

Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember



District 7 Winter 2025 Update



Dear Friends:

As we step into 2025, I find great inspiration in the individuals I encounter in South King County. They are not only involved but also enthusiastic about making a positive impact in our region. They serve as a reminder that we must embody the change we wish to see in our community.

I invite you to take a moment to explore some highlights from the events I attended, both locally and across King County.

With best wishes,



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Auburn Station Access Project

Patience and persistence! Those words best describe Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus’s push to increase the parking capacity at our heavily used Sound Transit Sounder Station in Auburn, and I was pleased to join Nancy and my Sound Transit Board and King County Council colleague Claudia Balducci for a “rainy” groundbreaking at the new \$69 million garage, which will have approximately 675 parking stalls. It may have been wet and gray, but the future in Auburn is BRIGHT!

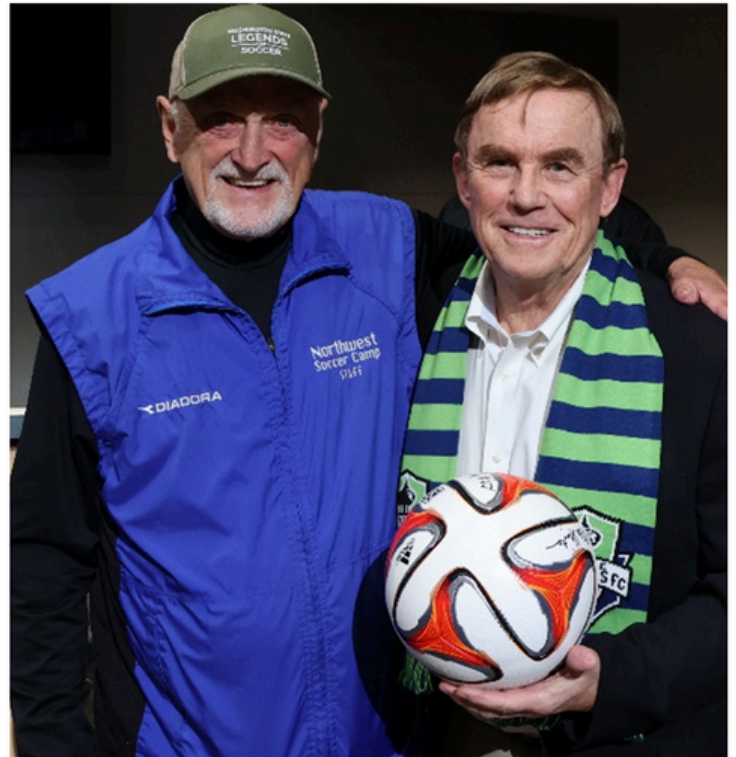


With Auburn Councilmembers Hanan Amer, Tracy Taylor-Turner, Sound Transit Deputy CEO Terri Mestas, Mayor & Sound Transit Board Member Nancy Backus, Senator Claudia Kauffman, King County Councilmember & Sound Transit Board Member Claudia Balducci, Auburn Councilmembers Yolanda Trout-Manuel, Cheryl Rakes, and Kate Baldwin

King County Council Recognizes Cliff McCrath

The King County Council recognized Cliff McCrath for his contributions to soccer in Washington, especially locally in King County, and the inspiration he has brought to men, women, and the youth. Cliff is a member of 11 Soccer Halls of Fame and is one of Washington State's most storied soccer evangelists, traveling statewide to promote the passage of Referendum 48 to build a new soccer/football stadium.

While he was coach, the Falcons had 30 NCAA tournament appearances, won 5 NCAA College Division championships, had 5 second place finishes, and he was named National Coach of the Year in 1978 and Seattle Sports Star of the Year in 1986. In addition to his collegiate coaching career, he served as the 2017 US Women's World University Games head coach.



With King County Councilmembers Rod Dembowski & Sarah Perry, Frank MacDonald, Councilmember Jorge Barón, Cliff McCrath, Council Chair Dave Upthegrove, and Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

“Good Eggs” Breakfast with Bellevue and Tacoma-Pierce County Chambers of Commerce CEOs Joe Fain and Andrea Reay

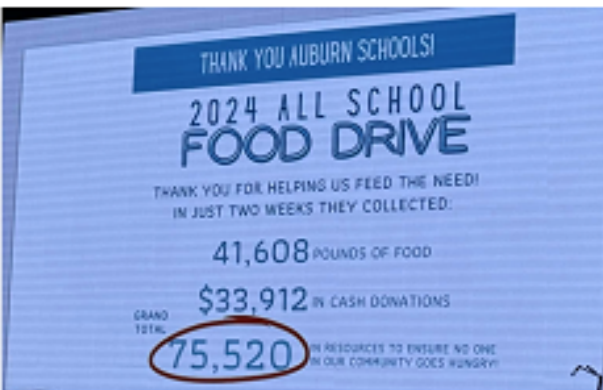
There are many partnerships in South King County, but none greater than between the Muckleshoot Tribe and private and public entities. We were joined by Bellevue Chamber CEO Joe Fain and Tacoma Chamber CEO Andrea Reay who shared how their cities positioned themselves to grow with their region. Muckleshoot Tribal Council Vice Chair John Daniels Jr. joined in this economic discussion and presented treasured blankets to our speakers and yours truly as a continuation of a legacy of respect, honor, and friendship.



With Muckleshoot Tribal Council Vice Chair John Daniels Jr., Des Moines Mayor Traci Buxton, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce CEO Andrea Reay, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce CEO Joe Fain, Algona Mayor Troy Linnell, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, and Maple Valley Mayor Sean Kelly

Auburn Food Bank All School Food Drive

Hunger is real and is being attacked as only Auburn does things: all hands on deck! Young school students, “old” golfers, blue collar, white collar, and no collar workers all came together for the annual Auburn Food Bank Breakfast starring Debbie Christian, with great support from the likes of Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus and the ageless Leila Booth! Auburn Strong!!



Your Money Matters Receives a Retired King County Metro Van

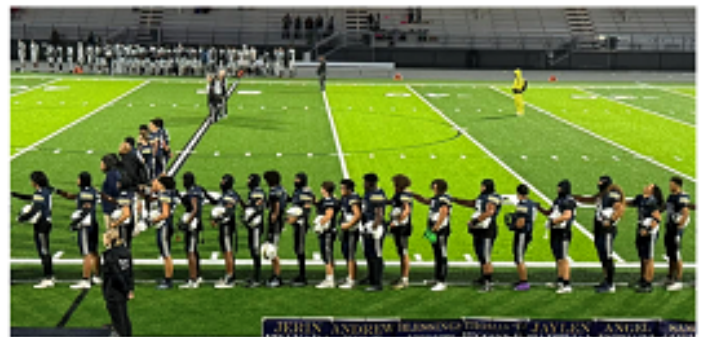
Your Money Matters, led by Auburn Councilmember Clinton Taylor, is the District 7 recipient of last year's allocation of retired King County Metro vanpool van. Located on Auburn's East Main Street, this organization works with youth to teach them the fundamentals of personal finance.

Councilmember Taylor received the van earlier in 2024, and I was pleased to meet with him and learn how he was using it to help disadvantaged youth in South King County.



Decatur High School vs. Todd Beamer High School

NIL. Name...Image...Likeness... Not relevant at the Decatur vs. Todd Beamer game in November. Thanks to Jim Zorn for driving down in the rain to check out local players, as well as to Federal Way School District Superintendent Dr. Dani Pfeiffer for her leadership in promoting sports for men and women. With over 110 languages and dialects in your schools, sports bring people together. Coach Matt Vaeena's commitment is why Decatur's Golden Gators are third in the state!



With Decatur Coach Matt Vaeena, Jim Zorn, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, and FWSD Superintendent Dr. Dani Pfeiffer

“Good Eggs” Breakfast with Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs joined my November “Good Eggs” meeting to share insights about the 2024 election, as well as discuss the diverse responsibilities of his office. Steve explained how his office has worked to ensure that our elections remain free from foreign interference, and also the important work they do preserving Washington’s unique and rich history by improving the State Archives and State Library. Thank you, Steve!



Top: With Muckleshoot Tribe Vice Chair John Daniels Jr., Edgewood Mayor Dave Olson, Pacific Mayor Vic Kave, Pete von Reichbauer, Enumclaw Mayor Jan Molinaro, Sec of State Steve Hobbs, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, and Des Moines Mayor Traci Buxton

Bottom: With Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Muckleshoot Tribe Vice Chair John Daniels Jr., Pacific Mayor Vic Kave, Wanda Crockett, Ron Crockett, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, and Secretary of State Steve Hobbs

Hanwoori Garden Pagoda

Federal Way is a melting pot that not only represents many different global cultures, but celebrates them. I was pleased to join Mike Park, Daniel Kim, Jay Kim, and Dae Gue at the future Hanwoori Garden Pagoda as construction nears completion. Skilled craftsman have made sure that the Pagoda will be an authentic venue for people from different backgrounds to learn about Korean culture.



(L to R) With Daniel Kim, Jay Kim, Mike Park, and Dae Gue Lim

December “Good Eggs” Breakfast Meeting

In government, too many speakers often focus on spending more, spending faster, and spending again, so it was informative and interesting at the “Good Eggs” breakfast in December to focus on revenues! Washington State Chief Economist Dave Reich joined us for a conversation about revenue forecasts and economic growth in the State of Washington. Dave let us know that Washington’s gas tax revenue is declining due in large part to the increase of electric and hybrid cars. Thank you, Dr. Reich!



South King County Leadership Event

“Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” Those words of John Kennedy inspired a young Auburn girl to run for office (Attorney General 1993 to 2005, Governor 2005 to 2013), and on December 12th, former Governor Chris Gregoire highlighted my annual meeting with ASB presidents from Auburn and Federal Way.

One of South King County’s greatest assets is the incredible people who volunteer their time, energy, and resources to be leaders in own community. Gov. Chris Gregoire spoke to current and FUTURE leaders about the value of giving back to the community. Thank you Gov. Gregoire!



*Top left: With Gov. Gregoire and Auburn City Councilmember Hanan Amer
Top right: With Auburn School District (ASD) Superintendent Dr. Alan Spicciati and student leaders from ASD
Bottom Left: Gov. Gregoire speaking to student leaders. Bottom Right: With Federal Way School District (FWSD) Superintendent Dr. Dani Pfeiffer and student leaders from FWSD.*



A Visit with Coach Townsend

I was happy to be able to meet with Coach Townsend to discuss high school sports, specifically those that he coaches at Thomas Jefferson High School. We talked about the success of the TJHS Lady's bowling team, who are undefeated, as well as the upcoming baseball season. Thank you for your time, Coach!



Program Support for the Pacific Islanders Community Association (PICA) of Washington in Federal Way

Mahalo! As increased prices stress household budgets, seniors on fixed incomes are hit extra hard. PICA knows this, and that is why I was pleased to support their weekly program which gives South King County elders a hot meal and social space to gather. PICA also supports youth programs, cultural preservation, and expansion, and much more. Learn more about them by visiting <https://www.picawa.org/>.



With PICA WA Wellness Navigators Joann Killion & Martina Naich from Micronesia, Yoland Peter from Marshall Islands, Keleni Tavaiaqia from Fiji, Cheyenne Yap from Hawaii, and Seiuli Chanel from Samoa

Property Tax Town Hall in Federal Way

Our region is experiencing unprecedented growth, and many have been caught off guard by unexpected increases in home assessments. While there are positive aspects of increased property values, I am aware of the extra property tax burden this creates for families; not everyone wants to "flip" their house!

On January 15th, I hosted a Property Tax Town Hall at KO-AM TV in Federal Way to provide an opportunity for a conversation between the King County Assessor's office and our residents who have questions about property taxes and available tax relief programs.



King County Assessor Residential Division Director Jeff Darrow was present to answer questions from attendees.

To learn more and determine if you qualify for assistance, I encourage everyone to call 206-296-3920, visit www.kingcounty.gov/assessor, or email Exemptions.Assessments@kingcounty.gov. Additionally, the Tax Advisor Office provides King County taxpayers advice and assistance on property tax related matters including appeals. The Tax Advisor Office is independent of the County Assessor's Office in accordance with state law (RCW 84.48.140). You may reach them at 206-477-1060 or taxadvisor@kingcounty.gov.

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

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