



This Week from the Mayor



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Mayor Law hosts the Nishiwaki delegation in his office. Seated at his desk is Nishiwaki Mayor Shozo Katayama.

Renton and Nishiwaki, Japan, celebrate 50 years as Sister Cities

I WAS HONORED YESTERDAY to host Mayor Shozo Katayama and a delegation of 20 from Nishiwaki, Japan, as we officially celebrated our 50-year [Sister Cities](#) relationship.

What started in 1969 as an idea from Renton Lions Club members Roger Richert and Wyman and Vicki Dobson, has evolved into a strong, mutually beneficial relationship that includes annual student exchanges as well as cultural activities.

These activities have given Renton residents a first-hand view of the world, made our city more well-known and expanded the horizons of our youth. We can be proud that what started as a small idea has grown into a binding friendship celebrating 50 years.



Mayor Law presented Mayor Katayama with a glass sculpture commemorating 50 years of friendship between the cities.

In honor of the occasion, the City Council passed a proclamation at Monday's meeting making all members of the Nishiwaki delegation [honorary Renton residents](#).

Our friends have had a very busy schedule since they arrived on Wednesday. They visited Renton Technical College where they toured airplane manufacturing and culinary arts classes. Following our official celebration at City Hall Thursday, they toured Boeing's 737 plant and then enjoyed free time to discover Renton on their own or with their host family. They'll visit Seattle today before flying home on Saturday.

A visit like this is not possible without the help and cooperation of several individuals and businesses. My thanks to our host families, interpreters, city staff, the members of the Renton-Nishiwaki Sister City Committee and Nishiwaki International Goodwill Exchange Association, and all the local businesses who played a part to make this day and this visit so special.

City tackles homelessness with community resource events

HOMELESSNESS IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE facing our entire region, but through a series of community resource events, we are actually doing something about it and seeing results.

One of the major obstacles facing families experiencing homelessness is not having access to vital community services. They have to travel from one place to another for basic items and they are just not able.

The city's [Human Services Division](#), along with the help of several leaders in the Renton community, has created a solution. For the past two months the group has held a monthly Homelessness Resources event at the downtown Renton Library. The event brings under one roof community providers in healthcare, housing, banking, public transportation, human services (food, clothing, hygiene) and infant care, to name a few.

The first event in September had six providers who assisted 15 clients. The numbers increased significantly at the October event with 56 clients and 12 providers: Catholic Social Services, Kinderling, Compass Housing, Valley Cities Behavioral Health Outreach, Valley Medical Center, Pacific Medical Center, King County (Orca Card), Mary's Place, REACH, SKY Urban Empowerment and Transformation Center, St. Matthew's Church and Wellspring. In addition they also distributed 200 pairs of socks, 30 backpacks and personal hygiene packs.

My appreciation and thanks to this dedicated group for coming together to take this major step in bringing needed resources to our homeless population. I look forward to these events growing and reaching more of our homeless population in the coming months.



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](#)