Limited recreational facilities and activities have been available for our community since we reopened our centers for in-person use. However, with the lifting of most mask mandates, distancing restrictions, and occupancy limitations, our Parks and Recreation Department is excited to now offer a wider variety of activities and events.

Wearing masks inside our facilities is optional; we’re leaving the choice up to you. Whichever you choose, please respect the choice of those around you.

Here’s a rundown of current facility status and our plans for the upcoming weeks. Information about the programs, activities, leagues, camps, and summer leagues can be found in the current edition of Let’s Go, Renton!

Renton Senior Activity Center: The center has completely reopened. The drive-through lunch program, so popular during the COVID shutdown, has been replaced by a hot lunch menu developed and prepared by Sound Generations. Sit-down dining is available in the auditorium. All the center’s facilities and game rooms are open, including the exercise room and coffee bar. Additionally, activities ranging from beachball volleyball to puzzles are available.

Renton Community Center: The center is hosting programs for the very young to our seniors. Reservations can be made online for the fitness room, racquetball, and gymnasiums. The rooms are available Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition, our recreation division is accepting registration for summer leagues. Reservations for banquet rooms and meeting rooms will start in early May.

Parks: Facilities at all parks are open, including bathrooms and drop-in use of picnic shelters. Reservations are available for softball, baseball, soccer, football, and other activities. Reservations for picnic shelters will open the first week of May and can be made online or at Renton Community Center.

Adaptive Recreation: Many in-person and virtual events are offered to those eight and older. Find out more in the latest edition of The Buzz.

Henry Moses Aquatic Center: HMAC is scheduled to be open from Saturday, June 25 to Monday, Sept. 5. Staff is working on admission prices, swim session times, and more for 2022. More information will be available in early May.

Events: In-person events returned with the spring concert by Renton City Concert Band last month. Next is the Renton Multicultural Festival on May 6 & 7 at Renton Civic Theatre and Renton Pavilion Event Center. In addition, city staff is working with community groups on scheduling some of the city’s more popular community events, such as the July celebration at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park and Renton River Days.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor (Renton residents) for the most current information. We’ll also include updates in this newsletter.
Aiding Ukraine
Renton’s police department joined departments across the county in donating surplus body armor to Ukraine to assist in fighting Russian troops. Valeriy Goloborodko, Council of Ukraine (second from left), accepted the supplies from (left to right) Officer Jim Gould, Chief Jon Schuldt, and Deputy Chief Jeff Hardin.

Celebrate Erasmus
Erasmus, our iconic dragon perched on the corner of S 3rd and Wells Ave S., celebrates another year downtown on April 13. We have two ways you can be part of the celebration.

Starting April 1, get together with your friends and family and participate in the second annual Dragon Scavenger Hunt. Download and print a Hatch Day Scorecard and scour downtown to find ten (10) of the 30 dragons hidden in the windows of businesses.

Scorecards can be picked up at:
• Common Ground Cupcake & Coffee, 900 S 3rd St.
• Sparkle Gifts & Whatnot, 824 S 3rd St.
• Wyldwood Creative, 822 S 3rd St.

Email your completed scorecard to arts@rentonwa.gov by midnight on April 12 to enter the drawing for gift cards to downtown merchants. Winners will be selected at random and announced on April 13.

Share your selfie
You can also enter to win one of three $25 gift certificates to downtown businesses by submitting a selfie of you and Erasmus from our designated “Selfie Spot” on Wells Ave. S, just north of S Third Street.

Email your photo to arts@rentonwa.gov by midnight on April 12 to be entered into the prize drawing. The winning entries will be posted online on April 13.

Downtown Partnership hires first executive director
Renton Downtown Partnership is an alliance of businesses, property owners, nonprofit organizations, and residents. Formed in 2014, they work with the city to create a vibrant downtown Renton while preserving and protecting the history and character. The city’s Cali-Cone Vision and Action Plan guides the future of downtown.

Events like First Friday, Old-fashioned Halloween, Small Business Saturday, and the Renton Wine Walks have showcased Renton’s downtown to residents and visitors.

In March the partnership hired Christian Switzer as their first executive director to lead a crucial next step, designation from the State of Washington as a Main Street Community. This designation will allow downtown businesses to access needed resources, networking opportunities, training, and advanced resources to assist growth. Businesses can also earn Business & Occupation or Public Utility tax credits.

Christian brings extensive Main Street experience. She comes to Renton after serving as executive director of historic Village Main Street in Orlando, Florida. She oversaw 15 events a year.
and helped engineer a 125% increase in memberships in her first two years.

To underscore the importance of the Main Street Community designation, the city will support the executive director position for two years. During this time, Christian will work on obtaining state designation and developing self-sustaining funding sources.

Renton on the news

Q13FOX spotlighted the return of the in-person lunches at Renton Senior Activity Center. It featured interviews with seniors excited about their return after a two-year absence and chef Charles Turner of Sound Generations. Data from the National Council on Aging shows socially isolated seniors risk depression, cognitive decline, and dementia. The programs and social outlet offered by the senior activity center play a vital role in keeping this generation connected.

In the news this week

A recap of news posted on the city’s social media accounts. You can find us (@cityofrenton) on Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter. Renton residents can also find us on Nextdoor.

City Council review

City seeks candidates for Senior Advisory Board
Clean Economy Strategy
COVID-19 resources
Downtown activities this weekend
In-person services at city hall
Recreation Guide: April and May
Traffic Impact Projects