



## Council Message

Ron Peltier, Councilmember At-large



In the spring of 1993, I traveled on my first canoe journey with the Quileute, Elwah S'Klallam and Suquamish tribes as a photo documentarian. Our destination was the Qa'tuw'as festival in Bella Bella, B.C. Sixty days and over 1,400 miles later, I returned home to my wife and four-year-old son, transformed by what I experienced. Over the years, my son and I would travel with the canoes, revisiting familiar places.

During these journeys, paddling in the canoes, singing and listening to the songs of the NW canoe culture, I witnessed amazing things and made lasting friends. With all I've learned, though, one simple truth stands out: regardless of the color of our skin or anything else, we are all brothers and sisters made by the same Creator.

In 2016, I sponsored an Indigenous Peoples Day resolution approved by the City Council, making Bainbridge Island the 23rd city in the U.S. to recognize the holiday.

Please join us at Woodward Middle School on Oct. 14 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for Indigenous Peoples Day.

## City Council approves development moratorium extension

The City Council voted to extend the development moratorium for six months to allow City staff time to complete training on the new design guidelines and subdivision rules and conduct outreach on these changes. The extension will also give Council additional time to complete affordable housing tasks.

within the Winslow Master Plan Study Area (WMP SA), excluding the Central Core Overlay District and projects that provide 10% of the total residential units as affordable.

Development projects in the WMP SA that already completed a pre-application meeting before Jan. 9, 2018 will not be subject to the moratorium. Subdivisions will be allowed to proceed citywide.



The development moratorium will significantly narrow in December to apply only within the Winslow Master Plan Study Area (excluding projects in the Central Core Overlay District).

On Dec. 3, the scope of the moratorium, which has been in place since Jan. 9, 2018, will significantly narrow. From that point forward, the moratorium will apply only

The remaining four months of the moratorium extension will allow the Council to continue work to develop new incentives for affordable housing, including possible inclusionary zoning and multifamily tax exemption programs. The discussions are scheduled for the Nov. 19 study session.

If Council completes the affordable housing tasks before the Apr. 3, 2020 deadline, then the moratorium could be lifted early.

In addition, during the Sept. 24 business meeting, the Council completed moratorium workplan items for design guidelines and subdivisions.

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## Planning Commission to review sign code updates

A revised ordinance, with proposed rules about signs across the Island, will move forward to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

Since September 2018, the City Council has discussed how to address signs on Bainbridge Island, including the proliferation of sandwich boards, during at least eight Council meetings.

Under the proposed rules, a sign is "non-commercial" if the sign relates to more than just the economic interests of the sign's owner and her/his audience (e.g. Little League signups, children's theatre, etc.). A sign is "commercial" if it relates solely to the economic interests of the sign's owner and her/his audience (e.g. realtor, garage sale, etc.).

The proposed rules would apply:

- **In Winslow and Neighborhood Centers:** sandwich boards in the right of way (both commercial and non-commercial) are allowed but must be brought in at night. Non-durable signs (smaller signs with stakes) are allowed if noncommercial (nonprofit

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# COUNCIL CORNER

## Suzuki housing project

At the time of this writing, the City Council was scheduled to discuss the next steps for the Suzuki affordable housing project during the Oct. 1 study session.

During the Aug. 27 business meeting, the City Council approved a site plan that includes approximately 100 affordable housing units for the Suzuki property (60 rental units, 39 units for sale and 1 management unit).



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

The Oct. 1 study session will focus on next steps and decision points related to this project. This discussion will address the implications of the City's Housing Design Demonstration Projects (HDDP) on the selected site plan, a review of the project's financial status, and an overview of the City's process to transfer ownership of real property.

## New rules for ADUs and tiny homes

A final discussion on accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and tiny homes is planned for the Oct. 22 City Council business meeting,

and it's expected that a revised ordinance will then be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review and consideration.

At the Sept. 10 business meeting, the Council refined changes to City Code that are intended to expand the range of affordable housing options across the island. Council took up the effort to expand options for ADUs and tiny homes in response to recommendations from the 2018 Affordable Housing Task Force report.

As part of this effort, Council has also considered whether to allow RVs as permanent housing. During the Sept. 10 business meeting, the Council directed staff to draft a separate ordinance to allow RVs as permanent homes while also providing for review and regulation of public health and safety issues.

The Council is interested in supporting RVs as an additional tool to address the need for more affordable housing. After considering information provided by City staff, the Kitsap Health District, and Bainbridge Island Fire Chief Hank Teran, the Council expressed interest in taking more time to construct an approach that acknowledged the need to consider issues related to safety and appearance.

"At least let's make an attempt – let's try to address the concerns through regulations and not just dismiss it because we're so focused on the bad things," said Councilmember Sarah Blossom during the Sept. 10 discussion.

Additional discussion about tiny home communities will also be continued to a future City Council meeting with opportunity for public input.

## Council moves forward proposed fireworks ban

The City Council is considering a ban on the use and sale of consumer fireworks on Bainbridge Island. The Council decided to take up consideration of this issue earlier in the summer, in response to public concerns related to wildfire risk, noise, safety, and environmental impacts. During the Sept. 24 meeting, Council voted to move the topic forward to the unfinished business portion of the Oct. 8 business meeting and will consider approval at that time. The Oct. 8 meeting will include the opportunity for additional public comment.

While the proposed ordinance bans the use and sale of consumer fireworks (firecrackers, bottle rockets, etc.), people would still be able to request a permit from the fire



marshal for a public display of fireworks. If the ban is approved Oct. 8, the ordinance would take effect one year after the adoption (October 2020).

Currently, City code allows the sale of consumer fireworks within the City between the hours of 12 p.m. and 11 p.m. from July 1 through July 4 each year and allows the discharge of consumer fireworks within the City for a six-hour period on July 4 of each year.

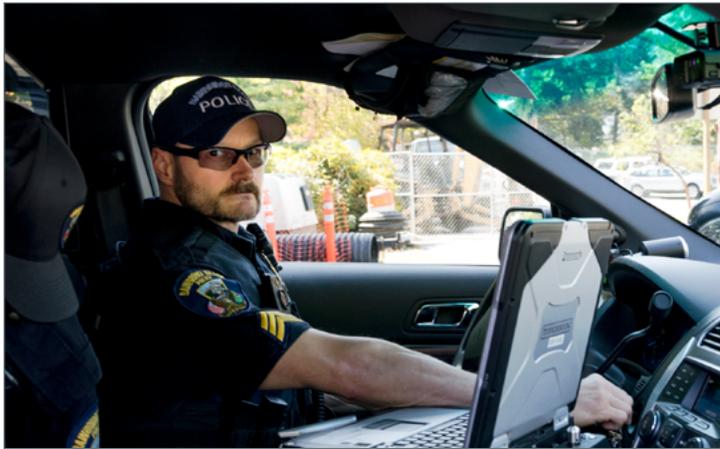


# NEED TO DISPOSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS?

Drug Take Back Day / Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Drop off at the Police Station - 625 Winslow Way E

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT SGT. BEN SIAS

Ben Sias' history with the Bainbridge Island Police Department goes back to 1991 when he joined the Police Cadet program as a fourteen-year-old. His father, who had a law enforcement background, enrolled him in the program (a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America) to expose Ben to career opportunities in the field. He must have seen something he liked; this September marked the 20th anniversary of his full-time career with the department.



Ben currently serves as a police sergeant, overseeing half of the patrol division (currently seven officers and the harbormaster). He is a Coast Guard-licensed captain.

About half of his workday is spent doing administrative work such as handling timesheets, reviewing reports, and working on projects, while the rest of the day he responds to calls. He considers a key aspect of his job to be modeling behavior—for not only the staff members he supervises but for the community. “I try to be a role model for the staff, and we all try to model the behavior we expect from citizens, such as being courteous drivers.”

Ben has become known for his positive interactions with homeless residents on the island. He was part of a team that helped residents from a camp near High School Road and Highway 305 find housing and he remains invested in their wellbeing. “I am proud to say they have had three inspections to gradually get them into complete compliance in their new home.” He considers the work he has done for the

island's homeless community to be one of the most rewarding aspects of his career.

There are many other rewards to his work as well, including seeing some of the people who he helped train succeed in their positions. Those experiences and many others have contributed to his longevity with the Police Department. Having been born and raised on the island contributes to his deep sense of commitment to the community; many of the people he's closest to are here—his parents still reside on the island, and his wife, Carla, even works at the department as its Community Resource Officer. “We were hired on the same day and met at the police academy when we were doing our push-ups and sit-ups,” he shared.

Although Ben's natural demeanor is quiet and serious, his face broke into a smile when not only talking about his wife but the couple's two beagles, Rooty and Grace. There's pride in his voice as he talks about his community as well: “This is a small town where, kind of like mowing your lawn, you can see what you've done after you do it.” Through his longstanding service, Sgt. Sias continues to make a big impact in the place he both lives and works.

## Celebrate Community Planning Month

Planning departments nationwide are celebrating Community Planning Month throughout October, acknowledging the work of many who contribute to making our communities special by planning for infrastructure that benefits all.

Join the City's Department of Planning & Community Development (PCD) staff throughout October to recognize the community's favorite places on Bainbridge Island.

Kids can enter a contest by drawing their favorite place on Bainbridge Island. Entry forms are available on the City's website or at the PCD counter at City Hall. Entries may be submitted by email to [pcd@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:pcd@bainbridgewa.gov) or returned to the PCD counter.

The contest deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, Nov.

1. The winners in each age group will be selected by City Manager Morgan Smith and receive a t-shirt celebrating Bainbridge Island and Community Planning Month.

In addition, residents are encouraged to nominate Bainbridge Island for a “Great Places in America” award. Share with the rest of the country why our community deserves to be celebrated! In 2018, the City's Waterfront Park was honored by the American Planning Association - Washington as one of the state's top gathering spaces adding



value to the community. Nominations may be submitted at: [www.planning.org/great-places](http://www.planning.org/great-places).

Learn more about the City's Community Planning Month at: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/154/Planning-Community-Development](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/154/Planning-Community-Development).

# Initiative 976 and How It Affects Bainbridge Island

## Facts you should know

### Overview

Washington Initiative 976 (I-976), described as the “\$30 car-tab initiative,” is a ballot measure that would cause the City of Bainbridge Island to lose about \$600,000 per year if passed by statewide voters during the November election. If I-976 is approved, among other things, it would result in the repeal of all local Transportation Benefit District (TBD) fees. For Bainbridge Island, the fees provide \$400,000 for annual pavement repairs and \$200,000 per year in funding for traffic calming measures and expanding public transit services.

### How does the City of Bainbridge Island spend its TBD money?



In 2019, the City used revenue generated by the vehicle fees to repair five miles of roads using a chip sealing process.

### What projects are at risk?

For Bainbridge Island, I-976 would affect projects funded through the City's Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Since 2014, the City has used, on average, \$400,000 of TBD funds annually to support maintenance of the City's 140-mile road network – that's about 60 percent of the total spending for the City's annual road maintenance program. The annual road maintenance includes asphalt patching, crack and chip sealing, and large pavement replacement projects. The TBD also uses funding to acquire rights-of-way for sidewalks and bicycle improvements. 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 is currently able to provide less than \$1 million annually for this work. Without the TBD funds, the City would need to reduce road maintenance efforts, or redirect funding from other activities.

In addition to funding for road maintenance, the City could lose an additional \$200,000 in annual TBD funds recently approved by the City Council for future use. The City intends to use the additional funding for projects to slow traffic near schools and businesses and to expand public transit services through Kitsap Transit's BI Ride service (a shared-ride service that operates on Bainbridge Island both by rider request and by serving scheduled stops). To view all TBD projects, visit [bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-Fund](http://bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-Fund).

### Why is road maintenance so important?

Road maintenance is a critical investment for the City, as the costs of not maintaining roads grow exponentially over time. As roads deteriorate from lack of maintenance, they reach a point where less costly maintenance is no longer suitable, and more expensive repairs are needed. This is similar to a leak in your roof. If the shingles aren't soon replaced when a leak is discovered, the drywall and rotted framing will also require replacing, adding a significant cost to the repair. In addition, when roads are repaired, vehicles are less likely to be damaged due to poor road conditions (potholes, cracks, or other road defects).

If a Bainbridge Islander has a small SUV (e.g., Subaru Forester) that's under 4,000 lbs., then the following fees would apply:

Current fee structure	Registration	Service
<b>Filing</b> \$4.50   Registration Filing	\$0.25   License Plate Technology \$0.50   Department of Licensing Service	\$8.00   Registration Service Fee
The TBD fee currently supports \$600,000 in annual road improvements on Bainbridge. If I-976 is approved, this funding would be eliminated.	\$30.00   Transportation Benefit District	The vehicle weight fee currently funds statewide road maintenance, transit and ferry improvements, and traffic enforcement. If I-976 is approved, this funding would be eliminated.
	\$25.00   Vehicle Weight \$30.00   Registration License	

**Regional Impacts:** The Washington State Vehicle License Fees supports funding for major transportation improvements. The adoption of I-976 would reduce funding for highways, bridges and overpasses, transit, light rail expansion, ferry maintenance, and freight corridor improvements. At this point, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has not done an analysis to determine the immediate impacts to the SR 305 roundabout project if I-976 passes.

**City Level Projects:** The adoption of I-976 would reduce roadway improvement funds for 62 cities throughout the state, including Bainbridge Island. Overall, cities like Bainbridge Island, Seattle, and others in Western Washington would lose \$60 million per year in crucial funding needed to repair potholes, upgrade safety, and expand public transit services.

**Safety Projects:** I-976's proposal to reduce license fees would reduce funding to fix unsafe roads, bridges, and overpasses. A 2019 report from the American Society of Civil Engineers graded the condition of Washington's roads a **C-**. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were more than 560 roadway fatalities on Washington roads in 2017, many caused by poor road conditions.

**Ferry Projects:** According to WSDOT, the passage of I-976 would reduce funding for ferry vessel improvements and construction by \$1.3 billion by 2031.

**State Patrol Funding:** I-976 would cut \$15 million per year from the state patrol budget, reducing funding for Washington State's Troopers' Association programs, which includes traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, vehicle enforcement, and ferry vessel and terminal security.

### Total funding loss statewide through 2025 would include:

- \$20 billion funding loss** Sound Transit Link Light Rail, Bus, and Sounder Expansions.
- \$1.5 billion funding loss** for public transportation, rail, and bicycle/pedestrian improvements.
- \$5.4 million funding loss** to fund ferry operations and maintenance.
- \$4.3 million funding loss** to address congestion on roads and highways.
- \$88 million funding loss** that funds state highway patrol, traffic enforcement, and ferry vessel security.

**Questions?**  
For more information, please visit our website: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-Fund](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/496/Transportation-Benefit-Fund)  
DeWayne Pitts, Finance Director  
dpitts@bainbridgewa.gov  
206.780.8626

# Bainbridge Island Election Overview

**7** elected Council members make up the City Council

**2** representatives from each ward (north, central, south)

**1** at-large Council member representing the island as a whole

**4** seats on the Council are up for election this year

North Ward District 2  
Central Ward District 4  
South Ward District 6  
At-Large Council District 1



**Voters in the general election vote for positions in all wards**



**Oct. 18:** Ballots Mailed  
**Nov. 5:** Election Day

Sign code updates continued from page 1 events, etc.) but are not allowed if commercial.

- **Outside Winslow:** sandwich boards in the right of way (both commercial and noncommercial) are allowed but must be brought in at night. Non-durable signs are allowed for both commercial and noncommercial uses. Commercial non-durable signs will require a City-issued permit to control the number of days, display times, etc.

Staff has developed a proposal to expand wayfinding signage in Winslow as an alternative to the use of individual sandwich boards. This proposal was submitted to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) for 2020 funding consideration.

The dates for the Planning Commission's review have not been set. There will be opportunity for public comment during the Planning Commission meetings.

## GOING GREEN!

Crews painted green bike boxes on Olympic Drive and Winslow Way in late September for the non-motorized improvements project near the ferry terminal. Completion is postponed to November as the contractor waits for the delivery of traffic signal equipment. The new bike facilities are closed until the project is complete. In the meantime, please take a few minutes to learn about bike boxes and other improvements on the City's website: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/1167/Olympic-Dr-Non-Motorized-How-To](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1167/Olympic-Dr-Non-Motorized-How-To).



## Advisory committee seeks input on climate change



The City's Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) is looking for public input in a new survey to understand the commu-

nity's existing knowledge about local impacts of climate change, level of concern, and willingness to support local action by the City and broader community.

The CCAC, made up of community members with expertise in climate science, atmospheric science, environmental law, and more, advises the City Council on the climate-related goals and policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan.

The CCAC is working to create the City's first Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions and help prepare residents, businesses, and City services for a changing climate. The plan will establish a clear road map of priority actions and projects that make sense for Bainbridge Island.

Your survey input will help the CCAC determine goals, vision, targets, focus areas, and implementation strategies. Please take a few minutes to fill out the climate change survey at: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/922/Climate-Change-Advisory-Committee](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/922/Climate-Change-Advisory-Committee). Survey deadline is Oct. 14.

## Moratorium continued from page 1

### Update on Subdivisions

During the Sept. 24 business meeting, the City Council adopted new regulations for subdivisions following a public hearing. The new regulations are applicable when property is being divided to create new lots. The changes include increased open space requirements, a new community space requirement, and design guidelines to provide additional guidance and flexibility in meeting the subdivision standards based on the site and surrounding context.



Before finalizing the new rules, the Council discussed the issue of homesite size limits for the R-0.4 and R-1 zoning districts, which is an issue that had been previously considered. Following additional discussion at the Sept. 24 meeting, the Council decided to include a limit on maximum homesite size for these zones. Earlier this summer, the Council agreed to remove the homesite size limit for these areas.

The subdivision ordinance will become effective Oct. 24.

### Update on Design Guidelines

Council approved Ordinance 2019-25 related to Design Guidelines during the Sept. 24 meeting. The new design guidelines, *Design for Bainbridge*, are an overhaul of the City's previous design guidelines.

Design guidelines are a method of guiding development and enhancing the quality of buildings, sites and the public realm. They are used by the City's Design Review Board (DRB) to provide feedback on and review development projects from an early conceptual phase through submission of a development permit.

"Since I've been on Council, I've heard lots of complaints about how certain recent developments look and how they just don't fit Bainbridge Island. These new design guidelines - this ordinance - coupled with other changes we've made to our land use code under our moratorium will fix that," said Mayor Kol Medina. "So, in the future we should be getting more of the development that we want - that really fits Bainbridge Island."

*Design for Bainbridge* will be applied when a property is going through a land use permit such as a Subdivision or Site Plan and Design Review permit, and does not apply to building a single-family home on an existing lot. The design guidelines now apply citywide, compared to the previous design guidelines which were specific to each zoning district.

*Design for Bainbridge* is just one part of the development review process and requirements. Additional City regulations for zoning, transportation, stormwater management and protection of the shoreline and critical areas will continue to apply to development projects as applicable.

### Public Outreach

Staff will host two open houses to share information about the changes related to the moratorium.

The workshops will be held Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Hall

- **First Hour:** Staff will provide an overview of the development moratorium workplan and presentation on the new subdivision regulations and design guidelines.

- **Second Hour:** Staff will explain how to look up the status of a permit, view and request public records, navigate the Planning & Community Development webpage to find City regulations, research a property, report a code enforcement case, submit a permit online, and more.

- **Final Hour:** There will be stations with staff available for the public to ask questions.

If you have questions about the moratorium or upcoming workshops, please contact PCD staff at [pcd@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:pcd@bainbridgewa.gov).

## Indigenous Peoples Day returns with week-long event

This year's Indigenous Peoples Day celebration is a week-long event featuring panel discussions, films, a farm tour, entertainment, and more to honor the historic and contemporary contributions made to our community by all our island's past and present indigenous people.

The main event will be held Monday, Oct. 14 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Woodward Middle School and will include a panel discussion on experiences growing up indigenous. Some of the special guests in-



clude Alice Harry, a Squamish Nation elder from Canada, and a song and dance group from Suquamish. Guests are encouraged to bring a potluck dish or dessert to share. Fry

bread and fry bread tacos will be available for sale.

The events are a collaboration of the City of Bainbridge Island, the Indipino Community of Bainbridge Island, Suquamish Tribe, Bainbridge Island School District and IslandWood.

For more information and a lineup of events, please visit the [Indipino Community of Bainbridge Island and Vicinity](#) Facebook page or the City's online calendar. All events are open to the public.

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

# JOIN US

## OCTOBER

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

● **City Council Study Sessions**

**October 1:** 6 p.m.

*Suzuki Housing Project*

**October 15:** 6 p.m.

*Police-Court Project Update*

● **City Council Business Meetings**

**October 8:** 6 p.m.

*Friends of the Farm Funding,*

*Ethics Program Revisions, ADUs*

**October 22:** 6 p.m.

● **Planning Commission Meetings**

**October 10:** 7 p.m.

● *PCD counter closed for process improvement day*

**October 24:** 7 p.m.

*Wireless Facilities Update*

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

# Conversations with Council

What's going on in your neighborhood? Have a question for your Council representative? One of the best ways to voice your questions or concerns is by attending a ward meeting with your elected officials.

"Attending ward meetings is a good way to ask my Council members about specific issues that concern me, such as the Suzuki affordable housing project, the potential hotel on Winslow Way, and plans for Sustainable Transportation," said Herb Hethcote, who often attends the Central Ward meetings. Bainbridge Island is divided into

three wards: north, central, and south. Each ward is required to be nearly equal in population in accordance with Washington State law.

Ward meetings are intended to be less formal than Council meetings, allowing for more of a conversation between community members and Council representatives. "Ward meetings are where we learn what is important to our residents," shared Mayor Kol Medina. Join your elected officials, and have your voice heard.

## UPCOMING WARD MEETINGS



**CENTRAL WARD - SATURDAY, OCT. 5**  
@ 10 A.M. CITY HALL

**SOUTH WARD - SATURDAY, NOV. 2**  
@ 10 A.M. ISLAND CENTER HALL

**NORTH WARD - SATURDAY, NOV. 9**  
@ 10 A.M. SEABOLD HALL

# Great Washington ShakeOut

Drop, cover, and hold on – these are words that everyone should know in the event of an earthquake. Join the City of Bainbridge Island, fellow Islanders, and one million Washingtonians for the Great Washington ShakeOut earthquake drill at 10:17 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17.

Earthquakes in the region could reach a magnitude greater than 8.0, causing hundreds of injuries and deaths and millions of dollars in critical infrastructure and private property damage. Everyone everywhere should know how to protect themselves during earthquakes – especially those living in areas prone to earthquake activity.

On Oct. 17, COBI Nixle subscribers will receive a message at 10:17 a.m. asking everyone to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Nixle is a free text and email notification system

## Join Us

in the

## World's Largest

## Earthquake Drill.

October 17, 2019

[www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org)



the City uses to alert people of urgent situations. Practicing good earthquake safety is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly if (or when!) the "Big One" comes.

For more preparedness information, please visit: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/194/Preparedness](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/194/Preparedness).