



# Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

April/May 2009

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Howard Hanson Dam

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers has determined that it will be unable to hold as much water in the Howard Hanson Dam due to a depression next to the dam. This may increase the risk of flooding in the Green River Valley should we experience severe weather during the next flood season. The city is working closely with the Corps and other agencies to monitor the situation. In the meanwhile businesses in the area are encouraged to review emergency plans, purchase flood insurance, get a NOAA radio, and check for regular updates. For more information visit [kingcounty.gov/floodplans](http://kingcounty.gov/floodplans).

### Watch Mayor's State of the City Speech on Channel 21 or online



To view Mayor Law's 2009 State of the City speech, go to Channel 21 or [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).

### Fire Dept. Response Times

Last year, the Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department responded to customer calls over 12,000 times. In 2008, a resolution was adopted by the City Council that established a response time goal of 7.5 minutes or less for firefighters. Data shows they are achieving this goal 83% of the time. The Fire & Emergency Services Department continues to improve response times while keeping our community and firefighters safe.

### Renton Receives \$2 Million

The City of Renton will receive \$2 million from President Obama's economic stimulus package for improvements to Rainier Avenue South in downtown Renton. The improvements include the Shattuck Avenue stormwater bypass that will help control surface water coming from Rainier Avenue.

## SHOP RENTON



Shopping locally helps our Renton businesses, employees, and residents — and the entire community — survive and thrive through these challenging economic times. Opportunities abound for Renton residents and employees to shop locally to meet their needs — and support the local community at the same time.

"During these tough economic times, it is even more important than ever that we keep our resources flowing close to home," said Renton Mayor Denis Law. "Every dollar spent in Renton supports public safety, parks, infrastructure improvements, and helps create more local jobs."

Hundreds of national and regional chains and independent local businesses all call the Renton marketplace home. Downtown Renton has a number of unique restaurants, shops, and entertainment options and there are dozens of other opportunities at The Landing; in the Highlands; in the Benson Hill/Cascade communities; along the NE 4th Street, Rainier Avenue, and Grady Way corridors; and in other neighborhoods throughout Renton.

Collectively, Renton's retail businesses employ thousands of individuals and add hundreds of millions of dollars to the local

**"Every dollar spent in Renton supports public safety, parks, infrastructure improvements, and helps create more local jobs."**

**— Mayor Denis Law**

economy. The business community also provided over \$24 million in sales tax revenue to the City of Renton in 2008, representing about 26% of the city's overall general fund revenue.

When you "Shop Renton" you: sustain local jobs and help businesses employ your family, friends, and neighbors; embrace Renton's diverse locally-owned and managed businesses; support locally created products, food, and arts; help maintain strong and diverse neighborhoods; reduce energy consumption and costs, congestion, pollution, and travel time; provide businesses with revenue to be able to reinvest profits in local charities and civic organizations; provide a portion of your sales tax to the City of Renton for public services in our community; and support local entrepreneurship to fuel economic innovation and prosperity.

Shop Renton to help our local Renton businesses, employees, and residents — and the entire community — survive and thrive!

**For more information visit the city's website at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).**



# "The earth is what we CELEBRATE EARTH DAY, ARBOR DAY

This month, as we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, we honor our commitment to future generations. 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 planet. Renton's Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations are a great opportunity to have fun and do our part to reduce our impact on our environment.

"The city encourages all citizens to plant trees and join in the celebration to promote nature's well-being for this and

future generations," said Mayor Denis Law. "The Arbor Day event is an opportunity to bring the community together for the environment."

To celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day, team up with our Community Services Department on Saturday April 25, at Liberty Park Stadium - Bronson Way North and Houser Way North. Join hundreds of volunteers to plant trees, shrubs, spread play chips, and clean areas in the parks and along the Cedar River trail to promote a healthy environment and protect our climate.

All projects are within walking distance. Register now and bring your family. A special thanks to Renton Sam's Club for their support of this program.

For registration information contact the Community Services Department at 425-430-6600. Volunteers should dress for the weather. Minors must have parent permission. Children 14 years and under must be accompanied by adult/guardian.

Meet at the Liberty Park Stadium, Bronson Way North and Houser Way North. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Event is 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Protecting Our Environment

### Renton Receives Tree City USA Award for Urban Forestry Efforts



**TREE CITY USA**

The City of

Renton received its first Tree City USA® Award this year for its urban forestry efforts during 2008.

The Tree City USA® program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities that more than 120 million Americans call home.

Renton has become one of 74 Tree City USA® members in Washington State for its 2008 urban forestry program. Representatives from the Washington Community Forestry Council will present the award at Renton's Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration on April 25 in Liberty Park during the 9:30 a.m. opening ceremony.

### City Hosts Recycling Event

Twice a year the City of Renton holds a citywide recycling event at Renton Technical College, recycling everything from yard waste to tires to household appliances. The next

recycling event will take place May 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Solid Waste Utility at 425-430-7396 for more information.

### Natural Yard Days is Back

Northwest Natural Yard Days is back with its final season. Participating retailers will offer up to a 25% discount on natural yard care products, April 15 through May 15. For more information about the sale call



The Garden Hotline at

206-633-0224 or visit [www.yarddays.com](http://www.yarddays.com).

### Spring Shred-A-Thon May 9

Join us at the Sam's Club parking lot, 901 Grady Way on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to noon (or until truck is full) for a FREE document shredding event. Residents are invited to bring up to five boxes with household 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. Donations of canned goods accepted for the Renton Food Bank. For

details go to [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) and search [shredathon](#), or call 425-430-7520.



### Green and Clean Saturday

Join us for the Spring Green and Clean program, Saturday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Highlands Library, 2902 NE 12th St., Renton. 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.

If you have a team or your organization would like to Adopt a Park or Green and Clean Saturday project and get involved to make a difference in our community call 425-430-6600. Green and Clean Saturday programs are scheduled at various parks throughout the year. For more information visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).

# all have in common”

— Wendell Berry, Author, farmer, cultural critic, 1934



## Springbrook Creek — Wetlands Enhanced to Mitigate Development

The City of Renton and Washington State Department of Transportation enhanced over 130 acres of wetlands in Renton to mitigate the effects of development and transportation projects. Plans include an interpretive trail throughout the wetlands.

## City Encourages Saving Water

City of Renton residents get high quality drinking water from groundwater. Using our water wisely helps us save this valuable resource for our future. Water saving tips for lawn, garden, and home can be found at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) or at [partners4water.org/linkslibrary](http://partners4water.org/linkslibrary).



## City Offers WashWise Program

The City of Renton in partnership with Puget Sound Energy offers WashWise program rebates of \$50-100 for the purchase and installation of qualified energy and water-saving clothes washers. In 2008 Renton citizens purchased 368 water saving machines, which will save an estimated 3,051,760 gallons of water per year. For more information visit [washwiserebate.org](http://washwiserebate.org).



## Hybrid Boom Truck Saves Fuel

In an effort to conserve fuel and preserve the environment, the City of Renton has a hybrid boom truck that runs on both diesel and electric power. Boom trucks are used to erect and maintain signs, street lights, and power lines.

## City Recycling Program One of the Most Comprehensive in State

The City of Renton's recycling program is one of the most comprehensive in the region. Since the new program was launched early this year, Renton residents have made significant changes in their habits. Comparing waste collection for February 2008 and February 2009, the amount of waste sent to the landfill decreased by almost 15%. The amount of material recycled in Renton increased by nearly 11% and the amount of food and yard waste sent for composting increased by almost 75%.

## CITY CONTACTS

Area Code 425

<b>General Information</b> .....	430-6400
<b>Mayor</b> .....	430-6500
<b>City Council</b> .....	430-6501
<b>Municipal Court Judge</b> .....	430-6550
<b>Chief Administrative Officer</b> .....	430-6500
<b>City Clerk</b> .....	430-6510
<b>Code Enforcement</b> .....	430-7373
<b>Community Services</b> .....	430-6600
<b>Community &amp; Economic Development</b> .....	430-6580
<b>Finance &amp; Information Services</b> .....	430-6850
<b>Fire/Emergency Services</b> .....	430-7000
<b>Graffiti Hotline</b> .....	430-7373
<b>Human Resources &amp; Risk Management</b> .....	430-7650
<b>Public Works</b> .....	430-7200
<b>Police</b> .....	430-7500
or <a href="http://epolice.rentonwa.gov">epolice.rentonwa.gov</a>	
<b>Street/Water/Sewer Maint.</b> .....	430-7400
<b>Utility Billing</b> .....	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

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

**March 21 - May 9.** “Key Ingredients: America By Food” traveling exhibit. Through May 9. Renton History Museum.

### Saturday, April 25

**Annual Community Garage Sale.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Renton Community Center, 1715 Maple Valley Highway. Spaces are limited so pre-registration is required. Call 425-430-6700.

**Arbor Day/Earth Day.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Liberty Park, Bronson Way North and Houser Way North. Volunteers are invited to help park staff spruce up the park for the upcoming season. All projects will be within short walking distance. Children must be accompanied by adult/guardian. Free hot dog lunch. Call 425-430-6600.

### Sunday, April 26

**Taste of The Landing 5K Run and Block Party.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Landing, 1215 North Landing Way. [www.tasteofthelanding.com](http://www.tasteofthelanding.com)

### Sunday, May 3

**Renton Youth Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert.** 3-4 p.m. Renton Carco Theatre. Call 425-430-6700.

### Thursday, May 7

**An Afternoon with Greg Atkinson.** 4:30 p.m. Carco Theatre, 1717 Maple Valley Highway. Admission \$10 adults, \$5 students and seniors. Local chef and cookbook author Greg Atkinson shares his passion for West Coast regional cuisine. Call 425-255-2330 for tickets.

### Saturday, May 9

**Renton Spring Shredathon.** 9 a.m. to Noon. Sam's Club parking lot. Free.

### Saturday, May 16

**Green & Clean Saturday.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Highlands Library, 2902 NE 12th. Volunteers are invited to help maintain area for everyone to enjoy. Children must be accompanied by adult/guardian. Free hot dog lunch. Call 425-430-6600.

## VOLUNTEERS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### April is Renton 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](http://rentonwa.gov).

### Lee Cummings Recognized For Outstanding Volunteer Efforts

Renton resident Lee Cummings was recently recognized by Governor Christine Gregoire and the Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNSC) for her outstanding volunteer efforts to address needs in our community.



Along with several other outstanding volunteers throughout the state, Cummings was honored at an awards ceremony at the Executive Mansion in Olympia.

### Renton Historical Society Seeks Volunteers to Join Board

The Renton Historical Society is in search of enthusiastic, committed volunteers to sit on its Board of Trustees. The Board is currently looking for volunteers with fundraising experience, marketing and promotional skills, leadership ability, and great communication skills.

An interest in history and/or museums is a plus. Get in on the ground floor as the Renton Historical Society embarks on its Master Plan for the next 15 years of museum operations.

For an application or more information, please contact Elizabeth Stewart at 425-255-2330 or email her at [estewart@rentonwa.gov](mailto:estewart@rentonwa.gov).



## 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	\$44,800
2	\$51,200
3	\$57,600
4	\$64,000
5	\$69,100

Eligibility guidelines, program information and downloadable applications are available at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). Search for HRAP or call 425-430-6650.

## 'KEY INGREDIENTS' EXHIBIT AT RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM

The Renton History Museum is hosting Key Ingredients: America by Food, a Smithsonian Institution travelling exhibit, through May 9. The Renton History Museum is the only museum in the Seattle area to host this prestigious exhibit.

Key Ingredients: America By Food is an entertaining and informative overview of the nation's diverse regional cooking and eating traditions. What we eat is rooted in centuries of continual sharing across cultures, across generations, and across the land. The exhibit gives you a chance to travel through 500 years of



American food, from coast to coast, exploring how we grow, cook, and celebrate with edibles.

At the same time, the museum unveiled "Sustaining A City," an exhibit about Renton's unique foodways. Together the two exhibits showcase the ways in which food brings different people together to celebrate and share common values.

As part of the festivities that celebrate food, The Landing is hosting the first annual Taste of The Landing, a family fun event that includes a 5K run, food, festivities, music and more on April 26, 2009.

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