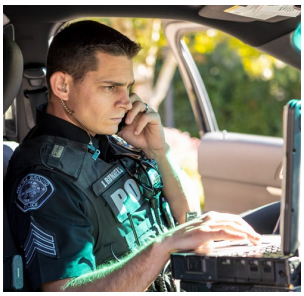
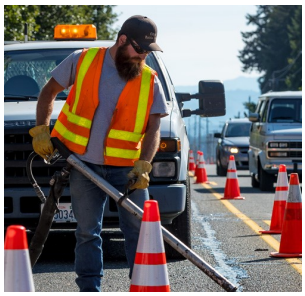
THE CITY OF
Battle Ground
WASHINGTON

October 2020
NEWSLETTER







Developing the City's 2021 Budget

A message from Mayor Adrian Cortes



The city is currently developing its 2021 budget, scheduled to be formally adopted by City Council in December.

The budget has significant importance - it reflects City Council priorities, guides city operations, and identifies how your tax dollars and other revenues are utilized.

There is a notable change in 2021. In February of this year, with 80.63% approval, voters passed a measure to annex into Fire District 3. Annexation means that the fire district's jurisdiction has expanded to include Battle Ground city limits. Beginning in 2021, property owners will be levied the fire district tax rate and Fire District 3 will provide fire and emergency medical services directly to city residents. Annexation eliminates the unpredictability of contracting for these critically important services.

With the cost of the contract eliminated beginning in 2021, the city has more funding available to invest in the services the community has asked for such as streets, police and parks.

We are developing a budget that supports the service level improvement promises we made with approval of the fire annexation:

- A 46 percent decrease in the water, sewer and stormwater drainage utility tax rate
- Increased funding for road maintenance and preservation
- Additional police officers for increased traffic patrols, proactive policing, investigations, community outreach and reimplementation of the K-9 program
- Increased funding for parks maintenance and equipment, as well as for planning future parks and trails
- Increased funding to enhance the aesthetics of street medians, planting strips and other public areas throughout the city.

These promises and our ongoing commitment to judicious stewardship of public resources are key focus areas as we develop the 2021 Budget.

We believe transparency builds trust. The city has published a Guide to the 2021 Budget Process, designed to keep you informed as the budget is developed. It is regularly updated with proposed departmental budgets.

The guide also includes a calendar of upcoming City Council meetings and study sessions. The council meets regularly to evaluate and discuss proposed budgets. Meetings and study sessions are always open to the public and we invite you to participate by attending meetings and contributing to the dialogue during public hearings.

Community members will have the opportunity to address City Council during three budget-related public hearings scheduled for November 2, November 16, and December 7.

We appreciate your input and thank you for staying informed and engaged. It helps strengthen the relationship between the city and the community we serve, making for a stronger Battle Ground.

City Response to COVID-19

The City first responded to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020. Throughout the rapidly changing and longer-than-expected situation, our priority remains the same - to continue service to residents and businesses by ensuring the city remains operational with appropriate measures in place to protect the health of our employees and the community.

Although city offices remain closed to the public per Washington State Safe Start requirements, we continue to provide services within the field and from offices by phone and online.

Visit our COVID-19 website pages for the latest COVID-19 information and helpful resources.

Protecting Public Assets

The Battle Ground Community Center



Typically filled with people and activity, the Battle Ground Community Center has been temporarily closed to public use since mid-March when COVID-19 emergency orders required it.

The city has taken the opportunity to perform maintenance during the closure. New stain has been applied to the exterior wood beams and finishes, floors have been refinished, windows cleaned, and a fresh coat of paint is being applied to both the interior and exterior of the facility.

The Community Center serves as a place where people connect at community gatherings, commemorate life events, where service organizations meet, and where a variety of recreational and social activities occur. Like you, we miss those connections and look forward to the day the Community Center reopens.

The maintenance work not only protects this beautiful public asset, but will serve as a bright welcome back when the facility reopens.



The Battle Ground Police Department

The Battle Ground Police Station also received care and maintenance this summer in the form of exterior paint. The paint product used not only protects the aesthetic value of the building, but the integrity of the building itself as it contains a special sealant that keeps rain water from intruding into the building's brick façade. Last year, a new sealant was applied to the roof that further protects this important public asset.

Celebrating Community & Tradition

As Summer becomes Fall and the community continues to navigate unexpected changes, the city's Parks & Community Engagement (PACE) Advisory Board looks for new ways to build community connections. They recently turned their focus to the upcoming holiday season and plans for Battle Ground's long-established Halloween Fright Night and Holiday Tree Lighting events.

"Celebrating tradition and connecting as a community is more important than ever," said board chair Josie Calderon, "Our annual Halloween Fright Night and Holiday Tree Lighting events may look a bit different this year, but we will celebrate as a community – that's what Battle Ground does."

Learn more about the PACE board here. For updates on upcoming city events, including the Halloween event, Veterans Day, and the Holiday Tree Lighting, subscribe to the City of Battle Ground news feed or visit the city's website.

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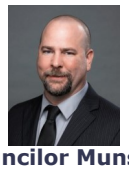
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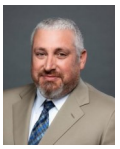
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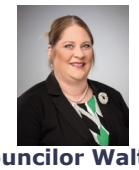
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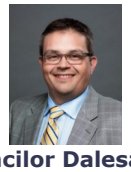
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