



This Week in Renton

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This Week in Renton

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HB 1590
1/10th of 1 cent sales tax funds affordable housing, homeless services, and mental health needs in Renton.

VIDEO
"Ask Renton PD" debuts

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
Mayor & city council president condemn hate speech

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
"Celebrating Black Excellence" Friday, 6 p.m.

VIDEO FEATURE

"Ask Renton PD" debuts

This week's Video of the Week is "Have a Question? Ask Renton PD." The new monthly series gives residents the chance to [have their questions answered](#) by officers and staff.

In the premier edition, Chief Jon Schuldt [answers two questions](#). The first is an overview of the department, including explaining the function of each division. In the second, he explains the differences between his department and others around the area.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Mayor Armondo Pavone authorized the lowering of flags on all city facilities on Tuesday to honor and remember the over 500,000 Americans who lost their lives to COVID-19. Flags will remain lowered through Friday.

COVER STORY



Sunset Gardens, a Renton Housing Authority project, would house homeless and chronically homeless residents, veterans, and others. It would receive \$1 million in funding from HB 1590.

Helping our most vulnerable through dedicated funding

Helping those most vulnerable in our community is one of the primary duties of a city's leadership.

Thanks to decisive action last year by Renton City Council, we now have a new source of dedicated funding to support those in our community who need help finding affordable housing, locating mental health services, and transitioning from homelessness.

The funding source is House Bill 1590, which authorizes a 1/10th of 1 cent sales tax collection. The bill gave counties the first chance to implement the tax, then cities. Given that opportunity, our councilmembers moved unanimously in October 2020 to implement it, effective Jan. 1, 2021. Their action ensured proceeds could directly assist the most vulnerable in our community.

An "Early Action Plan" presented to the council on Monday proposed allocating \$1 million to help finance Renton Housing Authority's Sunset Garden project. This project will house homeless and chronically homeless residents, veterans, and others. Another \$300,000 will fund mental health response services. Now, Renton Police Department can hire a mental health professional and "navigators" with expertise in steering individuals into treatment. These treatment programs have been more successful than arrest or incarceration.

There are strict limitations on how to use the money and these are just two of the many uses we have investigated. Our overriding goal is to put the funding where it has the most effect.

There's much more to come on this plan, but for now, you can [view the presentation to the council](#) if you'd like more details.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Statement from Renton Mayor and City Council President condemning Hate Speech

Mayor Armondo Pavone and Council President Randy Corman issued the following statement against hate speech during their regular Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021. The statement followed a recent incident in downtown Renton.

"We in Renton stand for a community that celebrates diversity and understands that we are better when we stand together, build bridges and seek to understand one another. As one of the first cities to incorporate inclusion as part of our vision statement and business plan, we believe that differences enrich us, and hate has no place here. On August 3, 2020, the Mayor and City Council affirmed the City's commitment to opposing discrimination against all groups in Resolution No. 4414.

We condemn hate speech. Hate speech has the effect of dehumanizing people and carries forward harmful stereotypes and propagates false beliefs through the use of statements of inferiority, slurs, expressions of contempt, disgust or dismissal, cursing, and calls for exclusion or segregation. Such behaviour should be and is unacceptable in a community such as Renton that maintains diversity as one of its core values.

As community leaders, we pledge to continue to teach, cultivate and model the values of openness, diversity and tolerance. We are committed to a standard that makes all of our residents feel safe and valued. Positive change starts at home, with each one of us. We urge you to move forward with love and compassion and empathy. Stay united and together make our community better and our city exceptional."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



City and RAAP celebrate Black excellence

Tomorrow at 6 p.m., the city and RAAP (Renton African American Pastoral Group) present "[Celebrating Black Excellence](#)." Join us for speakers, a drama performance, and a panel discussion. The program will also feature an interview with Renton Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keyes.

The program will air on the city's [YouTube channel](#) and [Renton's Channel 21](#).



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VisitRenton app

Download the VisitRenton app and take a virtual tour through Black Lives Matter artwork and find Black-owned businesses.

The artwork was displayed in storefront windows downtown during the Black Lives Matter Art Walk in 2020 but still is accessible on the app. The [Visit Renton website](#) has a "Meet the artist" section providing an in-depth look at the artists and the businesses who hosted their artwork.

The app's list of Black-owned businesses in Renton continues to grow. If you own one or know of one you'd like to add, [send us an email](#). The VisitRenton app is available for both Apple and Android devices from your preferred store.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



BloodworksNW returns

[BloodworksNW](#) remains in need of blood to keep up with our community's needs. They will be back in Renton at these locations and are accepting appointments:

Hazen High School Gym (1101 Hoquiam Ave. NE, 98059)

- March 24: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- March 25: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- March 26: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- [Appointments](#)

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington at Southport Seattle Room (1053 Lake Washington Blvd., 98056)

- April 7: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 8: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- [Appointments](#)

Lindbergh High School Cafeteria (16426 128th Ave SE, 98058)

- April 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- April 16: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- [Appointments](#)



VETS ENGAGED offers mini grants

Individuals and organizations are invited to apply for \$9,999 to fund projects that provide King County veterans social engagement and community-building activities. The goal is to relieve social isolation, and reduce the many inequities faced by veterans.

VETS ENGAGED is a social engagement funding program of the 2018-2023 King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL).

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed by a panel of King County staff twice in 2021: on April 7 and June 30. If interested, [email King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn](#).

TRANSPORTATION

You can now apply online for Reduced Fare ORCA Cards



Metro offers free and reduced fares

Metro is making it [easier to apply for reduced fares and learn about transit](#) through their Virtual Neighborhood Pop-up events and online Reduced Fare Portal.

Customers with lower incomes, seniors, and people with disabilities can use the tools to get answers to their questions and apply for an ORCA Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP) card or an ORCA Lift card. For a limited time, ORCA Youth card applications can also be submitted through the portal.



Route to Recovery Survey

Metro still wants your input to their [Route to Recovery survey](#) as they plan to bring back service suspended due to COVID-19. This input will help determine service recovery in September 2021 and beyond. The survey is available in six languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Korean, and English) and the deadline is March 8, 2021.

CITY COUNCIL



Mayor Armondo Pavone (center front) is flanked by the 2021 Renton City Council. Ruth Pérez and Council President Randy Corman are seated in the front row. Standing: Valerie O'Halloran, Ed Prince, Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvine, Kim-Khánh Vãn and Annelina Benedetti

- [Feb. 22, 2021 - council meeting documents](#) (approved committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)
- Feb. 22, 2021 [council meeting video](#)
- Feb. 22, 2021 [Committee of the Whole video](#)
- [Approved Minutes](#) (from the Feb. 8, 2021 Council Meeting)
- [Lunar New Year Day](#) (Feb. 22) proclamation

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Renton City Council meets via Zoom. For information on viewing or participating in a council meeting, go to [rentonwa.gov/council](#). Past meetings are available at [rentonwa.gov/youtube](#).

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Skyway Resource Center Pop-Up!

Housing Assistance, PPE Care Kits, Diapers,
Books, School Supplies and More



RIZP hosts resources event

[Renton Innovation Zone Partnership](#) will host a free drive-through multi-service event at [Campbell Hill Elementary](#), on Friday, Feb. 26, from 3-5 p.m.

Baby supplies household items, food boxes and frozen family meals will be available. There will be information for housing, medical and health insurance, childcare, preschool consultation and developmental screening, WIC and First Steps. Signups are also available for free laptops and rental assistance referral, ORCA LIFT cards, and free academic and career trade training.

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



Virtual Youth Dance Classes

Our Steppin' Together virtual youth dance classes still have some spots remaining for Saturday classes beginning Feb. 27. There's "Listen & Learn Dance Party" for 3-4 year olds, "Creative Movement" for 5-6 year olds, and Ballet beginning through advanced skills.

Find your class at rentonwa.gov/register. Type "dance" in the search box.

COVID-19

COVID-19 RESOURCES & NEWS

State appropriate \$2.2 billion in relief

The governor [signed House Bill 1368](#), which appropriates \$2.2 billion in federal funding that has been allocated to states in response to the ongoing COVID emergency. The bill takes effect immediately.

It provides:

- \$714 million in assistance for K-12 schools
- \$618 million for public health's response to COVID, including testing, investigation and contact tracing; and funding for vaccination efforts
- \$365 million for emergency eviction, rental and utility assistance
- \$240 million for business assistance grants
- \$50 million for childcare
- \$26 million for food banks and other food programs
- \$91 million for income assistance, including \$65 million for relief for the state's immigrant population

CALENDAR

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

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

[NE](#). Guitarist/vocalist Daniel Pellegrini will provide entertainment as part of [Renton Roadshows](#), courtesy of the [Renton Municipal Arts Commission](#) and Renton Civic Theatre.

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](#).

Virtual Nature & Neighbors, Feb. 26 and March 5, 7 p.m. for ages 18+. Share conversation and discover nature in a fun and approachable way. Register at rentonwa.gov/register for [Feb. 26](#) and/or [March 5](#). Additionally, search "Renton Outdoors" for upcoming in-person adventures around the city.

Renton Municipal Community Court Information Forum, March 2, 7-8 p.m. Get questions and concerns answered. Court staff will also explain how the community can get involved. Active participation is limited to the [first 50 individuals to register](#). The forum will also stream on YouTube.

Bunco Night, Mar. 4, Thursday, 7-9 p.m. Join the Renton Chamber of Commerce in a fun, socially distanced game of BUNCO. Fantastic opportunity for networking with business and community leaders. Win prizes from local Renton businesses. Be sure to [register](#).

Skyhawks Youth Sports Camps, after-school programs, classes, and leagues for ages 4 to 14. These programs have continued in 2021 with proven COVID-19 protocols and a modified curriculum in place. Registration is open for soccer and flag football camps and programs at skyhawks.com. Renton locations include Kiwanis, Kennedydale and Cedar River parks.

Library resources and events, ongoing. Filter by event, program, and location. kcls.org.