



Neighborhood News



September 2025



Kelsey Creek Farm Fair celebrates fall harvest Saturday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

By Christina Faine
Parks and Community Services Public Information Officer

Meet farm animals, collect pumpkins and take a wagon ride at the 43rd annual Kelsey Creek Farm Fair on Saturday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Festivities will include pony rides, a pumpkin patch with decorating, hands-on heritage activities, animal viewing, children's activities, pedal tractors, tractor-pulled wagon rides and food trucks.

Free shuttles will run from Bannerwood Sports Park, 1790 Richards Road, and the Wilburton Park and Ride, 720 114th Ave. SE, to Kelsey Creek Farm, 410 130th Pl. SE. The last shuttle will leave the farm at 4:15 p.m.

Kelsey Creek Farm features 150 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands in the heart of Bellevue.

Twin Valley Dairy began in the 1920s, producing milk, cream and butter for Bellevue residents. Fifty years later, the City of Bellevue purchased the farm and opened it as a public park.

Please note there is no ATM on site. Some activities have a charge. Pets are not allowed in the barnyard area.

For more information, call 425-452-7688 or email kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov.



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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news





Safe Routes to School program debuts, safety tips for returning students

By Laura Milstead
Transportation Public Information Officer

Over the summer, the city's Transportation Department launched a new Safe Routes to School program, featuring various traffic safety improvements at specific campuses and partnering with local schools to expand Bellevue's traffic safety education. The goal is for every student and family to enjoy safe, convenient and sustainable transportation, whether they walk, bike or roll to school!

Part of ensuring students remain safe is following traffic laws and best practices when driving in our community. Here are a few reminders for everyone on the road as the school year starts up:

- Follow all parking laws, including parking at least 30 feet from stop signs and at least 20 feet from intersections. Do not park in a fire lane or stop in the middle of a street.
- If you commute, consider alternative routes around schools to avoid traffic congestion during arrival and dismissal times.
- If you drive with a child in your vehicle, ensure they are using the right seat! Children 4 and older must ride in a car or booster seat until they are 4'9" tall, and children up to 13 years old must ride in the back seat when practical to do so.

Learn more about Safe Routes to School at BellevueWA.gov/srts and find more school traffic safety tips at BellevueWA.gov/schooltrafficsafety.



Cultural Conversations returns: The Bellevue We Hope For

Part of Bellevue's Welcoming Week events lineup

By Cara Iwasaki
Community Relations Coordinator

The 2025 season of Cultural Conversations returns on Sept. 15 with "The Bellevue We Hope For" highlighting stories from Bellevue residents who are leading in places of impact as we collectively create a hopeful future for all.

This event is part of a series of city-sponsored activities to celebrate Welcoming Week, a national, annual celebration bringing together neighbors of all backgrounds to affirm inclusion for everyone, particularly the country's newest residents.

The discussion panel will feature Dr. Kelly Aramaki, Dr. Randy Nuñez, and Ruhi Gadde, who will discuss their personal connection to the city, acknowledge the current reality for immigrants in our area and point participants toward hope for the future of Bellevue.

There will also be opportunities for participants to share feedback on future Cultural Conversations themes and their personal thoughts on hope and belonging.

Cultural Conversations: The Bellevue We Hope For

Free event with required registration

Monday, Sept. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Gardens

Light refreshments provided

Register at rb.gy/q0mkym



Bellevue celebrates Welcoming Week with interactive, cross-cultural events

*By Emily Inlow-Hood
Deputy Communications Officer*

In celebration of Welcoming Week, Bellevue is joining other Eastside cities and community organizations hosting events around the week of Sept. 12-21.

Welcoming Week is a national, annual celebration bringing together neighbors of all backgrounds to affirm inclusion for everyone in the United States, particularly those who are the country's newest residents.

Throughout September, Bellevue community centers will host cultural arts performances as part of their monthlong celebration of Welcoming Week. On Sept. 15, the Cultural Conversations program relaunches with the "The Bellevue We Hope for: Stories from Longtime Residents Who Are Leading in Places of Impact" event at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Learn more at bellevuewa.gov/welcoming-week.

Property tax presentation at North Bellevue Community Center

By Network On Aging

Mark your calendars! The King County Department of Assessments will be doing a presentation on property taxes at the North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave NE, on Monday, Oct. 6, 1-3 p.m. Staff will focus on how the Senior Exemption Program works and ways you might be able to save money on your property taxes and answer your questions. This presentation is sponsored by the Bellevue Network on Aging and no pre-registration is required.



Application period opens for arts, culture and heritage grants

By Arts Program Staff

Artists and organizations providing art, cultural and educational events for Bellevue residents can now apply for two grants through the city's Arts and Culture Program. This year, project grants are available for arts, cultural and heritage projects planned for 2026. Interested individuals, groups and organizations can apply online through Friday, Oct. 10.

Interested parties must complete and submit an eligibility checklist prior to submitting a complete application. Members of the professional arts community and the Bellevue Arts Commission will review all applications. The Arts Commission and the Bellevue City Council will approve the grants. Applicants can expect to receive an update on the status of their award in January 2026.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/ArtsGrants for more information, including grant requirements, timelines and how to apply. For more information, contact Manette Stamm at mstamm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4064.





BELLEVUE SCHOOLPOOL

Looking for a fun and sustainable way to get to school?

*By Bradley Brashears
Senior Planner*

It's back to school time! As the new school year is underway, the City of Bellevue's SchoolPool team is here to help families and students travel to school sustainably via public transit, buses, carpools, and by walking and biking.

Kids learn healthy habits early, plus fewer cars at drop-off and pickup locations alleviate roadway congestion for all travelers. And did you know that youth under the age of 18 ride public transit for FREE? Visit chooseyourwaybellevue.org/schoolpool to learn more about the ORCA Youth Transit Pass and other fun sustainable travel tips. Additionally, Oct. 6-10 is Walk & Roll to School Week. Updates will be provided on the city's SchoolPool webpage. Happy travels and have a great 2025-26 school year!

City distributes 100 DIY fan filters to community members

*By Janelle Wetzstein
Community Development Public Information Officer*

In late July, the Sustainable Bellevue team and Mini City Hall staff partnered to distribute 100 DIY filter fans to community members. The event was held at Mini City Hall in Crossroads Mall, with some fans specifically reserved for EBT recipients at the Crossroads Farmers Market.

This marked the second year of a pilot program, which is designed to give vulnerable community members tools for resilience against summer climate impacts. Filter fans are a modular, low-cost solution to stay safe during heat waves and smoke events. They combine a box fan, which can be used independently during heat waves with a specialized MERV-13 filter that can be attached during smoke events that decrease air quality.

Increased wildfire smoke and hotter summers are some of the many climate impacts that will affect Bellevue in the coming years. Low air quality can be dangerous, especially for seniors, children and people with certain chronic respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency recommends using a HEPA air filter during smoke events to filter out particles and increase indoor air quality. These HEPA filters can be added to existing HVAC systems or standalone fixtures.

Residents interested in preparing their own families for potential smoke events this summer can learn more about how to stay safe at pscleanair.gov.

Streamlined review process for residential permits

*By Amanda Rich Anderson
Development Services Public Information Officer*

Planning a remodel or new home construction in Bellevue? Starting Sept. 2, the city's Development Services Department is introducing a streamlined review process for residential building permits.

The new approach brings all permit review teams together, so applicants receive all the feedback on their applications at the same time. Submittal requirements will also be updated to help applicants provide complete, accurate materials from the start.

These changes are part of our ongoing efforts to make the permitting experience more efficient, transparent and predictable for homeowners, builders and designers.

For details on the updated process and submittal requirements, review the information on the Permits webpage at BellevueWA.gov/development-permits.



Take advantage of federal home energy tax credits while you can

By Janelle Wetzstein
Community Development Public Information Officer

There are still a few months remaining for interested residents to take advantage of federal home energy incentives! If you're interested in making your home more energy efficient, switching to clean energy or getting an electric vehicle, now is the time to act.

Electric Vehicle Rebates – Expires Sept. 30

The tax incentives for electric vehicles can reduce the cost of new qualifying electric, plug-in hybrid and fuel-cell electric vehicles by up to \$7500

or \$4000 for used vehicles. While the state no longer offers such rebates, it does provide a sales tax exemption on some new or used electric vehicles, which will continue after the federal rebate ends. For more information, contact cmunson@bellevuewa.gov.



Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Rebates – Expires Dec. 31

Taking advantage of the Residential Clean Energy tax credit can alleviate the high upfront costs often associated with switching to clean energy. This credit offers a variety of incentives for rooftop

solar installation, geothermal heating and battery storage. The Energy Efficiency Home Upgrade Credit expires at the end of the year. This credit offers incentives for installing heat pumps, as well as weatherizing existing homes with better insulation or air-sealed windows and doors. Upgrades covered by the Energy Efficiency Home Upgrade Credit must be made before Dec. 31, 2025.

Residents interested in navigating changing energy rebates can schedule an appointment with one of Energy Smart Eastside's energy advisors at energysmarteastside.org for personalized advice.

Help shape the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan

By Janelle Wetzstein
Community Development Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue released its draft 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan and is seeking public comment. Feedback will be accepted through Monday, Sept. 8, and can be submitted online.



Community input is critical to shaping a sustainable future. Since launching the update in late 2024, staff have engaged with more than 1,000 residents and organizations, which helped the city prioritize its work on sustainability and climate programs and policies in the plan.

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the draft plan includes goals and strategies related to Bellevue's tree canopy, access to mobility options and other sustainability issues. It also focuses on climate resilience, preparation and response for climate change impacts to support a livable future for everyone in Bellevue. The plan update is expected to go to the council for adoption in late 2025.

Tell us what you think about the draft plan by visiting the Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update page on Engaging Bellevue at EngagingBellevue.com. For more information, contact Colin Munson at cmunson@bellevuewa.gov.



Great Neighborhoods updates

*By Justin Panganiban and Teun Deuling
Senior Planners*

Crossroads and Newport plans: Moving to review by the city council

The Planning Commission recently recommended that the city council adopt both the Crossroads and Newport draft neighborhood area plans. This recommendation followed extensive review of the plans and public hearings to gather input, which occurred in July. The council is expected to start this month.

Rooted in extensive community engagement, the draft plans have policies and provide direction to enhance a neighborhood's identity, community gathering spaces, environment, and mobility and access. The Crossroads neighborhood area plan was last updated in 2020, while Newport's current plan was last updated in the 1990s.

Eastgate and Factoria Kickoff event, Thursday, Sept. 4

Join the planning team on Thursday, Sept. 4, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at South Bellevue Community Center to share your vision and priorities for Eastgate and Factoria's future. Neighborhood area plans inform future growth and change by providing guidance about ways to strengthen neighborhood identity and enhance livability.

Information stations will focus on community gathering spaces, mobility and access, the environment, neighborhood identity, mixed-use and neighborhood centers and community health and safety.

This is a family-friendly drop-in event with activities for kids and light refreshments. Arrive at any time and stay as long as you'd like.

Eastgate and Factoria: An opportunity to explore your neighborhood

On Saturday, Oct. 4, the Great Neighborhoods team will host informational gathering walks in Eastgate and Factoria. These staff-led outings, called Neighborhood Scans, identify opportunities for improving access to nearby gathering spaces through writing and photos.

Participants will provide input on connectivity opportunities and challenges that will guide the next phase of the planning process. These are family-friendly events open to children and adults, with light refreshments served prior to the walk. Walks are approximately 90 minutes and include some hills. Please bring comfortable shoes, water and clothes for potential rain.

Eastgate Neighborhood Scan

Saturday, Oct. 4

10 a.m.-noon (walk begins at 10:20 a.m.)

Starting point: Newport Way Library

14250 SE Newport Way

Register at:

eastgate-neighborhood-scan.eventbrite.com

Factoria Neighborhood Scan

Saturday, Oct. 4

10 a.m.-noon (walk begins at 10:20 a.m.)

Starting point: Newport Covenant Church

12800 Coal Creek Pkwy SE

Register at:

factoria-neighborhood-scan.eventbrite.com

Share your thoughts with the Transportation Department

By Laura Milstead

Transportation Public Information Officer

The Transportation Department has two surveys open through the end of September and wants to hear from you!

Safe Speeds Bellevue

Safe Speeds Bellevue is a new program aimed at improving road safety and supporting our Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious-injury collisions on city streets by



2030. Your feedback will help the city make decisions about speed limits and road safety improvements. bit.ly/safe-speeds-survey

Speed Safety Cameras

The City of Bellevue is planning to expand its use of speed safety cameras to improve traffic safety. Complete our questionnaire to share your input on priority areas for the camera program and submit questions to the project team. bit.ly/speed-safety-cameras

Housing Opportunities in Mixed-Use Areas: Upcoming information session

By Amanda Rich Anderson
Development Services Public Information Officer

Interested in learning more about the Housing Opportunities in Mixed-Use Areas proposal? Join us on Monday, Sept. 8, 6:30-7:45 p.m. This virtual information session will provide an overview of the proposed code changes, outline next steps in the adoption process and provide an opportunity for community questions and feedback. This event will be hosted virtually via Zoom and will be recorded.

Updated information on the HOMA proposal addresses a range of topics raised by the



community, including residential floor area ratio (FAR), building heights, setbacks, lot coverage, parking and more. The land use code updates will also introduce some approaches to introducing more affordable housing options throughout Bellevue and will rezone some mixed-use parcels to align with the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map.

More information, including details for the Sept. 8 event, the draft code and an overview booklet, is available on the project webpage at BellevueWA.gov/HOMA.

Wash your car in a fish-friendly way

By Laurie Devereaux
Stream Team Program Administrator

Did you know that all outside drains flow directly into local streams and lakes? That means that each time you wash your car and allow the runoff to go down the street drain, the untreated soapy water flows directly into our local waterways.

Even if you use biodegradable soap, it can still cause harm since the runoff is meant to pass through soil prior to breakdown to be effective. No matter what soap you use, car wash runoff is full of metals, vehicle fluids and dirt that degrade habitat and water quality.

So how do you wash your vehicle in a fish-friendly way? The most environmentally friendly option for cleaning your vehicle is to use a commercial car wash. These facilities are required to treat their wastewater runoff, making drive-thru car washes and self-serve bays both great options.

Thank you for helping keep our shared waters healthy. For questions or more information, contact streamteam@bellevuewa.gov.



Mini City Hall offers new classes on property tax exemption and conversational English language

By Janelle Wetzstein

Community Development Public Information Officer

To provide residents with additional tools and support, Mini City Hall is excited to announce new free services supporting King County property tax exemption applications and conversational English language classes.

Property tax exemption support is especially valuable for qualifying homeowners – particularly seniors and people with disabilities on fixed incomes. During dedicated office hours, residents can receive step-by-step support to help them understand the process, fill out the correct paperwork and submit applications. This one-on-one guidance is designed to make the process less overwhelming and ease financial burdens for those who qualify.

The new English language conversational services provide a welcoming space for community members to build confidence and skills in everyday communication. Free classes are offered twice a month virtually and in-person, making it easy for participants to engage in a way that works best for them. Sessions are relaxed and friendly, with opportunities to practice real-life conversations, ask questions and connect with others who are also new to the area. Facilitators help participants to feel comfortable and encouraged. Classes will be from 10:15-11 a.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. As space is limited, early registration is encouraged.

Located inside Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue's Mini City Hall provides convenient



access to city services, information and community programs in multiple languages, ensuring all residents feel supported and connected. Through its partnership with PIM Savvy, Mini City Hall has been able to meet people where they are, offering resources in a familiar, welcoming and accessible setting.

For more information email

minich@bellevuewa.gov or call 425-452-2800

Neighborhood Enhancement Program updates from Northwest Bellevue and Bridle Trails

By Theresa Cuthill

Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program, currently active in Northwest Bellevue and Bridle Trails, 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 neighborhood areas, serving two areas each year. The program's \$7 million allocation is distributed among each of the neighborhood areas, based on the number of households.



Vote for your top three Northwest Bellevue project choices!

Check your mail for the NEP Voter's pamphlet to arrive early in the month and return it using the enclosed postage-paid ballot. Voting is by mail only and limited to one ballot per household address. Ballots must be postmarked by Monday, Oct. 20 to be valid.

Northwest Bellevue NEP Open House

Join city staff and your neighbors on Thursday, Sept. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Northwest Arts Center to learn more about the enhancement projects included on this year's Northwest Bellevue NEP ballot. Visual displays will be available for all projects. A brief overview of the project scoping and NEP voting processes will be provided. RSVP to neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov

The Bridle Trails NEP project votes are in!

Look for your NEP Project Announcement Newsletter to arrive in mailboxes in mid-September with details on the projects that you and your neighbors chose to fund with the \$445,000 allotted NEP budget. Please let us know how you liked the NEP process in your area by returning the postage-paid evaluation form postcard or submit your comments online using the NEP evaluation form found on the NEP website at BellevueWA.gov/nep. Evaluations must be postmarked or submitted online by Monday, Oct. 27.



Join Us for Keep Bellevue Beautiful's Upcoming "Signature Streets" Cleanup Events!

*By Evan Reed
Keep Bellevue Beautiful Coordinator*

We're excited to announce the next series of Keep Bellevue Beautiful's "Signature Streets" litter cleanup events running through the end of the year!

Since 2023, more than 700 dedicated volunteers have helped us collect over 400 bags of litter—that's approximately five tons of trash removed from our streets and green spaces. Your efforts are making a real difference in keeping our neighborhoods clean and beautiful.

These events are a fantastic way to give back to your community, spend meaningful time with friends and family, help preserve the beauty of Bellevue and earn community service hours (perfect for students!)

Whether you're a returning volunteer or new to the program, we welcome you to join this growing movement that works to Keep Bellevue Beautiful!

Wilburton event

Saturday, Sept. 13, 9-10 a.m.
Begins at: Bellevue School District Transportation Center, 12025 NE 5th Street

BelRed event

Saturday, Oct. 18, 9-10 a.m.
Begins at: Highland Community Center, 14224 NE Bel Red Road

Eastgate event

Saturday, Nov. 15, 9-10 a.m.
Begins at: Seattle Humane, 13212 SE Eastgate Way

Crossroads Clean-Up

Saturday, Dec. 13, 9-10 a.m.
Begins at: Stevenson Elementary School, 14220 NE 8th Street

Back-to-School sustainability tips

*By Michaelene Fowler
Utilities Public Information Officer*

Make sustainable swaps as back-to-school season approaches.

As you prepare to go back to school this fall, try out the following tips that help to reduce waste and support a healthy environment.



- **Pack Zero Waste Lunches** – Buy in bulk and use reusable Ziploc bags and partitioned Tupperware containers to package small servings and reduce single-use packaging.
- **Reuse School Supplies** – New school year, same supplies. Reuse school supplies from previous years or participate in a school supply swap with some friends to get "new-to-you" supplies.
- **Bring Your Own Bottle** – Use a reusable water bottle at school and refill it throughout the day. Add fun stickers to help identify it as your own.

Looking for more sustainable swaps in your life? Stay tuned for our Fall Greener Living Classes to be announced soon. Visit BellevueWA.gov/Greener-Living-Classes for more information.

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

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/planning-commission

Transportation Commission
 (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second Thursday of each month with fourth Thursday as needed.
BellevueWA.gov/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

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

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.

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

정보
Información
సమాచారం
اطلاعات
सूचना

Information


情報
معلومات
Информация
Thông Tin
資料

425-452-6800

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/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			