



# This Week in Renton

Send story ideas or comments to [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov).

Translation of the newsletter is available on the City of Renton's website. For additional translation services contact [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov).

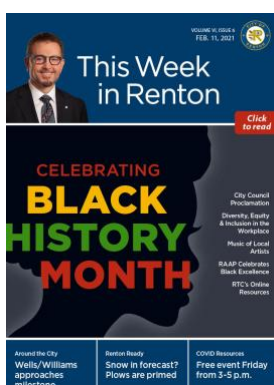
**Friday, Feb. 12, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 6**

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of *This Week in Renton*, a combination of our two weekly publications, *This Week from the Mayor* and *Our Renton Weekly*.

*This Week in Renton* will deliver up to date news, feature stories, vibrant videos and more. It will be emailed and posted to our website on Thursdays.

If you're not already a subscriber, please [sign up and get up-to-date news and information](#) from City Hall.



## Video Feature

In celebration of Black History Month, we've compiled the [best performances from our celebrations over the years](#).

Around the city several events are planned this month to acknowledge, celebrate, and honor the culture and contributions of African Americans.

We started at Monday's City Council meeting as the council unanimously proclaimed [National Black History Month](#) in Renton. In keeping with the 2021 theme "The Black Family: Representation, Identify, and Diversity" as selected by The Association of the Study of African American Life and History, Renton resident Joseph Todd and his family, along with Dr. Linda Smith, [accepted the proclamation](#).

## Photo of the Week



*Renton's annual Multicultural Festival celebrates the vast diversity of our city. The Black History Month activities will celebrate and honor our Black history and encourage discussions on diversity, equity, and inclusion both in and out of the workplace.*

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

### City and RAAP celebrate Black excellence

The City of Renton in partnership with the Renton African American Pastors (RAAP) will honor Black History Month with "[Celebrating Black Excellence](#)" on Friday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. This special Zoom event will include speakers, a drama performance, and a panel discussion, plus an interview with Renton Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keyes. Zoom information will be coming soon and will be posted in next week's edition and on our social media channels. The program will also air on Renton's Channel 21 and on the City's YouTube Channel.

### Chamber hosts discussion of workplace diversity, equity and inclusion

Renton Chamber of Commerce's continuing COMMUNITY Conversation series will focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace.

Chamber executive directors Diane Dobson (Renton), Zenovia Harris (Kent) and Andrea Reay (Seattle Southside) will share their perspectives. Audience input and participation will be encouraged. Moderators are inclusion and equity consultants Benita Horn and Sean Greenlee.

Karen Wilkins-Mickey, Seattle Seahawks Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, provides an introduction prior to the panel discussion.

The Zoom conversation is free and takes place on Thursday, Feb. 18, from 4-5:30 p.m. [Register in advance](#).

## Community Celebrations

### Elementary school project honors difference-makers

At Lakeridge Elementary School in the Renton School District, teacher Rebecca Berry is working with school parents to engage other students and families in a communitywide virtual Black History celebration.

The group is sharing their videos on [the school's family engagement page](#). Here are their first two:

[Week One](#)

[Week Two](#)

Their first video asks community members to [nominate a black leader](#) who has made an impact. The nominees can be a family or community member, classmate, student, teacher, or politician.

## Online resources

Renton Technical College [has put together a page](#) containing learning resources, recommended readings, and links to events celebrating Black History Month throughout February.

## AROUND RENTON



## Wells/Williams project to start intersection construction

The conversion of Wells Avenue South and Williams Avenue South to two-way traffic is one of the most significant public works projects in our city's history. The patience and cooperation we have received from affected business owners has helped minimize disruptions and keep the project on track.

Weather permitting, Wells/Williams will reach a milestone as early as Monday, Feb. 15, when crews start building the four intersections. The [project page](#) has detour maps and project details.

Project Manager Keith Woolley explained the process [during a webinar last week](#).

When complete, these two streets, along with the on-going downtown core wayfinding project, will further advance our vision of downtown Renton as a welcoming destination for both residents and visitors.

## RENTON READY



## Street maintenance division on weather alert

With the possibility of snow in the forecast, our Public Works Street Maintenance division staff have been on alert since Tuesday evening.

Their response to winter weather and keeping our roads passable is more complex than you think. It involves months of planning—dump and flatbed trucks have been outfitted with plows, anti-icer tanks and sanders since October, split shifts to provide 24-hour coverage, pre-treatment, and primary and secondary plow routes.

You can learn more by visiting our [cold-weather street maintenance section](#) of our website or [watching our winter prep video](#).

## THANK YOU



## Renton Regional Community Foundation grant helps with bills

The city recently received almost \$11,000 from [Renton Regional Community Foundation](#) (RRFC) to reduce outstanding utility balances of low-income/senior/disabled Renton residents. The grant provided a \$200 credit on the 50 accounts with the highest outstanding balances, 120 days or more past due.

RRFC includes more than 65 charitable funds that support several areas of our community. Since last March, they've been one of the leaders in helping those affected during the pandemic. Their support through grants has helped several South King County organizations to address food insecurity, rental assistance, personal protective equipment, diapers, mental health, domestic violence, and refugees' and immigrants' needs.

On Feb. 25 they will host their virtual [Celebrate! The Love of Community fundraiser](#). All proceeds will support their COVID-19 Response Fund and general programs and services.

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



## Downtown Renton in a Box

Here's a unique idea from The Renton Downtown Partnership. Treat yourself to a specially curated box of items from the retailers and restaurants in downtown Renton. Then tune in to a live performance where you will be able to meet the makers and business owners who are a part of our thriving downtown business community.

**Feb. 20 - Date Night:** Boxes include dinner, drinks and dessert for two, along with items from downtown shops. Tune in for a live concert featuring local performing artists. The price per box is \$100.

**Mar. 27 - A Celebration of Women in Business:** Celebrate Women's History Month with a box featuring products from women-owned businesses downtown. Enjoy a live comedy show and a panel discussion with female entrepreneurs. The price per box is \$65.

Tickets for both are available via [Eventbright](#).



## TRANSPORTATION

### Metro's route to recovery needs your input

Metro seeks community feedback through a short survey so they can make informed service decisions for King County residents and Metro customers on route recovery. Your input will help determine service changes in September 2021 and beyond.

The [survey is available in six languages](#) (Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Korean, and English). Responses are due by March 8, 2021.

[English survey](#)

[Spanish survey](#)

[Traditional Chinese survey](#)

[Vietnamese survey](#)

[Korean survey](#)

[Arabic survey](#)

## COVID-19

City of Renton [COVID-19 resources page](#)

### Resource event on Friday

[Renton Innovation Zone Partnership](#) will host a free drive-through multi-service event at [Campbell Hill Elementary, 6418 S 124<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle](#), on Friday, Feb. 12, 3-5 p.m.

Resources and information include: face masks, baby wipes, diapers, household supplies, food boxes and frozen family meals; housing, medical, health insurance; childcare and preschool consultation and developmental screening; WIC and First Steps; digital equity signups for free laptops and rental assistance referral; King County local service giveaways; ORCA LIFT Card; and free academic and career trade training.

*Social distancing guidelines will be strictly enforced as attendees will be asked to remain in their vehicles.*

**PLEASE PROTECT ONE ANOTHER FROM COVID-19** 

**Wear a face covering and keep 6 feet apart from others in public spaces.**



Fit masks snugly but comfortably against the side of the face



Use the ties or ear loops to take your mask on and off



Face coverings should have multiple layers



Make sure you can breathe while wearing the face covering



Wash and dry cloth coverings daily



Children should only wear them with adult supervision

For more information: [kingcounty.gov/masks](http://kingcounty.gov/masks)

**Public Health**  
Seattle & King County 

### What we know works

Maybe you've seen King County's tagline "Doubling down on what we know works." This is your reminder that non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) introduced at the beginning of the pandemic still need to be followed.

The NPIs include:

- a **face covering** that actually covers your face and fits snugly
- **socially distancing** whenever possible, not whenever it's convenient
- continuing **hygiene and sanitation** efforts every time you touch commonly used surfaces
- **staying home** when you are sick
- **testing** if you have symptoms or have been exposed to a confirmed case.

### What's up with masks?

You've probably read about a push for multiple (at least 2) layers when wearing masks. Public Health-Seattle & King County recently pushed for more quality mask-wearing. Think of your mask fitting as well as your shoes or wearing the correct eyeglasses. You want your mask to work for you!

A couple things to keep in mind:

- Multiple (at least 2) layers are best to create that critical filtering condition. When using cloth masks, gaiters, and other non-medical grade masks, get creative to protect you and those around us. This includes wearing two masks with the more fitted one on top.
- Small gaps are normal and unavoidable, but the fewer there are and the smaller they are, the better. If there are large gaps between your face and the mask, the air will go around the mask rather than through it, negating the benefits.

### Vaccinations

The [two mass vaccination sites in Kent and Auburn](#) are closed to new appointments through February.

Remember, COVID-19 vaccines are FREE. The federal government is covering the costs. You should never be charged out-of-pocket costs or receive a bill from your provider for the COVID-19 vaccine. This applies to people who have private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or are uninsured. The state department of health has vaccine information and much more [on its website](#).

## CALENDAR

**Daily, Senior Meals, Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m.**, free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up at Renton Senior Activity Center, [211 Burnett Ave. N.](#) Limited quantities.

**Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** [Sustainable Renton free drive-through grocery store](#) at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, [1700 Edmonds Ave. NE](#)

**Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Renton Live!** online connection promoting business, nonprofits and activities within the greater Renton community. Find the weekly link on the [Renton Live Facebook page](#).

**Feb. 12, 7-8 p.m., Nature & Neighbors, Virtual**, share in conversation and activities and discover nature in a fun, approachable way. [rentonwa.gov/register](#) using 9524; \$12R/\$15NR.

**Feb. 20, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Guided Nature Walk** for all ages at Cedar River Trail Park. [rentonwa.gov/register](#) using 9536; \$12R/\$15NR.

**Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Botanical Awakening** introduction to plant life for age 18+ in the Black River Riparian Forest. [rentonwa.gov/register](#) using 9530; \$22R/\$27NR.

**Feb. 21, 10-11 a.m., Birds of a Feather: Social Birding Adventures** for age 18+, an engaging, approachable bird-focused outing at the Black River Riparian Forest. [rentonwa.gov/register](#) use 9547; \$22R/\$27NR.