

Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember

District 7 Fall 2026 Update



Dear Friends:

Happy Fall!

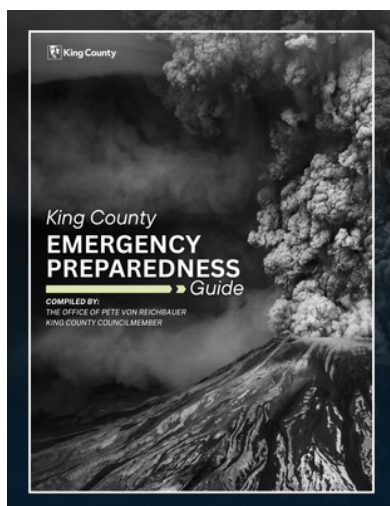
As summer activities conclude, I am pleased to share updates from South King County, such as the arrival of Metro Flex services in Auburn and Federal Way, the opening of the new South County Recycling and Transfer Station, and the successful local events that have strengthened our sense of community.

As we continue to work closely across governments to address regional issues, I encourage you to stay engaged and informed. Please take a moment to review some highlights from the third quarter of this year.

With best wishes,



Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember



King County Emergency Preparedness Guide

Emergencies can happen at any time, often without warning, and their impact can be reduced with the right preparation. This Emergency Preparedness Guide is designed to help individuals, families, and communities take practical steps to stay safe before, during, and after a crisis. From natural disasters to unexpected disruptions, being prepared means knowing what to do, having essential supplies ready, and staying informed. By planning ahead, you can protect yourself, support others, and respond with confidence when it matters most.

Read the [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#) compiled by my office.

King County Day at Emerald Downs

On July 19, my fellow King County Councilmembers Rhonda Lewis, Steffanie Fain, and Claudia Balducci joined me at the annual King County Day at Emerald Downs. We presented a recognition to celebrate its 30th Anniversary and acknowledge its commitment to preserving the tradition of Thoroughbred racing, a unique industry in King County.



With Emerald Downs Founder Ron Crockett, Emerald Downs President Phil Ziegler, and King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain

GAO Committee Meeting at the Museum of Flight

The Government Accountability and Oversight Committee (GAO) held its meeting at the Museum of Flight to engage in a panel discussion about King County International Airport (KCIA) and its vital role in our regional economy. In attendance were my fellow King County Councilmembers and GAO Committee members Claudia Balducci and Vice Chair Steffanie Fain, along with KCIA Director John Parrott, Deputy Director David Decoteau, members of the KCIA Roundtable, and various tenants.



Meeting with the Carpinito Brothers' Owners

While the December 2025 flooding was months ago, we are still dealing with its impact today on people and jobs in the valley. U.S. Representative Adam Smith joined Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain, and me as we spoke with Mike and Tom Carpinito to preview work ahead of the next flooding season.



With U.S. Representative Adam Smith, King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Mike and Tom Carpinito, and Alex Bernasconi

South King County Scholar Athlete Breakfast

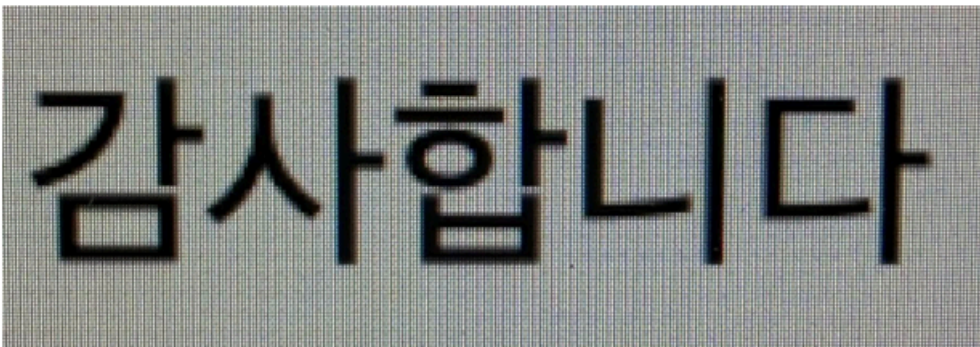
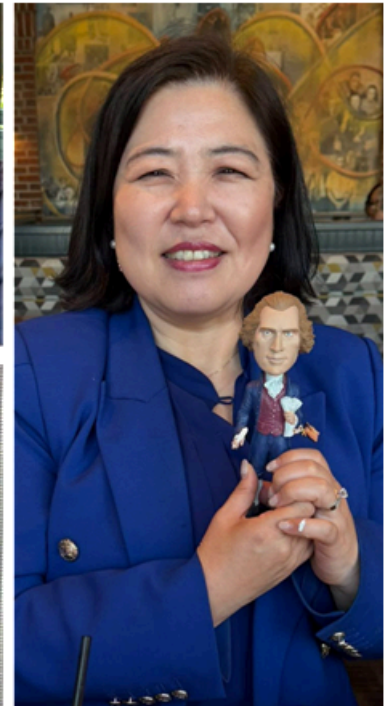
Jackie Robinson once said: “A life is not important except for the impact it has on other lives.” His words resonated as hundreds gathered for the South King County Scholar Athlete Breakfast featuring Mariner Manager Dan Wilson and Seahawk Legend Jim Zorn. Sports brings people together, as the World Cup proved every day!



With Mariner Manager Dan Wilson and Seahawk Legend Jim Zorn, King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn School District Superintendent Dr. Alan Spicciati, Auburn and Federal Way School Districts coaches and athletes

Farewell Lunch with Korean Consul General Seo Eunji

Four years later, Korean Consul General Seo Eunji is set to become the new Ambassador to Portugal. Whether discussing trade matters or enjoying a Mariners game (she hails from Dae-ho Lee's hometown), the Republic of Korea could not be better represented. We had lunch with former Mayor Mike Park, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell and Chanyong Sim of the consulate; in light of our nation's 250th, I gave her a Thomas Jefferson bobblehead!



A Visit to the Indian Consulate in Seattle

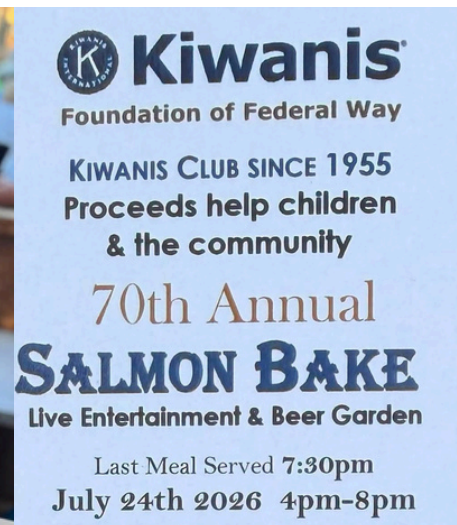
In 2025, the total trade between the USA and India reached an impressive \$239.4 billion. Whether it is aerospace or agriculture, our state has reaped the benefits! King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain and I met with Consul General Prakash Gupta to talk about expanding cultural ties and trade between India and King County, focusing on the importance of Elliott Bay. Notably, our county is home to nearly 200,000 residents from India.



With King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain, Indian Consul General Prakash Gupta, and Outreach & Special Events Advisor Dash Debadutta

70th Kiwanis Salmon Bake

As someone who grew up in an era when community service clubs were a rite of passage for men and women, I was proud to be at the 70th Salmon Bake of the Kiwanis Foundation of Federal Way, raising money to help young people. Nearly 1,000 coho salmon dinners, great music and collegiality! If we want to improve communities, we need more community service clubs.



With Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell

Senior Property Tax Town Hall

The Senior Property Tax Town Hall in Federal Way provided an excellent opportunity for residents of South King County to engage in discussions with King County Deputy Assessor Al Dams and his team. Participants were able to seek assistance regarding property tax relief programs available for seniors and individuals with disabilities.



With King County Deputy Assessor Al Dams and local residents

Federal Way National Little League Turf Groundbreaking

Since 1959, generations of young people of all ages and degrees of skills have been a part of the Federal Way National Little League, bringing families together. We would have less teens shooting at each other if we had more sports fields. In late July, I joined in the groundbreaking for new turf fields and was honored beyond words by the board naming a field after me.



With Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Auburn School District Superintendent Dr. Alan Spicciati and his wife Shannon, and Federal Way National Little League Board Members

Seahawks Training Camp at VMAC

Football and cricket coexisted at the Virginia Mason Athletic Center (VMAC) as I joined Indian Consul General Prakash Gupta and Dash Debadutta from the consulate to watch the Seahawks practice. We also talked about the purchase of the Seahawks by the Indian-born Khosla family. Great talking with Joey Schneider, David Young and the most popular person in King County: Mike Flood.



With Seahawks COO David Young, VP of Outreach & External Affairs Mike Flood, Indian Consul General of Seattle Prakash Gupta, Outreach & Special Events Advisor Dash Debadutta, and Seahawks Salary Cap Analyst/Assistant to the General Manager Joey Schneider

80th India Day

Microsoft's Satya Nadella often refers to the United States and India as the "oldest and largest democracies," and on August 15, we celebrated the 80th anniversary of India's Independence! I was honored to join King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain in presenting a friendship proclamation to India's Consul General Prakash Gupta at their new office in Seattle.



*With King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain and
India's Consul General Prakash Gupta*

Annual Shredding Event

Our annual shredding event always provides a great opportunity to reconnect with neighbors while watching documents being shredded right on-site at the Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center (PAEC).



With community members at the annual shredding event at the Federal Way PAEC

FUSION: There's No Place Like Home

Since 1993, FUSION has provided vulnerable families with transitional housing and support, made possible by the efforts of volunteers and the annual outdoor dinner fundraiser held every August (rain-free) at the Dumas Bay Centre. Thanks to Mayors Jim Ferrell and Nancy Backus, as well as hundreds of other generous donors. I was proud to be this year's Honorary Dinner Chair.



With Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Jeff Stock Sr. & Wendy Stock, Jesse & Epi Johnson, Jason & Yoon Joo Fiorito, and Rachel Zeigler

“Good Eggs” Breakfast Meeting with Washington Commissioner of Public Lands Dave Upthegrove

While the Spokane fires got our attention because over 65,000 people were evacuated, many other fires were also impacting thousands of acres across Washington. Public Lands Commissioner Dave Upthegrove fought cuts in the budget last year, and led over 8,000 local, federal, and firefighters from 27 states (and Australia) this summer in protecting Washington. Thank you, Dave, for your work, and for joining the “Good Eggs” breakfast.



With Washington Public Lands Commissioner Dave Upthegrove, King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain, South King County Mayors Jim Ferrell (Federal Way), Dana Ralph (Kent), Sean Kelly (Maple Valley), Vic Kave (Pacific), Thomas McLeod (Tukwila), Auburn Deputy Mayor Tracy Taylor-Turner, and Kent Council President Satwinder Kaur

Opening of the South County Recycling and Transfer Station

A promise kept to South King County with the opening of the \$230 million South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) in Algona, led by King County Executive Girmay Zahilay and myself. While other bodies like to debate foreign policy, county government MUST deliver essential public services, and I am proud that this critical station came in on time and within budget. Muckleshoot Tribe Cultural Arts Director Sam Obrovac added his art, depicting natural cycles within Coastal Salish traditions.



With King County Executive Girmay Zahilay, King County Solid Waste Division Director Rebecca Singer, Muckleshoot Tribe Cultural Arts Director Sam Obrovac, and Muckleshoot Tribe members



An aerial image of the new South County Recycling and Transfer Station, located on West Valley Highway, west of SR 167.

The South County Recycling and Transfer Station is a critical addition to our growing region, offering convenient access to recycling, garbage, and hazardous waste services to many communities, particularly in South King County. Thoughtfully designed to be a good neighbor, the station incorporates features that address concerns associated with living near a transfer station, while delivering real benefits to both the environment and the community.

The new station, which is primarily powered by renewable energy and is the first to receive Salmon-Safe certification, replaces the outdated Algona Transfer Station established in the 1960s. This project represents the largest capital initiative completed by King County this year and underscores the commitment to enhancing equitable access to services in South King County. Additionally, it aims to improve public infrastructure, energy efficiency, and the local environment. [Watch the feature here.](#)

Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington (PICA-WA) Elders Fair

“Look to your neighbor and tell them, ‘You look beautiful today!’” was how my meeting began at the 2nd Annual Elders Fair, and it ended with an undeserved but greatly appreciated plaque from organizations representing the nearly 20,000 residents of native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage, thanking me for building cultural bridges with them. It has been a long way from my first trip to Suva in Fiji, in my twenties.



With PICA-WA Executive Director Sili Savusa, Elders Services Manager Seiuli Chanel, Pasifika Food Networks Manager Rosi Bolatagici, and volunteers

King County Proclamations & Recognitions

Hispanic Heritage Month and Welcoming Week

On Tuesday, September 15, the King County Council presented proclamations honoring Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, as well as Welcoming Week from September 10 to 19, 2026.



With King County Councilmembers Rod Dembowski, Teresa Mosqueda, Claudia Balducci, Sarah Perry, Rhonda Lewis, Jorge Barón, and Steffanie Fain, along with Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, King County Executive Advisor Rich Stolz and Immigrant & Refugee Commission Co-Chair Maha Roy, Tim Kniffin from World Relief, and El Centro de La Raza's Child Development Center Director Hilda Magaña

Metro Flex Launches in Auburn and Federal Way

Metro Flex has officially launched in Auburn and Federal Way. This pilot initiative, supported by the Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, is designed to enhance transportation accessibility in South King County. Funding for this program has been provided through the Puget Sound Regional Council and is overseen by the Federal Transit Administration, with King County Metro contributing the remaining 20 percent of eligible project costs.

Welcome to Metro Flex

English – Fall 2026

We make it easy to get wherever you need to go.

Metro Flex is your on-demand, app-based neighborhood transit service. With just a few taps, you can ride anywhere in the service area, all for the same cost as a bus trip.

Adults
(19–64 years old)
\$3.00

Youth
(18 and under)
FREE

ORCA LIFT and
Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP)
\$1.00



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Interprete 翻译员 翻譯員 អ្នកបកប្រែ
Thông dịch viên مترجم Turjumaan
Перекладач Переводчик 통역사

Monday–Friday
5:30 am–7:30 pm

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1



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Search for “Metro Flex” in your favorite app store
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The app is available in: Spanish, Amharic, Arabic, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Somali, Tagalog, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.



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Rides must start and end in the same zone

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kingcounty.gov/MetroFlex

Read more in the [Metro Matters blog here](#).

[Watch this video](#) to learn how to ride Metro Flex.

Download the app in the [Apple App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#), call 206-258-7739, or visit metroflex.app.ridewithvia.com to book a ride. To request an interpreter, call 206-553-3000.

Federal Way Lions Club Eyeglass Donation

I recently met with Erik Scott, President of the Federal Way Lions Club, to hand over hundreds of glasses that were left on Metro buses. This program, an annual tradition, focuses on recycling these glasses to provide support to deserving individuals in our community. I always appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with King County Metro and the Federal Way Lions on this meaningful project.



With Erik Scott, President of the Federal Way Lions Club

21st Annual Federal Way Lions Scholarship Car Show

I was honored to present the Top Cop Award to William Day for his 2022 Ford Mustang at the 2026 Federal Way Lions Car Show. This annual event raises funds for scholarships benefiting high school seniors in the Federal Way School District.



With Top Cop Award recipient William Day and Miss Washington Teen Volunteer Sydney Brandt

King County Council Welcomes New Korean Consul General

“The M’s could have used Dae Ho Lee this season,” was my introduction to new Korean Consul General Sung Gil Chang. The Republic of Korea is our state’s fourth largest trading partner and that means real JOBS on both sides of trade. The last century was the ear of the Atlantic Ocean... we are now in the era of the Pacific Ocean.



*With King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain and
Korean Consul General Sung Gil Chang*

Be Flood Ready

The King County Flood Control District, in collaboration with King County, is dedicated to ensuring our community is prepared for potential flooding. As we approach the 2026–2027 flood season, it is important for you and your family to stay informed, develop a plan, and *Be Flood Ready*.

Know the risk of flooding at your home, school, or workplace. Visit kingcounty.gov/FloodMap to look at flood risk maps. You can search for any address in King County.

Get flood insurance. Visit floodsmart.gov to learn more about buying a policy and finding an insurance agent.

Sign up for [King County flood alerts](#) to give you as much time as possible to prepare.

Create an emergency plan and gather supplies in case you must leave or if services are cut off. Learn more at MakeItThrough.org.

Identify alternate routes to and from home to avoid driving through roads with standing water. Check the [My Commute map](#) to see closed and restricted roads in unincorporated King County.



Make sure storm drains and ditches are clear to help carry water away from your property. See a stormwater issue that needs fixing? Go to "Report a Problem" at kingcounty.gov/Stormwater to find out who to contact.

Find out which sandbag distribution location is nearest you and watch a video about how to use sandbags effectively: kingcounty.gov/sandbags.

King County farmers can develop a farm emergency plan and kit by visiting prep4agthreats.org and avma.org/Disaster. Prevent contamination by securely storing fertilizers and chemicals, and securing items that may float away during floods.

Find out what else you can do to [prepare for flooding](#).

Seattle Seahawks Schedule

2026 SCHEDULE  HOME  AWAY	
KICKOFF WEEK 1 SEPTEMBER 9 5:20PM 	WEEK 10 NOVEMBER 15 1:05PM 
WEEK 2 SEPTEMBER 20 1:25PM 	WEEK 11 NOVEMBER 22 BYE
WEEK 3 SEPTEMBER 27 10:00AM 	WEEK 12 NOVEMBER 29 1:25PM 
WEEK 4 OCTOBER 4 1:25PM 	MNF WEEK 13 DECEMBER 7 5:15PM 
WEEK 5 OCTOBER 11 1:25PM 	WEEK 14 DECEMBER 13 1:25PM 
TNF WEEK 6 OCTOBER 15 5:15PM 	SAT WEEK 15 DECEMBER 19 2:00PM 
SNF WEEK 7 OCTOBER 25 5:20PM 	FRI WEEK 16 DECEMBER 25 5:15PM 
MNF WEEK 8 NOVEMBER 2 5:15PM 	WEEK 17 JANUARY 3 10:00AM 
WEEK 9 NOVEMBER 8 1:25PM 	WEEK 18 TBD 

[Click here to see the Seattle Seahawks 2026 Schedule](#)

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

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