



PICTURE RENTON

NEWS IN BRIEF



Pedigrew Boy, Renton Library



St. Anthony's Catholic Church



Mill Avenue



Downtown Parking Garage

New "Heritage Park" under Construction

The diverse community surrounding 233 Union Ave. can soon celebrate a brand new park built in cooperation with its neighborhood volunteers. The park's new name is derived from the community's cultural history, and the park itself will feature related interpretive panels along its paths.

Regional Transportation Priorities on Regional List

The Executive Board of the Regional Transportation Investment District has approved a plan to include improvements to SR 167, HOV connection between SR 167 and I-405, and to I-405 from Renton to Bellevue. The plan will be for voters to consider in November.

Community Services Department Receives Distinguished National Accreditation

The National Recreation and Park Association in Washington, DC, renewed Renton's status as one among only 66 agencies nationally and the first one in the state to be nationally accredited.

Renton Receives National Recognition for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Renton received a certificate of achievement in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, the highest form of recognition in that category. The award recognizes Renton's "spirit of full disclosure" and has been conferred on Renton continuously since 1995.

Renton Participates in Regional "One Night Count"

Renton volunteer staff joined other cities in King County in counting the homeless in their respective cities. City Council adopted the 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Renton Fire Department Award \$429,420 from Homeland Security

Renton received a large grant from Homeland Security to replace aging personal protective equipment. It allows the department to ensure Renton firefighters are outfitted with equipment that meets current industry safety standards.

STATE OF THE CITY 2007 The Future is Here.

Imagine a city of thriving neighborhoods, dotted with parks, anchored by a bustling, revitalized downtown. Imagine businesses eager to locate in one of dozens of rejuvenated neighborhoods, and bringing with them jobs, opportunities, and investments.

Imagine seniors, small children, families, and immigrants all making their way to a better life in a city that has become economically and socially strong. Imagine a city government that is active and responsive to every neighborhood and community.

You don't have to imagine anymore—that future is here in Renton.

In just a few years we've gone from fiscal challenges to the highest city budget in history.

(continued on back)

Renton City Council Calls for Election on Benson Hill Annexation

On March 12 the Renton City Council accepted a petition from residents in the Benson Hill area to annex to the City of Renton and called for an election on annexation in fall of 2007. The Benson Hill annexation is a 4.2 square-mile area that lies to the south and east of current city limits with a population of 16,000 residents. The question of annexation will proceed to the King County Boundary Review Board for review, a process which usually takes several months. Renton City Council will need to take action to request the November ballot date in mid-2007.

If residents in the area choose to annex, school districts and services for water and sewer would not change. The City of Renton would provide police, street maintenance, planning and permitting, parks and recreation, and fire and emergency medical services starting in March 2008.

City Source



RENTON, THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY

State of the City 2007 cont'd

We've gone from being a laugh line on *Almost Live* to appearing in the *New York Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

From the Seahawks to Vince's Coffee Shop, Renton is the choice for businesses in the Puget Sound. We upgraded our bond rating and focused on serving more people more efficiently. With a budget over \$200 million we've put the city back on sound economic footing.

2007 looks to be on pace to exceed 2006. *The future is here.*

From 2004 to 2006, we collected almost \$65 million in grants, loans, and other revenues from various governmental agencies. Every dollar we spent got us several more in return.

Renton's upcoming urban village at The Landing will also be one of Renton's largest residential projects. Already 70% of the retail space has been pre-leased.

Our Clean Sweep! program, which includes a community swap, neighborhood clean-up, and curbside collection, helps keep our neighborhoods clean and gives new meaning to recycling and waste reduction.

We broke ground on the Springbrook Creek Mitigation Bank and interpretive trail. The first of its kind in Washington, it will enhance over 130 acres of wetlands in Renton.

Revenues at Henry Moses Aquatic Center increased by 12 percent, and for five years in a row the Maplewood Golf Course has been recognized by *Golf Digest*. Our Community Services Department recently renewed its status as one of 66 agencies nationally to achieve accreditation.

Over the last year we saw a decrease in theft of 24 percent, leading to an almost 15 percent decrease of total Class I crimes.

We launched a new website with convenient features for our users: live and on-demand video streaming of our cable programs, including council meetings; an interactive events calendar; and a page subscrip-

tion system. Rentonwa.gov had almost 895,000 page views this January compared to 243,000 in January 2006!

We're committed to due diligence when it comes to determining the best course of action for Renton's future, including potential annexations and the future of Renton Airport. In the Highlands neighborhood, we're back on track with a community-driven Highlands Task Force. We have been guided by our vision "Renton—the center of opportunity in the Puget Sound region."

We learned three things from all our storms last year: Be prepared, be prepared, be prepared! We are launching a community preparedness campaign this summer. It is our goal to have every neighborhood prepared for a major emergency.

We plan to implement a new traffic enforcement system to monitor drivers running red lights. We have worked with the Renton School District to install flashing beacon systems and radar speed signs at several area elementary schools.



A month ago we found out Renton was selected as the preferred site by the Sonics and Storm owners for a multi-purpose events center. Irrespective of the outcome, this has been a win for Renton. We will evaluate the true economic benefits, including potential revenues and neighborhood impacts, before we consider the possibility of city investment in the facility.

This year we shall implement a new way-finding project to create an identity and encourage shoppers and visitors to explore all that downtown Renton has to offer. We are also evaluating

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Thursday, March 15. 7:30 pm. **Renton City Concert Band Spring Concert.** Tickets \$5/\$7. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. 425-430-6700 www.ikeapac.org

Friday, March 30. 8 pm. **Flashlight Egg Hunts.** Liberty Park. Ages 7-15. Free. 425-430-6700.

Saturday, March 31. 10 am. **Hip Hop Egg Hunt and Carnival.** 6 years and under with parent. Egg Hunt free. Carnival pass \$6. Renton Community Center 425-430-6700.

Saturday, April 7. 9 am - 2 pm. **3rd Annual Community Garage Sale.** Free to shoppers. Renton Community Center. 425-430-6700.

Wednesday, April 11. 1 pm. **Kids' Spring Concert** with Alleyoop. Sponsored by Keutal Team of Keller Williams Realty. \$2. Carco Theater. 425-430-6700.

Friday, April 13. 1 pm. **Kids' Spring Concert with Brothers from Different Mothers,** juggling comedians. Sponsored by Keutal Team of Keller Williams Realty. \$2. Renton Community Center. 425-430-6700

Saturday, April 21. 12 - 5 pm. **Annual Spring Festival.** Piazza Park. Free. 425-228-1977.

transportation options to connect the downtown to other parts of the city.

We have begun work on a master plan for the Renton libraries and completed our tri-park master plan, and we will soon begin a master plan for the Renton History Museum.

For the first time, we participated in King County's One Night Count program to count the number of homeless in Renton. City Council adopted a 10-year plan to eliminate homelessness in Renton.

Renton will have the world's first hybrid aid vehicle and hybrid boom truck in answer to our environmental responsibility.

We are about to see some of the most significant transportation investments since the freeway system was built 50 years ago.

Several of Renton's priorities are on the list for voters to consider this November—improvements to I-405 from Renton to Bellevue, SR 167, and SR 167/I-405 HOV lane to HOV lane connection.

Every investment we make in Renton gives hope to a working family and helps to build an entire neighborhood.

CITY CONTACTS

	Area Code 425
Mayor	430-6500
City Council	430-6501
Municipal Court Judge..	430-6550
Chief Administrative Officer	430-6500
Community Services ...	430-6600
Planning/Building/Public Works	430-7200
Economic Development, Neighborhoods, & Strategic Planning	430-6575
Code Enforcement	430-7373
Administrative, Judicial, Legal Services	430-6500
Emergencies	911
Police	430-7500 or epolice.rentonwa.gov
Fire	430-7000
Human Resources & Risk Management	430-7650
Finance & Information Services	430-6850

www.rentonwa.gov