

**A MESSAGE FROM
MAYOR DALE KAEMINGK**

Greetings from City Hall

As you may know, former Mayor Bob Colinas resigned his office a few months ago. The Brier City Council unanimously voted for me to fulfill his expired term. I am excited to take on this new challenge.

The citizens of Brier owe the former Mayor a huge debt of gratitude for his faithful diligence. Bob has served the City very well for over two decades as a Planning Commissioner, a City Council member and as Mayor. Thank you Bob!

I grew up in Lynden Washington where my dad served as Mayor. I graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. My wife Terry and I have been married for 40 years and we have three thriving adult children and four growing grandchildren.

I have served on the City Council since 2003. My past Council liaison assignments include: Planning Commission, Public Works, Community Development, Budget Committee, Mayor Protem, Served on City of Brier Arbitration Committee, Served on Union Contract Negotiation Teams, and Member Snohomish County Regional Fire Authority Review Committee.

I am retired with 40 years of experience as a Structural Engineer who has designed projects all over the United

States and Canada. I was a Partner and Shareholder of Engineers Northwest Inc. for 20 years and will use my leadership experience in the private sector to assist me as your Mayor.

I have already met with our Representatives in Olympia and Snohomish County Elected Officials and discussed with them important issues and budget priorities in our City.

My highest priority as your Mayor is to facilitate efficient, effective, reasonable and responsive local government that also plans for the future. I have solicited input from Brier citizens and am working hard to provide City Employees with the equipment and skills to perform their jobs well.

Brier is a wonderful place for families and is unique with its larger lots, semi-rural character, open spaces and involved citizens. It is my goal to keep it that way. Please come to one of our City Council meetings to see how local government works and let us know your priorities for our beautiful City.

If you have questions or comments for me, please feel free to call me at City Hall at 425-775-5440 or email me at dkaemingk@ci.brier.wa.us.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

The City Council solicited Brier citizens interested in serving on the Council to fulfill the unexpired terms that were vacant. We received and reviewed 22 letters of interest from citizens and

answers to supplemental questions requested by the Council. The Council then selected several candidates to interview. The last step was for the City Council to vote on the candidates for each open position per the RCW. Now we would like to introduce our three new Council members that have joined us in the last few months. Long time resident and Planning Commission member David Marley was selected to fill the remaining term left open by Mayor Kaemingk. In addition, we welcome long-time residents Valerie Rosman and John Lockhart to round out the open Council seats.

PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE

Through everyday activities, we are releasing harmful and toxic chemicals into stormwater runoff that eventually enters the 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 8AM -5PM M-F

- Dial 911 - After Hours and on Weekends and Holidays

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works would like to remind residents that they can make a difference.

If we have a snow event, please be prepared. 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 have already cleared it, snowplow operators do not place snow in driveways on purpose. There is no practical way for the snowplow operator to cut off the window of snow when crossing a driveway. One thing you can do to reduce the amount of snow that is plowed in front of your driveway is to place as much of the snow as possible to the right side of your driveway as you face the street.

As always, you may contact Public Works at 452-775-5440 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.
- Remove vehicles from the streets for the street sweeper and/or snowplows to get by.
- Cover and wrap hose bibs on the exterior of your house to prevent pipes freezing.
- Property owners remember it is your responsibility to clear driveways and

sidewalks in front of your property. Many people are out walking, and you can help keep them safe by clearing a path for them.

- 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Holiday-Winter Safety Tips:

The Brier Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

- Please keep pets warm and safe in the cold weather.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good condition for winter driving.
- The holiday season is a great time to get to know your neighbors. Neighbors watching out for neighbors helps keep an eye out for suspicious activity and make communities safer.
- Lock your vehicle and hide valuables, preferably in the trunk or locked compartment. Stay alert to your surroundings and take a moment to glance around for possible suspicious persons, vehicles, and/or situations.
- When in crowded places, be alert for potential thieves. Don't overload yourself with packages. Be wary of strangers approaching you for any reason. The holiday season is notorious for "con-artists" who may attempt to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings. As an added precaution, make sure you have a record of all your credit card numbers in a secure place at home.
- Recognize that there is safety in numbers and arrange to shop with

friends and relatives instead of going out alone. Make sure everyone remains vigilant and looks out for each other.

- Be extra cautious about locking windows, sliders, and doors when leaving for any length of time. We suggest keeping all entrance points into your house secured while you are at home as well. Never keep gifts or valuable objects in plain view from any window. If a person knocks at your door and you do not recognize them, don't feel obligated to open your door. Teach your children that by no means will they open the door to anyone prior to your knowledge and authorization.

WILDLIFE HABITAT CORNER

Leaves for Birds

Do you struggle to bag up your leaves when fall arrives? Removing leaves keeps our lawns looking nice, but there is a simpler way to avoid a war on leaves each autumn.

Try the easy and beneficial practice of using autumn leaves as mulch under trees and shrubs. Extra leaves can be piled in a shady location to break down and become future mulch. Our grandparents knew that leaf mulch benefits the soil while giving birds a place to find natural food. Mulching with leaves invites winter birds such as Varied Thrush and Fox Sparrow, and year-round birds like Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow and others.

Leaves protect the soil from frost and give birds a place to find earthworms and insects that help them survive in winter and year-round. At other times of year, leaf mulch adds organic matter, suppresses weeds and conserves water.

Please remember to clear leaves away from street storm drains near your house.

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.

HOLLY HOUSE DONATION BOX

We have a 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.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The entire Park Board team has been saddened with the cancellation of the past several events – The Egg Hunt, Concert in the Park, Kid Scare, SeaScare and Dog-O-Ween. And, now Santa will be unable to join us for Tree Lighting. However, the tree will be lit as usual to remotely celebrate the holiday season in Brier.

Looking ahead with optimism – mark your calendar for the 2021. Traditional Egg Hunt in Brier Park at 10:00 am on Saturday April 3rd. The day before Easter.

As with everyone and everything, we look forward to being with you all again in the near future.