



Pierce County Councilmember Dan Roach

**Representing the
communities of**

Bonney Lake, Buckley,
Carbonado, Crystal
Mountain, Greenwater,
Lake Tapps, Orting,
South Hill, South Prairie,
Wilkeson and the
unincorporated areas of
East Pierce County

District 1 News

Dear Neighbors:

My name is Dan Roach and I am your Pierce County Councilman. I have represented many of you as State Representative (2001 -2010), and many of you saw me on your ballot in the fall of 2010 when I ran for the council. However, approximately 52,000 of you living in the South Hill area are seeing my name for the first time due to changes that occurred during the redistricting process earlier this year. For reference, the new 1st council district includes Bonney Lake, Buckley, Carbonado, Crystal Mountain, Greenwater, Lake Tapps, Orting, South Hill, South Prairie, Wilkeson and the unincorporated areas of East Pierce County.

2011 has been a busy year. Please take a moment to consider a few of the issues included in this end of the year newsletter.

2012 Budget Facts: In November, the council passed a sustainable budget without raising taxes. Despite shedding 23 positions overall, this budget actually added two detectives to combat burglaries and car thefts, and added two deputies to the gang unit. It also funded two half-time positions to verify sex offenders are registered and

to combat fraud and identity theft. The budget also preserves funding for the Prosecuting Attorney's gang unit. The 2012 budget is down approximately 9% from 2008, county government employment is down 14% from 2008, and this budget does not give cost-of-living raises.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Vice Chair
Community Development Committee

Member
Economic & Infrastructure Development Committee
Public Safety & Human Services Committee

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Pierce Transit: After a sales tax proposal failed at the ballot this spring, Pierce Transit cut virtually all routes in the 1st council district. Having services cut was a huge blow to anyone relying on bus service, but I think the most disturbing thing is the fact that all of us are still paying the tax! I worked with local mayors, the council, and Pierce Transit to find a solution. Currently, a process has been implemented to allow taxing boundaries to be redrawn, removing cities and unincorporated areas that are not being served. This process will take 6-12 months. In the meantime I am working to find alternative solutions to those in need of public transportation.



Parks Foundation: Soon after being elected to the council, I learned that our Parks and Recreation budget is struggling. I believe most people support clean parks and healthy recreation in general, but looking for new revenue sources, especially in our current economic climate was unacceptable to me. I did some research and found that throughout the country, many counties have had tremendous success supplementing their parks budgets by creating a “Parks Foundation”. A Parks Foundation is not a new government program and does

not rely on tax dollars. It is a private 501 c-3, non-profit organization created specifically to supplement the needs of the parks department. It can raise private donations through memberships, individual/corporate donors, and grants. In addition to raising dollars, the foundation can raise people capital (volunteers), to help offset maintenance costs. This program should be up and running by early next year.



Survey: I would like to know what your expectations are for county government so I have included a short survey. I would appreciate it if you would take a moment, fill it out and send it in. I know there are other important issues that I have not discussed, so please fill

out the survey or contact me directly at (253) 798-3635 or droach@co.pierce.wa.us for more information.

One of the biggest challenges of representing close to 120,000 people is maintaining communication, and distributing information. It is only getting more difficult as the population increases and budgets continue to tighten. I believe that an informed electorate is absolutely essential to a representative form of government. That is why I am utilizing electronic mail as much as possible. If you are interested in a quarterly update, please include your email address on the questionnaire. In addition, I will do my best to make myself available to speak to schools, service organizations, clubs, and other groups throughout the district. So, please don't hesitate to contact me if there is a need in your area.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Dan Roach
District 1
Pierce County Council

*Note: The District Precincts are in the process of being redrawn due to the changes made to Council District boundaries by the Redistricting Committee in July. Some receiving this newsletter may be in another District. You can call my office to verify if you have questions or concerns – 253-798-3635.