

Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember



District 7 Winter 2022 Update



Dear Friends:

As we welcome the new year with continued resilience and a hopeful outlook for better days, let us not forget the things we have learned from the challenges we have faced and the extraordinary moments we have spent with our loved ones this past year. I also encourage you to remember our essential workers who have been fighting this battle with us. We may not be able to go back to how it used to be, but I hope these challenges will only make us stronger, wiser and kinder.

I appreciate the opportunity to be given another chance to work for the people of King County in continuing to provide the support our communities need, and I hope you take a moment to view some of the highlights of the past six months in South King County.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pete von Reichbauer', with a large, stylized 'P' at the beginning.

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Getting tested in King County

If you feel sick and have symptoms of COVID-19, get tested right away, even if you're vaccinated. Early testing is important to help prevent COVID-19 from spreading to friends, family, and the community. Click [here](#) to find a testing site near you.

King County also purchased home testing kits for King County residents. Distribution of these testing kits will prioritize areas of the county and communities that are in the most need. Public Health - Seattle & King County is putting plans into place to get the tests to community-based organizations, community health centers, senior centers, libraries, and other congregate locations as soon as the supplies arrive. Read more [here](#).

Getting vaccinated in King County

Everyone age 5 years and older is currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. At this time, COVID-19 vaccines are not authorized for children younger than 5 years old. Clinical trials are in process for younger children. Click [here](#) to find a vaccination site near you.

Federal Way Retail Safety Summit Planned for January 20th

Federal Way leaders are hosting a retail safety summit to address retail crime on Thursday, January 20th, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at the Federal Way Council Chambers. The objectives of the meeting include building partnerships with Federal Way retailers and developing strategies to reduce shoplifting and organized retail crime.

Attendees will be given the opportunity to participate in discussions with Mayor Jim Ferrell, Police Chief Andy Hwang, and other local leaders. More information regarding the meeting and the issue of retail crime in our area is available in the article written by the Federal Way Mirror [here](#).

Make Music Federal Way

Last summer, I was proud to support and attend the "Make Music Federal Way" event hosted by the Federal Way Lions at the Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center. This event provided an opportunity for community members to enjoy live music from Federal Way School of Music youth, Marine Hills Folk Jam, and performances like trumpet solos from Emerald Downs' Daniel Harrington and marching music by the Washington Diamonds Drill Team and Drumline.



Federal Way Farmers Market

Regional farmers markets are great places to find local products and to meet old friends like Theodora, who previously worked in my office.



With Theodora Tom-Yao at the Federal Way Farmers Market

Virtual "Good Eggs" Community Forum with Dan Satterberg

In July, King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg joined us to discuss the increase in crime in King County and the challenges his office is facing as we emerge from the pandemic. I look forward to working with Dan to help our criminal justice system respond to the spike in crime as well as the case backlogs caused by COVID-19. You can watch the recorded version of the forum on my [Facebook page](#).



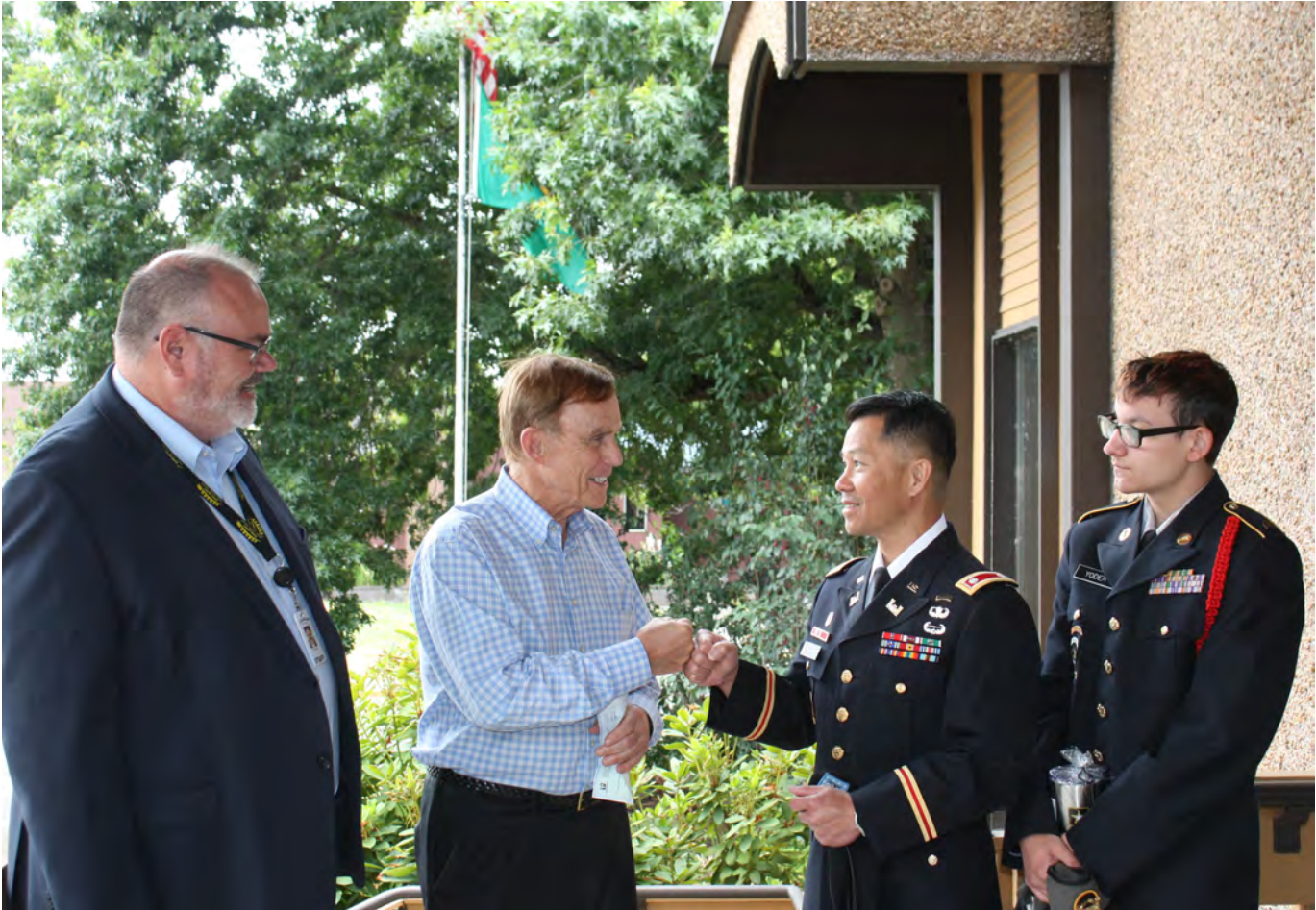
With King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg



With South King County community leaders and Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg

Auburn School District's Junior ROTC program

I was honored to join Auburn Superintendent Dr. Alan Spicciati in supporting the Auburn School District's Junior ROTC program. The program emphasizes academics, leadership, physical fitness, and character development for the students who participate. I am proud to support Junior ROTC's efforts to engage the youth in our community.



With Auburn School District Superintendent Dr. Alan Spicciati, Col. Jason Shrader (Auburn Mountainview High School) and Cadet Sgt. First Class, Michael Yoder (Auburn High School)

Emerald Downs

King County may be the home of Bill Boeing, Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos, but Native Americans were racing horses here long before them, generating thousands of jobs and millions of tax dollars every year. I am a longtime supporter of the horse racing business and on July 18th, I had the honor of presenting the 5-1/2 furlong King County Stakes Trophy to the winning owners of Cobra Jet at Emerald Downs.



With the winning owners of Cobra Jet at Emerald Downs. Horse racing generates thousands of jobs and millions of tax dollars.

Interurban Trail Tour

In July, I walked the Interurban Trail with Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier to discuss the investments in refurbishment King County is making in addition to the city's planned war memorial project. The trail provides a great opportunity for residents throughout South King County to exercise their bodies and minds, and I am glad the Parks Levy is investing for future generations. Hats off to Mayor Guier for her continued leadership on community projects!



With Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier

Kiwanis Salmon Bake

65 years and still serving. The Kiwanis Club of Federal Way, with the benefit of Café Pacific Catering, raised thousands of dollars at our annual Salmon Bake to support children in South King County. Thanks to Deputy Fire Chief Rick Chaney and Soroptimist Linda Persha, as well as all the amazing volunteers!



With Deputy Fire Chief Rick Chaney and Soroptimist Linda Persha

Plumbing and Pipefitting Center Tour with UA Local 32

Too often, we take for granted the pipes at home and work, but I won't after touring the plumbing and pipefitting center with Kent Mayor Dana Ralph. PJ Moss (a Federal Way High School alum) is the training coordinator for this great apprenticeship program! Congratulations to UA Local 32 on leading the way for the next generation of skilled workers!



With Kent Mayor Dana Ralph and Training Coordinator PJ Moss

FUSION event provides support for families in need of transitional housing in South King County

It was great to be back in person at the Dumas Bay Center for the annual FUSION event supporting transitional housing for families in South King County. Formed around a dining table by Peggy LaPorte and friends in 1993, today the organization continues to provide critical services to those in our community who need a hand.



With FUSION Founder Peggy LaPorte

Traditions of Federal Way Tour

In August, I had an opportunity to tour the Traditions of Federal Way, a new affordable housing complex for seniors located across from the Federal Way Transit Center and Performing Arts and Event Center. This 55+ community is a great place and will provide walkability for its residents, with easy access to transit and the Federal Way downtown core.



With Community Director Charlene Thomas, Inland Construction Property Manager Jennifer Belew and Horizon Housing Alliance of WA Executive Director John Pilcher



With Cindy Ducich and Jeanne Burbidge at the MSC 50th Anniversary Celebration Open House

Multi-Service Center Celebrates 50 Years!

Help...Hope...and CHANGE! Since August 15, 1971, the Multi-Service Center (MSC) has served our South King County neighbors in need by providing food, housing support, employment, and other assistance. I was happy to join Cindy Ducich and Jeanne Burbidge at the MSC's 50-year celebration in August.

Seattle Mariners Unveil Statue of Edgar Martinez

Congratulations to Seattle legend Edgar Martinez! The Seattle Mariners hosted Martinez, his family, former teammates and most of the club's employees for the unveiling along Edgar Martinez Drive, which is named after the Hall of Famer. Only the third statue dedication in club history, Edgar's statue can be found on the first base side of T-Mobile Park.



Left photo: With Edgar Martinez. Right photo: Edgar Martinez and Ken Griffey Jr.

Pacific Innovation Center and Motorsports Park Breaks Ground

Since 1960, Pacific Raceways has been the premier racing site in the Northwest. In August, I joined 3 of the 4 generations of Fioritos at the groundbreaking of their new Innovation Center. The five initial buildings total 200,000 square feet and will be used as a garage/shop, business, innovation center and retail space. This project is an example of how King County and the cities of Auburn and Kent are bringing more living wage jobs to our communities.



With King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski, Jason Fiorito, Barbara Fiorito, and Dan Fiorito at the Pacific Raceways Innovation Center Groundbreaking Ceremony



Wouldn't be a day at Pacific Raceways without a few laps around the go-kart track!

Visit to Seattle Thunderbolts Cricket Match

Wicket...Pitch...Fielders...Bowling. These are just some of the terms I learned while trying to figure out the bat at my first cricket match at Marymoor. From India to South Africa, fans came together with families (and as a "family") to watch the Thunderbolts v. LA Social Lashings. While cricket is currently more popular in other countries around the world, it has become one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S. due to a renewed interest and substantial investment in the game over the last few years. Thanks to Vijay Beniwal for hosting me!



Learning some of the fundamentals of cricket with Seattle Thunderbolts Co-Owner and Co-General Manager Vijay Beniwal

16th Annual Lions Club Scholarship Car Show

Whether it's fighting diabetes or hunger, the Federal Way Lions Club raises money to help neighbors in need through various programs in our community. I had the pleasure of attending the 16th Annual Lions Club Scholarship Car Show at The Commons. The club's largest fundraising event of the year raises money for scholarships for Federal Way students. Great weather, great turnout, great cause!



With members of the Federal Way Lions Club

Hanwoori Garden Kickoff and Groundbreaking Ceremony

I had the pleasure of taking part in a groundbreaking ceremony held by the Federal Way Korean Association at the site of the future Hanwoori Garden. The City of Federal Way donated land at the entrance of the Panther Lake Trail for the garden to be built. The Hanwoori Garden will be the first traditional Korean garden of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and will be built with a mix of traditional and modern designs to celebrate the rich Korean heritage in our community. The project is expected to be completed by 2023-2024.



Breaking ground at the future site of the Hanwoori Garden in Federal Way

Ukraine National Day Recognition



With Honorary Consul of Ukraine Valeriy V. Goloborodko

The King County Council, joined by Honorary Consul of Ukraine Valeriy V. Goloborodko, recognized August 24, 2021 as the 30th Anniversary of Ukraine National Day, celebrating Ukraine's independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1991. In recognizing Ukrainian independence, the Council made note of the many Ukrainian Americans living in King County who have enriched our region through their contributions that have helped to strengthen our community.

There are over 70,000 residents of Ukrainian descent living in the Pacific Northwest and as of 2017, Ukrainian Americans ranked 8th among foreign-born populations in King County. In 2019, 71 percent of the immigrants in Washington state were from Ukraine. Each year, the Ukrainian American community shares its rich history, culture and traditions at the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival in King County, which is the largest Ukrainian cultural event on the West Coast.

Virtual “Good Eggs” Community Forum with UW President Ana Mari Cauce

I was joined by University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce for my September virtual “Good Eggs” meeting. President Cauce provided us with updates about the UW, including the challenge and excitement that comes with welcoming not one, but two classes of students, who have never taken in-person college classes. Returning to live instruction enables the university to serve its students more equitably and gives them the opportunity to create their own unique “Husky Experience.” She also spoke of how the UW provides limitless opportunities, across their three campuses, for thousands of students from South King County as well as the efforts they have taken to make college more affordable for all. You can find a recorded version of the meeting on my [Facebook page](#).



With University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce



With South King County Community Leaders and UW President Cauce

20th Anniversary of 9/11

A weekend of remembering: from Federal Way's dedication of their Veteran's Flag Pavilion to South King County Fire and Rescue's recognition of the fallen firefighter heroes of 9/11 to Milton's outpouring of respect for active and retired military personnel. Never forget!



With Milton Chief of Police Tony Hernandez



Speaking with Pastor Gordon Banks who delivered the prayer at the Federal Way Veteran's Flag Pavilion dedication

Support for the Khalsa Gurmat Center After Vandalism and Burglary

I met with Khalsa Gurmat Center teacher Hardeep S. Rekhi to talk about the recent vandalism and burglary at their Sikh temple in Federal Way. It was disheartening to see the desecration that occurred as well as the damage to their property and loss of electronic items. An attack on one house of worship - whether it's a temple, synagogue, mosque or church - is an attack on all houses of worship.



With Khalsa Gurmat Center teacher Hardeep S. Rekhi

Orion Industries Tour

I toured Orion Industries in Auburn with Mayor Nancy Backus, the Auburn City Council, and Orion President & CEO Jerry Chase. I visited Orion to check in on the progress they have made, and to support them as a regional leader in job creation for people facing barriers to employment. Orion leverages their aerospace manufacturing business to create paths to employment through building self-esteem, mentoring, training, education, and community services. Their mission changes lives, families, and the communities they are based in.



Outside of Orion Industries headquarters with Auburn City Councilmember Chris Stearns, Councilmember Bob Baggett, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, and Orion Industries President & CEO Jerry Chase



Touring Orion Industries with President & CEO Jerry Chase and Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus

Tour of Boeing 737 MAX 9

If it's not Boeing, I'm not going! As a South King County resident, I was pleased to tour the new Boeing 737 MAX 9, which is designed to reduce the noise footprint of the aircraft through changes to the engine nacelles. I am proud to support an important local company that provides so much to our region through their work in the community and the thousands of jobs provided to our local economy.



Checking out the cockpit of a new Boeing 737 MAX 9

Taste of Federal Way

I was happy to join Federal Way Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Dani Pfeiffer and other judges at the Taste of Federal Way at The Commons. Congratulations to Rose Ehl and Karla Kolibab on hosting nearly 1,000 guests. Great charity, great food and great weather!



With FWPS Superintendent Dr. Dani Pfeiffer at the Taste of Federal Way

Mayor of Rivne, Ukraine Visits Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center

In September, Ukrainian Mayor Oleksandr Tretyak of Rivne and Regional Ukrainian Council Chairman Serhii Yuriiovych brought a delegation to King County. As this delegation represents the home of swimming Olympian Mykhailo Romanchuk, I hosted pizza at the pool from the 10-meter diving platform so they could visit the training site for many of our Olympians. Thanks to Mike Dunwiddie and Deanna Bogomaz of the King County Aquatic Center for their help.



Standing atop the 10-meter diving platform with Honorary Consul Valeriy Goloborodko, Mayor Oleksandr Tretyak, Deanna Bogomaz, and Regional Ukrainian Council Chairman Serhii Yuriiovych

Local victim advocate Lew Cox seeks to help families dealing with traumatic death

Our region has many heroes, one of whom is Des Moines Police chaplain Lew Cox, who I first met when I was 12 years old. Lew and his wife are deeply involved in victim advocacy, and this is what led him and Highline College professor Bob Baugher to write a book entitled *Coping with Traumatic Death: Homicide*. The book is about dealing with the trauma of the murder of a loved one.



With Lew Cox at the Federal Way Veteran's Flag Pavilion dedication

The Kiwanis Club of the Valley

It was my pleasure to present a grant for The Kiwanis Club of the Valley to President Kelly Jensen (who is also a teacher at Auburn High School) and Auburn City Council Member Yolanda Trout-Manuel. This grant will directly benefit the young people served by The Kiwanis Club of the Valley.



*With Councilmember Yolanda Trout-Manuel and
Kiwanis Club President Kelly Jensen*

Virtual “Good Eggs” Community Forum with Harborview CEO Kleweno-Walley

What is the #1 Trauma Center in the Northwest? Harborview Medical Center. The 90-year-old center is owned by King County and operated by the University of Washington. In October, I was joined by Harborview CEO Sommer Kleweno-Walley and President of the Board of Trustees, Steffanie Fain, for my monthly “Good Eggs” community meeting. Under Sommer’s leadership, Harborview continues to lead our country in medical care and research. Click [here](#) if you would like to watch a recorded version of the event.



*With Harborview Medical Center CEO Sommer Kleweno-Walley
and President of the Board of Trustees, Steffanie Fain*

MSC Helps Luncheon

Help...Hope...Change marked the South King County Multi-Service Center's 50th anniversary lunch with this year's keynote speaker, Omari Amili, sharing his remarkable and inspirational personal journey. MSC's mission is to build a future without poverty by creating pathways to help, hope, and dignity for our neighbors. With the many challenges around us, remember that we have members in our community who can use our help. To learn how you can help during these times, please click [here](#).



With 2021 Multi-Service Center Helps Luncheon speaker Omari Amili

Pastor Gordon Banks Awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal of Distinguished Service

I would like to congratulate Pastor Gordon Banks on being named the recipient of the 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award. Every year, each King County Councilmember honors a community leader answering Dr. King's call "What are you doing for others?" Pastor Banks has responded to Dr. King's question with a commitment to uplift others, spread love throughout the region through his actions, and by helping people push past adversity towards a better life. Since becoming the pastor of Overcomer Covenant Church in Auburn, he has dedicated the organization to humanitarian aid in the community and abroad. Pastor Gordon Banks' exemplary dedication to the service of others embodies Dr. King's call to action.



Presenting Pastor Gordon Banks with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award at Overcomer Covenant Church in Auburn

Ukraine Holodomor Recognition

I had the opportunity to recognize the Holodomor Memorial Day with Ukrainian community leaders in King County and San Francisco. Each year Ukrainian Americans in King County and around the world commemorate victims of the genocide on the fourth Saturday of November. This recognition honors Americans with Ukrainian heritage living in King County who have enriched our county through their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business, academia, government, and the arts.



At the Ukraine Holodomor Recognition with Ukrainian Federal Credit Union Director Oksana Pierce, Father Andriy Matlak of Holy Trinity Parish - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Honorary Consul Valeriy Goloborodko, Pastor Oleksandr Bogomaz of Voice of Hope Church, Vice Consul General of Ukraine in San Francisco Yaroslava Podgorna, and Consul General of Ukraine in San Francisco Mykola Podgorny

Welcome aboard Councilmember-elect Sarah Perry

As one of my favorite nuns used to say, the only constant in this world is change, and in December, I met my newest council colleague, Sarah Perry, who will represent much of eastern King County. We enjoyed lunch at Mama Stortini's where I gave her a copy of soccer coach and player Alan Hinton's bio: *Triumph and Tragedy*. The same title could be applied today at the courthouse!



With King County Council District 3 member-elect Sarah Perry

Meeting with King County Councilmembers

As a result of COVID, we have not had "in courthouse meetings," so I welcomed the opportunity to sit down in person with Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Councilmember Girmay Zahilay, and Councilmember Rod Dembowski to discuss the end of the councilmanic session.



With King County Councilmembers Kohl-Welles, Zahilay and Dembowski

Swearing-in Ceremony

On December 14th, one of my colleagues was sworn in by King County Superior Court Presiding Judge Jim Rogers on Zoom from a gas station, another took his oath from his home, and I was sworn in from a suburban Starbucks! While I would have preferred being at the King County Courthouse (Council is still held remotely for COVID) or at Caffe D'Arte (no drive-up window), I chose to IMPROVISE for this special council meeting.



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

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