



This Week from the Mayor



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Happy 117th birthday, Renton!

RENTON TURNS 117 TODAY and we have certainly come a long way from our humble beginnings as a coal mining town in the 1900s.

Along our journey we've had our ups and downs, but unlike many cities that are currently experiencing political turmoil and many financial issues, I can say the overall state of our city is very good.



The Hyatt Regency opened its doors in July 2017.

We have hundreds of millions of dollars in private development being invested in our city. The spectacular Hyatt Regency on Lake Washington opened its doors last year, as did the Hampton Inn just a few blocks away. A 630,000 square foot Class A office campus at [Southport](#) is nearing completion, as is a new Marriott Hotel nearby. Renton School District just opened Sartori Elementary, a state-of-the-art facility, which is the first new elementary school in downtown in almost a century.

The school features several common areas that will benefit the whole community. The project will turn an underused area of the city into a valuable community asset and mark one more step toward achieving our vision of a downtown where people live, work, learn, play and visit.

Sunset is another area of the city we're working to transform. In June we opened [Sunset Neighborhood Park](#), which we envision as the catalyst for developing the neighborhood. The



Sunset Neighborhood Park will serve as the catalyst for redevelopment in the Sunset area.

park is part of our master plan to transform this World War II-era community from one that suffered from socio-economic challenges into one that can be a model for similar projects across the region. Already in place next to the park is the new Renton Highlands Library and the nearby Meadow Crest inclusive playground. Plans are underway for new market-rate housing and retail stores as well as additional

quality affordable housing units for low-income families and seniors.

Health and education are in good hands with both [Valley Medical Center](#) and [Renton Technical College](#) (RTC) working on expansion plans. Valley Medical is in the midst of a \$150 million expansion including a new cancer center. RTC is updating their master plan to keep pace with a projected increase in enrollment.

[Kaiser Permanente's](#) new office campus and [Providence Health and Services](#) headquarters mean there are thousands of new jobs now associated with healthcare in Renton, with more growth on the horizon.

No discussion of the history of Renton would be complete without a few words about [Boeing](#), part of our community for over 75 years. Production of the 737 continues to increase at an astonishing rate.



Boeing plans to rollout 52 737s a month out of their Renton factory.

We haven't forgotten our residents' need to be active. Our parks and trails are second to none, both in amenities and cleanliness.

[Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park](#) is recognized around the Puget Sound area as one of the area's finest multipurpose parks. The same goes for [Maplewood Golf Course](#). City staff work hard to develop a wide variety of events, classes, and activities that take advantage of both our facilities and showcase our diverse culture.

I believe it is the people who make a community great. Thousands of you volunteer your time and talents to make Renton such a great place to live, work, play and learn. Invaluable citizen groups like my [Mayor's Inclusion Task Force](#) and RAAP, the African-American Pastoral Group, meet regularly with me and city staff to help identify issues and develop solutions.

Renton is, of course, home to the [Seattle Seahawks](#). One of the benefits of having a professional sports team train in our city is the players' willingness to give back. Wide receiver Doug Baldwin is one such player and it's through working with him, his foundation, businesses and community groups that we are close to breaking ground on the [Family First Community Center](#) in the Cascade/Benson Hill area. The center will not only provide much needed services, but will also serve as the model for future public-private partnerships.



Seahawks Doug Baldwin has been a driving force behind the Family First Community Center.

We still face many challenges in the next few years, but as you can see Renton is well positioned to see positive growth and development, while continuing to find ways to improve the quality of life for residents and local businesses.

So, on this our 117th birthday, please take a minute to remember the pioneers who settled our city. I think they would be proud of how we've taken care of their little coal town.

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](#)