



This Week from the Mayor



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City Council adopts Renton's 2017 legislative agenda

When the state legislature convenes in January, we will be ready with a comprehensive list of priorities designed to provide benefits to the city. Our main focus is to address and fund critical needs in public safety, enhance the quality of life in our community, invest in transportation and emphasize financial stability



Artist's rendering of the new Sunset Neighborhood Park

Topping our list is a request for \$3.05 million grant from the state for Phases II and III of the Sunset Neighborhood Park. This 3.2-acre park is the catalyst for transforming the neighborhood, which includes several exciting projects: market-rate and low-income housing, retail stores and a new library. The park will include a teen/adult fitness area, children's play areas, water features, picnic areas, pergola with seating and art. It will serve over 6,000 people daily and improve health, provide environmental benefits and unite the community. We have briefed our legislators on the plan and Speaker of the House of Representatives Frank Chopp recently visited the area to see the progress first-hand.

With several vacant positions in the police department, we would like the state to dedicate an additional \$2.4 million to address a severe backlog at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Funding of transportation projects is another priority and we advocate only using money saved from I-405 construction on projects within the I-405 service corridor. We would like the state to create peak-use shoulder lanes between State Routes 167 and 169, improve two freeway bridge structures, and construct a multi-modal direct-access entrance onto I-405 from 44th Street.

These are just a few of our priorities. The entire legislative agenda will be available on our website.

Snow and cold weather coming? City staff prepared

While the threats of snow may have caused some to start scrambling, our Transportation Department's [Maintenance Division](#) was ready. In fact, their winter preparations were actually completed in early October. They had repaired and tested their fleet of 10 plows, nine sanders, and three anti-icing trucks and ordered 250 tons of road salt, 1,000 tons of sand and 9,000 gallons of de-icer. Our drivers have traveled the routes to identify hazards that might be obscured by snow and have loaded their trucks with needed equipment. During snow and ice events, our sanders and plows are [first dispatched to keep major arterials open](#).



Another area city staff keeps close watch on is our homeless population. The Human Services Division partnered with the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) to open a [cold weather shelter](#) at the Old Chamber building. The shelter was open earlier this week and will also be open tonight. The shelter was available for all who were living on the streets or in vehicles. We're grateful for REACH's involvement in providing this vital service. For information please contact our Human Services office at 425-430-6600.

Our Emergency Management staff has provided some helpful winter weather tips for you, your home and your vehicle in the Winter edition of [Renton CityNews](#).



Slate Clothing Store opens in The Landing

Last week Slate Clothing Store in The Landing had their official ribbon-cutting and opened to the public. Slate Clothing is located at 827 N. 10th Place and is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 6 p.m. Welcome to Renton!

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.

DID YOU KNOW?



GRIOT GALLERY TO OPEN IN 2017

The newly renovated Cortona Building has a second tenant. [Arts Unlimited of Renton](#) will open Griot Gallery in 2017. Griot will integrate an art gallery with a retail space for artwork, along with a classroom for art workshops and demonstrations. The Cortona Building, at South Third Street and Williams Avenue, originally housed Woolworth's in 1954 and has undergone a complete renovation. Its' first tenant, Urban Sprouts, opened in September.