



# Neighborhood News

March 2026



## Youth talent event celebrates city's growing diversity

By Christina Faine  
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Bellevue youth will take the stage Friday, April 3, 6-8 p.m. at City Hall for a K-Pop dance performance, fashion show and other forms of artistic expression during Bellevue Youth Link's "Unity through Diversity."

Since the early 1990s, Youth Link, a program sponsored by the Parks & Community Services Department, has partnered with the Bellevue School District to provide opportunities for

leadership development and community service to Bellevue's youth. Youth Link members contribute to Bellevue's caring community by working to remove disparities in opportunity and education so that every has a chance to thrive.

The "Unity through Diversity" celebration has been going on since 2015, when over 100 guests attended the inaugural event. Today, the performance is open to the public and requires pre-registration.

For more information or accommodations, please contact Bellevue Youth Link at [youthlink@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:youthlink@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-2846.



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](mailto:jwetzstein@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI and Equal Opportunity Officer at [ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov).

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**ENERGY SMART  
EASTSIDE**



## Interactive heat pump workshop with Energy Smart Eastside

By *Miranda Gormley*  
Community Development Outreach and  
Engagement Coordinator

Curious about heat pumps? Join Energy Smart Eastside for an in-person interactive workshop to learn how they work, what benefits they offer for home comfort and energy efficiency and which rebates and incentives you can take advantage of to get the best deal!

### Energy Smart Eastside Heat Pump Workshop

Thursday, March 5, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Bellevue Library, Meeting Room 1,  
1111 110th Ave NE  
Register at [tinyurl.com/BellevueHeatPumps](https://tinyurl.com/BellevueHeatPumps)

Already own a heat pump? Apply to become an Energy Advisor Volunteer to support your neighbors and encourage electrification in your community! Visit: [tinyurl.com/ESEnergyAdvisorProgram](https://tinyurl.com/ESEnergyAdvisorProgram)

## NEP News for Downtown Bellevue and Lake Hills Neighborhood Areas

By *Theresa Cuthill*  
Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator

### Downtown Bellevue neighbors

The project submission phase of your Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) process closes on Tuesday, March 3. The scoping phase will follow, with city staff reviewing submitted projects for possible funding from your area's \$975,000 allocated budget.



Keep an eye out for a mailed invitation to a public open house in June, during which you'll be able to meet with city project managers to discuss projects that will be included in your ballot.

### Lake Hills Neighbors

A virtual kickoff meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. City staff will provide attendees with a brief overview of the program's guidelines and schedule, answer questions and invite residents to share, discuss and submit project ideas.

City project managers will also be available in virtual breakout rooms for specific project discussion. Each household in Lake Hills will receive a postage-paid NEP Project Request Form in the mail later this month for residents to suggest projects to be funded by the \$622,000 budget available to the Lake Hills neighborhood.

### Lake Hills NEP Virtual Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to  
[neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov)

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, visit [BellevueWA.gov/nep](https://BellevueWA.gov/nep).

For questions, contact Theresa Cuthill at [tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov).

## Cultural Conversations: Finding Community Belonging in Periods of Loneliness

By Cara Iwasaki

Community Development Community Relations Coordinator

Whether someone experiences isolation or loneliness due to aging, unemployment, language barriers or other challenges, no one in our community deserves to feel alone. The city's Cultural Conversations series continues this month with a discussion on community belonging and methods for finding connection.

Since 2010, Cultural Conversations have fostered community relationships and created a space to break social barriers and confront biases. They highlight diverse perspectives and welcome people from all walks of life to share their experiences and build connections across lines of difference.



Join us at Bellevue Botanical Garden's Aaron Education Center on Thursday, March 26, 6:30-8 p.m., for an evening of connection, learning and dialogue as we acknowledge the many aspects of what some experts are calling the "loneliness epidemic," collaborate to build meaningful connections across cultures and share resources and opportunities to create and join spaces of belonging in Bellevue.

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP at Eventbrite

[CCLonelinessBelonging.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cclonelinessbelonging)

or [ciwasaki@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciwasaki@bellevuewa.gov).

Want to be more involved with Cultural Conversations? We'd love to hear from you at [ciwasaki@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ciwasaki@bellevuewa.gov)



## Share your feedback on the draft vision statement and 'policy moves' for Eastgate and Factoria

By Justin Panganiban

Community Development Senior Planner

The Great Neighborhoods planning process for Eastgate and Factoria is progressing from the "Discover" phase – when community members shared their values and priorities – to the "Define" phase, which incorporates public feedback into a draft neighborhood vision..

Currently, the team has developed a draft vision statement, as well as draft "policy moves" that incorporate community input and clarify intent and desired outcomes before detailed policies are developed and shared later this spring.

Visit Engaging Bellevue to share how you think these ideas will shape the future of these neighborhoods. Explore our interactive opportunities map and suggest improvements that can support goals around neighborhood identity, mixed use and neighborhood centers, community gathering spaces, mobility and access and the environment.

**The deadline for submitting feedback on Engaging Bellevue is Friday, March 20.**

**Eastgate:** [engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-eastgate](https://engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-eastgate)

**Factoria:** [engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-factoria](https://engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-factoria)

## City wants to hear from you on proposed citywide speed limit changes

Take survey by March 31 to provide feedback

By Jennifer Cook

Transportation Public Information Officer

As part of the Safe Speeds Bellevue program, the city's Transportation Department recently proposed speed limit changes in January for all streets with an existing speed limit of 30 mph or greater. Lower speed limits have been shown to reduce driving speeds and result in fewer overall traffic collisions, including those with fatalities and serious injuries—especially at higher speeds.

### We want to hear from you!

We are seeking feedback on the proposed speed limit changes to Bellevue's streets with a posted speed limit of 30 mph or higher. Take our survey through March 31 at [engagingbellevue.com/safe-speeds-bellevue-2026](https://engagingbellevue.com/safe-speeds-bellevue-2026) to share your thoughts.

Safe Speeds Bellevue works to make city streets safer for everyone by evaluating speed limits and road safety management. The program supports Bellevue's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious-injury collisions on city streets by 2030.

After Safe Speeds Bellevue launched in May 2025, the city reduced speed limits on four 35-mph streets, analyzed traffic speeds before and after the change and conducted public outreach to gather feedback on speed management. Two locations were reduced to 25-mph speed limits, including portions of 124th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 38th Street, and Northup Way from Bellevue Way to 120th Avenue Northeast. Village Park Drive and a portion of Northeast 40th Street were reduced to 30 mph. Following the speed limit reductions, data showed that speeding over 40 mph dropped 19-42% at all four locations.

Through engagement, community members expressed interest in speed management efforts at locations with a history of speeding or injury-collisions, as well as places where people

frequently walk and bike, including schools and commercial areas. Community members also noted interest in coupling speed limit reductions with enforcement and design measures, to encourage compliance with new speed limits.

### Want to learn more?

Visit [BellevueWA.gov/safe-speeds](https://BellevueWA.gov/safe-speeds) for information on Safe Speeds Bellevue, including how we determined the new, safer speed limits; see a map of the streets we're reviewing; watch a short video with more details and more.



## Celebrate Earth Month at Bellevue's annual EarthFest!

By Janelle Wetzstein

Community Development Public Information Officer

Join the Sustainable Bellevue team and Keep Bellevue Beautiful for the city's annual EarthFest celebration at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. This year's event will include a sustainability resource fair, garden tours, live music, and creative activities for all ages. Drop in anytime between 11 a.m.-3 p.m. to join the fun!

### Join us for Bellevue's 2026 EarthFest

**Saturday, April 18, 2026, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Bellevue Botanical Garden,**  
**12001 Main St, Bellevue**



# Bellevue Launches 2026 Corporate Sponsorship Program to Support Programs You Love

By Amy Pennington  
Economic Development Coordinator

The City of Bellevue is excited to introduce its 2026 Corporate Sponsorship Program, an initiative designed to strengthen the programs that make our community vibrant. From Keep Bellevue Beautiful and Movies in the Park, to Bellevue Essentials and many more, these programs enrich our neighborhoods and bring people together.

We've already seen the impact of corporate partnership in our pilot sponsorship program with Amazon, whose support has helped fund important city programs and demonstrated how community-oriented investment from local businesses can make a meaningful difference.

"Our partnership with the City of Bellevue reflects Amazon's commitment to strengthening neighborhoods, fostering connection, and creating opportunities for all residents. We're proud to support programs that build the kind of vibrant, inclusive community we all want to be part of."

– Keri Pravitz, Manager,  
Community Engagement, Amazon

This year's program isn't just about sponsorship but also focuses on building a stronger Bellevue for everyone. By partnering with local corporations and businesses, the city can offer more events and services for the community, while creating new opportunities for engagement.

## We are excited to expand the program to new corporate sponsors in our community

If your business is looking for a way to make a lasting impact, this is your chance to join us in shaping Bellevue's future. Learn more about the program and explore the 2026 Sponsorship Catalog at the following link: [BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf\\_document/2026/2026-corporate-sponsorship-catalogweb-updated.pdf](https://BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2026/2026-corporate-sponsorship-catalogweb-updated.pdf)



## Bellevue youth collect 1,200 coats for residents

By Christina Faine  
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Over the last three months, participants in Bellevue Youth Link's 22nd annual Kids Care Coat Drive collected 1,200 new and gently used coats for local families. After receiving the donations, Youth Link members collected, counted, sorted and donated the coats.

"We started this coat drive because we wanted to help families in our neighborhood in a direct, tangible way," said Ananya, the youth action team leader. "Every donation is a reminder that our community comes together and that Bellevue is a caring community."

Youth Link empowers youth in the community to become leaders and provides them with support to take action wherever they see a need.

"Leading this coat drive showed me how powerful student leadership can be and I realized that even as high schoolers, we can create real change in our community," said Ananya.

The coats will support Bellevue School District students and families through the BSD Family Connection Center and Bellevue Fire CARES program.

For more information about Youth Link, go to [youthlink.com](https://youthlink.com) or call 425-452-2846.



## Bellevue Essentials Applications Open in April

By Sarina Miller, Community Relations Coordinator

Curious about how decisions are made in the City of Bellevue, or looking for ways to get more involved in your community? Bellevue Essentials offers residents a fun opportunity to explore local government from the inside and discover meaningful ways to participate.

This 10-week civic engagement program provides an in-depth look at how the city operates.

Participants connect directly with City Council members, department leaders and staff, gaining insight into the people and processes that shape Bellevue. Through hands-on activities and practical discussions, the course helps build knowledge, relationships and confidence in civic leadership.

Since launching more than a decade ago, Bellevue Essentials has graduated over 400 community members. Alumni are now active across the city — serving on the council, volunteering on boards and commissions and leading within neighborhood associations.

Applications for the upcoming fall cohort open in April. Classes take place from September through December on Wednesday evenings and include dinner, presentations and interactive exercises.

The program fee is \$150, and scholarships are available. To complete the course, participants must attend at least eight of the 10 sessions.

Learn more and sign up for application updates at [BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials](http://BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials).

For additional information or to request accommodations, contact Sarina Miller at 425-452-4295 or [samiller@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:samiller@bellevuewa.gov).

## Eastgate/Bridle Trails – Help design your new neighborhood signs

By Jonathan Winslow

Community Development Associate Planner

Help shape the design for Eastgate and Bridle Trails neighborhood signs!

Resident input is essential to help us create the inaugural neighborhood signs for the Eastgate neighborhood and replace the signs in Bridle Trails as part of a Neighborhood Enhancement Program-funded project.

A community survey for each neighborhood sign project is available on the city's website through the end of the month. Provide feedback on your neighborhood's identity and help shape its future by taking the survey.

- **Eastgate:** [BellevueWA.gov/eastgate-neighborhood-signage](http://BellevueWA.gov/eastgate-neighborhood-signage)
- **Bridle Trails:** [BellevueWA.gov/bridle-trails-neighborhood-signage](http://BellevueWA.gov/bridle-trails-neighborhood-signage)

Keep an eye out for a follow-up online community vote later this year that will ask you to select the final designs!





## Keeping Bellevue Beautiful: Our Progress and How You Can Help

By Evan Reed

Keep Bellevue Beautiful Coordinator

Bellevue neighbors are making a real difference in keeping our city clean and welcoming. Here's what's happening with the Keep Bellevue Beautiful program and how you can join us.

### "26 for '26" Street Cleanups

We set a big goal for 2026: 26 signature street cleanups—one for every neighborhood. So far, we've completed three cleanups in Factoria, Bridle Trails, and Northwest Bellevue, covering 8.12 miles and collecting 71 bags of litter or about 1,775 pounds!

These events aren't just about trash; they're about pride and community.

### The City of Bellevue's next clean-up events are already scheduled!

- Feb. 21 – Cougar Mountain/Lakemont
- March 7 – Eastgate
- March 21 – Lake Hills
- April 4 – Newport

For more information on specific locations, visit our Keep Bellevue Beautiful webpage at [BellevueWA.gov/signature-streets](https://BellevueWA.gov/signature-streets).

### Adopt-A-Street: Volunteers Making It Happen

Our Adopt-A-Street program is the backbone of year-round cleanup. Here's how it works:

- You (or your group) "adopt" a street for two years.
- Commit to cleaning it four times a year.
- We provide the gear: vests, gloves, bags, and litter grabbers.

Last year, volunteers removed 730 bags of litter citywide. Here are a few 2025 stats from our Adopt-A-Street groups:

- The Bellevue Green & Clean group led in cumulative bags collected, removing 160 bags of litter across 38 cleanups
- The Golde Diggers group led in total cleanups conducted, completing 73 cleanups and collecting 141 bags
- Force Suisse also made strong progress, finishing the year with 115 bags removed across 23 cleanups

Thank you to all our adopters for your continued care for our community! These groups show what's possible when neighbors work together. Want to join them? Sign up on the city's Adopt-A-Street webpage at [BellevueWA.gov/adopt-a-street](https://BellevueWA.gov/adopt-a-street).

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## Join us on March 23 for Sustainable Bellevue Townhall

By Janelle Wetzstein

Community Development Public Information Officer

Join us for a Sustainable Bellevue Townhall on Monday, March 23, 6:30-8 p.m. at City Hall to learn about Bellevue's efforts to enhance sustainability and reduce emissions. Provide feedback and find out how to get involved!

Doors open at 6 p.m. Meet the city's sustainability team and enjoy lights refreshments prior to the official 6:30 p.m. start time. For more information, contact [sustainability@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:sustainability@bellevuewa.gov).

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## March towards a healthier lifestyle

*By Bellevue Network on Aging*

With longer, lighter days, March is a great time to restart healthy habits. Aging well focuses on both physical and mental health; here are some simple ways to incorporate healthy changes into your lifestyle.

### Move with Purpose

Regular movement results in flexible joints, strong muscles and a healthy heart. Even moderate activities like walking, gentle yoga or water aerobics can improve balance and reduce the risk of falls. Set realistic goals, like a 20-minute walk or stretching before breakfast, that prioritize consistency over intensity. Exercise-like group classes at the City of Bellevue's five community centers offer the opportunity to make new social connections.



### Prioritize Preventive Care

Regular checkups, keeping vaccinations up to date and following up on recommended screenings are vital for catching issues early.

Review medications with your doctor and be sure to include any over-the-counter medications or supplements you take to avoid interactions. Keep up with dental, vision and hearing exams.



### Stay Connected

Pick up the phone and call a friend, join a class or give back to your community. Volunteering—even a few hours per month—provides a way to help others while also strengthening your own sense of connection and well-being. Libraries, animal shelters, food banks and religious or cultural organizations commonly welcome older adult volunteers. The city encourages volunteers in many municipal departments and has a list of other volunteer opportunities available at [BellevueWA.gov/volunteering](https://BellevueWA.gov/volunteering).

It's never too late to start cultivating habits that nourish your body, mind and spirit. Focus on making small consistent changes, finding activities you enjoy and strengthening social interaction for a healthier, more satisfying 2026.



# Boards and Commissions Meetings

Stay updated on meetings and cancellations: [BellevueWA.gov](http://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](http://BellevueWA.gov/special-meetings)

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

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

**Planning Commission** (6:30 p.m., 1E-113)  
Second and fourth Wednesday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/planning-commission](http://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](http://BellevueWA.gov/transportation-commission)

**Human Services Commission** (6 p.m., 1E-113)  
First and third Monday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/human-services-commission](http://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](http://BellevueWA.gov/leoff-1-disability-board)

**Parks & Community Services Board**  
(6 p.m., 1E-113) Third Wednesday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/park-board](http://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](http://BellevueWA.gov/bnoa)

**Special Events Committee** (8:30 a.m., 1E-112)  
Second Thursday of each month  
[BellevueWA.gov/events](http://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](http://BellevueWA.gov/neighborhoods) or call 425-452-6836 or email: [neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov).

## City Council [bellevue.legistar.com/calendar.aspx](http://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 BTV YouTube channel <a href="http://YouTube.com/bellevuewashington">YouTube.com/bellevuewashington</a>	Emails to Council are accepted at <a href="mailto:council@bellevuewa.gov">council@bellevuewa.gov</a> at any time. Further opportunities for public comment are published on each Council agenda and can be found at <a href="http://bellevue.legistar.com/calendar.aspx">bellevue.legistar.com/calendar.aspx</a>
August – first Tuesday only			
December – first and second Tuesday only			