



# This Week from the Mayor



JANUARY 24, 2019

VOL. IV, NO. 2

## Setting our priorities for 2019 and beyond



CITIES ARE SOMETIMES like people; when the calendar turns to January we make our new year's resolutions. However, as cities, our residents remind us about those resolutions and wonder how and when we're going to accomplish them.

One overriding resolution we make every year and do our best to keep is adhering to our goal of making Renton "the best city in King County." The words are not put on city vehicles or plastered on billboards, they are simply a reminder of the principles that guide our everyday decision-making.

Earlier this month my department administrators and I held our annual retreat where we discussed what those words meant. Was it affordable housing? Caring for our senior population? Inclusion? Infrastructure? Safe streets? Traffic? Human services? In reality it's all of the above. And more.

We owe our residents a commitment to service, a continuation of policies that make our community safe, and an unwavering emphasis to look after those less fortunate.

Public safety has been and will continue to be my top priority. I want Renton's future to be a safe, clean city with people who care for each other. I want everyone to feel they have access to the police and to understand they are not on the streets to check immigration status. Our officers are truly there to make people's lives better. I will also emphasize taking care of our senior population, enforcing compliance with our building codes, and building the Family First Community Center.

Renton remains in a strong position financially. As some of the cities around us are tightening their belts, our balanced budgets for 2019 and 2020 have allowed us to be financially stable and keep pace with the demands of our growing population.

It gives me great pride to work with our talented group of administrators. They are single-minded in their pursuit of new and innovative ways to improve the quality of life for all our residents. I look forward to working with them and with our equally dedicated city councilmembers in the coming months to, yes, make Renton the "best city in King County."

## Microsoft looks to help housing crisis

I hope you saw the news that Microsoft is donating \$500 million to help with the housing crisis we face in King County. This was a tremendous gesture and one I hope will go a long way to ease the housing burden faced by so many in our region.

We've been working on new and innovative strategies to make affordable housing a priority in our city.

We're looking at every option available and working with developers to provide housing for the middle class. I will keep you informed as we work through the process.



*Renton Housing Authority recently opened Sunset Court Apartments for low-income families.*

## Sherry Lovgren wins chili cook-off



*Public Works administrator Gregg Zimmerman presents Chili Cook-off winner Sherry Lovgren with her first place plaque. City Council President Don Persson was honored with a special cutting board marking his 10 years as a contest judge.*

The men and women of our Public Works Department are as talented in the kitchen as they are on our streets. Yesterday was their annual Chili Cook-off and office assistant Sherry Lovgren's entry was awarded first prize by the judges. Sherry's entry bested eight others.

City Council President Don Persson, judging his 10th consecutive finale, was honored for his contributions and presented a specially made cutting board. Don and his wife Vicky judged this year's contest as did Councilmember Randy Corman and his wife Cathy.

## 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. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)