See. Send. Solved.
Renton Responds

NOTHING IS MORE FRUSTRATING than traveling through Renton, seeing something that needs the city’s attention and not being able to report it.

In September’s Renton CityNews we introduced residents to Renton Responds, a soon-to-be released application that would solve that problem. The app has been released and the response has been outstanding.

Renton residents have used Renton Responds to report everything from abandoned vehicles to downed street signs to overgrown vegetation that is blocking sidewalks. Their submissions have gone directly to the city department responsible and staff have worked to resolve them. In just over one month, the city has responded to and cleared well over 300 issues.

If you haven’t used the app or its web-based equivalent, it’s easy. First use your device’s camera to photograph the issue. Upload the photo which automatically sets the location. If you don’t have a photo, don’t worry, you can enter the address.

Next, select the category you’d like to report and follow a few simple steps to complete the request. Renton Responds gives the option to create an account, which allows you to receive updates. There is also an option to hide your identity from other users.

Once submitted, the issue goes to the appropriate department for review and possible action. Throughout the process, you will be kept informed via email.

Please remember that by using Renton Responds, you understand that the time to resolve your submission may vary depending on the type of request and the volume of requests.

The Renton Responds app is available for both Apple and Android devices from their respective app stores. It is also available on the city’s website at rentonwa.gov/rentonresponds.

We hope you’ll take advantage of Renton Responds to bring issues to our attention and help us keep Renton a great place to live, work, play and learn.

2020 Census

IN APRIL 2020, the United States Census Bureau will send each household an invitation to be part of the census. Participation by residents of Renton is important as the results are used to help determine where federal funding will be allocated, including important items like schools, roads, medical facilities, child care and senior centers. So look for the invitation and take part; all answers are confidential. For more information on the upcoming 2020 Census, please visit: rentonwa.gov/census.
Protect your holiday deliveries
The holidays mean shopping and shopping may include home package delivery. If you’re expecting packages, the Renton Police Department has put together a short video with tips on protecting those deliveries from thieves. View it at rentonwa.gov/policetips. Online transactions that culminate in a face-to-face meeting can be made at City Hall in Renton police’s Safe Exchange Zone. For more information, call the Renton Police Department at 425-430-7521.

Secure your property prior to a flood
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 either the Green or Cedar rivers reach established flood stages. In the event of a flood warning, Renton residents are notified several ways: NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and television and local emergency agencies. If flooding is expected to be 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 FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program, which enables all Renton property owners to obtain considerable discounts on flood insurance, 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 to get copies of existing Flood Elevation Certificates, contact Yasir Abduljaleel, yabdjaleel@rentonwa.gov, 425-430-7323. More information on flood insurance, emergency preparation and ALERT Renton at rentonwa.gov/emergencies.

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, yabdjaleel@rentonwa.gov, 425-430-7323.

Community groups host holiday dinners
THE RENTON SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER (211 Burnett Ave. N.) will be open Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for their annual Thanksgiving Day Luncheon. A delicious holiday meal will be served at 11:45 a.m.

This free event is open to adults 50 and older. Tickets are required and are available at the Senior Center beginning Nov. 4.

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

Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) hosts their annual free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, from 1–3 p.m. at Luther’s Table (419 S. Second St. #1). REACH will also host a Christmas Dinner at Luther’s Table on Dec. 25 from 1–3 p.m.

Schedule your Clean Sweep collection
RENTON SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE customers are eligible to schedule one collection of extra garbage to take place on their regular garbage day at no additional charge in 2019. Accepted are up to two bulky items and ten units of garbage. Review guidelines and see a list of accepted items and scheduling instructions at rentonwa.gov/cleansweep.
The Gift of Giving

The city’s annual Giving Tree drive benefits Renton families in-need through Renton Salvation Army. Trees will be in the lobby of Renton City Hall (1055 S. Grady Way) and the Renton Community Center (1715 SE Maple Valley Hwy.) from Friday, Nov. 15 to Monday, Dec. 23.

A donation to the Gift of Play Recreation Scholarship fund is used to cover program fees for low-income youth and participants in adaptive recreation programs. Gift of Play donations should be returned by Dec. 23. For more information, call 425-430-6694.

Holiday happenings

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
THE RENTON DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP and the City of Renton co-host the annual Small Business Saturday and Downtown Tree Lighting on Saturday, Nov. 30. The celebration is part of a national event to encourage shopping small, local businesses during the holidays. Shopping, games and prizes for all ages will take place throughout downtown starting at 10 a.m. Check in at the Renton Civic Theatre to pick up your free goodie bag (while supplies last). Crafts, hot cocoa and live entertainment will begin at the Renton Pavilion Event Center at 3 p.m. and, of course, the arrival of Santa and lighting of the holiday tree at 5 p.m.

SANTA’S HOUSE
MEET AND TAKE PHOTOS WITH SANTA at the Renton Civic Theatre. Bring your children and favorite pets to capture holiday moments with the whole family. Santa’s House will be open the first three Saturdays in December from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Renton Civic Theatre (507 S. 3rd St.). Your visit includes a free downloadable image and the option to purchase prints.

CLAM LIGHTS
CLAM LIGHTS, a Renton tradition, returns on Dec. 6 as 200,000 holiday lights will usher in the holiday season and cap an evening of holiday spirit and visual effects. Opening night festivities start at 5:30 p.m. at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park with the lights coming on at 6. The display will continue each evening from 5 to 9 p.m. through Jan. 1. Learn more at rentonwa.gov/clamlights.

Prepare your home for colder weather

AS THE WEATHER TURNS COLDER, Renton residents should take some preventative steps to keep their homes safe. The following tips are provided by the Saving Water Partnership and Renton Regional Fire Authority.

PROTECT YOUR PIPES
EACH WINTER, we hear about homes suffering damage from water pipes that freeze and then burst. By taking these simple precautions, you can avoid the mess and cost of repairs.

- Insulating your water pipes prevents freezing and is especially important if you are away for an extended period and heat your home to a lower-than-normal temperature. Insulating your hot water pipes at the same time will eliminate condensation and save on energy costs.
- Outdoor spigots (faucets) are susceptible to freezing and should be drained and insulated.
- The water shut-off valve should be located. Turn off the flow of water in case of a leak or pipe break as soon as possible.

HEATING SAFETY
SOME RENTON RESIDENTS will turn to alternative home heating methods. It’s important to be aware of potential problems associated with baseboard heaters, space heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, and radiators. Renton Regional Fire Authority has these tips to help prevent a fire in your home.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from any heat source.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect chimney and vents every year.
- Do not discard your ashes into a combustible container such as a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can.
- Never use your oven or barbeque as a heat source.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and test monthly.
Polar Bear Plunge 2020
Grab your family and friends and start 2020 right with a dip in the refreshing waters of Lake Washington on New Year’s Day. Last year’s Polar Bear Plunge saw a record number of participants race from the beach at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Afterwards enjoy hot coffee and delicious clam chowder from Ivar’s. Polar Bear Plunge will be January 1, 2020, at 11 a.m. [rentonwa.gov/polarbear]

Community Calendar

City Facilities Closed
November 11, 28 & 29
December 25 & 26
January 1 & 20

Travel Preparedness
THURSDAY, NOV. 14, 6:30–8 P.M.
Renton Technical College, 3000 NE 4th St.
Resources, plans, and tips to be disaster-ready. Ages 13 & up, adults must accompany minors.
rentonwa.gov/rep or call 425-430-6700.

Newcomer's Hour
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 10–11 A.M.
FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 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

Giving Trees
NOV. 15–DEC. 23
City Hall, 1055 S. Grady Way
Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Hwy.
Provide items or donate to assist Renton children living in situations that make holiday gifts an unattainable luxury.
rentonwa.gov/givingtrees

Hasse Free Holiday Bazaar
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 11 A.M.–6 P.M.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 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

Winter Golf Tournament Series
ALL EVENTS START AT 9 A.M.
Maplewood GC, 4050 Maple Valley Hwy
Must have a verifiable handicap. 425-430-6800.
Saturday, Nov. 23: Two-Person Scramble
Saturday, Dec. 14: Individual Points
Saturday, Dec. 28: 2-Person Best Ball
Saturday, Jan. 11: Medal Play

Small Business Saturday
SATURDAY, NOV. 30, 10 A.M.–5 P.M.
Downtown Renton
Shops and restaurants celebrating with specials, giveaways and a scavenger hunt for kids.

Downtown Tree Lighting
SATURDAY, NOV. 30, 3–7 P.M.
Pavilion Event Center & Piazza Park, 233 Burnett Ave. S.
Enjoy music, snacks, a pop-up market and kids’ activities. Tree lighting and Santa’s arrival at 5 p.m. rentondowntown.com

Fashion & Style in early King County
TUESDAY, DEC. 5, 6–7 P.M.
Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S.
Local historical fashion expert Elizabeth Korshmo discusses Seattle fashion of the mid-19th century. rentonwa.gov/museum

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

K9 Candy Cane 5K Fun Run & Walk
SUNDAY, DEC. 8, 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

Adaptive Rec Holiday Dance Party
THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 7–8:30 P.M.
Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.
“Club Thursday” is an exciting social club for teens and adults with disabilities.

City Concert Band Holiday Concert
SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 2 P.M.
Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center, 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

Polar Bear Plunge
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1, 11 A.M.
Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, 1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N.
Start the New Year with an exhilarating dip into Lake Washington followed by Ivar’s clam chowder.
rentonwa.gov/polarbear

City Contacts

General Information ........ 425-430-6400
Mayor ................. 425-430-6500
City Council ........... 425-430-6501
Chief Admin Officer ..... 425-430-6500
Administrative Services ... 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 ......... 425-430-7723
Graffiti Reporting ........ 425-430-7362
Human Resources & Risk Management ........ 425-430-7650
Municipal Court Judge .... 425-430-6550
Police (business line) .... 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