Neighborhood News



October 2026



Kelsey Creek Farm Fair returns with fall fun for all ages

By Christina Faine
Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue's beloved Kelsey Creek Farm Fair – one of the longest running community events in the region – is back this fall on Saturday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., offering hands-on experiences, farm traditions and family-friendly activities that celebrate Bellevue's agricultural roots. For more than 40 years, this annual gathering at Kelsey Creek Farm (410 130th Pl SE) has invited neighbors of all ages to step into farm life, meet resident animals and enjoy a day designed to bring the community together.

A Day on the Farm

Visitors can expect an immersive mix of classic farm-fair attractions, including live animal viewing, traditional demonstrations, children's crafts, carnival-style games and seasonal activities. Many experiences are free, with tickets available on-site for pony rides, pumpkin patch activities and the Harvest Play Patch.

Getting There

Please note that on-site parking at Kelsey Creek Farm is extremely limited and reserved for vendors, volunteers and ADA parking. To make things easy, continuous shuttle service will run from Wilburton Park & Ride and Bannerwood Sports Park between 10:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. The final shuttles to the fair leave at 2:30 p.m., with return shuttles continuing until 4:15 p.m. Transit users can also reach shuttle stops via Route 271 or the Number 2 Link light rail service.

Food, Fun and Community

Food trucks and local vendors will offer a range of treats for purchase throughout the day. Families can explore the Harvest Play Patch—filled with crafts and kid-friendly activities—or enjoy quiet moments wandering the pastures and historic barns. Pets are not allowed in the barnyard area for the safety of the animals and visitors. To learn more about the fair, please visit BellevueWA.gov/farm-fair.

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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Great Neighborhoods Updates

By Zack Luckin
Senior Planner

Lake Hills and West Lake Sammamish – Explore your neighborhood

On Saturday, Oct. 3, the Great Neighborhoods team will host informational walks in Lake Hills and West Lake Sammamish. These staff-led outings, called Public Space Assessments, help identify opportunities to improve access to nearby gathering spaces through written observations and photos.

Participants will provide input on connectivity opportunities and challenges that will guide the next phase of the planning process. These are family-friendly events open to children and adults, with light refreshments served before the walk.

Walks are approximately 90 minutes and include some hills. Please bring comfortable shoes, water and clothes for potential rain.

Register for the West Lake Sammamish event at **GN-West-Lake-Sam-PSA.eventbrite.com**.

Register for the Lake Hills event at **GN-Lake-Hills-PSA.eventbrite.com.**

City Council to review Eastgate and Factoria plans

The City Council will review the draft Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood area plans on Tuesday, Nov. 10, during a study session. In September, the Planning Commission held public hearings and conducted an extensive review before recommending that the City Council adopt the plans.

Rooted in extensive community engagement, the draft plans outline policies and provide direction to strengthen neighborhood identity, community gathering spaces, environmental stewardship and transportation connections. Both Eastgate and Factoria's current area plans were last updated in 2015.

Add to the city's Public Art

By Arts Program Staff

The City of Bellevue seeks to purchase two- and three-dimensional portable artworks that exemplify the vision of the Public Art Collection. The call is open to visual artists residing in Island, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Chelan, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit and Snohomish counties in Washington state. The maximum purchase price for selected artworks is $12,000 per artist.

Applications are due Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 11:59 p.m. PDT. Please visit **BellevueWA.gov/publicart** to learn more and apply.

Harvesting Hope by Lauren Iida





Thanks for this year's successful Experience Bellevue!

By Janelle Wetzstein
Community Development Public Information Officer

Experience Bellevue! celebrated Welcoming Week at City Hall with energy, fun and style!

More than 2,000 visitors came throughout the day, making it our largest Experience Bellevue to date. With 32 different activities for the community, including music and dance performances, City Hall tours, global cuisine, the KidsQuest Fun Zone and many more opportunities, the event offered something for everyone. Community members were also inspired by storytelling from their neighbors during Voices of Bellevue and learned about city programming from many departments.

A special thank you to everyone who attended, as well as our community partners Amazon, Bellevue Downtown Association, Visit Bellevue, KidsQuest, King County Library and the Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue for making this event such a great success.











Residential Permitting Expo returns this month

By Amanda Rich Anderson
Development Services Department
Public Information Officer

Thinking about a home improvement project and wondering which permits you might need and how to get them? Interested in learning more about policy updates and upcoming code amendments? Bellevue's Residential Permitting Expo is coming up, and it's a great opportunity to get helpful information at a relaxed, drop-in event.

City staff will be available to talk about everything from navigating permits and inspections to understanding code updates and new policy developments. Attendees can also choose to attend workshops or a panel discussion on new topics for 2026. Options include understanding the permitting process, using MyBuildingPermit.com and learning about tree code and removal requirements.

If you're excited about creative housing solutions, stick around after the expo for an interactive session to learn more about the proposed pre-approved plans program for detached accessory dwelling units and cottages in Bellevue. Staff will share the program's vision, showcase feasibility tools and answer community questions.

Registration at 2026-Bellevue-Permitting-Expo.Eventbrite.com is not required, but it's appreciated.

Apply for the Youth Climate Action Fund

By Jake Sykes
Sustainability Coordinator

Do you have an idea for making Bellevue more sustainable?

The City of Bellevue is inviting young people ages 15–24 to apply for the Bellevue Youth Climate Action Fund, which provides grants of $1,000 to $5,000 to help turn youth-led climate ideas into action.

Teams of at least two young people can apply for projects that address topics such as climate change, energy and buildings, transportation and land use, waste and materials, or natural resources. Projects can focus on reducing emissions, building community resilience or engaging others in climate action.

Applications are open through Friday, Oct. 23. Projects must be innovative, youth-led and aligned with goals in the Sustainable Bellevue Plan.

Whether your idea involves getting more people to walk or bike, reducing waste, or helping your community prepare for climate impacts, the city wants to help make it happen!

Learn more and apply at BellevueWA.gov/youth-climate-fund for eligibility requirements, application materials and other resources.



What do you think of our new artist-inspired crosswalks?

By Jennifer Cook and Janelle Wetzstein
Public Information Officers

Have you noticed the new, brightly-painted crosswalks around town? The City of Bellevue is testing out these new artistic crosswalks to see if they improve safety and community enjoyment.

The crosswalk designs were created by Nikita Ares, a Filipino American immigrant who graduated from the Cornish College of the Arts, and Kenji Stoll, a Japanese American artist from Tacoma. Each artist had up to six colors they could choose for their design and were chosen among many entries.

Please take five minutes to share your thoughts on the new crosswalks: **https://bellevue.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eEPDIL3BXh2eudU**











Register for the Ways to Peace workshop

By Conflict Resolution Center Staff

This fall, the Bellevue Downtown Library will host a variety of classes uniquely designed to promote peace and understanding within oneself and within the community led by "The Listening Lady," Marci Reynolds, former manager of the city's Conflict Resolution Center.

Ways to Peace: The Art of Re-Centering

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

This class will explore our parasympathetic and central nervous systems, and practice breath and body techniques. We will learn about life practices that help us relax, focus, relieve stress and reduce cortisol.

Ways to Peace: The Art of Listening – 3-part series

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 5-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 5-7:30 p.m.

There is a lot of talk in the world, but who is listening? And do we really know how? In this highly interactive series, we will unpack the unconscious habits that get in the way of truly hearing others. We will practice techniques to quiet the mind, focus on the speaker and respond with questions that help the other person feel heard, understood and encouraged to share more deeply.

This series will now include a new focus: "listening to differences." This practice supports both individual brain health and the well-being of our diverse community. Becoming a more skillful

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listener strengthens social interactions, builds confidence and calm, and improves relationships at work, at home and with friends.

Ways to Peace: The Art of Engaging in Democracy

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

How do we resolve our differences in our homes, workplaces or government? This class explores the dialectic process, one of the original "Arts of Liberty" in ancient Greece, England, and the early U.S., when people living in a democracy practiced making decisions across differences.

To register for these workshops, visit 1.kcls.org/peace.



Sustainable partnerships supporting resilient residents

By Jake Sykes
Sustainability Coordinator

As heat and wildfire smoke have become more common in our region, the City of Bellevue has partnered with Amazon and Kin On to distribute 150 air purifiers and heat-and-smoke preparedness kits to Bellevue residents over the summer.

To help residents prepare for the health risks and impacts of the late smoke events, Mini City Hall has helped distribute kits to those who are particularly vulnerable to extreme heat and wildfire smoke. The event is part of the city's ongoing efforts to help residents stay healthy, resilient, and prepared as our community experiences more frequent extreme weather.



Wildfire smoke can contain fine particles that worsen heart and lung conditions, while extreme heat can create serious health risks, particularly for older adults, children and people with existing health conditions. Residents can prepare by keeping indoor spaces cool and clean, using a MERV-13 or HEPA filter when possible, limiting outdoor activity when air quality is poor and checking local air-quality conditions before heading outside. A well-fitting N95 respirator can also help reduce exposure to wildfire smoke when spending time outdoors.

The city also provides emergency and extreme-weather alerts, including information about cooling centers and other resources, in multiple languages. Taking a few simple steps before the next heat or smoke event can help keep you, your family and your neighbors safer.

Residents can find more information about preparing for wildfire smoke, extreme heat and other hazards at BellevueWA.gov/air-pollution.

Invite Energy Smart Eastside to your next neighborhood event

By Kurt Hellmann
Engagement Specialist

Are your neighbors curious about heat pumps, available rebates or ways to make their homes more comfortable year-round? Energy Smart Eastside staff and trained volunteers can join neighborhood gatherings, HOA meetings and community events to share practical information and answer questions.

Energy Smart Eastside is Bellevue's community home energy program, created in partnership with six Eastside cities. The program offers independent guidance to help residents understand heat pump technology, explore available incentives and rebates, and determine their next steps.

Energy Smart Eastside volunteer Janet Zielasko staffed an information table at Bridle Trails Night Out in August. Throughout the evening, neighbors stopped by to learn about heat pumps, ask questions and pick up materials available in English, Spanish and Chinese.

One young visitor spoke with Zielasko about what heat pumps are and how they work. Before leaving with a brochure, he told her, "Thank you for educating me!"

Zielasko described the event as an evening filled with "conversation, education, laughter and curiosity," as well as a reminder that no one is too young or too old to learn about home energy.

Energy Smart Eastside can support your neighborhood with:

- Heat pump presentations or informal question-and-answer sessions.
- Information tables at community events.
- Guidance for HOAs considering heat pump policies.
- Information about rebates and free Energy Advisor services.

Visit **EnergySmartEastside.org** to connect with the program.





City Council to study Evan's Plaza Comprehensive Plan amendment

By Teun Deuling
Senior Planner

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, the City Council is scheduled to review proposed 2026 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, including the Planning Commission's recommendationto approve the privately initiated Evans Plaza Comprehensive Plan map amendment.

The Commission recommends re-designating six parcels in the Bridle Trails neighborhood area from General Commercial to Lowrise 1 Mixed-Use.

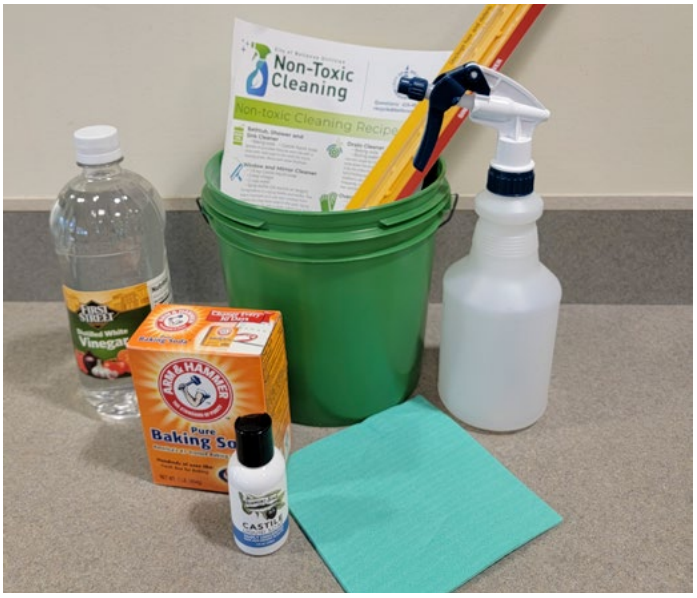
The Evans Plaza amendment (permit application 25-121477-AC: **BellevueWA.gov/comp-plan-amendments**), for parcels at 13815 NE 24th St., was approved for final review by the City Council in March.

Privately initiated amendments are subject to a two-step process:

- Threshold review, which evaluates whether a proposed amendment should be in the annual work program.
- Final review, which evaluates the merits of the proposal.

During each step, the Planning Commission holds a public hearing to gather community feedback prior to making recommendations to the City Council.

Visit **BellevueWA.gov/comp-plan-amendments** to learn more.



Greener Living fall classes: Save money and waste less!

By Jodey Morrow
Environmental Outreach Program Assistant

Living sustainably can be simple, practical and budget-friendly. Join City of Bellevue for free Greener Living classes designed to help cut household costs, reduce waste and build healthy habits. Local sustainability experts lead easy online and in-person sessions. Attendees receive resources to take home. All ages are welcome. Children must be with an adult. Visit **BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes** for more information and to register.

Medicare Open Enrollment: Free help available Oct. 15–Dec. 7

By Bellevue Network on Aging

Medicare Open Enrollment runs Oct. 15–Dec. 7, giving current enrollees a chance to review and change coverage for 2027. Because plans can shift each year, experts encourage people to start comparing options early.

You can explore plans anytime at **medicare.gov** or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Free, unbiased counseling is also available through Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA), a program of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner and sponsored locally by Solid Ground and the Chinese Information and Service Center.

To get started, pick up SHIBA's Medicare Open Enrollment Jumpstart Toolkit at any King County or Seattle Public Library, or access it online at **insurance.wa.gov/MedicareOEP**.

Individual Assistance

Solid Ground SHIBA volunteers provide confidential Medicare counseling by phone or email. Call 206-753-4806 or email **shiba@solid-ground.org** to request support. For in-person appointments, visit **solid-ground.org/medicare-info** and contact a partner site to schedule.

Language-Specific Assistance:

- Chinese: 206-823-7842
- Vietnamese: 253-397-9946
- Russian/Ukrainian: 206-751-6651

Prepare for changes to Apple Health with the city's help

By Ramu Ayyalrulu
Mini City Hall Program Administrator

Bellevue's Mini City Hall is partnering with International Community Health Services (ICHS) to help community members navigate federal changes coming to Apple Health, Washington state's version of Medicaid.

The changes will impact thousands of people in King County. The program serves 2 million people



in Washington state. Fortunately, the remaining changes will roll out in stages, giving people time to protect their current healthcare coverage or explore new insurance options.

On Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Mini City Hall will host an ICHS expert who can assist anyone with health insurance questions, including those related to the recent Apple Health eligibility changes. Multilingual staff will also be available.

If you are interested in learning more, visit **ichs.com/changes-to-apple-health-coverage** to stay updated on the evolving healthcare changes that may impact you.

If you are interested in the in-person services at Mini City Hall and want to know what documents to bring when working with the ICHS enrollment navigators, visit **ichs.com/insurance-assistance**.

Timeline for Apple Health program changes

Oct. 1, 2026

- Eligibility changes for refugees, asylees and other noncitizen adults

Jan. 1, 2027

- New work requirements
- Updated renewal requirements
- Changes to retroactive coverage periods

Oct. 1, 2028

- Cost-sharing changes for some services, up to $35

Neighborhood Enhancement Program update

By Heather Somple Anderson
Neighborhood Enhancement Program Coordinator

October is here, and Lake Hills is gearing up for some exciting decisions. With voting now underway, residents can choose from 16 new NEP project ideas submitted earlier this year.

From upgraded trails and refreshed landscaping to traffic-calming improvements near schools, this year's ballot is full of community-driven opportunities. And yes, one of the most talked-about proposals is the potential installation of a Thomas Dambo troll in the Lake Hills Greenbelt. Last month, neighbors gathered at the Lake Hills NEP Open House to explore all 16 proposals.



The troll pictured above is an example of a Dambo design; the artist creates a unique troll for every site.

With $622,000 in NEP funding allocated to Lake Hills this cycle, votes from residents will help determine which projects move forward into design and implementation.

Across town, Downtown Bellevue residents recently completed their NEP vote. Three projects – including curb extensions and LED lighting upgrades – were selected and will soon begin the design process.

Thank you to everyone in Downtown Bellevue who participated and helped shape what comes next for your neighborhood.

Lake Hills ballots are due Friday, October 30. If you live in the Lake Hills neighborhood, keep an eye out for your voter pamphlet, make your selections, and help bring your neighborhood's ideas to life.

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NEP project highlight: NE 8th Street tree replacement (Crossroads)

This month, we're excited to spotlight a streetscape transformation years in the making: the NE 8th Street Tree Replacement Project.

Identified by neighbors as an NEP project, it replaced missing, declining and dead pear trees along NE 8th Street between 120th Avenue NE and 153rd Avenue NE in the Crossroads neighborhood.

Having outlived their typical 25-year lifespan, many of the flowering pear trees had become increasingly vulnerable to fungal infection, extreme temperatures and drought, leading to rapid decline.

Parks project managers worked with the city's Land Use Division and a consultant to develop a new tree palette for the streetscape spanning nearly two miles.

Over the course of four years, 213 Prunus calleryana 'Aristocrat' pear trees were replaced with approximately 12 new species, totaling 266 new street trees.

This added diversity improves disease and pest resistance, strengthens drought resilience, introduces longer-lived species and increases habitat opportunities along the corridor.

Once these trees are established, residents and visitors can look forward to vibrant fall colors, spring blooms and an enhanced gateway connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks and retail centers.

The project was supported in three phases by the city's Community Development Department through both NEP and the Enhanced Right-of-Ways and Urban Boulevards Program. Without this funding and strong community engagement, the project may not have been implemented for many years.

Thank you, Crossroads neighborhood, for helping bring this important improvement to life.

Want to learn more about NEP or what's happening in your neighborhood? Reach out to **neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov** or visit **BellevueWA.gov/nep** for details.



Before



After



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PUGET SOUND ENERGY AND MINI CITY HALL

PSE Resource Fair

Saturday, October 3rd

10 am - 2 pm

At the Crossroads Mall Concourse

Learn about:

- How to save money on your bill with discount programs and grants
- Ways to save energy with small and big changes
- Making an appointment for a free-in-home energy assessment
- And so much more!





Local community-based organizations along with several City of Bellevue departments, all offering resources, information, and support across different program areas.

Multilingual staff will be available to assist



Explorer Book activity!
Visit all PSE booths to complete your Explorer Book and earn a gift card to Grocery Outlet.
While Supplies Last

Any questions?

Please contact Mini City Hall at 425-452-2800
or email us at MiniCH@bellevuewa.gov

This event is proudly supported by:

PSE · City of Bellevue Washington · ICHS · KIN ON · IWCC Immigrant Women's Community Center · 服務仁人 CISC

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			

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