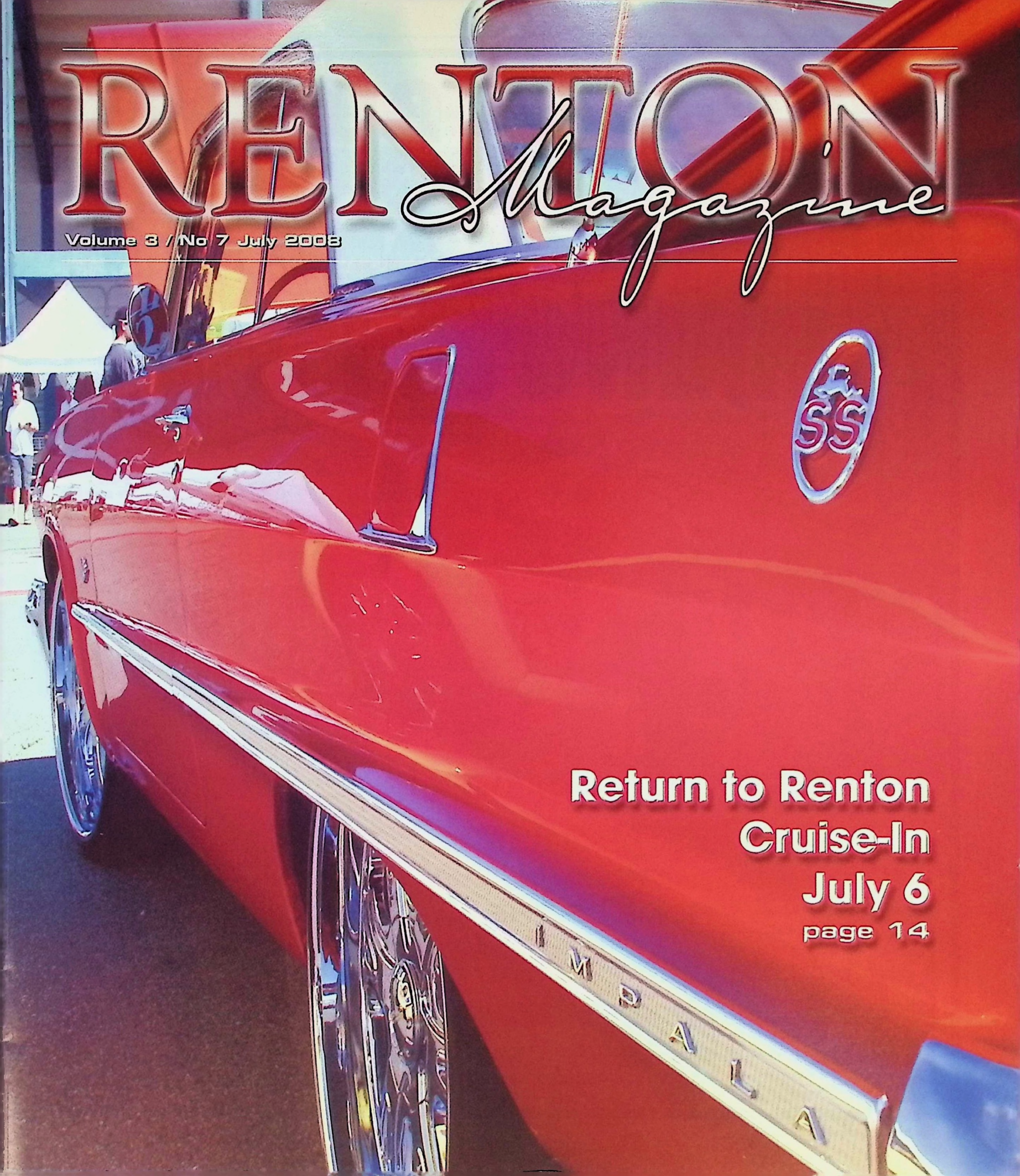


RENTON *Magazine*

Volume 3 / No 7 July 2008

**Return to Renton
Cruise-In
July 6**

page 14



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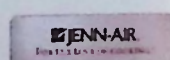
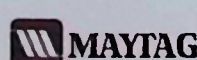
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publisher's note

High fuel costs and airport hassles could provide the incentives some families need to explore Renton and neighboring cities. There are many family-friendly activities in the area – many at little or no cost. They range from jugglers and clowns, to “educated parrots”, to plays and concerts, to farmers’ markets and outdoor movies.

The musicians are diverse, ranging from steel drum, to Dixieland jazz, to rock and roll. They’ll perform at many venues around town this month.

And of course the “big” events this month are the Fabulous Fourth of July Celebration, the Return to Renton Cruise-in and Ikea Renton River Days.

A good place to start is the “Upcoming Events” section on page 4 of this magazine. A surprising number are free and because they’re close to home, will help stretch the family’s entertainment budget.

Imagine! Good entertainment. Reasonably priced. You won’t get lost. You have greater con-

trol over your food options. More of your time is spent at the event, not just traveling. And you won’t keep hearing your children ask, “Are we there yet?” What’s not to like about this?

Take in as much as you wish. But please sample something.

Attending and participating in these events is part of what binds us together as a community. It’s about seeing people who live down the street or across town, enjoying the same thing we’re enjoying. It gives us another frame of reference for them – that they’re people like us.

It also strengthens our sense of community – that we live in a good place with activities, friends and customs to sustain us. Even if our extended families live elsewhere, we can be part of something grand if we simply reach out and grab a hold.



Diana Kramer
PUBLISHER

Volunteers are the backbone of many community events. Volunteering is a terrific way to get to know people and our community better. It can be regular or episodic, frequent or infrequent, depending upon our own schedules and other commitments. And there’s nothing like the sense of camaraderie that builds after spending hours with someone, doing something for someone else.

I recently visited with a Renton grandfather, who said how much he enjoys taking the grandchildren to the Farmers’ Market on Tuesdays. They enjoy looking at all the vegetables and flowers, and trying some of the samples offered by vendors. He takes the opportunity to talk about where food comes from, and letting the children choose fresh fruits and vegetables. I’d guess that qualifies as a bonus – a bit of instruction tucked into a pleasant time with grandmother and grandpa.

Between traffic congestion and the price of gas, I’ll bet people stay closer to home this summer. I think people will find plenty to do, and make new friends in the process.

RENTON *Magazine*

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cover:

Return to Renton Benefit Car Show cruises into Renton's downtown for the first time. Come see more than 300 entries. See page 14. Photo by Gary Palmer.

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

Library (Main)
425.430.6610

Library (Highlands)
425.430.6790

Maplewood Golf Course
425.430.6800

Police Dept
(non emergency)
425.430.7500

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

Renton's

Fabulous Fourth of July Celebration



July 4

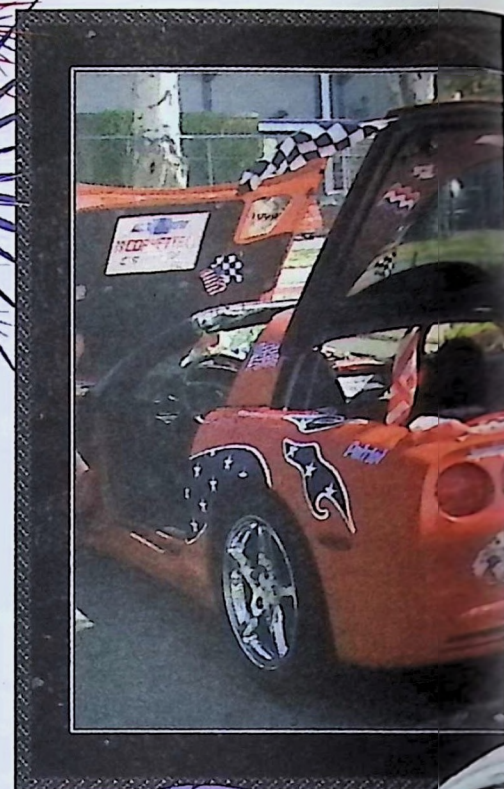
The City of Renton invites you to celebrate Independence Day at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Music, theater and other activities will be provided until 10 p.m, when fireworks will begin from the shores of Coulon Beach Park.

Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

425-430-6600

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, 1201 Lake Washington Blvd N.

Admission: free



July

10, 17 & 31

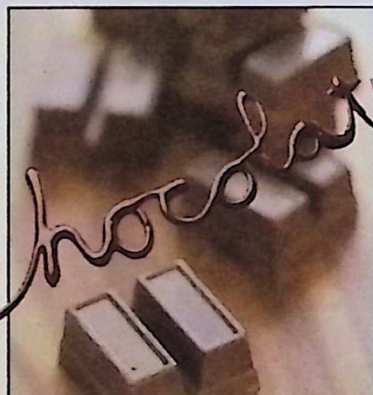
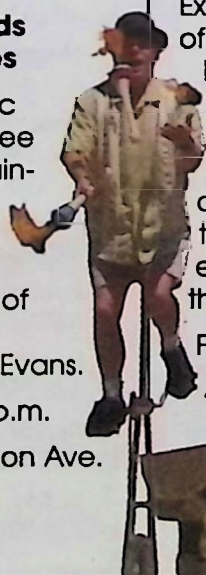
Picnic Pizzazz: A Kids Entertainment Series

Bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy a free afternoon of entertainment. Acts include Roberto the Magnificent, Washington Owners of Flying Disc Dogs (WOOFD2) and Jeff Evans.

Thursdays, noon - 1 p.m.

Kiwanis Park, 815 Union Ave. N. / 425-430-6700

Admission: free



July 11

Summer Chocolate Festival

Examine the transformation of chocolate from a little bean into the dessert we all know and love. Learn about the origins and many uses for chocolate and get your fill of the tasty treat along the way. This event is for youth, grades six through 12.

Friday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

425-430-6610

Renton Public Library, 100 Mill Ave. S.

Admission: free



July 15

Will Stedman's Hollywood Educated Parrots

Parrots perform tricks such as riding bikes, playing games with the audience and even driving a little car. Family entertainment especially suitable for little ones.

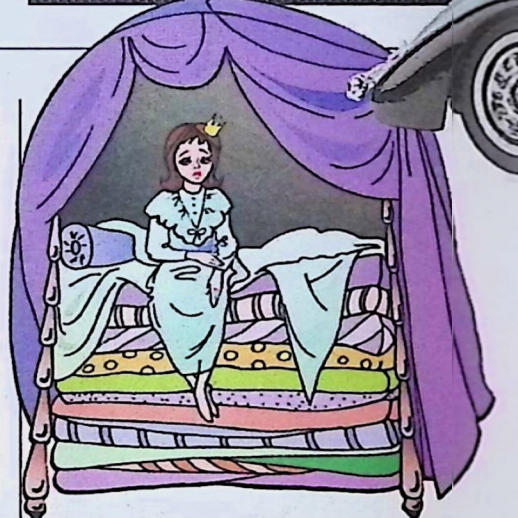
Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

425-430-6700

Renton Community Center, 1715 S.E. Maple Valley Highway

Admission: Free

www.rentonwa.gov



July

25, 26 & 27

"Once Upon a Mattress"

A modification on the classic fairy tale, "The Princess and the Pea," this comedy has everything from an evil queen to a goofy jester to major conflict and a happily-ever-after.

Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.

Carco Theatre, 1717 Maple Valley Hwy / 425-430-6751

Admission: \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors.



upcoming events

RETURN TO RENTON Cruise-In

july 6

Cruise back in time and check out classic vehicles at the 18th annual Return to Renton Benefit Car Show. The show will raise funds for the Renton Police Department and promote the community of the city.

Sunday from 10a.m.-3p.m.

The Piazza, Burnett Ave. S. and South 3rd St. / 425-430-7589

Admission: free

Summer Fest 2008



june 23-august 15

For ages 6-12, the playgrounds and park buildings will transform into areas full of crafts, games and contests. Kids are allowed to come and go as they please and there is no sign-up necessary. Families can enjoy the activities together. There is no program on July 4 or 23.

Monday, June 23-
Friday, Aug. 15

425-430-6700

For locations visit
www.rentonwa.gov

Admission: free

IKEA RENTON RIVER DAYS

july 23, 25-27

Celebrating its 23rd year, Renton River Days pays tribute to community pride through a series of activities, a parade and much more. With activities and events for kids, seniors and everyone in between, this celebration will be a great family outing.

Wednesday-Sunday,
events and activities times
vary, see website

425-430-6528

Liberty Park, 1101 Bronson Way N.

Admission: see website for specific
events and activity costs.

<http://rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=113>

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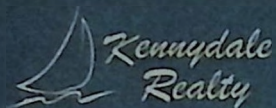
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calendar of events

COMMUNITY EVENTS



2008 Renton Farmers Market

Tuesdays, June 3-Sept. 16, 3-7 p.m.

With more than 50 vendors and farmers expected to set up shop, everyone is sure to find something delicious to take home. Also included will be fresh cut flowers, eggs and baked goods.

<http://www.rentonfarmersmarket.com/>

425-679-1502

The Piazza, Burnett Ave. S and South 3rd St.

Admission: free

www.rentonfarmersmarket.com

MUSIC AND ARTS



Coulon Family Concert Series

Wednesdays, June 25 through Aug. 13

This free concert series is back for another season. Bands perform at 7 p.m.

July 2 - Duwamish Dixieland Jazz;

July 9 - Handful of Luvin';

July 16 - Amber Tide;

July 23 - Craicmore

July 30 - Panduo Steeldrum

425-430-6700

1201 Lake Washington Blvd N. next to
Kidd Valley restaurant

Admission: free

<http://rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=11328>

FAMILIES/CHILDREN



Summer Splash-tacular

Saturday, July 12, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

This statewide event emphasizes water safety and will incorporate games and contests for youngsters ages 7 to 12, although people of any age are welcome.

425-430-6780

Henry Moses Aquatic Center 1719 Maple Valley Highway

Admission: free

<http://rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=190>

MOONLIGHT MOVIES AT LIBERTY PARK





Hairspray

Saturday, July 12, 7 p.m.

The 2007 remake of the movie "Hairspray" is a family-friendly, PG rated film about the craze over a Baltimore dance show. Seating starts at 7 p.m., gates open at 8 p.m. and the film will begin at dusk.

The Bucket List

Saturday, July 19, 7 p.m.

"The Bucket List" is a comedy featuring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman playing two elderly men who escape from a cancer ward and take the road trip of a lifetime with a wish list of things to do before they "kick the bucket." This film is rated PG-13.

425-430-6400

Liberty Park 1101
Bronson Way N.

Admission: \$5

<http://rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=1144>

Children's Technology Workshop: iCamp

Monday-Friday, July 14-18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

This multi-technology program is new and will be taught by skilled instructors who will work with youngsters in grades two through eight. Campers will be able to choose from a variety of themes including fashion design and Mission to Mars.

425-430-6700

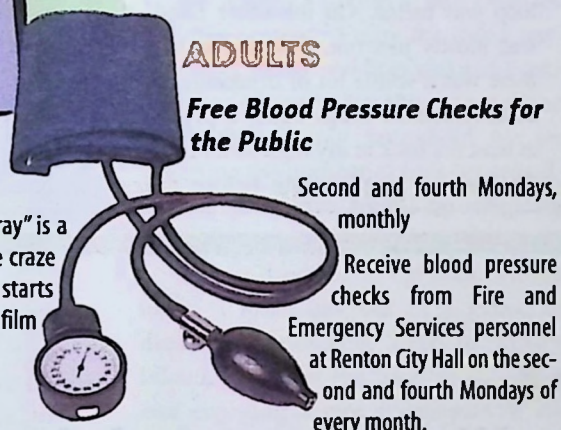
Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Hwy.

Admission: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$595; 9 a.m. - noon, \$325; 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., \$325

www.rentonwa.gov

ADULTS

Free Blood Pressure Checks for the Public



Second and fourth Mondays, monthly

Receive blood pressure checks from Fire and Emergency Services personnel at Renton City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of every month.

1055 S. Grady Way / 425-430-6400

Admission: free / <http://rentonwa.gov/news/>

RHS Class of 1948

Renton High School 60th class reunion

Sunday, Aug. 24

For the class of 1948 it is time to reunite and share stories. This event is hosted by the Apogee Bar and Restaurant and will have an open bar. Donations will be accepted at the bar. Guests of honor will be John Suzick and wife, and Irv Leifer.

Contact Cleo at 425-255-2923

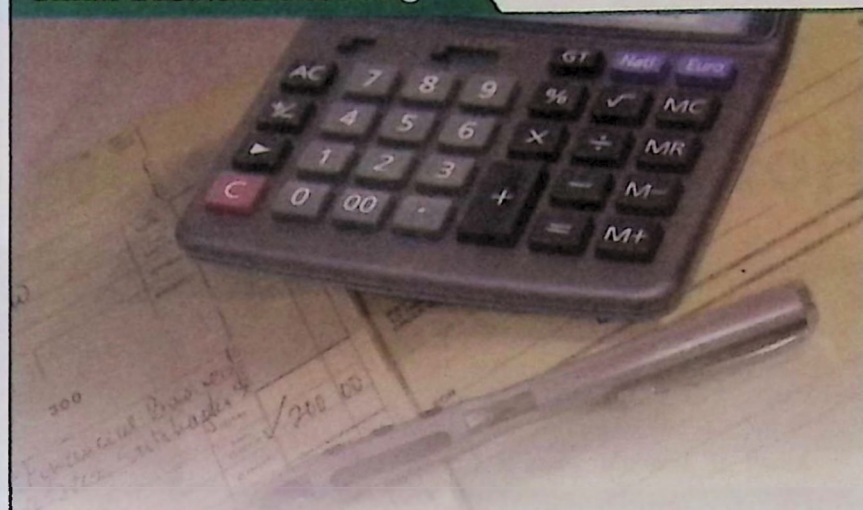
Renton Senior Activity Center

211 Burnett Ave. N.

Admission: \$30 per ticket, the cut-off date to purchase tickets is July 15.



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** Images of checks are available upon request.



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How do I explain about cruising the loop?

When Renton Magazine reporter Andrew Fickes began writing an article for this month's issue that mentions how kids used to cruise through downtown Renton, he asked if I might write a column explaining what cruising the loop was all about.

It's kind of difficult to explain it now to someone in his 20s. A lot has changed since I was in high school almost 50 years ago, and explaining it involves overcoming a major multiple-generation gap.

Cruising the loop in downtown Renton used to be a Friday night tradition for high school students after football games. Dozens and dozens of cars filled with kids would drive slowly through downtown, east along South Third Street and then west back along

South Second Street in a big loop.

That was back in the day before there was much else to do on Friday nights, before there were computer games and cell phones, actually before there were even computers. Back then every phone, even home phones, was attached to the wall with a cord. Heck, we didn't even have pocket calculators or electric typewriters, let alone hand-held video games.

So, with no electronics, what was there to do on a Friday night? Kids would make a few loops through down-



David Suffia
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

town, then head to Shakey's for pizza and coke, or maybe to the old Triple XXX for a swampwater – half root beer, half orange soda. Then it was off to the old Rec Center for a sock hop.

The city stopped the cruisers years ago because the slow-moving parade blocked the streets, causing a potential hazard for police and fire units that might have to respond to an emergency. No doubt there were also complaints about the honking and yelling that emanated from the parade of teenagers, and the occasional physical skirmish among participants.

I can understand why cruising the loop was halted. On the other hand, it was mostly just fun. I don't recall that there was a whole lot of drinking, and I don't remember drugs being a problem, at least not back in my high school years. That was a simpler time before drugs

really got out of hand in America.

In retrospect, it was kind of a silly way to spend Friday night, driving around in a big circle. Of course, gasoline cost less than 30 cents a gallon back then, not \$4, so cruising was cheap entertainment.

It was a way to say "Hey, here I am!" to friends and potential dates at a time when you couldn't just send a quick text message. And there may have been some upside. It kept some kids from doing something more damaging, and it probably spawned a few romances and subsequent marriages.

What was cruising the loop all about? It was about being a teenager a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. Oh, and what's a sock hop? Andrew might ask. It was kind of an archaic precursor to a mosh pit or a rave.

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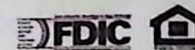
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kirby unti

Money, timing aren't everything



KIRBY UNTI

When it comes to timing, I continue to get failing grades. For years I drove a three cylinder Geo Metro that averaged 40 miles a gallon around town and even better marks on the road. I loved that car.

It served me well and had plenty of life left in it when the women I live with decided to surprise me with a Mini Cooper S for my birthday. The Mini is a scream to drive, and it begs me to put my foot into the gas pedal.

The problem with the Mini is three-fold. It is a ticket waiting to happen. It only makes 24 miles around town and 30 miles on the road. It requires premium gas. This was rude when premium was \$1.50 and a total insult now that premium is pushing the \$5 mark.

A guy can be forgiven for going through a midlife crisis and purchasing a car with a high

performance engine, but there is little excuse when it comes to buying a boat with a diesel engine. I must confess that I did just that when diesel was less than \$2 a gallon. Timing being what it is, I paid \$5.10 a gallon to refuel on my last trip to the San Juan Islands. Not bad compared to the guy at the dock who poured \$18,000 into his 60-foot yacht.

So what is a person to do? I will tell you my answer. Enjoy the living day-lights out of car and boat and make concessions wherever possible. There is no doubt that in our household we are watching the number of trips we are taking and trying to double up whenever possible.

When it comes to the boat, we can make a great day out of a gallon of diesel by motoring over to Maury Island, throwing the hook in the water and enjoying a rare appearance of the sun and the serenity of being on the water.

There is an even more important lesson here, and that is knowing where to put our trust. If we put our trust in our money and in our things, we end up living a life of worry. Worry gets us absolutely nowhere. It doesn't add a day to our lives or change the price of fuel by even a dime.

Don't get me wrong. Money as a resource is important, but it doesn't even begin to compete with the importance of family, friendships, health and community. When we put our trust in our relationships that matter the most, we discover that even if fuel hits \$10 a gallon we have in our presence the best that life has to offer. We have one another.

Kirby Unti is pastor at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, on the web at www.smlc.cc/.



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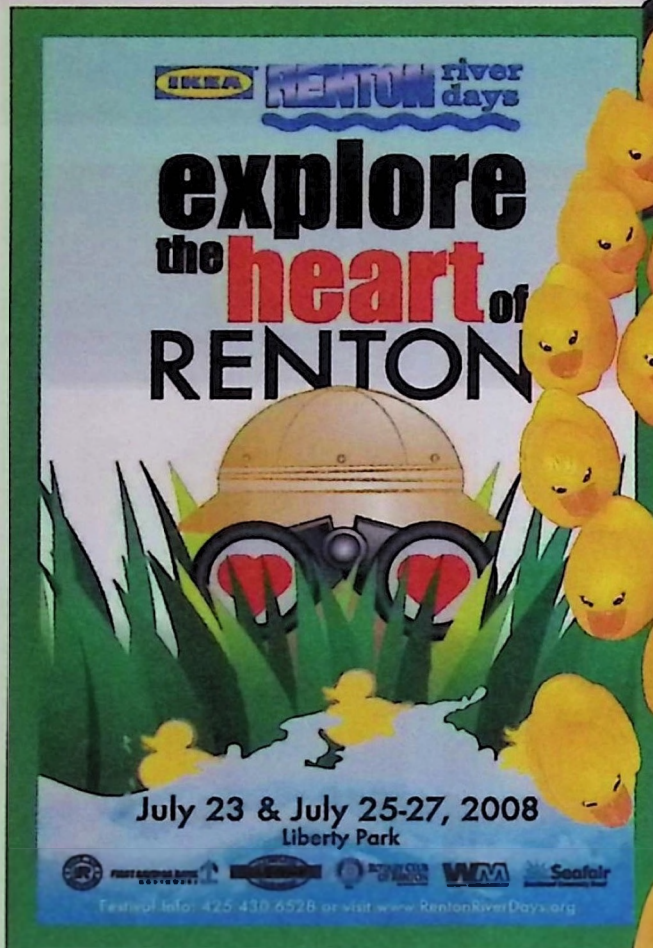
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- Real Estate/Construction
- Land Use/Zoning/Eminent Domain
- Family Law/Adoption
- Creditor/Debtor-Bankruptcy
- Criminal Defense
- Immigration



RENTON river days

a community family festival



Rubber ducks will be back on the river

The popular Rubber Ducky Derby, sponsored by the Renton Rotary Club, will return with this year's River Days. First place prize is a 1973 VW, "The Thing," worth \$10,000 to \$12,000. Other prizes are \$1,000 donated by Sam's Club for second place; \$500 donated by the Seattle Seahawks, third; a \$500 gift certificate to King and Bunny's Appliance, fourth, and a \$400 gift certificate to Renton Western Wear, fifth.

Participants must purchase raffle tickets for \$5 at the Rotary Exhibit booth in Liberty Park July 26 or 27, along the parade route on South Third Street July 26, or from businesses listed on the festival Web site.

The derby takes place on the Cedar River at the Houser Street Bridge at 4:30 p.m. July 27. Proceeds from raffle tickets support local charities such as the Northwest Burn Foundation, the Salvation Army Food Bank and others.

Renton festival offers family fun

BY RACHEL LUSBY

With plans for entertainment, a parade and the perennial Rubber Duck Derby, IKEA Renton River Days is gearing up for its 23rd year.

The celebration is an opportunity for folks to take a break during the summer and enjoy festivities with their families, says festival director Sonja Mejlaender.

"It showcases the Renton community and brings people into our parks, into our downtown and brings generations together," she says.

River Days are July 23, 25, 26, and 27, with a seniors-only picnic July 24. A full schedule of live entertainment includes a performance July 23 by the Wenatchee Youth Circus. A variety

of musical acts will perform throughout the weekend.

The theme of Saturday's parade is "Explore the Heart of Renton." Tammy Baum, parade chair, says the parade is open to anyone. Applications are available on the festival Web site at <http://rentonwa.gov>.

"We look forward every year to a wide array of entries from social and civic groups to children's organizations, local schools, businesses, performing groups of all kinds, animal groups, musical entertainment, political entries and entries from a variety of religious and cultural groups," says Baum.

Parade organizers welcome this year's new sponsor, Brotherton Cadillac. Competition cate-

gories include floats, drill teams, novelty, bands, animals, cars and childrens' groups. Political and business entries do not qualify for the competition.

This is IKEA's 10th year as name sponsor, and multiple sponsors make River Days possible. Mejlaender says IKEA helps the festival sustain its quality, while additional sponsors enable the many free events and activities to be offered.

The celebration's roots go back to the late 1930s, when the city of Renton celebrated the Wild West-themed "Frontier Days." Back then events included a beard-growing contest and the viewing of cowboy films.

River Days details are on the Web at <http://rentonwa.gov>

around the garden



BY ELAINE ANDERSON

*T*omatoes are the backyard gardeners' favorite vegetable (or to be accurate, favorite fruit). In our climate, however, they are not the easiest plant to grow. That's because, although we have a long growing season, it's a cool one, and tomatoes thrive in heat. There are varieties that do well here, and let's assume you have planted one or more of these. What now?

Make certain that your plants receive sufficient water, approximately one inch each week. Do not overwater, however. Overwatering can be disastrous when it

comes to tomatoes. Water at the root level twice a week, more frequently if the tomatoes are in containers. Do not water from above, because water on the leaves and stems creates a welcoming environment for fungal diseases.

Get rid of weeds in your tomato bed when the weeds are babies. If you allow them to grow up, you'll need to do too much digging to get rid of them. Tomatoes are shallow rooted and don't tolerate much disturbance in the ground around them.

Here in our area, the most serious disease of tomatoes is late blight. There must be moisture on the plants in order for them to become infected with this fungus. Protect your plants by not watering from above and by staking them off the ground. Rain shouldn't

cause a problem if the plants are spaced far enough apart to allow good air circulation, which will enable them to dry quickly. You'll probably need to do some thinning out, even though it's difficult to destroy perfectly innocent plants.

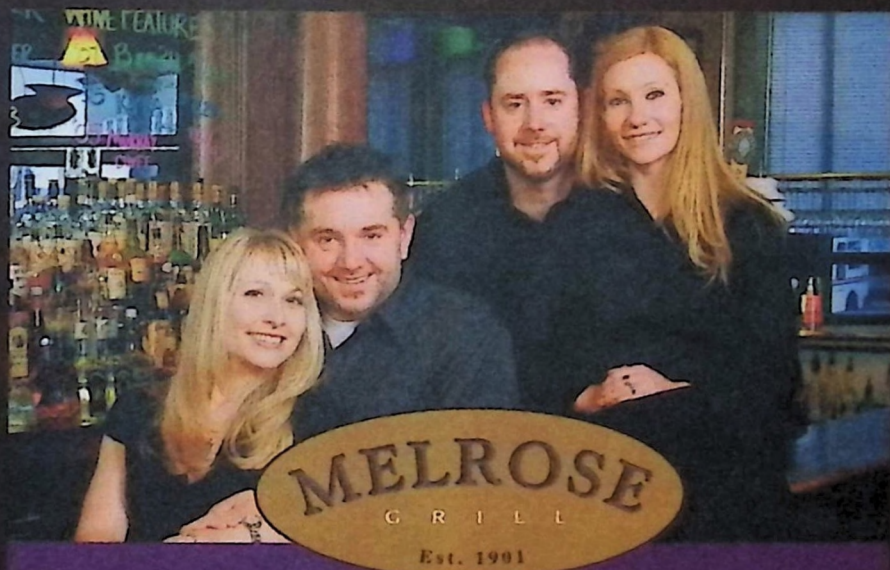
Blossom end rot causes dark, leathery patches on the bottom of your lovely fruit. It's caused by a lack of calcium, but the lack of calcium is almost always caused by insufficient irrigation. Water is essential for calcium absorption, so even if you've limed your soil, you'll need to provide the plants with sufficient water if they are to benefit from this nutrient.

Leaf rolling is common, but it does not affect fruit production. Deformed fruit is usually not a problem, either.

The fruit remains perfectly edible.

For information on several other tomato problems, and additional details on growing and caring for tomatoes, go to www.king.wsu.edu/gardening, click on "Garden Facts" and download Fact Sheets No. 38 and No. 52. Or, call 206-205-3122 and request free copies.

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 gardening all year long, call the Master Gardener Phone Clinic at 206-296-3440.



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Renton Skate park keeps kids on track

Story by Judy Dunn / Photos by Bob Dunn

Back in the 60s, they called it "sidewalk surfing." John, 22, isn't familiar with that term. All he knows is that the bowls at Liberty Skate Park give him a chance to practice his best skateboarding moves.

John (who declined to give his last name) has been skating here for five months, ever since he moved from Maple Valley to Renton. What does he like best about the park?

"It's all concrete," he says. "Wood or metal don't work. It has to be concrete."

But lately there have been problems.

"The skate park experiences a considerable amount of graffiti," says Leslie Betlach, city parks director. "We try to remove the graffiti but if unsuccessful, we have to paint over it. During summer months, we spend a lot of time picking up litter. We've had to replace the caliper trees around the skate park two times because vandals stripped off the bark and broke the branches."

Dirt in the bowls has also been a problem.

"It gets in, either by wind, or from bicycle tires," says Betlach. "Park crews routinely clean the bowls." (By city code, bicycles are not allowed, but this reporter saw two kids biking in the bowls the day she visited.)

The City Council approved the design for the 10,000-square foot park at the former

Henry Moses pool site in 2000. Phase I of the \$385,306 project, completed in April 2001, included two bowls, hips (two ramps meeting at an angle), curved ramps, a "funbox," and a "twinkie," which is an elongated, curved ramp. Phase II, with an increased skate area perimeter, railings, stairs, landscaping, and site amenities, was finished in the summer of 2003.

The skate park attracts a significant number of users in the peak season.

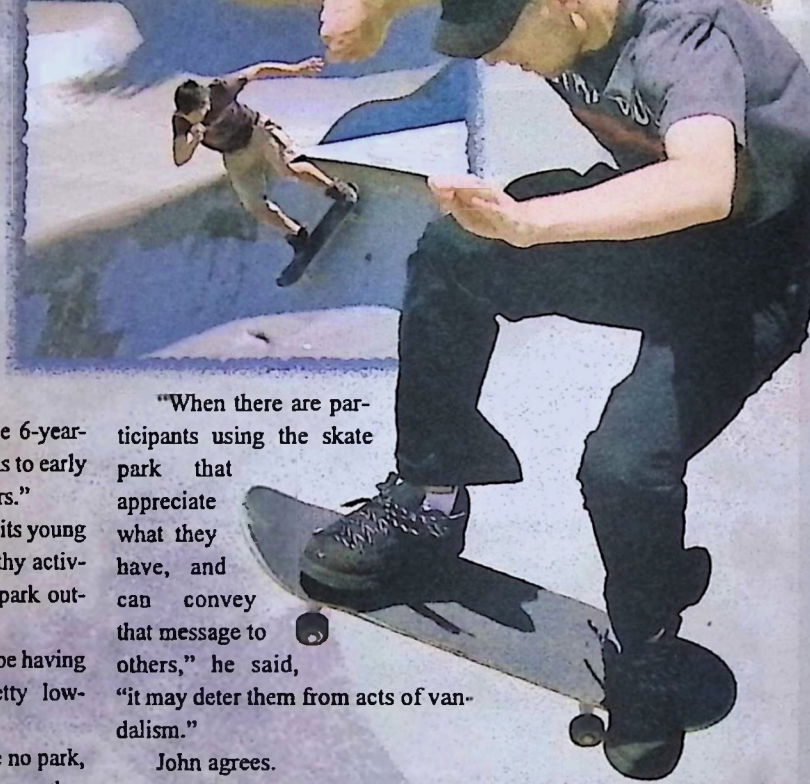
"The park is weather-dependent," said Jerry Rerecich, city recreation director. "We don't have exact numbers, but, typically, as long as it is not raining, people use the facility. It's not unusual to see 6-year-olds skating next to 40-year-olds. Mid-teens to early 20s, however, make up the bulk of the users."

For a community interested in keeping its young people off the streets and involved in healthy activities, the consensus is the benefits of the park outweigh its problems.

"With all the other problems we could be having with kids, littering and graffiti are pretty low-impact," said police officer Rick Cross.

Asked what he would do if there were no park, John says, "I really don't know. There's no other park around I like where I can skate for free."

Rerecich thinks peer pressure is the best solution.



"When there are participants using the skate park that appreciate what they have, and can convey that message to others," he said, "it may deter them from acts of vandalism."

John agrees.

"If I saw someone coming around and messing things up," he said, "I'd say, 'Dude, don't do that.'"

Top right, John, 22, has been skateboarding at the Liberty Skate Park since he moved to Renton from Maple Valley and said there is no other skate park that he likes where he can skate for free. Middle, James, 22, shows off his moves at the park.



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John F. Benson named the hill

BY ELIZABETH P. STEWART

Benson Hill recently joined the city of Renton officially, but of course there has been a long association between Renton and its neighbor on the hill.

Seattle grocer John F. Benson was one of the first settlers. A Swedish immigrant, he had been in the United States for 25 years when he lost his business in the 1906 depression. Looking for new opportunities, John and his brothers, Elmer and Herman, chose three ten-acre tracts strategically located between Renton and the new Spring Glen Acres development at Orillia.

The Bensons moved their small families there, and John immediately began building a temporary road for settlers

moving out to Spring Glen to work in the logging industry or to farm. His road improved on an existing trail between the farm of J. E. Farmer, the nearest large farm, and his own homesteader's cabin. Ira and Clyde Carr, for whom Carr Road was named, also operated small vegetable, fruit, and dairy farms near the Farmers and the Bensons. From 1906 to 1911, Benson's road was the only passable road.

In 1911 the dozen or so families living on the hill, led by John Benson, petitioned King County Commissioners for a gravel road. Renton merchants became interested in the possibility of access to new customers and farm goods that a paved road would bring, and they supported the Benson Hill families' petition. By 1913 the county commissioners had finally chosen Benson's road—a shorter route to Renton than the Talbot Hill route—and John Benson was awarded the contract to

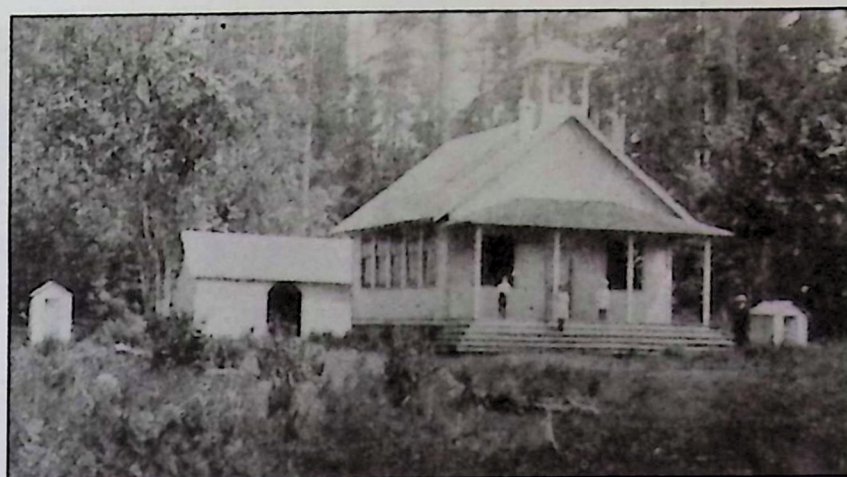


PHOTO COURTESY OF RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM #1988.116.2669

The first Benson Hill school, on the corner of Benson Road and Petrovitsky, was open from 1910 to 1925.

pave the first two miles, from the corner of his small farm to Renton. Over the years, as funds became available, Benson Road was extended piecemeal to Kent.

Benson Hill remained a predominantly farming community for the next 30 years or so. Numerous Japanese families started small fruit and vegetable farms in the 1920s and 1930s. Many of those who didn't make their living on a farm walked down Benson Road to the Renton coal mine, Renton Glass Works, Pacific Car & Foundry (later PACCAR), or Denny Renton Clay & Coal. In the 1950s and

1960s Benson Hill's population took off, as Boeing workers and others began looking for suburban homes in friendly, affordable neighborhoods.

This is the barest bones history of Renton's newest addition, Benson Hill, and the Renton History Museum is looking for more information, photos, objects, and oral histories. Tell us more!

Elizabeth P. Stewart is the Director of the Renton History Museum. You may e-mail her at info@rentonhistory.org, or phone 425-255-2330.

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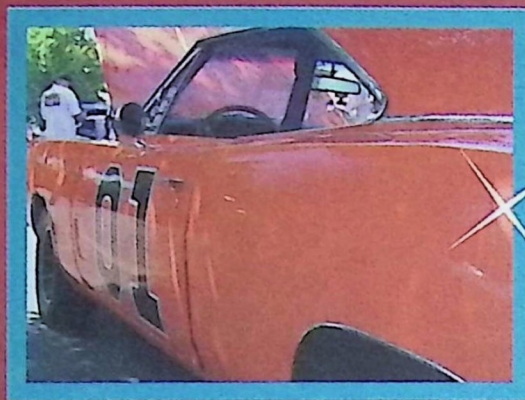
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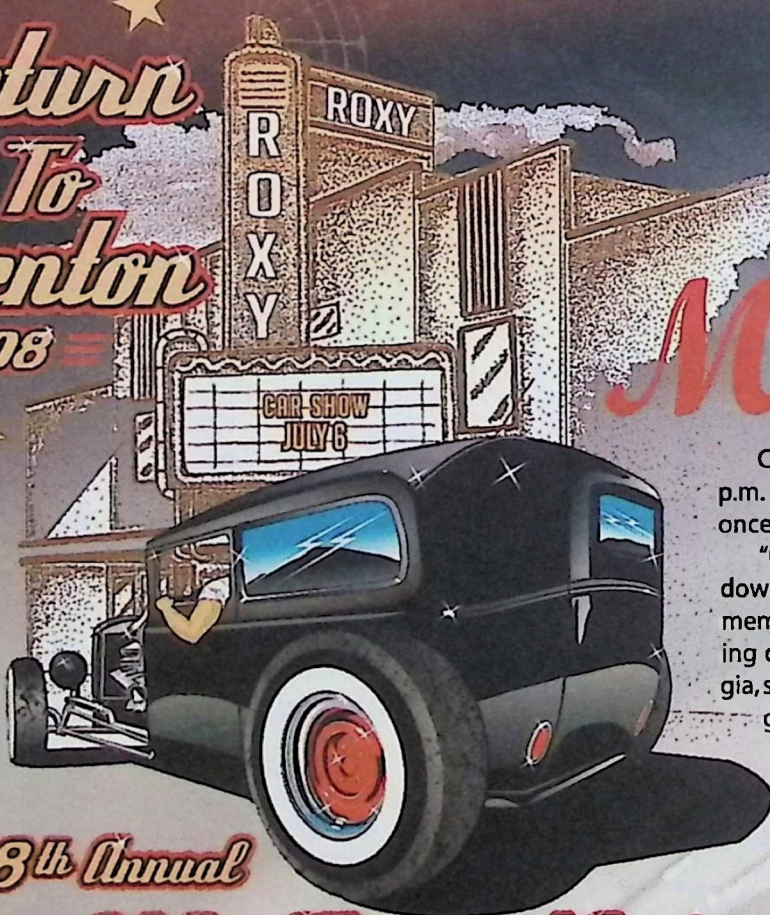


The Return to Renton Cruise-in and Benefit show will celebrate its 18th year on July 6, this time on the historic Renton loop. Visitors will be treated to an array of vehicles, including Cadillacs, Oldsmobile,

Chevrolts, T-birds, Corvettes, and even Chrysler's 1970 Dodge Challenger. The couple m

Car show fair rally

*Return
To
Renton
2008*



*18th Annual
Benefit Car Show and Cruise*

Story By Andrew Fickes /

More than 300 automobile contestants ready to rev their engines at the 18th annual Return to Renton Benefit Car Show and Drive-In can expect a few changes.

The most notable: a new location.

Car enthusiasts will show their vehicles from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 6, in downtown Renton around Piazza Park, once known as the "Renton loop."

"Our biggest goal of this season is really to help the downtown businesses," says Return to Renton committee member Ryan Runge. "That was our biggest reason for moving downtown. But also to give the event a sense of nostalgia, setting up near where the Renton loop used to be and to get really in the heart of things."

In past years the event was held on the Renton High School grounds. This year city officials and business owners resolved to hold it downtown.

"We're closing South Third Street," says city spokeswoman Jennifer Davis Hayes, "which is a huge undertaking. But it's been quite a smooth process, because all our internal departments are working together."

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steer muscle cars. Right, Steve and Marcie Maxwell with
while cruising the loop in 1973. Photo by Denis Law.



in downtown Renton

Photos By Gary Palmer

ree the downtown for a daylong closure of South Third Street and
nue, Davis Hayes says the city sent out a mass mailing to affect-
owners.

see Sunday based on feedback from local business owners," she
ss routes will be impacted and there's less traffic on a Sunday."
will include South Third Street from Morris Avenue to Williams;
t from South Third to the transit center; and Burnett Avenue
Fourth Street to the transit center.

ually encouraging businesses typically not open on Sundays to
doors and attract new clientele," says Runge.

ments will sign up at the car show headquarters at Piazza Park,
Jmlimited will present an art gallery showcasing 20 to 30 region-

am 300 show cars (and even a few motorcycles and trucks) will be
ts for people to view. And of course the loop from Rainier down
Street, down Wells to Second and back up to Rainier, will sur-
reent.

will benefit youth programs of the Renton Police Department.
nt has contributed more than \$110,000 to the youth programs
st 17 years, including \$16,000 last year," said co-chair Jim

Renton's loop fostered romance

Steve Maxwell, a 1970 Renton High School graduate, fondly remembers cruising Renton's "loop" with his high school buddies. It's how he met his wife, Marcie, then a high school senior.

"Her best friend was going steady with one of my best friends," he says. "Finally, one night on April 7, 1973, I pulled into the Taco Time parking lot and Marcie's friend introduced me to her off the Renton loop. Our first date was the following day at Pacific Raceways. We'll be married 32 years this July 25."

Maxwell, 56, has been on the Return to Renton board of directors for four years. He owns a red 1970 Dodge Challenger, which he says is a rare find. He traveled to California in October 2004 to purchase one

of 2,900 still in existence.

Lark Ken Buchanan, car show committee co-chair, also met her husband while driving the loop in 1986. She says the loop existed from the 1950s through the 1980s, when police patrols put an end to it.

"Cruising for us was the cool thing to do," she reminisces. "It was a sense of freedom and a kind of rebellion."

Today, she and husband Ken own 14 vehicles, eight of which are show cars.

"We're unusual in that we are not brand loyal," she says. "Anything that looks cool and sounds cool, that's what we like."

recipe of the month

Chef John R. Fisher, CEC, CCE, AAC

Chef John Fisher has been senior chef instructor at Renton Technical College (RTC) in the culinary arts program since 2003. 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 for six years as well as a culinary instructor. In March 2003, he received the ACF(American Culinary Federation) Chef Professionalism award for the Western Region. In 2002, he won the Western Regional American Academy of Chefs Chairs Award and was profiled in the November 2002 issue of the National Culinary Review. He was elected Western Regional vice chair in 2003.

Fisher has contributed numerous articles to the American

Culinary Federation's National Culinary Review and to other culinary publications, including Chef Magazine and Chef Educators Today. He 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.

Fisher has 39 years' experience in the hospitality industry. He taught at Boise State University and has been the executive chef in numerous hotels, clubs, and restaurants. He has won many professional awards and was inducted into the Honorable Order of the Golden Toque for life-time contributions to the culinary industry. The order has only 100 members world wide.

Fisher lives in Renton with his wife Kathryn.

Crab Cakes

STEP 1: you will need

Mayonnaise	1 1/2 tsp.
Celery, minced	1 1/2 tsp.
Red bell pepper, minced	1 1/2 tsp.
Lemon juice, fresh	3/4 tsp.
Heavy cream	3/4 oz.
Worcestershire	1/4 tsp.
Old Bay seasoning	1/4 tsp.
Dry mustard	1/4 tsp.
Onion powder	1/4 tsp.
Cayenne pepper	1/8 tsp.
Kosher salt	to taste
White pepper, ground	to taste

directions

Whisk together well.

STEP 2: you will need

Bread crumbs, white	1/4 cup
Whole egg, beaten	1 ea.
Italian parsley, chopped	3/4 tsp.
Scallions, minced	1 1/2 tsp.

directions

Mix well and add to above.

STEP 3: you will need

Lump crab meat, picked	4 oz.
------------------------	-------

directions

Add to above and mix only until incorporated. Use 1/2 oz. scoop to portion into round cakes.

STEP 4: you will need

All Purpose Flour	2 oz.
Whole egg, beaten	1 ea.
Milk, whole	1/2 oz
Panko (Japanese bread crumbs)	1/2 cup

directions

Use standard breading process.

STEP 6: you will need

Canola oil	as needed
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directions

Deep fry until golden brown. Drain on absorbent paper.

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Preparing for disasters includes planning for pets

BY CHARLIE POWELL

Recent earthquakes in China drive home the point that we all need to prepare for a disaster or catastrophe. That preparation should include your animals, too.

Hurricane Katrina rescuers found that many people would not accept rescue without being able to take along their pets. Since then, several jurisdictions have enacted laws and adopted policies whereby pet animals will be evacuated and rescued with their owners.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security urges owners to develop a three-step planning process for pet care during emergencies.

The first step is preparation. This step involves building two kits; one that is complete for when you will ride things out at home, the other is more lightweight for evacuation and survival. All contents of both kits must be protected from the elements and other items in the kit.

A kit should include food and water for three days minimum. Medicines and copies of veterinary records, especially those showing vaccinations, should be included. Your veterinarian or numerous websites can help you build a low-cost, effective first aid kit for your pet.

Collars, leashes, and ID tags are a must. The single best form of ID is redundant identification with tags, a microchip, and a tattoo. A crate or pet carrier is an excellent way to secure your pet in normal times as well as an emergency. Plastic bags, paper towels, and chlorine bleach are necessary for dealing with animal wastes.

Check these websites for more information about caring for pets in an emergency:

Federal Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm>

American Veterinary Medical Association

<http://www.avma.org/disaster/responseguide/responseguidetoc.asp>

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/SERVICES/disaster/beprepared/animalsafety.html>

Step two is to plan for staying home without services for three or more days and also an evacuation of three or more days. Planning means considering what you will do if a disaster is impending.

Planning also means talking to neighbors and friends and agreeing to pool resources in the event of an emergency. Let someone know where your emergency kits are so they can grab your pet and a kit and be on their way if you're not in town. A pre-planned group effort will always enhance any personal efforts.

Finally, talk to your veterinarian. They can help ensure your pet is cared for properly in an emergency. Ask them about emergency care in the region or a colleague who may offer kennel space out of the area. Often they are aware of emergency planning and where emergency animal shelters may be set up.

Charlie Powell is public information director for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.

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Story by Judy Dunn / Photos by Jagoda Sondej

Send in the clowns

It's all in the family for Renton father and son

As a child, Steve Allen Jr. watched his father put on the makeup and costume that transformed him from ordinary dad to master jester. It's not surprising that, like his dad, Steve Jr. chose to join the Seafair Clowns.

"My dad has been a Seafair clown for over 20 years," he said. "He used to dress me up as a clown when I was little and take me to the University District Kiddie Parade."

Father and son, both of whom live in Renton and work for Boeing, perform together at Seafair as well as community festivals in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Mexico, and various care facilities and institutions around the region.

The 60 Seafair Clowns range in ages from 25 to 75. The organization was founded by the

Graduates Club of Seattle University in 1953, when new college grads were looking for a way to be recognized for their degrees and the men of Greater Seattle—the precursor of Seafair—were looking for talent and new ideas.

The clowns average 125 hours of entertaining in a typical Seafair schedule, appearing at festivals and bringing the spirit of Seafair to the ill and the confined in area hospitals, children's homes, nursing facilities and elder care centers.

"The Seafair Clowns come to visit the playroom and different units every summer around Seafair time," said Kim Korte, child life manager at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center. "Our kids love the laughter, the tricks and especially the chance to be playful."

Growing up goofy

Steve Sr. saw the clowning potential in his son early on. "He's a lot like me," he said. "I was always kind of goofy growing up. I am shy by nature, but whenever I am in a comfortable situation, the goofiness comes out. Clowning just seemed to be a natural extension of myself."

"Steve is a bit quiet," he said, "but when he's around his friends, he has a quirky sense of humor and is a lot of fun to be with."

"I am a little shy and can keep to myself," his son agrees. "But when I come out of my shell, I'm a very fun-loving per-

A good clown comes from within. You cannot just put on makeup and an outfit and be funny.

~ Seafair Clown Martin Patricelli

Photos this page: Steve Allen Sr., starts getting into character by painting his face. He continues until he's laced up his giant shoes. Facing page: A few of the Seafair Clowns pose with their latest vehicle, a gift from Renton-based Stoneway Concrete.

son."

Martin Patricelli, managing partner in a tile company and a 31-year Clown veteran, has his own take on the qualities of a good clown.

"A good clown comes from within," he said. "You cannot just put on makeup and an outfit and be funny. Development of a character may take several years. Once you develop it, then you need to research it and work it. Kids are so quick, and they can spot a flaw in your character."

Patricelli's skills were recognized in high school when he was voted "class clown."

"I spent many hours in the office after school," he said.

Asked to describe a special moment during his years of clowning, Allen Sr. couldn't name just one.

"I love history," he said, "and some of the people I meet have terrific stories to tell. Like the lady in a retirement center near Green Lake who was a nurse on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion in World War II. Or the guy who had played with John Philip Sousa. I've just had lots of wonderful small moments."

"I take festival week off because Seafair doesn't work for me unless I can visit the nursing homes and convalescent centers and hospitals," he said. "These people need a smile and I am more than happy to provide it."

Giving back to community

For Steve Jr., the decision to put on a clown face was an easy one.

"I have seen how much enjoyment my dad gets from clowning and how much he gives back to the community," he said, "so that really intrigued me, and I decided it's something I would like to get involved with."

And if his son ever asked for advice?

Steve Sr. said, "I would just tell him to always be yourself and to let your

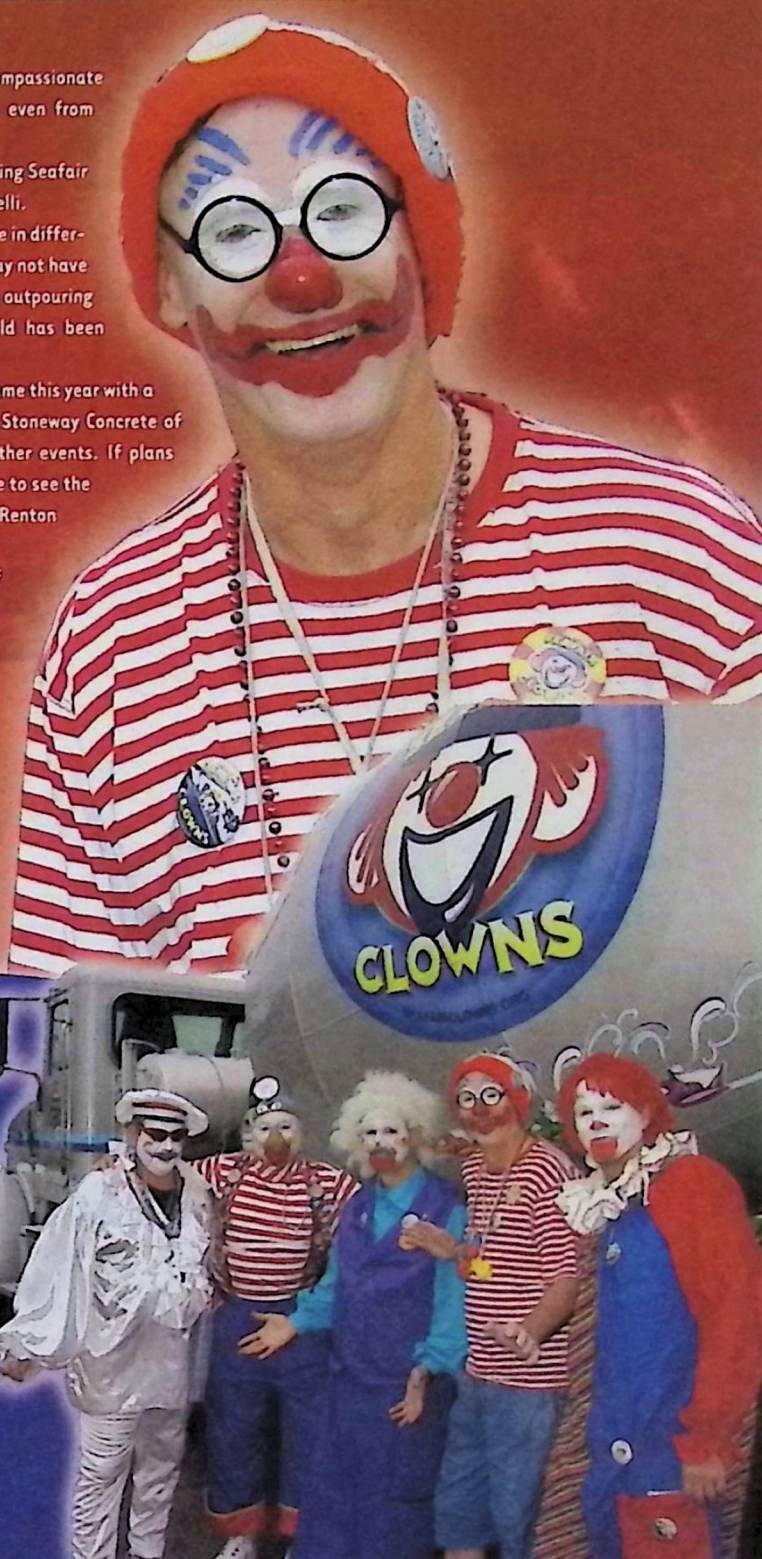
energy flow naturally. He is a very compassionate person and that will shine through, even from underneath the makeup."

Community support is key to making Seafair Clowns activities possible, said Patricelli.

"When we are asked to participate in different events and special projects, we may not have the resources to make it happen. The outpouring of support from the corporate world has been unbelievable."

An example of that generosity came this year with a \$250,000 concrete truck donated by Stoneway Concrete of Renton for use in parades and at other events. If plans come together, spectators will be able to see the clowns in their new truck at the IKEA Renton River Days Parade July 26.

Donations to support the work of the Seafair Clowns may be sent to Seattle Seafair Clowns, c/o Graduates Club of Seattle University, 300 Queen Anne Ave. N., No. 251, Seattle, WA 98109-4599. For more information on the activities of the Seafair Clowns and opportunities for volunteering, visit www.seafair-clowns.org.



Seattle Seafair Clowns Appearances

July 15
Kent Cornucopia Days
Parade, 2 p.m.

July 19
2008 West Seattle Hi-Yu Summer
Festival Parade, 11 a.m.

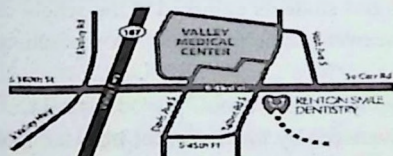
July 20
2008 Seattle Chinatown Seafair Parade, 7 p.m.

July 26
2008 Renton
River Days
Parade, 10
a.m.

2008 Seattle Seafair
Torchlight Parade.
7:30 p.m.

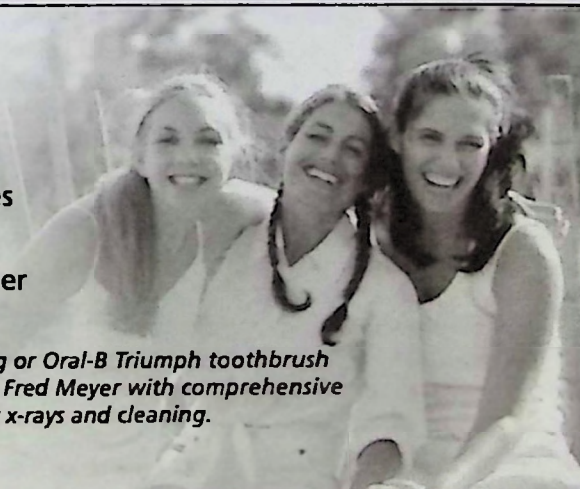
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Pen pal program bridges generations

BY ANDREW FICKES

Alexandra Muratore came home from school one day last fall, excited to tell her mother the good news: She would be writing letters to a senior citizen as part of a year-long pen pal program between the Renton Senior Activity Center and Maxine Matthew's fifth grade class at Maplewood Heights Elementary.

Alexandra was one of 29 students writing pen-pal letters. Wendy Kirchner, program coordinator for the senior center, started the program eight years ago with Matthew.

"I had done pen pal programs on an international level with teachers in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain," Matthew said. "It gives my kids insight into people of different ages. And for seniors, it gives them insight on what it's like to be 10 or 11 in today's world."

"I was really glad she could get a connection with someone from a different generation," said Alexandra's mother, Debbie. "She was so excited that someone was writing to her and asking questions about her."

Three years prior, Alexandra lost her maternal grandparents.

"This experience brought it home for Alexandra," said her mother. "I think she realized how much she missed them."

Bette Zwicker, 78, corresponded with Alexandra and said the young lady "has a good head on her shoulders, with a very good family behind her."

"Bette made me feel special, like she was my grandma," said Alexandra.

"I would love to make arrangements to continue writing to her," Zwicker said. "When you're around these kids, you're assured that the world will be all right. Tom Brokaw said his [parents'] was the greatest generation. But I think he's wrong. I think the ones coming up are the greatest



RENTON MAGAZINE / JAMES BAVENDAM

Top, Bill Davies and student Andrew Finnell meet for the first time after writing several letters to each other. Davies says Finnell is "quick on the uptake." Bottom, Jerry Irwin and student André Noinala dishes up pizza at Maplewood Heights Elementary, along with other seniors and students, at the annual year-end pen pal program party.

I think the ones coming up are the greatest generation. They have the war and the earth to worry about, but they'll meet it.

~ Bette Zwicker, 78

generation. They have the war and the earth to worry about, but they'll meet it."

Jane Goodwin, 77, a retired elementary school secretary in the Renton School District, said she's in her fifth year writing letters.

"I think besides the obvious educational value for kids, they find out seniors really do care about them and that they are interested in them and their generation. On a more personal level, I just love being around kids; they really get you going."

"I'm going to treasure all these letters," she said. "I remember the first student I wrote to, a boy, wanted to take me to the Puyallup Fair on his gas-powered scooter. I could only imagine how I'd look."

Bill Davies, 76, said he is one of two men in the program. The student he wrote to this year was Andrew Finnell, a "smart kid and really quick on the uptake."

"It's fun corresponding and I always look forward to it," he said. "I enjoy finding out what they like to do and share my interests with them. They're always fascinated that I like to fish and like all kinds of sports."

To complete the program, seniors and students gathered at the school commons, where they met for the first time over pizza. Students took the seniors on a school tour.

"I think I saw every nook and cranny in that school," Goodwin said.

The party culminated with performances by three student pianists, including Alexandra.

Renton School District good news announcements

Marine sergeant praises Benson Hill Elementary

A Marine sergeant stationed in Iraq recently wrote a letter of appreciation to members of a local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for sending care packages to men and women overseas. The sergeant's letter mentioned students at Benson Hill Elementary School, who placed drawings in the care packages. Sgt. Steven Serrano's package included a drawing by Benson Hill student Dana Rin, which depicted an American flag with the message: "Thank you for protecting us." Sgt. Serrano says in his letter: "I keep my drawings in my cargo pocket at all times."

Hazen's DECA produces commercials for BECU

Students on the advertising team in Hazen High School's Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) program were recently selected to produce commercials for the Boeing Employees' Credit Union. BECU selected the team of Sabrina Handy, Jamie John, and Kasey Koenig from more than 100 teams.

Tiffany Park student recognized for art

Tiffany Park Elementary School second-grader Daniel Hooker recently placed second in the Seattle Aquarium's annual "Your Ocean—Our Home" art contest. Hundreds of students in first through fifth grades entered the contest. Daniel was awarded \$1,500 for his winning entry.

Hazelwood teacher is outstanding educator

Hazelwood Elementary School PTSA has awarded its outstanding educator award to fifth-grade teacher Kay Mollanen. Mollanen was recognized for using teaching

time management skills, personal responsibility and critical thinking skills for problem solving and better preparing her students for the challenges of middle school. Her enthusiasm and willingness to try fresh approaches in reaching her students were also noted.

Lindbergh senior receives SPU scholar award

Lindbergh High School senior Bridgette Smith was awarded the Seattle Pacific University Scholar Award worth \$26,500 in tuition. Bridgette also was awarded SPU's AMES Scholarship, worth \$6,000 annually, offered to ethnically diverse student leaders. Bridgette will begin studies in medicine this fall at SPU.

Lindbergh memorial scholarships awarded

Recipients of this year's Lindbergh High School memorial scholarships have been selected. Academic scholarships went to Mercy Hoang Nguyen, \$1,250; Dalia Amin, \$1,000; and Matthew Lemke, \$750. Kelsey Cobb received a technical scholarship for \$1,000. More than 20 applications were received for this year's scholarships.

Hazen High juniors reach for the stars

Three Hazen High School Juniors have been selected to participate in a summer learning institute at the Museum of Flight. Alex Harris, Phillip Tran and Ryan Wilkinson recently completed a competitive skill/test/interview process to win the internships. The Institute will be led by aerospace engineers and NASA scientists.

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



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Earlington Hill

An active neighborhood with a rich history

BY ANDREW FICKES

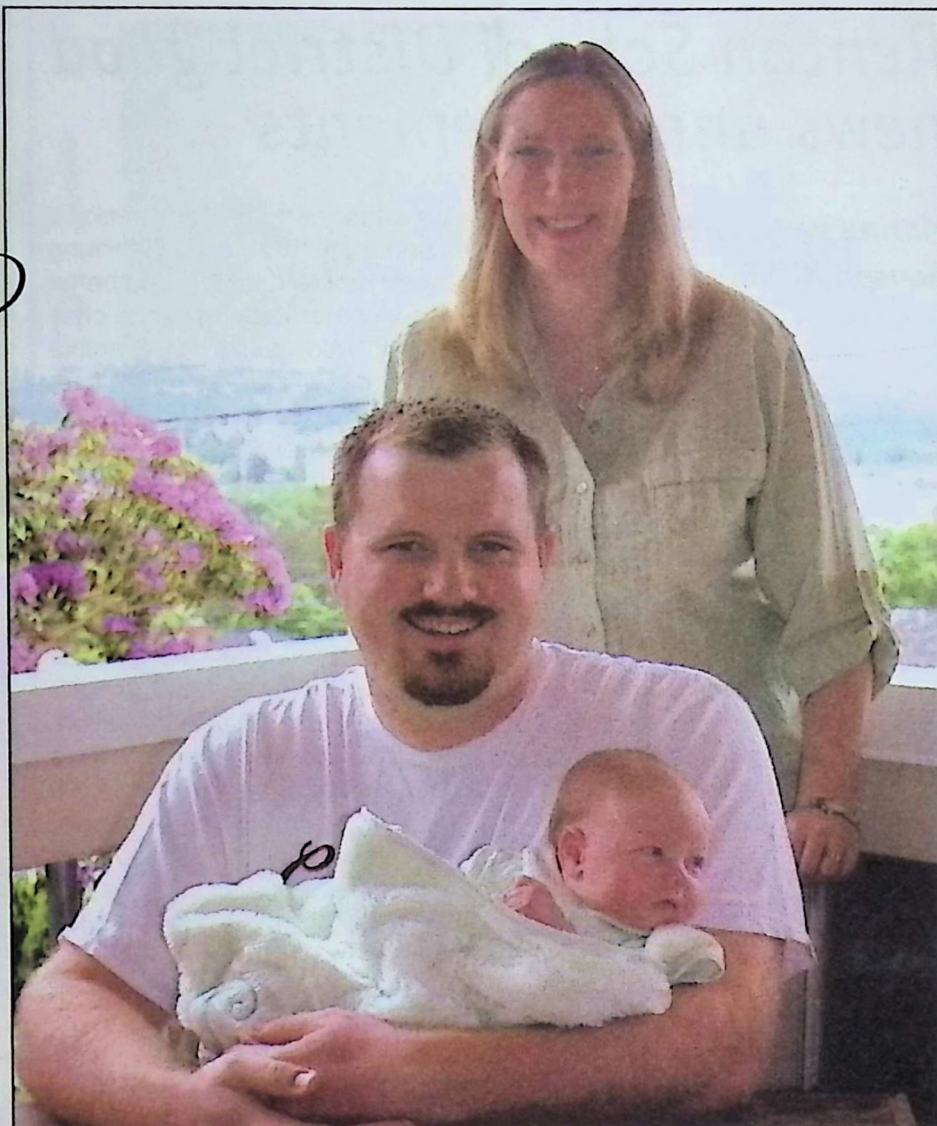
There was a time in Lee and Marilyn Ford's young married life when the couple tried the apartment lifestyle in SeaTac, but before long they returned to the Earlington Hill neighborhood, where they are third generation residents.

They grew up in the 1940s, just blocks apart from each other. Lee lived across from Marilyn's uncle on Langston Road. Marilyn was a Poli, raised in a large Italian family (her 91-year-old mother still lives on the hill). She lived in a modest house "surrounded by family," she says.

The couple married in 1957 and moved back in 1960, building a house in front of Marilyn's family home.

A century ago, Jones-Thompson Investment Company platted the area and promoted it as the town of Earlington, although it never became a town. The developers dubbed it the "industrial suburb of Seattle." It was named after A.J. Earling, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, which once owned 40 acres of the land.

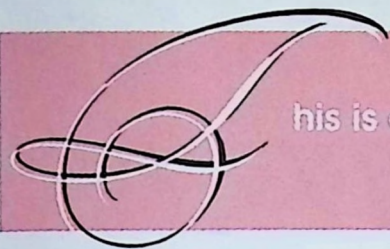
What is now Crestview Apartments off Sunset Boulevard was then the Earlington



RENTON MAGAZINE / DIANA KRAMER

Marty and Sarah Telschow, with baby daughter, Clarice, say Earlington Hill is great for young families. They just completed a remodel of their two-story home. Below, Sondra Shira, a long-time resident of the Earlington Hill, says she is fond of the neighborhood's unique character and home styles. Photo by Andrew Fickes





his is a neighborhood where people stay.

~Resident Elaine Ravsten

Golf Course. Homes there were summer getaways for professionals traveling from nearby Seattle.

"I remember picking wild mushrooms with my Aunt Annie on the golf course," says Marilyn.

On the golf course, a mansion built by Dr. Herman Bagley, well-known Seattle physician, became the Earlington Club House, a social center for visiting Seattle businessmen into the 1920s. In 1951, it was demolished to make way for residential development.

The Westerner magazine once had its corporate office in the neighborhood. It published 100,000 copies per month, adequate circulation to require a post office.

In 1998, Earlington Hill neighborhood was one of two pilot projects for the Renton's neighborhood program. In the summer of 2006, the neighborhood association installed an information kiosk at Earlington Park on Thomas Avenue Southwest. Association Vice President Sondra Shira and daughter Rhoda Green spearheaded the effort.

Shira's own Langston Road home, an A-frame filled with art, is "an expression of me," she says.

Residents Ken Williams and wife Helen say they love that people stay in the neighborhood and invest in their homes.

"There has been a lot of upkeep and remodeling over the past years," says Ken Williams.

Marty Telschow, president of the neighborhood association, with wife Sarah, completed a major remodel of their two-story home in spring 2007. On May 10, the young couple celebrated the birth of their first child, a girl, Clarice.

"Since we have moved in, many younger families have moved in also," he says. "We love the neighborhood and we know our neighbors really well."

Approximately 200 people attend the annual neighborhood picnic in September at Earlington Park, feasting on fresh-caught salmon. Its organizer, Elaine Ravsten, says the picnic "charges her up" about why she continues to live in the neighborhood.

"We love the older houses, the big yards, the quietness," she says. "When we purchased our home it was very apparent that people living here loved it. This is a neighborhood where people stay."



RENTON MAGAZINE / ANDREW FICKES

Lee and Marilyn Ford were childhood friends growing up on Earlington Hill in the 1940s. Today, their family home stands in front of Marilyn's original Poli family home.

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RENTON MAGAZINE / DAVID SUFFIA

Harish Krishnan poses in front of the cricket scoreboard during a local match at Renton's Ron Regis park.

Cricket *anyone?*

BY DAVID SUFFIA

If you'd like to take in some local amateur sports with a decidedly international flavor, head to Renton's Ron Regis Park on a sunny weekend this summer.

The park, located about three miles east of Interstate 405 on the Maple Valley Road, hosts some fantastic cricket games with players originally from such faraway places as India, Pakistan, England, South Africa, and South and Central America, as well as the local area.

The cricket field is one of only a few in the Puget Sound area. Watching this complex game is a treat as team members chase across the field in traditional sparkling white uniforms.

"Cricket is a religion for us," says Phani Chitneni, president of the Northwest Cricket

League, and a member of the Redmond Colts. "We spend the whole day here playing cricket."

Renton is the team's home field because their Redmond field was closed, and "maybe we'd be willing to become the Renton Colts if someone wanted to sponsor us," he added.

Originally from Hyderabad, India, Chitneni now lives in Issaquah and works for a Seattle Internet technology company. Founded in 1995, the cricket league includes teams from around the Northwest, including Whatcom County, Pullman, and Beaverton, Oregon. Boeing and Microsoft employees both field cricket teams.

"Playing cricket helps us to do what we did when we were kids," says Harish Krishnan, a Microsoft program manager from Redmond, who also plays for the Colts. "There are 11 Indians and one South African on our team. I'm from Bangalore, India. Cricket is pretty much a game played in the countries of the old British Empire."

Similar to American baseball, cricket is much more complex and is played on a "pitch," a



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RENTON MAGAZINE / DAVID SUFFIA

Many countries have a rich cricket history. Ron Regis Park echoes with languages from around the world.

You can find information about cricket and the Northwest Cricket League at www.nwcl.org.

straight runway from which a batter with a flat bat can hit from both ends. A game can easily consist of more than 100 runs, and is complex by baseball standards.

"It takes time to explain the game," says Chitneni, "and it is taking time to grow local interest in it, but we're working on it."

Even if you don't understand it well, the spirit of the players

is infectious and the spectacle of the white-clad warriors on the green field is worth stopping by to watch.

The cricket league sponsors two youth groups and conducts cricket camps for local schools that are interested.

You can find information about cricket and the Northwest Cricket League at www.nwcl.org.

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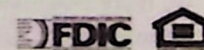


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healthy advice

by dr. bob thompson

Keep an eye out for ways to protect your sight

BY DR. BOB THOMPSON

*M*y mother used to say, "It's all fun and games until somebody loses an eye!" Many of us fail to appreciate the gift of excellent vision until we lose it. I must confess I didn't pay much attention to eye protection or general eye care for most of my life.

An estimated 2.4 million people in the United States suffer eye injuries each year, most during summer. To spread the word that summer months pose particular risks to your vision, the American Academy of Ophthalmology has proclaimed July as "Eye Injury Prevention Month."

The most insidious eye injuries occur during those sunny days of summer and result from prolonged exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays. Damage to the cornea often shows up years later with development of cataracts and macular degeneration. Wearing sunglasses that provide

100 percent UV protection is the proper means of prevention, particularly when out on the water or hiking at high altitude.

Wearing eye protection while playing sports will also limit your risks for serious eye injury. Of the 40,000 sports-related eye injuries reported in our country each year, the majority occur in baseball, basketball and racquet sports. Many of these occur among children and almost all are preventable by wearing safety goggles (lensed polycarbonate protectors) for racquet sports or basketball and batting helmets with polycarbonate face shields for youth baseball.

Paintball has been blamed for an increasing number of serious eye injuries due to the small size and high velocity of the projectiles, making eye protection a must when handling a paintball gun.

Fireworks are another summer attraction that can cause major eye damage. Goggles or safety glasses should be worn by all who are in the area, as it is often the "innocent bystander" who gets struck and injured.

Goggles or wraparound safety glasses should also be



Dr. Bob Thompson

worn whenever doing yard work with power equipment. Mowing, hedge trimming and weed whacking can all send rocks and debris flying with great force and from many angles into the face, resulting in serious injury and loss of vision. Again, bystanders, especially children, should stay far away from adults who are using power tools to avoid potential harm.

Additional safety tips from the American Academy of Ophthalmology include:

- Goggles should be worn when working with household chemicals which can burn the eyes.
- Wear eye protection when using bungee cords, an increasingly common cause of eye injury.
- Keep children in the back seat because deploying air bags can lead to serious eye injury in children.

An additional safety tip from my mother:

- Eat your carrots, it will help you see better at night.

Dr. Bob Thompson is a family practice physician with 25 years of experience in Renton, and is Valley Medical Center's Director of Recruitment and New Program Development.

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Library art has historical significance

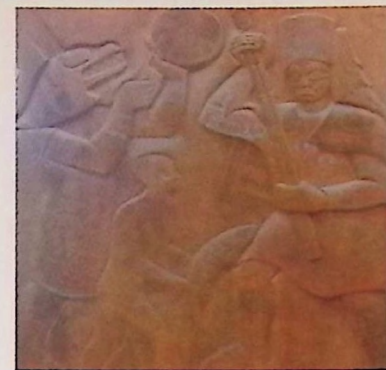
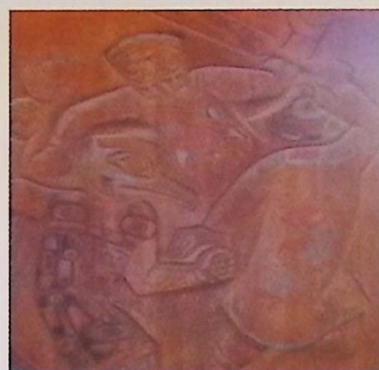
BY BETTE ANDERSON

When you think of the public library, what usually comes to mind? Books? Magazines? DVDs? Computers? The Renton Public Library system has all that and more. But like many libraries, a collection of public art graces the walls of both the downtown and Highlands libraries.

There are two works of special historic significance at the Highlands Library. First is a mural of coal miners at work by Jacob Elshin. Born in Russia, Elshin emigrated to Seattle in 1923. His untitled oil-on-canvas mural was commissioned by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Art Project in 1938. The mural hung in the Renton Post Office until 1972.

A published history of the WPA recounts that Renton's mural was unique because the artist actually ventured into the mine. William Strain escorted Elshin deep underground and posed the miners as the artist sketched them at work. Elshin had an illustrious career as one of the Northwest's leading artists and received numerous local and national awards. His paintings have been collected and displayed by major museums around the world.

The second art piece at the Highlands Library is a set of two carved panels by



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF RENTON

"Northwest Coast Indians" panels by James H. FitzGerald

James H. FitzGerald. FitzGerald was born in Seattle in 1910 and developed his career as a painter and sculptor in the Puget Sound area. Locally, he is perhaps best known for many bronze sculptures that can be seen around Seattle. His "Fountain of the Northwest" was installed in 1962 for the opening of the Seattle World's Fair in the courtyard of what is now the Intiman Playhouse at the Seattle Center.

The western red cedar panels hanging in the Highlands Library were carved by FitzGerald to depict scenes from the life of Native Americans of the Northwest Coast. Completed in 1943, the panels were commissioned by the Federal Housing

Authority to decorate the exterior of the Highlands Administration Building and suffered weather damage. The panels were installed in the protected environment of the library in 1973, affording the public the opportunity to enjoy this artwork from an internationally renowned sculptor for many years to come.

Look for a future article about the art that can be seen in the downtown branch of the Renton Public Library.

Bette Anderson is the Renton Public Library director and can be reached at 425-430-6610.



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