

Know Your City: *Bremerton*

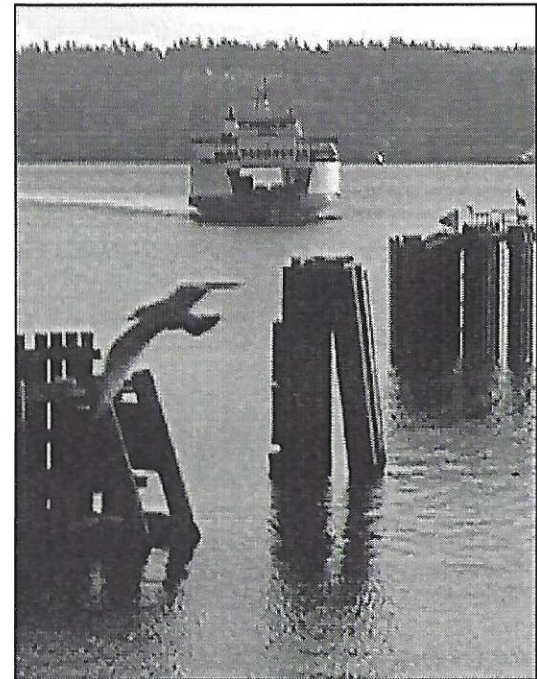


The League of Women Voters of Kitsap County

Know Your City:

Bremerton

An informational booklet
about the structure and function
of Bremerton municipal government,
history, services and public amenities.



League of Women Voters of Kitsap County
First edition, 2006

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

is a volunteer, non-partisan political organization, dedicated to encouraging citizens to be informed, active participants in government and the political process.

Full membership is open to any citizen, age 18 or older.

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Any inaccuracies are unintentional. Readers should always check with agencies and/or City departments for most current information.

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Bremerton, Then and Now

Located on the magnificent shores of Puget Sound, within view of the majestic Olympic and Cascade Mountains, Bremerton is blessed with a site of unique natural beauty. As the largest city in Kitsap County, it serves as a natural commercial hub for the region, as well as a gateway between the urban amenities of Seattle and the wild natural features of the Olympic Peninsula.

The City's geography, geology, maritime climate, navigable waterways and deep-water anchorage attracted

early hunter-fisher settlements, timber and sawmill industrialists, farmers, and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. These same attributes continue to shape and influence Bremerton.

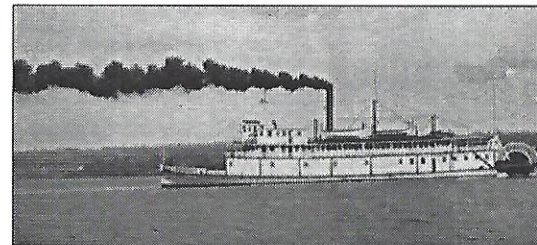


Lion's Field

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

History

Recent archaeological diggings in what is now Bremerton's Evergreen Park reveal evidence of human presence dating back some 1,300 years. And as recently as the early 1900s, Suquamish people lived in permanent communities along nearby shores, sustained by elk, deer, berries, salmon and clams.



Ferry "Tourist", 1915

Long before automobiles and road systems were created, various ferry services (known as the Mosquito Fleet and comprised of row boats, propeller

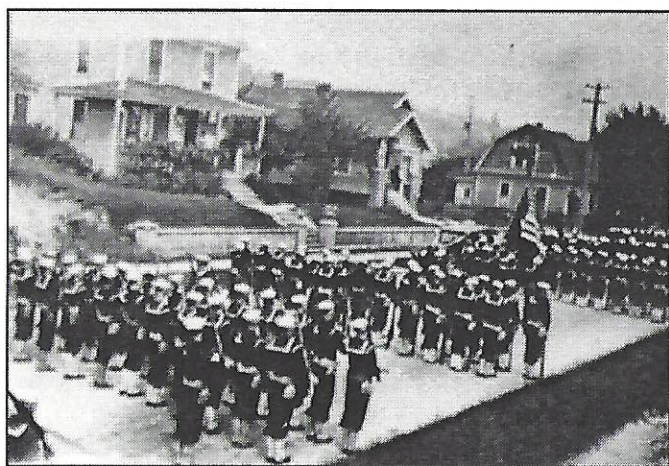
boats, steamers and sternwheelers) moved freight, mail and passengers to and from nearby communities, including Seattle.

Timber industries, homesteading, farming, and water-oriented transportation thrived during the 1800s and influenced the beginnings of what would later become Bremerton. As mills began to fail in the late 1800s, land use was re-purposed to homesteading and farming.

An 1877 survey expedition by Naval Lieutenant Ambrose Wyckoff led to the recommendation and approval of a site on the north shore of Sinclair Inlet for a naval shipyard. In anticipation of the base, William Bremer, a German immigrant banker, purchased undeveloped land and platted a town. Some of this land was later sold to the Navy as part of the initial footprint of Puget Sound Naval Station, now known as Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS). The effect of the Naval Station and its successors on the economy and character of Bremerton cannot be overemphasized.

In 1901 Bremerton was incorporated and rapidly gained a reputation as a wild and colorful community, with saloons, gambling and houses of ill-repute. This strained relations with Naval authorities and led to a crackdown on vice.

The Navy Yard initially maintained ships from the Pacific Fleet. During World War I it constructed a variety of vessels: submarines, subchasers, minesweepers, seagoing tugs. During World War II the Yard primarily



Parade in Charleston, 1925

repaired battle damage to U.S. and allied warships.

With the onset of U.S. involvement in World War II, the number of PSNS workers approached 30,000, making PSNS one of the most significant sources

of employment in the nation. The influx of shipyard workers swelled Bremerton's population to 80,000, and the City's infrastructure was severely strained. There were housing shortages, traffic jams, 24-hour work cycles at PSNS, and a shortage of classroom space for children. Homeowners rented bedrooms and attics to PSNS shift workers and their families. High-school students attended classes in shifts.

In response to housing needs, inexpensive residential units were rapidly constructed, including two government-financed housing projects known as Eastpark and Westpark.

The PSNS industrial site's 8,600 military and civilian workers today comprise the largest workforce of any Naval shipyard. Workers provide ship maintenance, modernization, and technical and logistics support.

When WWII ended, military contracts were canceled and jobs disappeared. By the 1950s, Bremerton's population fell to some 27,000. Yet Bremerton survived economically, serving as the commercial center for the West Sound region until the 1980s when shopping mall development in Silverdale drew businesses away. Left behind were empty buildings and a greatly reduced tax base.

The Present

Bremerton is diversifying its economy and re-creating its future as West Sound's metropolitan center. The City is undergoing a revitalization effort, aimed at restoring its economic health while ensuring a good quality of life for its residents. Greater economic diversity is emerging: Public/private investment partnerships are increasing the efficiency of governmental infrastructure and creating a new mix of residential and commercial buildings in the City's downtown core. Downtown is developing as a pedestrian district, with parks, recreational opportunities and a reinvigorated art community.



Bremerton Harborside retail center

The Navy is by far the largest economic influence in Kitsap County. Its installations at Bangor and Keyport are strongly connected to Bremerton's facilities, and the complex continues to benefit the City. Nearly \$1.5 billion in active military and civilian payrolls flow into the Kitsap County economy annually. The Navy purchases more than \$60 million worth of goods and services in Kitsap County each year. In recent years, the Navy has gifted Bremerton with several tracts of land that benefit the City and its citizens.

BREMERTON BY THE NUMBERS

(Per 2000 U.S. Census Report)

- 37,000** – Approximate city population
- 30,950** – Median household income
- 30.9** – Median age
- 86** – Percent of population over age 25 with a high school diploma (15% hold a bachelor's degree or higher)
- 75** – Percent of population that is Caucasian (the remainder of the population is nearly equally divided among persons of Asian, Black and Hispanic origin.)
- 25** – Percent of civilian employees engaged in sales and office work
- 25** – Percent of civilian employees engaged in management or professional jobs
- 25** – Percent of civilian employees engaged in service occupations

The Future

Since implementation of the statewide Growth Management Act in the early 1990s, citizens have participated in community dialogues to help shape the vision of what the community is to become. The Bremerton Comprehensive Plan reflects citizen desires for a re-invigorated, sustainable community. Themes throughout the document focus on re-creation of viable neighborhoods, development of urban centers, expanding economic diversity, growing new businesses, improved pedestrian accessibility, variety of transportation choices, attractive, affordable and variable housing choices, sensitivity to and protection of the natural environment, desire for more responsive City services, and in general, desire for enhanced quality of life for residents and visitors. Bremerton is being redefined and reshaped.

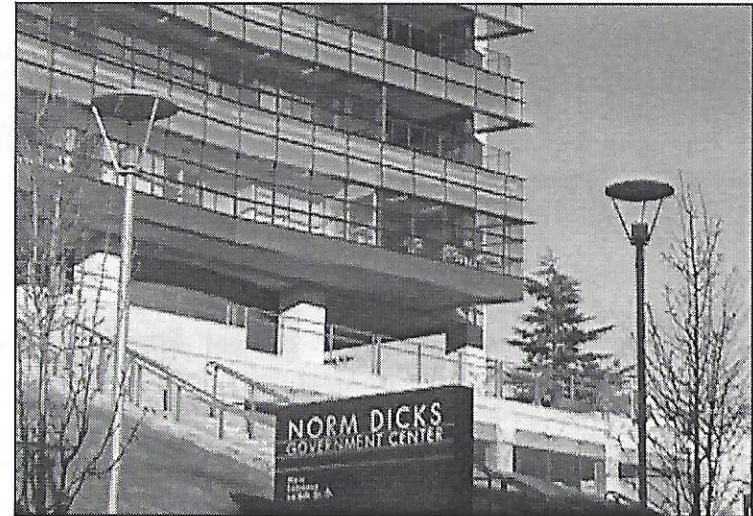
A five-year, multi-million dollar economic development plan is under way.

Phase one of the revitalization plan, completed as of March 2006:

- Norm Dicks Government Center
- Bremerton Harborside development (Kitsap Conference Center, Hampton Inn, Anthony's Homeport restaurant, office and retail spaces)
- 1,000-car Navy parking garage
- New downtown fire station
- Renovation of downtown library

Phase two projects (under design or construction):

- Kitsap Credit Union headquarters building
- Downtown waterfront condominiums
- Harborside Park and Memorial Plaza
- Port of Bremerton Marina expansion



Norm Dicks Government Center, downtown

COMMUNITY LIFE

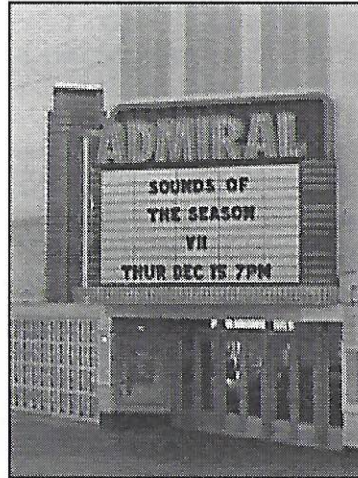
Amenities - Cultural and Recreational Life

Mount Rainier, Seattle skyscrapers and Olympic Mountain vistas complement Bremerton's marine setting and are visible from many points within the City. Washington State Ferries wind through marine

passageways to and from Seattle, and passenger-only ferries sail back and forth from Port Orchard and to and from Seattle.

Bremerton's urban amenities include:

- Admiral Theatre
- Louis Mentor Boardwalk
- Kitsap Regional Library system
- Bremerton Community Theater
- Blackberry Festival
- Bremerton Symphony
- Navy Band concerts
- The Kitsap Sun daily newspaper
- Bremerton Patriot newspaper
- BKAT community cable television
- Galleries
- Fine and informal dining
- Gold Mountain Golf Course
- Museums
- City parks and playgrounds
- Public boat launches
- Public and private marinas



Admiral Theatre, downtown

The "Arts Districts" downtown and on Callow Avenue host free gallery exhibits featuring local and regional artists as well as the monthly community celebration, First Friday Art Walk.

The Admiral Theatre, originally constructed in 1942 as a 1,500-seat movie house, today serves as a 1,000-seat performance hall, theater and cultural center. Located on Pacific Avenue in downtown Bremerton, it closed in the 1980s during the City's economic downturn. Then in 1990 Bremerton citizens voted to acquire the theater, with the intent to lease it to then-newly formed non-profit Admiral Theatre Foundation. The Foundation raised \$4 million to renovate the theater, and in 1997 the Admiral Theatre re-opened. Professional performances, film series and community events serve upwards of 30,000 patrons each season.

The Bremerton Symphony began in 1942, founded by seven citizens under the auspices of the Bremerton Recreation Commission. The group evolved into what is now the Bremerton Symphonic Association, with a Board of Directors. All performers are volunteers.

The Bremerton Community Theatre began as an entertainment venue for the large number of workers drawn to the Navy Yard during WWII. The federal government awarded money to cities like Bremerton to help pay for recreation programs. Bremerton Parks and Recreation Department received such funds, to be used for an amateur drama program, and in 1944, the first plays were produced. In 1945 the theater was reorganized into a separate non-profit corporation. The City originally donated the use



On the Louis Mentor Boardwalk

of a small building for a theater site, which was used until 1976 when the present theater on Lebo Boulevard opened.

Following the economic slump of the 1980s, Bremerton Mainstreet Association formed to generate ideas and events designed to attract people back to the downtown area and its businesses. Free, public celebrations evolved, which continue today and include the St. Patrick's Day parade, summer concert series on the Boardwalk, Blackberry Festival, and a Christmas street festival.

Community-wide Service Organizations

Numerous community service clubs and organizations are active within Bremerton and Kitsap County. Organizations such as these contribute time and money to projects that directly enhance the well-being and cultural life of the community.

Faith-based Communities and Organizations

Residents of diverse faiths will find spiritual communities in and near Bremerton. Examples include fellowships for Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, as well as other religious and non-denominational communities.

The Structure & Function of Government

State laws determine the governing powers of municipalities. The Washington State Constitution and the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) define the legal basis for governmental authority. A municipality is an urban district that has corporate status with powers of self-government, and as such is usually the smallest administrative subdivision with democratically elected representatives.

There are five classes of cities in the State of Washington. Bremerton is a First Class city, which is defined as a city with a population of 10,000 or more, operating under a home rule charter; that is, the State has delegated to the City the power to frame and adopt its own charter.

CITY CHARTER

The City Charter sets forth the basic functions the City is to provide and creates the framework, operating procedures, and checks and balances for administrative and legislative governance. It establishes the corporate name, describes the rights and powers of Bremerton as a First Class city, and defines the powers, duties and terms of office of the Mayor, Municipal Judge and City Council. It also addresses procedures associated with appointed officers, as well as boards, commissions and committees and sets up the Civil Service Commission. In addition, the Charter establishes the financial structure, operation and oversight responsibilities for City assets as well as describing the City's rights and responsibilities with respect to public works and utilities. The Charter may only be changed by a vote of the people.

ORGANIZATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT

Elected Offices

Bremerton, like most Washington cities, has chosen a Mayor-Council form of government. The City Charter provides for 11 elected officers: the Mayor, a Municipal Judge and 9 part-time council members. Each councilor represents a district within the City.

Mayor

The Mayor is elected by majority vote of the City at large. A candidate must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age who has lived in the City for at least one year and who continuously resides within the City.

Article V of the City Charter establishes the Mayor as the chief executive and administrative officer of the City, bearing responsibility for all departments, employees and services, overseeing enforcement of all

laws and ordinances, and maintaining law and order. The Charter further directs that the Mayor shall have charge of City financial assets. The Mayor is empowered to appoint and remove all appointive officers and employees except the City Attorney and City Auditor, court employees and Council employees. The Mayor also appoints all boards, commissions and committees except the Audit Committee. City Council confirmation of mayoral appointments is required.

City Council

Council members are elected by majority vote from their respective districts and serve staggered 4-year terms. Council members must also be U.S. citizens, residents of the City for at least one year, at least 18 years of age, and must continuously reside within the district from which they are elected. The Charter assigns to City Council the power to change the boundaries of the districts, and defines the process.

Article III of the City Charter assigns City legislative responsibilities to City Council, sets forth the powers of Council, and specifies there will be at least one regular council meeting per month. All meetings, except for executive sessions, are open to the public, and time is reserved for public comment. Agendas are available online at the City web site, or may be obtained by calling Council office. Meetings are televised on local cable channel BKAT and meeting minutes are posted on the City web site.



Bremerton City Council meeting

The City Council sets policy, adopts and enforces ordinances, and possesses all powers of taxation for local purposes allowed by state law. Council members represent the City on regional boards and committees. Council conducts public hearings and accepts public testimony. Many Council members host district meetings.

Municipal Judge

Article II of the City Charter stipulates that the Municipal Judge shall be elected by majority vote from the City at large. The Municipal Judge must be a U.S. citizen, reside in Kitsap County, and be licensed to practice law in Washington State. The Judge serves a term of 4 years.

The Municipal Court hears cases for the City involving alleged violations of City ordinances and state misdemeanor statutes, traffic and parking infractions, protection order requests and hearing examiner appeals.

Appointed Offices

Human Resources Director

The HR Director is appointed by the Mayor subject to City Council confirmation. Among the Director's responsibilities: advise administrators regarding personnel management practices, policies and procedures and serve as liaison between them and Civil Service Commission; assist in labor negotiations; conduct employee training and counseling; administer the employee benefit programs; maintain personnel records.

Salaries and benefits comprise approximately 65% of the City's budget and the primary goal of HR is to design, evaluate, refine, and implement legally sound policies and procedures to fulfill the City's workplace needs.

The City Charter establishes creation of a Civil Service Commission, comprised of three members (appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council) serving staggered three-year terms. The Charter specifies Commission rules and powers and identifies which employee positions are considered Civil Service positions.

The City of Bremerton has an Equal Employment Opportunity Program which provides for an appointed officer to monitor the effectiveness of the City's Affirmative Action Plan. In addition, the Mayor has established an Equal Employment Opportunity Council, with representatives from several city departments, who serve one-year terms.

Director of Economic Development

In December 2005, City Council voted to change the title of Director of Economic Development to Redevelopment Projects Administrator to better reflect the role this position performs for the City. This Department Head is appointed by the Mayor and oversees operations to attract private investment, market the City, create partnerships and manage capital projects to facilitate the City's revitalization and redevelopment.

City Attorney/Legal Department

The City Charter provides for a Legal Department consisting of a City Attorney to be appointed by the Mayor, subject to Council confirmation. The City Attorney must be a full-time, in-house attorney, serving as legal counsel to all officers, commissions, boards and committees of the City. The City Attorney's office is to help manage risks and limit and reduce liability

exposures. The Mayor or Council may direct the attorney to bring and prosecute actions involving violations of the Bremerton Municipal Code, and the attorney serves as legal defender of the City and its agents. Assistant city attorneys serve at the pleasure of the City Attorney.

Other City departments

Entire chapters in this booklet are devoted to the following City departments: Finance, Police and Fire, Public Works, Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreation. The Mayor and department heads coordinate and maintain communication between departments via a variety of regular meetings.

POPULAR CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT

Election mechanics and administration

City elections are administered by the county auditor and conducted by mail. Voter registration is available at city hall, regional libraries, public schools, federal or state agencies, or in the county auditor's office in Port Orchard.

Washington State's last September primary election will be Sept. 21, 2008. Beginning in 2007, the state's primaries will be held on the third Tuesday in August. General elections are held annually the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Special elections for municipal, school, or other local proposals may be held at other times specified by state law.

Recall, Initiative and Referendum

The City's charter allows for recall of elected officials. The charter also allows for Initiatives and Referenda as provided in RCW Chapter 35. Initiatives and Referenda are measures put before voters by petition.

Open meetings

Washington State's Open Meetings Act (RCW 42.30) provides that the public's business must be conducted in public. Notice of meetings or hearings are published in advance in local newspapers. Further, the state's Freedom of Information Act (RCW 42.17) addresses the right of all citizens to inspect and/or copy public records. Agencies are required to make their records available "promptly" on request and must give written reasons for denials of access. A modest copying fee is allowed.

Community Communications

The City maintains a comprehensive web site that includes a monthly newsletter from the Mayor, a calendar of City events and meetings, contact information for departments and officials, department-specific information, and much more. In addition, the Mayor publishes an annual report, and individual departments publish a variety of newsletters and brochures.

INTERAGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

State and regional

Bremerton is represented on regional boards, councils and associations. These commitments are intended to address shared problems, develop regional solutions, and in some cases to formulate regional policies. Regional agencies with Mayoral and/or Council representation include:

- **Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council**, a council of local governments formed to address regional planning issues.
- The **Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization**, whose purpose is to develop transportation and economic policies. Membership includes representatives from Clallam, Kitsap, Jefferson and Mason counties.
- The **Puget Sound Regional Council**, an association of towns, cities, counties, ports and state agencies formed to address regional growth, transportation, environmental, and economic development issues. The document Vision 2020, adopted by membership, reflects regional growth management strategies.
- The **Washington Association of Cities**, a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization that represents Washington cities before state legislature or executive branches, and with regulatory agencies.

Local

Bremerton is also represented on a variety of local boards, including Kitsap County Health District, Kitsap Humane Society Animal Control, Kitsap Transit, Cen Com Policy, and Emergency Management. Bremerton contracts with these and other outside agencies to provide a variety of services

it does not have the resources to provide. Some of these financial commitments are through City contracts and some are professional association fees. Examples include:

- Kitsap Humane Society Animal Control for animal cruelty and neglect and animal nuisance issues.
- Kitsap County Health District for public health services.
- Cen Com for 911 services.
- Waste Management for trash and recycling services.
- Kitsap County Emergency Management Services for emergency management.
- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for City enforcement of the Clean Air Act.

Financing Local Government

The Financial Services Department provides centralized services and support to City departments and is led by a Director appointed by the Mayor. Financial Services consists of the Finance Division, City Clerk, Information Technology and Public Access Television.

- **The Finance Division**, led by the Finance Officer, is responsible for all aspects of the City's finances, including budgeting, accounting, purchasing, collection of taxes and fees, and financial reporting and investments. Idle funds are invested according to state regulations and the City's investment policy, which is overseen by the City Investment Committee. The City Investment Committee is composed of the Mayor, Financial Services Director, Finance Officer, two City Council members, and a community member.
- **The Office of the City Clerk** is responsible for official City records, public information disclosure, customer service, records and contract management, tax/license administration and serves as a City Council liaison. Anyone engaging in business activity in the City limits must fill out a business license application form and submit it to the City Clerk, along with the license fee.
- **The Information Technology Division** provides support to City departments for all technology functions.
- **Bremerton Kitsap Access Television (BKAT)** is a cooperative effort between the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County to broadcast publicly-produced programming and public education media, including broadcasts of local government meetings.

CONTROLS

The City has an internal Auditor who performs periodic performance audits and financial reviews within the various departments of the City. The Auditor is appointed by the City Council's Auditing Committee, which is comprised of two Council members and an independent Certified Public Accountant selected by the Council for a three-year term, and two Bremerton residents selected for three-year terms. The Auditor serves at the pleasure of the Committee.

Washington cities and counties must comply with the State's Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS). State law also requires an annual audit by the Office of the State Auditor and requires timely submission of annual financial reports to the State for review.

CITY BUDGET

The budgeting process begins the second Monday of September when City departments submit budget and revenue estimates to the Director of Financial Services. Estimates are reviewed by the Mayor, who may recommend changes before submitting the budget to the City Council. Public hearings are scheduled and City Council may make changes before adopting the budget no later than December 31.

Revenue

The primary sources of revenue for the City include:

- **Taxes** - real and personal property, Business and Occupation, local sales, utility, and commercial parking
- **Licenses and permits** - business licenses, franchise fees, and building permits
- **Intergovernmental revenues** - grants, state liquor board profits and taxes, payments in lieu of taxes
- **Charges for goods and services** - court administrative fees, utility service billings, pool/park rentals
- **Fines and forfeits** - traffic and other infractions, DUI penalties, false alarm fees
- **Miscellaneous revenue** - investment interest, donations
- **Other financing sources** - sales of assets, transfers from other funds, and debt proceeds

State statute governs the local portion of taxes collected by the state and provides for the issuance of bonds to finance projects such as the Harborside Conference Center and Plaza on the waterfront. Federal funding may also be available for transportation or other projects or for disaster recovery efforts. Some taxes are statutorily capped unless approved by voters.

Debt

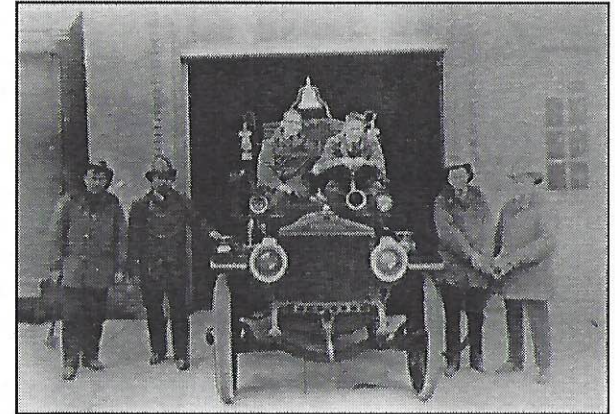
The power of the City to contract debt of any kind is controlled and limited by state law. All debt must be paid for out of identifiable receipts and revenues.

Unlimited tax indebtedness may be incurred only after approval by 60% of the City voters at an election in which the total vote exceeds 40% of the votes cast in the last preceding general election. Non-property owning residents are not barred from voting on bond issues.

Public Protection

FIRE PROTECTION

When the Bremerton Fire Department was first established in 1902, alerts were delivered by gunshots fired into the air. In 1904 the department obtained its first fire bell, which weighed 595 pounds and was mounted in a tower to summon firemen and citizens alike. The first six paid firefighters were hired in 1921 after it was learned that volunteers were loaning department equipment to the citizenry, making it sometimes unavailable for emergencies.



First motorized "Federal" brand, 1921

Bremerton Fire Department currently operates the only public full-time paid fire department in Kitsap County. The department provides a variety of services in addition to fire fighting, including emergency medical service, hazardous material response, vehicle rescue, fire prevention, emergency medical and marine response, free CPR classes, and Advanced Life Support response to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the Jackson Park Naval Housing complex.



Bremerton Fire Station at 911 Park Avenue

The Fire Chief is the executive manager and director responsible for City fire and emergency medical response, prevention work, and personnel.

Bremerton utilizes Civil Service rules and procedures for all uniformed positions and non-exempt non-uniformed positions. These procedures govern the application process, written and oral examinations, hiring procedures, and many post-employment processes.

POLICE PROTECTION

Staffing

Like the Fire Chief, the Chief of Police is a Civil Service position appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The Chief is responsible for exercising local police powers and managing crime prevention, law enforcement, parking and animal control operations. A key role of the Chief is building relationships with the community and other departments.

The Department is divided into divisions and operating units:

- **The Patrol Division** conducts crime investigations and responds to crimes in progress and other calls for service, emergency and non-emergency.
- **The Traffic Division** responds to serious injury and fatality collisions within the City and conducts traffic investigations and emphasis patrols. A traffic speed trailer is sometimes used to free up officers to respond to priority calls and to slow drivers down.
- **The General Investigations, or Detective, Division**, investigates felony crimes as well as missing person, runaway, and other ongoing investigations.
- **The Warrants Division** maintains warrant files, serves protection orders, subpoenas and other legal documents, conducts annual sex offender address verifications, transports prisoners to jail and court, and extradites prisoners.
- **The Records Division** handles fingerprinting, copies of traffic reports, copies of incident reports, background checks for clearance or employment requests, Fix-it tickets (tickets issued for auto defects which are to be fixed within 15 days), property pick-up, and concealed pistol licenses.
- **The Explosives Unit**, or Bomb Squad, responds to reports of explosive or hazardous devices.
- The department also has a **School Resource Officer** who serves as a liaison between the police department, the Bremerton school district and the community.
- **The Bike Unit** provides neighborhood-based crime identification and problem-solving, emphasis patrols (designed to concentrate

on a specific problem such as DUIs, speeding, etc.), and other support to the patrol division. Active bike officers also conduct bicycle safety courses.

- **The K-9 Unit** provides suspect and evidence detection as well as protection for officers.
- The Department's **Westpark Office**, located in the Community Center of that public housing community, provides a base of operations for an officer who works with residents to help keep their community safe.

Community Programs

The police department relies on citizens to cooperate in the prevention of crime and sponsors a variety of programs to educate and involve the community:

- **The Reserve Officer Program** provides the opportunity for citizens to receive training in law enforcement and volunteer their time to assist the department with duties such as crowd control or crime scene containment, victim or witness interviews, and transport of prisoners.
- **The Explorer Post 1911 Program** provides young adults ages 14 to 21 the opportunity to learn the duties and procedures of Bremerton Police Department Officers. Explorers are sometimes permitted to ride along with patrol officers and tour facilities.
- **The Block Watch Program** bands neighbors together to thwart criminal activities.
- **The Landlord and Tenant Training Program** provides information to assist in keeping drug and other criminal activity off rental properties.
- **Crime Stoppers** provides cash rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to arrest.

Facilities

Bremerton sends its offenders to the Kitsap County Jail, which is administered by the Kitsap County Sheriff and financed by the county. Bremerton pays \$56 per day, per inmate. Convicted criminals with sentences exceeding one year instead serve their time at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton (for men) or Purdy (for women).

The jail does not offer rehabilitation or parole because of the transient nature of the detainees. Alternatives to confinement for those satisfying

the requirements are electronic home monitoring or the work release program, which allows the inmate to continue working and then spend off-work hours at the facility next to the jail. Inmates may request assignment to the jail kitchen, laundry, or the road crew, which picks up litter on county roads. These inmates earn early release credit.

The first county jail, built in 1872, was a blockhouse made with 4x12-foot planks bolted together. The only access was through a heavy trapdoor operated with a hand-winch-and-tackle arrangement. Reputedly, no one ever escaped.

Juveniles serve time at the Kitsap County Juvenile Department Detention Center, also in Port Orchard. Financial responsibility for a juvenile's time in detention falls on the parents or adults responsible for the individual.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Bremerton Municipal Court is a court of limited jurisdiction and holds regular sessions within Bremerton. The court deals with violations of City ordinances and adopted State statutes. The City does not hear small claims or civil cases. The City contracts with a law firm to provide a public defender for individuals who meet state indigence guidelines.

Staffing

Judges are non-partisan, elected positions. They are not allowed to campaign and they file for election to the office themselves.

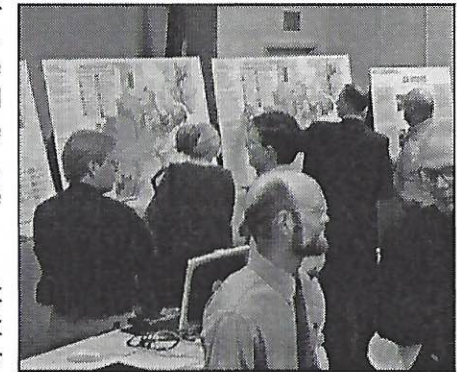
The **Prosecuting Attorney** is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. This individual prosecutes cases in Bremerton Municipal Court with the assistance of attorneys from Kitsap County. (The county prosecutor's office loans personnel to local municipalities, guaranteeing staffing and continuity to these smaller jurisdictions.)

The **City Attorney** does the legal work of the City, which includes responsibility for contracts and lawsuits.

Probation officers work to ensure coordination of sentence stipulations and treatment or rehabilitation efforts. The probation officer may provide assistance ranging from applications for financial assistance to referrals for chemical dependency treatment, and may oversee at-home-detention programs.

Planning & Zoning

The Comprehensive Plan is the guiding document for community planning in Bremerton. It is developed through a public participatory process and is intended to reflect the citizens' vision for the City. The City's Zoning Codes and the Official Zoning Map, both adopted by City Council and part of the Bremerton Municipal Code (BMC), are tools for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.



Planning workshop

The Director of the Department of Community Development (DCD), appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, administers and is responsible for planning, building, and other community development activities. DCD responsibilities include long-range and current planning; processing and issuing land use development permits; building plan review and inspection; code enforcement and land-use compliance; environmental, building, and nuisance ordinances; annexations; federal community development and housing programs; and the Public Arts Program.

Because Washington State's Growth Management Act directs future population growth to cities, the City faces challenges in its long-range planning. Annexation and designated urban growth areas are fundamental issues as the City prepares for an anticipated population of 80,000.

On a regional scale, Bremerton participates in inter-jurisdictional dialogues through the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council and other boards to coordinate planning and services. City officials are also engaged with broader regional policy and decision-making bodies, such as the Puget Sound Regional Council, to plan for growth and transportation needs.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) directs communities to plan collaboratively for growth and to resolve issues associated with growth that are common to all communities. Communities

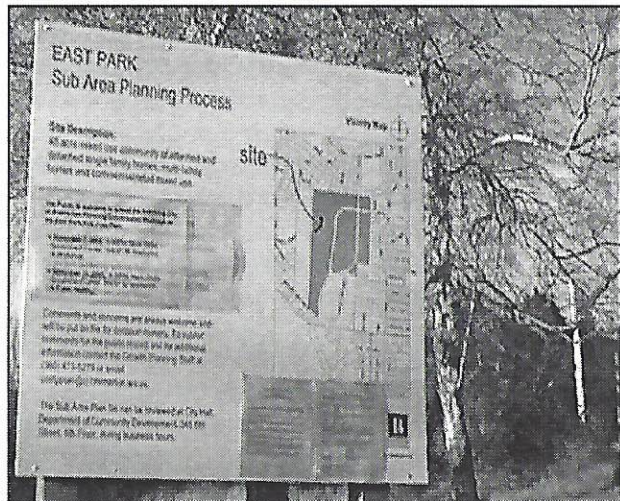
are to set policies and goals for growth and involve citizens in articulating a vision for the extent and character of development 20-years into the future. The GMA sets forth 14 planning goals which each jurisdiction's Comprehensive Plan must address, directs the community to coordinate comprehensive planning with neighboring jurisdictions, and establishes a timeframe in which planning updates must be completed.

Bremerton's Comprehensive Plan meets GMA mandates, addressing Bremerton's population projections, housing, transportation, environmental, economic development, employment, and city services needs. The Plan expresses a deliberate growth strategy based on the creation of mixed-use centers within neighborhoods and communities. It also presents a unique chapter, Community Character, that calls out the qualities and characteristics that citizen participants in the public process envisioned as important. The Plan is consistent with the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2020 and Kitsap County Countywide Planning policies.

The Comprehensive Plan contains technical appendices with analyses of current and projected land use and supply, housing stock, population demographics, and transportation conditions. It also makes a record of consistency with county, regional, and state goals, plans, and policies.

ZONING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CODES

The State Constitution authorizes municipalities to develop codes regulating land use. Bremerton's Zoning Code, Critical Area Ordinance, and Shoreline Master Plan enable the City to implement its Comprehensive Plan with a correlated permitting process.



Violations of City codes and associated penalties are described in the Bremerton

Municipal Code. In instances where property owners disagree with City land use determinations, they may file an appeal through a public hearing process, conducted by an impartial Administrative Hearings Examiner. This is a quasi-judicial process in which the Hearings Examiner reviews and interprets City land use regulations, determines if code violations occurred, and sets monetary penalties, if applicable.

BUILDING STANDARDS

In addition to locally-developed, and state-mandated codes, the City adopts national and international building codes. When property owners plan to build or renovate they should contact DCD for information on which codes apply to their projects. Departmental personnel will provide assistance in applying for appropriate permits. Once permitted, City building inspectors monitor compliance with approved building plans by making periodic site visits throughout the project timeline. Completed projects are documented in public record files maintained by DCD.

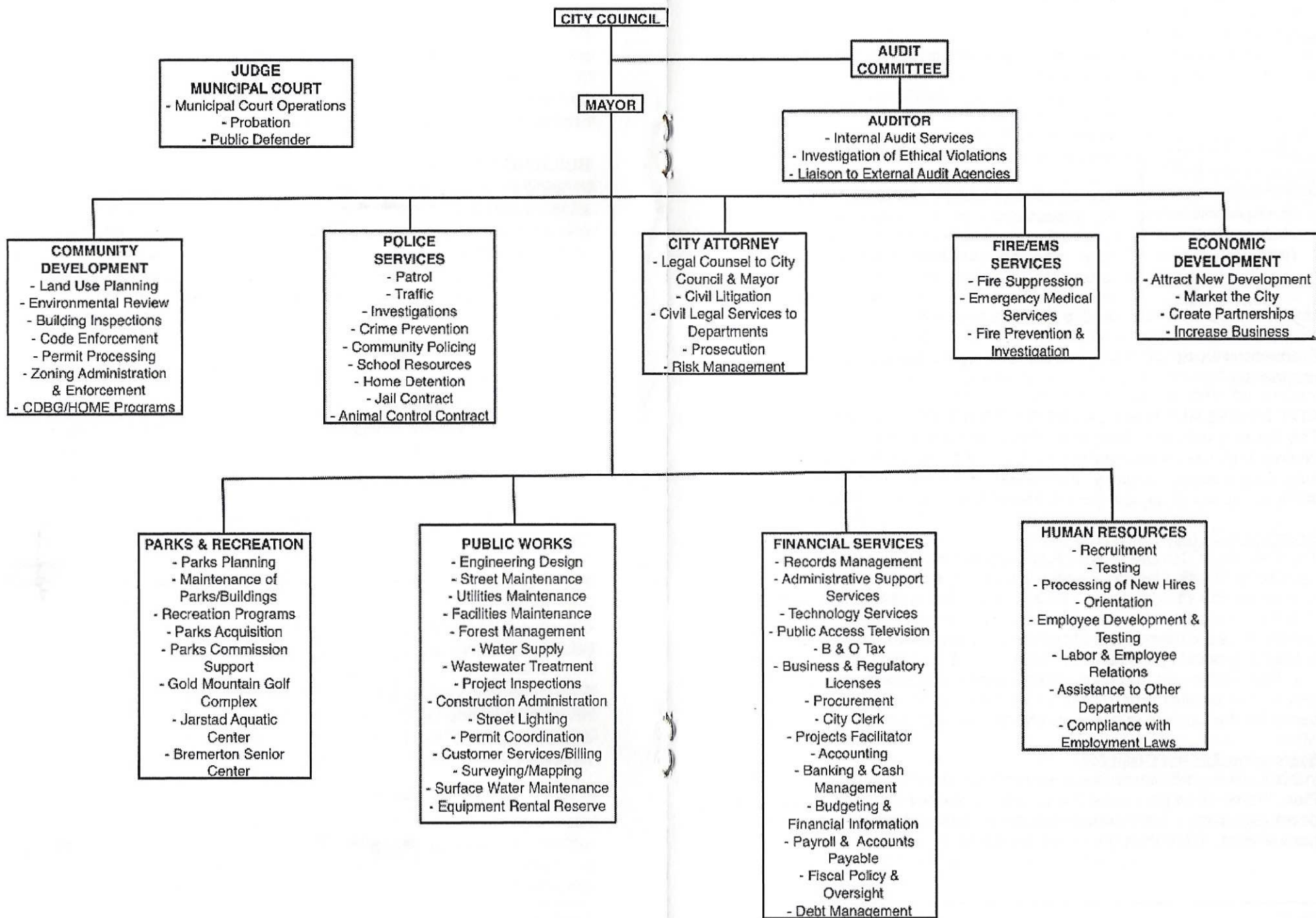
BREMERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

The City of Bremerton Planning Commission is created and empowered by the Bremerton Municipal Code and the Washington State Constitution. The Commission is comprised of seven citizen volunteers who serve staggered, four-year terms. Members are nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. The Director of the Department of Community Development serves as the Executive Secretary and staff technical advisor to the Commission.

The Planning Commission serves as an advisory body, reviewing and recommending comprehensive planning amendments, land use objectives, and associated regulations and zoning code amendments necessary for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendations are forwarded to the City Council for consideration, revision and adoption. Planning Commission meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Special meetings may be scheduled as needed.

CITY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Housing & Urban Renewal

The Washington State Growth Management Plan contains goals that encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of Washington State, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.

Bremerton boasts nearly 16,600 residential units, 36% of which were built between 1940 and 1959. Only 41% of the households are owner-occupied.

Governmental housing assistance in Bremerton is characterized by a complex of programs, agencies, regulations and funding sources. The four main governmental housing assistance programs are: down-payment assistance, rehabilitation funding, rent subsidy vouchers and public housing for qualifying low-income residents. The City of Bremerton and the

Bremerton Housing Authority are the local agencies that administer these programs.

CITY OF BREMERTON PLANNING FOR HOUSING NEEDS

The housing market in Bremerton has long been distorted by an excess inventory of units constructed during WWII for a population twice the current size. City leaders recognize that newer, diversified, affordable housing stock is needed to complement changing trends in demographics.

Bremerton Comprehensive Plan

The Bremerton Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2004, includes a chapter devoted to housing issues, creates a housing vision for its residents and articulates goals and policies intended to guide future housing decisions. The Plan recognizes the aging character of the current housing stock, the need to increase the number of owner-occupied homes, and the challenge of providing housing assistance to a large number of low-income residents. The Plan addresses changing demographics and anticipated population growth and creates new strategies for meeting future housing needs, in particular the Centers concept and mixed-use structures.

Bremerton Zoning Changes

In 2005, zoning ordinances were revised to implement the Comprehensive Plan. These changes create the possibility for new housing types to be developed. Some new development will be funded through public/private partnerships, some through private investment.

New types of housing are needed to attract new residents, increase home ownership, accommodate diverse lifestyles, and to meet State mandates for population to be focused in urban areas.

HOUSING PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE CITY

The City of Bremerton administers two housing programs. The Down Payment Assistance Program provides low-interest second loans for eligible first-time home buyers. The Rehabilitation Program is for repair or replacement of major building elements, such as roofing and plumbing in owner-occupied homes. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds these programs. HUD establishes qualifying guidelines for recipients and stipulates that the residential structures must be located within Bremerton city limits.

BREMERTON HOUSING AUTHORITY (BHA)

The Bremerton Housing Authority is a public corporation that contracts with HUD. The agency is administered by a six-member board of commissioners appointed by the Mayor. One of the commissioners is a resident from the public housing community. An executive director reports to the Board of Commissioners. BHA revenues come from rental receipts and subsidies from the federal government. Its offices are located in the Norm Dicks Government Center.

Originally created by City resolution in 1940, BHA provided housing for Department of Defense civilian employees and active duty military members moving to the area to build ships for World War II. Today its purpose is to provide decent affordable housing for low income persons. BHA coordinates two types of housing assistance programs in the Bremerton community: Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and public (subsidized) housing.

Toward its mission of fostering self-sufficiency, the Bremerton Housing Authority offers financial skills classes, life skills classes and counseling services to its residents.

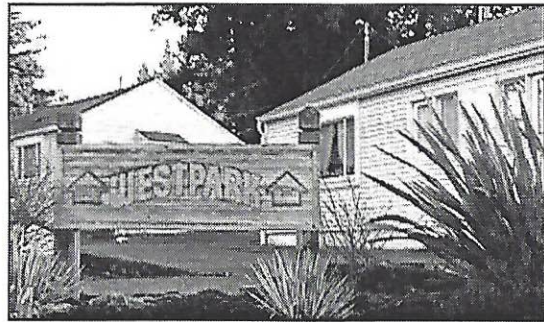
Section 8 Housing Assistance Program

This program provides rental subsidies, in the form of vouchers, to elderly, disabled, or very low-income families. To qualify, incomes may not exceed 80% of the local median income. Persons qualifying for Section 8 vouchers may choose where they wish to live, provided the rental property owner agrees and accepts federal government guidelines for rental payment. Rental units must meet HUD standards. At the end of 2005 there were 1,123 applicants on the BHA Section 8 Waiting List.

BHA Public Housing Facilities

Bremerton Housing Authority owns and operates federally-funded public housing rental properties for the elderly, disabled or very low-income persons. Public housing applicants must pass screening criteria, be at least 18 years of age, meet income guidelines set by HUD and pass a criminal background check. The estimated waiting period could be from one to four years after submitting an application. Rental rates are based on 30% of the qualifying person's gross adjusted income.

Westpark is BHA's largest property. It occupies 80 acres on Bremerton's west side. The complex provides housing for 550 families and includes The Firs Retirement Community for the elderly and disabled, and the Westpark Community Center. The Center offers a variety of programs for Westpark residents and also houses



Bremerton Housing Authority's Westpark community

a full-time Bremerton Police Department bicycle officer dedicated to drug interdiction and domestic violence counseling.

BHA is making major changes at Westpark. Construction of a new 72-unit assisted living facility, The Firs II, began in December 2005, with an anticipated completion

date of January 2007. Its purpose is to provide affordable assisted living facilities for Medicaid and low-income seniors. Twelve units will be reserved for people with Alzheimer's disease.

BHA is engaged in developing a Westpark Strategic Master Plan that will result in a completely redesigned Westpark campus. BHA's mission to serve Bremerton's low-income, elderly and disabled population will be integral to the new master plan. In March 2006, BHA launched a series of public meetings with interested Bremerton citizens, including Westpark residents, for the purpose of discussing community long-term visions for a redeveloped Westpark. The vision is to gradually remove the old housing units and build a variety of market-rate and subsidized housing, mixed-use commercial properties and public open spaces, resulting in an urban village-type community connected to and compatible with nearby residential communities.

Utilities & Municipal Services

UTILITIES

The Director of Public Works (who is appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council) oversees the operation, maintenance and administration of engineering, streets and public works, capital projects, facilities, equipment services, and municipal utilities owned by the City. The Department is responsible for:

- 16 miles of sewer transmission mains
- 188 miles of combined sewer collection system and storm drains
- One 30 MGD (million gallons per day) wastewater treatment plant
- One 20 MGD combined sewer overflow treatment plant
- 32 lift stations
- 204 miles of water transmission and distribution mains
- 12 production wells
- 9 water pump stations
- 16 reservoirs
- Casad Dam (1.4 billion gallon reservoir)
- All city buildings and properties other than parks

The financial health of municipal utilities is continually monitored. The City Council holds public hearings on proposed increases in fees and rates before new rates are approved.

Water

Bremerton is the largest purveyor of water in Kitsap County. Its water supplies come from the Union River surface water reservoir and from groundwater wells. Bremerton owns 3,000 acres of watershed surrounding the Union River. The supply is of such high quality that a filtration facility is not needed. Chlorine is added for disinfection and Sodium Hydroxide is added for corrosion control. All sources are managed in accordance with Washington State Department of Health and Federal EPA regulations and best management practices for water supply systems. A *Drinking Water Quality Report* is sent to Bremerton residents annually.

Bremerton's water supplies are dependent on rainfall to fill the reservoir and feed underground aquifers. Water conservation information is available on the City's web site and at City offices.

Wastewater

The Public Works Department is also responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of all sanitary sewer waste from approximately 37,000 residents and associated commercial customers. The City's wastewater treatment plant at the intersection of State Highways 3 and 304 discharges treated effluent into Sinclair Inlet.

The City's Combined Sewer Overflow Program is aimed at eliminating stormwater inflow into sanitary sewers, addressing non-point pollution issues, and enhancing water quality. Program brochures offer City residents suggestions in controlling runoff, erosion and pet waste.

Low-income disabled citizens and low-income senior citizen residents may qualify for special utility rates by completing an application form and proof of income and presenting this information to the City of Bremerton Utility billing office. In addition, disabled customers may request that the waste disposal driver walk or drive in to get waste containers.

Other Utilities

Private companies provide natural gas, electricity, telephone, cable TV and public sector communications services. The City works with providers to ensure they can and will provide acceptable levels of service.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Waste Disposal and Recycling

Curbside residential garbage, yard waste disposal and recycling services are available to all Bremerton residents. Bremerton negotiates a contract with a waste disposal company annually and residents are billed directly for services based on the negotiated rate.

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the Mayor and City Council on solid waste management and services. The Committee recommends which solid waste services should be provided and the most equitable means of providing them.

The Committee is comprised of seven members, including two City Council members appointed by the Council President, the Public Works and Utilities Director or designee, the Finance Director or designee, the City Attorney or designee, and two Bremerton residents appointed by the Mayor with the concurrence of the City Council.

Transportation

STREET MAINTENANCE

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department is responsible for street construction and maintenance of Bremerton's 127 miles of streets,



Oyster Bay Road, circa 1920

traffic engineering and transportation planning. There are several state routes through the City. The state constructs streets designated as state routes but the City is responsible for maintenance.

Citizens may contact the Department to report potholes

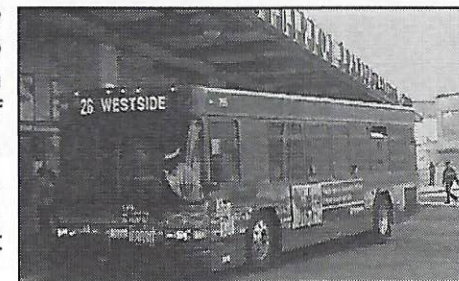
needing repair. The City web site lists locations that are scheduled for street overlays or repairs.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Bremerton Transportation Center (BTC) was completed in 1999. It is adjacent to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and includes a ferry terminal, transit deck, parking structure, and administrative offices.

Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit, a Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority established by voters in 1982, began operating public transit in Kitsap County in 1983. The agency is monitored by a nine-member Board of Commissioners consisting of the three Kitsap County Commissioners, two members of the Bremerton City Council and the mayors of Bremerton, Bainbridge Island, Poulsbo and Port Orchard. Revenues come from fares, advertising, sales tax, parking lot fees and research grants.



The agency operates routed bus service throughout Kitsap County as well as offering connections to neighbor transit systems. Kitsap Transit also serves PSNS with Worker/Driver buses and vanpool services and **On the WEB: www.kitsaptransit.org** operates Access bus service, which provides door-to-door transportation for qualifying elderly and disabled residents within Kitsap County.

Ferries

Auto ferry service from Bremerton to Seattle is provided by the Washington State Ferries (WSF), a division of the Washington State Department of Transportation. Fare and schedule information is available online.

Passenger-only service between Bremerton, Port Orchard and Annapolis is provided by Kitsap Transit.



**On the WEB: www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedules/current/
www.kitsapferryco.com**

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Roadways

The City's Comprehensive Plan includes a six-year street plan, which calls for the upgrade of street capacities within six years of falling below acceptable service standards. Two major transportation projects focus on improving capacity and traffic flow on state routes within the City.

- The Downtown Bremerton/Bremerton Transportation Center Access Improvement Project is a partnership of the City, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Federal Highways Administration, the U.S. Navy, Washington State Ferries, and Kitsap Transit and is intended to provide efficient access for pedestrian, private vehicle and public transit to the Bremerton Transportation Center. The Project, which includes an underground tunnel, is slated for completion in 2007.
- The Gateway project, also a multi-jurisdictional project, is aimed at improving traffic flow along State Route 304 and from State Route 3 to the Bremerton Transportation Center. The upgrade also improves access to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (the region's largest employer).

Non-motorized transportation

Sidewalks are provided throughout central Bremerton areas and in other areas with commercial land uses such as the Kitsap Way and Wheaton Way corridors.

Bremerton's major through routes are logical choices for bicycle facilities and comprise a complete network through East and West Bremerton. Future plans call for expanded pedestrian and bicycle corridors.

Parking

The City works with the Navy and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard to assure parking availability for commercial and residential needs. Goals include:

- Limiting parking on arterials that have inadequate capacity.
- Encouraging joint development of off-street parking facilities for compatible land uses.
- Encouraging businesses to provide employee parking off-street.
- Reserving on-street parking for business and residential use.

Residents in areas impacted by parking congestion may contact the City Clerk's office for assistance in obtaining mitigation.

PORT OF BREMERTON

Washington's Port District Act of 1911 authorized the establishment of local port districts with locally elected commissioners to administer and oversee development and operations, the purpose of which was to allow public control over areas of local economic importance. Public ports are legally separate and fiscally independent of other state or local governments. Port powers were later expanded to include transportation facilities such as airports and railroads.

The Port of Bremerton, established by a vote of the people in 1913, plays a vital role in the economy of Kitsap County. Its first "port" was the First Street Dock, where the Bremerton Transportation Center's passenger ferry center is now located. The Port encompasses the County boundaries to the south, west and east. The northern boundary extends from north of Seabeck on the west, to east Bremerton and Port Orchard Bay on the east.

The Bremerton National Airport has evolved from a dry lake bed covered with five-foot high buckbrush (cleared by volunteer aviators) to a safe and attractive airport that has drawn a considerable amount of corporate aircraft. With over 50,000 take-offs and landings each year, the airport is a key element in the cycle of economic growth generated by the Port of Bremerton. The 6200 foot runway is FAA certified and fully lighted.

The Port owns Olympic View Business Park and is developing building sites to attract new businesses to Kitsap County. The Bremerton Marina and the Port Orchard Marina continue to draw many folks for concerts, Farmer's Markets, festivals and car shows. A \$21 million expansion project for the Bremerton Marina is in the planning stages.

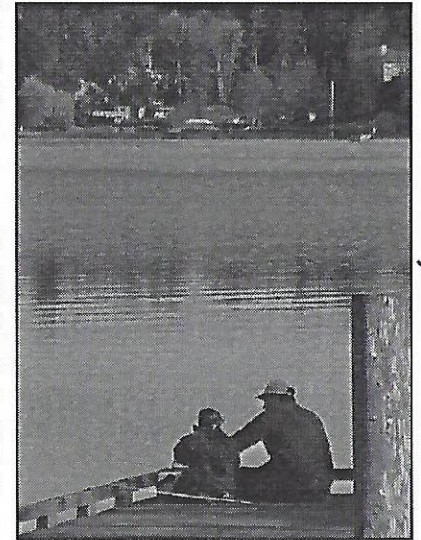
The Port's presence continues to expand in the city and the county forming partnerships in economic development projects with the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority. The Port has also partnered with and has an interlocal agreement with the Port of Grays Harbor, located in Aberdeen, to link the Olympic View Industrial Park to Grays Harbor's deep water marine terminals via Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad. This partnership is a unique opportunity to ship goods directly from a manufacturing base such as in Olympic View Industrial Park to Grays Harbor, the closest multimodal port to the Pacific Rim.

Parks & Recreation

The Bremerton Parks and Recreation Department oversees parks facilities and recreational programs within the City. The Bremerton Comprehensive Plan calls for accessible parks, pathways and open spaces. Citizen input throughout the Comprehensive Plan process reflected strong desire for the City to maintain and expand wide-ranging recreational opportunities for people of all ages and to promote open and green spaces.

ADMINISTRATION

The Parks and Recreation Director, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, administers the budget and is responsible for maintenance and operation of Bremerton parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, the Gold Mountain Golf Complex, Ivy Green Cemetery, as well as a full range of recreational activities for all ages.



Kitsap Lake

A seven-member, citizen volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission serves as an advisory board to the Mayor and Council. Members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, serve staggered four-year terms. The Commission assists in reviewing the budget, promotes the parks and recreation programs, assists with developing long and short-term goals for City parks and recreation programs, and reviews any City Council recommended change in park land use. The Board holds a monthly public meeting to conduct business.

FUNDING

Most recreational programs offset operating costs with user fees. Grants and partnerships are pursued to leverage financing for capital projects, on-going park operations and maintenance programs, as well as recreational programs and activities. Some grant monies subsidize youth programs. Bond levies are proposed to fund capital projects.

The Gold Mountain Golf Complex is operated under an entrepreneurial model and overseen by a Board of Directors. Revenues from the complex are earmarked for its own operation and maintenance and are also used to support Parks and Recreation Department capital funding needs.

Volunteers are used extensively throughout the Department's programs and activities, such as the Sparky program, the Summer Playground program, and all year at the Bremerton Senior Center.

The City does not have a volunteer program. However, citizens or neighborhood groups wishing to help may "adopt" a park by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department.

FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The Department's mission reflects a commitment to "...enriching the lives of Bremerton citizens with aquatic, athletic and recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and to provide safe and attractive parks and facilities for play, health and fitness, enjoyment, and celebrations."

Bremerton operates approximately 30 parks and facilities properties. Some, such as N.A.D. Park, are parks of regional significance. Other regional parks include Evergreen, Kitsap Lake, Lions, Pendergast Regional Park, and the Louis Mentor Boardwalk. Community and neighborhood parks, including mini parks, tot-lots and open spaces are located throughout the

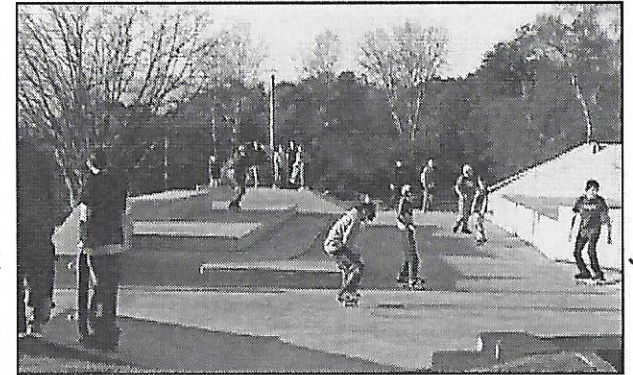
City. Playground equipment is inspected regularly. The Parks and Recreation Department is a member of the Washington Recreation and Parks Association and subscribes to National Recreation and Parks Association standards.



Playground at Evergreen Park

Additional City Parks and Recreation facilities include tennis courts, Sheridan Park Community Center, Bremerton Senior Recreation Center, Glenn Jarstad Aquatic Center, Bremerton Skatepark, Pea Patch garden plots at Blueberry Park, and two 18-hole championship golf courses at Gold Mountain Golf Complex (which also has putting greens, driving range, pro shop, and restaurant and banquet facilities).

Scuba diving, fishing and boating are permitted on Kitsap Lake, subject to published regulations. Evergreen and Lions Park boat ramps provide launching facilities for recreational boaters.



Bremerton Skatepark

Harborside Park, adjacent to the Transportation Center, is currently under development. This gift of land to the City from the Navy will create a pedestrian greenbelt bordering the Shipyard and will complete a pedestrian walkway connection to the Bremerton Transportation Center and Conference Center on the downtown waterfront. Conceptual designs for an extension of the Louis Mentor Boardwalk are also evolving.

Most facilities are open to the public year round. Dogs on leash are welcome at park facilities. Some park facilities and group shelters may be reserved for private gatherings.

The Parks and Recreation Department publishes a quarterly guide to classes and activities sponsored by the Department. Some programs are free, others are fee-based, and there is a scholarship fund for which individuals may apply. Programming includes concerts in Evergreen Park, adult athletics, aquatics, creative drama, dance and fitness, gardening, golf, basketball, an open gym, swim lessons, a free summer playground program, and preschool, youth and senior programs. Seasonal special events are offered, as are private party packages. The summertime Camp Sparky program is especially created for children with special needs.

Public Education

Bremerton School District No. 100C is one of five separate school districts in Kitsap County, each under the jurisdiction of an elected five-member board of directors. The District is currently comprised of



Union High School, 1912

six elementary schools, five secondary schools, and a program for home-schooled students (Alliance Academy). The District also has a special operating agreement with West Sound Technical Skills Center, an eight-school district educational cooperative. The Center enrolls students ages 16-21 who wish to receive job training skills that will give them an advantage in post-secondary education.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors is responsible for setting policies to ensure the proper education of its students and district operation within state law. Additionally, the Board adopts an annual budget for the district and has legal and fiduciary responsibility to the voters. The Board hires a superintendent to manage the operation of the District.

In compliance with Washington State's "Open Meetings Act," Board meetings are held twice monthly, with public comment invited.

The Board and the School District must answer to the Washington State Board of Education in matters such as high school graduation requirements, school construction planning and funding, state funding for basic education, school accreditation and student performance standards.

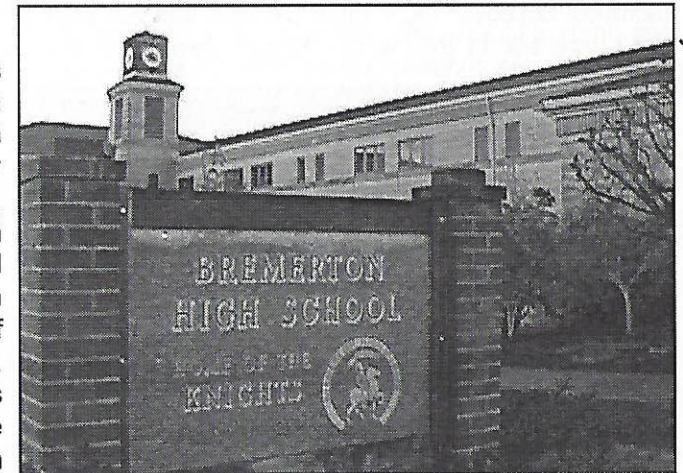
Board members are elected at large for four-year terms. Registered voters who live within the school district are eligible to serve. Board members

may be salaried for attending regular board meetings or performing other duties related to school district business, not to exceed \$4,800 per year. Travel expenses incurred while on district-related business are reimbursable.

EDUCATION FUNDING

By law, the State of Washington is required to fund "basic education." This funding provides approximately 70% of Bremerton School District's annual revenue. The District holds an election, usually every four years, to supplement state funding with a local "maintenance and operations levy." Additional revenue sources include state timber funds, federal impact aid and other targeted programs. Approximately 80% of the district's budget is devoted to salaries and benefits, and approximately 13% is expended on administration.

Teacher salaries are based on the Washington State Salary Schedule, formulated on the basis of level of education and years of experience. Employees are part of the Washington State Teacher Retirement System and receive Social Security benefits.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bremerton School District operates a number of programs dedicated to special needs students, from preschool through high school. The District ensures that all children are placed in a safe and instructionally appropriate environment but does not isolate students based on a specific disability category. The District also encourages general citizen and parental involvement with programs such as the Preschool-to-Fifth Grade Parent Training, Love and Logic training for families, sign language classes, and English language classes to ESL families. The Senior Tax Exchange

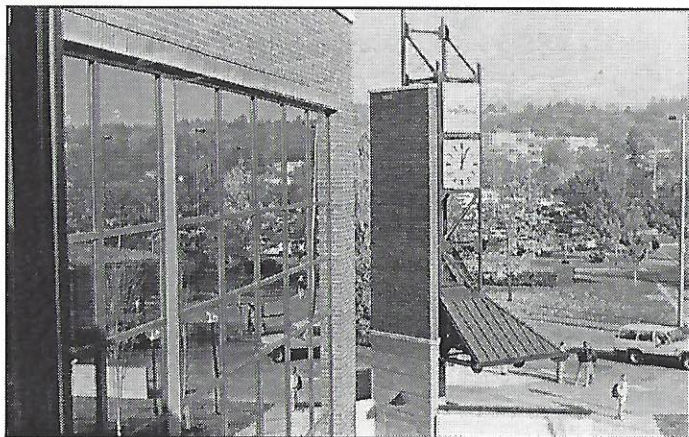
Program (STEP) allows certain senior citizens to become volunteer helpers in schools in exchange for the forgiveness of local school portion of their property taxes.

TRANSPORTATION

It is the Bremerton School Board's policy to provide transportation to and from school for a student whose residence is beyond the maximum walking distance from the school to which the student is assigned or who has a compelling and legally sufficient reason to receive such services. The District maintains its own fleet of school buses and it hires and trains the staff that operates them. The buses are also inspected by the State Department of Transportation.

OLYMPIC COLLEGE

Olympic College (OC) is one of Washington State's 34 community and technical colleges. OC's main campus and administrative center are on a 33-acre site in Bremerton. Branch campuses are located in Shelton



Haselwood Library at Olympic College

Bremerton, and other occasional centers. Olympic College offers various Associate Degrees and certificates in a variety of fields, including Adult High School Diploma and the GED. The college is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

(Mason County) and Poulsbo (north Kitsap County), as well as in instructional facilities at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Naval Hospital

Public Health

The Kitsap County Health District, an independent governmental agency, works collaboratively with Kitsap cities. Its administrative offices and a public clinic are located in the Norm Dicks Government Center in downtown Bremerton. The district promotes preventive health care through various programs and on-going public education efforts. Its mission is "...to make Kitsap County the healthiest place on the planet to live, work and play".

ADMINISTRATION

The Health District is governed by a ten-member Board of Health that includes the three elected county commissioners, mayors of the four cities within Kitsap County, and at least three other elected officials, selected by city councils. The Board sets policy, approves the annual budget, and hires the Health District Director. Monthly board meetings are open to the public.

The Health District operates under the authority of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Professional staff includes the Director, Deputy Director, and Directors for Administrative Services, Environmental Health, and Community Health Programs. The Public Health Officer has legal authority to control communicable disease and declare health emergencies. Two public health professional staff members serve as community liaisons, making regular visits to health providers, providing them with educational materials. Three public health epidemiologists conduct ongoing assessments of the health and socioeconomic status of Kitsap County.

Kitsap County is served by more than 200 licensed physicians, representing nearly all medical disciplines.

Some of the District's programs and services are funded through legislative authority; other funding comes from contracts, federal and state grants, and service and permit fees. The City of Bremerton, as well as other local governments, contribute annually to the Health District to offset the costs of public health services.

PROGRAMS

Kitsap County Health District offers the following major programs:

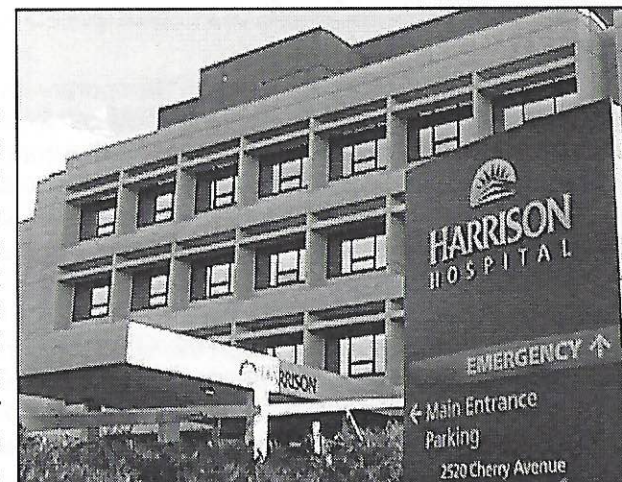
- The **Health Information Resources Program** identifies community health needs and develops health policies and programs to address those needs. The District regularly publishes reports such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, the Healthy Youth Report, and the Family Planning Survey. The Health District is the largest health data provider in the region.
- **Community Health and Health Education** programs provide public health educator presentations to Bremerton schools, including educational programs related to sexuality and HIV education and smoking prevention and cessation. Public health clinic nurses offer a number of outreach services, including childhood immunizations, family planning education and services, home visits to pregnant women and new mothers and consultation for families with children with special needs. The Health District also partners with Olympic College to provide nursing students with clinical experiences. Community health programs also include child carseat safety checks, drowning prevention, and gun safety campaigns.
- The Health District's state-authorized **Environmental Health Program** oversees a variety of environmental health concerns in Kitsap County, including:
 - o Regulation and inspection standards to protect public health in food establishments
 - o Water quality matters associated with surface water resources including the identification of sources of water pollution and aids in correcting sources of pollution. The water quality program is primarily funded by the Kitsap County Surface and Storm Water Management Program (SSWM). SSWM brochures contain guidance in guarding against non-point pollution
 - o Advisory closures of local waters due to pollution, Red Tide, or paralytic shellfish poisoning
 - o Supervision of drug lab clean-ups
 - o Management of solid waste through the issuance of solid landfill and transfer station permits.

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Bremerton's **Harrison Medical Center**, the largest private employer in Kitsap, is the only full-service civilian community hospital serving Kitsap County.

The main campus is located in East Bremerton. Harrison Silverdale specializes in mother and baby care, and Harrison South Kitsap is primarily an urgent care facility. The Bremerton and Silverdale facilities offer 24-hour emergency care services. Harrison became a not-

for-profit operation in the early 1940s and currently operates under the direction of a president/CEO and a volunteer Board of Directors.



Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB), founded in 1980, operates a hospital complex in Bremerton and five branch medical clinics located within military facilities throughout Puget Sound. NHB is home to the fleet hospital, a 500-bed transportable medical and surgical unit, always ready to move into position to provide medical and surgical care needs worldwide. NHB also provides medical care to active duty service and retired military personnel and their families.

Some 20 **assisted living, rehabilitation, nursing, convalescent and respite care facilities** exist within the City of Bremerton. Many offer multiple levels of service, varying from respite and/or adult day care to full living accommodations. Assisted living facilities are licensed by Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and are inspected annually.

Public Welfare

There are at least 17 governmental agencies administering public welfare in our community.

FEDERAL

The federal government, through its "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" program (TANF), funds programs to help low- and moderate-income working families by providing everything from health insurance for workers who do not get health care from their employers to subsidized child care for working parents. "WorkFirst," Washington state's implementation of TANF helps parents look for work and provides employment-specific training and basic education opportunities.

Food stamps are available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Stamp Program. The program is administered locally by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Eligibility is based on household countable resources. In addition, the federal government provides federal commodities, distributed through local food banks. Recipients may apply for the federal commodities and may receive a box monthly if they qualify.

Other federal programs are administered by Native American tribes, the Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Navy.

STATE

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) operates separate divisions on aging, children, economic services, health and rehabilitation, juvenile rehabilitation, medical assistance and management services. DSHS is often the administering agency of federally-funded programs.

LOCAL

The Kitsap County Department of Personnel and Human Services and a variety of other county-wide agencies provide social services to local residents. Programs funded by the federal or state government are sometimes administered by county's Human Services Division.

The City of Bremerton does not directly operate or administer any public welfare or social service agencies.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Listed below are a few of the many non-governmental social services agencies in and around Bremerton, offering assistance to those in need. United Way of Kitsap County also offers referral information for a variety of social service needs.

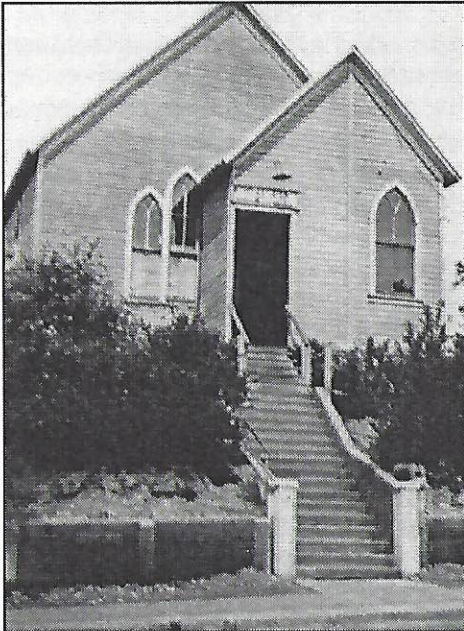
- **Food:** Provided by St. Vincent de Paul, Bremerton Food Line, Salvation Army, Lord's Neighborhood Diner, and various churches. Bremerton School District also offers reduced-fee and free lunches during school and summer-school programs.
- **Emergency Housing:** Kitsap Community Resources, Catholic Community Services, A.L.I.V.E.
- **Crisis/Abuse:** A.L.I.V.E., Kitsap Sexual Assault Center, Salvation Army, YWCA of Kitsap County.
- **Family and Senior Services:** Catholic Community Services, Kitsap Community Resources, A.L.I.V.E., Lutheran Community Services.
- **Healthcare:** Peninsula Community Health Services.
- **Mental Health:** Kitsap Mental Health, Peninsula Community Health Services, National Alliance for the Mentally ill – Kitsap County.
- **Personal Care/Respite:** Hospice of Kitsap County, Catholic Community Services, Lutheran Community Services.
- **Employment:** Holly Ridge Center, Kitsap Applied Technologies, Kitsap Community Resources, Peninsula Job Corps/Worksource.
- **Legal Services:** Kitsap Legal Services, Dispute Resolution Center.
- **Recreation:** YMCA of Bremerton, City of Bremerton Parks and Recreation.

Libraries & Museums

Kitsap Regional Library

History

Today's Kitsap Regional Library system originated in 1955 when the Bremerton Public Library (initially formed in 1908) and the Kitsap County Library (a rural, voter-approved district, formed in 1944) merged. The current headquarters on Sylvan Way in East Bremerton was built in 1979. This Central Branch, plus 8 other branches throughout Kitsap County, including the historically significant downtown Bremerton branch on Fifth Street, comprise the Kitsap Regional Library system.



City library, 1930

magazines, newspapers, reference services including proprietary research databases and small business resources. The system serves approximately 124,000 library cardholders. Children may apply for personal library cards with parent/guardian signature.

Programs and services for library patrons include story time for children, high-speed and wireless Internet access, computer classes, author/speaker events, book club discussions, meeting rooms for public use, a community bulletin board, and local artist exhibits. KRL also offers Bookmobile service to areas in the County with few library branch services and outreach services to the home-bound or disabled, and to residents of care facilities.

Current Library Services

Kitsap Regional Library's collection contains over 500,000 items, valued at some \$45.5 million, including books, VHS and DVD movies, CD and taped music and audio books,

Governance and Funding

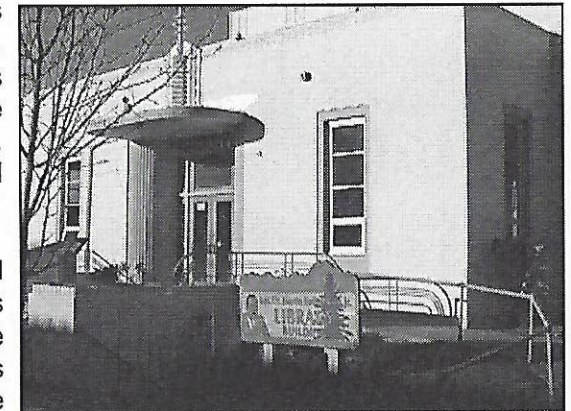
Kitsap Regional Library's Board of Trustees is comprised of five volunteers, appointed by county commissioners, who serve five-year staggered terms. Board membership is geographically balanced. The Board hires an Executive Director to oversee daily operations.

The Board of Trustees sets policy for library system services. Policies include such matters as standards for user conduct, acceptable use of the Internet, confidentiality of patron records, circulation policy, collection development, and open access for use of the library. Monthly Board meetings are open to the public.

Property taxes generate approximately 95% of library funding. The remaining 5% comes from fines and forfeitures, investment interest, service charges, gifts, and miscellaneous sources. Of the annual funding, received for operating expenses, roughly 65% is allocated for personnel and benefits, and the remaining 25-30% of budgeted operating expenses is for books, materials, supplies, capital outlay and other services.

KRL owns and maintains the Central and Silverdale branches. The other seven branch buildings are provided and maintained by their respective municipalities, non-profit corporations, or a Native American tribe; however, KRL pays for staffing, materials, telecommunications and administrative services for all branches, outreach services and bookmobiles.

The Kitsap Regional Library Foundation was created in 1991 for the purpose of raising funds to develop and enhance additional quality library services and projects.



Downtown branch of Kitsap Regional Library

Friends of the Library groups are citizen volunteers who promote library use in communities. Bremerton has two such groups: Bremerton Friends, who

support the Downtown Bremerton branch, and East Bremerton Friends who support the Sylvan Way library. Members volunteer at special library events and help raise money, through book sales, for example, for library purposes not included in KRL budget.

On the WEB: www.krl.org

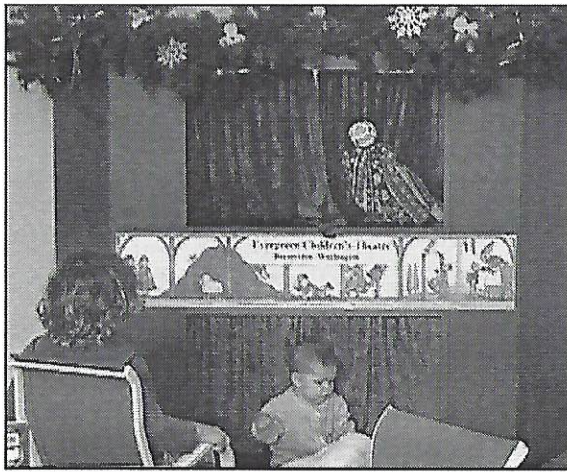
Haselwood Library

Built in 1999 after the roof of Olympic College's former library/media center collapsed in a snow storm, the Haselwood Library offers services to local residents as well as to students and faculty. The building's 40,199 square feet are divided into three distinct points of service: Library, Media, and Student Entry and Advising Center. Because its collection differs in purpose and scope, the Haselwood Library is considered by many to be an adjunct library service to the Kitsap Regional Library. In the reference area, the Haselwood Library's catalog, data bases, and the Internet can be accessed on 27 computers; they may also be accessed remotely via the Library's web page.

MUSEUMS

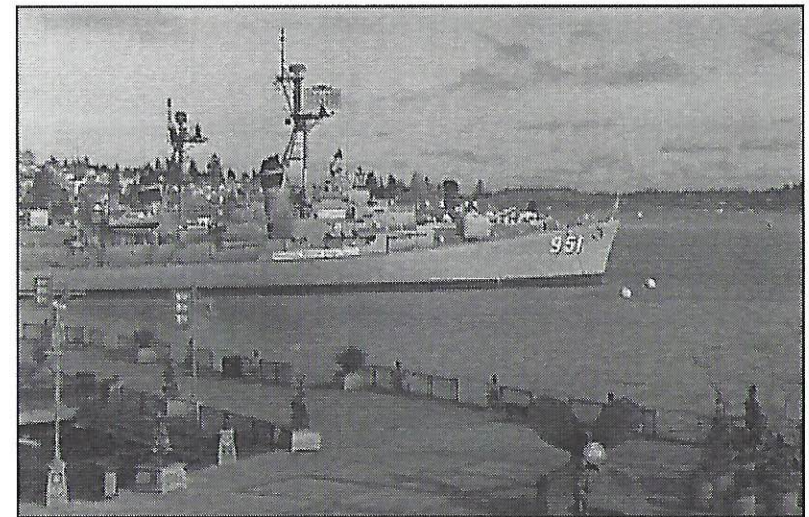
Downtown Bremerton is home to a variety of museums.

- The **Aurora Valentinetti Puppet Museum and Evergreen Children's Puppet Theater** is dedicated to preserving and collecting historical puppets from the Pacific Northwest and the Pacific Rim. The collection contains over 500 Chinese puppets and related items. Throughout the year puppets from permanent and/or loan collections are displayed, designed to showcase the art, history and performance of puppetry. The Museum periodically sponsors activities for children, and there is a gift shop.



Evergreen Children's Puppet Theater

- The **Kitsap County Historical Society Museum** archives historical documents and photos which are available for research purposes. It also offers rotating exhibits and a variety of educational programs, including "Kitsap Kits," organized around themes such as early technology, quilting or fossils, and containing artifacts or reproductions of cultural and historical interest. There is a small Museum Store within the facility.
- The **Bremerton Naval Museum** is devoted to preserving and exhibiting historical items of naval significance, with particular emphasis on Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the ships it has served. The current collection contains some 8,000 items of historical interest. The museum contains a small gift shop that sells a variety of naval memorabilia. Upon completion of the Bremerton Harborside Park and Memorial Plaza the museum will relocate to PSNS' historical Building 50, adjacent to the Bremerton Transportation Center.
- The **USS Turner Joy** is a floating museum and Navy memorial commemorating Vietnam POWs, anchored at the Louis Mentor Boardwalk downtown. The Turner Joy is best known for its involvement in the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident at the beginning of the Vietnam War.



USS Turner Joy floating museum at the Bremerton Boardwalk