Friday, July 2, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 25

Send story ideas or comments to communications@rentonwa.gov.
Translation of the newsletter is available on the City of Renton’s website. For additional translation services contact communications@rentonwa.gov.

If you’re not already a subscriber, please sign up and get up-to-date news and information from City Hall.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

Ever wonder about the training that staff at Henry Moses Aquatics Center undergoes before we open the doors?
Here’s a look behind the scenes as HMAC opened for the 2021 season.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Mayor Armando Pavone and Councilmembers Ryan McIrvin and Ruth Pérez salute retiring Renton Regional Fire Authority Assistant Chief Roy Gunsolus. Roy retired after 36 years in fire service.

Assistant Fire Chief Roy Gunsolus retires after 36 years

Major Armondo Pavone and City Councilmembers Ryan McIrvin and Ruth Pérez joined in saluting Renton Regional Fire Authority Assistant Chief Roy Gunsolus. Roy just retired after 36 incredible years as a firefighter, including 10 with Renton.

Roy started his career in 1984 in Kenmore before moving to Renton in 1990. During his career with Renton Fire Department, he served as a lieutenant (2005), captain (2007), and battalion chief (2008). After the formation of Renton Regional Fire Authority, Roy served as deputy chief (2016) and assistant chief (2020). He served as RRFA’s acting fire chief from October 2020 to February 2021, before returning to his duties as assistant chief.

He’s left an indelible mark on our fire operations in our city. He authored command procedures, ran the Renton recruit academy, coordinated rope and hazmat teams, served as an instructor, and served on several county and zone boards.

Thank you, Roy, for more than three decades of service to the residents of Renton. Our sincere best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.
The ladies who decorated the Interface sculptures at Coulon for the Fourth of July include (left to right) Maureen Vanderpas, Lilliene Battiste, Melissa Battiste, Lydia Battiste, Melanie Hall, and Alice Kim.

Meet the members of the "Statue Stylist Group," who spent an hour on Wednesday decorating the Interface sculpture at the park for the Fourth of July. They're the third generation of Renton residents who've been turning Philip Levine's artwork into one of the most discussed pieces in the city since 1993.

"I admire the wonderful ladies who started this fun tradition," said Maureen VanderPas, one of the quartet. "For almost 30 years, they added smiles to the faces of those who visit the park."

The tradition started when three friends, "The Walkers," placed pumpkins at the statues to celebrate Halloween. In 1998 they started dressing them in holiday attire. The group also grew to a dozen members.

Since then, the statues have celebrated many significant holidays: Christmas, Valentine's Day, Apple Cup, St. Patrick's Day, Easter. For this Fourth of July, they're adorned in red, white, and blue.

Each outfit is sized perfectly to fit the statues. They also had the forethought to add snaps so the costumes can be used year after year.

But as famous as the statues are, the women who started dressing them have remained somewhat anonymous. "They came during the early morning hours in the rain and the snow and all kinds of freezing weather," said Maureen. "They wanted to remain 'hidden' since they did not have special permission to dress the public statues."

That original group has ceded their work to a younger generation. The "Statue Stylist Group" has kept the tradition alive through organizer Joyce Ahn. The fact they have gotten permission from city hall allows them to be more visible.

"It's fun to decorate when people are walking so we can see their reaction when we've finished," says Maureen. "I think it adds a little joy to their walk."

On your next visit to Coulon, see if the statues are decorated and take a moment to snap a selfie. You'll find them a few yards north of Ivar's and Kidd Valley.

About the sculpture

Sculptor Philip Levine was inspired to create "The Interface" after watching pedestrians cross in front of his car from both sides of the street.

"It struck me as a great sculpture idea," he explained. "It seemed like a great idea for a park, with people interacting."

Levine's sculpture was chosen in a contest for Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park in 1982, shortly after the park's creation. Levine has works in hospitals, parks and schools in Seattle, plus Arizona, California, Michigan, Oregon and Texas, and even China and Japan. "Interface," though, is one of his favorite pieces.

"I just love it," Levine told the Renton Reporter in 2008. "But, ironically, what does he not love? "I don't like them dressing it up particularly," Levine says, "but as long as it's not a permanent thing."

**FOURTH OF JULY**

Sale and use of fireworks prohibited within Renton city limits

Renton voters banned the sale and use of fireworks within Renton's city limits (R4-5-070(c)97) in 2005 to protect residents and property from damage caused by fireworks. Since its implementation, there has been a significant reduction in the number of injuries and property damage.

Citations may be issued for violations, which can be both civil and criminal penalties. Additionally, the sale, possession, or use of explosive devices such as M-80s, M-100s, and homemade or modified fireworks is a felony offense, leading to criminal charges.

Some adjoining jurisdictions still allow fireworks, including Skyway and Woodinville. However, this will end in June 2022, when King County Council enactts a ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks.
Renton Road Shows will help celebrate the nation’s birthday with three free shows this weekend. All three will be on the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington dock (1053 Lake Washington Blvd N, 98056). Bring your chairs and blankets, or pull up a chair at Dock & Drink in the Hyatt.

Free parking is available at the Hyatt on weekdays from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. and all day Saturday & Sunday.

- Friday, July 2 (6 to 8:30 p.m.) – Denis Wilcox
- Saturday, July 3 (5 to 8:30 p.m.) – Paul Kroger
- Sunday, July 4 (7 to 9 p.m.) – Danny Godinez trio

RECREATION

Meet Sounders players at the Futsal court ribbon cutting

The official ribbon cutting of our mini Futsal Court at Highlands Park (800 Edmonds Ave. NE) is Wednesday, July 7, at 1 p.m. After a few speeches, there will be mini-clinics for Renton youth by Sounders players at 1:30 p.m.

Sounders FC alumni Brad Evans will be part of the dedication ceremony and clinic.

Futsal is a fast-paced, 5-a-side game played on a hard-surfaced, basketball-sized court with a smaller, harder, low-bounce ball than soccer. It is excellent for skill development. Futsal is played by over 100 countries and 12 million players, including superstars Lionel Messi and Pelé.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Temperatures not the only high numbers from the heatwave

High temperatures were not the only numbers Renton Regional Fire Authority (RRFA) personnel kept track of over the last week. They also responded to emergencies caused by the unprecedented heat.

RRFA responded to 226 calls for medical assistance from Saturday to Monday, 58 false alarms, and 16 water rescues along the Cedar River and outside cities. They also answered multiple calls to extinguish small brush fires. While combating with the same heat we did, but wearing pounds and pounds of protective equipment.

The city’s cooling centers at Renton Community Center and Renton Senior Activity Center served 168 people from Saturday to Monday. Renton Technical College (RTC) opened a center on Monday and served 14 people.

Our thanks to the men and women of RRFA for their response during this record heat. Thanks also to our city staff and RTC staff for preparing and staffing the centers.

COVID UPDATE
This Week in Renton

What the state reopening means

Two significant milestones this past week in the battle against COVID-19.

First, King County ended its mask mandate on Tuesday. But what does that mean?

Changes:

- No masks are required outdoors, except in "crowded outdoor spaces."
- Does not change:
  - According to state guidance, people who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated must continue to wear face coverings when they enter indoor public spaces. This helps protect not only adults who are unvaccinated, particularly as more contagious variants are spreading, but also children and those with medical conditions that prevent them from getting vaccinated or from being fully protected by vaccines.
  - Businesses can request or require their customers and employees to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.
  - Vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask in most public settings. Still, they may choose to do so based on personal considerations.
  - Everyone, vaccinated or not, should continue to keep a mask with them when they go out. Masks will be needed in some indoor spaces.

Second, Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday announced a reopening of the state. It means all industries previously covered by guidance in the Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery or the Safe Start Reopening Plan may return to usual capacity and operations. There are limited exceptions for large indoor events.

Reopening guidance:

- Vaccine verification/negative testing: Recommended but not required for large indoor and outdoor events
- Capacity limitations: No restrictions in restaurants, bars, stores, businesses, theaters, etc. (except large indoor events mentioned above)
- Physical distancing: No requirements
- Facial coverings: Not required for vaccinated individuals, unless required by individual business
- Travelers: Follow CDC recommendations

Some exceptions will include schools and childcare centers that will continue to have some facial coverings and physical distancing requirements.

Limited in-person services return July 6:

Beginning July 6, a limited selection of in-person services will be available in the City Hall lobby.

These services do not replace our virtual customer service options. However, we recognize not everyone has access to technology. This first step back to our "new normal" is to bridge that gap.

We appreciate your patience. You may be asked to wait outside for an opening at one of our lobby stations or come back for a scheduled appointment. Masks will be required to enter and at all times in the building.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Renton Farmers Market

Renton Farmers Market is open every Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. On Tuesday, June 29, Healthy Kids Corner returns. Representatives from Washington State University’s Extension SNAP-Ed and Renton volunteers will hand out homemade playdough and fun kid’s activities to take home to your kids. Free parking is available in the City Center Parking Garage, one block away.

July is National Parks and Recreation Month

The Recreation and Downtown division celebrates National Parks and Recreation Month with a fun lineup of events through July. Let’s Get Outdoors and explore more of what Renton has to offer all year round!
Renton recreation info has information on youth camps, outdoor activities, aquatic center information and more.

This Week in Renton

Renton recreation flyer has information on youth camps, outdoor activities, aquatic center information and more.

Downtown Renton Wine Walk

One of the city’s most popular events, the Renton Wine Walk, returns on Saturday, July 10. There are three available time slots, 3–4:30 p.m., 4:30–6 p.m. and 6–7:30 p.m. This year will feature over 10 Northwest wineries at three wine gardens. There will be specialized and sidewalk sales along your route, as you sip and stroll. The event map and passport enable ticket holders to unlock promotions. You will also be entered to win a Staycation package.

Tickets are $30 and include 10 one-ounce drink tokens and a souvenir wine glass, free parking is available in the City Center Parking Garages, one block from the event center.

Pop-up feeding event to continue on Tuesdays through July

Every Tuesday in July from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Liberty Park, the Emergency Feeding Program presents a pop-up free lunch for the unhoused and residents with food insecurities. A variety of products will be available, ranging from ready-to-eat food and drinks to personal hygiene kits, socks, and cleaning supplies.

FREE Summer Meals with Renton School District

This week was the start of Renton School District’s free summer meal program for children ages 1–18. A 7-day meal pack is available each Wednesday at several schools and community locations. Students in summer school programs will be provided a meal on-site. Pre-ordering is strongly recommended but not required.

Ultimate Frisbee Camp for all skill levels

Seattle Cascade Ultimate Frisbee Camps are open to all skill levels. The age range has been extended to 8 to 14-year-olds. Ultimate Frisbee combines the non-stop movement of soccer with the aerial passing skills of football. Camps are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Register for July 12–16 at Cedar River Park or July 26–30 at Philip Arnold Park.

Basketball Skills Training 3-Day Camp, July 20–22, for ages 13-18, is designed to help players who play recreationally and competitive players looking to make their high school team. Register at rentonwa.gov/register with code 9816. (Upcoming: August 3–5, use code 9817.)

Recreation scholarships are available for those most in need at rentonwa.gov/giftofplay.

Renton Outdoors goes to the birds

Discover local birds and wildlife with Coast & Forest and fill your outdoor senses with the beauty and wonder of what the fantastic Pacific Northwest has to offer. Enjoy Birding Education, Birding Socials, and River Walks on Sunday mornings or Journaling in Nature on Monday evenings. Visit rentonwa.gov/rentonoutdoors to meet your outdoor adventure enthusiasts, then register at rentonwa.gov/register. Put “Renton Outdoors” in the search box for the entire lineup.
MAJOR ARMSON POOPER (center) is named by the 2021 Kent City Council Council President Randy Corman who entered the fire line. Standing: vinyl O’Hare, Ed Prince, Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvin, Kim Kline, Chief Fire Chief/Acting Fire Commissioner Brian Thomason, Kent Fire Department.

Kent Senior Meals, Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Free meal for those 60 and over. To schedule their appointment.

Patients who are 16-17 years old must have a parent or guardian present.

Kaiser Permanente offers drive-thru vaccination sites.

Appointments for Pfizer and Moderna are available at MyHealthPoint Portal. Patients who are 16-17 years old must have a parent or guardian present.

COVID-19 VACCINE

CALABAR

Daily, Senior Meals, Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m., free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up at Renton Senior Center, 717 Barrett Ave. N. Limited quantities. Mondays, 11:45-1:00 a.m., Limited quantities.

To view or participate in a council meeting, go to rentonwa.gov/youtube.

Approved Minutes (approved committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)

Meeting documents (including meeting agenda).

There is no meeting on Monday, July 5, due to the 4th of July holiday. The council will next meet on July 12 at 7:00 p.m. Council of the Week is not scheduled to meet on July 12.

Library resources and events, ongoing, Filter event by program, and location.

Weekly link on the Renton Live Facebook page.

Kent: The ShoWare Center, 625 W. James St., Kent, WA 98032

Auburn vaccination clinic

Kaiser Permanente member.

HealthPoint (805 SW 10th St., 98057), 24/7 free clinic for anyone 12 and older.

Valley Medical Center

Drive through (85 SW 10th St, 98057), offers drive-through access for the Pfizer vaccine.

For appointments for 15-17-year-olds or new patients can be made by calling 877-932-3975.

Current patients over 18 can use MyHealthPoint Portal to schedule an appointment.

Kaiser Permanente

Glenbrook Building and the Renton Building are accepting appointments. You do not have to be a Kaiser Permanente member.

Schedule an appointment: 877-932-3975, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., HealthPoint (805 SW 10th St., 98057) is still open. 805 SW 10th St., 98057.

Schedule online.

Car-side vaccination in Auburn

Auburn vaccination clinic offers car-side vaccination on Saturdays.

Mass vaccination sites

Kent: The ShoWare Center, 625 W. James St., Kent, WA 98032

Additional vaccination sites

• Car

Kaiser Permanente

HealthPoint

Valley Medical Center

In July, Renton History Museum is excellent for all ages and abilities. It brings the benefits of an indoor facility.

That thoughtful designed eat food and drinks, personal hygiene kits, socks, and cleaning supplies will be available.

For information soon on social media and rentonwa.gov/events.

Maple Valley Highway. Free for spectators. Donations are appreciated and will be used to fund local youth educational and recreational programs.

Free weekly lunch event for the unsheltered and residents with food insecurities. Along with ready-to-eat food and drinks, personal hygiene kits, socks, and cleaning supplies will be available.


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Register for an appointment (available in English only).

Schedule via phone: If you need language interpretation or online help, the following hotlines are available. Please say your preferred language when connected:

- WA State COVID-19 Assistance hotline: 1-800-565-0127 or 1-888-565-0127 (when pressed 4); 6 a.m.-10 p.m. (Monday), 6 a.m.-6 p.m. (Tuesday-Sunday)
- King County COVID-19 Call Center: 206-477-3977, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- For telephone-to-text relay service, dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6844. For tactile interpretation, contact [http://seattledbsc.org/](http://seattledbsc.org/).

Walk-in vaccination (no appointment required) is also available Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., while supplies last.