



Armondo Pavone, Mayor

This Week from the Mayor



Shop and Dine in Renton

This week Boeing announced that they have temporarily stopped production on the 737 MAX in Renton. Boeing has stated that their employees will continue to work on 737-related projects while others will be temporarily assigned to other projects in the region. We are hopeful this suspension of production will be for a limited time to minimize any negative impact to local businesses. As we await a resumption of the assembly lines, my thoughts turn to Renton businesses that might be affected.

We always encourage residents and visitors to “shop locally” and now is a good time to remind everyone of the benefits of patronizing our local stores and restaurants. When residents and visitors shop, dine and recreate in Renton, they: help support and employ local families, friends and neighbors; reduce energy consumption and costs, traffic congestion, pollution and travel time; maintain our strong and diverse neighborhoods; and provide revenue that business can reinvest into local nonprofits and support government services like public safety and our parks. We have some of the finest restaurants and stores at The Landing, downtown and in all our Renton neighborhoods.

So the next time you’re planning an outing, please remember the benefits of staying local. Everyone will benefit.

United Way host Family Resource Exchange

On behalf of the city, it was my pleasure to welcome United Way’s Family Resource Exchange to Renton this past Monday. It was tenth such event in King County that United Way has produced, but the first time it has been in Renton.

I had no idea what to expect when I walked through the doors of Lindbergh High School, but after spending almost two hours talking with the organizers and volunteers I walked away knowing this was an event that we needed in our community and one that we will do everything in our power host again.



United Way drew on the power of The Starbucks Foundation, F5, Microsoft, Costco, Union Bank, Alaska Airlines, Kaiser Permanente and Northern Trust to put on an event that truly impacted the lives of Renton families. By the end of its four hours, 1,115 Renton residents, representing 375 households, received assistance.

Once a family entered the school, eager volunteers asked what they needed and then directed them to one of the many services available. Event partners New Bethlehem Project, Mary’s Place, Catholic Community Services and Wellspring Family Services provided information on many services including housing, finance, childcare and legal issues. Childcare was provided as well as a delicious lunch.

Strong partnerships are essential if we are to put an end to homelessness. But we also must bring the resource providers to locations where those who need help can get it.

That’s why I’m very proud of the work our human services division has been doing the past several months with their monthly Community Resources events. Every third Wednesday of the month they bring service providers together at the downtown Renton Library where many of the same services I saw at Monday’s event are available.

If you’re homeless or near homeless, or know someone who is, these events are a great way to discover there are people on your side and there are resources available to get you back on your feet. Our next event is Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the downtown Renton Library (100 Mill Ave. S.). Please share this information with those it will benefit.

Complete Count Committee to aid 2020 Census

You’ve been hearing from me about the importance of the 2020 Census to Renton and you’ll continue to hear a lot more.



A complete count of our residents is vital to our city. Our results will determine the course of the city over the next decade, by allowing us to receive our fair share of federal funding for schools, hospitals and transportation (to name a few).

That’s why we’ve established the Renton Complete Count Committee composed of leaders in the Renton community. Even though the census is a national project, it affects us at a local level. Think about what would happen if we missed out on our share of funding the next time you’re checking into a hospital or registering your child for school. I can safely say that all Renton residents will feel the effects of both a correct count and an undercount.

The committee met for the first time earlier this week and members brainstormed ideas about how to reach the communities, especially the areas that were undercounted in 2010. We will use Census Ambassadors to reach out into the community, help answer questions and talk about the importance of the census. If you’re interested in getting involved, an informational meeting will held this Saturday, Jan. 25, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the downtown Renton Library (100 Mill Ave. S.). Ambassadors will receive training and be paid \$25 per hour.

We will also establish Census Assistance Centers in conjunction with community groups. These centers will provide answers to your questions and can also provide help in completing the census form.

We hope that by taking a proactive approach to the 2020 Census we can achieve an accurate count and help secure Renton’s future for the next 10 years. I hope you’ll join us in this effort.

If you have questions please visit our [website](#), the [United States Census Bureau](#) site, or contact our census program manager [Ginna Hernandez](#) via email or 425-430-7728.

Informal staff Q&A

I enjoyed spending an hour getting to know my staff on Wednesday in an informal question and answer session. It was a great opportunity for me to learn what was on their minds and for them to learn a little more about me.



We re-emphasized the importance of a positive work culture and our commitment to public service. We have worked hard and are proud to be a city that provides first class customer service. As a Renton business owner for over 35 years, I know my success was built on my customers’ satisfaction and appreciation with the treatment they received. I want the same for our residents and visitors.

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](#)