Welcome to the first edition of This Week in Renton, a combination of our two weekly publications, This Week from the Mayor and Our Renton Weekly. This Week in Renton will deliver up-to-date news, feature stories, vibrant videos and more. It will be emailed and posted to our website on Thursdays. If you’re not already a subscriber, please sign up and get up-to-date news and information from City Hall.

Video Feature
In celebration of Black History Month, we’ve compiled the best performances from our celebrations over the years. Around the city several events are planned this month to acknowledge, celebrate, and honor the culture and contributions of African Americans. We started at Monday’s City Council meeting as the council unanimously proclaimed National Black History Month in Renton. In keeping with the 2021 theme “The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity” as selected by The Association of the Study of African American Life and History, Renton resident Joseph Todd and his family, along with Dr. Linda Smith, accepted the proclamation.

Photo of the Week
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
City and RAAP celebrate Black excellence
The City of Renton in partnership with the Renton African American Pastors (RAAP) will honor Black History Month with “Celebrating Black Excellence” on Friday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. This special Zoom event will include speakers, a drama performance, and a panel discussion, plus an interview with Renton Deputy Police Chief Kevin Kayes. Zoom information will be coming soon and will be posted in next week’s edition and on our social media channels. The program will also air on Renton’s Channel 21 and on the City’s YouTube Channel.

Chamber hosts discussion of workplace diversity, equity and inclusion
Renton Chamber of Commerce’s continuing CommUNITY Conversation series will focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace. Chamber executive directors Diane Dobson (Renton), Zenovia Harris (Kent) and Andrea Reay (Seattle Southside) will share their perspectives. Audience input and participation will be encouraged. Moderators are inclusion and equity consultants Benita Horn and Sean Greenlee. Karen Wilkins-Mickey, Seattle Seahawks Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, provides an introduction prior to the panel discussion. The Zoom conversation is free and takes place on Thursday, Feb. 18, from 4-5:30 p.m. Register in advance.

Community Celebrations
Elementary school project honors difference-makers
At Lakeland Elementary School in the Renton School District, teacher Rebecca Berry is working with school parents to engage other students and families in a communitywide virtual Black History celebration. The group is sharing their videos on the school's family engagement page. Here are their first two:

Week One

Week Two

Their first video asks community members to nominate a black leader who has made an impact. The nominees can be a family or community member, classmate, student, teacher, or politician.

Online resources
Renton Technical College put together a page containing learning resources, recommended readings, and links to events celebrating Black History Month throughout February.

AROUND RENTON

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.

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Wells/Williams project to start

The conversion of Wells Avenue South and Williams Avenue South to two-way traffic is one of the most significant public works projects in our city's history. The patience and cooperation we have received from affected business owners has helped minimize disruptions and keep the project on track.

Weather permitting, Wells/Williams will reach a milestone as early as Monday, Feb. 15, when crews start building the four intersections. The project page has detour maps and project details.

Project Manager Keith Woolley explained the process during a webinar last week.

When complete, these two streets, along with the ongoing downtown core wayfinding project, will further advance our vision of downtown Renton as a welcoming destination for both residents and visitors.

RENTON READY

Street maintenance division on weather alert

With the possibility of snow in the forecast, our Public Works Street Maintenance division staff have been on alert since Tuesday evening. Their response to winter weather and keeping our roads passable is more complex than you think. It involves months of planning—dump and flatbed trucks have been outfitted with plows, anti-icer tanks and sanders since October, split shifts to provide 24-hour coverage, pre-treatment, and primary and secondary plow routes.

You can learn more by visiting our cold-weather street maintenance section of our website or watching our winter prep video.

THANK YOU

Renton Regional Community Foundation grant helps with bills

The city recently received almost $11,000 from Renton Regional Community Foundation (RRFC) to reduce outstanding utility balances of low-income/senior/disabled Renton residents. The grant provided a $200 credit on the 50 accounts with the highest outstanding balances, 120 days or more past due.

RRFC includes more than 65 charitable funds that support several areas of our community. Since last March, they've been one of the leaders in helping those affected during the pandemic. Their support through grants has helped several South King County organizations to address food insecurity, mental health, domestic violence, and refugees' and immigrants' needs.

On Feb. 25 they will host their virtual Celebrate! The Love of Community fundraiser. All proceeds will support their COVID-19 Response Fund and general programs and services.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Downtown Renton in a Box

Here's a unique idea from The Renton Downtown Partnership. Treat yourself or give a box from the retailers and restaurants in downtown Renton. Then tune in to a live performance where you will be able to meet the makers and business owners who are a part of our thinking downtown business community.

Feb. 20 - Date Night Boxes include dinner, drinks and dessert for two, along with items from downtown shops. Tune in for a live concert featuring local performing artists. The price per box is $100.

Mar. 27 - A Celebration of Women in Business: Celebrate Women's History Month with a box featuring products from women-owned businesses downtown. Enjoy a live comedy show and a panel discussion with female entrepreneurs. The price per box is $65.

Tickets for both are available via Eventbright.
**Wear a face cover and keep 6 feet apart from others in public spaces.**

**COVID-19**

City of Renton (COVID-19 resources page)

Resource event on Friday

Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Sustainable Renton free drive thru sack lunch pick up at Renton Senior Activity Center, 7016 211th Ave. N, Renton 98056. Limited quantities.

Feb. 12, 3 p.m.; northwest local service event at Campbell Hill Elementary, 6418 S 124th St., Seattle 98168. Limited quantities.

Feb. 12, 7 p.m.; King County Vaccine Resource event at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave. NE, Renton 98056.

Feb. 12, 11 a.m.; Lime City Farmers Market. General parking lot.

Feb. 12, 5 p.m.; City of Renton free drive thru vaccination site, Community Park, 7500 Black River Dr. NE.

Feb. 12, 3 p.m.; community feedback through a short survey so they can make changes in September 2021 and beyond. Your input will help determine service changes in September 2021 and beyond.

The survey is available in languages: (Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Korean, and English). Responses due by March 8, 2021.

**How we know what works**

Maybe you’ve seen King County’s tagline “Doubling down on what we know works.” This is your reminder that non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) introduced at the beginning of the pandemic still need to be followed. The NPIs include:

- a face covering that actually covers your face and fits snugly
- socially distancing whenever possible, not just when it’s convenient
- continuing hygiene and sanitation efforts to keep your hands clean
- staying home when you are sick
- testing if you have symptoms or have been exposed to a confirmed case

There’s work to do with masks!

You’ve probably read about a push for a mask (at least 2 layers) when walking on Seattle and King County recently pushed for more mask quality-measuring. Think of your mask fitting as well as your shoes or wearing the correct eyeglasses. You want your mask to work for you! See table below for a couple things to keep in mind:

| Multiple (at least 2) layers are best to create that filtering critical void | When using both masks, gaiters, and other non-medical masks, get creative to protect you and those around you. This includes wearing two masks with the more fitted one on top. |
| Test your mask for leaks. Your mask should never be charged out on your face or mouth. You want your mask to work for you! See a list of materials that are non-medical or are not normally medical grade masks, get creative to protect you and those around you. |
| Make sure you are wearing a mask that actually covers your face and fits snugly. |
| Small gaps are normal and unavoidable, but the fewer there are and the smaller they are, the better. If there are large gaps between your face and the mask, the air will go around the mask rather than through it, negating the benefits. |
| Face masks are not recommended for children under 2 and to those who have difficulty breathing, or are unconscious, or are otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. |

**COVID-19 microsite**

What's up with masks?

You’ve probably read about a push for a mask (at least 2 layers) when walking on Seattle and King County recently pushed for more mask quality-measuring.

- Test your mask for leaks. Your mask should never be charged out on your face or mouth. You want your mask to work for you! See a list of materials that are non-medical or are not normally medical grade masks, get creative to protect you and those around you. This includes wearing two masks with the more fitted one on top.

- Small gaps are normal and unavoidable, but the fewer there are and the smaller they are, the better. If there are large gaps between your face and the mask, the air will go around the mask rather than through it, negating the benefits.

**Calendar**

Feb. 12, 7-9 p.m.; Nature & Neighborhood, Virtual. Limits 250.

Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Guided Nature Walk for all ages at Cedar River Natural Area, 12110 28th Ave SE.

Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Botanical Awakening: Introduction to plant life age 10-18 in the Black River Riparian Forest. pre-registration; Using 9536; $12R/$15NR.

Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Botanical Awakening: Introduction to plant life age 10-18 in the Black River Riparian Forest. pre-registration; Using 9536; $12R/$15NR.

Feb. 12, 11-10 a.m.; Black River Riparian Forest via Zoom. pre-registration; Using 9536; $12R/$15NR.