

Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

Spring 2012

NEWS IN BRIEF

Renton Receives Tree City USA Award For Fourth Year

Trees provide numerous environmental, social and economic benefits for people, yet urban areas present challenging environments for trees to grow and survive in. The city recently completed the tree canopy report to help manage and protect the urban forest in Renton and, for the fourth year in a row, the city received Tree City USA recognition.



Mayor Law Delivered 2012 State of The City Speech

Renton Mayor Denis Law delivered his 2012 State of the City address March 21 before a packed audience at a luncheon organized by the Renton Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor's address will be broadcast on Renton's cable TV channel 21 and video-streamed on the city's website. For more visit rentonwa.gov.

SIFF To Bring The World of Film To Renton May 18-24, 2012

The Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) returns to Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center May 18-24, 2012. A special Opening Night Screening will take place in Renton on May 18, with a gala following at the Renton Pavilion Event Center. SIFF in Renton is sponsored by the Renton Community Marketing Campaign, a partnership between the City of Renton, Renton School District, Renton Technical College, Valley Medical Center, Renton Chamber of Commerce, and Renton Visitors Connection. 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.

TRAIL/PARK RANGERS GEAR UP



Summer is just around the corner, and as you get ready to enjoy our parks and trails, the City of Renton Trail/Park Rangers are gearing up to keep you safe and help answer your questions. These trained volunteer trail/park rangers will patrol the Cedar River Trail within the city limits, from Ron Regis Park to the mouth of the Cedar River, including Liberty Park. Once sufficient numbers of volunteers are trained, Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park will be included among the responsibilities.

The rangers will wear "volunteer" traffic safety vests to be easily identifiable, and will work closely with staff from the Police Department and Parks Division.

The rangers' tasks while on patrol will be to assist in deterring unwanted activity, enhance trail safety awareness and etiquette, to increase user knowledge of park rules and regulations, and provide customer service.

Join us for the second annual Share the Trail event, Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. to noon, Ron Regis Park, 1501 Orcas Avenue Southeast. For more information go to rentonwa.gov

Rangers are scheduled in pairs and will be issued a cell phone while on duty, for safety.

TRAIL/PARK RANGER PROGRAM – VOLUNTEER TODAY

Do you like meeting new people, being outdoors, and sharing your enthusiasm for your local parks and trails? Then this program may be just for you. The City of Renton is looking for individuals to serve as volunteer trail and park rangers. You must be 21 years of age, attend training, and be willing to serve a minimum of one shift of four hours per week.

If you'd like to volunteer as a park ranger, or for more information, call 425-430-6600 or visit rentonwa.gov.

CITY SEEKS TO KEEP RENTON CLEAN

The City of Renton recently implemented the "Clean Community Initiative," a new program that is intended to enhance litter control and solid waste management throughout the city.

The plan is to clean up code compliance violations and illegal dumping within city limits, and to support volunteer groups wanting to perform litter cleanup projects in their neighborhoods throughout Renton.

The city has funds available to assist with the cleanup of private and public properties

around the city deemed a nuisance and/or public health or safety risk, and where people do not have the means or ability to do the work themselves, or for volunteer litter and cleanup efforts. Funding can be used to cover the costs of supplies (gloves, bags, pickers, vests, etc.), and pickup and disposal of collected material.

To request funds or for more information please contact Donna Locher at dlocher@rentonwa.gov or 425-430-7438.



CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY/ EARTH DAY, APRIL 28

This month, we celebrate Arbor Day/Earth Day on Saturday, April 28, and honor our commitment to future generations. Every year Arbor Day is celebrated to promote the planting and care of trees. Planting trees is one of the most effective ways to protect the environment. Earth Day is a time to unite and take action to protect our environment.

Renton's Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration is a great opportunity to have fun and do our part to reduce our impact on the environment. Join hundreds of volunteers at Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N, to plant trees and flowers, spread landscaping chips, and clean areas in the park to promote a healthy environment.

To register, contact the Community Services Department at 425-430-6600. Volunteers should dress for the weather. Minors must have parental permission. Children 14 years and under must be accompanied by an adult/guardian. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Event is 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

Everyone benefits when someone chooses to volunteer. Volunteering is a fundamental part of our community's tradition and is essential to its spirit. Volunteers who give their time, resources and expertise to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Renton are a great treasure. Their civic engagement builds a community and network of neighborhoods that care.

We ask that all citizens join us to express gratitude to these special people and encourage you to get involved. Volunteer, become a coach, mentor, join a civic organization or club.

For more information visit rentonwa.gov.





5 WAYS TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

Renton is now part of the Saving Water Partnership and has joined other water utilities in the region to help you save water, protect the environment and lower your water bills. We are pleased to offer you several programs, rebate opportunities, workshops and more. Stay tuned – we will be bringing you great programs and offers throughout the year. Check out the tips below to create a beautiful and healthy landscape and join us today for free Savvy Gardening classes.

BUILD HEALTHY SOIL

Soil is alive and soil life really matters. A teaspoonful of soil contains about 4 billion organisms! These organisms keep the soil loose, recycle nutrients for plants, help store water and protect plants from disease.

- Feed your soil with compost. Dig 1-4 inches of compost into beds when planting.
- Make compost at home, or buy it in bags or bulk.
- Mulch it! Spread 1-3 inches of compost, leaves, grass, bark, or wood chips to conserve water, prevent weeds, and feed the soil.
- Need fertilizer? Go organic! Organic fertilizers feed plants longer and are less likely to wash off into our streams.

PLANT RIGHT FOR YOUR SITE

Get to know your yard. Make a plan. Where is it sunny or shady? The soil dry or soggy? Then choose the Right Plant for the Right Place—select plants that grow well in the Northwest and in the conditions in your yard.

- Pick plants that resist pests and use less water.

- Group plants by their needs for water, sun and soil.
- Give plants a good start by preparing the soil with compost.
- Make space for wildlife by using trees and native plants.



- Start with prevention. Select disease-resistant plants, and pull weeds by hand before they spread.
- Identify the problem before you spray, squash or stomp. Most bugs are good bugs.
 - Accept a little damage—give natural predators time to control pests.
- Select the least toxic control method. Many less toxic products are available. Use chemicals as a last resort.
- Replace problem plants with more pest-resistant ones.

PRACTICE SMART WATERING

Many plant problems are caused by over-watering. Save money on water bills and grow healthier plants by watering deeply, but infrequently.

- Moisten the whole root zone, then let the soil dry out before watering again.
- Make every drop count by mulching, selecting drought-tolerant plants, using soaker hoses and water timers, and watering only in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
- If you use automatic irrigation systems, test and adjust annually. Check for leaks at least every month.
- Don't water if it has rained recently. Schedule watering to occur after 9 p.m. and before 6 a.m.
- Let the rain soak in. Direct downspouts out into lawns or beds. Use open pavers. Help soil absorb rainfall by using compost and mulch.

REDUCE USE OF PESTICIDES

Scientists have found 23 pesticides (weed and bug killers) in our local streams. Overuse of these products is bad for the soil, bad for fish, and bad for our families' health.

USE NATURAL LAWN CARE

It's easy to put all these steps to work in our lawns, where we often use the most chemicals and water, produce the most waste and work too hard!

- Mow higher (1-2 inches) and leave clippings. "Grasscycling" doesn't cause thatch, and provides free fertilizer!
- Fertilize moderately in May and September with a "natural organic" or "slow release" fertilizer.
- Water deeply, to moisten the whole root zone, but infrequently.
- Improve poor lawns with aeration, overseeding and top-dressing with compost.
- Think twice before using "weed and feed" or other pesticides. Pull weeds by hand.
- Consider alternatives to lawns for steep slopes and shady areas, or near streams or lakes.

For upcoming gardening classes in Renton check out the Savvy Gardener at <http://savingwater.org/savvygardener/>

CITY SEEKS YOUR INPUT

Renton's Planning Division is conducting a survey to get your input on the most important topics to focus on in the Benson Hill Community Plan. Results from this survey will also help set future priorities for the Benson Hill area.

The following neighborhoods are included in the Benson Hill Community Plan: Benson Plaza, Cascade, Chinquapin, Eagle Ridge, Falcon Ridge, Huntington Heights, Jessie Glen, Renton Park, Rolling Hills, Spring Glen, Tiffany Park, Vantage Glen, Victoria Hills, Woodbury Lane, and surrounding areas.

Residents are encouraged to complete the survey online at www.bensonplan.org or contact Erika Conkling at 425-430-6578.

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	
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

RentonCityNews@rentonwa.gov



CONSTRUCTION ALERT!

Renton Mayor Denis Law and other dignitaries broke ground March 20 on the \$30 million final phase of the Rainier Avenue South Improvement Project. The project will improve transit mobility, upgrade traffic safety, and enhance pedestrian safety with new 8-foot wide sidewalks, landscaped buffers, and improved street lighting. Construction will begin in April and last through 2013. For more information about the project visit www.rainierproject.com.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Thursday, April 12

"Put This on The [Map]: LGBTQ Youth in Washington." 5-6 p.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S. Suggested donation \$3 adults/\$1 students.

Saturday, April 21

"He Can, She Can, We Can." 11 a.m. to noon. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S. Multicultural folk tales for the family by Naomi Baltuck. Suggested donation \$3 adults/\$1 students.

Downtown Renton Clean-Up. 9 a.m. to noon. Join your community to "spring clean" downtown Renton. Bring gloves. Call 425-430-6589 to register.

Community Garage Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway. Call 425-430-6700.

Thursday, April 26

Creating A Disaster Resilient Community forum. 6:30-9 p.m. Renton City Hall, 1055 S. Grady Way, 7th floor, Council Chambers. Group discussion format. Light meal included. Must pre-register by April 18. To register call 425-430-6700 or visit rentonwa.gov/fire.

Saturday, April 28

Arbor Day/Earth Day. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N. Street tree planting and more. All projects are within short walking distance. Projects 9:30 a.m. to noon followed by free volunteer lunch. Call 425-430-6600 to register.

Saturday, May 5

Spring Recycle Day. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Renton Technical College, North Parking Lot, NE 6th Place & Monroe Avenue NE. For more information call the information line at 425-430-7398.

Spring Shredathon. 9 a.m. to noon. Sam's Club parking lot, 901 S. Grady Way. Free document shredding until truck is full. Bring up to five boxes containing paper documents to be shredded.

Sunday, May 6

Renton Youth Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert. 3 p.m. Carco Theatre, 1717 SE Maple Valley Highway. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 students. Call 425-430-6700.

Friday-Thursday, May 18-24

Seattle International Film Festival. Screening times will be announced at a later date. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. For more information visit siff.net.

Friday, May 18

Seattle International Film Festival Renton Gala. Screening of "Your Sister's Sister" at Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center, followed by opening night gala at Renton Pavillion Event Center. Visit siff.net.

Saturday, May 19

Green and Clean Saturday. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Heritage Park, 233 Union Avenue NE. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Call 425-430-6600 to register.

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day Celebration. 1 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park. Call 425-430-6600.

Saturday, June 2

Fishing Kids. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, 1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N. Pre-registration and fee required. Call 425-430-6700.

Stop and Swap Recycling Event. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Renton Memorial Stadium, 405 Logan Avenue N. Call 425-430-7396.

Tuesdays, June 5 to Sept. 25

Renton Farmers Market. 3 to 7 p.m. Every Tuesday. Piazza Park, 3rd & Burnett.

Sundays, June 10 to Sept. 16

Farmers Market at Valley Medical Center. Every Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 4011 Talbot Road South. Free parking.

Saturday, June 16

Swimming beaches open for season. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park and Kennedydale Beach Park, 1201 and 3501 Lake Washington Blvd. N., respectively. Lifeguards on duty from noon to 8 p.m. daily thru Sept. 3.

Henry Moses Aquatic Center open for swimming season. Sessions at noon and 4 p.m. daily. 1719 SE Maple Valley Hwy. Call 425-430-6780.

Sunday, June 17

Renton City Band Concert. 2 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center, 400 South 2nd St. Call 425-430-6700 for tickets.

For more information visit rentonwa.gov