



THE PORT REPORT

Port of Bremerton Newsletter • Winter 2025



Foreword From Port CEO

Jim Rothlin

THE BALANCE OF PROGRESS

If you take a quick peek at the Port of Bremerton's mission, you find that the goals for its community are twofold. One is about economic diversity and growth which helps bring more business, more jobs and more investment into the community. The other part of the mission speaks to maintaining the quality of life that we have learned to appreciate. These two objectives, though sometimes in tension, form the foundation of our decision-making process. Our success lies in achieving both simultaneously, and we evaluate every project through this lens. This balanced approach is evident across our current activities.

As the Port is looking to increase economic opportunities at the Industrial Park to market to new businesses which create more jobs, we start by building the infrastructure needed for this type of development. A significant part of this development starts by protecting the quality of the surrounding lands and environment with issues such as stormwater management systems, wetland protection, fish and wildlife conservation, etc. It is common practice to spend millions of dollars and years of work protecting the quality of the area before the Port can even begin its other mission of economic development and job creation.

At Bremerton National Airport, the Port is currently exploring the possibility of regional passenger flights to major West Coast destinations. The idea of this convenience is appealing to many people, and economic growth could be significant with this type of investment. However, there are many considerations to be made before a decision like this can move forward. We are conducting extensive studies on potential community impacts, investing hundreds of thousands of dollars to assess issues such as noise levels, air traffic patterns, and road congestion. Only if we can ensure these developments enhance rather than diminish local quality of life will the project be considered for moving into action.

Our recent waterfront property acquisition near Port Orchard Marina illustrates our long-term vision. The marina currently generates over \$10 million in annual economic value for the city, and this expansion aims to increase that contribution. However, before development begins, the Port will spend the next several years mitigating the property so that the currently contaminated soils are cleaned up, and drainage will no longer negatively affect the surrounding waters.

I take great pride in our staff's forward-thinking and responsible approach to the mission of the Port. Successful growth means creating opportunities for our citizens

while safeguarding what makes our community special. Our careful planning and substantial investments in economic development and quality of life demonstrate this commitment to balanced progress.



Sincerely,
Jim Rothlin

Celebrating Employee Milestones

Brian Robinson

Brian began his career at the Port as a temporary Summer hire, but recently reached 35 years at the company in October of 2024. Working as the lead for marina maintenance, Brian has a plethora of stories from throughout the decades. He reflects that he is proud of all that he has accomplished, particularly in getting to combine his appreciation of metal & sculptural work with his role. He was also present during the snow-collapse of Port Orchard Marina in the late '90s, taking lead in helping rebuild.

Brian is someone who is always trying to reach a gold standard, and it certainly shows in his work. In his years



here, he has never significantly damaged anything. Away from work, you can find Brian golfing, refurbishing classic VW cars, and playing with his dog, Bunchee.

Chris Johnson



Chris reached 35 years at the Port of Bremerton in June of 2024. Having spent his first 18 years at the company at the airport, he looks

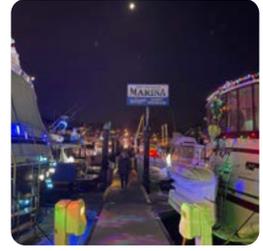
fondly at helping plan the then 'Technology Boulevard' and spending a portion of every year at Moses Lake while training as a volunteer fire fighter for the aircraft. He eventually made his way to our marinas, where he work to this day.

Chris's favorite parts of his job are the friendships he has made along the way and he encourages everyone to take advantage of training offered. In his free time you can find Chris cycling & hiking in our beautiful region.

With retirement nearing, he looks forward to traveling with his wife around the region in their camper & completing some projects around home.

HOLIDAYS AT THE PORT OF BREMERTON HOLIDAY BY THE BAY

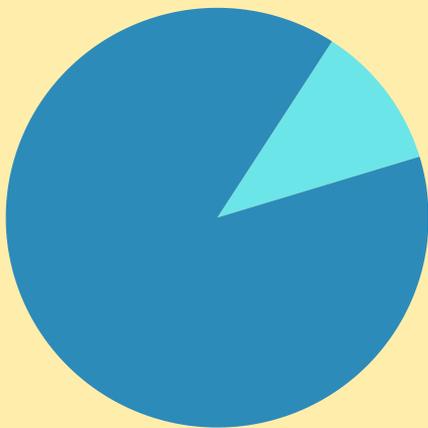
Holiday by the Bay, formerly named the Festival of Chimes & Lights, was a beautiful success thanks to the entire Downtown Port Orchard community. With a twinkling marina, snowing main street, and dazzling tree lighting, this holiday event put thousands of attendees in the holiday spirit. About a dozen vendors, goods and food alike, helped spread further merriment and children were amazed to see Santa himself riding through town in a classic car. Port Orchard Ford was a real star of this year's festivities, offering a free shuttle from their lot to the heart of the action.



To not miss out on the joy next year, or our next fun event, be sure to follow our socials for all the updates! [@portofbremerton](#)

2024 Annual Donation Drive

Stats from Kitsap County



11.2% of population experiences food insecurity.

49% of those food insecure are *above* the SNAP threshold.

51% of those food insecure are *below* the SNAP threshold.

\$26,131,000

Annual Food Budget Shortfall

Sourced from Feeding America, 2022

Food insecurity is a matter that only grows throughout our country, with our Kitsap County being no different. Each year it becomes increasingly vital that proper assistance is given to those in need, but it is not a simple fix. Although we have amazing food banks in our region, they accomplish all they do through primary reliance on donations. We at the Port of Bremerton are proud to host a donation drive annually that aims to connect our organization, partner organizations, tenants, and constituents with our food banks in need.

Sponsors



RESEARCH AT BREMERTON NATIONAL AIRPORT AIRPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY

As you may have heard by now, we at the Port of Bremerton are in the early stages of a feasibility study for our Bremerton National Airport.

Working with a consultant, Mead & Hunt, we have completed a survey for the first phase of this project and received over 2,700 responses from our constituents. Taking these survey results and the results from the the first phase of the study itself, Port Commissioners will determine if there should be further exploration on this topic, with a decision on whether to continue studying into Phase 2 coming in February of 2025. Learn more at the website above!



www.bremertonairportstudy.com



The receiving food banks of this year's donation drive were Bremerton Foodline and South Kitsap Helpline. Here, we donated over \$3,000 worth of goods, including cooking oil, baby formula, soup, canned proteins, and more. We appreciate every single person that was able to contribute, and we want to give a special thank you to our four community sponsors of this year's drive: General Dynamics Electric Boat, Amelia's Hangar, Blue Architecture + Interiors, and Roger Collins from the Collins Historic Aircraft Foundation.

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We look forward to continuing this community tradition in 2025.



Meet the Commissioners



Gary Anderson
President

Term: Jan. 1, 2020 -
Dec. 31, 2025

District 2: Downtown Port Orchard,
portions of Eastern South Kitsap



Cary Bozeman
Vice President

Term: Jan. 1, 2022 -
Dec. 31, 2027

District 1: West Bremerton, portions of
East Bremerton, Kitsap Lake, Chico



Axel Strakeljahn
Secretary

Term: Jan. 1, 2024 -
Dec. 31, 2029

District 3: Portions of South Kitsap,
Southwest Bremerton, Seabeck/Holly/Crosby

Did you know that you can attend commission meetings? Head to portofbremerton.org/commission-meetings for dates & meeting links!



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Direct contact for all things Port of Bremerton!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Join & tag us on socials - the best way to stay informed and interact! [@portofbremerton](https://www.instagram.com/portofbremerton)



Are you a tenant that wants to be featured by the Port?
Contact ericaf@portofbremerton.org for more info!