



# This Week from the Mayor



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## Affordable Housing Week in Renton

I PROCLAIMED THIS WEEK [Affordable Housing Week in Renton](#) to keep attention focused on the need for more affordable housing options in our community. The actions taken in the recently concluded legislative session have given me hope that we will soon see more such units in Renton.

During the session, our staff and lobbyist played a key role working to secure funding for critically-needed affordable housing in our community and throughout the Puget Sound region. A big win came when the Legislature passed [Substitute House Bill 1406](#), giving a state sales tax credit to cities and counties for use toward the construction of affordable housing units. This is a substantial commitment of more than \$500 million over the next 20 years. We will use this funding along with the contributions we have made to the South King Housing and Homelessness Partnership to help Renton Housing Authority make meaningful progress on the construction of quality affordable housing

The Legislature also allocated \$175 million toward the Housing Trust Fund, which will allow non-profit organizations and housing providers in the state to add even more units locally, regionally and state-wide. We worked with the Low Income Housing Institute to open [June Leonard Place](#) in downtown Renton last month and look forward to similar projects.

The development of quality housing choices for our residents is part of goal #1 on the Renton Business Plan. I'm pleased we have played a major role in getting funding for such projects from the legislature. But projects like the [Sunset Court Apartments](#) (opened in October 2018) and June Leonard Place are the result of a vision, a plan and collaboration between all levels of government. We are fortunate in Renton that city staff, Renton Housing Authority and our state legislators are working together to make these projects a reality.



*Sunset Court opened in October 2018 and consists of 50 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and townhomes with ample green space and amenities for families.*

## Amended shopping cart ordinance passed

AT THE MAY 6 CITY COUNCIL meeting, the council unanimously passed an amended ordinance to deal with abandoned shopping carts in Renton. The new provisions increase the fine but also allow for fine deferrals if the cart owner has met certain criteria.

We instituted the original ordinance in 2016, because abandoned carts create a public nuisance. We've had tremendous cooperation from a majority of store owners, many going to great expense to help us keep our streets clear of shopping carts. However, despite a store's best efforts, people are still taking them off property and stores sometimes miss carts in their sweeps.

Abandoned carts pose a health and safety hazard and are a blight on our city. They block sidewalks, crosswalks and streets, posing a risk to pedestrians and possibly affecting emergency services. They can clog gutters and cause flooding. Since store owners are financially liable for their return, costs may be passed onto consumers through higher prices.

This amended ordinance does not penalize the stores who have developed good return policies. On the other hand, it does increase the fine on those stores that have not been as cooperative or attentive to this problem.

Finally, I ask you to do your part. Only use the carts for their intended purpose and then return them to the corral. Let's work together to eliminate shopping carts from our streets.



*Abandoned shopping cart along Houser Way.*

## South deck at Coulon Park reopens



THE NEW SOUTH DECK AT [Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park](#) was reopened earlier this week, marking the end of a park rehabilitation project that started last October. This final phase of the project replaced the old timber decking with a new steel deck on the main north and south docks. This new deck will allow sunlight through, improving the environment for fish. The project also replaced the day boat moorage piers and upgraded the boat launch, Trestle Bridge, north and south waterwalks and the sailing center. Coulon is one of the most visited parks in Washington and a true Renton treasure. These improvements will ensure the park serves the needs of our residents for years to come. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation [during the project](#) and my congratulations to our community services staff on a fantastic job.

## Mitsubishi Aircraft opens U.S. HQ in Renton

LAST WEEK WE WELCOMED another nationally-know company to our city as [Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation](#) opened their new U.S. headquarters in Renton.

Councilmembers Randy Corman and Ruth Pérez took part in the ribbon cutting. The new Renton headquarters will coordinate all aspects of the company's regional jet program, including engineering, sales, marketing and customer support. Mitsubishi Aircraft also maintains a Flight Test Center at Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake.



## 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](#)