



City of Bellevue

BELLEVEUE IT'S YOUR CITY

October 2019

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Year-round shelter opens



Assistant Police Chief Pat Arpin swears in recruits, from left, David Swinney, Jonathan Palmer, Dimitry Kulibaba and Jennifer May.

Police reach major milestone

By Meeghan Black, Police Public Information Officer

For the first time in over eight years, the Bellevue Police Department has a full complement of commissioned officers. The department hired 21 this year and has several applicants lined up for when new positions become available.

What made the difference? A \$16,000 hiring bonus for experienced officers who want to work in Bellevue.

"It's been amazing to see the response to our lateral officer hiring incentive," Chief Steve Mylett said in September, when the milestone had been reached. "The City Council approved the hiring bonus late last year, and the applications just started rolling in. It was a game-changer."

From January through June, 133 officers from agencies all over the country applied for positions with the Bellevue Police, more than quadruple the number of applications received the entire year before. Besides the hiring bonus, the chief also added more recruiting staff, background investigators and trainers to speed up the hiring process.

"I commend our recruiters, training staff and leadership team for their dedication and drive through this process. Everyone has worked incredibly hard, including line officers who helped

spread the word about the department," Mylett said.

Police departments nationwide have faced significant obstacles in hiring for the past few decades. A strong economy offers high-paying jobs without the risks associated with a career in law enforcement. Also, baby boomers began retiring, while others have avoided the profession due to several controversial incidents covered widely in the national media.

Chief Mylett says once his team identified these issues, he knew he could address them.

"Bellevue is an amazing and safe place to work. And our officers receive strong support from the City Council, the city manager and the city's Leadership Team. Most importantly, our department receives tremendous support from the greater Bellevue community. The bonus attracted the candidates, it was our job to show them why they should choose Bellevue."

Bellevue Police still have non-commissioned positions open, including four police support officers and four positions in the Records division. For more information about those openings, please visit GovernmentJobs.com.

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Interactive Bellwether

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Eco-friendly holidays

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City updating environmental stewardship road map

By Brooke Brod, Community Development Engagement Lead

The city is plotting a course for environmental stewardship here over the next five years, and is working with the community to craft a robust plan.

Public engagement for the Environmental Stewardship Plan launched in September with a survey that reached over 300 participants, six pop-up information tables and an Oct. 1 workshop. Residents said they care about this issue and are looking for the city to be a leader.

Community engagement will continue through 2020 and you can share your thoughts on the topic any time on the city's interactive website - EngagingBellevue.com/environmental-stewardship.

Bellevue has an abundance of trails, parks, wetlands and urban forests. Whether it's kayaking

in Mercer Slough, hiking in Coal Creek or taking time to smell the roses at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, residents, visitors and workers have many opportunities to enjoy nature.

A core value for the "city in a park" is stewardship, and Bellevue is committed to preserving and enhancing our environmental resources. Through the Environmental Stewardship Initiative, the city coordinates a wide range of programs to help community members and businesses reduce their impact on the environment and save money.

The ESI Strategic Plan has been the road map for the initiative for the past six years, setting forth strategies for cutting greenhouse emissions and related objectives. Key accomplishments under the plan include installing over 300 solar arrays, registering over 5,000

electric vehicles and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to grow.

The timeline for the plan update includes three phases, with a draft to go before the City Council for approval in the summer of next year.

- **Phase One:** Refine Goals and Targets (fall 2019): Work with community members, stakeholders and other partners to understand key concerns and priorities.
- **Phase Two:** Develop strategies and actions (winter 2020): Work with the community to explore key strategies and talk about the actions needed for the plan's success.
- **Phase Three:** Review draft plan (spring 2020): Share the draft with residents and other stakeholders for comment.

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COUNCIL CORNER



By Mayor John Chelminiak

Reflecting on my years of service: Thank you

It was 2003 and the future looked bleak.

Three buildings under construction in Bellevue had halted progress – simply holes in the ground, foundations seemingly without a future. The combination of the dot-com bust, 9/11 and war in Iraq weighed heavily on our collective psyche and the Pacific Northwest economy.

Two members of the City Council I admired retired. It was also the year I decided to run for city council because I believed the future of Bellevue was bright. It would start 16 years of serving you.

And now, I'm stepping down. At the end of December, I will leave the council.

People ask, why do you serve? I can sum that up in some stories of people I've met while campaigning:

- A couple introduced me to their adult developmentally

disabled daughter. They told me how our programs at Highland Community Center are a godsend for them.

- A group of families gathered in a Phantom Lake area home couldn't wait to tell me how important the Bellevue Youth Theatre is to them. It became important to me.
- A lady out gardening told me stories of her Japanese farmer friends who were interned in the 1940s. I remembered her when I saw her several years later at the Botanical Garden. She said, "You probably don't remember me." I did and recounted our conversations because of how it moved me.
- In Wilburton, an older woman answered the door and when I told her I was running for office. She seemed crestfallen. "My husband died a few months ago, and we always voted together," she said. "I don't know if I can vote this year."
- On a Sunday afternoon in Newport Hills, a man in his 80s told me his daughter always visited on Sunday, but something had come up. So I stayed and talked with him on his porch.

Bellevue has changed dramatically since those difficult days of 2003. And so many of those changes are for the better! When I walk into a city board or commission



Mayor Chelminiak answers questions after the annual "State of the City."

meeting, I now see faces reflective of the growing diversity of our city. I see that every Monday night in the council chamber too.

To wrap up, I offer four special "thank yous:"

- The first to my family, Lynn, Morgan and Megan for putting up with a husband and dad missing in action every Monday night, and many other nights.
- Next to the incredible staff at the city. You exemplify what it means to be a public servant and to do so with integrity.
- Third, to the other 15 councilmembers I've served with. Like any family, you've

inspired me, frustrated me, lifted me up and occasionally put me in my place.

- Finally, a thank you to the community. When I was badly injured in 2009, I felt the spirit of community lift me up and speed my recovery.

It has been an honor to serve you as a councilmember, and the past two years as mayor have been incredible. I'm so lucky to live and be a part of such a special place. Thank you!

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

Multifamily tax exemption extended

The City Council unanimously agreed on Sept. 16 to extend Bellevue's multifamily tax exemption, an affordable housing incentive that allows developers certain property tax exemptions in exchange for making 20 percent of the units in their new apartment complexes affordable.

The tax exemption program was in a five-year trial phase set to end this year without council action. Councilmembers voted to extend the program without a further expiration date and will continue to receive reports on the program, combined with other Affordable Housing Strategy updates.

Update for tent city regulations

The City Council on Sept. 9 began discussing an update to city regulations concerning temporary encampments hosted by local churches. The 2006 federal consent decree that is part of current regulations will expire this year. The update is not related to unlawful public camping, which is banned on city-owned property.

By amending the land use code chapter governing temporary encampments, the council can eliminate the need to refer to both the code and consent decree for administration of the encampments.

Temporary encampments are allowed on property controlled by religious organizations in Bellevue as an accommodation of religious exercise. The land use code protects public health and safety through limitations on the number of encampment residents, provisions for sanitation and limits on stay, duration and frequency.

Additional council meetings and public hearings on the matter will be held through the fall, with adoption of code amendments anticipated by the end of the year. More information is available at BellevueWA.gov/temporary-encampments.

Sound Transit property exchange

On Aug. 5, the council approved a property exchange with Sound Transit that facilitates more than 1.2 million square feet of transit-oriented development in BelRed next to a light rail maintenance facility.

The city will transfer to Sound Transit a parcel south of where the maintenance facility is being built in exchange for one west of it along 120th Avenue Northeast. The swap includes a covenant requiring Bellevue's property be used for a minimum of 80 affordable housing units.

Sound Transit adding the city's parcel to property it already owns south of the maintenance facility makes it much easier to establish a transit-oriented development there.

Eastgate transportation improvements

The council on July 15 accepted an Eastgate transportation study that recommends projects intended to stem vehicle congestion over the next 15 years in the area straddling Interstate 90, while providing facilities for people walking, bicycling or taking transit.

Recommendations in the study range from expensive projects, such as adding lanes at intersections, to low-cost ones (signal timing adjustments and restriping pavement). Currently, there is no dedicated funding for construction of the major projects recommended in the study. However, the council directed staff to fast-track improvements on Southeast 38th Street near Factoria Boulevard with money from the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy.

The study, which provides a detailed traffic analysis of the area along I-90 from Factoria Boulevard to 150th Avenue Southeast, was recommended by the Transportation Commission and funded by the levy.

Four council positions contested

Four Bellevue City Council seats are being contested this year, with ballots required to be postmarked or returned to a ballot box by election day, Tuesday, Nov. 5.

No incumbents are in the running for position 3, because Mayor John Chelminiak is stepping down at the conclusion of his term.

While most people in King County vote by mail, voters with disabilities can vote online or go to one of several voting centers.

The information below is from the King County Voters Pamphlet, available on the King County Elections website (KingCounty.gov/depts/elections).

Position 1



John Stokes (incumbent)
retired attorney



Holly Zhang
CEO of Holly Zhang Pearl Gallery



Jeremy Barksdale
user experience researcher, Unity



Stephanie Walter
finance professional,
Overlake Hospital

Position 3

Position 5



Janice Zahn (incumbent)
public works construction manager,
Port of Seattle

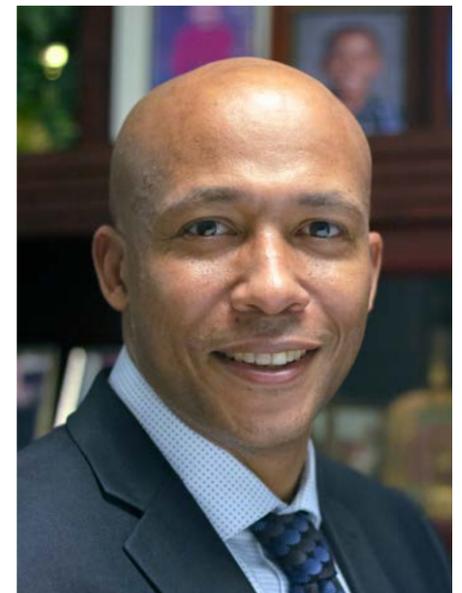


JD Yu
principal engineer, T-Mobile

Position 7



Jennifer Robertson (incumbent)
municipal and land-use attorney



James Bible
civil rights attorney

Permitting now 100% paperless

By Carole Harper, Development Services Assistant Director

Development Services has begun processing all permits electronically. The move to 100 percent paperless permitting completed a gradual transition over several years from paper permit applications for the department.

The evolution to paperless permitting in Bellevue actually began in the early 2000s, when building officials from Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah and Redmond agreed to align permit application processes. This allowed for the development of a regional online permitting portal – MyBuildingPermit.com.

In 2011, Bellevue introduced electronic

permitting for some permit types that didn't require plan submittal. Since then, with continued technological improvements, the city kept expanding the kinds of permits it could process electronically.

In March, the city began accepting applications for construction permits exclusively online. The transition to 100 percent paperless was complete on Sept. 6, when applications for land use permits were also moved to an electronic submittal process.

Development Services issues more than 15,000 permits each year. Electronic permitting saves customers considerable time and money, and helps preserve resources consistent with the city's Environmental Stewardship goals.

Customers have embraced the new way of business and have been enthusiastic about the switch.

The portal MyBuildingPermit.com is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week and allows customers to:

- apply and pay for permits;
- request and cancel inspections;
- check permit status and history; and
- find construction tip sheets and inspection checklists.

Customers can find guidance on the MyBuildingPermit Help page and at BellevueWA.gov/permits or in person at the permit center in City Hall.

Year-round shelter now in Bellevue

By Brad Harwood, Chief Communications Officer

Following through on a City Council priority, year-round emergency shelter for men began in Bellevue in September. Through an agreement with a local developer a former church downtown will be used as a temporary shelter while a building in Wilburton is brought up to code for year-round operation.

"Today you saved someone's life," David Bowling of Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) said on Aug. 1, the day the agreement with Lawrence Lui was approved.

With funding from the city, CFH is providing overnight facilities in the former First Congregational Church, at Northeast Eighth Street and 108th Avenue Northeast. CFH has expanded day center hours and is able to provide year-round, 24-hour, 7-days a week homeless services to men experiencing homelessness.

"This is a major step in the provision of emergency services for men experiencing homelessness on the Eastside," Mayor John Chelminiak said after the council approved the agreement on Aug. 1. "It is another example of how the city, our human services providers, our residents and the business community are stepping up to meet the challenge of homelessness. On behalf of the city, I want to thank Lawrence Lui for allowing us to use the site during this critical transition period."

"We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Bellevue and Congregations for the Homeless to temporarily utilize our property as a short-term shelter for men experiencing homelessness in our community while Lincoln Center receives upgrades," Lui said. "The services CFH provide for Bellevue and the Eastside region are important, and we are honored to assist to ensure these services continue."



Developer Lawrence Lui agreed to let the former First Congregational Church be used as a shelter.

With generous support from local, private fundraising, CFH will complete fire code upgrades by adding sprinklers to the current Men's Winter Shelter at Lincoln Center. In December, the church location will close and men experiencing homelessness will begin staying at the Lincoln Center shelter. The facility will then begin full-time operation and will not have to close every May as it has in past years. However, this is only a temporary three-year location until a permanent shelter is constructed.

In September, CFH, Inland Group and Horizon Housing Alliance announced they had reached agreement with King County to site

a permanent men's shelter and day center, along with affordable, workforce housing on county-owned property on Eastgate Way. CFH and the county have stated the goal is to have it sited, built and operational by September 2022. The permanent shelter location is subject to King County Council approval.

Lui is president of Stanford Hotels Corp., which is obtaining permits to redevelop the city block partially occupied by the former church into Cloudevue, a mixed-use complex featuring two office towers and a residential high-rise.

She'll help coordinate city's response to homelessness



Stephanie Martinez

To help the city develop a more proactive and comprehensive response to the challenging issue of homelessness, Stephanie Martinez has joined the city as Bellevue's first homelessness outreach coordinator.

Martinez will help coordinate efforts by departments within the city and with external partners. She will also provide direct assistance to those experiencing homelessness, respond to community issues related to homelessness and develop performance metrics for the city's work to address homelessness.

Martinez has considerable relevant experience, having worked at LifeWire in Bellevue as a community-based housing advocate and at the City of Tacoma, where she was a program development specialist with neighborhood and community services and part of the Tacoma police's Homeless Outreach team. Most recently, she coordinated a statewide evaluation of California's Domestic Violence Housing First funding program.

"Congregations for the Homeless is deeply grateful to Mr. Lui for providing an interim location for up to 100 men on the Eastside to access life-saving shelter and services," said Bowling, executive director of CFH. "We appreciate our partnership with the business community, individual donors and the City of Bellevue, who have made it possible to provide high-quality services that benefit the entire community year-round."

According to the 2019 Count Us In report, 337 unsheltered people were found in East King County. Responding to the increasing need, Bellevue has hosted a low-barrier men's shelter, located at interim sites throughout the city since 2008. The city also continues to work closely with Kirkland and Redmond to provide shelter for youth, women, families and men. The shelter at Lincoln Center averaged 91 men a night last winter.

"We also couldn't have gotten this far without the private fundraising efforts of former Councilmember Kevin Wallace and his support of CFH," added Mayor Chelminiak. "Thanks to his diligent work, necessary code-mandated improvements to the Lincoln Center site will be put in place much faster."

Neighborhood leaders learn how to prepare for disasters

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach

Nearly 100 residents at City Hall for the fall Neighborhood Leadership Gathering on Sept. 17 learned how to prepare for disaster. They participated in a series of hands-on stations with guidance in English and Mandarin.

The city trains residents and staff in all departments on how to cooperatively prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency. This work is spearheaded by Curry Mayer, manager of the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management and her team.

The residents took a tour of the Emergency Operations Center at City Hall, practiced using a fire extinguisher (simulated spray on simulated fire) and played at preparing a neighborhood for disaster by mapping the skills and equipment people in an area would have. Following a major earthquake or other severe incident, people might need to rely on their neighbors for help, since it could take several days before police and firefighters arrive.

Emergency Management offers intensive Community Emergency Response Team training over eight weekly workshops. The division

also hosts a three-hour CERT Lite training at locations around the city on selected Saturdays throughout the year.

A station-style training, CERT Lite educates participants about personal preparedness, fire safety, medical disasters and search-and-rescue. Registration is free, open to everyone and recommended for ages 11 and up. CERT Lite is offered Nov. 16 and Dec. 7. Register on [EventBrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) with the search term "CERT Lite."

What You Should Know About Life Saving Skills

- Learn basic preparedness skills to protect your family and home.
- Install smoke, carbon monoxide and natural gas alarms, and test them monthly. Teach children what to do when they hear any of these alarms.
- Learn how to turn off utilities like natural gas in your home.
- Have emergency supplies in place at home, at work and in the car.
- Plan for two ways out of your home in the event of a fire and practice evacuation plans.
- More preparedness tips are available at BellevueWA.gov/prepare

Fans come out for Welcoming Week

By *Yuriana Garcia Telléz, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator*

In concert with other Eastside cities, Bellevue celebrated Welcoming Week last month with nine events, including ones featuring cultural dances and tea traditions from four regions of China.

In its fourth year, Eastside Welcoming Week featured over 32 events across five cities Sept. 13-22. The week is associated with the national Welcoming America, which is intended to build bridges amongst new immigrants and long-time residents in the country.

At Bellevue Welcomes the World on Saturday, Sept. 14, hundreds of residents went to the Marketplace at Factoria and saw performances of flamenco, Irish, and Roma dancing, as well as Japanese martial arts and Chinese opera singing. People also got to meet with representatives from the Bellevue School District, Bellevue College and the King County Library System.

“Bellevue celebrates people that come to Bellevue from all walks of life – diverse in culture, diverse in abilities, diverse in thought,” City Councilmember John Stokes said at the event. “Welcoming Week is a week of reaffirming that as a community we welcome the richness of bringing and accepting people into our community.”

Other Bellevue Welcoming Week events included:

- a lecture at the Bellevue Botanical Garden detailing how a place with a diversity of plants can be inclusive for a diversity of people.
- a lunch with the Cultural Conversations women’s group at the Bellevue Arts Museum that explored identity and cultural heritage.

- a celebration of Chinese culture at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, with tea booths presenting the cultures of Beijing, Shanghai, the Guangdong province, and Southwest China.

The vision of Welcoming Week is to unite new immigrants and long-time residents to build healthier, thriving communities. Driven and supported in partnership with Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Affairs, all events and programs support were open and free to the public.



They dance flamenco at the “Bellevue Welcomes the World” event.

Color and whimsy paint the Grand Connection

By *Anthony Gill, Economic Development*

If you’ve been downtown in recent months, you may have noticed some new splashes of color and Instagram-worthy moments along the pedestrian corridor between the Transit Center and Bellevue Square.

In July, the Bellevue Downtown Association hung yellow paper lanterns from trees and lampposts and put orange bistro tables and chairs in the City Center and Bellevue Connection spaces. These additions, along with a mural on the Doxa Church, are part of a coordinated effort to raise awareness of the city’s vision for the Grand Connection.

A framework plan drafted with public input and approved by the City Council in 2017 and 2018 calls for a non-motorized corridor connecting the new Meydenbauer Bay Park through downtown to the future Eastrail multi-use trail in Wilburton.

The Grand Connection is intended to be a defining feature in the urban landscape, with green spaces and public art. Possibly to include a lid park over Interstate 405, the corridor will make Bellevue’s vibrant downtown more accessible for the tens of

thousands of people who live and work there.

To facilitate the Grand Connection’s transition from vision to reality, the city will update the Comprehensive Plan and land use code and develop design guidelines for development along the corridor.

Over the summer, the BDA conducted an online survey to gain feedback on the bistro furniture and yellow lanterns, as well as other potential activations or installations along the route. Residents will continue to be polled as the Grand Connection moves from vision to reality.

While city planners study the lid park concept, public art is being added at a new northeast entrance to Downtown Park and downtown intersections are being improved for East Link’s opening in 2023. Redevelopment of private properties along the route are expected to lead to more enhancements.

Smaller changes along the Grand Connection are a certainty in coming years, as the BDA, city and other partners continue to experiment with new activations, installations, public art and events.

More information is available at BellevueGrandConnection.com.



Diners take advantage of the bistro chairs and tables at the City Center plaza.

Thousands check out interactive Bellwether artfest

By Scott MacDonald, Arts Planner

Bellwether, the arts festival that seems to undergo some reinvention every time the city presents it, emphasized interactivity this year, with thousands attending events and participating in workshops, pop-up art markets, artist talks and even an art installation built around virtual reality.

The 10-day festival (Sept. 13-22) included live music at the Meydenbauer Center Theatre and two- and three-dimensional art at City Hall, the Bellevue Connection and the Bellevue Arts Museum (BAM).

A team of curators selected more than 50 artists who presented work at the festival that explored the theme of "Taking Root" – concerning Bellevue's changing community, its history and its future.

The opening celebration on Sept. 13 at BAM, featured performances by Chaneé Choi and Degenerate Art Ensemble, and drew more than 750 people. BAM also hosted "While Supplies Last," a pair of pop-up art markets put on by artist Anthony White, and "Today's Special," a pop-up community space focused on the confluence of art, food and culture, with art on view, daily workshops or artist talks curated by Ellen Ito.

Musical performances at the Meydenbauer Center featured area artists SassyBlack, Terror/Cactus, Nile Waters and the Filthy FemCorps, a brass band that marched from the closing night reception at City Hall to the Meydenbauer Center.

From 1992 to 2016, the city hosted a biennial sculpture exhibition, which evolved as a catalyst for Bellevue's growing art scene and the Grand Connection pedestrian corridor downtown. The event became an annual arts festival last year, encompassing a wide range of arts and culture. A survey about this year's Bellwether can be taken at BellwetherArtsWeek.org.



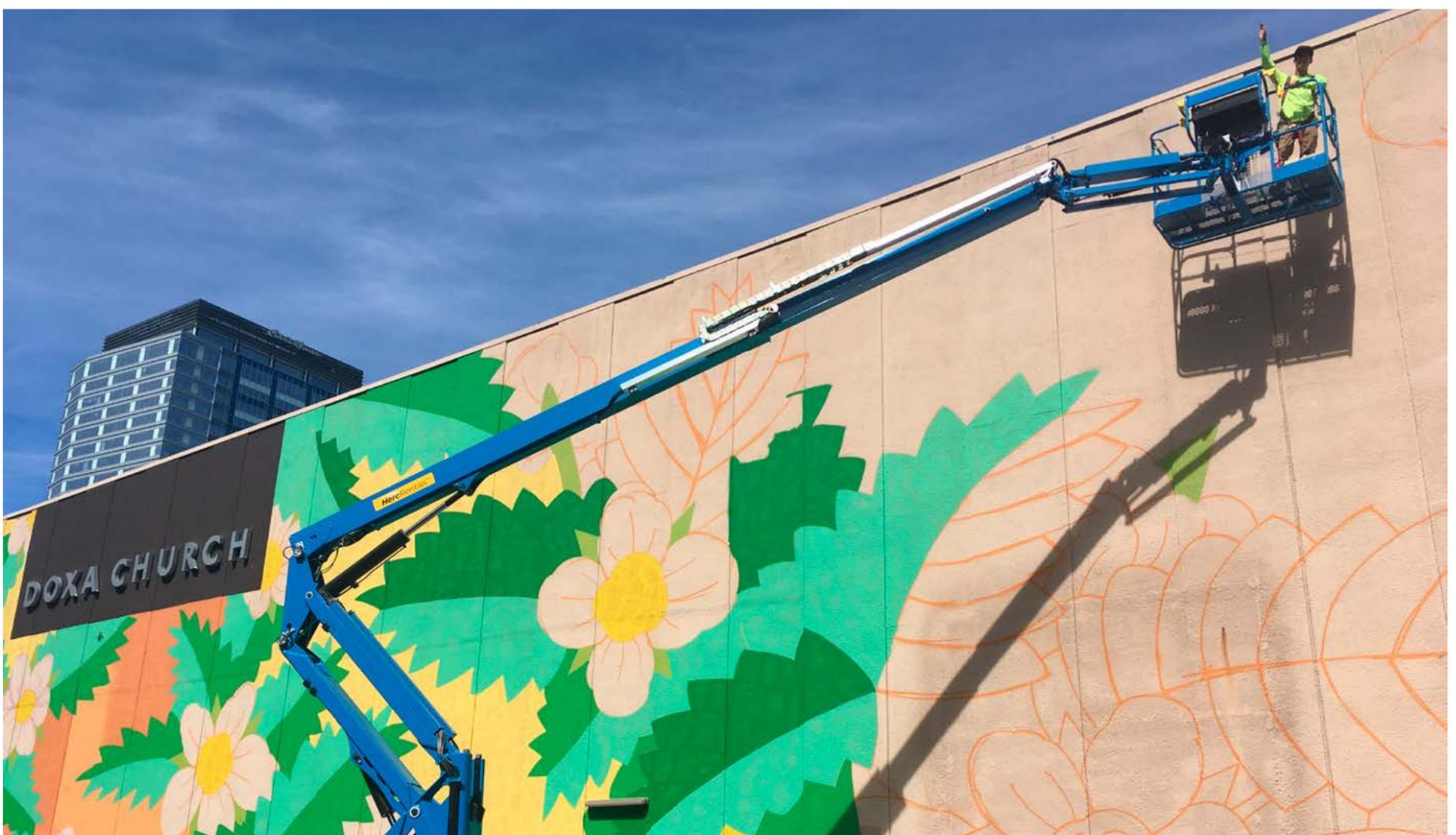
The Degenerate Art Ensemble performs at the Bellevue Arts Museum



Butoh dancers Chaneé Choi, Joey Largent and Katrina Wolfe perform at opening night.



Filthy FemCorps marches to Meydenbauer Center.



Artist Kenji Stoll waves midway through painting an enormous mural.

Aiming for equity and accessibility

By Claude Iosso, *It's Your City* Editor

When the City Council launched the Diversity Advantage initiative in 2014 to ensure everyone who lives and works in Bellevue receives equitable services, the needs of people with disabilities were considered along with those of other historically underserved populations.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is designed to provide access for people with disabilities. As the city's ADA/Title VI administrator, Blayne Amson helps the organization with legal compliance, but also helps the city to think above and beyond compliance with federal law; to aim for equity and inclusion for Bellevue's diverse population.

Amson, along with diversity and inclusion administrator Elaine Acacio and outreach and engagement administrator Yuriana Garcia Telléz, make up the Diversity Advantage team.

Difference between compliance and equity

"While compliance is an important benchmark, true equity means people who face discrimination, including people of

color and people with disabilities, feel seen, heard and represented in all city functions," explains Amson, who taught classes about social justice before joining Bellevue's staff.

A ramp added to the back of a city building with stairs in the front represents compliance with the federal ADA. A ramp at the front of building, used by all visitors, is equity.

In efforts to enhance awareness around disability and equity, a four-hour training, "Ableism, Allyship and Disability Justice," was

developed. The course helps participants understand the social inequity faced by people with disabilities and gives staff tools to be more inclusive.

As a part of this training, a booklet on universal design principles and their application to meetings and events is featured. Examples of universal design include larger font and high-contrast writing in printed materials as well as widespread use of microphones to ensure those with hearing loss are able to participate in the same way.

Continued enhancements in accessibility

Recently, the city completed an update to the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which identifies city efforts to provide access to people with disabilities, as well as areas where the city can still do more.

The plan is a road map, ensuring enhanced services and accessibility for people with disabilities, recognized here as a valued part of our diverse population.

Have questions about accessibility or equity at the city? Contact Amson at 425-452-6168 or bamson@bellevuewa.gov.



From left, Yuriana Garcia Telléz, Blayne Amson and Elaine Acacio are the Diversity Advantage team.

Eastside gears up for 2020 census

By Gwen Rousseau, *Senior Planner*

Leaders from across the Eastside have formed an East King County 2020 Census Communities Count Committee to gear up for the 2020 census and to raise awareness about its importance to our local communities. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the committee.

As part of a growing and dynamic region, Bellevue and other Eastside cities need reliable data to respond to the changing needs of our populations. An accurate census will also ensure fair political representation for the area as well as fair allocation of federal and state funding here for the next 10 years.

Raising awareness of the census on the Eastside, however, includes some challenges.

In Bellevue, about 26,000, or 18 percent of our residents, moved to the United States after 2010, and have never participated in a U.S. census.

About 42 percent of our population speak a language other than English at home, and 14 percent report they speak English less than "very well."

About 47 percent of Bellevue's households are renters who are often highly mobile and more challenging to reach.

With this challenge comes opportunity to build knowledge, capacity and strength within our local communities. The cities of Bellevue, Seattle, Kirkland and Redmond joined forces with the Seattle Foundation and King County to create a Regional Census Fund, which is providing grants to local grassroots organizations to conduct census outreach.

A total of 21 organizations across King County were granted over \$650,000 in the summer, and another \$450,000 was made available this fall. With the grants, the organizations are answering questions and providing facts about the 2020 census. Young and old are becoming census ambassadors, organizing events and building a trusted network of community leaders.

You too can help support a robust, fair and accurate 2020 census. Visit our websites to learn how you can get involved BellevueWA.gov/2020census and ERICMembers.org/2020-census.

And remember to watch for a postcard from the U.S. Census Bureau next March! The census counts and so do you!

Mini-roundabouts improve flow and safety

By David Grant, *Transportation Public Information Officer*

To improve traffic flow and safety at some medium-sized intersections around Bellevue, the city has built its first mini-roundabouts this year.



Roundabout under construction.

Roundabouts – sometimes called circles or rotaries in other parts of the country – have been around for decades in other cities. The state Department of Transportation installed two on West Lake Sammamish Parkway earlier this decade.

A roundabout is a circular intersection that uses a center island and narrow approaches with yield signs in place of stop signs or a traffic signal to control traffic.

Drivers and bicyclists circulate counterclockwise around the island. Those entering the roundabout yield to those already circulating. Speeds are kept low due to the curved design, and, unlike a four-way intersection with stop signs, stopping is not required unless one needs to yield before entering.

A mini-roundabout is larger than a traffic circle but smaller than a full-size roundabout. The primary difference is that

the center island of a mini-roundabout is designed to be driven over by large trucks and buses.

Pedestrians use crosswalks at each leg, many of which include a "refuge island" midway through the crosswalk, between the opposing lanes. The refuge islands improve safety for pedestrians by shortening the crossing distance.

Through studies and data, Transportation Department staff have determined that roundabouts are safer and promote better traffic flow than the stop sign-controlled intersections they replace. Each of the three new mini-roundabouts is fully or partially funded by the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy, approved by voters in 2016.

I can recycle THAT?

By Jessica Guthrie, Utilities Public Information Officer

Your new recycling guide, included with this newsletter, may contain some surprises. Republic Services, our solid waste service provider, offers many options to dispose of your household waste sustainably.



Check out your new recycling guide, an insert with It's Your City this month.

At no cost, you can recycle:

Kitchen food scraps and food-soiled paper: Get your free compost container from Republic Services at 425-452-4762, line with a paper or compostable bag, and empty the bag into your organics cart when full. Your food scraps are turned into valuable compost.

Styrofoam blocks: Take your white, molded Styrofoam blocks to the Republic Services Bellevue Customer Care and Recycling Drop-Off Center at 1600 127th Ave. NE to keep these out of landfills.

Fluorescent tubes and bulbs: Keep the mercury out of your home and dispose of these safely at Republic's drop-off center.

Old textiles: Donate or dispose of clean, used clothes in an earth-friendly way at Republic's drop-off center, or call Republic for pick-up at your home.

Small appliances and electronics: Bring out those non-working computers, coffee pots, microwaves and more to Republic's drop-off center, or call Republic for pick-up.

Your guide also shows how to dispose of hazardous waste items, like batteries, auto products, cleaners and expired or unwanted medications safely.

If you have any questions about your recycling options, please contact 425-452-4762 or visit RepublicBellevue.com.

Next stop, South Bellevue!

Significant progress has been made on the South Bellevue station for East Link. The parking garage structure is complete; mechanical, electrical, utilities and systems installation are underway. To receive construction updates concerning the entire East Link light rail line, targeted to start operation in 2023, subscribe at SoundTransit.org/subscribe.



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Prevent flooding and protect your home this fall and winter

By Jerry Shuster, Senior Stormwater Engineer

During our fall and winter storm season, heavy rains can sometimes overwhelm the city's storm drain system. Most flooding in Bellevue is caused by storm drains in streets and parking lots getting clogged with leaves and debris. You can protect your home by helping city crews and clearing grates near you when it's possible and safe to do so.

If your home is in a floodplain, you are required to have flood insurance. All Bellevue residents can get a discount on flood insurance.

Bellevue's drainage system includes storm drains, flood storage ponds, pipes and ditches that mostly discharge to wetlands, lakes and streams. Properties next to wetland, lakes and streams are most susceptible to flooding. Floodplains near these surface waters benefit the entire community by providing temporary storage of floodwaters until a storm subsides.

Floodplain boundaries are shown on FEMA flood insurance rate maps. To find out if your property is in a floodplain, call Utilities at 425-452-6977 or check Bellevue's floodplain maps at BellevueWA.gov/floodplainmap. Flood insurance is required for structures in the floodplain that also have federally-backed mortgages. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)



Raking the leaves from storm grates reduces flooding.

offers policies to protect property both in and outside of floodplains from floods.

Ask your insurance carrier for information about the NFIP. Keep in mind that Bellevue residents receive a 25 percent discount on NFIP policies

due to Bellevue's floodplain management program. There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy goes into effect.

Helpful tips:

- Utilities staff can help you with flooding or other drainage problems that affect your property. Call 425-452-7840 at any time, day or night.
- Know how to shut off your electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves, if your property floods. For information on gas and electric shutoff procedures, call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773.
- If you need help finding your main water shut-off valve, call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-7840.
- Prevent erosion and slow stormwater runoff by preserving trees, plants and grasses on steep slopes and near streams and lakes.
- Routinely clear leaves, debris, sediment and rocks from storm drains, driveways, culverts, drainage ditches, swales, gutters and downspouts. City employees clear storm drains, but it's hard to get to all of the 20,000 public ones in Bellevue.
- If your crawl space or basement floods or has standing water, you may want to install a sump pump. If you already have a pump, test it regularly.

Avoid scams and fraud

By Meeghan Black,
Police Public Information Officer

Scams are everywhere – online, on your phone and even at your front door. Unfortunately, it's easy to become a victim if you're not paying attention. Whether it's a charity, IRS, phishing, grandparent, lottery, vacation, or any number of other scams, they all have one thing in common: trying to separate you from your money.

Just last month in Bellevue, crooks created a fake email address similar to that of a local pastor and sent an email requesting gift cards for sick friends. In another case, a student was threatened by international extortionists who scammed her out of considerable money.

Whether it's a phone call, email or text, do not give out any personal information and never send money without first verifying

who is making the request. No government agency will ever call and demand money. Consult "10 Ways to Avoid Fraud" on the Report and Prevent Crime page on the city website. If you think you're a fraud victim, please call 911 and report it.

"These scammers can be very persuasive and intimidating," notes Police Chief Steve Mylett. "They prey on the most vulnerable, and are so clever they trick millions of people into sending money or giving out personal information."

Scams are no more prevalent in Bellevue than elsewhere, but the police at press time were planning a town hall for the fall to educate residents on how to spot a scam. Details will be posted when finalized.

Here are some other tips from the Federal Trade Commission.

- **Don't believe your caller ID**—Scammers can fake caller ID information, so the name and number are not always real. If someone asks for money or information, hang up immediately.
- **Hang up on robocalls**—never push a number to end the call or opt out.
- **Do online searches**—Search a company or product name before sending money. Or search a phrase that describes the situation like "IRS call."
- **Avoid phishing scams**—Don't click links in unsolicited emails. Contact the company directly if you have questions.
- **Don't deposit an unknown check or wire money**—You will be on the hook for fake checks.
- **It's never free**—Be suspicious of free trials; you might be signing for a recurring charge.

Tips for an eco-friendly holiday season

By Jessica Guthrie,
Utilities Public Information Officer

Did you know that nationwide, between November and January, we throw away a million extra tons of garbage each week? With another holiday season right around the corner, Bellevue Utilities offers a few eco-friendly ideas for your upcoming gatherings.

Get creative with costumes: Attend a

local costume swap for kids to "shop" for costumes among their neighbors.

Consider donating your costume after the fun is done to a local school, theater group or community center to reuse.

Reduce waste, add fun to holiday parties: Ditch disposable tableware if you can. A few extra dishes can save tons of plastic waste from landfill. If you use disposables, opt for recyclable or compostable brands.

Reuse gift wrap: Save durable items like bags, boxes and bows for second use. Or use beautiful reusable materials, like cloth wrappings inspired by the Japanese Furoshiki tradition. Make it a family game to find the most creative zero-waste wrapping.

Waste less food during your big holiday meals by hosting a potluck or sending guests home with leftovers in reusable containers.

Give green: Instead of things that can be thrown away, give experiences – certificates or tickets to favorite events you can enjoy together such as restaurants, plays, concerts or sports events. Or plan a day trip or adventure to somewhere new. Memberships and classes make great gifts too!

Remember to recycle when the holiday is over. Most wrapping paper can be recycled in your curbside cart. Many local retailers and organizations host holiday light recycle events, and you can compost your holiday tree and other greenery. See your recycle guide, or visit BellevueWA.gov/recycleright for more information.

Find more great tips to help you make holiday memories without making waste at KCGreenHolidays.com.



Participating in a neighborhood costume swap like this one can help you reduce waste, save money and connect with your neighbors.

Beware of car prowlers

By Meeghan Black,
Police Public Information Officer

Twice last month, Bellevue Police encountered armed car prowler suspects. In one case, the suspect fired at an officer as he fled the scene. In the other situation, the suspect threw his weapon to the side while the officer chased him on foot. Both incidents show how dangerous these criminals can be and how important it is not to approach them.

"While we want residents to be good witnesses if they see a crime, our top priority is their safety," Captain Travess Forbush said. "Please, never confront a criminal. They may be armed or desperate, and you don't know how they'll react. Call 911 and,

if possible, get the best description of the suspect you can, but never put yourself in danger."

To prevent car prowls, Bellevue Police recommendations fit in a slogan: Lock it. Hide it. Keep it.

Lock it: Always lock your car, even if you're going to be away for only a short time. An experienced car prowler can break into a parked vehicle in less than a minute.

Hide it: If you must leave items in your car, make sure they are well hidden before you arrive at your destination. Car prowlers might be watching you.

Keep it: Whenever possible, keep your valuables with you. Among the top items stolen from vehicles are laptops, cell phones, workout bags and garage door openers.

It's also important to park in a well-lit area. Cut back trees or bushes for more visibility around your home, and be aware of your surroundings when you leave or return to your car.

If you are a victim of a car prowler, you can report it online from BellevueWA.gov/police. It is important to report prowls so police detectives can track where and when they are happening. If you'd like more information, check out the Crime Prevention page on the city website.

EAST BELLEVUE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

EBCC Retreat, NEP and Upcoming Meeting

By Hassan Dhananjaya, East Bellevue Community Council Member

Picking focus areas at retreat

The East Bellevue Community Council, with the help of the city staff, held a retreat on July 16 at City Hall. In this special meeting we reviewed accomplishments from the past year and identified focus areas for the next 12 months, including:

- **Land use issues (within or in the vicinity of EBCC jurisdiction):** Current examples include affordable housing and future development of Bellevue College.
- **Improved decision-making:** Request enhanced communication and briefings from city staff to EBCC. Also, formalize the EBCC position through voting on critical matters.

Additionally, the assistant city attorney reviewed the quasi-judicial process and its implications. Special thanks to city staff for facilitating the retreat and keeping the conversations focused on the agenda.

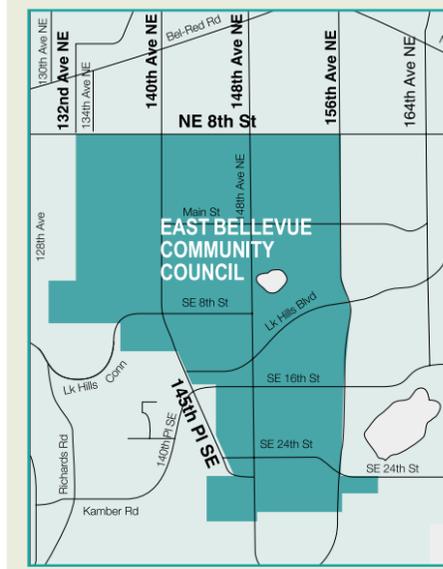
The EBCC provides the City Council input regarding land use issues in the EBCC area. As a follow-up to the retreat and to ensure greater partnership with the various stakeholders in the city government, EBCC Chair Betsi Hummer and I met with several City Council members to discuss more effective ways of working together.

We have received positive feedback on the direction EBCC has taken in the recent past. The councilmembers also provided input on ways to enhance the partnership.

We hope to continue engaging with city departments and boards and commissions when it's appropriate, so we can build strong partnerships and have a seat at the table early on in the decision-making process; act and not react!

Neighborhood Enhancement in Lake Hills

The Lake Hills neighborhood, part of which is within the EBCC's jurisdiction, is one of two neighborhood areas slated this year for small capital projects funded through the Neighborhood Enhancement Program.



For more information about the EBCC, call Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts, 425-452-6806.

The EBCC meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Members: Hassan Dhananjaya, Ross Gooding, Betsi Hummer, Steven Kasner, Stephanie Walter

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the EBCC via email at ebcc@bellevuewa.gov. To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC, BellevueWA.gov/ebcc.

The city received 182 project ideas for Lake Hills, out of which 24 qualified for selection by residents.

Ballots were sent to the residents and collected by Oct. 23. Only one ballot per household address was considered. This program offers the residents a unique opportunity to have a say on the changes they would like in their neighborhood.

While the winning projects were not known as of press time, hopefully Lake Hills residents participated in this empowering exercise in large numbers.

Monthly Meetings

Established in 1969, the East Bellevue Community Council is empowered by state law with approval/disapproval authority over certain land-use actions in a part of East Bellevue. The EBCC may also act in an advisory capacity on other land-use issues that directly or indirectly affect its jurisdiction.

The East Bellevue Community Council typically meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd. The next meeting is on Nov. 13. The EBCC's monthly meetings have dedicated time for public comment when residents, activists and others can express their opinions. City staff is also on hand to answer questions and provide input.

Another first for the city's bicycle system: bike signals

Also, how to comment on Bellevue's bike share

By Andreas Piller, Associate Transportation Planner

When it comes to bicycling in Bellevue, there have been several firsts in recent years: green pavement markings to help make bicyclists safer and more visible, bike lanes that run the length of downtown and those colorful, rentable, shared bicycles available across the city.

Add one more first to the list – bike signals. Recently, city crews installed the new signals at Southeast Newport Way and Factoria Boulevard Southeast, near Newport High School, and at Eastgate Way at 150th Avenue Southeast.

The signals improve safety by separating people who bike from drivers as they travel through these busy intersections.

At these locations, right turn arrows for vehicles are red while bike signals are green, and vehicles may not turn right until the bike signal turns red. The signals are only activated when a bike is present – either by a loop sensor in the pavement or by a rider pushing a button on a post by the curb – so impacts to turning vehicles are limited.

More bike signals are planned as the city strives to achieve its Vision Zero target to eliminate fatal and serious-injury crashes by 2030.

Help improve bike share

Bellevue's bike share program is no longer new, having launched in 2018, and the city is asking for your input on how to improve the system. Here's how you can participate:

Visit our online, interactive map (BellevueBikeShare.mapseed.org) to suggest locations where new bike share parking should be. These areas provide a convenient place to start and end bike share trips and reduce the number of bikes left in places they shouldn't be, such as blocking a sidewalk. You can also vote and comment on suggestions submitted by others.

Finally, we want to know what you think about Bellevue's bike share program in general and invite you to complete an online questionnaire. How have you used it? If you haven't, why not? What would make bike share more useful? Go to SurveyMonkey.com/r/bellevuebikeshare. The survey is live through Nov. 15.



A Lime bike is parked in a designated parking area downtown.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR FALL/WINTER 2019

October

Halloween on the Hill

Oct. 18-26
South Bellevue Community Center
14509 SE Newport Way

Zip Scare

Oct. 18, 19, 25, 26; Tours start at 6 p.m.
Bellevue Zip Tour 14509 SE Newport Way
Cost: \$35/youth 8-17; \$50/ages 18 & up
One suspension bridge and three zip lines in the dark!
Register at BellevueZipTour.com or by calling 206-295-5494

Pumpkin Races

Oct. 26, 10 a.m., noon
Ages 6 and up
Free; Registration required at Register.BellevueWA.gov or by calling 425-452-4240
Buy (\$25) pumpkin racer supplies kit if needed.
Register and receive helpful instructions on how to prepare for race day.

Carnival on the Hill

Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
South Bellevue Community Center
Games, food, rock wall, inflatables and entertainment including Alex Zerbe the Zaniac.
All ages. Free and paid activities.

Dessert Theater on the Hill

Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.
Community Room A and B
Bellevue Youth Theatre presents "Nevermore."
Family-friendly. Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
\$10/person
Register at Register.BellevueWA.gov or by calling 425-452-4240

Haunted Movie on the Hill

Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Gymnasium
"Coco" (PG) on 17-foot inflatable screen.
Free movie and popcorn.

"The Phantom Tollbooth"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre
Oct. 25, 26, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.; Oct. 27, Nov. 2, 3 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. \$15 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or BYT@bellevuewa.gov

November

"The Monkey King"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre
Nov. 8, 9, 16 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 10, 16, 17 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. \$15 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or BYT@bellevuewa.gov

Thanksgiving Lunch

Nov. 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
North Bellevue Community Center
4063 148th Ave. NE
Preregistration required, course #1900751/Space limited
425-452-6885 or Register.BellevueWA.gov
\$5/each at the door

Youth Appreciation & Safety Day

Nov. 23, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Bellevue Aquatic Center
601 143rd Ave. NE
Bring your kids to this special swim session with safety demonstration and raffles.
Free admission and open swim for children 12 & under; \$7 for ages 13 and older.
425-452-4444

"Madagascar, Jr."

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre
Nov. 22, 23, 29, 30 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 24, 30, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. \$15 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or BYT@bellevuewa.gov

Hilltop Holiday Craft Fair

Dec. 4-6, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Northwest Arts Center
9825 NE 24th St.
Thousands of quality crafts from more than 60 of Northwest's finest artists and the crafters.
Free admission. Info: Northwest Arts Center at 425-452-4106 or NWAC@bellevuewa.gov

Christmas Ship Festival

Dec. 15, 7:30-9 p.m. Newcastle Beach Park
4400 Lake Washington Blvd. SE, Ship arrives off-shore at 8:15 p.m.
Dec. 21, 7-8:30 p.m. Meydenbauer Bay Park, 9899 Lake Washington Blvd NE, Ship arrives off-shore at 7:40 p.m.
Enjoy the onboard performances from onshore and keep warm with a beach fire!
Free
425-452-4106 or NWAC@bellevuewa.gov

December

"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Presented by Bellevue Youth Theatre
Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 8, 14, 15 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
All ages. \$15 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or BYT@bellevuewa.gov

Bellevue Magic Season Garden d'Lights

Nov. 30 to Dec. 31, 4:30-9 p.m. every day including holidays.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
Over half a million lights amid the natural beauty of the garden.
\$5 Admission. Free for children 10 and under.
Free parking at Wilburton Hill Park.
\$5 on-site parking; free for limited mobility with disability parking permit.
Tickets are available online starting Oct. 15.
425-452-2750 or gardendlights.org

Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink

Nov. 29-Jan. 20
Open daily, hours vary
Downtown Park
One block south of Bellevue Square at NE 1st Street and 100th Avenue NE
The region's largest open-air ice rink presented by Symetra.
Admission includes skate rental. \$13 Monday-Thursday, \$15 Friday-Sunday, holidays.
Children (11 and under) \$2 off
425-453-3110 or BellevueIceRink.com

Snowflake Lane

Nov. 29-Dec. 24
Nightly at 7 p.m. along Bellevue Way between NE 4th and NE 8th streets
The region's most festive holiday scene on the sidewalks between Bellevue Square and Lincoln Square. Nightly parade at 7 p.m.
425-454-8096 or SnowflakeLane.com



Snowflake Lane kicks off Nov. 29.

CITY CONTACTS

City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Service First (general information): 425-452-6800

City of Bellevue website: BellevueWA.gov

City Council Office: 425-452-7810

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m.,
regular session 8-10 p.m.

2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 425-452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Library Board: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Network On Aging: 1st Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

City Offices

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 425-452-6464

City Manager: 425-452-7228

Community Development: 425-452-7892

Conflict Resolution Center: 425-452-4091

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 425-452-2800

Development Services: 425-452-6800

New permit applications: 425-452-4898

Inspection requests, application and status, pay fees: 425-452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: MyBuildingPermit.com

Application and inspection status: MyBuildingPermit.com

Code Compliance: 425-452-2047

Diversity Program: 425-452-7886

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.: 425-452-6806

Fire Emergency Only: 911

Fire Non-Emergency

Business and Information: 425-452-6892

Inspection: 425-452-4254

Fire prevention: 425-452-6872

Human Resources: 425-452-6838

Information Technology: 425-452-4626

Neighborhood Outreach: 425-452-6836

Northwest Arts Center: 425-452-4106

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 425-452-4200

Recreation Program Registration/Parks Info: 425-452-6885

Youth Sports: 425-452-6885

Ballfield Rental: 425-452-6914

Picnics/Facility Rentals: 425-452-6914

Park Maintenance: 425-452-6855

Human Services: 425-452-6884

Probation: 425-452-6956

Community Centers:

Crossroads Community Center: 425-452-4874

Highland Community Center: 425-452-7686

North Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-7681

South Bellevue Community Center: 425-452-4240

Marina: 425-452-4883

Police Emergency Only: 911

Police Non-Emergency

Crossroads Station: 425-452-2891

Factoria Station: 425-452-2880

Complaints and Information: 425-452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 425-452-2979; Residential 425-452-6915

Traffic Enforcement: 425-452-6940

Transportation

Administration/Information: 425-452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 425-452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 425-452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, &

Surface Water Maintenance & Emergency: 425-452-7840

Other Numbers (Not city government)

Regional Animal Services of King County: 206-296-PETS

Republic Services: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or ciosso@bellevuewa.gov

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\$500,000 to KidsQuest for capital improvements

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

Expanding on efforts to support local cultural institutions, the city has granted KidsQuest Children's Museum \$500,000 for capital improvements that will make the popular attraction more accessible for children with special needs, including sensory processing conditions such as autism.

"We are thrilled to receive support from the City of Bellevue to continue growing our programs and expanding access to KidsQuest within our community," said KidsQuest President and CEO Putter Bert.

In early 2017, KidsQuest moved from the Marketplace @ Factoria to a larger space at Northeast 12th Street and 108th Avenue Northeast near Ashwood Park and the Bellevue Library.

Transforming the building into a colorful, interactive place that encourages learning through play for kids under 10 years old required a considerable initial capital investment from the city, county, other agencies and donors. The city contributed \$2 million in 2015 to ensure the move into the downtown Bellevue location was a successful continuation and expansion of the museum's services, while contributing to the attractiveness and vitality of downtown.

KidsQuest emphasizes science, technology, engineering, art and math. The museum averages more than 200,000 visits each year. The new grant approved on Sept. 16 will be paid in \$250,000 installments this year and next. This investment will help KidsQuest provide more access to low-income families through 2040.

Mayor John Chelminiak added, "We build a stronger community when we offer the kind of valuable and accessible learning experience that KidsQuest specializes in. The funding offered to date has helped create an inviting educational space that is good for Eastside kids and families, and an investment in our future."

Arts and Culture Fund introduced

Since 2001, Bellevue has supported Eastside arts through annual grants to individual artists and arts organizations.

In 2018 the council established a new Arts and Culture Fund to support capital improvements and operations at major cultural institutions in the community. The fund, which receives \$200,000 annually from the city's capital budget, has already helped improve facilities for KidsQuest, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Music Works Northwest.

In keeping with the principles guiding the fund, KidsQuest has increased children's accessibility to arts, science and technology. In 2018 alone, KidsQuest offered free or reduced admissions to over 5,000 visitors.

The city has also begun the process of updating the Cultural Compass, a 2004 document that guides the city's arts program.