October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and visitors to City Hall will notice two changes: outside the trees are covered with purple lights 24/7 and inside the lobby contains silhouettes and stories of seven Renton residents who died as the result of domestic violence.

Every nine seconds a woman in this country is beaten by her husband or boyfriend. Across the state 44 people died from domestic violence in 2016; domestic violence shelters received over 94,000 calls and provided over 220,000 shelter bed nights to victims and their families. These numbers are alarming.

In Renton our police department and human services staff are working to improve our response to and treatment of domestic violence cases through a heightened awareness of the cultural differences in our community. We have a Domestic Violence Victim Advocate to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence who live within the city limits. If you or someone you know are the victims of domestic violence please call our advocate at (425) 430-6654. If you are in imminent danger, please call 9-1-1. Domestic violence has no place our community.

The inaugural Bark in the Park was both fun and educational. Attendees took part in a costume contest and received a coupon for a free identification chip.

I will join with King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn in removing a ceremonial rail spike this Tuesday, October 17, at 10 a.m. just north of Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. The ceremony signals the start of construction of a four-mile section of the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) stretching from Coulon Park to Newcastle Beach Park in Bellevue. This new segment will also connect to the existing Lake Washington Loop Trail. When completed, the ERC will stretch almost 17 miles connecting Renton with Bellevue, Kirkland, Woodinville, and Redmond.

Converting rail to trail

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