



CITY OF  
**BRIER**  
ESTD 1965

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**NEWSLETTER – PAGE 1**

**WINTER 2022**

**A MESSAGE FROM  
MAYOR DALE KAEMINGK**

It is my hope that each of you has a wonderful holiday season. Here are some news items that I hope you find informative regarding our City.

The Brier Police department is doing well under the leadership of Chief Almquist and Lieutenant Ridout. Crime in Brier is low, and we are grateful for that. However, crime has become the number one topic of conversation between South Snohomish County Mayors as our neighboring communities are struggling with this issue. We are affected because of our proximity and mutual aid agreements. It is a complex problem involving Washington State legislation, policing manpower, prosecutor priorities and local judges. Please see this video as it helps explain some of the issues <https://youtu.be/IPQrwAxznzA>.

In public works we have a new and seasoned addition. In his short time with us Bill has jumped in and been a great addition to our hard-working staff of Steve, Tim & Marcus.

As usual Paula and her staff (Carrie, Malia, and Christine) are doing an outstanding job in City Hall. They are always available to answer your questions.

We also have a consulting City Planner. Lee Michaelis comes to us with 25 years of experience in the public and private

sector. He has already offered some great suggestions and is working well with other staff, the planning commission, and the residents of Brier.

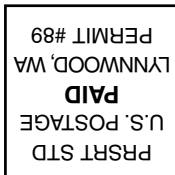
This time of year, your Council, Mayor, and City Staff prepare next year's budget. It is apparent that the increased costs due to high inflation that everyone is experiencing are affecting the City. Emergency services, regulations, fuel, insurance, and labor costs are all rising. While state law restricts our primary source of revenue, property tax is only allowed a one percent (1%) increase of the previous year's tax revenue. For 2023 this is approximately \$12,000 (for more information, visit our Budget FAQ <http://ci.brier.wa.us/cityhall/faqbudget.htm>). We are exploring how we can best address these increases and encourage you to watch for updated budget information on the city website.

As always, I would like to hear from you. Please feel free to call me at (425) 775-5440 or email me at [dkaemingk@ci.brier.wa.us](mailto:dkaemingk@ci.brier.wa.us). If you are interested in serving on a City board or commission, please let me know.

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Winter Driving:**

Public Works would like to remind residents that they can make a difference. If we have a snow event, please be prepared for winter driving conditions. Public Works will make every reasonable effort to keep the streets open and passable with the resources

SSM ECR POSTAL CUSTOMER



**NEWSLETTER - PAGE 4**

**WINTER 2022**

**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. In addition, to meet the requirements from state & federal agencies the City must raise stormwater rates significantly. Your new rates will be effective January 1, 2022.

Rates will be either \$158.34 or \$195.04 depending on which system your connection flows through.

**Pay your bill & go paperless**

The city has partnered with Invoice Cloud to offer online bill payment and presentment. You can now pay your bill online for a nominal fee and opt out of paper billings. Find the blue "View & Pay Your Bill Online" button on the home page of our website [www.ci.brier.wa.us](http://www.ci.brier.wa.us) that will take you to the payment portal.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Upcoming events,**

**Mark Your Calendars**

**2022 Tree & City Hall Lighting –  
\*\* NEW LOCATION\*\***

Saturday, December 3rd. Santa arrives at 6:00 pm - Brier City Hall. Our usual tree has gotten too tall and the power company has asked that we no longer use it. Join us at City Hall to see the building lit up and enjoy the winter festivities.

**2023 Traditional Egg Hunt** - Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am start - ages 3 to 10 - Brier Park.

**2023 Music in the Park** – July – date to be announced for a Wednesday evening – music starts at 5:00 pm in Brier Park.

**2023 SeaScare** – Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – parade starts at 7 pm. Details and to sign up at [www.seascare.com](http://www.seascare.com).

available. Our main priority will be the identified snow route which includes the more heavily traveled streets and many hills. If we need to close a street, do not attempt to drive around the road closure as it is not only illegal, but the road is also closed for your safety.

#### **You can help during storm events:**

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.

#### **Understanding Right of Way:**

As a rule, a city right-of-way is an easement for public travel. Examples are sidewalks, sidewalk planting strips, pedestrian pathways, and areas reserved for utility access.

A property owner may own the fee title to the property underlying a public right-of-way, but their use of that area must not obstruct public travel – either vehicular travel on the improved roadway or pedestrian travel. Property owners are responsible for maintaining the right-of-way areas such as the sidewalk, planting strip, or roadway shoulder. This includes landscape maintenance and snow removal. Property owners may landscape these areas they see fit, as long as it does not block access, block drivers' view of the street or cross streets, or create a safety hazard. One example of a safety hazard would be placing rocks or other obstruction within the right-of-way

which may create a hazard to the traveling public. The property owner may be held liable should any injury or damage occur. Thank you for keeping our sidewalks clean.

#### **PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE**

##### **Only Rain Down the Drain:**

You may think that it's ok for little things here and there to be put down the storm drain. It's easy to forget that your one little thing and my one little thing eventually add up to create a monster problem. Per Brier Municipal Code 14.04.080 A. "Except as provided in subsections C and D of this section, no individual shall throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into the stormwater system any materials and/or liquids other than stormwater." Our storm drains don't filter what we put into them. They run directly into our streams. To help keep them clean, properly dispose of your motor oil, pick up after your pet, take your car to a car wash or wash on your lawn, and minimize herbicides and fertilizers by using natural yard care practices.

#### **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 business hours M-F 8AM to 5PM  
 - Dial 911 - After Hours/Weekends/Holidays

#### **GARBAGE CANS & SIDEWALKS**

This is a reminder to please keep garbage cans off the sidewalk and to remove them promptly after garbage day. We have many citizens who enjoy walking

our city and when garbage cans are not put on the street it blocks sidewalks and causes them to have to step out into the roadway. This is an even bigger issue for our citizens using wheelchairs or for parents pushing strollers as they are not as easily able to navigate around the garbage cans. Please help make it safer for everyone using our sidewalks.

#### **WILDLIFE HABITAT CORNER**

##### **Birds**

Bird watching in our gardens is an easy way to enjoy nature outside our windows regardless of the weather. It isn't necessary to supply bird feeders, instead we can grow food for birds with native trees and shrubs. A visit to the Audubon Society's PLANTS FOR BIRDS can get you started. Planting for birds benefits butterflies, pollinators, and beneficial insects at the same time. Many native trees and shrubs have flowers or berries. They add beauty and interest to the landscape while helping birds. Fallen autumn leaves protect the soil and provide one of the best sources of winter food for birds. Find a place to keep the leaves as a mulch at the back of garden beds or under trees and shrubs. They will give birds a place to find earthworms year-round. As the leaves break down, they enrich the soil with nutrients and organic matter forming nature's compost. To learn more about gardening for wildlife visit <https://www.nwf.org/home/garden-for-wildlife>. This column is brought to you by the Brier Community Wildlife Habitat Team.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Your dedicated Brier Police Officers wish you a blessed and rewarding holiday season! As you travel this holiday, or in general, please remember to fill out the Vacation Home Check form, found on the city website, so we can help keep your home safe while you are away. We will be hosting 2 community informational nights to bring back the Block Watch Program. These will be on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at City Hall. It is our goal to partner with our citizens, build stronger relationships and help reduce crime together. You are encouraged to discuss this amongst your neighbors and come to one of our informational nights.

It is this time of year when crime spikes for vehicle break-ins. A simple way to reduce the chances of your window being smashed out are to not leave valuable items inside your car or visible in plain view. One of my favorite law enforcement trainers, Gordon Graham, would always say; "What is predictable is preventable." Please remember to report any suspicious activity immediately when you see it. Together we can keep our Brier Community safe. Remember to follow us on Facebook @BrierPoliceDepartment.

#### **DONATION BOXES**

As always, we have the **Concern for Neighbors Food Bank** and **Holly House** [www.hollyhouseforkids.org](http://www.hollyhouseforkids.org) donation boxes in our lobby to help those in need. Please bring your new-unopened items to city hall.