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## Port of Bremerton Quarterly Newsletter, Fall 2020

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## Thriving through adversity

CEO Jim Rothlin



When our Port of Bremerton Commission put together its strategic plan in 2019, the one thing not included was the plan for COVID-19. This pandemic completely changed the way we do business and the direction we were headed. The stay at home order created a business strategy that we were not ready for or planned for. Staff that were considered essential business went back to work with a whole new set of protocols. Staff that were not considered essential business found a way to function, creating their makeshift workspace at home using offices, spare bedrooms, living rooms, kitchens, etc. Thanks to technology, staff can connect with each other to coordinate business activity, but the loss of social contact has had its toll on how we work together as a team. Being mindful of individual mental health is also essential.

Despite the disruption of this pandemic along with the recent political turmoil, the Port has found its way to continue to provide more opportunities for business and for employment in our community. The airport is currently underway with several projects. The airport runway lighting will soon be equipped with environment friendly LED lighting, lowering its operating costs as well as creating a more effective landing site. Due to the demand of additional hangar space, the Port is expanding its footprint in 2 phases: Phase 1 will allow for corporate jet hangars and Phase 2 will provide additional space for general aviation. Finally, the diner is being redesigned and will include hangar space and office space for local business with aviation needs.

The industrial park has just completed construction of a 17,000 sf industrial building and a ribbon cutting was held for its tenant who is providing equipment and other materials for agencies and individuals in need in connection with COVID 19. With this building filled, the Port is working on construction of a smaller start up building and preparing shovel ready sites for additional buildings. The Port recently signed a lease with WRG, a fire and safety training facility for armed forces and are in negotiations with an energy company who assembles modular power plants for emergency use, disaster response and 3rd world countries. The company expects to employ 200 people. Amazon is almost complete with the construction of its building which will employ approximately 250 people.

The Port's Port Orchard marina continues work on its design to renovate the entire breakwater. The Bremerton marina is working with the developers of Marina Square for its 75 parking stalls being built for marina tenants. The Marina Square development will also include apartments, long term housing and retail development at the marina waterfront.

As we are experiencing the changes that are happening around us, each in our own way, the Port is working to prepare this community so that as we rebound and move forward, opportunities will be waiting for those in need. With over 60 businesses supporting 2500 jobs in the Port, we continue to work hard to serve the community.

Jim Rothlin  
Port of Bremerton CEO

## New tenant: WRG Fire Training Simulation Systems

The Port of Bremerton is excited to announce that [WRG Fire Training Simulation Systems, Inc.](#) has signed a lease to move operations to our Olympic View Industrial Business Park.

WRG, established in 1999, trains firefighters for the entire Northwest Navy Fleet, USCG, NOAA, Bremerton Naval Base/Shipyard Ships, and has specialized classes for Seattle Fire, Fishing Industry and local agencies as needed. They support the vital mission of the Navy's entire Pacific Northwest fleet—without firefighting and damage control, Navy ships can't go out to sea.



[Read more about WRG at the Port](#)

## New buildings at OVIPB



Knowing that we could lease out an empty building easier than we can lease out land, the Port got to work building a 17,433 sq. ft. spec building in the Olympic View Industrial Business Park. We're excited to announce that the building was finished this summer and we're talking to a few interested tenants.

We're also in the middle of building a new 5,300 sq. ft building along HWY 3 with multiple pad-ready sites. When the building is done being built, it would be ideal for a brewery!

If you're interested in leasing out part or all of either building, please contact Arne Bakker at

# Port Orchard Marina's breakwater to be replaced

The Port of Bremerton Commissioners voted unanimously to award the design and engineering contract to replace the Port Orchard Marina's breakwater to PND Engineers, Inc., based out of Anchorage. Built in 1974, the current breakwater is at the end of its service life and is due to be replaced.

[Read more about the breakwater](#)

## Airport updates:

### Airport construction

The Port of Bremerton is excited to announce that construction for the infrastructure of Phase 1's new Bremerton National Airport hangars is starting this year. Most Puget Sound airports have a waiting list for hangar space so the new hangar additions will greatly help general and corporate aviation in the area.

The hangars will be completed in two phases. Pad-ready space for three corporate hangars will be built in Phase 1. Those leasing the corporate hangar space will be building their own hangars. Phase 2 plans include 27-35 box and t-hangars of various sizes to house general aviation aircraft. Once construction starts, the infrastructure for Phase 1 will be completed in 90 days.



### Lighting upgrade



Runway lighting and signs are also being updated at the airport as well as a new electrical control system and backup generator for the lighting. The airport's rotating beacon will also be replaced with a new system and relocated closer to the runway. Pilots can read about how that may affect their flights [here](#). The lighting project will be complete by November 1.

