



DATE: May 20, 2019

TO: Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers

FROM: Dan Lassiter, Community Services Supervisor, 452-4470  
Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, 452-5213  
*Parks & Community Services*

SUBJECT: National Older Americans Month Proclamation

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In 1963, President John F. Kennedy designated May of that year as Senior Citizens Month, encouraging the nation to pay tribute in some way to older people across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter's Proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, a time to celebrate those 60 and older through ceremonies, events, and public recognition. For 32 years, the City of Bellevue has celebrated National Older Americans Month. This year's theme is "*Connect, Create, Contribute*," which encourages older adults and their communities to:

- **Connect** with friends, family, and local services and resources.
- **Create** through activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment.
- **Contribute** time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

According to the 2016 US Census Bureau American Community Survey, the percentage of the population 65 years and older living in the United States is 15 percent. In King County, that percentage is 13 percent, and in Bellevue, the percentage of the population 65 years of age and older is 15 percent. This number is expected to continue to grow, with the percentage of people 65 years and older anticipated to surpass those age 18 and under by the year 2035.

The City of Bellevue provides program opportunities to meet the changing needs of a more active, diverse older adult population. These programs include aerobic and strength building classes, fitness centers, dance classes, health lectures, singing groups, swimming, biking, regional trips, golf, volleyball, pickleball, biking, tennis, hiking, meals, and social activities at North Bellevue, Crossroads, South Bellevue, and Highland Community Centers. Programs are also offered at the Northwest Arts Center, Bellevue Youth Theatre, Bellevue Municipal Golf Course, Robinswood Tennis Center, and the Bellevue Aquatic Center, as well as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue's Hidden Valley and Main Club locations.

In addition, the Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) strives to promote awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions and is currently

focused on increasing Bellevue's transportation options, affordable housing, and outreach to educate aging adults of local resources.

We invite the Bellevue City Council, staff, volunteers, and all members of the community to join us in celebrating national Older Americans Month.

**Attachments**

A. Bellevue Network on Aging 2018 Report  
Proclamation