This Week from the Mayor

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Unity March showcases the best of Renton

Yesterday, I had the great pleasure to join with Chief Milosevich, leaders of the Renton African American Pastoral Group (RAAP), and community members in Renton’s first-ever Unity March. It was a great display of our city’s diversity and commitment to one another. Today, more than ever, achieving our goal of friendship, partnership and solidarity is critical. Renton is not immune to the events that have plagued other cities, so a march like this is one of many ways we’re attempting to take a proactive approach to relations with our African American community, and the partnership between RAAP and our police department is a key component. Since RAAP was formed, we have had several meetings and those open and often frank dialogues have improved relations. Now our response to the issues comes from mutual understanding, communications, and from thinking before we act. Let’s break down the barriers that exist between us, whether they are real or imagined, no progress can be made. Events like the Unity March show we are definitely “walking the talk” and go a long way in reaching our goal.

Center of Hope living up to its name

The Center of Hope continues to put up some outstanding numbers. From July 2015 to June 2016, they served over 350 individuals and placed 39 families into housing. The center serves as both a day center and night shelter and provides counseling, training and other services to women with the intent of helping them achieve independence. The Center of Hope makes a huge impact on some of the most vulnerable members of our community and helps change their lives forever.

Senior Expo a huge success

Our first Expo for Renton seniors 50+ was outstanding! I have never seen so many people at the Senior Center. Over 900 seniors attended and visited with 42 vendors and heard from 11 speakers. Events like this are important as we work to focus more of our attention on the needs and issues facing our growing senior population. My sincere thanks to the members of the Mayor’s Senior Advisory Committee and our community services and senior center staff who worked so hard to put on such a worthwhile event.

SSAFF returns to Renton

The Seattle South Asian Film Festival closes out their run for the third consecutive year at Carco Theatre. Renton has been a strong supporter of the festival and we’re honored to host the closing gala and reception for the third consecutive year. I hope you can take in one if not both days.

DID YOU KNOW?

LANGUAGE LINE
To provide better customer service to our residents for whom English is not their primary language, the city uses Language Line, a telephone interpretation service. City employees can use this service when assisting customers on the phone or in person at City Hall. The service is also available to visitors to City Hall.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS
Soon the downtown will be alive with holiday lights and trees and the Renton Municipal Arts Commission wants to do their part. The commission is offering artists the chance to stretch their creative muscles by creating and installing temporary winter or holiday themed installations in unoccupied downtown storefronts. Proposals must be in by October 21, 2016.

FEEDBACK
Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please e-mail me. Thanks for reading.