

RENTON *Magazine*

Volume 1 / No 1 November 2006

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kids' coats
page 16

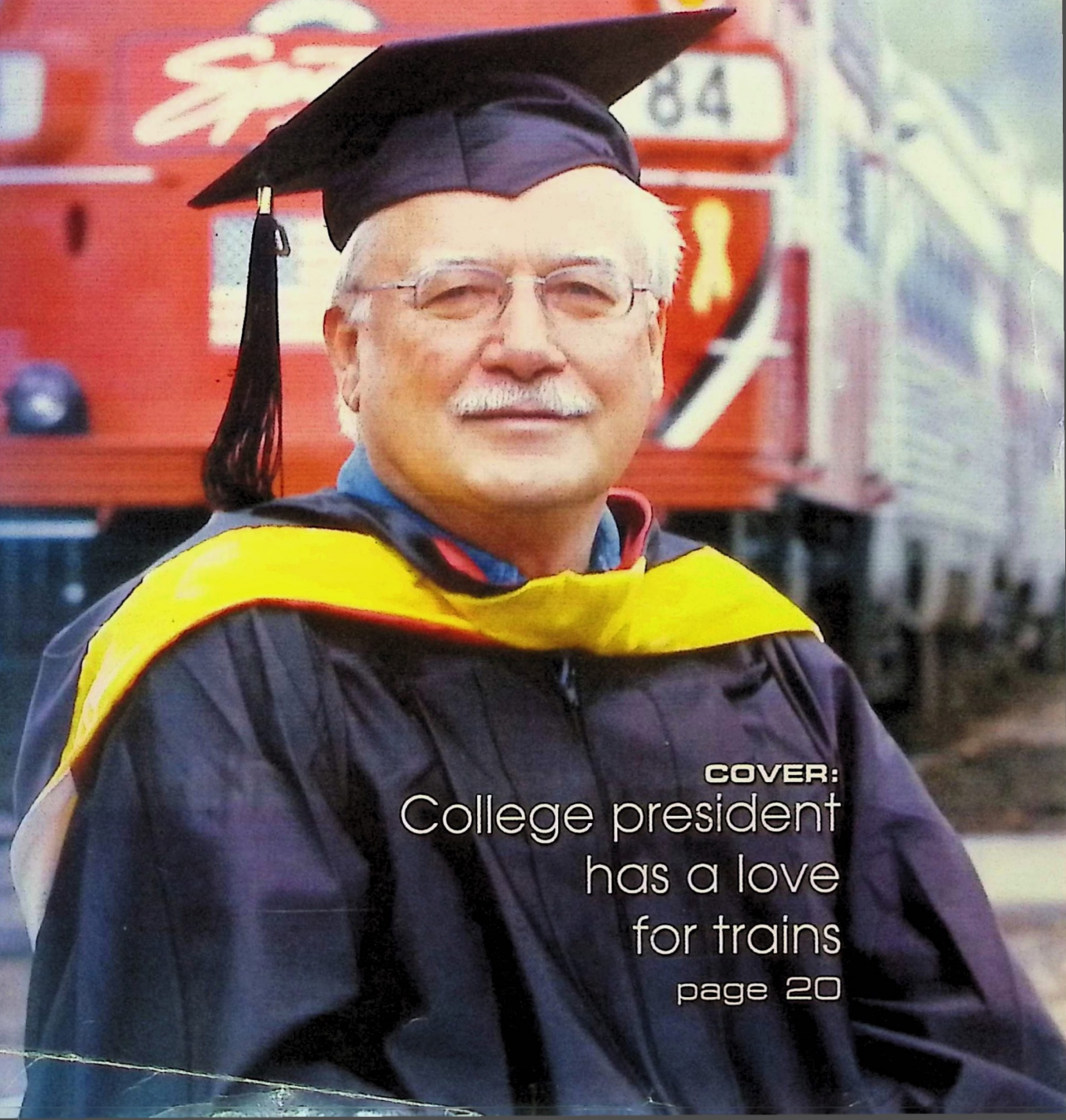
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College president
has a love
for trains
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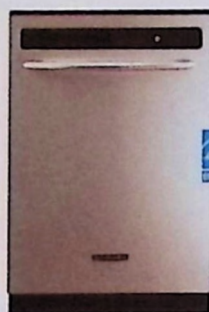
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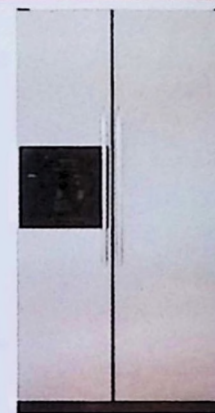
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- 5 cycles/5 cycle options



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"We don't read newspapers or watch the evening news. It's so negative and depressing!"

Sound familiar? Many of us routinely say it. Let's face it. Not everything in the world – or even in our community – is all positive and rosy. Our nation is at war, which is costing more American lives every day, not to mention billions and billions of tax dollars. Seniors can't afford to buy prescription drugs and healthcare costs, if you have healthcare, continues to skyrocket. And you can be assured senseless murders and child molesters will lead the evening news every night.

Our freeways and bridges are crumbling and are guaranteed to collapse when the big earthquake strikes. All levels of government are seeking more taxes, and escalating real estate prices make it very difficult, if not impossible, for many families to meet their financial obligations.

And screaming headlines warn us that many of our 10th graders will not graduate in 2008 because they can't pass the WASL test. Oh, and did I mention pandemic flu?

Take a deep breath, sit back and spend a few relaxing moments thumbing through the pages of this publication. Life is great in Renton and there is an abundance of good news to share. Most of us would not pass the WASL test and, despite high real estate costs, more people than ever are buying homes. The restaurants are full and so are our beautiful parks.

Our goal with *Renton Magazine* is to highlight all that's going well throughout our community. Many of our local students are achieving



Denis Law
PUBLISHER

ing academic levels beyond our comprehension and will be our leaders of the future. Many businesses are flourishing in Renton and new development, which provides more jobs and help to fund public amenities, is taking place all around us. And there are many individuals and organizations in this community making a huge difference in the lives of others through their volunteer work and ongoing generosity.

Most of what takes place in our community each day is positive. We plan to capture a slice of this reality to share with our readers each month. We'll also keep you informed about all of the fun activities that are scheduled throughout the month. Our columnists will try to capture your interest with topics that we can all relate to, and we will provide readers with features that are relevant in many of your daily lives, from gardening tips to local recipes.

We hope you enjoy this new publication and welcome your feedback.

RENTON Magazine

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cover photo:

Don Bressler, president of Renton Technical College, has had a passion for trains and education for 43 years. See page 20 / Photo by Denis Law.

important phone #'s

City Hall
425.430.6400

Community Center
425.430.6700

Fire Dept
(non emergency)
425.430.7000

Police Dept
(non emergency)
425.430.7500

Golf Course
(Maplewood)
425.430.6800

Library (Main)
425.430.6610

Library (Highlands)
425.430.6790

Senior Activity Center
425.430.6633

Renton Chamber
425.226.4560

Renton Museum
425.255.2330

Valley Medical Center
425.228.3450

upcoming events



november 4

**Evergreen City Ballet
The Annual Chocolate
Affair**

Saturday at 7pm
425.228.6800
710 S. 2nd St.
Admission: \$15.00



november 4

**Story Book Theatre:
The Frog Prince**

11am & 1pm
425.204.3455
IKEA Performing Arts Center
400 S. 2nd Street
Admission: \$8.00 for all



november 14

Totemic Impressions

11am & 4:30pm
425.255.2330
Renton History Museum
235 Mill Avenue South
Admission: Under 8 - Free



november
17 & 18

Hassle Free Holiday Bazaar

Friday: 11am - 7pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm
425.430.6700
Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway
Admission: Free

Additional information on these events can be found on page 22



november 23

**REACH
Thanksgiving Dinner**

2pm
St Anthony's Church
416 S. Fourth St
Donations Accepted



december 1

Clam Lights

425.430.6700
Coulon Park / 6:30pm
Admission: Free



december 2

**Piazza
Holiday Tree Lighting**

Piazza Park / 5pm - 7pm
Admission: Free
Photos by Gary Palmer/
STAR Photo Services



IKEA Performing Arts Center Wailin' Jennys

November 10 at 8pm

The Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center brings you a Winnipeg acoustic trio that combines classy harmonies and strong instrumentals. It is no wonder that music critics phrase their descriptions of this group in honeyed phrases. The Jennys, music

reviewers say, make music that is "lush," "luscious" and "sweet." The group recently performed on A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor on National Public Radio.

Carco Theatre

Valley
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Players
presents

Arsenic & Old Lace

In this famous and very popular comedy by Joseph Kesselring, we meet the charming and innocent ladies who populate their cellar with the remains of socially and religiously "acceptable" roomers; the antics of their brother who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt; and the activities of another brother. Come laugh with us with this classic play that's sure to please.

**November
17, 18, 24,
25 at 8pm**

**November 30
at 7:30pm**

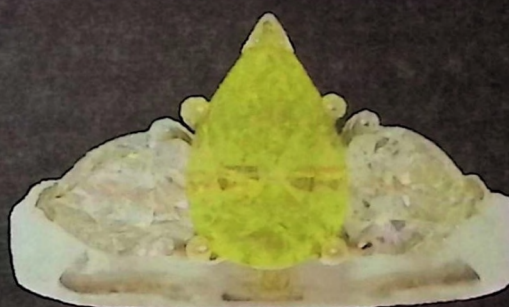


Renton Civic Theatre Deck the Halls with the Broads of Broadway

Sing and laugh along as we Deck the Halls with the Broads of Broadway salute to Christmas through the holiday season. This tribute to the women of Broadway will be a present you'll carry all season!

December 1 - December 17

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Two new chiefs are no strangers to this area

BY MANNY FRISHBERG

This past summer Renton got two new chiefs – Police Chief Kevin Milosevich and Fire Chief I. David Daniels. While they are still fairly new to their positions, both men are familiar figures in the area.

Chief Milosevich has been a member of the department he now heads for the past 21 years.

Daniels, though new to Renton, was born and raised in Seattle and served in that city's fire department from the time he graduated from Garfield High School. He rose through the ranks of the SFD, ultimately serving as deputy chief and assistant chief of safety and employee services before leaving the area to head up the Fulton County Fire Department in Atlanta, Georgia.

While the 46-year-old Milosevich has been on the Renton police force since 1985, serving as deputy chief since 2003, his elevation to the top post was anything but a foregone conclusion. He was selected for the job after the city hired the consulting firm of Waldron and Associates to conduct a nationwide search for the best candidate.

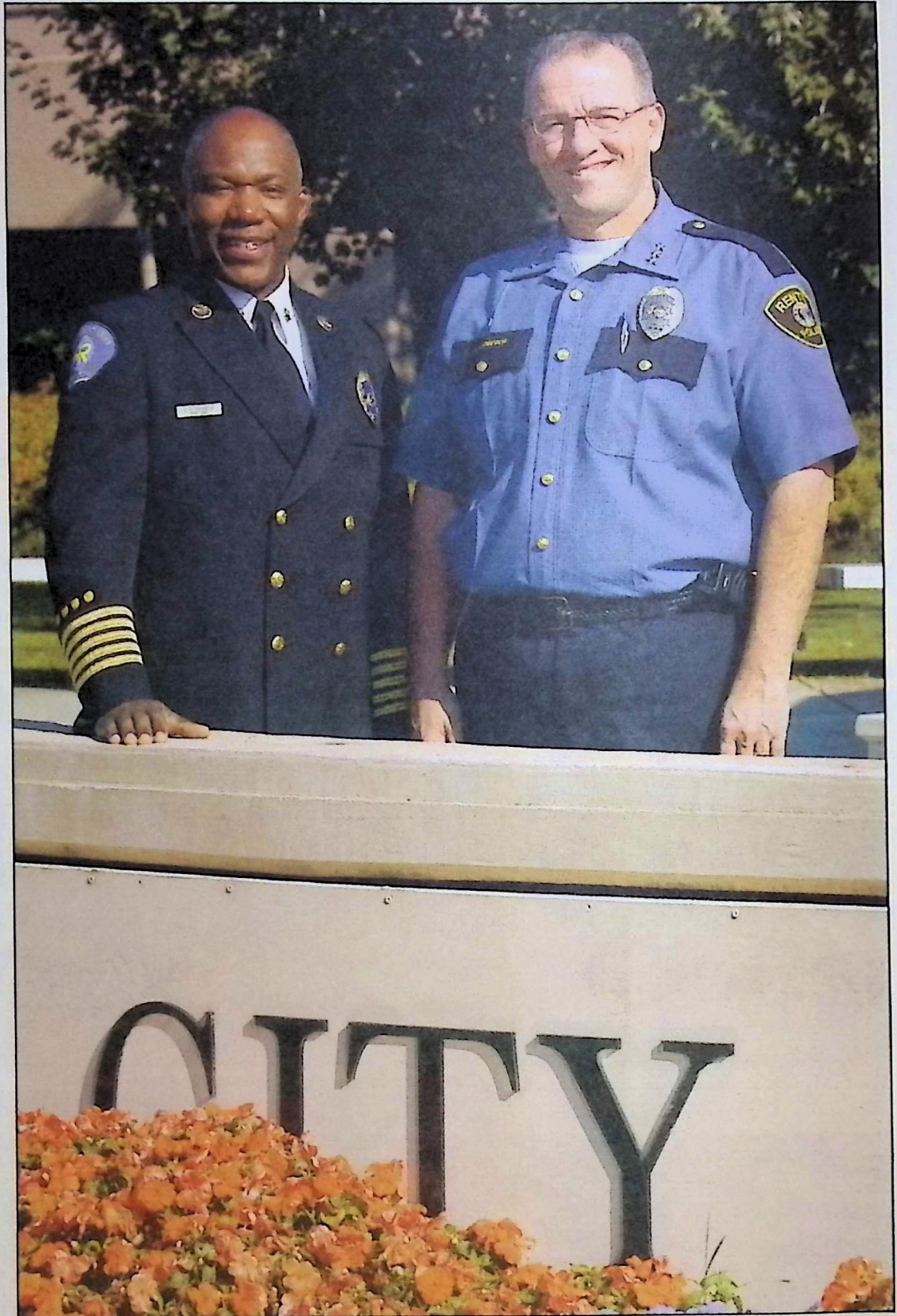
"I threw my name in the hat and figured I had a good shot," he says, "but you never know who's going to put in and their reasons for putting in."

The greatest challenges he sees himself facing over the next five years is how to manage the growth of the department as the city continues to grow and to expand its boundaries through annexations.

"There are several annexations coming down the pike fairly soon," Milosevich says. "The bigger one is the Benson Hill-Cascade area, for which we'll probably need to hire in the mid-20s as far as the number of police officers. Being able to hire that number of officers in a short amount of time is going to be a significant challenge."

At the Fire Department, Daniels sees his challenges more on the organizational side. He says they have the capacity to handle "a few more calls – that wouldn't impact us much."

The challenge, he says, is to look at the ways they handle everything from hiring and training personnel to acquiring resources and even getting letters through the system. "



RENTON MAGAZINE / Denis Law

Fire Chief I. David Daniels (left) and Police Chief Kevin Milosevich.

"I'm just asking a lot of questions about why we do what we do and why we do it in certain ways. We're having some conversation internally about how we can work

smarter," says Daniels. "Why do we do this, this and this when we could only have to do that? It gives me an opportunity to do that, being the new guy."

editor's viewpoint



Welcome to *Renton Magazine*

*W*elcome to the inaugural issue of *Renton Magazine*. I grew up in Renton and I'm proud to live and work here. I'm also

proud to be a part of this exciting new monthly publication.

We intend to bring you the good news about what's going on in your community; to help you find good places to eat and play; to help you enjoy hobbies; and to entertain and inform you with stories and photographs of some of the interesting people who live around you.

You'll find calendars that tell you what's going on around town for indoor and outdoor recreation, the arts, civic activities, senior activities, and more.

Read about Don Bressler and his elaborate model train hobby in this first issue. Don is the president of



David Suffia
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Renton Technical College, one of the city's finest assets, but you'll see another side to him here.

Find out how Renton Rotary feeds the hungry at Thanksgiving and provides coats to keep kids warm this coming winter.

Be sure to read about Renton's citizens of the year, three people who have made a positive difference in our community.

And to inspire you about the power of love, I hope you'll enjoy my article about Curtis and Connie Hill. It's the kind of story I love to write about.

You'll find columns on culinary arts, libraries, fall gardening tips, as well as features on our schools and local businesses. We'll be illustrating it all with some outstanding photography.

We've been a part of the Renton community for some time. We founded a community newspaper here and currently publish *The Business*

Report, which covers news about the South King County business community.

When you've finished this first issue of our newest publication, we hope you'll feel good about what you've read. Please send us an email, call us, or write us a letter and tell us what you think and what you'd like to see in *Renton Magazine* in the future. If you know of an interesting group or individual we might want to write about, let us know.

If your organization would like to see its events of general interest published, send us the information.

Most of all, I hope you enjoy what you read and see here. It's our Renton; let's celebrate it together each month.

David Suffia is the executive editor of Renton Magazine. E-mail; DavidSuffia@RentonMagazine.com.

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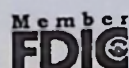
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The library is much more than a stack of books

BY BETTE ANDERSON

If the City of Renton were a house, the Renton Public Library would be its living room.

The library has two locations, the main downtown branch built over Cedar River at 100 Mill Ave. S., and the Highlands branch at 2902 N.E. 12th St.

The libraries provide a refuge from the hectic pace of busy lives and offer a creative environment in which minds can grow. Both libraries are comfortable places where you can browse the collection, sit and read, use computers, attend a program, or get information on almost any topic.

The libraries have almost 200,000 items in different formats. Whether it is books on recreation, videos to entertain the family, maps to plan a trip, or magazines to browse through, the library has something for everyone.

Among our collections are business/investment and career information, local history, large print books, travel materials, audio books, DVD's, Renton history, and many other resources. Free



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

Bette Anderson, director of the Renton Public Library.

Internet and computers are available for your use, and the libraries are hot spots for wireless if you would like to bring your own.

Children's librarian Jerene Battisti presents regular pre-school story times to introduce your children to the joys of reading. Check on our website's Children's Services page for a schedule of up-coming story times and special events.

At our website www.ci.renton.wa.us/commserv/library you

will find directions to the libraries, access to information databases, suggestions for great books to read, information about the library, and the library's catalog. Our information databases include magazine and newspaper articles, auto repair information, and a directory of U.S. businesses and residents. Only Renton library cardholders can access these superior resources from Internet-connected computers outside the library.

Getting a library card is easy,

and it's free. The Renton Public Library is funded through your local property taxes. If you live within the Renton city limits or in the King County Library System district, you are eligible for a card. Fill out the application form available at the library, and show personal identification and an item with your current address. If you are under 18, you will need your parent's or guardian's approval. That's all it takes to have a world of information available at your fingertips. Come in and discover this part of your community home!

For more information, call us at 425-430-6610 (Downtown Renton) or 425-430-6790 (Renton Highlands).

Bette Anderson is the Renton Public Library director

The public library in the Fairwood area is part of the King County library system. It offers many of the same services provided by the Renton library system. However, the Fairwood branch library will be closed from November 6 through November 30 for remodeling. It will be open November 7 only as an election day polling place.

The Fairwood library is located at 17009 140th Ave. S.E. and can be reached by phone at 425-226-0522.

Friends of the Library

A Friends of the Library group is being formed to organize events to promote the Renton Public Library, conduct fundraising activities, help with programs and events, and provide volunteer help in Renton libraries.

If you are interested in helping to develop, support, and promote the city's libraries, sign up to be a Friend of the Library. Stop by the Information Desk at the downtown library or call 425-430-6610 for more information.



Children's Story Times

Renton Libraries hold children's story times weekly through December 13. Story times at the main library are Mondays at 7p.m. and Wednesdays at 10a.m. Times at the Highlands branch are Tuesdays at 10a.m.

kirby unti

Time for some good news

There are days when I no longer even want to open up the local newspapers. ~kirby unti



KIRBY UNTI

I have always prided myself on being a realist. My work has certainly exposed me to the harsh realities of life. But I have reached the point in my life where I need a bit more balance when it comes to how reality is portrayed. There are days when I no longer even want to open up the local newspaper. Why? It is far too focused on what's wrong with the world and the community that I live in.

Let me offer you an analogy. I just learned that my mother is facing the possibility of open heart surgery at the age of 82. Reality is that she has a leaky heart valve. Reality is that she is faced with multiple health challenges. Her back and knees have become home to deteriorating arthritis. She is also a candidate for a knee replacement. Mom can certainly relate to the T-Shirt, "Growing Old Ain't For Sissies." The reality is that Mom's body parts are wearing out.

We could choose as a family to focus on the reality of everything

that is wrong with Mom. After all, it is the truth. But if we did, we sure would miss out on a much greater truth, everything that is so right about Mom. She continues to be a strong and a life-giving part of our family. Mom has a great sense of humor and we all count on her for her latest joke or pun. The grandchildren adore her and affectionately call her "Grandma Nabisco" because she always has cookies on hand. When the kids are around, Grandma Nabisco is the biggest kid of all. She hasn't put her golf clubs away and still looks forward to her winter home in Arizona. Being the mom of three boys, she continues to believe we are the greatest people on Earth.

My brothers and I did a conference phone recently to discuss Mom's future. We know she isn't going to be with us forever, but while we still have her we are not going to deny reality. We are going to focus on everything that is right about Mom.

The mission of *Renton Magazine* is to do likewise. It is not going to deny the reality of what's wrong with Renton. It is going to focus on everything that is right. This is so important because a community becomes what its citizens focus on. Let's continue to affirm and encourage the kind of community we want to be. It will be great to have a magazine we will all want to read.

Kirby Unti is pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, in the Renton Highlands, and will be a regular columnist for the Renton Magazine.

December Deadline

Advertising deadline for the December edition is November 13. Please call 425.271.9300 to speak to an advertising representative.

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Bob McBeth named Renton Citizen of the Year

By **ANDREW FICKES**

At the height of his career as a King County District Court judge, Bob McBeth had officiated at 2,600 weddings and presided over many significant cases.

But when he retired from the bench in February of 2005, McBeth knew that he had a rewarding life ahead, full of volunteerism and giving back to the community.

McBeth these days divides his time among being an adult mentor for Communities in Schools in Renton, managing the Rotacare Free Medical Clinic, serving on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and volunteering at the Renton Rotary.

"The other day I was counting my mileage," he said. "90 percent of the miles I drive are volunteer miles. That's all I do, and it's fun."

McBeth recently was honored as Citizen of the Year at the 2006 Renton Citizen of the Year Awards Banquet. Outstanding Renton Citizens were Jay Covington, Renton's chief administrative officer, and Roxanne Hanson, city relations director for Freddie's Club Casino in Renton.

The Renton Chamber of Commerce, the City of Renton and the Renton Rotary Club sponsor the Citizen of the Year Awards Banquet.

McBeth grew up near Spokane. His father, a carpenter working for the Great Northern Railroad, was very involved in community.

"My dad set the example that it is important to give to the community," McBeth said.

McBeth and his four brothers were all very active in Boy Scouts, church and community.

McBeth graduated from Mead High School in Spokane and became a captain in the Army, serving in Vietnam. He earned his



RENTON MAGAZINE / Den's Low

Renton Citizen of the Year, Bob McBeth (center), stands with Outstanding Citizens Roxanne Hanson and Jay Covington.

undergraduate degree in political science from Washington State University and went on to the University of Washington law school.

He loved the Puget Sound area and decided to settle in Renton. In 1981, he was appointed as King County District Court judge where he served for 24 years.

McBeth said his main passion today is Rotacare Free Medical Clinic in Renton. He founded the clinic in 2003 with Dr. Bob Thompson of Valley Medical Center. The clinic provides free medical care and prescription drugs to those who can't afford to pay for them. The clinic is held every Saturday morning at the Renton Rotary Food Bank from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"We've been in operation for three years and we've helped 1,400 people, 12 a week on average," he said. "The organization

has helped a segment of society that otherwise has been forgotten."

McBeth also is the president of Rotacare Puget Sound, which is a non-profit that operates clinics in Bellevue and Lake Forest Park as well as Renton.

McBeth's second passion is his work as chairman of the board for Communities in Schools of Renton. The non-profit group's primary mission is to help young students become successful. The group has about 125 adult mentors and serves about 140 students. McBeth is a mentor to a fourth grade boy.

"I really love it," he said. "It has become an important part of my routine. He is a neat kid."

McBeth and his wife Kathy have two grown children: a daughter, Moni, and a son, Brooks. Kathy, who retired last August after teaching for 38 years in the

Renton School District, is on a waiting list to be a mentor for Communities in Schools of Renton.

Jay Covington

Much of what Jay Covington learned about community service, he learned growing up on his dad's farm in Rexburg, Idaho.

"My dad was a band teacher and involved in the Lions Club. My mother was a candy stripper at area hospitals," Covington says. "Both of my parents were always willing to step up. My dad taught me that if you start a job, finish it."

Covington has been the City of Renton's chief administrative officer for 17 years, while devoting his time to supporting disadvantaged children.

"To watch the reaction of kids that I've worked with has been rewarding," he says.

Covington is an active member

of the local Boy Scouts Troop 481. Throughout his life he's served in many Boy Scouts positions including scout master and assistant scout master.

Covington's major contributions to the community include his involvement with Communities in Schools of Renton and the Renton Community Foundation.

Communities in Schools of Renton is a program he helped found in 1992. He serves now as a liaison to the executive committee of the group's board. Communities in Schools of Renton looks at the existing resources in the community and tries to leverage those resources for the benefit of students. One of the rewarding components of the program is the adult mentor program. Adult mentors spend time with a student each week.

"If the mentor ever can't make it, it's devastating to the child," he says. "The kids really look forward to it. It's a big deal."

The Renton Community Foundation is an organization that Covington also helped found. The foundation, which began in 2000, helps coordinate and encourage the philanthropy and generosity of the community.

In his position with Renton, Covington is responsible for essentially "running the city." All department heads report to him.

"There's just something about this community that hooks me," he says. "I'm happy to finish my career here."

Roxanne Hanson

As a teenager in 1970, Roxanne Hanson remembers helping her mother raise money and collect food to feed laid-off Boeing workers and their families for Thanksgiving. For her first volunteer effort, she helped package and deliver meals for 85 families.

Thirty-six years later, Hanson, who works as the city relations director for Diamond Lil's Card Casino and Freddie's Club Casino, still devotes much of her time to her hometown of Renton and to the people who live here.

"Giving back to the community just happens to be what I've done

all my life," she said. "It's always been a part of my family's make-up."

Hanson's mother, Toni Nelson, will finish her fifth and final term as a Renton City Council member in December of next year. Hanson said she's learned much from her mother about volunteerism.

"Mother always said never to make promises and then not follow through. If it's something I believe in, I know there's always a way to make it work. And I follow through. I've never promised something and then backed down because it got too tough."

Hanson was born and raised in Renton, a town she's never once thought of leaving.

"I've never left because of my closeness with my family," she said. "It's a warm community. It's always reaching out to people. It's an active community."

Hanson's current passion is education. She's fulfilling that passion in her work as chair of the Renton High School Excellence in Education program, her adult mentorship with a third grader, an advisory position on the board for Renton Communities in Schools of Renton, and her advisory position for Key Club at Lindbergh High School and Renton High School.

"I want high school students to feel that they are an asset to the community and that we do want them here," she said.

Hanson's other volunteer efforts include being a board member and past president for the Kiwanis Club of Renton, a board member of the Renton Chamber of Commerce and chairperson for the chamber's Total Resource Campaign. She also volunteers a lot for the CAST for Kids program, an organization that exposes disabled kids to the fishing experience.

Receiving the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award causes Hanson to recall 20 years ago when her mother received the Citizen of the Year Award.

"Like me, she didn't do it for the glory," she said. "For me to be in the same company as Jay Covington and Bob McBeth is a huge honor. It's amazing to be in the same arena as them."

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Cori Simmons decided early she wants to be a leader



CORI SIMMONS

RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

BY DAVID SUFFIA

Some people are content to let life lead them around. Others like to have a definite plan for where they want to go.

Cori Simmons is definitely in the latter category.

At 17, Cori is about as focused and engaged as they come, and her accomplishments already show it.

Cori is a senior at Hazen High School. Among other things, she's captain of the swim team,

Associated Student Body secretary, rock climbs and mountain climbs for a hobby, and she's attended both Girls State and Girls Nation. In the process, she's shaken hands with President Bush and other national political figures.

"I'm pretty driven," she says. "My greatest aspiration is to become secretary of state."

She's pretty amazing," Cori says.

"I really dislike partisanship and political party bickering.

George Washington warned about the danger of party lines disrupting Congress."

So how did someone so young become so focused?

"My parents are both civil engineers and they always have had newspa-

stay in-state for two years before going somewhere else. I'm looking at Washington State University because of their political science program."

Cori was one of two students elected at the Girls State program in Ellensburg to attend the Girls Nation program, an intensive politics seminar, in Washington D.C., where

I'm pretty driven. My greatest aspiration is to become secretary of state. It's just hard for me not to care about the future. ~cori simmons

That's secretary of state for the United States, not Washington state, in case you had any question.

"I want to help make America a better place, and work in foreign relations to make the world a better place. But first I want to earn a law degree before going into politics.

"Condoleezza Rice is a huge hero of mine and I'm trying to follow in her footsteps. She's very accomplished in music and other fields as well as politics.

pers and news magazines around for us to read. They'd cut out articles every week for us to read and discuss. By the time I was a freshman, we'd fight over who'd get the magazines first.

"It's just hard for me not to care about the future."

Cori's older sister also is a swimmer and attends Central Washington University.

"I'm applying to colleges now and I'd like to

she met the president, senators and congressmen. Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary for high school students between their junior and senior years.

"Shaking hands with President Bush was the most enlightening experience. He was completely different than he's portrayed in the news media."



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Renton School District good news announcements

Student receives volunteer award

Renton High School Junior Tu Le has received the Outstanding Student Volunteer Award from the Veterans Administration's Puget Sound Health Care System. Tu was recognized for 95 hours of outstanding volunteer service to veterans during his dedicated participation in the summer 2006 student volunteer program.

Hazen students want Sonics to move here

About 30 Hazen High School students wore special T-shirts at the recent Sonics exhibition game at the school, urging the professional basketball team to move to Renton. The shirts, saying, "RENTON, FUTURE HOME OF THE SONICS," were printed by the Rotary Club of Renton as part of a campaign to draw the attention of the Sonics organization. Thousands of the shirts were sent to Sonics owners, managers and coaches, and to others throughout Renton and the Puget Sound area.

Student honored for community service

Renton High School senior Kirstie Englis has been recognized for her valuable community service to the North Cascades Wild program this summer. Kirstie earned all of her 60 community service hours by volunteering at Ross Lake in North Cascades National Park. Kirstie completed campsite and riverbank restoration work for the Park Service; collected pounds of seeds representing 17 plant species to produce more than 100,000 new plants; and planted more than 200 trees and other vegetation.

Hazen teacher praised by city

Hazen High School's sports medicine teacher Tom Walker has been recognized twice by the City of Renton for acting quickly and with expertise to help students who became ill or injured. Tom aided a student who experienced a grand mal seizure and one who had fallen and injured herself during cheer practice. Crewmembers from Renton aid units were able to quickly offer medical attention to both students because of Tom's expert assistance. Tom administered oxygen, took vital signs, applied traction and comforted the students during the incidents. Tom also rode along with emergency crews in ambulances and helped administer care on the way to the hospital.

Renton ASB donates in student's memory

Renton High School's Associate Student Body (ASB) has donated \$100 to a scholarship fund for Mike Miller, a 16-year-old Evergreen High School Junior who recently died. In a brief ceremony before a recent football game, assistant principal Charles James presented the check to Evergreen officials saying, "This should be awarded to the student who best honors the memory of Mike Miller through his or her work in the classroom and on the athletic field."

These Good News Announcements are prepared by the Renton School District Community Relations department. Contributions made be offered by contacting Randy Matheson at 425-204-2345 or at randy.matheson@renton.wednet.edu.

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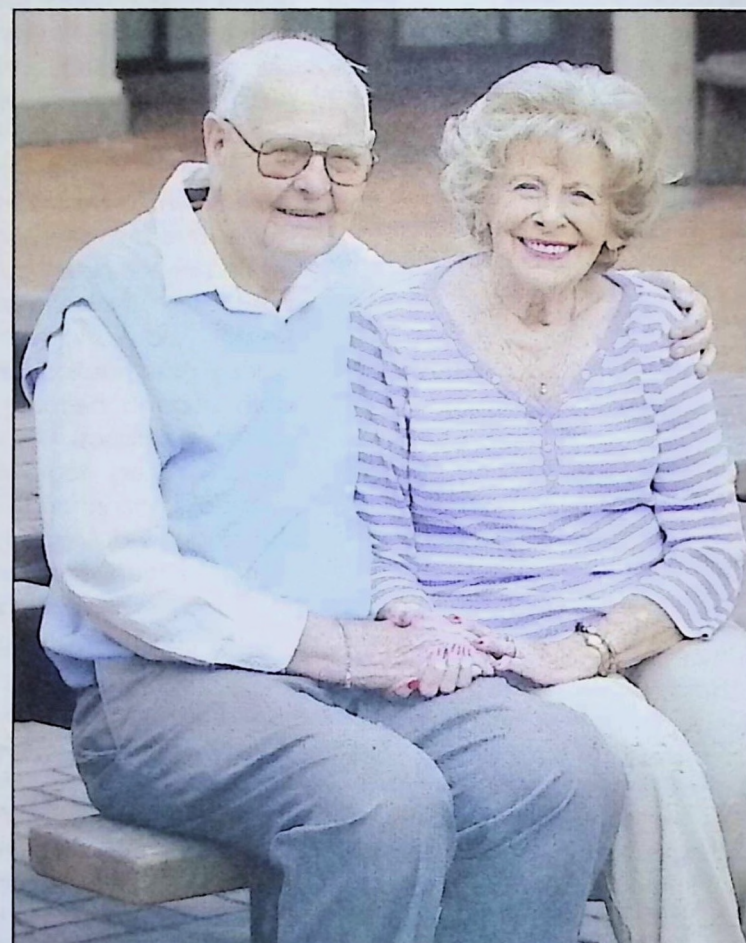
senior news

How Curtis and Connie found love

FOR IT WAS NOT INTO MY
EAR YOU WHISPERED, BUT
INTO MY HEART. IT WAS
NOT MY LIPS YOU KISSED,
BUT MY SOUL.

-judy garland

BY DAVID SUFFIA



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

Curtis and Connie Hill sit outside the Renton Senior Center where they first met.

Curtis Hill is a gentleman. That's just part of the reason Connie fell for him. Connie with the lively blue eyes and the dynamite smile.

When they hold hands, they look like star-blessed lovers who have learned the deep meaning of life. They were married eight years ago, after fate perhaps brought them together over a balky automobile engine light and strange mirror-image dreams.

"Curtis told me he'd had a dream that I had ditched him," Connie remembers.

"Connie had had the same dream in reverse," Curtis recalls.

Curtis called Connie and asked if she loved him. She said yes. She asked if he loved her. He said yes.

The next day, Curtis showed up in Connie's kitchen with the worried look that most men wear just

before they pop the question.

"I asked him if he was feeling okay, and he blurted out, 'Will you marry me?' Connie said. 'Of course I will!' I said. I felt such a peace with him."

So began the marriage of Curtis and Connie, one of a number of couples who have found late-life romance and happiness at the Renton Senior Center.

Curtis is 83, the father of four, grandfather of 19, great-grandfather of 10, from a previous marriage. Connie is the mother of eight, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of 10,

also from a previous marriage.

Curtis, a long-time resident of the Renton area and a retired grocery store employee, volunteered for years at the center, manning the coffee bar. Connie, also a long-time resident of the Renton area and a registered nurse, volunteers twice a week. She monitors seniors' blood pressure and lends an ear to those in need of someone to listen.

That's how they met. Both had been alone for about seven years. She was checking his blood pressure

CURTIS & CONNIE ~ next page

CURTIS & CONNIE

from page 14

and asked him about the blinking oil light in her car. He volunteered to take her car home and change the oil.

"That's what's great about the center. The men here help the women with problems like that," Connie says.

Connie reciprocated by baking Curtis a pie and bringing it to his home.

"That was it; something happened," Curtis remembers.

Something happened all right. Curtis grabbed hold of Connie and kissed her, standing there in the kitchen.

"After he kissed me he said he couldn't believe it," Connie says. "I was looking up into his eyes and I knew this was an honest and a good man."

Neither of them had thought love would find them again. Neither had been looking for a partner.

The Hills aren't the only cou-

After he kissed me he said he couldn't believe it, I was looking up into his eyes and I knew this was an honest and a good man. ~connie hill



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

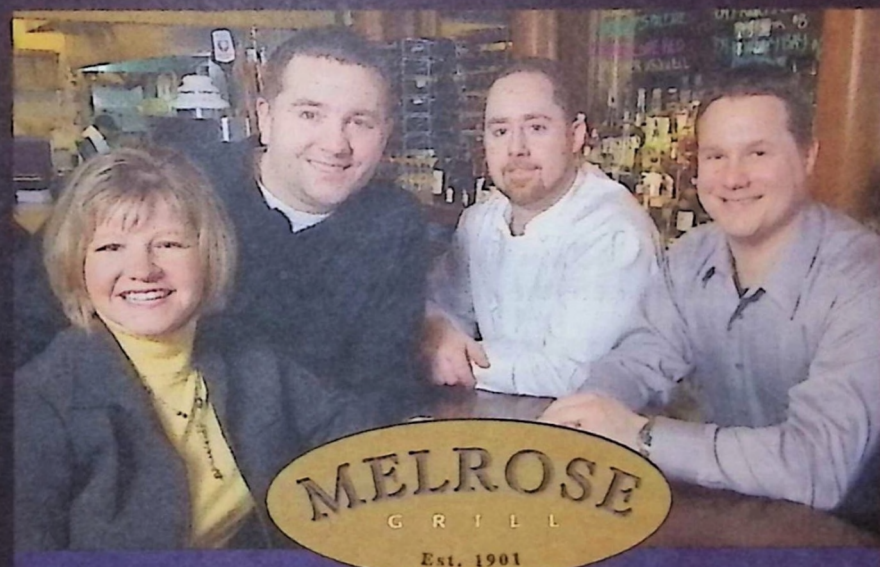
Don't chase love. If it's meant to be, it will come to you, the Hills counsel.

ples to meet at the Renton Senior Center and marry, according to Shawn Daly, senior services coordinator for the city.

"We've had maybe 15 couples meet here and marry in the past 10 years, more than I'd have

dreamed," he said. "We're not in the matchmaking business, but loneliness can be really, really tough, and people meet each other here at the coffee bar, in classes, at lunch, and they connect."

Connie and Curtis offer this advice about love and marriage, no matter what your age. Don't chase it; don't go hunting for a spouse; love will come to you if you are patient. Above all, treat each other with respect.



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operation **warm**



Delaney Tiernan, 9, helps her father, Rotarian Chuck Tiernan, get coats ready for kids.

Club provides coats for kids, Thanksgiving dinner

By MANNY FRISHBERG / Photos by DENIS LAW



Schools supt. Mary Alice Heuschel helps fit a new coat.

Changing colors on the trees and early sunsets are sure signs that it's autumn. For members of the Rotary Club of Renton they signal that it's time for two of the chapter's annual programs — Operation Warm and Thanksgiving dinner at the Renton Senior Center.

Operation Warm

Falling leaves mean a lot of youngsters in Renton won't be ready when the inevitable cold weather follows. That's where

Rotary comes in. For the past three years, according to Rotarian Russ Price, the organization has been running Operation Warm, supplying coats to young people in conjunction with the Renton

RENTON ROTARY
we're changing lives

School District.

During the past two years the local Rotary club has raised about \$15,000 to buy coats from the Philadelphia-based Operation Warm Foundation, which gets

them from Columbia Sportswear and other manufacturers.

In the first year of the project, before they adopted it as a major program, Rotary bought 256 coats with \$500 they had available in their community service budget. The following year they raised money for the program as part of their annual dinner-auction, the club's major fundraising event of the year. That enabled them to bring 1,500 coats to the Renton High School cafeteria to distribute to families identified through the

OPERATION WARM ~ next page

Rotary also gives gift of words to youngsters

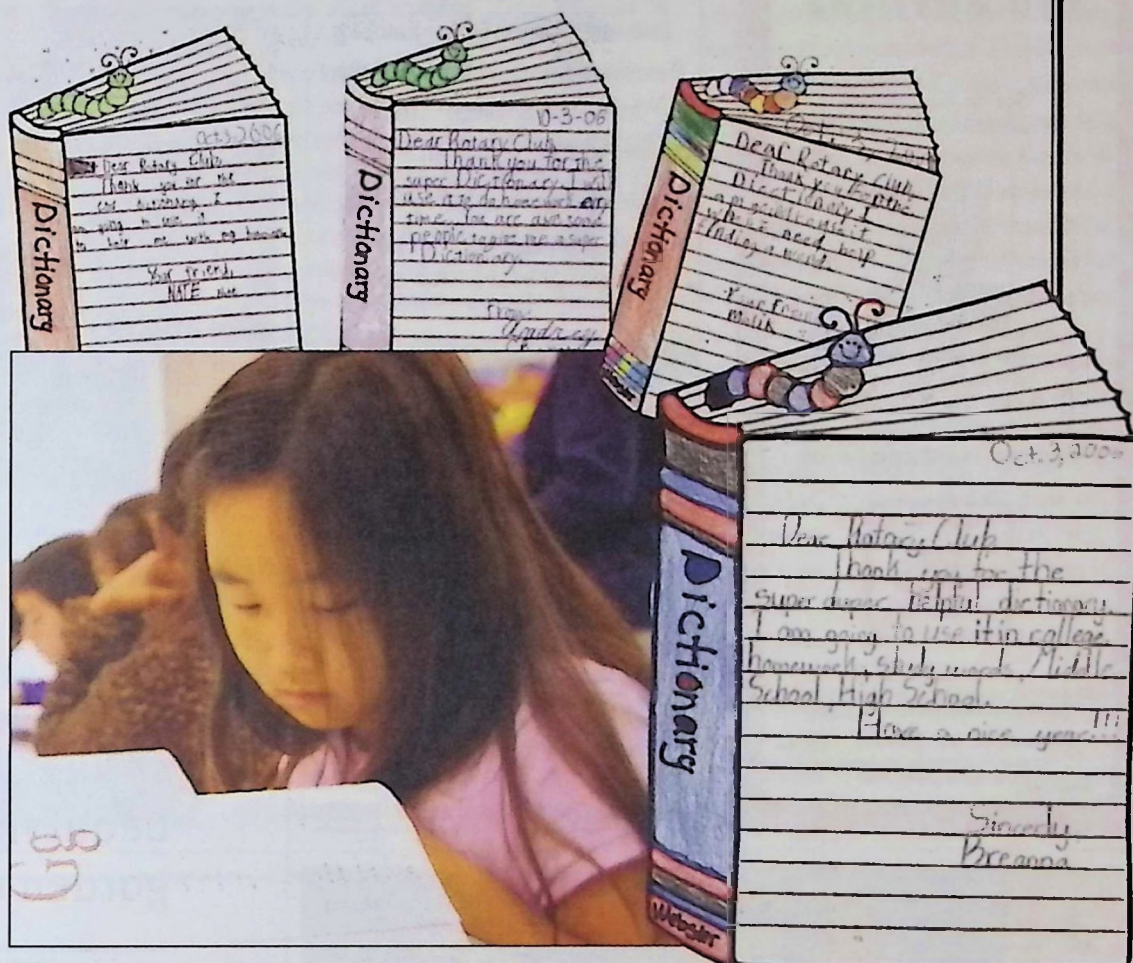
More than 1,000 students in the Renton School District will receive the gift of words, thanks to members of the Rotary Club of Renton.

Because Rotarians understand the importance of early childhood education and having students read at grade level by third grade, Rotary Club of Renton members recently purchased 1,250 dictionaries to give to each third-grade student in the district.

Rotary members have been spreading out throughout the district in recent weeks to personally present the dictionaries to students.

Dictionaries are available in classrooms and school libraries in book form and on the Internet, accessible through school computers. But the dictionaries to be handed out by Rotarians will go home with children, who will write their names in the books on a special sticker inside the front cover.

This is the 200th anniversary of America's first dictionary, which was first printed in 1806 by Noah Webster.



OPERATION WARM from page 16

Renton Community In Schools partnership.

Last year, says retired school superintendent Dolores Gibbons, about 40 volunteers gave out 1,000 coats.

"The kids came and it had great dignity because the youngsters got to pick out their coats – the colors that they wanted and the right sizes, and they weren't used coats, which many of the children were used to getting," says Gibbons. It was really an extraordinary day."

Rotary had 1,000 coats to hand out at Renton High School last month.

Thanksgiving dinner

Later this month, Renton City Council member Don Persson and his partner in Don and Larry's Barbecue Catering will be cooking Thanksgiving dinner for about 250 of the city's seniors, as they have annually for the past decade. Persson says he started the project because he had heard there were a num-

ber of people in the community who did not have a hot meal on Thanksgiving Day. He enlisted Rotary to buy the food and encouraged Renton city staff members to donate their time.

Cooking the turkeys and hams starts about 6:30 on Thanksgiving morning and volunteers come in to set tables and get everything ready. Then, says Persson, a little before noon dinner is served. He says there are usually a lot of leftovers, so for the past couple of years they have been bringing along restaurant-style take-home packages. At this point, he says, they distribute about 200 meals to go "so that people have something for the next day."

"If you ever go down there and take a look at it," he says, "I think that we get more out of it than the seniors do because they're so appreciative."

Seating is limited to 250 and free admission tickets must be obtained in advance from the Renton Senior Center either in person at 211 Burnett Ave. N., or by phone at 425-430-6633. Anyone over age 50 may attend.



Rotary exchange student Morgane Tassez from France helps with a coat selection.

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around the garden



RENTON MAGAZINE / Denis Law

The remarkable bulbs:

Plant some
springtime
beauty in your
garden now

By **ELAINE ANDERSON**

Centuries ago, November was known as the black month, and it marked the beginning of winter. Today, just as then, we feel in November the slowing of the season as we prepare for the cool, rainy months ahead. Our gardens call for less of our attention now, but for those of us who aren't quite ready to retreat indoors, there's still much to do.

Now is the time to make the acquaintance of a most remarkable type of plant. Each year, billions of these plants are sold throughout the world. They travel the globe packed tightly together and exist for months without sunlight or water. Some are

lumpy, some are gnarly, others just plain and ordinary. Yet, some have been worth a fortune. Some are symbols of royalty, others of purity. Poetry has praised them.

They are bulbs. The term bulb is scientifically used to refer to true bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, and lilies. However, we commonly include corms, such as crocus and gladiolus; tubers, such as caladium and anemone; tuberous roots, such as dahlia; and rhizomes, such as lily of the valley. Put any of these ordinary-looking lumps in the ground and under the right conditions they blossom into things of exquisite beauty.

November is the time to plant spring-blooming bulbs. They require cool soil, and in our mild climate, that means they shouldn't go in the ground before this month. And, since most spring-blooming bulbs need three to four months in soil cooler than 45 degrees, planting them after November can be too late and mean no flowers in the spring.

Choose carefully and you

BULBS - next page

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JUBILANTE

BULBS from page 18

can have bulbs blooming in your garden from February through May. Crocuses are the first to make an appearance, often in mid-winter. There are early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of daffodils and tulips. Ranunculus blooms even beyond spring, often over a period of three to four months.

By the time May arrives, spring bulbs make way for other garden delights. Their above-ground foliage dies and they retreat underground, begin to store food, and prepare for their time to shine once again. Most will return year after year. Plant now and they will delight you for many springs to come.

Elaine Anderson is the Washington State University Extension coordinator for the King County Master Gardener Program.

The program, funded by King County and WSU, provides free, environmentally friendly gardening advice to home gardeners. For answers to your questions about bulbs and other gardening topics, call the Master Gardener Phone Clinic at 206-296-3440.



Local student receives college scholarship

Destiny Delgadillo has been awarded a four-year, \$10,000 college scholarship by Frontier Bank of Washington and the Renton Housing Authority. Ms. Delgadillo began attending Seattle University in September.

The scholarship funds will be released in amounts of \$2,500 per year to cover her tuition, books and school-related expenses. She was awarded the scholarship following a competitive selection process that included an interview, written essay and consideration of scholastic and community accomplishment.

Ms. Delgadillo said she aspires to work in the Peace Corps and eventually the United Nations or a world health organization.

The joint scholarship is awarded by Frontier Bank and the Renton Housing Authority to a deserving low-income college-bound student in Renton. Applicants were either a resident or a participant in a housing program administered by the Renton Housing Authority.

In light of the range of disasters and international struggles the world faces, the scholarship was designed by Mark Gropper, deputy executive director of the Renton Housing Authority, and William LeBlanc, president of Frontier Bank of Renton, to support the higher education pursuit of a bright and determined individual who is committed to positively impact the world in a way that helps others overcome obstacles.

Web site created for The Landing

A citizens group has created a web site to provide up-to-date information about progress on The Landing, a 68-acre urban village development located just off the I-405 freeway in Renton's Kennydale neighborhood.

The Landing project is part of an ambitious redevelopment of the south Lake Washington area and will include 600,000 square feet of

retail, 990 residential units and 2,630 parking spaces, including a garage. Transwestern Harvest, based in Dallas and Chicago, is the developer.

The new web site is www.the-landingrenton.com.

The site is dedicated to bringing residents information about the project, including construction progress and updates on legal chal-

lenges by the owners of Westfield Southcenter Mall, according to Natalie Quick, a member of the citizens group behind the site. That includes news media reports.

The page also allows visitors to log their opinions and comments and become involved as a supporter.

First store openings at The Landing are scheduled for fall of next year, with a second wave of openings in the spring of 2008.

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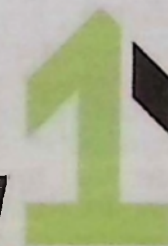
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Don Bressler's model train hobby has paralleled his 43 years as an educator.

Don Bressler's two passions: Education and tiny trains

By ANDREW FICKES / Photos by DAVID NELSON

Even after 43 years as an educator, Renton Technical College president Don Bressler often receives more notice for his extensive model train collection than he does for his career in academics.

The 66-year-old Wisconsin native has steered the success of RTC since 2000. During his off time, Bressler assumes a different role. He dons his train engineer cap and, grinning like a kid in a candy store, flips the power switch to his lifetime project: a dizzying landscape of trains running through the miniature hand-crafted cities of Milwaukee, Green Bay, Renton and Seattle. Bressler has lived in each of those cities and each evokes memories from his past.

"He has a real high stress job, so it's a nice diversion for him,"

says his wife, Susan.

Two-hundred square feet of his home in Fairwood is devoted to the scaled-down landscape. For more than 43 years, Bressler has followed his passion for model trains. For the six years he's lived in the Renton area, he has entertained countless guests with them. The first question from guests arriving at his home often is: "May I see your trains?"

"When people come to visit, there's always a discussion. And I talk a lot about it, so people who've known me for the past few years know about it," he says.

Bressler was born in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Back there

it was hard to ignore the railroad. The Chicago Northwestern line passed directly through town.

"The first train to impress me was the Chicago Northwestern 400 that ran from Chicago to Minneapolis," he says. "It was called the 400 because it could go 400 miles in 400 minutes including stops. My friend had an uncle who also was crazy about trains.

When he'd come up, we'd take the old Oldsmobile out by the tracks and run it parallel to the train."

Bressler said there are two types of model train enthusiasts: purists and eclectics. Purists, he says, replicate their collection to

real life trains. They like to concentrate on one railroad and do a section from one specific town to another. Bressler is an eclectic. He mixes together the different railroads, and many run on the same tracks.

"I chose the railroads that served the Midwest and also the ones that served out here in the West," he says.

Trains he has running from the Midwest to the West are Chicago Northwestern, the Soo line, the Milwaukee Road line, and Wisconsin Central. From the West to the Midwest are Union Pacific, Burlington Northern and Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Amtrak, and the Spokane/Portland/Seattle line.

Other trains include models like the Spirit of Washington, a Green

BRESSLER ~ next page

BRESSLER from page 20

Bay Packers train, the Mariners train and the Sounder.

"The Sounder came out as a commercial kit," he says. "That one I run from Seattle to Spokane and back as a service. That's not quite the route it goes in real life, but it should."

"It's my world," he says with a laugh. "You can design it how you want it. That's kind of the way model railroaders are. They have a certain idea of the world."

Much of what Bressler does with his model trains involves his meticulous skills in architecture, art and design. Bressler has built more than a dozen model buildings in his towns, many of which are places he's visited.

At one time, Spokane was a part of the landscape and in it he built a model of The Shack, a grill and pub he used to frequent while living and working in Spokane. In another example, he built from scratch a model of the NEW Hobby shop in Green Bay where he often shopped for model trains.



"It's my world," Bressler says of his intricate miniatures.

"My career started in teaching mechanical and architectural drafting, so I had a natural affinity to sizes and dimensions," he says. "I'm obsessed with designing buildings. If I hadn't been a college president, I probably would've been an architect. I like the artistic part of putting something together that looks real."

Bressler has also used his artistic ability in painting a mural that

surrounds the landscape. During his time working for Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, he took a 10-hour course on acrylic painting. Afterward, he came up with his own style.

"It took me a year to paint the mural," he says. "It was originally 60 feet long by four feet high. It has the Seattle area, the Cascades and the Palouse."

The mural is a gorgeous portrait of the Seattle skyline and Elliott Bay looking from Alki Beach. From there it meanders into the Cascades and eventually drops into the Palouse. Milwaukee starts in the Palouse and journeys into Green Bay. The tracks go over a bridge and into a tunnel that is carved into a rock formation made of plaster of Paris. Seattle sits atop the formation. On the lower deck are the beginnings of the City of Renton.

Bressler's next big project is the Renton Boeing plant. He plans to have a train towing a miniature replica of the 737 fuselage.

Bressler plans to retire next June from his position as president of Renton Technical College.

"Retirement will give me more time to do railroading," he says. "I've probably put in thousands of hours (doing the railroading)."

And if Bressler and his wife should ever move, there are pluses and minuses to taking it down.

"The minus is you've got to do it. The plus is, you can rebuild it and make improvements."

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Admission: \$8 for all
Website: www.ikeapac.org

The Evergreen City Ballet

The Annual Chocolate Affair

The evening will include performances by our very own dancers and silent bidding on a wide variety of items and services.

Saturday, November 4 at 7 p.m.

710 S. 2nd St.
425-228-6800

Website: www.evergreencityballet.org

Renton History Museum

Totemic Impressions

Art historian Barry Herem, back for a second time, presents the riveting histories and tribal mythologies of Pacific Northwest native artists and how these forms and design elements are being

modernized.

November 14 at 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

235 Mill Avenue South
425-255-2330

Admission: Under 8 - FREE
Website: www.rentonhistory.org



Little, But Oh My: The Story of Berte Olson

Jill Johnson presents a living portrait of Berte Olson, the first woman to skipper a ferry boat on Puget Sound and own her own ferry boat company.

November 11 at 11 a.m.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Renton High School Fall Orchestra Concert

November 1 at 7:30 p.m.
IKEA Performing Arts Center
400 S. 2nd St.

425-204-3455
Website: www.ikeapac.org

McKnight Middle School Fall Concert

November 2 at 6:45 p.m.
McKnight Commons
1200 Edmonds Ave. N.E.
425-204-3600

Website: www.renton.wednet.edu/mcknight/default.html

Renton High School Fall Choir Concert

November 2 at 7:30 p.m.

IKEA Performing Arts Center
400 S. 2nd St.
425-204-3455
Website: www.ikeapac.org

Nelsen Middle School Choral Concert

November 7 at 7 p.m.
2403 Jones Ave. S.
425-204-3000
Website: www.renton.wednet.edu/nelsen/default.html

Renton High School Dimmitt Band and Renton Jazz Band Fall Concert

November 7 at 7 p.m.
IKEA Performing Arts Center
400 S. 2nd St.
425-204-3455
Website: www.ikeapac.org

SENIOR EVENTS

Renton Senior Center:

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Celebrate the holiday a little early with your friends at our annual Renton Senior Activity Center Thanksgiving Luncheon. The meal will be served at 11:30 a.m.

November 14 at 11:30 a.m.

Admission: \$3 (60 and up), \$5.75 (under 60)

Fall Foliage Dance

Join us for some social fun on a cool autumn evening at our Fall Foliage dance. After a hearty meal of macaroni and cheese, get up and dance, or just sit back and enjoy the music of Ray Johnson and Company. Dinner is served from 4 to 5 p.m.

November 17 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Admission: \$6, by November 15

Renton Rotary Thanksgiving Day Celebration

Please join us for a free, fun day full of social and recreational activities and a fantastic dinner. Public is welcomed.

Dinner served at 11:45 a.m.
November 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Admission: Free, meal reservation tickets will be available November 1

Breakfast With Santa

December 9 at 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Admission: \$6, on sale November 1
Children ages 2 to 12, along with parents and grandparents, are invited to join us for a special Saturday "Breakfast with Santa." Enjoy breakfast, entertainment, and a visit and photo with Santa Claus. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

211 Burnett Ave.
425-430-6633
Website: www.ci.renton.wa.us/commserv/rec/snrctr.htm



THANKSGIVING DINNER

St. Anthony's Church

Newcomers, those who are lonely, and families with children are particularly welcome to enjoy a family-style meal in this friendly environment. Donations are accepted but not required. This event is sponsored by the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH).

November 23 at 2 p.m.
416 S. Fourth St.

THEATER CLASSES

Carco Theatre:

Kindercompany Heartsongs

Wednesdays November 29 through

December 20

For ages 4 through 6. Heartwarming poetry pieces will conclude this engaging class for acting beginners.

Acting at Once: Inside the Story of the Three Little Pigs

Wednesdays September 20 through November 22

For ages 7 through 12. This musical theater class will focus on rehearsal, acting, vocal technique and performance.

Elementary Ensemble: Where the Wild Things Are

Thursday, November 11

For ages seven through 12. This one-day workshop will be jam-packed with acting games, exercises and skits.

Act Now

Thursdays September 13 through November 8

For ages 18 and up. Excel at acting while you enjoy this class designed to meet your needs and improve audition, voice, movement and character developments.

Carco Theatre
1717 Maple Valley Hwy.
425-430-6701

Website: www.ci.renton.wa.us/commserv/rec/carco.htm

For more info on classes contact the Renton Community Center at 425-430-6700.

DECEMBER EVENTS

****HOLIDAY AUCTION****

Everything That Sparkles

It's time once again to make room on your holiday schedule for the Chamber's yearly gala event! This year's auctioneer is Evening Magazine's, John Curley, who is sure to have a night of fun and surprises in store! Promote your business by donating an item or service, call 425-226-4560 for more information.

EVENTS ~ next page

Thursday, December 7, 5:00 pm
 Spirit of Washington Event Center,
 3rd Street and Burnett Ave. S., Renton
 Presenting Sponsor:
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 Development, and Waste Management
 To register visit www.gorenton.com

Canine Candy Cane 5k Fun Run and Walk

This run/walk will start at the Renton Community Center and travel along the Cedar River Trail before looping back to the Community Center. Competitive runners, fun runners, walkers, junior athletes, families (with or without dogs) are all invited to be part of the run/walk. Free, after race pictures with Santa will also be available.

Sunday, December 3 at 9 a.m.

Renton Community Center
 1715 Maple Valley Hwy
 425-430-6700

Website: www.ci.renton.wa.us/commserv/rec/rcc.htm

Pre-registration is \$17, and \$20 day of

Registration must be postmarked by
 November 24



Clam Lights

Friday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Coulon Beach Park

Start your holiday season with an evening of entertainment, holiday spirit, and stunning visual effects. Entertainment beginning at 6:30 p.m. "Clam Lights" lighting at 7:15 p.m. Parade of Boats beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Admission: Free

Holiday Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Piazza

South 3rd Street and Burnett Avenue
 South

Evening program features a line-up of local musicians and singers, a visit from Santa, and refreshments. Remember your camera for Santa photos.

Admission: Free

Parade of Boats

Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Coulon Beach Park

The Rainier Yacht Club's lighted boat parade makes an encore appearance at Coulon Beach Park

Admission: Free

Ensemble Ballet Theatre: Nutcracker

December 2 at 7 p.m. and December 3 at 2:30 p.m.

IKEA Performing Arts Center
 400 S. 2nd St.

Admission: \$10/adults and \$8/students and seniors

424-204-3455

Website: www.ikeapac.org



Argosy Christmas Ship

Sunday, December 3 from 6 to 6:20 p.m.

Featuring entertainment by a local Northwest choir, the Christmas Ship will be just off the shores of Coulon Beach Park. This annual visit delights thousands of spectators and is sure to put you in the holiday mood.

Coulon Beach Park

Admission: Free

Renton City Concert Band

Thursday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.

IKEA Performing Arts Center
 400 S. 2nd St.

Tickets: \$7/adults and \$5/students and seniors

424-204-3455

Website: www.ikeapac.org



Rainier Symphony: Holiday Concert

Ron and Roxanna Patterson, violin and viola, will perform Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante on a program that includes your favorite holiday and Viennese classics.

December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

IKEA Performing Arts Center
 400 S. 2nd St.

Tickets: \$17/general and \$12 student/senior

206-781-5618

Website: www.rainiersymphony.org

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Crab Wellingtons: exotic but easy to prepare



CHEF JOHN FISHER

Renton Technical College's Culinary Arts Department will furnish cooking recipes each month for *Renton Magazine* readers to enjoy. This month's recipe is for

individual crab Wellingtons, presented by John Fisher, chef instructor at RTC.

Chef Fisher graduated from Renton High School in 1966 and is a 1967 graduate of the RTC Culinary Arts program. He was the academic director of the Culinary Arts program at the Art Institute of Seattle.

Fisher has 36 years experience in the hospitality industry. He has taught at Boise State University and has been the executive chef in numerous hotels, clubs, and restaurants. Some of his honors include chef of the year (1974-1979), and he has won 10 golds, 27 silvers, and 18 bronzes, as well as two grand salons, in the American Culinary Federation competitions. He has been a member of the American Culinary

Federation for 33 years and the American Academy of Chefs for 20 years.

In March 2003, he received the American Culinary Federation Chef Professionalism award for the Western Region. In 2002, Fisher won the Western Regional American Academy of Chefs Western Regional Chairs Award and was profiled in the November 2002, American Culinary Federation's National Culinary

Review.

Fisher has contributed to several culinary publications including Chef Magazine and Chef Educators Today and was involved in filming 100 episodes of 90-second culinary tips for the serious cook on Northwest Cable News. He led the Art Institute of Seattle's Hot Foods Team to first place in the ACF Western Regional Junior Hot Foods Competition.

Crab Wellingtons

Ingredients:

Béchamel sauce (see recipe below)
3/4 pound crab meat
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
3/4 cup (3 oz) shredded jack cheese
Salt and pepper
2 teaspoons butter or margarine
1 tablespoon minced shallot
2 large mushrooms, finely chopped
2 tablespoons each finely chopped carrot and celery
1 package (17 1/4 oz) puff pastry sheets
1 egg, beaten
2 to 3 tablespoons dry white wine or half-and-half (light cream)
ground nutmeg

In a bowl, combine 1/4 cup of béchamel sauce, crab, mayonnaise, and cheese. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside, or cover and chill as long as overnight.

Meanwhile, melt butter in a 6- to 8-inch frying pan over medium heat. Add shallot, mushrooms, carrot, and celery. Cook, stirring often, until carrot is soft to bite, 3 to 5 minutes. Let cool.

To assemble, roll each puff pastry sheet into a 12-inch square, then cut into four 6-inch squares. Spoon an equal portion of the crab mixture into the center of each, and top with an equal portion of the mushroom mixture. Brush edges of pastry with beaten egg, then bring corners together and pinch all the edges to seal.

Place Wellingtons, folded side down, on an un-greased, rimmed 10-inch by 15-inch baking pan. Brush tops with some of the beaten egg.

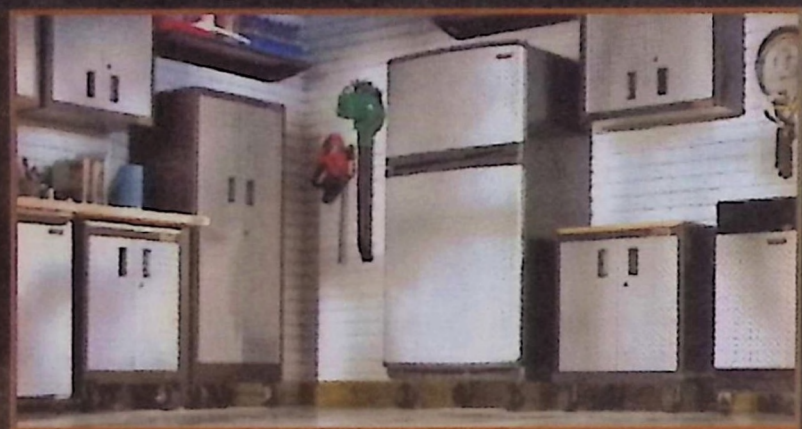
Bake in oven at 375 degrees, uncovered, until pastry is golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Meanwhile, stir remaining béchamel sauce over low heat until hot, then thin with wine or half-and-half to make a pourable sauce. Pour into a warm serving bowl and offer along with nutmeg to top individual portions. Serves 8.

Béchamel sauce:

Melt 2 tablespoons butter or margarine in a 1 1/2- to 2-quart pan over medium heat. Stir in 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour and cook, stirring until light gold. Remove from heat and mix in 1/2 cup each regular-strength chicken broth and half-and-half (light cream). Return to high heat and bring to a boil, stirring. Season to taste with salt and pepper and ground nutmeg. Set aside, or cover and chill as long as overnight.

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Budkis legacy helps low-income seniors' pets

By MARJORIE ROMMEL

The late Budkis Charbonneau was a bulldog with a face like Pagliacci, the insouciant manner of a canine Maurice Chevalier, and a taste for Budweiser. He left behind a legacy that still brings smiles to the faces of those who remember him, and heartfelt thanks from low-income seniors whose pets are saved by the charity named after him.

Ninety-five-pound Budkis was named - with a different spelling - after a pro football player, though his AKA registered name was Sir Eats A Lot.

For 11-and-a-half years Budkis was a debonair pooch about town, wearing a wild variety of costumes with princely élan, and going everywhere with longtime Renton residents Chuck and Mij Charbonneau. He died in January 2001, but his memory lives on in the Budkis Charbonneau Fund for Senior Emergency Pet Care.

The Charbonneaus, who own Puget Sound Blind Cleaners, started the charitable fund to raise money to pay for emergency veterinary care for the pets of low-income senior citizens who can't afford it.

The Fund receives referrals from veterinarians, senior centers, and social workers. It is managed by the Renton Community Foundation, "the heartbeat of small philanthropy in our Renton community," Mij said, leaving the Charbonneaus free for what she calls "the fun stuff: raising money and spending it" to make life better for seniors and their pets.

Last year alone, more than 40 seniors in Renton and the greater Puget Sound area received assistance from the Budkis Fund.

"We receive so many letters of heartfelt thanks from people who benefited from the fund," Mij says.



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

Patrons look over items at last month's Budkis Charbonneau Fund auction. The event raised nearly \$28,000 to pay for veterinary care for the pets of low-income senior citizens. Don Persson, Renton council member (right) was an auctioneer.



There was the elderly Renton woman and her best friend poodle, who were attacked by pit bulls while out on a walk. The Budkis Fund paid the vet bills to restore the poodle to health.

There was the woman whose husband had recently died, and then his pet dog became ill. The fund paid a \$406 vet bill, and "she was so thankful to have her husband's dog still around to comfort her."

And there was the young cat that jumped from an apartment balcony and broke all its toes. The Budkis fund paid for the toe-saving surgery the cat's owner couldn't afford.

The fund gets much of its funding from an annual auction, held last month, as well as donations and bequests.

What started as a little act of charity has become a big deal. The Charbonneaus were honored recently as Hometown Heroes on KIRO Newsradio's afternoon Ron & Don Show.

"We were dog gone excited," Chuck quipped.

Budkis, the Charbonneaus want you to know, wasn't just a pretty face; he became

a local celebrity "who could work a room," Mij recalls, "better than any human I ever saw."

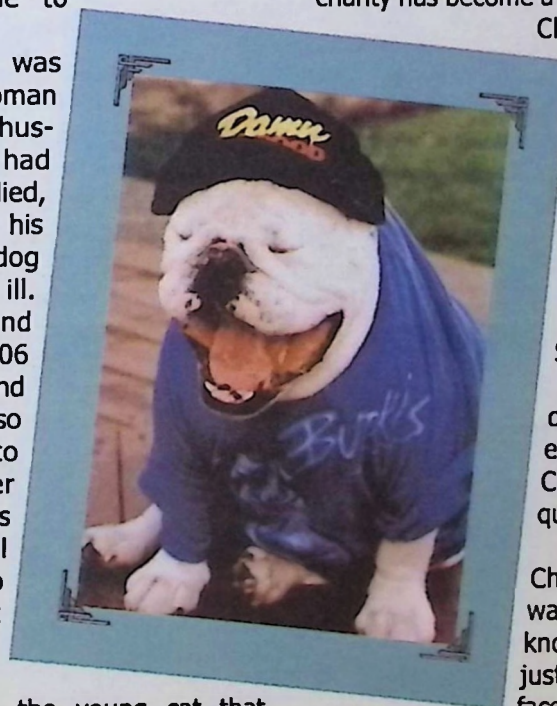
Tagging along with Chuck and Mij, he got plenty of opportunities:

in their office, at Kiwanis luncheons, Toys for Tots fundraisers, and Special Olympics meets, where he was a great favorite.

Budkis had his own photographer, Mort Terwilliger of Olympia, who immortalized him twice each year in a series of hilariously costumed portraits: Budkis in tux, tie, and bowler; Budkis swathed in Hawaiian leis; Budkis in striped paper hat and polka-dot four-in-hand, greeting guests at his birthday barbecue.

Budkis also had his own wagon, which he would sit in for hours, waiting for someone to take him for a ride. One of his favorite destinations was the nearby Cedar River, where, much to neighbors' delight, he sometimes went toggled out in a swimsuit, goggles and tiny fins.

"All of us who knew Budkis think he was so special, but every one of the seniors we've been helped feels the same about their animals," Mij said. "The help we can give through the Budkis Fund, we know it matters, that it makes a tremendous difference in those seniors' lives."



Jazz is alive and well at Jubilante's in Renton



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

The Cabrera family has made Renton a hot spot for jazz.

By **ANDREW FICKES**

Live music paired with good food is in short supply in many parts of South King County. Thanks to Jubilante Restaurant and Jazz Club, downtown Renton is on the map for live music seven nights a week.

"A lot of people say it reminds them of something they find in Seattle. They're really surprised to find it in Renton," said co-owner Tess Guerzon-Cabrera.

Guerzon-Cabrera and her husband Caesar are the third owners of Jubilante since it opened in 1998. Musicians themselves, the

couple performed there regularly on Saturday nights for close to a year prior to purchasing the restaurant. Tess has been a professional singer since 1996. She received her training from Cornish in Seattle. Caesar, a trumpet player since his high school days, made his mark in many Top 40 and funk bands before meeting Tess in 2000.

"We used to joke with Sonny Kim, the previous owner, about buying the place," Tess said. "One day he approached us and we decided to purchase."

That was in the fall of 2003. They transformed the inside from a bright-colored Italian restaurant to a more subdued and cozy music night club. The music is paired with International cuisine,

including dishes such as Filipino egg rolls and Hawaiian Poke.

The Cabrerias book close to 365 acts a year. About 90 percent of them are local, including jazz musicians Darren Motamedy and Biff Moss. Besides jazz, the music at Jubilante includes everything from top 40 bands to Latin and pop/rock.

"There are a lot of great musicians around," Caesar said. "It's a place for them to locate their talents and allow people to come see them without going to Seattle."

Jubilante has a disc jockey format on Saturday nights to encourage patrons to hit the dance floor.

On the food side of the menu, the restaurant features dishes heavy with Cajun influence such as, chicken gumbo, Cajun chicken penne, chili corn crusted catfish, and jambalaya. Prices range from \$13.99 to \$23.99 for a dinner entrée. The restaurant's lunch menu offers a selection of wraps, sandwiches, salads and hamburg-

ers ranging from \$6.99 to \$11.99.

Aaron Richards, the restaurant's executive chef, prepares the dishes, including all sauces and dressings, from scratch. During 15 years of culinary experience Richards cooked in many National Park restaurants, including The Ahwahnee Hotel at Yosemite National Park, and learned a lot about Southwestern-style cooking, seafood and European dishes.

"My background meshes perfectly with this restaurant," he said.

The 4,000-square-foot restaurant seats 184 inside and about 20 more on the outside back porch. Tess says they handle about a dozen corporate accounts a year, including Boeing and Windermere Real Estate.

"We're definitely not a stuffy place. We don't enforce a dress code, as long as you're presentable," the Cabrerias say.

Jubilante is located at 305 Burnett Ave. S., 425-226-1544; www.jubilante-restaurant.com.

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scenes around town



Business EXPO features 70 businesses

The annual Chamber Business EXPO, held on Oct. 7 in the Spirit of Washington Event Center, was a huge success, according to chamber leaders. An estimated 1,500 people attended the event.

Renton Magazine Photos / Denis Law



Waterfront community begins construction

Business leaders, elected officials and neighbors joined Charlie Conner, owner of Conner Homes, for the official groundbreaking for a new luxury residential community on Lake Washington at the former Barbee Mill lumber company. Plans call for 114 multi-story homes with prices estimated to range from \$800,000 to \$3 million.



City employees sponsor pancake breakfast

Members of the city employee union, AFSME Local 2170, recently prepared their annual pancake breakfast for more than 200 seniors at the Renton Senior Center. Employee family members, including Nicole Luton, 9, (in photo), along with several members of the Renton High School Key Club, helped distribute meals.



Burgers and hot dogs for homecoming

Free hamburgers and hot dogs were served at Renton Stadium to students and parents who attended the Renton High School homecoming football game on Oct. 13. The Renton High School Alumni Association and the Excellence in Education board members sponsored the "Homecoming Tailgate Party".



Memorial plaque honors Marge Richter

A special memorial plaque honoring community volunteer Marge Richter was unveiled Oct. 7 on the water fountain in the downtown Piazza Park. Many members of her family, the public and elected officials attended the recognition which cited Marge's dedicated service to the city over the past several decades.



Harvest Festival at the Piazza

Hundreds of residents took advantage of a warm, sunny day on Oct. 7, to enjoy the annual Harvest Festival in the downtown Piazza Park. Sponsored by Piazza Renton, the event featured produce and craft booths, live entertainment and a barbecue.



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3 bdrm & 1.75 bath. Updated kitchen w/island prep area. Great dining area has ample space to entertain & slider to backyard & deck. Living room w/ fireplace, picture window & hardwood floors. Master suite. Huge 20,680 sq ft lot offers privacy & plenty of room to play! Large 2 car garage plus boat/RV parking.



Fairwood
\$394,500

5 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms; vaulted ceilings; vast living room with gas fireplace. Large family room; large walk-in closet in master bedroom. Many cabinets in kitchen; eating space & dining room; sliding door to deck in backyard.



Maplewood Heights
\$365,000

Corner lot in a cul de sac. Privacy hedge in front yard and fully fenced back and side yards keep this 1760 sq. ft home in its own tranquil heaven. Home has 3 bdrms with 2.25 baths. It also offers a sunken living room with fireplace and a family room with a fireplace. Newer fridge, vinyl, carpet and hot water tank. Siding put on in 2002.

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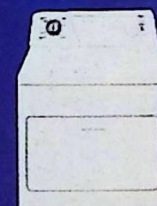
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