March 30, 2020 / Issue: 12

With information regarding COVID-19 continually being updated, I’ve decided to publish this newsletter daily to share what we know with the residents of Renton. In each edition our team will bring you the latest information as of publication time and links to other resources as needed.

Update on city functions.

The City Council will not meet on March 30 (a council holiday), March 23, or May 19. Those wishing to volunteer can register with the City's response to governor's order of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy."

• Mayor’s COVID-19 update to City Council Committee of the Whole (March 23).

City Hall

• City hall is closed to the public until further notice. Most services are still available via telephone or online. Email addresses and phone numbers are available on the City’s website.

CDC guidelines for screening employees has been implemented.

Increased frequency for disinfecting common spaces, counters and door handles.

Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event

If you find yourself struggling and need help, please visit the King County’s response to governor’s order of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy."

Prohibition on enforcement of city noise restrictions on vehicles.

City Council

The City Council will meet via video conference both as Committee of the Whole and in regular session (March 23).

Submit comments to councilmembers via contactrentonwa.gov or to the City Clerk, c/o City Clerk, 1055 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057. Meetings are live on Channel 21 in Renton and available online.

Economic development

CED has compiled list of resources for small businesses affected by COVID-19. A zoom version of "normal." It has been really challenging for us all to be working together and in our version of "normal." Since then, COVID-19 has caused us to transition to a new form of normal. I am extremely proud to talk about the positive stories and successes in our city. In the coming days we look forward to sharing them with you.

Residential Evictions for Non-Payment of Rent.

Mayor’s COVID-19 update to City Council Committee of the Whole (March 23). We are fortunate in our city of respite restrictions on vehicles. Only as a last resort will the state take action against non-essential businesses that were continuing to operate. The City's response to governor's order of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy."

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Economic development

CED has compiled list of resources for small businesses affected by COVID-19.
Small Business Administration: offering disaster assistance loan to small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

King County: interpretations on unemployment, workers' comp, rent/mortgage, utilities, student loans, food assistance, insurance.

Greater Seattle Area: partnering takes action to be an 

Tenant Services/Facilities

The following facilities are closed through at least April 24 Renton. Community and Economic Development Department (CED) has been receiving questions from homeowners and contractors regarding the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order issued by the Governor's Office.

- CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to deem new residential and commercial construction non-essential activities, except that construction of public projects (such as public health projects) and public components of private projects (such as utilities and streets intended for turnover to the city) are essential activities. Furthermore, CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to deem non-essential any service suspensions for a period of 90 days.

- CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to deem new public projects (such as public affordable housing) and commercial construction as non-essential activities including supply chain for goods, services, and healthcare.

- Building permits for occupied residential structures necessary to avoid damage or unsafe conditions;

- Building permits for unoccupied homes or other projects not falling into the above list, some projects) and public components of private projects (such as utilities and streets intended for turnover to the city) are essential activities.

- Building permits for facilities intended to be made part of the city's public infrastructure. Such facilities include water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater collection systems. CED will work with property owners to accomplish this virtually.

- These interpretations are valid as of March 30, 2020 under the governor's emergency proclamation. However, these interpretations are subject to change as more information becomes available regarding the response to COVID-19. If further guidance is issued by the governor's office.

- The Valley Medical Center has a COVID-19 page on its website. 

- Renton Public Health & Social Services

- Renton’s COVID-19 Personal Health Access Program for those without access to the internet, including supply chain for goods, services, and healthcare.

- Renton’s COVID-19 Personal Health Access Program can be accessed online.

- Renton’s COVID-19 Personal Health Access Program can be reached by calling 425-720-7000.

- A complete list of all online resources is available at Renton userid.com.

- Renton’s COVID-19 Personal Health Access Program is open 24/7.

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- The May 9 Spring Recycling Event is cancelled and will be rescheduled.

- Republic Services will waive late fees and penalties and will not activate any service suspensions for a period of 90 days.

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• All events, activities, and classes through at least April 24.
• Registrations through April 25 will be cancelled.
• Refund processing for March cancellations, April to follow.
• Maplewood Golf Course, driving range, pro shop, and Rock Golf Grill until further notice. No public access.

Renton Municipal Airport
• Offices are closed to the public. Runway and services are operational.
• General information available on rentonwa.gov or by calling 425-430-7471 (administration). PSE will not discontinue services for non-payment.

Renton Municipal Court
• Work is going on to conduct Domestic Violence No Contact Orders remotely.
• Jurisdiction and service is suspended until at least April 27.

Renton Police Department
• Renton Police Department will continue to update procedures.
• Department lobby and walk-up window at city hall is closed.
• For all non-emergency assistance, please call 425-228-5000 to reach the non-emergency line.
• For immediate police response, please call 911.

Renton Regional Fire Authority
• Message from Chief Ed VanValey.
• Message from Chief Ed VanValey on governor's "Stay at Home Order''.
• Message from Chief Ed VanValey.

Renton School District
• Renton restaurants open for take-out/delivery.
• Reopenings scheduled for shelter/day center intake.
• Drop-in shelters.

Renton Regional Fire Authority
• Drop in shelters.

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State

March 30 – The state has set up an online tool to report non-essential businesses that violate the governor's Stay Home Stay Healthy order.

March 29 – Governor announced a stay at home order, banning all gatherings and closing all but those businesses deemed essential. The ban will take effect on March 25 and be in place for a minimum of two weeks. The governor indicated even though the order is voluntary in nature, it is enforceable by law. Residents will be able to conduct essential business (shopping, doctor’s appointments) and restaurants can still conduct business via to-go and delivery orders.

March 28 – Governor issues statewide shutdown of restaurants, bars and limits on size of gatherings expanded.

March 27 – Congress passes CARES Act, a $2.2 trillion federal stimulus package to aid coronavirus relief and economic stimulus.

March 23 – Governor announced a stay at home order, banning all gatherings and closing all but those businesses classified by the federal guidelines as essential. The ban will take effect on March 25 and be in place for a minimum of two weeks. The governor indicated even though the order is voluntary in nature, it is enforceable by law. Residents will be able to conduct essential business (shopping, doctor’s appointments) and restaurants can still conduct business via to-go and delivery orders.

March 19 – Governor orders a halt to elective surgeries and dental services to reserve critical equipment for COVID-19 health care workers.

March 18 – Governor waives one-week wait for unemployment benefits.

March 17 – Governor signs bill package to support state effort combating the COVID-19 outbreak.

March 16 – Governor expands school closure/gathering ban statewide.

Federal

March 27 – President approves major disaster declaration for Washington.

Important Links

• Public Health – Seattle & King County
• King County Emergency news
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• Governor’s Coronavirus assistance
• Washington State Coronavirus Resources
• Washington state FAQs in multiple languages
• King County Emergency Preparedness webpage
• State Resources for Business
• Homeless Services Provider Resources

Information for Businesses and Employees

For Businesses

• Stay Home – Stay Healthy Guidance for essential business
• What do I do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19
• Waivered procedures for existing workplace coronavirus patients

For Employees

• Employment Security Division: for workers affected by COVID-19
• ESD’s Paid Family and Medical Leave Program
• ShareWork Program
• Temporary Health, safety and benefits
• United Way of King County: Where to get help

Financial Resources

• U.S/ Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Assistance
• Keep Workers Safe and Healthy - First, Second Aid, Charitable Fund
• Washington State Department of Revenue: Business Relief During COVID-19
• IRS: Economic刺激 Tax Relief
• Facebook Small Business Grants Program
• Washington State Department of Revenue: Business Relief During COVID-19
• Re open Your Economy.org: COVID-19 Resources for Economic Development

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