



Neighborhood News

September 2026



Bellevue celebrates Welcoming Week

By Emily Inlow-Hood, Deputy Communications Officer and Janelle Wetzstein, Public Information Officer

Welcoming Week is a national celebration that brings together neighbors of all backgrounds, including immigrants and refugees, to build strong connections and affirm the importance of inclusive communities. The City of Bellevue will be celebrating through a variety of free and low-cost public events at City Hall and Bellevue community centers throughout the month of September.

See the full schedule of Welcoming Week events at BellevueWA.gov/welcoming-week.

Welcoming Week highlights Experience Bellevue!

The city's biennial Experience Bellevue! will serve as the flagship event for this year's Welcoming Week festivities. On Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., we are throwing open the doors to City Hall and inviting our community to explore, connect and feel at home together.

Get a behind-the-scenes look at how city government works, meet and learn from city leadership and play in the Fun Zone. You can also climb aboard a Bellevue firetruck with city firefighters, take photos with police motorcycles, learn about police drones, join a City Hall scavenger hunt and enjoy guided tours of Bellevue's Emergency Operations and Transportation Management Centers.

There will also be opportunities to learn about essential city department services by exploring our interactive booths and connecting with city leadership and staff throughout the day.

In celebration of the spirit of Welcoming Week, Experience Bellevue! will feature music and dance performances, behind-the-scenes city tours, personal stories of belonging in Bellevue, and much more.

To find more information and register, visit BellevueWA.gov/experience-bellevue.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance at 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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Cleaning up with Keep Bellevue Beautiful

By Evan Reed

Keep Bellevue Beautiful Coordinator

Keep Bellevue Beautiful continues its '26 for 26' initiative with two upcoming neighborhood cleanups and everyone in the community is invited to take part.

Signature Street Cleanups are two-hour volunteer events that focus on some of Bellevue's busiest streets, parks, trails and public spaces. They're a great way to give back, meet neighbors, spend time outdoors and make an immediate difference in your community.

Upcoming '26 for 26' cleanup dates:

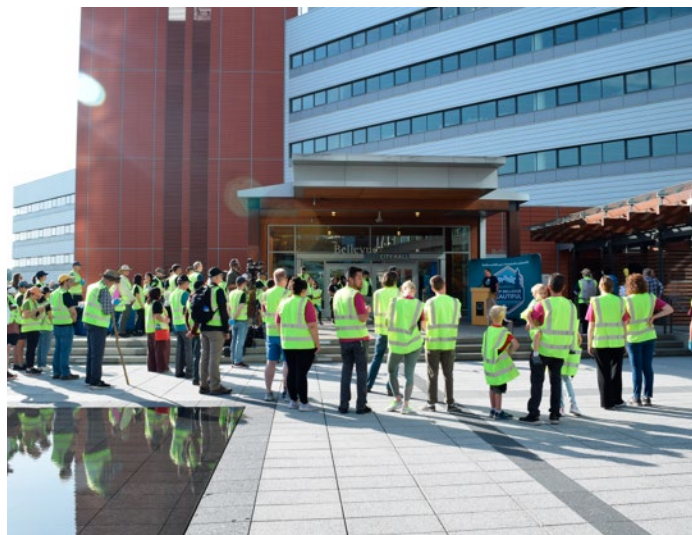
- BelRed – Sept. 5
- Eastgate – Sept. 12

Cleanups are 9-11 a.m., rain or shine.

Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and dress for the weather.

Cleanup supplies including litter grabbers, gloves, bags and safety vests will be provided, along with a brief safety orientation before volunteers head out in small groups. Individuals, families, students, community organizations and businesses are all welcome. Volunteers of all experience levels can participate.

Students who need volunteer hours are especially encouraged to join, and staff can verify hours on-site upon request. Please note that anyone under the age of 14 should attend with an adult.



Registration is encouraged but not required. Those who would like to sign up ahead of time can visit the Keep Bellevue Beautiful webpage at BellevueWA.gov/keep-bellevue-beautiful.



See what's in the 2027-28 budget!

By Emily Inlow-Hood

Deputy Communications Officer

As summer winds down, the City of Bellevue is gearing up for one of its most important efforts of the year: shaping the 2027-28 city budget.

Beginning Sept. 15, City Council will start reviewing the preliminary budget, with presentations continuing throughout the fall and two public hearing opportunities. Final budget adoption is slated for November, and community voices are a central part of the process.

To help community members understand what's in the proposed budget and how they can get involved, the city is hosting a public information session on Sept. 30 at City Hall. This session offers a chance to learn how the biennial budget works, what investments are being considered, and how the city balances community priorities with long-term planning. Registration is encouraged but not required.

In addition to the information session, Bellevue is offering a variety of ways for residents to share feedback this fall, including public hearings and an online survey.

Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the city, your input can help shape the services, infrastructure and investments that affect daily life in our city.

For the full schedule and details, visit BellevueWA.gov/budget-process.

Lime comes to Bellevue

By Laura Milstead

Transportation Public Information Officer

Bellevue has a new mobility option to help you take short trips around town and connect with transit.

The city and Lime have entered into an agreement to bring e-bikes, e-scooters and e-gliders (seated scooters) to our community. These devices will be available in designated parking corrals located throughout the city, or can be located by using the Lime app.

In total, there are 500 devices – 350 scooters, 50 e-bikes and 100 seated gliders throughout the city. You must be 18 years or older to operate a Lime device.

Visit the city's Shared E-Bikes and E-Scooters webpage (BellevueWA.gov/micromobility) to find more information about:

- Choosing the device that's right for you
- Getting started with Lime
- Available discounts
- Parking
- Safe riding
- Providing feedback to the city

If you see a device blocking access to sidewalks, park paths or driveways, located on private property or damaged, you can report issues by emailing support@li.me or calling **888-546-3345**.



Great Neighborhoods Updates

Lake Hills and West Lake Sammamish Kickoff, Thursday, Sept. 10

By: Zack Luckin

Community Development Senior Planner

Join the planning team on Thursday, Sept. 10, 4:30-7 p.m. at Jubilee REACH to share your vision and priorities for the future of Lake Hills and West Lake Sammamish. Neighborhood area plans provide guidance on ways to strengthen neighborhood identity and enhance livability as a part of future growth and change. 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 light refreshments and activities for kids. Arrive at any time and stay as long as you'd like. Register at GN-Lakes-Kickoff.eventbrite.com.

Eastgate and Factoria plans: Public hearings this month

The Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood area plans will move to the next step this month as the Planning Commission holds public hearings on the draft plans. The Eastgate public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 9, followed by the Factoria public hearing on Sept. 23.

These hearings provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft plans before the Planning Commission makes its recommendation to the City Council. Community members are encouraged to review the draft plans and participate in the public hearings. Meeting information, draft plans and instructions for submitting comments are available on the Planning Commission website.





Apply now for the Youth Climate Action Fund

By Jake Sykes
Sustainability Coordinator

The City of Bellevue is now accepting applications for the Youth Climate Action Fund, a new program aimed at empowering young people to turn their climate ideas into action.

Bellevue youth ages 15–24 can apply for microgrants up to \$5,000 to lead projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build climate resilience, educate the community or advance sustainability in Bellevue. The program is funded through Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund, an international initiative that supports youth-led climate solutions in cities around the world.

Projects can focus on a wide range of topics, including:

- Clean energy and energy efficiency
- Sustainable transportation
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Urban forests and natural resources
- Climate education and community engagement

Applications will be accepted through Thursday, Oct. 1. Projects must be led by a team of at least two youth between the ages of 15 and 24 who live in or attend school in Bellevue. Funding will be made available in late fall of 2026 and must be completed by March 30, 2027.

This is an opportunity to impact your community in a meaningful way. **Ready to apply?** Visit the Youth Climate Action Fund webpage (BellevueWA.gov/youth-climate-fund) to learn more about eligibility, application requirements and available resources.

2026 Annual Electrical Reliability Workshop—Thursday, Sept. 24

By Teun Deuling
Community Development Senior Planner

Staff from the City of Bellevue and Puget Sound Energy (PSE) will provide an update to community members regarding the state of electrical reliability in Bellevue on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 4 p.m.

The workshop is open to the public and conducted in a hybrid manner with both in-person and virtual options. The workshop will be held at Bellevue City Hall and on Microsoft Teams. Register at 2026-Electrical-Reliability-Workshop.eventbrite.com.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/electrical-facilities-planning to view the report by PSE on Bellevue's electrical reliability.

Please submit your questions to be addressed at the workshop to Teun Deuling, Senior Planner, at tdeuling@bellevuewa.gov. Questions can be submitted up to one week before the workshop.

Startup 425 showcases Eastside innovation during Seattle Tech Week

By Marisol Morales
Marketing and Content Specialist

On July 29, Startup 425 and its Eastside partner cities hosted their third annual Eastside Summit and networking events during Seattle Tech Week. Nearly 230 entrepreneurs, investors and thought leaders from Eastside's rapidly growing technology and startup community gathered at City Hall for panel discussions and other activities.

Panels featured business founders and representatives from the Small Business Development Center, Seattle Business Association and Port of Seattle sharing valuable perspectives and insights.

Keynote speaker Jonathan Greechan, co-founder and CEO of Founder Institute, the world's largest pre-seed accelerator Founder Institute, discussed the impact of AI tools on accelerating startup development and streamlining prototyping.

The day concluded with a celebration of Startup 425's AI Intensive Demo Day featuring remarks



from Bellevue Mayor Mo Malakoutian and highlighting the innovations of 30 Eastside entrepreneurs and graduates of Startup 425's eight-week virtual AI Intensive program.

Startup 425 is planning additional programming through the end of 2026 with applications now open for the upcoming Startup 425 Accelerator cohort. Visit startup425.org/accelerator for more information.

Robinswood Park set for improvements

By Christina Faine

Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Big changes are coming to Robinswood Community Park, where plans call for replacing three playgrounds popular with families and kids of all ages.

The project is part of the City of Bellevue's ongoing commitment to create safe, accessible and engaging play spaces for the community.

The three playground improvements include:

- Updating the entrance to Jennifer's Playground and replacing the play equipment for 2 to 5-year-olds
- Adding a covered picnic area
- Creating a new area for play equipment south of the swings

The replacement project focuses on modern, inclusive and imaginative play. While final design elements are still being refined, the project aims to welcome children of all ages and mobility levels, improve safety, add seating and enhance landscaping near play areas.

The project is currently in the permitting phase. Construction is expected to begin in early 2027, with completion later in the year. The playgrounds will be closed during construction.

Located along 148th Avenue Southeast, north of Interstate 90, the play areas at Robinswood Community Park have been a family favorite for 26 years.

Community Emergency Response Team fall training

By Tesslyn Matthes

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

In collaboration with the City of Bellevue's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the city's Office of Emergency Management, is hosting a CERT Basic Course this fall!

The CERT Basic Course is a hands-on training program that teaches community members how to safely assist themselves, their families and their neighbors during a disaster. Training topics include disaster preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations and team organization. Sign up at tinyurl.com/3pspwwrw.

If you have any questions, please email oem@bellevuewa.gov for more information.

Come learn from industry professionals on how you can support your community during an emergency!



Puget Sound Energy Resource Fair

By Mini City Hall Staff

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and the City of Bellevue's Mini City Hall invite all community members to attend the upcoming Puget Sound Energy resource fair on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Crossroads Mall. This free event will help attendees learn about valuable cost-saving programs from PSE to improve quality of life for people in Bellevue.

The resource fair will bring together many representatives from local organizations, along with many city departments that will provide information on assistance programs, answer questions and help community members access services. By visiting all the PSE booths, you can also earn a food voucher to the Crossroads Mall food court.

Puget Sound Resource Fair Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Crossroads Mall

Attendees will have the chance to learn about programs offered by Puget Sound Energy, including:

- Solar for homes
- Benefits of EV cars
- Home weatherization assistance
- Smart thermostats
- Payment assistance and flexible payment options
- Tips for reducing energy use

In addition to energy-related services, attendees can explore resources offered by local organizations and city departments such as:

- Housing and rental assistance
- Food and nutrition programs
- Employment and Workforce Development
- Health and wellness resources
- Family and youth services
- Senior support programs
- Environmental and sustainability initiatives

Don't miss this opportunity to directly connect with representatives from organizations dedicated to supporting the Bellevue community. This event is open to all and we encourage you to stop by, ask questions and discover valuable resources.

For more information regarding the event, please contact Mini City Hall at 425-452-2800 or email us at minich@bellevuewa.gov.





New speed safety cameras installed in August

By Laura Milstead

Transportation Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue expanded its automated traffic safety program in August with eight additional speed safety cameras; part of its ongoing commitment to Vision Zero – the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries. Speed remains a top contributing factor to fatal and serious-injury crashes in Bellevue, and speed safety cameras are a proven method to reduce speeding.

The program expansion will occur in phases, beginning with initial deployment at four locations (eight cameras) in mid-August and another three locations later in the year.

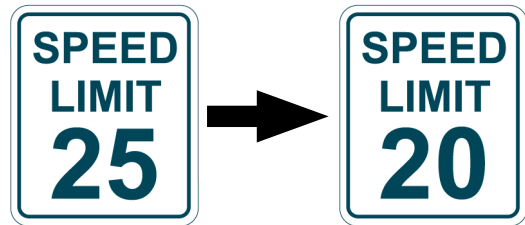
August installations:

- 148th Avenue NE, between NE 13th Place and NE 10th Place
- NE 8th Street, between 167th Avenue NE and 168th Place NE
- Forest Drive SE, between 138th Avenue SE and SE 60th Street
- Forest Drive SE, between SE 54th Place and Coal Creek Parkway

Each new camera location will have a month-long warning period to help drivers become familiar with the program. During the warning period, drivers who exceed the posted speed limit will receive warnings instead of citations. Citations are expected to begin the third week of September.

The fine for speed violations issued through the program is \$124. Bellevue already has three school-zone speed safety camera locations, where the infraction is doubled to \$248.

The cameras, administered by Verra Mobility, capture images of a vehicle's rear license plate and associated violation evidence, which are securely transmitted for review. A Bellevue Police Department official verifies each violation before a citation is issued to the registered vehicle owner.



Slow Down: New neighborhood speed limit

By Jennifer Cook

Transportation Public Information Officer

Have you noticed new speed limit signs going up in your neighborhood recently?

The local street speed limit is dropping from 25 mph to 20 mph across the city. Lower speeds – along with tools like speed cushions, roundabouts, speed cameras and speed feedback signs – help reduce crashes and lessen severity when they do happen.

Not only is speeding on local streets the top concern heard from residents when asked about traffic safety, speed is a top contributing factor of fatal and serious-injury collisions in Bellevue. In addition to lowering speeds in neighborhoods this year, most of Bellevue's streets with speed limits of 30 mph and higher will reduce by 5-10 mph in spring 2027.

Neighborhoods in north Bellevue (Lake Hills, NE Bellevue, Crossroads, Wilburton, Bridle Trails and NW Bellevue) will be the first to get the new signs, with the remaining neighborhoods planned for later this year. The new speed limit is effective immediately.

Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/20-mph.

Now accepting applications for 2027 arts and culture grants

By Arts Program Staff

Artists and organizations that provide art, cultural, and educational events for Bellevue community members can now apply for one of two grants through the city's Arts and Culture Program. This year will feature operational support grants for Eastside arts nonprofits, as well as grants for artists and organizations looking to do art and cultural projects in 2027. Optional add-on grants are also available for both programs. Interested individuals, groups and organizations can apply online through Saturday, Oct. 10.

Applications will be reviewed by the Bellevue Arts Commission and approved by the Bellevue City Council. Applicants can expect to receive an update on the status of their award in January 2027.

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.



Are You Considering Downsizing?

By Bellevue Network on Aging



Many older adults live in homes filled with decades of memories and meaningful belongs. But when upkeep starts to take more time and energy, downsizing can be a gentle way to trade repairs and yard work for more time spent traveling, enjoying hobbies and creating memories with loved ones.

Even if you're not ready to move, it helps to start early. Set a realistic timeline. Begin with a single room or closet to build momentum. Use a four-pile system: Keep, Sell, Donate, Discard.

Leave sentimental items for last, as they demand the most time and emotional energy.

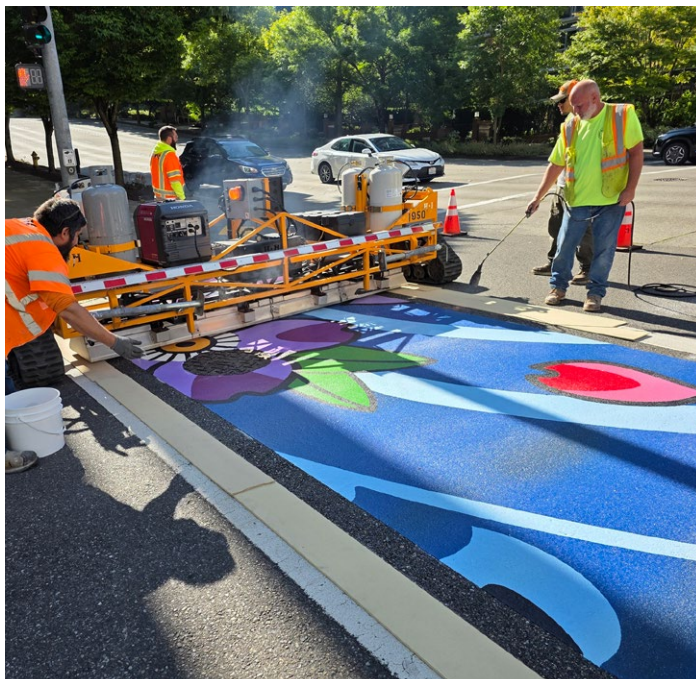
When you're ready to sell, consider a Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES). These agents understand older adults' unique needs and can connect you with organizers, estate-sale professionals, and senior-friendly movers who streamline packing and unpacking.

Before listing, define your next chapter. Do you want to stay in Bellevue near your doctors, family, and friends? Compare housing options carefully:

- Condos/townhomes offer ownership with HOA fees.
- Senior rentals provide flexibility and maintenance-free living but no equity and rents can rise.
- Independent/Assisted Living adds meals, housekeeping and escalating care as needed.
- Senior cooperatives offer member-owned housing with monthly fees covering most costs. Bellevue is home to Washington's only nonprofit senior co-op, Silver Glen (silverglen.org).

Build a moving checklist early. Get three moving estimates, lock in a move date, and draft a floor plan of your new space to confirm what furniture actually fits.

Downsizing early and intentionally transforms the overwhelming into the manageable and helps create room for what matters most to you.



Neighborhood Enhancement Program

Lake Hills and Downtown Highlights

By Heather Somple Anderson

Neighborhood Enhancement Program Coordinator

This fall, Lake Hills and Downtown Bellevue continue to take center stage in the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP), a \$7 million city-funded initiative that gives residents a direct voice in choosing capital projects to improve and strengthen their neighborhoods.



Each year, the program rotates through two neighborhoods and allows residents to propose and vote on modest improvements that support community priorities.

This summer, Lake Hills residents submitted 175 project ideas and are now in the voting phase. Downtown residents completed their vote earlier this year and will soon receive their final list of funded projects.

If you live in Lake Hills, keep an eye on your mailbox for the NEP voter's pamphlet arriving early in the month and return it using the enclosed postage-paid ballot by Monday, Oct. 26. Residents are also invited to the Lake Hills Open House on Sept. 24. It's a great chance to meet staff and neighbors, explore project displays and learn more about what's on the ballot. To RSVP, email NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

For Downtown residents, look for the NEP newsletter arriving this month, highlighting the projects you and your neighbors selected. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the NEP program—you can share your feedback using the postage-paid evaluation postcard included in the newsletter or by submitting comments online at BellevueWA.gov/nep by Monday, Oct. 26.

For more information about NEP and when it is coming to your neighborhood, visit BellevueWA.gov/nep.

Have you seen our beautiful new crosswalks?

By Jennifer Cook & Janelle Wetzstein
Public Information Officers

This summer, the city launched a new traffic safety pilot program called Creative Crosswalks. You may have seen the newly designed and installed crosswalks at the following intersections:

- 164th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 24th Street
- 124th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Eighth Street
- 132nd Avenue Northeast and Bel-Red Road
- 106th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 10th Street

This pilot program is evaluating if the artistic crosswalks – compared to untreated crosswalks – improve safety, are easy to maintain and are supported by the community. The project is funded by a U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All grant, supplemented by funding from the Community Development Arts and Culture Program.

Two Puget Sound artists' projects were chosen for implementation, Nikita Ares and Kenji Stoll. Learn more about the artists and their project at BellevueWA.gov/creative-crosswalks.

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			