



This Week from the Mayor



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Photo by Leah Abraham, Renton Reporter

Spectacular Hyatt Regency opens in grand style

I had the honor to participate in the ribbon-cutting celebration for the new [Hyatt Regency Lake Washington](#) on Monday, located at Southport on the south side of Gene Coulon Park. It was a great event that was kicked off with an impressive, traditional Chinese lion dance.

The hotel was stunning in the afternoon sun with spectacular views of the lake to downtown Seattle. The amount of quality detail and materials used to build this hotel was unveiled as community leaders and Hyatt and elected officials came to celebrate the opening of one of Washington's finest hotels. Seattle Seahawks Doug Baldwin participated in the opening event.



The Seahawks Doug Baldwin joined the mayor at the Hyatt's grand opening ceremony, which opened with a traditional Chinese lion dance (below).

Photo by Jerry and Lois Photography

This has been a long journey for Michael and Min Christ, who purchased this property from Puget Sound Energy over 17 years ago. Development started with two quality apartment complexes with many rooms featuring sweeping lake views. From the beginning, Michael had a vision of a grand waterfront hotel, taking advantage of one of the most spectacular views available in this region. His plan also called for a large office campus behind the hotel that would be Renton's first Class-A business complex.

But as we all know, the bottom fell out of the market ten years ago. With a significant investment already made in the property, many developers would have opted to build whatever was necessary to fulfill cash-flow needs. But Michael and Min held onto their vision and commitment for the highest use of this property, resulting in a beautiful hotel that is literally a game-changer for Renton and for south King County. Construction will soon begin on the office campus.

The Hyatt Regency is already booking events well into next year, and the high-tech convention center will certainly be a draw for many major corporations that previously were limited to downtown Seattle or Bellevue. No other venue offers this type combination of quality experience and ambiance, as nearly every part of the hotel was designed to capture the spectacular view of Lake Washington. Its location next to a popular urban shopping village with dozens of restaurant options and other entertainment and adjoining one of the finest public parks in King County plus close proximity to SeaTac Airport, creates a natural draw for business travelers and families.

In addition to the Hyatt, [The Hampton Inn](#) on Lake Washington Boulevard opened this past week. It, too, is a high-quality facility that not only offers great hotel amenities, but a special dining experience for local residents that includes outdoor seating areas.



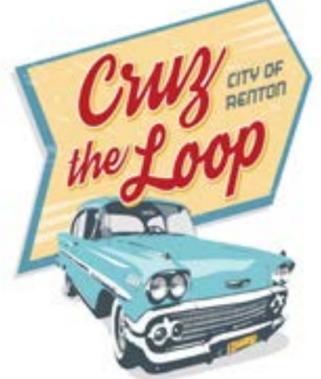
Cruz the Loop returns in August

The Renton Loop was famous. Some might even say infamous. On Friday and Saturday nights, youth from around the Puget Sound region gathered in their hot rods, cruised the downtown area, and made connections that survive to this day.

However, cruising the loop was frowned upon and eventually abolished by the city. But the lure and lore of The Loop hasn't gone away and now the city is leading the revival of this Renton tradition.

We're excited to say we're bringing back [Cruz the Loop](#) for one day on August 19, from 12 to 5 p.m. It's going to be an afternoon of fun and nostalgia from the entertainment to cars and dress, all capped by a re-creation of the Cruz.

We'll have more on the day's events later, but I hope you'll mark it on your calendars and plan to take part.



July is Parks and Recreation Month

Renton has 32 parks covering 277 acres. We have another 688 acres of natural areas and 10 miles of trails. Parks, open space, and natural recreation areas are vital to a community. They improve the quality of our water and air, prevent flooding, and provide habitat for salmon and other wildlife.

From Gene Coulon Park along the Lake Washington to the Cedar River Trail, we are extremely fortunate to have some of the most picturesque and well-maintained recreational facilities in the Puget Sound area. We salute the dedication and hard work of our Community Services staff by joining with the U.S. House of Representatives to proclaim July as [National Parks and Recreation Month](#). The next time you're enjoying one of our many facilities, please take a minute to remind yourself how lucky we are to live in Renton.



Donna Eken and Todd Black accepted the mayor's proclamation on behalf of the entire Community Services team.

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.