



## Council Message

Rasham Nassar, Deputy Mayor



Greetings, Islanders! I hope this message finds you well and warm during these cold and wet winter days. This year is certainly gearing up to be a busy one for

the City Council.

Council has set a date for its annual City Council retreat on March 6. This intensive workshop session is primarily devoted to establishing priority work items and goals for 2020.

Meanwhile, our Climate Change Advisory Committee is preparing to deliver its Climate Action Plan to the City Council in early spring. Also, the Race Equity Task Force is planning a number of events for this year. Check the City calendar for dates and details.

It's an honor to serve our community, and I am equally grateful for the opportunity to act as Deputy Mayor. As a reminder, I am always happy to meet with Islanders. I appreciate and welcome hearing your thoughts, questions, and concerns.

## Mapping program helps neighborhoods prepare for disasters

Recent rains turned a connecting path in the Commodore neighborhood into deep mud that made it very difficult for kids to get to school walking or on their bikes. It didn't take very long for residents to respond, however. They already had a plan, thanks to the City of Bainbridge Island's "Map Your Neighborhood" (MYN) program. Using their neighborhood MYN email distribution list, they coordinated getting gravel and repaired the path. "We know we can count on our neighbors if a bigger emergency happens because of these other times we've worked together," shared Commodore volunteer captain Leslie Marshall.

Following an emergency event, island residents may have to wait days, weeks, or longer before help can arrive or before power can be restored. MYN helps prepare residents to be more self-sufficient and resilient in the event of a wide-scale emergency. The initiative is sponsored by the City, the BI Fire Department, and Bainbridge Prepares. The training program provides a plan to bring micro-communities together in a time of need. Participants will:

- Learn the steps to take immediately following a disaster to secure their

- homes and protect their neighborhood;
- Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful for an effective and timely disaster response;
- Identify the locations of propane tanks in the neighborhood so they can be shut off if necessary; and
- Establish a neighborhood contact list



that helps identify those with specific needs such as the elderly, disabled, or children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.

"If every individual and household is prepared, that frees up City resources after an emergency or disaster has happened so we can focus on our infrastructure, such as trying to get our roads back open, power back on, and water back in place," explained

*Continued on page 2*

## City finalizes \$9 million purchase of new Police-Court facility

The City of Bainbridge Island completed the purchase of the Harrison Medical Center building for its new Police-Court facility on Jan. 31. The closing documents were signed by City Manager Morgan Smith.

The building, located at 8804 Madison Avenue N, will be renovated to support

completion of a new Police and Municipal Court facility. The project has a current approved budget of \$20 million, which includes design, site acquisition, construction, and project management. Of this total budget, roughly \$10 million has already been committed to the purchase

of the property and existing building, and previous work on site selection, feasibility, and design. There is roughly \$10 million in remaining budget for construction and outfitting.

At the Feb. 11 business meeting, the City

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**Police-Court facility continued from page 1**

Council approved a professional services agreement amendment to include new services related to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the project. In January, Council requested that staff develop a professional services contract to complete an analysis and construction estimate. This analysis is to help assess whether to pursue LEED certification for the project; it will also include information on the carbon impact of the project and renovation design alternatives.

The project's current design includes significant sustainability features, including

re-use of an existing facility and plans to meet Washington State 2015 Energy Code



*City Manager Morgan Smith signs the closing documents for the purchase of the Harrison Medical Center building.*

requirements. These planned features were presented to Council in comparison charts

that showed how they would compare in energy usage and carbon production to other potential design choices, as well as recognized green building benchmarks.

On Feb. 13, the Planning Commission held a public meeting on the project. The project will be discussed again at a later date, after staff members return with additional information requested by the commission.

CHI Franciscan Health, which previously occupied the building, has relocated to a combined facility with Virginia Mason at 1344 Wintergreen Lane NE on Bainbridge Island.

**Mapping continued from page 1**

Emergency Management Coordinator Anne LeSage, who was hired in 2018 to serve as the City's first full-time emergency manager. "MYN is the way to do that via neighbors getting to know one another and mapping the assets and needs of their immediate neighborhood."

MYN has 175 volunteer captains, whose role is to help organize the initiative with households in their respective neighborhoods. Currently, 28% (or 2,724) of the households on the island have gone through the MYN process. The program's goal is to reach another 20% of the island

over the next three years, with an ideal target of 10-15 participating households per neighborhood.

Pamela Malo's home is one of eight households in the Bucklin Hill neighborhood that is mapped, as a result of her organizational efforts. "I had no idea what would unfold when I went around knocking on doors to organize a MYN party," shared Pam. "After the kickoff, our pod decided to continue meeting twice a year. We rotate homes to learn where each other's water, gas, and electric shutoffs are and to meet pets. MYN has been a great way to have fun building a hyper-local

community with the people we live near and will lean on if an emergency occurs."

Residents who don't know if their neighborhood has been mapped can view the MYN map at [www.bainbridgewa.gov/781](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/781) or send Anne LeSage an email at [alesage@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:alesage@bainbridgewa.gov).

If your neighborhood is mapped, she will connect you with the neighborhood captain; if it has not been mapped, she will encourage you to consider becoming a captain yourself, with the support of the program's process.

## BIPD presents staff awards



The Bainbridge Island Police Department hosted its annual awards gala Feb. 1 to recognize the accomplishments of the men and women in the department during 2019. **Cpl. Cameron Lewis** was awarded

Officer of the Year and **Senior Police Clerk Lesley Hetzler** was recognized as Civilian of the Year. Both demonstrated exceptional performance, teamwork, and accomplishments in 2019. Congratulations!

## Stay informed

Sign up for the City Manager's Report and get weekly updates by email.

- City Council agenda items & discussion
- Updates on City projects
- Upcoming meetings, events, and more

Join at:  
[www.bainbridgewa.gov/1028](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1028)

(Remember to look for a confirmation email, which might go to your junk folder)

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## GRETCHEN BROWN, CAD/MAPPING SPECIALIST

When Gretchen Brown attended Eastern Oregon University as a geography student, cartography was done by hand. She has experienced first-hand how mapping technology has evolved throughout her 26 years working as a mapping specialist for the City. “When I started out drafting, maps were flat. There was no attribute data attached to the mapped features,” shared Brown.

The City now uses Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) software, which is the industry standard in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software. The technology uses feature layers supported by data that can be collected, organized, analyzed and displayed on a map or in a data table.

These “smart maps” enable information to be more easily collected, analyzed, and disseminated to the public. In the last couple of years, the City’s GIS layers have become a lot more “field friendly.” Brown’s work to develop new GIS layers and maintain and update the data has real impacts to the City’s services and has expanded what residents can research independently (e.g., critical areas, shoreline access sites, and parks and trails), rather than having to come to City Hall.

In addition, the City currently has the technology to take GIS out into the field using a tablet with data collection software and locational correction down to a few centimeters. The City is experimenting with

the mobile technology with storm water mapping and hopes to expand the use to other utilities once processes and data standards are put in place.

Brown also produces maps and data to support planning/land use projects, engineering projects, and research for other City staff and community members. Currently, Brown is working with Emergency Management Coordinator Anne LeSage



to create emergency management maps for Map Your Neighborhood. She is also working on maps for the trail collaboration project between the City and BI Metro Park & Recreation District.

Maps for zoning, critical areas, trails, watersheds, and much more can be accessed online at [www.bainbridgewa.gov/196](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/196). The GIS Mapping & Map Gallery page is one of the most viewed pages on the City’s website. In addition to her daily tasks, Brown’s role requires staying up to date with new mapping tools and GIS practices; she attends regular trainings to learn about new industry standards.

Through her work—and from having grown up on the island—Brown has come to have a strong sense of place. She lives near Fort Ward Park, where she loves having easy access to the park’s trails and beach. It was the perfect place to raise her son, who is now 21 and studying to become a teacher. “Growing up by the fort and all the bunkers fueled his passion for history,” she shared. Her own passion for geography and mapping evolved from her early interest in anthropology, history, and sociology. “I’ve always loved looking at maps. Being able to look at data spatially helps me understand the whole picture.”

Brown values life-long learning and has found her job with the City to be a catalyst for continued education and community engagement. “I work with a lot of very smart, dedicated staff and people around the community who I get to learn from. Exchanging ideas and information helps me do my job, and I hope that sharing our GIS data helps the community and other agencies to accomplish their projects and work.”

When not at work, Brown loves baking and mountain biking. Her husband introduced her to mountain biking in 2009 and this will be her sixth year of racing. She won the Mountain Biking Cross Country State Championship for her age group in 2018. She often commutes by bike from her south end home to City Hall.

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## Matt Tirman resigns from City Council



Councilmember Matt Tirman has resigned from the City Council effective Feb. 28.

Tirman, who represented the South Ward, wrote in his Feb. 11 resignation letter to the Council: “Serving

on the Bainbridge Island City Council has been one of the greatest honors of my professional career, however, with increasing professional responsibilities I feel it would be in the best interest of our island if I stepped down and allowed another member of the community to serve out my term.”

The remainder of Tirman’s four-year term expires December 2021. At the time of this writing, the Council was scheduled to discuss options for filling Tirman’s seat during the March 3 study session. More information on the application process will be available after that meeting.

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# City seeking suggestions for Capital Improvement Plan projects

The City of Bainbridge Island is working to identify and prioritize infrastructure projects as part of the City's update to the six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a long-range and strategic planning document that helps identify capital projects for preservation and improvements to City-owned infrastructure, facilities, and fleet. As part of the work this year to develop the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget, the City will thoroughly review the projects and equipment purchases that are included in the 2021-2026 CIP.



To update the CIP, the City considers a range of capital projects to fund as part of its budget process. These may include improvements to roads, new bike lanes, culvert replacements, and more. The City also considers project requests submitted by community members to help identify all potential projects.

projects get funded throughout the six-year process and a timeline for funding is set in the CIP. Previous CIP projects have included non-motorized improvements along Olympic Drive, renovations at Waterfront Park, a new City dock, and sewer pump station upgrades.

The CIP is implemented to meet the City's responsibilities to provide the community with infrastructure that keeps residents safe, supports transportation, and provides protection to the island's natural environment.

If you'd like to share a project idea, please visit the City's website to fill out an online form (or download it and drop off at City Hall) at: [www.bainbridgewa.gov/166](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/166).

The City's Capital projects typically cost \$50,000 or more and have an estimated useful life of one year or greater. The

The deadline for project submissions is 4 p.m. Friday, March 6. Projects submitted by the community will be balanced against other City projects that respond to system plans recommendations, regulatory requirements, and preservation needs.

There will be opportunities for future public comment at Planning Commission and City Council meetings.

## JOIN US

### MARCH

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- **City Council Study Sessions**  
**March 3:** 6 p.m.  
**March 17:** 6 p.m.
- **March 6:** City Council Retreat @ City Hall
- **City Council Business Meetings**  
**March 10:** 6 p.m.  
**March 24:** 6 p.m.
- **Planning Commission**  
**March 12:** 7 p.m.  
**March 26:** 7 p.m.
- **March 12:** PCD & Public Works-  
Engineering counters closed for  
process improvements

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

