



Neighborhood News

February 2026



Melodies of the Diaspora: Celebrating 100 Years of Black History Month

By Emily Inlow-Hood
Deputy Communications Officer

In celebration of Black History Month, the City of Bellevue is working with community partners to present “Melodies of the Diaspora: Celebrating 100 Years of Black History Month,” an exhibition featuring the work of Pacific Northwest Black artists.

The show will be presented on display at the Bellevue Arts Museum and Bellevue City Hall, designed to take visitors on a chronological journey of Black art through downtown Bellevue.

For viewing hours and more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/black-history.

You're invited to opening reception!

Celebrate Black History Month by attending an opening reception on **Sunday, Feb. 1, 3-6 p.m. at the Bellevue Arts Museum**. The event will feature live performances, remarks from community and elected leaders, and light refreshments.

For viewing hours and more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/black-history.

Curated by Jay Taylor, Fancy Vargas and Jerry Lee, the exhibition will feature paintings, photography, sculptures, textiles and fashion.

Community members can view the artworks at Bellevue City Hall during the building's open hours and at Bellevue Arts Museum at various times throughout the month of February.



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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Help shape the city's future online services

By Suzanne Tamayo
Business Transformation Program Manager

The City of Bellevue is evaluating the ways we deliver online services to the community. From paying your utility bill to community engagement, we are looking at how our digital tools can best meet the needs of our community members, now and in the future.

To guide this work, we are asking the community to take a short survey about the city's online services. This will be first of many community engagement opportunities to take place over the course of a multiyear effort to transform the ways the city uses technology to deliver services.

The survey will be available Feb. 2-20 at BellevueWA.gov/OnlineServicesSurvey.

Great Neighborhoods need great spaces!

Join us for an upcoming Eastgate and Factoria urban design workshop

By Justin Panganiban
Community Development Senior Planner/Urban Designer

Eastgate and Factoria Urban Design Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 28 | 1-4 p.m.
Hyatt House Seattle/Bellevue
3244 139th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98005

Register at:
gn-urban-design-workshops.eventbrite.com

Bellevue's Great Neighborhoods team recently completed the "Discover" phase of neighborhood area planning for Eastgate and Factoria. During

this phase, more than 400 people for Eastgate and 500 for Factoria shared their thoughts on what makes their neighborhood special and the challenges and opportunities that exist.

Feedback was gathered through a project kickoff, mailed questionnaire, neighborhood walks, and small-group meetings. Community members in Eastgate value safety, natural beauty, diversity, and economic opportunity. People pointed to the mature trees, nearby parks, proximity to both city amenities and wilderness, and friendly neighbors.

Community members in Factoria value safety, diversity and inclusiveness, accessibility and connectivity, and affordability. People pointed to diverse and international retail options, the convenience of meeting daily needs close to home, and easy highway access.

To help us build on these qualities, join the planning team at an upcoming urban design workshop where you can share your ideas to make public spaces in Eastgate and Factoria more livable, walkable and welcoming. You can expect a variety of hands-on activities designed to identify ways to improve neighborhood connectivity and gathering spaces.

This is a family-friendly drop-in event with activities for kids and light refreshments. Arrive at any time and stay as long as you'd like. For more information, please visit the event webpage.

Visit our online engagement hub Engaging Bellevue for each neighborhood to find additional ways to participate. You can read our Discover phase engagement report, review our draft vision and policy moves, and add ideas on our interactive map.

Eastgate: engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-eastgate

Factoria: engagingbellevue.com/great-neighborhoods-factoria





Parking code update information session – Feb. 9

By Amanda Anderson

Development Services Public Information Officer

Bellevue is updating its land use code to comply with new state laws that change how cities regulate parking in new developments. These updates, required by Senate Bills 5184 and 6015, aim to reduce housing costs, support walkable neighborhoods, and make better use of land.

Join the city for a virtual information session on Monday, Feb. 9. Details and meeting information are available at bellevue-parking-reform.eventbrite.com.

Proposed changes include lowering minimum parking requirements for many housing and commercial projects, though developers can still choose to provide more parking. The city is also planning to allow more flexible parking designs and options.

Learn more about this project at BellevueWA.gov/parking-reform-luca. Your input matters – join us to stay informed!

Heart health is self-care

By Heather Wong

Bellevue Fire Department Public Information Officer

February is often associated with Valentine's Day and showing love to others. It's also a good reminder to give yourself some care, especially when it comes to your heart.

Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of death in the United States, but many risk factors are things we can influence. Small, consistent choices make a real difference.



Moving your body most days of the week, eating more fruits and vegetables, managing stress and getting enough sleep all support heart health. You don't need to train for a marathon. A daily walk around the neighborhood counts.

Beyond lifestyle habits, knowing your numbers matters too. Blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar are important indicators of heart health. Many people feel fine even when these numbers are high, which is why regular checkups are so important.

Recognizing the signs of a heart attack can save a life. Chest pressure, pain spreading to the arm, jaw or back, shortness of breath, nausea or sudden fatigue are all reasons to call 911 right away. Fast action allows emergency crews to begin care immediately.

Another way to care for your heart and the hearts of those around you is by learning CPR. High-quality CPR significantly increases the rate of survival. Learning it could save someone you love.

Learn skills that could help save a life

The Bellevue Fire Department offers CPR classes throughout the year, giving community members the skills and confidence to act in an emergency.

Visit BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/fire/medical/cpr-training for more information.

Kelsey Creek Culvert improvements kick off in March

Prepare for traffic impacts starting mid-March

By Michaelene Fowler

Utilities Public Information Officer

What to know

Project starts: Mid-March 2026

Location: Lake Hills Boulevard, between 151st and 154th Ave SE

Traffic Impacts: Lane closures starting mid-March, with a 60-day full road closure

The existing culvert under Lake Hills Boulevard is undersized and has shown signs of instability in recent years, contributing to drainage issues and flooding concerns in the area. In addition to the culvert replacement, the project will address nearby aging sewer and water infrastructure to improve system reliability and long-term performance.

This project will:

- Replace the existing culvert with a larger, more durable structure to better handle stormwater and reduce flooding risks
- Restore and upgrade water and sewer mains near Larsen Lake and the Greenbelt
- Realign the Lake Hills Greenbelt Trail and adjust parts of the surrounding landscape
- Slightly raise the roadway and Federal Field parking lot to improve drainage

Through this comprehensive approach, we can help ensure residents benefit from improved infrastructure and reduced maintenance issues for decades to come.

Traffic impacts and schedules

To complete this work safely and efficiently, portions of Lake Hills Boulevard between 151st and 154th Ave SE will be impacted. Please plan for travel delays and follow city traffic advisories, which can be found at BellevueWA.gov/traffic-advisories.

Lane closures

Expect periodic lane closures starting in mid-March 2026. Flaggers and signs will help guide traffic through lane restrictions during work hours.



Full road closure

A full closure of Lake Hills Boulevard between 151st and 154th Ave SE will occur for approximately 60 days during peak of construction, allowing crews to complete the most intensive work safely and quickly. Detour routes will be clearly marked.

Stay informed

Additional updates, detour maps, and construction notices will be shared at BellevueWA.gov/kelsey-creek-culvert. For additional questions, contact the project manager Bob York at ryork@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6141.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to improve key infrastructure in our community.

Planning Commission to review Evan's Plaza Comprehensive Plan amendment

By Teun Deuling

Community Development Senior Planner

At its Feb. 11 meeting, the Planning Commission will begin reviewing the proposed Evan's Plaza Comprehensive Plan amendment (permit application 25-121477-AC | BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/2025/application-materials-evans-plaza-cpa-25-121477-ac.pdf), changing five parcels from the General Commercial classification to Low-rise 2 Mixed Use at 13815 NE 24th ST in the Bridle Trails neighborhood.



The privately initiated amendment application is subject to a two-step process that begins with an initial “threshold review,” which will occur on Feb. 11 to evaluate whether the proposed amendment should be considered. Depending on the outcome, a “final review” will occur to evaluate the merits of the proposal.

During each step of review process for privately initiated plan amendments, the Planning Commission holds a public hearing to gather community feedback prior to making recommendations to the City Council.

Comments on the threshold review will be accepted until the City Council takes action to determine which applications to include in the annual Comprehensive Plan amendment work program.

Applications to amend the Comprehensive Plan are considered once per year. Privately initiated applications are due each year by Sept. 15 for consideration the following year.

For more information, visit BellevueWA.gov/comp-plan-amendments.

Upcoming city code changes shape Bellevue's future

*By Amanda Anderson
Development Services Public Information Officer*

Bellevue is moving forward with several important code and policy initiatives that will influence how our city grows and evolves. These efforts aim to address housing affordability, encourage sustainable development, and create vibrant, walkable neighborhoods.

Below is a look at the projects currently in progress or launching soon—each with the potential to shape development, housing and more in Bellevue. Learn more about code

amendment projects and sign up for updates at BellevueWA.gov/code-amendments.

Pre-approved Plans Program

Bellevue is preparing to explore options for a pre-approved Detached Accessory Dwelling Units (DADUs) and cottages program. Detached accessory dwelling units and cottages are relatively small, self-contained homes allowed anywhere that single-family homes are allowed. More details and opportunities for community input will be available soon.

BelRed Look Forward Code Update

Bellevue is updating its land use code to align with the updated vision for BelRed and recent Comprehensive Plan policy changes. The proposed updates will support housing and job growth, transit-oriented development, expanded medical uses, and the BelRed Arts District. They also include strategies for affordable housing, street design improvements and stream restoration.

A working draft is now available for public review, and community feedback is encouraged. Learn more and view the draft at BellevueWA.gov/belred-look-forward.

Housing Opportunities in Mixed-Use Areas (HOMA)

This code amendment would encourage housing development by making changes to the city's land use code that reduce barriers to building housing. Building on the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, the HOMA project aims to put that plan into action. In addition to supporting new and more affordable housing in mixed-use areas of the city (places where housing and business can be built together), HOMA also supports vibrant neighborhoods by strengthening neighborhood centers and encouraging neighborhood-serving uses such as local shops, services, and community spaces.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on Dec. 10 and is expected to provide a recommendation on HOMA at the Jan. 28 Planning Commission meeting. The project will then move to city council for review and consideration, with council action anticipated in the spring. Learn more at BellevueWA.gov/homa.



New permit for middle housing projects

By Amanda Anderson

Development Services Public Information Officer

To meet community needs for more diverse housing choices, the city has introduced a new permit for middle housing projects. The application and permit will streamline the approvals for projects with three to six dwelling units – such as townhouses, stacked flats and cottage housing – on a single parcel.

The updated permit provides predictable steps to help projects progress efficiently, informed by practical feedback from those who use the city's permit process. By improving coordination and reducing complexity, the city aims to support housing choices while maintaining neighborhood compatibility and development standards.

As Bellevue continues to grow, the city remains focused on improving customer service, increasing efficiency and ensuring development standards support a high-quality built and natural environment. Learn more about middle housing building permits at BellevueWA.gov/building-middle-housing

Spring into a fresh start with a Greener Living Class

By Joedy Morrow

Environmental Outreach Program Assistant

Ready to refresh your home this spring while being kinder to the planet? Bellevue Utilities is excited to offer seven free “Fresh Start” Eco-Smart classes designed to help residents declutter, clean smarter, and repair instead of replace.

Led by a local sustainability expert, these practical and approachable classes will share easy tips,

tools and inspiration for clearing out the old and welcoming the new, without harsh chemicals or unnecessary waste. Whether you are tackling clutter, learning about non-toxic cleaning alternatives, or discovering simple repair skills, there's something for everyone.

Classes are offered both in person at Bellevue King County Library System branches and online, making it easier to participate.

All classes are free, but registration is required. Visit BellevueWA.gov/greener-living to view the full schedule, register, and learn more.

Give your home and the environment a fresh start this spring!

From Policy to Planning: A new way to track Bellevue's planning projects

By Amanda Anderson

Development Services Public Information Officer

To help keep our community informed, the City of Bellevue's Community Development and Development Services departments are excited to launch From Policy to Planning, a new e-newsletter providing timely updates on everything from citywide policy initiatives to neighborhood planning efforts.

The publication will make it easier for the community to stay connected with the work shaping Bellevue's future. In each edition, you'll find highlights on current projects, upcoming opportunities for public input and policy changes that may affect your neighborhood.

Sign up for the Development and Planning Update at BellevueWA.gov/code-amendments and look for regular updates in your inbox!



City begins implementing Sustainable Bellevue Plan actions

By Jake Sykes

Community Development Sustainability Coordinator

In November, the city adopted the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan and is now ramping up efforts to implement actions from the updated plan. To kick off this work, the city's Commercial Buildings Incentives Program is relaunching to support commercial buildings that must meet upcoming statewide Clean Energy Transformation Act reporting requirements, which begin taking effect on June 1.

Through this program, commercial building owners in Bellevue can receive free compliance support aimed at helping them navigate the process of meeting state guidelines on time. This month, the city is hosting a series of webinars for commercial building owners on Feb. 10 and 11, 11 a.m.-noon. To learn more and register, visit BellevueWA.gov/greener-living.

For more information on Bellevue's Commercial Buildings Incentives Program, contact Patrick Babbitt at pbabbitt@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7887.

Neighborhood Enhancement Program seeks input for Downtown Bellevue area

By David Isaak

Neighborhood Outreach Manager

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) kicked off in the Downtown Bellevue Neighborhood Area in January and is now in the project idea submission period! Don't miss the opportunity to let the city know what you'd like to see done in your Downtown Bellevue neighborhood.

Bellevue's Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a capital improvements effort that provides residents with the opportunity to propose and select small-scale physical projects



aimed at improving the quality of life and enhancing the character of their neighborhoods.

The Downtown Bellevue neighborhood has a budget of \$975,000 to spend on projects.

Project ideas are due by Tuesday, March 3!

Submit your ideas in two easy ways:

1. **BY MAIL:** Return the postage-paid Project Idea Request Card all Downtown Bellevue Trails households received in the mail in late January.
2. **ONLINE:** BellevueWA.gov/nep

There is no limit to the number of project ideas you can submit, but all ideas must be received at City Hall or submitted online by the March 3 deadline.

Lake Hills Residents – Mark your calendars for March 18 virtual kickoff meeting

Watch your mailbox for your program invite and further details!

NEP rotates through Bellevue's 14 Neighborhood areas, serving two areas each year. To find out which NEP Neighborhood Area you call home, when the program will be in your area, and how much funding your area has been allocated, visit BellevueWA.gov/nep.

Questions? Contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov

Choose Your Way Bellevue rewards are going local!

By Bellevue Downtown Association

In 2026, the Choose Your Way Bellevue Rewards Program is all about supporting local businesses while encouraging sustainable travel.

That means your everyday trips, like coffee runs, grocery stops, and dinner plans, can help you earn local gift cards just by choosing non-drive-alone options.

Choose Your Way Bellevue is an outreach program and information resource that's part of the city's effort to improve mobility through transportation demand management.

Explore all that Bellevue has to offer and start logging those trips! For more information, visit bit.ly/cywbtriplog.

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			