



This Week from the Mayor



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Artist and activist Doug Kyes passes

THE CITY WAS SADDENED TO HEAR of the recent passing of long-time Renton resident Doug Kyes.

I was privileged to work closely with Doug on many civic projects. He was passionate and creative, two traits that always came through in his work.

For more than half a century Doug shared his love for our city through his talent as an artist and community leader. As the official artist of Renton River Days, it was his whimsical little red-haired boy and girl that became the event's symbol for over 13 years. He also participated in many other community events as an artist, including Allied Arts, and helped start the Piazza in Renton.

But Doug was more than just an artist. He was also instrumental in starting several well-known community events we enjoy today and helped establish our sister cities relationship with the City of Cuautla, Mexico.

Our public affairs staff is working on a Renton River Days documentary, including a section featuring Doug and long-time Renton River Days volunteers Char Baker and Toni Nelson. In it, Char and Toni talk about how they "coerced" Doug into becoming the official artist and he explains how he came up with the iconic "river boy." [I hope you'll take time to watch.](#)



Community events draw thousands



IT WAS GREAT TO SEE thousands of our residents attending events we hosted last week. Our annual Fourth of July celebration filled Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park with the sights, sounds and smells of families relaxing and enjoying the holiday. Starting at 7 a.m. families rushed into the park to secure one of the picnic shelters or to stake out a prime spot for the fireworks show. Walking through the park you saw first-hand how diverse and connected our community is. It was not uncommon to see families who were strangers at the beginning of the day become friends and share whatever was on their menu.

The weekend saw hot rods take over downtown with our annual Cruz the Loop on Saturday and Return to Renton Benefit Car Show on Sunday. Cruz celebrates the famous Renton Loop from decades ago, and this year we had a record 250 vehicles enter and an estimated 2,700

spectators. Sunday, the annual Return to Renton Benefit Car Show concluded the weekend bringing classic cars and visitors to our city as well as another opportunity to marvel at American ingenuity. As a "car guy," the weekend brought back many fond memories.

Special thanks to our community services staff and police and fire units that help make these events so enjoyable to attend. They spend hundreds of hours planning, checking and re-checking to make sure everything runs smoothly. Without their commitment and expertise, our year-long schedule of events would be impossible to pull off.



Renton's busy event calendar attracted thousands to the city. Thursday saw the annual community Fourth of July celebration and fireworks show at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. The weekend brought hot rods downtown with Cruz the Loop last Saturday and Return to Renton Benefit Car Show on Sunday. (Denis Law photos)

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](#)