



Renton City News

RENTON, THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY

January/February 2009

NEWS IN BRIEF

Highlands Task Force

In December, the Highlands Phase II Task Force presented 24 recommendations for the revitalization of the Highlands community. After reviewing the report, City Council asked staff to create an implementation program.

Community groups and individuals are encouraged to become involved in improvements.

For more information on the Highlands Task Force, or to read the final report, go to planning.rentonwa.gov and click on the Highlands Phase II Task Force link in the middle of the page, or contact Erika Conkling at 425-430-6578 or econkling@rentonwa.gov.

One Night Count in Renton

In January, Renton volunteers and staff will join other cities in King County to count the homeless people and families that stay in their respective cities. Conducted once each year, the annual one-night count offers a "point-in-time" census of homeless people in our city and community. The total gives homeless planners, government officials, and advocates a snapshot of those in need. The City of Renton, along with other cities in the region, has adopted King County's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

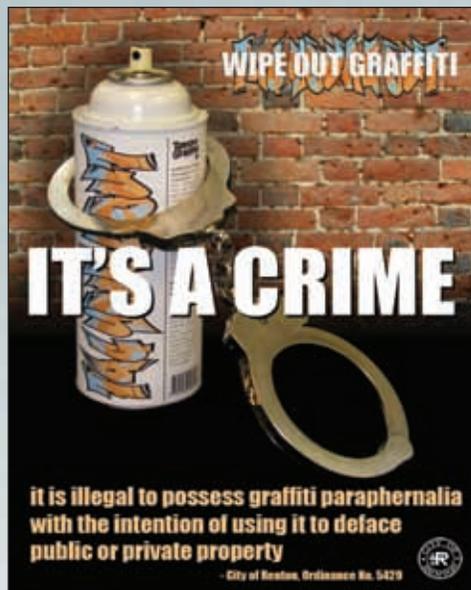


New Computers Coming Soon to the Highlands Public Library

Thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Highlands branch of the Renton Library will add six more Internet computers by spring of this year. The library has acquired new furniture to accommodate the additional computers, which will be located front and center in the main room of the library.

For an electronic version of this newsletter visit rentonwa.gov.

RENTON LAUNCHES "WIPE OUT GRAFFITI" CAMPAIGN *New Ordinance Gets Tough on Offenders*



In the battle against graffiti, Renton City Council passed a new Graffiti Control Ordinance to help prosecute graffiti offenders and reduce the damages inflicted on property owners.

The city has also identified various 'hot spots' throughout the city and placed cameras in these locations to help identify and prosecute vandals and those guilty of graffiti activity.

In addition, the city will be hiring a part-time graffiti abatement coordinator to help manage the program, and is recruiting volunteers, partnering with local businesses and community members, providing graffiti-removal kits to graffiti victims with limited resources, and launching a comprehensive education campaign.

"Graffiti is a crime and it costs governments and our communities thousands of dollars to clean it up," said Mayor Denis

**"Our goal is to make people think twice before committing an act of vandalism in the first place, and make them pay the price."
— Mayor Denis Law**

Law. "Our goal is to make people think twice before committing an act of vandalism in the first place, and make them pay the price."

The Graffiti Control Ordinance

- Makes it illegal to possess graffiti paraphernalia with the intention of using it to deface public or private property.
- Allows the court to order those convicted of graffiti vandalism to pay damages to the victim, including the City of Renton.
- Allows public funds to be used for graffiti removal.
- Allows the city to assign up to a \$5,000 liability to the parent of a minor who commits graffiti vandalism.
- Authorizes the city to offer up to a \$300 reward for information leading to the identification and apprehension of any person who commits graffiti vandalism.

Wipe Out Graffiti, the city's anti-graffiti education campaign, encourages people to report graffiti, document it, and abate it quickly. People should call 9-1-1 immediately if they see "tagging" in progress.

The city has also established a graffiti hotline, 425-430-7373, where people can report existing graffiti. To volunteer or participate in the city's program, to donate supplies for the graffiti removal kits, or to sponsor a community volunteer opportunity call 425-430-6624. To learn more about the graffiti removal kits, see page 3.

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

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month was originally established as Black History Week in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson in remembrance of important people and events in black history. Part of the aim of Black History Month is to recognize significant contributions to society made by people with African heritage and how their history is integral to mainstream narratives.



To celebrate Black History Month the Renton History Museum will present "A Visit With Aunt Harriet" Saturday, February 14 and "Civil Rights A History of Us" Saturday, February 28. Showtimes are 11 a.m. Donations: \$1 for children over 7, \$3 for adults.

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
- Finance & Information Services** 430-6850
- Fire/Emergency Services**..... 430-7000
- Graffiti Hotline**..... 430-7373
- Human Resources & Risk Management** 430-7650
- Public Works**..... 430-7200
- 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

RENTON HEART MONTH



Heart Disease is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. 1.5 million heart attacks occur in the

United States each year resulting in over 500,000 deaths.

This is one of the driving forces behind the Renton Heart Month program. Throughout February the Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department, in partnership with the American Red Cross and Renton Lions Clubs, provides citizens the opportunity to learn more about their heart health, receive free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, and receive opportunities to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

HOUSING REPAIR ASSISTANCE

The City of Renton Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP) provides 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.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

For more information visit rentonwa.gov

Sunday, January 25

Renton Hoop Shoot at the Renton Community Center. Test your free throw skills. Children ages 6-14 at 4 p.m. Ages 11-14, 5 p.m. Pre-registration required. Call (425) 430-6700 for more information.

Tuesday, February 3

Preschool Information Night at Renton Community Center. 6:30-8 p.m. Learn more about local preschools, including curriculum, hours, tuition and registration.

Thursday, February 12

Teen Events (grades 6-12) at the Renton Downtown Library. 4-5 p.m. Exercise your creativity and develop leadership skills.

Saturday, February 14

Celebrate Black History Month: "A Visit With Aunt Harriet." 11 a.m.

Renton History Museum. Donations: \$1 for children over 7, \$3 for adults.

Thursday, February 19

Teen Game Day (grades 6-12) at the Renton Downtown Library. 4-5 p.m.

Saturday, February 28

Celebrate Black History Month: "Civil Rights A History of Us." 11 a.m. Renton History Museum. Donations: \$1 for children over 7, \$3 for adults.

CPR Saturday at Renton Technical College. Adult classes in English: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. Adult Classes in American Sign Language: 11 a.m. RCP Para Adultos En Espanol (sesiones disponibles) 8 a.m., 2 p.m. Visit www.seattleredcross.org or call 206-726-3534 for more information and to register.

GEAR UP FOR DIGITAL TELEVISION

Beginning February 17, 2009, most TV broadcasting will be digital. Digital television (DTV) will transform your television viewing experience to provide better quality, more choices, and more control over your television. Viewers with digital television sets are already enjoying DTV. Viewers who currently get their signals "over the air," using a rooftop antenna or rabbit ears, will have to make some adjustments.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is offering up to two coupons worth \$40 each toward the purchase of converter boxes. Visit www.dtv.gov for more information.

In addition, Comcast will be switching channels higher than 29 to digital format to free up the spectrum for additional high-definition channels and faster Internet service. Customers who have limited basic service and only receive channels 2 to 29, and those who have a CableCard will not be affected.

Newer TVs with digital tuners won't need any sort of converter to receive over-the-air broadcast signals but they will require a Comcast device to receive channels higher than 29 from the cable company. Comcast will provide two devices per household at no cost. Call 1-888-COMCAST (266-2278).

MEET OUR RENTON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

January is the beginning of another term for our Councilmembers and a time for them to serve on different committees. Members of the Renton City Council serve four-year terms.



Randy Corman, Council President. Randy Corman has been on the City Council since 1994.



Don Persson has been on the City Council since 2000. He is the Council President Pro-Tem and chairs the Finance Committee.



Terri Briere has been on the City Council since 2000. She chairs the Community Services Committee.



Marcie Palmer has been on the City Council since 2004. She chairs the Transportation/Aviation Committee.



King Parker was previously on the council from 1996 through 2003 and re-elected to the City Council in 2008. He chairs the Planning and Development Committee.



Greg Taylor was elected to the City Council in 2008 and chairs the Public Safety Committee.



Rich Zwicker was appointed to the City Council in 2008 and chairs the Utilities Committee.

MEET THE JUDGE



Judge Terry Jurado has been serving as Judge of Renton since January 1999. Renton Municipal Court is a place where citizens can be confident of receiving a fair and timely resolution of their case.

Council Committees

Community Services

First and Third Mondays, 4:30 p.m.
Terri Briere, chair; Marcie Palmer, vice-chair; Greg Taylor, member.

Finance

Mondays, 5 p.m. Don Persson, chair; Greg Taylor, vice-chair; King Parker, member.

Public Safety

First and Third Mondays, 4 p.m. Greg Taylor, chair; Don Persson, vice-chair; Marcie Palmer, member.

Utilities

Second and Fourth Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Rich Zwicker, chair; King Parker, vice-chair; Terri Briere, member.

Planning & Development

Second and Fourth Thursdays, 3 p.m.
King Parker, chair; Terri Briere, vice-chair; Rich Zwicker, member.

Transportation/Aviation

Second and Fourth Thursdays, 4 p.m.
Marcie Palmer, chair; Rich Zwicker, vice-chair; Don Persson, member.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL KITS AVAILABLE

Free Graffiti Removal Kits Available for Victims with Limited Means

Graffiti Removal Kits will be provided to individuals who have become a victim of graffiti and have limited means to deal with removing it.

The kits are a collaboration between the City of Renton and local retailers who donated many of the items.

Graffiti removal kits will be available at several public facilities throughout the city. To find out where graffiti removal kits can be obtained, please visit the city's website at rentonwa.gov.

NEW GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICE BEGINS

Waste Management has delivered the new all-cart service to Renton residents for their garbage, recycling, and yard and food waste.

All-cart service: All residents should now be using the wheeled carts provided by Waste Management.

You can now put your yard waste and food scraps in the gray Yard & Food carts that are emptied weekly. Remember to keep all plastic bags and containers out of the yard and food waste carts.



previous garbage can.

For recycling, use the blue all-in-one 96-gal Recycling carts emptied every other week (same week as garbage). You don't need to sort your recycling and you can now recycle all plastic bottles, dairy tubs, polycoated paper (such as milk cartons) and more.



Please bag your garbage in the green Garbage carts emptied every other week (same week as recycling). Customers have been delivered the same size or slightly larger cart than their

Residents were also provided kitchen food scrap buckets and information packets with guidelines, calendar and other relevant collection information.

For more information, and to report a missed collection, order a replacement container, order a bulky item collection, or inquire about extra garbage charges contact Waste Management, wmnorthwest.com/renton or call 1-800-592-9995.

To increase or decrease your existing service or to cancel your service, contact the City of Renton, 425-430-6852. You can also watch a video program that explains the new program on Channel 21. Go to rentonwa.gov for more information.



NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE

2009 Neighborhood Matching Grants

The City of Renton's Neighborhood program has grants available to groups of residents who have organized themselves to plan and implement projects for the purpose of improving the viability and livability of their neighborhoods. The grants stimulate community projects that build stronger neighborhoods and build partnerships between the city and its neighborhoods.

Eligible organizations include organized neighborhood associations that draw membership from a commonly recognized geographic neighborhood in Renton, or ad hoc groups of neighbors who form an organization to work on a specific project.

Eligible projects include physical improvements that build or enhance a feature of the



The entrance sign to The Vineyards is an example of a neighborhood improvement made possible with matching grant funds.

neighborhood or benefit the general public. Projects to produce and distribute newsletters are also eligible for neighborhood grants.

The typical grant is \$3,000 to \$5,000 per project although the actual amount is based on a project's merit and is determined by the Renton City Council. A workshop for those interested in the program will be held January 12, 2009, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Renton City Hall.

Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009. Awards will be announced in May 2009. For more information contact Norma McQuiller, Neighborhood Coordinator at 425-430-6595 or by email at nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov.

