South Kitsap Newsletter **Summer 2016**

Homelessness Workshop

Homelessness has increased in recent years with rising housing prices, putting mortgages and rent out of reach for those with lower incomes. In addition, many subsidized affordable housing units are being turned into private market-rate units.

Representatives from local, regional and national organizations convened on June 30 in Suquamish to explore core issues of homelessness, hear innovative concepts, and encourage service providers to develop near-term actions. Kitsap County's goals include:

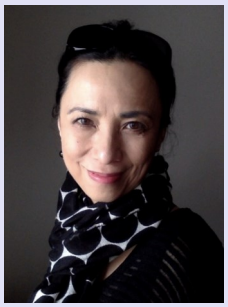
- Make homelessness rare
- Make homelessness brief
- Make homelessness one-time
- Continuously improve the homeless response system
- Expand community engagement

The workshop featured an impressive list of speakers and panel members with years of expertise on the subject of homelessness, including:

- Katy Miller, Northwest Regional Coordinator for the US Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Jim Baumgart, Policy Advisor to Governor Jay Inslee
- Lloyd Pendleton, Utah Homelessness Task Force Director, offered information about the Housing First model
- Andrew Heben, author of Tent City Urbanism spoke about tiny house villages
- Monica Bernhard, Housing and Community Support Services Director at Kitsap Community Resources
- Kirsten Jewell, Housing and Homelessness Program Manager for Kitsap County

There were also panel discussions featuring personal experiences of having no home, and one on affordable housing innovations in Kitsap County. The attendees included representatives from over 65 non-profit and government agencies and programs. After the speakers' presentations, attendees joined discussion groups on pertinent issues. They came up with ideas on how to preserve and create affordable housing units, prioritize serving people experiencing unsheltered and/or chronic homelessness, increase funding for affordable housing units and programs, and integrate affordable housing with other planning efforts. Many good ideas were broached, and a leadership group of elected officials will coordinate an action plan, and get started on the goals.

New Community Development Director Joins Kitsap County



The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners recently appointed Louisa Garbo to head the Department of Community Development, following the retirement of Larry Keeton in December 2015. Garbo's most recent assignment was as director of planning and building safety for Brandon in Manitoba, Canada. She also held positions in Arizona, working for Scottsdale, Peoria, and Cochise County.

Ms. Garbo is a certified planner in Canada and the United States, and an accredited LEED Green associate. She has a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Manitoba; a master's degree in planning from the University of Manitoba; a juris doctor from William Howard Taft University in California; and a master's degree in negotiation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding from California State University. Along with her impressive credentials, Garbo places high importance on creative and innovative problem solving.

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Fly-in

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) held one of only four American fly-ins this summer in Bremerton. The Bremerton event was August 19 – 20 at the Port of Bremerton Airport. AOPA members from all over the United States flew into Bremerton on nearly 700 aircraft. Many stayed local hotels or pitched their tents at the airport near their aircraft. The weekend featured socializing, food, exhibits and seminars covering a variety of aviation topics.

The other fly-ins for 2016 were in Arizona, Michigan, and South Carolina, and the locations change each year, so holding one in Kitsap County is truly a unique experience.

AOPA's mission is to protect freedom to fly by:

- Advocating on behalf of members
- Educating pilots, non-pilots, and policy makers
- Supporting activities that ensure the long-term health of general aviation
- Fighting to keep general aviation accessible to all, and
- Securing sufficient resources to ensure success

For more information about AOPA or the Bremerton Fly-in, visit https://www.aopa.org/.

SAFE Boats Coastal Interceptor Vessel

One of South Kitsap's most successful businesses, SAFE Boats International, has begun delivery of its Coastal Interceptor Vessel (CIV) to the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection division (CBP). Chosen last year to manufacture these specialty vessels, SAFE Boats is under contract to deliver 52 CIVs to CBP. The contract is valued at over $48 million, and has helped create jobs in Kitsap County. There are currently 270 employees working at SAFE Boats Bremerton manufacturing facility.

The first CIV vessel, called the "Alexandria," was celebrated at a naming ceremony on May 26. In addition to being the first of its kind, this was also the 2000th boat delivered by SAFE Boats, International.

The CIV will be put to use by the Air and Marine Operations division of the Customs and Border Protection division. The CIV will patrol coastal waters and is capable of pursuing suspect vessels at speeds of over 54 knots. It will also be used for boarding and searching vessels, arresting violators, and seizing any violators, suspect vessels, or contraband.

For more information on SAFE Boats International, visit their website at http://www.safeboats.com/.

Howe Farm Update

Restoration of the Howe Farm barn, which began last November, is complete! The structure has two sections, built in the 1920s and 1946, which needed attention. Now the barn is beautifully functional. A tour was conducted on July 27.

The Veteran's Advisory Board has planted a Victory garden between the barn and the parking lot. Gardening has been shown to be therapeutic for veterans who return from service, especially those with PTSD. They spend time outdoors tending vegetables and herbs, and will donate much of the produce to local food banks.

Stay tuned for more to come about the future of Howe Farm. One possibility is a living history museum to honor our agricultural heritage in Kitsap County on this historic and unique farm.

Salish Behavioral Health Organization

The Peninsula Regional Support Network (PRSN) was created in 1989 through an interlocal agreement between Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam Counties to oversee public mental health services for Medicaid recipients. In 2014, the State Legislature mandated the creation of Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) to administer both mental health and substance abuse services.

After the 2014 mandate, the three-county PRSN became a BHO, as happened in most areas across the State. The Jamestown S'Klallam tribe represents tribes and joins Kitsap, Jefferson, and Clallam Counties to make up the Salish BHO. BHOs were seen as a compromise between the State's desire for full integration and counties' desire for local control.

The need for mental health and substance abuse services is great. Approximately 45 percent of all DSHS clients aged 18 – 64 have mental disorders, 22 percent need drug and/or alcohol treatment, and 14 percent have both a mental illness and a drug or alcohol problem. However, the State Medicaid plan does not include care for co-occurring disorders, nor is there funding for integrated care. Under the BHO model, several improvements are anticipated:

- Youth and adults who receive Medicaid will have increased access to appropriate and effective services for mental health and substance abuse, due to a larger provider network
- Behavioral and primary healthcare providers can work together to meet all of their patients' needs, and case managers will help people find primary care providers, if needed
- Financial resources will be more effectively managed.

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