



This Week from the Mayor



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Celebrate Memorial Day with the city

Memorial Day is a special holiday, that one day when we gather to honor those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

With the start of summer so close, the holiday seemed to slip from our consciousness. Today, it has returned to its rightful place as the way our country honors the sacrifices made by our servicemen and servicewomen.



I hope you will join with city leaders, VFW Post #1263, American Legion Post #19, and Renton Police Department at the city's annual [Memorial Day ceremony](#) on Monday, May 28, at 1 p.m. at [Veterans Memorial Park](#) (523 S. Third St.).

Perry Dolan, a United States Navy veteran and Gold Star Son will be the featured speaker. The ceremony will also include the laying of wreaths to represent the five branches of the military.

Veterans Memorial Park contains nearly 2,000 etched marble plaques, each honoring a veteran.



Starbucks culture is one secret to its' success

I have always wondered how people get so addicted to Starbucks Coffee. There is always a line of customers both inside and in the drive-up windows at every Starbucks you see. And you see one on nearly every street corner.

With over 27,000 stores worldwide and revenues exceeding \$22 billion a year, Starbucks continues to increase outlets each year at an amazing rate, while regularly diversifying product lines to meet the desires of its customer base.

On Wednesday, I had the opportunity to "work" at Starbucks for an hour at the Benson Hill Shopping Center, and I learned a little about the company culture that seems to truly care about its employees, which I'm sure is a major reason for the company's success.

The first thing I learned was being a barista is not an easy job! I also reinforced my belief that a well-managed organization that cares for and appreciates the efforts of its employees is likely to succeed.

Store Manager Samantha (Sam) Shockley invited me to spend some time meeting her staff (she refers to them as "partners"), and learn a little about what it takes to serve hundreds of customers on a daily basis. I had met Sam several months ago when she joined a delegation of Starbucks officials here at City Hall to present Seattle Seahawks Doug Baldwin and me with a \$150,000 company donation for the Family First Community Center.

What was impressive was Sam's passion for her position and the knowledge she has about the industry, from understanding the process of growing the coffee bean to meeting the desires of her customers. It was very evident that her enthusiasm and commitment to providing quality service to their customers was shared by every member of her staff.

Starbucks provides great benefits for employees, from healthcare to educational opportunities and more. I was very impressed with the skills, friendliness, and professionalism of Sam's partners, and I left with a better understanding of why we see lines at Starbucks every day.

USCGA offers free boating safety classes

It only takes a quick look at the Cedar River, Cedar River Boathouse, or the boat launch at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park on a sunny day to see the fun water-based activities provide Renton residents, their family, and friends.

But such activities come with risks, especially to the untrained. Nationally, about 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents, most from operator error. Likewise a significant number of drownings can be prevented by wearing a life jacket. Education is the key component in preventing both.



That's why I'd like to encourage you to take advantage of the services provided by the [United States Coast Guard Auxiliary](#) (USCGA), the Coast Guard's primary resource for recreational boating safety. The USCGA offers free [boating education classes and vessel safety checks](#).

The Renton flotilla of the USCGA is also active in several other areas of maritime protection. If that interests you, please consider [volunteering your time](#). Membership is open to individuals 17 years of age and older.

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](#)