Honoring our seniors on National Senior Citizens Day

Today is National Senior Citizens Day. It’s the annual reminder of what we do every day in Renton: commit ourselves to our older populations by honoring their contributions and engaging in their lives.

In honor of today, Community Services staff from the center and others have organized a “Parade of Positivity” through three senior-care facilities. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the staff was greeted enthusiastically by the seniors. They passed out gifts and made sure the seniors knew how much they were missed.

Seniors need our friendship more than ever. The closure of the Senior Activity Center due to COVID-19 has taken away their hub for activities and community. Our Community Services staff have done their best to keep in contact with the seniors. They’ve distributed over 11,000 lunches and connected with phone calls, online meetings and a monthly newsletter full of information.

The center is also losing Debbie Little, who is retiring at the end of the month. For the past 30+ of her 40 years with the city, she has been guiding programs and activities at the center, making it an extraordinary place. The center is also losing Lisa McMartin and Lisa Wivag, who have an additional 40 years with the city. Thank you Debbie, Lisa, and Lisa for your combined 80 years with the city and our best wishes for happy and healthy retirements.

Information System update

Access to some of our information systems is currently limited as a result of a cybersecurity incident we discovered on August 19. We have launched an investigation of the incident with the assistance of a cybersecurity firm. While some communications systems are down, I want to assure you that critical operations such as public safety and utility systems are functioning. We are working diligently to bring our systems back online, and you can get a list of currently available city services at rentonwa.gov/security. We appreciate your patience as we work through this incident.

Renton Census Countdown Day 2020

Don’t forget we’re celebrating Renton Census Countdown 2020 on Saturday, August 22. The day consists of three events designed to get a more accurate count of residents in undercounted areas of Renton. If you haven’t filled out your form, join us from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Benson Hill Fred Meyer (17801 108th Ave. SE), 200 Mill Building (200 Mill Ave. S) downtown and Fire Station 12 (1210 Jefferson Ave. NE) in the Sunset area.

These drive-through events will feature multilingual census ambassadors equipped with iPads to help submit your responses. We also have a $10 gift certificate as a thank you for submitting your form, and Renton Chamber of Commerce is providing discount coupons to downtown Renton businesses. If that’s not enough incentive, we’ll also have free ice cream treats and officers from Renton Police and Renton Regional Fire Authority. It should be a fun-time that will ultimately benefit all of us.