



CITY OF  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

# COBI CONNECTS

SEPTEMBER 2019

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## Council Message

Joe Deets, North Ward



Hello, Islanders! I hope you've been enjoying our beautiful summer. After just over a year and a half on Council it really hits me how much our work is a reflection of the community's values and aspirations — such as the well-recognized need for creating a safer and more efficient transportation system for all types of users. That is why the nearly completed project near the ferry on Olympic Drive is so important, as is the work that is going into the City's Sustainable Transportation Plan.

What may be less well known is the need to address racial inequities on the island. While we aspire for inclusivity the fact is that not everyone feels welcomed here. The City's Race Equity Task Force has been busy raising awareness and seeking engagement. I encourage you to reach out to them and join this important community discussion.

There is so much great work to do for the good of us all. If you'd like to learn more, I would enjoy hearing from you at: [jdeets@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:jdeets@bainbridgewa.gov).

## Olympic Drive project nears completion

We expect the Olympic Drive Non-motorized Improvements Project to be completed in September. The \$3 million project, which runs along Olympic Drive

visual cues. As an additional measure, tactile warning strips are also being added to clearly indicate the boundaries of the sidewalks.



from Harborview Drive to Winslow Way, aims to improve safety for people traveling to and from the ferry terminal.

Some of the improvements include new bike lanes, wider sidewalks, and additional green space to address the needs of many Islanders and visitors, including those with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments. Signals that indicate when to cross the street safely will have both audible and

“When we were in the initial planning stages, we had a number of community meetings where the public shared the shortcomings of the existing facilities and ideas they desired for the future. The design team made an effort to address the com-

ments and requests,” said Project Manager Patty Jenkins, who added that many of those comments came from seniors, people with physical disabilities, and people with small children and strollers.

Community expectations also included a need to retain a high level of sensitivity to our environment. To this end, the design team added biofiltration planters (between

*Continued on page 2*

## Three Days of Preparedness returns to Bainbridge

What do wildfires, landslides, earthquakes, and winter storms have in common? They're all incidents that we're vulnerable to experiencing on Bainbridge Island. In recognition of the importance of community-wide preparedness, we encourage you to join us in September for Community Preparedness Month. This serves as a reminder to all of us to take some time

to ready our homes, check expiration dates on emergency supplies, update emergency contact lists and copies of key documents (insurance cards, etc.), and review personal emergency plans with our families and neighbors.

This September, Community Preparedness Month will include the start of the second Bainbridge Island Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT) class, preparedness outreach on the ferry on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 10, and the continuation of the third Wednesday training series at the Bainbridge Kitsap Regional Library. The activities will culminate with the annual Three Days of Preparedness (September 27-29). We're excited to announce that this

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# COUNCIL CORNER

## Suzuki affordable housing project

At the time of this writing, the City Council was expected to consider formal approval on the number of Suzuki housing units at its August 27 business meeting.

The City owns a 14-acre property, commonly referred to as the Suzuki property, at the intersection of New Brooklyn Rd and Sportsman Club Rd and intends to develop a 100 percent affordable housing project.



At the August 6 study session, the Council reviewed a feasibility study presented by Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB) and discussed various options for the scale of the project, considering a range of housing units from 30 to 100.

At the conclusion of the August 6 discussion, the Council agreed to consider formal approval of either Option 4 (91 housing units) or the Alternative Option (100 housing units).

Once the project's site plan is determined, the City will resume work on site development tasks. Remaining Council de-

isions will be to select a stormwater treatment approach, an ownership approach for the project, and a development partner. Council will also decide whether to donate more than 50 percent of the property's value to the project and to complete the process to formally surplus the property and transfer ownership. See the August 27 Council meeting for the latest information.

## Subdivision update

At the time of this writing, the City Council was scheduled to hold a public hearing on the subdivision update (Ordinance 2019-03) during the August 27 business meeting.

During the July 23 business meeting, Council directed staff to make several changes to the ordinance, including clarifying how aquifer recharge protection areas (ARPAs) are designated in subdivisions.

ARPAs require up to 65 percent of native vegetation to be preserved, but the primary natural area (PNA) requirements are less than 65 percent. Currently, ARPAs are included as part of the primary natural area. Due to the difference in the PNA and ARPA requirements, it was suggested that ARPAs be removed from the primary natural areas and handled separately.

The City Council also requested that there be no maximum homesite size requirement in the R-0.4 and R-1 zoning districts but requested further analysis regarding the overall role of homesites in the

subdivision update. Please see the August 27 Council meeting for more information.

## Council continues discussion on ADUs

The City Council will continue the discussion about tiny home communities and allowing recreational vehicles (RVs) as permanent residences during the September 10 business meeting.

During the July 23 business meeting, the City Council confirmed that the City should work to make the following code changes related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs):

- New ADUs will not be sold separately from the primary single-family dwelling.
- In Residential zones, the City should create a process for tiny homes and recreational vehicles (RVs) to be considered permanent residences, and they could be allowed as types of ADUs. A property could also have a tiny home or RV serve as the primary dwelling on a property.
- A property could have two tiny homes or RVs serving as ADUs, in contrast with allowing only one traditionally-sized ADU.
- For properties less than 40,000 square feet in size (just under an acre), ADUs won't count towards a property's lot coverage limit.

Ultimately, policy direction from the Council will be integrated into a draft ordinance that will be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

## Olympic Dr project continued from page 1

bicycles and pedestrians) to help with water quality in the area. Previously, the runoff went into a storm drain then straight into Puget Sound. Now, there's a biofiltration system to capture the stormwater, filter it through soils, and then drain it into the Sound.

"We wanted to have a positive impact on the environment and figured out a creative way to do it," said Jenkins.

In addition, staff worked with certified arborists and the BI Parks Foundation to preserve three large Douglas fir trees and two red alder trees near Waypoint



Woods. Fewer than 14 significant trees were removed and many of those trees were dead

or dying, according to Jenkins. Staff will replant trees in the area to replace the ones removed.

Along Olympic Drive, utility poles were removed and all utilities were placed below ground level to avoid removal of more trees during construction.

As the project nears completion, the City will share more information in the community about how to use the new ways of safely traveling to and from the ferry terminal. In the meantime, information is available on the City's web-

site: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/olympicdrive-project](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/olympicdrive-project).

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

When speaking to the staff at the Bainbridge Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, it seems as though one would need to have a background in biology to work there. They didn't—but they admit they've certainly learned a lot about the scientific processes that take place at the facility. The plant removes 98% of organics and solids from wastewater, using the introduction of oxygen to grow bacteria that break down matter.



WWTP operators Shane Cooper, Delbert Frantz, Doug Otte, Ralph Scott, and Steve Pyke.

Plant operator Delbert Frantz's statement that "everything runs itself here" is a modest understatement of the hard work the team puts forth. The process of converting raw sewage into a product that "looks like tap water" and is clean enough to empty into Puget Sound requires constant monitoring, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. And, to do so without a single violation for the fifth year in a row is an extraordinary accomplishment.

The team's efforts were recently recognized with an "Outstanding Performance" award from the Washington State Department of Ecology. The award is given to plants that achieve a high level of compliance with

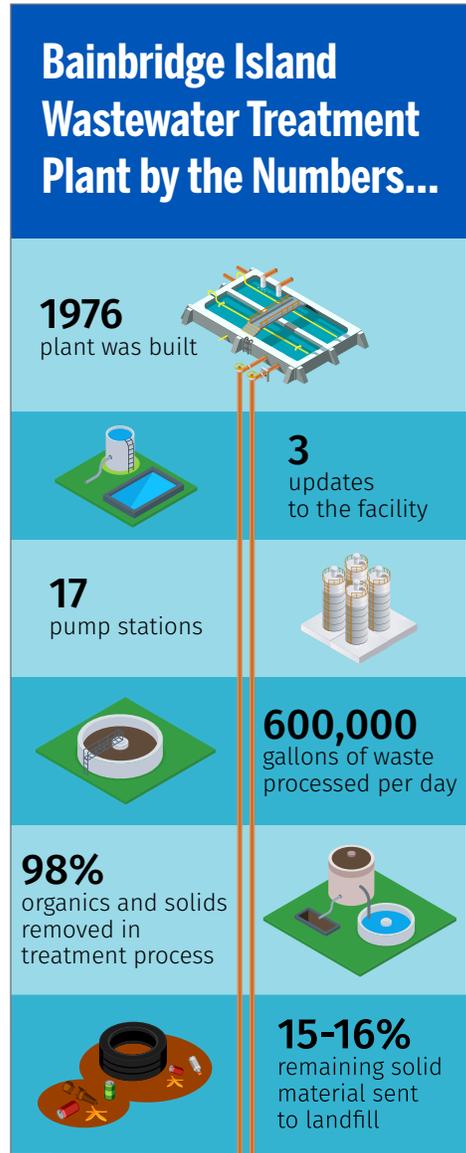
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) effluent limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment, and overall operational demands. The award honors the hard work of a team of dedicated operators with long-term legacies as City staff, including Frantz (35 years), Steve Pyke (34 years), and Doug Otte (27 years).

The City thanks the team for their leadership and commitment to safely eliminating pollutants from Island wastewater—especially as Pyke and Otte both make plans for retirement.

Shane Cooper, who previously worked as a wastewater treatment operator for the City of Snoqualmie, and Ralph Scott, who has over thirty years of related experience, have been hired to fill the vacancies that Pyke and Otte will leave. With so many people in the industry approaching retirement nationwide, Pyke shared that it is hard to find good operators. "We got lucky though, we found a couple of good ones," he said.

Pyke and Otte both credit the "great job, good benefits, and great people across all departments" for keeping them in their respective positions across decades. Frantz adds that the variety of work is what continues to keep him engaged. "A lot of changes have been made over the years, all for the best."

The most recent update to the facility was in 2010, and new upgrades are becoming imperative as the Island community continues to grow. This fall, the City Council will review



a proposal to conduct a study on plant upgrades. In the meantime, staff will no doubt continue to offer exemplary service at the plant, making sure the system keeps working and items such as kitchen oils, rags, hair, plastic products—and even the occasional bird—don't get caught.

## Council launches cultural funding award process

The City is seeking proposals for cultural projects and activities that benefit Bainbridge Island residents and visitors in 2020 and 2021 and implement the cultural element of the Comprehensive Plan. The City will award \$300,000 in grants to community organizations to support the

activities.

In the past, some of the activities have included support for the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, Bainbridge Arts and Crafts, and Bainbridge Chorale.

Proposals are due by 4 p.m. Monday, September 30. The Cultural Funding

Advisory Committee (CFAC) will review the submitted proposals. Funding awards will be for activities that occur from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. Please see the City's CFAC webpage for more information and to submit a proposal.

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

*Three Days of Preparedness continued from page 1*

year's Three Days of Preparedness will begin with a speaker series on Friday, September 27 featuring the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and U.S. Geological Survey Geophysicist Dr. Erin Wirth.

Franz will discuss future wildfire danger to the state and region, what DNR is doing to mitigate the risks, and what we can do locally to minimize ours. She will also briefly discuss earthquake preparedness. Dr. Wirth will talk about what researchers are learning about Cascadia's next earthquake and why this topic is so important.

For more information, please contact Emergency Management Coordinator Anne LeSage at [alesage@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:alesage@bainbridgewa.gov) or 206-780-8629.

**THREE DAYS OF PREPAREDNESS**

**FRIDAY 9/27/19**  
SPEAKER SERIES  
Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands  
Dr. Erin Wirth, USGS Geophysicist  
City Hall; 6:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY 9/28/19**  
Expo Day @ City Hall  
2-5 p.m.

**SUNDAY 9/29/19**  
Hubs (Shelter) Demo @ Senior Center  
2-3:30 p.m.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
[bainbridgeprepares.org/3days](http://bainbridgeprepares.org/3days)



**JOIN US  
SEPTEMBER**

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	31				

- **September 2:** *City Hall closed; Labor Day*
- **City Council Study Sessions**
  - September 3:** 6 p.m.
  - September 17:** 6 p.m.  
*WSDOT presentation on SR 305 roundabout project*
- **City Council Business Meetings**
  - September 10:** 6 p.m.
  - September 24:** 6 p.m.  
*Design guidelines public hearing; sign code; fireworks ban proposal*
- **Planning Commission Meetings**
  - September 5**  
*Police-court facility*
  - September 12**
  - September 26**

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

**Initiative 976 would cost Bainbridge thousands in transportation funding**

A ballot measure to cut car-tab fees, filed by political activist Tim Eyman, would cost the City of Bainbridge Island about \$600,000 per year if passed by statewide voters during the November election.



Initiative 976 (I-976), which is frequently called the \$30 car-tab initiative, would repeal the City's authority to impose a vehicle license fee and would significantly change how the City generates revenue to fund the preservation of roads on Bainbridge Island. The current car-tab fees provide \$400,000 per year to support annual pavement repairs (asphalt repairs, chip sealing, and stabilization of embankments) to the City's 140-mile road network — that's about 60 percent of the total spending for the City's annual road maintenance program.

National benchmarks suggest that proper maintenance for a network our City's size should require an annual budget between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million, not including costs for reconstruction. The City of Bainbridge Island currently provides less than \$1 million for this work. Significant funding comes from the City's Transportation Benefit Fund (TBF) via local car-tab fees.

If I-976 is approved, it would also remove \$200,000 per year in funding for traffic calming measures, such as speed tables and roundabouts, and climate change mitigation projects as recently approved by City Council.

If the initiative passes then the City would need to seek new revenue sources, divert funds from other City activities, or reduce the scale of the annual roads preservation program, traffic calming, and climate change mitigation projects and programs.

In August, City Council approved Resolution 2019-25 which opposes Initiative 976. Learn more about the Transportation Benefit District on the City's webpage: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-District](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-District).