

# Inside Our Community

It's been said I will show up to the opening of an envelope!

It has always been my belief that elected leaders should be aware of, present at, and actively engaged in the community efforts in the neighborhoods they serve, regardless of how large or small these efforts may be.

Throughout my years representing Tacoma and Pierce County, I have always strived to personify this belief, and as a result, my daily calendar is filled with events, meetings, and celebrations for the community and the constituents I serve.



2007 brought forth many wonderful opportunities to experience my community through the eyes of a resident.

To name only a few, we celebrated our area's cultural diversity at Ethnic Fest and our rich agricultural heritage at the Daffodil Festival. We gathered together to discuss everything from transportation to mental health at community forums held throughout the district. I also sought to identify and recognize the special achievements of people in our district. One example was the tremendous feat of our own



# Preserving Our Landmarks

Pierce County has for too long lagged behind Tacoma in its efforts for historic preservation. I spoke last year of our efforts to evaluate Pierce County's archive of historical plans and documents and am pleased to report these efforts resulted in state funding to apply toward our county's preservation efforts. This funding will cover our staffing and infrastructure costs and also allow Pierce County to earmark \$200,000 in annual monies for historic preservation efforts in the community. Staff positions for a full-time Historic Preservation Officer and a half-time Grant Writer have been created, and these stewards will be charged with reviewing grant applications from the local community and assisting in efforts, such as securing register designation for worthy properties, the implementation of brick and mortar programs, recognition of historic districts, and funding commercial building façade programs. We have also reconfigured the Landmarks Commission to allow for broader representation across Pierce County, ensuring our reach is adequate to properly identify and recognize historic properties and communities across our entire footprint.

University of Puget Sound rowers, who traveled the entire distance of the Atlantic Ocean.

As we welcome this New Year, I can genuinely say I am looking forward to another year full of local experiences and the chance to get to know our community even better. I still believe there is a special magic within Tacoma and its surrounding area. It's a magic that is generated by the collective efforts of each and every resident and the contributions we all make toward the good of the whole. It is a community like no other in this way.



Watch for me in 2008, and rest assured, you will find me just as active as I have always been. Please do not hesitate to approach me to say hello and share your perspective. It doesn't matter whether I am at the grocery store, on the waterfront, or heading up a community meeting, I will always make myself available 24/7 to listen to your thoughts, ideas and concerns. I look forward to another year of opportunities to experience, support and celebrate the everyday challenges and successes of this wonderful community with the constituents I serve.

# Reclaiming Our Agricultural Heritage

Since 2004, Pierce County leadership has been diligently working to find ways to preserve our once abundant agricultural lands. In 2006, the state awarded the county a Proviso Grant to develop policies and regulations for a Transfer of Development Rights program and a consultant was hired to help craft a plan best suited to meet the unique challenges and needs of our local agricultural community. Through the help and input of our stakeholder community, 2007 saw the implementation of this program, and legislation was adopted establishing formal Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs. These programs provide Pierce County with the tools needed for keeping farmland intact

and fairly compensating farmers for the development potential of their land. I am excited to see these efforts come to fruition in a program that I know will ensure our valuable agricultural heritage can live on into future generations.



Our district is unique in our willingness and ability to come together and create solutions for the challenges we face as a community. In 2007, through the Get Smart Tacoma! initiative, we collaborated and effectively brought to light the education and workforce issues that will affect the future generations of Tacoma. The foundation of this project gradually solidified through a series of Conversation Cafés and culminated in a summit held May 4-5 at Stadium High School. Here we identified key issues concerning our area and set goals and action plans to facilitate necessary change. I hope that our district will continue on this path of proactive problem solving. As an elected official, and a member of this community, I plan to be an active participant every step of the way.

## A More Efficient Juvenile Justice System

The safety of our community and the effectiveness of our criminal justice system go hand in hand. That's why I feel it's so important to initiate and promote programs that will lead to lasting and meaningful change. One of those initiatives was the implementation of the Evening Reporting Centers, which serve as an alternative to conventional juvenile incarceration. Offenders are permitted to remain in a community-based setting, such as a group home or family dwelling, but are also required to spend a set number of evening hours undergoing supervised rehabilitative treatment at one of the detention facilities. Local studies were funded in part by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the program is modeled after the award-winning Cook County Juvenile Court System, which focuses on instilling behavioral accountability and personal responsibility in the program's members. There are three planned locations in Tacoma, Lakewood and Puyallup, all slated to serve qualifying youth who do not pose community safety risks and are felt by judges to be good candidates for rehabilitation. As our goals continue to be met in this area, we should see a reduction in recidivism (the rate of repeat offenses), the development of a stronger community and the delivery of program services at a lower cost.

# GET INVOLVED... STAY INVOLVED

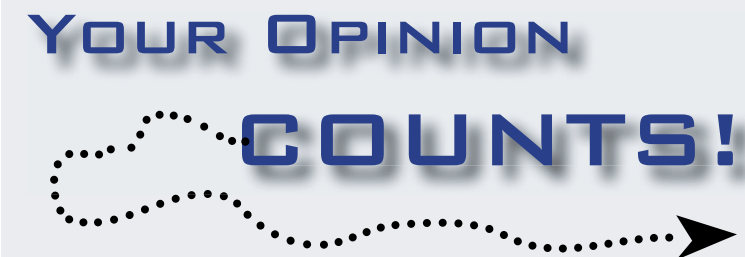
In 2007, we hosted quarterly meetings on the subjects you told us were most critical to our district. Many of you took the time to meet with me and I'd like to share my sincere gratitude for your valuable input and assistance. We talked about subjects like transportation, mental health and safety, all at the forefront of our community agenda. With your help, we made strides in enacting legislation and reaching important milestones in these areas and others this past year.

For 2008, once again, I plan to hold quarterly roundtable sessions in the community. Since the neighborhoods in our district are changing tremendously, it is my hope we can discuss the impacts of these changes together. We will discuss everything from partnerships with other entities, collaboration between community leaders and the impacts of local legislation.

As before, I invite you to join me at these meetings and promise they will be positive, interactive and pertinent. The dates and locations are still to be determined, so watch for updates by mail, email and on the county's website.

These community meetings are just one way you can connect with me. Feel free to approach me when you see me in my community travels or you can call me at home or at the office anytime (253.431.8081/cell, 253.798.7590/office). You may also email me at [tfarrell@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:tfarrell@co.pierce.wa.us).

My thanks to all of you for providing your valuable insights and staying connected with your community. Your involvement is vital to our success.



(Don't forget to fill out the reverse side of this tear-off tab and mail it back to me. This input will help me prepare for our forthcoming discussions.)

# YOUR OPINION 1 2 3 4 5 COUNTS!

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Councilmember Tim Farrell, District 4  
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046  
Tacoma, WA 98402



## What's Inside?

### 2007 News From Councilmember Tim Farrell

- Inside Our Community
- Preserving Our Landmarks
- Re-Claiming Our Legacy of Land
- Get Smart Tacoma!
- A More Efficient Juvenile Justice System
- Get Involved...Stay Involved

This December, Talk Tacoma, a series of community conversations, took place around our region to see what residents have to say about this place we call home. If you didn't have the opportunity to join in one of these sessions or you simply have more to say, I want your input.

Please take a moment to complete the information below and return it to the following address:

Pierce County Council Office  
Councilmember Tim Farrell, District 4  
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Thank you for sharing your input and valuable time.

**In the last few months what in Tacoma did you rant about? Rave about?**  
**OR**  
**What do you talk about when you talk about Tacoma with your friends and your family?**  
**OR**  
**Does Tacoma have a heart? If so, what is it? Where is it?**

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# THANK YOU!



Winter 2008

FROM THE DESK OF Councilmember



# Tim Farrell

District #4

### Representing your interests on these and other important committees:

- Pierce County Community Development Committee
- Vice Chair, Pierce County Public Safety and Human Services Committee
- Broadway Center for the Performing Arts
- Joint Municipal Action Committee
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Washington State Association of Counties
- Employment & Training Consortium
- Pierce Transit
- Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- State Shorelines Hearings Board
- Co-Chair, Pierce County Criminal Justice Task Force

### Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The year 2007 was another great year for District 4! Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you and be a part of its success. We focused on a variety of projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing our quality of life and keeping Pierce County residents safe, involved and informed.

We have continued to enhance transportation and revitalize the downtown area. Through programs like Get Smart Tacoma!, we've spearheaded some of the education and workforce initiatives that will enrich the potential of Tacoma's learning future. Thanks to your efforts, that vision is being realized and a comprehensive game plan is being developed to help us achieve our goals for improving the future.

We've also supported a number of projects that are effectively improving the safety of the Pierce County community. We are actively supporting the safety enhancements being made to Tacoma Avenue Park, McCormick Park and Larry Frost Park. Evening Reporting Centers have been developed to focus on responsibility, accountability and rehabilitation for our hard-to-serve youth. The Pierce County Criminal Justice Task Force is also working to improve the justice system to evaluate efficiencies and address systemic issues, such as jail overcrowding.

As always, our office is still committed to preserving the values of our constituency and promoting strategies that will help keep us moving forward. Education, public safety and the environment will remain in the forefront in 2008 and we will continue to focus on the priorities of Ruston and Tacoma. And, in the spirit of maintaining a well-connected community, we are proud to be part of Talk Tacoma and other initiatives that are encouraging and stimulating ongoing dialogue among residents from the entire community.

Our district goals have been and continue to be met, because of your support and dedication to the community. Let's keep working together to ensure another successful year for Pierce County.

Sincerely,



Tim Farrell, District 4  
Pierce County Council

P.S. Do you recognize the location of the background photo? I'll buy lunch for the first person who can correctly identify it above. Send your guess to: [tfarrell@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:tfarrell@co.pierce.wa.us) or call 253-798-7590.

*Congratulations to last year's winner, Jonathan Phillips, who correctly identified the photo as The Museum of Glass Walking Bridge!*