



Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

January 2013

NEWS IN BRIEF

City To Lease Carco Theatre Facility To Puget Sound Access

Puget Sound Access (PSA), the public TV station serving Renton and South King County cities, will be moving to the Carco Theatre in Renton in January. The non-profit organization plans to convert the basement of the building into working office and production space. PSA will also manage and operate the theater, along with making improvements to the facility and modernizing Carco's computer network and television feeds to improve communication to and from the building. For more information contact Puget Sound Access at 253-479-0200.

Don't Become A Cold Weather Auto Theft Victim This Winter

Every year, the coming of cold weather heralds an increase in the number of cars stolen when left warming up by their owners. An idling car left unattended is an open invitation to an opportunistic thief, who can see the exhaust from blocks down the road. Thieves even have a nickname for such cars, which they refer to as "steamers." The fact that a car is right in front of a house, or even in your driveway, is no real deterrent to a thief. For tips on protecting yourself from auto theft and other crimes, please contact your local police department. Stay safe this holiday season!



SIFF Brings The World of Film Back To Renton in May 2013

The Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) has announced the film festival will return to Renton in May 2013. Screenings will take place at the Renton 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR *Inclusive Playground Soon Will Be A Reality*

Imagine a world of play for children of all abilities and ages—those with special needs, diverse interests and abilities, or physical or mental challenges. A playground that provides an environment where all children, including their families and caregivers, can challenge their minds and bodies. A playground with diverse amenities that encourages different forms of physical activity. An all-inclusive playground—the first of its kind in Renton where children can climb, crawl, spin and swing. A place where imagination rules and senses are stimulated at all levels. A place where play and learning come together.

I am excited to announce that this wonderful amenity will soon be a reality in Renton. The City of Renton and the Renton School District are embarking on their first joint development project—an accessible playground co-located on the city's North



Representatives of First Financial Foundation present a \$150,000 donation to the City of Renton towards the cost of the inclusive playground.

Highlands Neighborhood Center and the Renton School District's new Meadow Crest Early Childhood Learning Center properties.

In addition to the Renton School District, several other organizations have partnered with the City of Renton to make this playground a reality.

See PLAYGROUND, page 3

FEBRUARY IS RENTON HEART MONTH

During the month of February, the City of Renton is once again participating in Heart Month, a community outreach campaign designed to increase public awareness about heart health and cardiovascular conditions. Cardiovascular diseases, including stroke and high blood pressure, continue to be our nation's number one killer.

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 services.

Last year the Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department performed over 10,000

screenings during the month of February. Of those tested, over 500 people were not aware they were at risk of high blood sugar, and over 700 people were not aware they were at risk of high blood pressure. All of those found at risk were encouraged to see their doctor in order to reduce that risk.

This year the annual Renton Heart Month campaign has an added emphasis on reaching out to local Renton businesses. Firefighters and staff from UW Valley Medical Center will perform screenings at a number of local business locations throughout Renton during the month.

For more information visit the city's website at rentonwa.gov.

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In February the Renton History Museum offers two Black History Month programs for families. Saturday, February 2 at 11 a.m. Karol and James Brown perform "A Visit with Aunt Harriet," bringing to life Harriet Tubman's daring rescues on the Underground Railroad. Tuesday, February 27 at 5 p.m. storyteller Eva Abram shares "The Charles Mitchell Story" about a young slave whose migration to the Northwest nearly led to an international incident. Join us at the museum for these two fascinating African-American stories.



CITY BEGINS COMP PLAN UPDATE

The City of Renton is beginning a two-year process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which establishes policies for how our community will grow and develop over the next 20 years.

Decisions made during the plan update will affect the quality of life and opportunities available to the



people who live and work here. That's why it's important for people to take part in the process. We need to know what's important to you.

Look for the first public workshop in February. If you want to stay informed about the project send your contact information to PlanUpdate@rentonwa.gov, or fill out the contact form on the project website at rentonwa.gov/planupdate.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Saturday-Sunday, January 26-27

Pinocchio. A Storybook Theater production. Saturday 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. Carco Theatre, 1717 SE Maple Valley Highway. Tickets \$10 (\$9 for groups of 10 or more). Call 425-820-1800.

Sunday, January 27

Renton Hoop Shoot. Ages 6 to 10, 4 p.m., ages 11 to 14, 5 p.m. Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway. Free to boys & girls ages 6 to 14. Pre-register at cybersignup.org.

Saturday, February 2

A Visit With Aunt Harriet. 11 a.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S. Free to members; suggested donation \$3 adult, \$1 child. Call 425-255-2330.

Friday, February 8

"Dance The Night Away"—Daddy Daughter Dance. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway. Cost per couple is \$16 residents, \$20 non-residents (\$8 each additional attendee).

Saturday, February 9

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Forum. 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N. Theme "Getting Involved & Staying Involved." Guest

For more information visit rentonwa.gov

speaker John Galluzzo. RSVP by Feb. 7. Call 425-430-6595 or 425-430-9594.

Wednesday, February 27

A Series of Fortunate Events: The Charles Mitchell Story by Eva M. Abram. 5 p.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S. Free to members; suggested donation \$3 adult, \$1 child. 425-255-2330.

Saturday, March 9

Wagons West! by storyteller Karen Haas. 11 a.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S. Free with regular membership; suggested donation \$3 adult, \$1 child.

Sunday, March 17

Renton City Concert Band. 2 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7 senior/student. 425-430-6700.

Thursday, March 21

A World of Sweets in Washington State by Julia Harrison. 5 p.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S. Free to members; suggested donation \$3 adult, \$1 child. Sweets will be available to sample. 425-255-2330.

Thursday, March 28

"Each One Reach One"—Flashlight Egg Hunt. 8 p.m. Liberty Park, Benson Way N. & Houser Way N. Free. Ages 7 to 14. Call 425-430-6700.

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

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY RETURNS

Is "CSI" or "Law and Order" your favorite show? Would you like to sit around the dinner table on "Blue Bloods?" 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 Thursday, March 7. Classes will be held on Thursday nights for twelve weeks, and topics will include Patrol Operations, SWAT, Use

of Force, Narcotics, 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.

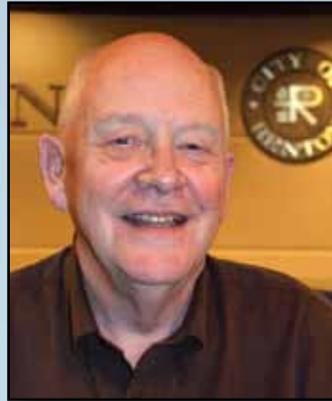
For an application or more information, visit rentonwa.gov or call 425-430-7520.

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.



Randy Corman, 2013 Council President. Randy Corman has been on the City Council since 1994 and chairs the Committee of the Whole.



Don Persson, 2013 Council President Pro Tem. Don has been on the City Council since 2000 and chairs the Public Safety 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 Transportation Committee.



Greg Taylor has been on the City Council since 2008, and chairs the Community Services Committee.



Newly elected Councilman Ed Prince joined the City Council January 9, 2012, and chairs the Utilities Committee.



Rich Zwicker has been on the City Council since 2008 and chairs the Planning & Development Committee.

PLAYGROUND (cont. from page 1)

Recently, First Financial NW Foundation (First Savings Bank) donated \$150,000 to this project. Our community partners include Renton Rotary, Renton Community Foundation—Custer Fund, King County Youth Sports Facility Grant, Renton Lions Club, Renton Housing Authority, McLendon Hardware, and WA State Senator Margarita Prentice Fund they have donated over \$550,000 to this important effort.

The city continues to work with community businesses seeking additional partners and funding opportunities. I would like to especially thank Terry Higashiyama, Community Services Administrator, and Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel, Renton School District Superintendent, for their dedication to this project and their efforts to get funding for this important amenity.

The playground will cover nearly three

quarters of an acre and will feature elements to encourage play and learning, including manipulation and large outdoor musical instruments. There will be spaces to run, to be on stage, or to be alone, with activities geared towards teamwork as well as tasks to stimulate a lone user. A series of physical and mental challenges with graduated difficulty will also be included, and all activities will provide opportunities for different generations to play and learn together.

If you are interested in more information or would like to participate in this important effort please visit rentonwa.gov or contact my staff at 425-430-6600.

Denis Law
Mayor

Renton City Council Committees

Community Services

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

Finance

1st and 3rd Mondays, 4 p.m. Terri Briere, chair; Don Persson, vice-chair; Rich Zwicker, member.

Public Safety

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

Utilities

2nd and 4th Mondays, 5 p.m. Ed Prince, chair; Rich Zwicker, vice-chair; Greg Taylor, member.

Planning & Development

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

Transportation

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

2013 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS AVAILABLE



This mosaic art project was made possible by a matching grant submitted by the Stonegate Homeowners Association. The art piece is located in the children's park within the Stonegate community, and was created by artist Mauricio Robalino and Stan Putnam.

The City of Renton Neighborhood Program is offering 2013 grants to all neighborhood groups and/or homeowner associations that are officially recognized by the City's Neighborhood Program. The neighborhood program offers funds for projects that will enhance the livability of neighborhoods.

2013 Grants and Deadlines

- **Communications Grants.**

Communications grants provide for development of communication materials to relay information about what is happening in the city and in your neighborhood. Examples of communications grants include: newsletters, banners, A-frame boards, or printing of flyers. Communication grant applications will be accepted until February 8, 2013. Funding for the communications grants is based on a standard of one dollar annually per

household contacted, per year, if grant stipulations are met.

- **Project Grants.** Project Grants—over \$1,000—encourage physical improvement projects that enhance a feature of the neighborhood and promote networking between residents and city government. These matching grant applications will be available January 21, and completed applications will be accepted until March 8, 2013. Examples of project grants include, but are not limited to, building community gardens, installing neighborhood entry signs, beautifying entry sign areas, adding public amenities (benches, picnic tables, etc.), or putting in a neighborhood playground.
- **Mini Grants.** Mini Grants are available for projects under \$1,000 and are intended for small neighborhood projects,

programs, educational opportunities, and infrastructure support. Mini-grant applications will be available (pending available funding) in mid-March 2013. Examples of mini grants include, but are not limited to coordinating a “Screen on the Green” movie night, holding a neighborhood clean-up or other special event, designing and painting a mural, hosting an educational workshop, or financing a space to hold a neighborhood meeting.

The city will host a neighborhood grant workshop Monday, January 7, 2013, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Renton City Hall. For more information contact Neighborhood Coordinator Norma McQuiller at 425-430-6595 or email nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov, or Neighborhood Program Assistant Wendy Kirchner at 425-430-6594 or email wkirchner@rentonwa.gov.

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 | \$45,500 |
| 2 | \$52,000 |
| 3 | \$58,500 |
| 4 | \$65,000 |
| 5 | \$70,200 |
| 6 | \$75,400 |
| 7 | \$80,600 |
| 8 | \$85,800 |

Program information, eligibility guidelines, FAQs, and downloadable applications are available at humanservices.rentonwa.gov or call 425-430-6650, press 2.

NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM FEB. 9

The city will host the annual Neighbor-to-Neighbor Forum Saturday, February 9, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave North. The theme for the forum is “Getting Involved and Staying Involved.” This year’s guest speaker is John Galluzzo, a Renton community businessman and activist.

Refreshments and networking begins at 8 a.m., the program begins at 9 a.m. Community members are welcome to attend. RSVPs must be received by Thursday, February 7, 2013. For details or to RSVP, contact Norma McQuiller at 425-430-6595, nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov or Wendy Kirchner at 425-430-9594, wkirchner@rentonwa.gov.

WATER METER CONVERSIONS UNDERWAY

The city’s conversion of its water meters to an Automated Meter Reading system (AMR) is well underway, with 3,000 of its 17,000 meters converted in 2012. The AMR system



records water usage on an hourly basis and can detect leaks, allowing early customer notification.

The system will improve the city’s efficiency and accuracy in meter reading and customer billing. It will also allow for monthly water consumption billing, rather than the current bimonthly consumption bills.