

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

Police Services

Again Brier is experiencing difficulty in filling positions on our police force. The Chief and I have worked, advertised, interviewed, and sent promising candidates for polygraph and psychological evaluation. Despite our best efforts and expenses, we are finding it challenging to hire qualified police officers. We are maintaining our 24/7 coverage with additional overtime hours and occasional use of a partnership agreement with one of our neighboring agencies.

With the regional economy bouncing back, larger jurisdictions are filling vacancies they left open in the recession. Both in the past and now, Brier loses its officers to those larger agencies when they are hiring. *I've reviewed Brier's employment records, since 1995 Brier has hired 62 police officers. That is an average turnover of 3.1 officers per year, nearly a 50% turnover rate annually.* We again become a training ground and a stepping stone for police officers who desire greater opportunities for professional advancement and training in areas we cannot provide. *The solution is not as simple as increasing pay. Brier's pay scale and benefits are comparable or better than similar size agencies.*

Last year as the economy began to grow, I anticipated this loss of our police employees to other agencies, just as happened in the past. This is why I began to research what it might look like to work with a larger police authority to provide law enforcement services with

officers dedicated to and based in our city. Forty nine other cities in our state have moved to this model with great success, including the cities of Shoreline, Kenmore, Woodinville, Snohomish, Sultan, Goldbar and Stanwood. I believe this model does deserve review to see if our community would benefit from it. I would only bring forward for open city council and public discussion a proposal that would continue to provide the following:

- Dedicated 24/7 police patrolling our streets
- Maintain a police services presence within our city hall
- The Mayor would continue to maintain the authority to define law enforcement issues and priorities of the City

Working with a larger agency has the potential to stabilize this service well into the future, reduce our costs, and provide an opportunity for enhanced animal control services, K-9 patrol, detective investigations, sex offender registrations, bomb disposal, volunteer and community crime prevention programs, to mention a few.

Since my initial election as your Mayor, I have worked with the city council to stabilize our city services and local government. I view my obligation as Mayor to do everything I can to stabilize Brier's continued existence. So far we have been able to meet the increased state and federal unfunded mandates imposed on us. We have stabilized legal

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and other professional services, and have been able to stabilize our administrative and public works staff, where we see little turnover. My intent has been and is to ensure Brier's ability to continue as a stable small city.

An example of partnering is Brier and Fire District #1 working together to bring emergency /fire services to our residents. This coordination has proven to work very well and is cost effective. If I were to bring a proposal forward to the city council there would be open community discussion. Please feel free to give me a call or set up a time and I can answer any questions or concerns on this issue.

50th Anniversary

Please join us as we continue to celebrate 50 years as a city. If you have been a resident of Brier and have historical documents, photographs or stories you would like to share and maybe be included in our history files, please contact us at Info@brier.wa.us

Come and enjoy the new Brier Park walking trail. A recent grant from our friends at Verdant Health has made it possible to construct the walking trail around Brier Park. The big loop is approximately 2/3 of a mile and the walking path is receiving a greater amount of use every day. Plans are in place to install a couple of exercise stations at points along the pathway.

Announcing Hickory Way Park. I was able to facilitate a grant from the Snohomish County Conservation Futures funding for the city to purchase 5 acres at Poplar Way and Hickory. The city is planning to dedicate the park with a sign

placement on Saturday July 11, 2015 at 2:00PM. Come and join in the celebration as we officially welcome the latest addition of park and open space in our city.

Also, I am working to bring regular CPR and First Aid trainings to our Brier Residents. I anticipate Classes could be held in the evenings at City Hall on a regular schedule as long as there is interested participation. If you are interested in training such as this, please send an email to info@ci.brier.wa.us. I will work to schedule accordingly and get the information out.

Brier Wildlife Habitat Project

In the coming summer months a source of water is critical for the survival of migratory and nesting birds. Manmade ponds may support tree frogs and salamanders displaced by habitat loss and allow birds to visit when designed with a gently sloping edge. A bird bath that is kept clean and full is likely to delight us with avian visitors.

The Brier Wildlife Habitat Project invites you to learn more about this topic at www.nwf.org. Click the link: *Garden for Wildlife* at the bottom of the page, or visit Brier Wildlife Habitat on Facebook. A fresh supply of water will attract birds that don't normally use bird feeders. When placing a bird bath, take care that it is not in an area where neighborhood cats roam. Consider certifying your garden as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat, doing so will lend support to educational programs offered at schools and in the community. For questions contact: silveryblue@frontier.com.

Parks & Events

KidScare - Friday before SeaScare
August 7 - Brier Library - Noon

SeaScare - Brier Road - August 12th -
7:00 pm.

Complete details are available at
<http://ci.brier.wa.us/cityhall/events.htm>.

**Join us for the first "Brier On The
Move Walking Challenge".**

Starting June 29th through August 10th.

Get your free pedometer at City Hall and start walking. Our top 20 walkers with the most steps will be grand marshals of this year's SeaScare parade.

Complete details, registration and a walking map of Brier can be found here:
ci.brier.wa.us/onthemovechallenge/

Public Works Department

It's Garage Sale Season!

Are you planning to have a garage or yard sale? City rules allow each home to have up to three (3) garage or yard sales per year. If you do have a sale, please do not post your signs advertising the sale on city street signs. It is a violation of Brier Municipal Code to attach any type of signage (**yard sale, home for rent, etc.**) on any traffic sign posts or utility poles. Please refrain from doing this. Inexpensive 1 x 2's can be purchased at most hardware stores, and don't forget to remove them once your garage sale is over!

Police DepartmentSummer Safety Tips**Tips for Homeowners**

- Keep doors in your home closed and locked including your garage doors. An open door is an invitation.
- Be a good neighbor and alert police to any unusual activity in your neighborhood.
- Plan for vacation by having your mail and newspapers stopped or having a neighbor pick them up.

Tips for Drivers

- Do not leave valuables or cash in your car.
- Be alert for children playing in neighborhoods and residential areas.
- Drive safely and slowly around parks and playgrounds. More children are out playing during the summer.

Tips for Parents

- Provide a list of phone numbers of neighbors, family, and friends that your child can call in an emergency. Make sure your child knows how to dial 911 when it is appropriate to do so.
- Know the route your child will take to and from a given location.
- Establish rules for using the Internet. Make sure your child knows to never give out personal information on the Internet.
- Require your child to check in with a parent before leaving the house and when returning home. Teach your child that there is safety in numbers.
- Provide a bike helmet and require your child to wear it as well as brightly colored or reflective clothing.

National Night Out

The 31st Annual National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4th. National Night Out is a symbolic, nationwide activity designed to strengthen relationships within our community.

We invite everyone in our community to come and get to know your neighbors at Brier Park from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Free hot dogs, pop and chips.

Fireworks Rules For The 4th Of July

Fireworks are not allowed in City Parks. Only consumer fireworks permitted by the State of Washington RCW 70.77 can be discharged within the city limits.

Remember: It is illegal to discharge or possess bottle rockets, salutes, m-80's, m-100's, firecrackers and sky rockets. These illegal devices cause 90% of all firework related fires in Washington State. **The use or discharge of consumer fireworks is restricted to the fourth (4th) day of July each year during the hours of nine a.m. through eleven-fifty-nine (11:59) p.m.**