



Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

Winter 2010/Spring 2011

NEWS IN BRIEF

City Partners With PSE, OPOWER To Provide Free Energy Reports

Qualifying Renton residents can now keep up with the Joneses when it comes to saving money and conserving energy. As part of the city's programs using federal energy-efficiency stimulus funding, eligible residents will receive free Home Energy Reports that show how their energy use compares with similar-sized homes in the same neighborhood, along with personalized tips and overall recommendations on reducing their energy usage and bills. The city is partnering with Puget Sound Energy and OPOWER to provide the reports. For more information visit rentonwa.gov.

Be a Part of History!

The Renton Historical Society is accepting applications for its Board of Trustees, the oversight, policymaking, and fundraising group for the Renton History Museum. The Board's mission is to preserve and educate about Renton's history in ways that engage diverse people of all ages. For more information, contact Museum Manager Elizabeth Stewart at 425-255-2330 or estewart@rentonwa.gov.

City Offers Free Dirt to Residents

As a service to the residents of Renton the city's Public Works Department is offering free recycled and screened dirt collected during regular street maintenance and digging that occurs throughout the year. Those wishing to receive free dirt should visit the public works maintenance shop between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. City staff will be on hand to load the dirt using heavy equipment or residents may bring shovels. For more information call 425-430-7400.

City Seeks Help to Catch Taggers

As part of its ongoing effort to catch graffiti taggers, the Renton Police Department has posted several photos of wanted graffiti suspects on the city's "Can You Identify Me?" webpage at rentonwa.gov. If you recognize someone on the city's website, please contact the Renton Police Department at 425-430-7619 or email RentonsMostWanted@rentonwa.gov.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER

Winter weather is coming and it's time to get prepared. The National Weather Service is predicting our region may see more precipitation, cooler temperatures, and more storms than normal this year.

The City of Renton is doing its part to get ready and is working with other cities and agencies to review winter preparedness plans, flood plans and operating procedures.

As part of the city's annual winter preparedness efforts, we have mobilized our equipment and reviewed our procedures.

When we have snowfall city crews stand ready to provide 24-hour coverage, plowing and sanding to make driving safer in and around town. Trucks are assigned to a specific location in the city and follow a priority mapping system. Streets that receive a high volume of traffic, school routes and the main access roads are first priority for plowing and sanding.

During peak commute hours, these streets receive the most attention because sand dissipates quickly on well-traveled roads. Secondary arterials are plowed and sanded next and the residential areas receive attention when the primary and secondary routes are completed.



During severe weather conditions, high priority areas are sanded four times during a 24-hour period. Hospital emergency entrances are maintained by city crews and are a first priority during snowfall. Crews carefully document each street after it has been plowed and sanded, recording the date, time and condition. Problem areas that are called in by police, citizens, or other city departments are handled by priority and truck availability.

It is important that you get ready as well. Every resident and business should be prepared and take heed of weather warnings. Take the time now to sign up for the city's CodeRED and E-Alert email system and add our website, rentonwa.gov, to your list of favorites.

If possible, please plan to commute by public transit in bad weather. If you don't have to travel in bad weather, don't. Wait until conditions improve. Before venturing out, check the latest updates on snow routes, delays, and cancellations.

Stay informed, be prepared, and be safe this winter.

Mayor Denis Law

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GREEN RIVER UPDATE

The City of Renton continues to monitor the potential flooding situation in the Green River Valley. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently working on interim measures to maximize storage capacity and reduce any potential risk of flooding. For information on the Howard Hanson Dam,

Green River, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and how to prepare your business for any potential flooding and/or any emergency please visit rentonwa.gov. You can also register for the city's CodeRED community notification system or Renton E-Alert, the city's email alert system.

CITY STAFF SEEK TO HELP THOSE IN NEED



To assist those in need this holiday season, City of Renton staff have formed "Renton Gives," a volunteer program that 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 programs

To donate and for more information visit rentonwa.gov and read about "Renton Gives." Donations are tax deductible and go directly to providing for those in need.

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 Line	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

THANKSGIVING A DAY OF SHARING

Thanksgiving dinner to be served at Renton Senior Activity Center

For the 16th consecutive year, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated as a day of sharing in Renton as employees of the City of Renton and members of 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 25, 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 no later than Nov. 22 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 25

Free Senior Thanksgiving Dinner.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Avenue North. Free dinner for seniors. Seniors must pick up ticket by Nov. 22. Call 425-430-6633.

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

2-3 p.m. St. Anthony's Parish, 501 South Fourth, Renton. Free dinner for any age or size of family. For more information call Diane Anderson at 425-432-9939.

Thursday-Friday, November 25-26

Thanksgiving Holiday.

City offices closed.

Friday, December 3

Clam Lights Opening Night.

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Entertainment begins 6:30 p.m. Official greeting 7:15 p.m. Parade of Ships begins 7:30 p.m. Argosy Christmas Ship arrives and performs 8-8:20 p.m.

Saturday, December 4

Holiday Tree Lighting & Arrival of Santa.

5-7 p.m. Downtown Piazza. Free. Enjoy

Dickens carolers, roasted chestnuts, holiday shopping, tree lighting ceremony, and arrival of Santa.

Friday-Saturday, December 10-11

Visit Santa's House. Friday 5-7 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. Free. Downtown Piazza. Bring the whole family.

Sunday, December 5

K9 Candy Cane 5K Run & Walk.

8-9 a.m. registration. Race begins 9:15 a.m. Renton Community Center. For fee and registration information visit rentonwa.gov or call 425-430-6700.

Friday-Saturday, December 17-18

Visit Santa's House. Friday 5-7 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. Free. Downtown Piazza. Bring the whole family.

Thursday-Friday, December 23-24

Christmas Holiday.

City offices closed.

Friday, December 31

New Years Holiday.

City offices closed.

For more information visit rentonwa.gov

KEEPING OUR CITY BEAUTIFUL

The City of Renton has rules and regulations which are designed to promote safe and attractive neighborhoods, both in existing and developing areas.

The city's code compliance inspectors help citizens protect the value and aesthetics of their property by monitoring and enforcing the established rules/codes. Issues that involve code compliance are often related to junk/abandoned vehicles, graffiti, and collections of unsightly trash, litter and garbage, to list a few. Code compliance inspectors take complaints and respond accordingly.

Citizens who have a concern or complaint can submit it by using the online complaint form at rentonwa.gov, sending an email to codecompliance@rentonwa.gov or by calling the 24-hour reporting line at 425-430-7373.

All neighbors are encouraged to work together to make positive changes for themselves and their community, and in the process enhance their neighborhoods. Whether you are new to the community or a long-time resident, knowing what property maintenance codes are in effect for the city and following them will help to keep Renton a beautiful place to live, work and play.

TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS — DUVALL & NE 12

Following a recent traffic accident at the intersection of Duvall Avenue and NE 12th, the Renton Police Department issued a citation to the driver responsible for not yielding to the pedestrian.

The police department's traffic unit has also established an emphasis patrol at the intersection to emphasize the school speed zone and speed limits and provide education to pedestrians and drivers on traffic safety. Renton Police and Public Works staff are working together to explore additional grants to enhance traffic safety in the area.

In addition, the city has taken the following steps to enhance safety at the intersection:

- The city replaced the fixtures of the two street lights on the east and west sides of Duvall Avenue with new fixtures that are cleaner and brighter.
- In the next few weeks the city will install solar powered school speed zone amber flashers at the school zone speed limit signs on northbound and southbound Duvall. These flashers will be activated in the morning, afternoon, and lunch hour when students will be using the crosswalk.
- The city will also install electronic radar speed signs on existing light poles along northbound and southbound Duvall.
- The city is also investigating options for signal upgrades at the crosswalk.

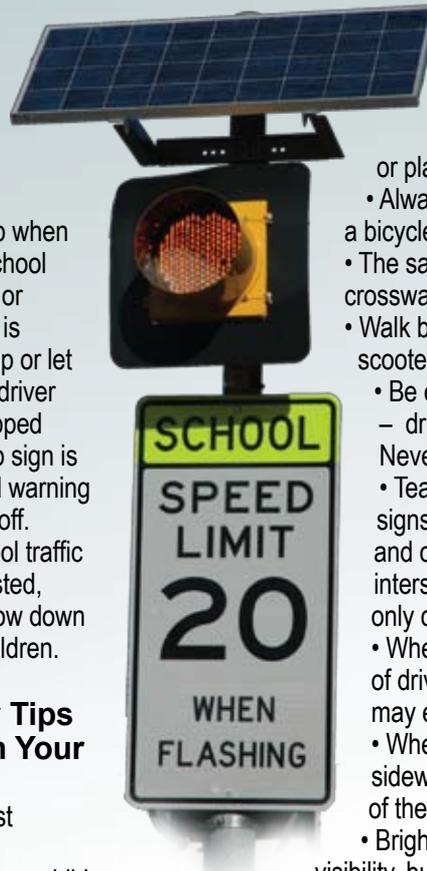
A Few Traffic Safety Rules For Drivers

- Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Drivers must stop for pedestrians at all intersections and in marked or unmarked crosswalks.

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 assistance paying their water bill once per year. To see if you are eligible and for more information visit the Salvation Army at 206 S. Tobin, Renton, or call 425-255-5969. Hours of operation are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- 20 MPH speed limit signs are posted within the designated school zones and these signs alert drivers that the speed limit has been reduced to 20 MPH whenever children are present.
- Drivers must stop when approaching a school bus, church bus, or daycare bus that is stopped to pick up or let off children. The driver must remain stopped until the bus' stop sign is retracted and red warning lights are turned off.
- Wherever a school traffic safety sign is posted, drivers should slow down and watch for children.



Traffic Safety Tips to Share With Your Children

- Choose the safest route to school and walk it with your child prior to allowing them to travel it on their own.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street.
- Cross in the crosswalks at the corner, not in the middle of the block.
- Never cross from between parked cars.

- Never cross an intersection diagonally.
- Children should look to see that drivers are aware of them. Making eye contact with a driver is a good way to know whether a driver is aware that someone is about to cross the road.
- Cross quickly – do not linger or play in the street.

- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle, skateboard, or scooter.
- The same rules (look both ways, use crosswalks, etc) apply when riding a bike.
- Walk bicycles, skateboards, and scooters across the crosswalk.
- Be especially careful in parking lots – drivers may not be able to see you. Never walk or run in front of cars.
- Teach children the meaning of traffic signs. Stop at all stop signs, red lights, and obey traffic signals. When the intersection has crossing signals, only cross when the walk signal is lit.
- When walking on sidewalks, be aware of driveways and alleys from which cars may emerge.
- When walking down a street with no sidewalks, walk as far from the edge of the road as possible, facing traffic.
- Bright colored clothing increases visibility, but when walking/biking near dusk reflective tape should be used on jackets, backpacks, bikes, etc.

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.

PET LICENSES AVAILABLE

The City of Renton requires that all dogs and cats aged four months and older be licensed. Pet owners are allowed up to three animals (any combination of cats and dogs) per household. An additional license is required for keeping four to six household pets and has a fee of \$50 per year. Licenses are renewed every year and must be on the animal at all times. For additional information and rates call 425-430-7200, option #4.



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.
- 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.
- 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.)



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 property 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 you live on a hill you are on the list to be sanded or de-iced; however, you may still have traction issues, even after 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.

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.

- Empty sandbags are available for Renton residents between 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the city maintenance shops located at 3555 Northeast 2nd Street, Renton. Call 425-430-7400 in advance and bring proof of residence (preferably a utility bill and/or valid ID).



REMINDER!

Have you signed up for E-Alert yet? E-Alert is a free email and digital subscription service that allows the public to subscribe to topics of interest and receive instant, automated email notification whenever the city posts new information on its website. Subscribers can ask for emails to be consolidated into daily or weekly digests. There is no charge to use the service, and people can subscribe to as many or as few topics as they wish. To get started visit rentonwa.gov and click on the Renton E-Alert icon.