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Council Message

Joe Deets, North Ward



As I am writing this, the City issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency related to the COVID-19 virus. The proclamation allows the City to use all resources necessary to respond. I urge everyone to take extra care of themselves while also looking out for those among us who are isolated and most vulnerable, and to support our local businesses that are being affected economically. We are all in this together.

The work of the City, of course, needs to continue, and Council is steadfast in fulfilling its role as its legislative body. In order to do so efficiently, the Council needs to fill the vacant South Ward seat. The six sitting Council members will make the selection; for under Washington State law, if we don't do it the County Commissioners will! I highly encourage anyone in the South Ward who has a depth of knowledge about our community and is good at working collaboratively with others to apply.

Joe Clark selected as new Police Chief

City Manager Morgan Smith has selected Joe Clark as the next Police Chief for the Bainbridge Island Police Department, following a lengthy and rigorous selection process.

Clark currently serves as Deputy Chief of Police for the Norfolk Police Department, where he has been employed since 1986.

During Clark's 34-year career, he has served in numerous positions throughout the Norfolk Police Department, beginning as an officer and advancing through the ranks to the Deputy Chief role in 2017. He currently leads the day-to-day operations of the department, including the 24-hour field command, public information office, and coordination of community affairs.

Clark has a Bachelor of Arts in criminology from Saint Leo University and a Master of Science in education (with a concentration in counseling) from Old Dominion University. He is also a 2008 graduate of the FBI National Academy.

"I am excited to come to Bainbridge Island, not only to serve as your Chief of Police, but as an active member of this



community," said Clark. "What attracted me to BIPD was the strong relationship between the officers and the residents. I look forward to joining this team and continuing to build upon that relationship."

Clark collaborated with the YWCA and Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to establish a Family Justice Center (the first in Virginia) and worked with community

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City Council seeks to fill South Ward vacancy

Bainbridge Island residents interested in serving on the City Council have until 4 p.m. Friday, April 17 to apply to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Councilmember Matthew Tirman who held Position No. 3 in the South Ward.

Residents interested in applying for the Council vacancy must have lived on Bainbridge Island for at least one year as of March 17, 2019, must currently live in the

South Ward, and be registered to vote. You can view a detailed ward map on the City's website: www.bainbridgewa.gov/219.

Application forms are available on the City website at www.bainbridgewa.gov/217. If you prefer a paper copy of the application, please email the City Clerk at cityclerk@bainbridgewa.gov and staff will mail you a copy.

The term of the vacated position will

begin once a candidate is appointed by a majority vote of the Council and will expire after the results of the November 2021 general election are certified.

The timeline for filling the Council vacancy is as follows:

- **Friday, April 17:** Applications are due to City Clerk by 4 p.m.
- **TBD (due to COVID-19):** Candidate interviews at City Council meeting(s).

City continues to support COVID-19 outbreak response



Emergency Management Coordinator Anne LeSage discusses an update with Finance Director DeWayne Pitts while working in the Emergency Operations Center.

On the evening of Monday, March 23, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order requesting all Washington residents stay at home to reduce physical interactions as much as possible to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The rules will remain in effect until April 6. For non-essential businesses, the rules will remain in effect until April 8. It's possible the dates could be extended. To learn what is considered an essential service, please visit: www.bainbridgewa.gov/COVID19 (scroll to the "Governor's Orders" tab).

City Response

The City activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Monday, March 16 to manage and prioritize resource requests across the community related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

During an emergency, the EOC serves as a central location for staff and community partners to meet to gather information and coordinate response and recovery efforts. The participating agencies include the City of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Prepares, Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District, and Bainbridge Island School District.

The Bainbridge Island community looks to Kitsap Public Health to provide guidance to the community on health concerns like COVID-19. The City is the lead agency for our community's response efforts. During this time of uncertainty, the City is focused on three main goals:

- Support public health guidance
 - The City is working to support the public health emphasis on slowing the speed of transmission of COVID-19.
- Support the community
 - As the lead emergency response agency, the City will continue to be a resource for community partners and to manage the work to address requests for resources and planning.
- Continuance of City services
 - The City aims to provide essential municipal services that are fundamental to the community, such as police services and support for utilities and other public infrastructure.



Volunteers provided hundreds of handsewn masks for health care providers and patients on Bainbridge Island through the Emergency Operations Center.

Donations

The EOC is collecting protective equipment for health care workers on the island. The items are limited due to impacts on manufacturing and the increase in global demand.

As of March 26, the EOC has received the following items from community members who responded to our call for donations:

1,004 N95 respirators (a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles)

282 surgical masks

60 safety goggles

16 face shields

80 bottles of hand sanitizer

125 handsewn face masks

Hundreds of gloves

The EOC has delivered protective equipment to several critical island

organizations, including Bainbridge Pediatrics, Bainbridge Island Senior Living, and Virginia Mason. We have also provided supplies to Helpline House, Community Pharmacy, grocery stores, convenience stores, and other businesses throughout the island that remain open to provide essential services. Many of the current community requests are for hand sanitizer to protect staff and volunteers.

"Thank you to everyone for contributing to this effort. Your generous donations will help us continue to support organizations in our community during this critical time," said Emergency Management Coordinator Anne LeSage.

Stay Informed

- City website: www.bainbridgewa.gov/COVID19
- Nixle alerts: Sign up for free emergency alerts from the City. Text **98110** to **888777** to opt-in or visit the Nixle website at nixle.com
- City Manager's Report: Sign up to get a weekly e-newsletter with updates on COVID-19 and other City topics at www.bainbridgewa.gov/1028 (look for a confirmation email, which might go to your junk folder).



Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network (BARN) volunteers coordinate the handsewn mask kits to be delivered.

City economic relief measures

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the City has several programs in support of those who may be facing financial difficulties.



Third-party vendor credit card fees: During the time that City facilities are closed to the public, the City will pay credit card fees assessed by the third-party vendor for all City fees and charges.



Utility penalties: The City will not pursue collection of late fees related to City utility accounts. The deferral of penalties will last until the end of the City's local COVID-19 emergency declaration. For customers struggling to pay their bill, please contact utility billing to make arrangements for deferred payment. Staff can be reached by email at:

finance@bainbridgewa.gov or by phone at **206-780-8603**.



Water utility shut offs: The City will not shut off water service to customers due to late payment of utility bills during the COVID-19 response. For customers struggling to pay their bill, the City encourages them to contact utility billing to make arrangements for deferred payment.



Rental assistance: Helpline House, in partnership with the City, has an Emergency Rental Assistance program that provides one-time grants to Bainbridge Island recipients to pay a portion of rent or mortgage costs for residents who are experiencing housing instability. Contact Helpline House at **206-842-7621** for information.



City water, sewer and stormwater utility fees: The City offers a 50% discount to income-qualified senior citizens and disabled residents. The income levels are set by Washington state law.



Vehicle license fee rebate: The City offers a \$10 rebate to income-qualified vehicle owners who pay the Transportation Benefit District vehicle license fee.

The application for the water and sewer utility discount and vehicle license fee rebate can be found at: www.bainbridgewa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12251

The City continues to research options to support residents, local nonprofits and businesses during this challenging time. Learn about some community resources available, including food assistance, on the City's COVID-19 webpage (scroll down to the "Community Resources" tab): www.bainbridgewa.gov/COVID19

Work planned near Pritchard Park trail

Please be aware of upcoming work near the Pritchard Park trail and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. A contractor hired by the City will be relocating an outfall structure that drains a prominent rain garden near the center of the memorial.

While exact construction dates are uncertain at this time, the project is expected to last two to three weeks. Construction hours are scheduled between 6:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the workday. There will still be access to the park and memorial site during construction. Signs will be posted at the trailheads.

The work also includes installation of a set of stairs (adjacent to the outfall) for beach access and restoration of landscape in the project area.



City staff is working closely with the contractor, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District and Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association (BIJAJEMA) to ensure that construction of the outfall does not significantly disturb the memorial site and that pedestrian trails and vegetation are adequately restored.

New Police Chief continued from page 1
partners to obtain grant funding to provide enhanced training and services under the End Abuse in Later Life Program. He also implemented a Spanish-speaking Community Police Academy to expand the Norfolk Police Department's existing program to new residents.

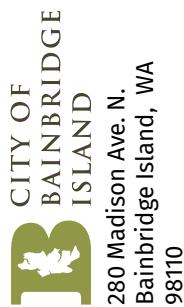
In addition to his professional duties, Clark actively participates in literacy and chess programs in elementary schools. He was named "Tutor of the Year" in 2017.

"Joe brings a wealth of policing experience to the City with a strong commitment to community engagement. He is the ideal choice to lead our high-performing department with his solid record of integrity and ethics," said Smith.

City Council unanimously approved Clark's employment agreement during the March 24 meeting.

Clark expects to begin his duties as Police Chief in late April.

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Council Calendar

An order issued by Gov. Jay Inslee to limit in-person contact during the COVID-19 outbreak requires all City Council meetings to occur remotely (i.e. not in person), and can only address matters that are necessary and routine or necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Council plans to meet weekly throughout April. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7 and will be held remotely. The only topic for this meeting will be an update on the City's COVID-19 emergency response. At the time of publication, the start time for the April 7 meeting, the remote platform, and details on public access were to be determined. Please see the Council agendas website for the status of Council meetings:

www.bainbridgewa.gov/1101.

All City Advisory Group meetings, including the Planning Commission and Design Review Board, are canceled through April 30.

Want to make a difference in your community?

Apply to serve on a City Advisory Group! We have openings on committees related to land use, climate change, historic preservation and more. A list of openings and an online application can be found at www.bainbridgewa.gov/222. Questions? Contact Executive Assistant Roz Lassoff at **780-8624** or rlassoff@bainbridgewa.gov

City Council approves Development Moratorium extension

The development moratorium, set to expire April 3, was extended by City Council for six months. The moratorium, which has been in place since January 2018, will now expire Oct. 3, 2020. The extension allows City staff time to complete

affordable housing tasks and continue work to integrate the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) into the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) to make the regulations consistent for those within and outside of shoreline jurisdiction.

You count! Be counted in the U.S. Census



If you still haven't responded to the U.S. census, please consider filling it out soon!

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. Census statistics help determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and how billions of

dollars in federal funds are allocated to state and local communities for the next 10 years (e.g., roads and infrastructure, school lunches, homeless programs, etc.).

Washington residents can respond to the Census online, by phone or by mail until Aug. 14.

City seeking communications support

Do you enjoy storytelling? Can you simplify complex topics for a diverse audience? Have experience in photography and video? We're seeking qualified communications professionals for project support through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process.

The City Council identified expanded communications as a high priority to enhance public engagement and we are looking for fresh ideas and enthusiastic expertise to support COBI Connects (the newsletter you're reading now) and photography/video projects.

This newsletter was launched last year as a top priority by the Council to inform the community about significant City topics (we hope you're finding value in this communications tool). The consultant(s) will lead in the writing, editing, design,

development and implementation of the newsletter layout with review and approval by City staff.

We also are seeking a consultant, with an eye for storytelling, to shoot photos and videos supporting City communications. The consultant will create an archive of photographs for, but not limited to, use on the City's website, social media, COBI Connects, City Manager's Report (e-newsletter) and outreach materials. The professional should also have demonstrated expertise in video storytelling to support the development and production of short videos for communications, education and marketing efforts.

Learn more about the scope of work and submission requirements at:
www.bainbridgewa.gov/bids.aspx