



This Week from the Mayor



SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

VOL. III, NO. 29



Chief Kevin Milosevich will retire at the end of the month after 33 years with the Renton Police Department, including the last 12-plus years as chief. Deputy Chief Ed VanValey will replace him. (Denis Law photo)

Chief Kevin Milosevich to retire Sept. 28

Over the past couple years, I have had several administrators retire after serving our community for many years. They have been invaluable partners to me, as we have implemented progressive strategies to develop a workforce committed to providing a high quality and efficient level of service to our residents and the business community.

These leaders have included Jay Covington, chief administrative officer; Terry Higashiyama, Community Services administrator; Larry Warren, city attorney; Iwen Wang, Finance and IT administrator; and Nancy Carlson, HR administrator. And now on September 28, [Police Chief Kevin Milosevich will retire](#) after serving our city for 33 years, 12 years as chief. Each of these administrators were instrumental in improving the workforce culture and customer service at City Hall and building an inclusive community for all residents.

Losing this level of experience and commitment can be devastating to an organization. Thankfully, we have been fortunate to recruit top-notch administrators to replace those who retired, with both internal candidates and from other organizations. They have been successful at continuing our commitment to quality service. I'm confident we will have the same continued success with our police department.

Chief Milosevich did an outstanding job of developing a command staff comprised of strong leaders committed to meeting our goals of enhancing safety, reducing crime, and building strong relationships between the police and members of the community. This pool of leaders has provided me the opportunity to promote from within the organization. Effective October 1, 2018, Deputy Chief Ed VanValey will become Renton's next chief of police.

Ed is homegrown, a graduate of Lindbergh High School and a former employee of our park department. He joined the police department in 1998 and quickly rose through the ranks. Chief Milosevich appointed Ed to deputy chief in 2013. He graduated from Central Washington University, served as a captain in the United States Army and retired in 2016 at the rank of major in the Washington National Guard.

We wish all the best for Kevin and his wife as they retire to Arizona.



Chief Milosevich was committed to developing strong relationships with the community, leading to many successful programs.

Council votes to protect future of parks and trails

The Renton City Council adopted an important recommendation Monday evening that was provided by a citizen's advisory committee for a \$14.5 million dollar funding package to address major maintenance projects needed for Renton's parks and trail system.

Many of these projects have been deferred over the years, due to other budget priorities, and require an investment to address needs brought on by many years of heavy use by those living and working in our community.

The Citizen Advisory Committee, recruited by the City Council, was comprised of current and former business executives, local financial experts and residents. They spent many hours reviewing data on Renton's parks and trail system to better understand what is currently provided and what's needed to meet the needs of our growing population base. They also reviewed the condition of existing parks and facilities to gain an understanding of what is required to improve and maintain them for future generations of use, prioritizing projects on a safety-first basis.

The result of their months of effort was a report that identified priorities for future parks and recreational needs for our community. The committee strongly recommended that the Council fund the major maintenance needs of the parks system, even if a proposal for adding new parks and amenities was not adopted at this time.

Following a presentation from the advisory committee, the Council made a decision not to ask voters to fund a parks bond for new projects at this time, but remained committed to considering major maintenance needs that currently exist.

The vote Monday to proceed with a funding package to provide these upgrades will ensure Renton residents continue to enjoy our park and trail system including Gene Coulon Park, the Henry Moses Aquatic Center, and other popular programs offered at our community centers.



On tap this weekend

Two great events are happening this weekend. On Friday and Saturday it's our third annual [Multicultural Festival](#), a celebration of and by our diverse community. All events are free.

Saturday is my annual [Mayor's Day of Concern for the Hungry](#). Collection bins are located at the QFC at 4800 NE 4th Ave and the Safeway at 200 3rd St. There will also be a bin at the Multicultural Festival on Saturday.

Thank you in advance for your support of these two worthwhile events.

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](#)