



City of Bellevue

BELLEVUE IT'S YOUR CITY

November 2020

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Parks facilities are open

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Connect to beat depression

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New street in BelRed

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Bellevue welcomes the fall, with the animals at Kelsey Creek Farm available for viewing seven days a week, including holidays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Preliminary budget offers 'bridge'

By Michelle DeGrand, Deputy Communications Officer

As the City Council considers a 2021-2022 operating budget, it's working with a preliminary budget designed to sustain essential services while closing a \$16 million shortfall anticipated for each year of the biennium as a result of pandemic-related shutdowns.

"This budget creates a 'bridge' to keep Bellevue on solid financial footing," noted City Manager Brad Miyake in his transmittal letter, when he submitted the preliminary operating budget and 2021-27 Capital Investment Program (CIP) plan to the council on Oct. 19.

"Critical discussions and potentially difficult decisions will be necessary early next year and beyond as we learn more about and deal with the aftershocks of the pandemic and structural deficit," Miyake added.

The 2021-2022 biennial budget totals \$1.7 billion. It's comprised of \$1.1 billion in operating budget (which includes the \$474 million General Fund), \$74 million in special purpose expenditures (such as grants, donations and debt), and \$523 million for the 2021-2022 portion of the General and Utilities CIP plan.

The General Fund provides funding for fire, police, transportation, parks and most administrative municipal infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic and economic slowdown heavily contributed to

the \$16 million annual budget deficit expectation in the General Fund.

The proposed budget addresses the shortfall through:

- cost containment that reduces expenditures in both internal and external services while largely preserving staff;
- revenue options such as a 1% property tax adjustment for both years; and
- one-time "bridge" structures such as reallocation of sales tax, phasing the opening of Fire Station 10 between 2022 and 2023, and use of reserves.

The proposal also continues Bellevue's focus on equity and inclusion, building community connections and helping the most vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness.

The preliminary CIP plan calls for \$659 million over the next seven years to maintain streets and other infrastructure, while supporting continued improvements in neighborhoods, addressing growth areas and maintaining affordable housing at \$2 million annually.

The council could adopt a budget in December, after several additional public council sessions focused on different parts of the budget and a third and final public hearing slated for Nov. 23. Details are available at BellevueWA.gov/Budget.

Review of police use of force continues

By Brad Harwood, Chief Communications Officer

A review of police use of force policies, initiated by the City Council continues this fall, following community listening sessions and focused outreach with residents of color in October.

The council launched the effort in June with a pledge to review and, if necessary, reform policies, in light of national concerns about racial justice. Bellevue is committed to ensuring its policies and practices serve all communities

equally and equitably, with the goal of ensuring people of color are safe and respected.

The city last month hired a consultant, the Office of Independent Review Group (OIR), to review police use of force policies in Bellevue and recommend any changes if necessary. OIR, in consultation with city outreach staff, is also leading engagement for this initiative, with a blend of opportunities for the community and stakeholders to contribute experiences and expectations. Given continued limitations

on public gatherings, virtual platforms are being used.

The consultants led three community listening sessions in mid-October. Dozens of residents participated in the interactive video meetings.

Information about the use of force policy review, including videos of all of the listening sessions, is available at BellevueWA.gov/council-pledge.

OIR was tentatively scheduled to report findings and offer recommendations to the council in early 2021.

City of Bellevue
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COUNCIL CORNER



By Councilmember John Stokes

I would like to share some thoughts on where Bellevue is and where it is going in the midst of this unprecedented world, national, state and city pandemic. While our whole world is turned upside down, I would like to focus on a brief overview of what your city staff and City Council are doing to help us get through this time and be prepared to move forward. Then, I'll talk about my perspective on Bellevue's near and longer-term future.

In this and other issues of *It's Your City*, in frequent public information efforts, council and commission meetings, and in various other ways, residents can get detailed information about all we are doing to provide business assistance and support recovery.

Our established partnerships with our large and small companies, the Bellevue Downtown Association and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce have greatly helped us work through daily problems. Thanks to this collaboration, we'll be ready to support a resurgence

Bellevue's bright future: Ongoing recovery and better service

of economic and cultural vitality when the time comes. Planned construction and revitalization of Bellevue's businesses are continuing despite this recession.

We are working hard to provide community events and programs during this unusual time. To address the challenging and urgent needs and concerns of our residents and neighborhoods, we have held virtual Cultural Conversations, COVID-19-safe neighborhood gatherings, Welcoming Week, virtual Neighborhood Walks, Bellevue Essentials and many other events with resident participation.

Now for my perspective on the future. Our new normal and the cultural and community issues and concerns surrounding systemic racism have given us an opportunity to be more innovative and purposeful in supporting our long-held city diversity and equity efforts. This will come in the form of better and more open sharing and communication and decision-making in a city with a population that is highly multicultural, racially diverse and vibrant.

We are purposefully working through public safety, service concerns and needs. Luckily we're not starting from zero. Our city has already engaged in meaningful work through our

Diversity Advantage initiative (adopted in 2014). Advances on that front include cultural competency training for police and other staff, closed captioning on Bellevue TV, a language access line and resources for immigrants and refugees. With ongoing police outreach and this summer's council pledge to engage the community and review our use of force policy, we are following through on our goal as a government to make Bellevue a better, more vibrant city, safer for all residents, than it is today. This is exciting.

We have other challenges, such as homelessness and affordable and sustainable housing, conservation of our beautiful city and surroundings,

and significant growth in our downtown and other areas of the city. We also are focusing on a deficit in arts and culture and potential athletic and recreational opportunities, including a regional aquatic facility. That we are addressing these issues, in an equitable and robust manner, is a testament to the strength and resilience of our community.

Bellevue is a city that faces our challenges and opportunities, while embracing our strong future. I am proud to have a small part in all these efforts, and am anxious to get going in the most robust and effective way possible to make our dreams become a reality. Bellevue IS the future!



A sunny view of downtown Bellevue. Photo by Tim Rice

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

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

Affordable housing

The City Council on Oct. 12 unanimously voted to adopt a resolution imposing a one-tenth of 1% sales tax increase in Bellevue to support targeted affordable housing projects and related services.

The State Legislature passed a bill this year allowing a sales and use tax increase of up to 0.1%, imposed at either the city or county level, for affordable housing and mental and behavioral health services. King County also adopted the tax, but since Bellevue passed the local resolution prior to the county's vote, Bellevue has more control over how funds raised in Bellevue are used within the city.

On Oct. 5, the council received an update on the progress of the city's three-year-old Affordable Housing Strategy. Since adoption of the strategy, 1,118 affordable housing units and 100 shelter beds have been funded or built, with 632 more affordable units in the pipeline. The plan has a goal of creating 2,500 units over 10 years.

The council discussed ways to facilitate even more affordable housing and adjust

the overall program goal to get closer to meeting the demand in the area; more than 16,000 Bellevue households are spending over 30% of their income on housing.

The council voted to research modifications to the city's multifamily tax exemption program, which gives apartment developers a break on their taxes if they allocate at least 20% of the units in a project for affordable housing.

CARES Act funding allocated

On Aug. 24, the council allocated \$300,000 in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to meet immediate needs in the community as part of the city's COVID-19 response.

Councilmembers met during the August recess for the vote so the funding could reach the community as soon as possible. The council unanimously approved allocation of \$127,000 to Hopelink to purchase food for the Bellevue Food Bank and \$160,000 to the Bellevue School District to distribute food and supplies for other basic needs through their Family Connection Centers. Bellevue also awarded \$10,000 to

the Salvation Army to purchase food for its free community meal program and \$3,000 to the Renewal Food Bank for food as well as hygiene supplies.

"Supplying food and hygiene products has been paramount during the pandemic, with many agencies seeing demand more than double since March," said Mayor Lynne Robinson. "We are fortunate in Bellevue to have community partners who are meeting the immediate basic needs of our community every day."

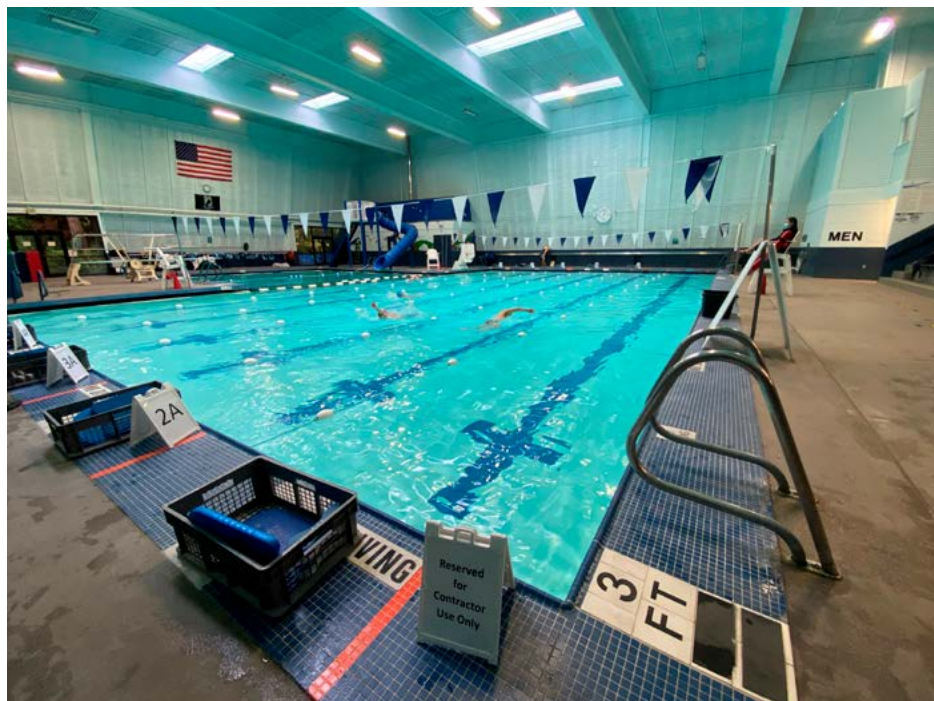
Economic Development Plan update

Councilmembers on Nov. 2 unanimously adopted an Economic Development Plan update.

The city's economic development plan is a five-year strategic plan, to be implemented through the achievement of annual action plans. To help sustain and enhance Bellevue's exemplary quality of life, which attracts businesses, residents and visitors alike, the draft plan contains strategic themes of connection, collaboration, communications, regionalism and internationalism.

Popular parks facilities reopen with social distancing

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer



The Bellevue Aquatic Center is open, though swim times must be reserved to ensure distancing.

Bellevue City Hall and community centers remain closed, but the city has been able to reopen some of its most popular destinations this fall, including the Bellevue Aquatic Center and all playgrounds, in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

Important city services are still available online or by phone.

Community resources for people in need, presented in multiple languages, are available at BellevueWA.gov/covid-19-resources. Businesses and nonprofits can find help at BellevueWA.gov/covid-19-business-resources.

Open Parks & Community Services facilities include:

- Playgrounds and sports courts citywide
- Bellevue Aquatic Center. Reserve time at BellevueWA.gov/aquatic.
- Robinswood Tennis Center. Check hours and book a time at BellevueWA.gov/robinswood-tennis. Open 7:30 a.m.-10:15 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m.-10:15 p.m. on Saturdays; and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Sundays. Booking a time necessary at BellevueWA.gov/robinswood-tennis.
- Bellevue Golf Course at BellevuePGC.com. Open daily 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Crossroads Golf Course is closed for the winter.
- Kelsey Creek Farm animals seven days a week, including holidays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Parks and trails have remained open all along.

All city services available online are found at BellevueWA.gov, with key phone numbers listed on the Contact Us page. Many city workers are telecommuting, so can be reached by phone or email.

Key online and phone services include:

- MyBellevue customer assistance portal (or mobile app): Report issues
- MyUtilityBill.bellevuewa.gov: Pay water and sewer charges
- MyBuildingPermit.com (or 425-452-4898): Apply for building permits
- Non-emergency police assistance (or 425-577-5656)

You can call City Hall Service First at 425-452-6800 for general inquiries.

Developer selected for new BelRed transit-oriented development

By Kris Goddard, Public-Private Partnership Manager

\$500 million project to feature housing, retail and office space

Sound Transit has selected a developer to establish transit-oriented development – featuring housing, retail and office space – next to the light rail maintenance facility the agency is building in BelRed.

Sound Transit announced last month that it was entering into negotiations with BRIDGE Housing to lead the seven-acre development project. BRIDGE Housing will partner with Touchstone and Essex Property Trust to develop the site.

The selection of a development team for this project is a major milestone in a multiyear partnership between the City of Bellevue and Sound Transit to integrate the maintenance facility into the city's plans for the rapidly developing BelRed area northeast of downtown.

Last December Sound Transit issued a joint request for proposals with the city and other project partners. BRIDGE Housing will partner with Touchstone and Essex Property Trust to develop the site, which includes:

- Approximately 500 units of housing, of which more than 280 are affordable units serving a range of incomes between 30% and 80% of area median income
- Over 400,000 square feet of office space
- Active ground floor uses including retail and resident amenities
- A public park

The new development will be in the Spring District, a new neighborhood in itself, with office space leased to Facebook and a brand new arterial, Northeast Spring Boulevard. The city has worked to facilitate the transformation of BelRed into a dynamic, walkable neighborhood with a mix of affordable and market-rate housing, office, retail and public space.

The maintenance facility and new TOD are within a block of the Spring District-120th Station, now under construction along with the rest of the East Link line.

Bellevue and Sound Transit each contributed approximately an acre of land at no cost, valued at around \$12 million, while project partners King County and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) offered a combined \$14 million to support affordable housing.



Conceptual site plan for the BelRed transit-oriented development, courtesy GGLO.

‘Leading’ the way to Vision Zero

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

Testing a way to make Bellevue intersections safer for pedestrians, the city has introduced “leading pedestrian intervals” at 20 intersections. These traffic signals give walkers a “head start” getting across the street at crosswalks, before vehicles are allowed to turn.

The pilot launched in October, and is designed to reduce fatal and serious-injury crashes involving pedestrians, 61% of which take place at intersections. It is one of several projects in an action plan drafted this year for Vision Zero, the city’s effort to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030.

“Completing and following through on the action plan will have far-reaching benefits for our community,” said Transportation Director Andrew Singelakis. “Safer roads will encourage more people to walk and bicycle, improving their well-being and improving our environment.”

Transportation planners put together the action plan under a “safe systems” approach endorsed by the City Council in June, which revolves around four components – speeds, people, vehicles and streets – with four supporting elements: data, leadership, partnerships and culture.

Elements from the action plan are part of the projects already in the works, including the leading pedestrian interval signals and the following:

- **Surrey Downs 20 mph speed limit:** Lowering speeds is one of the most effective ways to protect vulnerable road users. In support of the Vision Zero effort, the council in October adopted an ordinance lowering the speed limit on all streets in the Surrey Downs neighborhood to 20 mph, down from 25 mph, the speed limit for all non-school zone, residential streets elsewhere in Bellevue. The action responds to residents concerned about vehicle traffic in a neighborhood with few sidewalks, but many walkers.
- **Maintaining protected bike lanes:** Implementing a network of protected bike lanes increases safety for bicyclists, but such bike lanes are too narrow for full-sized street sweepers to reach. Recently, the city secured a grant for the future purchase of a mini-street sweeper. This would allow Bellevue to build and better maintain bike lanes separated from vehicles by curbs, posts or planter boxes. Plans call for three corridors where injury collisions occur more frequently to be upgraded over the next few years.

While Bellevue is a comparatively safe city for people who drive, walk and bicycle, over the past 10 years, 20 to 30 people have been seriously injured or killed annually on city streets. In 2019 alone, five



Pedestrians get a “head start” at a traffic signal modified with a leading pedestrian interval.

people lost their lives in collisions – two bicyclists, two pedestrians and one driver – the most ever in a single year.

“This trend line is unacceptable, and we must do better,” Singelakis said. “We look forward to working with the community and with the city council during this decade of action to make Vision Zero a reality.”

In 2015, the city council passed a resolution endorsing Vision Zero. In 2016, the council passed an ordinance adopting Vision Zero amendments into the city’s Comprehensive Plan; and in February 2019 the city hosted a Vision Zero Summit that featured traffic safety experts from across the nation.

Once completed, the action plan will be available at BellevueWA.gov/vision-zero.

New Crossroads Connect ride service links people to bus routes

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer



A rider boards the Crossroads Connect accessible minivan.

Bellevue and King County Metro have launched a new, app-based ride service called Crossroads Connect. It serves people in the city’s diverse Crossroads and Lake Hills neighborhoods, linking homes, jobs, schools and shopping to Metro bus routes that serve the broader Eastside.

Crossroads Connect provides shared ride connections to frequent transit service. It’s meant to improve mobility for people who live and work in the service area, which has comparatively lower rates of car ownership and lower household incomes. To promote physical distancing, service is currently limited to one rider or party per trip.

The on-demand service launched on Oct. 1 and is expected to run through June 2021. For detailed information about Crossroads

Connect, including a service area map, check the project web page at BellevueWA.gov/crossroads-connect.

- **Booking a ride:** To request ride, use the Crossroads Connect On-demand app (available in your preferred app store) or call 1-855-233-6043. Passengers will be picked up in a Crossroads Connect-branded, wheelchair-accessible passenger van within about 15 minutes. If wait times are long, passengers may be offered a cab ride instead at no additional charge.
- **Where and when:** Crossroads Connect rides are available within the service area Monday through Friday, noon-9 p.m. Trips must start or end at any one of the six RapidRide bus station pairs within the Crossroads area.
- **Connecting to buses:** Pick-up/drop-off areas at Metro’s RapidRide B Line stations offer connections to Redmond and downtown Bellevue. Other nearby Metro routes include the 221, 226 and 245, serving Eastgate, downtown and Factoria in Bellevue, plus Redmond and Kirkland.
- **Cost and how to pay:** Standard King County Metro rates apply; the cost is the same as a bus ride and includes a free transfer to connecting bus lines. Fares may be paid using an ORCA card, cash (exact fare required), Transit GO ticket or a valid transfer.
- **Health and safety:** Masks are required. At this time, for safety and physical distancing, service is limited to one rider per vehicle; additional riders are allowed if they are members of the same party as the rider booking the trip. King County Metro vehicles are disinfected daily; partitions separate riders from drivers.

Crossroads Connect is a partnership between the City of Bellevue and King County Metro. It’s funded by a \$394,000 grant from the state Department of Transportation and Bellevue’s 2016, voter-approved Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy.

The service is operated by King County’s contractor, Hopelink; the on-demand app and software is provided by Spare Labs Inc.

Depression rises during pandemic

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Connections are key to battling isolation

If you're feeling unsettled since COVID-19 began, you're not alone. Since the pandemic started, symptoms of anxiety, worry and depression have steadily increased among adults in the region.

"Forty percent of the adults in the Bellevue, Seattle and the Tacoma metro areas are now reporting feeling anxious most days of the week," said Dr. Meg Cary, psychiatrist with King County's Department of Community and Human Services.

Finding ways to stay connected to those close and far away from us during the pandemic can lift our spirits, Dr. Cary says. Taking care of our physical needs for rest, exercise and healthy food contributes to our mental and emotional wellbeing too, Cary added.

30% of adults experiencing depression

About 30% of adults (50% of Black adults) report feeling depressed most days of the week, Cary noted. People experiencing financial insecurity from recent or expected job loss and who live alone experience more depression and anxiety. Visible evidence of continued racism in our society contributes to the despair some are feeling.

Although county health officials have not seen an increased rate of suicide in King County among adults or youth compared to previous years, there's concern that could change as the pandemic drags on.

Connections help

Dr. Cary said connections are one of the most important protective factors against stress and suicide. She recommended the following:

- Check in with yourself and check in with others.
- Connect with people.
- Connect to what's important to you.

Set up phone calls or video visits with friends and family. Schedule walks with friends. Having to be creative about how to connect fosters our emotional health and resilience, Cary notes.

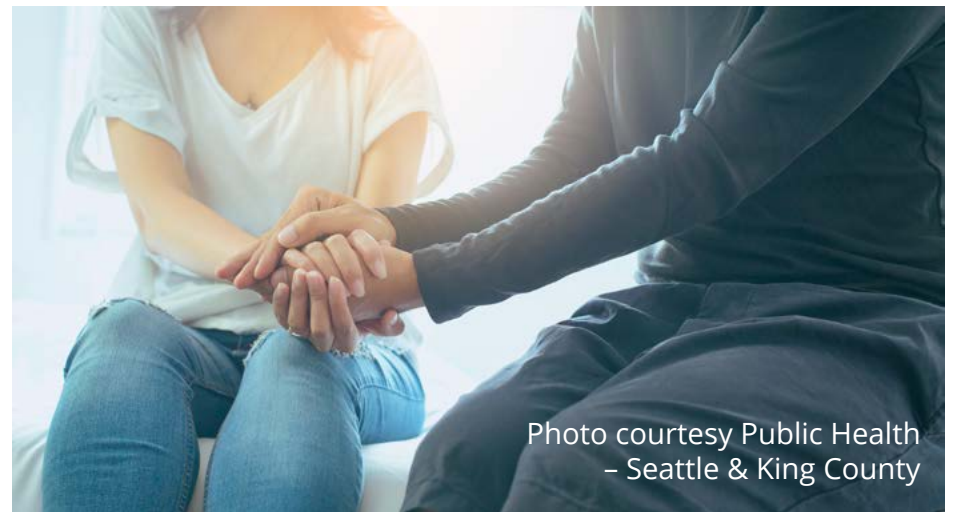


Photo courtesy Public Health – Seattle & King County

Struggles for youth

Since the pandemic started, youth have lost protective factors such as peers, coaches and teachers. Prior to COVID-19, children might get support without seeking it.

"Kids may have a mental health need and not know how to access help. It's important for parents to check in with their children in an intentional, direct way and maintain an open level of communication," said David Downing, executive director of Youth Eastside Services.

Where to turn

The City of Bellevue funds the following agencies for mental health: Crisis Connections – Teen Link and Crisis Line, Youth Eastside Services, IKRON, HERO House, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Eastside and Asian Counseling Referral Service. Call in and text lines offer additional help:

- National Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-8225
- Crisis Text Line: To speak with a trained listener, text HELLO to 741741

KCLS executive director to keynote Bellevue Essentials graduation

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach



Lisa Rosenblum, executive director of the King County Library System.

about resilience and adaptability from Lisa Rosenblum, executive director of the King County Library System.

Social distancing restrictions limited Bellevue Essentials to an online format, with Zoom allowing a variety of presentations, discussions and other interactive activities in breakout rooms. Instead of dampening interest, the virtual version of Bellevue Essentials drew a record 73 applicants.

The 40 people in the class of '20 are a very diverse group, ranging in age from 20s to 70s, with 39% born outside the United States, which matches Bellevue's demographic numbers exactly. In addition, no one in the cohort was born on the Eastside.

At the graduation, Rosenblum will share how KCLS has continued to serve King County residents despite the closure of its physical buildings due to the pandemic. KCLS has expanded its digital collections and resources, developed enriching online programming and added curbside service for contactless materials pickup.

KCLS has remained focused on addressing the needs of diverse communities by:

- offering a wide range of programming and resources in multiple languages;
- supporting social-justice initiatives;
- partnering with nonprofit organizations and other public agencies to expand access to resources for underrepresented communities; and
- continuing to advocate on a local and national level for digital equity.

"Libraries can be vital community hubs when they keep up with the pace of what's happening around them," Rosenblum says. "We're always going to be about literacy and books, but we're also uniquely positioned to help people and respond to community needs.

The 7 p.m. graduation is open to the public, and provides an opportunity to learn more about Bellevue Essentials, a nine-week program.

To RSVP for the graduation and to receive the Zoom link, or for information on future participation in the Bellevue Essentials program, please contact Julie Ellenhorn (425-452-5372 or neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov).

The largest Bellevue Essentials class in the civic engagement program's eight years will graduate as they participated, via Zoom, on Wednesday, Dec. 2, with a keynote address

Data-driven performance nets award for Bellevue

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

At a time when governments need to be more efficient than ever, the City of Bellevue has earned national recognition for using data to ensure its services meet resident needs.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) in October awarded the city a Certificate of Distinction, making Bellevue one of the top 43 municipalities in the country for performance management and the only one in Washington on the list. This is the 18th consecutive year ICMA has recognized Bellevue for its performance management.

"It's gratifying to be honored for this vital work, which we are usually doing in the background," said Toni Call, director of Bellevue's Finance & Asset Management Department. "We literally make sure the city's services measure up."

Bellevue was recognized for a number of best practices in performance management, including public interaction with data, continuous improvement, and using data to drive planning, management and decision-making.

Through Bellevue's performance program, staff track and utilize data citywide, using it maintain a future-focused, sustainable, high-performing city that meets target areas identified in the City Council Vision.

NE Spring Boulevard connects BelRed

By Transportation Staff

After four years of construction, a half mile of new roadway opened recently in the booming BelRed area. Northeast Spring Boulevard – designed to serve people who walk, bicycle and drive – is an essential element in the long-planned transformation of BelRed from warehouse district to urban center.

“The vision for the BelRed area is a bold one, and completing this segment of Spring Boulevard is an important step in fulfilling that vision,” said Transportation Director Andrew Singelakis.

Spring Boulevard stretches from just east of 116th Avenue Northeast to 124th Avenue Northeast. It will serve as the main east-west connector between downtown and BelRed, two of the city’s fastest-growing commercial and residential areas. Eventually, Spring Boulevard will be extended to 132nd Avenue Northeast.

City staff and local elected officials, including Mayor Lynne Robinson, Councilmember Janice Zahn and state representatives Vandana Slatter and Amy Walen, marked the opening of the street to traffic on Oct. 6 with a physically distanced walk-through and drive-through.

- **Features:** The new roadway includes four travel lanes with turn pockets; five new traffic signals; a multipurpose path for pedestrians and bicyclists, or sidewalks and an off-street bike path; two bridges over light rail tracks; some on-street parking; landscaping and distinctive design elements.
- **By the numbers:** Five separate project components; 130- and 160-foot long



Transportation Department staff were on hand Oct. 6 to make sure the opening of Northeast Spring Boulevard to traffic was letter perfect.

bridges over the East Link light rail line; 158 trees planted; 4,000 linear feet of bike paths; 11,000 feet of water, sewer and stormwater pipes; and 22,000 feet of private-sector communication lines.

- **Cost and funding:** The total cost of the project was \$57 million, including \$27.6 million from the city’s Capital Investment Program, \$9.52 million from the Puget Sound Regional Council, \$9.2 million from a federal loan, \$5.95 million from the state Transportation Improvement Board, \$3.5 million from private developers and franchise utility contributions and \$1.09 million from Sound Transit.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the next segment of Spring Boulevard, from

130th to 132nd Avenue Northeast, in early 2021. The final, connecting segment, from 124th to 130th Avenue Northeast, has not yet been funded. Also in the future are plans to connect the multipurpose path on Spring Boulevard to Eastrail, a regional north-south pedestrian and bicycle trail.

Spring Boulevard is being built in conjunction with Sound Transit’s East Link. An East Link station is in a trench near 120th Avenue Northeast in the Spring District. A future segment of the roadway will have light rail running down the middle of the street, with a light rail station at 130th Avenue Northeast.

More information is available at BellevueWA.gov/spring-boulevard.

City facilitates landlord-tenant agreements on back rent

By Marci McReynolds, Manager, Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center

Are you behind in your rent due to pandemic-related shutdowns? Are you a landlord with tenants who are behind? The Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center (CRC) can help you negotiate a repayment plan.

The CRC has been resolving the community’s conflicts for almost 25 years, with an average resolution rate of 85%. This year, with so many people falling behind on rent, the CRC has focused its free, confidential services on facilitating landlord-tenant disputes.

Now, with the number of renters in King County in arrears at 12% and rising, the CRC is expanding those efforts even more.

In July, when Gov. Inslee issued a moratorium on evictions for nonpayment of rent, he designated the state’s dispute resolution centers to handle landlord-tenant negotiations. The Attorney General’s Office established guidelines and a worksheet for landlords and tenants to complete to help them with these negotiations.

In October, CRC staff and volunteers received a training from the AG’s Office on how to help landlords and tenants process their repayment plan worksheets. Veteran volunteer mediators and conciliators have returned to the program, joining the present volunteer cadre to help serve an anticipated increase in need.

Rent negotiations will be processed over the phone by experienced conciliators. They will help landlords and tenants fill in the worksheet, going back and forth to help them negotiate a fair and realistic repayment plan.

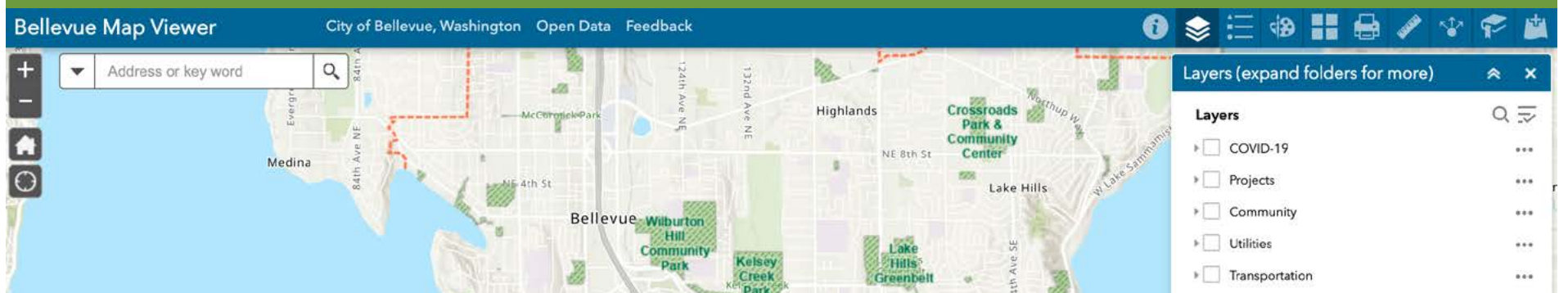
The CRC will also refer people to resources such as rental and/or legal assistance. The service is free to anyone who lives and/or works in Bellevue.

Even if the other party does not wish to negotiate, and/or falling behind in rent is only anticipated, the AG’s Office recommends contacting the CRC to complete the worksheet and show good faith in trying to remedy the situation. CRC conciliators can also help callers find alternative ways forward.

The CRC also works with the state Department of Commerce to handle alternatives to foreclosure mediation for those with mortgages. Homeowners must first contact their mortgage lender, who will file for mediation with Commerce, which, in turn, will contract with the Bellevue center.

If you need help with rent arrearages or have some other conflict that needs addressing, please contact the CRC (425-452-4091 or bcrc@bellevuewa.gov).

DID YOU KNOW?



People can now more easily find out about parks, capital projects and other key locations in Bellevue on a new, multilayered, online map available at BellevueWA.gov/map-viewer.

Three ways to help keep streets and sidewalks safe

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

During the darker, stormier days of fall and winter, residents – especially property owners – have an important role to play in keeping the Bellevue's streets and sidewalks safe for people who walk, bicycle and drive. Here are three ways you can help:

- **Use MyBellevue app to report burned out streetlights:** Functioning streetlights make the community safer for everyone. If you see one that's not working, please report it using the MyBellevue app. Just download the app in your preferred app store, log in to MyBellevue, click on "New Request," then "Streetlights and Traffic Signals." Select "Streetlight Issues" and fill in the required fields. You can also report dark streetlights by calling 425-452-6950.
- **Trim back vegetation from streets and sidewalks:** Street sweeping is an important tool in keeping roadways safe for people. Property owners are asked to help the street sweeping effort by trimming back tree branches and shrubs that hang over their street (trim even with the curb to 14.5 feet in height) or sidewalk (trim even with the edge of the sidewalk to 7 feet in height), and moving vehicles off the street in advance of sweeping in your neighborhood.
- **Clear your sidewalk of snow and ice:** When it snows, city staff work to clear streets based on a snow response priorities map. For sidewalks, however, the city needs your help and asks that adjacent property owners clear sidewalks of snow and ice. Residents who walk, use wheelchairs or need to access transit will appreciate this assistance. Have a snow shovel available and apply deicer, sand or non-clumping kitty litter to clear snow or ice.



A Bellevue Transportation worker replaces a streetlight.

We need your help to keep Bellevue neighborhoods safe! More information for each of these topics is available at BellevueWA.gov/transportation and search for "streetlights," "streets and sidewalks" or "snow and ice."

Prepare for the rainy season, prevent flooding

By Jerry Shuster, Senior Stormwater Engineer

The arrival of our rainy season brings a welcome relief from the summer fires and smoke. But it also brings the risk of heavy rains overwhelming the city's stormwater system. You can take a few important steps to be prepared to protect your home and property from potential flooding,



A resident clears a storm drain of leaves.

Watch out for clogged drains on your street

Most flooding in Bellevue is caused by storm drains in streets and parking areas that get clogged with leaves and debris, especially during heavy rains. Utilities crews regularly inspect, clean and maintain the city's public storm system to minimize the risk of flooding. But with over 20,000 public storm drains in the city, we need help from residents to keep these free of debris.

Is your property in a floodplain? You may need to take extra precautions

Bellevue's stormwater system includes storm drains, storage ponds, pipes and ditches that discharge to wetlands, streams and lakes. Floodplains, the areas adjacent to streams and lakes, perform a community benefit by storing excess rainfall until the storm subsides. Properties next to wetlands, streams and lakes are most susceptible to flooding.

To find out if your property is in floodplain, call 425-452-6932 or visit BellevueWA.gov/flood-insurance-maps.

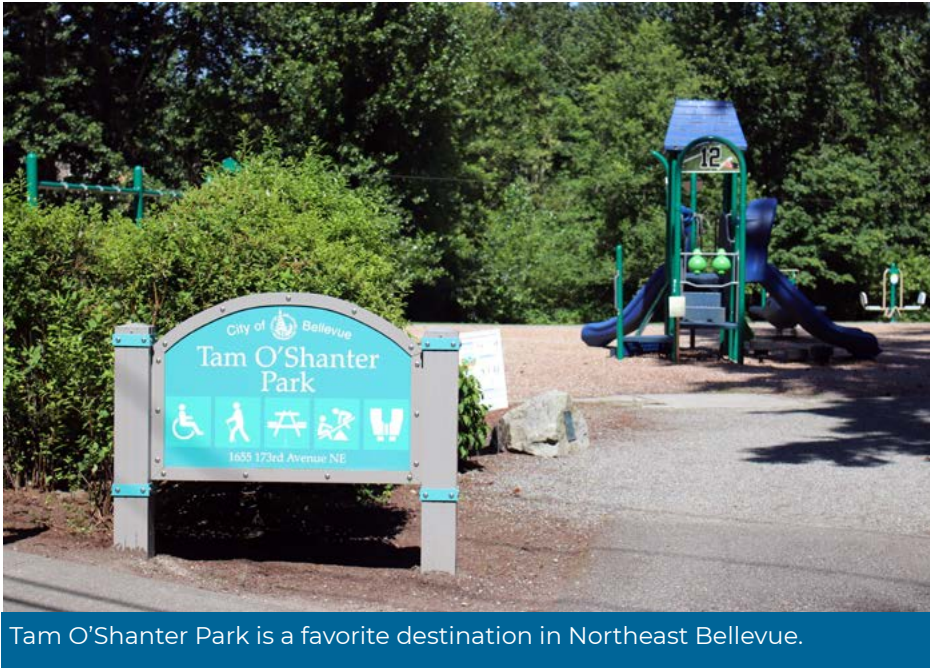
The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers policies to protect your property. Flood insurance is required for structures in the floodplain that have federally-backed mortgages, but anyone in Bellevue can receive flood insurance. Ask an insurance agent for more information about NFIP policies. The city participates in a FEMA flood reduction program, which entitles property owners to a 25 percent discount on NFIP policies.

Additional tips to help you protect your property from flooding:

- Utilities staff can help you with flooding or other drainage problems, including finding your water shut-off valve. Call 425-452-7840 any time, day or night.
- Know how to shut off your electric and gas service at main switches and valves if your property floods. Call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773.
- For your own safety, never wade or drive through flooded areas.
- If you have a crawlspace or basement that regularly floods or has standing water, you may want to install a sump pump. If you have one already, test it regularly.
- Build responsibly; get the proper permits from the city before clearing or constructing in or next to critical areas such as designated floodplains and wetland area.
- Slow stormwater and prevent erosion and mudslides by preserving trees and other vegetation on steep slopes, especially near streams and lakes.
- Routinely clear leaves, debris and sediment from storm drains, driveways, culverts, drainage ditches, swales and gutters.
- For information about potential financial assistance programs to address property flooding, contact Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932 or utilities@bellevuewa.gov.

Vision statements coming into focus for NE and NW Bellevue

By Brooke Brod, Community Development Outreach Lead



Tam O'Shanter Park is a favorite destination in Northeast Bellevue.

The Great Neighborhoods program has kicked into high gear for Northeast Bellevue and Northwest Bellevue, with vision statements for both neighborhood areas targeted for unveiling in early December.

Great Neighborhoods is a collaboration with residents to produce neighborhood area plans, included in the Comprehensive Plan, that ensure Bellevue's neighborhoods can adapt to changing needs while keeping their distinct character.

A vision statement is the North Star for each neighborhood area plan, a positive and inspiring description of what the community hopes to look like in the future.

The vision statements for Northeast and Northwest Bellevue are in the works, with input gathered from virtual vision workshops and online surveys over the summer and fall.

Neighborhood profiles next step

The next step in Great Neighborhoods is the creation of neighborhood profiles. This section of each neighborhood area plan combines narrative and data to describe present conditions and future trends.

To help create the neighborhood profiles for Northwest and Northeast Bellevue, residents of the areas took "data walks" on Nov. 17 (Northwest) and Nov. 19 (Northeast). A data walk is an interactive way for community members to learn about their neighborhood and begin to identify strengths and challenges they want to see addressed in the plan.

Residents considered what the numbers say about housing, transportation, parks, safety and other people in their neighborhood area.

The city is still in the early stages of this planning process and we are looking forward to continuing to work with residents to create great neighborhood area plans. The aim is for plans to be complete in late 2021. You can learn more at BellevueWA.gov/great-neighborhoods.

With isolation, domestic violence incidents get more severe

By Meeghan Black, Police Public Information Officer

Reported domestic violence cases in Bellevue have been more severe since the COVID-19 pandemic began. While the number of reported cases since March is consistent with the historical five-year average, "we've seen a 28% increase in felony domestic violence assaults," Police Major Travess Forbush noted in October.

Unlike misdemeanor assaults, felony domestic violence cases usually involve injury or use of a weapon.

"These situations are more dangerous for the victims; the injuries are more severe," Forbush said in a Bellevue Beat police blog post about Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Less than a week after that post, on Oct. 8, a Bellevue man called 911, saying, "I shot her." When police arrived, they found his wife dead from a gunshot.

"Survivors have seen an unprecedented increase in safety concerns due to the COVID-19 epidemic and related economic downturn," said Rachel Krinsky, executive director of LifeWire.

"We are seeing a sharp increase in the frequency and severity of abuse endured by survivors and their children, including more serious injuries and more threats with firearms and strangulation," Krinsky said. "We are receiving a significant increase in the number of requests for protection orders and an exponential increase in requests for rental and food assistance."

Domestic violence advocates urge those feeling endangered in their homes to reach out for help. It's also imperative that friends and loved ones recognize the signs of domestic violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has everyone isolating at home, which is dangerous for domestic violence victims.

If you or someone you know needs help, Bellevue-based LifeWire is a phone call away. Advocates staff the helpline (800-827-8840) 24/7, even during the pandemic. Resources are available at LifeWire.org for those involved in a domestic violence situation, and for family and friends who want to help.

Help to pay utility bills

By Heather DeWitt, Utilities Rate Relief Program Administrator

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has placed financial stress on many households. Bellevue Utilities continues to offer several bill support options to help our customers.

Emergency Assistance Program: This program is designed to help residents facing a one-time financial shock, such as a job or income loss. It can cover up to four months of basic water, sewer and drainage service charges. To be eligible, customers must meet the program's low-income guidelines for the past 30 days and not receive other Utilities financial assistance.

To learn more about the Emergency Assistance Program and receive application information, please visit BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief. You may also contact us directly at 425-452-5285 or utilityrelief@bellevuewa.gov.

Payment Plans: Utilities staff continue to work with customers to set up payment plans that work with their needs. During the COVID crisis, we are not assessing late fees for past-due payments. If you need to request a payment plan option, please call 425-452-6973 or email utilities@bellevuewa.gov.

For more information on other rate relief programs for low-income seniors and persons with permanent disabilities, visit BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief, or call 425-452-5285.



Census wraps, with 77% self-response in Bellevue



Councilmember Conrad Lee speaks in a video promoting the 2020 census.

By Gwen Rousseau, Senior Planner

Census data collection ended last month, with 76.6% of Bellevue's housing units responding on their own, 6.2% more than in 2010 and number one in the state for cities with over 100,000 residents.

From July 23 to Oct. 15, census takers went to the homes of those who had not yet responded to ensure the remaining 23.4% of housing units were accounted for.

"I am thrilled by our residents' participation to make sure everyone is counted!" said City Councilmember Conrad Lee, who served on the East King County Complete Count Committee, which worked to promote the census.

An accurate count means everyone is represented by elected officials in federal and state government. In Bellevue, an accurate count in the 2010 census also resulted in \$112 million in federal dollars for the Bellevue School District, \$76 million for city transportation projects and \$6 million for local human services.

Eastside cities made a special effort in 2020 to encourage participation of historically undercounted populations. Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond supported community leaders trusted within diverse groups to spread the word about the census, its importance and the confidentiality of responses. Eastside cities had some of the highest self-response rates in the state.

Playing a key role were residents who served as census recruiters and enumerators, as well as staff, members and volunteers with the:

- Bellevue Diversity Advantage Network;
- Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (ERIC);
- the Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC);
- the India Association of Western Washington (IAWW);
- the Muslim Community and Neighborhood Association (MCNA);
- the Pathway Foundation; and
- the Bellevue Network on Aging.

Learn more about census next steps and what an accurate census means to your community at [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

'Navigators' help residents find resources

By Claude Iosso, It's Your City Editor

Mini City Hall is offering a new COVID-19 Resource Navigator program, with "navigators" on the telephone helping residents locate and understand available resources during the pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact Bellevue, human service needs have increased in the community. While there is some government assistance, it can be overwhelming to sort through what's available and how to apply for it.

The resource navigators are experienced navigating different systems and knowledgeable about organizations that provide help during these difficult times. They provide personalized assistance and

customized recommendations to help residents make sense of all the programs and community resources.

Referral topics covered by the COVID-19 Resource Navigator program include:

- Food assistance programs
- Small business loans
- Unemployment claims
- Housing or rent assistance programs
- Health care resources and COVID testing sites
- Immigration issues and legal referrals

What residents can expect when calling the COVID-19 Resource Navigator Program:

- A live person who will listen
- Someone who is patient and empathizes with concerns

- Someone who will research questions and customize solutions to best fit each situation
- Someone who can connect residents to the best resources to help solve problems

The COVID-19 Resource Navigator Program is a free public service. Phone consultations are available by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A typical appointment is 30 minutes; follow-up appointments may be longer depending on needs.

Appointments are available in English, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Somali and many other foreign languages. Call 425-452-2800 or email minich@bellevuewa.gov.

Local, safe and sustainable holidays

By Erin Hislop, Utilities Conservation and Outreach Program Administrator

As many of us begin to plan for fall and winter holiday celebrations, we know things may look a little different this year. Here are some quick tips and tricks for enjoying the 2020 holiday season in a safe and sustainable way.

Shopping Local

Buy local and support Bellevue businesses! Consider purchasing gift certificates to local shops and restaurants.

Holiday Cooking and Reducing Food Waste

Consider these gift and recipe ideas while eating at home this season.

- Use and gift durable goods! Keep reusable sporks and straws handy for takeout, as well as washable containers for leftovers. Your friends will appreciate them as gifts too.
- Rock your leftovers! Get creative and preplan new recipes using leftovers from your traditional dishes to avoid food waste. Turkey cacciatore, anyone?
- Shop seasonal produce! Enjoy locally sourced winter squash and more from local supermarkets.
- Check out the City of Bellevue's food waste reduction guide for more ideas! [BellevueWA.gov/recycle-food-waste](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/recycle-food-waste)

Responsible Reorganizing

Are you going through holiday decorations and still decluttering at home? Reduce waste and give your items a second life.



- Consider what can be donated or recycled before placing anything in the garbage. Have labeled boxes ready for sorting.
- To avoid getting overwhelmed, make multiple trips for donating instead of letting everything build up until the end.
- Do you have a pile of holiday lights that no longer work, or are you replacing old holiday lights with energy-efficient lights? Don't throw them away; recycle them! Go to [KingCounty.gov](https://www.kingcounty.gov) and search for "holiday lights." There's a page with retailers and organizations that accept holiday strands for recycling.

Council advances alternatives for I-405 access study

By Marie Jensen, Transportation Public Involvement Manager

The city and state Department of Transportation are now looking at five alternatives for a new potential connection to Interstate 405 in the south downtown area. They are:

- A southbound I-405 on-ramp at the Lake Hills Connector
- A Southeast Sixth Street extension with a southbound on-ramp
- A Southeast Sixth Street extension with express toll lane access to and from the south
- A Northeast Second Street extension to Wilburton without ramp connections to I-405
- No new interchange

In late September, the City Council voted unanimously for an evaluation of these options, considering travel time, access, safety, bike, transit and pedestrian integration, and property and environmental impacts. Two other options were dropped.

Bellevue and WSDOT will perform the evaluation, with input from property and business owners and neighborhood leaders in the study area as well as the community.

WSDOT's I-405 master plan calls for another interchange in Bellevue south of Northeast Fourth Street. The city and WSDOT want to minimize traffic



Aerial of view of the I-405 study area. Photo courtesy of King County Parks/Natural Resources.

congestion in the area, where the new East Main light rail station will open in 2023. An online open house in August netted close to 250 responses, with over 1,100 comments about seven preliminary alternatives. Each option received favorable and unfavorable comments, including concern about increased traffic, interest in an east-west connection over I-405 and a desire to combine elements from different of

alternatives and with other city initiatives, such as the Grand Connection.

A second virtual open house is planned for early 2021 for further community input on analysis findings of the remaining potential options.

Selecting a preferred option, which could be one or a combination of two or more of the remaining options, will position the city for possible

state funding for design and construction. A preferred alternative will also enable the city to set clear transportation network expectations for property owners and developers.

A recommended preferred alternative is expected to be presented to the council in February. Background information is available at BellevueWA.gov/south-downtown-I-405-access.

\$100,000 in relief grants for nonprofit partners

By Anthony Gill, Economic Development Analyst

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bellevue's nonprofit organizations have supported a wide range of businesses and arts and cultural organizations with valuable resources and tools – from webinars helping arts organizations retool their operations to “Buy Local” marketing programs.

To assist these critical partners, the City Council last month authorized the use of \$100,000 in federal CARES Act funding to provide relief grants of up to \$25,000 (depending on need and available funds) to organizations assisting Bellevue businesses and arts and cultural organizations.

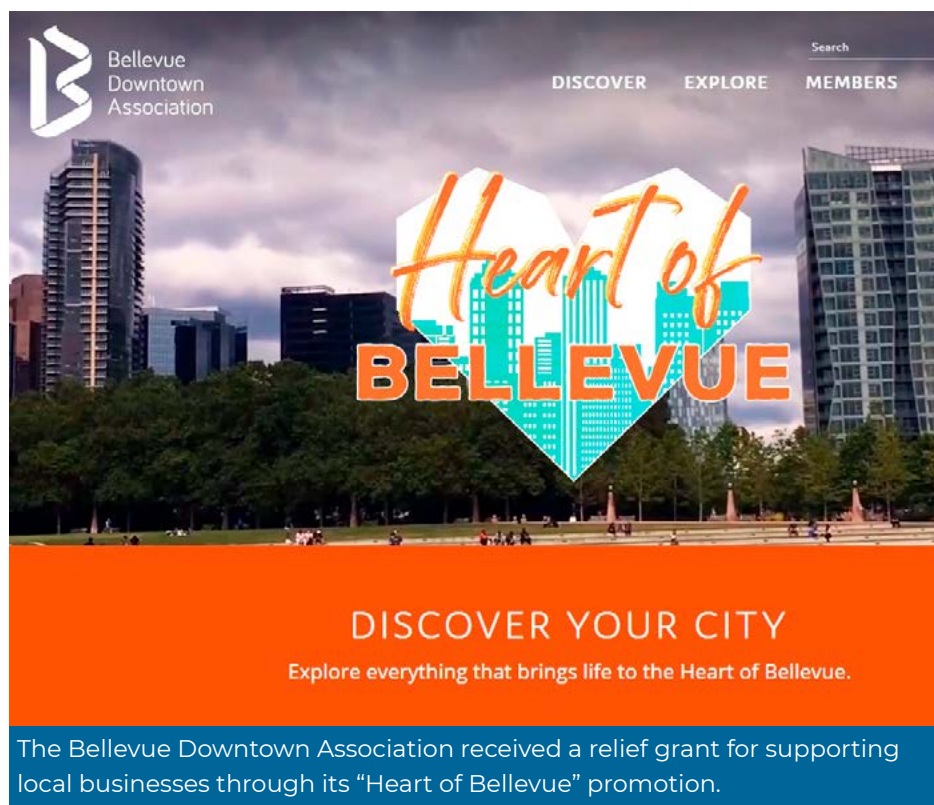
“Our partner organizations provide valuable services to businesses, artists and nonprofits,” said Jesse Canedo, chief economic development officer for the city. “This program will help these ‘multiplier’ organizations stay afloat, so they can continue to support the community in the long term.”

The city opened the grant fund to applications Oct. 15 to Oct. 26.

This grant program effort builds on previous work by the city to support small businesses through the pandemic, including:

- More than 100 relief grants to small businesses and nonprofits, totaling \$570,000, targeted at businesses in industries most heavily impacted by the pandemic;
- (re)STARTUP425, a collaborative effort providing free, one-on-one technical assistance to small businesses and nonprofits on the Eastside;
- Deferred business and operations tax filings and payments, and waived water service late fees and disconnections;
- What's Open Eastside, an interactive map highlighting businesses and nonprofits that are operating, as well as special hours, pickup and delivery options, and online services; and
- Expansion of patio dining for restaurants on Main Street and elsewhere by allowing temporary expansion of sidewalk cafés into select on-street parking spaces.

Contact the Cultural and Economic Development team at bizresources@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4114 with questions.



The Bellevue Downtown Association received a relief grant for supporting local businesses through its “Heart of Bellevue” promotion.

Sustainable Bellevue: new 5 year plan

By Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Manager

This fall marked a significant milestone for the city's work on environmental stewardship with the release of the draft Sustainable Bellevue: Environmental Stewardship Plan in September.

The plan lays out 77 actions over the next five years to advance the city's stewardship efforts related to climate change, energy, natural systems, mobility and land use, and waste.

Bellevue heard from over 1,000 people throughout the planning process. A vast majority of residents voiced a desire for the city to take action to build on our environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts, which began as a coordinated effort in 2006.

Bellevue is recommitting to leading by example, with a commitment to use 100% renewable energy by 2030, and to have an all electric light-duty vehicle fleet by 2040.

Other plan highlights include goals around planting 75,000 trees over the next 30 years, developing a home energy retrofit program and implementing a suite of energy, transportation and waste strategies to put the city on a path toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050.

The draft plan was slated for review by the City Council on Nov. 16. It can be viewed at BellevueWA.gov/environment.



To familiarize residents with the trees in their neighborhoods and the role tree canopy plays, a group of residents created downloadable walking tours featuring streets such as this one. To find a tour in your area, visit BellevueWA.gov/trees and click "find a tree tour."

EBCC appoints new member, looks at proposed comp plan changes

By Betsi Hummer, East Bellevue Community Council Chair

The East Bellevue Community Council at its Oct. 6 meeting appointed a new member and held a courtesy public hearing concerning three proposed comprehensive plan amendments.

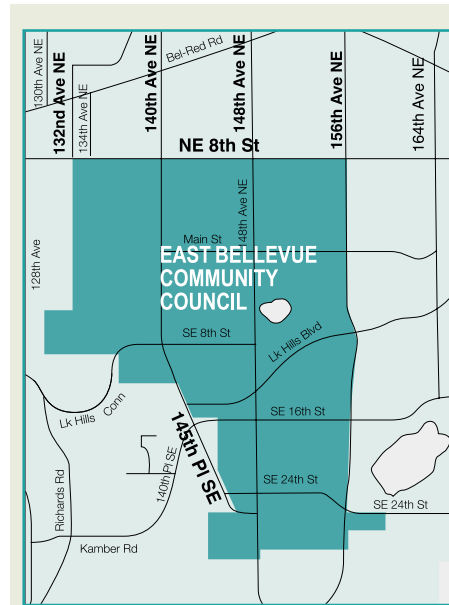


Ron Epstein

Epstein appointed

The EBCC appointed Ron Epstein, a retired software developer, to Position 4. Epstein, who has lived in Bellevue for more than 20 years, will complete the unexpired term of Stephanie Walter, who stepped down in June.

Epstein said he is looking forward to reaching out to constituents regarding upcoming proposed comprehensive plan amendments and conditional use permits, to ensure he makes the most informed decision possible.



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, Ron Epstein, Ross Gooding, Betsi Hummer, Steven Kasner

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, visit BellevueWA.gov/ebcc.

Comprehensive plan amendments

One plan amendment, proposed by NE 8th Street Partners, would change the designation for their properties on the 13600 block of Northeast Eighth Street from Office to Multifamily-High.

The other site-specific amendment, proposed by the Glendale Country Club, would change the designation of a portion of the club's property that fronts Northeast Eighth Street from Single Family-Low to Multifamily-Medium. The club seeks to sell the property to a developer for residential construction.

The applicants and several people spoke in favor of the proposed amendments. EBCC members asked about potential environmental and traffic impacts, and expressed concerns about displaced businesses and access among residential complexes next to each other.

Comprehensive plan amendment for affordable housing

The city is considering an amendment that would support efforts to increase affordable housing in Bellevue. The proposal is to allow a citywide incentive for increased density on faith-based, public surplus and nonprofit housing properties for affordable housing.

City Council to take action on amendments in December

The Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a public hearing on all three comprehensive plan amendments on Oct. 28, with comments from the EBCC hearing delivered to the commission. The City Council is expected to make a decision on the amendments in December, with the EBCC then likely considering approval or disapproval in January.

Future EBCC Issues

The EBCC met on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The next EBCC meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 1, 6:30. The EBCC looks forward to hearing from its constituents, so we can make the best informed decisions on their behalf.

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For more information, email btv@bellevuewa.gov

CITY CONTACTS

MANY CITY FACILITIES remain closed at this time.

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 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 and Street Maintenance and 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



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4448 (voice) or email ciosso@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.



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Download it today.



BellevueWA.gov/MyBellevue

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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Teams of residents participate in virtual scavenger hunt

By Brooke Brod, Community Development Lead

Connecting around a common activity is still possible, despite social distancing restrictions. Residents got a chance to compete safely and learn more about the place they call home last month in the Great Bellevue Scavenger Hunt.

True to its name, the virtual community game available through the GooseChase app invited residents, either in teams or as individuals, to share favorite locations and activities in Bellevue, such as:

- local parks
- pastimes with pets
- resource conservation and recycling tips
- safer shopping and cleaning tricks
- fitness activities

More than 150 people signed in to play, getting the chance to participate in any of dozens of missions. Teams battled for a top position throughout the game showing off bedazzled water bottles, do-it-yourself cleaning kits, a scarecrow and even CPR demonstrations on stuffed animals.

The top-scoring players and teams were entered into a raffle to win prizes.



The Herrman Horde team went kaleidoscopic for the Chalk Your Walk mission.