Support our local businesses
COVID-19 has brought an unprecedented level of stress to all of us, and nowhere is this more apparent than in our business community. This public health crisis has upended our workforce and forced businesses large and small to re-evaluate their operation altogether. And while resources to help businesses were put in place at every level of government, some restrictions are heightened in our state, by county, and by the City of Renton, as we adapt to this new normal. As this is challenging for all of us, it is nowhere more apparent than in our business community. This public health crisis has upended our workforce and forced businesses large and small to re-evaluate their operation altogether. And while resources to help businesses were put in place at every level of government, some restrictions are heightened in our state, by county, and by the City of Renton, as we adapt to this new normal. As this is challenging for all of us, it is nowhere more apparent than in our business community.

In October, city crews complete their winter operations planning and preparation. Public Works prepared for winter weather
With fall upon us and winter just weeks away, we've all spent time preparing our homes and vehicles for the impending change in weather. Imagine the preparation involved if you were in charge of maintaining 15 vehicles and over 750 lane miles of roadway?

Street Maintenance crews are working long and hard to prepare for the winter weather that is sure to hit any day now. Keep an eye out for plow drivers working overtime and scientists monitoring the weather system. The plow drivers work 16-hour days during extreme weather events, and are ready for whatever Mother Nature has in store. As the snow and ice start to accumulate, plow drivers work to扫除道路，使车辆可以安全行驶。

The City of Renton is launching a new "Make Yourself at Home" campaign to encourage Renton area residents to shop, stay and eat locally at our downtown businesses. This project will help equip our business community with the tools to promote themselves as part of a larger marketing effort.

Our downtown businesses are also feeling the impact of several road construction and utility projects currently underway. With the state of our road network, we know the construction interruption and access challenges are placing an additional burden on small businesses, and restaurants in the already tough time.

We need the help of all Renton residents to support our local shops and services at this time. Buying local can indeed make a difference to our struggling businesses. In addition, our downtown businesses are feeling the impact of several road construction and utility projects currently underway. With the state of our road network, we know the construction interruption and access challenges are placing an additional burden on small businesses, and restaurants in the already tough time.

The City of Renton has been working closely with the State of Washington, King County, Port of Seattle, Renton Downtown Partnership and our neighboring communities to ensure that our businesses had access to every available form of assistance. This includes the largest shared loss of its federal CARES Act funds (over $1.5 million) to a business grants program to assist our most vulnerable small companies. We realize, however, that these funds are only going so far and the needs of our struggling businesses are more than we can supply.

In addition, we will be asking the Renton City Council to extend the emergency ordinance put in place early last year during various regulatory requirements and fees.

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Our goal is to take every step we can to ensure that our residents in the best, most professional way possible, says Kalmbach. Our crew has a pride in their work, commitment, and dedication.

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• Keep your fuel tank at least three-quarters full.
• Check your tires and put chains in vehicle.
• Check windshield wipers and fluid levels.
• Carry a blanket, spare clothes, water and snacks.

“Conditions change quickly,” says Zellner. “If you get stuck, you’ll never know how long until help arrives.” He adds that trips only are made when necessary, and if you have to leave your vehicle, please do your best to keep it from blocking traffic lanes and stay with your vehicle.

“We did it! Census self-response rate climbs to 75.1%!”

Thanks to our Renton Census team’s fantastic work, Renton’s census self-response rate reached 75.1% when counting stopped on Oct. 15. We ranked as the highest in South King County and one of the highest in the nation. It’s also significantly higher than our 2010 response rate (67.1%) when we were among the country’s most undercounted cities.

An accurate census count is critical to all of us. The results direct how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, lead-based grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These programs are more vital than ever because of COVID-19. In financial terms, the Census Bureau tells us that cities gain around $2,500 for each person counted.

This was a genuine community effort with so many people to thank. The members of the Mayor’s Inclusion Task Force and our Renton Census Team represented a broad cross-section of our community and led the city-wide effort. They held community events that helped neighbors in need because of COVID-19 while also stressing the census’s importance. They rallied our youth through student art and theme contests. It was an impressive, dynamic and effective campaign conducted under the most unusual circumstances.

We are pleased to work with Renton Chamber of Commerce, One Eastside, and Chip-In to raise funds for Renton small businesses through tax-deductible contributions. Think of it like GoFundMe, but Chip-In does not take a cut. Each dollar donated will support local Renton businesses meet payroll, keep their lights on and doors open.

Tourism grant deadline is Nov. 30

The deadline to submit applications for 2021 Tourism Grants is Nov. 30, at 4:30 p.m. Eligible entities include convention and visitors’ bureau, destination marketing organizations, non-profit chambers of commerce and lodging associations. The funds support Renton’s tourism marketing and are funded through the state’s Hotel-Motel Tax.