



This Week from the Mayor



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Gary Kohlwes receives special honor



Gary Kohlwes and State Rep. Steve Bergquist are surrounded by family and the city council at Monday's meeting.

AT MONDAY'S CITY COUNCIL meeting, we were pleased to host State Representative Steve Bergquist as he presented a State House of Representatives' resolution honoring former Renton Schools Superintendent Gary Kohlwes.

To refer to Gary strictly as a former superintendent is an injustice because of his decades contributing to the Renton community. After 23 years leading Renton schools,

he went on to serve 36 years as a director of First Financial Northwest Bank, and added four additional years as chairman of the board. As a trustee of the bank's foundation, Gary has assisted many local causes. In addition, he was a founding member of the Renton Community Foundation, past president of Renton Rotary and served on the boards of Valley Medical Center and Harborview/UW Medicine.

This is a well-deserved honor. Renton will continue to benefit from Gary's passion for our community and its citizens.



Talking with local students is inspiring



IF YOU NEED SOME inspiration early in the morning, and want to reinforce a positive opinion about the quality of our schools and students, visit one of our high schools. I had the opportunity to spend an hour with Christina Neushwander's first period leadership class at Renton High School Wednesday morning and was so impressed with the students. They were very welcoming, obviously intelligent and genuinely interested in leadership issues, the city and our community. It was a wonderful way to start the day!

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month

At this week's council meeting, I proclaimed [April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#) in Renton.

Sexual assault is a problem we cannot end unless we talk about it, something we've witnessed from the #MeToo movement. Over the past two years I've worked closely with [King County Sexual Assault Resource Center](#) (KCSARC) to get other cities in the region to join me in committing to end sexual violence. We were able to get 30 members of the Sound Cities Association to join our movement.

In Washington, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. In King County, 6,657 adults and children received sexual assault services at accredited Community Sexual Assault Programs last year. As shocking as these number are, we know they're low as an estimated 60 percent of sexual assaults go unreported. Perpetrators rely on this silence.

KCSARC has called Renton home for over 40 years and they are on the frontline working with victims of sexual assault and their families, ensuring their voices are heard. Among KCSARC's many services is a 24-Hour Resource Line, (888) 99-VOICE, individual therapy, and legal advocacy for victims. Executive Director Mary Ellen Stone was at Monday's meeting to accept the proclamation and urged everyone to "be loud" and keep talking about sexual assault.

If you or someone you know is the victim of an assault, please report it to the police and take advantage of the services of an agency like KCSARC. Because the more we talk about sexual assault, the sooner we can put an end to it.



Mary Ellen Stone, Executive Director, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

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. [Archive](#)