

King County Councilmember

Kathy Lambert

District 3

Spring 2006



Thank you to all of you who participated in my recent Town Hall meetings in North Bend, Issaquah and Sammamish. I appreciate your input on the topics important to our communities.

In my new role as Policy Chair for Human Services, I will be focusing on affordable housing and hosting a Housing Availability Summit this spring. As Vice Chair of the Operating Budget Committee, I will be looking at more ways to be proactive in controlling criminal justice expenses, which use nearly three-quarters of the operating budget. Our work this year also includes efficiently prioritizing the Veterans and Human Services Levy funding that voters so generously approved last November.

Although my new district is the largest in the county, I aim to visit every community as frequently as possible. I serve on many committees and boards with meetings throughout the county and in Olympia. With so much happening in our district, I try to use time on the road productively with two cell phones (hands-free), to remain accessible between events and meetings!



Farmers markets are beginning!

With the advent of spring comes a whole new crop of farmers markets, some returning and some making their first debut. More information about farmers markets and local produce is available from Puget Sound Fresh, <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/farms/> or 206-296-7824. Here are some local markets:

Carnation Farmers Market – Opens May 2; Tuesdays, 3 to 7 pm; Highway 203 at Tolt Avenue & Bird Street; 425-880-6681

Duvall Farmers Market – Opens May 3; Wednesdays, 3 to 7 pm; McCormick Park parking lot; www.cityofduvall.com

Issaquah Public Market – Opens April 15; Saturdays, 9 am to 2 pm; Pickering Barn, 1730 - 10th Avenue NE; 425-837-3311

Kirkland Wednesday Market – Opens May 3; Wednesdays, 11 am to 4 pm; Park Lane East; 425-485-1042

North Bend Farmers Market – Opens June 29; Thursdays, 4 to 8 pm; Si View Park, SE Orchard Drive; 425-831-1900

Redmond Saturday Market – Opens May 6; Saturdays, 9 am to 3 pm; 7730 Leary Way at Bear Creek Parkway; 425-556-0636

Woodinville Farmers Market – Opens May 6; Saturdays, 9 am to 3 pm; Old City Hall at NE 175th Street; 425-585-1042

King County activates 211 phone service

Washington now joins 32 other states with 211 service. This free phone network using an easy-to-remember three-digit number connects callers with community social service resources through the Crisis Clinic. The staff is trained to refer callers to the appropriate service providers for housing, health, medical and other needs.

Artrain USA coming to Skykomish April 29 & 30

Artrain USA is an art museum housed in vintage rail cars bringing world class art exhibitions and education programs to communities and their residents. The Town of Skykomish is delighted to host Artrain's Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture, a collection of contemporary Native American artworks April 29 to May 2. This powerful exhibition is open to school groups, clubs, organizations and the general public. The public is welcome April 29 & 30. Other days are reserved for school groups. Please call Skykomish Town Hall, 360-677-2388, for more information or for school group tours.

August primary elections begin in 2007

More changes are coming to elections following the numerous problems revealed during the 2004 governor's race. Here are a couple of changes to watch for:

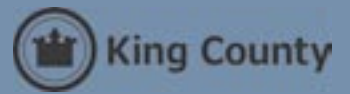
Earlier Primary: The state Legislature moved the primary election four weeks earlier, to the third Tuesday in August, starting in 2007.

All-Mail Elections? The County Council soon will consider a proposal to make all elections vote-by-mail only, as 70% of our voters already vote this way. However, as a poll voter myself, I have some concerns. Public hearings will be conducted.

Remember that King County still needs poll workers to help run our elections. For additional information, call 206-296-VOTE, or toll-free 1-800-325-6165.



We appreciate your suggestions as we strive to make county government more efficient and accountable. I invite you to contact my office anytime you need information or assistance with King County issues. You can find out about future district meetings on my website at www.metrokc.gov/lambert or by subscribing to my e-mail update list at kathy.lambert@metrokc.gov, or call my office anytime at 206-296-1003.



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King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

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Committee Assignments

Law, Justice & Human Services - Policy Chair, Human Services
Operations Budget - Vice Chair
Legislative Steering
Employment
Regional Transit
Regional Policy
Regional Water
Board of Health

Annexations on the Eastside

King County's Annexation Initiative moves toward having the county provide regional services while counting on cities to provide local services.

It was a pleasure for me to join Issaquah officials on March 1 for an Open House, welcoming the residents of South Cove and Greenwood Point to Issaquah. Last November, the residents of these communities voted overwhelmingly to annex into Issaquah.

Meanwhile, the Klahanie potential annexation area remains in unincorporated King County. Although public support for annexation remains strong, the main concern is responsibility for the Phase III improvements to Issaquah-Fall City Road. I am working with the Executive, the cities of Issaquah and Sammamish, the Issaquah School District, and the Roads Division to solve traffic congestion problems along this road. We also are working on pedestrian safety concerns for the students attending the new Pacific Cascade freshman campus.

New consumer protection law

As a member of the Legislative Steering Committee and a former state legislator, I continue to follow the work being done in Olympia. I am proud to report that a new consumer protection law was passed this session. Senator Bill Finkbeiner's bill makes it a felony to sell private cell phone and telephone numbers and records to a third party without the owner's permission. I brought this issue to his attention, and I appreciate his successful work on this bill.

Senior softball champions



On March 27, I had the honor to congratulate the members of the Eastside 70s, a senior softball team that won this year's Men's 70-plus AA Division of the Senior Softball World Championships in Phoenix, Arizona. Team captain Don Newman and seven other team members, aged 70 to 76, joined me for an official recognition from the King County Council. We appreciate their stamina and dedication to physical fitness and the sport of softball.

On our front page: a view of the Snoqualmie River Valley

New park & rides

Two new park-and-ride facilities offer additional commuting options in the I-90 corridor. In February, a 1,000-stall parking garage opened at Issaquah Highlands, providing new express bus service to Seattle as well as local service. In March, a 265-stall parking lot opened in Sammamish at 228th SE and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road. The new facility and bus shelter celebrates the art of native Salish basketry and incorporates a sophisticated bioswale filtration system to improve the quality of surface water runoff before it reaches nearby Pine Lake. Metro routes 216, 269, and 927 serve this new South Sammamish Park & Ride.

East Lake Sammamish Trail

The center link of the East Lake Sammamish Trail has opened just in time for spring outdoor recreation opportunities. The center section connects regional trails running from Issaquah all the way to Ballard in Seattle. I hope you enjoy this remarkable new recreational amenity, but we all need to be respectful of adjacent, private property owners. For more information about the trail, please call 206-296-8687.

Lake Sammamish State Park

I recently was appointed to serve on the Lake Sammamish State Park Advisory Committee. We will be reviewing the many proposals for capital improvements and prioritizing them within the funding available, while developing a conceptual master development plan for the park. Our goal is to enhance public use of this extraordinary treasure in our community. Your comments and suggestions are most welcome as this process moves forward.

