

Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember



District 7 Fall 2023 Update



Dear Friends:

Happy Fall! Along with changing leaves, football and pumpkin patches, this season brings us shorter days and wetter weather. As we welcome the much-needed rain, I hope these highlights from local events I attended across King County this summer help keep your memories of our unseasonably dry and sunny summer alive.

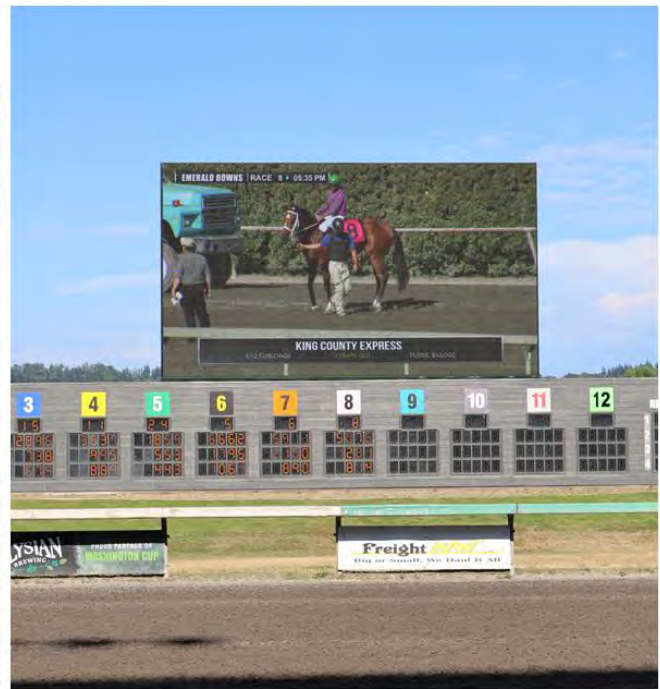
With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by 'von Reichbauer' in a cursive script.

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Emerald Downs' King County Express

In July, over 200 King County Employees and their families attended the \$50,000 King County Express race, including my King County Council colleagues Claudia Balducci, Sarah Perry, and Honorary Race Steward Jeanne Kohl-Welles, as well as King County Superior Court Judges Pat Oishi and Jim Rogers.



With Rep. Bill Ramos, King County Councilmembers Claudia Balducci and Sarah Perry, King County Council Chief of Staff Stephanie Cirkovich, King County Superior Court Judges Patrick Oishi and Jim Rogers, King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Alex Welles

Recognizing the Horse Racing Industry

When I presented Michael Alhadeff with the trophy his brother Kenny's horse won in the 88th running of the Longacres Mile, I was reminded that horse racing in Washington is all about families.

As the Honorary Steward for this race, I noted horse racing generates **hundreds of jobs** and **millions of tax dollars**, and is an integral part of Native American culture. It was an honor to see so many familiar faces from both tracks. We are all indebted to Joe Gottstein, Ron Crockett and now the Muckleshoot Tribe for supporting the great industry of horse racing in Washington.



With Michael Alhadeff, Emerald Downs Founder Ron Crockett and his wife Wanda Crockett, and current Emerald Downs President Phil Ziegler

MLB All-Star Game in Seattle

While many of the 47,159 in attendance will remember the NL defeating the AL 3-2, or Julio Rodriguez's 41 home runs in the home-run derby at MLB's All-Star Game, I will remember reminiscing with Lou Piniella about the Mariners' 116 wins in 2001 and the number of times his passion got him ejected from a game. Great to see you, "Sweet Lou".



Shop Local at Carpinito Bros. Farm Stand

Shop local! Brothers Mike & Dan Carpinito began farming vegetables on their family's farm in Kent over 50 years ago, and I recently stopped for some produce. Their selection brought Federal Way Councilmember Hoang Tran in as well. Carpinito Bros. Farms is one of the last remaining farmlands in the Green River Valley, and Mike & Dan, along with their children, have expanded their crop selection to include over 40 varieties of farm fresh vegetables, hand-harvested from over 800 acres.



With Federal Way Councilmember Hoang Tran, Mike Carpinito, and his nephew Joe Carpinito

King County Council Recognizes Iam Tongi

While many recognize Iam Tongi as the 2023 American Idol, I see a young 18-year-old fulfilling his late father's and supportive mother's dream for their son. Pacific Islanders are all about family, and many showed up for the recognition of my constituent and recent grad of Decatur High School, Iam Tongi. Mahalo!



With Iam Tongi, his mom Lillie Tongi, and his family from Hawaii and King County

“Good Eggs” Breakfast with King County Prosecuting Attorney Leesa Manion

King County Prosecuting Attorney Leesa Manion joined us for July’s Good Eggs breakfast meeting. As Prosecutor, Leesa oversees an office of 600 employees and is responsible for enforcing the laws pertaining to violent crimes, sexual assaults, and property crimes.

The past few years have brought soaring crime rates and many of us have unfortunately experienced this lawlessness first-hand. During our meeting, Leesa addressed what we have been seeing and spoke to the importance of collaborating with local law enforcement, increasing police and prosecutor resources, and reducing the backlog of pending cases.



With Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, Federal Way Council President Linda Kochmar, King County Prosecuting Attorney Leesa Manion, Kent Councilmember Toni Troutner, Des Moines Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, and Federal Way Councilmember Jack Walsh

Celebrating FWHS Alum Dr. Caleb Dawson

Is there a doctor in the house? Yes! Dr. Caleb Dawson worked with me as a Federal Way High School Associated Student Body (ASB) president and later while he was at Gonzaga University where he was also student body president. His proud mother, Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, hosted a backyard party to celebrate this new PhD from University of California Berkeley's School of Education, along with his patient wife of four years, Limary!



Dick's Drive-In Opens Federal Way Branch

Dick Spady's almost 70-year legacy of being a good neighbor and a good employer is alive and well with his granddaughter, Jasmine Donovan, and their staff at the opening of the 9th Dick's Burgers in the Puget Sound Area. Dick's Deluxe, fries, and milkshakes anyone?



I was honored by Jasmine Donovan, Dick's granddaughter, who asked me to share words about her grandfather, Dick Spady.



Jim Spady helped his father grow from a business partnership to a family-owned business.



Dick Spady worked with me and Councilmember Larry Gossett to establish community forums to benefit public discourse.

South King County Fundraisers

In less than a week, we had three great South King County fundraisers to help our neighbors. First, was the Kiwanis Salmon Bake, where King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci joined us; then the Rotary Croquet tournament where Federal Way School District Superintendent Dr. Dani Pfeiffer dominated. I was also the honorary chair for FUSION where over 600 came together at Dumas Bay in Pacific Islander gear to support transitional housing. We can't help everyone, but EVERYONE can help someone!



Pacific Rock-Climbing Wall

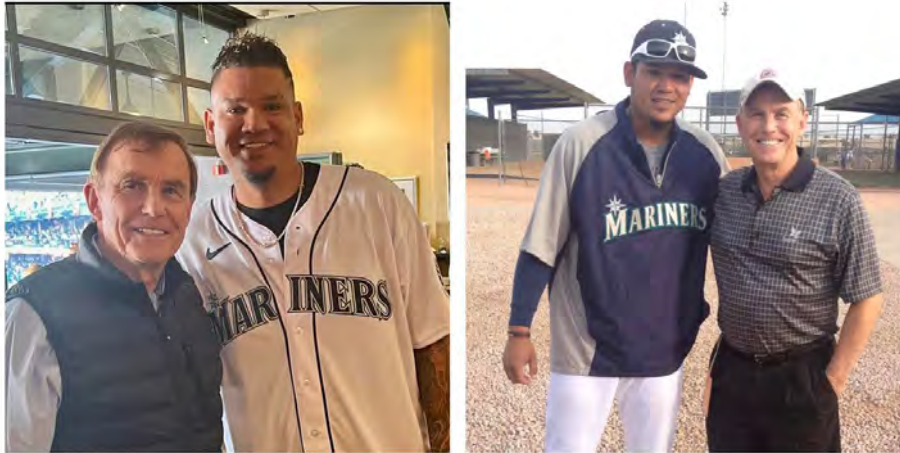
There is a new “mountain” in Pacific! I was pleased to join Mayor Leanne Guier, Councilmembers Kerry and Katherine Garberding, and city staff to dedicate a new rock-climbing wall near City Hall at Clint Steiger Memorial Park. The wall features several different climbing levels and will be a resource for those hoping to hone climbing skills for free.



With Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, Councilmembers Kerry Garberding and Katherine Garberding, volunteers, and city staff

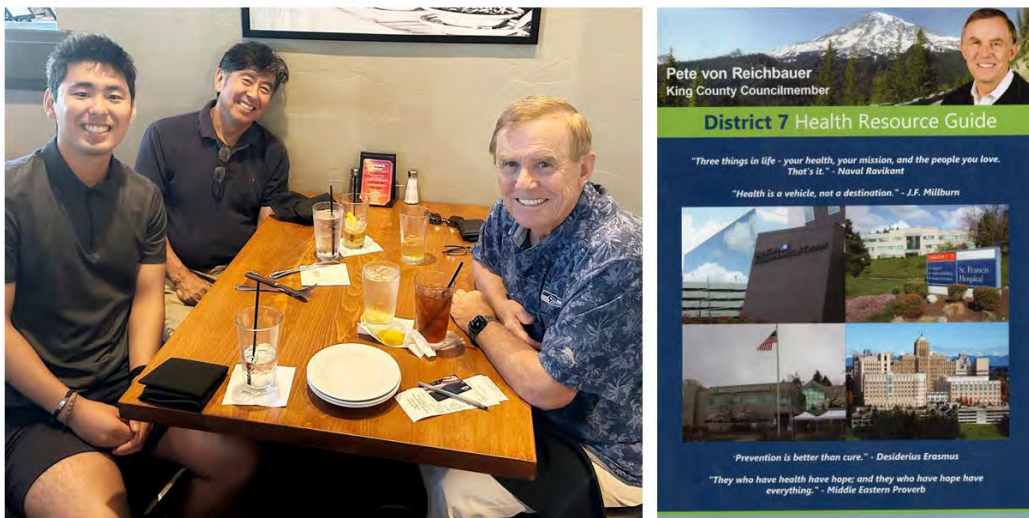
Felix Hernandez Joins Seattle Mariners Hall of Fame

While Felix Hernandez was inducted into the Mariners Hall of Fame, he could also be a member of the Hall of Loyalty for his 418 starts in 15 seasons, beginning on August 4th, 2005. While the 2010 Cy Young Award and the August 15, 2012, perfect game against Tampa Bay were highlights, every game King Felix pitched in was memorable for the King's Court. All Rise!! Go M's!



Christopher Cho's Clinical Work in Rural America

While our work is based on policies and programs, it is the people we work with who make the difference. It was great catching up with my former intern, Christopher Cho, and his father, Willie, over lunch. Chris edited our [Health Resource Guide](#) during COVID, and is now preparing for medical school by assisting people living in rural America with their clinical needs.



With Christopher Cho and his dad Willie Cho in Federal Way

Memorial Stadium

Federal Way School District (FWSD) families have much to be proud of with the remodel of Memorial Stadium, and the commitment of Dr. Dani Pfeiffer and her Board to build for the future and not the past. Sports help bring people together, and are needed in our growing, diverse South King County. Auburn and Federal Way each have superintendents who value sports for their benefit to good health and good social involvement. ALL the schools in the FWSD will be playing in an enlarged, 4,000-seat stadium that has increased and improved parking, and incredible turf for football and soccer.



With Federal Way Public Schools Superintendent Dani Pfeiffer, at the new Memorial Stadium

University of Washington's Raise the Woof 2023

Whether you are a Husky or not, you have to be proud of Michael Penix Jr. His team may be ranked 8th in the country, but he and his teammates are #1 in commitment! Ironically, in the presumed last year of its existence (good luck WSU and OSU), the Pac-12 has more teams in the Top 25 than the SEC.



With UW Huskies Quarterback Michael Penix Jr.

The Annual Federal Way Lions Car Show

Cars and student scholarships came together for the annual FW Lions Car Show. The Lions drew visitors and competitors from around our region for their car show, and I was honored to present the Top Cop's Choice Award to May Bear for her 2020 Corvette. It was great seeing locals like FWHS Coach Yattah Reed, as well as Rick Koch and his 5-star collection.



With Top Cop Winner May Bear, Federal Way Lions President Raul Baird, FWHS Basketball Coach Yattah Reed, and car show participant Rick Koch

Recognizing Caroline Whalen

If there were pictures in the dictionary, Caroline Whalen's image would be next to the words kind and competent. Her work earned her awards from the Harvard Kennedy School and praise from colleagues. Before her retirement in September, Caroline worked tirelessly in service to the public, spearheading the push to establish a King County Customer Service Center at King Street Center, and I was proud to sponsor a recognition commemorating her years of dedication to King County. Caroline will be missed by all!



With Caroline Whalen and my colleagues

Auburn Postmark Center

In September, Auburn celebrated its new Postmark Center for the Arts. Mayor Nancy Backus and her team deserve a standing ovation for turning this vision into reality. I was pleased to join others to transform this former post office and county health center into an urban center for Auburn. The Muckleshoot Tribe helped kick off the ceremonies for this regional resource.



With Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus and Muckleshoot Tribe members at the Auburn Postmark Center

Taste of Federal Way

It was a great day for local non-profits. Rose Ehl and her Taste of Federal Way team asked me to be a judge as nearly 1,000 people bought tickets to support local charities and taste great food.



With Taste of Federal Way Events Director Rose Ehl and fellow judges: Sound Transit Community Engagement Specialist Alonzo Buckner, Federal Way Police Chief Andy Hwang, Harborstone Credit Union Manager Jayde DelGado, and South King Fire Assistant Chief Kevin Crossen

“Good Eggs” Breakfast with Washington Federal Bank President & CEO Brent Beardall

Our monthly “Good Eggs” breakfasts are always educational, but having Brent Beardall as our guest speaker at our September “Good Eggs” made it inspirational as well. As the President & CEO of WaFd, Brent had been my guest speaker twice before, but this time it was after he survived a tragic plane crash. At this meeting, Brent mixed his economic projections with the personal lessons he learned from the crash and his own incredible rehabilitation.



With Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, WaFd President & CEO Brent Beardall, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, and Auburn Councilmember Larry Brown

What I've learned.....

- There is POWER in pulling for one another
- It's okay not to be okay
- Don't be shy to express your LOVE

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

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