This Week from the Mayor

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City was prepared, but storm weaker than advertised

Even though the weekend storm wasn’t as severe as was forecasted, it was a good reminder for all of us to get prepared as we enter the storm season. Two groups that need no such reminders are the city's Emergency Management and Public Works departments. Let me give you some insight into their preparations as the storm moved into our region.

Once the forecasted severity was known, Emergency Management called a meeting on Thursday, bringing together all on-call departments. The departments shared their expectations: downed trees and powerlines, the need for backup generators, whether or not to open shelters, power outages and road closures, to name a few. They also talked through response scenarios and how to coordinate with outside agencies like Puget Sound Energy.

About two weeks ago, Public Works completed their winter operations preparations. This included repairing and testing all plows, sanders, and anti-icing trucks and stock-piling anti-icer, sand and salt. Snow plow drivers travelled their assigned routes to become familiar with any hazards that might be obscured by snow, thereby reducing the chance of damage.

Based on the work of these two departments, you can be assured, we are Ready in Renton!

From left to right: Jennifer Meisner, King County Historic Preservation Officer; Monica and Dave Brethauer, Cortona owners; John Adams, project architect; Dow Constantine, King County Executive.

Cortona Building wins county award

Congratulations to Monica and Dave Brethauer, owners of the Cortona Building in downtown Renton. They were awarded the 2016 John D. Spellman Award for Exemplary Achievement in Historic Preservation, Rehabilitation Category by King County Executive Dow Constantine. The award was given in recognition of the outstanding work the owners, architects, and construction crews did in retaining the building's heritage and architecture.

Today, the Cortona houses Urban Sprouts, a retailer of indoor plants, gardening items and gifts. With over 10,000 square feet, it has room for four more businesses. Long-time Renton residents will remember it as the original Woolworths in 1954. More recently it housed Renton Western Wear.

October as Domestic Violence Awareness month was a subject of an earlier newsletter. The city is committed to providing assistance through our Domestic Violence Victim Advocate program. Our local YWCA center also provides assistance through their Domestic Violence Advocacy program at Monday’s City Council meeting, I called attention to their work by issuing a proclamation designating October 17-21 to be YWCA Week Without Violence. In Renton we are working hard to reduce the incidents of domestic violence. I strongly encourage everyone in our community to join together and take an active role in ending violence in our community.

YWCA Week Without Violence

COFFEE WITH A COP

Our first series of Coffee with a Cop was a great success. Over the last six Mondays, citizens were invited to sit with members of the Renton Police Department and discuss issues while enjoying a cup of coffee. Our thanks to the Renton Chamber of Commerce, various Starbucks locations in Renton and, of course, to the Renton PD. Stay tuned, I have a feeling there will be more.

SEATTLE SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Carco Theatre will host the final two days of the Seattle South Asian Film Festival this Saturday and Sunday. Eight films will be shown over two days along with the festival's closing ceremonies. I hope you can attend.

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.