Dear Friends:

Happy Fall! As we transition from baseball to football, and from farmers’ markets to pumpkin patches, I hope you’ll take a moment to review some of the highlights from local events in South King County this summer.

With best wishes,

Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember
New Flagpole in Kent

As we celebrated the birth of our nation in July, it was appropriate that US Congressman Adam Smith presented United States flags, which flew over the US Capitol, to both Kent Mayor Dana Ralph and local business leader David Malik. The Malik family generously sponsored the installation of a new flagpole at the corner of 4th and Willis in Kent. Thank you, David, Dana, and Adam!

With US Congressman Adam Smith, local business leader David Malik and Kent Mayor Dana Ralph
King County Cup at Emerald Downs

Doo Dah!! An integral part of Native American culture, horse racing is part of the fabric of our region, and today, the industry provides thousands of jobs and millions of tax dollars through Auburn’s Emerald Downs. On July 10th, I was pleased to present the King County Cup and was joined by King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Sheriff Patti Cole-Tindall, Presiding Judge Patrick Oishi and Tax Assessor John Arthur Wilson. Thank you, Emerald Downs President Phil Ziegler, and Emerald Downs Founder Ron Crockett.

The King County Fair Returns

On July 15th, I was in Enumclaw to celebrate the return of the King County Fair. Whether it’s modern carnival rides, local agriculture, a variety of pets and livestock, or live entertainment for the whole family, the King County Fair has it all!

Thank you, Enumclaw Mayor Jan Molinaro and 4H leader (and WSU alum), SKFR Commissioner Caroline Vadino for sharing time.
Meeting with Federal Way High School Boys Basketball Coach Yattah Reed

With school out, it has been fun to connect with local teachers/coaches, like Yattah Reed of Federal Way High School (FWHS), for coffee. Yattah started off as an Eagle player and returned as a teacher/coach, not to mention the father of good scholar athletes himself! Yattah presented me with a game ball signed by last year’s FWHS team, which will have a special place in my office. Sports bring people together and give us something to cheer about in this upside-down world.
New Korean Consul General Honored with King County Council Recognition

On July 19th, I was honored to sponsor the King County Council’s Recognition of the new, and first ever female, Korean Consul General in Seattle, Eun-ji Seo. Through times of peace and times of war, the Republic of Korea and King County have forged strong economic and cultural ties which have enriched our region.

With more than 85,000 Korean Americans in King County alone, Washington’s strategic location on the Pacific Rim has led to a special relationship with the Republic of Korea. The Republic of Korea is Washington state’s fourth largest trading partner with commercial partnerships on items ranging from aerospace to computers and electronic devices, and machinery to agricultural products.


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In Consul General Seo’s closing remarks, she emphasized the symbolic slogan of the Korea-U.S. alliance – *Katchi Kapshida; We go together.*
“Good Eggs” Breakfast at Emerald Downs with Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier

On July 20th, I had the opportunity to host my first in-person “Good Eggs” breakfast at Emerald Downs in Auburn. Our guest speaker was Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier. Executive Dammeier talked about the relationship between Pierce and King counties, as well as Sound Transit. South King County community leaders also had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in a dialogue about how Pierce and King counties need to work together to solve problems affecting our whole region.

(Top) With Auburn Councilmember Chris Stearns, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier and Kent Mayor Dana Ralph; (Bottom) With Emerald Downs President Phil Ziegler, Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, and Pacific Raceways President Jason Fiorito
66th Annual Kiwanis Salmon Bake

The 66th Annual Kiwanis Salmon Bake continues to bring people together like no other event. Linda Persha always leads the way, as does everyone’s favorite Fire Chief Gordie Olson. I had a great time catching up with Frank James, Beverly Warnke and Todd and Cooper Suchan. Great food. Great people. Great cause, benefiting students in Federal Way.

With Gordie Olson, Linda Persha, Frank James, Beverly Warnke, as well as Todd and Cooper Suchan
First natural pitch cricket field ribbon cutting at Tollgate Park

Pitch...Dolly...Golden Duck...Beamer are just some of the new terms I am learning about cricket. On July 23rd, I was pleased to join King County Councilmembers Sarah Perry and Claudia Balducci, as well as Bellevue Councilmember Janice Zahn (a proud Decatur High School graduate) at the ribbon cutting of the first natural pitch cricket field at Tollgate Park. Congratulations to Salman Taj, Vijay Beniwal, David Malik, and the others who are bringing cricket to the Northwest. Go Thunderbolts!
Flag Raising and Dedication in Kent

On July 27th, I had the opportunity to join Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, South King County community leaders, and Korean War veterans at the Flag Raising and Dedication event in Kent. Local business leader David Malik and his family sponsored the installation of a new flagpole at the corner of 4th and Willis. During the dedication, a United States flag, which had flown over the US Capitol and was presented to David and Dana by US Congressman Adam Smith, was raised.

(Clockwise) With Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent Councilmember Bill Boyce, David Malik and his family, VFW Post 6785 Commander Walt Tanimoto, Deputy Consul General Junsik Kim, Former Federal Way Mayor Mike Park, Federal Way Korean American Association President Daniel Kim, and Korean War Veteran Young G Yi
FUSION’s Annual Summer Gala

On August 3rd at Dumas Bay, FUSION raised over $300,000 for transitional housing. In 29 years, it has never rained on Peggy LaPorte’s dinner and auction; great seeing Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, members of the Federal Way Soroptimist, and other volunteers.
Seafair 2022

It was great joining friends at Boeing Field to celebrate the Blue Angels’ return to the “mothership.” In 1946, Admiral Nimitz laid the foundation for the modern-day team of navy and marine officers who fly the Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornets. I also appreciated the opportunity to watch the Blue Angels and thundering cleats while at the Seattle Seahawks Training Camp.

Great to talk to All American Jacob Green, who is spending his post football life helping support families battling cancer through Fred Hutch, and Traci Schneider, who has been a leader helping families living with autism.
Amazon Fresh opens in Federal Way

On August 11th, grocery shopping and 21st Century technology came together in Federal Way with the opening of Amazon Fresh. In welcoming Amazon to South King County, I noted the new well-paying jobs and fresh produce for sale at the old Sears store at The Commons. Thank you, Store Manager Kimberly Stallone and Amazon, for donating $20,000 to the Boys and Girls Club!

With Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Councilmembers Lydia Assefa-Dawson and Jack Walsh, Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, and Amazon Fresh Store Manager Kimberly Stallone
Federal Way Community raises fund for local business owner

The Federal Way community came together to support Jay Barbour, owner of the Mediterranean Gyro Grill restaurant in Federal Way and Tacoma, who was paralyzed after being shot in the spine during a road rage shooting in June. The Federal Way Farmers Market, Pacific Christian Academy and K.C. Deez BBQ hosted a community fundraiser for Jay and his family at the farmers market in August. Read more in the Federal Way Mirror article here.
Multi-Service Center receives King County van

As part of this year’s King County Van Transfer Program, I met with Alan Clapper, Case Manager at William J Woods Veteran Building, and Chris Lopez, Multi-Service Center (MSC) Housing Program Supervisor, to officially hand-off the keys to the retired Metro surplus van that was awarded to MSC. This van will assist them with the great work they continue to do for the South King County community.

With Chris Lopez and Alan Clapper
Federal Way Lions Car Show

Model A’s to “muscle” cars were on display at the Lion’s Club 2022 Car Show at The Commons. Miss Washington stood with me as I presented Jim Ross with the Top Cop Award. It was also great seeing Patrick Osby, who has served our area on the King County Civil Rights Commission.

*With Jim Ross, Miss Washington, and Patrick Osby*
Jaden McDaniels Gives Back

In 2019, I gave this graduating Federal Way High School Eagle a backpack for his freshman year at the UW, and on August 29th, Jaden McDaniels came home and distributed much-needed backpacks to students in the Federal Way School District. Jaden has gained weight and maturity in the NBA, and his family, Coach Yattah Reed (pictured with us) and his friends should be as proud of his skills on the court as of his service to others off the court.

With Jaden McDaniels in 2019 (Left), and Coach Yattah Reed, Pete von Reichbauer, and Jaden McDaniels in August 2022 (Right)
Stopping an Airport in Enumclaw

I have co-sponsored legislation that asks the Washington State Department of Transportation to remove the Enumclaw area from consideration as the site of a future airport in King County. King County is already home to three airports in the South Sound region and the addition of a fourth would place an undue aviation burden on our community.

Enumclaw is a great place to live, work and raise a family. I want to keep it that way!

Enjoying the King County Fair with Enumclaw Mayor Jan Molinaro
King County recognizes the Seattle Thunderbolts for winning the 2022 Minor League Cricket Championship

On September 13th, I joined King County Councilmembers Sarah Perry and Claudia Balducci in recognizing the Seattle Thunderbolts for their outstanding performance that led them to winning their first Minor League Cricket Championship. Congratulations, Thunderbolts, for bringing our region another professional sports championship!

With Vijay Beniwal at Marymoor Park for a Cricket match

With King County Councilmembers Sarah Perry, Dave Upthegrove, Claudia Balducci, Joe McDermott, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, the Seattle Thunderbolts, and their families
Fall Trip to Washington, D.C.

Last week, members of the King County Council went to Washington D.C. for the first time in over two years to meet with our congressional delegation. We were fortunate to be able to speak in person with both Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell, as well as Representatives Smith, DelBene, Jayapal and Schrier. Among the issues I raised were my opposition to the proposal to site an airport in Enumclaw, as well as the status of the Federal Way Triangle Project. The meetings were productive and I appreciate the time they took between votes to listen to our concerns and provide thoughtful input.
Pacific Islander Community Association of WA (PICA-WA) receives a van

Pacific Islander Community Association of WA (PICA-WA) is one of this year’s recipients of the annual allocation of retired King County Metro Vanpool vans in District 7. It was great to meet with Operations Director Bronwyn Talaga and Community Services Director Amelia Bai and learn about their great work in our community.

With Amelia Bai and Bronwyn Talaga at PICA-WA’s office in Federal Way
“Good Eggs” Breakfast Meeting with new Sound Transit CEO Julie Timm

On September 28th, I hosted another in-person “Good Eggs” Breakfast meeting in Federal Way with new Sound Transit CEO Julie Timm as the guest speaker. Julie joined us just three days into her job at Sound Transit not only to meet South King County leaders and community members, but to get to know the local stakeholders and listen to their perspectives on the importance of transit in their communities.

With Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Sound Transit CEO Julie Timm, and Kent Mayor Dana Ralph
Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

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