



Neighborhood News



April 2026



Celebrate EarthFest at the Bellevue Botanical Garden!

By Jake Sykes
Sustainable Bellevue Team

Join us for EarthFest, an annual celebration of environmental stewardship on **Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.** Enjoy garden tours, family-friendly creative activities and live music as you learn about sustainability in Bellevue.

EarthFest is free and no advance registration is required. Drop in anytime to join the fun!

In accordance with the Earth Day spirit, sustainable modes of transportation (such as bike, bus, or BellHop!) are encouraged. We look forward to seeing you!

Enjoy the new “Crosstown Connection” with help from Choose Your Way Bellevue

By Choose Your Way Bellevue

Sound Transit’s highly anticipated “Crosslake Connection” has opened! Offering light rail service across Lake Washington, the 2 Line is making it easier than ever to travel between Bellevue and Seattle.

To help you experience the world’s first light rail service across a floating bridge, Choose Your Way Bellevue is offering \$25 preloaded ORCA cards while supplies last! Apply today at bit.ly/try-transit-cards and see how easy it is to get around without driving alone.



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.

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Wool you join us for sheep shearing at Kelsey Creek Farm?

By Christina Faine
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

From wool to yarn, learn how a sheep's coat becomes a sweater by joining us for Bellevue's Sheep Shearing celebration on Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Kelsey Creek Farm (410 130th Pl. SE). Rain or shine, activities will include spinning demonstrations, tractor-pulled wagon rides, animal viewing areas, pony rides and more.

Admission, parking and shuttle service between the Wilburton Park-and-Ride and Bannerwood Sports Park are all free of charge, while food will be available to purchase.

"It's so valuable for people to come and get close to animals," said 41-year veteran sheep shearer Amy Wolf. "The Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing is one way we can hold onto our connection to family farms and our food source."

The event originated in the early 1990s, when ever-increasing crowds gathered at Kelsey Creek Park every spring to watch the sheep being shorn of their winter coats. On average, each sheep produces six to 10 pounds of wool every year, while their buzz cuts keep them cool by removing four to 20 pounds of fiber.

To learn more, visit BellevueWA.gov/city-news/sheep-shearing-26.

Become a Cultural Conversations Facilitator

Applications due on April 12

By Cara Iwasaki
Cultural Conversations Coordinator

The City of Bellevue's Cultural Conversations program is deepening community collaboration by inviting those who live, work or play in Bellevue to apply for its upcoming facilitator course. Participants will develop skills to build deeper connections in our community and contribute to the design of the program's next season.

From May to August, participants will receive training on group facilitation, cultural competency, language access and best practices to engage community members in conversation and help to shape themes for the 2026-2027 Cultural Conversations season. From September to May, the group will practice their new skills and community facilitation during actual Cultural Conversations events.

There is no cost to apply or participate. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 12 and can be submitted online at BellevueWA.gov/cultural-conversations, by email to ciwasaki@bellevuewa.gov, or in person at City Hall or Mini City Hall.

To learn more about Cultural Conversations and apply for the course, visit at BellevueWA.gov/cultural-conversations. For questions, contact Cara Iwasaki at ciwasaki@bellevuewa.gov.





Help shape Bellevue's future parking and mobility updates

By Amanda Anderson

Development Services Public Information Officer

Did you know Bellevue's parking regulations haven't been significantly updated in decades? Join us at an upcoming community open house to learn about proposed changes to the city's parking and mobility requirements in the land use code. Events will take place on April 20 at Bellevue City Hall and May 6 at Crossroads Community Center, as well as a virtual session on May 8.

The events will feature visual tools that explain why the city is updating these rules, how the proposed standards would work, and what the changes could mean for accessibility, transportation and housing across Bellevue. Community members can explore each topic at their own pace in a clear, easy-to-understand format.

Community members will be able to talk with city staff, ask questions and share feedback that will help shape the final version of the updated standards. Topics include minimum and maximum parking requirements, where parking minimums could be removed, accessible parking, shared and off-site parking, bicycle parking and updated design requirements for loading areas and internal walkways. The open house will also highlight which parts of the proposal are still open to change and how community feedback will guide the next steps. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Learn more and register at parking-reform-data-walks.eventbrite.com. Additional information about the code update is available at BellevueWA.gov/parking-reform-luca.

Bellevue Essentials accepting applications for 2026 cohort

By Sarina Miller

Bellevue Essentials Coordinator

Have you ever wondered how the City of Bellevue makes decisions or how you can play a bigger role in shaping your community? If you have, Bellevue Essentials is for you.

This civic engagement program offers residents a behind-the-scenes look at city government and provides opportunities to learn, connect and get involved.

Applications for the 2026 Bellevue Essentials cohort open on Friday, April 13 and will be accepted through July 13. Program tuition is \$150, with fee waivers available to help ensure the program is accessible to all.



Over the course of 10 weeks, Bellevue Essentials participants attend a series of interactive sessions that explore how the city works, as well as the issues shaping Bellevue's future. They'll hear directly from city leaders and staff, while exploring real-world challenges and opportunities through interactive, hands-on activities.

Since launching in 2013, more than 400 people have graduated from Bellevue Essentials, leaving with a better understanding of local government, stronger community connections and tools to make a difference. Many alumni go on to serve on boards and commissions, neighborhood groups and other community initiatives.

To apply online or learn more, visit BellevueWA.gov/bellevue-essentials. For questions or accommodations, contact Sarina Miller at 425-452-4295 or samiller@bellevuewa.gov.

Lake Hills and Downtown Bellevue NEP updates

By Theresa Cuthill

Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator

Lake Hills begins project submissions phase

Don't miss the opportunity to let the city know what you'd like to see in your neighborhood.

Submit your Lake Hills neighborhood enhancement project ideas by April 22 in the following ways:

- By mail: Return the prepaid Project Idea Request Card that all Lake Hills households received via mail in March
- Online: Visit BellevueWA.gov/nep

There is no limit on the number of project ideas you can submit, but all ideas must be received at City Hall or online by the April 22 deadline.

Downtown Bellevue in project scoping phase

City staff are currently reviewing resident-submitted project ideas for the Downtown Bellevue neighborhood to determine which ones will be included in the NEP ballot. Keep an eye on your mailbox in early June for the program voter's pamphlet and ballot. Once you receive your ballot, vote for your top three project choices.

In June, a public open house is planned to present the projects that made this year's ballot. This event will give you the opportunity to ask project managers questions and learn more about the projects before casting your vote.

Bellevue's Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) is a \$7 million, city-funded, capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select small projects that improve their neighborhood's quality of life and enhance its character. It rotates through the city's 14 neighborhoods and serves two each year.

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



Easier access to utility bill assistance during financial hardship

By Michaelene Fowler

Utilities Public Information Officer

Bellevue Utilities offers long- and short-term assistance to support utility customers who need help paying their bill. The Utility Bill Assistance program provides a new and streamlined application process that makes it easier for residents to apply for support.

The program's updated paper application is shorter, requires less personal information and reduces the time and effort needed to complete. The new online portal offers a one-stop resource for applying and managing documents.

This simplified approach is designed to remove barriers, increase access to assistance, and ensure more people in need can get help managing their utility bills during financial challenges.

Long-Term Bill Assistance

Bellevue Utilities offers 70% off basic utility costs to low-income seniors (62 and older) and community members with permanent disabilities who meet specific income guidelines. The type of assistance available depends on how your bill is paid.

- **Utility Bill Discount:** If you pay a Bellevue utility bill, you may qualify for a discount or rate reduction on your 2026 utility bills. This program is accepting applications through Oct. 31.
- **Utility Bill Rebate:** If your utility costs are paid through rent or a third party, you may qualify for a rebate check on last year's costs. This program is accepting applications through Oct. 31.

Short-Term Bill Assistance

If you don't qualify for Long-Term Assistance, Bellevue Utilities offers two short-term assistance programs.

- **Emergency Assistance:** Community members experiencing a one-time financial shock that interrupts their ability to cover expenses may qualify for a 100% discount on basic utility services for up to four months (two bills).

- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** This program supports residents who meet specific low-income requirements and have a past-due utility bill.

To learn more, visit BellevueWA.gov/utility-bill-assistance or call **425-452-5285**.

Provide your input on BelRed's newest neighborhood park

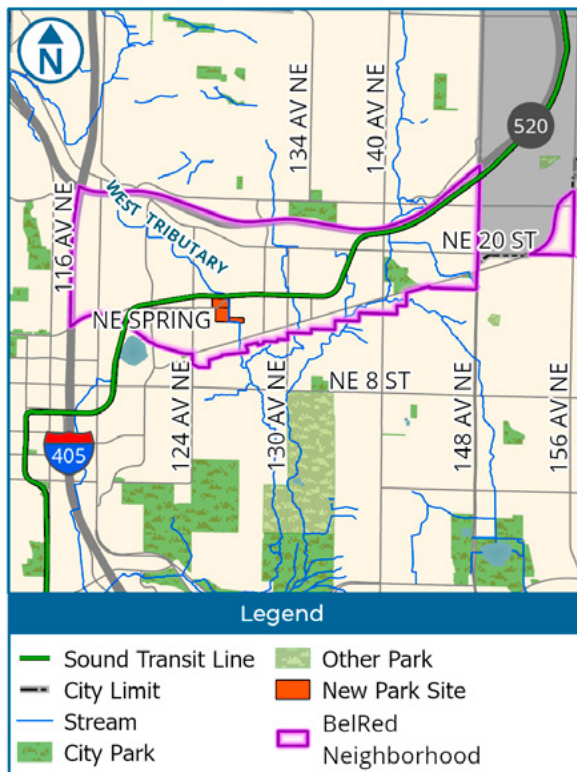
*By Christina Faine
Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer*

Join city staff for the first community meeting for BelRed's newest neighborhood park on Thursday, May 7, 6-7:30 p.m. at Highland Community Center. This event will offer community members a space to give feedback on what they'd like to see in the upcoming park.

The BelRed neighborhood is one of the most underserved in the city for parks and trail access. To address this need, voters passed the City of Bellevue 2022 Parks and Open Space levy, which generated funds for planning and developing a new park in the BelRed neighborhood.

The city previously had acquired the property at 12520 NE Spring Blvd for public infrastructure projects — including a park.

We look forward to working with the community to plan and name the new park.



Join us for an upcoming Eastgate and Factoria Draft Policy Open House

*By Justin Panganiban
Senior Planner, Community Development*

Bellevue's Great Neighborhoods team is seeking your input on draft policies for the Eastgate and Factoria Neighborhood Area Plans. Prior to our presentation to the Planning Commission, join us for an open house on Thursday, May 7, 4:30–7:30 p.m., at the South Bellevue Community Center.

Eastgate and Factoria Draft Policy Open House

Thursday, May 7, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
South Bellevue Community Center
14509 SE Newport Way, Bellevue, WA 98006
Register at
gn-eastgate-factoria-policy.eventbrite.com

The team is currently wrapping up the project's "Define" phase. Over the past two months, community members have shared their thoughts on the draft neighborhood vision, policy ideas and urban design opportunities that are foundational to the draft plan.

In May, we will move to the "Refine" phase and share draft policies that incorporate community feedback into a set of forward-thinking, actionable policies that reflect the community's vision for the neighborhood over the next 10-20 years.

Visit our online engagement hub Engaging Bellevue for each neighborhood to find more information about our project and read the feedback we've received to date.

Eastgate: EngagingBellevue.com/greatneighborhoods-eastgate

Factoria: EngagingBellevue.com/greatneighborhoods-factoria

Apply for Jubilee in the Community

By Evan Reed

Keep Bellevue Beautiful Coordinator

The City of Bellevue is thrilled to continue its partnership with Jubilee REACH on the Jubilee in the Community program, which helps residents who may need a little extra support with property maintenance.

The program serves senior homeowners, residents with disabilities, and others who need help maintaining their homes. Crews assist with projects like yard maintenance, light exterior cleanup, and debris removal. These small improvements can make a big difference for residents who simply need an extra set of hands from the community.

Applications for this year's Jubilee in the Community program are open now through May 29. Residents can apply online, in person, or through an application form as a part of mailer to residents.

To learn more or apply online, visit BellevueWA.gov/jubilee-in-the-community.



Keep Bellevue Beautiful updates and opportunities

By Evan Reed

Keep Bellevue Beautiful Coordinator

The city's Keep Bellevue Beautiful programs had a strong winter and are excited to carry that momentum into spring!

Our Signature Streets cleanup series 26 for '26 gathered residents from across Bellevue to help care for their neighborhoods. This year, we've hosted five cleanup events with 56 registered volunteers who covered 13.61 miles and removed



roughly 97 bags of litter. That equals roughly 1.2 tons of debris removed from Bellevue streets and public spaces!

Meanwhile, the Abandoned Shopping Cart Retrieval program has also been active. While the city has received 96 reports of abandoned carts this year, crews have already removed more than 500 carts from streets, trails and public spaces. In comparison, by this time last year the city had received 120 reports from residents and retrieved 637 carts. This reduction highlights the importance of residents continuing to report abandoned carts so crews can respond quickly and keep them from accumulating in our neighborhoods.

Throughout this month and into May, several cleanup opportunities are already scheduled. The West and East Side cleanups are both citywide events intentionally scheduled in April to build momentum for Earth Day and EarthFest.

Upcoming Signature Streets cleanup events

Lake Hills Cleanup
Saturday, March 21

Newport Cleanup
Saturday, April 4

West Side Cleanup (Citywide)
Saturday, April 11

East Side Cleanup (Citywide)
Saturday, April 25

Somerset Cleanup
Saturday, May 9

All cleanups are rain or shine, 9-11 a.m. For the West Side/East Side citywide events, volunteers meet at a central location to grab supplies and get a quick safety overview before heading out to clean the area of their choice within the neighborhood.

To find information on upcoming cleanups and Adopt-A-Street opportunities visit BellevueWA.gov/keep-bellevue-beautiful.

Paving season arrives early this year

*By Jennifer Cook
Transportation Public Information Officer*

Bellevue's annual repaving program will get an early start this year, weather permitting of course! Lakeside Industries will start paving at the beginning of April to complete the 2025 Overlay Project. A contractor will be selected in late spring to begin the 2026 Overlay Project.

In total this year, we will repave approximately 24 lane miles and replace 38 curb ramps to improve accessibility for those who walk and roll. A map and list of all locations and updates can be found at BellevueWA.gov/pavement and will be updated weekly once the projects begin.

Repaving work in most neighborhoods takes about one week and does involve some inconvenience to residents. Staff will hand-deliver flyers or door hangers to residents impacted by paving activities. The city appreciates your patience as crews work to make streets smoother and safer.



Does the Department of Revenue have money for you?

By Bellevue Network on Aging

Each year, millions of unclaimed dollars are held by the State's Department of Revenue. When people move, change banks or forget about old accounts and businesses can't locate the owner, they send the funds to the state for safekeeping.

Unclaimed money can come from any chapter of your life. While most claims are small, some can be hundreds or thousands of dollars. Examples include uncashed paychecks; bank accounts; insurance payments; utility deposits; investment accounts and more.

The state's online database is quick, easy and free to search. Take two minutes and find out if money is waiting for you by visiting ucp.dor.wa.gov/.

Block Party season is approaching!

*By David Isaak
Neighborhood Outreach Manager*

Looking to connect more with your neighbors? Hosting a block party this summer is a great way to build community, strengthen relationships and make your street a more welcoming place.

Block parties can include:

- Small, informal get-togethers
- Larger street-closing celebrations (permit required)
- Themed gatherings such as National Night Out and July Fourth festivities

Bellevue's neighborhood area liaisons are here to support your event with promotional flyers, banners or a-frame boards and tips to help you plan a gathering that fits your needs. Visit our Bellevue Block Parties webpage (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods/building-community/neighbor-link-block-parties) for more information to plan your gathering.

Requests for assistance and permitting submissions should occur at least **four weeks prior to an event, so start planning now!*

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.

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 BTV 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			