

Renton NOW



Nov/Dec 2007

RENTON, THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY



NEWS IN BRIEF

The Curve – Renton’s TV Show

Check out the Fall Edition of THE CURVE – Renton’s must-see magazine cable television show. Part Alton Brown, part John Curley, all ahead-of-the-curve story telling. This quarter’s cable television show features six lively segments. To view a schedule of The Curve’s airing on Channel 21, visit rentonwa.gov.

Rentonwa.gov Wins Two National Awards

The *American City & County* magazine has awarded Renton the 2007 American Crown Community award for its website, and the 3CMA Savvy Awards has awarded rentonwa.gov its Award of Excellence. Check out all the features of the award-winning website at rentonwa.gov.

New Visitor Information and Downtown Assistance (VIDA) Officers at Transit Center

The city is providing uniformed private security officers at the Renton Transit Center in downtown Renton to make it a better, safer and friendlier place. VIDA officers serve as the eyes and ears of downtown by providing hospitality and public safety services, reporting vandalism and graffiti, deterring criminal activity, and extending a helping hand when needed to Renton businesses, citizens, and visitors.

Time Change Means Time to Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries

Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and test them when you change the time on your clocks every spring and fall. Working smoke detectors are an inexpensive insurance policy that save money and lives.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

2008 budget focuses on public safety, affordable housing, economic development and basic services

Mayor Kathy Keolker delivered her 2008 proposed budget to the Renton City Council on Monday, November 5, 2007.

“This year’s budget provides an opportunity to strengthen the foundation of our city and to invest in the great promise of our people,” said Mayor Keolker.

“...an opportunity to strengthen the foundation of our city....”

The 2008 budget totals \$223,702,220. Of that total, \$63,351,567 represents the capital budgets for 2008. Thanks to a strong economy, increase in taxable retail sales is expected to be at least 7% by the end of 2007.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

Additional Staff Resources: The 2008 budget proposes adding eight new positions from the General Government Fund and 7.7 positions from the Utility Fund.

Public Safety: Expanding services by adding four firefighters and by changing the service model of the Fire Department. In the police department, additional funding for emergency communications, an expanded fleet and an innovative police cadet program. Additional staff to help implement the city’s photo-enforcement program.

Affordable Housing: Funding to develop a program that provides affordable housing for all in Renton. Additional funds for the Housing Repair Assistance Program, a new fund for affordable housing, a new Home-Buyer Assistance Program and additional State tax exemptions for affordable housing projects.

Economic Development: Dedicated funding for the Small Business Development Center. Additional staff to coordinate the Farmers Market and special events downtown.

Basic Services and Utilities: Adding a street maintenance worker, additional customer service staff at the Renton Community Center, a custodian, and funding for Human Resource services and the Information Technology Strategic Plan. Adding two maintenance workers, an engineering technician and an industrial instrument technician to maintain our systems

“...safe neighborhoods and streets, job opportunities, a strong economy, and sound fiscal management....”

in good condition. The budget recommended a modest increase in utility rates for maintenance and capital improvements.

The Benson Hill annexation plan

cont'd on back



OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

GREEN CITY RENTON

Fall Green and Clean Saturday at Heritage Park

Over 50 community volunteers rolled up their sleeves to participate in the Fall Green and Clean Saturday program at Heritage Park on October 27. Neighbors, local church members, and local high school students all gave up their morning, donating over 200 hours to help maintain the park.

Green and Clean Saturday programs will be scheduled at various parks throughout the year. If you or your organization would like to get involved and make a difference in our community, mark your calendar for May 17, 2008, and watch the Volunteering page at rentonwa.gov for the next opportunity.

Building for the Future cont'd

recommends adding 91 employees and related funding for a total cost of \$10 million. The additional revenues generated and funding from the State of Washington will offset these costs.

"Safe neighborhoods and streets, job opportunities, a strong economy, and sound fiscal management are the principal foundations of our continued prosperity," said Mayor Keolker. "They are also the legacies that we will leave to our children."

To view or read the Mayor's budget message and for more information go to rentonwa.gov.

Friday, November 16. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. **Hassle Free Holiday Bazaar.** Renton Community Center. 425-430-6700.

Saturday, November 17. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Hassle Free Holiday Bazaar.** Renton Community Center. 425-430-6700.

Friday, November 30. 6:30 p.m. **Clam Lights Lighting Ceremony.** Clam Lights on display through January 1. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. **Parade of Boats.** 7:30 p.m. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park.

Saturday, December 1. 5 - 7 p.m. **Holiday Tree Lighting.** Lights, music, refreshments, and Santa. Free. Piazza Park.

Sunday, December 2. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. **K-9 Candy Cane Fun Run.** Registration 8 a.m., start 9 a.m. \$20 early, \$25 same-day. Renton Community Center. 425-430-6700.

Monday, December 3. 8-8:20 p.m. **Argosy Christmas Ship** with the Everett Chorus. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Free.

Fridays and Saturdays, December 7-22. **Santa in downtown Renton.** Fridays 5 - 7 p.m. Saturdays 1 - 4 p.m. Southwest corner of 3rd & Wells. Free pictures.

Saturday, December 8. Seatings 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. **Breakfast with Santa.** \$6. Renton Senior Activity Center. **Parade of Boats.** 7:30 p.m. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. **The Real Toy Story: American Legends in Story and Song.** 11 a.m. History Museum. 425-255-2330.

Sunday, December 9. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Free Flu Shots.** Renton Community Center. First come, first served. 206-263-8306.

BE PREPARED!

The Pacific Northwest is prone to many kinds of disasters. You are in charge of your own survival while emergency responders do their job.

Talk with your family, friends, and neighbors and work together to formulate a plan ahead of time. Assign someone to be your out-of-area telephone contact. Use this person as a message board for others. Determine an evacuation plan for yourself, and keep a map for your disaster kit. Discuss what kinds of supplies you might need in your disaster kit. Take into consideration any special needs you might have, including medications, mobility, diet, and hearing and vision needs. Your pet will need you to plan for him or her, too.

Put your disaster plan in writing and start assembling your kit.

For more details about being prepared, visit the Emergency Preparedness pages at rentonwa.gov.



RentonNow Feedback
RentonNow@ci.renton.wa.us

CITY CONTACTS

Area Code 425

- General Information** 430-6400
- Mayor** 430-6500
- City Council** 430-6501
- Municipal Court Judge** 430-6550
- Chief Administrative Officer** 430-6500
- City Clerk** 430-6510
- Code Enforcement** 430-7373
- Community Services** 430-6600
- Economic Development, Neighborhoods, & Strategic Planning**
..... 430-6575
- Emergencies** **911**
- Finance & Information Services**
..... 430-6850
- Fire/Emergency Services**. 430-7000
- Human Resources & Risk Management** 430-7650
- Planning/Building/Public Works**
..... 430-7200
- Police** 430-7500
or epolice.rentonwa.gov
- Utility Billing** 430-6852

rentonwa.gov