

COBI CONNECTS



COUNCIL MESSAGE



Leslie Schneider
Mayor / Central Ward

WYATT WAY PROJECT

TO IMPROVE SAFETY, TRAFFIC FLOW FOR ALL

A safety improvement project along Wyatt Way, between the Madison Avenue intersection and Lovell Avenue, is expected to wrap up early this year. With the construction of new sidewalks and bike lanes and a “mini roundabout” at the Madison Avenue intersection, the project will improve safety for people walking, biking, rolling and driving along Wyatt Way.

Public Works Director Chris Wierzbicki says the project addresses key gaps in the City’s non-motorized infrastructure. “Anyone who walks, rides or drives the Wyatt Way corridor knows that there is a lot of congestion, and conditions for people walking and biking are very poor. This project will build out the types of safe sidewalks and bicycle facilities that island residents—in the quickly growing core area—have been asking for,” Wierzbicki said.

Construction started in June 2020 following three years of planning and design work.

The Wyatt Way–Madison Avenue intersection, which is a main thoroughfare for people getting to and from the south end and into downtown, continues to see traffic congestion and is one of the most heavily used intersections on the island. Part of the project planning included developing a solution for increased wait times at the intersection. As far back as 2015, the City’s Comprehensive Plan, which guides the City’s growth and establishes the long-range vision for the island, identified that the intersection did not meet standards.



A roundabout is proposed at the Wyatt-Madison intersection to improve traffic flow by creating more consistency in vehicle movements through the intersection.

One of the most distinct differences between the Wyatt-Madison roundabout and other roundabouts, including the one at High School Road, is the size. The “mini roundabout” at the Wyatt-Madison intersection functions the same, but it’s smaller due to limited space and to preserve large trees in the area. A mini roundabout is appropriate for addressing small- to medium-size traffic volumes, Wierzbicki said.

“The Wyatt Way project comes at an interesting time in the City’s thought process on how to design and build transportation infrastructure,” Wierzbicki said. “The roundabout is a much safer alternative than what previously existed at the intersection. However, in the future, I think the City Council will be interested in an even more multi-modal approach with less emphasis on cars.”

Continued on page 3

OPEN HOUSE FOR CITY MANAGER FINALISTS

THURSDAY, JAN. 7 AT 6 P.M. ON ZOOM

The City Council will host an online open house to give the community an opportunity to hear from the City Manager finalists. At the time of publication, there were three finalists. It’s anticipated that the Council will make a final selection in January.

The candidate selected will replace City Manager Morgan Smith whose contract expired in December 2020. The City Manager reports to and is appointed by the City Council, as the City operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City Manager provides policy advice, directs the daily operations of City government, handles personnel functions and is responsible for preparing the City budget.

Submit questions in advance: Send an email to citymanagersearch@bainbridgewa.gov by 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 4 to have your question included in the online open house.

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL



LESLIE SCHNEIDER
Mayor / Central Ward
lschneider@bainbridgewa.gov
Term expires: December 2023



JOE DEETS
Deputy Mayor / North Ward
jdeets@bainbridgewa.gov
Term expires: December 2021



CHRISTY CARR
Councilmember, South Ward
ccarr@bainbridgewa.gov
Term expires: December 2021



KIRSTEN HYTOPOULOS
Councilmember, At-Large
khytopoulos@bainbridgewa.gov
Term expires: December 2023



RASHAM NASSAR
Councilmember, Central Ward
rnassar@bainbridgewa.gov
Term expires: December 2021



MICHAEL POLLOCK
Councilmember, South Ward
mpollock@bainbridgewa.gov
Term expires: December 2023



BRENDA FANTROY-JOHNSON
Councilmember, North Ward
bfantroy-johnson@bainbridgewa.gov
Term expires: December 2021

The City Council in May 2020 unanimously approved the appointment of **Christy Carr** to fill the South Ward vacancy following the resignation of Matt Tirman. Carr, a 20-year resident, is a former City of Bainbridge Island Senior Planner. She is a Senior Environmental Analyst for the City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, president of Sustainable Bainbridge and a former president of Friends of the Farms. Carr is the first former City of Bainbridge Island employee to become a Bainbridge Island Councilmember.

The City Council on Dec. 15 approved the appointment of **Brenda Fantroy-Johnson** to fill the North Ward vacancy following the resignation of Kol Medina. Fantroy-Johnson, a 14-year resident, served on the City's Race Equity Task Force and Sustainable Transportation Task Force. She is also involved in Kitsap ERACE (Equity Race and Community Engagement), NAACP, YWCA and Kitsap SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice). She works in information security and is a published author. Fantroy-Johnson is the first Black member of the Bainbridge Island City Council since the incorporation as an all-island City.

AT A GLANCE

HOTEL POLICY UPDATE

The City Council in early 2021 will begin review of Ordinance 2021-03, which would ban new hotels in downtown districts following a recommendation from the Planning Commission. Under the proposed ordinance, new hotels would only be allowed as a permitted use in the High School Road zoning districts.



STORAGE FACILITIES

The City Council passed an ordinance banning new self-service storage facilities to preserve commercial areas for activities with the greatest potential for job creation and business enterprise. The average amount of self-service storage facility space per person on Bainbridge exceeds the national average. With the new rules, existing facilities may expand and remodel.

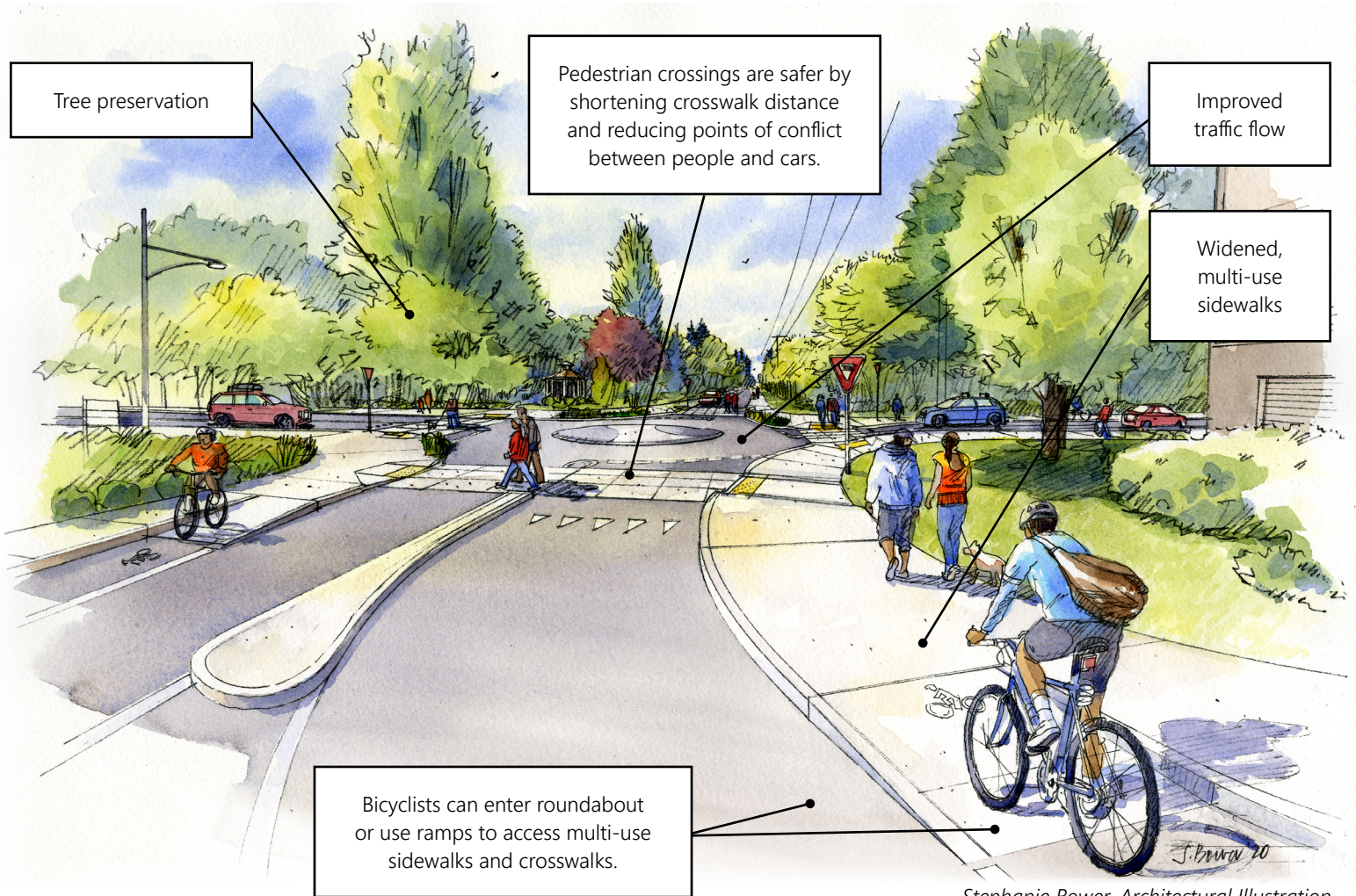


WATER SAFETY

The City Council expanded "no wake" restrictions to include Blakely Harbor following concerns from residents about speed and wakes from boating traffic in the harbor and the effect on swimmers, anchored vessels, kayakers and other users. The restrictions approved for Blakely Harbor (five nautical miles or less) exist for Eagle Harbor, Port Madison Bay and Manzanita Bay.



WYATT WAY-MADISON AVE ROUNDABOUT (NORTHBOUND APPROACH)



Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

WYATT WAY-GROW AVE INTERSECTION (WESTBOUND APPROACH)



Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

Along Wyatt Way between Madison and Lovell, sidewalks have been replaced and widened, and previous gaps in the sidewalk have been filled. On both sides of Wyatt Way, 5-foot-wide bike lanes separate bikes from cars, and ADA access has been enhanced through ramps and safer street crossings.

In addition, project work has improved the condition of pavement and drainage in the area, including treatment of polluted stormwater. During the project, a water main between Grow Avenue and Nicholson Place was replaced to upgrade water infrastructure. The project also improved lighting and landscaping.

Wierzbicki acknowledged that construction is taking longer than was originally expected due to challenges bringing the new water mains online, which held up paving and sidewalk construction. "The community—particularly residents living near the project—have shown great patience, and we're very grateful for their understanding," he said.









The \$4.3 million project was funded through \$2.5 million in state grant funds, with the remainder provided by the City's General Fund and Water Utility Fund.

COUNCIL APPROVES 2021-2022 BUDGET

The City Council approved an \$87 million budget on Nov. 24 that emphasizes climate change response. The budget will fund the City's identified priorities and planned service delivery to the community over the next two years.

The budget reflects an annual reduction in tax-supported revenues of approximately 8% (\$4.1 million) across the biennium compared to pre-pandemic levels of growth. Utility revenues are largely unchanged. Despite the reduction in revenue, the budget will maintain the City's ongoing commitment to its highest priority goals and core services.

HIGHLIGHTS OF APPROVED BUDGET:

 <p>Provides \$500,000 to support implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP).</p>	 <p>Adds a Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Officer to carry out CAP priorities.</p>	 <p>Sets aside \$600,000 from Transportation Benefit funds for future high-priority short-term Sustainable Transportation projects.</p>
 <p>Adds a Behavioral Health Navigator position in the Police Department to help integrate some law enforcement activities and social services.</p>	 <p>Eliminates four regular positions (Police Officer, Senior Judicial Specialist, Senior Plan Check Engineer, Planner) and two term-limited positions (Public Records Analyst, Senior Planner), all of which were vacant.</p>	
 <p>Includes \$100,000 to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.</p>	 <p>Maintains current funding levels of \$2 million to support community partners and programs for human services, cultural element funding and economic development.</p>	 <p>Adds a Natural Resources Senior Planner position to provide in-house expertise related to natural resource review.</p>

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Capital Improvement Plan is a long-range and strategic planning document that maintains the City emphasis on stewardship of existing and planned infrastructure. The approved budget funds new capital projects of about \$5.1 million for utility projects and \$3.7 million for tax-supported projects in 2021-2022 (not including support from state and federal grants).

Some tax-supported projects:

- » Madison Avenue sidewalk reconstruction
- » Senior Center improvements
- » Visconsi Trail

Some major utility projects:

- » Lower Lovell sewer improvements
- » Winslow water tank replacement
- » Eagle Harbor Drive culvert upgrades

PROPERTY TAX

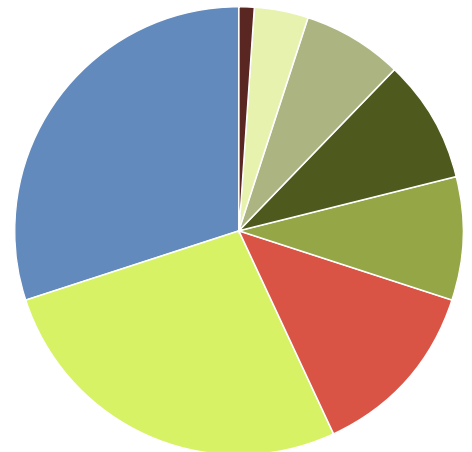
The City Council approved a 1% property tax levy increase, the maximum amount allowed by state law.

The additional revenue will help pay for increases in ongoing costs supported by the General Fund, such as personnel and repair and maintenance.

Property taxes account for more than 40% of General Fund revenues and represent the single largest funding source for the City.

About 9% of the total tax bill paid by Bainbridge Island property owners each year goes to the City. The remaining 91% is paid to other taxing jurisdictions.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAX BY TAXING JURISDICTION IN 2020



- 1% Kitsap Public Utility District
- 4% Kitsap Regional Library
- 7% BI Metro Park & Recreation District
- 9% City of Bainbridge Island
- 9% Kitsap County
- 13% Bainbridge Island Fire Department
- 27% Bainbridge Island School District
- 30% State Schools

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IS CITY'S 2021 PRIORITY



MAIN GOALS OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- » **Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions** by 90% of 2014 levels by 2045 (milestones of 25% reduction by 2025 and 60% by 2035).
- » **Inspire community action and establish partnerships** with local/regional organizations.

AREAS OF FOCUS

-  **Green Building**
(Task Force already established)
-  **Sustainable Transportation**
(Task Force already established)
-  **Energy**
-  **Natural Environment**
-  **Waste**
-  **Community Engagement**
-  **Individual Actions**

The City Council aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on Bainbridge Island by 90% within the next 25 years. To reach this goal, the entire community must participate. The City will need to take actions to address climate change, and people will need to drive less and walk and bike more on a network of safe, convenient and attractive pathways; conserve energy at home; eat local food that is lower on the food chain and produces less waste; and fly less. These are some of the recommendations outlined in the City's new Climate Action Plan (CAP) approved by the City Council.

"Reaching our ambitious goal is going to be a challenge, especially given that our island population keeps growing," said Climate Change Advisory Committee Co-Chair Michael Cox who worked on the CAP. "If we don't take action, our emissions will climb rather than decline. But if we want our island to thrive, we're going to need to step up and meet this challenge."

The City's goal reflects the global scientific consensus that our emissions need to be near zero or even negative to stabilize our climate and avoid harm, according to Cox. Many other cities in Washington State have a goal of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. "We wanted to be more aggressive," Cox said.

The CAP, prepared by the City's Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) and unanimously approved by the City Council in November 2020, includes more than 180 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare our community for the impacts of climate change. The Council identified implementation of the CAP as its highest priority item for the 2021-2022 budget.

"This is our local historic moment," said Councilmember Joe Deets who serves as a liaison to the CCAC. "Now, we're going to see how difficult change really is, but I think we're up to the challenge here on Bainbridge."

The City Council created the CCAC in 2017, appointing nine community residents with expertise in climate science, atmospheric science, engineering, energy management, water conservation, planning, policy, environmental law and more. The group's mission is to provide recommendations to the City Council on how to implement the climate-related goals of the Comprehensive Plan, which guides the City's growth and establishes the long-range vision for the island.

In August 2019, the CCAC began working on the CAP at the Council's request. They were guided by information from a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory that identified building energy use and transportation as the community's highest contributors of emissions.

The CCAC also benefited from the valuable input of Bainbridge Islanders through a survey, monthly meetings and public workshops. "The CAP is better as a result of the community input," said CCAC member Julie Matthews. "It has truly become a plan for the entire Bainbridge Island community."

To support the City and the community in the implementation of the CAP, the CCAC will continue outreach with the community through two live virtual events: **5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, and 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23.** CCAC members will give presentations on the plan, answer questions on the CAP and discuss next steps.

Now is the time to join together and do our part to make the only planet we have a resilient and livable one for our present and future generations.

— Michael Cox, CCAC Co-Chair

LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/198

COVID-19 RESPONSE CONTINUES

The City opened a drive-thru COVID-19 test site on Nov. 4 to support public health goals and the reopening of schools and businesses in our community.

Aside from Emergency Management Coordinator Anne LeSage and COVID-19 Safety Officer Chris Rubin, every person at the site is a volunteer. Volunteers monitor traffic and site safety, help participants get checked in when they arrive on site, observe the nasal swab process and help manage the overall site.

"We are one of a few cities in the state running our own test site," LeSage said. "This would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of our volunteers."

Even the medical professionals at the test site are part of a volunteer team, known as the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC, made up of medical doctors, nurses and other medical professionals who live or work on Bainbridge, was organized by Bainbridge Prepares in cooperation with the City and the Bainbridge Island Fire Department to provide medical and wellness care to the community during a disaster.



**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY BETWEEN 1 AND 5 PM
AT THE TOWN SQUARE, SITE OF THE FARMERS MARKET.**

Appointments may be booked only up to two weeks in advance to help limit people booking solely for travel and to allow for people who need to be tested because they are symptomatic or a close contact of someone with COVID-19. The City testing site should not be used for pre-travel clearance and is not an approved site for travel to Hawaii.

Children under five years old should be tested by their pediatrician.

The site started with 24 daily appointments and has increased to 48 per day.

Book an appointment at bainbridgewa.gov/covidtest

TESTING PROCEDURES

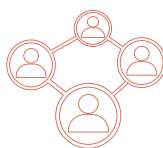
- » When it's time for your appointment, drive to Town Square. Stay in your car, check in with a volunteer and then proceed to the testing tent.
- » Volunteers wearing masks, gloves and gowns will hand you a tray containing hand sanitizer, a sealed two-inch nasal swab and a test tube to collect the completed sample. Sanitize your hands, swab both nostrils, place the swab in the test tube and seal it and then hand the tray back to a medical volunteer who will label the sample with your printed bar code.
- » The test is a PCR test, formally known as *polymerase chain reaction*, provided by University of Washington Medicine. The test shows if you have an active coronavirus infection. It provides a positive or negative result only—it is not an antibody test.
- » Results are available online in 24 to 72 hours. If you test positive, the City's COVID-19 Safety Officer Chris Rubin will call you. The Kitsap Public Health Department will follow up on contact tracing.
- » The test is free for all participants. If you have health insurance, the insurance provider will be billed for the cost. If you do not have insurance, you can be tested at no cost to you through a federal program administered by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).



YOU SHOULD GET TESTED IF YOU...



Have been experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting or diarrhea).



Have been identified by Public Health officials as being a "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19.



Need a negative test to return to work.

Were exposed through a large gathering or traveled to an area with high COVID prevalence.



IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE CITY HAS...

- Fulfilled 75 requests for safety equipment, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and more from Island organizations and businesses providing services during the pandemic.
- Received \$1.1 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.
- Provided funding to the following community partners:
 - Helpline House to expand its rental and mortgage assistance program
 - BI Metro Park and Recreation District for eligible COVID-19 expenses
 - Bainbridge Island Downtown Association (BIDA) and Chamber of Commerce to launch the "Save Our Stores" marketing campaign
 - BIDA for eligible COVID-19 expenses
- Implemented retrofits at Senior Center and other City facilities.
- Approved up to \$50,000 from the City's General Fund for our own COVID-19 test site.
- Hired a temporary COVID-19 Safety Officer to facilitate City service delivery and best public health practices during the pandemic.
- Closed City offices to the public as Kitsap County remains in Phase 2 of Gov. Inslee's Safe Start reopening plan. Staff continue to offer services by phone and online.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT ANNE LESAGE



Anne LeSage, Emergency Management Coordinator

JOB DUTIES

- » **Prepare** City and community for emergencies.
- » **Manage** emergency resources in coordination with BIFD and Bainbridge Prepares.
- » **Guide** City staff in developing and implementing emergency policies and procedures.
- » **Train** staff who are part of the Emergency Operations Center.

FUN FACTS



She enjoys watching sports with her husband, especially the Seahawks!



She's a big fan of "Star Wars" and "Harry Potter" (her desk at City Hall is decorated with Funko Pop! figures).

Anne LeSage hardly ever sits still. Since her arrival at the City in November 2018, she has been a whirlwind of purposeful energy, getting our community ready for the next disaster, whether a snowstorm, a wildfire, an earthquake or a pandemic. As the Emergency Management Coordinator, LeSage is the person leading the City's response.

LeSage had only been working at the City for a year and a half when COVID-19 struck; thanks to her careful preparation and background in public health, many emergency response procedures were already in place. From the start, LeSage recognized three priorities in the City's response to the pandemic: "One is we have to stay in touch with the County and State to implement public health directives and guidance. Another is to communicate with the community, City employees and partner agencies. And, finally, we have to try to meet community resource needs."

To manage the City's response to the pandemic, LeSage has been putting in plenty of seven-day weeks. She is always triaging needs of staff and the community. "Is it high priority?" she will ask herself. "It will never all get done; there's just no way. Can I delegate it to a volunteer?"

Indeed, LeSage has access to more than 350 volunteers through the City's partnership with Bainbridge Prepares, a nonprofit organization dedicated to emergency preparedness. As Emergency Management Coordinator, LeSage can activate any of the 19 all-volunteer Bainbridge Prepares emergency response teams, which include medical professionals, family reunification, a flotilla consisting of private vessels to transport critical supplies and more.

"The commitment of volunteers and of community on Bainbridge is amazing. It's been so incredible for me to see people show up and want to be a part of it," LeSage says.

When we're not in the middle of an emergency, Lesage's job is to prepare the City for disasters and guide the community in preparation of their homes, businesses and neighborhoods, as well as schools and parks. "I want to help people be prepared when something happens," she explains. "I want you to be prepared wherever you are—at home, at school, at work, on the ferry."

LeSage started her career in public health and began working in public health preparedness back in 2008 with the Washington State Department of Health. She was a part of the Washington Emergency Preparedness and Response Team coordinating the H1N1 response in 2009. "I think having that experience, combined with more traditional emergency response—such as to wildfires or flooding—has helped me coordinate the City's response to COVID-19," LeSage says.

She came to the City from Irvine, California, where she was the Emergency Management Director at the University of California, Irvine campus.

On Bainbridge, LeSage says she feels at home. "I feel so lucky to live and work here," she says. "This was my dream job. I absolutely love it."

Anne's most commonly asked question from the community:

Can you tell me when the "Big One" is going to happen?

Hint: She cannot.

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Bainbridge Island, WA
98110

*****ECRWS*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER

JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

31

- City offices closed**
Jan. 1: New Year's Day
Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- City Council study sessions**
Jan. 5
Jan. 19
- City Council business meetings**
Jan. 12
Jan. 26
- Climate Action Plan presentations**
Jan. 13: 5:30-7 p.m.
Jan. 23: 10-11:30 a.m.
- Planning Commission**
Jan. 14: 6 p.m.
Jan. 28: 6 p.m. (Public participation mtg. on Wintergreen Townhomes project proposal)
- City Manager open house**
Jan. 7: 6-7:30 p.m.

Meetings and times are subject to change. All meetings held on Zoom until further notice.

8 CALENDAR: bainbridgewa.gov/calendar

SAVE THE DATE:

Join the Race Equity Advisory Committee and City Council for "Courageous Conversations," an event to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on **Thursday, Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. on Zoom**. The event will focus on social justice and race equity in our community.

LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/1124

WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

The National Weather Service is forecasting colder and wetter weather this winter with the potential for more precipitation and snow.

During a winter storm, Operations & Maintenance staff work on a 24-hour schedule, using 12-hour shifts. The City has a Snow and Ice Control Plan that includes priority streets for response; crews focus first on the main roads and then on neighborhood streets.

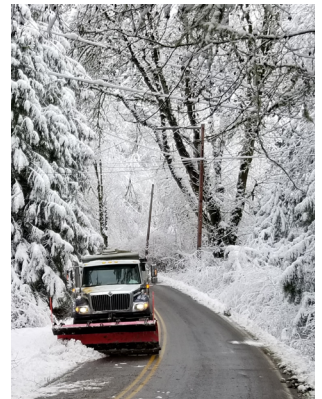
Keeping sidewalks clear of snow/ice is the responsibility of abutting property owners. Only sidewalks on or abutting City property are maintained by City crews during snow/ice operations.

The City will be challenged to provide a level of service that meets the expectations of previous years primarily due to impacts on staff availability related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City uses Nixle, a free text and email notification system, for alerts on road closures, downed power lines or other emergent issues. Sign up by texting 98110 to 888777 or at nixle.com.

Use the word search below to see what supplies should be added to your emergency kit in case you are home several days without power.

LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/1133



EMERGENCY KIT WORD SEARCH

S P Y Z B M D J Q M P C N K S P G R D F F U S N U
P C B L A N K E T S O J A T K R G M O N Y S D G W
G M V F C O A Z L P K P I J S N R A C P O N C H O
T J P I P O R T A B L E R A D I O S U R H W N Z H
O F W L M D Z F N H X K E T V M O K M G W H E U D
F I L A M O Z H B O P E T F O O D S E K T I B C V
M R X I R E J A J T N A B A K B K H N R O S A F O
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M J Z A O B Z H D Z E W F S B B G E E V Y I V Q L
E P M L T R W L H V J X V O A K S Z H R R P T Z Y
R I K W U E W I U K R U A T G J J I Y W S T M T O
S R A Z G A R D K S B O M T H S F V S O K E O M D

- FIRST AID KIT
- NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
- CAN OPENER
- WATER
- PORTABLE RADIO
- BATTERIES
- FLASHLIGHT
- MEDICINE
- HYGIENE ITEMS
- CASH
- WHISTLE
- MASKS
- PET FOOD
- DOCUMENTS
- BLANKETS
- FIRE EXTINGUISHER
- BUCKET WITH LID
- TOILET PAPER
- GO BAG
- WARM CLOTHES
- HAND WARMERS
- PONCHO



Web: bainbridgewa.gov



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Provide feedback on the newsletter: communications@bainbridgewa.gov