



Neighborhood News



February 2025



“Emerging Radiance” honors Japanese American farmers

The City of Bellevue is excited to unveil its newest public artwork, an augmented reality interactive piece honoring the stories of Japanese American farmers who lived in Bellevue between 1920 and World War II. The city, in partnership with the King County Library System, is proud to host this installation at the Bellevue branch through 2027.

An opening reception will be held at Bellevue Library, 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, the Day of Remembrance.

The event will feature keynote speakers, an artist talk and breakout session with the artwork's creators Michelle Kumata and Tani Ikeda, interactive activities in the KCLS maker space, and a viewing of the Emerging Radiance documentary, which dives deeper into the stories of Bellevue's Japanese American farmers.

More information at Emerging Radiance (BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/emerging-radiance)



Attention Bridle Trails Area residents!

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) kicked off in the Bridle Trails Neighborhood Area in January and is now in the project idea submission period.



The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a capital improvements program that provides residents with the opportunity to propose and select small-scale physical projects that improve the quality of life and enhance the character in their neighborhood area. The city has a budget of \$445,000 for you to spend on projects.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@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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Don't miss the opportunity to let the city know what you'd like to see in your Bridle Trails neighborhood by sending in your NEP project ideas. The submission deadline for ideas is February 27!

Submit your ideas in two easy ways:

1. **By mail:** Return the postage paid Project Idea Request Card all Bridle Trails households received in the mail in late-January.
2. **Online:** BellevueWA.gov/nep

There is no limit on the number of project ideas you can submit, but all ideas must be received at City Hall or submitted online by Thursday, Feb. 27.

Northwest Bellevue residents: Plan to attend March 26 NEP Virtual Kickoff meeting

Watch your mailbox for your invitation!

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

Questions? Contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov



Free Tax Service at Mini City Hall through Pim Savvy VITA Program

Tax season is right around the corner, and it can be stressful for some. If this could be your first time filing, or you're a seasoned veteran, everyone could use a little help.

Thanks to our community partner Pim Savvy and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA), residents can now get free tax assistance starting Feb. 12 at Mini City Hall.

All volunteers are IRS-certified, and in-person Spanish and Mandarin services are available. For all other languages, Language Line assistance is also available.

Pim Savvy will also be providing walk-in assistance for the Working Families Tax Credit application. Please contact Pim Savvy or Mini City Hall for more information about the program.

Appointments are required for the free tax service, and limited slots are available, so call now or book it yourself online through Pim Savvy's booking page: pimsavvy.com/vita-bellevue-mini-city-hall/

Call Mini City Hall at 425-452-2800 or email us at minich@bellevuewa.gov

Mini City Hall hours:

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

15600 NE 8th St, Suite E1 Bellevue, inside Crossroads Mall next to the Hallmark store.



King County Metro ORCA is back at Mini City Hall

Mini City Hall is happy to announce that King County Metro is back! After a lengthy service break, King County Metro will be providing in-person ORCA Pass assistance.

Whether you are a regular public transit user or someone who is looking to reduce their carbon footprint, pop-up ORCA Pass days will give you a convenient way to access the various places the Puget Sound has to offer.

This is a walk-in service, and no appointments are required.

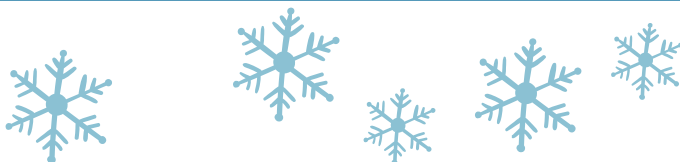
For any other questions, please contact Mini City Hall directly at 425-452-2800 or email us at minich@bellevuewa.gov.

Dates of ORCA service:

- Feb. 12 and 26, 1-3 p.m.
- March 12 and 19, 1-3 p.m.
- April 9 and 16, 1-3 p.m.
- May 7, 1-3 p.m.

They will be happy to assist you with the following ORCA services:

- Issuing new Youth, Adult, Senior and Disabled Cards
- Replacing lost or damaged cards
- Adding fare products and value to existing cards
- Providing guidance on how to use a card effectively



SBA offers help to those impacted by November's Bomb Cyclone

Did the November 2024 Bomb Cyclone windstorm cause damage to your home or business? If so, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest disaster loans to help homeowners, renters and businesses recover.

Applicants can get in-person help with the application at the Bellevue Regional Library 1111-110th Ave NE, Bellevue on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

The deadline to apply for property damage is Feb. 21, 2025. The deadline to apply for economic injury is Sept. 23, 2025.

Disaster assistance through the SBA is available to Washington businesses, homeowners and renters located in Chelan, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Pierce, Snohomish and Yakima counties whose property was damaged or destroyed by the windstorm. Low-interest federal disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles. Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the first disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

To learn more, please visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). You can also email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or call the SBA Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.





Show your heart some love this Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day isn't just about roses, chocolates and candlelit dinners. It's also the perfect occasion to give your own heart some tender loving care. After all, self-care is the best foundation for all other relationships! Let's talk about some easy and effective steps to keep your heart in top shape, no grand gestures required.

Check in with your heart

Just like you'd check in on a friend, take time to check on your heart. Regular blood pressure checks are one of the simplest ways to monitor your cardiovascular health. High blood pressure often doesn't come with obvious symptoms but can lead to serious issues if left unchecked. Home blood pressure monitors are widely available, or you can visit your doctor or local fire station for a quick reading. Aim for a target of less than 120/80 mm Hg, but consult with your healthcare provider for personalized guidance.

Move your heart - gently

You don't have to run marathons or spend hours in the gym to make your heart happy. Just 30 minutes of moderate activity five times a week can work wonders. Think brisk walks, dancing to your favorite playlist or even a casual game of pickleball. Find an activity you enjoy, and your heart will thank you.

Learn CPR: The ultimate love gesture

Knowing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) could save a life - maybe the life of someone you love. Bellevue Fire Department offers monthly courses that teach this vital skill. By taking a little time to learn CPR, you're better prepared to

step in during a cardiac emergency, potentially doubling someone's chance of survival. Now that's a powerful act of love! Learn more about our classes: BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/fire/medical/cpr-training

Love yourself, inside and out

Heart health is about more than just physical care. It's also about reducing stress and fostering emotional well-being. Take a moment this Valentine's Day to reflect on how you can nurture yourself, through mindfulness, connecting with loved ones or simply carving out time to do something you love.

This year, skip the clichés and celebrate Valentine's Day by making your heart the center of attention.

The better you care for yourself, the more love you have to share!



Good dental health protects older adults

As with all aspects of healthcare, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and good dental hygiene is no exception.

As we age, we become more vulnerable to the development of harmful bacteria in our mouths. This can lead to cavities, inflammatory gum disease, and loss of teeth. People who have inflammatory gum disease are more likely to have heart disease, blood vessel blockage and stroke. Studies have also shown that people who lose more than one tooth to gum disease have a greater likelihood of cognitive impairment and dementia. Research is ongoing to understand these relationships.

Some common changes as we age increase the risk of cavities and gum disease, including: our gums pull away from our tooth exposing the

tooth's root, which isn't protected by enamel; dry mouth (also sometimes caused by medication) making it difficult for saliva to cleanse the teeth, as well as making chewing, swallowing and talking more difficult; and teeth becoming darker and yellow with plaque, consisting of bacteria, building up and appearing as stains.

Recommendations to protect yourself:

- See your dentist at least every 6 months, for a check-up, cleaning, plus x-rays, as needed. Between visits, rinse, brush and floss daily. The dentist may advise using certain cleaning tools, such as special brushes, a grip aid (for arthritic hands) and a water pik.
- Rinse with water to dislodge food particles before you brush. After brushing, consider rinsing again with an over-the-counter, alcohol-free mouthwash with fluoride.
- Brush at least twice daily, no less than 2 minutes each time. Use toothpaste with the American Dental Association (ADA) Seal of Acceptance. If using "natural" toothpaste, ensure it has the ADA seal. Brush each tooth individually. For the outside surface, tilt brush to 45°, making several strokes from the gum line to the tooth. For the inside surface, hold brush vertically, making several up-and-down strokes. Use a brush with soft or extra-soft bristles. Electric toothbrushes may make brushing easier and more effective.
- Floss at least once daily.

Medicare does not offer dental care coverage. Private insurance and some Medicare Advantage plans may cover some preventive care, but generally, even with coverage, the cost of treatment is expensive. The good news is that many dentists discount charges when insurance is not used.

Learn more and ask questions at upcoming events on the Curb Pricing Study

Last month, we shared information on the Curb Pricing Study that had recently launched. In February, we have two opportunities to learn more about the study. The project team is hosting two open houses to provide background on the study, describe the project goals, highlight potential curb pricing strategies and answer questions.

In-person Open House

Thursday, Feb. 6, 5-8 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue WA 98004

Virtual Open House

Monday, Feb. 10, 6-7:30 p.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

Details available at

BellevueWA.gov/curbpricingstudy

The Curb Pricing Study will explore the feasibility of charging for on-street parking in the Urban Core of Bellevue, including Downtown, BelRed and Wilburton neighborhoods. The study will use demand data, local and national best practices, detailed cost analysis and stakeholder feedback to help inform the next steps.



What transportation improvements should we prioritize?

The city is working on an update to the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP), Bellevue's 12-year, intermediate-range, transportation planning document. The TFP collects projects identified in the city's long-range plans, as well as other transportation facility needs and prioritizes them. It is a financially constrained plan, meaning the estimated cost of projects included in the TFP have to be balanced with the city's budget and six-year Capital Improvement Program. This update will cover 2026-2037.

Over the next few months, the project team will be gathering input from community members on what transportation projects you would like to prioritize in the TFP. We have two in-person opportunities coming up this month to ask questions and share your thoughts!

Crossroads Mall Community Table

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue

Bellevue City Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5–6:30 p.m.

450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue

There will also be an online open house, with opportunity to enter comments, posted on [EngagingBellevue.com](https://engagingbellevue.com) starting in late February.

To learn more about the TFP and find information on future opportunities to share your input, visit BellevueWA.gov/tfp.



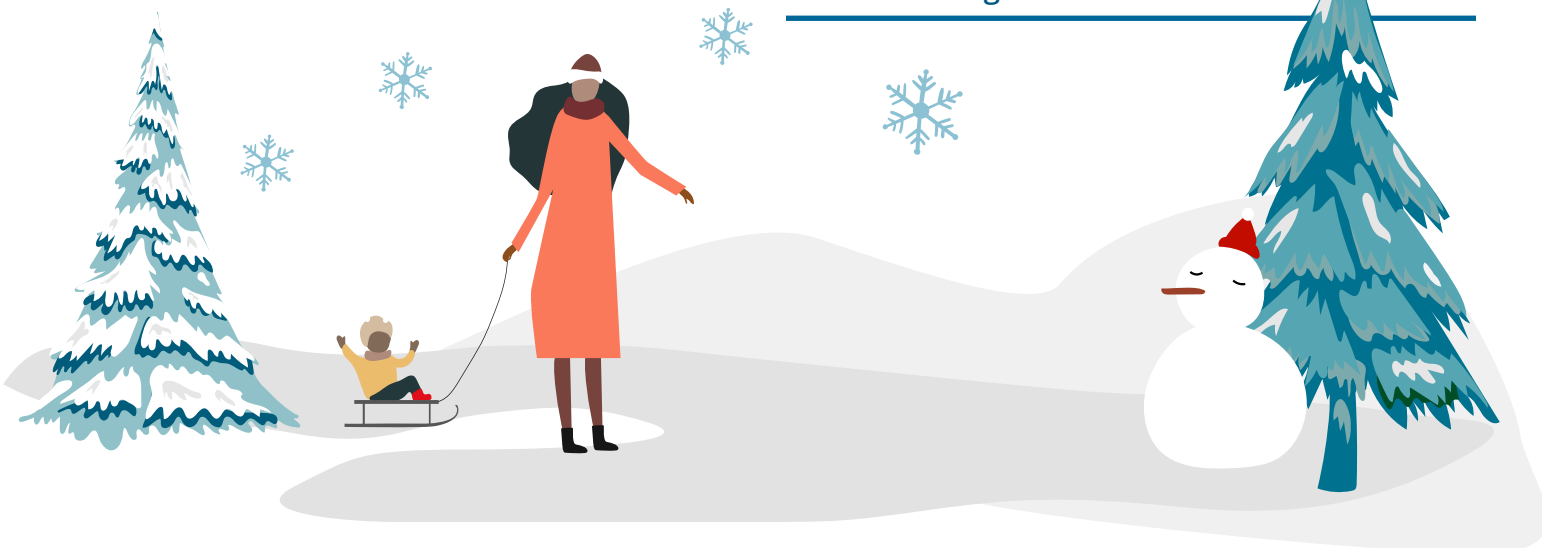
New state law protects vulnerable road users

Washington state implemented a new law on Jan. 1 aimed at making roads safer for people walking and rolling. With this law, the penalties for negligent driving that leads to the death or serious injury of a vulnerable road users have increased, including bigger fines and up to a year in jail. It aims to tackle the concerning trend of increasing fatalities of vulnerable road users—people walking, bicycling, using a mobility aid, motorcycle, or anyone who isn't inside a vehicle.

Since 2014, the number of vulnerable people who have died on roads in Washington has more than doubled. In Bellevue, our Vision Zero initiative aims to eliminate traffic deaths and serious-injury collisions on our streets by 2030. We can help protect other people on the road by pledging to be a safe, vigilant and responsible driver.

You can read more about Vision Zero, and take our pledge to help end traffic deaths and serious injury collisions in Bellevue, by visiting BellevueWA.gov/visionzeropledge.

To learn more about the new state law, visit WTSC.wa.gov/vru.



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

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

(6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month
BellevueWA.gov/city-government/bdan

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/cdplanning-commission

Transportation Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113)

Second Thursday of each month with fourth Thursday as needed. BellevueWA.gov/planning/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/pcs-services-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

Youth Link Board (6 p.m., 1E-120) Second

and fourth Wednesday of each month

BellevueWA.gov/youth-link-board

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.

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit:
BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

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 BT YouTube channel youtube.com/user/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			



Happy Lunar New Year

YEAR OF THE SNAKE

• 2025 •

