



COBI CONNECTS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I'm so happy that this first edition of the City's new monthly newsletter is in your hands. Your City Council recognizes that the City needs to do a better job of keeping our residents informed of City activities.



After hearing from many people, we're going to test out this monthly newsletter for a year. We hope it will make our City's business more understandable and accessible. Our City works best when its residents are paying attention, taking part, and making their voices heard. Thank you for helping to make Bainbridge Island a special place!

- Mayor Kol Medina

APPLY NOW: SERVE ON A CITIZEN BOARD

Want to make a difference in our community? The City is looking for volunteers to fill positions on numerous boards and committees that assist and advise City Council on issues that range from climate change and design review to utility-related policies and transportation planning.

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SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS COMING SOON NEAR FERRY TERMINAL

Expect some exciting changes soon in getting to and from the ferry. Olympic Drive (the road between the ferry terminal and the Winslow Way-SR 305 intersection) will soon be under construction. The City is beginning a project designed to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers, and to improve efficiency for loading and unloading of all ferry passengers.

Once complete, pedestrians will experience a safer commute with wider sidewalks, separated from vehicle traffic, to better accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, etc. and to keep people out of the street. Another improvement will be lanes for bicyclists only and "bike boxes" at intersections to separate bicycles from motor vehicles and to encourage alternative modes of commuting. "As an engineer, the greatest gift we can give is the improvement on the quality of life; the Olympic Drive improvements will hopefully provide these features for all users," said Project Manager Patty Jenkins.

In addition, the City will coordinate with Puget Sound Energy to underground a portion of the existing powerlines along the Olympic Drive corridor. Staff worked with certified arborists and the BI Parks Foundation

to create a plan that carefully considers the surrounding trees and reduces impacts to the natural environment. The project was redesigned to preserve three large Douglas fir trees and two alder red trees. Fewer than fourteen significant trees will be removed.

The City's project team secured \$2 million in grants for this \$3 million project. Construction is expected to begin later this month and completion is scheduled for August. Lane closures will be limited, especially during the ferry terminal's peak operational hours.



An artist rendering of the Olympic Drive safety improvements near Waypoint Park. Artist: Gail Wong

Staff will kick-off outreach efforts with a ferry open house on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 10 to let people know more about the construction impacts and improvements. For more information, please visit the Olympic Drive project page on the City website.

Sign up for project updates on the COBI website. Select "Olympic Drive NM Improvements" on Notify Me.

COUNCIL CORNER

Council approves layout design for liveboards

During the Feb. 26 meeting, City Council approved a layout design option in the Dave Ullin Open Water Marina (DUOWM) in Eagle Harbor that provides sixteen liveboard spots as allowed under the terms of the City's lease with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The design increases width to the navigation fairway south of the marina area. The footprint of the DUOWM will not be changing.

The Council is working to ensure that other activities in Eagle Harbor, including recreational rowing, have good access and clear fairway. After a careful survey of existing conditions, City staff identified buoys that conflict with the navigation fairway and are working to relocate those buoys.

Sandwich board discussion

The City Council began discussion about the future of sandwich board signs at its March 12 meeting as part of a sign code update process.



The update is in response to recent court rulings that state a sign code cannot regulate noncommercial signs based on the message conveyed on the sign. The Council directed staff to revise a draft ordinance (on sign code updates required by the recent court decisions) to include the City's current sandwich board regulations and then return to the Council at a future Study Session for discussion. The Council

will then discuss future approaches for sandwich boards, including a public outreach process to seek feedback from the community.

Car-tab fee increase

The \$10 car-tab fee increase approved by City Council is set to take effect August 1. In January, City Council voted to increase the car-tab fees from \$20 to \$30 to support traffic calming measures, climate change mitigation and marketing of Kitsap Transit's BI Ride Service. The increase will add approximately \$200,000 per year to the City's Transportation Benefit Fund. It's possible, however, the City's Transportation Benefit car-tab fees may not remain in place. If State Legislators pass Initiative 976, which would reduce car-tab fees to \$30, it would repeal the Transportation Benefit District's authority to impose additional vehicle-registration fees.

NEW TRAIL CREATES BETTER CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS

A new trail was recently completed, on the west side of the Winslow core, that connects neighborhoods and gives people a safer option to walk and bike to the downtown area.

The Winslow Grove Trail, which is approximately .25 miles, begins near the Finch Rd and Sportsman Club Rd intersection and extends east to Weaver Rd near Rotary Park. It connects to the existing intra-island Sportsman Club Spine Trail, along the Sportsman Club Rd corridor.

"The trail completes a critical gap in the cross-trail system that was envisioned for Winslow – and is a great step toward a more walkable and bikeable Winslow," said City Engineer Chris Hammer.

The project came together with the collaboration of City staff, developer

Todd McKittrick of Millennial Builders, trail advocates from the BI Parks Foundation, and the City's Multimodal Transportation Advisory Committee (MTAC).

A key piece of the project was connecting the trail between McKittrick's Winslow Grove and Winslow Reserve development projects and securing an easement from an adjacent property owner. In addition, McKittrick worked with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and COBI staff to build a footbridge over a salmon-bearing stream that crosses the trail.



"(The Winslow Grove Trail) wasn't a requirement but it was for the good of everybody, including the new homeowners and the public," said Todd McKittrick whose company constructed and paid for the trail.

A trail opening celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. near the midpoint of the trail. All are welcome to attend.

PROPOSED UTILITY RATE INCREASE

At the time of this writing, the City Council was scheduled to begin discussion on a proposed utility rate increase during the March 19 Study Session. An increase would pay for rising operating costs, maintenance of facilities, and capital projects.

Last year, the City hired a consultant, Financial Consulting Solutions Group, to evaluate the rates of the water and

sewer utilities and, if necessary, make recommendations to adjust the rates.

The Utility Advisory Committee (UAC), which provides recommendations to the City Council on matters related to the City's water, sanitary sewer, storm water, and other utilities, has regularly been meeting with the consultant to discuss the proposed rate changes.

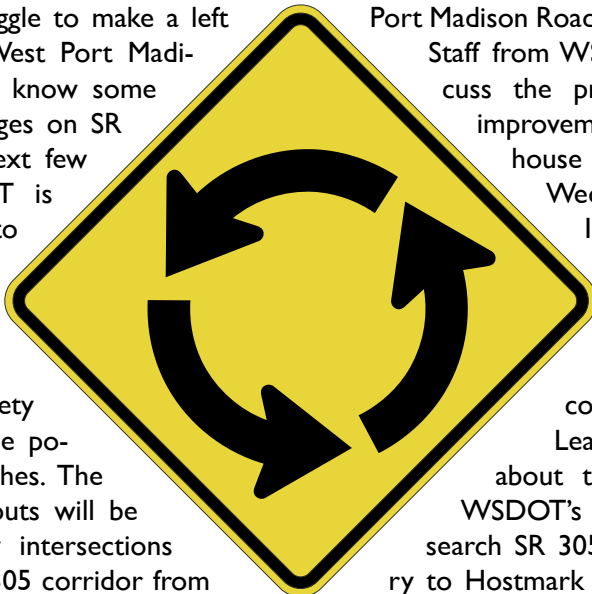
During its March 7 meeting, the UAC recommended adoption of the consultant-proposed sewer and water rates that include a proposed decrease for single-family and multi-family accounts in the Winslow sewer system and proposed increases for commercial accounts in the Winslow sewer system (e.g. restaurants, businesses, churches, schools) and all accounts in the South Island sewer system.

Please see the March 19 Council agenda for more information.



WSDOT TO HOST OPEN HOUSE ON SR 305 ROUNDABOUT PROJECT

If you're often stuck in the backup at the Day Road and SR 305 intersection or struggle to make a left turn out of West Port Madison, then you know some of the challenges on SR 305. In the next few years, WSDOT is proposing to add several roundabouts along SR 305 to improve safety and reduce the potential for crashes. The new roundabouts will be placed at key intersections along the SR 305 corridor from the Bainbridge ferry terminal to Hostmark St in Poulsbo. The proposed



locations are: Johnson Road, Totten Road, Milepost 7.9, Adas Will Lane, Port Madison Road, and Day Road.

Staff from WSDOT will discuss the proposed safety improvements at an open house at City Hall Wednesday, April 10 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. All are welcome to attend.

Learn more about the project on WSDOT's project page; search SR 305 Winslow Ferry to Hostmark St - Safety Improvements Project.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION:

WARD MEETINGS



What's on your mind? Share your thoughts and concerns with your Council representatives at the April Ward Meetings. Bring your neighbor!

South

Saturday, April 13 10-12;

Island Center Hall

North

Saturday, April 27 10-12;

Seabold Hall

Central

Saturday, April 27 1-3;

City Hall

LAND USE: DEVELOPMENT MORATORIUM

We recently conducted a communications survey to find out how Bainbridge Islanders would like to stay informed about City projects, City Council agenda items, and other topics of interest. 550 people responded, and ranked land use/development among the topic of most interest. In an effort to keep people informed on this topic, we hope to include updates each month in this newsletter.



It has been nearly a year and a half since the City Council passed Ordinance No. 2018-02, declaring a temporary six-month moratorium on the acceptance of certain development applications. The moratorium was a means to “push pause” on larger development projects on the island to allow time to revise and update the City’s development regulations to better support the 2017 Comprehensive Plan.

Much of the development under

construction today was approved before the moratorium. The Department of Planning and Community Development created a work plan to address the City Council’s stated concerns related to this development – threatened harm to the Island’s fresh water aquifers, loss of native vegetation and soils, challenges promoting affordable housing, and compliance with the land use review and decision-making process – and includes specific tasks intended to align the City’s development regulations with the Island’s vision for future development within the context of the vision and goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning and Community Development work plan topics include:

- **Critical Areas Ordinance**
- **Subdivisions**
- **Design Guidelines**
- **Land Use Review Procedures and Decision Criteria**
- **Affordable Housing**

Development activity prohibited during the moratorium includes all applications for new subdivisions (except two-lot short subdivisions in which there is an existing single-family residence) and major site plan and de-



sign review and major conditional use permit proposals located outside the Mixed Use Town Center/Central Core Overlay District or the Business/Industrial District.

Permits and approvals for some affordable housing projects, government facilities and structures, educational facilities and preschools, wireless communication facilities, and emergency medical and disaster relief facilities are not included in the moratorium.

The City Council is provided with a status report on the moratorium work plan at each Study Session meeting. The work plan status report is included in the agenda packet for these meetings.



Since its enactment, the original six-month moratorium has been extended several times and is currently set to expire on April 8, 2019. During the March 5 Study Session, the City Council requested that staff work on an ordinance to extend the moratorium by six months to allow staff more time to complete the work plan items. Please see the City’s Moratorium Webpage for the latest update.

LAND USE: MORATORIUM WORK PLAN

What is it?

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO)

The CAO includes regulations for critical aquifer recharge areas, steep slopes, wetlands, and streams.

Subdivisions

The City is updating its subdivision regulations, applicable when property is being divided to create new lots.

Design Guidelines

The City is updating its existing design guidelines for major projects. Design guidelines are a method of guiding development and enhancing the quality of buildings, sites, and the public realm.

Land Use Review Procedures and Decision Criteria

The submittal requirements, meeting types, and review process for “major projects” (site plan review, conditional use permits, and subdivisions) have been updated. The decision criteria for major projects are also being updated to ensure that the recommendations of review bodies are followed.

Affordable Housing

The Council is exploring opportunities for affordable housing, based largely on the Affordable Housing Task Force final report, an economic market analysis, and program feasibility study related to inclusionary zoning and TDR public benefit programs.

How might it impact me?

You may be impacted by the updated CAO if you have a critical area on your property, including steep slopes, wetlands, and streams. New development meeting certain criteria is subject to a new aquifer recharge protection area (ARPA) requirement.

If you have property that you are interested in subdividing, you will be subject to the new subdivision regulations. Major changes include increased open space requirements, a new community space requirement, a preferred clustered development pattern, and new design guidelines related to site development.

The “look and feel” of development throughout the island will be more reflective of the Island’s values and character. If you re/develop property subject to design guidelines, you will need to follow the new guidelines. These guidelines do not apply to single-family homes (other than within the Fort Ward Overlay District).

If you apply for a major site plan review, conditional use permit, or subdivision, you will need to follow the new land use procedures. Major changes include new and early conceptual and design guidance meetings and a review and recommendation role for the Design Review Board and Planning Commission for larger subdivisions (5 lots or more).

Anticipated impacts include an increase in affordable housing and an enhanced TDR (transfer of development rights) program.

What is the status?

The updated CAO became effective in April 2018. The updated CAO is effective on all properties outside the shoreline jurisdiction. An amendment to the City’s shoreline master program to include new critical areas regulations is expected to be completed this summer.

The subdivision update is being considered by the City Council. It is anticipated the City Council will adopt the new regulations sometime in May.

The design guidelines update will be discussed at Design Review Board, Planning Commission, and City Council meetings throughout April – June. It is anticipated the update will be complete in July.

Land use review procedures and decision criteria revisions for subdivisions are complete. Work on other permit types – site plan review and conditional use permits – is underway and expected to be complete in May.

The Affordable Housing Task Force presented its final report to the City Council on July 24, 2018. On February 19, the Council further discussed the topic and will continue to work with staff to prioritize and implement recommendations from the reports and Ad Hoc Committee.

CITY HALL HOSTS HOMELESSNESS PHOTO EXHIBIT

A new photography exhibit documenting homeless communities in Portland and Seattle is now on display at the City Hall Council Chambers and will be on showcase at an artist's reception during the April 5 First Friday Art Walk.



Credit: Steve Wilson

Curated by Greg Robinson, Chief Curator at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, the exhibit features a sample of photographs by internationally acclaimed photojournalist Steve Wilson, a resident of Bainbridge Island and Seabeck, whose career spans from the New York and Seattle World's Fairs to LIFE and National Geographic magazines. In recent years, though, Wilson has focused on issues of homelessness, including social perceptions and ideas of community, displacement, societal concepts of what is "normal," and varying definitions of (and the human need for) community.

"Wilson's work is all about the

people featured, and their life stories. His photographs compel us to ponder their circumstances, as well as our own," said Greg Robinson. "This exhibit is more than a documentary project; it is a mirror Wilson asks us to look into."

Wilson's photos in the exhibit are included in his American Street Philosophers book project that features Dignity Village, a permanent city-recognized homeless encampment in Portland. The project combines Wilson's photographs with personal stories and quotes, poems, and observations he refers to as "anecdotes from surviving."

"I'll bet anyone who takes the time to experience them will feel a shift;

"With this exhibit, we are challenged to see a bit of ourselves or our family and community in these faces."

-Leslie Schneider

maybe new questions rise up," said Councilmember Leslie Schneider, who is sponsoring the exhibit.

In 2005, Schneider toured Dignity Village with her father and son who was then seven years old. The encampment included dozens of tiny homes built from recycled building materials and common facilities for cooking and hygiene situated on a parking lot near the Portland airport. Now, Bainbridge

Credit: Steve Wilson



Islanders are getting a glimpse into this community through Wilson's work.

"With this exhibit, we are challenged to see a bit of ourselves or our family and community in these faces," said Schneider.

The April 5 reception from 6-8 p.m. will include remarks by Greg Robinson and Steve Wilson at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Guitarist Robin Kutz will perform during the event.

Citizen Advisory Groups, continued from page 1

"Getting involved with a citizen advisory committee is one of the best ways to learn more about the City's decision-making process and to add your voice to some of the most visible projects on Bainbridge Island," said Anthony Oddo who serves on the Marine Access Committee.

Most of the committee positions require a three-year term commitment. The work load varies for each committee; some meet monthly and others more frequently. Some committees may require advance reading in order to participate meaningfully in the discussion.

"All committees need citizens who are interested in making our community the best it can be, by participating wholeheartedly and openly in the work of the citizen board, commission or committee," said Maradel Gale who has served on numerous committees throughout the years and currently serves on the Island Center Subarea Planning Process Steering Committee.

For a full list of the open positions and to apply online, please visit the Citizen Advisory Groups section of the City website. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Monday, April 29. Applicants must be available May 8-May 17 for interviews. Terms begin July 1. For more information, please contact Executive Assistant Roz Lassoff at rlassoff@bainbridgwa.gov or 206-780-8624.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF JEFF HORN

“I can’t change the whole world, but I can help change individual people’s lives, for sure,” Interim Police Chief Jeff Horn realized that after first becoming a police officer in Indianapolis, IN over twenty years ago. Now, he is serving the City of Bainbridge Island in the footsteps of highly-respected Chief Matt Hamner.

Hamner was responsible for recruiting Chief Horn for the position of Deputy Police Chief of the Bainbridge Island Police Department in 2014. When Horn arrived, he was captured by the beauty of the area and how vastly different the police department here works in comparison to Indianapolis. “I knew this was where I wanted to be,” he says.

Horn will serve as the Interim Police Chief at least until August, when City Manager Morgan Smith will decide whether or not the City will conduct a search to fill the position permanently.

The whole family approved of the move to the area. Horn’s wife home-schooled their three children – now ages 19, 17, and 14 – making the transition relatively easy. At least one of their children may follow in their dad’s

footsteps. It is the “family business,” after all; a framed photograph of Horn with his parents and brother, all in police uniform, is displayed proudly in Horn’s office.

Five years later, he still feels that Bainbridge Island is special. “You’re a lot

“I want to work as hard as I can for the citizens of Bainbridge Island.”

more accountable in a smaller agency like this. In a large agency, if an officer isn’t performing, they can kind of hide him. You can’t do that here. You’re going to perform, or you’re not going to be here.” He is impressed at the level of engagement the community offers; he describes the police department staff as a “tight group” that extends to the civilians it serves. He doesn’t expect any of that to change under the new leadership. “There is going to be very little departure from what (Chief Hamner) did to what I do because he was wildly successful.” When asked what his greatest strength is that he brings to

his new role, Horn replied, “My honesty and dedication to the job. I want to work as hard as I can for the citizens of Bainbridge Island.” He also plans to carry on the police department’s culture of prioritizing education. The department appreciates any interactions staff can have with the public to explain that philosophy and encourages office visits. “When you walk by here, come in,” he says. “We’re nice people; come get to know us.”

If you get him started talking about the Walking Dead, he may not stop (he’s a huge fan of the TV series). And, for the record, he does

like donuts just as much as Chief Hamner—but he’s currently on a diet.



Q- What do you enjoy most about working at COBI?

A- Without a doubt the people! The team that has been assembled at the police department and all over the city is top notch and great to work with.

Q- What’s the question you get asked the most in your job?

A- Variations of the question, “Can you stop the speeding on the island?”

Q- What activities do you enjoy?

A- I enjoy exercising (although my knees don’t seem to like it), reading,

spending time with my faith and family.

Q- What’s your favorite place/activity on Bainbridge Island?

A- I’m a big fan of eating. I love the restaurants on the island. I had a list of my favorites but couldn’t narrow it down. I love spending time in Waterfront Park and the new dock. We moved our National Night Out celebration to the park last year and thoroughly enjoyed it!

Q- Which of the City’s core values is most meaningful to you in your work?

A- Connection. Relationships and communication are the most important aspects of my job. Loving the people you serve and the people who work for you is paramount to success in government.

Q- Anything else you’d like to add?

A- To all the people who continue to support me in this endeavor, I don’t have the words to say how thankful I am to you!



BIPD is now on Facebook.
Like the page!
facebook.com/BainbridgeIslandPD

APRIL

JOIN US



- City Council Study Sessions
 - April 2, 6-10 p.m.
 - April 16, 6-10 p.m.
- City Council Business Meetings
 - April 9, 6-10 p.m.
 - April 23, 6-10 p.m.
- Utility Advisory Committee
 - April 10, 5-7 p.m. @ Council Conference Room
- Planning Commission
 - April 11, 7-9 p.m. @ Council Chambers
- Design Review Board
 - April 15, 2-5 p.m. @ Council Conference Room
- Ethics Board
 - April 15 6:30-8 p.m. @ Council Conference Room

CONNECT WITH THE CITY

Nixle: Receive emergency alerts for severe weather, traffic issues, etc. Text **98110** to **888777** to opt-in or visit nixle.com.

City Manager's Report: Get weekly updates on City Council discussions, upcoming meetings, and events in our e-newsletter.

Notify Me: Get updates on topics of interest such as City Council agendas, transportation and construction updates, and other timely information. Visit the COBI website and click "Sign Up for City Notifications."

We welcome your feedback on the newsletter. Please email your suggestions and comments to Communications Coordinator **Kristen Drew** at kdrew@bainbridgewa.gov



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WHAT'S INSIDE

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*****ECRWSS*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER

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