



# This Week from the Mayor



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## Community leader Jim Medzegian passes

THE RENTON COMMUNITY has lost another valued leader with the death last Sunday of Jim Medzegian. It's been a tough 18 months for our city with the passing of several community leaders, each one who played significant roles in helping Renton become a highly desired place to live and raise a family.



Jim Medzegian

Denis Law photo

Jim and his wife, Joanne, have been active supporters of a number of local organizations for many years. Jim was a well-known fixture at the weekly Renton Farmer's Market where he volunteered every summer since the market opened. He was one of the leading volunteers with Piazza Renton, organizers of many public events and programs throughout the year.

He served 11 years as a trustee on the Renton Technical College Board and also served on the college foundation. He was a board member with the Renton Community Foundation, active with the Renton Chamber of Commerce and also Renton Rotary.

Jim was a longtime car enthusiast and owned a number of classic cars. He co-chaired the annual Return to Renton Car Show, which grew from a small show that was held in the high school stadium parking lot, to a major event that closed downtown streets and featured upwards of 400 classic cars, and drew thousands of people from around the region every July. Proceeds from this event supported youth programs through the Renton Police Department that benefitted hundreds of local kids.

His commitment to our community earned him Renton's Citizen of the Year in 2009.



*Under Jim's direction, the Return to Renton Car Show grew from a small show to one that attracted almost 400 cars and closed city streets. Proceeds supported Renton Police Department youth programs.*

I enjoyed working with Jim all these years. He was a dedicated volunteer and great ambassador of our city. Our community is a better place to work and live thanks to Jim's years of service. He will truly be missed.



*About 250 volunteers were saluted at the city's annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 18.*

## April is volunteer appreciation month

I PROCLAIMED APRIL AS [Volunteers Month](#) to honor the 6,600 Renton residents who donated 50,000 volunteer hours to city projects in 2017. Volunteers donated time as trail rangers, cleaned parks, worked with our youth and seniors, and served on various boards, commissions, and committees. They also donated their time to police, emergency management, history museum, farmers market, and city hall, to name just a few. This selfless donation of time, talent, and energy is a significant contribution to our city and we owe them our gratitude.

## Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration is Saturday

THIS SATURDAY OVER 100 volunteers will participate in the city's annual [Arbor Day Earth Day celebration](#). They will meet at Tiffany Park for a morning of park maintenance and to plant trees, shrubs, and flowers.

The celebration is just one of the ways our community comes together to protect the city's environment and act as stewards of these resources for future generations. I'm proud Renton has earned designation as a Tree City USA for the past ten years.

I'm thankful for the priority our community services and public works staffs place on preserving the beautiful parks and commons areas we enjoy on a daily basis and for their work to establish similar areas in new projects.



*Mayor Law, Terry Flatley, Urban Forestry & Natural Resources Manager, and Liz Stewart, Renton History Museum Manager, kicked off Arbor Day/Earth Day 2017 by planting a tree.*

## 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. [Newsletter archive](#)