



Valerie O'Halloran and her husband Michael after the swearing-in ceremony on Dec. 2.

## Valerie O'Halloran assumes vacant council seat

THE VACANT SEAT ON THE [CITY COUNCIL](#) was filled earlier this week with the swearing in of [Valerie O'Halloran](#). Valerie was elected last month to the seat, which was vacated by the resignation of Carol Ann Witschi. She will complete Carole Ann's term and then serve her own four-year term starting on Jan. 1.

I'm excited Valerie chose to run and is now a member of the council. She is a long-time Renton resident and has been very active in the community through the arts commission, Renton River Days, Arbor Day/Earth Day and the Renton Regional Community Foundation board. Her first meeting will be Monday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. Congratulations, Valerie. I know the city will benefit greatly from your wisdom.



## City prepared if winter weather hits

REMEMBER LAST FEBRUARY when the city was blanketed for days by snow? The city was able to keep roads passable and key city service functions operating thanks to work completed well in advance of the storms by our employees.

This same attention to detail is evident in our street maintenance crew's [preparations for snow](#) this year. They started last February, right after the storm ended, repairing plows and ordering supplies. In September they held their annual Winter Ops meeting where they re-checked their equipment, went over procedures and plow routes, and indoctrinated new drivers. In October they hosted an information session for Renton residents and another for city staff.

You can find more information about their preparations, plowing strategies, priority routes and how you can help in their new [Winter Preparations video](#). It answers several of the most asked questions and takes you inside their preparations.



Photo by Denis Law

## Clam Lights is this Friday

I HOPE YOU'LL JOIN MAYOR-ELECT ARMONDO PAVONE at opening night of [Clam Lights at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park](#). Around 200,000 lights will transform the park into a holiday wonderland. Opening night festivities will start at 5:30 p.m. with the lighting set for 5:45 p.m. There will be entertainment by the Lindbergh High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble, visits from and photo opportunities with Santa & Mrs. Claus and Olaf & Elsa from "Frozen." Clam Lights will run every day from 5 to 9 p.m. through Jan. 1, 2020. Many thanks to our Clam Lights sponsor Ivar's Restaurants.



The "5 a.m. Crew" at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Renton Senior Activity Center.

## Thanksgiving dinner feeds seniors

THERE WAS AN END-TO-AN-ERA FEELING at our 25th annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the [Renton Senior Activity Center](#) last week. It's been my pleasure to volunteer for the past 18+ years, but the real force behind the dinner is retiring City Councilmember Don Persson.

With many of our seniors dependent on the Senior Center for a warm meal during the week, and the center closed from Thursday to Sunday during Thanksgiving, Don saw a need years ago and rallied the community to give a hand. Today with the generous support of Renton Rotary and city employees, we served 250 local residents a full Thanksgiving dinner and provided a second meal in containers for them to take home.

Even though Don and I are retiring, the event will be in great hands, led by Community Services Administrator Kelly Beymer plus a great group of dedicated volunteers. Plans are already underway for next year's dinner.



Mayor Law and Council President Don Persson prepare to cut dessert for 250 on Thanksgiving morning.

## 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](#)