



# The Port Report

Port of Bremerton Newsletter • Spring 2025

*Dive in for a  
Summer of Fun!*



# Foreword From Port Commission President

## *Gary Anderson*

Our story is one of connection—between land and sea, progress and tradition, and most importantly, between people and place. The Port of Bremerton and the Kitsap County community have grown together, shaped by shared values, managed growth, strong local pride, and a deep respect for our maritime roots.

For generations, the Port has played a key role in strengthening our region’s economy, creating jobs, improving infrastructure, and supporting projects that help our communities thrive. From the busy marinas to the vital Bremerton National Airport and Industrial Park, the Port works quietly but steadily to support growth, opportunity, and access.

What truly makes this partnership special, though, is you, the residents who live, work, and care for this community. Your voices, ideas, and commitment have helped guide the Port’s direction. Whether you’re attending events on the waterfront, shopping local, studying aviation, employed or employing within the Industrial Park, or simply enjoying a walk by the shore, your presence and pride make this place what it is.

This message is a thank-you for your continued support, and a reminder that the Port’s mission is—and always will be—about serving the people of Kitsap County. Together, we can continue to build a strong economic future rooted in well-founded decisions, shaped by the community input and inspired by the natural beauty and spirit of our region.

Sincerely,  
Commissioner Gary Anderson



## Western Washington Center of Arts

In April of this year, Commissioner Anderson had the pleasure of presenting a banner comprised of signatures from the theater’s prior building along the Port Orchard Waterfront to their board at their new home!



# New Hires!

## Jessica Laur

Jessica brings with her experience in landscaping, equipment operations, maintenance, and stormwater testing that made her a perfect fit as a Port Maintenance I for our airport and industrial operations team. Most recently, Jessica worked for the maintenance division of the City of Bainbridge Island. Her extensive knowledge and positive attitude is an asset for our team and we are excited to welcome her.



## Sam Dugo

Sam was recently hired as a Port Maintenance II at our Bremerton and Port Orchard Marinas. After relocating to Kitsap, he brings a wealth of knowledge from his years of experience in public works and parks at the City of Mukilteo that will add immense value to our team! His expertise has already benefited the Port in the numerous projects he is working on- next time you enjoy one of our marinas, keep an eye out for him.



## Employee Milestone Anniversary

### *Ken Eisenhardt Reaches 10 Years*

Ken began his career at the Port as an attendant at the airport/industrial park, but his skill set was quickly recognized and he was advanced to Port Maintenance II. Ken has become our trusted expert for HVAC systems in Port-owned buildings at the airport and industrial park, reliably stepping up whenever issues arise. He also plays a vital role in managing our industrial park and airport stormwater systems, ensuring we remain compliant and environmentally responsible. Ken's commitment to continuous improvement and his drive to educate himself and others make him an invaluable part of our team. Congratulations, Ken!



## *2025 Earth Day Activity*

Port staff completed our third annual volunteer Earth Day Activity on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, this time at one of our own Port facilities. Staff rallied together at Port Orchard Marina to paint the community grand stands and refresh bark throughout the park and parking lots.



Get to Know the...

# Port Orchard Farmer's Market

The Port Orchard Farmer's Market has been a staple of our community since 1978. Since its humble beginnings, it has grown into one of, if not the, largest farmer's markets in our community. Running their 47<sup>th</sup> season every Saturday from April 12<sup>th</sup> through October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it is a beloved expression of community that you won't want to miss, nestled on our Port Orchard Waterfront and Marina! This feature focuses on what makes the market special, the vibrant people behind the scenes making it happen and opportunities for everyone to get involved.



## The WHY Behind Port Orchard's Farmer's Market

Port Orchard Farmer's Market was the first farmer's market in Kitsap County to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and is currently only one of two, the other newly named one being Poulsbo's. Being a nonprofit means that they are able to directly invest back into the market by opening additional funding opportunities, allowing the market to focus on its core mission – creating better accessibility to healthy food for all, providing resources to support local farmers and small businesses, and making it easier to foster partnerships with other community organizations. The process to become a nonprofit was challenging, but now that they maintain their status the benefits have been significant.



Arguably one of the most interesting facets of the Port Orchard Farmer's Market is that they are required to have their farmers make more money than all other types of vendors combined. This means that you will see many local farmers selling fresh produce and plant starts. This matter directly relates to the market's mission of "providing a community gathering space with access to locally-grown and created farm goods and products, agricultural programs, and educational activities for all members of the community." They have also developed a child-specific program with this philosophy in mind, the Power of Produce (POP) Kids Club. Here, children can participate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month to learn about and engage with our local food system and new produce. POP Kids also receive \$4 in tokens to spend throughout the market on produce after completion of the program, making their newfound knowledge tangible.

While not exclusive to the Port Orchard Farmer's Market, they also proudly support EBT and WIC benefits. Most tangibly at the market itself, they match those benefits up to \$25 in tokens for customers to shop for produce and starts with. Simply put, the market works to double the access that people with benefits can receive - \$25 to \$50! The market also

partners with local food banks, including the South Kitsap Helpline, to help people sign up for EBT and WIC benefits. If you're interested in a fun way to help with this partnership, consider stopping by the market during their annual "Empty Bowls Soup Off" benefiting the SK Helpline on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>!

**Get to Know the People Producing the Market**

**Erika Anderson, Board President | Ingrid Hartsock, Community Engagement Coordinator**

The vendors of this market are the real stars and we absolutely encourage you to meet them all in person! Some of these stand-out contributors include Davis Farm Flowers, Sandi's Sourdough, Sallie's Custom Clayworks, Taylor's Honey Farm, and Rolling Bounty Farm, among many others. But, they're not the only key to making a successful market happen! Meet Erika Anderson, the market's Board President, and Ingrid Hartsock, their Community Engagement Coordinator:



Erika has a history with this market for almost as long as it's been around. Her family operates a local farm, and her parents were a part of the market at their 1978 conception date. Back then, the market was much smaller and primarily consisted of farmers and their wives operating on the waterfront. It was fourteen years ago that Erika herself became a vendor, selling produce, eggs, and eventually, skincare, body care, and herbal items. When she was asked to join the board four years ago, she stepped away from her role as a vendor and committed to helping others achieve their dreams. She has now been sitting as the Board President for the last two years.

What keeps Erika so involved and committed after 14 years as a vendor and 4 as a board member? She cites community as the "magic that drives [her] to stay," and under her leadership, the market has seen exponential growth in vendors, engagement, and community support. Erika has a background in workforce development, and the knowledge of how her work directly impacts local families has been a major achievement, not to mention the direct impact that programs such as POP has created. Check out their stats for proof of how a team's worth of passion translates to growth:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Vendor Sales</b>	<b>\$960,427</b>	<b>\$647,287</b>
<b>Customer Attendance</b>	<b>41,956</b>	<b>35,406</b>
<b>EBT/SNAP Redeemed at the Market</b>	<b>\$7,696</b>	<b>\$5,682</b>
<b>Power of Produce (POP) Kids Club Participation</b>	<b>383 Kids</b>	<b>170 Kids</b>

...and better yet, 2025 is shaping up to be an even more profitable and engaging year! Erika doesn't accomplish these feats on her own, though. The Farmers Market has an active board consisting of vendors and community members. This board is considered a "working board" as the members are heavily involved in the day-to-day operations of the market and sit on various committees, including that of long-term planning for the market. Other participants keeping the magic alive include just a couple of part-time employees, one of whom is Ingrid Hartsock.

Ingrid may only be paid for 15 hours a week, but describes the position of engaging the community as one she thinks about 24 hours a day. She enjoys keeping her "thumb on the pulse" in her work life and being engaged with community- not a surprise given her previous role was at Seattle Goodwill! She worked there for 12 years, starting in an entry-level fundraising position and eventually becoming the development director. Her experience at such a large nonprofit organization highlighted her ability to wear many hats and her enjoyment to do so, which she views as similar to her role at the market and allows her the ability to succeed at working on multiple aspects of the organization.

Currently, Ingrid focuses on getting the word out about the farmer's market, building partnerships, working on sponsorships, managing volunteers, and organizing the market's special programs (such as POP and live music). This is her second season in this role, and together with Erika, the board, and various others involved with the team, she is making a major impact on how the community interacts with the market and how vendors are being supported.

### **Join the Community!**

While utilizing the market's support of EBT and WIC benefits, participating in the Empty Bowls Soup Off on September 20<sup>th</sup>, and having your kids participate in their POP Kids Club are wonderful ways to get involved and take advantage of this community resource, there are so many other ways you can also participate! Support local artists by enjoying their free live music every week, and experience themed days and events throughout the season, including 'Ride the Tide' on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 'Yoga at the Market' on June 21<sup>st</sup>, National Farmers Market Week on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and the 'Fall Fun Fest + Paint Your Own Pottery with Sallie's Custom Clayworks' on October 4<sup>th</sup>.



If you're looking for more of a hands-on opportunity, consider volunteering! The market depends on people to support and develop the event. With a "the more the merrier" mentality, the market has a variety of positions that can always use more help. Some positions that may be of interest include helping set up/break down the market, greeting

customers or those coming to the POP Kids Club, and donating your photography and/or videography skills!



Most importantly, help support this local market and cornerstone to Port Orchard summers by shopping local at the market. There are over 200 free parking spots within two blocks of the market, and your purchases directly support local farmers, small businesses, and our community. Don't let the idea of crowds intimidate you- while some weekends are busier than others, there are plenty of Saturdays that are yearning for more activity! Stay up-to-date on vendors, events, the bands, and more by following the Port Orchard Farmer's Market on social media or by signing up for their weekly newsletter on their website: [www.pofarmersmarket.com](http://www.pofarmersmarket.com). We can't wait to have you experience this beautiful event on our waterfront- see you soon!

## Bay Street Construction

# *Navigating Downtown Port Orchard*

With City, community, and Port construction happening around Port Orchard Marina and Waterfront, we understand that navigating our Downtown area can be a challenge. Most importantly, we want to emphasize that all businesses are remaining open throughout the various progress, unless otherwise stated by the business itself. Free street parking is remaining throughout Downtown and our marina offers a multitude of spots at no cost for the public. The below map offers guidelines on affected areas and highlights where free parking can be found. Don't forget to enjoy the community amenities created for you and help support local this Summer.

More information can be found on the City of Port Orchard's website.



# Let's Talk Numbers: *2025 Budget Book*

The Port of Bremerton publishes our budget book annually to allow our constituents the transparency required of Public Ports. Here, you can see exactly how much money is being allocated to each project and/or facility, where our income is being generated, and more! To read our most recent publication from April of 2025, head to the financials section of our website:

[www.portofbremerton.org/financials](http://www.portofbremerton.org/financials)

Budget Book Prepared by CFO, Aaron Schielke

## *Did You Know ...*

**...over HALF of the buildings located in the Port's Olympic View Industrial Park are owned by the Port?**

The Industrial Park is a main source of income for the Port, so these Port-owned buildings is a primary way for us to generate income and expand economic opportunities for the County!

## **Growing Our Industrial Opportunity**

### *10,500 sqft Building Purchase*

Earlier this year, the Port purchased a 10,500 sqft building on 1.4 acres located in our Olympic View industrial Park. This purchase marked the 11<sup>th</sup> Port-owned building within the park and is a well-established investment property that will allow for a more robust and



expanded portfolio of tenants that the Port oversees. The property itself consists of approximately two levels of office spaces with five separate office rooms and two additional outbuildings, currently a welding shop and paint shop. There are four truck loading bays and drive-in, roll-up access. We are looking to begin leasing in late Summer or early Fall of 2025!

## **Airport Feasibility Study & Master Plan**

### *Bremerton National Airport News*

In the Fall of 2024 and into the beginning of 2025, we had much information we were sharing regarding our airport feasibility project and changes that may be coming to our Bremerton National Airport. While we are still working on the project, we are also working to navigate changes to our master plan and determine what potential construction could be coming to our airport in the coming years. For feasibility study-specific information, we encourage you to continue visiting our project site. Otherwise, our Airport Manager, Cole Barnes, provides updates to the airport regularly at our Commission Meetings.

[www.bremertonairportstudy.com](http://www.bremertonairportstudy.com) | [www.portofbremerton.org/commission](http://www.portofbremerton.org/commission)

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# KPWT Times | Issue 007

## *Behind the Hangar Doors*

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Newly named President of the Bremerton Pilots Association, George Steed, has an aviation journey that can only be matched by the generosity he's known for in Bremerton's flying circles. His passion for aviation began at a young age, with his first memory being of a flight when he was just three years old. Here, he flew on a DC-3 from Wisconsin to Michigan and primarily recalls throwing up... However, after that initial experience, he was always "looking up at airplanes flying around in Wisconsin and wondering if [he] could do that." Sure enough, he could!

### High-Flying Beginnings



George's first true attempt at getting his pilot's license was in 1975 at 23 years old. He described having taken multiple flying lessons, but did not complete his first solo flight at the time. Instead, he "ran away" to join the Navy, eventually becoming a bombardier in a A6E aircraft. George was a naval flight officer, similar to that of the character 'Goose' from Top Gun, but could not be a pilot himself during this career due to slight vision limitations. His time in the military wasn't without adventures, though.

Serving a total of ten years, he accumulated approximately 1,300 hours of flight time, experienced 109 landings on an aircraft carrier (with 104 of them being at night!), conducted maritime patrol and reconnaissance missions, and ultimately, developed an extensive knowledge of precise naval landing techniques. It seems that his military experience naturally shaped his aviation perspective significantly, particularly regarding his understanding and viewpoint on requiring technique, knowledge, and precision. George has also carried with him the philosophy of respecting aviation more than anything else.

Most memorably, George described a particularly harrowing mission while in the Sea of Japan. While in extremely challenging weather conditions, George and his pilot, Tom, were scheduled for a flight from the aircraft carrier. Despite blizzard conditions, snow sticking to the side of aircraft, and George's own disbelief that they would be sent out in the inclement weather, the flight was briefed and they were off to

complete their routine work. Tom relied on their instruments to fly with the snow being so thick, preventing even sight of their wingtips. When relief set in that they were being called back, the situation of marshalling came.



When a naval aircraft marshals, they're sat in a holding pattern twenty miles off the ship while waiting to descend. It's typical for planes to dump fuel as you cannot have more than 7,000 pounds of fuel to land, far in excess of the 20,000 they had at the time. Anticipating delays, George advised Tom to conserve fuel until they had a confirmed landing time. Aircraft after aircraft waiting to land were delayed due to snow, with an hour and a half passing by. When finally called to push, George's job of spotting was made near impossible. Circling the ship time and time again, the blizzard cloaked the carrier, denying George and Tom sight of their landing strip. With only 900 pounds of fuel left, George finally caught sight of the ship and they were able to land visually. Thankfully, everyone from that day made it back to the ship in one piece.

When telling his mother the story after the fact, she did not react in the way he expected. Instead of being shocked or afraid in the recount, she noted that such an experience isn't easy. George caught on to her precise wording and asked what she meant. Well, it turns out George isn't the only daredevil in his family! His mother recounted how she received her own pilot's license in 1947 following World War II, having taken lessons from a nearby P-51 pilot operating an FBO. While she would primarily fly around Wisconsin, going on picnics in farmers' fields, she also undertook a similar flight to that of George's. It seems that she had gotten a job interview a couple of towns over, but far enough to not trust their family car to make it. Being the resourceful woman she was, she opted to rent a Piper Cub to fly to the interview instead. While making it fine, her return flight caught her in a snowstorm. She was able to navigate her return using only basic instruments and following the railroad tracks she grew up familiar with, only to then land the plane in 6-8 inches of snow. Flying takes knowledge and skill, but it seems safe to say that George may have got some of his grit from his mom.

After a decade of excitement, George left military service in 1985 to support his wife's military career, becoming "Mr. Mom." Having described himself as having a variety of careers, the next decade was spent raising their children, and later working for twelve years as an elementary school teacher.

### Wings of His Own



Approaching middle age, George and his wife, Amy, had a conversation regarding reprioritizing their life goals. They decided to make flying a priority, especially with the burden of family expenses (like that of their kids' braces) eased. While Amy didn't share his passions exactly, she was incredibly supportive of his dream... perhaps because she also benefited from his joy. The natural pairing of George wanting to fly and

Amy wanting to travel was a match made in heaven, and they now take multiple trips a year. Getting his license at 50 years old, George's only regret is not having gotten it sooner. He describes his time learning as the "most fun," receiving both his license and Airframe

and Powerplant (A&P) certification.

The A&P certification suggestion came from his wife since they planned to own their own airplane. It made sense that they would want to maintain their own aircraft in an effort of familiarization and cost effectiveness, the process of which George thoroughly enjoyed. He took about twenty classes covering various aviation systems including information on landing gears, hydraulics, propellers, sheet metal, turbines, and more. He was included in a group of older students that were equally highly-motivated and who all got the best grades due to their enthusiasm when compared to younger students.

George and Amy's bucket-list goal with flying is to complete a 5K walk in each of the 50 states through the American Folks March Association. So far, they have completed 38 of these walks, through which they have found many areas in the country that they would have otherwise never seen or experienced. They often plan their travels around these walks, with Amy doing the research on where she wants to go and determining how close the nearby local airport may be for George.

Similar to many general aviation pilots, George also loves attending Oshkosh, even participating in the B2OSH (Bonanzas to Oshkosh) mass arrival. Having participated in the mass arrival for about ten years, he learned to fly in formation from a fellow KPWT pilot, Jim Posner. He now helps others learn the joy of formation flight by helping run a formation clinic each June at Bremerton National Airport, where he coaches others on the sport. The pride that George has in his flight skills is evident, enjoying the precision and coordination required, particularly for matters like the mass arrival.



### **Time Flies**

George has a particular passion for helping others. He first ran a school aviation program from approximately 1997-2007, working with Central Kitsap Junior & High Schools to build a CH-701 aircraft. Initially facing resistance from school administrators, George persevered and personally funded the initial \$6,000 for raw materials. This program eventually got traction and helped over 300 students over the decade, even receiving state awards and being featured on CNN, until school leadership changed hands and policies again. His current community involvement includes that of EAA Chapter 406, Bremerton Pilots Association, BACE, Washington's Community Airport Revitalization Board (CARB), and the Disaster Airlift Response Team (DART), among others.

Specifically, George has completed 170 Young Eagle Flights, currently sits as President of

the Bremerton Pilots Association, supports young pilots in obtaining pilot's licenses and exploring mechanics, and is working to revive our local DART program with a focus on connecting local community airports. This isn't to mention his board seat on Fly Washington, the passport program that aims to create better pilots through familiarizing them with a variety of landings and airports, or the talks he gives organizations based in his "mechanics experience of life" viewpoint.



Staying motivated while navigating and participating in such a variety of organizations can be challenging for some, but George cites his motivation being housed in his love for aviation and connection to people. He believes that introducing more people, especially youth, to the world of aviation is what will make the biggest impact in supporting aviation.

While George continues sharing his passion with his grandchildren, community, and friends he's yet to meet, we hope you'll take a look at how you can get more involved with your own passions! As George says, "do it now, because time flies."

## Get Your Own Taste of Aviation

# *Experience the Bremerton Air Show!*

The Bremerton Air Show is returning for a third year at Bremerton National Airport! Experience a unique event at your local airport, dynamic aerobatic flying demonstrations, and a taste of history. Performers at this year's event include the USAF KC-135 Demo Team, the USAF C-17 West Coast Demo Team, a variety of mustangs, wing walking, and more!



We are also bringing a new aspect to the even this year by way of a "Planeside Drive-Up Photoshoot!" This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have your car's photo taken with a World War II Warbird that you won't want to miss. Keep your eye on our socials for further air show announcements and sneak-peeks!

Tickets are on sale for Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Kids 12 and under are free, and youth 13-17 have a reduced price! Get more information and purchase tickets on the event's website: [www.bremertonairshow.com](http://www.bremertonairshow.com)

# Summer Event List

## HOT ROD SOCIAL

APRIL-SEPTEMBER, Every Wednesday, 3-7 PM  
Bremerton National Airport

## PO FARMERS MARKET

APRIL-OCTOBER, Every Saturday  
Port Orchard Marina



## BREMERTON NIGHT MARKET

Fridays; June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, & October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Bremerton Marina



## CONCERTS BY THE BAY

JUNE-LABOR DAY, Every Thursday, 6:30-8 PM  
Port Orchard Marina Gazebo

## PO NIGHT MARKET

June 14, July 12, August 16, September 13  
Port Orchard Marina



## BREMERTON BRIDGE BLAST

Saturday, June 28  
Bremerton Marina

## FIREWORKS OVER SINCLAIR INLET

Saturday, July 5  
Port Orchard Marina



## BREMERTON AIR SHOW

July 11-13  
Bremerton National Airport

## MUSTANGS ON THE WATERFRONT

Sunday, July 27  
Port Orchard Marina

## TASTE OF KITSAP

August 01-02  
Bremerton Marina

## KITSAP WINE FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 9  
Bremerton Marina

## THE CRUZ CAR SHOW

Sunday, August 10  
Port Orchard Marina

## ROCK THE DOCK

August 16  
Bremerton Marina

## BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL

Labor Day Weekend  
Bremerton Marina



# Meet the Commissioners



**Cary Bozeman**  
Vice President

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

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



**Gary Anderson**  
President

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

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



**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](https://portofbremerton.org/commission-meetings) for dates & meeting links!**



**Jim Rothlin, Chief Executive Officer**

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E: [jimr@portofbremerton.org](mailto:jimr@portofbremerton.org)

## We Want to Hear From You!

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



Be featured in a Port newsletter! Particularly if you are a tenant of one of our Port of Bremerton Facilities (or work at one!), we would love to feature your story. Not sure if it's a perfect fit? Reach out to us to find out! Email [ericaf@portofbremerton.org](mailto:ericaf@portofbremerton.org) for more information.