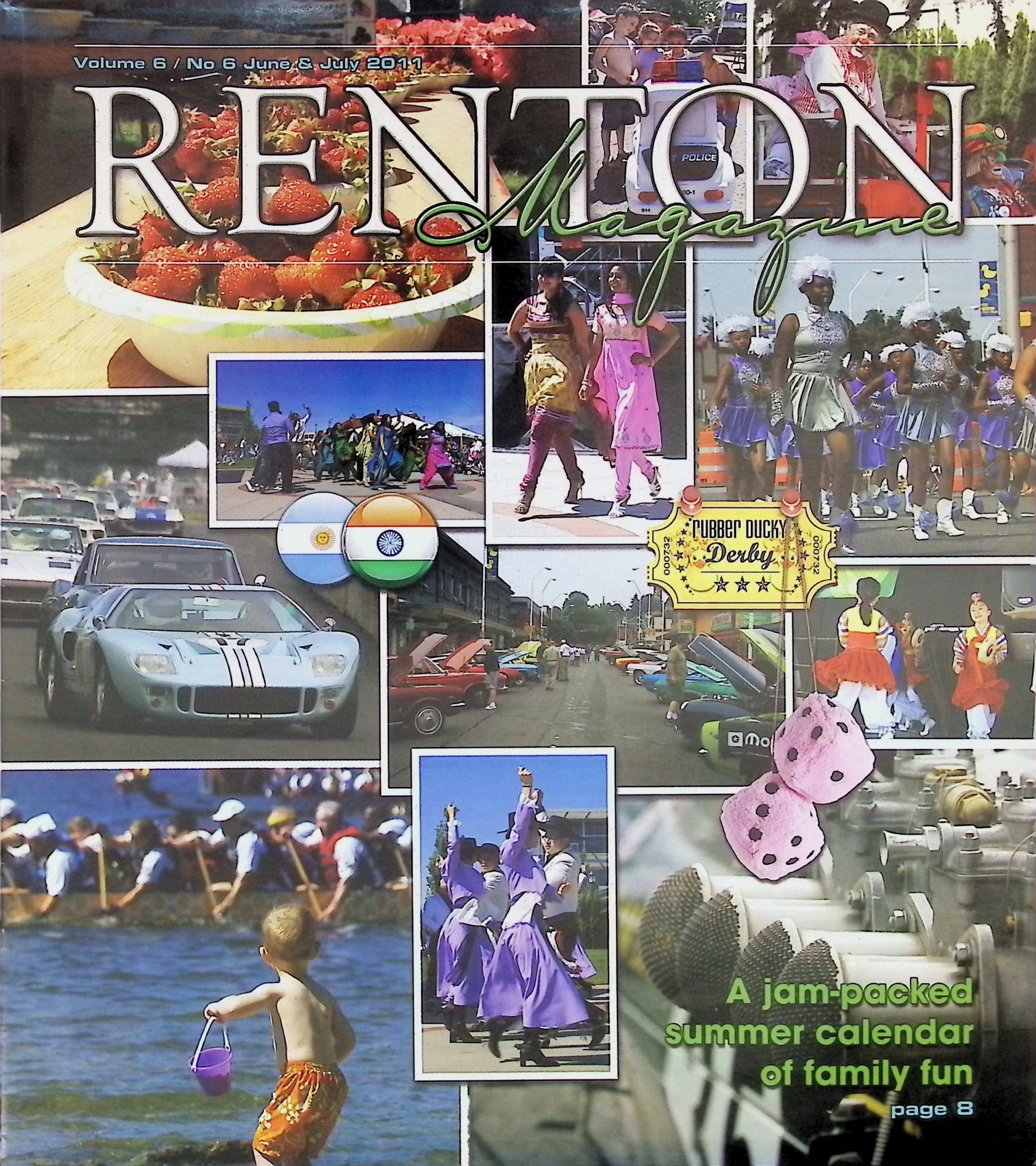


Volume 6 / No 6 June & July 2011

RENTON *Magazine*



A jam-packed
summer calendar
of family fun

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publisher's note

We're heading into a busy season of summer festivals, farmers' markets and other activities. Oh, fickle summer! When will you really arrive? With the long, cool spring we've had, most of us are looking forward to shedding jackets and enjoying long, warm days.

The magazine is never long enough for all our favorite photos. So for this issue, we're writing less and showing more. There are so many nice things to do in and near Renton in the summer. Even better, many activities cost little or nothing. Picnic in a park, enjoy a community festival, watch fireworks, or even just walk along the river (which may be running fast when the snow melts this year!).

Some activities like the Northwest Histories

(covered in this issue) allow you to have fun while making a charitable donation to a good cause.

There are so many opportunities, it's easy to find something you haven't done before.

We're also trying something we haven't done before. You'll note that this issue of *Renton Magazine* features activities for June and July. At least on a trial basis, we are going to print two months at a time. So, you'll see a new issue every-other-month. This will allow us to expand the magazine to include more features and articles of interest. I don't



Diana Kramer
PUBLISHER

want to tell too much right now, but watch for the August/September issue in your mailboxes and around town, in late July. I think you'll like the change.

As always, please share with us ideas for interesting features and tell us about events we should include. We want to cover events that you can attend, so our articles and calendars *preview* events. Thus, it's important to send us the information up to 90 days before the actual event. For example, send us information by July 1 for the August/September issue; by Sept. 1 for the October/November issue; Nov. 1 for the December/January issue, etc. It's frustrating to learn of a worthy event too late to include in the magazine.

Look for new information and a wider array of articles coming in our future issues.

RENTON Magazine

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cover:

From organic produce to historic racing cars, there is something for every taste in Renton and nearby communities. June and July are jam-packed with things to do, warm evenings to enjoy and ways to make us smile. See stories and many more photos inside this issue. Photos by Diana Kramer and James Bavendam.

important phone #'s

City Hall
425.430.6400

Chamber of Commerce
425.226.4560

Community Center
425.430.6700

Fire Dept
(non emergency)
425.430.7000

Renton Library
425.226.6043

Renton Highlands Library
425.277.1831

Police Dept
(non emergency)
425.430.7500

Puget Sound Energy
1.888.225.5773

Renton Community Foundation
425.264.0516

Renton Magazine
425.271.9300

Renton Museum
425.255.2330

Senior Activity Center
425.430.6633

Valley Medical Center
425.228.3450

upcoming june

Relay F^{OR} Life

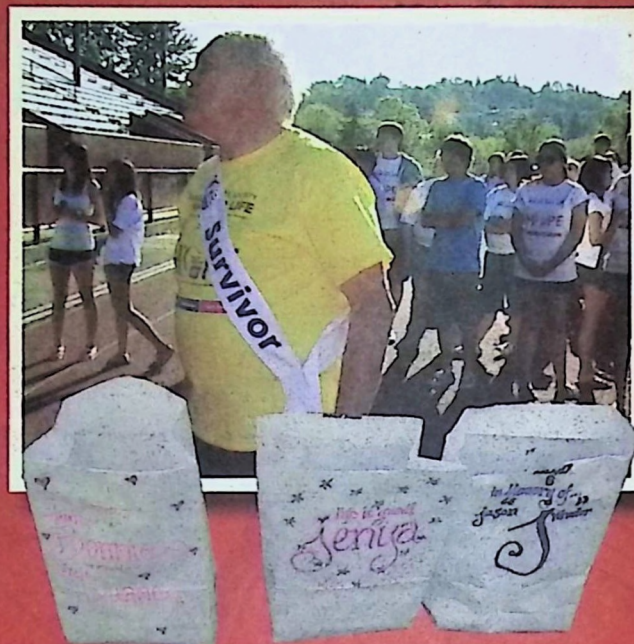
The public is invited to support teams of walkers and runners as they go around Renton Memorial Stadium for 18 hours. Cancer survivors are encouraged to join in the initial lap on Friday.

Friday-Saturday, 6 p.m.-noon

Renton Memorial Stadium
406 Logan Ave. N.

rentonrelayforlife@gmail.com

Admission: Free (donations accepted)



June 10 MARVIN GOLDSTEIN LIVE AND IN CONCERT

Planist Marvin Goldstein, has played the piano since the age of 9. He has performed around the world and won many awards. This benefit concert will support the many programs of Communities In Schools of Renton.

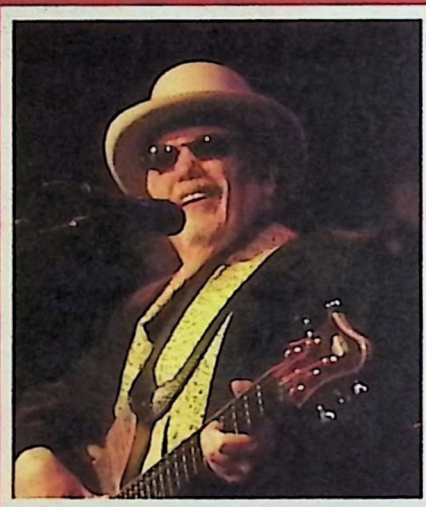
Friday, 7 p.m.

IKEA Performing Arts Center
400 S. 2nd St.

425-430-6658

bsummers@rentonwa.gov
www.renton.ciswa.org

Admission: \$25



JUNE 23 Evening of Jazz & Art

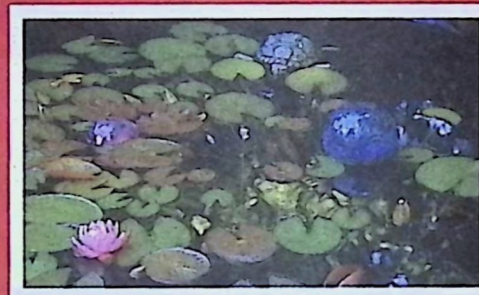
Kent's Senior Center celebrates its 25th anniversary with an evening that includes dinner, concert and video. This event is sponsored by local businesses.

Thursday, 5-8 p.m.

Kent Senior Activity Center
600 E. Smith St.

253-740-2263

Admission: Free



June 25 SUMMER GARDEN TOUR

This fourth annual event allows access to gardens in the Auburn and Covington communities. All proceeds are for the Maple Valley Food Bank.

Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Covington Creek Nursery
32135 Thomas Road S.E., Auburn

253-931-1214

Admission: \$10/\$12 day of tour



July 4 FABULOUS 4TH OF JULY



This family friendly event will offer entertainment, activities for children, and food. The fireworks will begin at 10 p.m.

Gene Coulon Memorial
Beach Park
1201 Lake Washington
Blvd. N.
425-430-6700

www.rentonwa.gov
Monday, noon-10:30
(park opens at 7 a.m.)
Admission: Free

JULY 22-31

This 26th Annual
Summer Teen
Musical tells the
story of a rock and
roll singer who is
about to be induct-
ed into the army.



Fridays and Saturdays,
8 p.m.
Sundays, 2 p.m.

Carco Theater
1717 S.E. Maple Valley
Highway

425-226-5529

www.rentonwa.gov

Admission: \$15/\$10
students and seniors



July 6 - 27

GENE COULON CONCERT SERIES

People of all ages can enjoy a variety of music each Wednesday evening.

Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

425-430-6700

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach
Park

www.rentonwa.gov

1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N.

Admission: Free



July 12-28

KENT SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

This family friendly concert series offers a variety of music in local parks. Wednesday concerts are designed especially for children.

Tuesdays, noon-1 p.m.

Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Kent Station Plaza

Lake Meridian Park

417 Ramsay Way, Kent

14800 S.E. 272 St., Kent

Wednesdays, noon-1 p.m.

253-856-5000

Town Square Plaza

www.ci.kent.wa.us

2nd Ave. and Harrison St., Kent

Admission: Free



July 14

HAWAII DAY

Families are welcome to join this event of games, crafts, storytelling, and lei making. There will be Hawaiian displays, market and an evening concert.

Thursday, 1-8 p.m.
(concert 6 p.m.)

www.rentonwa.gov

Carco Theater

Admission: Activities-Free

1717 S.E. Maple Valley Highway

Concert-\$20/VIP \$35/Senior

425-430-6700

\$15



July 22-August 12

MOONLIGHT MOVIES

Watch feature-length movies under the stars in several locations throughout the city.

Fridays, 7 p.m.

August 5, "Ghostbusters"

(movies start at dusk)

Piazza Park, S. 3rd St. and Bur-
nett Ave. S.

July 22, "Grease"

August 12, "Toy Story 3"

Senior Center,
211 Burnett Ave. N.

Liberty Park, Bronson Way N.
and Houser Way N.

July 29, "How To Train Your
Dragon"

425-430-6700

Liberty Park, Bronson Way N.
and Houser Way N.

www.rentonwa.gov

Admission: Free

calendar of events

MUSEUMS

Renton History Museum
235 Mill Ave. S
425-255-2330

Renton Historical Society Members' Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 6-8 p.m.

Members and those interested in membership will learn about the Museum Master Plan. This event includes a bar-becue dinner and auction items. The historical society will also announce the annual Custer Award for Heritage Stewardship. Reservations are required by June 2.

Admission: Free

dward@rentonwa.gov

Exhibit Opening

Tuesday, June 14, 5-7 p.m.

"Voice of the Duwamish Tribe" is an exhibit of documentary photographs by local photographer Joanne Petrina, on display until Aug. 27. This is a contemporary portrait of the Duwamish daily lives and efforts to gain federal recognition as a tribe.

Admission: Free

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Renton Senior Center
211 Burnett Ave. N.
425-430-6633

Summertime Blooms

Wednesday, June 8, 10 a.m.

Lowes is donating pots, potting soil, and flowers for seniors to have some color in their homes and yards. Each senior gets to plant one pot to take home. Sign up early.

Admission: Free

Father's Day Luncheon

Friday, June 17, 11 a.m.

Fun, food and a contest will determine who will be RSAC fisherman of the day.

Admission: \$3 donation 60 or over
\$6 charge under 60

Brian Wilson's Birthday Luncheon

Monday, June 20, 11 a.m.

Brian Wilson, founding member of the Beach Boys, has a birthday this day. In honor of "Surfing USA," "I Get Around," and "Good Vibrations" there will be a game with beach balls and cream puffs for dessert.

Admission: \$3 donation 60 or over
\$6 charge under 60

Kent Senior Center
600 E. Smith St., Kent
253-856-5150

Senior Ensemble Concert

Friday, June 17, 11 a.m.

This concert will feature four-part harmony.

Admission: Free

KSAC Radio Players

Monday, June 27, 1-2 p.m.

KSAC Radio Players present three short radio dramas including "Who's On First?," "How the Story Grew," and "The Really Really Really True Story of the Three Little Pigs."

Admission: Free

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Packing Light and Right

Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m.

Travel expert Joan Robinson (from Rick Steves' "Europe Through the Back Door") will distribute packing lists, show off the latest in lightweight luggage and demonstrate a professionally packed bag. Sponsored by the Friends of the Fairwood Library.

Fairwood Library
17009 140th S.E.

Admission: Free

Searching for Ancestors

Saturday, June 25, 2 p.m.

Resources concerning census records, vital records, online newspapers, state archives and libraries, historical societies, cemetery records, and land records, will be addressed. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Renton Library

Renton Library
100 Mill Ave. S.

425-226-6043

Admission: Free

Summer Reading Kickoff and Ice Cream Social

Monday, June 27, 1 p.m. — Renton Highlands Library

Thursday, June 30, 1-3 p.m. — Renton Library

This is an opportunity for children to sign up for the summer reading program, for teens to pick up their "Read 3, Get 1 Free" forms and learn about the "Read. Flip. Win" contest. Ice cream bars will be available. Sponsored by the Friends of the Renton Library

Admission: Free

The Very Silly Tourist Show

Saturday, June 25, 1 p.m.

A silly tourist goes on a trip around the world, finding a variety of musical instruments. Presented by Linda Severt's Juggletunes and is suitable for age 2 and up. Tickets are available one hour prior to performance. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kent Library.

Kent Library
212 N. 2nd Ave., Kent

253-859-3330

Admission: Free

CLASSES

Bully-Proofing Your Child

Saturday, June 4, 9-10 a.m.

Information will be presented about how to identify who is a bully and who is a victim, how to reduce the risk of your child becoming a bully or victim, and how to

counteract bullying at home, school and community. Registration required.

Renton Community Center
1715 S.E. Maple Valley Highway

425 430 6700

www.rentonwa.gov

Admission: Renton residents \$10/non-resident \$12

Self-Hypnosis for Stress Management

Saturday, June 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Information about self-hypnosis and techniques to begin to take charge of chronic stress, anxiety or pain will be presented. Registration required.

Renton Community Center
1715 S.E. Maple Valley Highway

425-430-6700

www.rentonwa.gov

Admission: Renton residents \$10/non-resident \$12

ON STAGE

Backstage Dance

Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 5, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

"Channel Surfing in Sleeping Beauty's Dreams" is the title of these are year-end dance performances, each of which will be unique.

IKEA Performing Arts Center
400 S. 2nd St.

Admission: \$15

www.backstagedance.org

Rainier Chorale

Saturday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 12, 2 p.m.

"Give Our Regards to Broadway" is the theme of the Rainier Chorale's annual pops concert.

Mountainview High School Theater
28900 124th Ave. S.E., Auburn

www.rainierchorale.org

Admission: \$16/\$14 seniors and students

Spectrum dance performance

Sunday, June 12, noon and 3p.m.

Dances are choreographed by Spectrum Dance Theater faculty and performed by students ages 5-22 years

IKEA Performing Arts Center
400 S. 2nd St.

206-325-4161

Admission: \$10/\$12 at the door/children under 3 free when sitting on knee

Renton City Concert Band

Sunday, June 12, 3 p.m.

This 70-piece band is directed by Michael Simpson.

Carco Theater
1717 S.E. Maple Valley Highway

425-430-6700

www.renton.wa.gov

Admission: \$10/\$7 students

Emerald City Ballet

Saturday, June 11, 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 12, 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

This show features new and original works by Northwest choreographers.

Black Box Theater
2230 Lind Ave. S.W., Suite 109

Admission: \$24/\$15 seniors? \$10 students

www.ticketfusion.com

ART EXHIBITS

Art at Carco Theater

June 27-Aug. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The work of Deborah Haggman will be displayed. A reception is scheduled for July 9, 5-7 p.m.

Admission: Free

Centennial Gallery Art

June 10-Aug. 26

Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Turn to page 18

kirby unti

24 HOURS 5 ANGELS



I had just sat down to lunch at Renton Rotary when I felt my cell phone buzzing on my hip. Fortunately it was in vibrate mode, or it would have cost me a hefty fine. I knew it was important when I saw that the number was wife Kim's cell phone. I excused myself, stepped out into the hallway only to learn that her van was stuck in the parking lot at the post office and wouldn't start.

Kim explained that a very kind gentleman tried to jump-start the van, but the engine failed to turn over. Kim was trying to complete her usual aggressive agenda for the day and being without transportation was not helping. I told her I would take two more bites and be on my way.

When I arrived, the hood of the van was up. Being the ace mechanic that I am (NOT), I couldn't see anything that was obvious. I did notice that the negative battery terminal was loose but with no tools to fix it, I was of little help.

Precisely at that moment and appearing out of nowhere, a guy wearing coveralls asked if there was some way he might be able to help. I explained the predicament and the lack of tools. This challenge didn't faze him. He worked for Les Schwab just a block away and offered to run and get his tools.

Just at that moment a woman approached and said, "Hi, Pastor Kirby. Can I help you?" I knew she looked familiar but I couldn't place her for the life of me. Fortunately she volunteered that she was from Dr. Sekijima's office. Back in the days when the girls were in braces we were frequent visitors. Luck was running in our favor because she happened to have a tool kit in the car. She not only offered her tools but said, "Just drop them by the office when you are done."

My new best friend, the Les Schwab guy, immediately tightened the cable while I tried to start the van. The engine started to turn over and then it went dead. Calling upon my vast knowledge of gas combustion engines I said, "Sounds like it might be the starter solenoid?" He nodded his head in agreement and then proceeded with hammer in hand to crawl underneath the van and tap on the starter while I turned the key.

What a beautiful sound it was to hear that engine start right up! Adding to our good graces, the tool lady hadn't yet left so we saved ourselves a trip by returning her tools on the spot. I offered to pay the Les Schwab guy but he flat-out refused.

I ended up driving the van home while Kim took my car and completed her errands. I immediately ordered a new starter from Highland's East. It wasn't in stock, but Byron said he could have it for me by 4 p.m. that day. I knew I wouldn't have a chance to install it until the next afternoon, but Byron insisted on making it happen.

Once again the stars were lining up because the more I thought about trying to install that starter, the more I dreaded the potential outcome. I love to try to fix things on my own, and I have a number of horror stories about causing additional damage. So I called my dear friend Chuck Burr who owns Auburn City Imports.

"Bring it down in the morning and we can take advantage of the lift."

One hour later I drove away with my hands clean and a car that starts. It sure is nice to know that there are angels who show up when you need them the most. Five in 24 hours!



Kirby Unti
COLUMNIST

Renton Magazine columnist Kirby Unti is pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in the Renton Highlands.

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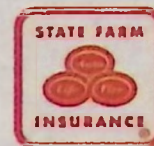
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Sunday Noon-5pm

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IF THERE ARE MARKETS, IT MUST BE SUMMER

Some of us know it's summer when we can drop by a farmers' market, peruse fresh vegetables, luscious fruit and gorgeous flowers, and fill a bag to take home. It may be sunny and warm, or cloudy and cool, but it's still summer.

If you are waiting for farmers' markets, your wait is nearly over.

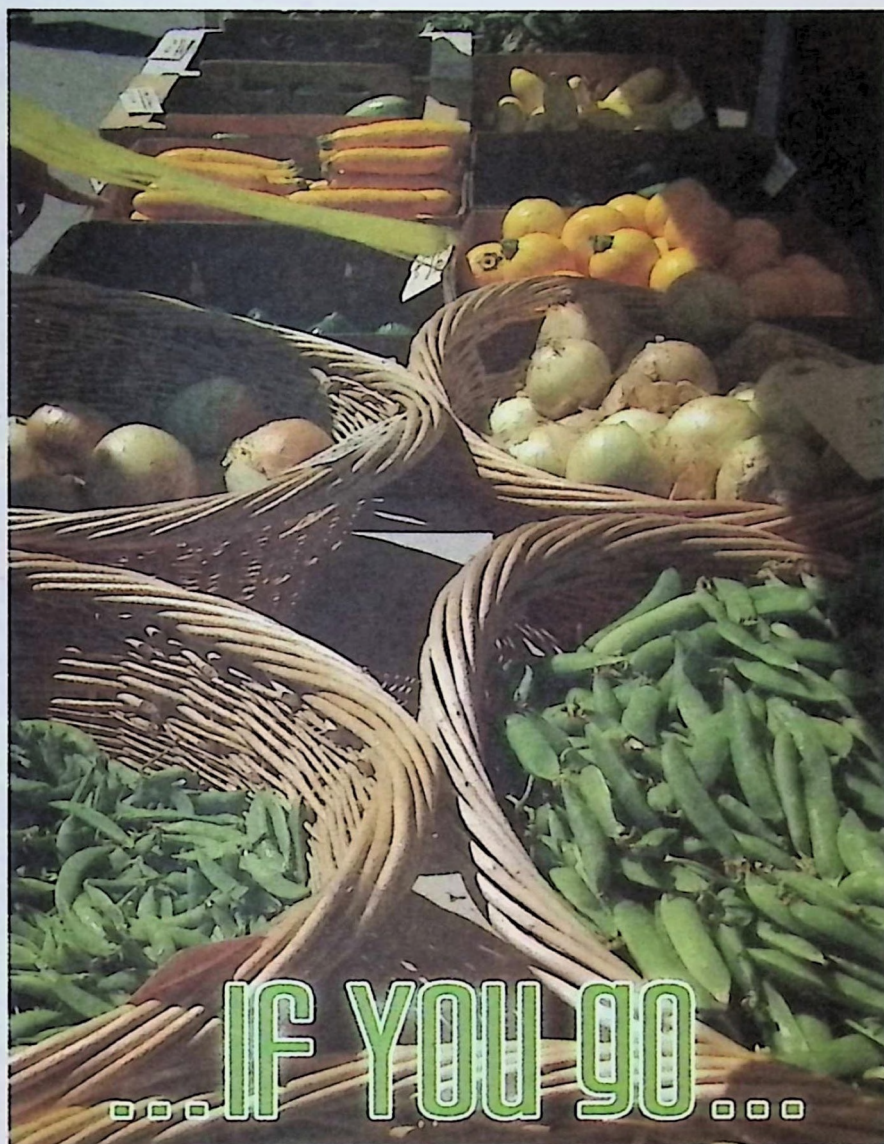
The 10th season for the Downtown Renton market opens June 7. Held each Tuesday at the Piazza, visitors are treated to music, cooking demonstrations from regionally renowned chefs and children's activities. Or, bring your gardening and plant questions to the Master Gardeners' booth for an expert answer.

There are usually some prepared foods, including honey, jellies and jams, or baked goods. Perhaps you'll be tempted by eggs or herbs or fresh ice cream. The weekly assortment changes. Much more fun than the produce department at your local grocery. In addition to seasonal fruits and vegetables, look for locally baked bread and great values.

This year we're welcoming a new market Sunday afternoon in the Valley Medical Center parking lot. Sunday's market will feature a wellness booth with a different focus for each week. Valley Medical Center personnel will be available to provide expertise.

For those who prefer to do their farmers' market shopping on Saturday morning, the Kent market is just down the road in downtown Kent. Kent's market has a not-so-secret attraction: the massive granite sphere that's the centerpiece of Town Square Plaza. The orb weighs six and-a-half tons and floats on a few pounds of water pressure. Kids of all ages are drawn to this water feature like bees to flowers. Touch it, spin it, run through the water fountains. It's mesmerizing, and so, so cool on a hot day.





Renton Farmers' Markets

Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m.,
starting June 7

Renton Piazza
S. 3rd and Burnett Ave. S.
425-430-7214



Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.
starting June 12

Valley Medical Center
4011 Talbot Road S.
425-430-7214

Kent Farmers' Market

Saturdays,
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
starting June 4



Town Square Plaza
2nd Ave. and Smith St.,
Kent



WHO IS YOUR BENEFICIARY?

There is one estate planning concern that is shared by people from all income brackets—the decision of who gets what when you're gone. While some individuals logically assume that a will is the only official forum to express such decisions, that's not always the case. Often, an equally important issue in estate planning is who to name as beneficiary on life insurance policies, employer-sponsored retirement plan accounts and IRAs.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED RETIREMENT PLANS AND IRAS

The law requires that a spouse be the primary beneficiary of a 401(k) or profit sharing account unless he or she waives that right in writing. A waiver may make sense in a second marriage—if a new spouse is already financially set or if children from a first marriage are more likely to need the money. Single people can name whomever they choose as beneficiary.

KEEP YOUR PLAN UP TO DATE

Read all beneficiary designations so that your estate plan accurately reflects your intentions. Remember, outdated beneficiary designations (e.g., older parents or ex-spouses) could misdirect the intended flow of your estate. Also, keep in mind that beneficiaries are paid directly as named. Thus, beneficiary designations are not governed by the wording of wills.

CONSULT WITH PROFESSIONALS

As is always the case with estate planning, consult with qualified professionals as well as tax advisors. A LPL Financial Advisor* at BECU Investment Services can help guide you through this process based on your particular circumstance. Contact us for a complimentary, one-on-one consultation by calling 206-439-5720 or 800-233-2328 ext 5720.

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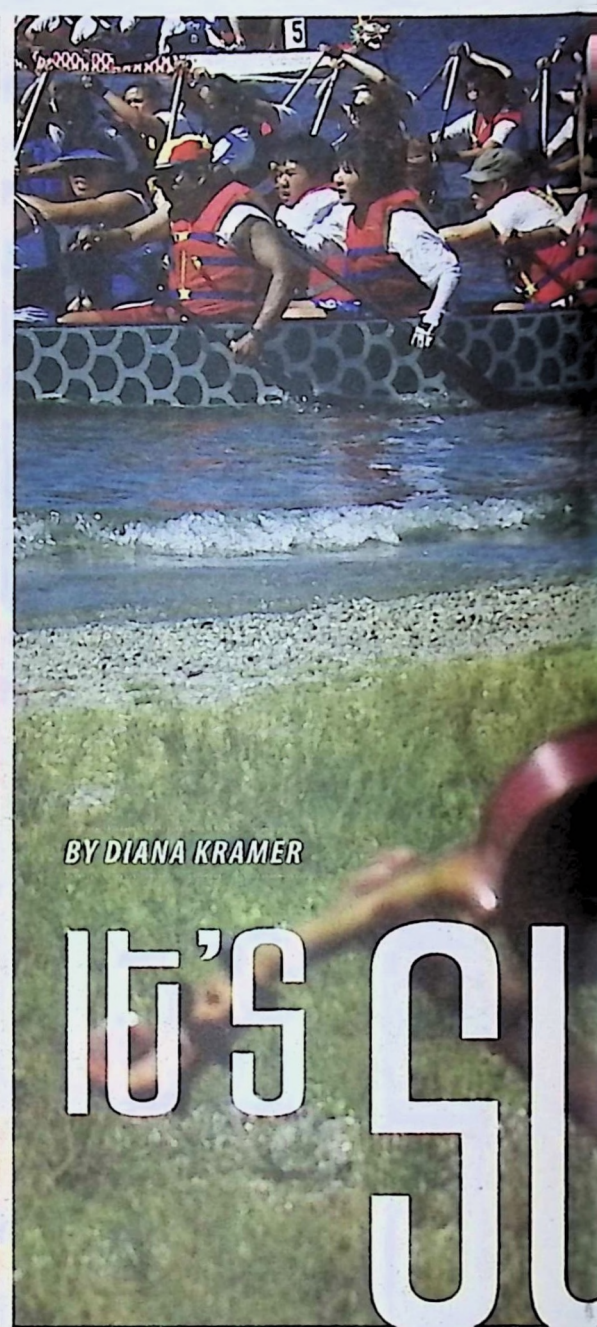
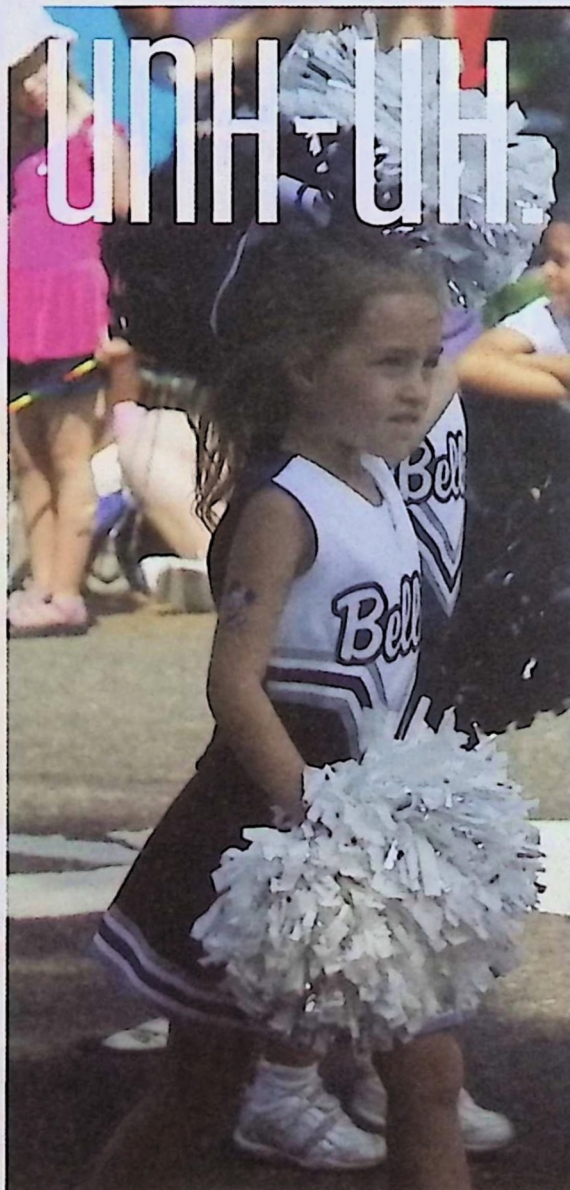
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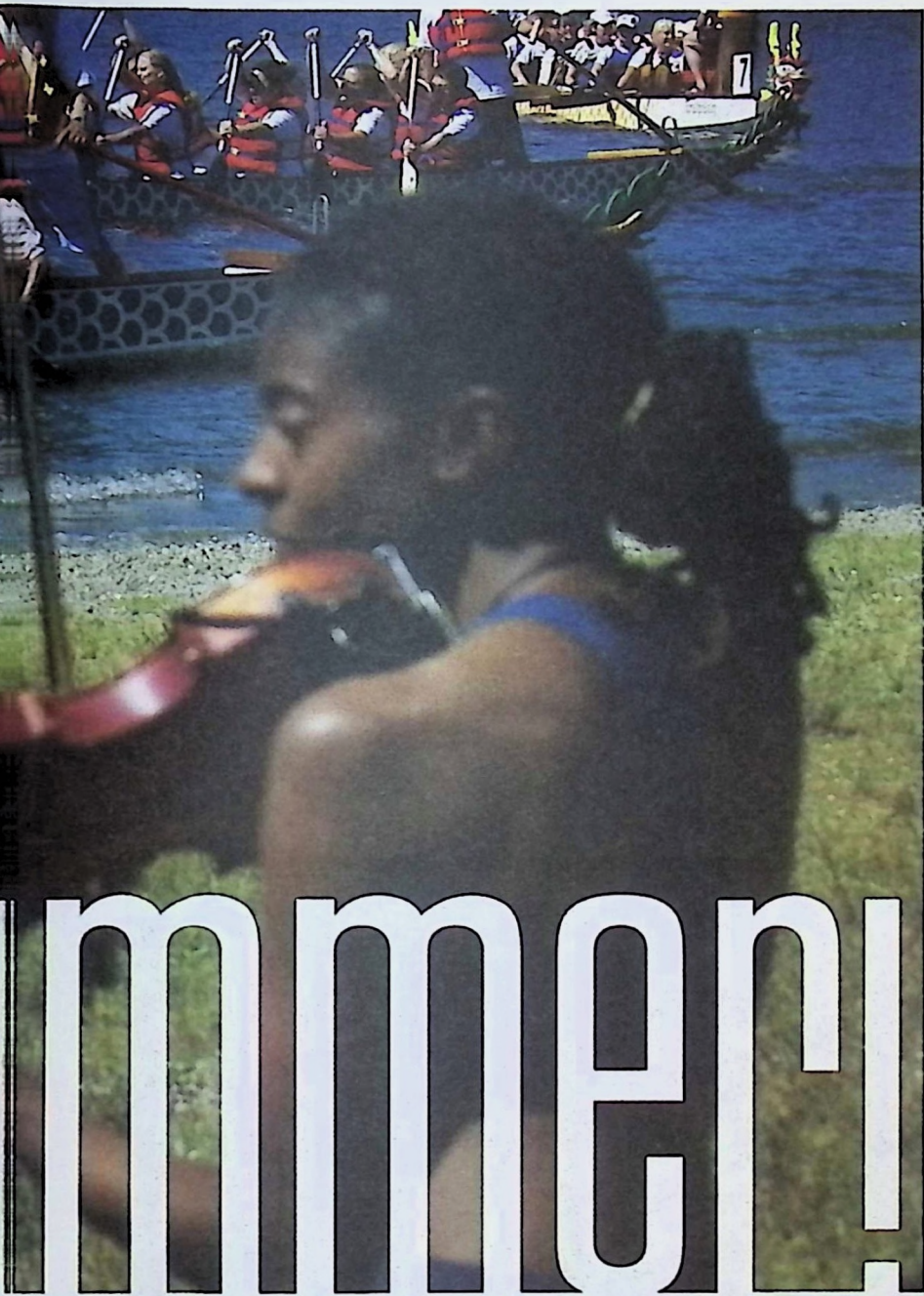
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DECEMBER'S THE FESTIVE SEASON?





What's Summer Without a Festival, or Two, or Three?

The Kent International Festival kicks off the summer season. It's a single day, June 18, and while it doesn't have rides or a parade, it's a visual treat of costumes, dances and music from around the world. Arts and crafts booths are interspersed with food booths to create an international flair.

And for a special boost, this year the Kent International Festival has joined with the Sister Cities Association.

What's struck me at previous festivals we've attended is the diversity, pure and simple: Irish clog dancers; Japanese taiko drummers; dancers representing Korea, the Philippines, India, China, Mexico and South America, as well as the African continent. Every few minutes, a different look and tempo from a different country.

Ever wanted a soft henna tattoo? Now's your chance.

For more information, visit www.kentinternationalfestival.com.

There's no admission charge.

Renton River Days

Snow cones, cotton candy, fair food, a parade, entertainment, arts and crafts – hallmarks of any good community festival.

Renton starts with all of that and adds its own twists, including a river full of rubber duckies, the Nibble of Renton, a juried fine-arts show and quilt show. Oh, and the chalk art contest is a veritable explosion of color at the Liberty Park sport court.

The 2011 version of Renton River Days is the 26th annual celebration. The senior day picnic on July 21 leads it off. The main festival is Friday through Sunday, July 22-24.

There's plenty to do, most at no or little cost. Worried about parking and street closures? Sure, you can drive around, look for a parking space, and then park and walk. Or we'll let you in on a little secret: Use the free shuttle. Park at Renton Memorial Stadium on Logan Avenue North. Walk to the shuttle sign. You may have to wait a few minutes, but ... ah... this is so easy. You'll be dropped off near the tennis courts at Liberty Park, just behind the entertainment stage and so near the food, arts and crafts booths.

For more information, visit www.rentonriverdays.org.

There's no admission charge.

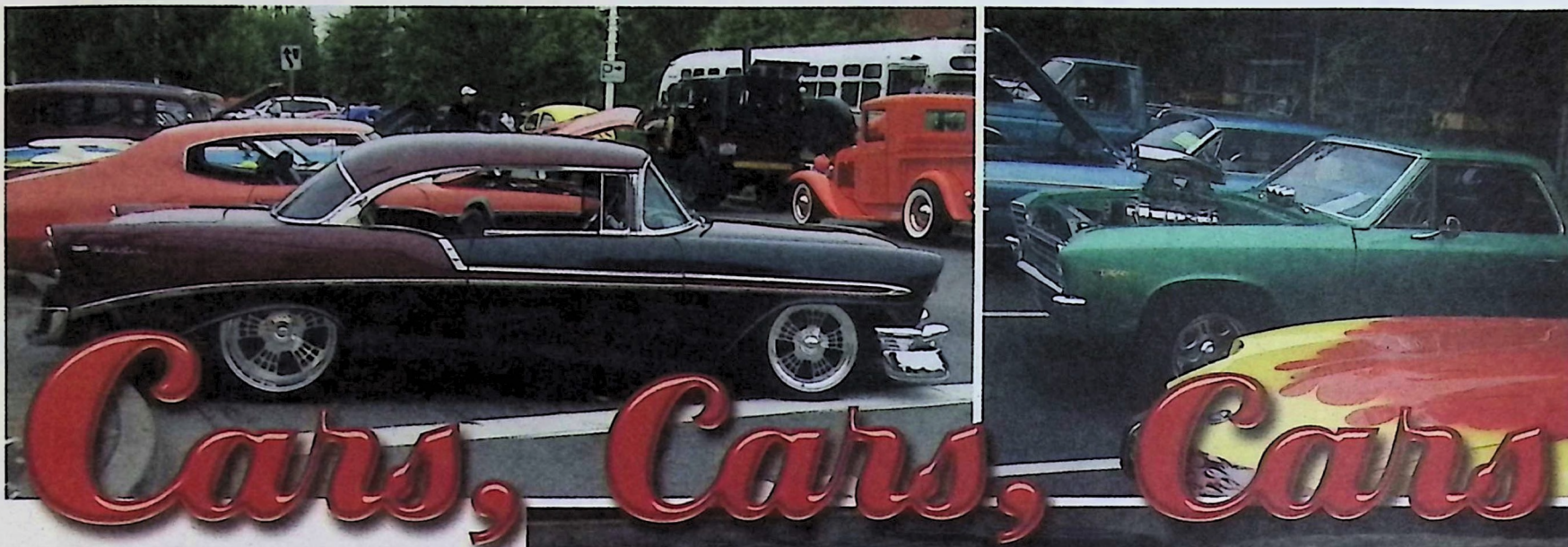
Kent Cornucopia Days

If one community festival is great, two are even better!

Kent Cornucopia Days is a couple weeks before Renton River Days. It opens July 7. There is a wide range of activities, all coordinated by the Kent Lions Club. Kent's twist is the Dragon Boat Races, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, July 9. It's the largest dragon boat race in the state. Loll at the edge of the lake to watch the race, wade into the water, pick a team and cheer on the rowers.

Kent Cornucopia Days offers a wide range of activities, a humongous parade, soccer and skate-board tourneys. For more information, visit www.kcdays.com. There's no admission charge.





BY JAMES BAVENDAM

Cars don't have to look like streamlined eggs. Real character scoffs at drag coefficients. Real engines snarl, whine and make genuine mechanical sounds of gears and chains.

A breath of mechanical joy and relief from automotive homogenization is brought to us every year at the annual Pacific Northwest Histories (www.northwesthistories.com) at the Pacific Raceways in Kent July 1-3.

Delight in the symphony of an unmuffled V-12 or the throaty bark of a Porsche. Revel in engines that don't care about miles per gallon with nary a hybrid in sight. You can enjoy this guilt-free, because proceeds from your ticket are donated to Children's Hospital.

Your ticket is not just for a seat in the stands. Walk the course to see how the cars handle different corners. Walk the pits to see over 200 pre-1970s racecars. In just a few minutes, your path can take you past a bug-eye Sprite, a rare Bugatti, to a genuine GT-40.

See the cars run, walk the pits, photograph

TWO EVENTS TO DELIGHT GEAR-HEADS



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until your camera's memory card screams for mercy, talk to the car owners and drivers, and have an amazingly good time while contributing to Children's Hospital.

For gear-heads, it only gets better with the 21st annual Return to Renton car, truck and motorcycle show Sunday, July 10.

They're all here – American muscle, European sports and vintage collectibles. See a beautifully restored 1934 Packard next to a custom hotrod with 600 horsepower. Pictures in books are nice. It's better to walk around an interesting car and see it from different angles.

How does it feel when you charge into a corner? How hard is it to find parts? How did you adjust the engine for the supercharger? Ask the owners and restorers. Reminisce about your first car, your grandparents' car, the car you've wistfully coveted since you drew it on your tablet instead of paying attention in math class. Most people drive their cars to the show, so there's a greater sense of reality than high-end auctions or festivals where some of the cars are rarely started, much less driven.

The 21st Annual Return to Renton Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 10. Block after block in the heart of downtown Renton, a car garden created for your enjoyment. No weeding necessary. Show headquarters is at the Piazza, S. 3rd St. and Burnett Ave. S.

If you'd like to exhibit your car, registration begins at 8 a.m. To volunteer or to sponsor a trophy, call 425-430-7589.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORIES

July 1-3
Pacific Raceways, Kent

RETURN TO RENTON CAR, TRUCK AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Sunday, July 10
Downtown Renton





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fresh tastes

*A*pple crust is a bit like a little black dress - every girl needs one in her wardrobe. What may be a perfect pie crust recipe for one person won't always

work well for someone else. Much depends on technique and what you ultimately want your pie crust to be. Some people prefer flakiness, while others want tenderness. Certainly there are a number of mixes, both packaged and refrigerated that skip the whole issue entirely.

The type of fat used, whether it is lard, butter, shortening, oil or a combination thereof, will make big difference in the texture of a pie crust. Some recipes add egg, vinegar, cake flour, sour cream or cream cheese to get the desired results. For variety, a number of different ingredients can be added to pie crusts to make them more interesting. Grated cheese, cornmeal, different types of cookie crumbs, coconut, spices, nuts, orange or lemon zest all can add flavor and dimension to create a unique crust.

Here are some surprising ideas that have helped me make really great pie crusts over the years.

For a crumb crust, usually one with graham crackers, I always brown the butter before adding it to the crumbs. I also add about a teaspoon of real vanilla extract to my crust. This results in a crust that is not merely a crust but adds a whole other dimension and deep flavor to the pie. To do this, simply place the butter called for in the recipe in a small saucepan over medium heat. When you begin to hear the noise of the butter melting, watch carefully as it means the water is beginning to evaporate and the butter solids are beginning to brown and become flavorful. Remove the butter and add it to the crust. Add the vanilla and I guarantee your graham cracker crust will be the best one you have ever made.

Another unusual addition to a basic pie crust is to use vodka as a substitute for the water called for in the recipe. That's right - vodka! What a surprise that

MY OH MY

what a glorious pie!

turned out to be. It seems that vodka evaporates differently than water and it makes for a much more flaky crust. The vodka flavor is undetectable and yet its impact on the results is phenomenal. The first time I tried it, I was amazed. I have also experimented and used dark rum in the crust when I made a banana cream pie and it worked great. Sprinkle the top with toasted coconut and macadamia nuts for a banana cream pie that is out of this world.

When baking a meringue pie, it is often disappointing when the meringue separates from the filling. In order to make the meringue

topping stick, just sprinkle a few finely crumbled cake crumbs on top of the filling. This makes the meringue adhere to the filling. The easiest way to get the crumbs is to buy one plain cake donut and let it dry out somewhat. Then crumble it in the food processor. Use a scant tablespoon of the crumbs to sprinkle over the filling. Extra crumbs can be frozen for later use.

Should you really want to get into the science of crusts and pie making, I recommend the book "CookWise" by Shirley Corriher. You can also catch her informative tips on the Food Channel with Alton Brown.

Peanut Butter Pie

Serves 8-12

I did research and development for a dessert company for a couple of fattening years. This recipe is one year-around pie that freezes well and is a step above most peanut butter pies. Adults and children both like it and the crust is good enough to eat by itself.

crust

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
1 cup chocolate wafer crumbs
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup melted butter, browned
¼ cup peanut butter

Mix crust ingredients together and press in the bottom and up the sides of a 9 inch pie plate.

filling

8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon molasses
1 tablespoon vanilla
1 cup creamy peanut butter (Jif is preferred)
1 cup heavy cream, whipped

Beat cream cheese with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add peanut butter, molasses and vanilla. Fold whipped cream in gently. Pour into prepared crust, cover and chill.

topping

4 ounces semi sweet chocolate, melted
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons oil
½ cup chopped salted peanuts

Melt chocolate with butter and oil in a microwave. Stir to combine. Cool slightly and spread on top of pie. Sprinkle with chopped peanuts. Can refrigerate or freeze at this point. To serve, cut into wedges with a hot knife. Dip knife in hot water between slices.



CHRISTIE KATONA

Christie Katona is the owner of Christie's Catering Inc. in Renton. She attended the Cordon Bleu in London, has authored many cookbooks, taught cooking classes for many years and worked as a restaurant consultant. More recipes and suggestions can be found at www.Christies-Catering.com.

Rhubarb Custard Pie

Serves 8

This pie has a lot of interesting elements going on, from the custard spiked with orange juice to the chopped pecans in the meringue, this is a spectacular dessert when rhubarb is in season.

you will need

1 nine-inch baked pie shell	3 tablespoons flour
3 cups thinly sliced rhubarb	3 eggs, separated
1 cup sugar	2 tablespoons melted butter
3 tablespoons orange juice	1/3 cup sugar
concentrate, thawed and undiluted	1/2 cup pecans, chopped

directions

Mix the sugar, orange juice concentrate, flour, butter, and egg yolks in a bowl. Stir in rhubarb. Using an electric mixer, beat the egg whites until foamy. Gradually add the 1/3 cup sugar. When egg whites form stiff peaks, fold in the pecans.

Combine rhubarb mixture and egg white mixture in a large bowl, folding gently to combine. Pour into prepared crust. Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven for 55 minutes or until custard is set and top is puffed and light golden brown. Cool briefly before serving.

Raspberry Chiffon Pie

Serves 8

I can remember my mother packing this treat in my gray and pink tin lunch box when I was in first grade. Even at that young age I knew a masterpiece when I tasted one.

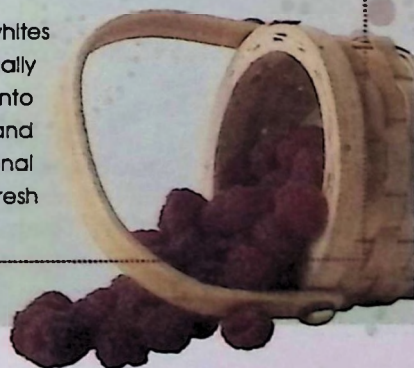
you will need

1 graham cracker pie crust (with vanilla and browned butter!)	1/2 cup hot water
1 pint fresh raspberries	1 tablespoons lemon juice
1/2 cup sugar	Dash of salt
1 envelope gelatin	1 cup heavy cream, whipped
1/4 cup cold water	2 egg whites
	1/4 cup sugar

directions

Crush raspberries and stir in the half cup of sugar. Let stand 30 minutes. Soften gelatin in cold water for five minutes. Dissolve into very hot water. Let cool. Add berries to the gelatin and chill in the refrigerator until mixture mounds when spooned. Fold in the whipped cream.

In a separate bowl, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form, gradually adding the 1/4 cup of sugar. Fold into berry mixture. Pour into crust and chill until firm. Serve with additional dollops of whipped cream and fresh raspberries to garnish.



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around
the garden

Who's killing *A. menziesii*?

Arbutus menziesii, better known as the Pacific madrone (also called madrona by those living elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest), is a remarkably resilient native tree. Not resilient enough, however, to survive our murderous intentions!

The madrone is our only native broad-leafed evergreen tree. You've seen them, strange and beautiful, often bending and twisting, on the bluffs above Puget Sound and clinging to rocky hillsides. Madrones are easily recognizable with their reddish-orange bark peeling off in curly strips, revealing smooth, shiny, greenish-grey bark. The leaves are thick and glossy, dark green on top and a lighter green underneath. The madrone does lose its leaves, but not all at once as do deciduous trees. *A. menziesii* remains green throughout the winter. In spring, madrones are covered with sprays of white, bell-shaped flowers and in the autumn with orange-red berries. Birds and small mammals feast on the berries, and when in a woodland setting,

birds seem particularly fond of nesting in madrones.

These splendid trees can grow to a height of 50 feet and live for 200 years. They live happily in poor soil, drought and wind, and even in salty ocean spray. Yet, everywhere they are dying. Why?

Madrones are susceptible to a number of fungal diseases, but they succumb to these diseases most easily when they are under stress. What causes this stress? Urbanization is the most important factor. These trees are more adversely affected by pollution, particularly vehicular exhaust, than are most other types of trees. Their roots resent being disturbed and compacted, and construction is a cause of both. Madrones thrive on bluffs and hillsides, building sites that are desirable for their views. Digging disturbs roots, and heavy equipment compacts the soil above the roots. No matter where buildings or roads are being constructed, any *A. menziesii* in the area will emerge much the worse for wear. Above-ground portions of the tree are also easily damaged and slow to heal.



The unique, lovely madrone is adversely affected by urbanization. Avoid disturbing them in any way.

How can we help? Try to limit the impact of civilization around *A. menziesii*. Avoid disturbing roots, compacting soil, and damaging other parts of the tree. Don't prune! Except in cases of severe drought, refrain from watering established trees. Planting new madrones is an iffy situation at best. But, optimism can't do any harm.

After all this, keeping our fingers crossed can't hurt either!

Elaine Anderson is the Washington State University Extension coordinator for the King County Master Gardener Program. The program, funded by WSU and the Master Gardener Foundation of King County, provides free, environmentally friendly gardening advice to home gardeners.

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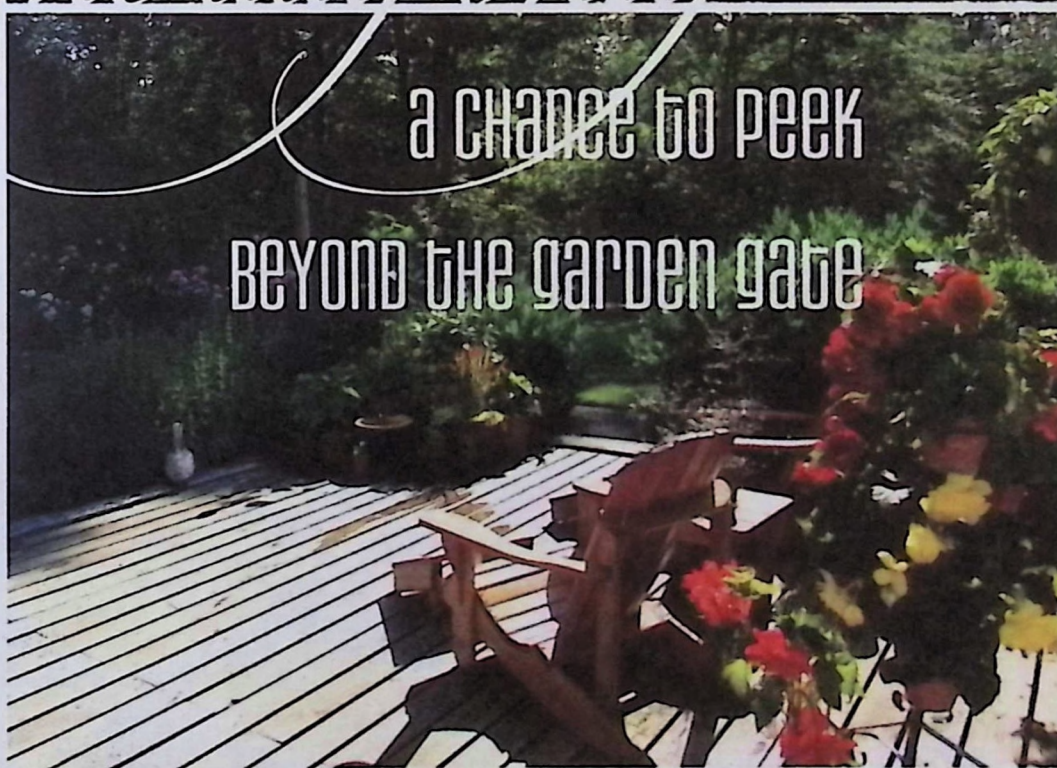

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One day only a chance to peek BEYOND the garden gate

If you're a gardener – or someone who prefers to enjoy OTHER people's gardens, here's your chance to get a look at some spectacular private gardens.

The Cedar Creek Covenant Church/Covington Creek Nursery Garden tour is June 25. Eight homeowners will open their gardens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets sales benefit the Maple Valley Food Bank.

These spectacular gardens are maintained by the owners. Some are quite large, extending over several acres. These gardeners have been hard at work for months, preparing for

the public tour.

The eight gardens in Auburn and Covington offer variety. One homeowner has designed her acreage to attract birds. Others have water features and fish. Some are informal. All are magnificent.

Several gardens will offer garden art, bird houses and raffle tickets for garden-related items. These proceeds will also benefit the food bank.

Tourists can start at any location. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 the day of the tour, and can be purchased at Covington Creek Nursery. For more information call 253-931-1214 or 253-630-5874.

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FROM PAGE 6

This large group show features a wide variety of original artwork by Puget Sound area artists

Centennial Center Gallery, 400 W Gowe St., Kent

Admission: Free

www.kentarts.com

Centennial Art Gala

Wednesday, July 13, 5-7:30 p.m.

Meet the Summer Art exhibiting artists. Food and a no-host bar will be available.

Centennial Center, 400 W. Gowe St.

253-856-8080 / www.kentarts.com

Admission: Free

CORNUCOPIA DAYS

www.kcdays.com

Funtastic Shows Carnival

Thursday, July 7, 3 p.m.

This carnival with rides is for all ages.

Lincoln and Smith St., Kent

Dragon Boat Races

Saturday, July 9, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

This is the largest dragon boat race in Washington state.

Lake Meridian, 14800 S.E. 272 St.

Admission: Free

5K Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, July 9, 9 a.m. (registration 7:30 a.m.)

This race is open to all ages and abilities. Prizes and awards are given to the top five in each age group.

Three Friends Fishing Hole, 20025 Russell Road

253-856-5050 / www.kentarts.com

Admission: \$10 (\$20 with shirt)

RIVER DAYS

www.rentonriverdays.org

Senior Day BBQ

Thursday, July 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Renton Community Center

1715 Maple Valley Highway S.E.

Admission: \$1

River Days Parade

Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m.

S. 3rd from Shattuck to Liberty Park

Admission: Free

Wenatchee Youth Circus

Friday, July 22, 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 23, 1:30 p.m.

Cedar River Park

1717 Maple Valley Highway S.E.

Admission: \$2/\$1 children

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, July 23, 7:30-10 a.m.

Senior Activity Center

211 Burnett Ave. N.

425-430-6633

Admission: \$6/\$4 seniors and children

SPECIAL EVENTS

Return to Renton Car Show

Sunday, July 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The 21st annual vintage vehicle show will line South

3rd Street in downtown Renton. There will be entertainment, displays, food and a raffle. Proceeds benefit Renton Police Department youth programs.

Piazza (show headquarters)

S. 3rd St. and Burnett Ave. S.

425-430-7589 / www.gorenton.com

Admission: Free

FOURTH OF JULY

(See the Upcoming section for more July 4 events)

Splash

Monday, July 4, noon-11 p.m.

This family-friendly event offers, entertainment, food and activities for all ages. The day is concludes with a fireworks display at 10 p.m.

Lake Meridian Park, 14800 S.E. 272 St.

253-856-5000 / www.ci.kent.wa.us

Admission: Free

If you have an upcoming event you want others to know about, we want to hear from you. Please send information about your event to events@pugetsoundpublishing.com or call us at 425-271-9300.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF AVA POWELL

Even the busy bee can casue problems when stinging you pet.

Keep your garden pet-friendly

BY DR. KATHY CONNELL

While enjoying your backyard, you may be accompanied by a furry supervisor or two. Here are some things you need to know to keep your pets safe when out in the yard and garden.

Most plants and shrubs don't pose a danger to your pet. Some plants may not be toxic, but can upset your dog's digestive system, cause irritation of the mouth and gums when chewed or cause other signs of illness. The most vulnerable pet is a puppy or kitten who, like toddlers, will put everything in their mouths. Talk with nursery or garden supply staff to help you select safe, non-toxic plants. If you do choose to feature plants that can pose a danger to curious pets, fence them off to keep pets at bay. Check the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' website for a listing of toxic and non-toxic plants and bulbs. (Go to www.asPCA.org and follow the poison control and plants links under pet care.)

Handle and store all garden and yard chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides safely to protect yourself, your children and your pets. Read label directions to use products correctly and in the proper amounts. Old or expired products should be disposed of properly. Fence off your compost pile so your dog can't make a meal out of

veggie peels, egg shells and other tempting compost ingredients.

Be aware that cocoa mulch is enticing to dogs and can cause poisoning if ingested. This by-product of chocolate production contains caffeine and theobromine, both poisonous to dogs. If enough is ingested, cocoa mulch can cause digestive system problems, tremors, increased heart rate and neurological symptoms. Keep your pet away from cocoa mulch or use other, non-toxic mulches in your yard.

Bees, yellow jackets and other insects pose a danger. More than one curious cat or dog has been stung while exploring a bug. A painful sting can result in swelling of the face, eyelids or paws. Your pet may drool or experience vomiting or diarrhea if bugs are ingested. Do some research to find a safe, effective insect repellent for use on you, your children and your pets. Keep hives and insect nests away from entrances to your home, kennels and play areas. Ask your veterinarian for a recommendation on an antihistamine to keep in your pet's first aid kit in case of stings or insect bites. Also ask your veterinarian for recommendations to keep your pets free of parasites, such as fleas, ticks and internal parasites.

Make sure your pet can't be injured by falling onto or tripping over sharp garden and yard tools. Store tools out of harm's way once you're done weeding, mowing and raking.

Dr. Kathy Connell owns Foxglove Consulting in Olympia.

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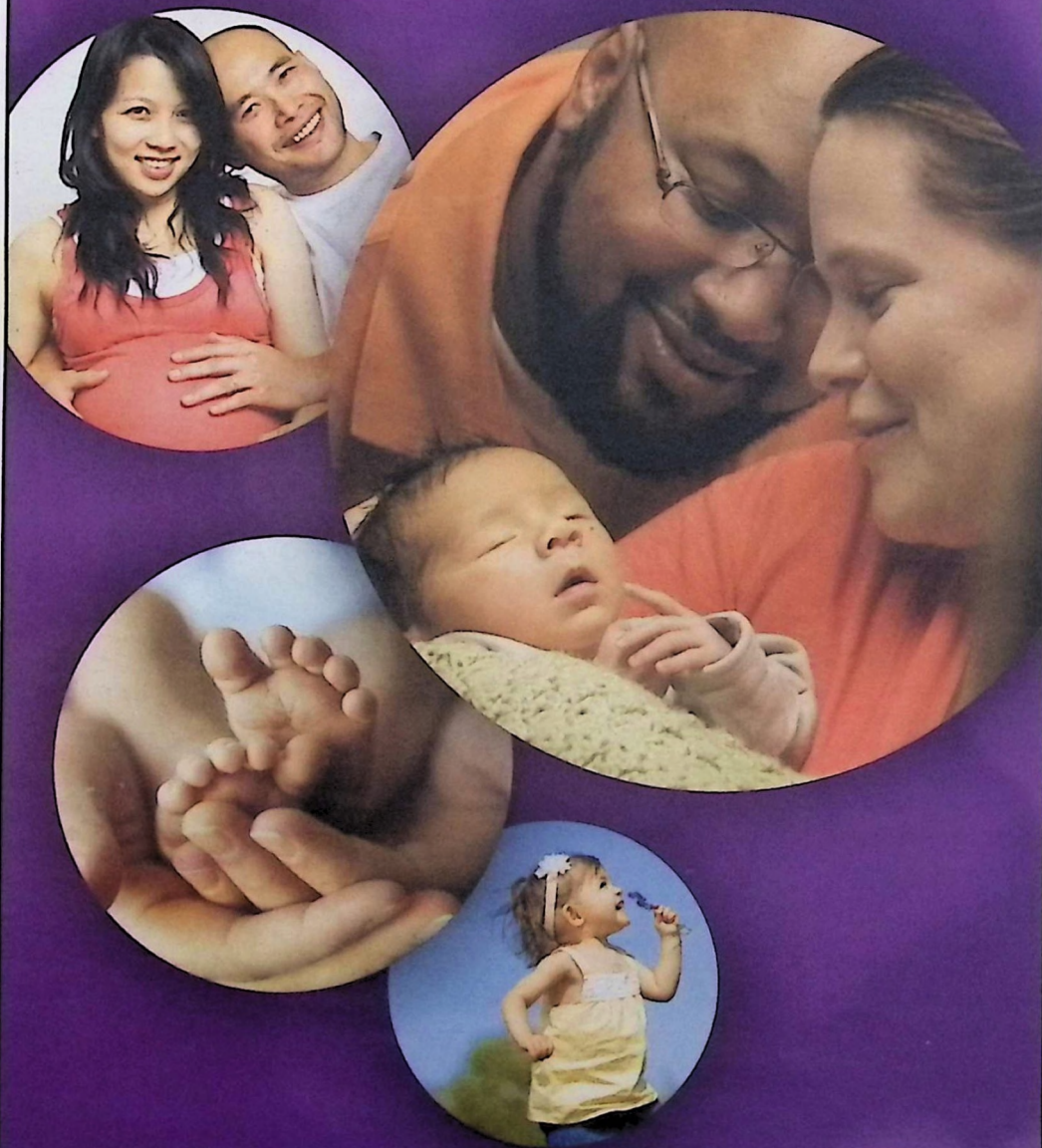
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