At last night’s Mayor’s Inclusion Task Force meeting, the group discussed the May 14 horrific act of racially motivated violence in Buffalo, New York. The mass shooting resulted in the death of ten individuals and injuries to three others; 11 of the victims were African American. The discussion centered around feelings and sentiments of hurt and anger that many community members are experiencing.

As a result of the mass shooting, the Renton African American Pastors (RAAP) group and regional faith leaders have coordinated a call to prayer and justice vigil on Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m. at Piazza Park. Said Mayor Armondo Pavone, “This hate crime has clearly caused deep pain felt locally as it has nationally. As was shared last night, when one of our communities is hurting, all our communities hurt. There is so much work to be done.”

On May 25, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., we will host a Zoom open house to introduce our Clean Economy Strategy (CES) 2.0. The strategy will help guide Renton towards a resilient, low-carbon future. Attendees will learn about the CES 2.0 planning process and be able to provide feedback on proposed focus areas and strategies. We have five focus areas and want to identify ways in each area where we can benefit Renton families. The focus areas are:

- Building and Energy
- Transportation and Land Use
- Consumption and Materials Management
- Water and Natural Systems
This Week in Renton

Community Resilience and Wellbeing

The 2011 CES integrated sustainability objectives into the city’s practices, policies, and investments. CES 2.0 will develop a plan based on that foundation by utilizing the latest science while incorporating recommendations developed through work with dozens of peer cities. The final plan will be tailored to Renton’s needs and shaped by community input. Once complete, CES 2.0 will be a roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing environmental sustainability, and preparing for our changing climate.

To learn more about this effort, please visit RentonCES.com. An online community survey is also available. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Chinese. It will close at 11:59 p.m. on June 22.

The city will also hold focus group meetings and 1-on-1 interviews in the coming months. There will be a public hearing during a city council meeting before adopting the plan.

If you have input and questions about CES 2.0, contact Katie Buchl-Morales, City of Renton Senior Planner, at kbuchl-morales@rentonwa.gov or 425-430-6578.

County continues review of proposed asphalt plant

Several residents spoke at a recent city council meeting in opposition to King County Council’s approval of the proposed Lakeside Maple Valley Asphalt Plant outside our city limits. The city has been in opposition of the plant location since 2018. Our concerns regarding transportation routes, traffic impacts, and environmental concerns (due to the plant’s proximity to the Cedar River) were made known to King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review.

“We are adamantly opposed to locating the asphalt plant at the proposed site,” said Mayor Armondo Pavone. “City staff are continuing to investigate the actions available so we can protect the Renton community.”

King County is currently reviewing appeals regarding the plant.

Reduced rate Internet available to qualifying residents

Some Renton residents could be eligible for reduced rate Internet service and connected devices through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) runs the ACP.

To be eligible for the program, the household income must be below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or you or someone you live with currently must receive a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Priced Lunch.

If your household is eligible, you could receive:

- Up to a $30/month discount on your internet service
- Up to a $75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment between $10 and $50)
- A low-cost service plan that may be fully covered through the ACP

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount are allowed per household. To receive the connected device discount, consumers need to enroll in the ACP with a participating provider that offers connected devices. (Note: not all internet companies offer device

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discounts.) The internet company will provide the discount to the consumer.

New ORCA cards and website

On Monday, a new ORCA card and website went into effect for riders of buses, trains, and ferries in the Puget Sound area.

The change was made in response to customers' input. With the new app, customers can manage accounts and find retail locations, plus utilize an enhanced payment option.

If you already use an ORCA card, there’s no need to get the new one. It will continue to work. Simply connect your card and set up your account on myORCA.com or via the myORCA app.

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.

Career Fair: June 3, 12-3 p.m., Renton Technical College

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

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)