



Renton City News

RENTON, THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY

September/October 2008

NEWS IN BRIEF

Communities In Schools Hires New Executive Director

Dr. Sari Pascoe has been appointed as the executive director for Communities In Schools of Renton (CISR). Dr. Pascoe is passionate about helping children succeed and brings dedication and a wealth of experience to CISR.

Burnett Park Gets An Upgrade

The city recently completed several improvements to Burnett Linear Park including a new concrete walkway and a small plaza featuring the relocated and renovated sculpture EQUIL. The park also has three new benches, a sitting wall surrounded by greenery, new park landscaping, and three picnic tables. There will be a park re-dedication October 11 beginning at 9 a.m.



12th Man Flag Flies High Over Renton City Hall
The Seattle Seahawks' 12th Man flag flies at Renton City Hall to welcome the team to their new facility in Renton.

Be Prepared for Emergencies

Ready in Renton: Join in efforts designed to help you be prepared for any type of disaster. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes and others are starting soon at Renton Emergency Preparedness Academy held at Renton Technical College. In addition, local businesses are teaming up to help you easily find needed disaster supplies for home, work and car kits. Get a list of supplies and locations at rentonwa.gov or call 425 430-7000.

Scarecrows Adorn Downtown Storefronts in October

Bring the whole family to stroll the streets of downtown Renton to enjoy scarecrows and festive fall decorations in business windows and storefronts. Scarecrows will be on display from October 1-31, 2008.

CITY TO WIPE OUT GRAFFITI

Graffiti is a crime! It is the willful defacement of another person's property with any marking instrument including cans of spray paint, felt pens, ballpoint pens, knives or other instruments. Graffiti decreases property values and contributes to the overall decline of the neighborhood, as it gives the impression that no one cares about the community.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice the cost to the public associated with graffiti in our nation is approximately \$13 billion a year.

Over the course of the last few years there have been many incidents of graffiti or "tagging" in Renton. Most residents and business owners agree that graffiti is ugly, costly to repair, and results in lost productivity for those who must restore the damaged areas.

Citizen awareness, reporting graffiti and immediately removing it are the best ways to control graffiti.

The City of Renton has created an inter-departmental anti-graffiti and vandalism task force to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to remove and prevent graffiti and vandalism in the city. The city's plan to combat graffiti and vandalism was recently awarded a grant by the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs.

• If you are a witness to graffiti vandalism as it is happening, please call 9-1-1.

• To report graffiti on public or private property call 425-430-7373.

Renton's Wipe-Out Graffiti initiative will feature:

- A proposed anti-graffiti ordinance that will deliver tougher penalties for graffiti activity.
- Partnerships with local retailers, businesses and organizations to prevent graffiti, provide resources, and help eradicate graffiti in the community.
- Cameras that will help identify and prosecute vandals and those guilty of graffiti activity.
- Graffiti removal kits to help those who have been victimized by graffiti and do not have the means to remove it.
- Volunteers to help seniors and other residents with limited resources who are victims of graffiti.
- Wipe-Out Graffiti, a provocative anti-graffiti education campaign to encourage the public to report graffiti, abate it quickly and volunteer for the city's anti-graffiti efforts.

For more information and to find out how to get rid of graffiti, visit the city's website at rentonwa.gov.

WIPE OUT GRAFFITI
report graffiti in action, call 911
To report graffiti call 425-430-7373
www.rentonwa.gov

SPEED CAMERA CITATIONS BEGIN



Speed Camera Citations to begin Sept. 16 at McKnight Middle School and Renton High School

If you speed, the tickets count! Registered owners of cars exceeding the posted school zone speed limit at McKnight Middle School and Renton High School will receive a ticket for \$124 when the posted school zone speed limit is exceeded by 6 to 15 mph and \$250 if the speed limit is exceeded by 16 mph or more.

30-Day Warning period began Sept. 2 at Talbot Hill Elementary

The city has installed speed cameras at Talbot Hill Elementary School and a 30-day warning period has been in effect since September 2.

Stoplight Coming to SR900 near Hazen High School

The City of Renton is planning to install a signal/stop light near Hazen High School at the intersection of SR900 (NE Sunset Blvd.) and Hoquiam Avenue. The stop light will be installed in late September or early October, 2008.

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
- Community & Economic Development 430-6580
- Emergencies 911
- Finance & Information Services 430-6850
- Fire/Emergency Services..... 430-7000
- Human Resources & Risk Management 430-7650
- Public Works 430-7200
- Police 430-7500 or epolice.rentonwa.gov
- Utility Billing..... 430-6852

rentonwa.gov

RentonCityNews@ci.renton.wa.us

TANNER BENCH DEDICATED



A bench installed at the base of the steps at Renton City Hall honors the memory and service of former Renton City Councilmember and Mayor Jesse Tanner. The bench was dedicated Sept. 8, 2008.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

For more information visit rentonwa.gov

Tuesday, September 16

Farmers Market. 3-7 p.m. Piazza Park, South 3rd Street.

Thursday, September 25

Disaster "Job" Fair. 3-8 p.m. City Hall, 7th floor Conferencing Center. Demonstrations and displays of emergency preparedness for volunteer opportunities.

October 1 to October 31

Storefront Scarecrows. Downtown Renton. Scarecrows will be on display through October 31.

Saturday, October 4

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

Wednesday, October 8

Teen Summit — "It's your Future". 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Renton Community Center. FREE to Renton youth in grades 7-11. Lunch is provided. Call 425-430-6700 to register.

Saturday, October 11

Burnett Park Re-Dedication. 9 a.m. Join City officials and staff for park re-dedication.

Renton Shred-A-Thon. 9 a.m. to Noon. Sam's Club parking lot. Free.

Piazza Renton Fall Harvest Festival and Chamber Business Expo 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Piazza, downtown Renton.

Family Programs at the Museum. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Renton History Museum. *Jacques Portier — Old Nor' West.*

Tuesday, October 14

Speaker Series at the Museum. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Renton History Museum. Featuring a screening of "Land of the Giants." High school through adults.

Saturday, October 25

Trick or Treat & "Olde" Fashion Halloween Party. 1-4 p.m. Downtown Renton. Trick or Treat throughout downtown, party in Main Street Square — entrance 200 block Main.

RENTON SHRED-A-THON

Sam's Club Parking Lot

Saturday, October 11, 9 a.m. to Noon

Tired of saving all those papers containing personal information because you are afraid of identity theft? Or seeing the piles of unwanted paper around your house? The Renton Shred-A-Thon is the solution! Join us at the Sam's Club parking lot, 901 Grady Way on Saturday, October 11, from 9 a.m. to noon for a FREE document shredding event.

Iron Mountain will provide a truck-mounted shredder to destroy paper documents.

Residents are invited to bring up to five boxes with paper documents to be destroyed. (Boxes should be 12x15 inches deep x 10 inches high or the amount of paper such boxes would hold).

The Renton Police Department will also be on-site to provide information on identity theft protection. Enter to win a free home shredder. Donations of canned goods accepted for the Renton Food Bank. For details go to rentonwa.gov and search shredathon, or call 425-430-7520.



CONSTRUCTION ALERT!

The City of Renton will be installing a new 12" water main in the Renton Highlands area from September 18, 2008, to January 2, 2009. Construction will affect localized areas along Harrington Ave NE, Kirkland Ave NE, Sunset Blvd NE, NE 9th Street and NE 12th Street. For details and updates visit rentonwa.gov.

FLOODING: STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO BE SAFE

Flooding is a force of nature that often cannot be controlled or prevented. The City of Renton monitors weather forecasts and river conditions continuously and participates in the King County Flood Warning System, which notifies the city when Green River and Cedar River flows reach established flood phases.

In the event of a flood warning, residents are notified through NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, television, and local emergency agencies.

Natural channels, wetlands, man-made ponds and open ditches can protect us from flooding. It is important that constructed storm drainage systems are maintained and kept free of debris to help prevent flooding. Dumping debris into any watercourse is prohibited by City ordinance. Please report any violations to Development Services Code Enforcement at 425-430-7373.

Urban flooding occurs when the storm sewers become overwhelmed or plugged. Renton locations where flooding repeatedly occurs include the Hardie Avenue Railroad Underpass, the Renton Village Shopping Center, Lake Avenue South and South 7th Street.

If you live near the Cedar River, Green River, May Creek or Springbrook Creek, you may live in a special flood hazard area known as the 100-year flood plain, where the



chance of encountering natural flooding is at least 1% in any given year. Major floods occurred in November of 1990 and 1995, and in February of 1996.

Flood losses are not covered under most homeowners' or renters' insurance policies. Renton participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which enables Renton citizens to obtain flood insurance discounts of up to 15%. Contents coverage is available to renters.

To find out if your house is in a flood prone area, obtain a Flood Insurance Rate Map, or obtain copies of existing Flood Elevation Certificates, contact Gary Fink, Surface Water Utility, at 425-430-7392 or email gfink@ci.renton.wa.us.

For more information, visit the City of Renton's website at www.rentonwa.gov or review the Federal Emergency Management Agency's website at www.fema.gov.

FLOOD SAFETY & PRECAUTIONS

- Turn off your main electricity switch and gas valve before flooding inundates your home.
- Remember that during a storm it is possible for streams to rise and for some parking lots, streets, and parks to fill with water. During exceptional rainstorms, ordinary ditches, streams and even streets can turn into torrents. Never cross fast-flowing water, neither on foot nor in a vehicle, and stay off unstable stream banks.

You can help prepare for heavy rains in the following ways:

- Check storm drains near your home and clear away any leaves and debris. Clogged grates are often the reason a street floods during a storm.
- Do you own a sump pump? Test it now to make sure it is in good working order.
- If your home is in danger of flooding, call the Public Works Maintenance Division at 425-430-7400 (on weekends and weekdays after 4 p.m., call 9-1-1). We provide 24-hour emergency service for flooding, hazardous road conditions, water main breaks, and downed or damaged stop or yield signs.
- Report re-occurring drainage problems and local flooding to Surface Water Utility, and we will make a site visit to investigate the problem upon your request. Contact Gary Fink at 425-430-7392, or email gfink@ci.renton.wa.us.

GREEN CITY RENTON

Fall Green and Clean Event October 4 at Heritage Park

Get ready to roll up your sleeves, enjoy the changing autumn leaves, and help make a difference in one of our newest parks. Join us for the Fall Green and Clean program at Heritage Park, 233 Union Ave. NE, Saturday, October 4, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Check in begins at 9 a.m. Register now and bring your family. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. Call 425-430-6600 for more information or to register your group, yourself, or your family.

Green and Clean Saturday programs are scheduled at various parks throughout the year.

If you or your organization would like to get involved and make a difference in our community, visit rentonwa.gov.

Goats enlisted for weed control at Renton Airport



Goats were enlisted recently to rid an area along the perimeter of the Renton Airport of weeds. The nearly 100 goats provided an eco-friendly way to remove the weeds.

OUR NEW LOOK

Welcome to "Renton CityNews" formerly known as "RentonNOW."



You'll notice Renton CityNews has a new look to go along with the new name! We hope you like our new look and our new name as we continue to strive to keep you informed of the things

that matter most to you.

Renton CityNews will also be posted on our website at rentonwa.gov. We look forward to your feedback and suggestions. Email us at RentonCityNews@ci.renton.wa.us.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As our nation's economy faces a downturn stemming from the mortgage crisis, high fuel costs, large declines in revenues and increased fixed costs, we are closely watching these trends in Renton and preparing to deal with future uncertainties and potential budget shortfalls. King County, Seattle and neighboring cities have indicated significant revenue shortfalls and budget reductions.

Here in the city the revenues for the first half of 2008 are below budget projections and we are facing a \$5.2 million shortfall for 2008. Forecasts show this pattern to continue into 2009 due to a decline in new residential building permits resulting in reduced revenue from real estate excise tax and building permit fees, and sales tax revenue also falling below expectations. At the

"Wise decisions and responsible fiscal policies will get us through these times in the best possible financial position and will help us plan for the 2009 budget." — Mayor Denis Law

same time, with the current economic condition, our costs are expected to increase by nearly 6% next year.

We are closely monitoring as we begin planning for the 2009 budget cycle. I am committed to ensuring fiscal responsibility while maintaining the city's services.

I have asked the city's administrators to restrict most staff hiring, including positions previously approved in the budget. In addition, I have also asked each department to carefully scrutinize all expenditures to identify potential savings while focusing on maintaining core services.

Despite the economic downturn across the nation and in parts of our region, many great things are happening in Renton. Several developments continue to boost Renton's economy. Recently the Seattle Seahawks moved to their new home in Kenndale. New stores are opening at The Landing, and new businesses and residential developments are thriving in downtown Renton.

I will be presenting the city's proposed 2009 budget to the Renton City Council on October 20, 2008.



HOUSING REPAIR ASSISTANCE

The City of Renton Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP) helps resident homeowners who have very low to moderate incomes with free services focused on health and safety. Families meeting the size and income criteria on the chart below may qualify:

Family Size	Max. Annual Income
1	\$43,050
2	\$49,200
3	\$55,350
4	\$61,500
5	\$66,400

Eligibility guidelines, program information and downloadable applications are available at rentonwa.gov. Search for HRAP or call 425-430-6650.

FREE DENTAL CARE FOR KIDS

If you live in King County, have children under the age of 20 and meet certain income guidelines, your children may be eligible for King County's free dental care coverage.

This program is available from January 1 to December 31, 2008.

Visit www.kckidsdental.org or call 866-839-9466 to see if you are eligible and to enroll.



TEEN SUMMIT

Teen Summit offers opportunities, connections and resources for youth (grades 7-11) to develop into strong, healthy, civically and environmentally conscious members of the community.

Join us Wednesday, October 8, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Renton Community Center and Carco Theatre for a fun-filled day of motivational speakers and educational break-out sessions on money management, healthy lifestyles, career pathways, going green and more! Co-sponsored by the Renton School District, the Renton Police Department, Valley Medical Center, the Seahawks and PSE. To register, download a registration form at rentonwa.gov and click on Recreation or call 425-430-6700 to register. Space is limited.