



# The Port Report

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Port of Bremerton Newsletter • Winter 2026



*Photo courtesy of Isaak Hammers*

# Foreword From Chief Executive Officer

## Jim Rothlin

### Strong Businesses Are Strong in Community

At the Port of Bremerton, our commissioners' vision has always centered on a simple idea: economic growth and quality of life must advance together. Our role is to create jobs, attract investment, and diversify Kitsap County's economy—while ensuring this remains a place where families want to live, work, and thrive. That balance starts with our people. A healthy workplace built on innovation, accountability, communication, teamwork, and positivity empowers our employees to carry out the Port's mission for the community we serve.

Community engagement is not an accessory to our work—it's a core metric of success. Every project is evaluated not only for financial return, but for the value it brings to residents. That philosophy has guided major accomplishments, from expanding the Olympic View Industrial Park to earning the 2023 Washington State Port of the Year. Over the past decade, we've doubled the number of companies and tripled the number of jobs on Port properties, contributing more than \$1.2 billion in economic impact in 2020 alone.

Our marinas and airport partake in more than 55 community events each year, from airshows to farmers markets, generating millions in local economic activity. Partnerships with nonprofits like the Experimental Aircraft Association and the Bremerton Pilots Association have expanded aviation education and inspired the next generation through programs like the Bremerton Aviation Education Center, where young people are learning everything from building new planes to flying them.

We also work closely with cities, developers, and educators to strengthen the broader business ecosystem. Projects like Marina Square—transforming a parking lot into housing, retail, and public parking—show what collaboration can achieve.



The lesson for business leaders is clear: economic success and community well-being are inseparable. Start small, get involved, and you'll quickly see that investing in your community isn't just the right thing to do, it's a strategic advantage that strengthens your workforce, your brand, and your future.

*Jim Rothlin, CEO*

***Want to hear more from our leaders on how the Port works in the community?  
Check out these two podcasts from the Puget Sound Business Journal!***



**CEO Jim Rothlin**



**Commissioner Gary Anderson**

# People Making Moves

## Commission Roles

The Port of Bremerton Commission rotates its leadership roles every two years to ensure shared responsibility and broad governance experience among its elected officials. These roles include President, Vice President, and Secretary, with each Commissioner taking on different leadership duties during their term.

For the current term, Commissioner Cary Bozeman is serving as Commission President, Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn as Vice President, and Commissioner Gary Anderson as Secretary. This also marks Commissioner Anderson's second term with the Port of Bremerton, having been reelected in the last cycle.



*Commissioners Cary Bozeman, Axel Strakeljahn, & Gary Anderson*

*Learn more on the end page, and visit our website for further details:  
[www.portofbremerton.org/commission](http://www.portofbremerton.org/commission)*

## Airport Manager, Cole Barnes, Now C.M.



Airport Manager Cole Barnes recently completed a 40-hour training course and certification exam at Boeing Field, earning the Certified Member (C.M.) designation from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). This nationally recognized credential reflects expertise in airport management, operations, safety, finance, and planning, and demonstrates a strong understanding of FAA requirements. Cole's certification enhances his leadership and will support the safe, efficient, and long-term operation of Bremerton National Airport.

## James Goodman's Departure: Director of Facilities

Having spent 3 years at the Port, James Goodman has resigned from his position as the Director of Facilities & Property Development. In his time here, he has overseen the modernization and replacement of aging maintenance equipment and vehicle fleet, as well as the expansion of a tenant's property in the industrial park. On a personal note, he has also completed his master's degree in management & leadership.

James will be moving to Idaho with his wife and children, taking on the Executive Director position for Ross Point Camp & Conference Center. He chose to take this leap as it has been his passion to serve in that capacity for much of his working career. The Port wishes him much luck in his endeavors.



# Fall Donation Drive Recap

## Giving Back to Those Who Served



"Serving Those Who Served"

This fall, the Port of Bremerton hosted its First Annual Veteran Donation Drive, shifting from our traditional food drive to focus on supporting those who served. From October 20 through November 21, our community came together to benefit the Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard (Retsil), responding generously to the home's specific requests for both comfort items and daily necessities.

Thanks to the generosity of our tenants, staff, and community members, the drive was a success, with more than \$600 raised in goods and cash donations. All monetary contributions were provided directly to the Veterans Home, with 100 percent of funds designated for resident use.

We are proud of the community's support and grateful to everyone who participated. Our traditional food drive will return in the warmer months, when donation rates typically decline, allowing us to continue meeting community needs throughout the year.

## Military Training at the Airport

The Port of Bremerton partnered with the US Military to support a series of nighttime training operations. For several nights, Bremerton National Airport was closed for a few hours in the early morning hours to provide a controlled environment for the exercises. Military crews flew in an MC-130 (pictured here!), along with multiple helicopters and smaller fixed-wing aircraft, to conduct simulated refueling scenarios and related operational drills.

These types of exercises are an important part of military readiness and provide valuable real-world training conditions that cannot be replicated on a simulator. They also give airport personnel the opportunity to coordinate with military teams and refine communication, safety, and logistical procedures under unique conditions. The Port of Bremerton values our long-standing relationship with the military and takes pride in supporting missions that contribute to national defense preparedness.



# Environmental Assessment Meeting

## Bremerton National Airport

The Port of Bremerton, in coordination with the FAA, held a hybrid public open house on January 7, 2026, from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Bremerton National Airport Conference Room and via Zoom to present the Bremerton National Airport Draft Environmental Assessment. This project focuses on about 600 developable acres on the eastside of the airfield. The open house featured project information boards outlining the proposed action, alternatives, and instructions for viewing and commenting on the draft EA. Copies of the draft EA and appendices were available on-site, and attendees—both in-person and virtual—received informational materials and guidance on submitting public comments.

For more information and to view the project files, visit the project website:

[www.portofbremerton.org/nepa-environmental-assessment](http://www.portofbremerton.org/nepa-environmental-assessment)



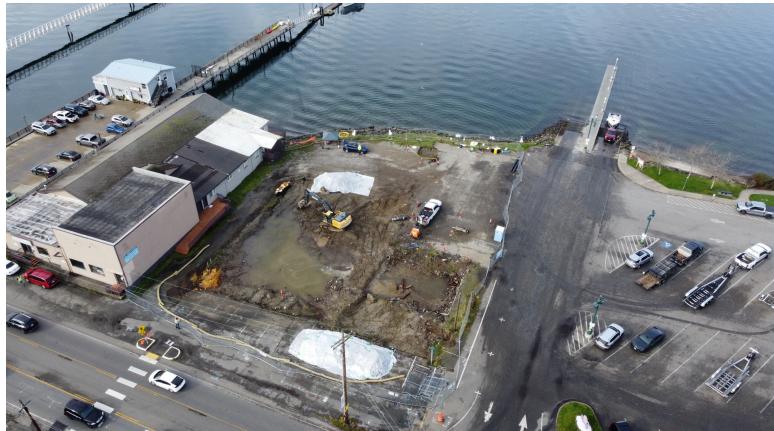
## Soil Remediation Project 521 & 525 Bay Street



The Port of Bremerton is continuing to work on the soil remediation project located at 521 & 525 Bay Street in Port Orchard. The initiative related to this project supports sustainable redevelopment, economic growth, and environmental restoration. The grant project as awarded by the EPA will also allow the community to identify and assess potentially contaminated properties with the greatest potential for job creation and revitalization.

While work is currently expected to resume in the coming months as the tides begin to settle, we are still focusing on the community aspect of the project. Primarily, we are placing an additional banner on the property to help spark ideas from our community members! We want to make it clear that this project is focused on the community's joint future, and encourage everyone to get familiar with the entities working on it: Port of Bremerton, WA State Department of Ecology, and the Environmental Protection Agency. To discover what's happening, and to learn what a brownfield is, head to our website!

[www.portofbremerton.org/soil-remediation-project](http://www.portofbremerton.org/soil-remediation-project)





## Boater's Corner



### Message from Director of Marinas, Tim Petrick

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself as the Port's new Marina Manager and share a bit about my perspective so far. I grew up in marinas and have spent the past 20 years working in boating, marinas, and on community and commercial waterfronts. In the short time I've been here, it has become clear that our marinas are special places, not just because of their locations, but because of the people who use them every day. These facilities primarily serve recreational boaters, and that makes the quality, appearance, and day-to-day functionality of the marinas especially important.

I was drawn to this role because of the Port's commitment to stewardship, long-term planning, and maintaining marina facilities that serve both tenants and the broader community. I see strong opportunities ahead to invest in our infrastructure, improve daily operations, and ensure our marinas remain safe, functional, and welcoming for years to come.

Maintaining high-quality marinas is a shared responsibility. Our rules, regulations, and housekeeping standards exist to protect the facilities, enhance safety, and preserve the experience for everyone. These marinas look good because tenants take pride in them, and it is important that we continue that culture by keeping docks clear, vessels well maintained, and common areas orderly. As we move forward, staff will be more consistently enforcing existing rules to help keep our marinas in top shape and prevent small issues from becoming larger problems.

Looking ahead, we are planning to work our way through a number of improvement projects, including replacing damaged pilings, repairing and maintaining aging docks, and updating structures both on shore and on the docks. These investments are part of a broader effort to address deferred maintenance and strengthen the long-term resilience of our marina facilities. I appreciate your cooperation, patience, and partnership as we take on this work together, and I look forward to getting to know more of you around the marinas.



# Join us for the Seattle Boat Show!

January 30 - February 7, 2026

We're headed to the Seattle Boat Show, and we'd love to see you there. Stop by the Port of Bremerton booth, located in the East Hall at #1127, to spin our brand-new Wheel of Prizes, pick up one of our famous boater chip clips, and get your hands on the latest event list! Yacht clubs should be sure to swing by to learn about our exclusive group offers available this season.

Our team will be on-site all nine days of the show and are excited to connect, answer questions, and help you start planning your next Kitsap Waterfront visit. While you're there, learn more about our two distinct marina experiences: Bremerton Marina with its robust amenities and adjacent Seattle ferries, and Port Orchard Marina, known for its walkable charm and strong sense of community.

See you there!

Booth Located in East Hall, #1127!

## Boat Show Highlights:



**283**

EXHIBITORS  
& DEALERS



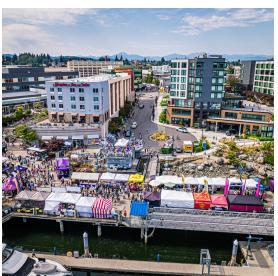
**800**

BOATS ON  
DISPLAY



## Experience the Port of Bremerton

Scan for 2026  
Event List!



# Meet the Commissioners



**Cary Bozeman**

**President**

**Term:** Jan. 1, 2022 -

Dec. 31, 2027

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



**Axel Strakeljahn**

**Vice President**

**Term:** Jan. 1, 2024 -

Dec. 31, 2029

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



**Gary Anderson**

**Secretary**

**Term:** Jan. 1, 2026 -

Dec. 31, 2031

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

**Did you know that you can attend commission meetings? Head to [portofbremerton.org/commission-meetings](http://portofbremerton.org/commission-meetings) for dates & meeting links!**



**Jim Rothlin, Chief Executive Officer**

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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.