



MAYOR'S REPORT

March 4, 2026

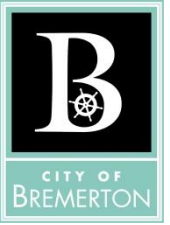
BREMERTON

WASHINGTON



Light Up Bremerton Lantern Parade – March 6

- Reminder that Friday, March 6 marks the very first Light Up Bremerton Lantern Parade in downtown Bremerton. The event is free and open to everyone!
- Participants can sign in at the Roxy Theatre beginning at 5:30 p.m., and the parade will begin at sunset. As daylight fades, handcrafted lanterns will illuminate the evening and bring warmth to downtown streets.
- The event brings together families, artists, and community members for this memorable celebration of the arts
- Presented by City of Bremerton, Parks & Recreation, and Bremerton Creative District
- Thank you to partners Downtown Bremerton Association, Greater Kitsap Chamber, Roxy Theatre, and Bremerton First Friday Art Walk



New Gate Installation at Forest Ridge Park

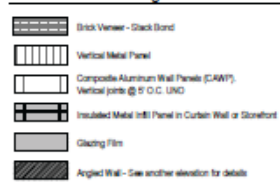


- A new gate was installed at Forest Ridge Park on N. Summit Ave. to enhance safety and protect park space as a hiking trail system and an urban forest
- The new installed gate will support areas for pedestrian use, such as playgrounds and walking trails, and is expected to reduce noise and disruptions in the evenings, motorized vehicle use on trails contributing to near accidents with pedestrians, and illegal dumping of trash in areas of the park.
- In the coming months, other access points will be seeing changes to increase safe, public access. The first change will be a gate strategically repositioned at the S. Harford Ave. driveway to expand a “safe zone” area, further reducing motorized vehicle access within the park to support the safety of park users
- This need emerged after discussions and input during the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan update process to develop vision and direction of the City’s parks over the next five years.



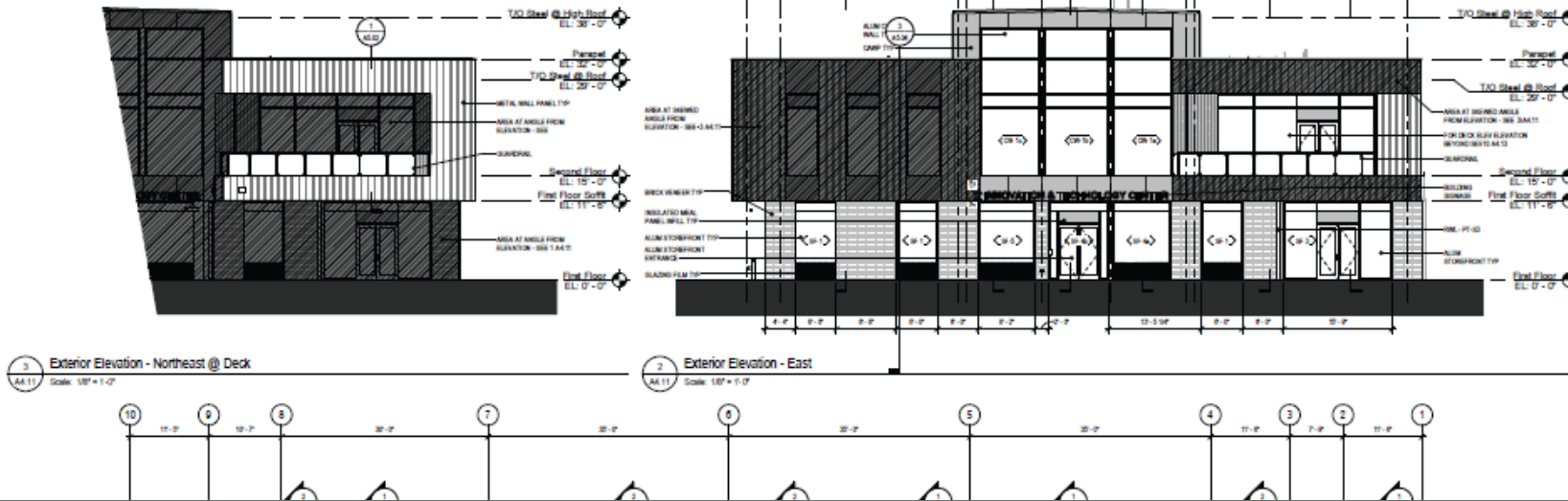
New Gate Installation at Forest Ridge Park
photos taken on Mar. 3, 2026

Exterior Elevation Legend



Exterior Elevation Notes

1. Install continuous sealant & backer rod vertical control joints in brick veneer where indicated by "CJ" on elevations. Unless otherwise noted install control joints as follows:
 - 2'-0" away from all outside corners (5'-0" maximum)
 - At all inside corners
 - 25'-0" on center maximum on continuous walls
 - Whenever wall height changes or walls are supported on different levels



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OLYMPIC COLLEGE
 Innovation &

Olympic College Innovation & Technology Center

- Olympic College (OC) recently submitted a site plan review permit for a potential future two story, 31,000 sq ft building on OC Bremerton campus
- Building would be for 258 students and 23 faculty
- Plans include new facility with specialized laboratories for computer information systems, computer science, cybersecurity, digital media arts, and water flow research engineering. Design of flexible classrooms would also support hybrid, remote, and active learning.
- New adjacent parking area planned on the southern side of 15th Street
- Site plan review permit currently in review by City



West Sound Tech - Bremerton

- WST, built in 1977, needed expansion and renovation to meet current needs and future student growth in career and technical programs; serves high school students and young adults
- 50,000 sq ft new building attached to existing WST structure – temporary occupancy for 3-D animation, Medical Careers and Cosmetology programs; 3D Animation & Gaming, Automotive Technology, Collision Repair Technology, Construction Careers, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Dental, Early Learning, Esthetics, Professional Medical Careers, Fire Science, Welding, and Maritime; **dedication was held for new instructional area on Tue., Feb 24**
- Modernization of existing WST building (Phase 2) – funding provided by state legislature



Downtown District

Tim Ryan Building, 555 Pacific Avenue

- Tim Ryan Properties announced signing of a long-term lease up to 10 years with Department of Navy for the office building at corner of Pacific Ave and 6th Street
- More than **600 employees** now anticipated to work at building in support of modernizing Bremerton shipyard
- Anticipated occupancy March 2026

2026 State of the City

Visit the city's website to view the 2026 State of the City:

<https://www.bremertonwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13250/2026-State-of-the-City-PDF>



2026 State of the City
Mayor Greg Wheeler

2026 Mayor's Initiatives

Visit the city's website to view the 2026 Mayor's Initiatives:

<https://www.bremertonwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13176/>

[Mayors-2026-Initiatives-PDF](#)



Mayor Greg Wheeler

Mayor's 2026 Initiatives

Housing and Commercial Development Improvements

Review Codes, Zoning, and Processes

- Update City's regulations to stay current with State requirements for permit process streamlining and creation of housing
- Continue to support revitalization projects and capital facility investments citywide, especially in commercial centers such as Harrison Heights (formerly Harrison hospital district), Wheaton Way corridor, Charleston, Manette and downtown
- Ensure the City continues to protect environmentally sensitive areas by adopting updates to Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program
- Support the construction of nearly 1,000 dwelling units and 775,000 square feet of commercial space in development

Proactive Code Enforcement

- Continue proactive code enforcement to further address issues in the City and work on strategies to assist tenants living in substandard housing units
- Continue court-appointed receiver program (RCW 7.60) and abatement program (RCW 35.80) to clean up nuisance property

Affordable Housing Assistance

- Continue funding to Bremerton Rental Assistance program in partnership with Bremerton Housing Authority to provide eviction assistance that helps working low-income residents and seniors
- Continue additional \$100,000 of assistance to City's weatherization and minor home repair program in partnership with Kitsap Community Resources and Boeing Retiree Volunteers (the Bluebills) to reduce utility costs, improve living and health conditions for vulnerable citizens while enhancing City's housing stock and stabilizing rent for low-income tenants
- Continue partnering with housing agencies in development or acquisition of affordable housing projects.
- Continue support for Bremerton Homeownership Down Payment Assistance (DPA). The program is designed to provide deferred payment, low-interest subordinate loans that make home buying affordable for eligible home buyers purchasing within Bremerton City limits.