

CITY

Vol. 27

Connects

Planting
guide
inside!

In this issue

- » **Best management practices for selecting, planting and caring for Bainbridge Island trees in a changing climate.**



Raising Climate Resilient Trees on Bainbridge



Trees and a changing climate

Climate change is expected to result in:



Changes to Bainbridge Island vegetation.



Decreased tree growth.



Increased fire risk due to summer water stress.



Changes in pest distribution and type of pest.

The City arborist, in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust and the Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District, compiled a set of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to guide property owners and City staff when selecting, planting and caring for trees in our changing urban environment. Read more at bainbridgewa.gov/1486/Climate-Friendly-Trees or scan the QR code on the next page. The City is now advertising for the position.

Planting Guide

To maintain a healthy, mature tree canopy:

- 1 Plan carefully
- 2 Plant wisely
- 3 Provide ongoing care



1. Plan carefully

When you're planning what to plant, keep these factors in mind:

- » Trees in urban areas have a higher baseline of stress due to soil composition, soil volume and water limitations, air pollution and inadvertent damage.
- » Climate change-ready species have increased resiliency to drought, air pollution, temperature swings, poor soils and other environmental factors.
- » Choose a tree with a mature size that is an appropriate size for the space.
- » Maintain diversity by following the 10-20-30 guide for your neighborhood: Limit to 10% of the same tree species, 20% of the same genus and 30% of the same family in an area.
- » Use a minimum of 50% drought-resistant species and prioritize native species.
- » The larger the tree at maturity, the more space the roots and canopy will need to expand over time.

Earth Day is April 22 and Arbor Day is April 26. Celebrate both by planting a climate resilient tree. If you don't have a yard or if you have no room in your yard, consider working with neighbors to plant a tree.



2. Plant wisely

Trees that aren't properly planted can decline in health over time and result in extra care costs, reducing the chance of long-term survival.

Remove outer "circling" roots in potted trees to encourage root growth outward from the stem.



Plant in the fall for better establishment.



Ensure that root flare (where the main roots attach to the trunk) is exposed (not buried).

Provide a 3-6" layer of mulch in a donut shape.

3. Provide ongoing care

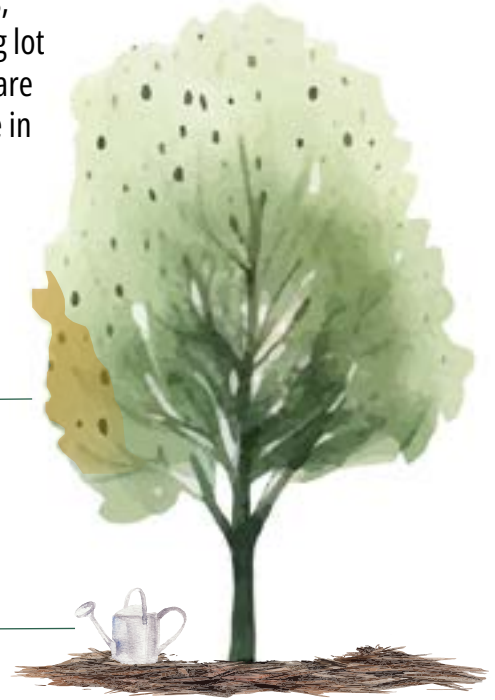


Structurally prune young trees in exposed areas.

Trees in more urban settings—such as front yard trees, street trees and parking lot trees—require more care and pruning than those in forested areas.

Contact an arborist if you see significant signs of change (insect damage, large dead branches, browning).

Use supplemental watering during periods of summer drought.



Maintain 3-6" of mulch extended to the dripline of the tree.

As climate changes, trees to avoid

- » True ash species (Fraxinus)
- » Himalayan birch (Betula utilis)
- » White bark birches (Betula papyrifera)
- » Tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima)



What to plant

The City has created an extensive list of trees that are more climate ready: They have thicker leaves, vigorous root systems and/or no current disease issues. Get the list here:



Designated Tree City USA for 19 years

The City is honored to have been selected as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 19th year in a row. This program celebrates the importance of an urban tree canopy and the improved care of vital city trees. Tree Cities must maintain a tree board or department, have a community tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrate Arbor Day.

Need to remove a tree?



Check City regulations to see if you need a permit: bainbridgewa.gov/1115



Moving into the Ted Spearman Justice Center



The Bainbridge Island Police Department began relocating to the Ted Spearman Justice Center (TSJC) at 8804 Madison Avenue North on February 20 to join the Bainbridge Island Municipal Court in the new joint location. The move required packing up and hauling office equipment, furniture, machines and supplies from the old building at 625 Winslow Way East where the department operated for 34 years. It also required a much more difficult move: that of records and evidence.

The Police Department safeguards and maintains all records, evidence and property that come into their possession. Items of evidence and property are tracked from the time they come into the custody of the department, during their analysis and until their final disposition. Staff must document each person who handles any evidence, the date and time it is collected or transferred and the purpose for each transfer. Any break in the chain of custody can potentially lead to the evidence being declared inadmissible in court. Similarly, department records contain confidential information and are subject to specific rules regarding access and disclosure.

These items were moved by staff with the appropriate access and knowledge of chain-of-custody protocols. Staff carefully logged the evidence out of the old room, into the transport vehicle and finally into its new home at the TSJC. A member of the evidence room staff was always present with the evidence during the move. Once in the new property room, the items were organized by type and case number.



Evidence intake room at Ted Spearman Justice Center.

The new evidence intake room includes

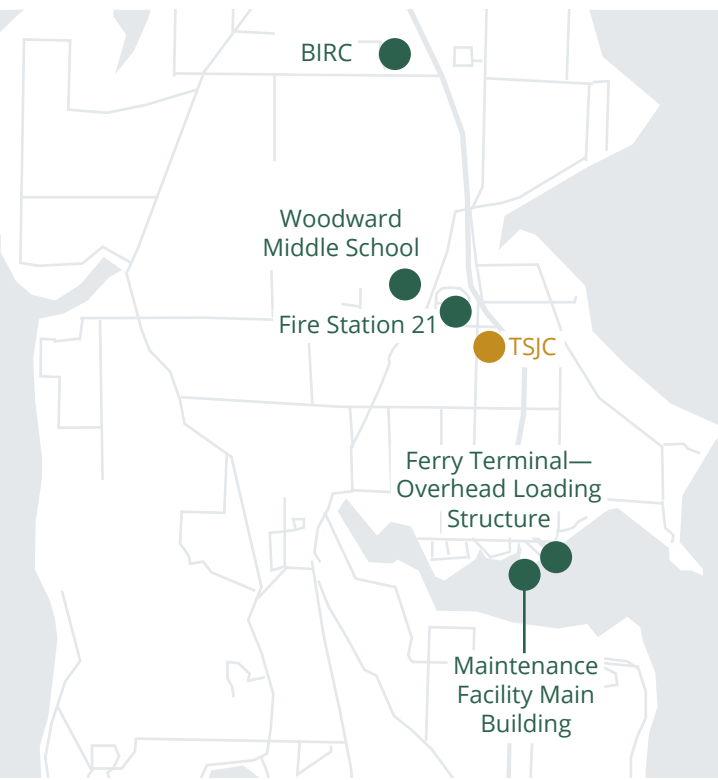
- » a fume extraction arm for contaminant removal when processing evidence,
- » a refrigerator and freezer for cold storage,
- » a cabinet for drying wet items prior to packaging, and
- » lockers in multiple sizes for secure transfer into the evidence room.

Climate Offset of TSJC

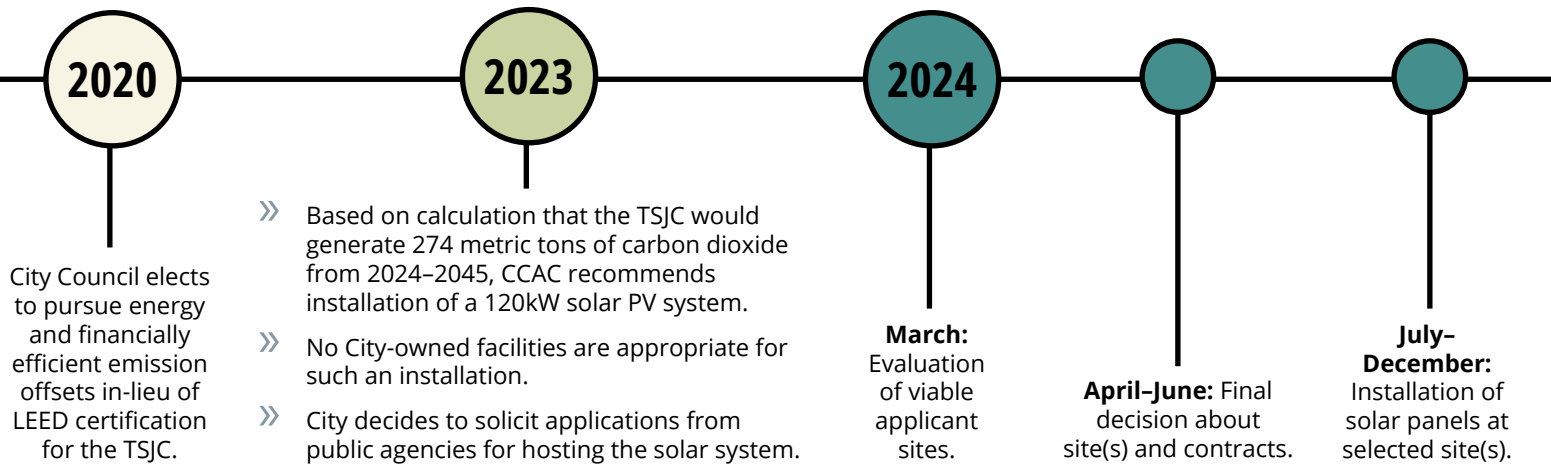
To help offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with electrical use of the Ted Spearman Justice Center from 2024 to 2045, the City solicited applications from public agencies interested in hosting a 120kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system on the island. The City received seven applications by the February 7 deadline. Four sites were selected to receive in-person visits for additional review and consideration:

- » Bainbridge Island School District 303: Woodward Middle School
- » Washington State Ferries: Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal—Overhead Loading Structure
- » Washington State Ferries: Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility Main Building
- » Bainbridge Island Fire Department: Fire Station 21

A fifth site—the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center—is also being evaluated for potential consideration without a site visit since the location was previously analyzed for the 2022 Solar and Battery Energy Storage at Community Disaster Hubs Report. Read more about this offset project here: bainbridgewa.gov/1479/2024-Solar-PV-Application-for-Public-Pro.



Timeline



TSJC building design compared to LEED Silver design results in an annual excess of **141 MW hours = 64 metric tons of CO2 per year.**

Assuming that emissions need to be accounted for over 21 years (if PSE meets its requirement of providing 0-emission electricity by the end of 2045)



using PSE's estimates for grid emission factor reductions, the CCAC estimates a total excess of **274 metric tons of CO2** with the adopted design vs. LEED Silver design.



Bainbridge Is Tsunami Ready

In December, the National Weather Service (NWS) awarded the City with its TsunamiReady® designation, recognizing that the City has followed NWS guidelines for enhancing public safety regarding a post-earthquake tsunami. Bainbridge Island is the first community along the inner coast of Washington State to receive TsunamiReady® designation.

In July 2023, the Washington Geological Survey and the Department of Natural Resources released a new tsunami model that showed Bainbridge at risk for a 1- to 2-meter tsunami after even a 7.5 earthquake on the Seattle Fault or a smaller tsunami after a landslide. An earthquake-triggered tsunami could hit our shores within 1 to 2 minutes of the seismic event. This means that, in the event of a tsunami caused by an earthquake on the Seattle Fault, get to higher ground immediately after any seismic event.

Read more about tsunamis at bainbridgewa.gov/767/Hazard-and-Risk-Info.



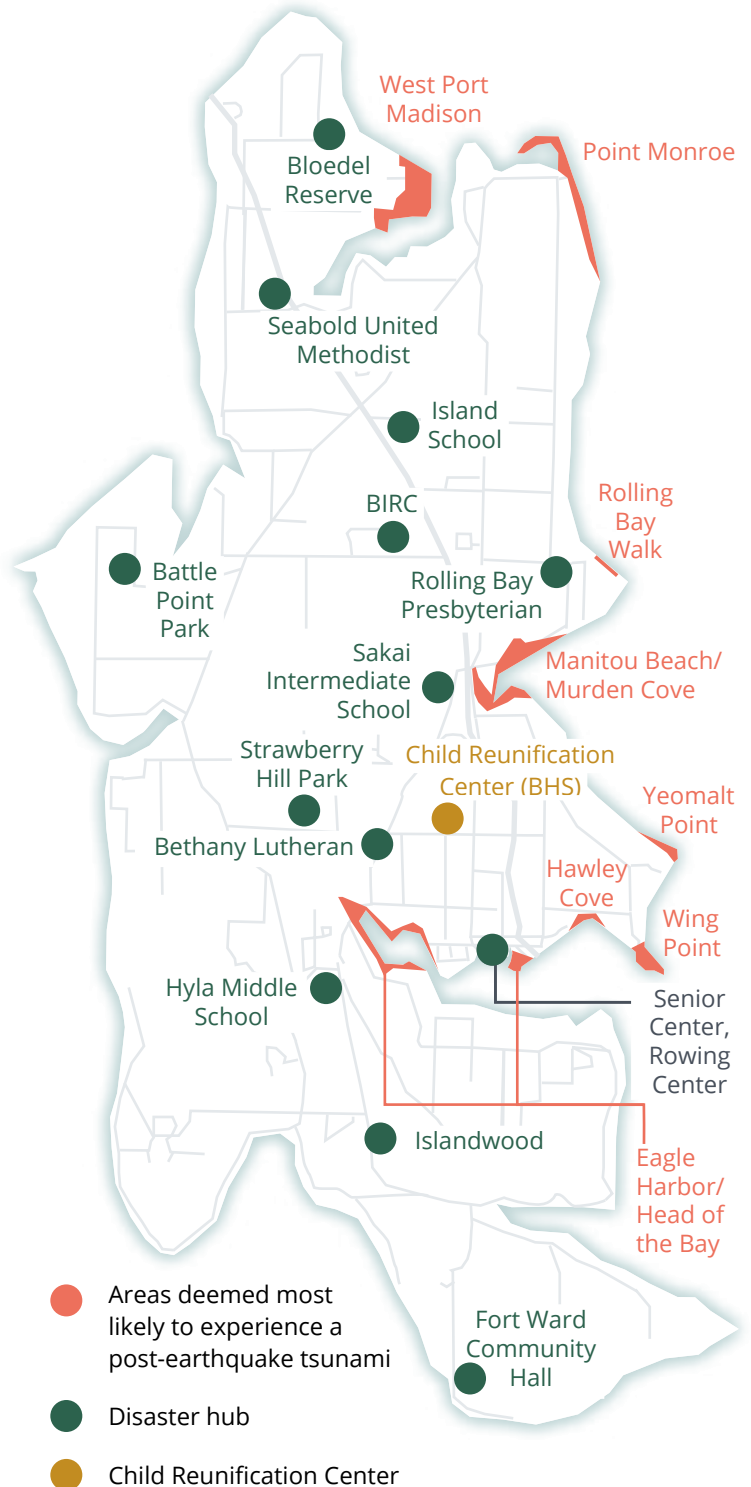
From left to right: Hollie Stark & Ethan Weller—State Emergency Management Division, Logan Howard—National Weather Service, Anne LeSage—City emergency management, Reid Wolcott—National Weather Service, Loren Bast & Tyler Heinemann Bainbridge Prepares.

TsunamiReady® guidelines

To earn the designation, the City was required to

- » be able to issue alerts to the community,
- » develop a formal tsunami operations plan,
- » engage in annual exercises,
- » conduct public outreach and education efforts (including at local schools), and
- » post tsunami warning signs.

Areas of tsunami concern and disaster hub locations





Prepare in a Year 2024

The City has partnered with Bainbridge Prepares on a project to help Bainbridge Island households prepare for emergencies. Prepare in a Year 2024 is a year-long program that focuses on one readiness category per month. Participants complete monthly activities and, by the end of the year, are solidly prepared. In addition, by submitting evidence of activity completion, they earn the chance to win monthly prizes and an end of the year Grand Prize.

The goal is to help Bainbridge become the most prepared community in the State of Washington.

Here's how it works

Every month there is an activity for individuals and/or households to complete that corresponds with the monthly Prepare in a Year theme set by the Washington Department of Emergency Management.

Download a Prepare in a Year Passport or pick one up at the City Hall front desk. Mark each month you complete (complete at least 10).

Learn about the monthly activities, the grand prize (a one-hour visit by a Bainbridge Island Fire Department fire crew and rig) and how to submit documentation: bainbridgeprepares.org/prepareinayear24.

Upcoming monthly themes



April:
Evacuation



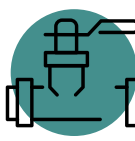
May:
Important Documents



June:
3 Weeks Ready



July:
Fire Safety



August:
Utility Safety



September:
Under the Bed



October:
Earthquake Safety



November:
Shelter in Place



December:
Home Hazards

The first three months of 2024 focused on a communications plan in January, an action plan in February and water in March.

How to react to a tsunami

Any of the following signs of a potential or actual tsunami mean you should immediately evacuate to higher ground:

- ⚠️ You get a tsunami alert on your phone.
- ⚠️ You feel a strong earthquake that lasts more than 20 seconds, causes damage or knocks people down.
- ⚠️ You see a large approaching wave.
- ⚠️ The water suddenly recedes.
- ⚠️ There's a rapid rise in sea level.
- ⚠️ You see a landslide into the Sound.

Why should you download the Nixle app?

Nixle is the system used by the City to alert community members about emergencies as well as road closures, missing persons and urgent issues related to storm response. You can sign up for local Nixle alerts simply by texting **98110** to **888777**. However, you should also download the Everbridge Nixle app to your phone. Why?

Text messaging relies on your carrier's cellular service. If that service goes down, you will not get the emergency alerts. Apps require an Internet connection via WiFi or data. If Internet service is interrupted, you may still get text messages. So having both the app and the texts enabled means you're more likely to get notifications.





Poet's Place

Sequoiadendron Giganteum

"Every wound (it's) ever suffered remains within a tree"

—Northern Woodlands

When I press my cheek against her hoary trunk,
I feel her breathe. Her cinnamon bark
surprises me every time with its softness.
Some say she doesn't exist, can't grow
in these maritime lowland woods but here she is,
and has a sister three miles away also doing well
but nevermind that. This is the one I go to,
place my chest and open my palms on her.
I'm held like a child. I know this to be true.
Maybe this is prayer. My desire to believe
in God is greater than my belief in God.
I imagine her sapwood, the pipeline
of new growth, how she drinks,
and her heartwood, her immutable core.
I wish I could undo my mistakes.
Wound wood, they call it, how a tree
grows around damage, folds it into itself,
becomes a pillar stronger than steel,
its cambium skin armor and pillow,
taking in all of our dirty air.

by Michele Bombardier,
in Parabola, 2022



This poem was a finalist for the Thomas Merton Prize. Michele Bombardier is the City of Bainbridge Island's current Poet Laureate.

Bundled Madison Avenue Project brings major improvements

The City begins work on the Bundled Madison Avenue Non-motorized and Sewer Improvements project. On Feb. 27 the City awarded the project contract to Sound Pacific Construction LLC (SPC), the lowest bidder among five applicants.

This large-scale project will address a number of important improvements to Madison Ave. and incorporate the ideas of residents who participated in the project's outreach events. The biggest impact to users will be to the sidewalks and bike lanes. Those improvements will occur between Wyatt Way and Sakai Park and include a raised bike lane, wider sidewalks and a mid-block crosswalk. New pavement markings will be added from Winslow Way to SR 305. Sewer upgrades are also included, which will provide needed capacity in the neighborhood.

Work on the Madison Avenue improvements will continue for about eight months. Mondays through Fridays, Islanders should expect periodic one-lane closures with flaggers. Although businesses on Madison will remain open, during brief periods sidewalks and driveways will be closed. Residents should follow the signs for walking path detours and allow extra time when driving through the area.

Before the July 4 holiday, SPC will ensure the worksite is in condition to accommodate Grand Old 4th festivities.

Scope of Bundled Madison Avenue Project work

Winslow Way

Wyatt Way

Madison Ave.

High School Rd.

Sakai Park

New Brooklyn Rd.

SR 305

Relocate catch basins and stormwater laterals.

Install dedicated bike lanes or revise existing ones.

Implement traffic calming and other related work between Winslow Way and SR 305.

Install pedestrian ramps, driveways and landscaped buffers.

Raised crosswalk

Infill sidewalk.

Replace the existing roadway surface and sewer force main (High School Road to New Brooklyn Avenue).

Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

New Short-Term Rental Ordinance Takes Effect September 30, 2024

City Council adopted a Short-Term Rental Ordinance (2024-02) on February 13. The ordinance establishes a registration system to track the number of short-term rentals, ensures the operators pay city taxes and fees and reinforces existing nuisance regulations.

To draft the ordinance, the City Manager and City staff researched regional short-term rental ordinances and gathered input from the local short-term rental community and interested parties. Ordinance 2024-02 was endorsed by members of the Bainbridge Island Innkeepers and the Chamber of Commerce.

Starting September 30, 2024, short-term rentals must be

- » registered with the City of Bainbridge Island,
- » have an annual short-term rental certificate (in addition to a business license),
- » comply with City regulations, and
- » have a local contact person available 24/7 to respond to complaints within 60 minutes.



Winslow and Comp Plans

Stay tuned for public engagement opportunities this summer for the Winslow Subarea Plan Update and the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Find the latest draft reports and updates on the City's website and sign up for the City Manager's Report weekly email for engagement opportunities.

Award-Winning Financial Excellence Nine Years in a Row

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Bainbridge Island for its annual comprehensive financial report for 2022. The report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which include demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the City's financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the ninth year in a row the City has received this award.



Your City Staff

Jim Haney

City Attorney

I was the interim City Attorney on Bainbridge from 2013 to 2014. I then assisted the city with specialty matters until the end of 2022. At the start of 2023, I became interim again through September when the City asked me to assume the permanent role.

In law school, at the University of Washington in the late 70s, my initial thought was to have a small general practice, not the kind of firm my parents would have been too afraid to go to. But I got a short-term job at a law firm in Enumclaw doing some research on a municipal law issue. I eventually joined that firm and discovered how much I liked municipal law.

Practicing municipal law is the best in my opinion because the people you get to work with—all the mayors, councilmembers, city managers, staff—have one goal in mind and that is to make the community the best place it can be for the people who live and work there.



Hannah Boettcher

Sustainable Transportation Coordinator

I commute by ferry via light rail and most of my errands are done on foot. However, my favorite way to get around is by bike. I love the speed and door-to-door convenience of biking, and it's a really great way to unwind at the end of a long workday.

Did you know that you can travel from the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal all the way to downtown Port Angeles entirely by public transit? It's a 4.5-hour trip and costs just a couple of dollars.




John Inch

Mechanic III, Treatment Plant Operator, retired

The City Council proclaimed December 12, 2023, John Inch Day in honor of John's 35 years of service to Bainbridge. John began his municipal career as a maintenance worker and relief treatment plant operator for the City of Winslow in 1988 and continued his service to the City of Bainbridge Island as a Roads Supervisor and Lead Mechanic. In those roles, he was responsible for the maintenance and repair of hundreds of City-owned vehicles and specialty equipment. John also serves his local community as a North Mason Regional Fire Authority Commissioner.



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POSTAL CUSTOMER



Calling artists and doodlers of all ages!

We want to feature your work in COBI Connects. We're looking for art (drawings, photos, poems, tasteful knock knock jokes, etc.) that addresses a featured topic. Our topic for the summer issue is **Getting around the island without a car**. Be as creative or pragmatic as you wish. Submit your work, your first and last names and whether you are under 18 or 18 and older to communications@bainbridgewa.gov by June 3.



Your City News, Every Week




Stay up to date on key topics by subscribing to the free, weekly City Manager's Report delivered to your email inbox every Friday.

Throughout the week, follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Nextdoor and X (formerly Twitter).


Check out the City Manager's Spotlight videos on our website, on social media and in the City Manager's Report email newsletter. These short, video featurettes released during the week highlight individual City projects, policy, operations, employees and more.

Sign up for the weekly City Manager's Report at bainbridgewa.gov/500/City-Managers-Report (or use QR code) and be sure to follow us on social media!




VOTE APRIL 1-30

B.I. READS




Help Us Choose the Next Book

Vote here!
Click on the QR code



The winning book will be announced May 28.



BI READS is a shared community experience of reading one book together.