



# Renton City News

RENTON, AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Winter 2009/Spring 2010

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rainier Improvements Underway, Railroad Bridge Completed

Major improvements are underway on Rainier Avenue between S/SW Grady Way and S 2nd Street. When completed the project will improve transit mobility, traffic safety and pedestrian safety. Reconstruction of the railroad bridge over Rainier Avenue South has been completed while construction of a storm drain bypass in Shattuck Ave. S for the Rainier pump station is underway with \$2 million of federal stimulus funds.

### Passport Services Now Offers Expanded Hours

Passports services are now offered 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday in the new passport/business license office on the third floor at City Hall. For more information call 425-430-6985.

### Upgrade of Fire Station 11 in Downtown Renton Complete

A three-stage upgrade of Fire Station 11 on Mill Ave S in downtown Renton was recently completed. The first stage included a seismic upgrade of the facility. Stage two brought the station up to modern energy standards and sleeping quarters were modified to allow for both genders. During stage three a portion of the station was reconfigured to provide quarters and offices for King County Medic One crews.

### City's National Night Out Program Wins National Recognition

The City of Renton was recently recognized with a national award from the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) for its efforts to make our community a better place to live by hosting the annual National Night Out event.

### Volunteers Sought to Help City Wipe Out Graffiti

The City of Renton is seeking volunteers interested in helping wipe out graffiti in Renton. To learn how you can help keep your neighborhood free of graffiti call 425-430-7362.



## WELCOME TO THE RENTON CITYNEWS

This award winning publication is joining forces with the city's most popular publication to bring you the news you've come to expect and the community services programs you enjoy, all in one publication. In addition to receiving Renton CityNews along with your monthly utility bill you will now find Renton CityNews included in "What's Happening" three times a year. This helps the city reduce costs and reach out to a broader audience. We hope you enjoy!

## BE PREPARED FOR WINTER

### HELP PREVENT FLOODING

#### Keep Stormwater Drains Clear

Clean storm drains help prevent localized flooding. City crews work to keep storm drains clear, but with 11,500 drains in Renton, the city could use your help!

With your assistance, we can keep streets safe and clear and reduce property damage caused by localized flooding.

#### Remove and Properly Dispose of Leaves and Debris

- Check storm drain grates frequently to make sure they are free of leaves and debris.
- Do not remove the grate from the storm drain opening — this does not unclog the system and creates a hazard.
- Rake leaves away from storm drains near your house or business. Do not rake or blow leaves from your prop-



erty into the street. Our street sweeper cannot pick up large piles of leaves. It is also a violation of Renton Municipal Code and could result in warnings or even a fine.

- Dispose of leaves and yard debris in your yard waste container or compost bin. You may also set out additional yard waste bags of leaves at no cost. If you have a lot of yard waste, additional carts are available. Please contact Waste Management at 800-592-9995 for

rental and collection rates.

#### If Localized Flooding Occurs

If localized flooding is severe and you are unable to clear the drain, please call the Public Works Maintenance Division at 425-430-7400. On weekends and weekdays after 4 p.m., call 9-1-1.

# 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 "Nettie Asberry — Events in the Life of a Free-Born African American" Saturday, February 9 at 5 p.m. at the Renton History Museum.

For more information call 425-255-2330 or email [info@rentonhistory.org](mailto:info@rentonhistory.org).

## 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)

# GREEN RIVER UPDATE

The City of Renton continues to monitor the potential flooding situation in the Green River Valley. For more information and maps of the potential flood scenarios and evacuation routes visit our website at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). To receive timely information during emergencies register for the city's CodeRED community notification system. To register visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov), click on the CodeRED logo and complete the registration form.



## WINTER (cont. from page 1)

### DURING SNOW EVENTS

#### Help the City Help You

- During heavy snow events road crews must first focus their plowing and sanding efforts on main routes and arterials. Crews will work on residential streets only after main and arterial routes are in passable condition. If snow and ice continue to be severe, it may take quite a while until road crews are able to work on residential streets. For more information about Renton snow routes visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).
- Yield to plow trucks and do not follow closer than 100 feet.
- Do not pass the sander. If the sander is approaching you head on, try to move to the side of the road until it passes. The sander operator makes every attempt to turn off the sand when approaching vehicles, but this is not always possible. Sanding trucks may use intersections to turn around or change direction, so be aware of the actions of the truck.
- In many cases the sander MUST back up a steep hill, placing sand for traction as it backs up the hill. If you see a sander truck backing up the hill, stop and get off to the side.
- It is important to remember that even sanding trucks may lose traction on ice covered roads, even when chained up.

### How to Help Yourself

- Make every effort to park off the street whenever possible. On narrow streets, if you must park on the street, try to park on the same side of the street as other vehicles to allow more room for the sander.
- Do not park at or within 50 feet of an intersection as the sander trucks and plows are wide and need room to maneuver.
- Do not abandon your vehicle in the street. It could be towed away.
- If a snow plow blocks your driveway with snow, keep a snow shovel handy to clear the snow away from your driveway.
- You as the property owner are responsible to clear the sidewalk. Following a snow storm you should clean away the sand along your property. (Add it to your lawn or flower bed — it will help with drainage and can fill low spots.)
- If you live on a hill you are on the list to be sanded or de-iced; however, you will still have traction issues, even when you have been sanded or de-iced.
- Please DO NOT sled on streets. If you do choose to sled, PLEASE have an adult present with kids that are sledding.
- After the snow is gone, the city's main priority is to sweep up the sand as quickly as possible. It will take 3-4 times longer to sweep up all of the sand as it did to place it. The city sweeps the most heavily sanded areas first and will get to other streets as soon as possible.

## CONSTRUCTION ALERT!



Shattuck Ave South between S 4th Pl. and S 7th St. is under construction. When construction is completed in early 2010 Shattuck Ave South will include: a second lane under Shattuck Avenue Bridge; a new sidewalk under the east span of the bridge; a stormwater system to reduce flooding on Rainier Ave; and a sacrificial beam to protect the bridge from damage. For more information call 425-430-7303 or visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).

## MEET OUR RENTON CITY COUNCIL

January is the beginning of another term for our Councilmembers. Members of the Renton City Council serve four-year terms.



**Don Persson, Council President,** has served on the City Council since 2000.



**Terri Briere, Council President Pro-Tem,** has served on the City Council since 2000.



**Randy Corman** has served on the City Council since 1994 and currently is the Council President.



**Marcie Palmer** has served on the City Council since 2004.



**King Parker** served on the Council from 1996 through 2003 and was re-elected in 2008.



**Greg Taylor** was elected to the City Council in 2008.



**Rich Zwicker** was appointed to the City Council in 2008 and elected to the Council Nov. 3, 2009.

## COUNCIL APPROVES 2010 BUDGET

On November 23, 2009, the Renton City Council adopted a balanced budget of \$212 million for 2010. Of that, \$98 million represents the General Fund budget, and \$29 million is for capital projects. The rest of the 2010 budget is dedicated to other funds.

The 2010 budget focuses on core responsibilities and does not include any increase in property taxes. The \$6 million budget shortfall in 2010 represents 6% of the General Fund Budget. 35 employees were laid-off, an additional 16 positions were left unfilled, and 35 positions that were unfilled from last year were eliminated.

## CITY CENTER PLANNING UNDERWAY

A portion of Renton's city center, designated a Regional Growth Center, is expected to undergo significant change due to growth and development in the coming years. To prepare for this growth the City of Renton has initiated an effort to make a plan and identify actions that will work to make the city center more economically viable, inviting, and livable.

The plan will build on ongoing improvement efforts to address issues such as: pedestrian and vehicle circulation; economic development; historic preservation; community identity; parking; and new development.

The plan is being developed in conjunction with residents, property owners, and business owners, as well as community organizations and institutions.

This past year ideas from public and private stakeholders were gathered at the North Renton neighborhood picnic, a South Renton community workshop, and two business



community workshops. At these meetings people shared concerns and comments, as well as ideas about what can be done to improve the city center. In the future, similar efforts will be conducted in other areas of the city.

Community input will continue to be sought in 2010, when the City of Renton expects to begin phase II of this planning process with an implementation strategy.

For more information or to submit your creative ideas and/or comments, visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) or email [citycenterplan@rentonwa.gov](mailto:citycenterplan@rentonwa.gov) or call Project Manager Angie Mathias at 425-430-6576.

## FEBRUARY IS RENTON HEART MONTH

Cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, are our nation's No. 1 killer. To urge Renton residents to join



the battle against these diseases the city has proclaimed February "Renton Heart Month".

The campaign, led by the Renton Fire & Emergency Services Department, is committed to helping identify citizens who do not know they suffer from high blood pressure or high blood sugar.

Firefighters will provide free screening at every fire station and throughout the community. Dates and locations of these free screenings will be posted on [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). This year events will also include free CPR classes and efforts to encourage citizens to learn how to use public access defibrillators.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AVAILABLE

### Leadership Workshop

The City of Renton Neighborhood Program is sponsoring the 7th annual "Neighbor-to-Neighbor" Leadership Workshop January 30, 8-11:30 a.m. at the Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.

The workshop's goal is to provide tips on how to improve communication within your organization. A guest speaker from the Renton Reporter will share their insights, followed by roundtable discussions and networking with other neighborhood leaders.

### Neighborhood Grant Program

The city is once again offering the Neighborhood Grant Program in 2010. The grants are available to groups of residents who have organized themselves to plan and implement

projects for their neighborhoods.

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, based on the recommendation of a staff-level interdepartmental team.

A workshop for those interested in the program will be held February 8, 2010, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Renton City Hall. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, March 12, 2010. Awards will be announced in May 2010.

For more information, contact Neighborhood Program Coordinator Norma McQuiller at 425-430-6595, nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov, or Wendy Kirchner at 425-430-6594, wkirchner@rentonwa.gov.

## "RentonGives" Helping Those in Need



In an effort to assist those in need this holiday season, City of Renton staff have formed "RentonGives," a volunteer program which aims to raise funds for four local assistance programs, including:

- Salvation Army Renton Rotary Food Bank
- Renton Emergency Assistance Program for Utilities
- Housing Repair Assistance Program for low income households
- Scholarships for City Program

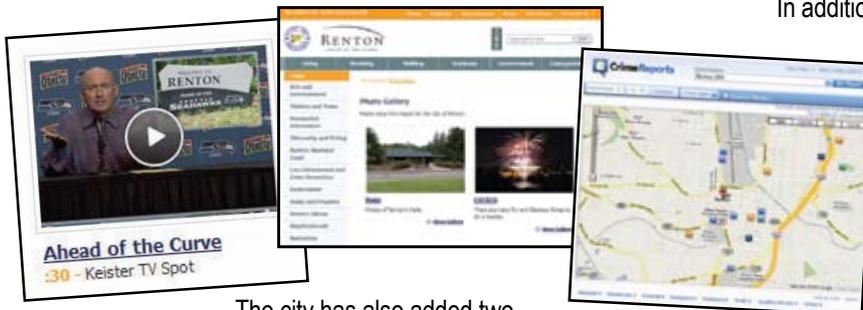
To donate and for more information visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) and read about "Renton Gives." Donations are tax deductible and go directly to providing for those in need.



## CITY ADDS SEVERAL NEW FEATURES TO WEBSITE

The City of Renton has added several new dynamic and helpful online functions and services to the city's website.

The first major change is found on the home page. Along the left column visitors can now navigate a large portion of the city's site by simply scrolling over the various "quicklinks" that include Living in Renton, Online Services, News, Business and Key Projects. In addition, the left column has a scroll bar that provides easy access to Channel 21 (the city's on-line television channel), calendar of events, and emergency preparedness information.



The city has also added two new features that offer a selection of short video clips and photo galleries of some of the city's many parks and social events.



In addition, the Renton Police Department and CrimeReports.com now offer an online crime alerting and mapping service that provides easy-to-read incident crime maps and automated alerts to the citizens of Renton.

The CrimeReports service is free to the public and allows citizens to receive automatic daily, weekly or monthly email alerts if and when crimes occur near their home, office, local school, etc. Citizens can also view reported crime activity on a user-friendly map for any location within City of Renton boundaries.

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