Thanks for a great 4th of July celebration

IT’S BEEN A COUPLE WEEKS since my last newsletter, but I’d be remiss if I did not express my sincere appreciation for the tremendous effort by our employees who provided a safe, fun and memorable 4th of July celebration at Gene Coulon Park. Many hours of planning and execution go into making sure that thousands of our residents and their friends and family could have a wonderful afternoon and evening.

Renton Police Teen Academy 2018 graduating class

Police academy takes teens inside

THE RENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT just completed their third and most successful Teen Academy as attendance quadrupled from year one. Last week 30 students from Hazen, Lindbergh, and Renton highs schools, along with a few students from Kent School District, took part in the academy under the guidance of the department’s School Resource Officers (SROs). The teens were taken behind the scenes and shown how the department works from the inside. They saw the evidence room, toured the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, and spoke with several Renton training, K9 and SWAT officers. Additionally, they spent a day with the Mercer Island Marine Patrol Unit and King County’s Guardian Two Search and Rescue helicopter unit. At the end of the week, and after completing 20 hours of class, the students and their families were invited to a graduation ceremony at City Hall with Acting Chief of Police Ed Van Valey.

My thanks and congratulations to all the officers and staff involved, and a special thanks to SROs Rob McGruder (Hazen), Tim Cumming (Lindbergh), and Thaddeus Kerkhoff (Renton). The time and extra effort displayed by these officers and their colleagues goes a long way toward developing a strong relationship with the youth in Renton.

Acting Chief of Police Ed VanValey, Detective LeAnn Whitney, and Mayor Denis Law.

Det. Whitney honored by Special Olympics

RENTON POLICE DETECTIVE LeAnn Whitney was honored earlier today for her work with Special Olympics Washington. Det. Whitney served as the coordinator for several legs of this year’s national Special Olympics torch run and has been a dedicated supporter of Special Olympics for several years.

Thank you, LeAnn, for your passion for helping others.

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