



Pierce County Councilmember Roger Bush

District 3 News

Representing the communities of

Ashford, Eatonville, Elbe,
Elk Plain, Frederickson,
western Graham, Harts
Lake, Lacamas, eastern
Roy, eastern Spanaway,
and South Hill

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Committees: Pierce County Council Chair ♦ Rules and Operations (chair)
Economic and Infrastructure Development (vice chair) ♦ Community Development (member)

December 8, 2010

Merry Christmas! You're receiving this periodic e-newsletter – which saves on printing and mailing costs – because of your relationship to Council District 3. It's a festive time in District 3, so keep reading to the end of this newsletter to learn about some wonderful holiday events from South Hill to Eatonville and beyond.

In this most difficult of economic times, I will continue working with my colleagues on the Pierce County Council to reduce the cost of government and keep public safety our county's top priority. Thank you for allowing me to represent you on the County Council for nearly six years.

Public safety still No. 1 in tough budget

Pierce County government will cost less to operate in 2011, but the Sheriff's Department will have more resources with which to carry out its mission of protecting public safety.

The County Council restored \$411,000 to the sheriff's department for four positions in the 2011 budget, including two commissioned officers. More than 78 percent of the county's General Fund budget will be dedicated to the sheriff, corrections, legal services, and courts in 2011.

This County Council continues year after year to uphold public safety as the top priority of county government.

Second road closure shows progress on 176th

Frustrated District 3 drivers who see only detours and delays on 176th Street East may not think about the construction jobs, cost savings, safety improvements and congestion relief this mammoth widening project brings to our community.

The second of three planned road closures on 176th will continue through Dec. 22, diverting westbound drivers from 176th at 36th Avenue East and returning them at Waller Road East (*photo at right looks east on 176th from Waller Road*).

Once 176th is finished from Waller Road to Gem Heights Drive late next year – including a new bridge between 51st and Canyon Road – work begins in 2012 on the portion west of Waller Road. This transformed 176th corridor will be a five-lane economic lifeline for goods to be more efficiently transported from the Frederickson industrial area to the future Cross-Base Highway and Interstate 5.



There's a lot of construction happening at once, but it's for a reason. I felt strongly about requiring that all of these projects be done together because it will shorten traffic disruption by forcing an earlier completion date and saving more than \$1 million. Visit www.piercecountywa.org/fredericksonarea for updates on the project, or watch a special "[In District](#)" show (airing at 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays on Pierce County TV, channel 22 or 78).

LOWER taxes coming thanks to standardized surface water fee

That's right – most District 3 homeowners will pay lower taxes in 2011 due to an adjustment in the county's surface water fees.

Surface water fees will be standardized in 2011, meaning that residents throughout the county will pay the [same flat rate](#) of roughly \$103 per year. District 3 residents typically pay \$143.99 a year, so that means a 29 percent decrease for the majority of property owners.

Fees were previously assessed according to the county's 26 individual basin plans, which was inherently unfair because just a few basins were paying all of the costs for the entire county's flood-control improvements. Flooding and water quality affect all of us, and this is a more equitable approach to dealing with those issues.

Flood-control district board meets Dec. 13

A new countywide governing body tasked with safeguarding lives and property from flooding will begin its work next week.

The Flood Control Zone District's Board of Supervisors – which are members of the County Council – meets Monday, Dec. 13, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers (930 Tacoma Ave. S., Room 1045) in Tacoma. The district comprises the entire county and could raise money for specific flood-control projects by applying for loans or proposing levy assessments to voters.

Flooding threatens our area's economic health every year, so this new entity gives us a countywide solution to a countywide problem. More on the Flood Control Zone District is available on the Public Works and Utilities [Flood-Control Zone District page](#).

December dates to remember

Tree lightings, festivals and school concerts fill our already busy schedules in December. Here are some events to watch for:

December 8

- Frontier Junior High Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- "Robin Hood," Kapowsin Elementary musical, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

December 9

- Clover Creek Elementary Holiday Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- North Star Elementary Band/Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Bethel Junior High/Cougar Mountain Junior High Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., Bethel JH
- Spanaway Elementary Winter Band/Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- Spanaway Junior High Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m.

December 10

- Holiday Choir at PTA Winterfest, 6 p.m., North Star Elementary

December 11

- 14th Annual South Hill Tree Lighting, 5 p.m., Meridian Habitat Center (14102 Meridian), free

December 14

- Pioneer Valley Elementary Holiday Program, 6:30 p.m.
- Spanaway Lake High School Winter Band/Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- Bethel Junior High Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
- Cougar Mountain Junior High Winter Choir and Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.

December 15

- Graham-Kapowsin High School and Frontier Junior High Combined Winter Concert, 7 p.m., Graham-Kapowsin HS
- Eatonville Elementary (4th and 5th grade) Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- Cedarcrest Junior High Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
- Thompson Elementary Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
- Cougar Mountain Junior High Winter Concert II, 7 p.m.
- Eatonville High School Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Bethel Junior High Winter Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.

December 16

- Spanaway Lake High School Holiday Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
- Eatonville Middle School Concert, 7 p.m.
- Graham-Kapowsin High School Winter Band/Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- Weyerhaeuser Elementary (4th and 5th grade) Concert, 7 p.m.

December 28

- Deputy Kent Mundell Memorial Trail Dedication, 11 a.m., Ashford County Park

Through Jan. 2

- Pierce County Fantasy Lights at Spanaway Park, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Spanaway Park (\$13 per vehicle)

Sincerely,

**Roger Bush**

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