



This Week from the Mayor



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Nearly 200 vehicles and over 1,000 spectators were part of the 2nd annual Cruz the Loop last Saturday.

Cruz the Loop draws large crowd downtown

A COUPLE YEARS AGO, I ran the idea of promoting a "Cruise the Loop" event by my department administrators, expecting some resistance. After all, our police department had eliminated cruising through downtown Renton streets a couple decades earlier due to continued complaints from retailers and chamber of commerce, citing the negative impact on business. What had been a long-time tradition by young people from throughout the region suddenly came to an end.

But those of us who cruised these streets back then are much older, a bit wiser and more responsible. Certainly much older! So we held our first "Cruz the Loop" in downtown Renton last year and it was a huge success.

Our second was last Saturday. With the background of live music and a food truck and beer garden provided by Rain City Catering, [hundreds of former cruisers returned](#) with their classic cars to share with the rest of us. Nearly 200 cars cruised through downtown streets to the cheers of over 1,000 spectators who lined Third Street at Piazza Park.

It was a successful event thanks to staff members from our community services and police departments who worked very hard planning and managing this event.



Denis Law photos

Nishiwaki students visit city hall

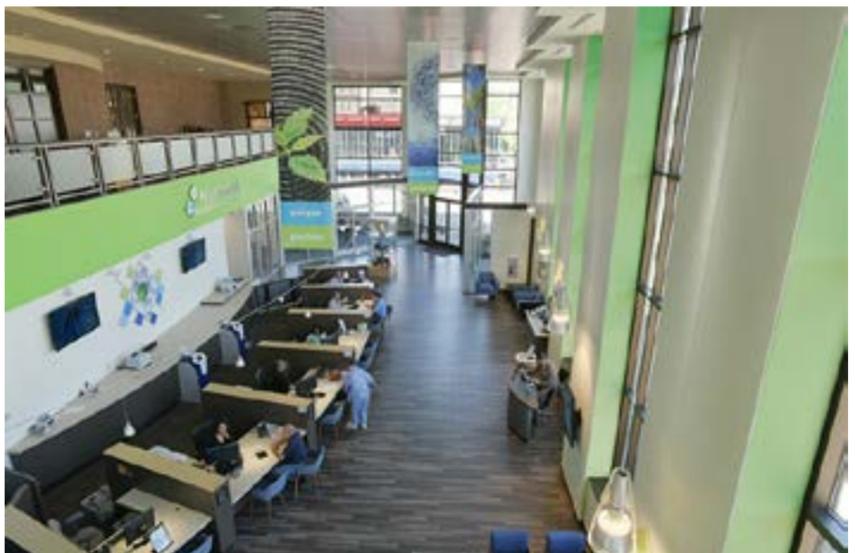
ON MONDAY THE CITY hosted 14 students and their chaperones from our Sister City of Nishiwaki, Japan. The students visited city hall as part of the trip, which was coordinated by the Renton School District. I always enjoy the chance to visit with these students, answer their questions, and ask their impressions of Renton.

[Sister city](#) relationships, like the ones we have with Nishiwaki and Cuautla, Mexico, are vital to our understanding and appreciation of cultures as our world continues to change.



First Financial wins "Office Envy" award

CONGRATULATIONS TO First Financial Northwest Bank. Their corporate office in downtown Renton was selected as one of [425 Business](#) magazine's "Office Envy" award winners. The award honors those businesses that have gone above and beyond in making their business environment more unique and innovative for both customers and employees.



First Financial has been a strong community partner, contributing greatly to several civic projects. Their foundation has contributed \$3 million towards construction of the [Family First Community Center](#) in the Cascade/Benson Hill area.

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](#)