



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)



APRIL 2011 REPORT

Hello Neighbor!

You're receiving this periodic e-newsletter (which saves on printing and mailing costs) because of your relationship to Council District 3. In this edition, I'd like to provide you with a few highlights of the County Council calendar and news about things happening close to home in our District.

COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January

New faces

On January 8, three new members were sworn in to the County Council. Dan Roach (District 1), Rick Talbert (District 5), and Stan Flemming (District 7) took their seats on January 8th. The new dynamic on the Council brings with it an abundance of new ideas and energy to Council meetings and study sessions. I'm looking forward to the work ahead.

February

County Tour

On February 10th, several Council members and staff did a bus tour of various county facilities, including the Hidden Valley Transfer Center, the Central Maintenance Facility in Frederickson, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Emergency Operations Center. En route to these facilities, we also visited Bonney Lake and Cascadia, Thun Field, Ft. Steilacoom Park and Ferry Terminal, and the Chambers Creek properties. We viewed several road projects, including the N. Canyon Rd. extension and the 176th St. widening project. This was a good opportunity to familiarize new members and their staff with county facilities and to provide a first-hand look at some of the current projects underway or soon to be up for discussion.

March

Council Meeting in District 3

There was a great deal of activity in March! The month began with an In-District Council Meeting on the evening of March 1st, held at the Pierce County Skills Center in Frederickson. A number of you turned out and heard a presentation from our Director of Pierce County Parks, Kathy Kravit-Smith. At this meeting, we also gave special recognition to one of our local firefighters from Graham Fire District 21, Aaron Tang. While off duty, Aaron saw a house aflame and, without hesitation, entered it to rescue a woman who had been unable to escape the blaze on her own. Aaron was humbled by the award, saying that he did what anyone else would have done. But, only heroes do such things, and Aaron exemplified true heroism by his extraordinary actions.

Giving honor where honor is due

The Pierce County Council, in conjunction with state and federal jurisdictions, proclaimed March 30, 2011 as “Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans” Day. It was on March 30, 1973 that the Treaty of Paris was signed, putting an end to the hostilities and requiring the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Viet Nam. Several Viet Nam veterans attended the March 29th County Council meeting to receive the [Proclamation](#) that extended to them this long overdue welcome home. I was very moved by this opportunity to express our collective thanks to the men and women who served and sacrificed in Viet Nam.



A Royal Showing

On March 29th, the County Council Chamber was graced with the presence of 22 beautiful and accomplished members of the Daffodil Royal Court. The Court was here to receive the Proclamation honoring the Daffodil Festival in its 78th year.



District 3 members of the 2011 Daffodil Royal Court are (left to right): Kori Hinkle, Jordan Davis, Sarah Peik, Marissa Jay, and Sarah Brauneis

The visit by the Daffodil Court to the County Council is an annual event and one I consider a highlight of our year. This year, a family connection made it very special. Council Member Stan Flemming, the father of Daffodil Queen Clare Flemming, read the Proclamation.

[Video link](#)

DISTRICT 3 NEWS

Progress on 176th and other road safety and traffic flow improvements

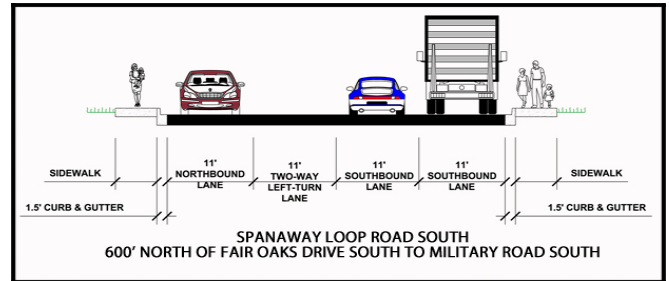
District 3 drivers may not see the light at the end of the tunnel yet, but I can assure you that it is there. And it will reveal the rewards of enduring the temporary road closures, traffic slowdowns, and detours that such a massive widening project requires. Substantial safety improvements and congestion relief will be that reward, and it will far outlast the temporary inconveniences we are currently experiencing.



During the spring and summer of 2011, the existing over-cross Tacoma Rail Bridge will be replaced with a new single-span concrete girder bridge structure, and the roadway approaches to the bridge will be upgraded. Traffic on 176th Street between Canyon Road and 38th Avenue will be detoured during that time. You'll be glad to know that the bid for this construction was \$1 million under original projections. This will allow for additional improvements later on.

Visit www.piercecountywa.org/fredericksonarea for more information on the Frederickson street improvement projects and to sign up to receive construction updates and road closure notices.

The restriping of Spanaway Loop Road extending south of Military Road will begin this summer. This will improve traffic flow by providing an additional lane for through traffic, while allowing a turn lane into the various neighborhoods along that route. The diagram to the right illustrates what the change will look like.



Safety improvements will soon be made at two other intersections by the addition of traffic signals. Those driving through the intersections at 144th and Military Road, and Woodland and 160th will see these signals in the very near future. Existing telephone poles will be used to hang the lights, reducing the amount of time and dollars needed to make these improvements.

Report Potholes

The winter freeze and thaw cycles and the heavy spring rains are culprits in the creation of potholes on our local roads. If you notice a pothole while traveling on a county road, please report it by calling 253-798-6000. Our road maintenance department will respond within 24 hours and road crews will make the repair as soon as weather permits.

AND, DID YOU KNOW...

Pierce County Emergency Management

will test the 17 outdoor lahar warning sirens in the Puyallup River Valley on Monday, May 2nd at 12:00 pm. This is a monthly drill that takes place on the first Monday of each month. A Pierce County Alert message will be launched at 9:00 am Monday morning.

There are openings on several Citizen Advisory Boards and Commissions.

If you have an interest in a particular issue and would like to make a difference in your community, serving on a Citizens Advisory Board may be a good choice for you. These groups deal with issues ranging from the Arts to the Zoo and everything in between. To learn more about the various boards/commissions and how to fill a position on one of them, click [here](#). Your voice is needed in your community! Please check it out.

Pierce County on the map . . .

The merger of Fort Lewis with McChord Air Force Base created the largest military installation west of the Mississippi. No brag, just fact!

You can watch your County Council at work.

Pierce County Council meetings are aired live every Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. on [Pierce County TV](#).

PCTV is your TV and Web source for County Council programming.

- **Watch** meetings live or replayed on channel 22 ([weekly schedule](#)) or [stream live](#) on the Web.
- **Search** for council and committee meetings in the [video archive](#)
- **Purchase** a DVD of any program by calling (253) 589-5878 or e-mailing pcrcc@co.pierce.wa.us (*duplication fee applies*)

LOOKING AHEAD

The first quarter of this year has flown by! It's hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner and, before you know it, summer will be here! (I only hope the weather cooperates with the calendar.)

Over the next few months, the Council will hold several "budget retreats" in the Council Chamber. These half-day retreats will be for the purpose of reviewing the County's financial picture and beginning discussions about next year's budget. Our state legislature will, hopefully, get its work completed on the state budget, so we'll be able to take a look at the financial impacts the decisions made in Olympia will have on our County. Writing the budget for county operations and improvements is the central duty of the County Council, and one I take very seriously. I take to heart the fact that the dollars spent on County services come from you, the hardworking taxpayer. I want to make sure that no dollar is spent unnecessarily and that the dollars that are spent are efficiently and effectively used to provide the quality of services you deserve. If you have suggestions on ways to improve on that, please share your ideas!

Happy Easter to you and your family!

Sincerely,



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