



# This Week from the Mayor



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## Renton police emphasize community



*Renton Police Chief Ed VanValey attends a neighborhood National Night Out event.*

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, one of our highest priorities has been to focus police services in Renton in two primary areas: creative ways to address and reduce criminal activity and make a genuine effort to help our residents and business owners feel safe in this community. The Renton Police Department has made significant progress towards these goals and continues to find new ways of building relationships with our residents.

Chief Ed VanValey and his staff have worked hard to improve police/public relations and we hear about it on a daily basis. The City Council has always supported our requests for additional personnel and resources that have resulted in much higher visibility and interaction between officers and the public on a daily basis.

Tuesday night was another great example with the 36th annual National Night Out (NNO). NNO was started to get neighbors out of their houses and talking, hoping this interaction would lead to heightened awareness of crime prevention and an opportunity to meet

the officers who patrol their neighborhoods. It also provided an opportunity for residents to express some of their concerns to the officers and discuss ways to address these issues.

Officers, including Chief Ed VanValey and members of his command staff, attended dozens of neighborhood gatherings Tuesday evening. This year, the department took another step by asking the registered neighborhoods to hold a backpack drive as part of their evening's activities. The backpacks were collected by officers and donated to Renton School District.

These events are especially exciting for our children. It's been shown that the earlier a child meets a police officer, the deeper the impression and the more likely they will continue to have positive interactions with police as they grow.

I'm very proud of the quality service provided by our officers and the progress we have made in building relationships with our community. Having a safe city to raise your family or operate a business is critical to any city and the foundation of building a quality community.

I want to offer special thanks to Cyndie Morris, Sandra Havlik and Stephanie Hynes with our Community Programs and Crime Prevention Division. They worked very hard along with Drey Hicks, our Neighborhood Coordinator, to plan this city-wide event.



*Renton police officers visited neighborhoods on Tuesday as part of the 36th annual National Night Out. The officers also collected backpacks for donation to Renton Schools.*

## 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](#)