



# This Week from the Mayor



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Photo by Denis Law

## Fabulous 4th brings out Renton's spirit

Renton's annual 4th of July celebration was a huge success! Thousands of people converged on Gene Coulon Park, many arriving early in the morning in order to stake out a special spot to enjoy the day and watch the fireworks show later in the evening.

It was great to see the number of families in the park enjoying the holiday on a beautiful, sunny day. Kids of all ages were playing games and swimming while their parents found a spot in the shade to relax. There was entertainment on stage and lots of activities for the kids to enjoy. Long before the noon hour, wonderful smells from dozens of barbecues began to fill the air.

A spectacular sunset set the stage for the fireworks display as dozens of boats from around the lake cruised in to watch the show from the water.

Not everything was perfect. When you have thousands of people who have the same idea of spending a nice afternoon in the park, it's impossible to avoid traffic and parking challenges. Police and park staff did a great job of managing the crowds and, following the spectacular fireworks display, were able to direct people out of the park fairly quickly.

What amazes me every year is how fast our parks staff has everything cleaned up and ready to serve the daily users of Gene Coulon Park.

Unfortunately, we continue to have some people who ignore the fact that discharging fireworks within the city limits is illegal. It's particularly aggravating for residents who endure individuals igniting dangerous fireworks obtained from Indian reservations.

Since voters approved the fireworks ban in 2005, incidents of fires and injuries in Renton has decreased considerably. According to Renton Regional Fire Authority Fire Chief Rick Marshall, fire fighters battled four house fires in Fairwood and Briarwood over the 4th. According to King County Sheriff's Fire Investigation Unit, the house fires in Fairwood were started by fireworks and two houses were destroyed.

On West Hill, illegal fireworks were discharged for several days. At least one vehicle was destroyed by fireworks. Both areas are in unincorporated King County where fireworks are not banned.

Renton Police and Renton Regional Fire Authority will be reviewing enforcement results and will present a report to the City Council in a couple weeks.



Photo by Denis Law



Police Chief Kevin Milosevich receives a \$13,000 donation used to buy athletic equipment, which was presented to second graders in the Renton School District.

## Police build community goodwill

Visibility and community engagement are large parts of a police officer's job.

At the annual BBQ with the Badges, Renton police officers interacted with 250 youngsters, demonstrating the tools of their trade, taking pictures and answering their questions. Around 15-20 of our officers, as well as Chief Kevin Milosevich and Deputy Chief Ed VanValey, were in attendance.

On Sunday we will celebrate the 27th year of the [Return to Renton Car Show](#), which shows off the best of American ingenuity and technology. During its run, the show has donated over \$230,000, which is used to fund youth programs in the city. It's one of my favorite events of the year and well worth your time.

Recently our officers used a portion of the proceeds they receive from last year's show to purchase and donate athletic equipment to second graders in Renton School District.

## Immigration Forum is Sunday

In Renton, we are proud to be an inclusive community that works together to solve problems and promote mutual respect and appreciation for all people in our community. We are committed to be a welcoming place to live, work, learn, and play; one that highly values diversity and is respectful, fair, and inclusive.

I have regular meetings with members of the Latino Community that I co-chair with Deacon Ted Rodriguez of St. Anthony Parish in Renton. The meetings are designed to find ways for our residents to learn more about the city and for us to build a strong partnership with the community.



*The Mayor's Latino Community Group*

As part of this effort, [St. Anthony Parish](#) will host an Immigration Forum this Sunday, July 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be immigration lawyers on-site to help with the process and help attendees find answers to their questions. We're expecting over 150 community members.

## 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.