



THIS WEEK IN RENTON

Story ideas or comments: communications@rentonwa.gov.

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On Veterans Day, we want to thank all who have served and sacrificed for our country. Anytime you meet a veteran is an opportunity to honor their service.

Here at the city, we reached out to city staff who are veterans and asked them to send us a photo of their time in service. We then matched that photo with a current one and [produced a tribute video](#).

The website military.com offers these eight ways that you can honor a veteran:

1. Attend a Veterans Day event to say "Thank You, Veterans" in person.
2. Donate to veteran-focused charities: These [wounded veteran charities](#) have been impactful.
3. Fly a flag: [military.com's](http://military.com) guide to correctly flying the flag.
4. Ask about their service: This can help you appropriately thank them. Some questions to get started:

What did you do in the military?

How long did you serve?

What was your favorite moment in all your time in the service?

Did anyone else in your family serve?

Why did you go into the service branch you did?

Do not ask whether they've killed anyone.

However, should your veteran be a combat vet unwilling to share or plainly state what they went through, be supportive without being intrusive. Sometimes you don't have to say anything; listen and give them your full attention.

5. Write a letter to say "thank you, veterans": If you don't know a veteran, look up the closest military installation and send your letter there. Small acts of recognizing someone's service, even anonymously, are appreciated. For example, the military-focused nonprofit [Soldiers' Angels](#) organizes volunteers to write letters to deployed troops, veterans, and their caregivers through their Letter Writing Virtual Team.
6. Don't confuse Veterans Day with Memorial Day: Veterans Day is a time to thank those who are serving or have served and are still with us. Memorial Day is to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in service to their country.
7. Visit a VA Hospital

8. Get outdoors with a veteran: Invite a veteran or a military family to explore a national park; admission is free for all visitors on Veterans Day.



Mayor Armondo Pavone accepts the Governor's Smart Communities Award for the Rainier/Grady Junction Transit-Oriented Subarea Plan. The mayor is joined by Renton Planning Commission members, city Community & Economic Development staff, city councilmembers, and Catherine McCoy, senior planner, Washington State Department of Commerce (far right), who presented the award.

Rainier/Grady plan wins Governor's Smart Communities Smart Vision Award

The city has won a ninth Governor's Smart Communities Smart Vision Award, this time for work to develop the [Rainier/Grady Junction Transit-Oriented Subarea Plan](#).

The plan envisions a people-focused, mixed-use neighborhood around the future South Renton Transit Center. The center will be a transit hub for Sound Transit's expanded Bus Rapid Transit service in Renton and South King County.

"I'm pleased that the planning and hard work of our staff has been recognized with a Governor's Smart Community Award," said Mayor Armondo Pavone. "Their plan successfully articulates a shared vision for our community and serves as a blueprint for other communities.

"The future transit center and introduction of Bus Rapid Transit service to Renton are significant investments to address the ever-growing transportation needs of our residents."

As part of the plan, the Washington State Department of Commerce awarded the city a competitive grant for \$250,000 to complete a [planned action ordinance and Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS). When complete, this work allows for a more streamlined and predictable environmental review process for project proposals within the EIS boundary. As a result, future development will effectively use public and private investment to build a mix of pedestrian-friendly residential housing, commercial space, office space, and open space built around the transit center.

The [Governor's Smart Communities Awards](#) recognize achievements by local governments and their partners. These programs promote thoughtful growth planning and projects that contribute to thriving communities, a prosperous economy, and sustainable infrastructure. The state department of commerce administers the awards and named eight cities 2022 Smart Communities Award winners.

Since the Governor's Smart Community Award started in 2006, the city has been honored for:

City Center Community Plan and 20-year Parks Plan (2012)

Sunset Area Community Plan (2013)

Meadow Crest Early Learning Center and Meadow Crest Accessible Playground (in 2014)

Kirkland Avenue Townhomes (2015)

Downtown Renton Library (2016)

Galvanizing Art Project (2017)

Sartori Elementary School (2018)

Willowcrest Townhomes (2021)

Rainier/Grady Junction Transit-Oriented Subarea Plan (2022)

Councilmember Alberson elected to RFA board

Renton City Councilmember [James Alberson, Jr.](#) was unanimously elected by his fellow councilmembers Monday night to a three-year term on the [Renton Regional Fire Authority \(RFA\) Governance Board](#).



Renton City Councilmember James Alberson, Jr.

His term will begin in January 2023.

The governance board is responsible for approving the annual RFA budget. It is comprised of three city council members and three Fire District 25 Commissioners. There is also one non-voting member representing King County Fire District 40, which contracts for services from the RFA.

Mr. Alberson is in his first term on the Renton City Council, winning election in 2021. He chairs the Utilities Committee, is vice chair of the Planning & Development Committee, and is a member of Community Services Committee

He is a 25-year resident of Renton and served eight years on the Renton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, in addition to chairing the board for three years. Before being elected to the city council, he served as a planning commissioner for the city for two years.

He also serves on the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board, South County Area Transportation Board, Eastside Transportation Partnership, King County Parks and Trails Coalition, and Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.



Holiday food drive is Saturday

Parks and Recreation's annual [Holiday Food Drive](#) is Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside Renton Community Center (1715 Maple Valley Highway). City staff will be accepting non-perishable food items for donation to [Sustainable Renton](#).



Holiday Bazaar returns on Nov. 17 and 18

It's back! [Renton's Holiday Bazaar](#) returns on Nov. 17 and 18 at Renton Community Center (1715 Maple Valley Highway). The bazaar is an excellent way to start your holiday shopping or pick up those unique items for your holiday celebration. Admission is free.

- Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Shop local and celebrate Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26

On Saturday, Nov. 26, we'll hold our annual free [Small Business Saturday celebration](#) downtown in Piazza Park and Renton Pavilion Event Center (233 Burnett Ave. S).

The activities include:

- 12 to 4 p.m. - Holiday Farmers Market, Piazza Park
- 12 to 7 p.m. - Holiday craft market featuring local artists and vendors, kids' activities, Renton Pavilion Event Center
- 12 to 7 p.m. – Live music, Renton Pavilion Event Center
- 5 p.m. - Tree lighting and Santa Claus arrives, Piazza Park

When you've finished shopping in your favorite local small businesses throughout Renton, join us downtown for an afternoon and evening of fun. Park free for up to 10 hours in the close-by City Center Parking Garage (655 S. 2nd St.).

The Holiday Bazaar and Small Business Saturday are part of our [schedule of holiday events](#):

Nov. 19 – Gobble Wobble Wine Walk, 2-5 p.m., downtown (Tickets: \$30 in advance)

Nov. 19 - Holiday Tree Lighting & Laser Light Show, 6-8 p.m. The Landing (828 N 10th Pl)

Dec. 2 – Renton Holiday Lights opening night, 6 p.m., Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park (1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N)

Dec. 3 – Downtown Santa House, 1-4 p.m., Renton Theatre (507 S 3rd St.)

Dec. 3 – Lusio Renton Lights, 5-7:30 p.m., Piazza Park (233 Burnett Ave. S)

Dec. 4 – Lusio Renton Lights, 5-7:30 p.m., Piazza Park (233 Burnett Ave. S)

Dec. 10 – Downtown Santa House, 1-4 p.m., Renton Theatre (507 S 3rd St.)

Dec. 11 - Renton City Concert Band Winter Concert, 2 p.m., Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center (400 S. Second St.)

Dec. 17 – Downtown Santa House, 1-4 p.m., Renton Theatre (507 S 3rd St.)

Jan. 1 – Polar Bear Plunge, 10 a.m., Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park South Beach (1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N)



Valley Medical Center turns 75

[Valley Medical Center](#) turns 75 this year. To celebrate this milestone, Mayor Armondo Pavone proclaimed Nov. 9 as Valley Medical Center's 75th Anniversary Celebration Day in Renton.

Each of Valley's 4,000 employees represents our diverse community and provides world-class care at their 341-bed facility and over 50 primary, urgent, and specialty care clinics in Renton and South King County.

Congratulations, Valley, and here's to 75 more years of service to our community.

CAN YOUR PET FIND IT'S WAY HOME?
Free Dog & Cat Microchipping
EASTSIDE VETERINARY ASSOCIATES
1700 NE 44TH ST, RENTON, WA

AVAILABLE WHILE FUNDS LAST!

Protect your pet with free microchipping

Nothing is more frightening for owners of dogs and cats than when they go missing.

Renton residents can increase their odds of getting their pets home by taking advantage of a free microchipping program via [Renton's Unleashed Furry Friends \(RUFF\) Fund](#) through the Renton Regional Community Foundation.

Microchipping inserts a tiny chip into your pet. It's a quick, safe, and simple procedure. The chip can be scanned to access your information and reunite you and your lost dog or cat.

Chipping is available Mondays-Fridays at [Eastside Veterinary Associates](#), 1700 NE 44th St., Renton, 98056. Check-in is 11:30 a.m. No appointment is necessary. Proof of Renton residency via a driver's license or utility bill is required at the time of service.



Share your skills on a city committee or commission

Serving on one of the city's committees and commissions is an excellent way for Renton residents to share their skills and experiences to help shape policies that affect our community.

We currently have [openings on our Human Service Committee and Equity Commission](#). The openings include the need for a youth member.

Applicants must live within the city limits. Youth applicants must be under 21 for the Human Services Committee and between 18 and 25 for the Equity Commission at the time of appointment. Youth members are eligible for community service hours.

Applications are now being accepted. The first review of applications for both will be on Nov. 15. Final deadline for applications is Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.



In other 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](#).

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)

[Arts in Renton](#)

[City Council](#) (agendas, documents, and meeting video)

[COVID-19](#) (vaccine locations, current mandates, resources)

[Keep Storm Drains clear](#)

[Recreation Guide](#) (current classes, activities, leagues & events for September to December)

[Parks Projects](#) (Arnold, Coulon, Kiwanis)

Pop-Up Lunch (Nov. 15, 12-1:30 p.m., 300 Rainier Ave. N)

[Report issues via Renton Responds](#)

[Traffic Projects](#) (information on impact projects)