

opportunity council

Community NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Downtown Bellingham Trick or Treat

22 North residents came together to create Halloween goodie bags to distribute to children and families during the downtown Trick-or-Treat event, providing a meaningful opportunity to engage positively with the broader community. Rather than simply participating in a community event, residents took an active role in making the celebration special for their neighbors. This activity encouraged creativity, teamwork, and a sense of purpose while creating opportunities for friendly interactions with local families. By sharing something they made themselves, residents were able to build positive connections, strengthen their sense of belonging, and be recognized as valued contributors to the downtown community.













Pumpkin Painting

Seasonal arts and crafts, including pumpkin painting at Dorothy Place, give residents and their children an opportunity to enjoy the traditions of fall in a safe and welcoming environment. For families who have experienced the disruption and uncertainty of domestic violence, these activities create space to pause, be creative, and enjoy positive experiences together. Creative activities can help relieve stress, encourage self-expression, and strengthen family connections while giving children the opportunity to simply enjoy being kids. These shared seasonal moments help restore a sense of normalcy, create happy memories, and foster a greater feeling of home and belonging at Dorothy Place.





Laurel Forest Costume Party with Animals as Natural Therapy

Laurel Forest's costume party with Animals as Natural Therapy brought together seasonal fun, creativity, and the comfort of animal companionship for senior residents. The festive gathering provided an opportunity for residents to dress up, share laughter, interact with therapy animals, and connect with their neighbors in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Combining animal-assisted activities with a seasonal celebration created a memorable experience that encouraged participation, lifted spirits, and helped reduce social isolation. Events like this remind residents that there are always opportunities for joy, friendship, and new experiences within their community.







Looking Ahead



Fall Harvest at each building

This fall, each of our housing communities is celebrating the season with a harvest gathering designed to bring residents together, strengthen relationships, and create a sense of belonging. At 22 North, Residential Counselors are preparing a home-cooked meal for residents, providing a warm and welcoming opportunity to share food and connect with neighbors. At Dorothy Place, Windermere is generously donating Thanksgiving baskets to help families celebrate the holiday and enjoy a special meal together. Laurel Forest residents will come together for a community potluck, giving neighbors the opportunity to share favorite dishes, stories, and seasonal traditions. These gatherings reflect the importance of community-centered support, ensuring residents across all three locations have opportunities to experience connection, gratitude, and the comfort of celebrating together.

Ragfinery at Laurel Forest

Ragfinery's visit to Laurel Forest provides senior residents with an opportunity to learn practical clothing repair skills, extend the life of their favorite garments, and explore creative ways to reuse and mend textiles. These hands-on activities encourage creativity, independence, and resourcefulness while helping residents save money by repairing clothing rather than replacing it. Just as importantly, gathering to learn and work together creates opportunities for conversation, shared knowledge, and social connection. This partnership brings valuable skills and sustainable practices directly to residents while supporting engagement, confidence, and a sense of community.



