



This Week from the Mayor



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Holidays a perfect time to relax and reflect

I HOPE THAT everyone had a happy and restful Thanksgiving with friends and family.

The time from Thanksgiving and Christmas through the end of the year is the perfect time to reflect on all of the reasons we truly have to be thankful, from family and friends, to the quality of life many of us enjoy.

It's also a time to give thanks for those who are no longer with us, including many individuals who spent



Albert Talley and King Parker are two of the community leaders Renton lost in 2017.

years improving the lives of others. It's been a tough year for the city as we've lost outstanding community leaders like King Parker, Al Talley, Mike Lowry, Alex and Norma Cugini, Bill Taylor, Jerry Shellan, Susan Bressler, Dave Thompson and Andee Jorgensen, all significant contributors to the Renton community.

Additionally many have also lost members of our families and close friends this year who were important in our life. My condolences to you.

We tend to devote a lot of time stressing over things these days, from local and national politics to traffic gridlock. But as I get older, I've become much more aware that life is precious and our time on earth is limited. So I urge you to leave the stress behind and devote time to reflect on all the reasons we have to be thankful.

Renton volunteers shine during the holidays

ONE THING I'M thankful for is the philanthropic work by members of our city staff and community.

For many years, I have had the opportunity to join city employees and Renton Rotary members to prepare an annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Renton Senior Activity Center. We started cooking the turkeys and hams around 5 a.m. and then worked on several delicious sides throughout the morning. Other volunteer groups arrived and played games with the seniors, set up the dining room, served the meal, and cleaned up.



Mayor Law, Kevin McQuiller from Public Works, and other volunteers helped prepare Thanksgiving dinner for 250.

Our Renton Police Department also was in the holiday mood. The wife of one of our officers made about 70 turkey sandwiches, which officers distributed at Harambee Church and in the downtown area to the homeless and several Metro drivers working the holiday.

Several city employees spent part of the day at Luther's Table helping prepare and serve the annual free Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by REACH, the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches. REACH served an estimated 300 meals.

In addition, we just concluded our annual employee giving campaign, which represents a portion of the thousands of dollars city employees generously raise during the year for various charities.

Giving of your time and resources is a very personal decision and I am constantly amazed at, and appreciative of, the generosity of our employees. Thank you.



Library wins third award

Our downtown library was recently recognized with an [Award of Honor](#) by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). It was one of only four honored, out of 133 submissions. This was the library's second AIA award, having won in 2016 for the renovation.

Our "library over the river" also garnered a Governor's Smart Communities Award in 2016 for the partnership between the city and King County Library System. The two worked together to completely refurbish the library's interior and exterior, while maintaining the integrity of the river and surrounding area.

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.

Clam Lights



I HOPE YOU'LL join me this Friday night for the annual [Ivar's Clam Lights](#) at Gene Coulon Memorial Park. The Lindbergh High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble will perform starting at 5:30 p.m. Santa Claus will be there for photos.

We'll do the official lighting at 6:15 p.m. and you'll see the Rainier Yacht Club's "Parade of Boats" and be entertained by the Dickens Carolers on the Argosy Christmas Ship.