



# This Week in Renton

Mayor Armando Pavone



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Friday, July 2, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 25



VOLUME VI, ISSUE 25  
JULY 2, 2021

# This Week in Renton

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★ HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY 4TH OF JULY ★  
Who decorates the Interface sculpture at Gene Coulon?

#### VIDEO

Go behind the scenes at Henry Moses Aquatic Center

#### RECREATION

Sounders players to open futsal court on July 7

#### COMMUNITY

Fireworks sale & discharge illegal within city limits

## VIDEO OF THE WEEK

[\[video will embed online\]](#)

Ever wonder about the training that staff at Henry Moses Aquatics Center undergoes before we open the doors?

Here's a look behind the scenes as HMAC opened for the 2021 season.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**Mayor Armando Pavone and Councilmembers Ryan McIrvine and Ruth Pérez salute retiring Renton Regional Fire Authority Assistant Chief Roy Gunsolus. Roy retired after 36 years in fire service.**

### Assistant Fire Chief Roy Gunsolus retires after 36 years

Mayor Armando Pavone and City Councilmembers Ryan McIrvine and Ruth Pérez joined in saluting Renton Regional Fire Authority Assistant Chief Roy Gunsolus. Roy just retired after 36 incredible years as a firefighter, including 30 with Renton.

Roy started his career in 1984 in Kenmore before moving to Renton in 1990. During his career with Renton Fire Department, he served as a lieutenant (2005), captain (2007), and battalion chief (2008). After the formation of Renton Regional Fire Authority, Roy served as deputy chief (2016) and assistant chief (2020). He served as RRFA's acting fire chief from October 2020 to February 2021, before returning to his duties as assistant chief.

He's left an indelible mark on fire operations in our city. He authored command procedures, ran the Renton recruit academy, coordinated rope and hazmat teams, served as an instructor, and served on several county and zone boards.

Thank you, Roy, for more than three decades of service to the residents of Renton. Our sincere best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

## COVER STORY



The ladies who decorated the Interface sculptures at Coulon for the Fourth of July include (left to right) Maureen Vanderpas, Lilliene Battiste, Melissa Battiste, Lydia Battiste, Melanie Hall, and Alice Kim.

### The “Statue Stylist Group”

Four women scurry about three bronze statues, adding skirts and shirts, hats and ribbons. They’re oblivious to the people walking the paths at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, many of whom stop and stare. Instead, the group is focused on the task at hand.

Meet the members of the “Statue Stylist Group,” who spent an hour on Wednesday decorating the Interface sculpture at the park for the Fourth of July. They’re the third generation of Renton residents who’ve been turning Philip Levine’s artwork into one of the most discussed pieces in the city since 1993.

“I admire the wonderful ladies who started this fun tradition,” said Maureen VanderPas, one of the quartet. “For almost 30 years, they added smiles to the faces of those who visit the park.”

The tradition started when three friends, “The Walkers,” placed pumpkins at the statues to celebrate Halloween. In 1998 they started dressing them in holiday attire. The group also grew to a dozen members.

Since then, the statues have celebrated many significant holidays: Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Apple Cup, St. Patrick’s Day, Easter. For this Fourth of July, they’re adorned in red, white, and blue.

Each outfit is sized perfectly to fit the statues. They also had the forethought to add snaps so the costumes can be used year after year.

But as famous as the statues are, the women who started dressing them have remained somewhat anonymous.

“They came during the early morning hours in the rain and the snow and all kinds of freezing weather,” said Maureen. “They wanted to remain ‘hidden’ since they did not have special permission to dress the public statues.”

That original group has ceded their work to a younger generation. The “Statue Stylist Group” has kept the tradition alive through organizer Joyce Ahn. The fact they have gotten permission from city hall allows them to be more visible.

“It’s fun to decorate when people are walking so we can see their reaction when we’ve finished,” says Maureen. “I think it adds a little joy to their walk.”

They have also named the statues. Gene is the guy in the middle, named for park namesake Gene Coulon. Patty (on the right) is named for the late Patty Raphael, the instigator of the statue dressers. Marion (on the left) is named for the group’s photographer and historian.

On your next visit to Coulon, see if the statues are decorated and take a moment to snap a selfie. You’ll find them a few yards north of Ivar’s and Kidd Valley.

### About the sculpture

Sculptor Phillip Levine was inspired to create “The Interface” after watching pedestrians cross in front of his car from both sides of the street.

“It struck me as a great sculpture idea,” he explained. “It seemed like a great idea for a park, with people interacting.”

Levine’s sculpture was chosen in a contest for Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park in 1982, shortly after the park’s creation. Levine has works in hospitals, parks and schools in Seattle, plus Arizona, California, Michigan, Oregon and Texas, and even China and Japan. “Interface,” though, is one of his favorite pieces.

“I just love it,” Levine told the Renton Reporter in 2008.” But, ironically, what does he not love? “I don’t like them dressing it up particularly,” Levine says, “but as long as it’s not a permanent thing.”

## FOURTH OF JULY

**NO  
FIREWORKS  
ALLOWED**

It is illegal to possess or discharge fireworks of any kind in the City of Renton throughout the year, including the 4th of July.


### Sale and use of fireworks prohibited within Renton city limits

Renton voters banned the [sale and use of fireworks within Renton's city limits](#) (R4-5-070(c)97) in 2005 to protect residents and property from damage caused by fireworks. Since its implementation, there has been a significant reduction in the number of injuries and property damage.

Citations may be issued for violations, which can be both civil and criminal penalties. Additionally, the sale, possession, or use of explosive devices such as M-80s, M-100s, and homemade or modified fireworks is a felony offense, leading to criminal charges.

Some adjoining jurisdictions still allow fireworks, including Skyway and Fairwood. However, this will end in June 2022, when King County Council enacts a ban on the sales and use of consumer fireworks.





CELEBRATE THE FOURTH  
WITH THE RENTON ROADSHOW

# LIVE MUSIC ON THE DOCKS!

Fri, July 2nd: 6pm – 8:30pm  
DENIS WILCOX

Sat, July 3rd: 6pm – 8:30pm  
PAUL KROEGER

Sun, July 4th: 2pm – 5pm  
DANNY GODINEZ TRIO

## July 4 Weekend Road Shows

Renton Road Shows will help celebrate the nation's birthday with [three free shows this weekend](#).

All three will be on the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington dock (1053 Lake Washington Blvd N, 98056). Bring your chairs and blankets, or pull up a chair at Dock & Drink in the Hyatt.

Free parking is available at the Hyatt on weekdays from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. and all day Saturday & Sunday.

- Friday, July 2 (6 to 8:30 p.m.) – Denis Wilcox
- Saturday, July 3 (6 to 8:30 p.m.) – Paul Kroger
- Sunday, July 4 (1 to 5 p.m.) – Danny Godinez trio

## RECREATION



### Meet Sounders players at the Futsal court ribbon cutting

The official ribbon cutting of our Mini Futsal Court at Highlands Park ([800 Edmonds Ave. NE](#)) is Wednesday, July 7, at 1 p.m. After a few speeches, there will be mini-clinics for Renton youth by Sounders players at 1:30 p.m. Sounders FC alumni Brad Evans will be part of the dedication ceremony and clinic.

Futsal is a fast-paced, 5-a-side game played on a hard-surfaced, basketball-sized court with a smaller, harder, low-bounce ball than soccer. It is excellent for skill development. Futsal is played by over 100 countries and 12 million players, including superstars Lionel Messi and Pele.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE



### Temperatures not the only high numbers from the heatwave

High temperatures were not the only numbers Renton Regional Fire Authority (RRFA) personnel kept track of over the last week.

They also responded to emergencies caused by the unprecedented heat.

RRFA responded to 226 calls for medical assistance from Saturday to Monday, 59 false fire alarms, and 16 water rescues along the Cedar River and outside cities. They also answered multiple calls to extinguish small brush fires. All while contending with the same heat we did, but wearing pounds and pounds of protective equipment.

The city's cooling centers at Renton Community Center and Renton Senior Activity Center served 168 people from Saturday to Monday. Renton Technical College (RTC) opened a center on Monday and served 14 people.

Our thanks to the men and women of RRFA for their response during this record heat. Thanks also to our city staff and RTC staff for preparing and staffing the centers.

## COVID UPDATE

Effective June 29, 2021

Where you need to wear a mask and keep physical distancing:

Location	Fully Vaccinated (two weeks after completing vaccine series)	Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated
Crowded outdoor public places (outdoor events, busy streets or trails)		✓ (when six feet distance can't be maintained)
Indoor public places, in general		✓
Indoor public places where business owners request or require a mask policy for everyone	✓	✓
Hospitals, long-term care, doctor's offices, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools, or on public transportation	✓	✓

Fully vaccinated people may continue to wear masks if they choose, to show support for others who are wearing masks or if they want an extra layer of protection. Not everyone has been vaccinated yet, including more than 300,000 children and some people with medical conditions, so everyone should continue to follow [state masking guidelines](#) as well as CDC travel guidelines.

## What the state reopening means

Two significant milestones this past week in the battle against COVID-19.

First, [King County ended its mask mandate](#) on Tuesday. [But what does that mean?](#)

### Changes

- No masks are required outdoors, except in "crowded outdoor spaces."

### Does not change

- According to state guidance, people who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated must continue to wear face coverings when they enter indoor public spaces. This helps protect not only adults who are unvaccinated, particularly as more contagious variants are spreading, but also children and those with medical conditions that prevent them from getting vaccinated or from being fully protected by vaccines.
- Businesses can request or require their customers and employees to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.
- Vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask in most public settings. Still, they may choose to do so based on personal considerations.
- Everyone, vaccinated or not, should continue to keep a mask with them when they go out. Masks will be needed in some indoor spaces.

## Restrictions Applying to Indoor & Outdoor Settings After June 30

<b>Vaccine Verification / Negative Testing</b>	Recommended, but not required, for large indoor and outdoor events.
<b>Capacity Limitations</b>	No restrictions (except large indoor events*)
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	No requirements
<b>Facial Coverings</b>	Follow current applicable requirements as outlined in: Proclamation 20-25.13 - Healthy Washington, Secretary of Health Order 20-03.2, and LNI Publication F414-179.
<b>Travelers</b>	Follow CDC recommendations and Proclamation 20-83.2 - Restrictions on Travelers.

Second, Gov. Inslee on Wednesday [announced a reopening of the state](#). It means all industries previously covered by guidance in the [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery](#) or the [Safe Start Reopening Plan](#) may return to usual capacity and operations. There are limited exceptions for [large indoor events](#), designated as those with more than 10,000 simultaneous participants in an indoor, enclosed space.

### Reopening guidance:

- Vaccine verification/negative testing: Recommended but not required for large indoor and outdoor events
- Capacity limitations: No restrictions in restaurants, bars, stores, businesses, theaters, etc. (except large indoor events mentioned above)
- Physical distancing: No requirements
- Facial coverings: Not required for vaccinated individuals, unless required by individual business
- Travelers: Follow [CDC recommendations](#)

Some exceptions will include schools and childcare centers that will continue to have some facial coverings and physical distancing requirements.

## Limited in-person services return July 6

Beginning July 6, a [limited selection of in-person services](#) will be available in the lobby of city hall.

These services do not replace our virtual customer service options. However, we recognize not everyone has access to technology. This first step back to our "new normal" is to bridge that gap.

These limited in-person services will only be available Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Renton Municipal Court will be available for limited in-person court services Thursday and Friday.

Please note the doors to city hall will remain locked, but we will have staff there to welcome you and invite you in for assistance.

We appreciate your patience. You may be asked to wait outside for an opening at one of our lobby stations or come back for a scheduled appointment. Masks will be required to enter and at all times in the building.

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



## Renton Farmers Market

[Renton Farmers Market](#) is open every Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. On Tuesday, June 29, Healthy Kids Corner returns. Representatives from Washington State University's Extension SNAP-Ed and Piazza Renton volunteers will hand out homemade playdough and fun kid's activities to take home to your kids. Free parking is available in the [City Center Parking Garage](#), one block away.

Recreation & Neighborhoods  
**July & August Activities for All Ages**  
[rentonwa.gov/recreation](http://rentonwa.gov/recreation)

**Youth & Teens**

**Ultimate Frisbee Camps**  
AGES 8-14. Activities focus on building skills, fundamental strategies, and spirited play. Experienced players have opportunities to engage in instruction and advanced instruction for the advanced level. Includes a meal and a water bottle. All items after 10:00 am. Registration: \$10.00. Location: Skyhawks Youth Sports, 10000 1st Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98148. Dates: Monday-Wednesday, June 28-30.

**Steel Soccer Camps**  
AGES 8-14. Every steel soccer camp has a chance to play for the Renton City Soccer Club. Fun and safe environment. Our goal is to teach the game and make it enjoyable for all. Includes a meal and a water bottle. Location: Skyhawks Youth Sports, 10000 1st Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98148. Dates: Monday-Wednesday, June 28-30.

**Recreation Scholarships Available!**  
Scholarships for youth are available for youth 13 or younger, adult 18 and older, and individuals who participate in Aquatics Recreation programs. This program is funded entirely through generous donations from individuals, service organizations, local businesses, and grants. Complete an application at [rentonwa.gov/recreation](http://rentonwa.gov/recreation).

## July is National Parks and Recreation Month

The Recreation and Neighborhoods division celebrates National Parks and Recreation Month with a fun lineup of events through July. Our [Let's Go](#)



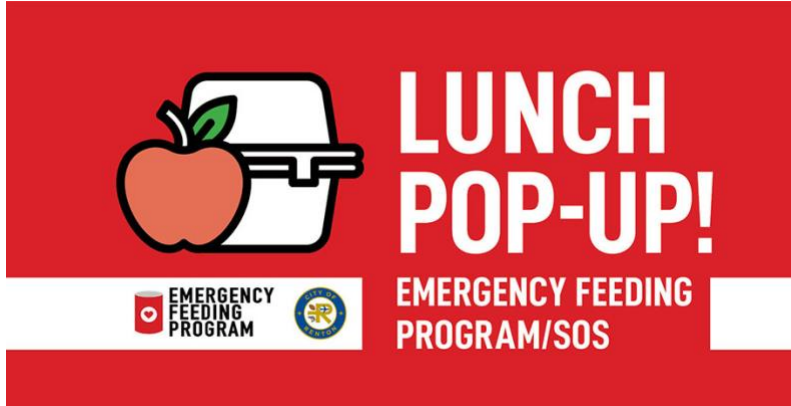
[Renton recreation flyer](#) has information on youth camps, outdoor activities, aquatic center information and more.



### Downtown Renton Wine Walk

One of the city's most popular events, the Renton Wine Walk, returns on Saturday, July 10. There are three available time slots, 3–4:30 p.m., 4:30–6 p.m. and 6–7:30 p.m. This year will feature over 10 Northwest wineries at three wine gardens. There will be specials and sidewalk sales along your route, as you sip and stroll. The event map and passport enable ticket holders to unlock promotions. You'll also be entered to win a Staycation package.

[Tickets are \\$30](#) and include 10 one-ounce drink tokens and a souvenir wine glass. Free parking is available in the [City Center Parking Garage](#), one block from the event center.



### Pop-up feeding event to continue on Tuesdays through July

Every Tuesday in July from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at [Liberty Park](#), the Emergency Feeding Program presents a pop-up free lunch event for the unsheltered and residents with food insecurities. A variety of products will be available, ranging from ready-to-eat food and drinks to personal hygiene kits, socks, and cleaning supplies.



### FREE Summer Meals with Renton School District

This week was the start of Renton School District's free summer meal program for children ages 1-18. A 7-day meal pack is available [each Wednesday at several schools and community locations](#). Students in summer school programs will be provided a meal on-site. [Pre-ordering is strongly recommended](#) but not required.



### Ultimate Frisbee Camp for all skill levels

**Seattle Cascade Ultimate Frisbee Camps** are open to all skill levels. The age range has been extended to 8 to 14-year-olds. Ultimate Frisbee combines the non-stop movement of soccer with the aerial passing skills of football. Camps are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Register for [July 12-16](#) at Cedar River Park or [July 26-30](#) at Philip Arnold Park.

**Basketball Skills Training 3-Day Camp**, July 20-22, for ages 13-18, is designed to help players who play recreationally and competitive players looking to make their high school team. Register at [rentonwa.gov/register](#) with code 9816. (Upcoming: August 3-5, use [code 9817](#).)

Recreation scholarships are available for those most in need at [rentonwa.gov/giftofplay](#).



### Renton Outdoors goes to the birds

Discover local birds and wildlife with Coast & Forest and fill your outdoor senses with the beauty and wonder of what the fantastic Pacific Northwest has to offer. Enjoy Birding Education, Birding Socials, and River Walks on Sunday mornings or Journaling in Nature on Monday evenings.

Visit [coastandforest.com](#) to meet your outdoor adventure enthusiasts, then register at [rentonwa.gov/register](#). Put "Renton Outdoors" in the search box for the entire lineup.

## CITY COUNCIL



Mayor Armondo Pavone (center front) is flanked by the 2021 Renton City Council. Ruth Pérez and Council President Randy Corman are seated in the front row. Standing: Valerie O'Halloran, Ed Prince, Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvine, Kim-Khánh Vãn, and Angelina Benedetti.

## June 28 meetings

- [Meeting documents](#) (approved committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)
- [Council meeting video](#)
- [Committee of the Whole video](#)
- [Approved Minutes](#) (June 28, 2021, meeting)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Renton City Council meets via Zoom. For information on viewing or participating in a council meeting, go to [rentonwa.gov/council](https://rentonwa.gov/council). Past meetings are available at [rentonwa.gov/youtube](https://rentonwa.gov/youtube).

There is no meeting on Monday, July 5, due to the 4th of July holiday. The council will next meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 12. Committee of the Whole is not scheduled to meet on July 12.

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## CALENDAR

**Daily, Senior Meals, Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m.**, free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up at [Renton Senior Activity Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.](#) Limited quantities.

**Mondays, 5:30–7:30 p.m.**, [Sustainable Renton free drive-through grocery store](#) at [St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave. NE.](#)

**Tuesdays, 3–7 p.m.**, [Renton Farmers Market](#), Gateway Park, S. Third St. & Logan Ave. S. Through Sept. 28.

**Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Renton Live!** Online connection promoting business, nonprofits, and activities within the greater Renton community. Find the weekly link on the [Renton Live Facebook page](#).

**Library resources and events**, ongoing. Filter by event, program, and location. [kcls.org](https://kcls.org)

**Tuesdays in July, 12:30–2 p.m.**, Emergency Feeding Program at Liberty Park. Free weekly lunch event for the unsheltered and residents with food insecurities. Along with ready-to-eat food and drinks, personal hygiene kits, socks, and cleaning supplies will be available.

**Wednesday, July 7, 1 p.m.** Dedication of the Mini Futsal Court at Highlands Park ([800 Edmonds Ave. NE](#)) Mini by Sounders FC players at 1:30 p.m.

**Saturday, July 10, 3–8 p.m.**, [Downtown Renton Wine Walk](#). Three 90-minute time slots available to sample offerings from 10 Northwest wineries. Local vendors, food, and more will be part of the fun.

**Sunday, July 11, 1–6 p.m.**, [Return to Renton Car Show](#) at New Life Church on Maple Valley Highway. Free for spectators. Donations are appreciated and will be used to fund local youth educational and recreational programs.

**Tuesday, July 13, 10–11 a.m.**, Cedar River Coffee Crawl, [Senior Activity Center](#). To celebrate Parks and Recreation Month, recreation staff will lead a morning stroll on the Cedar River Trail (coffee provided).

**Thursday, July 22**, PlayStreets. An initiative for healthier and stronger communities by creating safe and accessible residential play areas. More information soon on social media and [rentonwa.gov/events](https://rentonwa.gov/events).

**July 25–31**, Dog Celebrations & Pet Food Drive. A chance to spoil our pups and help feed others. Look for information coming soon on social media and [rentonwa.gov/events](https://rentonwa.gov/events).

**Thursday, July 29, 1 p.m.**, FitLot Ribbon Cutting, North Highlands Neighborhood Center ([3000 NE 16th Street](#)). The thoughtfully designed [FitLot](#) is excellent for all ages and abilities. It brings the benefits of an indoor facility outdoors.

In July, Renton History Museum hosts [Facing the Inferno: The Wildfire Photography of Kari Greer](#) through July 30. It features over 60 dramatic photographs taken by the official photographer for the National Interagency Fire Center. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## COVID-19 VACCINE



## VACCINE FINDER

### Valley Medical Center

- Walk-in Pfizer and Moderna [free clinic for anyone 12 and older](#) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- [Schedule an appointment](#).

### HealthPoint

- Drive through [testing and vaccination site](#) (805 SW 10th St., 98057), offers drive-through access for the Pfizer vaccine.
- Appointments for 12–16-year-olds or new patients can be made by calling 866-893-5717.
- Current patients over age 18 can use [MyHealthPoint Portal](#) to schedule an appointment.

### Kaiser Permanente

- [Glacier Building](#) and the [Rainier Building](#) are accepting appointments. You do not have to be a Kaiser Permanente member.
- Schedule appointment: 877-832-9915, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m.–4 p.m. Interpreters are available. Patients who are 16–17 years old must have a parent or guardian call to schedule their appointment.
- [Schedule online](#).

### Car-side vaccination in Auburn

- [Auburn vaccination clinic](#) offers car-side service on Mondays.

### Mass vaccination sites

Kent: The ShoWare Center, 625 W. James St., Kent, WA 98032

Auburn: 1101 Outlet Collection Way, Suite 1333, Auburn, WA 98001

- [Register for an appointment](#) (available in English only)
- Schedule via phone: If you need language interpretation or online help, the following hotlines are available. Please say your preferred language when connected:
  - WA State COVID-19 Assistance hotline: 1-800-525-0127 or 1-888-856-5816 (then press #), 6 a.m.-10 p.m. (Monday), 6 a.m.-6 p.m. (Tuesday-Sunday)
  - King County COVID-19 Call Center: 206-477-3977, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
  - For telephone-to-text relay service, dial: 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6384. For tactile interpretation, contact: <http://seattledbcs.org/>.
- Walk-in vaccination (no appointment required) is also available Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., while supplies last.