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.
We have hundreds of millions
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
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Marriott Hotel nearby. Renton School District just opened Sartoni 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
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.
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 Upper Chuckanut Inclusion 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 player’s 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.
We still face many challenges in the next few years, but as long 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