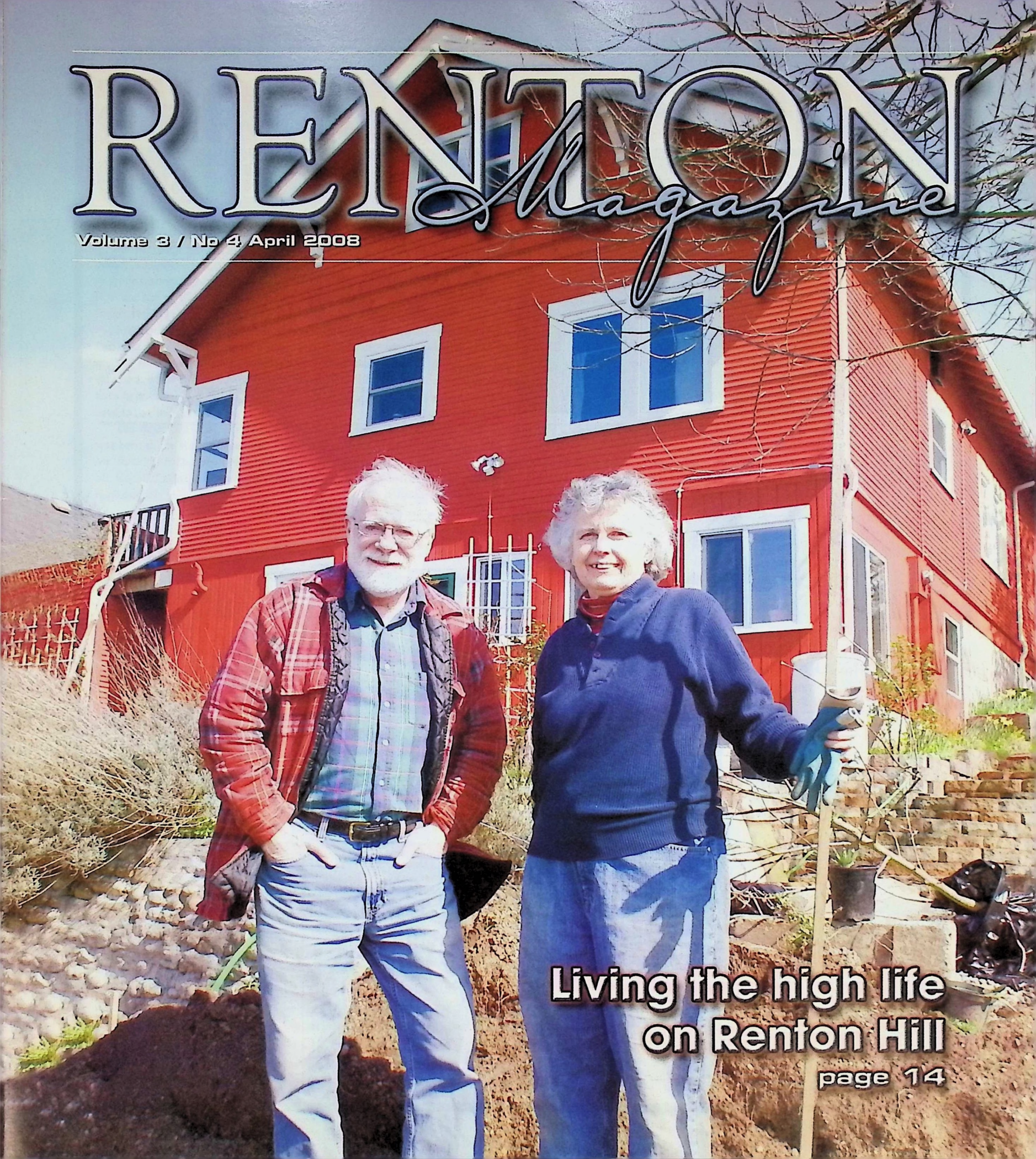


RENTON *Magazine*

Volume 3 / No 4 April 2008



**Living the high life
on Renton Hill**

page 14

KING and BUNNYS

A P P L I A N C E S



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*See store for complete details. Offer good only on select KitchenAid® Brand appliances. Some models featured may not qualify for promotional offer. Registered trademark/™ Trademark of KitchenAid, U.S.A. ©2008. All rights reserved. To learn more about the entire KitchenAid line, visit KitchenAid.com or call 1-800-422-1230.



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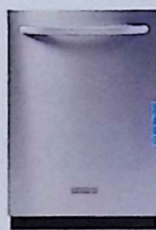
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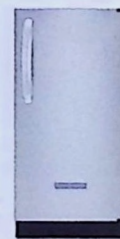
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Model # KUC15N



Model # KIM32050S

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Model # KUC15N5

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ARCHITECT® SERIES II
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- Capacity to store 25 pounds of ice at a time
- Stainless Steel finish



Model # KBC524

KITCHENAID®
ARCHITECT® SERIES II
BEVERAGE CENTER

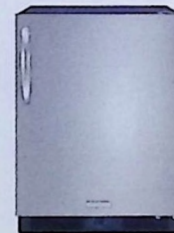
- Store beverages and other snacks in one of three temperature zones
- Dedicated storage for up to 32 wine bottles
- Fits in the space of a standard base cabinet
- Right-hand (RH) or left-hand (LH) door swing
- Built-in or freestanding applications



Model # KGR58075

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- Right-hand (RH) or left-hand (LH) door swing
- Built-in or freestanding applications

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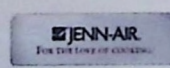
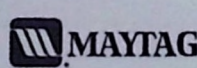
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Saturday
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Sunday
Noon - 5pm

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IN MEMORY OF RANDY ROCKHILL

*A*fter we began Renton Magazine near the end of 2006, our second issue featured the story of Randy Rockhill, the Renton School District's legendary band director.

Mr. Rockhill was 89 at the time and still playing cornet in the Renton City Concert Band, the community group he helped form in 1984. Mr. Rockhill died Jan. 9 at the age of 90, succumbing to the cancer he had fought for 20 years.

I received a couple of telephone calls the other day. One was from Jack Morrison, a Renton High School grad of 1943 and one of Mr. Rockhill's band students way back when. Morrison was born in Renton and still lives here, just a few blocks from where Mr. Rockhill used to live in North Renton.

The other call was from Harley Brumbaugh, who was born in the Renton area, took music lessons from Mr. Rockhill in the late 1940s, and later was hired by Mr. Rockhill as head of the music department at Hazen High School

"We need to get a group together, maybe all the band directors in the Renton high schools, to ask the school board to name the foyer in the Renton High School auditorium in honor of Randy Rockhill," Morrison told me.

Mr. Rockhill did so much over the years for the music programs in the Renton schools, including lobbying the district for uniforms and equipment for his kids.

"The athletes got everything back then, and Mr. Rockhill made sure the music students were taken care of too," Morrison said.

He went on to tell me how Mr. Rockhill had played in the Seattle Symphony and how, in the days before television, Mr. Rockhill had played background music for



David Suffia
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

the Jack Benny radio show.

"He was an intelligent man and he loved music. He practiced his horn until his death," Morrison said. "They really need to honor his memory by renaming the foyer in the auditorium."

Brumbaugh said, "This man stood for so much. He was known nationally. He was inducted into the state music educators' hall of fame. I am all for honoring him by putting his name on something. We tend to have community amnesia as time goes by and memories fade.

"We can't just let this go by and say, 'Gee, that's too bad,'" Brumbaugh said.

I grew up just a block away from the Rockhill residence. Although I never could play a lick on any instrument, I know what Mr. Rockhill did to infuse the wonder of music into local schools and the community.

I agree with Morrison and Brumbaugh. The school board should do something appropriate to honor the memory of Randall Rockhill and all he did for local schools, students and the community.

RENTON
Magazine

VOL. 3 | ISSUE 4

425.271.9300

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Renton Magazine is mailed each month to homes in Renton, East Plateau and Fairwood. Total circulation is 18,000. Publisher retains the right to reject any advertising. Copyright 2008 Puget Sound Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Use or reproduction, in part or full, without written permission is prohibited. Back issues and single copies are \$3.00. Subscriptions are available for \$25 per year.

Puget Sound Publishing Co.
15 South Grady Way, Suite 514
Renton, WA 98057

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cover: Gerald and Martha Myers' Red House is a Renton Hill landmark. See cover story, page 14. Photo by David Suffia.

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

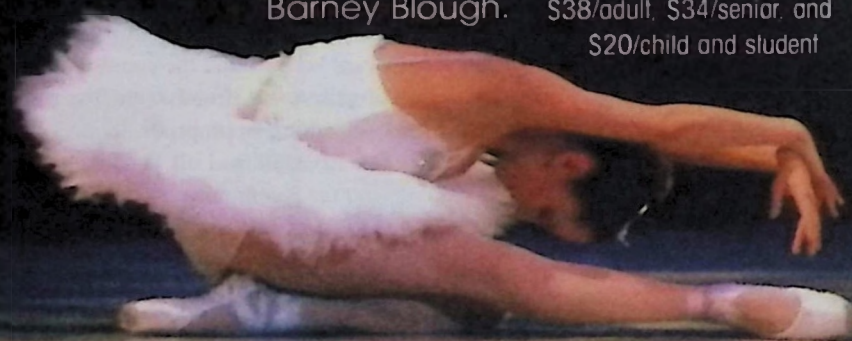
Valley Medical Center
425.228.3450

upcoming events

Swan Lake

Evergreen City Ballet presents the classic "Swan Lake." Drama, movement, and purity share the stage and create an evening of emotion and creative fantasy. ECB will be joined by the Evergreen City Ballet Orchestra, conducted by ECB musical director Barney Blough.

April 11-13
 Friday at 7:30 p.m.;
 Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and
 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday at
 1:30 p.m.
 425-228-6800
 Renton IKEA Performing Arts
 Center / 400 S. 2nd St.
 Admission: (pre-sale prices)
 \$38/adult, \$34/senior, and
 \$20/child and student




Rainier Symphony: Classical Concert III

Talented young musicians from the Normandy Park Youth Orchestra join Rainier Symphony for Holst's "St. Paul's Suite," followed by Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Fantasy," Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1," and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4.

April 19

Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

206-781-5618

Renton IKEA Performing Arts
 Center / 400 S. 2nd St.

Admission: \$17/adults;
 \$12/students and seniors



april 4-20

Valley Community Players present: "Funny Money"

Check www.valleycommunityplayers.org for showtimes

425-255-2330

Carco Theatre
 1717 Maple Valley Highway

Admission: \$15/adults; \$14
 seniors/students



april 8

Celebrate Earth Day

Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

425-255-2330

Renton History
 Museum
 235 Mill Ave. S.

Admission:
 RHS members
 admitted free



april 19

Sixth Annual Spring Festival

Vendors, food, entertain-
 ment, and fun for the whole
 family.

Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

Piazza Park / 425-228-1977
 S. 3rd Street between S.
 Logan and S. Burnett Avenue

Admission: Free



april 23

RTC Job Fair

Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1
 p.m.

425-235-2352 ext. 7785

Renton Technical College
 3000 N.E. 4th St.

Admission: Free

upcoming events

Renton Civic Theatre

presents



steel magnolia

by Robert Harling

April 11-27

All the ladies who are anybody come to Truvy's beauty salon to have their hair done and gossip about their Louisiana town. The characters in this touching and funny play offer amiable company in good times and bad. This production revisits the longest running show in Renton Civic Theater's history.

Check www.rentoncivictheater.org for show times

425-226-5529

Renton Civic Theater
507 South Third St.

Admission: \$20/adults;
\$15/seniors and student

ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Give your place a clean sweep and sell those items that have been collecting dust. This is the perfect opportunity to bring your clutter to the table. Purchase a 10-by-10 foot space to sell your "junk" or just show up to buy some treasures. Space is limited. Tables are also available for rent.

April 26

Saturday from 9 a.m.
to 2 p.m.

Renton Community
Center
1715 Maple Valley
Highway

425-430-6700

Admission:
Free to shop-
pers; a space
is \$25; table
is \$10



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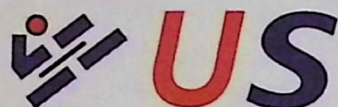
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calendar of events

COMMUNITY THEATER

The Patient

Sunday, April 20 and 27 and Monday,
April 21 and 28

Check www.renton-civictheater.org for show times

One of Agatha Christie's one-act mystery spectacles. A woman is lying in a hospital bed, completely paralyzed following a fall from a balcony. The question: Did she faint or was she pushed? Follow the inspector as he cleverly uses a devious ruse to solve the mystery.

Renton Civic Theater
507 S. Third St.

425-226-5529

Admission: \$20/adults; \$15/students and seniors

www.renton-civictheater.org

Audition Workshop for Teens

Tuesday, April 22, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The approach of summer brings youth theater production to the area. Are you ready? Do you have a monologue? Do you know 16 bars of song? Do you have any idea what we're talking about? No? Then sign up for this free workshop. Industry professionals will advise, coach, and critique you on the necessary components for a successful musical theater audition.

Carco Theatre
1717 Maple Valley Highway

425-430-6700

Admission: Free

www.renton-wa.gov



Auditions: Missoula Children's Theatre's "Jack and the Beanstalk"

Auditions Monday, April 28 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Missoula Children's Theatre provides young actors and actresses a professional theater experience. Children have the opportunity to perform on stage with theater professionals from one of the most widely respected children's theater companies in the United States. There are around 50 to 60 roles for students in grades kindergarten through 12. Auditions are limited to 200 students. Late arrivals to the audition are not accepted.

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway

425-430-6700

Admission: Free

www.rentonwa.gov



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

American Roots Music



Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m.

Brian Pertl will take the audience on a lively exploration of music with American roots, stretching from African-American field hollers to present-day

blues and rock music. Pertl explores little-known ethnic traditions ranging from Conjuto and Cajun to Appalachian and Native American music forms.

Renton History Museum
235 Mill Ave. S.

425-255-2330

Admission: RHM members admitted free
www.rentonhistory.org

Learn to Enjoy the RV Lifestyle

Saturday, April 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Renton Technical College, in partnership with the Manufactured Home and RV Show Association and RVTravel.com, invite the public to attend an all-day school to teach you what you need to know about the RV lifestyle. RV drivers and experts will be there to participate in panel presentations, roundtable discussions, and lectures; all with handouts. A schedule of events is available from Jennifer at 425-235-2352 ext. 5727.

Renton Technical College
3000 N.E. 4th St.
425-235-2352 ext. 5727
Admission: \$15 for entire day, includes light lunch
www.rtc.edu

Renton Technical College
3000 N.E. 4th St.
425-235-2352 ext. 5727

Admission: \$15 for entire day, includes light lunch
www.rtc.edu

Childhood Matters Conference

Saturday, April 26, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The sixth annual Childhood Matters Conference provides professional training for child care providers, teachers, and parents to gain skills and knowledge for working with diverse groups of families and children. It also provides an opportunity to network within Renton Technical College's Early Childhood Education community. Attendees will receive State STARS credit for their training and all proceeds go to fund scholarships for students studying Early Childhood Education at RTC.

Renton Technical College
3000 N.E. 4th St.
425-235-2352 ext. 5741

Admission: Early registration postmarked by April 17 is \$50; registration after is \$75.

www.rtc.edu

ART EVENTS

Art Exhibit at Happy Delusions

Friday, April 25, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Local business Happy Delusions welcomes the public to enjoy an in-store art exhibit featuring the art of Treyana Fortune and works by Chocolate Dreamzzz. Accompanying the art will be music and wine.

Happy Delusions, 924 3rd Ave. S.

425-255-6078

Admission: Free

www.happydelusions.com

Arts Unlimited Downtown Gallery

Saturday, April 19, noon to 5 p.m.

Arts Unlimited presents a gallery of arts and crafts at the Spring Festival, sponsored by Happy Delusions. Artists and crafters will be showcasing and selling their works across the street from Piazza Park in downtown Renton.

Located next to Piazza Park in downtown Renton

425-430-6589

Admission: Free

www.artsunlimited.org

TEEN EVENT



The Thrill of Racing

Saturday, April 26, 1 to 6 p.m.

Youth ages 14 to 18 are invited to experience the thrill of racing at Traxx! The course contains 14 turns on a quarter mile track. Participants must provide their own money for food. Meet at North Highlands Neighborhood Center.

North Highlands Neighborhood Center
3000 N.E. 16th St.

425-430-6700

Admission: \$35 for residents; \$42 for non-residents

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calendar of events

ADULT FINANCIAL WORKSHOP



Investing 101

Wednesday, April 23, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Your investments may be going backwards after taxes and inflation. This seminar teaches rules of investing and investment vehicles that can make or break your future. Market history, financial products and personal applications will help you determine what products are best for you. Workbook included.

425-430-6700

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway

Admission: \$30 for residents; \$36 for non-residents

www.rentonwa.gov

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join friends and neighbors for a day of caring and celebrating the environment. Help plant trees, shrubs, and other beautification projects to enhance Heritage Park at 233 Union Ave. N.E. Community groups, fami-



lies, and individuals are welcome to participate. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. Call to register.

Heritage Park, 233 Union Ave. N.E.

425-430-6600 / Admission: Free

www.rentonwa.gov

SENIOR EVENTS

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

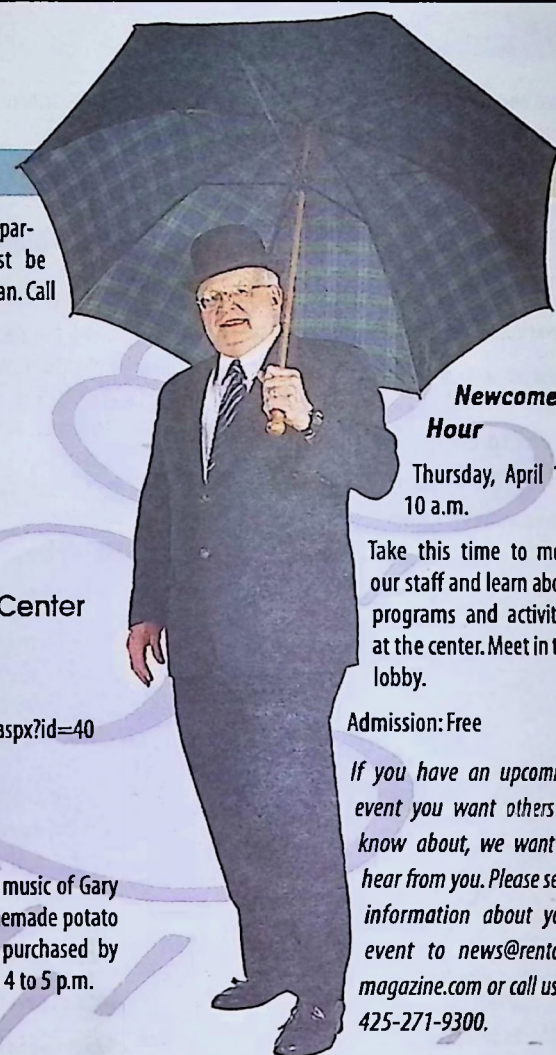
www.rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=40

Dancin' in the Rain

Friday, April 18, 4 to 7 p.m.

Waltz, tango, and line dance to the music of Gary Hausam with hamburgers and homemade potato salad for supper. Tickets must be purchased by April 16. Supper will be served from 4 to 5 p.m.

Admission: \$6



Newcomers Hour

Thursday, April 17,
10 a.m.

Take this time to meet our staff and learn about programs and activities at the center. Meet in the lobby.

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 news@renton-magazine.com or call us at 425-271-9300.



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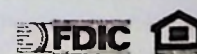
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KIRBY UNTI

I have been blessed in my lifetime with some wonderful teachers and mentors. Ranking right up at the top has been Don Jacobson. I first met Don when Kim and I came to Renton in 1980. He along with Jim Medzegian, another mentor, gave us a tour of the city when we were trying to decide if we would move to Renton.

Don took us to Renton Technical College to meet President Dr. Bob Roberts. He took us to meet Superintendent Gary Kohlwes and he took us to the mayor's office to meet Barbara Shinpoch. Don wanted us to know if we were coming to Renton, we needed to roll up our sleeves and become part of a community that works together.

Don was the business agent for the plasterers union. There he earned a great reputation as one who had the skills and

insights to bring labor and management together so that both sides could benefit from the fruits of the building industry.

Don has been heavily invested in our community for 60 years. He has served on the library board, the City of Renton Ethics Commission, Planning Commission, the Renton School Board, and was my sponsor in Renton Rotary, where he is a past president. He has been on the board of trustees at Renton Technical College, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and has served for the past 15 years as a hospital commissioner for Valley Medical Center. Don has also been a pillar at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, where he has led a men's group for the past 25 years and has served as the congregation's president.

It is no small wonder that he was recognized as Renton's Citizen of the Year. In each of these areas Don has been an enthusiastic and constructive participant. He represents the epitome of community service having given his entire adult life in service to our community.

Don is married to his Renton High School sweetheart, Pearl, who is an absolute gem, tireless community servant and the finest behind-the-scenes partner one could ever hope for. Together they have raised two adult sons, Douglas and Jim, who have both excelled in civic careers. The Jacobson family represents for me the best of Renton.

Don and Pearl, I know I speak for many when I say thank you for your ongoing, generous service to our community.

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

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What Can Investors Learn From Gardeners?

Spring is here. If you're a gardener, you know it will soon be time for you to put in your flowers or vegetables. But even if you don't have a green thumb, you can still take advantage of the season by "planting the seeds" for the growth of another valuable piece of property - your investment portfolio.

Actually, you can find a few similarities between successful gardening and effective investing. For starters, both gardeners and investors need to consider their individual circumstances. If, for example, your garden is in a shady part of your yard, you might be able to grow some nice geraniums, but you'll have tougher time with roses, which crave the sun. As an investor, you'll also find that some investments are more appropriate for your situation than others. So, before you purchase a stock, bond, certificate of deposit or government security, you'll need to determine if it's suitable for your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term goals.

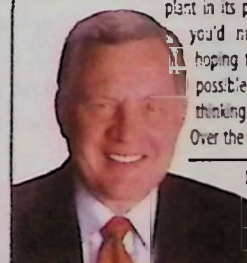
Furthermore, just as gardeners don't usually grow only one variety of flower or one fruit or vegetable, you, as an investor, shouldn't stick with one type of investment vehicle. If you own nothing but aggressive growth stocks, you'll likely take on too much risk. Conversely, if you "are too conservative" and invest only in government bonds and certificates of deposit, you'll probably never achieve the growth you need, and your earnings may not even keep pace with inflation. Instead, build a portfolio containing a variety of investments that, when put together, is designed to help you make progress toward your objectives.

Another trait exhibited by gardeners and worthy of emulation by investors is patience. If you were dissatisfied with the growth of a plant after just a few days, would you uproot it and put another plant in its place? Probably not. Instead, you'd nurture the original plant, hoping that, in the long term, it is possible for it to grow. The same thinking can apply to investments. Over the short term, your investment

choices will fluctuate in price, and sometimes you may be frustrated by what you perceive as the lack of progress. But instead of constantly selling off investments and buying new ones, you'll likely be better off choosing quality securities and holding them for a period of many years. Eventually, your efforts may be rewarded.

What else do gardeners do that might be relevant to investors? For one thing, they get rid of weeds that can choke off the growth of flowers or vegetables. As an investor, you too may benefit from occasionally "pruning" your portfolio of those investments that no longer meet your needs, and, in fact, take up space that could otherwise be more profitably used. That's why it's a good idea to review your holdings at least once a year.

Finally, just as backyard "diggers" may turn to master gardeners for advice and guidance, you, as an investor, could quite likely benefit from the services of a financial advisor - an experienced professional who knows the markets and who will take the time to understand your situation, needs and goals.



You may not be able to single-handedly change the social and institutional forces that can create problems for women striving to achieve their long-term goals. But by becoming an informed, active investor, you can better improve your chances to go a long way toward achieving the financial freedom you deserve.

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WSU

King County Extension Office

doesn't forget its rural roots

BY ANDREW FICKES

Washington State University may be hundreds of miles from the residents of Renton but its front door is in downtown Renton.

Located at 200 Mill Ave. S., Ste. 100, the WSU King County Extension Office brings the university to King County and provides resources that help people improve quality of life.

When the King County Extension office was founded in the fall of 1914, the region was predominantly rural. The Smith-Lever Act, which created the nation's land-grant college extension offices, called for the diffusing of education to the American people in agriculture and home economics.

But today, King County has become urbanized.

"Why a rural-based agency is in Renton is a very good question. If you look at demographics across the nation, most Americans live in urban or suburban settings," says Brad Gaolach, director of the extension office.

"While we can't ignore the rural residents we serve, we are at the same time caught in a question of how we become an urban extension."

The extension office's adaptability to urban needs is seen in its 4-H education programs. 4-H passes on life skills to youth through a continuing relationship with a trained and caring adult.

King County 4-H last year enrolled more than 4,000 volunteers to teach students subjects as varied as computer technology and the arts, and from robotics to plant and animal sciences. A major hurdle the extension office is now facing is how to reach more than 80 percent of urban-based youth who don't have access to after-school programs like 4-H.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF WSU KING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

This is one of King County's many community gardens. In 2007, the WSU Extension Office trained 96 Master Gardeners.

The Master Gardener program started 35 years ago in Renton.
Now it is in every state and around the world.

"Many kids from Renton are in 4-H programs and major enrollment comes from the South King County area, so Renton is an ideal place for our offices," says Sue Lerner, 4-H educator. "Students who pursue higher education are far greater among those involved in 4-H than among those who are not."

Gaolach said his office also helps urban audiences to understand the value of preserving our open space and rural roots.

"We focus a lot on sustainable agriculture and we also look at the food system approach," he said. "What we try to do is help our urban audiences understand that eating is a political act. Where you choose to buy your food has political implications. Buying from local growers helps to preserve our local farms and our open space."

Last September, the extension office had its ninth annual Harvest Celebration Farm Tour. Farms across King County showcased their products to children and adults, giving them a flavor of local produce and emphasizing the value of buying local.

The extension office's Food Sense Program partners with this celebration and brings students to the farms. The Food Sense Program educates low-income families on the importance of nutrition and highlights local products.

A curriculum of the Food Sense Program is Harvest of the Season. Four times of the year, this program brings local produce to the classroom where students prepare a meal and learn about the farmer who provided the produce. The program started in the Renton School District last November.

"It's all about integrating nutrition education

into the daily school curriculum," said Martha Aitken, program coordinator.

Environmental stewardship is another focus of the WSU extension offices.

The watershed stewardship volunteer training program started its 2008 training in March at the extension office. This 10-week program trains individuals who want to preserve natural resources. It focuses on natural resources like water, forestry, salmon, invasive species, and habitat restoration.

"It's ideal that we're right here on the Cedar River," said Tara Zimmerman, water resources faculty member. "You can find both rural and urban areas in Renton and talk about impacts of urban living on natural resources."

And finally, one of the hallmarks of the extension office is the Master Gardener program. Master Gardener started 35 years ago in King and Pierce counties. Now it is in every state and around the world.

"The very first training program for Master Gardener was held in the Renton city library," said Elaine Anderson, Master Gardener coordinator.

In 2007 alone, the Master Gardener program trained 96 new Master Gardeners in King County. Master Gardeners are a resource for the avid gardener seeking advice on environmentally sound gardening practices.

Master Gardener clinics in Renton are located at McLendon Hardware from April through August; at Fairwood Library starting the first Saturday in March; and on Tuesdays at the Renton Farmer's Market from June through mid-September.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WSU KING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

The King County WSU Extension Office encourages its urban audiences to buy produce from local growers.

City works to advance WSU partnerships

Having the WSU King County Extension office located in downtown Renton lends itself strategically to partnerships with the city's economic development department.

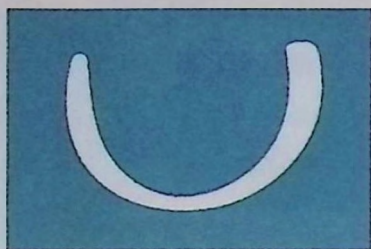
"We're currently working with Brad Gaolach at Extension on workforce development within Renton, trying to recruit and retain qualified workers," said Suzanne Dale Estey, economic development director.

This workforce development group also includes representatives from the Renton Chamber, Renton Technical College, and the Renton School District.

One workforce issue the group is looking at is filling the math and science teacher gap in the Renton School District with the help of WSU.

"The extension office is a significant and valued employer in Renton and we see tremendous potential in increasing our partnerships with them," she said. "The fact that they're right down the street is a huge value to our community."

She added that keeping the extension office in Renton is very important and that the city would do everything in its power to keep it here.



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renton museum

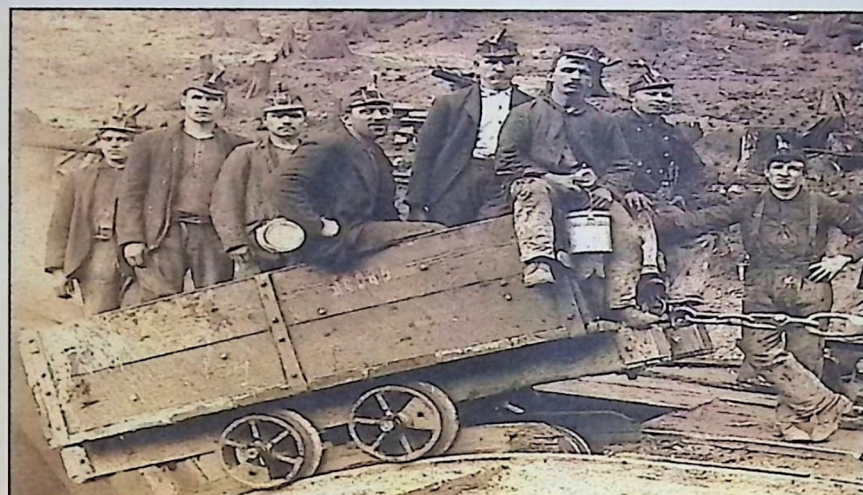


PHOTO COURTESY OF RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM #1966.022.0521

Coal miners perched on mine car, Newcastle mine, ca.1910.

Coal car part of history

BY ELIZABETH P. STEWART

When Renton History Museum staff began looking into how to repair our historic coal car, we had to decide how far to go in making repairs. The car is an historic object full of useful information about mining. Careful analysis of our car helps reveal this information, and too much repair might erase all that.

Because of its weight when loaded, the coal car turned out to be one of the most dangerous tools in the mine and one of the most expensive, so mine operators were always looking for ways to improve it. By the 1920s standardization was the watchword of the industry. If all mines used the same size and style, experts reasoned, cars could be produced and repaired much more cheaply.

But the problem was that cars had to be engineered to suit the very specific conditions in each mine: roof height, quantity and quality of coal, and many other factors. One industry observer reported in 1926 that "as a result, there are in a certain shop file over 2,000 drawings of mine cars of different patterns, sizes, and dimensions

The car builder to whom this file belongs has not built identically the same car for any two companies." Seattle Car & Foundry Co., for example, advertised a "standard" model that could still "be

changed in any way to suit the individual operator."

At the same time, mine operators resisted making new investments in fancier standardized cars, because growing competition from anthracite fields back East undercut demand for the Puget Sound's bituminous coal. At a time when many mines were switching to larger all-steel cars, Renton and Black Diamond continued to use the standard Seattle Car model, made of Douglas fir for quick on-site repairs by the mine carpenter. Lighter cars were also easier for the mine hoist to drag. Mine engineer Frank Manifold remembered that by the 1920s and 1930s, old streetcar motors were used as backup hoist engines.

Mine operators saw these changes coming to local mining, and made decisions about what tools to use accordingly. Because of this, the museum's coal car—its wood, its style of construction, even its track gauge—provides clues about how these decisions were made, insights that could be lost with incorrect repair or reconstruction. Thanks to a grant from 4Culture, the museum will be able to work with the Northwest Railway Museum to preserve this information while properly caring for this significant object.

For more information, go to <http://www.rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=13330>. Elizabeth P. Stewart is the Director of the Renton History Museum, info@rentonhistory.org, (425) 255-2330.

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Family activities can entertain all generations

BY BARBARA CLEMENTS

The grandparents are coming to visit. What can a family of all ages do together?

Instead of the same ol', same ol' (watch television, go out to eat), *Renton Magazine* asked seniors who were enjoying their morning coffee at the Renton Senior Activity Center for suggestions. Ideas ranged from backyard bird watching, a trip to the Museum of Flight or a hike.

STAYING IN, STILL HAVING FUN

Paul and Celesta Huff say that when their young grandchildren come over, they send them on a scavenger hunt for rocks (not eggs, rocks) in their garden. They then have paints on hand for the kids to decorate the rocks and return them to the garden as yard art. There are garden kits to make stepping stones or other art, but this is an almost-free idea, Celesta Huff notes. She still has garden art populating the beds from visits past, she said.

Other ideas include badminton sets, volley ball, watching birds in the back yard, flying kites (at home or at a nearby park) or having your home-grown film festival. DVDs suggested included "Babette's Feast," "Waking Ned Devine," and "Gunga Din."

"You know, my 18-year-old grandson watched 'Waking,' and he loved it," Mrs. Huff said.

GOING OUT ON FOOT

Strolls through Gene Coulon Beach Park, on the tip of Lake Washington, are a popular option. The 55-acre park offers places to eat, such as Ivar's, nice walking trails from long (4 miles) to a



PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF FLIGHT

The Museum of Flight is a great place to teach youngsters aviation and local history.

half-mile.

There are also nearby walks along the Cedar River Trail and in the Black River Riparian Forest, a 93-acre refuge in the Renton area, which is also home to 130 blue heron nests. Breeding pairs are frequenting their nests now and beginning to tend their young this time of year.

TAKING IN A BALL GAME

Shawn Daly, senior center director, says he likes to take his dad, now in his 80s, to the Tacoma Rainier games in Cheney Stadium. The games aren't as pricy as a trip to the Mariners and evoke an old-time, ballgame feeling for this farm team of future Mariners players. Opening day is April 3. Tickets went on sale in March.

The nearby Museum of Flight near Boeing Field was also picked as a top choice. "That is a really neat place



RENTON MAGAZINE / JAMES BAVENDAM

Joe Williamson, a bocce ball and bean bag baseball enthusiast, watches as Grace Hanson takes her turn. Ingrid Hanson awaits her turn.

for everyone," says Alice Lange, of Newcastle. It's one of the largest air and space museums in the world and often hosts exhibits and activities for each age group in the family. It's located on East Marginal Way.

Acme Bowl in Tukwila or shopping at the nearby Southcenter Mall are also favorites.

HITTING THE ROAD

A trip to the Skagit Valley may offer the opportunity to see migrating snow geese, the budding daffodils or tulips and on up the Skagit River to see eagles.

Tillicum Village's show and salmon bake is an event for the entire family, no matter what the age.

And a ride on a Washington state ferry is a relatively inexpensive way to cruise the high seas, whether to a nearby island or all the way through the San Juans.



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A view from the Renton Hill

Story by Andrew Fickes / Photos by David Suffice

City who's lived with his wife for 11 years. "Through my kitchen window I can see the line and views of Lake Washington."

What's most breathtaking and exciting to behold, Persson says, is the voyage of a new 737 taking off from Renton Airport.

Persson said he and his wife moved to Renton Hill because of the downtown and the view. And what better: His daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren live next door.

"It's a quiet neighborhood, friendly, and fairly close-knit. It's diverse in that there are very expensive homes and also affordable homes. Some houses are not more than 600 square feet. A few are around 7,000-square-feet."

Dan Hemenway, a hill resident since 1995 with wife Liz, is president of the Renton Hill Neighborhood Association.

"There is a wide spectrum of homes here with a variety of prices. If you pick a price point, you'll likely find something on the hill that fits your needs."

The hill, perched above I-405, encompasses several blocks. The one-way streets: Renton Avenue South and Cedar Avenue South. There are approximately 432 dwelling units, says Hemenway, composed of single-family homes, townhomes and apartments.

Renton Hill is a neighborhood where memories, friendships and family ties are forged—in some cases over the course of generations. Some who live on the hill had parents and grandparents there before them.

Once home to immigrants, coal miners and brick workers, Renton Hill is becoming a modern community of people with diverse incomes and nationalities. Neighbors are talking again. Homes are preserved and revitalized.

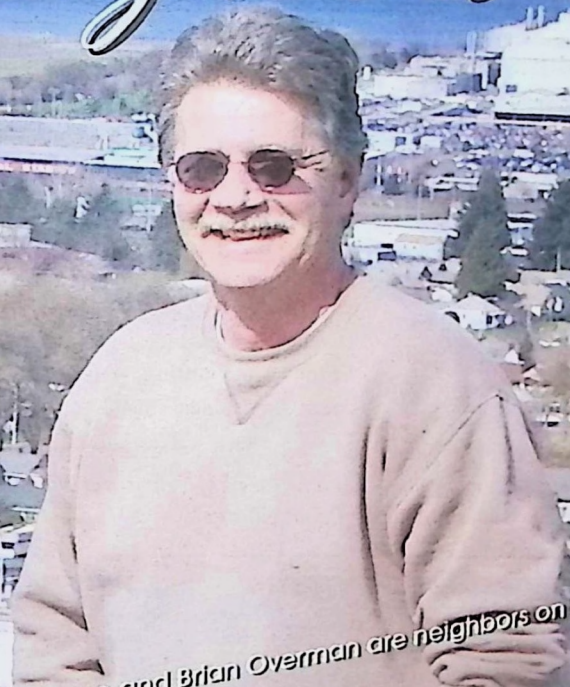
From the top of the hill, you can see what brings and keeps residents here.

"On a clear day I can see all the way to the Olympic Mountain range," says Don Persson,

top

11

neighbors meet and greet



Don Pearson and Brian Overman are neighbors on Renton Hill.

and condominiums.

The newest housing development is Heritage Garden Estates, built on the last remaining plot of land. Opened in 2003, the average price among the 50 homes is around \$750,000.

In the early decades of the 20th century, coal miners would march down the west side of the hill to mineshafts built beneath their homes. Men working at the Denny-Renton brickyard took the northern trail.

The neighborhood changed with the Boeing boom in the 1940s. People moving in were not buying but renting. Homes were replaced with apartments. Now the neighborhood has evolved again.

Among the revitalized houses is a conversation piece owned by five-year residents Martha and Gerald Myers. Their 1914-built home, painted a bright red called "cranberry zinger," stands out on the hillside.

"We have people saying they see it while driving on I-405," says Martha Myers.

Myers says they are the fourth owners of the home. The original owners were the Toschi family, immigrants from Tuscany, who arrived in the early 20th century. The husband was a coalminer.

"I just love this neighborhood. It's so stable and a lot of places are within walking distance from here," says Myers.

Her enthusiasm is reflected by the neighborhood association, founded in 2002. The association holds an annual picnic at Philip Arnold Park in August.

"We get literally 300 to 400 attending," says Hemenway. "The greatest thing is we get neighbors greeting and talking to each other."

Renton Hill At a Glance

Who's living there: Families, working professionals, and retirees

Average real estate list price: \$585,000

Average real estate sales price: \$483,000

Days on the market: 132 days (as of March 11)

What's the attraction: Relative seclusion, quiet streets, and killer views

Amenities: 10-acre Philip Arnold Park, 2007's second highest used Renton park (more than 15,000 athletic visitors)

Source: Ryan Runge, American Classic Homes and Jerry Rerecich, City of Renton Parks and Recreation Department.

The library is a helpful partner for small businesses



BY AARON OESTING

Small businesses make up a significant part of the U.S. economy, and they provide a significant number of jobs and services in our area. The City of Renton supports local, small businesses through its public library, which offers a wealth of useful information for the small business owner.

Here is a sample of the kinds of resources available:

ReferenceUSA Business Directory: An online resource that con-

tains a variety of information about individual businesses including contact information, annual sales, executive contacts, competitors, number of employees, etc. ReferenceUSA could be used to target possible customers or gather intelligence about competitors. Its custom searching feature allows searching by criteria such as industry, yellow pages classification, sales volume, type of ownership, location, and more. Library databases can be used at <http://library.rentonwa.gov> on any Internet computer with your Renton library card.

Business Plan Handbook: A 13-volume set containing over 260 business plans used by other entrepreneurs to start a variety of small businesses. This source of examples can be used to guide you in developing your own plan.

How to Start a Business in Washington: A general resource about starting a business, it contains sections on business plans, employee matters, marketing, raising capital, money management, and more, all in the context of the

state's business and legal environment.

What Business Should I Start: A workbook that walks future entrepreneurs through the process of deciding what type of business would best suit them. Questionnaires and brainstorming exercises help would-be business owners identify their motivations and talents and match those with related business ventures.

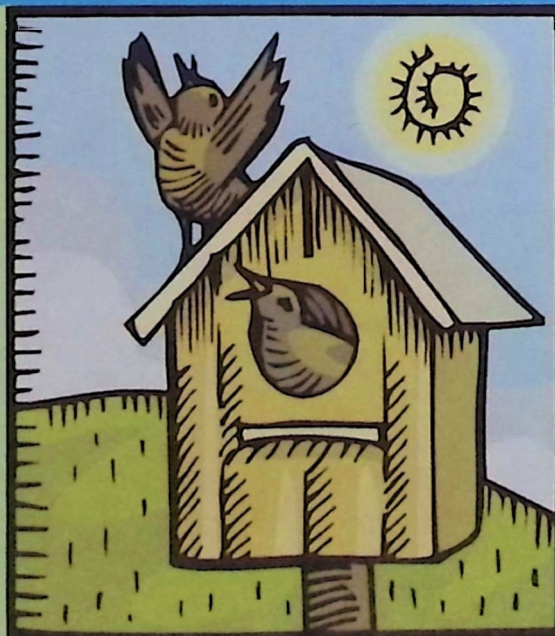
In addition to this selection, the library has books on starting and operating specific kinds of small businesses such as restaurants, house cleaning services, desktop publishing, event planning, landscaping, automotive repair, consulting, and more.

There are also materials on a variety of business topics including general business operations, accounting, employee management, marketing, sales, financing, etc.

Aaron Oesting is assistant director of the Renton Public Library.

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around the garden



Much ado about mulch

BY ELAINE ANDERSON

Ah! Your planting is finished. Now, weeding and watering will be your two biggest jobs. Mulch can make both of these tasks much easier, because you won't need to do them nearly as often. This is the perfect time to give some thought to your mulching needs.

Mulch is many things to many people. It is defined as anything that can be used to cover the surface of the soil and still allow light and water to penetrate. It's used most often to help suppress weeds, and it can do a fine job. The most common types of mulch are black plastic and organic materials such as straw, leaves, wood chips, clippings, or compost. Gravel, and even tumbled glass, can be consid-

ered mulches.

Black plastic is used in vegetable gardens to provide weed control, keep moisture in the soil, and to allow the soil to warm more quickly in the spring. However, a better choice is one of the biodegradable, compostable mulching materials now available. (Visit territorialseed.com.) Make holes in the material to allow your veggie starts to poke through and water to reach them. Organic mulches keep the soil moist and help prevent weeds, but they keep the sun from warming the soil, so it's best to wait until late June before using them on vegetable beds.

In other areas of the garden, you may apply and renew organic mulches whenever you like. In order to be effective, mulches must be at least two inches deep.

If you prefer a more finished look, use cut or shredded bark on top of your compost mulch. Or, use only bark if you don't need to apply compost. However, don't use the chunks of bark often referred to as "beauty bark." They can actually repel water.

Keep mulches several inches away from the trunks of trees and don't snuggle them right up to your woody perennials, either. They'll trap water against the wood, which can lead to rot. Loose organic mulch may provide moist hiding places for slugs, so be prepared to bait for them.

Make the acquaintance of mulch. It can be a gardener's best friend.

Elaine Anderson is the Washington State University Extension coordinator for the King County Master Gardener Program. The program, funded by King County and WSU, provides free, environmentally friendly gardening advice to home gardeners. For answers to your questions about bulbs and other gardening topics, call the Master Gardener Phone Clinic at 206-296-3440.

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healthy advice
by dr. bob thompson

Allergy season is upon us

I was recently enjoying a Saturday afternoon playing outside with my grandson, when I was struck by the beautiful blossoms on our fruit trees and my lawn's sudden overnight growth. Seattle natives welcome the arrival of the longer, milder days of spring that bring our fragrant, blooming trees and lush green grasses.

However, for many of us it also means preparing for the sneezing and wheezing that accompanies spring allergies. Frequently called hay fever, seasonal allergic rhinitis, is an irritation of the nose where the inside of the nose becomes inflamed after being exposed to an allergic trigger or allergen. It is commonly associated with asthma and sinusitis.

I am often presented with the question, "How do I know if my symptoms are from

allergies or due to a cold?" Allergies will generally result in a clear runny nose; sneezing; watery, itchy eyes; dark circles under the eyes, and an itchy nose. Symptoms typically come on almost immediately after exposure to the offending pollen or allergen and last as long as you remain exposed to the allergen(s).

A cold, on the other hand, can include a green or yellow runny nose, fever, aches and pains, along with sneezing and nasal congestion. Most colds take a few days to hit full force and last a week or two before symptoms begin to wane. Both can be associated with headaches and fatigue.

The following steps can be taken to reduce the severity of spring allergies:

- Wash all bedding once a week to cut back on pollen accumulation.
- Vacuum twice a week
- If possible, stay indoors from 5-10 a.m. when pollen counts are at their highest
- Wear a mask, such as a painter's mask, when mowing the lawn or gardening to avoid breathing in pollen.
- Keep windows closed at home or while traveling by car to limit pollen and mold exposure.



**Dr. Bob
Thompson**

- Wash hands and face when coming in after prolonged periods outdoors, and wash your hair before bedtime.

The American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) recommends seeking medical advice at the beginning of allergy season. Traditional treatment options include over-the-counter or prescription medication, including non-sedating antihistamines and oral decongestants; inhaled medications, including anti-inflammatory nasal sprays, and eye drops to control and treat symptoms.

More persistent cases may benefit from immunotherapy, receiving allergy shots to gradually decrease sensitivity to the things that cause allergy symptoms. Natural health specialists recommend non-traditional remedies for fighting allergies, including selected nutrients and herbs, dietary restrictions, acupuncture and aromatherapy.

You can learn more about seasonal allergies by going to the ACAAI website: <http://www.acaaai.org/public/>.

You can also stay up to date on current and forecasted pollen counts in Renton by going to the following link: <http://www.weather.com/outlook/health/allergies/weather/tenday/USWA0369>

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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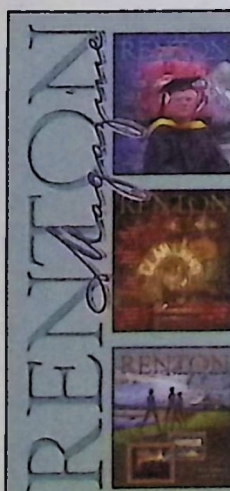
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recipe of the month

Chef John Fisher at Renton Technical College offers something sweet this month- Macadamia Nut Chocolate Cake with Chinese Five Spice Ice Cream.

He has been senior chef instructor at RTC in the culinary arts program since 2003. He is a 1966 graduate of Renton High School and a 1967 graduate of the RTC culinary Arts program himself.

Fisher was the academic director of the culinary arts program at the Art Institute of Seattle for six years, as well as a culinary instructor.

He has 39 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

Macadamia Nut Chocolate Cakes Serves 4

you will need

3 oz macadamia nuts, chopped
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup melted butter
 1 cup Sugar
 4 eggs beaten
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsweetened, powdered baking chocolate
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp baking powder

directions

1. Cream together the butter and sugar
2. Add eggs slowly and incorporate fully
3. Sift flour, unsweetened baking chocolate, and baking powder
4. Fold in the chopped nuts
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 - 20 cup cake size or small 8" cake tin
6. Lace with chocolate syrup and whipped cream

Chinese Five Spice Ice Cream Serves 4

you will need

1 cup whole milk
 1 cup heavy Cream
 4 egg yolks
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp Five spice seasoning

directions

1. Heat Cream and milk
2. Mix sugar and yolks and temper with the milk mixture
3. Add the spices and strain into an ice bath to chill
4. Process in an ice cream maker for approximately 30 minutes



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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLIE POWELL

14 things to know about camping with dogs

BY CHARLIE POWELL

*I*f you are going backpacking or camping and want your canine friends to accompany you, here's what you need to know:

Consider not taking dogs along. Housebound, out-of-condition, elderly, or juvenile pets, or those with arthritis or previous joint injuries may not do well.

Don't put dogs in the back of pickup trucks or allow them to hang their heads out windows.

Condition your dogs before the trip. Start with walks together on level ground and progress to hills. Take them for short romps afield on uneven terrain with obstacles they must negotiate.

Call a veterinarian where you will be heading, especially if it is out of state. Various states require certain vaccinations and documents. You'll want these along in case your dog is lost or injured.

If you're crossing the Canadian border, a current health certificate is the only way you can be assured your dog will get across the border coming and going. You can get them across without it in some instances, but if you end up having

to get a health certificate near the border, it is costly.

On public lands, check with the government agency in charge. Many require dogs be on a leash at all times, especially where they may contact other pack animals on trails. It is also a matter of back-country courtesy to have your animals under complete control.

Be especially cautious of carrying dogs in vehicles in warm weather. Fatal temperatures can occur within minutes.

Dogs will escape from vehicles and their owners regardless of training. This is especially true for intact males and bitches in heat. Keep a closer watch on sexually intact pets. Better yet, consider spaying or neutering.

Ensure your pet has multiple methods of identification. Microchipping is the only permanent, positive form of identification. Outdoors though, microchips mean little. Consider a collar and

tags and a tattoo. There is no substitute for redundancy when it comes to animal identification.

Consider what you will do if your dog becomes lost. A prompt, appropriate response can often mean the difference between a tragic situation and a quick reunion.

How much weight can you put in a dog's pack? "For the healthiest dogs, no more than 20 percent of their body weight," according to Washington State University veterinary orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Steve Martinez. For any dog that will be carrying extra weight, get a complete physical first.

Pack your dog's regular food. Don't feed human food scraps.

Pack your dog's solid waste out or bury it properly.

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



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Frank & Sue

Finding hope and love again

BY DAVID SUFFIA



RENTON MAGAZINE / DAVID SUFFIA

Sue and Frank Beck enjoy a laugh in the back yard of their Renton Highlands home. They met and married after both had lost their previous spouses.

Frank and Sue Beck want you to know there can be love and meaning to life again, even after the catastrophic loss of a loved one. They know, because they discovered it together.

The couple met by chance and grew close at the Widows Information and Consultation program at the Renton Senior Activity Center. Both had lost their previous spouses. Frank had been married to Ruby for 26 years. Sue had been married to Jim for 25.

Beck, 80 and a retired license enforcement supervisor for the City of Seattle, lost his wife after she struggled for 10 years with the ravages of emphysema.

"I hate the tobacco companies. Watching someone die of emphysema is a terrible thing. I woke up every two hours every night for 10 years while she was struggling with it.

"After Ruby died, I didn't care to see anyone or talk to anyone, and I didn't let anyone in my house for six months," he recalls. "I didn't care to live any more.

"I'd have been dead if it weren't for this woman," he says as he puts an arm around Sue. "She gave me hope and love.

"One day I saw her walk by my house with her dog and I was ready to get mad if her dog messed in my yard. It did, but she picked up after it, and it took all the anger out of me.

"I went outside and chatted with her and then I asked her in for a glass of wine. She was the first person in my house in six months."

Sue, 60, had lost her husband to a heart attack 15 years earlier. Although she lived just two blocks from Frank's Renton Highlands home and walked her dog Kaley three times a day, she and Frank had

...there can be love and meaning to life again, even after the catastrophic loss of a loved one.

never met.

Seeing how depressed he was over his wife's loss, Sue convinced Frank to attend the counseling program at the senior center.

"It took her three weeks to talk me into going," Frank says. "And when I went, it took me three weeks before I could talk at the meetings about my loss without crying."

"We started having lunch together," Sue remembers. "Then we started taking walks along the Cedar River Trail together."

What began out of mutual despair and loneliness over the loss of their spouses became friendship and eventually love. They were married last Sept. 22, with the blessings of their children.

"We still cry over our previous spouses," Frank says. "Sue cries almost every day. But now we have each other.

"We still go to the Widows Information and Consultation meetings at the center because there are others who need the help too."

The meetings are held every Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. to provide support to those who are grieving the loss of a partner.

"People at the meetings say I make them laugh because now I'm always laughing," Sue says, "and it helps them with their grief. I just laugh and eat my ice cream, because now I know there is life after death."



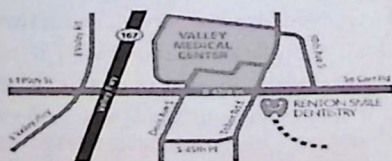
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Field trip with *winds*

BY JAMES BAVENDAM

A cold spring wind blew out of the South. Moist, thick clouds were so low they kept most small airplanes on the ground. But preschoolers from Fairview Elementary didn't care. Their parents had driven them to the Renton Airport and they were there to see airplanes!

Parents, teachers and children packed into the airport office, where Carolyn Currie, the airport secretary, told them about the kinds of planes they would see on their tour.

"You will see helicopters."

Hands go up. "Can we ride in them?"

"No. But you may also see a bi-plane."

Hands go up. "Can we ride in them?"

"No. But you may also see big 737 airplanes."

Hands go up. "Can we ride in them?"

Then they piled into a tour bus and drove along the edge of the airport toward Lake Washington. As if just for their entertainment, a local TV station helicopter warmed up and took off. Ryan Zulauf, airport manager, explained that helicopters are "rotary wing" aircraft, meaning their wings spin instead of having a separate propeller.

SEAPLANES ON DRY LAND

Clayton Scott Field (changed from Renton Municipal Airport in 2005) is one of the few airports that handles both land-planes and seaplanes. But when a seaplane arrives on floats, how can you move them around the airport? The kids liked a truck made just for



RENTON MAGAZINE / JAMES BAVENDAM

Bill Ellison & Mom, Carolyn, try to convince Megan Currie of Renton that she really does need tower approval before taking off. Melissa Mulkey awaits her turn.

this purpose.

The rear of the truck was missing, but extending from the front was a long trailer to move the floatplanes. Because the steering wheels are in the back, it takes a while to learn how to drive the truck because it steers in reverse. Turn the steering wheel to the right, and the truck turns to the left.

Each time the tour bus prepared to cross the runway, Jonathan Wilson, assistant airport manager and tour chauffeur, called the tower for permission. The kids thought it was pretty cool to be in the bus and talk with the tower via the handheld radio.

Traveling down the east side of the airport, the group saw a line of bright green Boeing 737s being prepared for their first flights. The airplanes are towed from the factory, over a bridge to the airport. The bright green coating protects the aluminum until they are painted. Without seats and only partial fuel to minimize weight, several

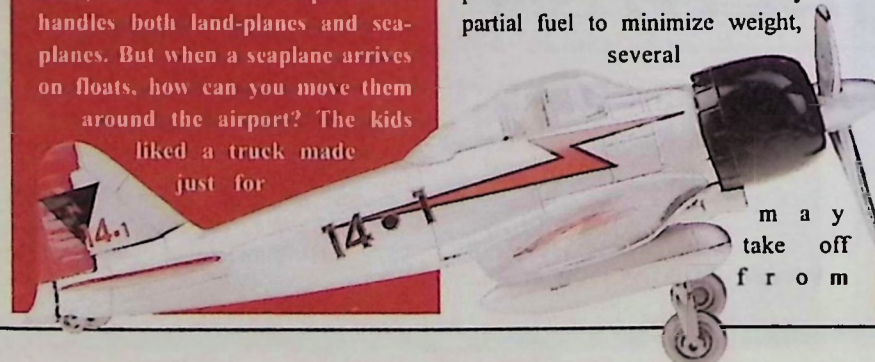
Renton daily. The new engines are so quiet that they can make less audible noise than some small, classic airplanes.

PEDAL-POWER IS A HIT

At the south end of the airport, Ben Ellison opened his hangar to the group. Inside was over a million dollars of classic and sophisticated experimental aircraft. Knowing how to set priorities, the preschoolers essentially ignored the airplanes and were absorbed with taking turns in two small, pedal-powered biplanes that Ben had in the hangar.

The tour ended at the control tower, where parents and kids got the best view of the airport through the large tower windows. Les, controller for the day, showed everyone how he could talk to planes over the radio, use a light gun to signal planes whose radios weren't working and keep the airport running smoothly with the help of Jennifer, the ground controller.

Parents asked how he managed emergencies. The kids just wanted to know how fast planes went. Everyone enjoyed his radar screen, which showed all the planes in the area. The radar, physically located in Seattle, is sensitive enough to show a large flock of



may
take off
from

WINGS - next page

Renton School District good news announcements

Preparing for kindergarten

Staff at Hillcrest Early Childhood Center recently hosted the first in a series of monthly meetings with private day care and preschool providers. The Early Childhood Community nights focus on early childhood issues and preparing children for kindergarten. Over the next five months, topics will include pre-literacy, behavior and self-regulation, phonemic awareness, and age-appropriate motor skill development.

Creating outdoor classroom

Sierra Heights Elementary School teacher Kristen Brennenman has received a \$500 grant from King County to create an outdoor classroom, called the Nature Zone, where students will use inquiry science to observe, record data, and explore native Washington plants and animals. King County's Wild Places in City Spaces project provides grants that help restore habitat within the Urban Growth Area of King County and unincorporated cities.

Fifth grader to sing

Highlands Elementary School fifth-grader Haben Abraham will perform during the annual celebration of the Children's Miracle Network. Haben will sing "Hero" at the celebration, where more than 1,500 delegates will honor doctors for their work to help save the lives of children. Haben was selected to sing by a company that specializes in organizing large corporate

events. She had been featured in a Seattle P-I article and can be heard on a web site created by her father. Haben has also performed in the All-State Honor Choir in Yakima and at the Sundiata Festival at the Seattle Center.

Musicians compete

Renton High School band and choir students recently participated in the area League Solo and Ensemble Contest. The program requires that students master classical literature: Jazz, pop and R&B styles are not accepted. Frequently, songs are sung in a foreign language and judged by expert clinicians and in front of large audiences. Even after recent mouth surgery just days before the event, Renton High student Jimmy Phillips III, won in the tenor category and will compete at the state event.

Lindbergh senior honored

Lindbergh High School senior Dalla Amin has been selected to receive the 2008 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship. The award is funded through the Comcast Foundation and recognizes high school seniors for commitment to community service, academics, and demonstrated leadership. Dalla's award includes a grant of \$1,000.

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.

seen a little of how the airport is managed. They saw large, commercial aircraft and simple, family airplanes that you could fly over the countryside on a nice day or up to the San Juans for lunch. They learned that small airplanes don't have to cost very much, and women are just as good pilots as men.

That evening, small dreams were filled with airplanes. Child-sized with pedal-power.

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WINGS from page 22

birds.

Because of the low clouds, only 21 aircraft were flying in the Puget Sound area at the moment. But on a nice weekend afternoon, the screen is covered with small and large aircraft enjoying the day, Les said.

By the end of the trip, the children had



RENTON MAGAZINE / Mary Suffia



RENTON MAGAZINE / JAMES BAVENDAM

Careful planning and planting can result in months of garden color without requiring heavy and expensive watering. Daylilies, (top right), are hearty, colorful and easy to grow.

Slate, rocks, perennials and ground cover help reduce watering needs.

Low-water landscaping can save you a bundle

By Mary Suffia and David Suffia

Gardening is a major pastime for many in the Pacific Northwest, but these days the cost of watering your landscape can put a big hole in your pocketbook.

It's not difficult to run up a monthly water bill of \$200, \$300 or more keeping the lawn green and lush and the flower beds from drying out.

That's why lots of gardeners are turning to drought-tolerant or low-water-requirement landscaping. You can still have a great-looking yard, enjoy quality time outdoors tending it, and reduce the big water bills.

Lawns are a major part of most home landscapes in Renton, and most home owners will not willingly give up their lawns. You don't have to. The key is to water smarter. Lawns need only one inch of water per week, even in the summer heat. Many gardeners water too often, for too-short periods of time, causing the grass roots to stay shallow, instead of growing deeper into the soil where they can draw in water for longer periods.

An easy way to measure the amount of water your lawn is getting is to set out four to six empty flat-bottomed, straight-sided cans such as pet food or tuna cans. When an inch of water accumulates in the cans during one watering session, that's enough. Or, you can water a half-inch twice a

week. Spreading the cans around the lawn also will tell you how consistently water is being distributed.

LEARN TO LOVE BROWN

There is an even better money-saving alternative, according to Elaine Anderson, Washington State University Extension coordinator for the King County Master Gardener program. Don't water your lawn at all. Let it go dormant in the summer.

"As long as you don't trample it down, it will turn brown but it won't die. In the fall it will revive with the rain and turn green again," she says. "Unfortunately, most homeowners just can't stand having a brown lawn all summer."

When it comes to ornamental plants, it's important to put the right plants in the right places. Even a drought-tolerant plant needs some watering, especially if you plant it under the house eaves or trees that prevent rain from getting to it.

"Just about everything you plant needs some water," Anderson says, "especially in the first year or

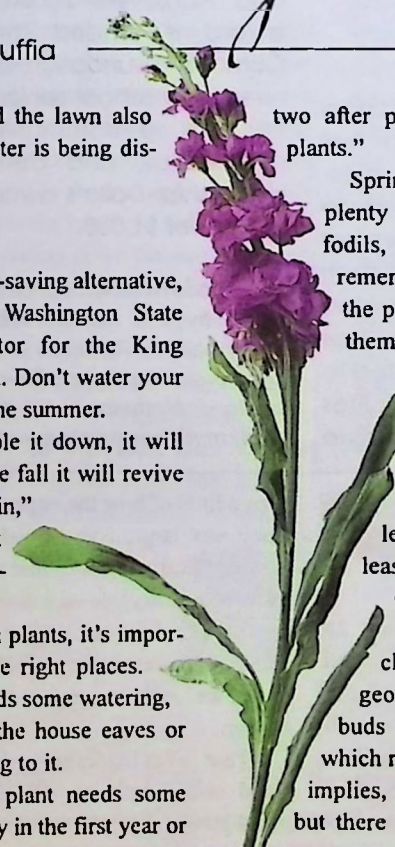
two after planting, and that includes native plants."

Springtime is easy in this area. There's plenty of rain to bring up colorful daffodils, tulips and other bulb plants. Just remember that you need to plant them the previous autumn if you want to see them in the spring.

Azaleas and rhododendrons are popular for good reason.

They require relatively little watering to keep them healthy. Give them a good soaking if their leaves start to droop. Most like at least partial shade, but others will do OK in full sun.

The daylily is an excellent choice for many gardens. It's a gorgeous, easy care perennial. The flower buds appear on a scape (a large stem), which rises above the foliage. As the name implies, each bloom lasts for only one day, but there are many buds on each scape, so



daylilies remain in bloom for a good part of the summer. Plant them where they'll receive six hours of full sun a day.

The scapes vary in height from six inches to more than four feet, so there's a suitable spot in any garden for these hardy beauties. There are thousands of varieties to choose from, including almost every color and hue except true blue and pure white. Once established, daylilies are easy on the water.

GRASS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO MOW

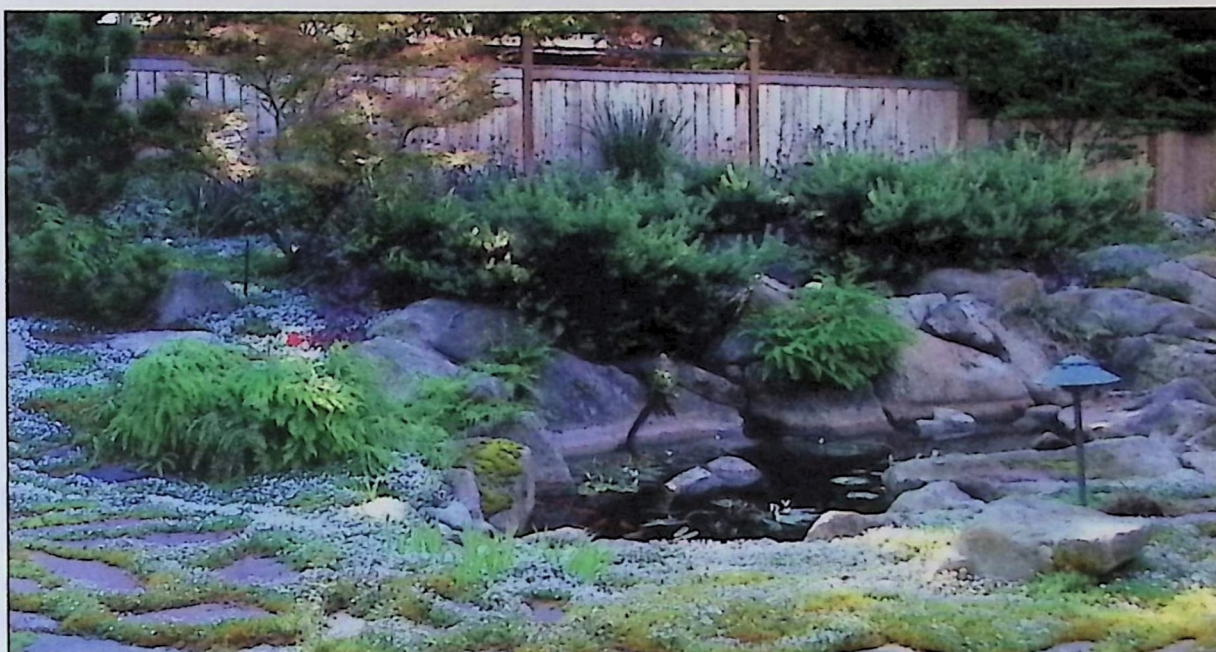
Ornamental grasses do well in the hot summers of the Pacific Northwest and don't need much water. Mexican Feather Grass is a perennial that grows two feet tall and has a lovely airy look. Another grass favorite is *Carex morrowii*, Ice Dance. Sometimes called Japanese sedge, it likes a half-day of shade, which reduces its need for water. Its variegated green and white leaves grow to about a foot high.

The list of native Northwest plants for use in home gardens is diverse, including something for most landscapes. Some excellent examples are:

Sedum spathulifolium, Cape Blanco, which grows in full sun and grows to four inches high with yellow flowers over mats of green-gray leaves.

Sedum oregonum, a creeping plant that grows to four inches with yellow flowers.

Penstemon rupicola, an evergreen clumping



RENTON MAGAZINE / JAMES BAVENDAM

The small pond uses water plants to increase shade and reduce evaporation.

plant with tubular red to pink flowers.

Vegetables need a lot of water. Be smart about how you give it to them. Instead of sprinkling the entire garden, spot water with a watering can, hose or drip hose. Plant vegetables where they are protected from wind, which can dry out the soil more quickly.

Local nurseries can help you with plant selection. Minter's Earlington Greenhouse is a good source because

many of the plants are grown there. A source for information on any gardening subject can be found at Washington State University's website, <http://gardening.wsu.edu/>. You can also find help at Master Gardener clinics at local libraries and other locations.

Mary Suffia recently completed the WSU Master Gardener program.

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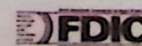
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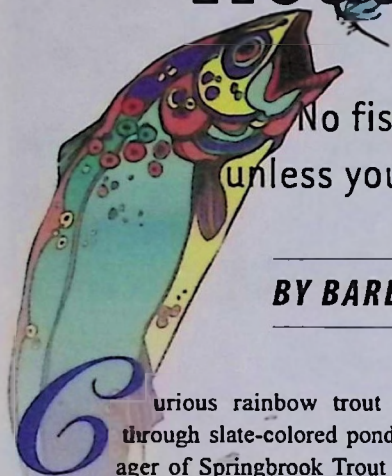
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Still waters for Springbrook Trout Farm



No fishing this year unless you're an osprey

BY BARBARA CLEMENTS

Curious rainbow trout poke their snouts up through slate-colored ponds as Tara Griffin, manager of Springbrook Trout Farm in Renton, walks by. The trout think it's time to be fed, she explains.

"Here comes a big guy now," she smiles, as the 16-inch trout slips away, in the "big fish" pond.

No one will be dropping hooks disguised in bait this summer, so the fish will probably become tamer, and larger still.



RENTON MAGAZINE / JAMES BAVENDAM

Small waterfalls invite you to take off your shoes. The three cascading ponds were converted from one large trout pond 30 years ago.

Frustrated by zoning regulations, fees and a drop in business, owner Jerry Thueringer opted not to open the farm this year until he figures out what to do next. Options might include selling the six-acre parcel, one of the largest remaining open parcels off Talbot Road. Other possibilities include reopening next spring after

making some improvements or redeveloping the land into something else entirely. He's not sure at this point.

"The trout farming business is a seasonal deal," Thueringer says. "It's open for eight months out of the year, and then you have to let everyone go. We want to work on something that will offer my employees work

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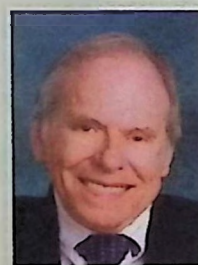
Bill Taylor
President/CEO
Renton Chamber of Commerce



"It's been great for us. Out of all the things we do (and we have a minimal budget), we get the most response from our ad in *Renton Magazine*. We ask new customers how they find us, and they say it's the magazine. I think it's a well-read magazine and really hits the right people. It's always interesting. We enjoy reading it."

Ted Coffman
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"The *Renton Magazine* has proven to be an excellent marketing vehicle. I'm very pleased with the sales response we get from our ads. And I've had many positive comments about its editorial content."



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RENTON MAGAZINE / JAMES BAVENDAM

After 50 years Springbrook Trout Farm will be closed this year while the owners decide the business's future.

year around, so that's what we'll be working on now."

Reading the thank you cards that create a crayon and pencil mosaic above his desk, it's obvious Thueringer doesn't want to permanently close the trout farm, which has existed for 50 years.

But businesses like Springbrook's are a dying breed, he acknowledges. A decade ago, there were at least a half-dozen trout farms dotting the Puget Sound area. Now Thueringer knows of only two others, one in Orting and another in Woodinville.

Most of the trout farms succumbed to development pressures or had their water sources so fouled by development, the fish in the ponds began to die, Thueringer says.

Springbrook has had steady business, but is now ringed by housing and apartment developments on its north and eastern borders.

Then there's the wildlife. The herons, osprey, eagles and kingfishers, raccoons and opossums, not to mention two families of otters, consider Springbrook their own private all-you-can eat fish bar.

Griffin has seen heron line up, four at a time, and wait, patiently for a chance at a sure meal.

"It's fun watching them," but still, she says, there is a business to run.

She picks her way down a dirt path that winds beneath a lacy canopy of willows and through the farm. She explains how, about 30 years ago, one large pond with a dock was revamped to create three cascading ponds.

According to the collective memory of Griffin and Thueringer, a sawmill once operated

on the place, followed by the fish pond, which fed Renton's railroad workers decades ago. Then it became the pond where you could take the kids on a sunny Sunday, to catch a trout, clean it and take it home for dinner.

The Gallagher family ran for the farm for years. When they decided to sell three years ago, Thueringer, who works as a garbage hauler during the day, couldn't resist purchasing a part of his childhood memories from years ago.

"I bought it just because I really enjoyed it," he said.

And Thueringer hopes to continue to offer something that allows future generations to step back in time.

"We are going to try and come back next year," he says.

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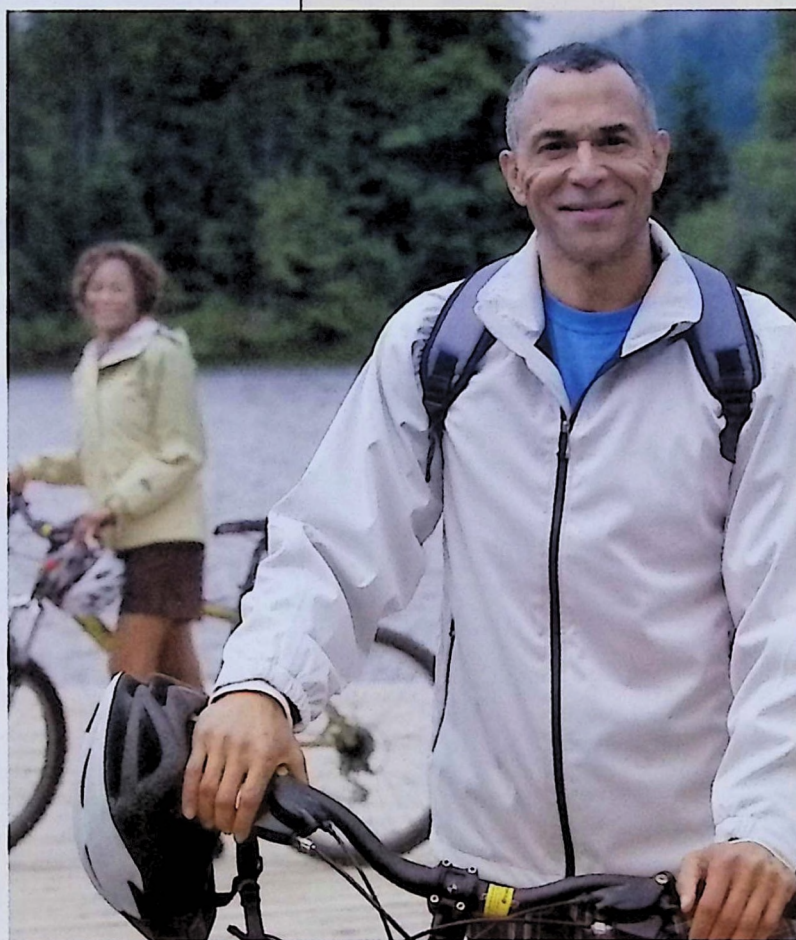
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