



Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

Fall 2010

NEWS IN BRIEF

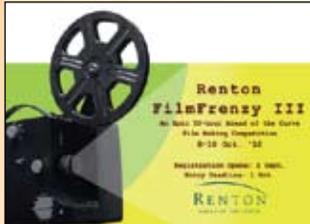
Renton's Citizen of the Year and Outstanding Citizens

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 or call the Renton Chamber of Commerce at 425-226-4560. The nomination deadline is September 17, 2010.

Renton FilmFrenzy

Registration is now open for the third annual Renton FilmFrenzy. Filmmakers will take to the streets of Renton

October 8-10 and have 50 hours 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 26. All films submitted will be screened at locations in downtown Renton Oct. 27-28. For more information, visit rentonfilmfrenzy.com.

Renton On Demand

Comcast On Demand has a great new program that showcases Renton. If you have Comcast On Demand, you can access the show from the On Demand menu under Get Local, Around the Sound and then select Renton. After the show airs on Comcast the city will also broadcast this on channel 21 and will video stream it on rentonwa.gov.

Efforts to Secure Howard Hanson Dam Repair Funds Successful

Following a successful lobbying effort by Renton Mayor Denis Law, regional leaders, other mayors from the Green River Valley, and key business leaders, the region will receive \$44 million from the federal government to make interim repairs to the Howard Hanson Dam. For more information visit rentonwa.gov.

CITIZEN TASK FORCE HELPS PRIORITIZE CITY'S BUDGET

One of the most important responsibilities of the Mayor and City Council is to set a balanced budget for the city. The city's budget reflects service levels, quality and priority.

This year, the city has engaged a group of community budget advisors to participate in the 2011-2012 budget process and provide recommendations regarding city services and budget priorities. The city's core service areas include five direct services: Safety and Health, Mobility, Livable Community, Representative Government, and Utilities & Environment, as well as Internal Support, an internal service.

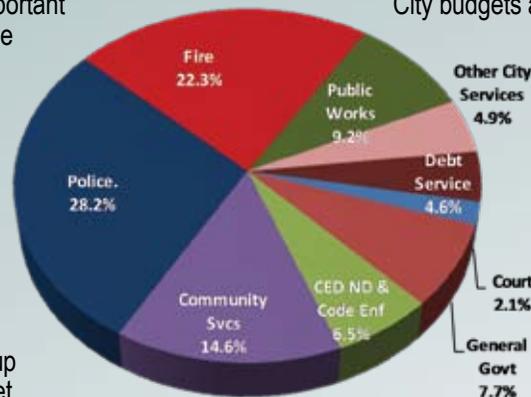
The group will give feedback and make recommendations to the Mayor on:

- The five direct services that the city provides and the expected results.
- A prioritized list of discretionary services.
- The relative investment that the city should be making within the five service areas.

Budget 101: How a city develops its budget

Budgeting for government is actually quite similar to the personal budgeting process.

Budgeting is like balancing a checkbook — finding the best way to use limited resources to pay for a long list of needs. In households, earnings provide the income. Basic expenses typically include mortgage or rent, utilities, car payments, gas and other necessities. Other expenses can include vacations and setting money aside for emergencies and savings.



City budgets are very similar. Taxes (property, sales and utility) and fees generate the income for the General Government Fund. Expenses include salaries, debt payments, utility bills, car payments and money set aside for emergencies and major expenses.

The city is similar to a conglomerate containing many smaller companies. By law, the city must separate the budgets for each activity, so the revenue from a particular activity is used for that activity only. Many of these such as the golf course, the airport, and the utilities are supported by user fees and not by taxes.

Since the budget for many funds is limited to the revenues they generate, the city's budget process focuses on the General Fund, which is largely supported by taxes. The General Fund pays for such things as police, fire and emergency services, parks and street repair. The General Fund also pays for the basics of running a city, such as a city council, the mayor's office, the city clerk, etc.

The City of Renton receives about 27% of the total property taxes paid within the city. The balance goes to the school systems and the county. The City of Renton receives slightly less than 10% of the total sales taxes paid in the city. The rest goes to the State of Washington and King County.

In the next few months city departments will review programs and services to develop their budget. The Community Budget Advisory Group will help set priorities and

DON'T LET YOUR FOOD GO TO WASTE

The average family in King County throws away about 475 pounds of food and food-soiled paper every year. Why send all that to the landfill, when it can be turned into compost for local gardens and parks? Renton residents who subscribe to curbside yard waste service can now recycle all their food scraps and food-soiled paper in their yard waste carts. This means fruit and veggie scraps, plate scrapings, meat and bones, cheese, bread, egg shells, even soiled paper towels and pizza delivery boxes! For tips on how to get started and how to make it easy, visit rentonwa.gov and search for "yard waste."



SEAHAWKS TRAINING CAMP A HIT

With the regular football season now underway, the Seattle Seahawks successfully held their second full season of training camp in their new facility along the shores of Lake Washington in Renton. During the month of August, over 20,000 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.



GRAFFITI PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD

The City of Renton was recently awarded the prestigious Municipal Excellence Award from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) for its "Wipe Out Graffiti" campaign. This is one of the most comprehensive anti-graffiti initiatives in the region and includes aggressive efforts to apprehend vandals including a new ordinance that allows the city to seek restitution from graffiti vandals; an emphasis on graffiti cleanup, education and outreach; and an innovative partnership with the business community to deter graffiti

vandals.

Tools such as surveillance cameras, free graffiti removal kits, and a graffiti reporting line for citizens to provide timely information have added to the success of the program.

Out of over 50 entries, Renton's was one of seven selected to receive an Excellence Award at AWC's 77th Annual Conference.

For more information, visit rentonwa.gov. If you see "tagging" in progress call 9-1-1; to report graffiti call 425-430-7373.

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 Reporting**..... 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

BUDGET (cont. from page 1)

provide an important customer focus for the next two years for Renton. The Mayor will present the budget to the City Council in

October and the City Council will adopt the final budget by December.

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

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Tuesday, September 7

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

Saturday, September 11

Fall Recycling Day. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Renton Technical College, North Parking Lot. For more information call Solid Waste Utility at 425-430-7396.

Renton Fire Stations Open to Public.

Visit rentonwa.gov for details.

9/11 National Day of Service. Volunteer and support charitable causes, perform good deeds, or engage in other service activities. For details visit rentonwa.gov.

Tuesday, September 14

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

Saturday, September 18

Sabar: Music of Senegal. 11 a.m. to noon.
Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S.

Tuesday, September 21

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

Tuesday, September 28

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

Fri.-Sun., October 8-10

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

Saturday, October 9

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

Fall Harvest Festival. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Piazza Park, 3rd & Burnett. Vendor booths include food, produce, flowers, arts, crafts, and Master Gardeners. For more information visit www.piazzarenton.com or call 425-228-1977.

Saturday, October 16

Green & Clean Saturday. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, 1201 Lake Washington Blvd. North. Call 425-430-6600 for more information or to register. Check-in begins at 9 a.m.

For more information visit rentonwa.gov

RENTON INTRODUCES NEW EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM

Renton citizens no longer have to come to City Hall or the city's website every time they want to learn about the latest events and services. In the case of an emergency, they don't have to wonder what to do.



Subscribers can ask for emails to be consolidated into daily or weekly digests. Emails will go out only when substantive content changes. People can unsubscribe at any time.

The city will come to them.

"E-Alert" is an innovative new service that allows the public to subscribe to topics of interest and receive instant, automated email notification whenever the city posts new information.

It's easy to use. With a few clicks residents can sign up to learn more about news releases, job openings, meeting minutes and much more.

Improving Communications

Email Alerts represent the latest effort by the city to enhance communication with residents and businesses. Since 2008, the city has made significant improvements to its website, created a citywide newsletter that is distributed through the utility bills, dramatically revamped cable channel 21, set up the city's Facebook page, and continues to work with the local media and community groups to provide important information.

With news presented prominently on the home page, the website offers immediacy and e-mail alerts makes it even easier.

Email alerts notify people via email when information on topics of their choice is posted. They can be in the loop about code revisions, City Council agendas or other city news every time they open their inbox.

Here's How it Works

Visit the city website, rentonwa.gov and click on the "Email Alert Sign Up" icon. Enter your email address and follow the prompts to select your areas of interest.

The email alerts logo is also available on several other web pages and users can click on the logo/text, and have the opportunity to sign up for the email alerts for that page as well as others if they choose. Each email alert will have a link to the updated web page.

The new email and digital subscription system also provides the city the

opportunity to send e-newsletters, text messages and relevant information to specific groups. For instance Renton residents can sign up to receive emails, e-newsletters and updates on topics of interest such as news releases, neighborhood news, recreation program updates, transportation and construction updates, city budget, code changes, community plans, volunteer opportunities, downtown information, Council meetings, events and more.

The city has partnered with GovDelivery, Inc., to offer the service. There is no charge to use the service, and people can subscribe to as many or as few topics as they wish. In addition to improved communications, the system helps reduce costs related to printing and postage, and reduces the use of paper.

ONLINE POLICE REPORTING SAVES TIME

E-Police, the City of Renton's online police reporting system, allows citizens to file police reports directly into the police department.

This online reporting system is available in both English and Spanish, saves time and money, and offers a great convenience to Renton citizens.

Renton is among the first in Washington and one of only 20 departments nationwide using the software that allows citizens to file directly into police records. This web-

based reporting system allows the public to file reports on incidents such as minor theft, malicious mischief, lost property, and hit and run over the internet at their convenience.

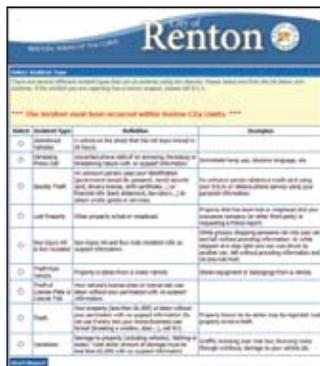
The service allows the public to file a report without having to wait for an officer to respond

or call them back. Police personnel review the online report and, once approved, a copy is emailed to the person who filed it. The report is then transferred into the Renton Police Department's records management system and receives the same investigation and statistical analysis as reports filed by a police officer.

"A good number of the reports taken by officers in the field could have been filed online," said Chief of Police Kevin Milosevich. "Not only is

E-Police an added convenience for our citizens, it also gives our officers more time to spend on other pressing community needs."

For more information or to file an online police report, go to epolice.rentonwa.gov.



CITY HAS WEALTH OF ONLINE SERVICES

The City of Renton provides a number of online services, including the option to pay utility bills, renew pet licenses, make court payments, and more.

Online bill payments are a fast, convenient and free way to make payments with a credit card, debit card, or an e-check online 24 hours a day. There are no convenience or service charges to utilize this internet-based payment service.

By simply logging onto the city's website at rentonwa.gov, customers can also file police reports, review crime maps, apply for and pay for building permits, register for recreation classes, view online City of Renton maps, view Channel 21, and search the city's video archives.

Visit rentonwa.gov today!

FIRE STATIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SEPTEMBER 11

Have you ever wondered what you should do in an emergency? Or what happens when you call 9-1-1?

On Saturday, September 11, City of Renton fire stations will be open as part of the Ready in Renton campaign so that you can learn firsthand how your emergency responders operate.

Come and visit with them and find out how you can take charge of your own safety with emergency protective actions, fire prevention measures, disaster preparedness, health and wellness activities, and general safety tips. Visit rentonwa.gov for more details.



READY IN RENTON

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 important information and resources to help you be better prepared to take care of yourself and those who depend on you in an emergency. Become prepared 3 Ways — make a plan, build a kit, and get involved, you'll be glad you did. For more information visit rentonwa.gov.

Puget Sound Starts Here

Puget Sound Starts Here — and “here” is where each of us live. It's our backyard. It's our driveway. It's our neighborhood. It's our home. But what we do here is having a serious impact on our local waterways and ultimately on Puget Sound.

Our actions can pollute local waterways with yard chemicals, oil, grease, soap and bacteria from pet waste and septic systems. When rainfall not absorbed by the ground flows over roads, sidewalks, driveways

and yards, it picks up these pollutants. This contaminated stormwater goes down stormdrains and into ditches, emptying directly into streams, rivers and lakes and ends up in Puget Sound — where it stays. Approximately 75% of all pollution in Puget Sound comes from stormwater runoff that starts in our neighborhoods.

Together we can fix the problem. Thanks to a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology, the city has installed “Puget Sound Starts Here” storm drain markers to remind citizens not to pollute storm drains. You can help save Puget Sound at its source. To volunteer call Edward Mulhern at 425-430-7323 or visit rentonwa.gov for details.

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

In Your Yard: Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly or just use compost.

With Your Car: Take your car to a commercial car wash or try using waterless car washing products available in most auto supply stores. Have oil leaks fixed.

Around Your Dog: Pick up dog poop, bag it and place it in the trash (not in the yard waste bin).

At Home and More: From cleaning products to septic maintenance, be aware of how you care for your home.

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS AVAILABLE

The City of Renton's Neighborhood Program has grants available to groups of residents who have organized themselves to plan and implement projects for the purpose of improving the viability and livability of their neighborhoods.



Eligible organizations include organized neighborhood associations that draw membership from commonly recognized geographic neighborhoods in Renton, or ad hoc groups of neighbors who form an organization to work on a specific project.

Eligible projects include physical improvements that build or enhance a feature of the neighborhood or benefit the general public. Projects to produce and distribute

newsletters and create websites are also eligible for neighborhood grants.

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. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 8, 2010. Awards will be announced in early December 2010.

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

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	\$45,100
2	\$51,550
3	\$58,000
4	\$64,400
5	\$69,600

Program information, eligibility guidelines, FAQs, and downloadable applications are available at www.humanservices.rentonwa.gov or call 425-430-6650.