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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Friday, May 14, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 18

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

The cities of Renton and Nishiwaki, Japan, have enjoyed a 50-year relationship as Sister Cities, celebrating that anniversary in 2019 in Renton. A return trip to Nishiwaki was planned for 2021, when our delegation would help Nishiwaki celebrate the opening of their new city hall. Unfortunately, COVID-19 prevented an in-person visit. Instead Mayor Armondo Pavone and City Councilmember Randy Corman sent this video message that is playing at Nishiwaki City Hall.

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

That wasn’t a UFO you may have seen downtown on Wednesday. It was the iconic clock tower being hoisted aloft by a crane and moved temporarily from its location at South Third Street and Burnett Avenue South.

The 23,000-pound tower was moved a few yards to the south to allow for underground construction work in the area. The work is part of the Downtown Utility Improvement projects. The tower will return to its location in about three months.

The Mariner Moose made a surprise visit to Renton Senior Activity Center on Wednesday. In addition to bringing a smile to everyone’s face (yes, we could see behind the mask), the Moose helped hand out lunches as part of the free lunch program for seniors along with a gift from the Mariners. See more photos from both events on our Flickr page.
Renton Launches Hate Has No Home Here Campaign

City leadership has taken another step in their continuing effort to emphasize inclusion and make all our residents feel safe and welcome. On May 10, City Council adopted the updated 2022-2027 Business Plan and incorporated the words hate-free into the Business Plan goals.

Renton is joining a nationwide movement and local organizations to launch the Hate Has No Home Here campaign that identifies locations free from hateful behavior. The Hate Has No Home Here campaign is part of a national movement that began in a Chicago neighborhood characterized by its diversity of age, race, nationality, and ethnicity. Schoolchildren worked with a neighborhood organization to develop a campaign to welcome all people to their community.

Starting in June, residents, businesses, and visitors will notice these banners, posters, and flyers around Renton. The city will place Hate Has No Home Here banners at the Farmers Market, downtown, the Highlands, parks and other places throughout the city. We will also work with partners to do the same. The city will launch and share a social media campaign and encourage the community to participate.

The campaign includes Hate Has No Home Here signs written in multiple languages. There will be information available at the upcoming Renton Farmers Market. Flyers, posters, and other information will soon be available for download at rentonwa.gov/nohate.

Places displaying the Hate Has No Home Here signs signify that hateful actions against others are not tolerated by that person, business, or organization.

“As a community, Renton has always shown a willingness to come together,” said Mayor Armondo Pavone. “This campaign is a great way for us to further strengthen the connections between friends and neighbors.”

“When I heard about this powerful campaign, I immediately wanted to be part of it,” said Council President Randy Corman. “I knew others would want to support it as well because the vast majority of people in our community welcome everyone with an open heart.”

Hate Has No Home Here is a companion program to Renton Police Department’s Safe Place initiative.

Business Plan updated to reflect community needs

The Business Plan is a six-year rolling plan that is the city's guiding document. It established the city’s mission and set objectives for the community, residents, and businesses. The plan is displayed in all city hall meeting rooms.

Every year, the Council reviews the Business Plan to make sure the city is on track and updates the plan to reflect the community’s needs.

This year at their annual retreat, Council requested the following additions:

- Add emphasis on being a hate-free community
- Mention the city’s commitment to seeking grants
- Increase focus on municipal level climate change
- Enhance emphasis on mental health and human services funding


COVID UPDATE

State is moving towards June 30 reopening date

The governor announced yesterday that the state is moving toward a statewide June 30 reopening date and that all counties in Washington will move to Phase 3 of the Healthy WA: Roadmap to Recovery reopening plan effective May 18 until June 30.

The announcement comes after the governor paused phase movement for two weeks to review an emerging flattening trend in statewide COVID-19 cases. As of today, the plateau observed in COVID-19 activity has already become a decline.
Renton to receive $18.1 million in American Rescue Plan funding

Renton will receive $18.1 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan. Renton’s total ranks fourth among cities in King County. The county will receive $437.6 million.

The funding is earmarked to help support COVID-19 response, strengthen public services, help pay for infrastructure investments and boost economic relief for workers, families and businesses impacted by the pandemic. Specific details on how the city will use the funding will be available in the coming months.

SAFETY

It’s Bicycle Safety Month

May is Bicycle Safety Month. Both bicyclists and motorists must obey traffic laws and respect each other as they share roadways.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) strongly advises that motorists:

• Always respect bike lanes and allow at least 3 feet clearance when passing a bicyclist.
• Check for cyclists before opening a car door or reversing in a parking lot.
• Check for cyclists before making a turn.
• Yield to bicyclists at intersections and as instructed by road signage.
• Never drive under the influence or when you are distracted.

The NHTSA strongly recommends that cyclists:

• Use a properly-fitted Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) approved helmet. For more information on fitting a bike helmet, visit your trusted bicycle store or the NHTSA website.
• Ensure all equipment and parts function and fit correctly.
• Ride straight and use hand signals at every lane change.
• Always obey road signage as well as signals and lane markings. Travel with traffic in the same direction.
• Stay alert for traffic and obstacles. Avoid the use of any electronic devices.
• Ensure visibility to motorists by wearing bright, reflective colors and using bicycle lights at dusk or dark.
• Never ride under the influence or when you are distracted.

Parents are reminded to model proper behavior for children. Take the time to teach children these safety behaviors so that they can enjoy cycling safely.

• Always wear a helmet—even in the neighborhood.
• Help children ensure that brakes, gears, and tires work correctly.
• Show children how to make eye contact with motorists to ensure drivers are watching.
• Teach children how to obey traffic signs and signals and to use hand signals for every turn.
• When entering an intersection, teach children to stop and look left, right, and left again.
• Make sure they have reflectors and lights if riding at dusk or dark.

PARKS AND TRAILS

Volunteers needed for park projects

We have a few open volunteer spots for the May 21 cleanup at Gateway Park & Piazza Park from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The event is for those 14 and older.

You’ll be helping us keep the parks clean and beautiful by removing weeds, picking up trash, and planting something in the landscape beds.

All equipment—wheelbarrows, shoes, shovels, pitchforks, gloves—will be provided for each individual. Face coverings are required. If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided.

Register at rentonwa.gov/volunteer. Look under the “One Time Event” tab.

If you’re part of businesses, churches or civic groups that would like to participate in a team-building park beautification project, please email Teresa Nishi or call her at 425-430-6694.
Kennydale Beach Park to close next week

Kennydale Beach Park will be closed for fence repairs from Monday, May 17 to Friday, May 21.

Museum surpasses fundraiser goal; still time to donate

Congratulations to Renton History Museum. They’ve reached their $2,000 fundraising goal in support of an exciting exhibit “Facing the Inferno: The Wildfire Photography of Kari Greer” and renovated their north gallery. Today is the last day to support their Facebook fundraiser.

Arts commission seeks artist

The Renton Municipal Arts Commission seeks one or more artists to create designs for four monument signs that will be installed at key entry points in the historic downtown core. This opportunity is open to visual artists who are members of the Renton community. The work can be in any medium, provided the design can be digitally reproduced as a vinyl wrap.

Chalk Your Walk has great 2021, looking ahead to 2022

Last week’s Chalk Your Walk was a great success. You can see examples from our tremendously talented artists at #chalkrentonout. Recreation and Neighborhoods division staff distributed almost 1,000 chalk kits. Based on zip code information collected, the Highlands/Sunset area (98056) led the way at 29.19% of total kits distributed, just ahead of Cascade/Benson (98058) at 22.63% and East Highlands (98059) at 19.09%. Talbot (98055) was at 9.39% and City Center (98057) at 7.68%.

Americorps VISTA volunteers distributed over 200 additional chalk kits to rental communities in the Sunset, Benson, and City Center communities, including several Renton Housing Authority properties.

Hanna Dillingham, our Benson AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, worked with Nelsen Middle School’s Art Club to create their “Concrete Canvas” activity. Hanna reports that the students said it was the most fun activity they have had this year due to the impacts of COVID-19 and learning.

A new feature this year was “Chalk the Dock,” sponsored by the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington. Guests and visitors were invited to chalk the dock and receive 10% off at Dock and Drink. The Hyatt also graciously paid for all the chalk kits. The Hyatt was so pleased with the results that they are already planning for 2022.

Chalk Your Walk organizers would also like to thank Grocery Outlet and Cloudbreak Cafe for their strong support.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Wednesday Walk-In Vaccination Clinics

King County Fire District #20 is hosting a free weekly vaccination clinic. The clinic is Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at Renton headquarters, 1333 WA-70 & SE 6th, (425) 932-3370. That’s just west of Renton Municipal Airport.
Kaiser Permanente scheduling vaccination appointments

Both Kaiser Permanente campuses in Renton are accepting vaccination appointments. You do not have to be a Kaiser Permanente member to schedule an appointment. Their campuses are located in the Glacier Building and the Rainier Building.

To schedule by phone, call 1-877-832-9915, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Interpreters are available, simply state your preferred language when connected. Patients who are 16-17 years old must have a parent or guardian call to schedule their appointment. You can also schedule online.

Car-side vaccination Mondays in Auburn

Do you or someone you know have mobility needs and still need to get vaccinated? On Mondays, the Auburn vaccination clinic offers car-side service for those who cannot easily walk into the clinic. Just let a greeter know upon arrival that car-side assistance is needed.

Getting vaccinated in King County

Visit KingCounty.gov/vaccine for the latest information on how to get vaccinated in King County. You can find vaccine locations by zip code and 30 languages are available in the upper right hand drop-down menu. If you need language interpretation, the following hotlines are available:

- WA State COVID-19 Assistance hotline: 1-800-525-0127 or 1-888-936-1016 (then press #), 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 language interpretation, say your preferred language when connected.

CITY COUNCIL

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

May 3, 2021 Meeting

- Meeting documents (reapportioned committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)
- Council meeting video
- Committee of the Whole video
- Approved Minutes (May 3, 2021 meeting)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Renton City Council meets via Zoom. For information on viewing or participating in a council meeting, go to rentonwa.gov/council. Find meetings are available at rentonwa.gov/youtube.
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MLB Home Run Derby

MLB Home Run Derby is the chance for you to show off your baseball and softball hitting skills. On Sunday, May 23, Cedar River Park, at 2 p.m., knock it out of the park in this FREE competition. Boys and girls are divided into four age divisions (7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14) and have the chance to advance to T-Mobile Park or even the National Finals during MLB All-Star Week.

Due to social distancing requirements, participants must pre-register online for a time slot. Players and staff must wear a mask at ALL TIMES.

Youth Baseball returns

Grab a glove and get ready to catch a fly ball this summer (or pick grass in the outfield). Renton Youth Baseball is back this summer to teach kids how to play America's favorite pastime. Participants of all skill levels are welcome. Practices are either Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday nights, for approximately 1 hour. Games are played on Thursday nights.

Register at rentonwa.gov/register.

• T-Ball for ages 5-6, Co-Ed, Maplewood Park or Kennydale Park.
• Coach Pitch for ages 7-8, Co-Ed, Kennydale Park.

Parent volunteer support is encouraged. A City of Renton Volunteer Application is required.

Renton Outdoors

Say yes to something new and enjoy the warm spring weather with Renton Outdoors. Coast & Forest guides, a collective of Pacific Northwest artists, educators, scientists, and healers with a passion for providing impactful outdoor experiences, lead these fun and engaging outings.

May 22, Sat. at 11 a.m., Guided Hike Walk for all ages at Liberty Park.

May 23 or 24, 8 a.m. Block of a Feather: Social Birding Adventures for age 18+. An engaging, approachable bird-focused outing at the Black River Riparian Forest. Register for Sunday or Monday, $22R / $27NR.

May 23 or 24, 11:30 a.m., Botanical Awakening: Introduction to plant life for age 18+ in the Black River Riparian Forest. Register for Sunday or Monday, $22R / $27NR.

CALENDAR

Daily, 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.

Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sustainable Renton free drive-through grocery store at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave. NE.

Wednesdays, bi-weekly, 6 p.m., Renton Live! online connection promoting business, nonprofits and activities within the greater Renton community. Find the link on the Renton Live Facebook page.

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

May 15, Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Renton Technical College Hosts Triton Tech Fair. A great event with over 150 exhibitors. Great opportunity for students and parents to meet with local businesses. Visit renton.kcls.org for more information. Located at Renton Technical College.