RTC opens downtown center

A LONG-TIME VISION became a reality yesterday as I cut the ribbon officially opening Renton Technical College's new downtown center on Burnett Avenue near the transit center.

Having RTC downtown is a vital part of our revitalization efforts and something I have worked on for years with both current RTC President Dr. Kevin McCarthy and his predecessor Steve Hansen. State representatives Tina Orwall and Steve Bergquist were also at the ribbon-cutting, showing their continued commitment to education and to the college.

We're excited because we know this new center will become a hub of activities from college programs to community events and will provide a greater opportunity for RTC to partner with the Renton School District. My congratulations to Kevin and his staff.

Renton Farmers Market opens June 4

THE RENTON FARMERS MARKET opens its 18th season next Tuesday at Piazza Park.

The market is one of the most popular events we host here in Renton. Each week around 4,000 people shop for the best in local fruits, produce and unique goods grown and made locally.

Each year the market has gotten bigger and better—thanks to our community services staff, the volunteers at Piazza Renton and our sponsors Kaiser Permanente, CarMax and King Conservation District.

I hope you join me for opening day, but if you can't, the market runs every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. until September 24.

First Responders Bowl is June 8

EVERYDAY OUR FIRST RESPONDERS risk their lives to protect ours. The pride and professionalism of Renton's police and firefighters is evident in everything they do.

On Saturday, June 8, that pride and professionalism will be on display in another arena, as the two units face off in the second annual First Responders Bowl at Renton Memorial Stadium from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Come watch as they refocus their intensity away from saving lives and protecting property to scoring touchdowns. Parking is free and there will be food trucks, games and prizes. The Hazen High School cheer squad and drill team will perform.

Tickets are $10 for those 12 and over; 11 and under are free. All proceeds go to "I am Lionhardt" which provides awareness and financial assistance to all first responders battling critical illnesses.

With gratitude to those who served

I HAD THE HONOR to welcome veterans and their families to our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the downtown Veterans Memorial Park on Monday.

This park was championed by previous city councils (including Randy Corman, Don Persons and King Parker) and former Mayor Jesse Tanner. The park is a beautiful tribute to local military veterans, meticulously maintained by city staff.

Given the turmoil around the world with a number of saber-rattling, so-called “leaders,” our freedom can't be taken for granted. We owe so much to those who have served this country in past wars, many who lost their lives. It was heartwarming to see how many came out on Monday to honor those who served our country.

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.