



This Week from the Mayor



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June is LGBTQ Pride Month in Renton



June has been proclaimed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Pride Month in Renton by Mayor Denis Law. Deputy Public Affairs Administrator Preeti Shridhar accepts the proclamation from City Clerk Jason Seth.

DIVERSITY. EQUITY. SOCIAL JUSTICE. INCLUSION.

These are popular buzz-words that many jurisdictions have tossed around for years. In Renton, we have moved this topic from political buzz-words into our way of doing business. All our city employees receive diversity and implicit bias training ensuring we have a much better understanding on how to serve our residents. We also use a "blind" job application process to reduce the chance for biases to slip into our recruitment and hiring practices.

In the past 20 years, Renton has grown significantly in both population and diversity. Our community is considered "minority-majority," with more than 51% of our population represented by people of color. The need for real progress in understanding and addressing diversity, equity and inclusion has never been more important than it is today and Renton is helping to lead the way in our region.

Early on, I formed the [Mayor's Inclusion Task Force](#), representing nearly every ethnic and religious group in Renton, as well as our LGBTQ and senior populations. This group of passionate and dedicated residents have helped the city make significant progress in establishing meaningful relationships with leaders from all backgrounds.

What started in 2015 with a few community meetings has grown into series of events designed to recognize and celebrate the diversity of our community. There's the annual Black History Month celebrations in February, the "Faith over Fear" workshop with our Muslim community, youth meetings in conjunction with the [Renton African American Pastoral Group](#) (RAAP) to discuss issues like gun violence, youth violence and the role our police department plays. There's community events like our highly-successful [Renton Multicultural Festival](#) in September and later this month on June 22, we'll hold our second annual [Juneteenth Celebration](#) to mark the general ending of slavery in this country.

At Monday's council meeting, I took another step in our process of inclusion by proclaiming June as [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Pride Month](#) in Renton. This long overdue recognition will focus the spotlight on the many contributions made by LGBTQ individuals in our city. As part of the celebration, the pride flag will fly at Renton City Hall from June 17-23 and the Renton History Museum will host a [free pride flag making workshop](#) on June 8.

I'd like to give special thanks to [Plateaupians for Peace](#), a nonprofit organization who donated the Pride flag to the City of Renton and whose mission is to promote a united, supportive, and inclusive community. They support and act in solidarity with the LGBTQ, Muslim, immigrant, refugees, disabled, homeless, and other neighbors who feel marginalized, share hugs not hate and are known to welcome people of any political party, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, wealth status, age, disability, or veteran status. We are very touched by your mission and generosity.

I hope you will join me in our efforts to model inclusion in our city not just during this special observance, but also by attending one of our community events to learn more about and engage with our diverse communities. It is only through understanding and appreciation of those around us that we can continue towards our goal of making Renton a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Today is national "Secure Your Load Day"

TODAY IN RENTON WE OBSERVE "[Secure Your Load Day](#)" as a reminder that drivers are responsible for the loads we transport. Secure Your Load Day has become a national event thanks in large part to the work of Renton resident Robin Abel.

In 2004, Robin's daughter Maria Federici was driving 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 prevent what happened to her daughter from happening to you.

In 2005, the Washington legislature passed "Maria's Law," which increased the fines and penalties for drivers transporting unsecured loads. Nationally 48 states have enacted similar legislation.

During the month of June, Renton police officers will be conducting emphasis patrols to identify and stop motorists transporting unsecured loads. Our officers will emphasize educating motorists on proper ways to secure their loads. The police department will issue citations to commercial vehicles that are in violation of the law.

So if you're moving that college student home or you're just taking something light to the transfer station, please secure your load.

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



This photo was taken by Renton police at last weekend's Stop & Swap. So what's illegal? Even though the cargo is not higher than the pickup's sides, it contains enough loose items that could be ejected by going over a bump. These projectiles can cause severe injuries to occupants of trailing vehicles. So even if your load is small, always take the time to secure it.

75 years later: June 6, 1944

TODAY ALSO MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY of the landing of Allied troops on the beaches of France and the beginning of the end for the Axis powers in World War II. While the numbers for the D-Day invasion are staggering-over 150,000 troops, almost half of which were Americans; 13,000 aircraft; and 5,000 ships-it was the courage of these men and women that turned the tide of the war.

Yesterday I read the story of Tom Rice, one of 200 paratroopers who recreated their D-Day jumps. After landing, the 97-year-old stood up, brushed himself off and asked if he could go again. That captures the spirit of his generation.

Patty and I had the great honor a few years ago to visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial which overlooks Omaha Beach. The meticulously maintained grounds hold the remains of over 9,300 American soldiers, many who died on June 6, 1944. We truly gained a sense of the sacrifice by our military during that visit. Over 16 million Americans served in World War II and we are losing over 300 veterans each day. May the sacrifices they made that day and throughout the war never be forgotten.



The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial near Colleville-sur-Mer, France. (Denis Law photo)

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](#)