



# THIS WEEK IN RENTON

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

This Week in Renton is also [posted on the City of Renton's website](#) where it can be translated. For additional translation services contact [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov).

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**Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022 | Vol. VII | Issue 31**



The city has several family-friendly holiday events scheduled for December and January. You can find more information [on our website](#).

## Holiday Lights

This Friday is the opening night for our annual holiday lights display at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park.

The festivities start at 6 p.m. with the arrival of Santa and the lighting of the displays. The lights will be on every night from 5 to 9 p.m. through Jan. 1, 2023.

Friday's schedule:

6 p.m. – Arrival of Santa and Lighting

6:15-8:15 – Photos with Santa

7:15-8 – Singalong at North Shelter

7:30-8 p.m. – Rainier Yacht Club "Parade of Boats"

8:10-8:30 – Argosy Christmas Ship

Due to construction at the park, the north water walk near the Ivar's and Kidd Valley restaurants will be closed.

Friday is just the first of several family-friendly events around the city through January:

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 – K9 Candy Cane 5K Fun Run & Walk, 9:15 a.m.  
Renton Community Center (1715 Maple Valley Hwy)

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

Dec. 9 – Battle of the Badges, 6-8 p.m.  
Renton Community Center (1715 Maple Valley Hwy)

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)

## Giving Tree

The city's Giving Tree assists Renton families in need during the holiday season.

There are two ways you can help:

## Gift of Play

Take a "Gift of Play" tag from the tree to donate to the Gift of Play Renton Recreation Scholarship Program. The program makes recreation activities attainable for low-income youth, older adults, and adaptive recreation participants.

Your entire donation goes to pay for the recreation activity fees. Your donation is tax-deductible.

## Gift Giving

Take a "Gift" Tag" from the tree. Shop for the item on the tag for the Gift Giving Program and return the UNWRAPPED gift to the front counter by Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Renton Salvation Army has identified and screened Renton families needing assistance. Your help will provide needed items to children and senior adults in our community who are living in situations that make holiday gifts an unattainable luxury. You will brighten a family's holiday!

For more information, contact Teresa Nishi [tnishi@rentonwa.gov](mailto:tnishi@rentonwa.gov) or 425-766-5157.

Giving Trees are in the lobby at:

- Renton City Hall, 1055 S. Grady Way
- Renton Community Center, 1715 Maple Valley Hwy.
- Don Persson Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.

## Battle of the Badges

Renton Police Department hosts Battle of the Badges, Holiday Lights, and Winter Coat Drive on Friday, Dec. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Renton Community Center (1715 Maple Valley Hwy).

This free drive-through event features public safety organizations decorating their vehicles or tents as they compete for your vote. Judging is based on three categories: Use of Lights, Overall Design, and Holiday Spirit.

New winter coats will be collected and benefit local youth in need through Communities in Schools Renton-Tukwila.

## Email Santa

The Recreation Division has been working with the North Pole Communications Team to develop a plan for a convenient way to send a letter to Santa.

Santa Claus has agreed to share his Renton email address with up to 300 writers who would like to send him an email!

Email the Big Guy: [santa@rentonwa.gov](mailto:santa@rentonwa.gov).

Email Santa by Thursday, Dec. 8, and he will reply via U.S. Mail by the week of Dec. 12.

### Tips for writing your email

- Be sure to include your first and last name—it's tough to tell anyone's name from an email address
- Include the mailing address for where you want to receive your letter from Santa
- If you don't want to share your mailing address, please note that an email response is preferred
- Include a special wish that would be at the top of your list

Remember to include the following:

- Age
- School grade
- Favorite activities
- Helpful tasks that are accomplished
- Something unique about the individual
- Favorite gift delivered last year

When Santa's inbox reaches 300 emails, or the calendar reaches Dec. 9, his email will be automatically turned off by the North Pole Communications Team.

## Elf Academy

Santa is short on certified elves and needs your help.

Can you help with good deeds, kindness, and following directions? If so, [register for Elf Academy](#) by Friday, Dec. 2. We'll mail you an enlistment kit with a welcome letter, tasks, and projects. Then, try to complete as many tasks as possible by Dec. 17. Then, on that Saturday, come to the Elf Academy graduation from 10-11:30 at Renton Community Center (1715 Maple Valley Hwy.). You'll drop off your list of completed tasks and receive your Elf Academy graduation certificate from our distinguished group of elf instructors.

If for any reason, you cannot attend graduation, your certificate will be mailed to you.

## Santa House

Bring your children and four-legged friends to capture holiday moments with Santa. [Santa's House](#) will be open on Saturday Dec. 3, 10, 17 from 1-4 p.m. in Renton Civic Theatre (507 S. 3rd St.). Photos can be downloaded for free on the event's [Facebook page](#) or available for purchase for a suggested donation.

## Polar Bear Plunge

Start the new year with a bang! Or a brrrrrrrrr!

Bring your friends and family and usher in 2023 with a dip into Lake Washington from the south beach at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Polar Bear Plunge returns after a two-year absence. Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m. No registration is required.



## 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)

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

[Report issues via Renton Responds](#)

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