



This Week from the Mayor



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Boeing Plant



Family First Community Center

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous new year!

TIME PASSES BY QUICKLY, and this must be more than a cliché since even young people are questioning how a year can pass by so fast. With only a couple of days remaining in 2017, I can't resist reflecting on just a few of the highlights from this past year.

It was a tragic year with the passing of a number of community leaders. One consequence of getting older is we begin to lose family members, close friends and colleagues at what seems like an alarming rate. We lost many great leaders this past year.

Still, there were a lot of positive highlights that occurred in 2017 for the record books.



Hyatt Regency Southport



Kaiser Permanente

The Hyatt Hotel on Lake Washington opened and has already been the site for a number of large conferences and many weddings. Overnight, the hotel began to receive positive reviews from around the region for the quality construction and unique setting on the lake. The Hampton Inn also opened on Lake Washington Boulevard and construction has begun on the Residence Inn by Marriott.



Valley Medical Center

As predicted, the healthcare industry continued its expansion in Renton with the groundbreaking of phase two of the Kaiser Permanente office campus and a \$150 million expansion of Valley Medical Center. And Providence Health and Services, headquartered in Renton, is close to becoming the largest healthcare provider in the nation through additional mergers. There are thousands of new jobs now associated with healthcare in Renton, with more growth on the horizon.

Boeing in Renton continues to break new records in production with 47 airplanes per month and that number is expected to grow to 52 airplanes a month in 2018. IKEA opened its new state-of-the-art store, and additional redevelopment continued in the downtown and Sunset communities. There will be more exciting activity coming next year.

One of the most exciting projects that shifted into high gear is a new community center to serve the youth and families in the Cascade/Benson community. To fill a major void in services that we inherited when we annexed this area into the city, the Renton City Council pledged \$4 million for this project and the Renton School District donated the land. King County Council members Dave Upthegrove and Reagan Dunn pledged \$75,000, and private contributions from First Financial Northwest Foundation (a major donation of \$3 million!), Doug Baldwin Foundation, Tom and Karen Easton and ATS Automation, and Car Pros of Renton have boosted the amount raised so far to \$8.5 million. More donations will be announced in a couple weeks. This project, once completed, will change the lives of many young people and is only possible because of the partnership that includes the City, school district, Doug Baldwin and the many corporate partners from our community.



737 MAX



Working with Doug Baldwin



First Financial donates \$3 million to Family First Community Center

At City Hall, we continued to see an exodus of longtime employees who are retiring. From department administrators (City Attorney Larry Warren retired after 43 years with the city) to many valued staff members, we continue to experience as much change in valued employees as the private sector has been seeing the past several years. We anticipate this to continue for a couple more years. Fortunately, we are finding highly qualified individuals interested in a career with the city.

We still face many challenges in the next few years, from local transportation issues to affordable housing options. But Renton is positioned well to continue to see positive growth and development, while continuing to find ways to improve the quality of life for residents and local businesses.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year!



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.