

**A MESSAGE FROM
MAYOR DALE KAEMINGK**

First, I would like to thank the voters in Brier to allow me to continue serving as their mayor. It has been my pleasure to work with a great city staff, a thoughtful City Council and involved citizens. I have learned a lot in the past year and a half but there is much I would like to accomplish in our unique city. I promise to do my best to keep Brier as a great place to live.

One of the first things that I noticed was that I was getting the same questions repeatedly from different residents. I am pleased to let you know that we now have a FAQ page on the city website. Please have a look.

As you may know, we are in the process of finding a new police chief and new police officers. I am pleased to report that we have candidates for both positions. As it should be, the vetting process for both positions are very onerous and lengthy. We are in process, and I am optimistic about the outcome.

We look forward to the time when city council meetings can be held again in person. Until that happens, we continue to meet online. We enjoy the participations of Brier citizens. Please see the city website for details on how to join.

I recently attended the annual Dog-o-ween event at Bobcat park. As usual it was a great occasion and well attended. Thanks to our Parks Board for all their

hard work. I am looking forward to our annual tree lighting which will be held on December 4th at 6pm.

As always, I enjoy hearing from you. Please call me at City Hall (425 775 5440) or email me dkaemingk@ci.brier.wa.us if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

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. Don't leave your car running unattended.
- 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.

PUBLIC WORKS

This Fall and Winter the Brier Public Works Department will be trimming trees and bushes throughout the city. Public Works requests property owners to trim their trees and bushes to meet The Brier Municipal Code, section 17.50.370, Maintenance which states:

“The property owner shall be responsible for ensuring that: Vegetation that obstructs or hinders the use of any public right-of-way or designated trail, particularly eight feet or less above a pedestrian walkway or sidewalk and fourteen feet or less above a horse trail or a paved public street, is removed”

They also cannot encroach into the sidewalk from the side.

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 snowplows to get by. When vehicles are off the road, snowplows 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 snowbank.

- 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.

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

WILDLIFE HABITAT CORNER

Winter Trees for Birds

Have you considered which trees or large shrubs might make an attractive addition to the home landscape *and* attract birds? As we move toward winter, birds seek shelter from stormy weather and cold nights within the branches of evergreens. Tightly sheared hedges prevent birds from accessing the interior, they *don't* provide shelter. Birds seek evergreens that have an open structure that allows them to enter and perch on the branches within.

Pacific wax myrtle is a large evergreen shrub with small berries for birds. This broad-leaf evergreen doubles as an excellent screen to enclose your landscape for a sense of privacy. The shiny leaves look good year-round and attract birds in every season.

This information has been provided by the Brier Wildlife Habitat Project celebrating ten years of working to support birds, butterflies, and pollinators through wildlife friendly garden practices in Brier. To learn more, go to: <https://www.nwf.org/certify>.

SEWER/STORMWATER BILLING

We received notice as we do every other year that King County Metro is increasing their rates for our sewer system to flow into their system, as did Alderwood Water District. Your new rates will be effective January 1, 2022.

Rates will be either \$148.66 or \$183.48 depending on which system your connection flows through.

**COMING IN SPRING 2022 ONLINE
PAYMENT & PRESENTMENT**

The city will be partnering with Invoice Cloud to offer online bill payment and presentment. Our hope is to have the system live by the April 2022 billing. Keep your eyes peeled for details that will be included in your February 2022 bills on how to sign up and how to opt out of paper billings.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Upcoming events,

Mark Your Calendars

2021 Tree Lighting – Saturday, December 4th. Santa arrives at 6:00 pm - Brier Park.

2022 Traditional Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 16th - 10:00 am start - ages 3 to 10 - Brier Park.

2022 Music in the Park – July – date to be announced for a Wednesday evening – music starts at 5:00 pm in Brier Park.

2022 SeaScare – Wednesday, August 10th – parade starts at 7 pm. Details and to sign up at www.seascare.com.

DONATION BOXES

As always, we have the **Concern for Neighbors Food Bank** and **Holly House** www.hollyhouseforkids.org donation boxes in our lobby to help those in need.