



Neighborhood News



November 2025



Garden d'Lights illuminates holidays with half a million lights

By Christina Faine

Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

For more than three decades, Garden d'Lights has dazzled visitors at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. This beloved community event features over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, flowers, birds, animals and a meandering river, all set amid the natural beauty of the garden.

The tradition continues this year from Nov. 29-Dec. 31, excluding Christmas Day. On most nights during this time, visitors at the garden can also experience live music from local performers.

During Garden d'Lights, the Copper Kettle Coffee Bar will sell hot drinks and tasty treats at the Shorts House and the Trillium Gift Shop will be open as well.

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

Tickets

On general admission nights, tickets are \$10, and the show runs 4:30-9 p.m. Special discounted \$5 nights occur from Dec. 1-4 and Dec. 8-11, 4:30-8 p.m. Children 10 and under are always free. Tickets are date- and time-specific and must be purchased at BellevueBotanical.org/garden-dlights. They are not sold at the event.

Parking

Parking in the Botanical Garden lot is \$5 per car (cash or credit/debit card), or free with a state-issued disability parking permit. Free parking is available at Wilburton Hill Park, just a quarter of a mile east of the garden. Attendees can also use BellHop, the electric, on-demand, free shuttle service, to travel to the Garden from downtown Bellevue.

Volunteers make it happen

Approximately 130 volunteers contributed 6,400 hours over the previous 11 months to make this event happen. They created and installed a wide variety of botanically correct plants, animals and natural features using incandescent and energy-saving LED lights. Volunteers will also work at the event and take down the lights when the event ends.

Partnerships make it possible

Amazon is this year's presenting sponsor. The nonprofit Bellevue Botanical Garden Society (bellevuebotanical.org/bellevue-botanical-garden-society/), a partner with Bellevue Parks & Community Services in the year-round maintenance of the garden, produces Garden d'Lights. Proceeds from this event support improvements and educational programs at the Botanical Garden.



Raindrop by Soo Hong

Building Belonging: Diversity Advantage Plan 2035

By Emily Inlow-Hood
Deputy Communications Officer

Join us for an open house to learn more about the new Diversity Advantage Plan 2035, a significant update to the City of Bellevue's existing diversity, equity and inclusion strategy. Meet with members of the Centering Communities of Color Coordinating Team, as well as city leaders and staff to learn how the plan will be put into action over the next 10 years.

Thursday, Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers and Concourse
Visit BellevueWa.gov/dap-2035 for more information.

Bellevue Youth Theatre offers whimsical November plays

By Christina Faine
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Bellevue Youth Theatre presents two productions in November, "Wendy and Peter: Into Neverland" and "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Come explore the magic and wonder in these two daring classic adventures told with a twist.

Wendy and Peter: Into Neverland

We have all heard the story of Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up. Now it's time to hear from Wendy. In an original twist on a classic tale, this heartwarming show explores the world of fairies, pirates, and lost children, all through the eyes of Wendy.

Friday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.

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

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m.

*Sensory-friendly show



The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Join us for this retelling of the classic book written by L. Frank Baum. This new non-musical adaptation offers a fresh take on the original story by focusing on the imagination of the book. Get ready to meet the characters we all know and love on this magical journey from the Munchkins to the Cowardly Lion, to the Wonderful Oz himself. Let's follow the yellow brick road where discovery takes you home.

Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

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

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 30, 2 p.m.

*Sensory-friendly show



Celebrate more, waste less this holiday season

By Bethany Kogut
Conservation and Outreach Program Administrator

Join Bellevue Utilities as we celebrate zero waste holidays. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) waste generation during the holidays increases by 25%.

Register today to join us virtually or in person at BellevueWa.gov/greener-living-classes.

- Save Food and Money: Holiday Edition, Thursday, Nov. 13, 6-7 p.m., virtual
- Makerspace Tour: Tools for Festive Fixing, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6-7:30 p.m., Bellevue Library Makerspace
- How to Have Zero Waste Holidays, Thursday, Dec. 4, 6-7 p.m., virtual

Tips for a zero-waste holiday season

Reduce food waste during holiday meals: Portion out meals based on guest count, try recipes to rethink leftovers and store food properly.

Give experiences instead of stuff: Think about giving experiences, such as shows, movies or tours, instead of things.

Wrap with reusable items: Use reusable items, such as t-shirts and tea towels, or simply skip wrapping all together.

Learn "How To" at a Greener Living Class: We are offering free "how to" classes with tips and resources on how to have Zero Waste holidays through the end of the year.

Sustainable Bellevue Plan returning to City Council for adoption

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

The City of Bellevue is gearing up to adopt its Sustainable Bellevue Plan in November. Bellevue's plan, which addresses mitigation and preparation efforts for the impacts of climate change, is being updated this year to guide sustainability actions through 2030 and beyond.

Following the City Council's review of the recommended plan last month, the sustainability team plans to present the final version on Tuesday, Nov.18.

For more information on the Sustainable Bellevue Plan, visit BellevueWa.gov/environment.





Educational event celebrates Native American Heritage Month

*By Emily Inlow-Hood
Deputy Communications Officer*

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the City of Bellevue, the nonprofit Unkitawa and Bawaajigekwe Boulley, an Indigenous educator from the Bad River Ojibwe, are presenting “Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Community”, a celebration of community connection combined with cultural education on Friday, Nov. 14, 6–8 p.m. at City Hall in the first-floor concourse.

Thursday, Nov. 14, 6-8 p.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers and Concourse

Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/NAHM.

Stay engaged on the Affordable Housing Strategy

Nov. 6 info session, upcoming survey

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

As part of an ongoing effort to ensure housing is affordable for everyone across all incomes and backgrounds in Bellevue, the city is currently updating its Affordable Housing Strategy.

A public information session will be held Thursday, Nov. 6, 6-7:30 p.m., at City Hall. A public survey will be released following the Nov. 6 session.

The city’s Office of Housing is managing the update, which will include new policy direction from the Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan update that was adopted last year. The updated plan includes five overarching housing goals for the city: affordable housing; housing equity; housing stability; housing for unique needs and housing supply and diversity.

The Affordable Housing Strategy update will identify actions to support the Comprehensive Plan’s 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 in October and is releasing the draft strategy update in January.

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

Code and Policy Town Hall

Learn what’s ahead for city and land use code updates

*By Kristina Gallant
Code and Policy Planning Manager*

The City of Bellevue’s Code and Policy team helps turn citywide goals and policies into the rules that guide how development happens. The team also updates the city’s codes to align with new state laws and City Council priorities.

Join us for a town hall on Monday, Nov. 17, to hear about proposed code changes that will shape housing, development and more in Bellevue. Register to attend virtually or in-person at Bellevue-Code-and-Policy-Townhall.Eventbrite.com.

During the event, staff will share updates on current and upcoming projects – including those expected in early 2026 – and offer a “Code 101” overview explaining city and land use codes, how they’re updated and ways for community members to get involved in shaping Bellevue’s future. Several projects are already underway, with more expected in the months ahead. This is a great chance to learn, ask questions and stay connected as the city continues to grow and evolve.

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

Fifth annual tree giveaway works to increase citywide tree canopy

Partners, staff and volunteers work through rainy weather to distribute 700 trees

By Loren Pacheco
Climate Engagement Specialist

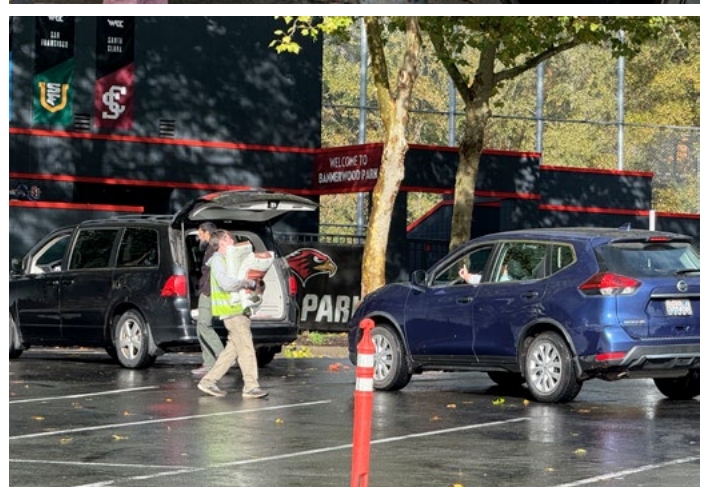
During Bellevue's annual Tree Giveaway event last weekend, the city's Environmental Stewardship team partnered with 300 Trees and Amazon to distribute 700 free trees to residents and community organizations. Volunteers from the community braved the rainy and windy weather to help welcome tree recipients and load vehicles with trees, mulch and watering bags.

Although Bellevue reached its target of 40% tree canopy in 2021, the coverage throughout the city is not evenly distributed. With this in mind, the city's environmental team piloted a new application process this year, which targeted areas of the city that would benefit most from greater coverage. This year's process also gave recipients more environmentally well-suited tree species to choose from.

This marked the fifth year of Bellevue's program, which has given away nearly 4000 free trees to Bellevue community members since starting in 2021. Its continued success represents the city's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Residents interested in receiving free trees during next year's event are encouraged to apply for the 2026 giveaway. Applications will open this summer.

For more information and to sign-up for our newsletter, visit BellevueWA.gov/environment or contact trees@bellevuewa.gov.



Finding the right help for housing and property questions

By Amanda Rich Anderson
Development Services Public Information Officer

Bellevue's Code Compliance officers serve as neighborhood stewards, helping maintain the safety, appearance and livability of our community. Their mission is to provide education and consistent, fair and equitable enforcement that promotes voluntary compliance and builds harmonious partnerships across Bellevue's diverse neighborhoods.

The Code Compliance team addresses a wide range of community concerns and responds to many issues that help keep Bellevue a safe and welcoming place to live.

- **Construction and safety issues:** Work done without required permits or abandoned and unsafe buildings.
- **Home-based businesses:** Ensuring home occupations follow city permitting requirements.
- **Vehicles on private property:** Inoperable or junk vehicles stored on private property.
- **RVs, boats and utility trailers:** There are storage and screening requirements in the city's land use code.
- **Land use and zoning:** Activities or uses that don't meet zoning or land use rules.
- **Nuisance and litter:** Debris, junk, or overflowing dumpsters that affect neighborhood cleanliness.
- **Noise:** Stationary noise from equipment such as heat pumps or air conditioners.

Learn more about the team at BellevueWA.gov/code-compliance.

While the Code Compliance team handles a wide range of code-related issues, some matters—like landlord-tenant disputes or property line disagreements between neighbors—are considered private civil issues and not part of the city's code enforcement process. For these situations, the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center is a valuable community resource.

Through the Housing Accord Program, the Conflict Resolution Center offers free, confidential and impartial services to help landlords and tenants resolve conflicts, strengthen communication and explore alternatives to eviction. The center also provides conflict coaching and negotiation services for neighbor-to-neighbor disputes, such as questions about shared fences or property boundaries.

Reaching out early can help bring understanding and resolution before conflicts grow.

To learn more or request assistance, visit BellevueWA.gov/conflict-resolution or call 425-452-4091.



Fall Reminder of the Importance of Preventing Falls

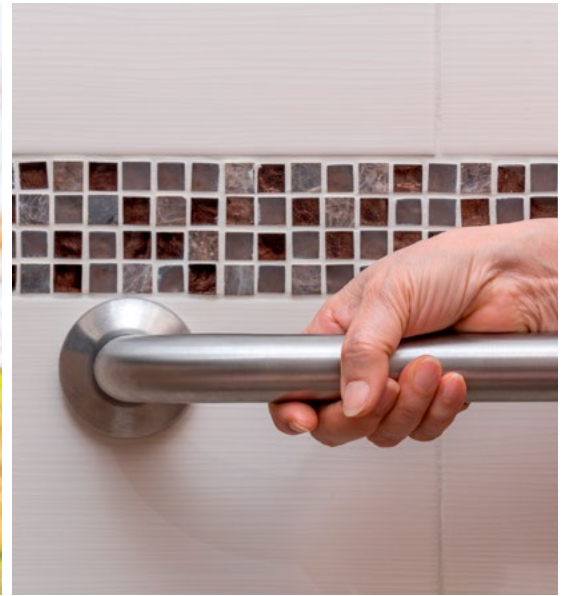
By Bellevue Network on Aging

Each year, one-in-four Americans over the age of 65 experiences a fall. This is the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries among older adults.

The encouraging news is that falls are not an inevitable part of aging. Many can be prevented with proactive measures and increased awareness. Here are some key strategies for older adults to prevent falls.

Stay physically active

Exercise programs that improve strength, balance and flexibility are crucial. Activities like walking, Tai Chi, yoga and chair exercises can help maintain muscle and joint strength, bone health and balance. The many parks in Bellevue provide safe walking paths and the city's Community Centers offer multiple opportunities for exercise classes. For more information on fall prevention, visit <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/injury-and-violence-prevention/older-adult-falls>.



Review medications regularly

Certain medications, or combinations of medications, can cause side effects like dizziness or drowsiness, which increases the risk of falling. Older adults should review all medications—including over-the-counter drugs and supplements—with their healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Schedule vision and hearing checks

Even minor changes in sight or hearing can significantly impact balance and coordination. Regular check-ups ensure that prescription lenses and hearing aids are up to date.

Create a safe home environment

These simple home modifications can have a profound impact on safety.

- Remove tripping hazards from the floor, like throw rugs, clutter and extension cords
- Install grab bars in bathrooms

- Ensure lighting is bright enough throughout the home, especially during Autumn's shorter days
- Use non-slip mats in the shower and kitchen
- Place items used frequently in easy-to-reach place to avoid the need for a stepstool

Use assistive devices when needed

Properly fitted canes, walkers and other mobility aids can provide support for those who feel unsteady. Consult with a physical or occupational therapist to select and safely use the appropriate device.

Autumn is a season of change. Temperatures cool; days become shorter and leaves burst with color before falling to the ground. Let the falling leaves remind you to focus on your own fall prevention to reduce the risk and maintain independence.



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

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.

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



City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

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