



# This Week from the Mayor



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*The Mayor talks with Renton Police Commander Kevin Keyes at National Night Out.*

## Police, community partnership is vital

I was very pleased to see a strong turnout at Tuesday's National Night Out. This despite our recent wave of hot weather.

National Night Out was started over 30 years ago to get neighbors out of their houses to discuss common problems and get to know one another better. The belief was if we get to know our neighbors on a more substantial level, we're more likely to notice and report suspicious activities in our neighborhood to the police.



*These youngsters got to hang out with with Renton police officers at National Night Out and check out some of their cool gear.*

For our community to be truly safe, a strong bond must exist between our residents and members of our police department. This bond must be continually developed and nurtured. It's impossible for our police officers to be everywhere so involvement by an informed and vigilant citizenry, serving as the police department's eyes and ears, is an immense help. Events like National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, and BBQ with the Badges are great ways to make this happen.

National Night Out also gives the youth of our community a chance to talk to officers and interact with them on a more personal level. The sooner our children learn that police officers are there to serve and protect, the stronger that bond becomes as they grow older.

## Come Cruz the Loop

Almost every week during the summer we host a community activity in Renton. These range from the large - Farmers Market, Fabulous 4th of July & Renton River Days - to one-day events - Ivar's Family Fun & Films and Kidd Valley Summer Concerts. That's not by accident, it's all part of inviting the community to sample the very best of Renton.

One of our upcoming events fulfills a long-time dream of mine: recreating the fun and festive nature of cruising the Renton Loop. I admit that I joined people from all over the region to cruise the loop years ago. Most of us are familiar with the movie *American Graffiti*; "The Loop" was Renton's version (minus Wolfman Jack). Legend has it they could have filmed the movie here instead of California. Think about the similarities: the cars were hot, the A&W on Rainier Avenue (Mel's Drive-In?) was a major meeting place and Third Avenue was the place to see and be seen in your hot rod. It was Americana at its best.



*Cruz the Loop was part of the recent Renton River Days parade. (Denis Law photo)*

On August 19, we're going to do our best to recreate the fun and excitement with [Cruz the Loop](#). There will be bands playing hits from the Beatles and other classics, food, and family-oriented entertainment. That all takes place from 12-4 p.m. at Renton High School. At 4 p.m., nearly 100 registered vehicles will have the opportunity to cruise the loop, this time with a police escort!

To register your ride, visit our [website](#).

## Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading.