



Renton City News

RENTON, AHEAD OF THE CURVE

October 2009

NEWS IN BRIEF

“EriAm Sisters” Renton Musical Group Honored, Given Key to City

The Renton musical group EriAm Sisters — Haben (12), Salina (14), and Lianda (16) Abraham — were honored at the September 21 meeting of the Renton City Council. A proclamation was read recognizing the sisters’ contributions to music



and the City of Renton. Following the proclamation, the mayor presented the girls with a ceremonial key to the city.

New Dog Park Open in Renton

The City of Renton and Renton’s Unleashed Furry Friends (RUFF) opened the city’s first off-leash dog park on the NARCO property, across the Cedar River from the Renton Community Center. Nearly four acres of level ground are surrounded by a rustic split rail fence constructed by community volunteers. For more information on the Cedar River Off-Leash Dog Park, visit rentonoffleash.org.

Scarecrows Adorn Downtown Storefronts During October

During 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 October 1-31.

Neighborhood Matching Grants

The City of Renton Neighborhood Program has grants available to organized groups for projects that improve the viability and livability of their neighborhoods. Eligible projects include physical improvements that build or enhance a feature of the neighborhood or benefit the public. For more information contact Norma McQuiller, Neighborhood Coordinator, at 425-430-6595 or by email at nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov.

Ready in Renton

Helping You Get Ready, Get Connected

Our area is vulnerable to a wide variety of hazards, both natural and man-made. Earthquakes, severe storms, power outages, and floods are just some of the emergencies we may experience.



Ready in Renton, a citywide campaign, works to provide you with information and resources to help you be better prepared to take care of yourself and those that depend on you in the event of an emergency.

The Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department encourages residents and local businesses to take steps now to plan and prepare for disaster.

One important need everyone has during a disaster is the ability to communicate. Whether you’re receiving vital information and safety instructions or trying to reconnect with loved ones, being informed before, during and after an emergency is important to everyone.

Here are just a few things you need to know to get and stay connected:

CodeRED (see story below)

NOAA Weather Radio.

The NOAA Weather Radio is a valuable piece of equipment

that can warn your household of an impending emergency, whether it is a weather related emergency or another kind of crisis that has resulted in an Emergency Alert System activation.

Critical Information Page. The City of Renton has developed a Critical Information page on its website. When there is important emergency information to be shared find it quickly by logging on to rentonwa.gov. You can sign up to receive update notifications via email to ensure you stay informed.

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

City Launches CodeRED, a New Community Notification System

An important part of this year’s Ready in Renton campaign is the launching of CodeRED, a community notification system. This system is just one of many ways to receive information during an emergency. The CodeRED system enables city officials to deliver important messages to targeted areas or the entire city. This makes it easy for you to stay informed about emergencies like utility outages, floods, evacuation notices or other incidents that can affect your safety or health.



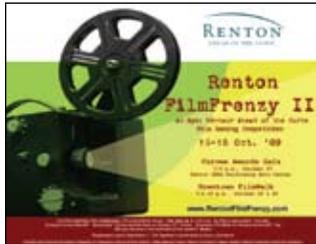
Just go to rentonwa.gov and click on the CodeRED logo and complete the registration form. You can also register your Renton-based business, cellular phone or TDD/TTY phone. Get connected today!

For more ways to get prepared and get connected go to rentonwa.gov.

For More READY IN RENTON, See page 3

RENTON FILM FRENZY RETURNS

Filmmakers participating in the second annual Renton FilmFrenzy will take to the streets of Renton October 16-18. Filmmakers will be given 50 hours in which to write, shoot, edit and submit a short film shot completely in Renton.



The top ten films will be screened during the annual Curvee Awards Gala October 27. All films submitted will be screened at locations in downtown Renton Oct. 28-29. For more information visit rentonfilmfrenzy.com.

SEAHAWKS TRAINING CAMP A HIT

With the regular football season now underway, the Seattle Seahawks successfully held their first full season of training camp in their new facility along the shores of Lake Washington in Renton. During the month of August over 15,000 fans visited Renton and the Seahawks' spectacular Virginia Mason Athletic Center. Every visitor to training camp was provided with a Renton CurveCard and encouraged to spend time enjoying the city's many options to eat, shop and play in Renton.



THUNDERBIRDS CELEBRATE RENTON

The Seattle Thunderbirds Hockey Club is hosting a "City of Renton Night" Saturday, October 17, at the new ShowWare Center in Kent. The organization is offering a special \$4 discount to the game against Prince George for all Renton citizens, businesses and city employees.



To purchase tickets, visit their website at seattlethunderbirds.com, go to single game tickets, select the Oct. 17 game, and at purchase enter the special code "renton" to receive your discount ticket(s). For more information call (253) 856-6842.

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

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

For more information visit rentonwa.gov

October 1 to October 31

Storefront Scarecrows. Scarecrows and fall decorations will be on display in downtown Renton through October 31.

Saturday, October 3

Renton Shred-A-Thon. 9 a.m. to Noon. Sam's Club parking lot. Free. Donation of canned goods accepted for Food Bank.

"Mixed Bean Soup," with storyteller Karol Brown. 11 a.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. South.

Saturday, October 10

Piazza Renton Fall Harvest Festival and Chamber Business Expo. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Piazza Park, 3rd & Burnett. For more information visit gorenton.com.

Tuesday, October 13

"Trial by Fork: Formal Victorian Dining Demystified," with historian Tames Alan. 5 p.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. South.

Thursday, October 15

Communities in Schools of Renton Mentor Dinner. 5:30 social, 6:30 dinner. \$75 suggested donation. Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.

Fri.-Sun., October 16-18

Renton FilmFrenzy competition. 5 p.m. Friday to 7 p.m. Sunday. For more information visit rentonfilmfrenzy.com.

Sat.-Sun., October 17-18, 24-25

Salmon Viewing on the Cedar River. Volunteer naturalists on hand 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Renton Library, Cedar River Park, Riverview Park, and Cavanaugh Pond.

Saturday, October 24

Boo Carnival. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$6

admission. Renton Community Center, 1715 Maple Valley Hwy. Spirited fun for children ages 8 and under (with parent or guardian). Entertainment, crafts, games. Costumes welcome. Call 425-430-6700.

Tuesday, October 27

Renton FilmFrenzy Curvee Awards Gala. 7 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center, 400 S 2nd St. Free admission. Top 10 films from FilmFrenzy competition (Oct. 16-18) will be screened, awards presented. Visit rentonfilmfrenzy.com.

Wed.-Thurs., October 28-29

Downtown Renton Film Walk. 7 p.m. Various locations. Screening of all films entered in FilmFrenzy competition at downtown businesses. For details visit RentonFilmFrenzy.com

Thursday, October 29

Citizen of the Year Celebration. 5 to 8 p.m. Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.

Saturday, October 31

"Whispers in the Graveyard, A Celebration of Halloween," with storyteller Naomi Baltuck. 11 a.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. South. Come in costume!

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

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 31 - Nov. 1

Salmon Viewing on the Cedar River. Volunteer naturalists on hand 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Renton Library, Cedar River Park, Riverview Park, and Cavanaugh Pond.

Ready in Renton

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, CodeRED, 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 all Renton citizens, regardless of whether they are in a floodplain or not, 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@rentonwa.gov.

For more information, visit the City of Renton's website at www.rentonwa.gov or 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 imminent 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, no drinking water, sewer overflows, and downed or damaged stop or yield signs.
- Report reoccurring drainage problems and local flooding to Surface Water Utility, and a city representative will make a site visit to investigate the problem upon your request. Contact Gary Fink at 425-430-7392, or email gfink@rentonwa.gov.

GOVERNOR PROMISES AID



During a press conference held September 14 in Kent, Governor Christine Gregoire promised state aid to help King County prepare for potential Green River flooding. Joining Governor Gregoire were representatives of King County government and the mayors of the four affected cities, including Renton, Kent, Auburn and Tukwila.

SALMON RETURN TO CEDAR

Spawning salmon are returning to the Cedar River as their yearly epic journey takes them from the ocean, through the Ballard Locks, into Lake Washington, and up the Cedar River. The Cedar River hosts chinook, sockeye and coho salmon among other fish species. Cedar River chinook are currently listed as threatened.

Every weekend in October, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., trained volunteer naturalists will be on hand at four salmon-viewing sites in Renton to tell visitors about the natural and human history of the Cedar River.

Salmon-viewing sites include: the Renton Library (100 Mill St. S), Cedar River Park (Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Hwy), Riverview Park (Maple Valley Hwy & SE 5th St.), and Cavanaugh Pond (Maple Valley Hwy & SE 8th Dr.). These sites have limited parking, so please carpool. For more information about the Cedar River Salmon Journey, visit rentonwa.gov.



SCORE GROUNDBREAKING



Representatives of Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila broke ground in August on the South Correctional Entity (SCORE), a new multi-jurisdictional jail facility to be built in Des Moines.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of October join the city in showing your support for domestic violence awareness by shining purple lights on your front porch, in front of your business, or on trees and landscaping. In recognition of domestic violence awareness the city is shining purple lights on a tree in front of Renton City Hall.

The goal is to have all residents shine purple lights to send the message that domestic violence has no place in our community.



HOUSING REPAIR ASSISTANCE

The City of Renton Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP) provides free services focused on health and safety to resident homeowners with extremely low to low incomes. 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. Search for HRAP or call 425-430-6650.

STAY FIRE SMART! DON'T GET BURNED

October 4-10 is Fire Prevention Week and the City of Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department is encouraging the community to learn more about how to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Burn prevention and treatment is the primary focus of this year's campaign, as well as ways to keep your home and family safe from the leading causes of fire. For more information please visit rentonwa.gov.



MUSEUM MASTER PLAN MOVES AHEAD

Gyroscope, Inc., professional consultants on the Renton History Museum's Master Plan, will present alternative plans October 22-23, outlining sustainable museum operations for the next 15 years. Gyroscope has spent the past 2 ½ months interviewing Renton residents, business leaders, and city staff; participating in on-line discussions and web conferences; and researching comparable museums.

The aim is to formulate a plan that will re-energize the museum as a place for lifelong learning about Renton's heritage.

To participate, visit the city's website at rentonwa.gov and search for "Museum Master Plan."