



This Week from the Mayor



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Thank you to our state legislators



(from left) Sen. Bob Hasegawa, Rep. Mia Gregerson, Rep. Tina Orwell, Sen. Lisa Wellman, Rep. Eric Pettigrew, Mayor Denis Law, Renton City Council President Don Persson, Renton City Councilmember Ed Prince, Sen. Rebecca Saldaña, Rep. Steve Bergquist, and Renton City Councilmember Ryan McIrvine.

WE HOSTED A "THANK YOU" RECEPTION for members of our state legislative delegation this week to express our appreciation for their efforts in securing millions of dollars during the last legislative session for transportation, parks and human services that benefit our community.

This made me reflect on the past 12 years of working with our legislators (actually 16 years when I add my time on the city council), and we have had many of these "thank you" sessions. It's a great indicator of the dedication our state representatives have in serving Renton residents, and also a testament of the value of maintaining a strong relationship between local and state leaders.

During the past dozen years, Renton has received well over \$50 million dollars for a host of local projects vital to improving the quality of life in our community. From parks and trails to transportation projects and human services, the efforts of working directly with our legislators has paid huge dividends.

As an example, in the last two years alone, millions of dollars have been provided to support the [Sunset Neighborhood Park](#), [Family First Community Center](#) and the Sunset Multi-Use Center (which will provide health care and a host of other services to many residents in the Sunset area).

When you add the amount of dollars associated with local freeway improvements, plus the support provided to local schools, Renton Housing Authority and other entities, the amount of financial support for our community jumps to hundreds of millions.

Besides tangible projects that are important to Renton, our delegation has strongly supported many regional issues that impact our community. They helped to ensure that we would have more classes at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy to speed the training for new police officers; allocated millions to address the serious backlog in processing sexual assault/rape kits in state labs; passed bills to support affordable housing and homelessness issues; and protected state revenues that support local cities.

Renton is served by representatives from the 11th, 33rd, 37th and 41st districts. Each of our senators and house members have come to City Hall every year to learn about the [legislative priorities](#) set by the City Council, and we have always spent time with each of them in Olympia during the sessions to lobby on behalf of our community.

Renton has established a close relationship with our state representatives, county officials and leaders of other cities in this region. It shows in the continued improvements we see in our city.

Renton projects funded by legislature 2008-2019

Transportation

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|---|----------|
| 405/167 Connector and 405 Corridor Renton-to-Bellevue | \$1.225b |
| N. 8th Street Direct Access Ramp to 405..... | \$20m |
| Bronson Way Bridge | \$3m |
| Rapid Ride F Line to Boeing..... | \$1.286m |

Quality of Life

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Sunset Neighborhood Park (2 projects)..... | \$4.8m |
| Sunset Stormwater Projects..... | \$2.75m |
| Hawks Landing Trail in May Creek | \$1.7m |
| Family First Community Center | \$1.5m |
| Riverview Park Pedestrian Bridge | \$1.1m |
| Gene Coulon Park Play Equipment..... | \$610,000 |
| Renton Connector..... | \$500,000 |

Economic Development

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|--|-----------------------------|
| South Lake Washington | \$500,000/year for 25 years |
| Port Quendall | \$400,000/year for 25 years |
| Removal of Renton "Dry Dock" | \$1m |
| Renton Small Business Dev. Center | \$100,000 |
| English Language Learning at Service Lien | \$50,000 |

Affordable Housing/Homeless Prevention

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Renton Housing Authority | \$1.2m |
| Sunset Multi-Use Center..... | \$1m |

Farmers Market closes 18th season on a high



Theme days are a big part of the market's attraction. On "Blue Tuesday," Blitz, the Seahawks mascot, stopped in to shop for fresh fruits. In 2019, the market hosted an estimated 50,000 visitors.

WE CONTINUE TO HEAR that time passes by quickly. It's hard to imagine that 17 weeks have passed since we opened the 18th annual Renton Farmers Market to kick off the summer season. I hate to see it come to an end. Not because it's a sign of the end of summer, but few activities in our community generate more excitement for all ages.

We're blessed to have a top-notch market coordinator Carrie Olson, who has helped to build this market into one of our most popular annual events. Renton is also fortunate to have tremendous volunteers from the Piazza Renton group that play a vital role in the success of this market and strong support from several community sponsors.

Besides fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers, vendors provide fresh eggs, meats and cheeses and other specialty food items. The market provides activities for every member of the family. There are food trucks, cooking demonstrations and weekly sessions with master gardeners, including Ciscoe Morris. There are wine and beer tastings and ongoing activities for kids. The Kids Passport program, sponsored by Washington State University's Food Sense course, provides kids with eight weeks of education on the importance of good nutrition and the need for including fresh fruits and vegetables in their diets.

The market gives back to our community, donating almost 3,000 pounds of food this year to the Renton Food Bank as well as making weekly donations to Center of Hope.

My thanks to all of you for your hard work in putting on the Farmers Market in 2019, and we look forward to the 19th edition in 2020.



Seems like yesterday that Mayor Law and Farmers Market Coordinator Carrie Olson opened the 18th Renton Farmers Market. The market ended its 17-week run as one of the most successful in history.

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](#)