



# This Week from the Mayor



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## Blue Lights honor police

THE TREES OUTSIDE City Hall have been adorned with blue lights this month for Project Blue Light, which supports law enforcement and honors those lost in the line of duty.

In Renton we're fortunate to have a police department that models "Integrity, Service, Valor and Professionalism" every day. Our officers care deeply about our community

and our residents. Recently I was in the community when a Renton businessman introduced himself and wanted to tell me about the way in our officers used care and humanity to deal with a difficult situation. Our officers work closely with community groups, sponsor teen youth summits and host "Coffee with a Cop." All are designed to help break down barriers and build strong relationships with our residents and our officers.



## "RAAP-ing" up their year's work



OUR RENTON AFRICAN-AMERICAN PASTORAL GROUP (RAAP) wrapped up their year's work with a potluck social. [RAAP members represent](#) different faith groups from the African-American community and work closely with the city and Renton Police Department to create trust through collaborative efforts and partnerships. Among the events they sponsored in 2018 were the Juneteenth celebration and the Unity Forum.

RAAP is co-chaired by Chief of Police Ed VanValey and the Rev. Dr. Linda Smith, executive director of the S.K.Y. Urban Empowerment and Transformation Center.

## Festival winners visit City Hall



I WAS PRIVILEGED TO HOST the winners of the sixth annual Ravishing Women Festival, which was held in Renton in November. The festival is committed to motivate, inspire, appreciate and empower women of all ages, and featured a full day of events in addition to the pageant. All proceeds from the event benefitted API Chaya, a grassroots non-profit that works with diverse communities to end and prevent sexual/domestic violence and human trafficking.

## Polar Bear Plunge kicks off 2019

JOIN DOZENS OF YOUR FRIENDS and neighbors and welcome in the new year with a dip in Lake Washington. The [Polar Bear Plunge](#), a Renton tradition, is New Year's Day at 11 a.m. at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park.

After your dip, enjoy some delicious clam chowder and hot coffee courtesy of Ivar's Restaurants.

As this is my last newsletter of 2018, let me thank you for reading and wish you and your family all the best in 2019.



## 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. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)