



# Renton City News

RENTON, THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY

November/December 2008

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### First Annual Renton Film Frenzy Award Winners Announced

“Finger of God” won First Place and Best Picture at the First Annual Renton FilmFrenzy filmmaking competition held October 28, at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. The winning films were also screened at various downtown Renton locations during the Renton Film Walk, October 29-30. For more information and complete film competition results visit [www.rentonfilmfrenzy.com](http://www.rentonfilmfrenzy.com).

### Renton Municipal Arts Commission gives prestigious Bravo Award to Barbara Nilson

Barbara Nilson from Renton received the prestigious Bravo Award from the Renton Municipal Arts Commission. The Bravo award recognizes individuals in the Renton community who have made arts and culture a vital part of the community. Nilson was nominated by the Allied Arts of Renton board to acknowledge her commitment to the arts, heritage and cultural communities in Renton and beyond.

### Regal Cinemas Opens at Landing



Regal Cinemas Stadium 14

In October, Regal Cinemas celebrated the grand opening of Regal Cinemas Stadium 14, a spectacular theater complex with 14 screens and more than 2,300 seats at The Landing. Part of their opening celebrations included a series of events to benefit the local Renton community and local charities. They contributed generously to Newspapers in Education, Communities In Schools, and the Renton Community Foundation.

## MAYOR DELIVERS PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET TO COUNCIL

Renton Mayor Denis Law delivered his 2009 proposed budget to the Renton City Council Monday, October 27, 2008. The budget sets forth the actions necessary to ensure a balanced city budget, despite the effects of the current economic slowdown.

The 2009 budget emphasizes core services, eliminates duplicate functions, and stresses efficiency. It challenges the status quo and takes a fresh look at how the city provides its core services.

The total 2009 proposed expenditure budget is \$252 million, of which \$171 million is for city operations. The total projected revenues equal \$245 million. The difference between revenues and expenditures of about \$7 million will be covered by prior year fund balances for capital equipment and projects.

With the slowing economy and high rate of inflation, preliminary projections indicate that maintaining current services in General Government Operations will result in a deficit of over \$5 million in 2009. In order to make up this budget gap each department reduced its budget by 7%. As a result, the proposed budget leaves 36 authorized positions unfilled and includes reductions in various services. There are no reductions to current staffing levels.

“This is a time for focusing on the city’s core responsibilities and doing those things well.”

— Mayor Denis Law

### Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- **Police Department:** Hold eight positions unfilled including four civilian and four police officers, adding an officer for the regional auto theft task force.
- **Fire and Emergency Services:** Hold nine retired firefighter positions vacant and reduce capital equipment and overtime. There will be no impact on response times.
- **Department of Community and Economic Development:** Hold five vacant positions. Initiate the community Arts and Cultural Master Plan process and launch the Community Planning Initiative.
- **Community Services:** Hold two positions vacant and reorganize staff; reduce part-time and seasonal employees; reduce funding for community events, recreation facilities, supplies, publications, and other costs; reduce the number of free concerts at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park to six

See **BUDGET**, page 2

## CITY WATER BILL HELP AVAILABLE

If you get water from the City of Renton, live within the city limits, and are having trouble paying your water bill – you may be eligible for help from The Salvation Army. Those in need can get up to \$200 once per year.

To see if you are eligible and for more information contact the Salvation Army at 206 S. Tobin, Renton. Hours of operation are 9 to 11:45 a.m., and 1 to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## CITY TO ASSIST IN FOOD DRIVE

From November 16 to December 20, the City of Renton and community partners are joining together to collect food for the Salvation Army Food Bank and the Emergency Feeding Program. Bring nonperishable food to any of the following locations: Renton City Hall, Renton Community Center, Renton Main Library, Renton Highlands Library, Old City Hall (6th Floor), Maplewood Golf Course, and all Renton Fire Stations. Visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) or call 425-430-6691.

## DIAMOND TO MANAGE GARAGE

The City of Renton recently hired Diamond Parking to manage the city's downtown parking garage. The decision to contract with Diamond Parking is part of a long-term commitment by the city to improve parking and safety in downtown Renton. The new arrangement will improve general operations of the facility while offering a greater level of customer service for patrons.



Improvements under Diamond are expected to include a more professionally managed parking garage and a high level of customer service at the facility.

Diamond plans to continue to provide an affordable parking experience with more options designed to encourage greater use of the garage. Diamond will also be managing parking arrangements for local downtown events. King County Metro will continue to maintain a Park N Ride in designated spaces in the garage for transit users.

## THANKSGIVING A DAY OF SHARING

### Thanksgiving dinner to be served at Renton's Senior Activity Center

For the 14th consecutive year, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated as a day of sharing in Renton as employees from the City of Renton and members from the Rotary Club of Renton serve Thanksgiving Dinner at the Renton Senior Activity Center.

The Renton Senior Activity Center, located at 211 Burnett Avenue North, will be open on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for senior citizens to enjoy a day of social and recreational activities.

A free holiday meal, sponsored by the Rotary

Club of Renton, will be served at 11:45 a.m. Senior citizens must pick up a free ticket prior to Tuesday, November 25, for their meal reservation.

This annual event draws over 250 senior citizens. Members of the Rotary Club of Renton and City of Renton employees provide nearly 75 volunteers to help cook, serve, clean, and staff recreational activities.

For more information, call 425-430-6633.



## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

### Thursday, November 20

**Solid Waste Open House.** 7-8:30 p.m. Renton City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way, 7th Floor Council Chambers.

### Friday-Saturday, November 21-22

**Hassle-Free Holiday Bazaar.** Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 425-430-6700.

### Thursday, November 27

**Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner.** 2-3 p.m. St. Anthony's Parish, 501 South Fourth, Renton. Call 425-228-1871 for more information or to donate food for event.

### Thursday-Friday, November 27-28

**Thanksgiving Holiday.** City offices closed.

### Friday, December 5

**Clam Lights Opening Night.** Entertainment begins 6:30 p.m., official greeting 7:15 p.m., Parade of Ships 7:30 p.m. Evening includes covered wagon rides and sing-a-long.

### Saturday, December 6

**Solid Waste Open House.** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Carco Theatre, 1717 Maple Valley Highway.

**Holiday Tree Lighting.** 5-7 p.m. Window decorations, activities throughout downtown,

tree lighting, arrival of Santa at Piazza Park.

**Fire Ball 2008.** 6:30-11 p.m. Renton Fire and Emergency Services celebrates 105 years of service. Spirit of Washington Event Center. \$60. Call 425-430-7053.

### Sunday, December 7

**K-9 Candy Cane Fun Run.** 9-10:30 a.m. Fee: pre-registration \$20; race day \$25. For more information, contact the Renton Community Center at 425-430-6700.

### Friday-Saturday, December 12-13

**Visit Santa's House.** Friday, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Downtown Piazza.

### Saturday, December 13

**Family Programs at the Museum.** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Renton History Museum. Celebrate the Holiday Season with Allan Hirsch and "The Real Toy Story."

### Wednesday, December 17

**Argosy Christmas Ship.** 8-8:20 p.m. Coulon Memorial Beach Park.

### Friday-Saturday, December 19-20

**Visit Santa's House.** Friday, 5-7 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Downtown Piazza.

### Thursday-Friday, December 25-26

**Christmas Holiday.** City offices closed.

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

## 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>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@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:RentonCityNews@ci.renton.wa.us)

### BUDGET (cont. from page 1)

per year. Add a limited-term outreach librarian and funding for Parks Division equipment.

- **Public Works:** Hold five positions vacant; purchase two backhoes and a dump truck to increase efficiency.

- **Others:** Hold three positions vacant in the Finance and Information Services Department; hold one position vacant in the Human Resources Department; hold 2.5 positions vacant in the Administrative, Judicial and Legal Services Department, and reduce travel and professional services budget.

In the utility funds, the budget proposes rate increases for Water & Wastewater but no increase for Surface Water. These pro-

posed rate increases for 2009 are lower than what was set forth in the 2007 rate study. The city recently negotiated a new contract with Waste Management to provide garbage collection and recycling services and in 2009. As a result for the first time in eight years there will be a rate increase.

Law also emphasized that 2008 has been a year of accomplishments in Renton. "Despite the economic downturn across the nation and our region, what we've been able to accomplish since January is impressive," said Law.

**For more information on the budget or to view the mayor's budget message, please visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).**