



Neighborhood News

April 2025

Celebrate Earth Day in Bellevue!

The City of Bellevue's sustainability team is excited to host a series of events throughout our community to celebrate our City in a Park and Bellevue's legacy of environmental stewardship. Join us for these free events. Registration is not required.

EarthFest 2025

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Where can you play with worms, take a guided garden walk, and learn about Bellevue's clean energy rebate programs? EarthFest, of course! Join us for our second annual event celebrating environmental stewardship at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Bring the whole family to enjoy activities that range from garden tours and interactive arts booths to clean energy workshops.

You can also learn more about this year's Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update at EarthFest 2025!



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

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BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news



Earth Day volunteer opportunity

Stewardship Saturdays

Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.-Noon

Wilburton Hill Park

12400 Main Street

In recognition of Earth Day, please join us for our Stewardship Saturdays volunteer project at Wilburton Hill Park on April 19!

Stewardship Saturdays are community volunteer projects hosted at various parks throughout Bellevue. Businesses, groups, families, and individuals can participate in the stewardship and care of Bellevue's parks and open spaces. On the day of the project, please bring: Sturdy closed-toed footwear, work gloves, layers of comfortable clothing, long work pants, rain gear, water and snacks.

Preregistration is available at BellevueWA.gov/volunteering/environmental-stewardship/stewardship-saturdays.



Sustainable Bellevue Climate Resilience Panel Discussion:

Advancing our Climate Resiliency Wednesday, April 23, Noon-1 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall Council Chambers

Learn more about what local experts and community organizations are doing to prepare for hotter and smokier summers, more extreme storms and other climate impacts in our region.

Speakers will include staff from the King County Executive Climate Office, Homestead Community Land Trust and the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group. The panel will discuss how climate change is affecting our community and what governments in Washington and beyond can do to protect all community members. The event will also feature tables in the City Hall concourse showcasing city sustainability initiatives and programs that advance resilience in Bellevue.

Spring into safer cleaning with Bellevue Utilities

Spring is a great time of year to jump into cleaning. Learn tips on decluttering and how to make safer cleaners for you and the environment in Bellevue Utilities' Greener Living Classes.

To register, contact recycle@bellevuewa.gov or 206-949-1787. For more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes.

**How To Get Rid of Anything:
Recycling, Composting, Hazardous Materials
and Unusual Items**

Wednesday, April 16, 6-7 p.m., virtual class
Tuesday, May 13, 6-7 p.m., virtual class

Make and Take Home Your Own Natural Cleaners
Tuesday, April 22, 6-7 p.m. at Bellevue Library

**Effective Strategies to Reorganize and
Declutter at Home**

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



Install rooftop solar and save with Solarize Eastside

Learn more and register for workshops at SolarizeEastside.org.

The City of Bellevue and the Eastside Climate Partnership are excited to announce Solarize Eastside, a program helping Eastside communities install solar panels on local homes and businesses. Bellevue community members can sign up for the program through July 4 at SolarizeEastside.org.

Participants will receive a detailed solar proposal at a reduced rate from a partner solar installer and can easily schedule dates for panel installation. Additionally, Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union is offering program participants special financing to help reduce panel costs.

Homeowners and building operators can benefit from lower utility bills and earn utility bill credits from the electricity their solar panels generate.

Using vetted local installers Artisan Electric, Sunergy Systems, Puget Sound Solar, Sun Path Electric and Solterra Solar, Solarize Eastside offers an easy solution based on equipment quality, business practices and discounted pricing.

Interested community members are encouraged to attend our workshops this spring to learn about solar energy, available incentives, and what to expect from the Solarize Eastside program. Workshop attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions directly to Solarize Eastside team members and installers.

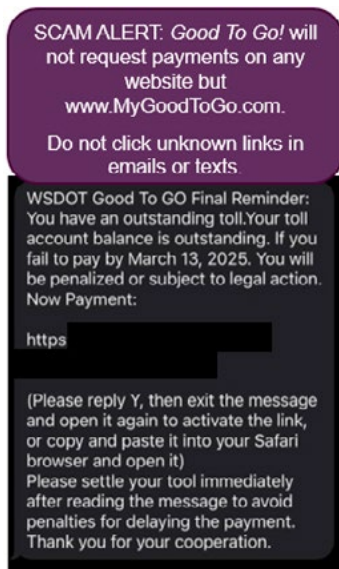
Bellevue Police Department provides top five ways to spot a scam

Throughout the year, Bellevue Police regularly hear from residents about being pressured to mail or wire money in exchange for cryptocurrency investments, a service, a prize or to shield themselves from public embarrassment.



Here are the top five tips Bellevue Police recommend looking for in scams:

- **Use of social media to gain your trust.** The new trend for scammers is using texting, dating sites, or social media to connect directly with potential victims. They attempt to form personal connections and convince would-be victims to deposit money into an "investment pitch" – usually involving cryptocurrency.. This practice, known as "pig butchering," happens repeatedly until the victim has withdrawn all their earnings.
- **Pretending to be from an organization that you know.** Scammers often claims that they are contacting you on behalf of local, state, or federal government agencies (Internal Revenue Service), a business or company (T-Mobile), or that they represent a particular government program (Medicare, Social Security). They may even pretend to be from a utility company or a charity seeking donations.
- **Remember:** Government agencies like police departments and the IRS, or a utility company will NEVER threaten to put you in jail, hurt your family or deport you if you don't comply. This is an immediate sign of a scam.
- **Claiming there is a problem or you've won a prize.** Scammers might start their



message by saying you are in trouble with the government, that there is a problem with one of your accounts or that you owe money. They may even say someone in your family had an emergency or virus on your computer. Then, they ask you to verify personal, sensitive information associated with your accounts or identity. Scammers may also say you have won money in a lottery or sweepstakes, but that to claim your prize, you must first pay a fee or purchase gift cards.

- **Pressuring you to act immediately.** Scammers often win by keeping their victims on their toes. They use tactics that cause you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so that you can't verify their story. They might threaten to arrest you, pursue litigation, or suspend various licenses you may have – from a driver's to a business license. They may even threaten to deport you.
- **Insisting you pay in a specific way.** Finally, scammers often insist that you pay them by sending money through a transfer company or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back of the card. Some may send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it, and then send them money.

The Bellevue Police Department offers these simple suggestions to help you avoid scams:

- Block unwanted calls and text messages
- Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request you aren't expecting
- Resist pressure to respond immediately
- Read the sender's email address and verify the source and sender
- Use a URL checker tool
- Pause and speak to someone you trust before you do anything. Talking about it with a friend or loved one could help you realize it's a scam.

Should any community member become a victim of a scam, please contact the Bellevue Police Department at 425-577-5656 and immediately

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report the scam to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at <https://www.ic3.gov/>. The FBI provides a full list ([fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety/common-frauds-and-scams](https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety/common-frauds-and-scams)) of potential scams that could impact community members across Bellevue and the entire Puget Sound region.

May is Older Americans Month: “Flip the Script on Aging”

The Bellevue City Council will recognize Older Americans Month with a proclamation in May. The 2025 theme set by the federal Administration for Community Living is **“Flip the Script on Aging,”** which

focuses on how society perceives, talks about and approaches aging. It encourages individuals to challenge stereotypes and dispel myths.

Today, seniors are embracing the idea that having purpose is the heartbeat of a fulfilling life. It’s inspiring to see that more than one in five seniors remain in the workforce – a number that has doubled since 1980. These individuals are not just working; they’re thriving, contributing and proving that age is not a barrier or hindrance to relevance. Their determination to stay engaged is a testament to human resilience and our desire to matter at all ages.

Another inspiring trend is the growing number of seniors pursuing higher education. Baby Boomers are returning to classrooms with a fierceness. Whether sharpening skills for the workforce or achieving a lifelong degree dream, seniors’ pursuit of knowledge is nothing short of motivating. To support this growth, residents 60 and over in Washington State may be able to waive most of their tuition costs and only pay a small registration fee for up to 2 classes per semester. Imagine life experience merging with academic theory in a way



that benefits not only the students but also the institutions they attend. It proves that learning has no expiration date.

As the cost of living continues to increase, families are rediscovering the beauty of multigenerational living. Grandparents are stepping back into roles as caregivers, mentors, and storytellers, weaving stronger bonds between generations and offering love, connection, and shared responsibility as timeless values that transcend age.

Aging is being redefined to emphasize purpose, growth and deepening connections with loved ones. Gone are the days of greying hair signaling a lack of usefulness. Instead, aging these days is about embracing a life rich with choices and responsibilities that keep us fulfilled well into our golden years. The new era of aging is not just a shift. It’s a celebration of life’s enduring potential!

Silver Sneakers Classic: Free senior fitness classes

Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

April 15–May 20

Gym at Bellevue Main Boys & Girls Club
209 100th Ave NE, across the street from
Bellevue Downtown Park

Silver Sneakers Classic is a health and fitness program designed for adults ages 65 and over at any fitness levels, but open to all ages and abilities. Classes are led by supportive instructors trained in senior fitness. They can teach you how to perform exercises safely and even adapt exercises for your specific needs.

Pre-registration is required at:

register.bellevuewa.gov or call the Bellevue Parks Northwest Arts Center **425-452-4106**.

Registration # 9001 Silver Sneakers Classic





Help name the new park at Main Street

For more information, visit Park at Main and 112th | City of Bellevue

Bellevue's newest park is located at the corner of Main Street and 112th Avenue Southeast near the southeast edge of downtown Bellevue. The 1.75-acre park is built on top of Sound Transit's Downtown transit tunnel portal.

In late 2024, Sound Transit transferred the park to Bellevue Parks & Community Services to operate and maintain. The space provides a lovely place to walk, rest and enjoy nature in a rapidly growing urban area. Walking paths provide connections from Main Street to 112th Avenue, connecting the Sound Transit East Main Station to the surrounding neighborhoods.

We are looking for park name suggestions! All park users and Bellevue residents are welcome to submit ideas and share their name preferences. Suggested names will be screened against the five criteria outlined in the city's naming policy (bellevue.municipal.codes/enactments/Res10151/media/original.pdf)

Using the community's suggestions and the naming policy as a guide, the Parks & Community Services Board will recommend a park name to the City Council for review and adoption. **The survey will be open through April 26, 2025.**

Early successes from Safe Parking Program

In early March, the City Council received a progress update on Bellevue's Safe Parking Pilot Program and unanimously agreed to draft a resolution for a future meeting that would extend the program through 2026.

The program provides parking for up to 20 vehicles that serve as residences, primarily for

families with children living in the Bellevue area. In its first year, the program hosted 69 children and 106 adults, spread across 53 families. Thus far, 30 of these families have obtained stable housing.

The program, which began as a pilot in February 2024, is managed by Bellevue-based nonprofit 4 Tomorrow. The Safe Parking program is operated on a city-owned property in the Wilburton area, which includes a secure parking lot with assigned spaces and a building with daytime access to key services and facilities.

While on site, participants receive support in finding housing and overcoming any related barriers. The on-site day center provides access to showers, washers and dryers, a working kitchen and several indoor spaces for congregating, studying or resting. The program provides additional services during severe weather to ensure families with children are not forced to sleep in their vehicles on especially cold or hot days.

In developing the program, 4 Tomorrow worked to create a strong sense of community and belonging for all safe parking participants. Volunteers from the broader community facilitate regular on-site events and program participants are given opportunities to help with day-to-day elements of the program. Staff also individually tailor their approach to finding stable housing based on each program participant's needs.

In a report issued by 4 Tomorrow to the City of Bellevue summarizing the program's first six months, one parent who participated in the program stated "This is the first time in a long time that I have felt safe and welcome anywhere."

Program participants must complete a background check before parking on site. Homelessness Outreach staff encourage individuals experiencing homelessness and living in Bellevue to reach out if they are in need of assistance. While the Safe Parking program prioritizes families with children, city staff are happy to help anyone in Bellevue navigate the complicated system of services potentially available to people experiencing homelessness.

For more information, contact Homelessness Outreach Program Manager Nico Quijano at 425-229-5819 or nquijano@bellevuewa.gov.

Review Bellevue's draft Hazard Mitigation Plan

We've finished drafting the city's first ever Hazard Mitigation Plan and we want your input!

The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) will help us better prepare for natural hazards that could impact our community, like earthquakes, wildfires and severe weather events. Through the process of creating this plan, our team—with input from the Bellevue community—has assessed risks, identified vulnerable areas of the city and developed actions to help reduce or eliminate the impact of a hazard in a disaster.

We're holding two in-person events and an online open house at EngagingBellevue.com so members of the public can review the risk assessment and draft plan, ask questions, and share feedback.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Crossroads Community Center, 1

6000 NE 10th Street, Bellevue

The meeting will begin with a short presentation from 5:30-6 p.m.

EarthFest

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden,

12001 Main Street, Bellevue

Members of the project team will be at a table to share information and answer questions.

The EngagingBellevue online open house will be available later this month. Visit BellevueWA.gov/hmp for the details, as well as more information on the plan.



Transportation Department Vegetation Lead Travis Bliven cuts up trees in the street for removal after November's windstorm.

Navigating changes to the Local Project Review Act

Join an Information Session

April 3 at Noon, Virtual session

April 3 at 6 p.m., Virtual session

The City of Bellevue has updated its land use permit submittal requirements and processing procedures to align with recent changes to state law. These updates aim to streamline permitting, improve efficiency, and enhance transparency for applicants. To help the community understand these updates, the Development Services Department is hosting two information sessions to provide more information on the changes the city has implemented related to permit processing streamlining, including new submittal requirements, completeness checks and consolidated application material.

We encourage you to attend and stay informed about Bellevue's permitting process.

Additional information is on our:

BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/development/codes-and-guidelines/local-project-review-requirements

Tree removal-only permits: Preconstruction inspections required

If you are planning to remove a significant or landmark tree—or have already applied for a Tree Removal Only permit—you'll need an inspection before starting work. The inspections required for your project are listed right on the face of your permit, and it's up to you or your contractor to schedule them. During the first inspection, a city inspector will visit your property to confirm which trees are approved for removal. This helps ensure there is no confusion about what is allowed under the permit. You will also have the opportunity to meet with the city inspector who will sign off on the permit. Once the tree removal is complete, don't forget to request a final inspection so the permit can be closed.

Questions? If you have a Tree Removal Only permit, call 425-452-6875 or visit MyBuildingPermit.com to schedule an inspection.

Need details on Tree Removal Only permit? Information is available on the city website under Development Services (BellevueWA.gov/development-services).

Help shape Bellevue's updated sign code

The City of Bellevue is updating its Sign Code (BCC 22B.10) (bellevue.municipal.codes/BCC/22B.10) and we want to hear from the community. Your input will help identify key priorities for the update. Please take a few moments to complete the Sign Code Questionnaire (engagingbellevue.com/sign-code-update) and share your thoughts on what's working, what could be improved, and any ideas or examples you'd like us to consider.

Your feedback will help shape recommendations and will be shared with the City Council in an upcoming check-in. To learn more about the project, including the background and timeline, visit the Sign Code Update project page at BellevueWA.gov/sign-code-update.



BelRed Look Forward: Land use code amendments underway

The City of Bellevue is updating its land use code to support the vision for the future of BelRed. On Feb. 25, 2025, the City Council approved initiation of the BelRed Look Forward land use code amendment (LUCA) to align development regulations with recent updates to the Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plan. These updates will support more housing and job growth, transit-oriented development, and expanded medical-related uses.

The updates will also refine strategies for affordable housing, street improvements, stream restoration, and the BelRed Arts District. The project is expected to be completed by late 2025, with engagement opportunities in the coming months. To learn more, visit the project webpage: BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-initiatives/belred-look-back



More food trucks are coming to Downtown Bellevue on April 14!

The Grand Connection Street Eats program is expanding, bringing even more food trucks to downtown Bellevue! Starting April 14, a new food truck location will open at Compass Plaza (106th Ave NE), operating Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

In addition to the new Compass Plaza location, the existing food truck program at City Hall Plaza continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. With more food trucks coming to downtown, there are even more chances to sample a variety of cuisines, all while supporting local vendors.

For more details on the food truck schedules and locations, visit BellevueWA.gov/food-trucks.



Neighborhood Enhancement Program Updates

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a city-funded initiative that allows residents to propose and select small capital improvement projects aimed at enhancing their areas. The \$7 million program rotates through Bellevue's 14 neighborhood areas, serving two each year.

In 2025, the program comes to the Bridle Trails and Northwest Bellevue neighborhoods areas.

While the deadline has already closed for Bridle Trails, you can still submit your Northwest Bellevue project ideas through April 30. Don't miss the opportunity to share your ideas for \$380,000 to improve your neighborhood.

Submit your Northwest Bellevue project ideas in two easy ways:

MAIL: Return the prepaid Project Idea Request Card that all Northwest Bellevue households were mailed in late March

ONLINE: BellevueWA.gov/nep

There is no limit on the number of project ideas you can submit, as long as they are received by the April 30 submission deadline.



2025 Bridle Trails project submissions in review

City staff are currently evaluating and reviewing resident-submitted project ideas for the Bridle Trails Neighborhood Area. Eligible submissions will be included on the Bridle Trails project ballot. Residents should check their mail for the official Voter's Pamphlet and ballot, which is set to arrive in early June. Bridle Residents will be asked to vote for their top three project choices. Voting is by mail only and limited to one ballot per household.

A public open house planned for June will give residents the opportunity to learn about each ballot project and ask city staff questions. Look for details in the coming weeks.

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



Boards and Commissions Meetings

Stay updated on meetings and cancellations:
BellevueWA.gov

All meetings are conducted at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. If a holiday occurs on a Monday, please check the updated calendar. Agendas can be downloaded from the city's web pages listed below. Meeting alerts are available through subscribing to the City's Special Meeting Notices page.
BellevueWA.gov/special-meetings

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

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

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

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

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

Human Services Commission (6 p.m., 1E-113)
 First and third Monday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/human-services-commission

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

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

The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA)
 8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center
 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/bnoa

Special Events Committee (8:30 a.m., 1E-112)
 Second Thursday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/events

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

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

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

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

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx



| Day | Scheduled Meeting(s) | Location | Public Comment Opportunity |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| First four Tuesdays of each Month, except August and December | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting | Council Chamber Bellevue TV channel 21 and BT YouTube channel youtube.com/user/BellevueWashington | Emails to Council are accepted at council@bellevuewa.gov at any time. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at bellevue.legistar.com/calendar.aspx |
| August – first Tuesday only | | | |
| December – first and second Tuesday only | | | |



Happy Spring!