



Armondo Pavone, Mayor

This Week from the Mayor



Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 / Issue: 71

[Click to learn more...](#)

My weekly newsletter covers all that is happening in Renton. If you have an idea, would like to share news, or want to comment, I'd like to [hear from you](#).

Google Translation is available on the website. For additional translation services, contact communications@rentonwa.gov.



Shop local this holiday season

This year it's more important than ever to shop locally during the holidays. Renton's small businesses have stepped up with incentives as they start the holiday shopping season with Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28.

The [Renton Downtown Partnership](#) is providing free goodie bags to shoppers who spend \$10 or more at downtown merchants. The bags will include coupons, promotions, and surprise treats. They will be available starting with Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28 and throughout the shopping season while supplies last.

Renton residents can earn a [Winter Staycation](#) that includes a one-night stay for two at a Renton hotel, a \$300 dining credit and a \$200 shopping credit.

All you have to do is patronize a store or restaurant in Renton that, for you, is new. Post photos on your Facebook or Instagram account during November and December and tag them with #RentonHolidays. Each post gets you one entry, so the more you post, the more chances to win. The winner gets to build their own dream staycation.

Every one of our [neighborhoods has unique shops and restaurants](#). The fast-approaching holiday season is the perfect time to discover a new favorite place and be rewarded.



FAA allows 737 MAX to return to operation

Another piece of good news this week came from the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA has rescinded their order that halted the commercial operation of the Boeing 737 MAX.

I issued this statement on Wednesday in response to The Boeing Company's official statement on 737 MAX production.

"We are grateful that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (Wednesday) rescinded the order that halted commercial operations of the Boeing 737 MAX. The certification will allow Boeing to make deliveries, continue working with regulators worldwide and allow their customers to return the airplane into service."

"As the nation recovers from COVID-19, we are hopeful that the first recovery will be national travel, which will be incredibly positive for the delivery and production of the 737 MAX. We've also been assured that Boeing's commitment to manufacturing the 737 MAX in Renton is going to be for the long haul – a shot in the arm for our community and for the amenities, quality of life and business climate that makes this City so desirable."

The news is great not just for The Boeing Company and its workers but also for many local business owners in and around the Boeing facility.

For those with a [Puget Sound Business Journal](#) account, the full story is online.



When COVID-19 forced the Renton Senior Activity Center's closure, community services staff immediately pivoted their outreach efforts. With additional funding from King County, they will be able to expand their outreach.

Senior Center receives an additional \$115,000

Great news earlier this week from King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove.

Councilmember Upthegrove has [secured an additional \\$115,000 in funding](#) for the [Renton Senior Activity Center](#) as part of the county's 2021-2022 biennial budget. The funding comes from the voter-approved Veterans, Seniors and Human Services levy, which has already allocated \$90,000 to the center.

During the pandemic, we have repeatedly said that our seniors are our most important group and need our support. So many rely on the senior center for recreation, nourishment and community.

This funding will allow our community services staff to continue to provide these vital services. Already this year, they quickly developed a drive-through lunch program to replace the daily hot meals. Regular phone check-ins and virtual activities have kept seniors engaged. Their "positivity parades" brought smiles to both staff and seniors as they drove through senior housing complexes.

Our sincere thanks to Councilmember Upthegrove for this strong statement of support, not just for this additional funding but also for his help in achieving our "Age-Friendly City" designation from the World Health Organization/AARP. This will definitely benefit our senior population.

Council elects Corman and McIrvin president and president pro-tem for 2021

Congratulations to City Councilmembers Randy Corman and Ryan McIrvin, who were unanimously elected by their peers as council president and president pro-tem for 2021.

Randy is the council's most senior member, having served since 1994, and is the current president pro-tem.

Ryan was first elected in 2015. I served with both and look forward to working with them when the new council convenes had made on Jan. 4, 2021.

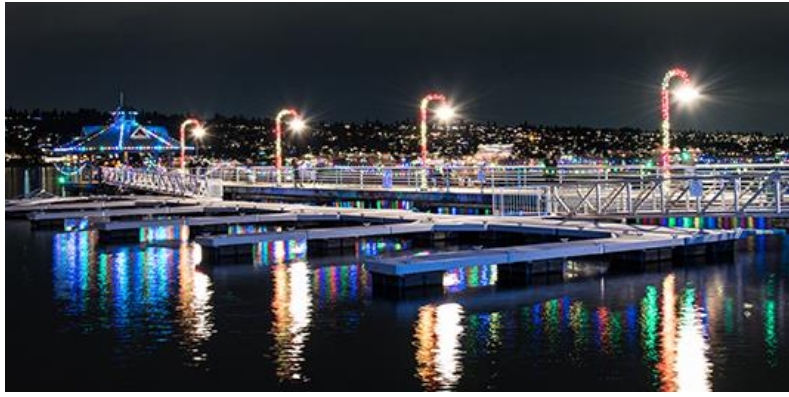
I would also like to salute the leadership of Council President Ruth Pérez during a very difficult 2020. Despite both of us being new to our positions in January, we quickly formed a strong and successful working relationship.



Randy Corman



Ryan McIrvin



Renton Holiday Lights will take the place of Clam Lights in 2020. The display will at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park and Piazza Park downtown starting Nov. 28.

City makes COVID-related changes to holiday events

The realities of the effects of COVID-19 in our area have forced us to make adjustments to our annual holiday events.

We are incredibly disappointed to announce the annual Clam Lights holiday lighting event will not be held in 2020. We understand this event has become a significant holiday kickoff event for residents and visitors of all ages. Still, it's not possible this year while King County remains in [Phase 2 of Safe Start Washington](#).

Instead of Clam Lights, we will present a smaller holiday lighting display at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park and downtown at Piazza Park. The Piazza Park display replaces the annual Tree Lighting event held in conjunction with Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday is a perfect reminder that in these exceedingly difficult times for our local businesses, they will be open and can use your patronage. Please shop early and shop local this season.

Renton's Holiday Lights will be lit every day from 4 to 8 p.m. at both locations starting Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, in conjunction with Small Business Saturday. It will continue through New Year's Day 2021. Our thanks for the support we've received from Renton's Lodging Tax Grant program, Renton Downtown Partnership and Fleming Holiday Lighting, making holiday lights possible.

Lastly, we will not hold Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day. However, we are planning to roll out a fun social media campaign, "What is Your Tradition?" after Christmas Day. It will be a chance for you to share family memories and culture as they relate to your New Year's celebration.

Governor caps third-party delivery fees

On Thursday, Gov. Inslee announced a [cap on delivery fees](#) charged to restaurants by third-party delivery platforms, such as Uber Eats, DoorDash, GrubHub, Postmates and others.

Responding to requests led by the Renton Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Hospitality Association, the [governor's proclamation](#) caps delivery fees at 15% and total fees at 19% of an order's purchase price. It takes effect Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 12:01 a.m.

Next Week

I will not publish a newsletter next week because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our best wishes to you and your family for a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Don't Forget

Supporting Renton small businesses through Chip-In

We are [excited to work with](#) Renton Chamber of Commerce, One Eastside, and Chip-In to raise funds for Renton small businesses through [tax-deductible contributions](#). Think of it like GoFundMe, but Chip-In does not take a cut. Each dollar donated will support local Renton businesses meet payroll, keep their lights on and doors open.

Tourism grant deadline is Nov. 30

The deadline to submit [applications](#) for 2021 Tourism Grants is Nov. 30, at 4:30 p.m. Eligible entities include convention and visitors' bureaus, destination marketing organizations, non-profits like chambers of commerce and lodging associations, and municipalities. The grants support Renton's tourism marketing and operations and are funded through the state's Hotel-Motel Tax.