



This Week from the Mayor



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Willowcrest Townhomes will aid low and moderate income families

TWO OF THE MANY THINGS that I've learned in my 12 years as mayor: 1) Renton is no longer affordable for all; and 2) you need strong partnerships to be successful.

That's why I was pleased last week to participate at the groundbreaking for [Willowcrest Townhomes](#), a project that checks both boxes. Willowcrest will offer 12 three- and four-bedroom townhomes to low and moderate income families and is the result of a partnership between the city, Renton Housing Authority, Homestead Community Land Trust, Heritage Bank and JP Morgan Chase & Co. The partnership is so strong that we were able to announce at the groundbreaking that a second 14-unit project will be built on the same site.

The city council has prioritized finding ways for those who work in our community to actually own homes in our community. To help with the Willowcrest project, the council authorized \$322,000, the city's largest ever affordable housing grant. The money will be used for environment protections and energy-efficient features.

Willowcrest is also another step in our redevelopment efforts in the Sunset area. It is just blocks away from [Sunset Neighborhood Park](#), the Highlands Library and public transit.

The work of [Renton Housing Authority](#) under the leadership of Mark Gropper has been vital. Mark, his board and his staff have done a wonderful job of meeting a lot of the needs of low income families and seniors in Renton. We are now seeing quality housing designed and built for low income families and seniors while at the same time increasing the number of units available for our growing population. Mark Santos-Johnson, the city's community development and housing manager, has been another passionate advocate for more and improved housing options in the city.

Providing quality affordable housing that meets the income levels of those residing in the city is vitally important. Projects like Willowcrest will help the city achieve our goal.

Saturday is Small Business Saturday and Downtown Tree Lighting

THIS SATURDAY IS OUR ANNUAL downtown tree lighting in Piazza Park. The lighting ceremony and arrival of Santa Claus at 5 p.m. caps off a full day of activities sponsored by the Renton Downtown Partnership as part of [Small Business Saturday](#). The day will feature shopping activities, prize drawings, live music, a holiday craft market, hot cocoa, cookies, and activities for children at Renton Pavilion Event Center.



Small business are the heartbeat of any city. In this age of online shopping it is crucial that we shop local because supporting local businesses supports local jobs. That's why I have proclaimed this Saturday as Small Business Saturday in the City of Renton and urge everyone to shop their local businesses not only on Saturday but throughout the year.



Judge Kara Murphy Richards and her sons along with Mayor Law and the City Council at the council's Nov. 18 meeting confirming her appointment.

Judge Kara Murphy Richards joins the bench

THE CITY COUNCIL HAS APPROVED my appointment of Kara Murphy Richards as our second full-time Renton Municipal Court judge. Kara's appointment is needed due to the court's current caseload load increasing dramatically because of the photo enforcement program. Judge Murphy will move seamlessly into her new role since she has served as the court's pro-tem judge for the past 10 years. During that time she's earned the respect of the police and both prosecutors and public defenders as a fair jurist. Congratulations, Kara.

Transit Town Hall on Dec. 4

IN THE NEAR FUTURE Renton will see some exciting new transit options coming to our city including bus rapid transit, rapid ride, and new transit stations. Since August, representatives from the Washington State Department of Transportation and King County Metro have made four separate presentations on these new services to the city council.



To help explain the new services and receive your input, King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove is hosting a [Transit Town Hall](#) at the Renton Senior Activity Center on Dec. 4 from 6-7 p.m. He will be joined by King County Metro Transit General Manager Rob Gannon and Sound Transit CEO Peter Rogoff. They will share the most up-to-date information on proposed bus routes, transit improvements and transit opportunities, and answer your questions. This is a tremendous opportunity to hear from and express your ideas to the county's decision makers.

Happy Thanksgiving

AS WE GET READY TO CELEBRATE Thanksgiving and look forward to Christmas, my sincere best wishes to you and your family this holiday season.

The holidays are the time we start thinking about all we have to be grateful for and maybe how we can pay it forward.

There are many [opportunities available](#) to give back to our community. I realize that donating your time and resources is a very personal decision and I appreciate the generosity of all our residents.



Senior Activity Center holiday dinner.

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](#)