Friday, May 21, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 19

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

This month’s edition of “Ask Renton PD” answers the question, “Does Renton PD take unused ammo?” Spoiler: the answer is “yes.” But you’ll want to watch the entire video to see how to get your ammunition safely to the police.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

It’s National Public Works Week, so it’s appropriate to look back at one of that department’s most important jobs, severe weather response. That’s not just removing snow from our streets, but also applying deicer before freezing weather makes streets dangerous for drivers and adjusting shifts so there is 24-hour coverage.

Those same men and women who are so crucial during the winter months are the same ones you see in spring and summer, keeping our streets smooth and free from potholes.

COVER STORY

The water maintenance division honored Abdoul Gafour with his own personalized fire hydrant. The hydrant was painted by Sybil Ania McIntyre and is located at the Benson Road South entrance to city hall.

Posing with Abdoul is water maintenance manager George Stahl, and maintenance workers Todd Hamblin and Paul Dills.
The Liberty Park playground renovation is scheduled to start on May 24. The work will involve removing the existing play equipment and wood fiber safety surface. New play equipment will be installed for ages 2-12. During construction, repairs and upgrades to the basketball court at Teasdale started on May 17. Our parks planning & natural resources division has projects underway at two parks.

The Renton Chamber DEI CommUNITY Conversation: Implicit Bias, part II will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, May 27 from 4:00 to 5:30. This conversation will explore strategies to reduce implicit bias. Implicit bias describes when we have unconscious attitudes or stereotypes that impact our perception, thinking, or actions. The workshop will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, May 27, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Find more information on the Renton Chamber Facebook page.

The Maplewood Well Field within Maplewood Golf Club. The facility includes four pump stations, a separate water treatment facility and safety systems. The well field is fed by the Cedar River. The facility includes a transmission main and safety systems. The facility includes a transmission main and safety systems.

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COMMUNITY

Renton's vibrant craft brew and BBQ scene
Renton is achieving a well-deserved reputation as a home of great craft brews and delicious barbeque.

Earlier this month, Explore Washington spotlighted the top five places to grab a craft beer in Renton.

Seattle Times food writer Jackie Varriano highlighted three can’t-miss barbecue places in her piece "Head to Renton for delectable barbecue, Aussie-style chicken schnitzel and flavors of the Yucatán."

RECREATION

Lifeguards needed
The city’s Recreation & Neighborhoods division still has openings for lifeguards to patrol Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, Kennydale Beach Park, and Henry Moses Aquatic Center. The pay range depends on experience and assigned location. Hours range from 32 to 40 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 15 years old and have American Red Cross certification or be willing to earn it. Questions? Email zholm@rentonwa.gov.

The number of lifeguards we are able to hire directly affects the hours we can open these facilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Memorial Day 2021
We are celebrating Memorial Day virtually again this year. Our website has several related materials for all ages. There will be a 2021 video tribute to our veterans, coloring pages for children, printable window decorations, and instructions on making a poppy, the American Legion’s official symbol of remembrance.

Renton Farmers Market
Renton Farmers Market opens its 20th year downtown on Tuesday, June 1. The market will be open every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m., through Sept. 28 at Gateway Park, S 3rd St. & Logan Ave. S. Free parking is available in the nearby City Center Parking Garage. The market will operate under COVID-19 guidance from Public Health-Seattle & King County.

HELPING OUT

also be a new poured-in-place rubberized all-weather safety surface. The playground is scheduled to be completed by mid-August 2021. Although the playground will be closed during the renovation, remaining park areas are open.

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Donate blood and win a grill
Donate blood with BloodworksNW during May and you’ll be automatically entered to win one of two Weber barbeque grills. See the full contest terms and conditions.

Schedule your appointment online or call 1-800-398-7888. Donation appointments required.

RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Register now for kindergarten
Renton School District offers free full-day kindergarten programs in every elementary school for children who will be 5 years-old by Aug. 31, 2021.

Kindergartners are on the same schedule as grades 1-5. The core curriculum includes reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). There are also offerings in art, music, and PE.

District elementary schools are hosting kindergarten information events in May.

COVID-19 VACCINE
How to get vaccinated
Getting vaccinated has never been easier. Vaccines are available across King County at high-volume vaccination sites, pharmacies and clinics. Many don’t require appointments.

Remember, vaccination is available regardless of insurance, citizenship, or immigration status. You will not be charged whether or not you have insurance.

Here’s a look at the vaccination clinics closest to Renton.

King County Fire District 20
King County Fire District 20, better known as Skyway Fire, offers vaccinations for those 12 and older every Wednesday at their headquarters, 12424 76th Ave S., Seattle, 98178. No appointments are necessary at this free walk-in clinic, open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m.

Please note two schedule changes. The clinic will be Tuesday, May 25, instead of Wednesday, May 26. On June 9, the clinic will open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

Valley Medical Center
UW Medicine | Valley Medical accepts walk-ins at their free vaccine clinic from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The clinic is in the Medical Arts Center, Floor 1. You do not have to be a current Valley patient.

Scheduling is still available for those who wish to reserve a time and skip any potential waiting.

Valley is using the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines only. Everyone 12 years and older is eligible to be vaccinated.

HealthPoint
The HealthPoint COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Site at 805 SW 10th Street, Renton, WA 98057, offers a convenient, drive-through option to receive the first dose of Pfizer vaccine. Appointments for those 12-18 or new patients can be made by calling 866-893-5717.

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

Kaiser Permanente
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 Center Building and the Station Building.

To schedule by phone, call 1-877-422-1815, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Interpreters are available, simply state
This Week in Renton

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.

Mass vaccination sites

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

• 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: 1-800-525-0127 or 1-888-856-5816 (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 telephone-to-text relay service, dial: 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6384. For tactile interpretation, contact: http://seattledbsc.org.
• Walk-in vaccination (no appointment required) is also available Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., while supplies last.

In Auburn: 1101 Outlet Collection Way, Suite 1333, Auburn, WA 98001

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COVID-19 RESOURCES

Rent assistance program to help prevent evictions and homelessness

Households in King County who have fallen at least one month behind in rent due to unemployment, lost wages, and health crises resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for aid through a new rental assistance program. Additionally, the county has partnered with local property owners and managers to implement new eviction prevention and rent assistance program.

This program offers payments for back rent, utility expenses and future rent obligations for those struggling to get back on their feet financially.

Skyway Resource Center

Next Friday, May 28, from 3-5 p.m., Renton Innovation Zone Partnership hosts a free drive-through multi-service event at Campbell Hill Elementary.

Available resources include baby supplies, household items, food boxes and frozen family meals. There will be information for housing, medical and health insurance, childcare, preschool consultation and developmental screening, WIC and First Steps, ORCA LIFT cards, and free academic and career trade training.

MASK UPDATE

Public Health issues mask directive

On March 20, King County Health Officer Dr. Jeff Duchin issued a mask health directive. This program offers payments for back rent, utility expenses and future rent obligations for those struggling to get back on their feet financially.

Public Health issues mask directive
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Ultimate Frisbee Summer Camps

A fast-paced, non-contact team sport, Ultimate Frisbee is an excellent activity for all ability levels, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Camps are available for ages 8 to 13 in June and July at Cedar River Park and Philip Arnold Park. Skills will be tailored to beginner and experienced players while having fun and making friends. These two-week sessions are taught by top-level instructors and include strength and agility components as well as two short scrimmages.

Register: June 21–July 6; July 12–24; and July 26–Aug. 7.

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, 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.

May 22, Sat., at 11 a.m. Guided Nature Walk for all ages at Liberty Park. rentonwa.gov/register. $5/0NR.

May 23 or 24, 10 a.m. Birds 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. 3:30/ $27NR.

May 23 or 24, 11:30 a.m., Botanical Awakening: Introduction to plant life for age 8+. Social birding adventures for age 18+. An engaging, approachable bird-focused outing at the Black River Riparian Forest. Register for Sunday or Monday. 3:30/ $27NR.