



This Week from the Mayor



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Log sawing is a Swedish tradition that symbolizes a new beginning. As part of Ikea's grand opening celebration, local community groups received over \$56,000 in free merchandise.

IKEA-Renton opens doors; community groups benefit

Twenty-two years ago, Mayor Earl Clymer joined Bjorn Bayley and Anders Berglund in sawing the ceremonial log to officially open their new store in Renton. The fact that IKEA selected Renton to be their first store in the northwest part of the country was like winning the lottery, and was thanks to a tremendous recruitment effort by Renton's first economic development director Sue Carlson.

I was honored to represent Renton at the official opening of the new store on Wednesday, along with councilmembers Armondo Pavone and Ed Prince. I had the chance to reflect on the past 22 years with Bjorn Bayley, who sold the store back to the corporation several years ago, at a special event the previous day.

IKEA-Renton has been a huge benefit for this community. Not only does this store pay for a lot of city services for our residents such as police, fire, roads, local parks and more through sales taxes, but they have continually donated back to the community to make our city a better place to live and raise a family. From helping to fund the IKEA Performing Arts Center to Renton River Days, their generosity to local schools, charitable organizations and community events has been tremendous. As part of their grand opening celebration, IKEA donated over \$56,000 in merchandise to many local charitable organizations.

Renton is the envy of every city that would love to have a corporate partner like IKEA.



"Unspoken Truths" highlights Black History Month

A highlight of Black History Month activities in the city was a visit from Delbert Richardson's American Traveling Museum, sponsored by the city and the Renton African-American Pastoral Group (RAAP). "Unspoken Truths" depicts African life in the Americas and Europe, told through a collection of unique artifacts. During his presentation, Delbert also highlighted the substantial contributions African Americans have made to science, culture and technology. The City Council and city staff joined me in what was a thought-provoking evening.



The city and RAAP sponsored Delbert Richardson's unique look at African life in the Americas and Europe.

Citizen volunteers use their passion to enrich Renton

It was my pleasure to meet last week with the members of the Mayor's Senior Citizens Advisory Committee at the Senior Center. Members of the committee serve as advocates to both the City Council and me on items of vital interest to our senior population. The membership is elected by individuals active at the Senior Center and they meet twice a month.



Involvement by citizens on committees, boards and commissions is a prime reason why we live in a vibrant, progressive and caring community. Several of your neighbors donate their time and expertise with the goal of making Renton a great place to live, work, learn and play.

We maintain a list of [current openings](#) on our website. Opportunities are available to make an impact in several areas: airport, city center development, civil service, housing, human services, library, arts, transportation, parks, planning, historical society, and sister cities. I urge you to see if there's one that's a fit for your passion.

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.

ON TAP

CIVIC CORE KICKOFF + VISIONING MEETING

March 2, 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Renton Pavilion Event Center

[Share your ideas](#) on how to turn the downtown a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly destination. Activities for the whole family.