



# Renton City News

RENTON, AHEAD OF THE CURVE

April/May 2010

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Pay Your Utility Bill**

#### **Automatically**

The city now offers automatic deduction from your bank account. Download the direct debit application at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). Online payment via credit card or e-check is also available. Call the Utility Billing Division at 425-430-6852 for more information.

### **Renton Team Places 22nd**

On Sunday March 7, Renton Fire and Emergency Services placed 22nd out of 129 teams for fastest combined times scaling 69 floors of the Columbia Center in Seattle while wearing full firefighting gear and air packs. The team consisted of Battalion Chief Stan Engler and firefighters Daniel Alexander, Joshua Brown, Daniel Powell and Patrick Stalnaker with support from Thomas Curtis and Donovan Eckhardt. The event raises money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

### **Museum Offers Native American Storyteller to Schools**

Thanks to a grant from the Muckleshoot Charity Fund to the Renton History Museum, Native American storyteller Roger Fernandes is available to every Renton elementary school. As part of the Museum's Coast Salish/Duwamish curriculum, Fernandes has already performed for students at Hazelwood Elementary School and will be telling stories at Renton River Days. For more information, call 425-255-2330 or [info@rentonhistory.org](mailto:info@rentonhistory.org).

For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).

## Mayor and Council Champion Renton's Diversity

Renton has a very diverse population that continues to grow. The Renton School District reports that more than 80 languages are spoken in the district and over 30% of the students speak a language other than English at home. One of the city's priorities is to embrace the diversity in the Renton community and to create forums and strategies to engage the city's diverse populations.

Last year, the city set a goal to establish connections with the various ethnic, cultural and non-English speaking groups and to make the city's programs and services more accessible. The city has also asked the various groups to select members within their communities to be the liaison to the city and community. This effort is critical to meeting the city's emergency preparedness objectives. Because many of these groups have less access to information, resources and other services, they are at higher risk of being affected by disasters. By making connections with community leaders and assisting them to help their members be better prepared for emergencies, the impacts of disasters can be minimized.

*"Our goal is to embrace the diversity in the Renton community. It's the differences among the people of Renton that make this city rich. It is my priority to create and sustain long-term relationships with Renton's diverse communities."*

*– Mayor Denis Law*

On February 25, Mayor Denis Law and several city Councilmembers hosted a meeting with various community liaisons to embrace the diversity in the Renton community. About 35 people from 11 different ethnic and cultural groups came together to meet with the city's leaders, learn more about city programs, and share their stories. The city is already responding to requests for workshops on emergency preparedness, information on the Small Business Development Center, and information on the Renton River Days parade.





# Think Green

## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY, ARBOR DAY

"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."

This month, we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day on Saturday, April 24, and 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.

### Volunteer! Make a Difference

**April is Renton Volunteer Month**  
Hundreds of people contribute thousands of hours of service annually throughout the City of Renton. They are coaches, mentors, civic leaders, and members of organizations and clubs. They are young or young at heart and have made a commitment to formal and informal programs that enhance the lives of our residents. Their civic engagement builds a community and network of neighborhoods that care and we want to express our gratitude to all of them.



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.

Team up with our Community Services Department at Ron Regis Park, (1501 Orcas Avenue SE) and join hundreds of volunteers to plant trees, shrubs, spread landscaping chips, and clean areas in the park 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. Renton's Neighborhood Program will again be providing a hot dog lunch to say thank-you for your efforts.

For registration information contact the Community Services Department at 425-430-6600. Volunteers should dress for the weather. Minors must have parental permission. Children 14 years and under must be accompanied by an adult/guardian. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Event is 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



### Going Green Events

#### Spring Shred-A-Thon

Join us at the Sam's Club parking lot, 901 Grady S. Way on Saturday, May 8, 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.

#### City Hosts Recycling Event

Twice a year the City of Renton holds a citywide recycling event at Renton Technical College, recycling everything from motor oil to scrap metal, tires and household appliances. The next recycling event will take place May 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Solid Waste Utility at 425-430-7396 for more information.

#### Green and Clean Saturday

Join us for the Spring Green and Clean program, Saturday, May 15, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Highlands Library, 2902 NE 12th St. Check in begins at 9 a.m. Register now and bring your family. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult/guardian. Call 425-430-6600 for more information or to register.

#### Adopt a Park Program

Local businesses, community service groups, church groups, youth groups with adult supervision, neighborhood groups, and clubs can all help enhance and maintain a park by making a commitment to become stewards of a park. Stewardship responsibilities can include: litter pick-up, weeding, mulching, planting, and more. Because each park has different needs, specific expectations will be discussed with park staff after a project has been approved.

Our Adopt A Park program is a one-day or annual event and is made easy for businesses, clubs, or organizations who want to dig in and make a difference. You bring the volunteers, we'll bring the tools. Call 425-430-6600 to get involved.

# ...Save Blue



## Drip, Drip, Drip

The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks, adding up to more than 1 trillion gallons of water lost annually nationwide.

### Find Leaks

A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water use. If it exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, you probably have leaks. Walk around your home to find leaks, and don't forget to check pipes. You can also reveal a silent toilet leak by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank and waiting 15 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.

### Fix Leaks

Many times this can be done yourself and doesn't have to cost a cent. Both faucets and showerhead connections can be tightened or sealed with a wrench or pipe tape. For leaky toilets, the rubber flapper inside the tank is often the culprit. Irrigation systems and outdoor spigots can also be the source of water loss.

### Save Water

Fixing household leaks not only saves water but can reduce water utility bills by more than 10%. Dripping faucets can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year, a showerhead leaking 10 drips per minute about 500 gallons per year, and running toilets 200 gallons or more each day!

If you need to replace plumbing fixtures, choose one with The WaterSense endorsement. These use at least 20 percent less water and are tested and certified to perform as well as or better than standard plumbing fixtures. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

## GREEN!

### Community Services Department's Color

Green is the color of money but also the chosen color for environmental awareness, partly because green-colored plants produce oxygen, moderate climates and provide many other benefits that have value for our planet. "Green" is synonymous with the city's Community Services Department, which began implementing green practices long before the term "climate change" was coined. From its Human Services Division to its newest, the Parks Planning and Natural Resources Division, the Community Services Department is one of the leaders for environmental awareness in Renton.



The Parks Planning and Natural Resources Division plans and manages Renton's natural resources, improves parks and other spaces, acquires and develops parks and open space and protects Renton's urban forest. How much greener can you get than that?

Community Services Department divisions environmentally safe practices include:

- Saving trees by reducing use of paper products in office operations.
- Promoting recycling by placing recycle containers at parks for special events.
- Using volunteers in earth-friendly projects.
- Using recycled products for park landscaping and pathway construction.
- Protecting wildlife, natural areas and open spaces by setting aside conservation areas.
- Conducting various green events and recreation classes.
- Promoting salmon recovery through alternative design and products.
- Using environmentally safe products for pest management.

## Puget Sound Starts Here

The City of Renton has begun installing "Puget Sound Starts Here" storm drain markers to help educate the public on the importance of protecting our waterways. These markers are intended to remind citizens of how their behaviors are essential to preventing pollutants from entering the waterways. Things you can do to help:

- Wash your car in a commercial car wash or on a surface that doesn't drain to the street.
- Inspect your car regularly and fix leaks to avoid contamination.
- Never pour motor oil or other fluids down storm drains.
- Pick up pet waste and properly dispose in the trash.
- Use less fertilizer and pesticides.
- Never apply fertilizers or pesticides on sidewalks, driveways, streets, or near storm drains or ditches.



If you'd like more information on how you can help, contact Edward Mulhern at 425-430-7323 or [emulhern@rentonwa.gov](mailto:emulhern@rentonwa.gov) or Ron Straka at 425-430-7248 or [rstraka@rentonwa.gov](mailto:rstraka@rentonwa.gov).

# OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

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

## Saturday, April 17

**Spring Festival.** Noon to 5 p.m. Piazza Park, S. 3rd St. and Burnett Ave. S. Enjoy arts and crafts, vendors, food, music, and kid's activities. Call 425-228-1977.

**Downtown Renton Poker Run.** Noon to 4 p.m. Piazza Park, S. 3rd St. and Burnett Ave. S. Stroll downtown Renton and visit participating businesses to build your best poker hand. Suggested donation of canned food or \$1 to the Salvation Army Food Bank. Call 425-235-6449.

## Saturday, April 24

**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. Ron Regis Park, 1501 Orcas Avenue SE. 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.

## Tuesday, May 4

**Speaking Truth to Power: Modern Lessons from Historic Justice.** 5 p.m. Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children over seven. Call 425-255-2330.

## Saturday, May 8

**Renton Spring Shredathon.** 9 a.m. to noon. Sam's Club parking lot, 901 S. Grady Way. Free. Call 425-430-7520

**Spring Recycling Event.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Renton Technical College, 3000 NE 4th Street. Call 425-430-7396.

## Sunday, May 9

**Renton Youth Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert.** 3 p.m. Carco Theatre, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway. Call 425-430-6700.

## Thursday, May 13 and Friday, May 14

**Senior Stage Revue.** Thursday 1 to 3 p.m and Friday 7 to 9 p.m. Carco Theatre, 1717 SE Maple Valley Highway. Call 425-430-6633.

## Saturday, May 15

**Green & Clean Saturday.** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Highlands Library, 2902 NE 12th. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Volunteers are invited to help maintain area for everyone to enjoy. Children must be accompanied by adult/guardian. Small snack and water provided.

# 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.

# CITY CONTACTS

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 <a href="http://epolice.rentonwa.gov">epolice.rentonwa.gov</a>	
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](http://rentonwa.gov)

[RentonCityNews@rentonwa.gov](mailto:RentonCityNews@rentonwa.gov)

# STAY SAFE - WHEN IN DOUBT CALL 9-1-1

Spring is here and it's time to get out and enjoy the longer hours and warmer weather. The City of Renton has 13 miles of beautiful trails that are a wonderful exercise option. Here are a few pointers to stay safe as you hit the road.

## Stay Alert

Sometimes runners and walkers get lulled into a "zone" where they are focused exclusively on exercise. Walk and run with confidence and purpose. If you get bored practice identifying characteristics of strangers and memorizing license plate numbers to keep you from "zoning" out."

## Before You Leave

- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Know where telephones are located along the route.
- Wear an identification tag or carry a driver's license. If you don't have a place to carry your ID, write your name, phone number, and blood type on the inside of your athletic shoe. Don't wear jewelry or carry cash.
- Wear reflective material.

## On the Road

- Run or walk with a partner and/or a dog.
- Don't wear headsets.
- Carry a cell phone.
- Exercise in familiar areas. Know which businesses or stores are open.
- Vary your route.
- Avoid unpopulated areas, deserted streets, and overgrown trails.
- Ignore verbal harassment. Look directly at others and be observant, but keep moving.
- Trust your intuition about a person or an area. React based on that intuition.
- If you think you are being followed, change direction and head for an open business, theater, or a lighted house.
- Have your door key ready before you reach your car or home.