

## Council Message

Matt Tirman, South Ward



Greetings, Islanders! I'd like to touch on one of the key priorities for this City Council and that is the provision and support for sustainable affordable housing.

We are in the midst of a housing crisis. Whether it's seniors struggling to keep up with rising property taxes or renters facing the prospect of an unaffordable rise in their rents, general affordability remains a priority of this Council.

The City's Affordable Housing Task Force put forth many excellent recommendations to Council late last year, and we are working aggressively to implement many of the recommendations. On June 4, Council will consider how to best use City housing funds, and whether to expand City support for a Helpline House program that provides relief for renters and homeowners facing temporary financial hardship.

Later this summer, the Council will continue the next phase of planning for our Suzuki property affordable housing project. If you'd like to learn more about this project, please visit: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/650/Suzuki-Property](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/650/Suzuki-Property). It's an honor to serve and please feel free to reach out with comments or questions.

## Land use

### Council continues subdivision discussion

The City Council is continuing its discussion on an update to subdivision regulations. The purpose of the update is for future subdivision development to reflect and preserve Island character through implementation of several land use, environmental, and housing goals and policies of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The update

## City expands hours for planning and building appointments

Have you ever waited in a long line at the planning counter to submit a permit application or to just ask a question about tree removal? We know the wait can be unpredictable and frustrating — and we hope that will soon change. Beginning Monday, June 3, the Planning and Community Development (PCD) Department is extending its appointment service hours and changing walk-in counter hours to improve the experience for our customers.

"The change is intended to improve efficiency and responsiveness in serving City customers," said Permit Specialist Lara Lant. "We want to provide customers with predictable appointment times to reduce waiting in line at the counter."

People who want to submit a land use or building permit application can schedule an appointment online to meet with staff at City Hall 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Previously, this service was limited and PCD was closed for public business Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

In addition, the walk-in counter will be open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday-Friday to discuss a project with a permit specialist, planner or building representative or get answers to general questions about plan-



ning and development services. People can still submit permits during this time but are encouraged to make an appointment.

The expanded hours increase the number of weekly land use application appointments from six to nine.

#### The expanded hours include:

##### Walk-in customers

- 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. Monday-Friday

##### Appointments

- *Building Permits*  
8 a.m.- 12 p.m.; 1-3 p.m.  
Monday-Friday
- *Land Use*  
1-3 p.m. Tuesday  
9-11 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday
- *Consultation*  
8:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday

*Continued on page 2*

home size, landscape buffers, and diversity in layout and architectural style. Staff anticipates the City Council will hold a public hearing in June. As of this writing, the date has not been set. Please follow the project page for the latest update: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/1132/Subdivision-Update](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1132/Subdivision-Update)

# Aging: Island resources available to help you prepare for cognitive limitations

Aging can bring many wonderful things to the fore: an ability to focus on things that matter to you, a deeper appreciation of relationships, and time to reflect on the beauty of the natural world. But aging also brings limitations. As a community, we experienced this during a recent event involving a missing elderly person.

One of the most frightening prospects for many people is that they might suffer from dementia. Dementia only affects about 10 percent of us, but many more of us feel anxiety about this prospect. In all

At the Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center, we schedule programs around these topics every couple of months, and you need not be a member to participate. If you can have a family member attend with you, so much the better. At Island Volunteer Caregivers, we have just hired a Community Resources Navigator to help people learn about services available to help with life's challenges. The Navigator, Katie Auger, will be providing support at the Senior Center as well.

Taking a few steps now is just good sense.



*Reed Price of the Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center and Rita Elsberry of Island Volunteer Caregivers contributed to this article. Both organizations receive financial support from the City through the human services funding program.*

*The City uses a two-year funding cycle to support local nonprofits that provide human services to the community. During the 2019-2020 funding cycle, the City awarded \$660,000 to support this important work.*

For more information about the City's human services funding, please see the City's webpage: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/600/City-Funded-Human-Services](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/600/City-Funded-Human-Services)

cases, people who proactively make provisions for diminished cognitive capacity are in much better shape to cope with it should symptoms appear.

The best thing we each can do is write up advance directives - designating what kind of health care we would like, including in the event we experience limitations.

## New Hours - Continued from page 1

Weekly building permit application appointments will increase from 21 to 35 — a 60 percent increase. These changes allow PCD to be timelier and more responsive during the peak construction season. The new hours also improve staff capacity to respond to email and phone inquiries.

When building and planning staff are not participating in appointments, they complete the review of permits and plans. Last year, PCD processed more than 300 planning permits and more than 800 building permits. The City has many complex, highly-detailed codes and regulations, and part

of the role of PCD is to ensure compliance of these rules and to educate residents on land use and building requirements. PCD uses a team-based approach to review permits for consistency, thoroughness and accuracy and to uphold stewardship of our shoreline and critical areas.

"We are committed to ensuring that our important regulations related to the environment are well understood and fully implemented," said Interim PCD Director Heather Wright.

## Future Improvements

PCD will continue to close for process improvements on the **second Thursday of**

# Household chemical collection event

COBI's O&M Facility

SATURDAY / June 15

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

7305 Hidden Cove Rd., Bainbridge Island

## Accepted at no charge

Adhesives • Aerosols • Automotive fluids (excludes motor oil, antifreeze) • Corrosive cleaners • Flammable liquids • Lawn and garden chemicals • Oil-based paints and stains • Paint thinner • Pool and spa chemicals

## Not accepted

Latex paint • Motor oil • Antifreeze • Batteries • Light bulbs, tubes • Propane tanks • Needles • Marine flares • No business or nonprofit waste • No containers > 5 gallons

What do I do with it?

See [recycle.kitsapgov.com](http://recycle.kitsapgov.com)



**each month** to allow new customer service initiatives to be developed and implemented. Future improvements include:

- Transition to a fully electronic permitting process.
- Collaboration among planning, building and public works staff to improve the combined review of project applications.

To schedule an appointment to submit a planning or building permit or request a land use consultation, please use the City's online calendar: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/pcd-appointments](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/pcd-appointments)

# Congrats, BHS Grads!

With June graduation season here, we asked our 20 City staff/Councilmembers who are BHS graduates, "What advice do you have for the Class of 2019?" See some of their responses below.



**Jon Bingham**, Class of 1997;  
**Police Officer**

"Being better than others is not nearly as rewarding as helping others be better."



**Chris Hammer**, Class of 1986;  
**Engineering Manager**

"Dream big and live a little each day."



**Alain Huggler**, Class of 2005;  
**Financial Analyst**

"It's important to differentiate yourself from the masses. Know your own mind."



**Ben Sias**, Class of 1994;  
**Police Sergeant**

"As soon as you get a job, start saving for retirement."



**Lara Lant**, Class of 1987;  
**Permit Specialist**

"Take a gap year. Or two. You'll never regret it."



**Christian Berg**, Class of 2005;  
**Water Resources Technician**

"Living on Bainbridge might not seem ideal to a recent grad, but when you turn 30 it starts to seem just right."

## Council approves utility rate changes

During the May 14 City Council meeting, the Council approved changes to water and sewer utility rates following a public hearing. At the time of this writing, final approval of the rate changes was scheduled for May 28 with implementation of new rates applying to water and sewer use after mid-July.

The 2019 rate update includes the following:

### Water rates:

- Rates for irrigation and commercial customers in Winslow will decrease.
- Rates for single-family customers in Winslow and Rockaway Beach areas will increase.

### Sewer rates:

- There will be no changes for single-family and multi-family sewer rates for users of both water and sewer.
- Customers on the City's sewer system in Lynwood Center, Point White, and Rockaway Beach will see a rate increase.
- Commercial accounts in the Winslow sewer system (e.g. restaurants, businesses, churches, schools) will see an increase in rates.

The rate update process started in March 2018 when the City hired a financial consultant to work with City staff and the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) to evaluate the finances of the water and sewer utilities. The increased rates will pay for rising operating costs, maintenance of facilities, and capital projects.

## City hires new Finance Director



Please join us in welcoming DeWayne Pitts as the new Finance Director. Pitts, a Bainbridge Island resident, comes to the City with more than 30 years of experience in finance. He recently served as the Director of Finance for the City of Bremerton. Pitts has also held leadership positions with the Washington State Auditor's Office, King County Public Health, and the King County

Sheriff's Office. Pitts is a certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner.

In his new role, Pitts leads the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, which provides accounting, front desk reception, budget and financial policy and planning services to City departments, the City Council, and the community.

The Finance Director position became vacant in October 2018 when the former Finance Director Ellen Schroer was promoted to Deputy City Manager.

## Celebrate Bainbridge Pride Month

The City of Bainbridge Island is proud to support Pride Month this June and to highlight the efforts of Bainbridge Island Pride, a local group of volunteers who will be organizing events throughout the month.

On Saturday, June 1, Bainbridge Pride is hosting "Stonewall to Bainbridge," which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York that began the gay rights movement. The event is sched-



uled 1-4 p.m. at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art (BIMA) auditorium and will feature a panel of speakers and a musical

guest who will discuss their journeys and what the events of 1969 mean to them.

On Sunday, June 23, join the fun at Waterfront Park for a celebration of diversity and inclusion. Families and friends will come together 12-6 p.m. to enjoy live music, vendor booths, food trucks and more.

Bainbridge Island is a welcoming and inclusive community and it's events like these that bring us together!

# JOIN US

## JUNE

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- **Design Review Board**

June 3: 2 p.m.

June 17: 2 p.m.

- **City Council Study Sessions**

June 4: 6 p.m.

*Design guidelines update*

June 18: 6 p.m.

- **City Council Business Meetings**

June 11: 6 p.m.

June 25: 6 p.m.

- **Planning Commission Meetings**

June 13: 7-9 p.m.

June 27: 7-9 p.m.

Meetings, times and agenda topics are subject to change. Please see the calendar on the City's website for the latest information.

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To contact the entire City Council, please send an email to:

[council@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:council@bainbridgewa.gov)

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Visit [www.bainbridgewa.gov](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov) and select **City Manager's Report** to get weekly updates by e-mail on:

- City Council discussions
- Upcoming meetings
- Traffic alerts

Learn to rig, sail, paddle, and row  
FREE - all ages  
Watch a helicopter rescue demonstration

# BOATERS FAIR

SATURDAY / JUNE 8 / 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
Eagle Harbor Waterfront Park City Dock / 301 Shannon Dr SE

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

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