



This Week from the Mayor



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Properly securing your load can save a life

IN 2004, ROBIN ABEL'S daughter Maria Federici was on I-405 in Renton when a piece of particle board from an unsecured load flew into her car's windshield. Maria survived, but was severely injured. Her life was changed forever.

When Robin learned our state did not have a law that held drivers of unsecured loads responsible beyond a traffic citation, she made it her life's work to educate all of us about the dangers of unsecured loads and how to prevent what happened to her daughter from happening to you.



Mayor Law presents Robin Abel the proclamation.

In 2005, our state legislature passed "Maria's Law," which increased the fines and penalties for drivers transporting unsecured loads. Nationally 48 states have enacted similar legislation and yesterday, June 6, was "National Secure Your Load Day" around the country.

I have [proclaimed](#) June 6-12 as "[Secure Your Load Week](#)" in Renton to bring more attention to this issue. Renton police officers will be conducting emphasis patrols to identify and stop motorists with unsecured loads. This emphasis will remain a regular part of their patrols.

I call Robin our "watchdog" as I would routinely hear from her when she'd spot a city truck with an unsecured load. Through her tireless efforts, city staff have done a great job of securing their loads as they move about the city.

As Robin likes to say, "Secure your load as if everyone you love is driving in the car behind you."

City wins seventh consecutive Governor's Smart Communities Award

FOR THE SEVENTH consecutive year the city has won a [Governor's Smart Communities Award](#), which recognizes planning and projects that contribute to thriving communities, a prosperous economy, and sustainable infrastructure.

This year we were honored for the Sartori Elementary School project, a partnership with the Renton School District. The project will



Sartori Elementary School is under construction in downtown.

turn an under-used area of the city into a valuable community asset and mark one more step toward achieving our vision of a downtown where people live, work, learn, play and visit.

"Outstanding local collaboration is key to creating sustainable communities with a shared vision for their future growth and prosperity," said Governor Jay Inslee in announcing the award.

With this project, city staff worked closely with the school district to implement elements that benefit the community, such as a community gathering area and an exterior plaza.

Similar to what's taking place in our downtown core, the project has the potential to encourage further development and improve the livability and marketability.

My congratulations on a job well done to our Community and Economic Development staff who worked so hard on the project and to our partners at Renton School District!

Miss India USA re-visits her Renton roots

I WAS PLEASED TO HOST Miss India USA Shree Saini at City Hall last week.

As Shree and I talked, I discovered her interests align with several of my priorities, including inclusion, diversity, and working with youth to combat trafficking and bullying. She also holds a fondness for Renton as she credits the city for launching her career. Shree was crowned the winner of the annual Ravishing Women's Show held in Renton, which led to her current title. Right now she is preparing to compete in the Miss India World pageant in October.



Mayor Law and Shree Saini, Miss India USA.

In September she will come back to town and be a part of our annual [Renton Multicultural Festival](#) on September 14 and 15. I invite you to come to the festival, meet her, and get your picture taken. She is an impressive representative of our city.

I looking forward to her returning to Renton once her reign is over and implementing some of her ideas. Before that, however, I hope you will join me in wishing her the best of luck at the world pageant.

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. | [Newsletter archive](#)