



This Week from the Mayor



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Baldwin combine aids Family First Center



Denis Law photo

WHILE STANDING WITH DOUG BALDWIN on the Renton Memorial Stadium turf last Sunday, we both suddenly got a sense of what's to come once we get the Family First Community Center up and running in the Cascade/Benson Hill community.

It was a good feeling!

Doug's third annual family combine was a huge success and our community will benefit as the funds raised will be used to support the [Family First Community Center](#). The center is something Doug and I have been working on for over two years. It will provide critical health, recreational and educational opportunities for underserved youth and families in the Cascade/Benson Hill area.

Building the center is a major goal for me. We've received tremendous funding support from the city council, state of Washington, local businesses and individuals. Other Renton companies have pledged funds for the operation of the facility.

Which brings me back to the combine.

Kids of all ages, along with their parents, were having a ton of fun testing their skills in the 40-yard dash and horizontal jump, catching footballs and trying to get around Doug and Richard Sherman and into the end zone. (They didn't try very hard as kids seemed to get by them with relative ease.)

Everybody was having a great time while getting exercise and positive motivation from two tremendous role models. It was especially fun to watch Doug and Richard competing against each other in the horizontal jump! I'm still not sure who won since both were arguing with the judge.

It's these types of hands-on activities, combined with an educational component, that we will bring to Cascade/Benson Hill. Our fundraising efforts are still underway. If you'd like to contribute, there's a link via the [Renton Community Foundation](#). Once on their website, click the "Donate Now" button and select "Family First Community Center Fund" from the dropdown list of funds. Thank you.

Fireworks ban helps protect property

THE FOURTH OF JULY is one week away and many of us will spend the day with family and friends celebrating with cookouts and possibly fireworks.

Please remember that the sale and use of fireworks within Renton city limits is prohibited. The ban was voted in by residents in 2005 to protect people and property. Every year we hear about lives and families affected by the careless discharge of fireworks and we are certainly not immune. The State Fire Marshall reported 301 fireworks-related incidents in 2018, including 91 fires and 262 injuries, most of those on the fourth of July.

In Renton, we have seen a significant decrease in the number of injuries and property damage caused by fireworks since the ban was enacted. To get your fill of pyrotechnics on July 4, I invite you to come to Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park for our annual [fireworks spectacular](#). The display will begin at 10 p.m. and caps a full day of family-oriented activities.

Officers with the Renton Police Department and Renton Regional Fire Authority have teamed up on a [series of videos](#) covering enforcement of the fireworks ban and tips for attending the Fourth of July festivities at Gene Coulon Park. Their information is important and I encourage you to watch them.



Renton's July 4 fireworks display starts at 10 p.m. at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. (Denis Law photo)

Focusing on sexual assault resources

LAST MONTH, we had a high profile sexual assault in downtown. Thanks to outstanding detective work by members of the Renton Police Department, a suspect was quickly identified and arrested.

But what about the victim? Fortunately, Renton is home to one of the county's leaders in providing support to victims.

The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) has been in Renton for over 40 years. They work tirelessly to give voice to victims, their families, and the community. And KCSARC works to create change in beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors about violence, while instilling courage in people so they can speak out about sexual assault.

In light of the recent assault, I thought it important that you [read this Op-Ed](#) by KCSARC Executive Director

Mary Ellen Stone.



Mary Ellen Stone

A busy week of events ahead



OUR 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION leads off a busy four days in the city.

On Saturday, July 6 we will celebrate our third annual "[Cruz the Loop](#)," when vehicles and nostalgia takeover downtown Renton.

Cruising our downtown streets used to be the rage. We'd congregate on Saturday nights and drive slowly through downtown making connections. It was our social media. Eventually this tradition was eliminated due to complaints from business owners. Two years ago I had the idea to revive the tradition and it has become one of our most popular one-day events. There's still space if you'd like to register your vehicle to cruz; but if not, join us from 6-9 p.m. in Piazza Park as we combines cars, music and food into one fun evening.

"Cruz" was moved from August to July to combine it with the annual [Return to Renton Benefit Car Show](#) and present "Hot Rod Weekend" in Renton. On July 7 over 400 vintage automobiles will take over Third Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for one of the Northwest's top car shows.

Also on Saturday, Renton hosts the [Seattle Summer Music Games](#) at Renton Memorial Stadium at 6 p.m. Seven of the top drum and bugle corps in the United States will compete in the largest drum corps event in the northwest. In honor of the event in Renton, I proclaimed July 6 as "[Drum Corps Day](#)" in the city.

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](#)