



District Eight King County Councilmember **Dow Constantine**

Spring 2006

8

Welcome to the new Eighth Council District!

On January 1, the Eighth Council District expanded. The district boundaries leaped over the Duwamish River and spread eastward across the industrial valley, through Georgetown and up Beacon Hill and West Hill (Skyway); swept northward into Pioneer Square and the International District/Chinatown to the center of Downtown Seattle; and stretched southward to take in the northern parts of Tukwila and SeaTac, and the entire cities of Burien and Normandy Park.

It's a big district.

The new boundaries implement the voter-mandated reduction in the number of King County Councilmembers from 13 to nine. The population of each district rises from the previous 138,000 people (a state legislative district, by comparison, has a population of 125,000 and is represented by three legislators) to almost 200,000 people!

I will now have the privilege of representing an even livelier and more diverse district—one that still includes White Center, South Park, Burien, Vashon/Maury Islands, and my lifelong home of West Seattle. Representing so many people over such a large area will be a real challenge, and I am relying on you to help me stay informed about community issues and events.

Whether you are an old friend or a brand-new constituent, I look forward to the chance to speak with you personally in the near future.

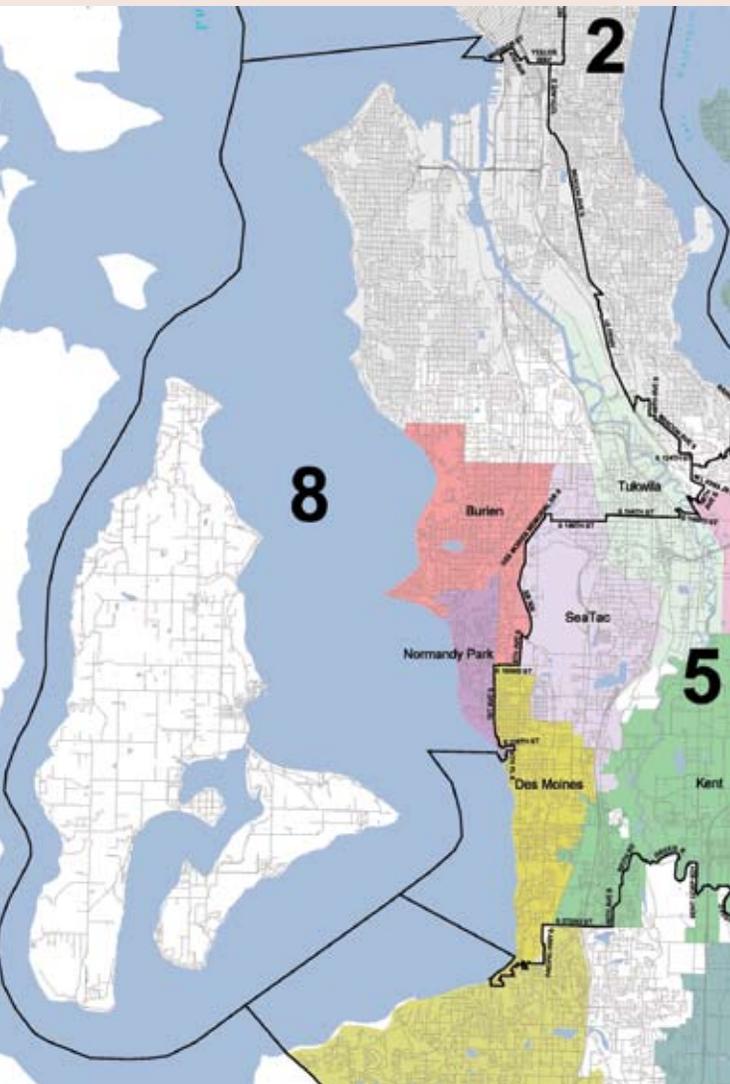
What King County does for you

King County government provides regional services—the kind of services that benefit all citizens of King County. These include the everyday infrastructure that makes our lives work, such as Metro Transit and sewage treatment, plus five major criminal justice functions: District Court, Superior Court, adult detention, juvenile detention, and the King County Sheriff's Office. King County owns and operates the region's major trauma center and public health hospital (Harborview Medical Center), a major airport (King County International, aka

“Boeing Field”), and regional parks and trails. King County is also responsible for public health, veterans' programs, emergency medical services, 911 dispatching and much more.

For the 356,000 unincorporated area residents, a jurisdiction equivalent to the second largest city in the state, King County provides **local** government services, such as roads, police, and enforcement of housing and zoning codes. Unincorporated communities in the Eighth District include Vashon/Maury Islands, North Highline, and West Hill. King County also provides these same local government services to many of King County's 39 cities on a **contract** basis.

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Vashon Allied Arts boosts islands' reputation as arts haven

Vashon and Maury Islands have a reputation for being a community that loves the arts.

Vashon Allied Arts is one major reason for that reputation. Formed in 1966, the non-profit arts group offers classes, performances, a gallery, and an Artists in School program, while publishing the monthly Island View, a guide to local arts events.

The hub for Vashon Allied Arts is the Blue Heron Arts Center. Built in 1912 as a community hall by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (a fraternal group), the historic structure now houses an art gallery, a

performance space, a classroom, and a professional dance studio. A painting studio and more classrooms have been added at an adjacent property owned by the group. Three years ago, Vashon Allied Arts added a community pottery studio at rented space in the historic Beall Greenhouses.

Vashon Allied Arts is led by Executive Director Molly W. Reed. A co-founder of Seattle Children's Theater, Reed returned to that group in 1997 to serve as chief development officer during a major fundraising campaign. She took over at Vashon Allied Arts this January.

For more information, go to www.vashonalliedarts.com.

Voice of Vashon to be heard on cable TV

Voice of Vashon (VoV), Vashon/Maury Islands' non-profit internet radio station, is now available on cable Channel 21, thanks to a recent agreement between King County, VoV and Comcast cable.

On Saturday, Jan. 14, I joined more than 50 Vashon residents at a Courthouse Square celebration hosted by the Vashon Chamber of Commerce.

The new Voice of Vashon TV (VoV-TV) can add graphics and video programming to its mix of offerings. And, in the case of an earthquake or other disaster, VoV-TV can keep Islanders connected even if the Islands are cut off from the mainland.

I am proud to have played a part in the Voice of Vashon's move to cable. Getting the station onto Comcast cable was neither easy nor free, and I was happy to help obtain the funding and support the necessary work. Many thanks are also due to Comcast, Voice of Vashon, and the King County Department of Executive Services for facilitating this project.

In keeping with the theme of the event, County Executive Ron Sims provided a videotaped greeting for those in attendance.



Speaking at the Jan. 14 Voice of Vashon celebration, which marked the station's move to cable Channel 21



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