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.

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 8

VIDEO FEATURE

“Ask Renton PD” debuts

This week’s Video of the Week is “Have a Question? Ask Renton PD.” The new monthly series gives residents the chance to have their questions answered by officers and staff.

In the premier edition, Chief Jon Schuldt answers two questions. The first is an overview of the department, including explaining the function of each division. In the second, he dives into the differences between his department and others around the area.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Mayor Armondo Pavone authorized the lowering of flags on all city facilities on Tuesday to honor and remember the over 500,000 Americans who lost their lives to COVID-19. Flags will remain lowered through Friday.

COVER STORY

Helping our most vulnerable through dedicated funding

Helping those most vulnerable in our community is one of the primary duties of a city’s leadership.

Thanks to decisive action last year by Renton City Council, we now have a new source of dedicated funding to support those in our community who need help finding affordable housing, locating mental health services, and transitioning from homelessness.

The funding source is House Bill 1590, which authorizes a 1/10th of 1 cent sales tax collection. The bill gave counties the first chance to implement the tax, then cities. Given that opportunity, our councilmembers moved unanimously in October 2020 to implement it, effective Jan. 1, 2021. Their action ensured proceeds could directly assist the most vulnerable in our community.

An “Early Action Plan” presented to the council on Monday proposed allocating $1 million to help finance Renton Housing Authority’s Sunset Garden project. This project will house homeless and chronically homeless residents, veterans, and others. Another $300,000 will fund mental health response services. Now, Renton Police Department can hire a mental health professional and “navigators” with expertise in steering individuals into treatment. These treatment programs have been more successful than arrest or incarceration.

There are strict limitations on how to use the money and these are just two of the many uses we have investigated. Our overriding goal is to put the funding where it has the most effect.

There’s much more to come on this plan, but for now, you can view the presentation to the council if you’d like more details.

Sunset Gardens, a Renton Housing Authority project, would house homeless and chronically homeless residents, veterans, and others. It would receive $1 million in funding from HB 1590.
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
Statement from Renton Mayor and City Council President condemning Hate Speech

Mayor Armondo Pavone and Council President Randy Corman issued the following statement against hate speech during their regular Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021. The statement followed a recent incident in downtown Renton.

“We in Renton stand for a community that celebrates diversity and understands that we are better when we stand together, build bridges and seek to understand one another. As one of the first cities to incorporate inclusion as part of our vision statement and business plan, we believe that differences enrich us, and hate has no place here. On August 3, 2020, the Mayor and City Council affirmed the City’s commitment to opposing discrimination against all groups in Resolution No. 4414.

We condemn hate speech. Hate speech has the effect of dehumanizing people and carries forward harmful stereotypes and propagates false beliefs through the use of statements of inferiority, slurs, expressions of contempt, disgust or disapproval, cursing, and calls for exclusion or segregation. Such behavior should be and is unacceptable in a community such as Renton that maintains diversity as one of its core values.

As community leaders, we pledge to continue to teach, cultivate and model the values of openness, diversity and tolerance. We are committed to a standard that makes all of our residents feel safe and valued. Positive change starts at home, with each one of us. We urge you to move forward with love and compassion and empathy. Stay united and together make our community better and our city exceptional.”

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
City and RAAP celebrate Black excellence

Tomorrow at 6 p.m., the city and RAAP (Renton African American Pastoral Group) present "Celebrating Black Excellence." Join us for speakers, a drama performance, and panel discussions. The program will also feature an interview with Renton Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keyes.

The program will air on the city’s YouTube channel and Renton’s Channel 21.

VisitRenton app
Download the VisitRenton app and take a virtual tour through Black Lives Matter artwork and find Black-owned businesses.

The artwork was displayed in storefront windows downtown during the Black Lives Matter Art Walk and is still accessible on the app. The Visit Renton website has a “Meet the artist” section providing an in-depth look at the artists and the businesses who hosted their art.

The app’s list of Black-owned businesses in Renton continues to grow. If you own one or know of one you’d like to add, send us an email. The VisitRenton app is available for both Apple and Android devices from your preferred store.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
BloodworksNW returns
BloodworksNW remains in need of blood to keep up with our community’s needs. They will be back in Renton at these locations and are accepting appointments:

Hazen High School Gym (1101 Hoquiam Ave. NE, 98059)
- March 24: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- March 25: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- March 26: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington at Southport Seattle Room (1053 Lake Washington Blvd., 98056)
- April 7: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 8: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lindbergh High School Cafeteria (16426 128th Ave SE, 98058)
- April 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 16: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BloodworksNW returns
BloodworksNW remains in need of blood to keep up with our community’s needs. They will be back in Renton at these locations and are accepting appointments:

Hazen High School Gym (1101 Hoquiam Ave. NE, 98059)
- March 24: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- March 25: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- March 26: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington at Southport Seattle Room (1053 Lake Washington Blvd., 98056)
- April 7: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 8: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lindbergh High School Cafeteria (16426 128th Ave SE, 98058)
- April 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 16: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Appointments

Hytte Regency Lake Washington at Southport Room (1053 Lake Washington Blvd., 98056)
- April 7: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 8: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appointments

Lindbergh High School Cafeteria (16426 128th Ave SE, 98058)
- April 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 16: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Appointments
VETS ENGAGED offers mini grants

Individuals and organizations are invited to apply for $9,999 to fund projects that provide King County veterans social engagement and community-building activities. The goal is to relieve social isolation, and reduce the many inequities faced by veterans.

VETS ENGAGED is a social engagement funding program of the 2018-2023 King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL).

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed by a panel of King County staff twice in 2021: on April 7 and June 30. If interested, email King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn.

TRANSPORTATION

You can now apply online for ORCA Cards

Metro offers free and reduced fares

Metro is making it easier to apply for reduced fares and learn about transit through their Virtual Neighborhood Pop-up events and online Reduced Fare Portal.

Customers with lower incomes, seniors, and people with disabilities can use the tools to get answers to their questions and apply for an ORCA Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP) card or an ORCA LIFT card. For a limited time, ORCA Youth card applications can also be submitted through the portal.

Route to Recovery Survey

Metro still wants your input to their Route to Recovery survey as they plan to bring back service suspended due to COVID-19. The input will help determine service recovery in September 2021 and beyond. The survey is available in six languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Korean, and English) and the deadline is March 8, 2021.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Armory Arafura (center, front) is flanked by the 2021 Renton City Council. Ruth Pérez and Council President Randy Corman are seated in the front row. Standing: Hämie O’Connor, Ed Prince, Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvin, Kim-Khánh Văn, and Angelina Benedetti.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Mayor Armory Arafura (center, front) is flanked by the 2021 Renton City Council. Ruth Pérez and Council President Randy Corman are seated in the front row. Standing: Hämie O’Connor, Ed Prince, Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvin, Kim-Khánh Văn, and Angelina Benedetti.
RIZP hosts resources event
Renton Innovation Zone Partnership will host a free drive-through multi-service event at Campbell Hill Elementary, on Friday, Feb. 26, from 3-5 p.m.
Baby supplies, household items, food boxes and frozen family meals will be available. There will be information for housing, medical and health insurance, childcare, preschool consultation and developmental screening, WIC and First Steps. Information for housing, medical and health insurance, childcare, preschool consultation and developmental screening, WIC and First Steps. Information for housing, medical and health insurance, childcare, preschool consultation and developmental screening, WIC and First Steps.

COVID-19
State appropriate $2.2 billion in relief
The governor signed House Bill 1368, which appropriates $2.2 billion in federal funding that has been allocated to states in response to the ongoing COVID emergency. The bill takes effect immediately.

It provides:
• $714 million in assistance for K-12 schools
• $618 million for public health's response to COVID, including testing, investigation and contact tracing, and funding for vaccination efforts
• $365 million for emergency eviction, rental and utility assistance
• $240 million for business assistance grants
• $50 million for childcare
• $26 million for food banks and other food programs
• $91 million for income assistance, including $65 million for relief for the state’s immigrant population

CALENDAR
Dolly, Senior Meals, free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up. Limited quantities. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m., Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.

Virtual Nature & Neighbors, Feb. 26 and March 5, 7 p.m. for ages 18+. Share conversation and discover nature in a fun and approachable way. Register at kcls.org/register for Feb. 26 and/or March 5. Additionally, search “Renton Outdoors” for upcoming in-person adventures around the city.

Skyhawks Youth Sports Camps, after-school programs, classes, and leagues for ages 4 to 14. These programs have continued in 2021 with proven COVID-19 protocols and a modified curriculum in place. Registration is open for soccer and flag football camps and programs at skyhawks.com. Renton locations include Kennedy, Maple Valley, Cedar Ridge, and Veterans Parks.

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