

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



WORKING WATERFRONT: THE PORT'S REGIONAL REACH



Sustainamania Returns August 26

ROOTS, ROOMS, AND THE ROAD AHEAD

August brought together stories of civic service, cultural heritage, regional partnership, and community connection. This issue reflects on India's 80th Independence Day, the opening of new cultural spaces, a visit to the Bothell Historical Museum, and conversations with leaders working across health care, public policy, and wellness.

While the City Council observed its summer recess, work across Bothell continued. Inside are updates on EV charging, Sustainamania, support for entrepreneurs, and upcoming community events.

I also joined regional leaders on Seattle's working waterfront and connected with communities across the Eastside. Each experience reflects a simple idea: stronger communities grow when we understand our roots, create room for more voices, and work together on the road ahead.



INDIA AT 80: HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY



FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE



PRESERVING BOTHELL'S HISTORY

CITY UPDATES

Following the August recess, the City Council resumed its regular schedule as work continued on projects and services across Bothell.



SUSTAINAMANIA RETURNS FOR ITS 14TH YEAR

Bothell's annual sustainability festival—"Sustainamania 2026" returns for its 14th year, offering free, family-friendly activities that make sustainability fun while teaching ways to repair items, save resources, and keep waste out of landfills.

Volunteers are also needed for setup, waste stations, and event support.

Details and volunteering:
www.bothellwa.gov/sustainamania

PAID EV CHARGING BEGINS AT CITY HALL

Beginning September 1, public chargers in the City Hall garage cost \$0.34 per kWh. A \$5 hourly idle fee applies after a 30-minute grace period, helping keep charging stalls available. Residents can also help identify future charger locations through the Engage Bothell survey and interactive map.



STARTUP SUPPORT EXPANDS ACROSS THE EASTSIDE

As one of Startup425's six partner cities, Bothell connects emerging founders with education, mentorship, and business-development resources. The latest free, 15-week Accelerator cohort began in August, helping early-stage entrepreneurs refine their ideas, build essential skills, and prepare to launch.

Program information startup425.org

AT PORT OF SEATTLE

UNDERSTANDING THE PORT'S REGIONAL REACH



From left to right: Prasad Anguluri, Menka Soni, Jovelyn Abalog, and Sianna Foster.



From right to left: Prasad Anguluri, Pierre Bloss

In August, I joined regional elected officials for a working waterfront tour hosted by the Port of Seattle. The visit offered a firsthand look at the maritime industries, freight systems, and infrastructure connecting Washington businesses with global markets.

The Port's reach extends far beyond Seattle. Its cargo gateways support supply chains, jobs, and businesses across East King County, including Bothell. Seeing these operations up close reinforced the importance of coordinated investment in efficient, resilient, and environmentally responsible maritime infrastructure.

Thank you to Bellevue College for providing transportation from the Eastside and helping local leaders participate. Regional partnerships like this give public officials a clearer understanding of the systems—and shared decisions—that shape our local economy.

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

AN EVENING OF INNER MELODY

At An Evening of Inner Melody in Redmond, the Sai Parivar Foundation presented dance and music inspired by Dr. C. B. Satpathy's teachings and compositions. I was honored to join Bothell Mayor Mason Thompson, Senator Tina Orwall, and other regional leaders for an evening centered on culture, compassion, and peace.



Joining Mercer Island Councilmember Julie Hsieh to raise the Indian flag at the India Community and Cultural Center in Redmond.



Honored to recognize the talented children at Suroor, an inspiring cultural event organized by **Planet of Voice**, which gave young Indian American performers a stage to share their talent and cultural pride. Thank you to the organizers for creating this opportunity.



At the Consulate General of India in Seattle, Consul General Prakash Gupta hosted civic and community leaders for a flag-hoisting ceremony marking India's 80th Independence Day and India-Pacific Northwest ties.

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FASHION AND BUSINESS



FASHION WITH PURPOSE

North America Fashion Week returned to Renton in August, bringing together designers and models from diverse cultural backgrounds. Organized in support of AmPowering, the runway connected fashion with representation, mental health awareness, and humanitarian service. I was pleased to join Councilmember Menka Soni and community leaders at an event that paired creativity with social impact.

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

Malabar Gold & Diamonds previewed its new Seattle-area showroom ahead of its planned September grand opening. Presented with Colourful Creations, the celebration reflected the growth and diversity of our region's business community. Thank you to Aneela, Supriya, and Dr. Shivi for helping bring the event together.



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SCENES FROM NORTH AMERICA FASHION WEEK 2026 IN RENTON



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PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSWOMAN
SUZAN DELBENE



Thank you to Chandrasena, Vamshi Reddy, Saibaba Talluri, Anil Damidi, Pradeep T., Karthik Dokka, and Parag Dharap for supporting the dialogue, and to Melissa Plummer, Henry Denberg, and T-Mobile Vice Chairman and former CEO Mike Sievert for joining the conversation.

At a campaign fundraiser hosted by Marty and Colleen Taucher in Kirkland, Congresswoman Suzan DelBene discussed affordability, health care, government accountability, and voter participation. Indian American leaders and entrepreneurs also raised concerns about H-1B backlogs, family separation, and immigration casework—issues with direct consequences for families and businesses across our region.



I am honored to join the TiE Seattle Board of Directors alongside Joseph Sirosh, Monika Panpaliya, Sanjay Puri, and Vamshi Reddy. I look forward to helping founders access mentorship, networks, and opportunities while strengthening Seattle's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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INSIDE BOTHELL'S LIVING HISTORY

Earlier this month, I visited the Bothell Historical Museum, where three historic buildings bring the city's early history to life: the 1893 Hannan House, the 1884 Beckstrom Cabin, and Bothell's 1885 schoolhouse.

The Bothell Historical Society was formed in 1967, and the Hannan House became its home before being moved to the Park at Bothell Landing in 1978. Today, carefully preserved rooms and artifacts offer a tangible connection to more than a century of community life. The one-room schoolhouse was especially memorable, making the past feel immediate and personal.

I am grateful to the museum's staff and volunteers for safeguarding these stories for future generations.



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LEADER'S INTERVIEW SERIES

In my Leader's Interview series, I speak with regional leaders whose work touches everyday life. This month's conversations explore health care, public leadership, and holistic well-being.

1. The conversation on "**The Future of Community Healthcare**" with EvergreenHealth CEO Dr. Ettore Palazzo discusses artificial intelligence in medicine, senior care, workforce needs, and the future of locally delivered health care.



2. In "**Unfiltered Politics**," Senator Vandana Slatter reflects on women's representation, barriers to public leadership, and the importance of broader participation in government.
3. In "**The Power of Yoga as Holistic Health**," Arpana Gurjar, founder of Patva Yoga, explains yoga's role in supporting physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

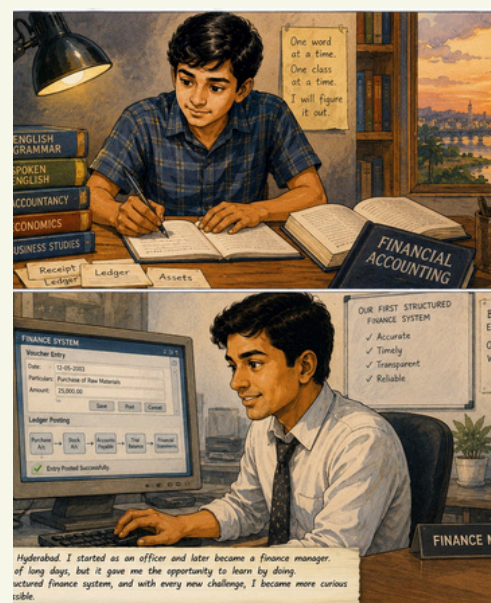


SHARING MY STORY

My curiosity about people began at my father's grocery store, where daily conversations introduced me to neighbors whose lives, needs, and choices were all different. Those encounters taught me to listen closely and value perspectives beyond my own.

In Sharing My Story, I revisit the experiences that shaped my life and the lessons I continue to carry. A new episode will be shared each week on Facebook and Instagram. I hope you find something in these stories that connects with your own.

kicking off this new series on Facebook and Instagram, with a new episode each week. Check out the first two episode of my story here: [Episode 1](#), [Episode 2](#)



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MILESTONES

DibBANA 2026: 25 CONVENTIONS, 47 YEARS OF COMMUNITY

DibBANA 2026 marked the Bunts Association of North America's 25th convention and 47 years of community. Held in Bellevue from July 30 to August 2, the gathering brought generations together through culture, leadership, learning, and connection. Thank you to BANA President Manjunatha R. Shetty, Shama Shetty, and the many volunteers who made this milestone possible.



ICCC OPENS A PERMANENT CULTURAL HOME

The August 1 inauguration of the India Community and Cultural Center in Redmond opened a permanent home for Indian arts, education, heritage, wellness, and cultural exchange. Community-led and open to all, ICCC will preserve living traditions while sharing them with the wider region. I was pleased to join Mayor Mason Thompson and Consul General Prakash Gupta in celebrating this milestone.

CHINMAYA DWARAKA OPENS IN LYNNWOOD

Chinmaya Mission Seattle inaugurated Chinmaya Dwaraka, its new spiritual center in Lynnwood, on August 30. The center creates a dedicated home for Vedanta study, Bala Vihar, prayer, and service, helping children, families, and seekers connect across generations. Swami Swaroopananda, Global Head of Chinmaya Mission, formally inaugurated the center.



REMEMBRANCE AND COMMUNITY

FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE

On August 6, Seattle's annual From Hiroshima to Hope observance gathered people at Green Lake to honor the victims of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and all victims of war and violence. Through music, reflection, and candlelit lanterns, the program marked the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombings and renewed a shared call for diplomacy, nonviolent conflict resolution, and nuclear disarmament.

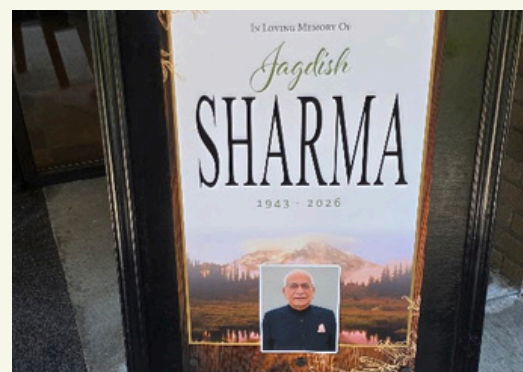


With Christina **Reiko Shimizu**, Executive Director of the Wing Luke Museum.

Beyond remembrance, the evening celebrated human resilience. It highlighted how communities have channelled histories of devastation into active movements for education, innovation, and peace.

Today, Hiroshima to Hope continues to drive vital conversations about our collective responsibility to build a safer world.

IN MEMORY OF JAGDISH SHARMA



We remember Jagdish Sharma, a pioneering Indian American community leader whose dedicated service helped strengthen our region.



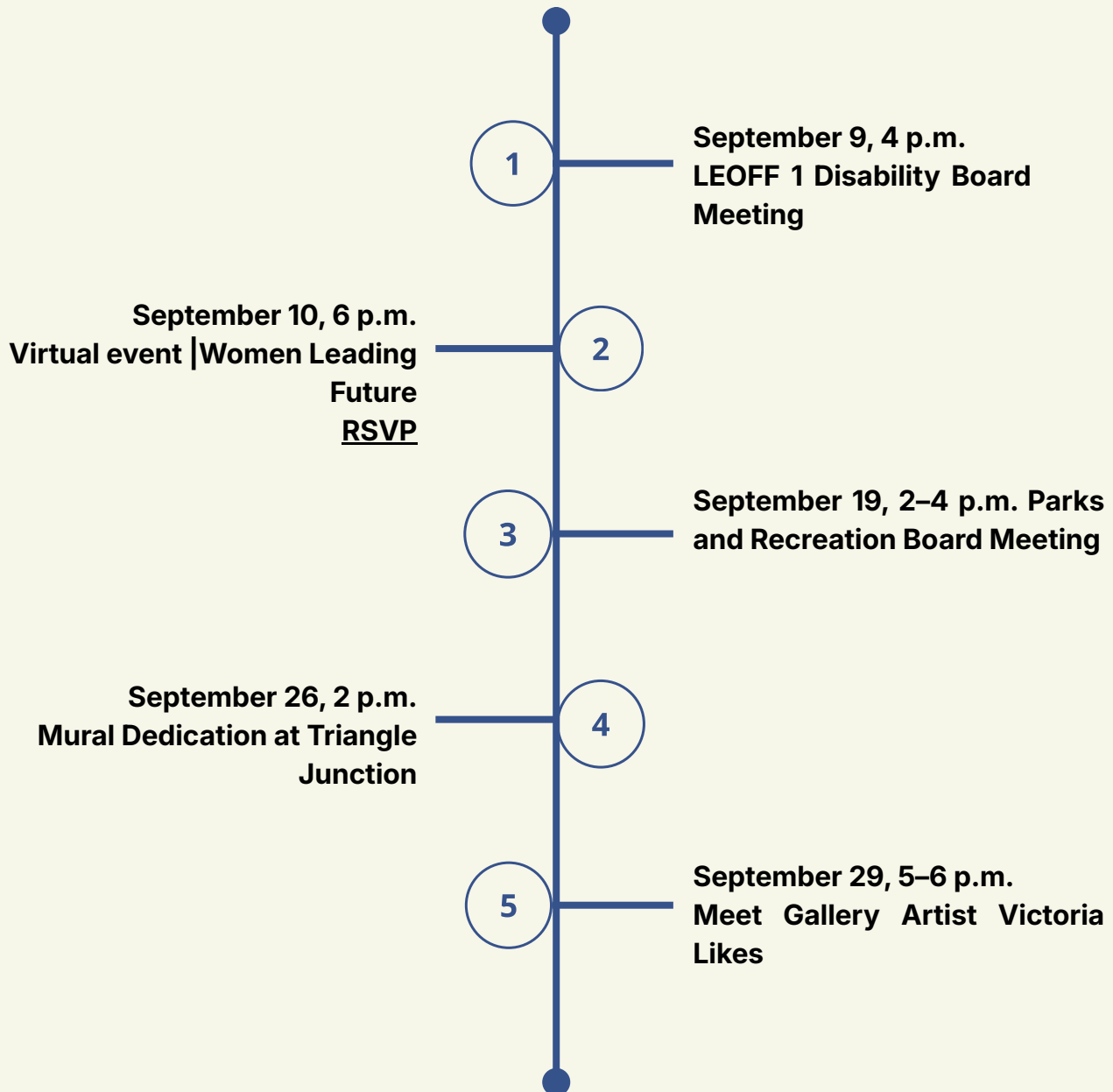
From the Vasavi Prayer, a devotional invocation dedicated to the Hindu goddess Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshvari, the patron deity of the Arya Vysya community traditionally associated with Andhra Pradesh in South India.

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UPCOMING EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2026



FULL CALENDAR: WWW.BOTHELLWA.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Disclaimer: This newsletter is shared in a personal capacity to provide updates on public service work and to stay connected with the community. The views expressed are my own and do not necessarily represent the official positions of the City of Bothell or the Bothell City Council.

THANK YOU !

FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's newsletter and stay connected with what's happening in Bothell.

Our community thrives because of informed, engaged, and compassionate residents like you. Whether it's celebrating our culture, preserving our history, supporting local businesses, or working together on the road ahead— we're better when we do it together.

I'm honored to represent you and grateful for the trust you place in me to serve our beautiful city.



Let's keep building a stronger, more inclusive, and vibrant Bothell.



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