



Renton City News

Mayor presents balanced budget for 2019-20

Over the past several years Renton has seen hundreds of millions of private dollars invested in new projects around the city. From the spectacular Hyatt Regency and Southport Office Campus on Lake Washington to the Sunset redevelopment project, great things are happening in Renton.

It was against this backdrop of progress that Mayor Denis Law last month presented the 2019-2020 balanced budget to the city council.

“We are fortunate as a city. Our financial situation remains strong,” said the mayor. “This balanced budget proposal will allow us to continue to meet the service needs of our growing community.”

The budget is based on six priorities:

- Providing a safe, healthy, vibrant community
- Promoting economic vitality and strategically positioning Renton for the future
- Supporting planned growth and influencing decisions that impact the city
- Building an inclusive, informed city with opportunities for all
- Meeting service demands and providing high-quality customer service

It calls for expenditures of \$525 million over two years. Of that total, \$217.3 million comprises the general fund, which includes 40 percent for police and courts, echoing the mayor’s stated first priority of public safety.

Other than the 1% property tax adjustment allowed by state law, this budget does not require any new taxes for the next two years to meet our service level objectives.

With a growing population and over 57,000

people coming to work daily in Renton, our parks and trails are heavily used. To address needed improvements, the council voted to invest up to \$14.5 million over the next three years, which will be financed over a 20-year period. This will be funded by a small property tax increase.

Last year, Community & Economic Development staff set records for permits processed and inspections performed. To help keep pace with the demand, the budget asks for additional staff, while continuing to find more efficient ways of providing services.

Some other highlights from the budget:

- Funding to assist seniors and others with housing needs as part of the Healthy Housing Initiative.

- An additional \$50,000 each year for arts and culture projects in support of the Renton Municipal Arts Commission.

Developing the budget is a meticulous process that involves both city staff and members of the community. Especially valuable was the work of the Budget Advisory Committee comprised of local residents, business owners and community leaders who met over several weeks with city administrators to provide valuable input.

“I am very appreciative of their efforts,” said the mayor. “They represent the diversity of our community and brought different areas of expertise and interest to the process.”

Ed VanValey sworn in as police chief



Renton Mayor Denis Law congratulates Police Chief Ed VanValey after the swearing-in ceremony last month. Chief VanValey is a native of Renton, attended Lindbergh High School and joined the department in 1998. He was promoted to sergeant in 2008, commander in 2012 and to deputy chief in 2013 by his predecessor Kevin Milosevich.



GIVING TREES

Giving Trees will be on display at Renton City Hall (1055 S. Grady Way) and Renton Community Center (1715 SE Maple Valley Highway) November 16 through December 21. Please stop by and help low-income youth, older adults and Adaptive Recreation participants enroll in recreation programming in 2019. Call 425-430-6694 for details.

Winter is coming; the city is prepared, are you?

As the weather turned from summer to fall, the thoughts of the Maintenance Services Division turned from summer to winter. The staff completed their winter preparations early last month by outfitting and testing their fleet of ten plows, nine sanders and three anti-icing trucks.

Drivers have traveled their designated routes to pinpoint hazards that might be obscured by snow. The division has stocked 250 tons of road salt, 1,000 tons of sand and 9,000 gallons of de-icer. During snow and ice events, city sanders and plows are first dispatched to keep major arterials open.

Information on how the city maintains road conditions during inclement weather and snow routes can be found at rentonwa.gov/snowroutes.

Residents should also prepare their homes, cars and themselves for winter weather. Winter preparation tips can be found at rentonwa.gov/wintertips.



Be prepared before a flood hits

Flooding is a force of nature that often can't be controlled, prevented or predicted. According to the National Weather Service, 75% of all presidential disaster declarations in the United States are associated with flooding.

The City of Renton monitors weather forecasts and river conditions continuously and participates in the King County Flood Warning System, which notifies the city when the Green and Cedar rivers reach established flood stages. In the event of a flood warning, Renton residents are notified through NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and television, and local emergency agencies. If flooding is significant, ALERT Renton or local emergency agencies may provide additional notifications to areas at greatest risk.

Natural channels, wetlands, man-made ponds and open ditches can protect property owners from flooding by providing outlets for excess water. Constructed storm drainage systems must be maintained and kept clear of debris to help prevent flooding. In

Renton, dumping debris into any waterway is prohibited by city ordinance. Report any violations to Development Services Code Compliance Division at 425-430-7373.

Flood losses are not covered under most homeowners' or renters' insurance policies. Renton participates in the FEMA NFIP which enables all Renton property owners to obtain considerable flood insurance discounts, whether or not they are in a floodplain. To find out if your property is in a flood-prone area, obtain a Flood Insurance Rate Map or get copies of existing Flood Elevation Certificates, contact Yasir Abduljaleel, yabduljaleel@rentonwa.gov, 425-430-7323.

More information on flood insurance and preparation is at rentonwa.gov/emergencies or floodsmart.gov.

REPORT DRAINAGE ISSUES

IF YOUR PROPERTY or neighborhood has a drainage problem, request a Surface Water Utility drainage investigation, which includes a site visit, contact Yasir Abduljaleel, yabduljaleel@rentonwa.gov, 425-430-7323.



HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCES GUIDE

The city's Human Services Division has a guide available to residents that provides information on rental and utility assistance, clothing banks, childcare, mental health, homelessness, domestic violence, medical assistance and much more. Copies can be downloaded online at rentonwa.gov/humanservices.

Protect holiday package deliveries

SAFE IN-PERSON EXCHANGES

The upcoming holiday season and package theft are two things that just do not go together. If you're expecting package deliveries, the Renton Police Department has put together a short video with tips on protecting those deliveries from thieves. View it online at rentonwa.gov/policetips.

Online transactions that culminate in a face-to-face meeting are another way of getting that perfect gift. But often these transactions can go wrong. Renton PD has established a Safe Exchange Zone at city hall where these transactions can



take place in the daytime, steps away from the police station.

For more information, call the Renton Police Department at 425-430-7521.



Gene Coulon Park undergoing upgrades

REPAIRS TO ONE of Renton's treasures, Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, are underway.

The park, which covers 57 acres on the shore of Lake Washington, is receiving upgrades to decking, boat launch, moorage, waterwalk and bridges. Renovations will not interfere with the annual Clam Lights starting on November 30 or the Polar Bear Plunge on January 1. Also, both on-site restaurants will remain open during the renovations.



Small Business Saturday & Piazza Tree Lighting

THE CITY'S ANNUAL holiday tree lighting and arrival of Santa will be held Saturday, November 24, at 5 p.m. at Piazza Park (233 Burnett Ave. S).

Renton Pavilion Event Center will host a Pop-Up Artisan Market with live entertainment and kid's activities from 3 to 7 p.m.

Saturday is also Small Business Saturday. Shops and restaurants downtown are celebrating all day with special sales, giveaways and a scavenger hunt for kids.

Community groups host holiday dinners

The Renton Senior Activity Center (211 Burnett Ave. N) will be open Thanksgiving Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for their annual Rotary Club Thanksgiving Day Luncheon. A delicious holiday luncheon will be served at 11:45 a.m. and there will be games and other activities.

The free event is open only to Renton residents 50 and older. A ticket is required and is available at the Senior Center through Friday, November 16.

This event is made possible thanks to the support of Renton Rotary and City of Renton employee volunteers and their families.

Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) hosts their annual free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Luther's Table (419 S. Second St. #1).

REACH will host a Christmas Dinner on December 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. also at Luther's Table.





CLAM LIGHTS IS NOV. 30

Ring in the holiday season with an evening of holiday spirit and visual effects. This annual display of holiday lights kicks off on November 30 at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Festivities start at 6:15 with the lights coming on at 7 p.m. rentonwa.gov/clamlights

Out in the Community

“On the Battlefield & the Homefront”
NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 11
Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S
 World War I crystallized and clarified Rentonites’ beliefs about citizenship and its duties, and changed Renton forever. rentonwa.gov/museum

Veterans Day
NOVEMBER 12
 City of Renton offices closed.

Giving Trees
NOVEMBER 16–DECEMBER 21
City Hall, 1055 S. Grady Way
Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Hwy.

Newcomer’s Hour
NOVEMBER 16, 10–11 A.M.
DECEMBER 14, 10–11 A.M.
Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N
 Free. Meet the staff and learn about all the exciting programs and activities available. rentonwa.gov/rsac

Hassle Free Holiday Bazaar
NOVEMBER 16, 11 A.M.–6 P.M.
NOVEMBER 17, 9 A.M.–5 P.M.
Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Hwy.
 Free. Over 100 vendors. Food, refreshments and ATM. Happy Hour on Friday, 4–6 p.m. 425-430-6700 or rentonwa.gov/holidaybazaar

Storyteller Sondra Segundo
NOVEMBER 17, 11 A.M.–12 P.M.
Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S
 Celebrate Native American Heritage month through songs and stories. rentonwa.gov/museum

Thanksgiving Holiday
NOVEMBER 22 & 23
 City of Renton offices closed.

Small Business Saturday
NOVEMBER 24
Downtown Renton
 Shops and restaurants celebrating with specials, giveaways and a scavenger hunt for kids.

Downtown Tree Lighting
NOVEMBER 24, 3–7 P.M.
Pavilion Event Center & Piazza Park, 233 Burnett Ave. S
 Enjoy music, snacks, a pop-up artisan market and kid’s activities in the Pavilion Event Center. Tree lighting and Santa’s arrival at 5 p.m. rentondowntown.com

Clam Lights Opening Night
NOVEMBER 30, 6:15 P.M.
Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, 1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N
 Evening of holiday spirit and visual effects. Lights come on at 7 p.m. Light display runs through January 1, 5–9 p.m. rentonwa.gov/clamlights

K9 Candy Cane 5K Fun Run & Walk
DECEMBER 2, 9:15 A.M.
Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Hwy.
 For competitive runners, fun runners, walkers, and families with or without dogs. rentonwa.gov/candycane

Renton City Concert Band
DECEMBER 9, 2 P.M.
Renton IKEA Performing Arts Ctr., 400 S. 2nd St.
 Enjoy the sounds of the holiday season with this 65-member band. \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors 50 & over. rentonwa.gov/rccb

Christmas Holiday
DECEMBER 24 & 25
 City of Renton facilities closed.

New Years Day
JANUARY 1
 City of Renton facilities closed.


Polar Bear Plunge
JANUARY 1, 11 A.M.
Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, 1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N
 Start your New Year with an exhilarating dip into the icy waters of Lake Washington. rentonwa.gov/polarbear

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
JANUARY 21
 City of Renton facilities closed.

City Contacts

- General Information 425-430-6400
- Mayor 425-430-6500
- City Council 425-430-6501
- Chief Admin Officer 425-430-6500
- Administrative Svcs 425-430-6868
- City Attorney 425-430-6480
- City Clerk 425-430-6510
- Code Enforcement 425-430-7373
- Community & Economic Development 425-430-6575
- Community Services 425-430-6600
- Emergency Mgmt 425-430-7041
- Graffiti Reporting 425-430-7373
- Human Resources & Risk Management 425-430-7650
- Municipal Court Judge 425-430-6550
- Police (non-emergency) 425-430-7500
- Public Works 425-430-7394
- Regional Fire Authority 425-271-7900
- Street/Water/Sewer Maintenance 425-430-7400
- Utility Billing 425-430-6852

EMERGENCY 911
 Non-Emergency 425-235-2121

 **The City of Renton provides reasonable accommodation upon request.**

rentonwa.gov
rentonwa.gov/publications
communications@rentonwa.gov

