



This Week from the Mayor



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Doug Baldwin's involvement in new community center attracts media attention



Local and national media were at Cascade Elementary School this week to talk with Doug Baldwin about the Family First Community Center. The center will be built next to the school.

ONE OF THE BENEFITS of having a professional sports franchise make your city their home is the players get involved in the community.

In Renton, we take pride in the fact that former Seattle Seahawks player Doug Baldwin (that's tough to write!) is making a tremendous difference. Doug is dedicating his time to his dream of building the [Family First Community Center](#) in the Cascade/Benson Hill community. And right now he is sharing his incredible story on various [news outlets](#), explaining what drove him to partner with the city to build the center. You can join him and be part of this incredible legacy and help close the funding gap for the center by donating via the [Renton Regional Community Foundation](#). Simply select "Family First Community Center Fund" from the list of funds menu.

When Doug was a rookie, he lived in the Cascade/Benson Hill area. One thing he observed was the youth of the area needed a safe place to go for support and activities, something that helped him as a youngster growing up in Florida. He approached me about building such a facility here in Renton, and for the past four years Doug and I have been working to make this dream a reality.

Our youth and families in the Cascade/Benson Hill area desperately need a facility like this. The Family First Community Center will provide health and fitness programs as well as educational and recreational opportunities to an area that was underserved for years before it was annexed to Renton in 2008.

We have raised over \$10 million to date and are continuing our fundraising to meet the \$15 million goal.

Construction will begin early next year thanks to the generous support of local businesses, members of Renton Rotary, local residents, our state representatives and the City Council.

Senior Activity Center to celebrate 40 years



The annual Mothers Day luncheon is just one of the many events hosted by the Renton Senior Activity Center.

THE [RENTON SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER](#) will celebrate 40 years serving the 50+ population of Renton next month.

To mark the occasion, the center will host an anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring tours and activities.

When the center was dedicated back on August 26, 1979, Renton Mayor Charles Delaurenti called it "not just the best on the West Coast, but the best nation-wide." We all know politicians enjoy a little hyperbole now and then, but there's no hyperbole from me when I applaud all the classes, activities and resources Debbie Little and her staff have put together that have played a vital role in keeping our senior Renton residents active and engaged.

I hope you'll be able to attend their celebration and see all they offer to our community.

Day of Service honors victims of 9/11



Our tenth annual Day of Service to honor the victims and first responders in the September 11 terrorist attacks will be September 7, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Volunteers will then be treated to a Celebration of Service barbeque picnic lunch from noon to 1 p.m. at Liberty Park.

This day is set aside to encourage our citizens to volunteer by supporting charitable causes, performing good deeds, or engaging in other service activities. There are several volunteer opportunities in the city coordinated through our [Community Services Department](#). Please join us if you can.

Long-time city volunteer Helenanne Botham passes

I HAVE SOME SAD NEWS.

Helenanne Botham, who served at the volunteer desk in City Hall passed away in June. Helenanne volunteered from 1995 until 2013, providing more than 4,143 hours of service to Renton. Her family is asking that donations be made to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.



Helenanne Botham

Volunteers like Helenanne play an important role in the events and services the city provides. She will be missed.

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](#)