

## Circuit of the Northwest breaks ground on Bremerton motorsports center



Brian Nilsen (front), founder of Circuit of the Northwest, breaks ground on the newly proposed multi-use facility that includes a premier racing course near the Bremerton National Airport. Photo courtesy of Circuit of the Northwest

### Facility expected to include race track, shooting range and event spaces

By TYLER SHUEY  
Kitsap News Group

Circuit of the Northwest broke ground Oct. 18 on a proposed multi-use facility near the Bremerton National Airport that hopes to bring a top-notch road racing course to Kitsap County.

In partnership with the Port of Bremerton and Kitsap Public Utilities District, CNW plans to develop the 232-acre site with a 2.66-mile circuit among a highly elevated landscape. The course was designed by world-renowned German Formula One Driver Hermann Tilke.

The design of the track

flows with the natural terrain of the area, providing challenging turns and up to 80 feet of elevation changes and spectacular views of the Olympic Mountain range. One of the more prominent features of the course will include North America's longest straightaway at almost one-mile. The destination will offer competitive options for professional and amateur road racing, karting and motocross.

The multi-use facility will also feature an indoor shooting range, RV park, festival and event sites for public and private use, and a clubhouse overlooking the Olympic

Mountains. Amenities of the clubhouse will include dining facilities, meeting spaces, simulators, and a spa. An automotive and motorcycle club will also be available to the public for ongoing access to the circuit and amenities for its members.

"This facility will change the way people view motorsports," Brian Nilsen said, founder of Circuit of the Northwest. "Through a unique public-private partnership, we are able to create a diverse sports and entertainment experience."

Nilsen is a Kitsap County native and has spent the last 20 years as co-owner of Brothers Powersports in Bremerton. For the past five years, he's worked toward bringing a multi-use facility and racing venue to the

Pacific Northwest.

"On a more personal note, I'd like to thank my staff at Brothers Powersports for their unwavering commitment," Nilsen said. "They are a true extension to this project and have been behind me every step of the way as I navigated this process of making Circuit of the Northwest a reality."

The facility will also offer driving schools, teen driving education, STEM education, Navy EVOC training, K-9 training, and Kitsap Transit bus driver certification, among other features. A third party market study estimates over \$50 million in economic impact during construction and the first year of operation, generating more than 500 jobs for the region.

See **CIRCUIT**, Page 6

### Circuit

Continued from page 1

"We believe this to be the best and most important economic development project in the region today," Axel Strakeljahn said, Port of Bremerton District 3 Commissioner. "We are charged with driving economic development by bringing jobs to the community that we serve in. This project will deliver just those particular opportunities."

Central Kitsap School District is one of the local school districts that will engage and benefit from the

technology center, which will help develop skilled labor for the region.

"The reason why STEM matters is not because we grouped those four disciplines together, it's that STEM brings education to life," Mark Anderson said, CKSD director of career & technical education. "STEM makes education matter to students. A STEM center in that place is going to take our students to new levels."

The appeal of the multi-use venue will not only be for Kitsap County, but will extend to Seattle and the greater Pacific Northwest region, according to Executive Director of the Seattle Sports

Commission, Ralph Morton.

"What's going to happen here is going to be incredible for the community in Seattle," Morton said. "This is a destination for motorsports, people will get on a plane to come see this. We as a region are exceptionally excited to have this happen."

The next step for Circuit of the Northwest is to begin the process of securing financing for the \$33 million construction costs that will be backed by project assets and sponsorship commitments. Their goal is to start construction by the third quarter of 2020 and to be open by 2021.



Circuit of the Northwest Clubhouse Rendering. Image courtesy Circuit of the Northwest