



CITY HALL • 2901 - 228TH STREET S.W. • BRIER, WASHINGTON 98036-8399 • 775-5440

## **NEWSLETTER – PAGE 1**

**NOVEMBER 2010**

### **Winter Weather: What to Expect and How to Help**

As we approach the end of 2010, weather experts have predicted this winter's weather to be more severe than normal. The City is taking these warnings seriously and preparing for a cold and wet season.

The City is making every effort to prepare for storms, and as citizens, you can too. Here are a few examples of what you can do to help:

- Remove debris such as leaves and packed snow from storm drains. This will alleviate drainage problems along roadways and prevent melted snow from refreezing and becoming a bigger safety issue.
- Move vehicles from the side of streets for snow plows to get by. When your vehicles are off the road, snow plows have an easier time clearing the streets for your safety. It also prevents the possibility of your vehicle getting trapped behind or high centering on a snow bank.
- Cover and wrap hose bibs in the front and back of your house to prevent freezing in pipes. By wrapping your outside spigots, you keep the cold from creeping into the pipes in your house and reduce the risk of freezing and breaking.

- Prepare a three-day emergency kit. Now is the time to gather emergency items such as enough food and water for your family for three days, flashlights and batteries, first-aid, and other essential comfort items. Have an emergency kit for both your home and your car. Visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/> for more information and ideas.
- Property owners remember: it is your responsibility to clear driveways and sidewalks. Many of our children still walk to school or bus stops in bad weather. You can help keep them safe by clearing a path for them in front of your home or business.
- Be safe and drive carefully! Use extreme caution while driving in inclement weather of any kind. Allow plenty of time to get to your destination and always yield to service vehicles such as plows, sanders, and busses.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

As fall is here and winter is approaching your Public Works Department is reminding citizens that they can make a difference when it comes to flooding. Home owners who have open ditches in front of your property - check to see that nothing is hung up in the culverts under driveways that would cause the ditch to overflow. A rake and/or a shovel can clear the tops of catch basins very

quickly, and prevent a minor problem from becoming a larger issue. This is especially true evenings and on weekends, outside of the City's normal working hours.

If we get a fair amount of snow, like 2 years ago, Public Works cannot clear the outer edges of the roads so people can get their garbage cans out for pick up. All we can do is open the road enough so two vehicles can make it by each other. Our job is to keep the streets open and passable for the public and for emergency vehicles. In doing that, we may push snow into your driveway even after you already cleared it.

Storm events of any kind can be a real burden on the elderly if power is lost or we have heavy rains or other problems. Check on your neighbors. As always, you may contact Public Works at 425-775-5440 ext-111 or at [bpworks@ci.brier.wa.us](mailto:bpworks@ci.brier.wa.us). After hours, call 911.

**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

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**COMMUNITY WATCH** We have a community watch members list that you can be on by Chief Lane your email address at [diane@ci.brier.wa.us](mailto:diane@ci.brier.wa.us). I then email to our citizens items such as weekly police beat, press releases and other items of interest.

**FINGERPRINTING** We also do fingerprinting, if you need it. For further information please contact the Brier Police Department at 425-775-5452.

**HOUSE CHECKS** For those of you getting ready to head south for the winter, fill out a request for us to check your house while you are away. The Security House Check forms can be found on line at <http://ci.brier.wa.us/emergency/homesecuritychecks.htm> or at the police department office. Please submit the completed form to the Brier Police Department.

**Internet Safety**

The Internet offers an array of entertainment and educational resources for children but it also presents some risks. Approximately one in seven youths (10 to 17 years) experience a sexual solicitation or approach while online. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) is committed to helping all audiences - from kids to parents and guardians to law-enforcement officers and educators - learn the aspects of Internet safety.

With the upcoming winter breaks from school, you can't watch kids every minute, but you can use strategies to help them benefit from the Internet and avoid its risks. NCMEC urges you to do one of the single most important things to promote safety — talk to kids about the rewards and risks of Internet use. We also encourage you to visit the following sites to educate yourself about Internet safety:

- [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)
- [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
- [www.NetSmartz.org](http://www.NetSmartz.org)

**NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS**

Per Brier Municipal Code 8.28.010, "In accordance with RCW 70.77.395, as amended, the use or discharge of consumer fireworks are expressly prohibited within the City of Brier, except for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. If you have any questions regarding the prohibited use of fireworks during New Years celebrations please contact the Brier Police Department during business hours at 425-775-5452.

**PARKS**

**Upcoming events** - Tree Lighting - December 4. Santa arrives at 6:30 pm - Brier Park.

**Mark Your Calendars** - Traditional Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 23 - 10:00 am start - ages 3 to 10 - Brier Park.

We are always seeking volunteers to help us in our parks and at our events. It is very easy to sign up - just visit the website: <http://ci.brier.wa.us/community/volunteer.htm>

**SNO-ISLE / BRIER LIBRARY**

Libraries are busier than ever.

Did you know at the library you can:

Use the readily available resources to find and apply for jobs?

Stop by to check out our wide selection of free entertainment DVDs and music CDs. Use the free Worldwide Newspapers Database to Read the world's leading newspapers in their original format.

Get live Homework Help, Skills Building and Writing Workshop for grades 3-12. College students may also find the skills review and writing workshop helpful. One-to-one online tutors are available from 1-10 pm, seven days per week.

**PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY****Brier Knit-Wits**

Learn to Knit or Crochet. The Brier KnitWits meet every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6pm.

**Brier Reading Club**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

**Friends of the Brier Library**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

**Family Story time**

Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Stories and songs for the whole family.

**Ready Readers**

Fridays, 11:00am For ages 2-5.

Join us for stories, music, and fun crafts.

**BOOKS ALIVE!**

Wednesdays, 4:30pm, school age program.

Find out more by calling 425-483-1468 or visit [www.sno-isle.org](http://www.sno-isle.org).

The *Friends of the Brier Library* is a non-profit organization that fundraises to support programs at your library. Join the *Friends* and give back to your community and the library. *Friends'* memberships annually cost \$5 for an individual, \$15 for a family, \$25 for an organization, or a lifetime membership for \$100. For more information, visit us at our monthly meeting held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (September through June) at 7pm in the Library. The *Friends* also host an ongoing book sale in the library lobby. Drop by the library during open hours and check out the selection of gently used items. Find out more by calling 425-483-1468 or visit [www.sno-isle.org](http://www.sno-isle.org). See you at the library!

**SEWER/STORMWATER RATES**

Please note that if you are planning to pay for the year and get a month free on your sewer/stormwater billing for 2011, the rates have changed and you will

need to contact City Hall to get your updated rates in January. In addition, your payment to receive the one month free must be in our office no later than 5 PM on February 28, 2011.

King County Metro & Alderwood Water have both increased the rates charged to us for our sewer to flow into their systems, this is a pass thru amount and we are not adding any mark-up. Due to the new requirements by the State Department of Ecology regarding stormwater the City has increased the monthly fee for stormwater to \$5 per month to cover the costs associated with the additional requirements mandated. This fee has not seen an increase since it's inception in 1999.

**PASSPORTS**

You can apply for your passport and have your photo taken at Brier City Hall, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM. For further information please contact Brier City Hall at 425-775-5440.

**VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

We have openings on our Planning Commission, Brier Park Board and Library Board. These groups generally meet once per month. Please contact the Mayor or City Clerk if interested in serving on one of these City Commissions and Boards. Please call 425-775-5440 or email [rcolinas@ci.brier.wa.us](mailto:rcolinas@ci.brier.wa.us).