

**FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR**

Our Public Works Foreman, Rich Maag will be retiring at the end of January after 37 years of dedicated service to our community. As you see Rich around town, please join me in wishing him the best in his future along with our appreciation for his service to Brier the past 37 years.

In turn, I'd like to welcome Steve Smith who will be taking over for Rich. Steve joins our team coming from the City of Shoreline where he has been the Public Works Forman for the past 17 years. Another new face this past summer is in our city planning position, Jennifer Flathman is our City Planner filling the position after Nicole Gaudette.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**COMMUNITY WATCH** We have a community watch members list that you can be on by sending Chief Catlett your email address at mcatlett@ci.brier.wa.us. We will post items such as weekly police beat, press releases and other items of interest on our website at [www.ci.brier.wa.us](http://www.ci.brier.wa.us).

**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 online at [http://ci.brier.wa.us/emergency/homeseuritychecks.htm](http://ci.brier.wa.us/emergency/homeseecuritychecks.htm) or at the police department office. Please submit the completed form to the Brier Police Department.

**NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS** As a reminder to the community for the upcoming New Year's celebration, personal use fireworks are prohibited as they are in many other surrounding cities. Per Brier Municipal Code 8.28.020, the use or discharge of fireworks are prohibited within the City of Brier.

**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 (ages 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.

- Have children use child-friendly search engines.
- Websites for children are not permitted to request personal information without a parent's permission.
- Children's screen-names should be nondescript so as not to identify that the user is a child.

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  
 www.missingkids.com  
 www.NetSmartz.org

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

This fall and winter the Brier Public Works Department will be trimming trees and bushes throughout the City. The Brier Municipal Code, section 8.12.020, Nuisances Designated states:

“Trees and bushes can be no less than 8 feet above the sidewalk and no less than 12 feet above the street surface”, they also cannot encroach into the sidewalk from the side.

Public Works requests property owners to trim their trees and bushes to meet the BMC requirements. If not, the Public Works crew will trim the trees and bushes as required to meet our code requirements.

Public Works is reminding citizens that they can make a difference when it comes to flooding. Homeowners, 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 shovel can clear the tops of catch basins very quickly, and prevent a minor problem from becoming a larger issue.

If we have a snow event, please be prepared! Please consider your safety and the safety of others if you need to drive in the snow. Public Works will make every reasonable effort to keep the streets open and passable. Our main priority will be for emergency vehicles. We apologize ahead of time if we 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,

please check on your neighbors. As always, you may contact Public Works at 425-775-5440 or at bpworks@ci.brier.wa.us. After hours, call 911.

### **WINTER WEATHER:**

What to Expect and How to Help:

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.
- Remove vehicles from the streets for snow plows to get by. When 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 becoming high centered 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 including, 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 buses.

**SEWER BILLING LATE FEES**

Sewer and/or Stormwater bills are sent out bi-monthly and are due upon receipt. However we have a built in grace period, we charge a late fee if payment does not arrive prior to the penalty after date listed on the bill which is approximately 45 days after the bills are mailed. Payments are considered late if they do not arrive by 4:30PM on the last "business" day of each odd month. A late payment fee of 10% of the unpaid balance will be applied to the account and is non-revocable. Failure to receive a bill does not exempt the customer from late payment penalties. The late payment charge is applicable to all customers. If you have questions about late fees please call City Hall at 425-775-5440.

**SNO-ISLE / BRIER LIBRARY**

Brier Library is now on Facebook. Connect with us at [www.facebook.com/brierlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/brierlibrary) to receive library updates, reading suggestions, program information for all ages, and a little bookish fun!

The Friends of the Brier Library is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support programs at your library. Join the Friends and give back to your community and the library. Friends of the Library annual membership fees are only \$5 for an individual, \$15 for a family, \$25 for an organization, or a lifetime membership for \$100. Find out more about the library and programs, by calling 425-483-1468 or visit [www.sno-isle.org](http://www.sno-isle.org).

**WILDLIFE HABITAT CORNER**

In August 2017, Brier became a certified wildlife habitat community with the National Wildlife Federation. Brier has earned this distinction by certifying 120 backyard wildlife habitats and public areas. We join other communities in Washington in bringing bird and wildlife friendly practices to our gardens, schools and parks. To learn more about native plants suitable for small gardens and the birds you're likely to attract, visit: [nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife.aspx](http://nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife.aspx) or [facebook.com/groups/Brierbirds/](https://facebook.com/groups/Brierbirds/). Brier has over 80 species of birds that come to local gardens, forests and wetland habitats. Please join us in learning about them.

**PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE**

Through everyday activities, we are releasing harmful and toxic chemicals into stormwater runoff that eventually enters Puget Sound.

**Vehicle Operations** - Check for leaks.

**Fertilizers & Herbicides** - Pull and smother weeds instead of spraying. Use native plants.

**Car Washing** - Use commercial car washes. Wash your car on your lawn.

**Pet Waste** - What is left on the lawn will be washed into Puget Sound.

**Household Products/Chemicals** - Choose least-toxic household cleaners and use more elbow grease.

**Septic Systems** - Maintain your septic system. (toilet paper only) Fix failing septic systems.

**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

**CONCERN FOR NEIGHBORS**  
**FOOD BANK**

There is a collection barrel located in our City Hall lobby. Please help support our neighbors in need by dropping off non-perishable items. We will keep the barrel year round to help support our neighbors in need.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Upcoming events,**

**Mark Your Calendars**

**Tree Lighting** – Saturday, December 2nd. Santa arrives at 6:00 pm - Brier Park.

**Traditional Egg Hunt** - Saturday, March 31st - 10:00 am start - ages 3 to 10 - Brier Park.

**HOLLY HOUSE DONATION BOX**

We have a new box in our lobby that helps families in need during the holidays. Please consider donating new pajamas, socks and underwear for those less fortunate. The need is especially high for teens. For more information visit their website at [www.hollyhouseforkids.org](http://www.hollyhouseforkids.org).