Neighborhood News

November 2026

Bellevue turns out big for free trees at annual giveaway

By Janelle Wetzstein
Community Development Public Information Officer

Thank you to everyone who participated in the City of Bellevue's sixth annual Tree Giveaway event at Bannerwood Sports Park in late October. This partnership with 300 Trees and Amazon distributes 700 trees each year and provides free watering bags and mulch for the saplings, along with instructions on how to plant and care for a tree. Since 2021, the tree giveaway has distributed more than 4,500 free trees to Bellevue residents and community organizations.

Trees are a critical part of the city's climate resilience. They help cool neighborhoods, absorb stormwater, and support biodiversity, while also making the city healthier and more comfortable. To learn more about Bellevue's trees, visit BellevueWA.gov/trees.









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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Conflict Resolution Center celebrates 30 years

By Janelle Wetzstein
Community Development Public Information Officer

For three decades, Bellevue's Conflict Resolution Center has helped neighbors, families, landlords, tenants and community members work their way through stressful situations with patience and compassion. What began as a small neighborhood mediation effort has grown into a trusted program serving both Bellevue and Kirkland. The center celebrated this milestone year in late October, honoring the thousands of residents who have turned to the program for support and the volunteers who have carried its mission forward.











Student traffic safety art on display at City Hall

By Jennifer Cook
Transportation Public Information Officer

Original artwork by Bellevue elementary and middle school students is now showcased at City Hall through the end of the year. The art was created during National Bike and Roll to School week in May and features carpooling, traffic gardens, alternative uses of parking spots and bus shelter designs. The art reflects the commitment of Bellevue students to sustainable transportation and explores creative urban design opportunities for the City of Bellevue.

Major detour begins on SE 36th Street

By Laura Milstead
Transportation Public Information Officer

As the third phase of construction of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail continues from 142nd Place SE to the pedestrian overcrossing at 150th Avenue SE, a yearlong directional closure along SE 36th Street is needed. The closure will allow crews to build new retaining

walls along the north side of SE 36th Street that will support a 12-foot-wide shared-use trail for walking, biking and rolling.

What to Expect

- One-way traffic: SE 36th Street will shift to westbound travel only in the project area between 142nd Place SE and 150th Avenue SE.
- Detour for eastbound drivers and cyclists: Eastbound traffic will be redirected along a signed detour route, including a dedicated bike detour beginning at 136th Place SE.
- The detour began the first week of October 2026 and will remain in place through late 2027.

The Transportation Department acknowledges that this detour may temporarily disrupt routines and appreciates the community's patience as we complete this important regional trail corridor.

For questions, community members can reach out to project manager, Marina Arakelyan (marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov) or visit the project webpage at BellevueWA.gov/mtsgreenwaytrail.



Open house celebrates progress on Diversity Advantage Plan 2035

By Emily Inlow-Hood
Deputy Communications Officer

Community members are invited to attend an open house to learn about progress on the Diversity Advantage Plan 2035, Bellevue's diversity, equity and inclusion strategic plan. The event will include a presentation, opportunities to connect with city leaders and community advisors, dinner and activities for children.

Participants can:

- Learn about recent plan updates and explore a new online dashboard that tracks progress.
- Meet members of the Bellevue Equity Advisory and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) and learn about their work supporting a more inclusive Bellevue.
- Talk with city leaders and staff about priorities and implementation efforts planned for the next 10 years.

Learn more about the event and the Diversity Advantage Plan 2035 at BellevueWA.gov/DAP-2035-open-house.

Cultural Conversations in the BelRed Arts District

By Cara Iwasaki
Community Relations Coordinator

Join us for an evening of sharing the universal language of art! The City of Bellevue's Cultural Conversations program continues with a series co-created with members of the inaugural Cultural Conversations Facilitators class.

Our next event, Art Meets Culture, will take place on Monday, Nov. 16, 6-8 p.m., at the BelRed Arts District Studio, a mere five-minute walk from the BelRed Link Station. Learn about the growing Arts District and meet the artists in residence as our facilitators lead us in conversation and celebration of the vibrant Bellevue arts community. We hope you join us for conversation and leave inspired and connected to your community and culture!

Light refreshments provided. Limited seating available. Registration encouraged at artmeetsculture.eventbrite.com or via email to culturalconversations@bellevuewa.gov.



Join November's Signature Streets Cleanups!

By Kellie Nakano
Project Management Assistant

Looking for a simple, meaningful way to support your community this fall? Keep Bellevue Beautiful invites you to join our November Signature Streets Cleanups by volunteering at two-hour events that make a visible difference across Bellevue.

As part of our 26 for '26 goal to hold cleanups in every Bellevue neighborhood at least once this year, the cleanups focus on the city's busiest streets, parks and public spaces with the highest litter concerns. Every volunteer makes a real impact!

26 for '26 November Street Cleanups

- **Nov. 7 – Lake Hills**
  Registration is encouraged
  LakeHillsKBBCleanup.eventbrite.com
- **Nov. 21 – Northwest Bellevue**
  Registration is encouraged
  CleanNWBellevue2026.eventbrite.com

To learn more about the program, visit BellevueWA.gov/signature-streets.

Whether you want to give back, meet neighbors, earn volunteer hours or enjoy some fresh air, your time makes Bellevue cleaner, greener and more inviting for all.

Keep Bellevue Beautiful promotes a thriving, attractive city through litter cleanups, abandoned shopping cart retrieval and volunteer-powered beautification projects.

For event details and registration, email KeepBellevueBeautiful@bellevuewa.gov.

Holiday Bellevue After Dark Challenge

By Choose Your Way Bellevue Staff

From the glow of Snowflake Lane and Garden d'Lights to the illuminated Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink, some of the city's best nights out are just a bus ride, bike ride, carpool or short walk away.

From Nov. 14-Dec. 16, the Bellevue After Dark Challenge invites residents to skip driving alone and explore alternative ways to get around. Participants can earn rewards while taking part in their favorite seasonal activities.

Possible Prizes

- Log 15 trips – 10 tickets to Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink ($220 value).
- Log 10 trips – 5 Garden d'Lights tickets ($50 value).

Winners will be announced on Dec. 21. Join the challenge and learn more at bit.ly/Bellevueafterdark.



DADUs and cottage plans take shape in Bellevue

By Amanda Anderson
Development Services Public Information Officer

Bellevue is creating a plans program to make it simpler, easier and more affordable to build detached accessory dwelling units (DADUs) and cottages. These smaller homes offer flexible space for multigenerational living, create more affordable housing options and support aging in place with thoughtful, smaller-scale designs.

Because streamlining the permitting process is an ongoing focus for the city, and simplifying

the process to build DADUs and cottages is a priority of the Bellevue City Council, pre-approved plans are one of the key tools being developed to reduce costs and shorten project timelines. Instead of starting from scratch, property owners will be able to choose from a selection of high-quality designs, reducing the time and effort needed to develop plans and helping projects move through permitting more efficiently.

This community-led process will help shape the design of future homes in Bellevue. Residents will have opportunities to share their feedback throughout the program's development. Learn more at **BellevueWA.gov/pre-approved-plans**. Even if building isn't in your future, the city would like to hear how these homes could fit comfortably into your neighborhood.

Get help navigating Medicaid changes

By Ramu Ayyaluru
Mini City Hall Program Administrator

Bellevue's Mini City Hall and International Community Health Services (ICHS) are partnering to host an interactive workshop on significant changes to Medicaid that began to take effect in October. Join us on Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-noon., at Crossroads Mall in the Community Room (near the Old Navy) for a detailed presentation, followed by a Q&A session to help those navigating these new changes that stem from federal adoption of the "Big Beautiful Bill." Language interpretation will be available and registration is not required.

Additional Medicaid support

ICHS navigators and King County Public Health will remain at Mini City Hall following the workshop for individual appointments from 1-4 p.m. Language interpretation will be available and registration is not required. The ICHS team will also be at Mini City Hall every Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., to offer additional support for those with Medicaid questions.

For more questions, contact Mini City Hall at 425-452-2800 or **minich@bellevuewa.gov**.

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

Fall prevention this autumn

By Network on Aging Staff

Autumn brings colorful leaves, cooler temperatures and shorter days. It also brings new hazards that can increase the risk of falls, especially for older adults.

Falls affect 1 in 4 Americans age 65 and older each year and are the leading cause of injury among older adults. The good news is that many falls can be prevented with a few simple steps.

Stay physically active.

Regular physical activity helps maintain strength, balance and flexibility, all of which are essential for preventing falls. Walking, tai chi, yoga and chair-based exercise classes can improve stability and confidence while helping keep muscles and bones strong.

Review medication regularly

Certain medications or combinations (including over-the-counter drugs and supplements) can cause dizziness or drowsiness. Ask your health care provider or pharmacist to review your medications regularly and identify any concerns.

Schedule vision and hearing checks

Even minor declines in vision or hearing can affect depth perception and balance. Regular checkups ensure prescription lenses and hearing aids remain effective.

Watch for darkness, shadows and wet leaves

Shorter days and low autumn light make hazards harder to see. Shadows may distort steps or curbs, and wet leaves can be as slippery as ice. Consider walking during daylight hours when possible, turn on porch and path lights before dusk, carry a flashlight and consider collaborating with neighbors to clear walkways and steps.

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Create a safe home environment

Small changes make a big difference!

- Remove tripping hazards (e.g., rugs, clutter and extension cords).
- Install bathroom grab bars.
- Ensure adequate lighting throughout the home.
- Use non-slip mats in the shower and kitchen.
- Keep frequently used items within easy reach to avoid needing a stepstool.

Wear sturdy, supportive footwear

Choose well-fitting shoes with non-slip soles. Avoid walking in socks or loose slippers that can increase the risk of slipping.

Use assistive devices when needed

Properly fitted canes or walkers can help if you feel unsteady. A physical or occupational therapist can help you choose and use the right device safely.

Let the leaves be your reminder

As leaves begin to fall, take a moment to think about your own safety. A few preventive measures today can lower your risk of injury, support your independence and help you stay active and engaged throughout the season.

Bridge resurfacing means long-term savings

By Jennifer Cook
Transportation Public Information Officer

Four critical bridges in Bellevue's transportation network are getting a facelift. Crews are replacing expansion joints and preserving bridge decks with High Molecular Weight Methacrylate (HMWM) and a thin polymer overlay. Together, these treatments fill surface cracks, strengthen the deck and protect it from deterioration. These treatments are a cost-effective and time-efficient way to extend the life of the bridge surface by up to 15 years per treatment.

Bridges included in this project are:

- NE 12th Street east of NE Spring Boulevard, over the light-rail tracks
- NE 12th Street west of 124th Avenue NE
- Lakemont Boulevard south of I-90
- 120th Avenue NE north of NE Spring Boulevard, over the light-rail tracks



Walk, roll or bike from East Main Station to Downtown

By Jennifer Cook
Transportation Public Information Officer

Bellevue has completed construction on the new Main Street Multipurpose Path that runs from 112th Avenue SE to 108th Avenue SE. The widened 12-foot passage improves safety for people walking, rolling and biking to and from the East Main light rail station and downtown destinations.

In addition to widening the path, a landscaping barrier was installed between the path and street, curb ramps were updated to meet ADA requirements to the maximum extent feasible, two new marked crosswalks were built along with a raised median, and the intersection at Main Street and 110th Avenue received a new traffic signal and upgraded signal operations. The traffic signal changes will manage all directions now, which will improve movement for people coming and going from Surry Downs.

City expands speed safety cameras

By Laura Milstead
Transportation Public Information Officer

The City of Bellevue expanded its automated traffic safety program in mid-August with the activation of speed cameras (**BellevueWA.gov/speed-safety-cameras**) at four locations. The initial 30-day warning period for vehicle owners has ended, and citations are now being issued for vehicles exceeding posted speed limits.

Residents can visit the camera status map BellevueWA.gov/speed-camera-map to see whether a camera location is planned, operating under a warning period or issuing citations.

Current Speed Safety Camera Locations

- 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

The program will continue to expand in phases, with three additional locations planned later in 2026 or early next year. Each new site will begin with a 30-day warning period before citations are issued.

Speed safety cameras are a key component of Bellevue's commitment to Vision Zero, the city's goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030. Speed remains one of the leading factors in severe crashes, and automated enforcement has been shown to reduce speeding and improve safety for everyone.

The cameras, administered by Verra Mobility, capture rear license plate images and violation data. The information is securely transmitted for review, and a Bellevue Police Department official verifies each violation before a citation is issued to the registered vehicle owner. (Note: The City of Bellevue does not operate Flock cameras.)

Safer speeds help protect everyone who uses Bellevue's streets. Thank you for slowing down so that everyone gets home safely.





Bellevue develops Disaster Resilience Networks

By Harry Grantz
Office of Emergency Management AmeriCorps member

The Bellevue Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management invites community members to participate in the city's new Disaster Resilience Networks.

This community-led program helps residents build their own emergency preparedness networks through workshops where participants share their own experiences, knowledge and resources.

The program applies to more than just neighborhoods. Any type of community, including sports teams, faith communities, service organizations and other established groups, can benefit.

Workshop activities like networking, developing plans and participating in emergency scenario role-playing exercises allow participants to get to know each other through a new lens of safety and disaster resilience.

By the end of the program, participants will have a customized plan and a stronger network of community members prepared to coordinate and respond when disasters occur.

Organize your own Disaster Relief Network

If you are interested in organizing a Disaster Resilience Network for your community, please reach out to the Bellevue Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management at oem@bellevuewa.gov.

Program materials can be found in BellevueWA.gov/hazard-preparedness in multiple languages.

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			

CDD-26-94827