



The Kirklander

The official newsletter of the City of Kirkland

2026 Issue 2

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Expanding Enrichment and Recreation Opportunities

By STEPHANIE TOPACIO LONG
City Manager's Office

The City of Kirkland seeks to provide opportunities that enhance the health and well-being of the community. Two major developments in 2026 will further that goal. After announcing plans for the future Kraken Iceplex and Kirkland Community Center in April, the City Council approved the purchase of a former church to eventually use as an additional community center in May.

Church Purchase

The former church at 13220 NE 132nd Street sits on a 3.28-acre property and includes a 15,635-square-foot building. The City plans to lease the facility for community or nonprofit use for the next two years, and the long-term goal of the purchase is to expand enrichment and recreation opportunities, including by opening a community center in the existing structure. Currently, there is more interest in many art, music, preschool, and sports programs than what our existing facilities and staff can accommodate. The additional space would provide opportunities to support high-demand activities and reduce waiting lists.

The site is located in a high-priority area identified in the City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan as a location for a future community center. Adding a community center in this area would expand access to recreation

programs and help provide more equitable access across Kirkland. The availability of a property of this size provided a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and the City looks forward to generations of Kirklanders enjoying it.

Kraken Partnership

Since the Seattle Kraken and the City of Kirkland announced plans to build the future Kraken Iceplex and Kirkland Community Center in April, the project has moved into the construction phase. As of late September, crews were laying the foundation for the facility. It is expected to open in late 2027 and the Kirkland Community Center is intended to open in early 2028.

Once complete, the facility will include two NHL-regulation ice rinks, a City-operated community center, full-service public restaurant, team store, and space for community programs, events, and activities. It will serve as a new, year-round community destination that combines recreation, economic development, and public amenities. The facility will also generate local jobs and ongoing economic activity — with no new taxes to fund construction.

Kirkland's existing community centers offer quality recreation programs for community members of all ages and provide a space for socialization, friendship, learning, and fun. By adding additional facilities, we can create more ways for Kirklanders to connect, improve quality of life, and strengthen our community.



The former church in Kingsgate that will become a community center. Learn more by visiting KirklandWA.gov/ChurchPurchase.



Rendering of the future Kraken Iceplex and Kirkland Community Center. Learn more by visiting KirklandWA.gov/Iceplex.

Want more Kirkland news?

Subscribe to *This Week in Kirkland*.

Get Council updates, info about upcoming events, traffic alerts, and more delivered to your inbox every week.



Добро пожаловать

WELCOME

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bienvenido

خوش آمدی

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환영합니다

bienvenue

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chào mừng

English

- News from the City of Kirkland
- Information from Kirkland City Council
- Upcoming community events
- To translate, find the green drop down in the top right corner of the website.

Portuguese (Brazil)

- Notícias da cidade de Kirkland
- Informações sobre a Prefeitura de Kirkland (Kirkland City Council)
- Próximos eventos da comunidade
- Para traduzir, localize o menu suspenso verde no canto superior direito da página.

Vietnamese

- Tin tức từ Thành Phố Kirkland
- Thông tin từ Hội đồng thành phố Kirkland
- Sự kiện cộng đồng sắp diễn ra
- Để dịch, tìm menu xổ xuống màu xanh lá ở góc trên bên phải của trang web.

Russian

- Новости от городских властей г. Киркланда
- Информация от городского совета Киркланда (Kirkland City Council)
- Предстоящие общественные мероприятия
- Для перевода найдите зеленое раскрывающееся меню в правом верхнем углу страницы.

Spanish

- Novedades de la ciudad de Kirkland
- Información del Ayuntamiento de Kirkland (Kirkland City Council)
- Próximos eventos comunitarios
- Para traducir, ubique el menú en el botón verde en la esquina superior derecha de la página web.

Korean

- 커클랜드 시의 뉴스
- Kirkland 시의회 정보
- 다가올 지역 사회 행사들
- 내용을 번역하려면 오른쪽 상단에 있는 초록색 드롭다운 메뉴를 클릭하세요.

Simplified Chinese

- 来自柯克兰市的消息
- Kirkland 市政委员会(Kirkland City Council)消息
- 即将开始的社区活动
- 如需翻译,请找到网页右上角的绿色下拉菜单

Read this online at:
KirklandWA.gov/Kirklander



City of Kirkland
123 5th Ave
Kirkland, WA 98033



The Kirkland City Council

Left to right: Jon Pascal; Shilpa Prem; Kelli Curtis, Mayor; Amy Falcone; Jay Arnold; John Tymczyszyn; Neal Black, Deputy Mayor



Meet Your Council

Kirkland’s City Council is a seven-member body elected at large by the community. Councilmembers serve four-year terms and are responsible for setting policy, adopting ordinances, and guiding the strategic vision of the City. Together, they work closely with the City Manager to ensure that City services run smoothly and align with community values.

Council Meetings

The City Council generally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The City Council receives briefings, deliberates, and votes on a wide range of policies, programs, and regulations. Council meetings are open to the public and offer a chance for community members to speak directly to the Council and stay informed on City business. Meetings are streamed live and archived online for easy access.

Contact Council

Want to share your thoughts with the Kirkland City Council? There are lots of ways to connect. You can speak during the “Items from the Audience” portion of a City Council meeting either in person or via Zoom. You can also email the Council at citycouncil@kirklandwa.gov or submit a request through the Our Kirkland portal under “Contact City Council.” Councilmembers value meeting with community members.

Form of Government

Kirkland operates under the “council-manager” form of government. This means all legislative, policymaking, and budgetary powers are vested in the City Council. The Council employs a professionally-trained public administrator, the City Manager, to carry out Council’s policies and budget direction. In the “council-manager” form of government, Council selects the Mayor. The Mayor’s responsibilities are primarily to preside at Council meetings and act as head of the city for ceremonial purposes. The Mayor votes as a councilmember and does not have any veto power.



Learn more about the City Council, how to contact them, how to attend Council meetings, and view Council meeting documents at KirklandWA.gov/Council.

Listening, Learning, and Connecting with Kirkland

By LUANA HANCOCK
City Manager’s Office

Good government starts with listening. Kirkland’s seven City Councilmembers don’t just connect with the community from the Council Chamber. Throughout the year, they are out across Kirkland — at City-hosted events, cultural and community celebrations, visiting local businesses, meeting with community organizations, participating in regional partnerships, and talking with residents where they live, work, gather, and play. These everyday conversations give community members an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and connect with their elected representatives in places and settings that feel natural. They also give Councilmembers a chance to hear directly from the people, businesses, and organizations that make up Kirkland.

Informal Conversations
In January 2026, the City launched Conversations with Council, a pilot designed to make those informal connections even easier. The concept is simple: Bring Your Own Topic. There is no presentation or formal agenda. The community can stop by, grab a seat, and talk with Councilmembers about what’s on their minds. It might be a question about a City service, an idea for the community, a concern about their neighborhood, or simply a chance to learn more about how local government works. Since launching, Conversations with Council has taken place in a variety of community settings, including Lake Washington Institute of Technology, the Kirkland Library, the Juanita Friday Market, and local parks. Both the locations and the conversations are intentionally varied, making it easier for residents to connect with Council in their everyday lives. So far, we’ve engaged more than 100 community members

through this program. Conversations with Council complements, rather than replaces, more formal opportunities such as public comment and public hearings. It’s simply another way to connect. **More Ways to Engage**
There is no single way to participate in Kirkland’s local government. You can attend Council meetings, provide public comment, contact Councilmembers directly, use the Our Kirkland portal, participate in community engagement opportunities, or connect with Councilmembers at events throughout the year. Engaging can even be as simple as saying hello and striking up a conversation the next time you see a Councilmember out in the community. Learn more by visiting KirklandWA.gov/CouncilConversations.



Help Shape Kirkland’s Next 2-Year Budget

By DAVID WOLBRECHT
City Manager’s Office

Every two years, the City of Kirkland adopts a budget that determines how the City pays for services our community uses every day — from police officers and firefighters to parks and street maintenance crews. All of these things are important, but the City has limited resources. That’s why creating the budget means making choices.

The cost of providing City services goes up over time, but City revenue doesn’t always grow at the same rate. Property taxes are a good example of this. If your property value goes up, it doesn’t mean the City gets the same percentage increase in property tax revenue. Rather, under Washington state law, the City can increase its property tax collection by up to 1% each year, plus taxes from new construction and some other adjustments. That 1% is often less than inflation. What this means is that the cost of providing the same City services often grows faster than this source of City revenue.

That’s why the budget is all about choices. Every two years, the City Council makes hard

choices about what services to fund, and which ones not to. As Kirkland’s elected leaders, the City Council wants to make sure that the next two-year budget reflects the community’s values and priorities.

That’s where you come in.

Because a budget like the City of Kirkland’s is very complicated, City staff have created a “Budget Game” that helps you better understand the hard decisions the City Council has to make as they talk about the City’s budget this fall.

The Budget Game has seven categories of the City’s General Fund, which comes mainly from property and sales taxes. These categories are things that the Kirkland community interacts with every day. It’s important to note that the Kirkland Budget Game doesn’t include *everything* the City does. For example, water, sewer, stormwater, and garbage and recycling services are mainly paid for through utility rates, not taxes.

In late October, the City Council will begin discussing the City’s budget. They will adopt a budget in December. Want to help guide the City Council’s budget discussions? You can

participate in public hearings, attend a Council Meeting, or write in to the City Council. You can also play the Budget Game to tell the Council what matters most to you.

How to Play the Budget Game

To play the Budget Game, you need to first pretend that you are Councilmember. Your job is to set policy that best meets the needs of our community. Kirkland has a long history of disciplined fiscal practices, so, for the sake of this exercise, let’s say that the Council has an additional \$1 million dollars to invest in services for the next two years. If you were voting on how to invest \$1M, where would you put it? Which of the seven categories below needs more funding?

Each circle below is \$500,000, and you get \$1M. You can invest all of it in one category, or split it between two categories. You can also save it for a rainy day. Once you fill in your two dots, snap a photo and send it to budgetfeedback@kirklandwa.gov. City staff will compile all the feedback received on the budget and will share it with the Council.

There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose of this Budget Game is to provide your thoughts with the City Council.

Learn more about the budget process, including key dates, at KirklandWA.gov/Budget.



Budget Game – Categories

Police & Court

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Patrol Squads | Neighborhood Resource Unit |
| Traffic Unit | Corrections |
| K-9 Unit | Municipal Court |
| Animal Services | Family Violence Unit |
| Investigations Unit | |

Fire & Emergency Medical Services

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Fire and Emergency Rescue | Hazardous Materials |
| Fire Prevention | Disaster Preparedness |
| Emergency Medical Services | Incident Management |
| | Education and Outreach |

Parks & Recreation

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| City Parks & Open Spaces | Community Centers |
| Recreation Programs | Juanita Friday Market |
| Facility Rentals | Kirkland Marina |
| | Peter Kirk Pool |

Transportation & Street Maintenance

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Street Maintenance | Sidewalk/Walkways |
| Potholes & Striping | Trees in Roads Areas |
| Traffic Control | Cross Kirkland Corridor |
| Street Sweeping | Streetlights |
| Snow & Ice Response | Public Parking |

Community Development

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Long-Range Community Planning | Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging |
| Economic Development | Community Engagement |
| Neighborhood Services | |
| Arts & Tourism | |

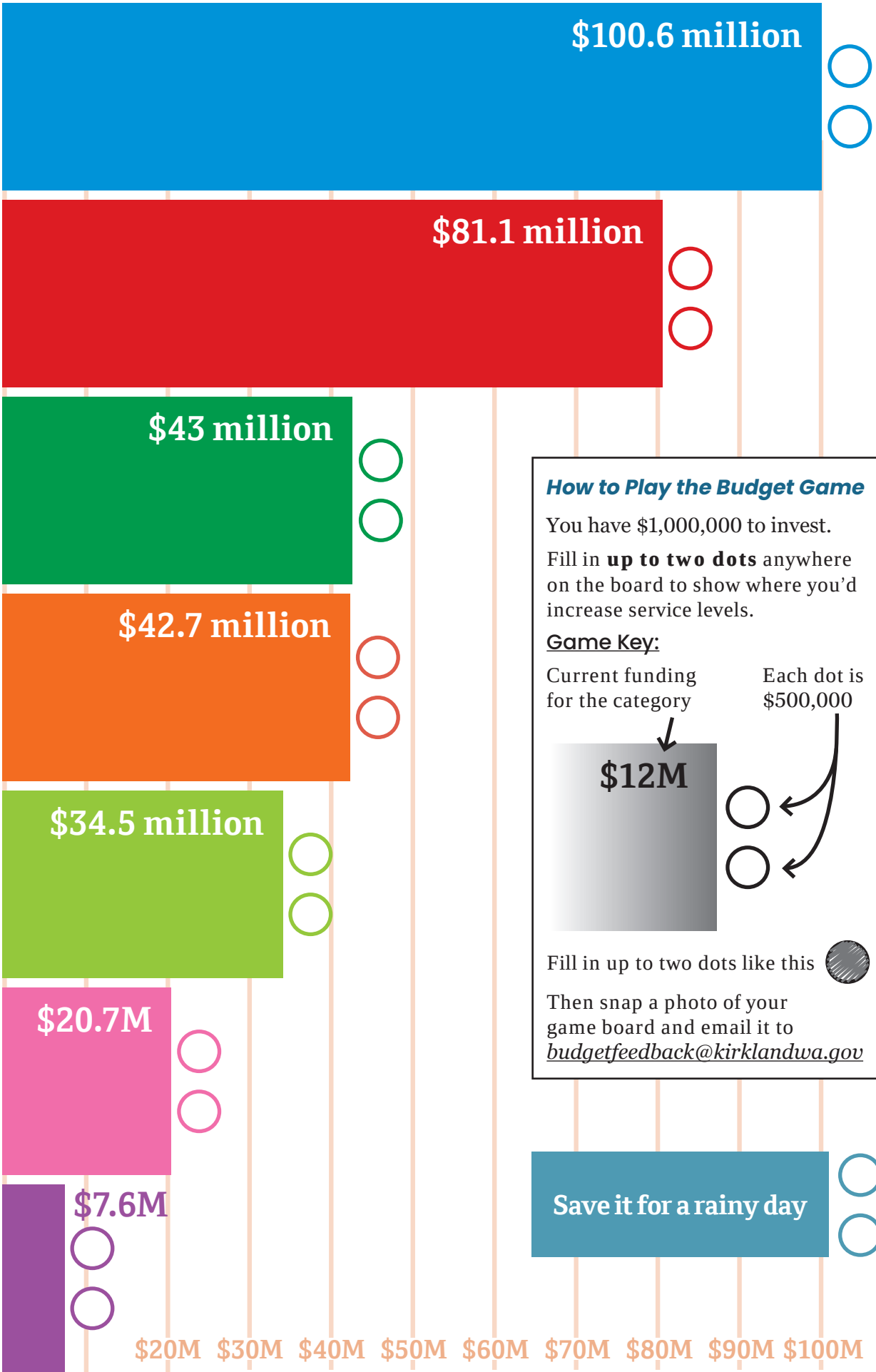
Transfer to Capital

- | | |
|---|---|
| Construction, repair, maintenance and acquisition of major capital facilities and equipment | Transportation, water and sewer, storm drains, parks, public safety equipment and government vehicles |
|---|---|

Human Services & Affordable Housing

- | | |
|---|---|
| Human Services Grant Program | Kirkland Teen Union Building & Programs |
| Funding for A Regional Coalition of Housing | Women & Family Shelter |

Estimated 2027–2028 Budget



And That’s a Wrap!

By ROSALIE WESSELS
Public Works, Capital Improvement Program

The City’s Public Works Capital Improvement Program continues to deliver projects that increase safety, preserve previous investments, and prepare for the future needs of residents, businesses, and visitors. Here are some of the projects we wrapped up recently.



NE 85th Street Shared-Use Pathway
Completed Spring 2026

This project built a shared-use pedestrian and bicycle pathway ranging from 12- to 15-foot-wide from 6th Street to the new I-405 interchange, where future transit will connect downtown Kirkland and nearby neighborhoods to regional transit.

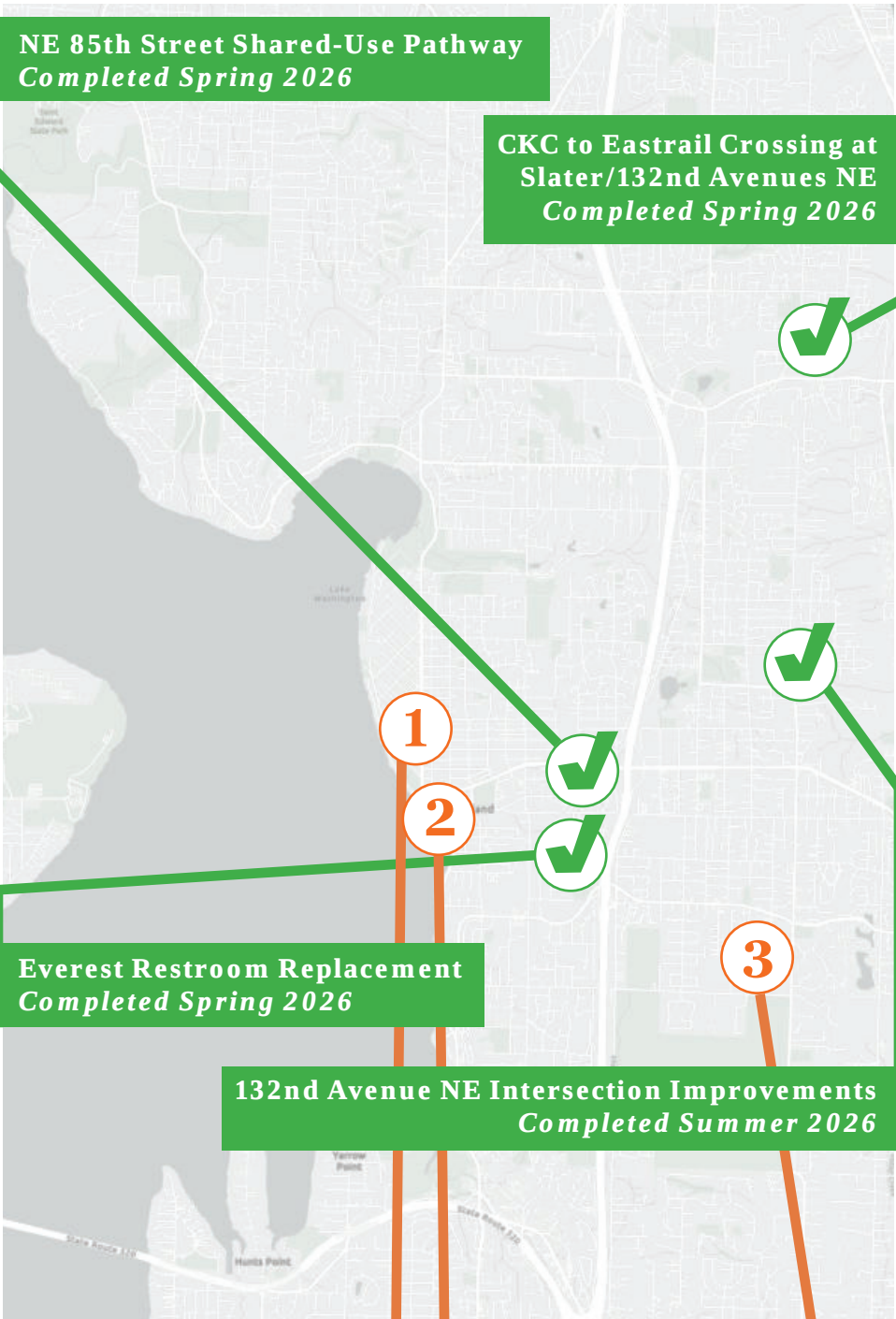
The new half-mile pathway is located along the south side of NE 85th Street, and its length is lined by new pedestrian lighting and street trees.



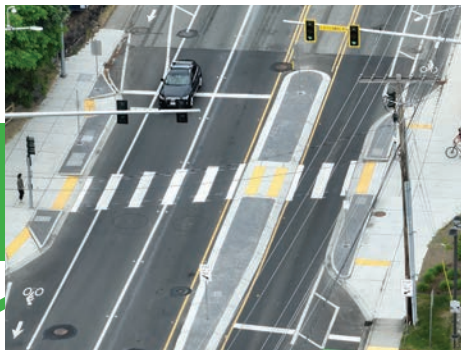
Everest Restroom Replacement
Completed Spring 2026

This project has improved park access and capacity by building a modern, ADA-accessible facility with more stalls, family-style gender-neutral restrooms, and associated utility, paving, landscaping, and ADA parking upgrades.

The work was completed during the baseball/softball seasons and in time for the Junior League Softball World Series.



CKC to Eastrail Crossing at
Slater/132nd Avenues NE
Completed Spring 2026



This project built a safe crossing for the first time at Slater Avenue NE/132nd Avenue NE. A signalized pedestrian and bicycle crossing with a refuge island connects Eastrail and CKC users to locations in and beyond Kirkland.

The project made bicycle lane improvements, including a buffered bike lane, through the intersection.



132nd Avenue NE Intersection Improvements
Completed Summer 2026

This project improved access in the North Rose Hill neighborhood by creating a signalized intersection with turn signal on all four legs of 132nd Avenue NE’s intersection with NE 100th Street.

The project includes new bicycle lanes, sections of sidewalk, and curb ramps near the intersection.

The Cities of Kirkland and Redmond shared the cost of the project.

What’s Up Next?



West of Market Sewer
Rehabilitation

The City expects to begin rehabilitation on 6-inch and 8-inch sewer mains in the West of Market neighborhood in the summer or fall of 2027. As many as possible will be repaired using a cure-in-place pipe-lining technique, and some pipes may need to be replaced using open-cut or other methods.

South Reservoir
Replacement

The City will replace the existing 11.2 million-gallon (MG) steel tank with a new 15 MG concrete reservoir. This upgrade addresses seismic deficiencies and prepares for the City’s future water demands. Construction is expected to last from 2027 to 2029.



Also Coming in 2027: Marina Park Renovations

The City expects to close large sections of Marina Park, including the entire main pier structure, on July 5, 2027. Work is expected to take nearly a year and will deliver needed renovations in 2028. Much of the park will remain open during construction, including the bathrooms, pavilion, boat launch, and the boat launch pier.

Work will repair failing bulkhead at multiple locations

and add an accessible ramp to the beach. On the main pier, the project will replace vulnerable piles as well as add beams and fish-friendly grated decking. This will preserve Kirkland’s unique public marina for years to come.

The City is also working with event organizers and vendors to determine how special events can continue or be relocated during construction.



The approximate extent of the Marina Park closure.

E-BIKE OR E-MOTORCYCLE?

Know the rules and ride safely in Kirkland

CLASS 1 E-BIKE	CLASS 2 E-BIKE	CLASS 3 E-BIKE	E-MOTORCYCLE
			
PEDAL ASSIST Motor assists only while pedaling.	HAS A THROTTLE Motor can propel the bike without pedaling.	PEDAL ASSIST Motor assists only while pedaling.	NO OPERABLE PEDALS Motor exceeds 750 watts
Max assisted speed is 20 MPH	Max assisted speed is 20 MPH	Max assisted speed is 28 MPH	Assisted speed is over 28 MPH
☒ No driver's license	☒ No driver's license	☒ No driver's license	☒ Valid driver's license with motorcycle endorsement
☒ No registration	☒ No registration	☒ No registration	☒ Vehicle registration
☒ No insurance	☒ No insurance	☒ No insurance	☒ Motorcycle insurance
☒ Riders must be 16+			
<div>RIDE SAFELY</div> <div> Wear a helmet</div> <div> Slow down around people walking</div> <div> Eye contact when crossing driveways and crosswalks</div> <div>KirklandWA.gov/eBikes</div>			



By ANGELA BROWN
Public Information Officer

E-bikes and e-motorcycles continue to grow in popularity, and Kirkland Police are seeing more young riders using them to get around town. While the vehicles can look similar, the rules are not the same.

Washington recognizes three e-bike classes: Class 1 provides pedal assistance up to 20 mph; Class 2 can operate under motor power up to 20 mph; and Class 3 provides pedal assistance up to 28 mph and is restricted to riders 16 and older.

E-motorcycles fall under different requirements and require a driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement, registration, insurance, and required safety equipment. Kirkland Police are enforcing the rules when officers encounter violations. Depending on the circumstances, that can include educating riders and parents, issuing citations, or impounding an e-motorcycle.

Before purchasing an electric bike or motorcycle for a young rider, know what you're buying, understand the rules, and make sure they have the skills and safety equipment to ride safely. Learn more at [KirklandWA.gov/eBikes](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/eBikes).



Charge Safely to Prevent Fires

By ANGELA BROWN
Public Information Officer

Lithium-ion batteries power many devices we use every day, from phones and laptops to e-bikes and power tools. Keep these tips in mind to reduce the risk of a battery fire:

- Use the charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer.
- Use only batteries designed for your device. When replacing a battery, buy it from the device manufacturer or a manufacturer-approved source.
- Charge on a hard, flat surface — not on a bed, couch, or under a pillow.
- Stop using batteries that swell, overheat, leak, smell unusual, or show signs of damage.
- Look for a safety certification such as UL or ETL when purchasing battery-powered products.

Learn more from the National Fire Protection Association at [NFPA.org/lithiumionsafety](https://www.nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety).



Mobile Integrated Health: A Different Kind of 911 Response

By ANGELA BROWN
Public Information Officer

A 911 call might begin with a medical emergency and uncover challenges that can't be solved in a single visit. Maybe someone has fallen several times, is struggling to access health care, or needs caregiver support.

Kirkland Fire Department's Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) team helps with what comes next. Staffed Monday through Friday, the team includes two specially trained firefighter/EMTs and two case workers who follow up with residents to identify their needs and connect them with health care, social services, and other community resources.

By helping residents navigate services and address barriers, MIH is another way for the Fire Department to support community members beyond the initial 911 response.

Learn more by visiting [KirklandWA.gov/MIH](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/MIH)



3 Things to Know About the Kirkland Police Department and Immigration Enforcement

By ANGELA BROWN
City Manager's Office

Many community members have been asking whether local police are involved in immigration enforcement. Here are three things Kirkland residents should know:

- 1. KPD does not enforce federal civil immigration law.**
Washington law restricts the role of local police in federal civil immigration enforcement. KPD does not participate in civil immigration enforcement. Moreover, KPD serves everyone in Kirkland, regardless of immigration status.
- 2. KPD will respond to public safety concerns related to federal immigration enforcement.**
Call 911 if someone is in immediate danger, you believe a crime may be happening, or you think someone may be impersonating a law enforcement officer. KPD officers can assess the situation, verify law enforcement credentials when appropriate, work to de-escalate the situation, and document what happened.
- 3. Federal immigration agencies are separate from KPD.**

KPD does not report to, direct, or supervise federal immigration officers, and federal agencies do not have to notify KPD before conducting an operation within the city. KPD cannot interfere with lawful federal operations but will respond to the location if there is a threat to public safety or evidence of a state crime.

The City's website has more information on this topic, how to identify Kirkland Police officers, what to do if you have concerns about federal immigration activity, and legal and community resources. Learn more by visiting [KirklandWA.gov/Immigration](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Immigration).





- ✓ Make a Plan
- ✓ Build a Kit
- ✓ Be Informed

ARE YOU PREPARED?

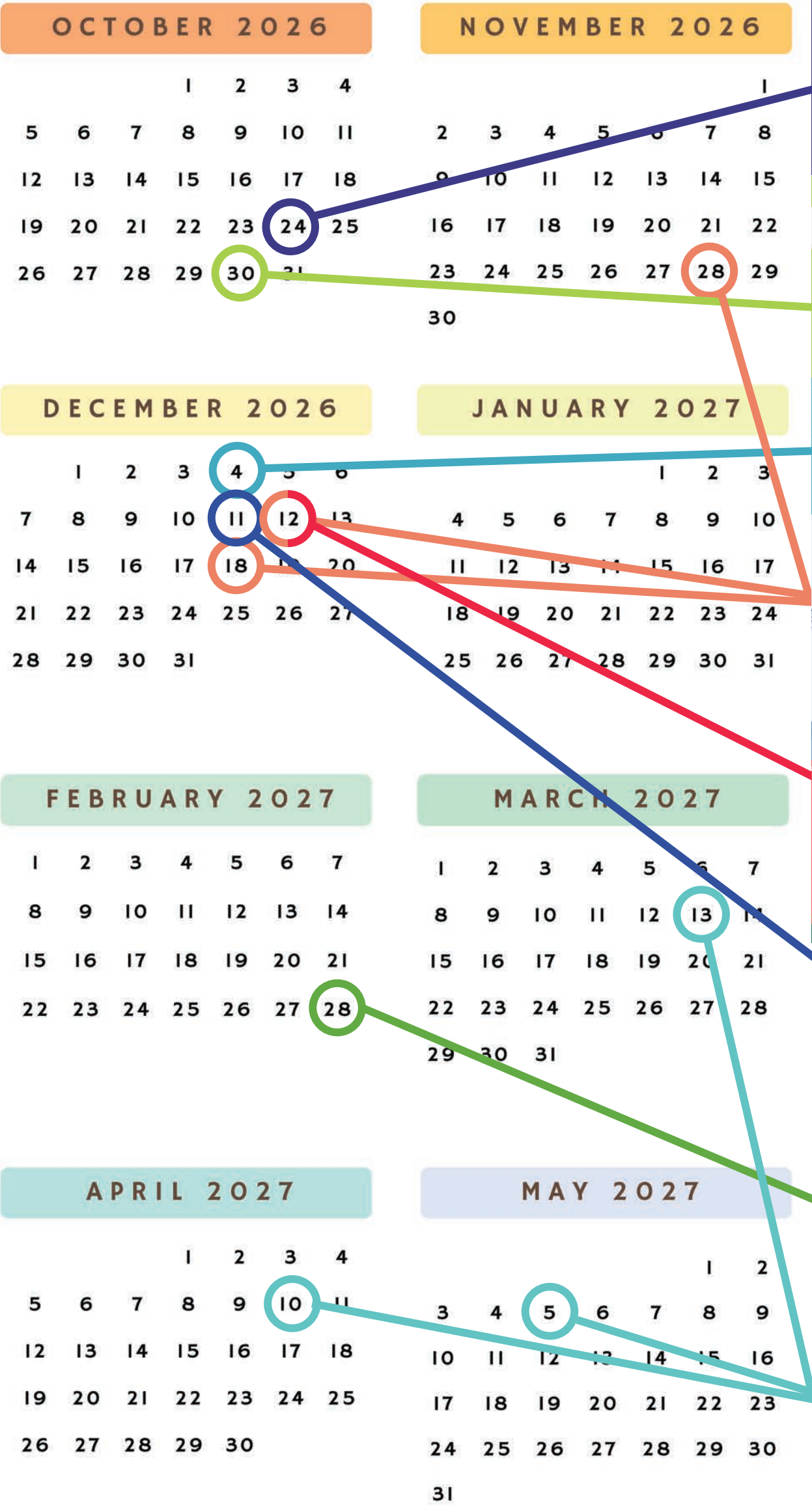
Kirkland Emergency Management offers information for you to prepare yourself, your family, and your community!

Find out more about personal preparedness, sign up for alerts, and learn how to get involved:

www.kirklandwa.gov/Prepare



Save the Date: Family-Friendly, Community-Building Events



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

HALLOWEEN

PEE WEE MONSTER BASH

SNOWFLAKE Ball

COMMUNITY BONFIRES at the Park!

CITY OF KIRKLAND PRESENTS CEREAL WITH SANTA

REINDEER & REELS

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Wheels REELS

The Ultimate Guide to Kirkland Events and Activities

By STEPHANIE TOPACIO LONG
City Manager's Office

Year-round, there's a steady stream of activities and events in Kirkland. Keep track of everything going on in our city on the website Explore Kirkland. You can browse restaurants, classes, clubs, and more to plan your next outing.

Make sure you don't miss out by signing up for our monthly events guide. Sent directly to your inbox, it highlights at least one event per day, every day. It has something for everyone, no matter your age or interests.

Sign up for the events guide using the QR code to the right, and check out the recently revamped website at [ExploreKirkland.com](https://www.explorekirkland.com).



Explore KIRKLAND

Check Out Events



By SARAH ROCK
Parks & Community Services

Learn more at [KirklandWA.gov/
Pickleball](http://KirklandWA.gov/Pickleball).



By ANDY QUINTANA
Kirkland Teen Union Building

From connecting with support to exploring creative interests, KTUB is a place for teens to belong, create, and grow. Learn more at [KirklandWA.gov/KTUB](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/ktub).



By MARIAH GILL AND SARAH ROCK
Parks & Community Services

Peter Kirk Skate Park Renovation

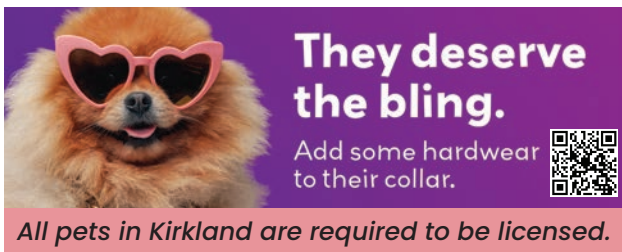
North Rose Hill Woodlands Playground Replacement



Peter Kirk Pool Improvements

Marina Park Dock and Shoreline

Follow these and other
park improvement projects at
KirklandWA.gov/ParkPlanning.



By SARAH ROCK
Parks & Community Services

Learn more about Kirkland's parks by visiting KirklandWA.gov/Parks.



TOP 5 RULES



FOLLOW PARK HOURS 
All parks close at 10 PM.

KEEP PETS LEASHED
And pick up their waste.

PICK UP YOUR TRASH
And recycling too.

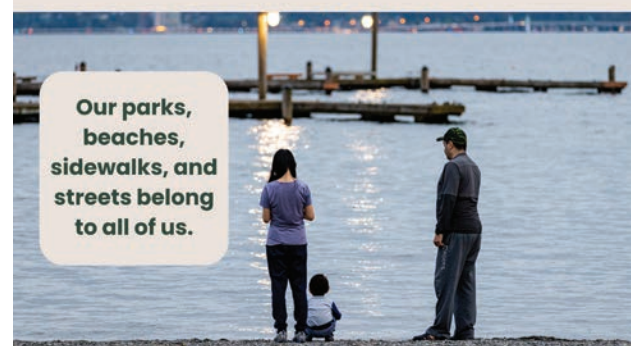
**LEAVE ANIMALS,
PLANTS, AND TREES
UNDISTURBED**

RIDE SAFELY
Ride responsibly on paths and trails.

KirklandWA.gov/Parks



Keep Kirkland Looking Like Kirkland



Enjoy it. Love it. Leave it clean.

Addressing Homelessness with HART

By STEPHANIE TOPACIO LONG
City Manager's Office

All across the region, homelessness continues to grow. King County data shows that thousands of people are entering homelessness for the first time each year. We're seeing it here in Kirkland as well. Local engagement demonstrates that our community members are worried about the issue now and the possibility of it worsening in the near future.

The City of Kirkland remains committed to addressing homelessness. Those in Kirkland who are experiencing homelessness are members of our community.

The Kirkland City Council adopted the Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan in December 2025 as a multidisciplinary approach to the issue. Homelessness prevention is at the core of this plan. By addressing housing availability and affordability, the City is supporting options to prevent people from falling into homeless in the first place.

The plan also prioritizes meeting basic human needs, including helping people navigate a path to stable housing. Creating the Homelessness Assistance and Response Team

(HART) has allowed the City to respond to the complexities of homelessness in a coordinated, creative, compassionate, and holistic way. The team consists of staff members from across departments who provide outreach and assistance that addresses the variety of needs of people experiencing homelessness and those of the larger community. Teams that contribute to HART include Human Services, Park Rangers and Maintenance, Kirkland Police Neighborhood Resource Officers, Kirkland Fire – Mobile Integrated Health, Streets and Grounds, Community Court, Probation, Jail Navigation, and Code Enforcement. Other collaborators include the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency and the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

HART's work is complex and often time-intensive. Unhoused community members have unique circumstances and challenges to getting back into stable housing. To be effective, HART



members must build rapport and trust with each individual to address their specific barriers. Regular coordination across HART is needed, and it includes reaching out to local nonprofit and regional partners and resources.

The City's approach to homelessness aims to be balanced and person-centered. It considers the varied interests of everyone in Kirkland – housed and unhoused – with compassion. We want Kirkland to remain safe, welcoming, and economically vibrant, and we want our community members to be able to thrive. Our goal is to make homelessness in Kirkland rare, brief, and non-recurring.

To learn more about HART, visit KirklandWA.gov/HART.



89 Neighborhood Projects Done – Will Yours Be Next?

By DANIEL LAZO
City Manager's Office

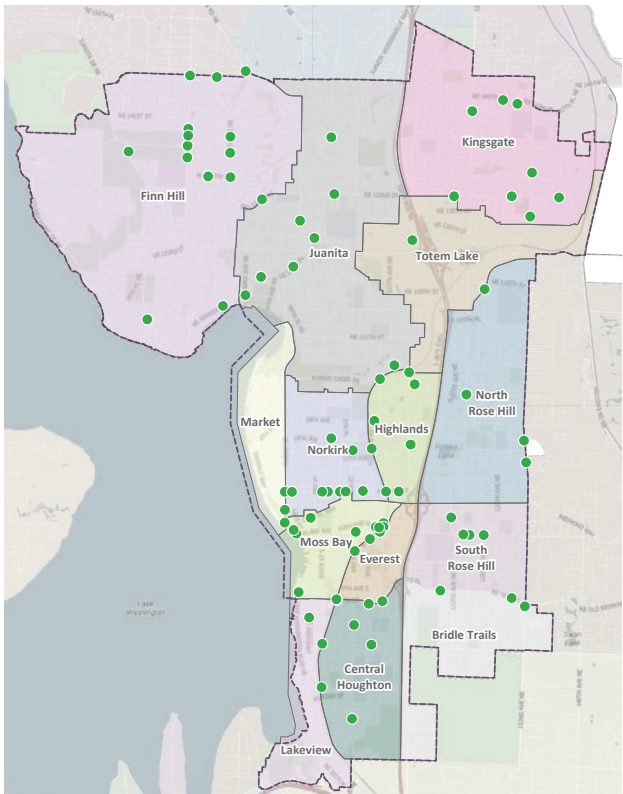
Since 2014, the Neighborhood Safety Program has transformed streets across Kirkland. To date, 89 projects have been completed. They've brought real improvements, such as green bike lanes on Juanita's 98th Avenue and a crosswalk island in Kingsgate.

This year, City Council approved nine new projects spanning nine neighborhoods. Behind every one of these projects was a Kirkland neighbor who took action.

Since the start of the program, the City has invested \$350,000 each year in pedestrian and bicycle safety projects that residents like you nominate for this program. These include new crosswalks, traffic circles, sidewalks, signage, and more. When you submit an idea, it is reviewed by your neighborhood association, which sends recommendations to the City. Staff and a community panel then decide which projects to present to City Council based on need, viability, and impact.

You don't need technical expertise to propose an idea. You just need to know and care about your neighborhood. City staff handles the logistics; you bring the local knowledge.

Safer streets start with neighbors paying attention, and yours could be next. Visit KirklandWA.gov/NSP to learn more.



Each green dot shows the location of a neighborhood safety program (NSP) project.



Have a project idea?
Submit it today!



When Volunteerism Runs in the Family

By SARAH ROCK
Parks & Community Services

For Scott and Micah Willeke, what started with curiosity has grown into four years of caring for Kirkland's natural areas. After seeing a Washington Conservation Corps crew restoring an area of a local park, Micah convinced his dad to attend a Green Kirkland Partnership volunteer orientation. The father-son duo started as regular volunteers and eventually became Park Stewards, leading restoration events and sharing what they've learned with others.

A favorite memory is planting their first plants together. Micah shared, "You really know that you're making a difference because, in several years, it will become a forest."

Ready to dig in? Find a Green Kirkland volunteer event at KirklandWA.gov/GreenKirkland.



Updates from the Senior Council: Events, Advocacy, and More

By SCOTT EMMONS
Kirkland Senior Council

The Kirkland Senior Council (KSC) continues to work hard to advocate for the needs of all Kirkland seniors ages 50 and older. This takes many different forms throughout the year, from putting on community-building events to providing feedback to the City about how to best meet seniors' diverse needs.

Earlier this year, the Education committee held a successful workshop on downsizing and decluttering. In June, the KSC put on the 16th annual Senior Art Show, hosted by Merrill Gardens, where 76 creators submitted 185 pieces of art. Most recently, the KSC held its annual Medicare Resource Fair to help seniors get their questions answered about all things Medicare.

Meanwhile, the Transportation committee participated in a focus group with the City to

discuss concerns regarding current transit service gaps that exist within Kirkland. The Human Services committee reviewed 10 grant proposals that provide support and assistance to seniors in numerous categories such as transportation, meal delivery, and support groups. Additionally, the Outreach and AARP Age-Friendly committees have spread the word about the Kirkland Age-Friendly Survey.

KSC also continues to support and participate in legislative action, local advocacy, community Engagement on behalf of seniors, in partnership with the Kirkland City Council and the Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA). Looking forward to 2027, KSC and BNOA Advocacy committees collaborated to establish the following joint Legislative Agenda:

1. Expand affordable senior housing by prioritizing expansion of the Low-Income

Housing Tax Credit and incentivizing accessible ADUs and DADUs.

2. Strengthen caregiving and community-based service by prioritizing expanding caregiver tax credits and paid respite care and improving wages, training, certification, and career pathways for professional caregivers.
3. Protect health care and financial security by prioritizing the protection of Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP.
4. Help older adults age in place by prioritizing expansion of utility assistance for low-income seniors and strengthening dementia and memory care standards.

KSC meetings are open to the public. More information about the Senior Council, meeting dates/times, agendas, and minutes can be found by visiting KirklandWA.gov/SeniorCouncil.





Metro Flex Makes Transit Easy in North Kirkland

By BLAIR DALY
Public Works, Transportation Program

Metro Flex is an on-demand transit service operated by King County Metro that can pick you up and drop you off anywhere within the boundaries of the Juanita / Totem Lake service area — to appointments, shopping centers, meet-ups with friends, and more.

Metro Flex minivans operate Monday through Friday between 7 AM and 7 PM. A ride costs the same as bus fare: \$3 for adults, \$1 for seniors, and riders 18 and under are free. Use your ORCA card or the app to pay.

Request a ride through the app or by calling 206-258-7739. Learn more at KingCounty.gov/MetroFlex.



Need Support Paying Your Bills?

By QUINN GLEBE
Finance & Administration

The Kirkland Cares Low-Income Support Program is designed to support qualifying households with discounts on utility rates and other City services and charges. The goal is to assist more households, regardless of age, housing type, and health or disability status, in navigating the impacts of inflation and higher utility rates.

The program offers discounts or rebates for utilities, pet licenses, business licenses, and vehicle licenses.

To find more information about the program and check your eligibility, visit KirklandWA.gov/KirklandCares.



Connecting People to Housing, Strengthening Our Community

By SARAH ROCK
Parks & Community Services

As Kirkland has grown in population and transitioned into a more urban environment, homelessness has become more visible in our city. In response, Kirkland developed a Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan to help prevent homelessness when possible and support unhoused neighbors as they work toward stable housing. People experiencing homelessness are part of our community, and helping them find stability benefits us all.

At the heart of this effort are three City of Kirkland staff members whose work centers on homelessness and housing issues. Human Services Supervisor Becky Gilley, Housing Navigation Coordinator Alex Bundrick, and Homeless Outreach Coordinator Meli Paulo bring years of social services experience to their work connecting people with housing, benefits, and other resources. The team also serves as a direct point of contact for community members with questions or concerns. Since December 2025, staff have responded to more than 262 community messages and alerts.

This small but mighty team started with a single outreach position in 2023 and added two more roles in late 2025. This year, they’ve worked closely with 52 unique individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Kirkland. Those connections can lead to meaningful change. The team has helped nine people move into permanent supportive housing since January 2026. Staff also assist in preventing eviction for residents through connection to rental assistance resources and landlord negotiations.

Finding housing is rarely a quick or easy

process. Affordable housing and shelter space are limited, and some types of housing are particularly difficult to find. For example, local shelters generally can’t accommodate couples without children, and supportive housing for couples is also rare. Additionally, many people need help getting identification, applying for public benefits, accessing medical or behavioral health care, or resolving legal issues before they can qualify for housing. To do this work, the team builds relationships and helps people navigate these steps over time, even when staying in touch isn’t easy.

This year brought a major new resource: Sheila Stanton Place, a new permanent supportive housing community in Kirkland. Operated by Plymouth Housing through King County’s Health Through Housing initiative, it will eventually provide homes for 101 adults who have experienced homelessness. As of September 2026, 42 people had moved in, including eight direct referrals from City of Kirkland staff.

This work helps people find stability, builds lasting solutions, and responds to community concerns. Together, the team is helping create a safer, healthier, and more connected Kirkland for everyone.

Have you seen someone in Kirkland who could use support or do you need support? Notify the team at kirklandwa.gov/NotifyHART.



Meli, Alex, and Becky with the Homelessness Assistance and Response Team

Use Metro’s Community Van For Group Trips

By BLAIR DALY
Public Works, Transportation Program

King County Metro’s Community Van program offers six- and 12-passenger vans for pre-scheduled group trips. Each ride requires at least two passengers and a volunteer driver who has completed the approval process.

Destinations can be up to 80 miles from Kirkland, and trips can last all day (no overnights). Vans are based at Kirkland City Hall and the North Kirkland Community Center. Passengers pay standard Metro fare; drivers ride free. The six-passenger vans are wheelchair accessible.

Have visiting family? Borrow the 12-passenger van. Need a ride with a friend but no driver? Submit a trip request, and we’ll try to

match you with an approved driver.

Community Van offers a low-cost, flexible travel option when buses aren’t enough. It’s great for airport runs, errands, excursions, or appointments.

Want to help? Volunteer as a driver! Learn more at KirklandWA.gov/CommunityVan.



Forget working from home.
Join Co-Working Day at City Hall, the second Wednesday of every month.



Want local business information and resources delivered right to your inbox? Subscribe to **Kirkland’s Biz News**.

EXPIRING SOON!

TREE REBATES
UP TO \$500

REEMBOLSOS PARA ÁRBOLES DE HASTA \$500

СКИДКА НА ДЕРЕВЬЯ ДО 500 ДОЛЛАРОВ США

DESCONTOS EM ÁRVORES DE ATÉ \$ 500

树木回扣高达 500 美元

KirklandWA.gov/TreeRebate

CREATE SHADE SOAK UP RAINWATER SUPPORT WILDLIFE



Clear Stickers, Clear Instructions: What to Expect in Kirkland

By RUKIA YOSIF
Public Works, Solid Waste

Have you noticed the stickers on your garbage, recycling, or organics cart? Waste Management will begin a citywide re-stickering project in 2027 to update service and educational labels on approximately 73,000 residential carts and 3,500 commercial containers throughout Kirkland.

Why Does Stickering Matter?

Updated labels will help residents and businesses know what goes in each container, reduce confusion and contamination, help collection crews identify containers and provide the correct service, and keep recyclable and compostable materials out of the garbage.

What Should Residents Expect?

WM is currently planning the rollout with vendors. Stickering will take place across Kirkland in 2027. The schedule may change due to vendor availability, weather, and operating conditions. When you see your new stickers, take a moment to check them out! They're designed to make recycling, composting, and garbage disposal easier and clearer for everyone.

For more information, go to [KirklandWA.gov/Recycle](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Recycle).



Leaves and Storm Drains Don't Mix

By MARISA ALLISON
Public Works, Stormwater

Leaves and storm drains are a potentially dangerous combination. Leaves and debris can clog storm drains, blocking water flow and causing local flooding. Kirkland crews are working hard to keep drains clear, but with more than 17,000 storm drains, we need your help.

Use a rake to remove debris from the storm drain and the road edge.

Do not move leaves from your property onto the sidewalk or road.

Stay safe — **never remove** the drain grate.

Keep the leaves in your garden for a natural soil enhancer.

Did you know? Households can put out up to five free paper yard waste bags per week in November. If you don't want to keep your leaves, gather them in a paper bag and put them out for collection.

To learn more about solid waste collection, visit [KirklandWA.gov/SolidWaste](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/SolidWaste).



Kirkland Goes Electric With “Mow, Edge, Blow” Pilot Program

By KATE RYAN
City Manager's Office

This fall, Kirkland launched a pilot program at Phyllis A. Needy Houghton Neighborhood Park and other spaces to test maintaining park spaces using electric equipment. As part of the City's Electric Equipment Initiative, Parks staff will perform mowing, edging, and blowing maintenance tasks entirely with electric tools to help support a cleaner, quieter environment.

Through this pilot, the City will evaluate how electric tools perform during daily maintenance, including battery life, user feedback, and impacts on park visitors.

This pilot is one step in the City's larger effort to transition operations toward greener technologies. Testing equipment in real-world conditions helps Kirkland plan future investments in sustainable maintenance tools.

Community members can support this effort by choosing electric or manual tools for their own yard care. Even small shifts at home, like switching to electric leaf blowers, electric trimmers, and rakes, can add up toward cleaner air and quieter neighborhoods.

Learn more, stay up to date, and provide your feedback on the City's Electric Equipment Initiative at [KirklandWA.gov/LeafBlowers](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/LeafBlowers).



Fight FOG

Keep **F**ats, **O**ils, and **G**rease (FOG) out of your drain!

Instead, residents can **collect** and **recycle** FOG at the North Kirkland Community Center.

Learn more:
www.kirklandwa.gov/FOG



Juanita Court Wins Annual Sort Smart Tournament

By RUKIA YOSIF
Public Works, Solid Waste

This spring, Juanita Court won the City's annual Sort Smart Tournament. The award-winning competition, which first began in 2025, challenged 1,100 households across nine multifamily properties to work together to improve their recycling habits and reduce contamination.

Every few weeks, Waste Management staff did contamination checks at participating properties and gave personalized feedback. Residents learned what belonged in each bin, while property managers and maintenance teams worked with the City of Kirkland and WM staff to solve recycling challenges.

One of the biggest lessons came from an apartment building where residents were placing their recyclables in plastic bags before taking them to the recycling dumpster. During an outreach event, City and WM staff explained why recyclables need to be placed loose in the bin. Plastic bags are considered recycling contamination because they can break sorting machinery. Because a single contaminated item can cause an entire truckload of recyclables to be sent to the landfill, tackling recycling contamination is crucial.

The tournament showed that small changes can make a big difference. After the first feedback report, 67% of properties improved or maintained their performance; by the second report, that number rose to 89%. Juanita Court took first place at the end of the tournament, with zero contamination observations throughout all six monitoring periods.

For more information, visit [KirklandWA.gov/SolidWaste](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/SolidWaste).



Caring for Kirkland's 660 lane miles of streets is a big job!

Street sweeping is systematic; crews adjust to weather, emergencies, and other priorities.

Snow and ice mitigation efforts focus on priority routes and expand as resources allow.

Curious where we go and when?

Street Sweeping Map **Snow Plowing Map**

FALL AND WINTER PREPAREDNESS

LEARN MORE AND PLAN AHEAD

Visit the City of Kirkland's website, your one-stop shop for maintenance, snow route maps, guidelines, and more.

City of Kirkland > Government > Public Works Department

We all play a part!

- ✓ Maps and service information
- ✓ How to report an issue
- ✓ Safety tips for every season

Scan the QR code for more information on Public Works Streets Operations.

SAFETY FIRST.

Be aware of changing conditions. Use caution around road crews and equipment.

THANK YOU!

Working together keeps Kirkland safe and beautiful.



What to Know About Kirkland’s Boards and Commissions

By EMILEE FERGUSON
City Clerk’s Office

You don’t have to be an elected official to make an impact on Kirkland. Our boards and commissions are made up of more than 50 passionate community members who provide valuable input to the City Council and help shape the future of our city. Openings become available each year, and everyday people in our community can apply to serve.

City advisory boards and commissions are responsible for formulating new ideas, gathering information, receiving public comments, analyzing complex issues, and making recommendations for specific projects and policies to the City Council. The volunteers who serve are appointed by the Council; they represent our ever-changing community and bring their own unique perspectives. Most boards and commissions hold monthly evening meetings.

If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, recruitment information will be available on the City’s website, This Week in Kirkland e-newsletter, and social media in January. For more information about Kirkland’s boards and commissions, please visit KirklandWA.gov/Commissions.



Small Business Saturday

SUPPORT

Kirkland

BUSINESSES

November 28



www.ShopLocalKirkland.com



Staying Active in Retirement

By SARAH ROCK
Parks & Community Services

For longtime Kirkland resident Scott Emmons, volunteering at the Juanita Friday Market is a way to connect with neighbors and give back to a community he’s called home for 30 years.

After retiring from a 35-year career in technology, Scott was looking for ways to stay active and involved. He discovered the opportunity to volunteer at the Market in 2022 and has been lending a hand ever since.

Scott is also an active member of the Kirkland Senior Council and chaired its 16th annual Senior Art Show in June.

Want to get involved in your community? Learn more about volunteer opportunities at KirklandWA.gov/Volunteer.



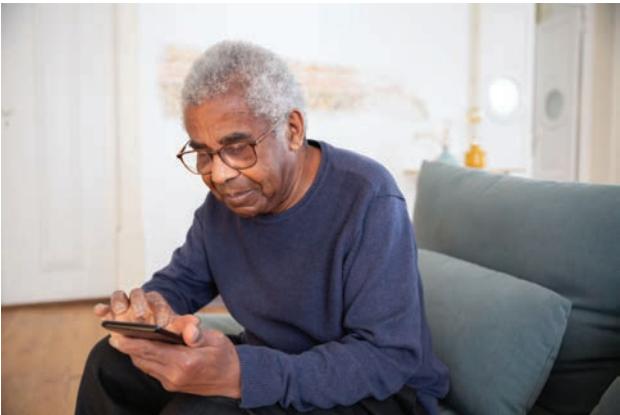
Looking for Ways to Use Your Time and Talent?

By KATE RYAN
City Manager’s Office

There are always opportunities to lend your time and talent to our community! The City’s volunteer program offers a wide range of ways to get involved, from supporting special events and helping in City offices to stewarding our parks and assisting public safety teams. Volunteers play a vital role in helping Kirkland shine — all while building connection, fostering belonging, and making a difference.

Ready to get involved? Sign up for our monthly volunteer newsletter to find the opportunity (or opportunities!) that are right for you. The newsletter provides updates on new volunteer roles, one-time events, and other ways to support our community.

Visit KirklandWA.gov/Volunteer to subscribe.



Take the Kirkland Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment

By DANIEL LAZO
City Manager’s Office

By 2035, the U.S. Census Bureau projects that seniors will outnumber children in the United States for the first time in history. For the City of Kirkland, that shift is already underway. According to the City’s Housing Inventory and Analysis for the 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update, Kirkland has the fastest-growing population of residents aged 65 and older among our surrounding municipalities.

To get ahead of this demographic change, the City and the Kirkland Senior Council launched the Kirkland Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment. The citywide survey will help shape City policy, programs, and services for residents of all ages. Ultimately, the City is working to make it easier for community members to stay connected, supported, and involved during every stage of life.

This effort is part of Kirkland’s commitment to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The City officially joined the network in 2025. It provides a structured framework that helps communities strengthen the features and services that make them livable from early childhood through retirement.

The Kirkland Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment is open until October 31, 2026. To take the survey, visit www.research.net/r/k-age.



Home Sweet Home Addition



Kirkland’s gallery of pre-approved ADU plans can save you time and money. **Explore your options today!**



THANK YOU, KIRKLAND VOLUNTEERS!

“Being a member of the team is an honor and it’s a privilege to serve our community.”

COMMUNITY SUPERHEROES!



Connie, Senior Lunch Program



Daphne and her BSA troop

“I wanted to do something that would both help the environment and directly benefit the community.”

Got an escape artist on your hands?

Make sure they have a pet license.



Licensing your pet benefits you and your community.

- 🐾 A licensed pet can be easily reunited with you if lost.
- 🐾 Licensing fees support Kirkland’s Animal Services Program.
- 🐾 The City of Kirkland requires a pet license for all dogs and cats older than 12 weeks.



Scan the QR code to license your pet.

The Kirklander

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THIS WEEK IN KIRKLAND

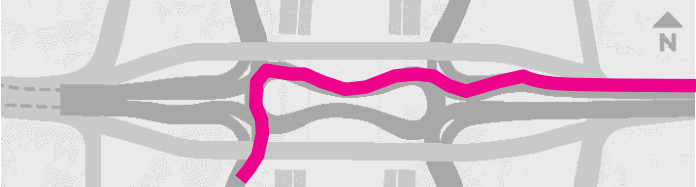
KirklandWA.gov/Podcast

Listen to the City of Kirkland's official podcast!



Roundabout Ride Through!

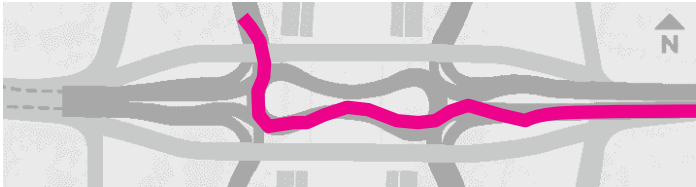
Uh oh! The route maps and descriptions of how to drive through the new NE 85th Street & I-405 roundabouts got **mismatched!** Can you match the correct route (1-4) to the correct description (A-D)?



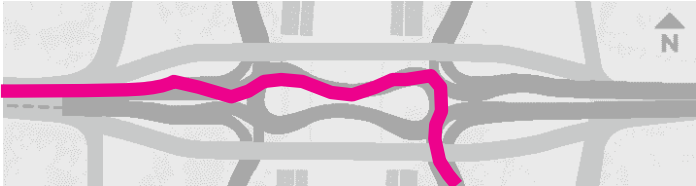
1



2



3



4

A You're driving from Kingsgate to Costco via the freeway.

B You're driving downtown after spending a weekend in Portland for a show.

C You're driving from downtown to catch the ferry to San Juan.

D You're driving from Rose Hill to SEA to pick up your out-of-town guests.

Answer: 1-D; 2-C; 3-A; 4-B

The Fall Kirkland Bingo Challenge

Explore your community, discover something new, and see if you can get five in a row! Complete five squares across, down, or diagonally to win Kirkland Bingo.

Got Bingo? Enter to win! Send in a photo of your bingo card to communications@kirklandwa.gov to claim a historic Kirkland shirt. While supplies last.

Walk, bike, or roll a section of the Cross Kirkland Corridor	Attend a community or City event	Find a Little Free Library	Visit a beach park	Find something to do in the Kirkland Events Guide
Visit a Kirkland library	Find something that says "Kirkland"	Say hello to a neighbor	Support a local business	Find public art downtown
Spot a City of Kirkland work truck	Find a new restaurant to try on ExploreKirkland.com	FREE SPACE	Spot some colorful fall foliage	Cross the Totem Lake Connector
Find a new spot on ShopLocalKirkland.com and visit it	Explore a park you've never visited	Learn something new about Kirkland	Spot a Kirkland Police vehicle or Fire Engine	Find the closest storm drain to where you live
Take a photo at the waterfront	Find a pumpkin or fall display	Take a selfie with the Cow and Coyote sculpture	Listen to an episode of the <i>This Week in Kirkland</i> podcast	Find a trail you haven't explored before

Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?

HAZARD WATER PLAN	FOOD SHELTER EMERGENCY	COMMUNICATION PREPARE GO-KIT	RADIO SUPPLIES DISASTER
P	O	P	L
A	N	M	E
T	R	E	A
N	H	S	S
C	O	S	P
E	E	R	E
S	S	C	A
I	W	A	T
E	R	A	D
E	R	H	U
O	Z	N	O
F	A	A	T
D	S	A	U
E	U	M	A
T	S	U	P
P	L	I	E
S	D	L	V
M	R	I	T
E	O	C	L
N	L	A	A
T	A	U	D
M	R	N	O
N	T	I	O
X	I	E	E
N	T	P	A
D	D	I	S
A	S	T	E
R	E	I	V
D	M	Y	S
O	S	P	D
E	R	E	U
C	G	A	R
E	M	E	R
G	E	N	C
Y	T	A	P
O	R	E	S
T	L	E	S
K	I	D	E
T	O	E	K
Y	N	M	E
Y	O	O	S
L	I	E	D
A	I	E	R
A	D	I	O
E	R	T	O
M	R	N	R
T	A	P	P
F	A	E	N
U	N		



Learn more: KirklandWA.gov/Prepare

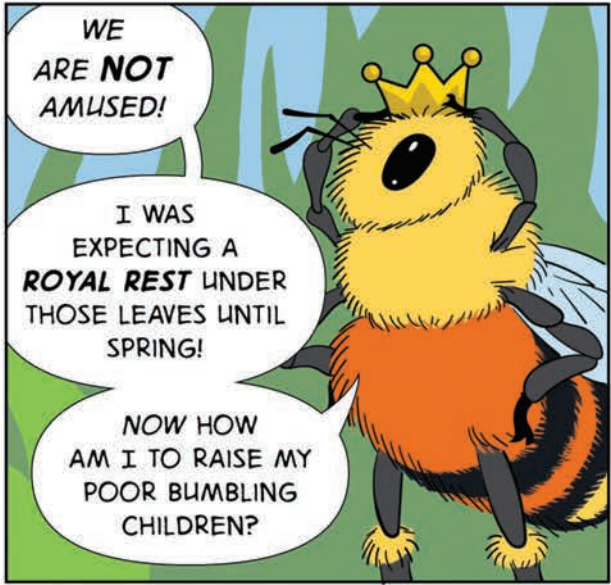
BUZZWORDS: "LEAF IT TO US"



DID YOU HEAR?? THEY'RE GOING TO RAKE THE LEAVES OFF THE LAWN TODAY!

...AWW

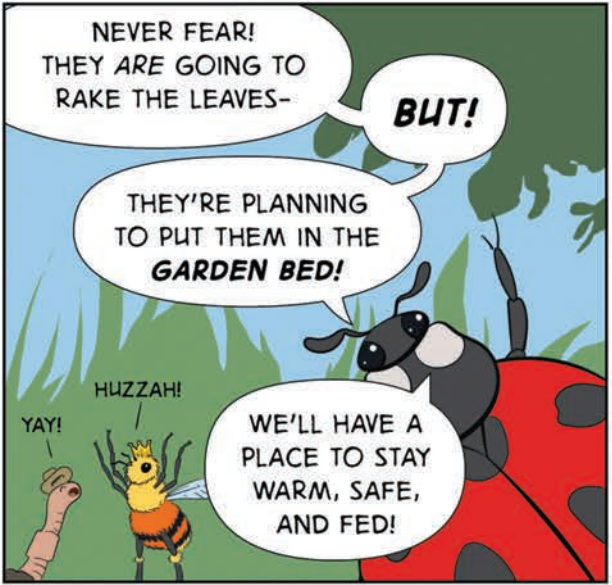
I WAS **REALLY** LOOKING FORWARD TO EATING THOSE...I TURN THEM INTO >AHEM< HEALTHY SOIL



WE ARE **NOT** AMUSED!

I WAS EXPECTING A **ROYAL REST** UNDER THOSE LEAVES UNTIL SPRING!

NOW HOW AM I TO RAISE MY POOR BUMBLING CHILDREN?



NEVER FEAR! THEY ARE GOING TO RAKE THE LEAVES-

BUT!

THEY'RE PLANNING TO PUT THEM IN THE **GARDEN BED!**

HUZZAH!

WE'LL HAVE A PLACE TO STAY WARM, SAFE, AND FED!

BY KATE SCHMIETT AND WES O'SEADNA