

Kitsap County District 2 Highlights



Winter 2015

News from Your Kitsap County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido



Harper Happenings

The Port of Bremerton held a grand opening celebration for the new Harper Pier on January 16. The Pier is the latest improvement to the Harper area. It follows Kitsap County's 2010 completion of the Southworth Drive road widening project, which provides safer pedestrian and bicycle access to the Pier.

The South Colby students loved the balloons sent to their school after the event!

Also in progress is the plan to restore Harper Estuary. A traffic study ruled out the option to close Olympiad Drive through the Estuary, so preliminary plans for a bridge have begun. Kitsap County Public Works is developing a size and location report to prepare a design. Environmental restoration will be a guiding criterion.



Commissioner Garrido Appointed to Ecosystem Coordination Board

The Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council has appointed Commissioner Garrido to its Ecosystem Coordination Board. This Board advises the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council on carrying out its responsibilities for recovery of the Puget Sound in accordance with the Puget Sound Action Agenda. The Action Agenda lays out the steps needed to achieve an ambitious goal: restoring the health of Puget Sound by 2020. Made up of 27 individuals, the Board represents specific areas and interests around the Sound. Commissioner Garrido represents the West Central Action Area.

Comprehensive Plan Update

The second half of 2014 and January 2015 proved exciting as Kitsap County and local residents continue to work on 'KITSAP 2035' the Comprehensive Plan update. Kitsap County is required to review the existing comprehensive plan and revise, if necessary, by June 2016.

An early 2015 Comprehensive Plan update milestone came when the internal review team met with agency partners for this project. This includes County departments such as Public Works and Human Services, and external partners such as Kitsap Public Health and Kitsap Transit.

Additional accomplishments completed so far:

- developed a Comprehensive Plan update scope and strategy,
- completed the "Buildable Lands Report", a key technical document that supports the Comprehensive Plan update effort, and
- held meetings with County-sponsored community advisory councils including Manchester, Suquamish, Kingston and the Central Kitsap Community Council.

"Let's Hear Kitsap" launched the public participation element of the Comprehensive Plan update. Kitsap County is reaching out and listening to residents to learn more about your hopes and vision for Kitsap County over the coming 20 years.

The momentum will continue toward the goal to create an action-oriented and implementable plan! Next steps include brief video tutorials about long-term planning, site specific amendments review, and draft goals and policies. These will be available later this year for public comment. More information can be found online at

<http://compplan.kitsapgov.com/Pages/home.aspx>



kitsap 2035
Growing for a Better Tomorrow

Kitsap Workforce Development and Jobs

Commissioner Garrido is interested and involved with workforce development. She is chair of the Olympic Consortium Board composed of commissioners from Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties. They also oversee the Worksource Center in Bremerton.

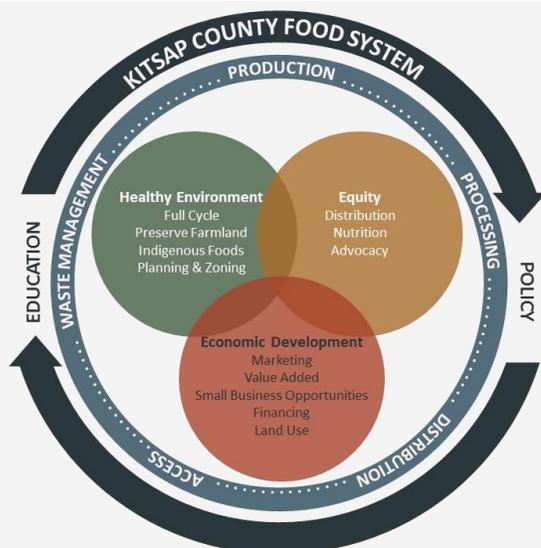
In her most recent “Commissioner’s Corner” BKAT broadcast (which can be seen at <http://vimeo.com/117407333>), Commissioner Garrido chatted with representatives from three Kitsap companies about the companies’ available jobs. All three are hiring, and seek people who are willing to work. Her next program will inform us about the apprenticeship programs at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Carrissa Sinnott, of Watson Furniture in Poulsbo reports that Watson is always hiring. Welders and anyone with CNC (computerized cutting machine) experience are in demand. Watson’s factory, located in the Twelve Trees Industrial Park outside of Poulsbo, is a sustainable operation that is mindful of waste and reuses everything it can. The surrounding landscape is natural and chemical-free. The company has even built a one-kilometer walking trail so employees can get out into nature during their breaks.



Annette Crawford, Administrator at Stafford Healthcare, indicates that Stafford employs 160 – 180 employees on its Port Orchard campus. In addition to nurses and other skilled staff, nursing assistants are in high demand. A certificate is required, but Stafford pays for the CNA course if new employees agree to stay with the company for a year. Some committed employees can even qualify for a reimbursement program for nursing school if they choose to become nurses.

Safeboats has been an important Kitsap employer for over 20 years. They manufacture aluminum-hull high performance boats for use all over the world. Values, integrity, and customer focus drive the philosophy of Safeboats, according to CEO Dennis Morris. The team atmosphere and employee appreciation make Safeboats a great place to work for nearly 300 employees. The Safeboats team is a workforce with diverse skills, including sales, business development, machinists, welders, electricians, boat drivers, and trainers. While most new hires bring experience in their trade, Safeboats works with trade schools and is now coordinating an apprenticeship program to train new employees as well.



Food Policy Update

The Food Policy Council members recently met to prioritize their 2015 goals and work plan. The Council advises the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on improving and maintaining a sustainable local food system – growing processing, distributing and consuming food. This year, the focus is to make food policy recommendations for inclusion in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. The group will also finalize an online food system directory, and will publicize maps for Kitsap farms, farmers markets, CSAs, and other food-related resources. More information on the Food Policy Council can be found at <http://kitsapfoodchain.org/>.

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