

Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember



District 7 Summer 2023 Update



Dear Friends:

Happy Summer!

Baseball season is in full swing and for the first time since 2001, our region and the city of Seattle hosted Major League Baseball's All-Star game. However, no matter the season, I always enjoy getting out and about my district and visiting the All-Stars of South King County, who dedicate themselves to making our region a great place to live. Below are some of the highlights of events I attended, and the local All-Stars I met during the second quarter of the year.

With best wishes,



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Korean School of Federal Way Fundraiser Night

When you think of the Korean School, you may think of brick and mortar, but I think of a bridge. Although different in our creation, the Republic of Korea and the USA have shared VALUES which we need now more than ever in the Pacific Rim today, and the Korean School reminds us of the importance of working together. Thank you Principal Hye Su Han, Mayor Emeritus Mike Park, and Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell.



With Korean School of Federal Way Principal Hye Su Han, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Auburn Deputy Mayor James Jeyaraj, Mayor Emeritus Mike Park, Federal Way Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, and Federal Way Councilmember Jack Walsh at the School's Annual Fundraiser Night

William J. Wood Veterans House Tour and Book Donation

I had the opportunity to visit the William J. Wood Veterans House, the only permanent housing facility for veterans in the state of Washington. LaFloura Estrada, William J. Wood's Veterans House Community Manager, and Alan Clapper, Resident Services Coordinator, led the tour of the facility. I also brought some books to add to their collection for their resident veterans to enjoy.



With Community Manager LaFloura Estrada and resident John Ingles

“Good Eggs” Breakfast with King County Flood Control District Director Michelle Clark

Since 1990, King County Floodplains have been declared a federal flood disaster area thirteen times. Michelle Clark, Executive Director of the King County Flood Control District, joined our “Good Eggs” breakfast meeting to talk about the services the Flood District provides to ALL of King County. For example, as the Green River Valley is the breadbasket of our region, Seattle would run out of food in days if it flooded. Thank you, Michelle, for your PREVENTATIVE work in our region.



With Maple Valley Mayor Sean Kelly, Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, Enumclaw Mayor Jan Molinaro, King County Flood Control District Director Michelle Clark, Algona Mayor Troy Linnell, Des Moines Mayor Matt Mahoney, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, and Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus

King County Council Goes to Washington, D.C.

In April, I had the rare opportunity to tour the Pentagon and see the tribute to Gold Star Families. Individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms leave behind Gold Star Families. I hope we keep these fallen heroes in our thoughts and remember all the Gold Star Families who carry on their legacy.

I saw this tribute while on a trip with the King County Council to share our region's needs with top federal public officials in Washington, D.C. Our delegation met with U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, as well as U.S. Representatives Adam Smith, Kim Schrier, and Suzan DelBene.



(Left) With U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmembers Claudia Balducci, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott, Sarah Perry, Reagan Dunn, Dave Uptegrove and Rod Dembowski; (Right) With U.S. Representative Adam Smith, King County Government Relations Director Mac Nicholson, and W2A Representatives Nina Collier and Jeff Bjornstad



Federal Way National Little League Jamboree

I was pleased to be part of the National League Opening Day. It brought back memories of growing up in Lakewood playing for the Spartans. Dedicated parents, committed players (particularly those in wheelchairs as part of the challenger program), and fields of dreams.

Visit <https://www.fwnll.org/> for more information on the League's schedule.



With Federal Way Council President Linda Kochmar and Federal Way Little League Softball Junior Division Fast Pitch Champions

Seattle Mariners Game

I often have said that sports bring people together, and baseball is a cultural bridge between the Republic of Korea and the United States. Recently, I had the opportunity to join Seattle Mariners' President of Business Operations, Catie Griggs, and Republic of Korea Consul General in Seattle, Seo Eun-ji, at a Mariners ballgame at T-Mobile Park. Catie is the only active female president in an MLB front office and the first in Mariners' history, while Consul General Seo is the first ever female Korean Consul General in Seattle. What an honor to be joined by two powerhouses in sports and public service, who are leading their organizations forward.



With Seattle Mariners' President of Business Operations Catie Griggs and Republic of Korea Consul General Seo Eun-ji

King County Hosts a Groundbreaking Ceremony for South County Recycling and Transfer Station

On May 18th, King County hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for a [state-of-the-art station](#) in South King County that will make it safer and easier to recycle, compost, and dispose hazardous materials, contributing to the Re+ initiative to cut greenhouse gas emissions by reinventing the region's waste system.

The new station in Algona will make it more convenient to recycle appliances, glass, metals, plastics, wood, and paper, compost yard waste, and dispose hazardous materials. It will support many green jobs in our region and bolster local apprenticeship programs, both of which are essential to our region's long-term success. Click [here](#) to watch King County TV's coverage of the event.



With Muckleshoot Tribe Member and SCRTS Art Coordinator Sam Obrovac, Operations Supervisor Henry Dotson, Living Building Challenge Vice President Kathleen Smith, King County Deputy Executive April Putney, Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, Algona Mayor Troy Linnell, Solid Waste Division Director Pat McLaughlin, and King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director Christie True

“Good Eggs” Breakfast with Metro General Manager Michelle Allison

“Safety and stability are the keys to restoring Metro to its pre-covid position,” King County Metro General Manager Michelle Allison told our “Good Eggs” breakfast group during our May meeting. Michelle also addressed the staffing shortages and noted that Metro has numerous openings available to people with high school diplomas and above. Moving forward, Metro is focused on many areas, including rider safety, route reliability, and rapid transit that will improve the quality of service in our region.



With Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, Algona Mayor Troy Linnell, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, King County Metro General Manager Michelle Allison, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, and Maple Valley Mayor Sean Kelly

Whiskers and Paws Gala 2023

Mahatma Gandhi once said: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." This was the focus at the Auburn Valley Humane Society's Whiskers and Paws Gala held at Hotel Murano in Tacoma on May 20th. The gala successfully raised over \$123,000 that will help the Auburn Valley Humane Society save and change lives...four paws at a time.



Meet Winter



Winter came to the Auburn Valley Humane Society animal shelter as a stray. He's the sweetest, gentlest boy but had some apparent orthopedic troubles. It's not uncommon for shelter staff to see dogs with bad hips or knees or an injured leg, but ALL FOUR of Winter's legs were problematic! His elbows bow out, causing abnormal weight bearing on his front legs. Both knees bowed out with kneecaps that painfully popped out of alignment when he walked. His knees and elbows showed signs of arthritis, even at his young age.

To top it off, Winter also had a skin infection making him very itchy too! Winter required surgery to have the best opportunity of a good quality and comfortable life. Winter is incredibly social and friendly with all people and dogs, so he quickly became a favorite amongst volunteers and staff. Through generous donations, we were fortunate to have the funding to repair both of Winter's knees, provide medication to alleviate his itching, and find a foster family willing to help him with his recovery.

The story gets better!

His foster family eventually adopted Winter! We're so happy that donors like you could provide him with this care and allow him the opportunity to live his life to the fullest.

We hope you meet Winter tonight. Thank you for helping us to continue our lifesaving efforts! Your gift tonight will help us continue our services, programs, and assistance to those in the community in need.

Memorial Day: City of Pacific Interurban Trail War Memorials

On Memorial Day, May 29th, the City of Pacific hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Interurban Trail War Memorials, which will commemorate heroes of World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and the Afghanistan, Gulf, and Iraq Wars. If you are interested in purchasing pavers for \$100 each, please contact iutwarmemorials@gmail.com with the subject line "Paver Purchase".



Martin Luther King Jr. Medal of Distinguished Service Award

On June 6th, I awarded Catherine Carlile the Martin Luther King Jr. Medal of Distinguished Service, an award that recognizes individuals whose work has answered the question asked by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "What are you doing for others?"

Catherine Carlile has responded to Dr. King's question, "What are you doing for others?" through her leadership at the Looking Out Foundation, which supports social justice and humanitarian causes across the United States and globally, including raising funds to help disaster-stricken communities recover from devastating natural events.

The foundation's most recent campaigns include raising over \$300,000 in seven days for earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey, as well as raising over \$500,000 as part of Nashville's Love Rising benefit.

Despite their international work and success, Catherine and her family have chosen to make South King County their home. Although Catherine retains her English accent, she has adopted the Northwest value of looking back and giving back.



South King County Scholar Athlete with Mariners President Jerry Dipoto

Seattle Mariners President Jerry Dipoto hit home runs at Auburn's Emerald Downs with softball and baseball teams from South King County school districts. He spoke about the holistic programs they offer to the Mariners baseball players, which contribute to their success on and off the baseball field. An inspiring speaker, great food and an incredible auction helped raise money for local high school sports.



(Clockwise) With Mission Africa Leaders, Seattle Mariners President Jerry Dipoto, Thomas Jefferson High School Coach Joseph Townsend and Baseball Team, Auburn School District Superintendent Dr. Alan Spicciati and son Andrew, and Decatur High School Softball Team

PNW's Official Major League Cricket Team Name and Logo Reveal Party

It was great being a part of the name and logo announcement of our Pacific Northwest Region's newest professional team, the Seattle Orcas, one of the six Major League Cricket teams in the United States. The name and logo were officially unveiled to local officials, business leaders, boosters, and youth cricket organizations that have been working to establish the Orcas in Seattle. It was an honor to have been recognized by the families behind the team for my work in supporting the second most popular sport in the world.



(Left) With Phani Chitneni, Seattle Thunderbolts Managing Partner and General Manager, and Jagan Nemani, Major League Cricket Head of Academies and Head of Technology; (Right) Vijay Beniwal, Seattle Thunderbolts Cricket Co-owner, and David Malik, local business leader

Free Mobile Shredding Event

On June 24th, over 200 vehicles lined up for my first, post-covid shredding event at the Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center parking lot. Whether it was old financial papers, personal notes or unnecessary family files, people lined up early to dispose of them at the PAEC to help fight identity theft.



“Good Eggs” Breakfast with U.S. Rep. Kim Schrier

At my June Good Eggs Breakfast, we were joined by Congresswoman (and Doctor) Kim Schrier, whose congressional district includes portions of King, Pierce, Snohomish, Chelan, Douglas, and Kittitas counties. Despite the rhetoric we see on the news, she spoke to the importance and prevalence of bipartisanship, and how those efforts have advanced legislation that work to end hunger in America by supporting food banks and food programs in schools. She also mentioned how she is working to create stronger ties with her community, especially with local government, to improve outcomes for her constituents.



(Top) With U.S. Rep. Kim Schrier, Enumclaw Mayor Jan Molinaro, Des Moines Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, and Kent Councilmember Toni Troutner; (Bottom) Local Business Leader David Malik and Auburn Food Bank Executive Director Debbie Christian

Lower Russell Levee Setback Project and Van Doren's Landing Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Parks, like the updated Van Doren's Landing in Kent, give families and individuals a space to gather and relax. I was pleased to see the King County Flood Control District's partnership with the City of Kent and the Muckleshoot Tribe to ensure the Lower Russell Levee Setback Project succeed as an important community asset, rain, or shine, for people and habitat. The total cost was \$58 million, with the Flood Control District paying \$48 million.



I joined Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Former Mayor Suzette Cook, King County Flood Control District Chair Reagan Dunn, Supervisor Dave Upthegrove, and Executive Director Michelle Clark, and other civic leaders for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Muckleshoot Tribe were great partners in this project, represented by Warren KingGeorge, Muckleshoot Fishing Commissioner.



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

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