

Get Active, Stay Active Grants Support Local Athletics

Many great organizations on the Eastside promote health and fitness through sporting activities. In 2017, District 6 was able to help a number of them reach more people thanks to state car rental funds freed up when the Kingdom bonds were paid off. Grantees included Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams, boxing for Parkinson’s patients at the Mercer Island Strom Jewish Center, and one of my



favorites, providing the first-ever public support for Rainier Athletes, an organization that helps at-risk middle and high school students gain the confidence and focus to succeed in school and life.

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King County Councilmember

Claudia Balducci

Annual District 6 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The New Year is sure to bring new opportunities and challenges to our region. As the federal government struggles to keep functioning, here at the regional and local level, your elected officials are working hard to make sure we are providing the services you need. I look forward to continuing to represent you on the King County Council as we work toward regional solutions to our complex community challenges, like housing affordability, access to transit, and caring for those in our community who are less fortunate.

To keep informed about activities at King County, please visit my website, blog or Facebook page, located on the back panel. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or needs you may have.

Sincerely,

**King County Councilmember
District 6**

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a County issue that you would like to discuss?
Let me know by contacting my office.
Send me an email at:
Claudia.Balducci@KingCounty.gov
or contact me by phone at (206) 477-1006.



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- Housing Affordability
- Vets & Human Services Levy Implementation
- Solid Waste
- Transit Improvements
- Get Active, Stay Active!

Housing and Homelessness

We've all heard about the problem of crushingly high housing costs making it hard for people to afford to live in our area. In 2017, I initiated a task force of elected officials from around King County to come up with a regional approach to this issue. I encourage you to follow along with the Task Force and its progress by visiting kingcounty.gov/initiatives/affordablehousing



Image courtesy of HopeLink

To help combat homelessness, I donated a "retired" King County van to Dignity for Divas, a non-profit founded by Nikki Gane to help women out of homelessness. Nikki and her team of volunteers meet women where they are, delivering supplies and other assistance to help them transition to a self-sustaining life. This former King County vanpool van is now delivering hope to many women in our community! For more information on the District 6 van donations in 2017, visit my blog at kccclaudiablog.com



Claudia and Dignity for Divas Executive Director, Nikki Gane and Staff

Vets and Human Services Levy

Thanks to you, the voters of King County, in 2017 we renewed and expanded our commitment to our military veterans, seniors, and others in need. The new Veterans, Seniors and Human Services levy will provide housing, job training, employment assistance, behavioral health treatment and more for those who have sacrificed and supported our country. And it will do this with a modest investment of county funds. I was proud to be one of the County Councilmembers who fought to add funds for seniors in need, in acknowledgement of the challenges facing our growing population of older adults on fixed incomes.



Solid Waste: Working for You!

After several years of planning and negotiation, the County and the City of Bellevue and several points communities came to an agreement that will keep these Eastside cities in the regional Solid Waste System. What does this mean for you? Maintaining a full complement of cities makes the regional system more efficient, helping to keep rates lower for everyone. In addition, residents of Bellevue and the four Points Communities will be able to continue using the newly-renovated Factoria Transfer Station – which your rates helped to build! I was proud to help resolve these negotiations as a County Councilmember, after working on this issue for several years as a city councilmember and Mayor from the City of Bellevue. Both the County and the cities will benefit from this decision to keep the regional solid waste system together, as it will provide cost-effective solid waste services for years to come.

Access to Transit

Eastside Bus Riders See Fare Reduction

Starting in summer of 2018, Eastside riders will see their bus fares decrease by 25 cents each way. This is due to Metro's new streamlined fares which eliminate zones and peak fares for a flat rate of \$2.75. More information can be found on Metro's website: kingcounty.gov/metro



East Link is Growing Fast

From I-90 to West Bellevue to Overlake, the signs of light rail construction are everywhere. 2018 will see construction in full swing. Meanwhile, Sound Transit continues to look for ways to ease impacts to travelers, recently opening a new, temporary, 50 space park and ride at 1212 104th Ave SE to service routes 550, 555/556 and 249 during the expansion of the Eastgate Park and Ride. Visit soundtransit.org/eastlink for more information.



Keep up with the latest news at King County by visiting

KccClaudiaBlog.com