



# Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

Fall 2012

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Outstanding Citizens Sought

Help identify individuals from the Renton community who improve the quality of life in Renton through acts of goodwill or public service. Visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) or call the Renton Chamber of Commerce at 425-226-4560. Deadline for nominations is September 14.

### Register For Renton FilmFrenzy

Registration is now open for the fifth annual Renton FilmFrenzy. Filmmakers will take to the streets of Renton October 5-7 and have 50 hours to write, shoot, edit and submit a short film shot completely in Renton. All submitted films will be screened October 22 at the Renton Civic Theater. The award winning films will be screened during the annual Curvee Awards Gala October 23 at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. For more information, visit [rentonfilmfrenzy.com](http://rentonfilmfrenzy.com).

### Renton City Council Adopts 2013-2018 Renton Business Plan

The Renton City Council recently adopted the city's new Renton Business Plan. The business plan provides the council, Mayor, and city staff with clear direction on what and where the city should focus its efforts and resources in the coming years. The plan includes the city's vision, mission, and goals for 2013-2018.



To view the entire business plan visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).

### Fall Natural Yard Care Workshops Offered by the City of Renton

Fall is an ideal time to tackle the yard and it's easy to introduce some environmentally friendly and natural garden and yard care techniques. Coming in October the city's Solid Waste Utility Division will provide opportunities to learn from some of the most notable natural yard care experts in the field. Learn how easy and rewarding natural yard care can be. To register email [kjohnston@rentonwa.gov](mailto:kjohnston@rentonwa.gov) or call 425-430-7391.

## IT'S TIME TO GET READY IN RENTON

As we begin to head into storm season, residents and business are reminded to get "Ready in Renton."

Preparing for an earthquake or any other disaster is much like preparing for a major storm. As part of the city's annual emergency preparedness campaign in Renton, a variety of classes are being offered through the Renton Emergency Preparedness Academy (REPA) and Renton Technical College. Two of the courses this year include special

guest instructors from the National Weather Service (NWS) and the United States Geological Service (USGS). "Skywarn@ Weather Spotter Training" will be taught by a NWS meteorologist, and "Earthquakes: Shake, Rattle & Roll" will be taught by a geologist from USGS.

For more information visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) and search for "REPA". Also check out the new regional website "What to do to Make It Through" at [MakeItThrough.org](http://MakeItThrough.org).

## KNOW WHERE TO GO FOR INFO?

No doubt you have read about what to have in a disaster kit: non-perishable foods; water; a flashlight. Have you also noticed that a "battery-operated radio with extra batteries" always makes the list? Why, you ask? Because accurate information in a disaster can literally save your life.



Communication Service volunteers posted shelter location information in multiple languages at the Neighborhood Information Centers throughout Renton.

In the event of widespread power and communication system outages, information may be hard to get. For instance, the city's Critical Emergency Information web page at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) requires electrical power and internet access. What if the internet is down? Or your smartphone battery dies?

For a map of the Neighborhood Information Centers throughout Renton, look in the fall edition of What's Happening or visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). The newest location for a Neighborhood Information Center is at the Maplewood Golf Course. If the city's Neighborhood Information Centers are activated, emergency information will be posted inside the glass at the main entrance for the restaurant.

Neighborhood Information Centers are the city's low-tech answer for sharing critical information when other communication systems are down throughout the city. Neighborhood Information Centers are a designated area at the main entrance of 19 public buildings in the city (primarily schools), where important information can be posted and accessible to the public.

Consider these additional steps to stay informed:

1. Sign up for CodeRED alerts at <http://rentonwa.gov>
2. Download the CodeRED smartphone app at <http://ecnetwork.com>
3. Have a way to keep your cell phone charged if the power is out
4. Get a NOAA weather radio for emergency weather alerts
5. Add that battery-operated radio to your emergency kit!

They were used during January's ice storm and power outage. Renton Emergency

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

# “A UNIFORM FOR EVERY PURPOSE”

The Renton History Museum opens a new fashion history exhibit Tuesday, September 11.



“A Uniform for Every Purpose” taps into the Museum’s own

collection of military, fraternal, and sports garb to explore how clothing has helped Renton residents create a shared identity. The exhibit includes a WWI uniform, Rosie the Riveter coveralls, and Longacres jockey silks, among many other outfits. Exhibit will be on display through January 19, 2013.

# VOTERS CHOOSE CEDAR RIVER SITE

The results are in from the August 7 election to determine the location of the downtown King County Library, and voters have spoken. The voter’s choice for the location of the downtown Renton library is... right where it’s at, located directly over the Cedar River.

“It’s clear that Renton voters want the library to remain over the Cedar River,” said Renton Mayor Denis Law. “I credit the majority of the city council members, who initially selected

the BIG 5 site for a new library, for allowing Renton voters to have a say in the final location. This process shows that the council truly cares about the opinions of our citizens.

“We will now meet with KCLS to discuss how to proceed. The city still has contract obligations to meet with KCLS and it’s my hope that we’ll be able move forward successfully with minimum additional expense to our taxpayers.”

## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

### Recurring Summer Events:



**Sundays:**

**To September 16**

**Farmers Market at Valley Medical Center.** Noon to 4 p.m.  
400 S. 43rd St.



**Tuesdays:**

**To September 25**

**Renton Farmers Market.** 3 to 7 p.m. Piazza Park, 3rd & Burnett.

### Saturday, September 22

**Emergency Pet Sheltering** volunteer training. 9 am to 1 pm. Help animals in a disaster! For location and registration call 425-430-6700.

### Wednesday, September 26

**Disaster Preparedness**, 6 to 8pm. For location and registration call 425-430-6700.

### Friday-Sunday, October 5-7

**Renton Film Frenzy Filming Weekend.** Friday 5 p.m. to Sunday 7 p.m. Throughout Renton. Filmmakers have 50 hours to write, shoot, edit, and turn in a film. Visit [rentonfilmfrenzy.com](http://rentonfilmfrenzy.com) for details.

### Wednesday, October 10

**Building a Healthier, Safer Community** 6:30 to 9 pm. Free interactive community forum includes light meal. For location and registration call 425-430-6700.

### Fall Natural Yard Care: Container Gardening For Healthy Eating.

7 to 8:30 p.m. Highlands Neighborhood Center, 800 Edmonds Ave NE. To register email [kjohnston@rentonwa.gov](mailto:kjohnston@rentonwa.gov) or call 425-430-7391.

### Saturday, October 13

**Fall Harvest Festival/Chamber Business Expo.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Piazza, 3rd & Burnett. Vendor booths include produce, food, flowers, art, crafts, and Master Gardeners. Visit [piazzarenton.com](http://piazzarenton.com) or call 206-919-9746.

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

## 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 Attorney**..... 430-6480
- 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 Reporting Line**..... 430-7373
- Human Resources & Risk Management**..... 430-7650
- Public Works**..... 430-7394
- Police**..... 430-7500  
or [epolice.rentonwa.gov](http://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](http://rentonwa.gov)**

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

### Saturday, August 25

#### Downtown Art & Antique Walk.

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Downtown Renton. Music, art, and displays by over 75 artists. Call 425-407-8719.

### Saturday, September 8

#### Fall Recycling Day.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Renton Technical College, north parking lot. Renton residents can recycle large items and hard-to-recycle materials at one convenient location. Call 425-430-7396.

### Thursday, September 13

#### SKYWARN® Weather Spotter Training

with a National Weather Service meteorologist. 6:30 to 9 pm. For location and registration call 425-430-6700.

### Thursday, September 20

#### Earthquakes: Shake, Rattle and Roll

with a United State Geological Survey scientist. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. For location and registration call 425-430-6700.



## CONSTRUCTION ALERT!

*Construction recently began on the “NE 3rd/4th Corridor Improvements: Phase 1” project along NE 4th Street and Whitman CT NE. The project includes installing a new traffic signal, widening the driveway leading into local businesses, installing a new pervious sidewalk along the north side of NE 4th Street, and adding a new bike lane and planter strips. The*

*project also will relocate the mail drop boxes and improve traffic flow at the U.S. Post Office located at the intersection. For more information visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).*

## RTC TO TRAIN AEROSPACE WORKERS

As aerospace jobs continue to increase in Renton, aerospace manufacturers and suppliers in Renton and throughout the state face significant gaps in the availability of trained workers.

To help bridge this gap and build Renton's workforce, the City of Renton worked with area state legislators to secure a state grant from the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) to build a facility to help train critically needed aerospace workers.

Renton Technical College, which partnered with the city to secure the grant, will become the airport's tenant for the building and conduct the student training.

The new facility, the Renton Aerospace Training Center, will be located at the former Chamber of Commerce building along Rainier Avenue. The site overlooks the Airport runway and Boeing 737 production facilities and includes views of the city, Lake Washington, Mount Rainier, and the Cascade foothills.



An important goal of the Renton Aerospace Training Center project is to integrate and highlight Renton's rich local aviation heritage into the design of the building and grounds. By creating a place for the public to become engaged in the broader aspect of aviation in Renton, visitors can learn more about the birthplace of the commercial jet age in the United States.

The Renton Aerospace Training Center will help build upon the \$6.2 billion dollars of local economic activity injected into Renton's economy at the Renton Municipal Airport.

## RENTON WINS GOVERNOR'S TOP AWARDS

The City of Renton recently was awarded a 2012 Smart Communities Award and a 2012 Smart Vision Award by Gov. Chris Gregoire for the city's "Parks, Recreation, and Natural Areas" plan, and the "City of Renton City Center Community Plan," respectively. The plans identify goals and implementation strategies that work towards ensuring growth will occur in a way that enhances quality of life.

"We need vibrant, quality communities to keep and attract people and businesses to Washington state," Gregoire said. "I commend the work of (Renton) and their partners recognized with these awards. (Renton's) efforts are vital to our continued economic recovery, and help make Washington a great state in which to live and do business."

Now in its 7th year, the Governor's program recognizes achievements by local leaders to promote "smart growth" planning and projects that contribute to our quality of life in Washington state.

## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

As summer winds down, and the school year gets back in session, the City of Renton reminds parents and drivers to do their part to keep kids safe as they walk to school.

Parents are encouraged to be proactive and take the time to talk about safety with their kids before they head back to school. Walk the route to school or the bus stop with students before the start of the year to assess hazards and select a course with the least number of traffic crossings.

### Drivers, here are some simple reminders to help keep kids safe:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours

- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving

### Reminders for children:

- Children 10 and under should only cross the street with adult supervision
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Make sure to always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them
- Teach children to never accept rides or gifts from strangers
- Have children walk to school with relatives, friends, or trusted neighbors
- Teach children their home phone number and address, your work or cell phone numbers, and how to dial 911 in case of emergencies
- Always obey school crossing guards

## CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY BEGINS

Is "CSI" your favorite show? Do you like "Law and Order"? Have you ever wondered what it's really like to be a police officer?

Come find out! The next session of the Renton Police Department Citizen's Academy begins Thursday, September 13. Classes will be held on Thursday nights for 12 weeks, and topics will include Patrol Operations, SWAT, Narcotics, and more. Tours of the 9-1-1 dispatch center and regional jail and a ride-along with a police officer are included in this free class. Academy class size is limited to 25 students, and you must be at least eighteen years old to attend. Criminal history or a record of adverse police contacts may preclude acceptance into the academy. For an application or additional information, go to the city's website at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) or call 425-430-7520.



## “BRUSH 17” READY TO FIGHT WILDLAND FIRES

Since March 1, 2008, the City of Renton has contracted with Fire District 40 to provide fire and emergency services to the district. As part of this working relationship, the city and Fire District 40 recently added a new piece of fire-fighting equipment to their arsenal.

The new equipment, designated “Brush 17,” is a converted Ford F550 truck that has been customized as a wildland firefighting truck with a 250-gallon water tank, an 18-horsepower pump, its own foam injection system, a 200-foot hose reel, 600 feet of 1-inch hose, 300 feet of 1.5-inch hose, and a forest service type 6 engine.

Brush 17 has the ability to draft out of any



water source, has a low center of gravity that is ideal in rough terrain and high elevation situations, and has a smaller footprint than standard equipment while maintaining a very significant firefighting capability.

Brush 17 significantly increases the wildland and brushfire fighting capabilities of the City of Renton and Fire District 40 during the high-risk seasons.

When the equipment is not needed, it can be removed from the truck and moved in and out of any fire station with its own lift system, making it portable and storable. The truck then serves other purposes such as assisting the city's dive team and towing the city's 4-wheel-drive, all terrain vehicle.

Brush 17 was delivered in November 2011 and, after some minor modifications and a few finishing touches, went into service in early 2012. Brush 17 is stationed at Fire Station 16 in the Highlands.

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME FOR 9/11 DAY OF SERVICE

Following the attacks of September 11, efforts were made across the country to establish a day of service as a way to honor the victims, survivors, families, and others who bravely rose up and responded to the attacks.

The City of Renton, in the spirit of this call to service, will again partner with the Renton WA Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to provide volunteer opportunities and honor the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 events.

In 2009, Congress officially designated September 11 as National Day of Service and Remembrance, and President Obama

called for all Americans to participate in our Nation's recovery and renewal efforts by serving their community, and showing our Nations' true strength in coming together in times of uncertainty to help others; the way many brave citizens did during and following September 11.

Last year, 759 volunteers participated in volunteering their time to serve the City of Renton. A total of 3,139.5 hours of service were donated in just one day, with an estimated value of \$68,000 for the labor provided.

The variety of service opportunities that

are offered allow everyone, no matter their age and ability, to get involved and play an important role in their community. This event will continue to grow by developing more partnerships and assessing the needs of our community with intentional service opportunities to address them.

If there are organizations or groups who are planning a volunteer service project in Renton in observance of the 911 Day of Service and would like to post their project on the city's community volunteer opportunities page of our website, please contact Bonnie Rerecich at 425-430-6600 for more information.

## MINI-GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE

Mini-grants are still available through the City of Renton Neighborhood Program. Mini-grants are for projects under \$1,000 and are intended for small neighborhood projects, programs, educational opportunities, and infrastructure support. Applications are still available (pending existing funds) and projects must be completed by November 9, 2012.

When matched with sweat-equity, neighborhoods can take advantage of opportunities that may present themselves, such as:

- Coordinating a “Screen on the Green” movie night

- Holding a neighborhood clean-up or other special event
- Designing and painting a mural or mosaic
- Hosting an educational workshop
- Financing a space to hold a neighborhood meeting

For more information please visit the Neighborhood Program pages on the city website at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov), or contact Norma McQuiller at 425-430-6595 or Wendy Kirchner at 425-430-6594.



## HOUSING REPAIR ASSISTANCE

The City of Renton Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP) provides free services focused on health and safety to resident homeowner families meeting the size and income criteria on the chart. Program information, eligibility guidelines, FAQs, and downloadable applications are available at [humanservices.rentonwa.gov](http://humanservices.rentonwa.gov) or call 425-430-6650, press 2.

Family Size	Max. Annual Income
1	\$44,950
2	\$51,400
3	\$57,800
4	\$64,200
5	\$69,350