



Renton City News

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

Winter 2013

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Renton's New Non-Emergency #:
425-235-2121**

New Non-Emergency Number To Free Up Emergency Lines

The population of Renton has grown significantly over the years and, particularly with the proliferation of cell phones, the complexity of our 9-1-1 system has increased dramatically. Diverting non-emergency calls from 9-1-1 to our new ten-digit non-emergency number will free up emergency lines for critical calls for help. Renton's new non-emergency number, 425-235-2121, is for calls such as: barking dog or parking complaints; to report lost or stolen property; a crime has occurred but there are no witnesses or suspects.

City Council Passes Six-Month Moratorium on Pot Businesses

The Renton City Council voted unanimously Monday, November 4, to place a six-month moratorium on all marijuana-related businesses in Renton, including production, manufacturing, retail and medical uses. The moratorium is intended to allow the council and city staff time to draft new rules on zoning and other issues surrounding the formerly illegal substance, and not intended to ban marijuana-related businesses from the city.

Woman Conned Out of \$42K—City Warns Residents to Be Aware

A 78-year-old woman was recently swindled out of nearly \$42,000 in a scam that began in the parking lot of a local Fred Meyer. The woman was approached by a man and a woman who asked if a wallet found on the ground was hers. The suspects claimed the wallet contained a large sum of \$1,000 dollar bills. The two suspects then convinced the elderly woman to go to several banks to take out loans in the amount of \$41,650 to "buy the bills." Although this is an isolated incident, the city reminds the public that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you or someone you know has been targeted for a scam, report it to your local police.

RAINIER NEARS COMPLETION

Hard to believe, but after breaking ground March 20, 2012, the Rainier Avenue South Improvement Project is complete. The third and final phase of this \$42 million project, which is Renton's largest project in its history, consisted of a complete overhaul of Rainier Avenue South from SW Grady Way to South 2nd Street.



This project will improve traffic flow and safety along the corridor, provide better business access, increase pedestrian safety by providing wider sidewalks and enhanced energy-efficient LED street lighting, as well as serve as a "gateway" to Renton with new, welcoming art displays.

With the help of several federal, regional, state and local funding partners, construction of this three-phase project began back in 2008 when BNSF replaced the railroad bridge crossing over Rainier Avenue South between South 4th Place and S/SW 7th Street.

In 2009, Phase 2 of the project was completed when utility infrastructure and the Shattuck Avenue railroad bridge (formerly

known as the "Four Cow Bridge") were replaced, along with the widening of Shattuck Avenue South at South 4th Place and the addition of sidewalks and landscaping.

The City of Renton is planning to celebrate completion of this project with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony Monday, December 9, at 10 a.m. in the northwest corner of the McLendon Hardware parking lot.

A special thank you to all of our residents, Renton business employees and those who travel to Renton for other purposes for your patience and courtesy as you carefully maneuvered through daily traffic revisions during construction of this project.

RENTON POLICE "ADOPTING" SCHOOLS

The Renton Police Department began a new "adopt-a-school" program this year. The program encourages officers to adopt schools along their beats and routinely stop at schools, particularly when doing their paperwork, to increase their visibility and improve interactions with local school staff.



This program provides schools with additional police presence while giving officers the opportunity to get to know school administrators and staff on a first-name basis. This is especially beneficial if officers ever

have to respond to a call at a local school.

This program was implemented by the Renton Police Department following the loss of grant funds for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. In prior years SROs focused most of their time on the three high schools in the area. Now Renton officers are adopting schools that encompass all grade levels, with elementary and middle schools seeing infinitely more service.

Patrol Commander Chad Karlewicz described Adopt-a-School as a "conscious, concerted effort to spend more time at the schools."

CELEBRATE THE WINTER SOLSTICE

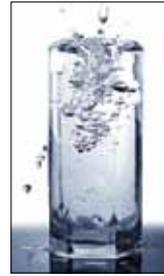
Celebrate the Winter Solstice with Mrs. Mistletoe and her puppet friends at the Renton History Museum on



Saturday, December 14, 1 to 2 p.m. Children help Possum, King Froggy Worthingham III, and others make the most of the coming winter. Appropriate for all ages. Adults \$3, kids \$1, members always free. For more information call 425-255-2330 or email clenahan@rentonwa.gov.

STORE SAFE DRINKING WATER

Many kinds of emergencies can affect the safety of your drinking water. Natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, ice storms, and other emergencies may cut off your drinking water supply with no warning. Planning for this possibility in advance will assure you have safe drinking water in such an emergency.



Store water in food grade water storage containers or reuse plastic soft-drink bottles. Avoid storing water in glass as it can break in a disaster. Store the water in a cool place that will hopefully be safe from disaster and discard and replace the stored water every two to six months.

To be prepared for a drinking water emergency, the American Red Cross recommends storing one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for each person for food preparation/sanitation). Store at least three days worth and if possible, store a two week supply for each member of your family.

In a disaster, if a safe supply of water is not available, any suspect water should be treated by either boiling or adding 3 drops bleach per quart. If the water is cloudy, it should be filtered before boiling or adding bleach. This can be done with camping filters made for this purpose or by running the water through coffee filters, paper or cotton towels, or cheesecloth.

CITY CONTACTS

Area Code 425

- General Information**..... 430-6400
- Mayor** 430-6500
- City Council**..... 430-6501
- Municipal Court Judge** 430-6550
- Chief Administrative Officer**..... 430-6500
- City Attorney** 430-6480
- City Clerk**..... 430-6510
- Code Enforcement**..... 430-7373
- Community Services** 430-6600
- Community & Economic Development** 430-6580
- Finance & Information Services** 430-6850
- Fire/Emergency Services**..... 430-7000
- Graffiti Reporting Line**..... 430-7373
- Human Resources & Risk Management** 430-7650
- Public Works** 430-7394
- Police** 430-7500
or epolice.rentonwa.gov
- Street/Water/Sewer Maint.**..... 430-7400
- Utility Billing**..... 430-6852

EMERGENCY **911**
Non-Emergency #
..... **425-235-2121**

 **The City of Renton provides reasonable accommodation upon request.**

TDD... 711 (425-430-6511)

rentonwa.gov

RentonCityNews@rentonwa.gov

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Fri.-Sat., November 22-23

Hassle Free Holiday Bazaar. Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway. 425-430-6700.

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Dinner. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Avenue North. Free dinner for seniors, supported by community volunteers.

Thursday-Friday, November 28-29

Thanksgiving Holiday. City offices closed.

Friday, December 6

Clam Lights Opening Night. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Entertainment begins 6:15 p.m. Official greeting 7 p.m. Rainier Yacht Club Parade of Boats begins 7:30 p.m. Argosy Christmas Ship arrives, performs 8-8:20 p.m.

Saturday, December 7

Downtown Holiday Activities. 3-5 p.m. Carolers, refreshments along 3rd Street.
Holiday Tree Lighting & Arrival of Santa. 5-7 p.m. Downtown Piazza, 3rd & Burnett. Visit Santa and enjoy music and lights. Sponsored by Piazza Renton and downtown businesses.

Sunday, December 8

K9 Candy Cane 5K Run & Walk. 8-9 a.m. registration. Race begins 9 a.m. Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway. For fee and registration information visit rentonwa.gov or call 425-430-6700. Sponsored by Signature Apartments, Fairwood Chiropractic, and Budu Racing.

For more information visit rentonwa.gov

Friday-Saturday, December 13-14

Downtown Santa's House. Friday 5-7 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. Free. Downtown Piazza. Believers of all ages can have their picture taken for free, downloadable online. Sponsored by downtown businesses.

Sunday, December 8

Renton City Concert Band Winter Concert. 2 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center, 400 South 2nd St. Admission \$10 adults, \$7 students and senior citizens. Directed by Michael Simpson. Call 425-430-6700 to purchase tickets.

Friday-Saturday, December 13-14

Downtown Santa's House. Friday 5-7 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. Downtown Piazza.

Sunday, December 15

Renton Youth Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. Carco Theatre, 1717 SE Maple Valley Highway. Admission \$10 adults, \$7 senior citizens, \$5 students. Call 425-430-6700 to purchase tickets.

Friday-Saturday, December 20-21

Downtown Santa's House. Friday 5-7 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. Downtown Piazza.

Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 25-26

Christmas Holiday. City offices closed.

Wednesday, December 25

Free Community Christmas Day Dinner. 2-4 p.m. Luther's Table, 419 S. 2nd Street, Renton. To volunteer email Pastor Gretchen at pastor.gretchen@comcast.net.

Wednesday, January 1

Polar Bear Dip. 11 a.m. Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, 1201 Lake Washington Blvd. Co-sponsored by The Reserve Sanctuary Apartments at The Landing.
New Year's Day Holiday. City offices closed.

BE PREPARED FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

The City of Renton Public Works Maintenance Division is geared up and ready for inclement weather and prepared to minimize challenges to Renton drivers this coming winter.

The city is equipped with the following inclement weather equipment: two de-icer trucks—one carrying 300 gallons of de-icer (300 gallons covers approximately ten miles of roadway) and one carrying 1,600 gallons of de-icer; ten plow/sander trucks; and three loaders to keep these trucks filled with sand and salt.

The city's emergency management and maintenance teams closely monitor the National Weather Service forecast for regular updates during storm events. Depending on road conditions, the city's maintenance crews begin de-icing roads according to the city route maps (visit rentonwa.gov for maps) one to two days prior to the weather event. De-icer is sprayed on roadways as permitted by weather conditions and temperature.

Because temperature and road conditions are key to the effectiveness of the de-icer, there are times when crews are unable



to spray it onto the roadways. If rainfall precedes freezing temperatures or snowfall, the rain dilutes the magnesium chloride de-icer and therefore results in little or no effect in preventing slippery conditions.

If snow accumulates on the roadway, plows and sand/salt trucks are dispatched according to the city route maps. Crews work in two 12-hour shifts, keeping snow removal equipment on the roadway around the clock. Fleet garage mechanics are also on modified work shifts in the event snow removal equipment is damaged and needs expedited repair.

We want to keep you safe this winter, so please follow these simple steps to help the city help you:

- During inclement weather conditions, do not abandon your vehicle along the

side of any roadway, regardless of how heavily traveled it is.

- Be prepared and equip your vehicle with proper gear (such as all-season tires, chains, coats, boots, and other personal items).
- Have your vehicle cooling system checked.
- Check wiper fluids and anti-ice/cleaning solution (do not use water).
- Check wiper blades for tears and cuts.
- Check your vehicle's heat and defrost and battery systems—have batteries tested if over 5 years old.
- Make sure your fuel tank is at least half full in case you are stranded and waiting for help.
- During inclement weather conditions, we encourage you to delay your travel as much as possible until road conditions improve.

FLOODING: TAKE STEPS TO BE SAFE

Flooding is a force of nature that often cannot be controlled or prevented. The City of Renton monitors weather forecasts and river conditions continuously and participates in the King County Flood Warning System, which notifies the city when Green River and Cedar River flows reach established flood phases.

In the event of a flood warning, residents are notified through NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, television, CodeRED, and local emergency agencies.

Natural channels, wetlands, man-made ponds and open ditches can protect us from flooding. It is important that constructed storm drainage systems are maintained and kept free of debris to help prevent flooding.

Dumping debris into any watercourse is prohibited by city ordinance. Please report

any violations to Development Services Code Compliance at 425-430-7373.

Flood losses are not covered under most homeowners' or renters' insurance policies. Renton participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which enables all Renton property owners, whether they are in a floodplain or not, to obtain flood insurance discounts of up to 20%. Contents coverage is available to renters.

To find out if your property is in a flood-prone area, obtain a Flood Insurance Rate Map, copies of existing Flood Elevation Certificates, or learn more about Flood Insurance, contact Gary Fink, Surface Water Utility, at 425-430-7392 or by email at gfink@rentonwa.gov. For more information on flood insurance & flood preparation visit rentonwa.gov or Floodsmart.gov.



Flood Safety & Precautions

- Turn off your main electricity switch and gas valve before flooding inundates your property.
- Remember that during a storm it is possible for streams to rise and for some parking lots, streets, and parks to fill with water. Never cross fast-flowing water, neither on foot nor in a vehicle, and stay off unstable stream banks.

THANKSGIVING A DAY OF SHARING

For the 19th consecutive year, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated as a day of sharing in Renton as City of Renton employees and members of the Rotary Club of Renton serve Thanksgiving Dinner at the Renton Senior Activity Center.



The Renton Senior Activity Center, located at 211 Burnett Avenue North, will be open on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday,

November 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for senior citizens to enjoy a day of social and recreational activities.

A free holiday meal, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Renton, will be served at 11:45 a.m. Senior citizens must pick up a free ticket on a first-come first-serve basis for their meal reservation. For more information call 425-430-6633.

CITY EMPLOYEES SEEK TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

To assist those in need this holiday season, City of Renton staff will again participate in "RentonGives," a volunteer program that aims to raise funds for local assistance programs.

To make a tax-deductible donation visit rentonwa.gov.



SHARE IN THE JOY OF GIVING!

The Renton Salvation Army has identified and screened a number of Renton families needing assistance this holiday season. If you would like to help, there are several ways to participate in the program.



One: Select a tag from the Holiday Angel Tree at either Renton City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way, or the Renton Community Center, 1715 Maple Valley Highway, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Return the unwrapped gift (and packages of gift wrap if you wish) with tag attached to either location by December 10.

Two: Adopt a family for the holidays. Gift certificates to stores that carry housewares,

groceries, toys, and clothing in all the same location work great. The gifts will be part of the Toy 'N Joy Program. Families arrive at appointed times before the holidays and select two gifts for each child. Holiday food baskets are distributed at the same time. To donate to the Toy 'N Joy Program please contact Captain Lisa Aird at 425-255-5974 or email

lisa.aird@usw.salvationarmy.org.

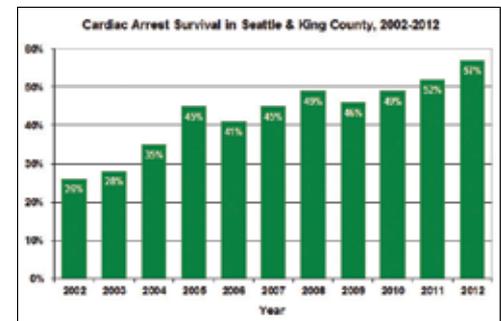
Three: Bell ringing. There are a number of locations in Renton and individuals or groups are welcome. Contact Captain Chris Aird at 425-255-5974 or 425-255-5969, or by email at chris.aird@usw.salvationarmy.org.

SURVIVAL RATES AT ALL TIME HIGH

The survival rate from cardiac arrest in Renton and throughout King County has reached an all-time high of 57 percent, according to a report released by King County. Most other parts of the nation have survival rates that hover around 10 percent.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Medic One 2013 Annual Report highlights this achievement and other activities that place this EMS/Medic One system among the world's best.

In 2012, the EMS system in King County responded to 172,700 calls to 9-1-1, including 48,010 for Advanced Life Support (ALS), the most serious or life-threatening injuries and illnesses. The average medic unit response time stayed steady at 7.5 minutes.



"Survival from cardiac arrest is the signature of quality for any EMS/Medic One system, and we continue to set the standard," said Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health – Seattle & King County. King County's cardiac survival rate has increased from an above-average 27 percent in 2002 to 57 percent today.

PET LICENSES AVAILABLE

The City of Renton requires that all dogs and cats aged four months and older be licensed. Pet owners are allowed up to three animals (any combination of cats and dogs) per household. An additional license is required for keeping four to six household pets and has a fee of \$50 per year. Licenses are renewed every year and must be on the animal at all times. For additional information and rates call 425-430-6850.

COUNCIL ADOPTS BENSON HILL PLAN

The Benson area is a diverse community that is home to nearly 25,000 residents and hundreds of businesses. The community has many assets, such as local parks and strong neighborhood groups. In order to build on these assets and identify a shared vision for the future of the Benson community, the Renton City Council adopted the Benson Hill Community Plan on October 14, 2013.

The Benson Hill Community Plan guides the direction of future growth and change

in Benson Hill. The City of Renton and many Benson Hill residents, businesses, and community stakeholders partnered to create this plan. As Benson Hill develops and conditions change, this plan provides a means for the city and community to address emerging issues and gives power to Benson Hill residents and businesses in shaping their community's future.

For more information and to download a copy of the plan, visit the city's website at www.rentonwa.gov/bensoncommunity.