



This Week from the Mayor



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Volunteers at the heart of what we do

In previous newsletters I've highlighted some of the things that make a city great: inclusion, quality schools and philanthropy. I'd like to add another: volunteerism.

Volunteerism is at the heart of our community. Our volunteers are a vital part of what we do, from serving on our boards and commissions to taking on beautification projects. And they ask for nothing in return.

On September 10, we host our annual Day of Service to remember those lost in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This year hundreds of volunteers will come together to clean up Renton's parks, help with the Emergency Feeding Program and dedicate their time for other worthy causes. The "work" runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and then from 12 to 1:30 p.m. we will host a Celebration of Service picnic with live entertainment. We have several projects that could use your help. If you are interested, please contact Teresa Nishi at tnishi@rentonwa.gov or 425-430-6694.

I hope you will join us.



Urban Sprouts grand opening Sept. 16

Urban Sprouts, a retailer of indoor plants, gardening items and gifts, will celebrate their grand opening on September 16. Downtown's newest business is the first tenant in the historic Cortona Building, which has undergone a complete renovation.

With over 10,000 square feet of retail space, the building has room for four commercial tenants. The Cortona building originally housed Woolworth in 1954, and more recently Renton Western Wear.

To celebrate this historic event and other new businesses, downtown Renton will come alive with Pop-Up Downtown from 4 to 8 p.m. on September 16. The Pop-Up will feature food, music, art and three unique parklets, which are temporary mini-parks. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a night out and patronize downtown's growing collection of outstanding businesses.



Police Building Relationships

Last Saturday, CRYOUT, an annual youth event, was held at Liberty Park. I'm proud to say our police department represented the city well in the basketball tournament, more than holding their own against what Chief Milosevich called "much younger teams." It was a perfect way for our police department to engage the community in an environment outside their normal line of duty.

Celestine Rap, the head of CRYOUT, agreed "it's easier to see the police as people like us especially when they come with their families and hang out with us. Thanks to the Chief and the Renton Police Department for supporting our work at the CRYOUT organization to bring our community together. One Love!"

A special thanks to officers Tim Cumming, Brian Jordan, Robert McGruder, Rylee Phillips, Mike Picinich, Robert Slinkman, Tanuj Soni and Michael Thompson for their participation.

DID YOU KNOW?



IKEA SOLAR PANELS ARE STATE'S LARGEST

IKEA's new Renton store will install the state's largest rooftop solar array. The 244,504-square-foot array will allow the international retailer to reduce electrical use and carbon emissions. The 3,420 panels will produce more than 1.3 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, enough to power 137 homes. They're also expected to reduce carbon emissions equal to the production of 196 cars. The store opens in spring 2017.



TEENS GET FIRST-HAND VIEW OF POLICE DEPT.

The police department's initial Teen Academy just completed a successful eight-week session. Eight students from the Renton School District learned about the requirements to become an officer and the various functions and responsibilities of police, visited the jail, went on a ride-along and took to the water with local marine units. It was a great way for our police to interact with our teens. Plans are already underway for next summer.



READY IN RENTON

September is "Ready in Renton" month. I urge all of you to take time to make sure that you and your family are prepared in the event of a major disaster. Our Emergency Management staff has some tips.

FEEDBACK

If you have comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please email me at communications@rentonwa.gov. Thanks for reading.