



This Week from the Mayor



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Response to sinkhole shows city at its best

SOMETIMES THINGS HAPPEN that are out of our control. That was the case when last Wednesday a sinkhole appeared on Rainier Avenue North near the airport. What started out as a relatively small hole expanded to a sinkhole that was 15 feet deep and spanned all lanes of traffic, resulting in the complete closure of Rainier Avenue around the airport. The sinkhole was the result of erosion caused by a failed storm water drain that had been there for decades.

Thanks to the professionalism, cooperation, and efficiency of city staff, the situation was handled with maximum efficiency while prioritizing the safety of our community. The closure was limited to only 48 hours and our staff went out of their way to make sure that businesses in the affected area were still accessible.

This project was also a great example of how different departments in our city come together to tackle complex issues and protect and serve our residents and businesses. Our police department originally discovered the sinkhole and reported it. They continued to work throughout the project to re-direct traffic from one of our major arterials. Public Works staff worked round the clock to repair one of the largest sinkholes we have ever had in Renton and to minimize the impact on commuters. Our Community and Economic Development department worked with businesses, while our communications staff provided timely updates on the project and worked with the media.

The response by city staff demonstrated a commitment to public service to our citizens.

Bob Harrison named city's new CAO

I'M VERY PLEASED TO announce that [Bob Harrison will become the city's new chief administrative officer](#) (CAO) on May 1.

Bob comes to us after eight years as the CAO of the city of Issaquah and prior to that was the city manager for Wyoming, Ohio, for 12 years. He brings integrity, proven leadership skills and a wide range of experience in city government to Renton.

Bob will replace Jay Covington, who is retiring after 28 years with the city. Jay has been an invaluable member of my leadership team and an integral part of the Renton community. We wish him all the best in his retirement activities along with good health and happiness.



Bob Harrison

Bill Betts wins public works chili cook off

IN ADDITION TO THEIR SKILLS of operating a snow plow or repairing a sinkhole, the men and women of our public works department also shine in the kitchen. Just prior to learning about the Rainier Avenue sinkhole, they held their annual chili cook off.

I had the opportunity to judge the cook off along with City Council President Ed Prince and councilmembers Armondo Pavone, Don Persson, and Carol Ann Witschi.

This year's entries were among the best I've tasted and picking the winner was a task that mandated we try each of the eight entries more than once. In the end the judges chose the recipe entered by street maintenance worker Bill Betts as the winner. Congratulations, Bill!



Bill Betts, Public Works 2018 Chili Cook off winner

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.