



# Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

February 2012

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### City Adopts Parks, Recreation And Natural Areas Plan

Developed through a collaborative process, the City recently adopted the Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas plan that presents a 20-year vision for city parks, recreation facilities and natural areas. The plan identifies policies, implementation strategies, and an investment program to enhance and sustain parks, recreation and natural areas as critical elements of a livable community. The Plan was certified by the State Recreation and Conservation Office resulting in eligibility for State grant funding opportunities. For more information visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).

### City Begins Initiative To Develop Community Plan for Benson Area

The Benson area is a diverse community that is home to nearly 25,000 residents and hundreds of businesses. This community has numerous assets such as local parks and strong neighborhood groups. In order to build on these assets and identify a shared vision for the future of the Benson Community, the City of Renton is beginning an initiative to develop a Community Plan for the Benson Area. Ideas about what can be done to improve the Benson Community as well as concerns and general comments will be gathered from public forums. Want to know more? Visit [rentonwa.gov/bensoncommunity](http://rentonwa.gov/bensoncommunity). Email [econkling@rentonwa.gov](mailto:econkling@rentonwa.gov) to receive notices of events and activities.

### Bigfoot Banner Story Continues

The Big Picture, a national industry publication for wide format printers, was so intrigued by the story of the theft and replacement of the Renton History Museum's Bigfoot banner that they featured it in their latest issue. To read the article visit <http://bigpicture.net/content/the-substitute-sasquatch>.

### SIFF Brings The World of Film To Renton — May 18-24, 2012

The Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) has announced the film festival will return to Renton in 2012. Screenings will take place May 18-24 at the IKEA Performing Arts Center. Official SIFF dates and programming will be announced at a later date. Those interested in volunteering at any of SIFF's venues can sign up at [www.siff.net](http://www.siff.net).

## 2012 - BETTER DAYS AHEAD

This article was first printed in the Renton reporter December 30, 2011.

As 2011 comes to an end, I can't help but wonder where this year has gone, or the fact that my first term in office is up in just a few days.

When I first entered office in 2008, I had the opportunity to welcome the Seattle Seahawks to our city and participate in ribbon cuttings at The Landing and the Federal Reserve Bank. These were fun and exciting times in Renton; but within just a few short months, it became very evident that we would be hit hard by the economic crisis that was spreading throughout the country.



Just like the business community, we have been reassessing how we serve the public, learning what services are most important to our citizens, reducing expenses and finding new, more efficient ways of doing busi-

**"Despite these difficult times, there are many reasons to be optimistic. The economy is improving and I firmly believe our future is bright."  
— Mayor Denis Law**

ness. To deal with lower revenues, we have reduced our workforce by 14% while serving a population that grew during this same period from 56,000 to more than 90,000 people. And we cut several million dollars from our annual budget projections in order to operate within our means, while not recklessly spending money that we have in reserve in the event of a major emergency.

It has been a challenging four years for local government, as it has for local businesses and our citizens. We have all struggled through the worst recession to face our nation since the Great Depression, which

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## FEBRUARY IS RENTON HEART MONTH

During the month of February the City of Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department is looking forward to conducting its annual "Heart Month" community outreach program. The campaign is designed to increase public awareness about heart health and related cardiovascular conditions. Cardiovascular diseases, including stroke and high blood pressure, continue to be our nation's number one killer.



Last year the Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department performed over 7,000 screenings during the month of February. People who were not aware they were at risk were encouraged to see their doctor in order to address the risk to help prevent future medical complications.

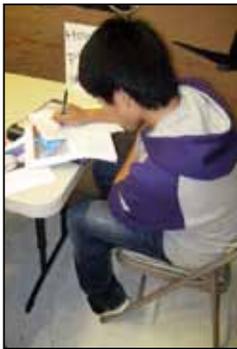
The Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department provides free preventative screenings to the public that include blood pressure and blood sugar checks. During February, Renton firefighters will be in various stores and locations throughout the city offering these vital services.

This year the annual Renton Heart Month campaign has an added emphasis on reaching out to Renton's diverse populations in Renton. Firefighters and staff from Valley Medical Center will perform screenings at a number of culturally diverse locations throughout the City of Renton, including Fairwood neighborhoods during the month of February.

**Visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) for more information.**

## TWO BY TWO: STUDENTS REINTERPRET HISTORY

In 2010 the Renton History Museum worked with students for an exhibit about Renton High School's centennial in 2011. Now Renton High School Honors English students return again to offer their take on Renton heritage. Students spent a week at the museum, studying the museum's collection of historic photos and objects, and comparing them with their own personal "collections." The result is a fresh perspective on the connection between youth and history that brings new life to old objects and images. Exhibit opens February 22, 2012. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## 737 MAX TO BE BUILT IN RENTON

The Boeing Company and the Machinists union reached a landmark agreement in late 2011 that will ensure the 737 MAX will be built in Renton.



photo courtesy of The Boeing Company

Statement from Mayor Denis Law:

Renton has been proud to be the home of The Boeing Company for 70 years and to support aviation innovation and excellence.

The City of Renton is demonstrating on a daily basis our commitment to meeting Boeing's needs and stands ready to accommodate any new requirements that

this decision will bring about. Last year we signed a long-term lease agreement with Boeing for its use of Renton Municipal Airport. We will continue our efforts to ensure a seamless and speedy permitting process for the capital improvements to the Renton Plant to meet the company's production needs.

We are very excited with Boeing's decision. This will ensure that for years to come thousands of workers will remain on the job here in Renton, the best place in the world to produce commercial airplanes.

## 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 Attorney ..... 430-6480
- City Clerk ..... 430-6510
- Code Enforcement..... 430-7373
- Community Services ..... 430-6600
- Community & Economic Development ..... 430-6580
- Finance & Information Services ..... 430-6850
- Fire/Emergency Services..... 430-7000
- Graffiti Reporting Line..... 430-7373
- Human Resources & Risk Management ..... 430-7650
- Public Works ..... 430-7394
- Police ..... 430-7500  
or [epolice.rentonwa.gov](http://epolice.rentonwa.gov)
- Street/Water/Sewer Maint..... 430-7400
- Utility Billing..... 430-6852

**EMERGENCY ..... 911**

 **The City of Renton provides reasonable accommodation upon request.**

**TDD.. 711 (425-430-6511)**

[rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov)

[RentonCityNews@rentonwa.gov](mailto:RentonCityNews@rentonwa.gov)

## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

**Thursday, February 9**

**In Commemoration of Black History Month: Distinguished Service - The Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy.** Presented by Jourdan Keith. 5 p.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Avenue South. Suggested donation: Adults \$3. Call 425-255-2330.



**Saturday, February 18**

**In Commemoration of Black History Month: A Series of Fortunate Events - The Charles Mitchell Story.** Presented by storyteller Eva M. Abram. 11 a.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Avenue South. Suggested donation: Adults \$3, Children over seven \$1. Call 425-255-2330.

**Tuesday, March 6**

**Renton Police Citizen's Academy.** 7-9 p.m. Renton City Hall. 12-week program. Must be 18 years old to apply. Background check required. Call 425-430-7520.

**Thursday, March 8**

**Trailblazing Photojournalist: Margaret Bourke-White.** 5 p.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Avenue South. Suggested donation: Adults \$3. Call 425-255-2330.

**Sunday, March 18**

**Renton City Band Spring Concert.** 2 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. Call 425-430-6700 for tickets.

**Friday, March 30**

**Flashlight Egg Hunts.** 8 p.m. Liberty Park. Ages 11 to 14. Call 425-430-6700.

*For more information visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov)*

## FREE TAX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Free tax help is available for those with low to moderate incomes and/or people over 50. Tax returns are filed electronically and refunds are generally returned quickly.

Free tax assistance is available with no appointment at The Salvation Army Renton Rotary Food Bank and Service Center, 206 S. Tobin, to April 17. Hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 5 to 9 p.m. (Spanish & Chinese translations available), Sundays Noon to 4 p.m. (Chinese translation available). In addition, through February 24: Mondays 5 to 9 p.m. (Chinese translation available).

Locations that require an appointment include:

Renton Highlands Library (to April 10), Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., call 425-277-1831. Renton Senior Activity Center (to April 10), Thursdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., call 425-430-6633. Fairwood Library (to April 15), Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., call 425-226-0522. Skyway Library (to April 10), Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., call 206-772-5541. Renton Community Center (to April 14), Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., call 425-430-6700.

Please bring a copy of last year's tax return, photo ID, and Social Security Card to your appointment.

# MEET OUR RENTON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Another term has begun for our Councilmembers and they all serve on different committees. All members of the Renton City Council serve four-year terms.



**Rich Zwicker, 2012 Council President.** Rich Zwicker has been on the City Council since 2008 and chairs the Committee of the Whole.



**Randy Corman, 2012 Council President Pro Tem.** Randy Corman has been on the City Council since 1994 and chairs the Transportation/Aviation Committee.



**Terri Briere** has been on the City Council since 2000 and chairs the Finance Committee.



**Marcie Palmer** has been on the City Council since 2004 and chairs the Community Services Committee.



**Don Persson** has been on the City Council since 2000 and chairs the Public Safety Committee.



**Greg Taylor** has been on the City Council since 2008, and chairs the Utilities Committee.



**Newly elected Councilman Ed Prince** joined the City Council January 9, 2012, and chairs the Planning & Development Committee.

## MAYOR (cont. from page 1)

has resulted in the loss of many jobs, failed businesses, foreclosures of family homes and the loss of retirement security for many seniors.

As I enter my second term in the mayor's office, I anticipate more challenging times ahead. The recovery from this recession has proven to be very slow and we expect several more years of tight budgets. It's critically important that we all chip in and help those in need in our neighborhoods and support our local businesses.

Despite these difficult times, there are many reasons to be optimistic. The economy is improving and I firmly believe our future is bright. Local retailers and auto dealers are already reporting growth in sales.

Renton is positioned well to take advantage

of the economic recovery in the next couple years. The news that the 737 MAX will be built in our city has helped to generate excitement and renewed enthusiasm. And all of this equates into more local jobs.

New businesses will be opening in the downtown and a hotel is planned near the Seahawk headquarters. Permits are on the rise for new housing and the city will soon break ground on three major roadway construction projects totaling more than \$30 million, funded primarily through federal funds.

Better days are ahead!

Mayor Denis Law

## Renton City Council Committees

### Community Services

2nd and 4th Mondays, 4:30 p.m.  
Marcie Palmer, chair; Ed Prince, vice-chair; Greg Taylor, member.

### Finance

1st and 3rd Mondays, 5 p.m. Terri Briere, chair; Greg Taylor, vice-chair; Don Persson, member.

### Public Safety

1st and 3rd Mondays, 5 p.m. Don Persson, chair; Marcie Palmer, vice-chair; Terri Briere, member.

### Utilities

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5 p.m. Greg Taylor, chair; Randy Corman, vice-chair; Ed Prince, member.

### Planning & Development

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 3 p.m. Ed Prince, chair; Terri Briere, vice-chair; Randy Corman, member.

### Transportation/Aviation

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 4 p.m. Randy Corman, chair; Don Persson, vice-chair; Marcie Palmer, member.

# Picture Renton



*Snapshots of Renton: Mayor Denis Law (at left) is sworn in for his second term by Judge Charles J. Delaurenti II, during the Renton City Council meeting January 9, 2012. Above, Renton City Council members Greg Taylor, Don Persson, and Marcie Palmer are sworn in during the Renton City Council meeting January 9, 2012. Also sworn in was Councilmember Ed Prince.*

## CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY BEGINS

Is “CSI” your favorite show? Do you like “Law and Order”? Have you ever wondered what it’s really like to be a police officer? Come find out! The next session of the Renton Police Department Citizen’s Academy begins Tuesday, March 6. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights for twelve weeks, and topics will include Patrol Operations, SWAT, Narcot-



ics, and more. Tours of the 9-1-1 dispatch center and regional jail and a ride-along with a police officer are included in this free class. Academy class size is limited to 25 students, and you must be at least eighteen years old to attend. Criminal history or a record of adverse police contacts may preclude acceptance into the academy. For an application or additional information, go to the city’s website at [www.rentonwa.gov](http://www.rentonwa.gov) or call 425-430-7520.

## NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS AVAILABLE

The City of Renton Neighborhood Program is pleased to offer 2012 grants to qualifying neighborhoods to assist in neighborhood-based communications activities. The neighborhood program offers matching funds to neighborhood groups and associations to implement projects that will enhance the livability of their neighborhoods.



For more information contact Neighborhood Coordinator Norma McQuiller at 425-430-6595 or email [nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov](mailto:nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov), or Neighborhood Program Assistant Wendy Kirchner at 425-430-6594 or email [wkirchner@rentonwa.gov](mailto:wkirchner@rentonwa.gov).

## CITY WATER BILL HELP AVAILABLE

If you get water from the City of Renton, live within the city limits, and are having trouble paying your water bill, you may be eligible for help from The Salvation Army. Those in need can get assistance paying their water bill once per year. To see if you are eligible and for more information visit The Salvation Army at 206 S. Tobin in Renton, or call 425-255-5969. Hours of operation are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## PET LICENSES AVAILABLE

The City of Renton requires that all dogs and cats aged four months and older be licensed. Pet owners are allowed up to three animals (any combination of cats and dogs) per household without incurring any additional fees. Four to six household pets requires an additional license with a yearly fee of \$50. Licenses are renewed every year and must be on the animal at all times. For additional information and rates call 425-430-7200, option 4.

## HOUSING REPAIR ASSISTANCE

The City of Renton Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP) provides free services focused on health and safety to resident homeowner families meeting the size and income criteria on the chart below.

Family Size	Max. Annual Income
1	\$44,950
2	\$51,400
3	\$57,800
4	\$64,200
5	\$69,350

Program information, eligibility guidelines, FAQs, and downloadable applications are available at [humanservices.rentonwa.gov](http://humanservices.rentonwa.gov) or call 425-430-6650, option 2.