With information regarding COVID-19 continually being updated, I've decided to publish this newsletter to share what we know with the residents of Renton. In each edition our team will bring you the latest updates from around the city as well as information from state and federal officials and agencies.

Renton Police Sgt. John Awai featured in Times story
Renton Police Sgt. John Awai is featured in a Seattle Times story on how departments in King County are dealing with COVID-19. The article follows his 12-hour shift, examining how the sergeant and his colleagues are using social distancing to patrol Renton. Also included is how they’re adjusting to the use of nitrile gloves, plastic safety-type glasses and N95 masks.

One of Sgt. Awai’s comments in the story is representative of the dedication of the entire department. When he was asked if there was any hesitation in going into work during this crisis, he replied, “My first thought is to be there for my guys.” We owe all our first responders a tremendous thank you for their dedication and selflessness. You and I can help them tremendously by going out only when necessary and when we go, practice social distancing and wear a mask.

Encouraging numbers came out over the weekend, showing that Gov. Inslee’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” executive order and adherence to social distancing has started to slightly flatten the curve. COVID-19 cases in Washington are on the decline, according to the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). The modeling provided by the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) shows that by continuing to use social distancing, we may be close to the peak. That is indeed good news. But the governor added a warning: IHME modeling also shows that relaxing these guidelines over the next two weeks would bring the virus right back.

I know we’re heading into a week of the best weather of the year, and it’s only natural that you want to go outside and enjoy it. If you do, I ask you, please do not congregate in groups of any size. We can stop the spread of COVID-19, but it has to start with every one of us doing our part and being smart. Remember our parks and trails are open only for walking. The available parking lots, restrooms, playgrounds, sports courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within parks will remain closed until further notice. This includes the skate park. If you use our parks or trails, you are required to follow recommended social distancing, have no group gatherings and use proper hand washing procedures.

If you do see groups violating the governor’s order, I ask that you report them by calling 425-235-2121, our police department’s non-emergency number.

Northwest Harvest food distribution point at Sunset Community Church
Starting Tuesday, Sunset Community Church (1032 Edmonds Ave NE) will serve as a Northwest Harvest food distribution point in the Renton Highlands. It will be a drive-through event to minimize contact and will run from 3-6 p.m. or as long as supplies last.

Anticipating a special session
In anticipation of the governor calling a special legislative session to deal with the state budget, I have asked our administrators to huddle and review our legislative priorities. The administrators will develop a priorities list in response to the governor’s recent veto list, the impact COVID-19 has had on the budget and some of our own shifts. Once the list is developed, we will discuss it with our local legislators.
Erasmus turns one

It was exactly one year ago today that Erasmus, our new rooftop dragon, was unveiled atop one of the Old Western Hotel buildings. Erasmus (named for Erasmus Smithers, the founder of Renton) was the brainchild of Renton. Our incentive program featured dragons for each of the cities in South King County and a rooftop dragon for Renton. Erasmus (named for Erasmus, our rooftop dragon) was the brainchild of Renton

City Hall

• City Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Most services are available via telephone or online.
• City staff and elected officials have been implementing COVID safety measures. Health screening questions will be asked.
• Increased frequency for disinfecting common spaces, counters and door handles in all facilities throughout our hours of operation.
• Call your alderman or city council member for local links to information and prevention.
• Viewed teledeep for eligible employees until further notice.
• Renton Chamber of Commerce: Renton Chamber is offering disaster assistance loan to small business owner who meets eligibility criteria.
• Mayor’s COVID-19 update.
• Mayor’s letter of support to Renton businesses detailing available resources.

Next meetings:
– Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Committee of the Whole and regular council meeting video.
– Monday, April 20, at 7:45 p.m. Renton Regional Community Foundation has launched a COVID-19 response fund.
– Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. Next meetings.

Impact on update of 2020 Census

Census 2020 response rate continues to rise

Our current Census 2020 response rate is 55.8%, giving us the highest self- response rate among cities in South King County and a top 5 position ahead of the state’s rate. We’re showing steady progress, but our goal is 100 percent response. If you need help, specifically in the Renton Highlands, West Renton and Valley neighborhoods.

To help us launch a census radio campaign with DJ Ray 1060 AM, LA Broadcast and leading Hispanic stations in the state.

We’re also nesting census flyers this week at drive-thru food banks and in Valley neighborhood.

Our incentive program features gift certificates from Viat Wah Market, Sandra’s Fresh Market and other Renton businesses to encourage those that haven’t yet filled out their census.

If you haven’t completed your census, please do. If you have questions or concerns, Ginna Hernandez, the city’s census manager can help. Call her at 425-450-7028 or email gherandez@rentonwa.gov

Renton’s census campaign

Mayor’s COVID-19 update to City Council Committee of the Whole.

Mayor’s letter to governor’s order of “Stay Home, Stay Healthy.”

– Mayor’s letter of support to Renton businesses detailing available resources.

City Launches Senior Resources survey

City will be launching a social media survey to understand what City staff needs to know about residents. The survey will be available via telephone and online.

Residents may view the proceedings streaming live online.

Prohibition on e-rentals.

Enacted a telework policy for eligible employees until further notice.

Increased frequency for disinfecting common spaces, counters and door handles in all facilities throughout our hours of operation.

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Permitting

- Online Payments

Additionally, there are also several recommended things you can do to stay healthy.

Mental Health Resources

Mental Health

Office.

Stay Healthy Proclamation and related guidance issued by the Governor’s office.

Interpreting the construction guidelines is issued by the governor’s office.

Community and Economic Development Department (CED) has been receiving feedback from homeowners and contractors regarding the city’s interpretation of the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.

Although CED will not be performing physical onsite inspections for new facilities, unoccupied homes or other projects not falling into the above list, some inspections can still be conducted.

The CDC has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to deem new construction, including residential, essential activities.

Under these interpretations, CED will continue its efforts to ensure codes and ordinances are being followed.

Community Support Resources

The following city boards and activities including supply chain for goods, services, and healthcare.

Utilities and streets intended for turnover to the city) are essential activities.

CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to deem new construction, including residential, essential activities.

CED will continue its efforts to ensure codes and ordinances are being followed.

Activiti...
Renton Municipal Court

COVID-19 Update


- Any service level change, including COVID-19 protocols, will result in a public health problem.

- With both existing and new cases, YOU ARE REQUIRED to follow recommended guidance.

- To report a non-emergency, use the police department’s non-emergency number 425-377-3977.

- After normal business hours, call Renton Police Department dispatch on 425-377-7203.

- Emergencies: 911.

- Use 911 for medical emergencies; use non-emergency number 425-377-3977 for non-emergencies.

- Only use 911 for emergencies; Non-emergency number 425-377-3977.

- For complaints of crowds of 50 or more.

- If the problem is an emergency, please call 911.

- For non-emergencies, contact Renton Police Department dispatch on 425-377-7203 to request assistance from an on-call officer.

- Attend court proceedings or file a complaint online.

- 20 MPH flashing school zone beacons disabled.

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- Message from Chief Ed VanValey: "As of today, Tuesday, March 24, 2020, all classes, event registrations, and activities have been cancelled. All COVID-19 related will be conducted online. Instruction staff are excited to teach your child via e-learning.

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• States of Public Health
• King Utilities
• Transportation
• Family Shelter
• Women’s Shelter

• Apply for extended stay shelter resources
• Request referrals, showers, laundry, meals. Open Sunday—Thursday from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
• 5158 116th Ave NE Suite 174
  Bellevue, WA 98004

• Kent Hope
  Resources, referrals, showers, laundry, meals. Open every day 7 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
  3030 3rd St. NE
  Kent, WA 98030

• The Sophis Way
  Apply for extended stay shelter resources

• Women’s Referral Center
  Charitable, temporary, move-in Day Center between 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. to transport to local hotels for overnight stays. The Center offers showers, laundry, and dinner.
  2100 105th S Grady Way
  Renton, WA 98057

• Hospitality Open: Step by Step Day Center
  Hospitality will support the health of the community with an emergency fund of up to $10,000.
  1419 SW 150th St
  Burien, WA 98166

• King County press releases
  Contains information in multiple languages.

• Seattle & King County.

• Call Mary’s Place: 206-316-2820 for shelter referrals.

• Transportation
  March 30 - Interactive tool for Metro rider whose route experienced service cuts.
  March 29 - If your Metro route was cut on March 21, are some of them coming back?
  March 31 - Sound Transit service change includes new route, temporary service reductions.
  March 30 - Sound Transit to suspend fares on all transit modes until further notice.
  March 29 - REMсин и Transit to temporarily reduce service on Link light rail.
  Sounder train, some ST Express routes.
  March 28 - Mary’s Place to begin suspension of street resident starting Monday, April 6.

• Utilities
  City will waive late fees and penalties and will not shut off water service for a period of 90 days. (March 23)
  Sound Transit to temporarily reduce service starting Monday, April 6.

• King County
  March 31 – County Council approves $2.2 million for emergency response workers and other essential workers during COVID-19 crisis.
  March 31 – King County postpones payment deadline to June 1 for individual property taxpayers.
  Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has an emergency fund program for shelter referrals.
  Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant program

• Washington
  March 31 – Governor issues protection for high-risk workers.
  April 1 – Washington, Oregon and California announce Western States agreement includes new route, temporary service cuts.
  Interactive tool for working Washington.

• California
  March 30 – Governor announces reduction for the number of individuals incarcerated to address COVID-19 in DC system.
  April 1 – Governor’s action on Century Link field hospital deployment.

• Oregon
  April 1 – Governor provides additional guidance on school closures and impact on available services.

• Nevada
  March 31 – Small Business Emergency Grant program to assist small businesses (10 employees including proprietor).
  The grant program will provide a limited number of businesses with emergency funding of up to $10,000 to keep 10 to 50 employees working.

• Pennsylvania
  March 31 – Guidance on cloth face covering from Department of Health.
  April 1 – Governor announces risk rating for businesses.
  Ride-sharing vehicles, protective equipment (PPE) and infection-control products to support emergency medical system, food delivery, public health and care for the elderly.

• Maryland
  March 31 – Governor issues additional guidance on the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order related to essential businesses. It clarifies as “essential” employees. Employees who are smiling at the end of May.
  April 1 – Governor provides additional guidance on the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order related to essential businesses. It clarifies as “essential” employees. Employees who are smiling at the end of May.

• Washington
  March 30 – Governor issues additional guidance on the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order related to essential businesses.
Important Links

Federal
• IRS: Coronavirus Tax Relief
• Washington State Department of Revenue: Business Relief
• Washington State Department of Financial Institutions: announce assistance for homeowners unable to make mortgage payments.

State Resources for Business
• Governor issues statewide shutdown of restaurants, bars and most businesses for at least two weeks. The governor indicated that 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. Resident will be able to conduct essential business (shopping, doctor’s appointments) and restaurants can still conduct business six to go and delivery orders.
• Governor orders all elective surgeries and dental and medical appointments to cease immediately and directs hospitals to reserve critical equipment for COVID-19 care.
• States that violators will be fined.

Information for Businesses and Employees

Stay Home, Stay Healthy.gov:
• Washington Department of Licensing lobbies on March 31
• Department of Financial Institutions
• Governor launches a $2.2 trillion federal stimulus package to aid coronavirus relied and economic stimulus.

What is not allowed:
• Going to work if your job is part of essential business (shopping, doctor’s appointments)
• Working out at a gym or fitness center
• Attending or playing in sports games and practices
• Participating in any in-person leisure, hobby or social clubs
• Reopening schools 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. Resident will be able to conduct essential business (shopping, doctor’s appointments) and restaurants can still conduct business six to go and delivery orders.
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