bear will get into the trash or a coyote will show aggression to a pet.

We can’t and shouldn’t try to remove every wild animal in Bellevue – even the species that we sometimes find annoying. Many wildlife-

related conflicts occur because people are feeding the animals, consciously or not. We can make small adjustments that will go a long way toward mitigating conflicts with wildlife.

On a single-family property, carefully manage bird feeders, compost and trash cans. You’ll also want to clean dirty barbecues, keep the pet food inside and collect orchard fruit for the compost bin. Even periodically pressure-washing trash and recycling bins can help minimize the smells that attract wildlife like bears and raccoons. For an apartment or condo, keeping the area around the dumpster tidy can make a big difference—and don’t forget to close the lid. At the park, don’t feed the ducks or squirrels; they’ll do much better on a wild food diet.

Keep wild animals out of certain areas by fixing holes in buildings, hardening livestock infrastructure and installing wildlife-proof fencing and tree cages. Pet owners especially have a role to play by keeping vaccinations up to date, staying on-leash in the parks and keeping small and medium-sized dogs indoors after dusk.

Finally, keep your distance. Never approach bears for pictures. If coyotes get too close for comfort, make yourself big and throw sticks.

The City of Bellevue doesn’t manage wildlife – that’s the role of state, federal and tribal agencies. We don’t offer trapping or translocation services either, and we rely on partner agencies to address conflicts involving wildlife. Local governments improve wildlife habitat on public land, report wildlife crimes, foster connection to nature, and educate residents about the species that call Bellevue home.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has excellent resources for outdoor enthusiasts, homeowners, businesses and those just curious about wildlife at WDFW.wa.gov. Bellevue park rangers also offer free, year-round educational programming on wildlife and habitats.

Being a good neighbor takes work, but getting along with our wild neighbors is worth the effort.

City considers focus areas for next stormwater plan

BY THANIA BARRIOS
Environmental Project Planner

When Bellevue Utilities updates its Storm and Surface Water System Plan, should it focus more on reducing flooding or protecting natural habitat? What about reducing water pollution or adding more plants and trees in the city?

The new plan will do all of these things, but which of these should be prioritized more over the next 10 years?

Managing stormwater after it rains affects every Bellevue resident in some way—and that’s why your feedback is essential. Let the city know your thoughts on flooding, pollution and waterway health by taking a quick online survey by Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Stormwater is rainwater that flows over rooftops, streets, landscaping and parking lots, often picking up pollution on its way to local lakes and streams. Surface water refers to the water in those streams and lakes, as well as wetlands.

- Why It Matters to You**
- Even if you don’t think about stormwater daily, its effects are all around us. Strong, well-planned stormwater systems mean:
- Less flooding during heavy rains
 - Cleaner water in our lakes and streams for swimming, fishing and boating

- Healthier habitats for salmon and other local wildlife
 - Minimized erosion and fewer landslides
- To prevent flooding, Bellevue Utilities installs storm drains and ditches along streets and parking lots to collect runoff. Stormwater treatment facilities remove pollutants. To help salmon and other wildlife, the city has been removing old culverts and opening up streams.

The new plan will replace the current one, which was adopted in 2016. As part of the update process, the city is analyzing the current stormwater system, identifying challenges, recommending improvements and updating policies to match local growth, new regulations and environmental needs.

Have questions or ideas? The project team wants to hear from you directly. tbarrios@bellevuewa.gov. Details and the survey are available at BellevueWA.gov/ssw-plan.



A major project in Factoria completed last year involved installation of a concrete holding tank under Factoria Boulevard and channel improvements to Richards Creek.

Code and policy town hall on proposed land use code updates

BY AMANDA RICH ANDERSON
Development Services Public Information Officer

Join the city’s Code and Policy team on Monday, Nov. 17, for a hybrid town hall to get the latest information on proposed code amendments that will shape development, housing and more in Bellevue. Staff will provide an overview of projects underway and those expected to launch in early 2026.

The team will also provide “Code 101” on the city code and land use code—what it is, why it is updated and how it connects to development. The discussion will also include how proposed changes move through city review, including the roles of the Planning Commission and City Council. Staff will also discuss opportunities for residents to weigh in.

Several code amendment projects are in various stages of planning, review and community engagement, with additional projects anticipated in the months ahead.

Housing Opportunities in Mixed-Use Areas

The proposed HOMA land use code amendment is designed to encourage housing development in mixed-use areas, where people can live, work and access services in the same neighborhood. The proposal will also create an affordable housing program in various mixed-use areas of the city. Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/homa.

BelRed code updates

The BelRed land use code, based on a vision to transform the neighborhood into a walkable, lively neighborhood with housing near transit, is being updated to reflect changing growth patterns and to support future development goals, as well as new opportunities such as the BelRed Arts District. Details at BellevueWA.gov/belred-look-back.



Critical areas include stream banks.

Critical Areas Ordinance

For its required 10-year update, the ordinance will incorporate the latest scientific research and balance conservation with housing and development needs. Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/critical-areas-update.

Sign Code updates

The city’s sign regulations will be updated to align with current law and improve clarity for easier understanding and enforcement. Details at BellevueWA.gov/sign-code-update.

Co-Living Housing

The state Legislature recently approved regulations requiring cities to permit co-living housing on lots that allow six or more multifamily units, including in mixed-use zones. Bellevue must update its code by the end of 2025. Additional information is available at BellevueWA.gov/co-living.

Learn more about the town hall and code and policy projects at BellevueWA.gov/code-amendments.

Early referrals help reduce evictions

By Conflict Resolution Center Staff

When tenants in Bellevue have trouble paying the rent, Bellevue’s Conflict Resolution Center has been able to help them negotiate payment plans with their landlords, a superior alternative for both parties to eviction proceedings.

The CRC’s Housing Accord Program has seen a jump in calls and case resolution rates since it launched a pilot in November 2024, testing early referrals. The pilot ended in March, but the early referrals are continuing and expanding.

While tenants obviously want to avoid eviction, landlords also are looking for alternatives, because evictions are so costly and time-consuming. The Conflict Resolution Center provides coaching and negotiation, helping tenants make a plan, and helping landlords and tenants work together.

Through the Housing Accord Program, a successor to the COVID-era Eviction Resolution Pilot Program, the CRC had been helping tenants and landlords since early 2024, but it was still hard to reverse things if the eviction process was already in advanced stages.

During the pilot, property managers at 24 multifamily communities across Bellevue and Kirkland provided tenants with information about the Housing Accord Program at the initial stage of the eviction process—specifically when issuing a “Pay or Vacate” notice.

That, and good coaching, made all the difference.

If you are a tenant in need, a landlord at their wit’s end, or a potential community partner in this work, we encourage you to reach out to the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center at BCRC@bellevuewa.gov, or learn more at BellevueWA.gov/housing-accord.

City launches Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood planning

BY JUSTIN PANGANIBAN
Senior Planner

The Great Neighborhoods neighborhood area planning process recently kicked off in Eastgate and Factoria. Neighborhood area plans are part of the city’s Comprehensive Plan, which outlines citywide policies on issues including transportation, parks and environmental sustainability.

Launched in 2018, the Great Neighborhoods program updates the plans for two neighborhood areas each year. New neighborhood area plans for Northwest Bellevue and Northeast Bellevue were adopted in 2021, and for Crossroads and Newport in October.

The neighborhood area plans articulate shared values of people who live, work, play and study in the neighborhood area, and a vision for the future, as well as the kinds of improvements people want to see as these neighborhoods grow over the next 10 to 20 years. The plans emphasize how people can better experience and access community gathering spaces in the neighborhood area.

As part of the outreach for the Eastgate and Factoria plans, the planning team looks forward to engaging with all community members who live, work, play and study in those neighborhood areas. Over the next few months, the team will host interactive workshops on urban design and share draft policy ideas that can help advance local priorities and inform a community vision.

Since the City Council launched Great Neighborhoods for Factoria and Eastgate in August, outreach has included a kickoff event, a questionnaire mailed to every household in Eastgate and Factoria and “neighborhood scan” walks with community members to identify neighborhood strengths and opportunities for improvement.

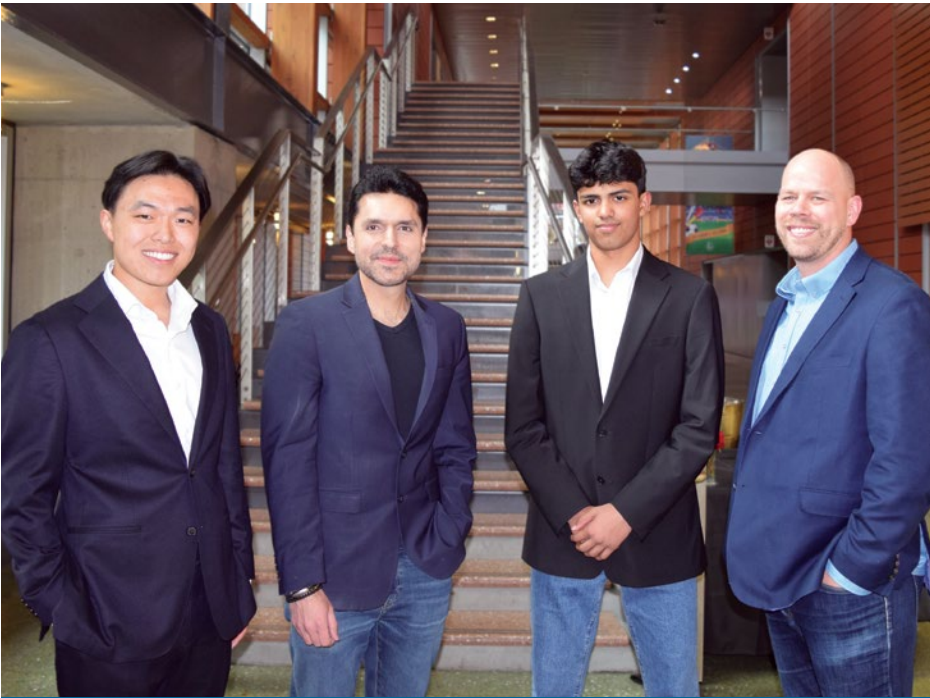
Community members interested in learning more can visit BellevueWA.gov/great-neighborhoods. On that webpage, you can access past meeting materials and learn about upcoming opportunities to engage and sign up for updates.



Eastgate Plaza in Eastgate



T-Mobile is based in Factoria



The four Civic Innovation Challenge recipients are, from left, Roger Lin (Legislaide), Kunal Chopr (Certivo), Neil Kumar (FindIt AI) and Brandon Branham (Juganu)

Bellevue develops strategy for paid on-street parking



BY LAURA MILSTEAD
Transportation Public Information Officer

The Transportation Department has released a draft plan for implementing curb pricing in Bellevue, outlining a proposed strategy for introducing paid on-street parking in the city’s most active neighborhoods such as downtown, Old Bellevue and the Spring District, as well as the growing areas of BelRed and Wilburton.

This effort began in 2024 as part of a broader look at how to better manage limited curb space in busy areas of Bellevue. Pricing curb space has been proven to increase access to on-street parking and loading zones in high-demand areas for businesses and their customers.

The draft plan summarizes earlier research, recent data collection and community feedback that helped shape the recommendations.

In-person surveys conducted in July indicated community openness to the idea of paid parking:

- 74% of respondents said they would visit busy parts of Bellevue the same amount or more frequently if parking was easier to find but required a nominal fee.
- 80% of respondents said they are already familiar with paid on-street parking and mobile parking apps.

Highlights of the plan include:

- A proposed timeline for rolling out curb pricing in key areas
- Updates to enforcement and parking management procedures
- Estimated costs and potential revenue from the program
- Ideas for reinvesting parking revenues into local transportation improvements and streetscape enhancements

The Transportation Commission reviewed the draft and offered feedback on Oct. 9. A revised version of the strategy will be presented to the City Council in December for further discussion, with adoption of a plan and possible code changes to follow, likely by early 2026.

To learn more or follow the project’s progress, visit BellevueWA.gov/curb-pricing-study.



In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the City of Bellevue hosted Fiesta Latina at Spring District Park. The Oct. 4 event featured a pop-up market curated by Aquí Mercado and a performance of “Celebrating Latin America” by the Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra.

Bellevue selects Civic Innovation Challenge partners

BY CLAUDE IOSSO
It's Your City Editor

The City of Bellevue has selected four tech innovators to participate in its Civic Innovation Challenge, collaborating on solutions to municipal challenges. Certivo, Legislaide, Juganu and FindIt are all piloting artificial-intelligence projects that will serve the city or Bellevue College.

In early June, the city issued the Civic Innovation Challenge. The selected participants will receive design partnerships that include coaching from seasoned entrepreneurs, help from city staff testing and refining products and a stipend of up to \$15,000.

The cochairs for Bellevue’s Innovation Forum sub-teams reviewed and assessed 23 competitive applicants based on posted criteria. The Innovation Exchange was the most recent Innovation Forum event.

The Civic Challenge participants were introduced and showcased their solutions on Oct. 16 at City Hall for the Innovation Exchange, a daylong celebration of civic tech with demonstrations and talks from educators, entrepreneurs and municipal tech leaders.

The Civic Challenge participants are:

- **Certivo:** A Seattle company with an AI-driven platform that provides real-time visibility into vendor compliance across procurement and cybersecurity. The pilot will determine how well this platform can streamline compliance monitoring and support faster decision-making for city operations.
- **Legislaide:** The Denver company uses AI to analyze municipal codes, legislative history and state statutes, allowing staff to run plain English searches across agendas, minutes, ordinances, resolutions, reports and more. The pilot will measure its ability to surface insights and simplify legal and policy drafting.
- **Juganu:** The Israeli company’s smart lighting solution will illuminate curbside activity while monitoring real-time usage patterns to support city and Bellevue College transportation and public safety initiatives.
- **FindIt:** Developed by a local high school student, this AI-powered lost-and-found app is designed to help Bellevue College students, staff and visitors find lost items quickly, efficiently and sustainably. The pilot will test its usability and effectiveness on campus.

These pilots are designed to explore real-world use cases, assess feasibility and evaluate potential for broader deployment. The city’s AI policy establishes a governance framework for its ethical, transparent and responsible use.

Share your input on proposed speed safety camera locations

BY LAURA MILSTEAD
Transportation Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue is moving forward with the next phase of its Speed Safety Camera Program—a key initiative to encourage safer driving behavior and reduce high-end speeding on city streets. This winter, the City Council will consider 37 new locations for cameras to be installed in phases starting in 2026.

Over the past year, city staff have analyzed traffic data and engaged the community to ensure the program improves safety across Bellevue. An interactive map of the proposed camera locations and a survey are now available at [Bit.ly/ssc-proposed-locations](https://bit.ly/ssc-proposed-locations). Responses will be taken through Nov. 30.

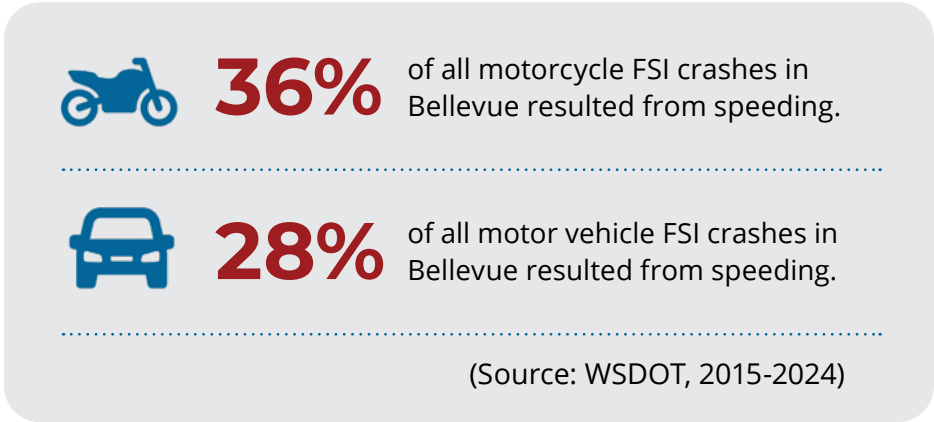
The proposed locations were selected based on data showing they have a high risk of speed-related crashes and have frequent speeding by drivers or are speed enforcement hot spots. According to the U.S Department of Transportation, speed cameras can reduce crashes on major streets by up to 54% and reduce serious injuries and fatalities resulting from high-speed crashes.

For more than a decade, speed cameras have been in three school zones and red-light cameras have been at four arterial intersections.

The state Legislature passed a law in 2024 allowing cities and counties to expand the use of speed safety cameras.

The first new cameras are expected to be installed and activated in 2026 as part of an initial deployment. Bellevue will take a phased approach, starting with a limited number of locations to evaluate effectiveness, raise community awareness and confirm the city’s capacity to manage the program.

The city will share information and host community engagement opportunities before any cameras are activated.



Get ready for winter travel in Bellevue

BY LAURA MILSTEAD
Transportation Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue is committed to keeping our streets safe and clear through the coming winter, but there are also steps you can take to help us and to be prepared and stay safe as cooler temperatures, rain and snow arrive.

The city’s winter weather response prep is already in full gear and will be ready to respond to snow or ice. During major winter storms, city staff work in 12-hour shifts around the clock to keep streets treated. Streets are prioritized based on a snow response map drawn up before winter, focusing first on major arterial routes essential for emergency services, public transit.

As winter approaches, it’s important for everyone to be prepared for inclement weather. Here’s how you can get ready:

- **Keep streets clear:** Whether it’s street sweepers or snowplows, please make way by storing garbage bins, recycling containers and other objects off the street and trimming back vegetation hanging past the curb.
- **Watch for weather updates:** Check for updates, including road conditions, by visiting [BellevueWA.gov](https://bellevuewa.gov), [WSDOT.gov](https://wsdot.gov), [Weather.gov/sew](https://weather.gov/sew) or following the city on social media (@bellevuewa and @bvuetrans on X).
- **Prepare your vehicle:** Practice putting on tire chains at home and put on traction tires if necessary. Stock your car with winter essentials like an ice scraper, snow brush and blanket, and always travel with a full tank of gas if possible.
- **Shovel snow:** Purchase a snow shovel so you can clear the sidewalks in front of your home of snow to keep them accessible for people walking and rolling.



Who to contact

In an emergency, it’s important to know who to contact! Consider taking a picture of this information with your phone or cutting this out and posting it on your fridge.

- For life-threatening emergencies, always call 911.
- To report hazardous conditions, such as blocked streets or sidewalks, fallen trees or flooding, call Bellevue’s 24-hour response line at 425-452-7840 or report it through the MyBellevue app.
- For power outages, contact Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773.



Are you ready to rumble after a storm?

BY BETHANY KOGUT
Conservation and Outreach Manager

It’s that time of year, when we anticipate seasonal storms that can pack a wallop. The bomb cyclone was unusual, but it can be helpful to have waste strategies in place for all kinds of wind, rain and snow. In other words, are you ready to rumble?

Bellevue Utilities is offering a virtual class “Ready to Rumble: Waste Strategies for Seasonal Storms” on Wednesday Nov. 5, 6-7 p.m.

This free class will cover how to dispose of yard debris, tips for cleaning out the fridge after a power outage and resources from the Office of Emergency Management on how to best be prepared for the storms to come.

Registration is now open for this Greener Living Class, plus many more! Visit [BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes](https://bellevuewa.gov/greener-living-classes) for more information and to register.

‘Tis the season for sustainability!

There are so many ways to celebrate the holidays while reducing waste. Look out for “how to” classes for zero-waste holidays on the Greener Living webpage and the city’s social media channels.





City pilots AI tools to streamline permitting

BY AMANDA RICH ANDERSON
Development Services Public Information Officer

The city has teamed up with a local startup, Govstream.ai, on a pilot project to test using artificial intelligence tools to streamline and accelerate Bellevue’s permitting processes. Staff in the Development Services Department have been piloting a new AI assistant that can quickly recall relevant development codes, zoning maps and permit information.

By speeding up permit applications and creating a more consistent, user-friendly experience, the project can better support the city’s housing production and economic development goals.

Additional details on the partnership were shared at Bellevue’s Innovation Exchange in October. A presentation at the event highlighted early insights from the partnership and outlined next steps for potential project expansion. The latest information on the project can be found at BellevueWA.gov/city-news/govstreamai-partnership.

The pilot is designed with safeguards to ensure the ethical use of AI. Bellevue and Govstream.ai are prioritizing accountability, inclusion and data protection to prevent bias and promote equitable outcomes.

Grassroots community preparedness now available



BY HEATHER WONG
Fire Public Information Officer

Have you ever worried about how your neighborhood would fare during a major disaster? Well worry no more! With the city’s newly developed Disaster Resilience Network, neighborhoods can get prepared together in workshops and other planning.

The Disaster Resilience Network is designed to support communities of all sizes, from neighborhood book clubs to downtown high rises, equipping individuals to take the reins of hyperlocal preparedness by organizing workshops for their community. At these workshops, participants will create emergency preparedness plans that accommodate specific communication, evacuation and care needs.

The Resilience Network facilitator’s guide and printable worksheets are available at BellevueWA.gov/hazard-preparation. At the end of your workshop, you can even put your group to the test with the Resilience Network heat wave scenario game.

The guide, worksheets and game are all offered on the Hazard Preparation page in Bellevue’s eight most spoken languages. If you have any questions about the Disaster Resilience Network or would like to host a workshop, please reach out to the Office of Emergency Management at oem@bellevuewa.gov.

Economic Development Plan update focuses on small businesses, creative economy and diversification

BY CORBIN HART
Business Development Manager

Focusing on small businesses, economic diversification, the creative economy and tourism, the city’s new Economic Development Plan will guide Bellevue’s economic development activities for the next six years.

The plan, which will be an update of the current Economic Development Plan adopted in 2020, is expected to be completed in the coming months.

Data collected for the plan update show Bellevue’s overall economic performance to mirror that of other strong, “second cities” across the country. Bellevue’s median household income rose 39% from 2018 to 2023, faster than any of the peer cities analyzed. More than 10,000 jobs were added from 2020 to 2023, and downtown experienced rapid growth in the last five years, adding 4.3 million square feet of office space.

The city’s creative economy, which includes traditional arts and some software development, accounted for 37% of Bellevue’s gross regional product, making it a key economic driver for the city. The new plan will recommend additional support for arts communities and public spaces. Additionally, the plan will present strategies to reimagine the Eastgate commercial area and support small businesses at risk of displacement.

Opportunities for future growth include emerging sectors such as life sciences, artificial intelligence and clean technology.

For more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/economic-development-plan.



Yonder Sky, the city’s newest public art, can be seen and experienced next to the BelRed light rail station. Renowned artist Po Shu Wang designed the work with sensors that will allow passersby to create musical compositions in real time by waving their hands close in front of the installation. Yonder Sky was installed in July.

Celebration for Bellevue Essentials graduates Nov. 19

Keynote address from former city DEI leader

BY SARINA MILLER
Community Relations Coordinator

This fall the city will celebrate the graduation of the 2025 Bellevue Essentials cohort. The 36 new graduates will have completed a program that has inspired more than 400 community members to learn about their city and become civically engaged over the past 13 years.

The graduation ceremony and dessert reception is open to the public and will be Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m., at City Hall. The event also offers community members a chance to learn more about Bellevue Essentials. Register at BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials.

The keynote speaker at this year’s ceremony will be Kevin P. Henry, president of KPH Media and behavioral health inclusion specialist for Volunteers of America. Henry previously worked at the City of Bellevue for 20 years, shaping the city’s approach to diversity, equity and inclusion.

During his tenure with the city, Henry designed trainings, produced educational videos, organized public forums and launched and hosted the “Voices of Diversity,” radio program, which elevated diverse community perspectives. His work fostering dialogue and connection across cultures helped lay the foundation for Bellevue’s reputation as an inclusive and welcoming city.

After leaving the city in 2015, Henry continued to serve in leadership and communications roles in Seattle and Hawaii, always maintaining an emphasis on equity and community engagement. He now partners with organizations in the public and nonprofit sectors, bringing a Bellevue-grounded understanding of how diversity and inclusion help to strengthen communities.

The next Bellevue Essentials class starts in September 2026, with applications available next spring. For updates on the next application period or more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials.



No wheelchairs left behind

When Bellevue Fire transports individuals with electric wheelchairs or scooters to the hospital, transporting these devices with them is a challenge. Aid cars don’t have the necessary ramps or extra space. Wheelchairs then have to be left behind until a later time when arrangements can be made to transport the device to its user.

To address this problem, Bellevue Fire CARES now has a van to transport these devices. Fire CARES is a team of social workers in the Fire Department who help police officers and firefighters connect community members to resources that go beyond what first responders can provide. Fire CARES staff will collect the wheelchair or scooter and transport it to where its owner is being treated.

Diversity Advantage Plan 2035 to be introduced Nov. 20

The city will hold an open house Thursday, Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m. at City Hall to introduce the new Diversity Advantage Plan 2035, a significant update to the City of Bellevue’s existing diversity, equity and inclusion strategy.

Learn more and register at BellevueWA.gov/dap2035.

Tax credit and rebates mean deep discounts on heat pumps

BY SARAH PHILLIPS
Energy Smart Eastside Manager

Switching from a natural-gas furnace to an electric heat pump is always a good option, significantly reducing the greenhouse gases produced when heating your home and giving you access to air cooling come summer. Switching now, while the Energy Efficiency Home Upgrade Credit is still available, can mean a deep discount.

Stacking the \$2000 tax credit with rebates from Energy Smart Eastside and Puget Sound Energy can push the total savings on a heat pump to \$8,600.

The federal tax credit also offers incentives for weatherizing homes with better insulation or air-sealed windows and doors. Upgrades covered by the credit must be made before Dec. 31.

Available rebates and qualified installers can be found at EnergySmartEastside.org. You can also book a meeting with an Energy Smart Eastside energy advisor at the website.



Small Business Development Center advisor Dayo Oyetugo

Small Business Development Center advisor in Bellevue

Thinking about starting a business but not sure where to begin? Or are you looking to grow the customer base for your current business?

No matter your need, an advisor with the Washington Small Business Development Center posted in Bellevue can help you take the next step at no cost. With an office by Lake Bellevue, Dayo Oyetugo has over 15 years experience in business consulting, innovation strategy and organizational leadership.

The Washington SBDC, a member of the national America’s SBDC, is governed by an agreement between Washington State University, the statewide host of the program, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The City of Bellevue is a partner with SBDC.

For more information and to schedule a free appointment, visit WSBDC.org/advisors/dayo-oyetuga.

Project Roundup

The Project Roundup highlights a few current capital projects from the Transportation, Utilities and Parks and Community Services departments that we are currently designing, constructing, or completing. To see other city projects planned for your area visit our online tool: Projects in Your Neighborhood at BellevueWA.gov/capital-projects.

Lakemont Boulevard Culvert

Department: Utilities | **Status:** Design

In June 2024 the city completed an emergency project, building a new bridge for Lakemont Boulevard over Coal Creek. Now the city is addressing the failing culvert under the street that necessitated the bridge construction. For the second phase of the project, the city will remove the old culvert and restore the natural channel, improving fish passage and habitat in compliance with state Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements.

Project contact:
Andrew Merges | amerges@bellevuewa.gov | 425-229-6558
BellevueWA.gov/lakemont-culvert



Horizon View 2 Reservoir and Pump Station Project

Department: Utilities | **Status:** Construction

The aging reservoir and pump station are critical water storage and supply facilities for the area. Both facilities need replacement to enhance seismic resilience, protect water quality, increase storage volume and maintain a high level of reliability for drinking water and fire protection to the neighborhood and surrounding area. Construction is being done in two phases: (1) construction of the new pump station (while keeping the existing pump station and reservoir in service), (2) removal of the old pump station and reservoir and construction of the new reservoir. There will also be new water mains and a sewer pipe constructed in 151st Avenue Southeast, between the site and Southeast 47th Place. The site will be paved and then landscaped with trees and shrubs.

Project contact:
Jay Hummel | jhummel@bellevuewa.gov | 425-452-4160
BellevueWA.gov/horizon-view-2



Urban Core Bike Network

Department: Transportation | **Status:** Design

The Transportation Department is designing bike infrastructure to improve safety, connectivity and comfort of the bicycle network in the city. Below is the first phase of recommended projects for implementation by the Transportation Commission in 2024 as a part of the Bike Bellevue program. The project is expected to begin construction in the spring/summer of 2026.

- Bike sharrows on Northeast First and Second streets, from 100th Avenue to Bellevue Way
- Conventional and buffered bike lanes on Lake Washington Boulevard between 99th and 100th avenues
- Conventional bike lanes on 100th Avenue Northeast between Main Street and Northeast First Street
- Buffered bike lanes on 116th Avenue Northeast, between Main and Northeast Fourth streets

Project contact:
Glen Kho | gkho@bellevuewa.gov
BellevueWA.gov/urban-bike-network

Coal Creek Parkway Safety Improvements

Department: Transportation | **Status:** Construction

The Transportation Department will start construction in November on a project on Coal Creek Parkway Southeast from Factoria Boulevard to Southeast 66th Street to improve safety for people driving. This section of Coal Creek Parkway is on the city's high-injury network, a small number of city streets where most fatal and serious-injury collisions occur. The project will install:

- New overhead and standard radar feedback signs
- New curve warning signs
- Reducing the speed limit to 35 mph from 40 mph with new speed limit

Project contact:
Benjamin M. Wright | bmwright@bellevuewa.gov
BellevueWA.gov/coal-creek-safety

Eastgate Neighborhood Park

Department: Parks & Community Services | **Status:** Planning

Planning continues for Bellevue's newest neighborhood park, at 14700 SE 39th St. in Eastgate. Following a July community meeting on design options and naming, the project team shared the results of community engagement and park design alternatives with the Parks & Community Services Board in September. Next steps include completing the planning phase by year's end and initiating permitting and design in the first quarter of 2026.

Project contact:
Zarrian Smith | zsmith@bellevuewa.gov
BellevueWA.gov/eastgate-neighborhood-park



Community Calendar

Bellevue Youth Theatre Fall and Winter Performances

Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10th St.

All ages. \$13 per ticket

Visit the box office, call 425-452-7155 or go to BellevueWA.gov/byt

*Sensory Friendly Show

PRESENTING:

PHANTOM

“Phantom”

Friday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25 at 5 p.m.*

Sunday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.



“Wendy and Peter: Into Neverland”

Friday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.*

Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.



“The Wonderful Wizard of Oz”

Friday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22 at 5 p.m.*

Sunday, Nov. 23 at 2 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m.



“Elf: The Musical Jr.”

Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m.*

Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Community

Nov. 14, 6-8:30 p.m.

City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE

An evening of celebration, community connection and cultural education in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

Preregister at BellevueWA.gov/naahm.



Bellevue Magic Season

Holiday Ships

Dec. 22

Meydenbauer Bay Park,
9899 Lake Washington Blvd NE.

Ship arrives offshore at 8:40 p.m. Enjoy the onboard performances from onshore.

Free

425-452-4106 or nwac@bellevuewa.gov

Garden d’Lights

Nov. 29 through Dec. 31, except Dec. 25.

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St.

Over half a million lights amid the natural beauty of the garden.

Most nights first entry at 4:30 p.m., last entry at 9 p.m.; Dec. 1–4 and Dec. 8–11, last entry at 8 p.m.

- \$10 general admission
- \$5 special nights Dec. 1–4 and Dec. 8–11
- Free for children 10 and under

\$5 on-site parking; free for limited mobility with permit. Free parking at Wilburton Hill Park.

Tickets must be purchased online.

GardendLights.org

Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink

Nov. 21 to Jan. 19, Open daily, hours vary

Downtown Park

The region’s largest open-air ice rink presented by Symetra.

Admission includes skate rental.

\$15 Monday–Thursday; \$20 Friday–Sunday; \$25 winter break (Dec. 20–Jan. 5)

bellevueicerink.com



Snowflake Lane

Nov. 28 to Dec. 24

Nightly parade at 7 p.m. along Bellevue Way between Northeast Fourth and Eighth streets

Holiday scene on the street and sidewalks between Bellevue Square and Lincoln Square.

425-454-8096 or

BellevueCollection.com/snowflakelane



City Contacts	
City Hall 450 110th Ave. NE / P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012	
Service First (general information)	425-452-6800
City of Bellevue website	BellevueWA.gov
City Council Office	425-452-7810
City Offices	
City Clerk’s Office	425-452-6806
Public Records	BellevueWA.gov/records
Development Service records	425-452-7914
Police records	425-452-4452
Other records	425-452-4283
City Manager	425-452-7228
Community Development	425-452-7892
Conflict Resolution Center	425-452-4091
Development Services	425-452-6800
New permit applications	425-452-4898
Inspection requests, application and status, pay fees	425-452-6875
Simple permits, inspection requests	MyBuildingPermit.com
Application and inspection status	MyBuildingPermit.com
Code Compliance	425-452-2047
Diversity Program	425-452-7886
Fire Emergency	911
Fire Non-Emergency	
General Information	425-452-6892
Inspection	425-452-4254
Fire prevention	425-452-6872
Human Resources	425-452-6838
Information Technology	425-452-4626
Neighborhood Outreach	425-452-6836
Parks & Community Services	
Aging Services	425-452-4200
Information, Recreation, Youth Sports	425-452-6885
Ballfield, Park Rentals	425-452-6914
Park Maintenance	425-452-6855
Human Services	425-452-6884
Probation	425-452-6956
Community Centers	
Crossroads Community Center	425-452-4874
Highland Community Center	425-452-7686
North Bellevue Community Center	425-452-7681
Northwest Arts Center	425-452-4106
South Bellevue Community Center	425-452-4240
Marina	425-452-5255
Mini City Hall	425-452-2800
Police Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	
General Information and Records	425-452-6917
Crossroads Station	425-452-2891
Factoria Station	425-452-2880
Crime Prevention	425-452-6915
Transportation	
Administration	425-452-6856
Utilities	
Administration	425-452-6932
Billing/Customer Service	425-452-6973
Water, Sewer, Street Maintenance and Emergency	425-452-7840
Other Numbers (Not city government)	
Regional Animal Services of King County	206-296-PETS
Republic Services (recycling, yard debris, garbage)	425-452-4762
Metro Transit/Sound Transit	206-553-3000

It’s Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or ciosso@bellevuewa.gov.
Editor: Claude Iosso
City Manager: Diane Carlson
Chief Communications Officer: Michelle DeGrand
Contributor: Michaelene Fowler, Emily Inlow-Hood
Graphic Designer: Kristine Music

City Council



Lynne Robinson
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‘Essentials for All’ food-hygiene items drive in home stretch

Collection bins at City Hall, community centers

BY CHRISTINA FAINE
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

To address a growing lack of access to sufficient, nutritious food here and an increasing need for essential products and services in the community, the City of Bellevue and nearly a dozen partners are collecting food and hygiene products through Nov. 15.

The “Essentials for All” drive, which launched Oct. 1, includes collection points at various locations throughout the city, including community centers, City Hall and Mini City Hall.

The H-Mart downtown and Walmart Neighborhood Market also have collection points available each day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Details on what to donate and where can be found at [BellevueWA.gov/essentials-for-all](https://bellevuewa.gov/essentials-for-all).

“By collaborating with community organizations, we want to do our part to help address increasing food prices and cuts to support systems and give everyone the chance they deserve to thrive,” said City Manager Diane Carlson. “The food and hygiene products drive is an opportunity for neighbors to care for and support each other.”

About one in four school-age children in Bellevue experiences food insecurity—putting their health, development and academic success at risk.

At the end of the collection period, the food and hygiene items will be distributed to local food banks and community nonprofits, who will then get them to community members. Neighbors can also donate any time at [BellevueWA.gov/human-services-donations](https://bellevuewa.gov/human-services-donations) to help community members access the vital services and resources they need.



The Essentials for All collection bin is on the first floor at City Hall.

 For alternate formats, interpreters or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4448 (voice) or email ciosso@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.
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