



# This Week from the Mayor



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## Police give back and connect with the community

The Renton Police Department's community-wide outreach was on full display last week.

Our officers visited elementary schools in Renton School District to distribute playground equipment to second graders. The equipment included soccer balls, footballs, wall-balls, Frisbees and jump ropes. Each student was allowed to pick one item and received a certificate of ownership to share with their parents.

The equipment was purchased with part of the proceeds from the annual Return to Renton Benefit Car Show and Cruise-In. If you want to plan ahead, the [2017 edition](#) is July 9 in The Piazza Park downtown.

Last Saturday, the police department hosted the Renton Teen Peace Fest. Officers engaged with the community in a number of ways, including basketball, skateboarding, and one-on-one conversations.

Even though the two events were aimed at different age groups, they were developed on the same theme: our police officers carry more than a badge and a gun; they also carry a deep commitment to the community they serve.

## Baldwin fundraiser will benefit Family First Center

In April I wrote how the proposed [Family First Center](#) in the Cascade/Benson Hill community was closer to becoming a reality after the city council voted to fund up to \$4 million towards its construction. I also wrote that the real work was just beginning as we worked to meet our goal of raising \$15 million dollars to build the center.



The Family First Center is a collaborative effort between the city, the Seahawks Doug Baldwin, and Renton School District and it's appropriate Doug hosts one of the first fundraising projects. On June 25, the [Doug Baldwin Family Combine](#) takes place at Renton Memorial Stadium. It's designed after the NFL combine allowing participants to test their football skills. All proceeds go to the Family First Center.

The center will help bring much needed services to youth and families in the community, including health, fitness, and recreational opportunities.

## Farmers Market kicks off summer activities



One of the best parts of summer in Renton is the [Farmers Market](#), which opened its 17-week run on Tuesday. Opening day showcased the variety of fruits, vegetables, and baked goods, great things to eat and a musical performance by Hazen High School's jazz band. What often goes unnoticed, though, is the community collaboration it takes to put on an event like this. From Carrie Olson, our market coordinator, to the Piazza volunteers, to our generous sponsors, it truly takes a community to make the market a success. I hope you'll take time to visit and enjoy all the market has to offer.

## Proclamation



*Gary Kohlwes (right) with Jay Covington, Renton's Chief Administrative Officer*

I proclaimed this past Monday as [Gary Kohlwes Day](#) in Renton. Gary is retiring from the board of First Financial Bank after 40 years of service. Under his leadership, the bank has been a significant contributor to many Renton organizations over the years. Gary, who served as Renton's school superintendent for 23 years, has continued to be a leader in organizations supporting this community, including Renton Rotary and the Renton Community Foundation.

## 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.