

From the Desk of the Mayor

I am pleased to report that several good things are happening in our lovely City.

- I meet regularly with the other Mayors of Snohomish County, and we work together on common funding issues and legislative concerns. This united voice has been an effective tool as we reach out to our elected officials in Olympia. I am also reminded as I listen to other Mayors, that Brier is truly a unique community and an attractive place to live.
- I am working on obtaining funding for the removal and replacement of the restrooms in Brier Park. The structure is in poor condition and finding replacement plumbing parts is next to impossible. I have contacted County, State and Federal officials, as I seek to find funds.
- Working with the Parks Board, we have produced a location and a preliminary plan for a new amphitheater in Brier Park. This will be an exciting addition to our largest park. A quick word about paying for this new project: when new homes are built in Brier, the city receives Park Impact fees that may only be used to improve parks to serve our growing population. Impact fees cannot be used for maintenance or to replace existing facilities like the restroom.
- The City Council and I are collaborating with a consultant to understand the long-range financial status of the City. Our goal is to ensure sustainability while maintaining quality services that we all value. As we all know, expenses are increasing rapidly, and it is our experience that revenues have grown slower than inflation. This will be a significant topic of discussion in the coming months.

As always, I enjoy hearing from you. You can call me at 425 775 5440 or email me at dkaemingk@ci.brier.wa.us. I welcome everyone to attend City Council meetings at city hall on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month.

Mayor Dale Kaemingk

**Police Department
Update and Special Events**

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates from the Brier Police Department. Our team has been growing as we've successfully filled multiple vacancies and we continue to energetically recruit dedicated individuals to serve our community.

In our commitment to excellence, we've updated our mission statement to better reflect our goals: "The mission of the Brier Police Department is dedicated to protecting lives and property, minimizing crime and the fear of crime, and enhancing public safety through collaboration with the community to improve overall quality of life. We are mandated to carry out our duties with courage and integrity, consistently upholding the highest ethical standards to preserve public confidence."

To embody our mission, we've introduced core department values that guide our actions. **Courage, Integrity, Service, Proficiency, and Continuous Improvement.** These values are not just words, they are the principles we live by every day.

Our officers are the heart of our department, and their development is paramount. We've invested in advanced training, including advanced investigative techniques and recognition of driver-impairment, to ensure that our team is equipped with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of modern policing.

Looking ahead, we're excited for the upcoming National Night Out on August 6th at Brier Park, from 6pm to 9pm. This event

is a fantastic opportunity for us to strengthen our bonds with you, the community we proudly serve. Join us for a night of engagement, education, and fun activities for all ages. Together, we are forging a safer, more connected Brier. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,
Chief Hawley and your Brier Police Department

Public Works Department **Vegetation Removal**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind Brier residents that BMC 8.12.040(A) requires vegetation that is located in any front, back, or side yard, adjacent public right-of-way or planting strip needs to be maintained at a height of less than 12 inches. Also 8.12.040(C) requires that removal of obstructions on a sidewalk shall be the responsibility of the property owner directly abutting upon that side of such street along which the said sidewalk has been constructed. Please do your part to maintain vegetation around your property!

Street Sweeping

Public Works continues to perform as much street sweeping as our limited staffing and other workload allows. Although you are more than welcome to contact us and make a request, we work off a grid system and try to avoid jumping around unless there is a true hazard that needs to be cleaned up. Also, please avoid blowing debris from private property onto the public right of way.

Avoid Sewer Backups

It's essential to follow proper guidelines for what can and cannot be flushed down the toilet. Here's a friendly reminder: only flush toilet paper and human waste. Other items, such as wipes, tissues, and paper towels, should not be flushed. These non-toilet-paper items can clog sewer systems both on the private property and public system sides causing issues for everyone. Let's keep our plumbing flowing smoothly!

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Requirements

The Federal Government through the Clean Water Act and the Washington State Department of Ecology, requires ongoing maintenance of all our stormwater conveyance systems. This includes private residential systems as well as storm water control systems built in association with Short Plats and Subdivisions. You will receive a notice from Public Works if you are required to provide documentation to the City of the required maintenance. If you have any questions, please contact us at City Hall at 425-775-5440.

Reporting Spills

Department of Ecology spill hotlines
 - DOE Spill Line: (360) 407-6300
 - Oil Spills: 1-800-OILS-911
 - City of Brier: (425) 775-5440 - During Normal Business Hours
 - Dial 911 - After Hours and on Weekends and Holidays

Home Occupation Licensing

If a resident is operating a business from their home in Brier, a Home Occupation business license is required. Along with the online application through the Department of Revenue/Business Licensing Services (BLS), we require a questionnaire about the business to be completed to make sure that certain criteria are met according to the Brier Municipal Code. The questionnaire can be found at http://ci.brier.wa.us/Brier_Forms/business/homeoccupationcriteria.pdf.

To start this process, it is as simple as calling (360)705-6741, accessing www.bls.dor.wa.gov and creating or signing into your Secure Access Washington (SAW) account and follow the prompts.

2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Open House Meetings that were held during Spring 2024 and for providing initial feedback on what you would like to see in the city's update to the Comprehensive Plan. The City Council and Planning Commission will be working on the update of our plan in the coming months through the end of the year. There will be city postings of those public meetings for the citizens to provide input. The dates for the meetings and the topic to be discussed are provided at the end of this article as well. As draft documents are prepared, they will be available to the public at <http://ci.brier.wa.us/compplan/2024update.htm>. The City of Brier Comprehensive Plan provides guidance and policy direction for the future development of the City. The Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for both short- and long-term decisions for land use, transportation, preparation of capital improvement programs, and the rate, timing, type and location of future growth. It takes into account existing conditions, future needs and expresses the most reasonable community consensus that can be achieved as to the character and direction of future growth. This update is mandated by the State's Growth Management Act and all Cities must comply. If you have not already, please sign up for the email list for other updates. Please send an email to cityplanner@ci.brier.wa.us to be added to the email list.

Planning Commission

July 17, 2024

- Housing
- Transportation

August 21, 2024

- Land Use
- Parks & Recreation

September 18, 2024

- Capital Facility & Utilities
- Environment

City Council

September 24, 2024

- Housing
- October 8, 2024
- Transportation
- October 22, 2024
- Land Use
- November 12, 2024
- Parks & Recreation
- Capital Facility & Utilities
- November 26, 2024
- Environment
- October 8, 2024
- Transportation
- December 10, 2024
- Adoption of Resolution

Wildlife Habitat Corner: Why Native Plants?

- * Preserving native plant ecosystems (communities) is critical for supporting wildlife, such as birds, fish and pollinating insects. Migrating birds depend on corridors of vegetation where they can feed free of pesticides and rest during migration.
 - * Retaining native trees and shrubs supports a healthy and diverse habitat for birds, owls, bats (that eat mosquitoes) and pollinators including bumble bees and butterflies.
 - * The primary food that birds feed their young are found on native trees and shrubs.
 - * Trees protect our watersheds by filtering water, reducing erosion, and modulating stream flows.
- Mid-size native trees for gardens include well known vine maple, *Acer circinatum* that provides tiny spring flowers used by pollinators, summer shade and autumn color. Less well known Cascara, *Frangula purshiana* has small flowers that attract hummingbirds and bumble bees. Cascara has a round shape that offers shade in summer. It grows up to 40' tall and has lovely yellow autumn color. Songbirds are attracted to summer fruits. More native plants for birds can be found at <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>. The Brier Wildlife Habitat Project invites you to learn about gardening for wildlife at <https://www.nwf.org/certify>.

Fireworks Prohibited

Please remember, per BMC 8.28 fireworks are **NOT** allowed within the city. BMC 8.28 states it is illegal to sell, possess, purchase or discharge fireworks within the city limits of Brier.

Parks & Events

Music in the Park – July 17th, time 5pm.

National Night Out – August 6th, 6pm.

SeaScare- August 14th, 7pm.

Dog-O-Ween – Saturday in October TBD.

Holiday Tree Lighting – First Saturday, December 7th. Complete details available at <http://ci.brier.wa.us/cityhall/events.htm>