



# THIS WEEK IN RENTON

Story ideas or comments: [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov).

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**Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 | Vol. VII | Issue 30**

## BUDGET ADOPTED

City Council approves Mayor's budget for 2023 and 2024



The city council unanimously approved Mayor Armondo Pavone's [2023-2024 biennial budget](#) at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday.

"My thanks to the council and our staff for their work during the budget process," said Mayor Pavone. "This was the most efficient budget process I've experienced. That's a tribute to their attention to detail."

The budget funds city priorities identified from months of input from residents, meetings, and conversations with councilmembers and city staff. In addition, it reflects the priorities of the mayor and city council, as stated in the city's 2023-2028 Business Plan.

"I appreciated the diverse and critical community voice my Budget Advisory Committee provided," said Mayor Pavone. "Their ideas and feedback helped sharpen our focus." The 17-person committee met three times in June and presented their final report to the mayor in August.

The budget calls for \$581.2 million in expenditures and \$584.5 in projected revenue over the next two years.

The mayor focused on four primary areas in his budget: public safety, business development and downtown revitalization, human services, and communication.

Among the highlights:

- Four additional commissioned police officers to create a new policing district in the downtown core. Their presence will help restore a sense of safety downtown and throughout the city by enabling more time to patrol and engage with our residents and businesses.
- One additional code compliance inspector and three additional park maintenance workers to improve the city's appearance and prevent crime. The latter will lead encampment cleanups on city-owned property and perform landscape maintenance explicitly designed to assist in crime-prevention efforts. These positions will impact the city's visual appeal and create a bridge with our Human Services service providers and programs to affect those more vulnerable community members.
- Contract with FDCARES, a partnership between Renton Police Department and Renton Regional Fire Authority, to provide new ways to respond to emergency calls for those suffering from mental health and addiction issues.
- Funding increased by \$500,000 to direct service support for rental assistance, utility bill debt forgiveness, and emergency feeding programs. This funding is in addition to the nearly threefold increase in the city's human and social services funding in the last two years.
- Additional staff to increase our connection, accessibility, and responsiveness with all community members. The new positions include a communications & engagement manager in the police department, an equity manager in Equity,

Housing, and Human Services, and additional city communications and engagement staff.

- Funding to better apply available data. Using this data allows us to make informed decisions, increase transparency, and provide easily accessible information to the community.

Like our residents, cities also deal with increasing costs for goods and services. To help pay for the initiatives and services in the budget, the council passed ordinances increasing tax rates.

"We're very aware of the effect any increase in taxes has on a family's budget," said Mayor Pavone. "We feel our budget provides a balance between access to the most requested services without a dramatic increase in taxes."

Rates for water service remain unchanged for the next two years. Rates for wastewater will increase by 3% per year and 4% per year for surface water. Property taxes will increase approximately 7.44%. Business owners have been notified of a Business & Occupation tax increase with new rates of 0.07% for retail businesses and 0.121% for non-retail businesses.

"Strong partnerships and relationships throughout our community make Renton successful," said Mayor Pavone. "We will continue to work with individuals and agencies that go above and beyond for us, just like we aim to do for them. That's what makes Renton great."



*Mayor Armondo Pavone accepts the VISION 2050 Award from the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Director Josh Brown. They are joined by Renton Planning Commission members, city Community & Economic Development staff, and city councilmembers.*

## **PRADU program wins VISION 2050 Award**

Our innovative [Permit Ready Accessory Dwelling Unit Program](#) (PRADU) was awarded a VISION 2050 Award from the Puget Sound Regional Council.

"We need more viable affordable housing options," said Mayor Armondo Pavone. "Our PRADU program provides homeowners a turnkey option and significant savings for design and permitting."

The program gives Renton property owners access to free pre-approved base plans, technical assistance from staff, expedited permitting, and reduced administrative fees. Floor plans range from 418 to 1,000 square feet. Each model has three to six architectural variations, resulting in 32 unique designs, allowing interested residential property owners to select a plan that fits their needs.

The PRADU program waives fees for application submittal and review and any applicable impact fees (public works, parks, fire, and Renton School District). Additional fee reductions are available.

Applicants can save an estimated \$40,000 by using the pre-approved plans, technical assistance, and fee reductions. In addition, PRADU building permits can be issued within a week of application submission.

In addition, the program promotes ADUs as an essential option to increase the city's housing inventory, diversify housing options, and create more financially attainable housing opportunities.

Interested Renton property owners can learn more about the [Permit Ready ADU Program](#) on the city's website.



Mayor Armondo Pavone presents the Veterans Month proclamation to Martin Tamayo. They are surrounded by other veterans and Renton City Councilmembers.

## Proclamations

We're recognizing November as [Veterans Month](#) and [National Diabetes Month](#).

Did you know:

- In 1938 Armistice Day became a national federal holiday
- In 1954 Congress changed the day to Veteran's Day to honor veterans of all wars
- As of 2021 there were approximately 16.5 million veterans in the United States: approximately 8 million veterans are over the age of 65 and approximately 2 million veterans are women
- Renton is fortunate to be home to VFW Frank R. Vaise Post #1263 and its Auxiliary and American Legion Fred Hancock Post #9 and its Auxiliary

The proclamation reads in part, "Veteran's Day celebrates and honors America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to sacrifice for the common good. Our nation's service members—past and present—represent the very best of America and serve at home and abroad with professionalism, integrity, and devotion."

It's appropriate they are honored for more than a single day.

To celebrate Veteran's Day, we asked city staff who are veterans to send us a photo of their time in service. We then matched that photo with a current one and [produced a tribute video](#).



Mayor Pavone presents the National Diabetes Month proclamation to City Clerk Jason Seth. Jason's daughter was recently diagnosed with diabetes.

Did you know:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 37.3 million adults and children in the U.S. have diabetes and an estimated 96 million adults have prediabetes
- Diabetes remains the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S.
- Newly diagnosed cases of type 1 and type 2 diabetes have significantly increased among U.S. youth
- Research shows that people at high risk for diabetes can lower their risk for type 2 diabetes by staying at a healthy weight, eating well, and being active
- Uncontrolled diabetes puts people at risk for serious complications including cardiovascular disease, blindness, kidney disease and dialysis, and nerve damage and amputation

- Learning how to self-manage this condition through diabetes self-management education is the cornerstone of treatment
- Best practice guidelines to treat diabetes include but are not limited to insulin, oral medication, diet, physical activity, and daily self-management routines.



## Holiday Bazaar is today and Saturday

[Renton's Holiday Bazaar](#) returns to Renton Community Center (1715 Maple Valley Highway) starting today. Plan to do your holiday shopping today and tomorrow. 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.



## Small Business Saturday is 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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)



## Shape the John Creek Basin Stormwater Management Action Plan

We are committed to providing clean water. That means successfully handling stormwater.

You can help develop stormwater management policies and actions for the John Creek basin through a Stormwater Management Action Plan. Your input will help us select retrofit projects, land management strategies, and program actions. Get involved in the [Stormwater Management Action Plan](#) process by Nov. 28.



## Fall Harvest Food Drive

About 2,400 pounds of nonperishable food was collected during last Saturday's Fall Harvest Food Drive. The food was donated to [Sustainable Renton](#) for their free grocery store. The store is open every Monday from 5:30-7 p.m. at St. Matthews Lutheran Church (1700 Edmonds Ave NE).

# NEWS



## 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](#)

[Boards, Committees, and Commissions](#): openings

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

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

[Keep Storm Drains clear](#)

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

[Pet Microchipping](#) (free for Renton residents)

Pop-Up Lunch (Nov. 29, 12-1:30 p.m., 300 Rainier Ave. N) Last one of the year.

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

[Report issues via Renton Responds](#)

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