

Kitsap County District 2 Highlights

June 2014

News from Your Kitsap County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido



Commissioner Garrido and Doug Washburn, Kitsap County Human Services Director, at The U.S. Supreme Court in Washington DC.

Last month, Commissioner Garrido attended the 2014 National Association of Workforce Boards Forum, “Dialogue for Workforce Excellence” in Washington DC.

The Forum provided innovative ideas to reenergize attendees for designing and executing workforce development programs. There were thought-provoking issue sessions and practical workshops, coupled with integrated networking opportunities to share and learn from peers. The thought leaders in business, workforce, education, and economic development offered overviews of data and trends in the US job market.

Especially valuable to the specific needs of our local Workforce Development system are the Long-Term Unemployed, Veteran’s and Youth Programs. Commissioner Garrido brought back some good examples to improve Kitsap County’s website and communication strategies.

The Human Services department has already added success stories, outcome

data, and enhanced “job seekers” links to its website. Additionally, the County has submitted a funding request to enhance programs for Long-Term Unemployed job seekers and we are currently researching grants for veteran and youth programs.

The 2014 Forum was a valuable experience that provided Kitsap County with additional tools for success in tackling key challenges and to address the disruptive societal shifts impacting the world of education and work.



Commissioner Garrido with John Powers, Executive Director of KEDA, at the 2014 NAWB Forum.

Kitsap Ferry Community Partnership

Commissioner Garrido and the Ferry Community Partnership (made up of ferry-served communities in the Puget Sound region) work to assure quality transportation options for Kitsap residents. The commissioner and local leaders are arranging public meetings in Kitsap County during July and August to encourage thoughts from local citizens and governments for *WSF Long-Term Plan* updates. These meetings will be held near our ferry terminals – Southworth, Bremerton, Kingston and Bainbridge.

Make sure your voice is heard -- come out to one of the meetings, or contact kitsapcommissioners@co.kitsap.wa.us for more information as it is available.

Meet and Greet for Washington State Ferries Assistant Secretary Candidates

Senator Rolfes and Senator Nelson are co-hosting a “Meet and Greet” for finalists for the Assistant Secretary position at Washington State Ferries. The Washington State Department of Transportation is in the process of candidate selection and this gathering will give the public an opportunity to meet the finalists. The “Meet and Greet” will be held on June 10th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Center in Bremerton.

Meetings will be scheduled in Kitsap County during June and July to encourage Kitsap County citizens’ input for WSF-scheduled long term plan updates.

Did you know that Kitsap County has a Food Policy Council?

We do! Sixteen volunteer council members, selected throughout the county, are working to improve and integrate a sustainable, accessible, local food system.

They represent various sectors of the food system, defined as Production - rural and urban agriculture; Processing - adding value to the food products such as restaurants, food services; Distribution - groceries, other food retail, and emergency food systems; Access to healthy foods - human services, faith-based organizations, public health; Waste management - Composters and more; Public and community agencies - tribes, county and city government, educators, transportation, business and economic development

The Council serves the public interest by advising the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on food-related issues through communication, policy, coordination and promotion. The mission is to build a sustainable food system that increases and preserves access to local healthy food for all residents in Kitsap County.

The Council learns about the food system. The 2014 Work Plan seeks to review the work of other food policy councils and initiated asset mapping, which helps identify Kitsap's current food system players.

2014 Goals

1. Passing a healthy food resolution
2. Creating working groups
3. Introducing food access and health goals in comprehensive and other plans
4. Including food systems goals in climate action, or sustainability plans
5. Considering Kitsap applications for Puget Sound Regional Council Food Policy Blueprints



Commissioner Garrido, Lisa Berntsen and Brandon Born at the October 2013 Food Policy Council Meeting.



The Kitsap County Food Policy Council

Sustainable Cinema

Once a month, Commissioner Garrido hosts a thought-provoking screening of a movie that will stimulate conversation within the community. After most movies, there is a brief discussion regarding how the topic impacts us locally.

Please join us at the Dragonfly Cinema in Downtown Port Orchard on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (Sustainable Cinema is a free event, however donations are used to obtain films for future showings).

The next movie is:

June 26 - *Nothing Like Chocolate*, the powerful story of Mott Green and the Grenada Chocolate Company he founded.

Dragonfly Cinema
822 Bay St. Port Orchard
www.dragonflycinema.com

Citizens Sought for Kitsap Advisory Groups

Kitsap County advisory groups give citizens the opportunity to serve as a line of communication between the public and the Board of Commissioners, provide valuable input, and make a positive impact for Kitsap residents. The commissioners are currently accepting applications for these South Kitsap vacancies:

- Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
- Commission on Children and Youth
- Council for Human Rights
- Bremerton Ferry Advisory Committee
- Manchester Citizen Advisory Committee
- Substance Abuse Advisory Board
- Veterans Advisory Board

For more information and to apply, go to www.kitsapgov.com/volunteer/current.htm or 360-337-4650.



The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received funds to manage a restoration project at Harper Estuary, SE Olympiad Drive and Southworth Road. The objective is to reclaim historic estuarine habitat, improve tidal hydrology, remove fish passage barriers and reduce shoreline fragmentation in the Harper Estuary. A fundamental goal of the Harper Estuary restoration project is to develop a citizen-supported preferred construction alternative for restoring the estuary. The restoration project entails site analysis, project design and engineering. Through an interlocal agreement, WDFW is collaborating with Kitsap County regarding public outreach, education and community engagement; County roads and right of ways; County stormwater management and critical areas; County owned park lands and shoreline access.



Dennis Lewarch, Historic Preservation Officer from the Suquamish Tribe as he talks about the rich cultural and geological history of the Harper/Southworth area.

WDFW has evaluated the on-site conditions and Kitsap County Public Works conducted a traffic study to evaluate the transportation impacts for a portion of Olympiad Dr. SE. The Kitsap County Commissioner's office led introductory meetings to engage public discussions. At these meetings, conversations explored how the Harper community members value the estuary area. The community comment report is available to view along with other project studies on the website: <http://tinyurl.com/harperestuary>.

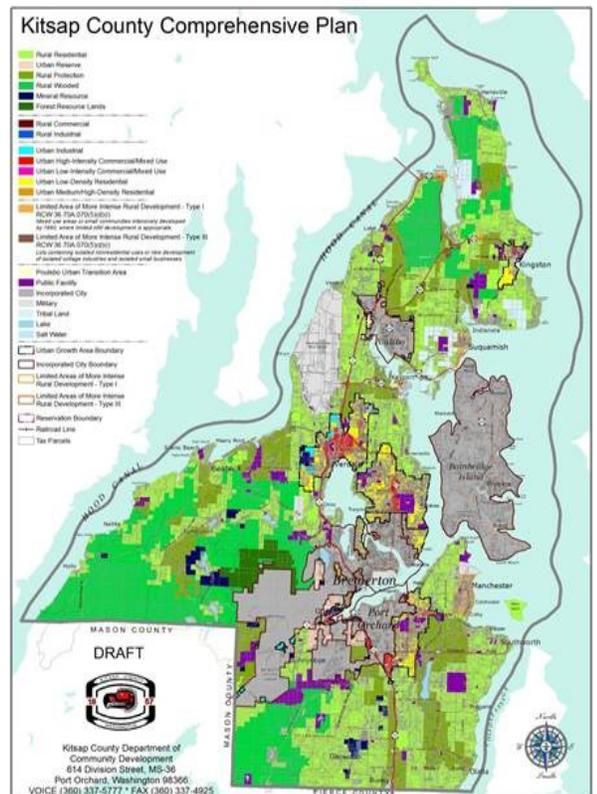
WDFW is scheduled to provide Kitsap County and the Harper-Southworth community with restoration options. Kitsap County will work with the local community to provide WDFW with input for a preferred selected alternative. The restoration is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2017. In the meantime, public outreach continues in the form of beach walks and some neighborly gatherings to share the history of this area.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Kitsap County is required to review and revise, if necessary, its Comprehensive Plan by June 2016. The plan provides goals and policies that guide the next 20 years of growth in Kitsap County, and provides an opportunity to improve and sustain a high quality of life for Kitsap's citizens. The County's goal is that the updated plan will be implementable and results-oriented.

The County is currently undergoing a "fitness review" and needs assessment of its existing valid plan, which was partially updated as recently as 2012. The County is also working directly with citizen advisory committees to update local community plans, the goals and policies of which are incorporated into the broader Comprehensive Plan.

Next steps include a public outreach and participation plan. The County intends to include additional community groups in outreach, and provide information in a pleasing, simple, informative method. The County will launch a dedicated website shortly which will allow direct public comment. Stay tuned for further input opportunities as we move forward with the update during the next two years.



Central Kitsap News:



Bucklin Hill Road Closure

For many years, Kitsap County has been planning improvements along the Bucklin Hill Road corridor, between Blaine Avenue and Levin Avenue. This project will replace and expand the bridge and twin culverts underneath it; improve stormwater systems; and improve estuary habitat restoring fish spawning levels. The road will also be widened to four lanes and will include improved traffic signals, pedestrian and utility features.

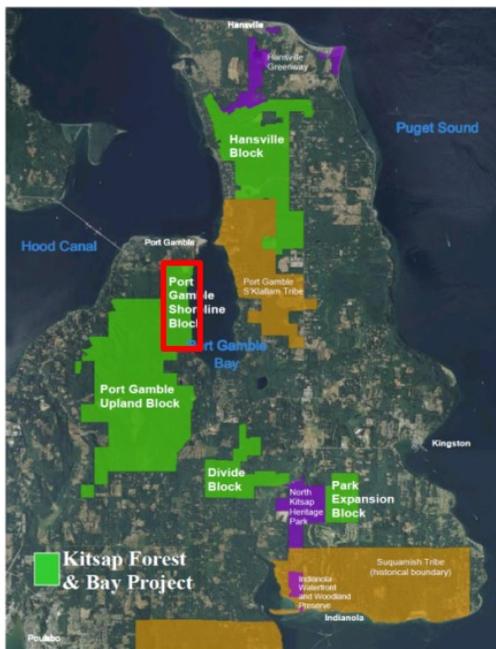
As a result of the improvements, a one-year road closure is planned to ensure construction is completed in a timely manner and minimizes safety concerns for the traveling public and construction personnel. While closing a road for a long period of time is no easy decision, a road closure will reduce overall construction time and save taxpayers an estimated +\$1.5M.

The County is working diligently with federal and state agencies to finalize permits. Construction start dates are anticipated Fall 2014 or at the latest Summer 2015. These start dates reflect contingencies for final permit approval and the small window in which construction can occur to ensure no disruption to fish passage during spawning season.

So what does this mean to you, local businesses and the travelling public? Kitsap County's commitment is to provide information to you as the process continues. We encourage everyone to plan ahead, avoid peak travel times, take alternative routes and do multiple trips for your shopping, recreational and business needs. Even though the road is closed, businesses are still open. So please continue to support them and plan ahead! Please visit www.bucklinhill.com for more details.



North Kitsap News:



Port Gamble Shoreline Block

Kitsap County, in partnership with the Suquamish and Port Gamble/S'Klallam Tribes, successfully acquired the 534-acre Port Gamble Shoreline Block on February 12th. This acquisition ensures long-term public ownership of 1.5 miles of shoreline for public access and habitat preservation along Port Gamble Bay. This acquisition would not have been possible without funding from the Department of Ecology, other state and federal grant funds and donations from private citizens and conservation foundations. This community success is hopefully the beginning of a series of land acquisitions in 2014 to include expansion of the North Kitsap Heritage Park and the headwaters of Grover's Creek. These properties will create a corridor of open space stretching from Kingston to Port Gamble, providing opportunities for regional trail systems and other recreational uses to Kitsap residents and the region as a whole.



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