



This Week from the Mayor



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Our traditional Thanksgiving for seniors

ONCE AGAIN ON THANKSGIVING morning, I had the pleasure to work with a number of city employees and Renton Rotary volunteers to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for local seniors at the Renton Senior Center. This has been a long tradition that goes back 24 years. Councilmember Don Persson has organized this effort all of these years, which allows us to serve a nice, warm Thanksgiving meal to nearly 300 local residents.

Our day begins early with a group of us arriving at 5 a.m. to fire up the barbecues and ovens, and prepare turkeys, hams and all the fixings for the meal. Around 9 a.m., a second team of city employees and Rotary volunteers, many with their family members, arrive to set up tables and decorations, and prepare to welcome and serve guests. Over the years, Don learned how important leftovers are to our guests and we now provide a second meal in containers for them to take home.

It's a great opportunity for us to serve members of our community who look forward to this gathering every Thanksgiving. It would not be possible without the generous support of Renton Rotary and city employees.



Volunteers from the city and Renton Rotary pitched in to prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinner to 300 Renton seniors.

Clam Lights transforms Coulon Park into month-long winter wonderland

JOIN ME TOMORROW NIGHT as we kick off [Clam Lights](#), Renton's month-long holiday celebration.

This year's display will feature 200,000 lights that turn Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park into a one-of-a-kind holiday destination for photos or leisurely strolls along the shores of Lake Washington.

Opening Night features photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus and Ivar's clam mascot, entertainment by the Lindbergh High School Jazz Ensemble, Rainier Yacht Club's parade of boats, the Argosy Christmas Ship with the Dickens Carolers in addition to the unforgettable light display. The evening's activities start at 6 p.m. with Santa's arrival on a fire truck. Around 7 p.m. I'll push the plunger and light the lights.

My thanks to Ivar's Restaurants who has been our partner in this uniquely Renton experience for over two decades. Clam Lights runs nightly from 5 to 9 p.m. through January 1. I hope you'll take time to enjoy the experience.



Around 200,000 lights will transform Gene Coulon Beach Park into a winter wonderland.

Community groups making a difference

TWO OF THE MANY COMMUNITY groups I am privileged to work with are the [Mayor's Inclusion Task Force](#) and the [Renton African-American Pastoral Group](#) (RAAP). The members of these groups have my respect and thanks for all they have done for our community. They are leading the way in making our community a great place to live, work, play, and learn for everybody.

My task force is wrapping up another year successfully working together and with city staff to make Renton a more inclusive community.

Earlier this month RAAP held a Unity Forum, bringing together members of Renton Police Department and the community. Police Chief Ed VanValey and his command staff discussed issues, answered questions, and provided insight into police activities. RAAP is co-chaired by Chief VanValey and the Rev. Dr. Linda Smith.



The Mayor's Inclusion Task Force is one of many community groups working to make Renton great place to live, work, play, and learn.

Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)