Send story ideas or comments to communications@rentonwa.gov.

Translation of the newsletter is available on the City of Renton's website. For additional translation services contact communications@rentonwa.gov.

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

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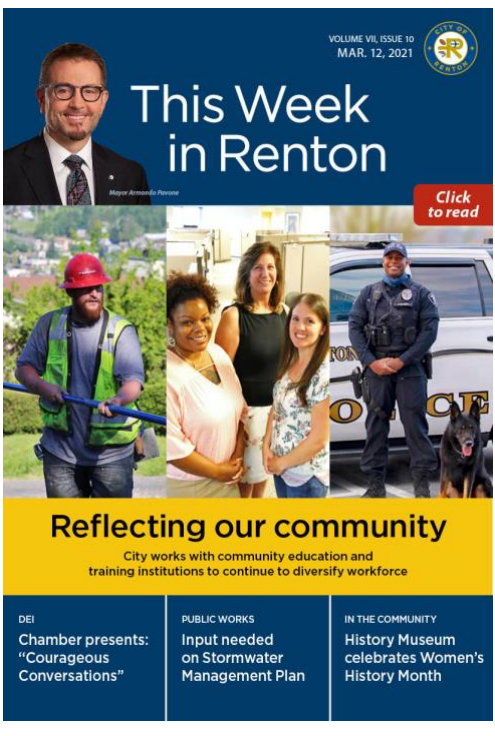


PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Ribbon cuttings open two businesses

Mayor Armondo Pavone and Renton Chamber of Commerce helped celebrate two grand openings with owners and employees this week.

At top, Rice N Curry celebrated the opening of their restaurant at 601 S. 3rd St.) and above, Create Hair Studio opened their new location at 2300 East Valley Rd.

CONGRATULATIONS!

COVER STORY

City teams with ANEW to help diversify work force

One of the principles in the city's mission statement that guides our everyday business is to "Build an inclusive, informed city with equitable outcomes for all in support of social, economic, and racial justice."

In 2012, we were among the first cities to include this in our business plan's mission statement. In 2020, we updated the plan to enhance our commitment to racial justice and equity.

To help achieve this goal, we formed the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force, giving voice to over 30 diverse Renton communities. The success of this task force led to regular dialogues with the Latino and Vietnamese communities and youth groups, in addition to the formation of the Renton African American Pastors Group (RAAP), in partnership with Renton Police Department.

We also took a hard look at our hiring process. Human Resources staff developed and implemented the HR Inclusion Tactical Plan. Part of the plan encourages reaching out to Renton organizations, including education and training institutions that focus on the construction industry.

Last month Kim Gilman and Janna Dinkelspiel from Human Resources and Jayson Gallaway, a lift station technician from Public Works, made two presentations to students in the Pre-Apprenticeship Program at ANEW. Headquartered in Renton, ANEW is the oldest, continuously running pre-apprenticeship program in the nation. Their free, pre-apprenticeship training program helps improve the access and advancement of women and people of color in non-traditional career pathways such as construction and manufacturing.

ANEW's students get a first-hand look at various construction jobs, including drywall installation, measuring, roofing, pipe laying, basic electrical skills and pouring concrete forms. By working closely with master craftsmen, they learn the skills needed to launch a successful family-wage career.

Our staff highlighted six recent entry and journey-level Maintenance Services Worker vacancies during their presentation, which aligned with ANEW's mission. They also walked the students through the city's application process and explained the incredible opportunity for on-the-job training and benefits.

"This collaboration with ANEW is an important way to diversify our workforce and better reflect the city's demographics," explained Ms. Gilman, the city's Human Resources Manager. "The students were very enthusiastic to hear about the family-wage jobs and the competitive benefits package that the city offers to its employees."

For the city, collaborations like these are essential to developing a workforce representing Renton's cultural diversity.

"This was just the first of what will be several opportunities to partner with this valuable community resource and their students," explained Ms. Gilman.

Partnerships like this are only one way city staff is working to make Renton an inclusive, informed city with equitable outcomes for all in support of social, economic, and racial justice.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

CommUNITY Conversation: "Courageous Conversations"

Renton Chamber of Commerce's series CommUNITY Conversation: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion returns on March 18, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. with "Courageous Conversations."

Dr. Stephanie Delaney, vice president of instruction at Renton Technical College, will guide a discussion, including why courageous conversations are meaningful and how to initiate. Pre-registration is available. Questions may be directed to Renton Chamber at 425-226-4560 or info@gorenton.com.

CommUNITY Conversation is sponsored by the City of Renton, Puget Sound Energy, Renton Chamber of Commerce, Kent Chamber of Commerce, and Renton Technical College.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Part of the Renton History Museum's Women's History Month exhibit "What Difference Do Renton Women Make?" are these three outfits from World War II. At far left is a pair of coveralls "designed specifically for women" (early 1940s). In the middle is a Navy WAVES uniform (1944) and at right an Army Hostess Uniform (1946)

Renton History Museum reopens

Renton History Museum reopened Wednesday under Phase 2 of Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery.

During March, the museum will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Face coverings will be required, as well as social distancing.

Capacity is limited to 25% (15 people at a time), so calling (425-255-2330) or emailing for reservations is suggested.

In honor of Women's History Month, their featured exhibit is "What Difference Do Renton Women Make?" The exhibit explores the lives and contributions of Renton women in helping make Renton the city we enjoy today.

Downtown park and play weekend

Shop or dine downtown this weekend, and you can win prizes!

Here's how it works:

- Park FREE for up to 10 hours in the City Center Parking Garage on Saturday (March 13) and Sunday (March 14) from 12-5 p.m.
- Visit your favorite store or restaurant, take pictures and post them to Instagram and/or Facebook. Tag the store and use #ParknPlayRenton.
- At 10 minutes past each hour from 12:10 to 5:10 p.m. each day, check @hatcheryco_op to see if you've won!
- You must be downtown to win.

This is a fun way to support our local businesses. Downtown is undergoing changes, but the stores are open and ready to serve.

Gifts are courtesy of Wyldwood Creative, Sparkle, Apparition Books, Liberty Cafe, River Valley Cheese, Pippa's Preferred, and others!

Calling all artists

Renton Municipal Arts Commission is accepting grant applications to fund 2021 arts and culture projects in Renton.

Grants are available to individuals, organizations, and community groups. The commission is particularly interested in innovative projects that inspire creative participation, especially for under-served community groups.

You can find information on 2021 guidelines and the application form online. The commission will host a virtual instruction and Q&A session on Wednesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. Email arts@rentonwa.gov to reserve your seat.

Stormwater Management Plan input needed

The city's Surface Water Engineering Section is preparing to submit the 2021 Draft Stormwater Management Program Plan. They would like your input.

Stormwater is rain and melting snow. When stormwater is managed properly, the water quality of our streams, rivers, and lakes is protected from pollutants, the risk of flood damage and related costs get reduced, which increase the sustainability of our community environmental resources.

You can find the plan and a link to submit comments at rentonwa.gov/npdes. The comment period ends March 15.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Renton PD is hiring

Renton Police Department (RPD) is looking for qualified applicants for entry-level and lateral police officers.

If you thrive in challenging environments and want not just a job but a career with an excellent salary and benefits, this may be the place for you. RPD has long been a preferred destination for those seeking a fulfilling career in law enforcement. If you or somebody you know has the desire to answer the call to serve, Renton Police Department would be honored to have you join our team. We're dedicated professionals committed to maintaining peace and safety throughout our diverse community.

TRANSPORTATION

Metro route changes effective March 20

Twice a year, Metro adjusts routes in response to demand, and the next set of changes goes into effect on March 20. While some routes have been reduced or eliminated, Metro's most popular ones will operate more frequently during some periods of the day to support physical distancing.

In addition to adjusting their routes, Metro has made it easy to apply for reduced fares via their Virtual Neighborhood Pop-up events and online.

DID YOU HEAR?

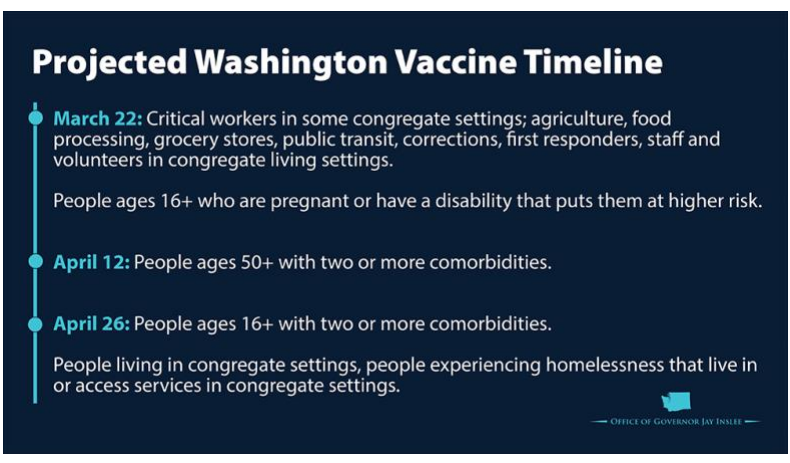
Community events like the Renton Farmers Market are one of the many reasons why U.S. News & World Report ranked the state of Washington #1 for the second consecutive year.

U.S. News ranks Washington #1

Washington state has been ranked the best state in the country for the second consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report.

The rankings, released on Tuesday, were drawn from government and proprietary data covering more than 70 metrics and weighted to what U.S. News & World Report said matters most to people: health care, education, the economy, infrastructure, opportunity, fiscal stability, crime, corrections and a state's natural environment.

COVID-19



State moving forward in vaccine phases

Late last week, there were two important announcements regarding the state's move forward in response to the pandemic.

First, there is a plan to move to an expanded Phase 1B, tier 2, before the end of March, tentatively March 22. This move forward will only occur if the supply of the COVID-19 vaccine continues to increase.

The move to Phase 1B-2 removes the age distinction for all high-risk critical workers in specific congregate settings. The Washington State Department of Health will also open eligibility to people 16 and over who are pregnant or have particular disabilities that significantly increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Second, all pre-K through 12 educators, school staff, and licensed childcare workers have been added to Phase 1B tier 1, making them immediately eligible to receive the vaccine.

Farmers to Families drive-through food event

Tuesday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Renton Community Center. A free food giveaway hosted by International Nutritional Sustainable Partnership, Coalition of Filipino American Organizations of Washington State and the city.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Beyond the Stage: "Cavort, Spirit of the Irish"

Don your green the eve before St. Patrick's Day and experience traditions of the Irish with Cavort. Enjoy a pub-style singalong from the comfort of home and learn the stories behind songs hundreds of years old. Since 2015, Cavort has delivered Irish music woven with fiddle, flute, guitar and bodhran, and featuring traditional and original songs that unite the rich past Celtic heritage.

Cavort performs on Tuesday, March 16, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Register for this FREE performance at rentonwa.gov/register.

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 McIrvin, Kim-Khánh Văn, and Angelina Benedetti

March 8, 2021 Meeting

- Meeting documents (approved committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)
- Proclamation: City stands in Support of Washington Residents and Families affected by Farm Bills in India
- Council meeting video
- Committee of the Whole video
- Approved Minutes from March 1, 2021 meeting

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.

CALENDAR

Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m. Senior Meals. Free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up. Limited quantities. Renton Senior Activity Center.

Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sustainable Renton free drive-through grocery store at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

Wednesdays, bi-weekly, 6 p.m. Renton Live! from the Renton Chamber of Commerce. Online connection promoting businesses, nonprofits and activities within the greater Renton community. Find the link on the Renton Live Facebook page.

March 12, 7 p.m. Virtual Nature & Neighbors, for ages 18+. Share conversation and discover nature in a fun and approachable way. Register at rentonwa.gov/register. Additionally, search "Renton Outdoors" for upcoming in-person adventures around the city.

March 20, at 11 a.m., Guided Nature Walk for all ages at Heritage Park. rentonwa.gov/register with code 9537, $12R / $15NR.

March 21 or 22, 11:30 a.m., Botanical Awakening introduction to plant life for age 18+ in the Black River Riparian Forest. Register at rentonwa.gov/register for Sunday or Monday, $22R / $27NR.

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, Kennydale and Cedar River parks.

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

Mark your calendar

April 24, 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Shred-a-thon & Prescription Take-Back

May 15, TBD. Recycle Event for metals and Styrofoam