Celebrate and experience Renton's diverse culture at the sixth annual Renton Multicultural Festival next Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7. Over two dozen performances are scheduled, including song, dance, music, and a puppet show. Both days are free.

Renton Civic Theatre hosts the first night with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Armondo Pavone will welcome guests and performers at 6 p.m. The evening’s lineup is a mixture of youth and adult musicians and dancers. Theatre policy requires attendees to show vaccine verification before entering. The theatre also requires the wearing of face coverings while inside.

Day two on Saturday, May 7 features indoor and outdoor stages at Renton Pavilion Event Center and Piazza Park. Entertainment and activities start at 11 a.m. In addition, there will be an art show and kid-friendly, interactive craft tables. The day, and the festival, conclude with a fashion show featuring original designs by local designers.

The festival features the first Multicultural Art Exhibition and Contest on Saturday. Interact with local artists, learn about various cultures and vote for your favorite artwork. A People's Choice Award will go to the winner based on your votes.

The Hampton Inn & Suites in Renton (1300 Lake Washington Blvd. North, 98056) is offering a special festival weekend rate. Booking deadline is May 3. In addition, the Rain City Too food truck will be on S. Third Street in front of Piazza Park on Saturday. Finally, festivalgoers will find maps of downtown Renton featuring local restaurants and businesses. So go out and enjoy all the downtown offers.

A project updating the audio and visual equipment in the City Council Chamber has taken Channel 21 off the air until at least June 6. The equipment allows live broadcasting and recordings of public meetings. The chamber’s current hardware and software are more than 20 years old. The update will include software, cameras, microphones, and video displays. The new equipment will be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act assistive listening devices and technology. There will also be an adaptive speaker system.

While the channel is off-air, Renton City Council meetings will be available live via Zoom, and videos will continue to be available on the city's YouTube channel.
Beloved City Volunteer Passes Away

Ann Grinolds, a volunteer for 33 years at the city hall front desk, passed away peacefully last week in her home on Renton Hill. She was 101.

"Anne was such a special person and beyond generous with her years of service to our city. She had the best stories and lived the most amazing life," said Mayor Armondo Pavone.

"We will miss her grace, smile, and fantastic sense of humor. Our city is a better place because of her."

Ann retired from her duties in 2018 at the age of 97. In addition to 33 years as a volunteer with the city, she also dedicated 31 years as an American Cancer Society volunteer.

Ann was born just outside London in 1921. She met and married her husband Manly, a US GI, there in 1945. They settled in Renton in 1956 and never left, raising six children.

Ann is survived by her six children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Manly passed away in 1984.

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 update (agendas, documents, and video from the most current meeting)

Arts and Culture Grants available (deadline: May 5, 2022)

City Hall reopens

City seeks candidates for Senior Advisory Board (deadline: May 2, 2022)

COVID-19 (vaccine locations, current mandates, resources)

Parks Projects (Kennydale Beach, Kiwanis, Coulon) Pop-up lunches on Tuesdays

Recreation Guide (current classes, activities, leagues & events)

Traffic Projects (impactful traffic around the city)