Kitsap County District 2 Highlights

Spring 2016

News from Your Kitsap County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido

Puget Sound Day on the Hill

Commissioner Garrido, along with many other Puget Sound leaders, travelled to Washington D.C. in March to advocate for "Puget Sound Day on the Hill." Participants included county commissioners, mayors, councilmembers, representatives from the Puget Sound Partnership, Washington Fish and Wildlife, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Tribes, universities, and multiple non-profits focused on the health of Puget Sound.

Congressmen Derek Kilmer (WA-6) and Denny Heck, (WA-10) co-founded the Congressional Puget Sound Recovery Caucus. Four other Puget Sound representatives have also signed on as founding members of the caucus, devoted to promoting Puget Sound cleanup efforts. There are three region-wide Puget Sound priorities: preventing pollution from urban stormwater runoff, protecting and restoring habitat, and restoring and re-opening shellfish beds.

Congressmen Kilmer and Heck introduced legislation called Promoting United Government Efforts to Save our Sound (or Puget Sound SOS) to create financing incentives for Green Stormwater Infrastructure to remove pollutants in stormwater, which can be lethal to salmon and other aquatic species. The bill would add a new section dedicated to Puget Sound recovery to the Clean Water Act, which already supports the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay. It would also establish a Puget Sound office to coordinate recovery with stakeholders and to ensure their federal agencies' activities are consistent with the Puget Sound Action Agenda and protect tribal treaty rights.

Commissioner Garrido and the other delegates met with Congressmen Kilmer and Heck, as well as former Congressman Norm Dicks. The Puget Sound Day on the Hill included conversations with Washington State legislators and other congressional committee staff and leaders on Capitol Hill. Overall, the visit resulted in very positive exchanges and stronger relationships in Washington DC and in Washington State.

Senator Cantwell discussing Puget Sound recovery

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Kitsap County Department of Community Development (DCD) continues updates of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. On March 17 and 23, the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners held joint hearings about land reclassification requests. On April 15, the DCD staff will be on hand for a Comprehensive Plan Update Open House. This gives residents a chance to speak with staff about goals, policies, strategies, and code development.

The Planning Commission work study sessions and public hearings will continue in April, with deliberations and a recommendation to the Commissioners in May. Final adoption of the Plan is scheduled for June.

If there is a possible zoning change within 400-800 feet of your property, you should receive a postcard notification in the mail very soon. The postcard offers information on how to provide comments on the proposal.

There is still time to make your voice heard! Visit http://compplan.kitsapgov.com/ to sign up for notifications and to see the draft maps and documents. For answers to questions or more information, please contact Elizabeth Court at (360)337-5777.

Neighborhood Corner

Commissioner Garrido is passionate about helping South Kitsap neighborhoods engage and to collaborate with County government to exchange ideas, provide input on County projects, and to create their own projects.

Many cities and counties around the country prioritize neighborhoods and community efforts. Neighborhood groups can be a powerful tool for citizens on behalf of their communities. Speaking up on issues as a group also helps make connections with elected officials who can advocate on your behalf.

The Manchester Citizen Advisory Committee worked closely with Kitsap County Public Works on the design and special features of the recently opened Qaqad Park. The park, which filters stormwater, will be a community gathering place for generations to come. The Manchester Citizen Advisory Committee also helped develop a plan for their community to be included in the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan.

Harper is also working closely with Kitsap County on a local project. Planning and engineering are currently underway for restoration of the Harper Estuary. Commissioner Garrido and Kitsap County staff have kept the neighbors informed about the project and continue to solicit local ideas for this unique community. For example, what can be made to remain in the community from the bricks recovered during the restoration?

Commissioner Garrido also hosted community conversations in Harper, Wicks Lake/Glenwood, and Olalla to learn the future vision of these communities for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan update. The community members shared thoughts about important features and neighborhood assets, along with potential future improvement projects.

Stay tuned for information on upcoming meetings! If you or your neighbors are interested in forming such a connection with Kitsap County, or having Commissioner Garrido host a meeting in your community, please contact the Commissioner's Office at (360) 337-7080.

Workforce Development

The Olympic Workforce Development Council and the Center for Marine Excellence of Skagit College recently co-hosted a meeting of Washington Maritime at the Bremerton WorkSource office. Commissioner Garrido, Chair of the Olympic Consortium Board, welcomed attendees and reflected on the importance of the maritime industry in our area. The twenty-nine maritime industry members in attendance represented business, economic development, the Department of Commerce, ports, organized labor, and schools and training providers.

The meeting addressed maritime industry issues. By working cooperatively, diverse interests can creatively foster hiring employees, skills needed for available jobs, and worker training.

The agenda offered insights about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Department of Commerce Maritime Sector, and the Experience Maritime Project. There were also presentations by Safe Boats International and Armstrong Marine regarding their business and hiring needs, the Port of Port Angeles and their waterfront usage efforts, and an update from the Center of Marine Excellence.

After the meeting, many attendees toured Safe Boats International to see a sector of the maritime industry in action.

New Veteran's Clinic in Bremerton

Work on Kitsap County's new veterans' clinic will be underway soon. The location, 4205 Kitsap Way, is less than a half-mile from the existing clinic on Adele Avenue. That clinic was 63 years old and well over capacity to the point of having to turn away new patients. The facility is over 14,000 square feet in size and can serve nearly 6,000 patients, triple the size of the existing clinic. According to the Veteran's Administration, the building should open in the spring of 2017.

Senator Patty Murray, Congressman Derek Kilmer, and Commissioners Garrido and Wolfe are proponents of the project, and urged action from the Veteran's Administration on this much-needed project. Because of the large number of veterans in Kitsap County, the new clinic is critical to ensure that many who need services can find them locally rather than travelling to Seattle or Tacoma for treatment.

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