



# This Week in Renton

Mayor Armando Pavone



Send story ideas or comments to [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov).

Translation of the newsletter is available on the City of Renton's website. For additional translation services contact [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov).

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## City Council approves

# \$3.6M

## in ARPA-related funding



Money will support economic recovery, housing, homelessness, and human services



### VIDEO

It's "Puget Sound Starts Here" Month

### RECREATION

Rec Center and Senior Center open on Monday

### AT YOUR SERVICE

Renton Responds offers easy way to report issues

## VIDEO OF THE WEEK

[video will embed online]

September is "Puget Sound Starts Here" Month. This year's campaign looks to [change behaviors around washing and maintenance of our vehicles](#).

Rainwater on our driveways and streets picks up everything, like soaps from car washing and leaked oil. This polluted water flows into storm drains, then into our streams and lakes, where we swim and fish.

September is the month we emphasize maintaining our streams and lakes, but it's a behavior we can model year around.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



### New utility wrap in Benson Hill

In our [Sept. 3 newsletter](#), we spotlighted Nelsen Middle School's Art Club. Specifically, we told how the students' most recent art project would be converted into a utility box wrap by artist Yvonne Chan using funding from Renton Municipal Arts Commission.

The finished project is at the corner of 108th Ave. SE and SE 168th St. in the Benson Hill neighborhood. Congratulations to the students for their creativity and for brightening the community.

## COVER STORY

## City Council approves

# \$3.6M

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Money will support economic recovery, housing, homelessness, and human services



### Council approves \$3.6 million in ARPA-related relief funds

On Monday, the city council approved \$3.6 million to support economic recovery and fund housing, homeless prevention, and human services programs.

The money comes from the city's \$18.1 million allocation from the federal government as part of the American Recuse Plan Act (ARPA).

The funding includes a \$1.0 million contribution to the Washington Flex Fund, which provides small business loans. The Washington State Department of Commerce will do a 2:1 match for all money spent if committed by October 1, 2021. Small businesses and non-profits can borrow up to \$150,000 and use it for general business expenses. The loans have low interest rates and no fees. The first year's payment is interest only.

The council committed \$600,000 for small business grants to support retail businesses in the downtown core disproportionately impacted due to COVID-19 and construction delays during the Wells/Williams conversion project.

Housing, homeless, and human services programs will receive \$1.5 million. The funds will assist residents with utility bills, rent, or other uses identified through the city's equity lens.

The council allocated \$500,000 to buy additional hardware and software to support remote services provided to residents by city staff.

The city's Finance Department briefed the council on proposed ARPA funds allocation. If you didn't see the presentation, we've [included it for your review](#).

## RECREATION



### Recreation center and senior center to open Monday

Our recreation division is excited to [re-open Renton Community Center \(RCC\) and Senior Activity Center \(RSAC\)](#) on Monday, Sept. 27. Read the latest edition of [Let's Go Renton!](#) for new program offerings in September and October.

Division staff has developed a safe re-opening plan that puts an emphasis on public safety. In addition, they are [recruiting and hiring recreation staff](#) to get back to pre-COVID-19 levels to best serve our community public.

Both RCC and RSAC will require pre-registration or reservations for amenities and programs. A PerfectMind Account is needed to complete that process. If you do not have an account, please [sign up online](#). If you need assistance, please contact recreation staff via [email](#) or call 425-430-6700.

## AT YOUR SERVICE

Renton  
Responds  
See Send Solved



Renton Responds is an easy way to connect with the city on non-emergency issues.



### Renton Responds

An easy way to bring your issue to the attention of city staff is [Renton Responds](#). Accessible via your mobile device or computer, Renton Responds allows residents to make non-emergency services requests and report quality-of-life issues. Requests are routed to the responsible city division, and the submitter can choose to receive email updates.

Since its launch two years ago, Renton Responds has received 7,490 requests and city staff have resolved over 96% (7,218).

## VOLUNTEER



### Tree Planting at Cedar River Trail Extension

Volunteers are needed to plant trees at the Cedar River Trail Extension on Friday, October 8, from 9-11:30 a.m. The extension is off Logan Avenue S and S Tobin Street. Students 14 and older can earn community service hours for school projects and clubs. [Register online](#).

## VISTA



### AmeriCorps VISTA has openings in Renton

The Renton AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program has openings for the 2021-2022 service year. VISTA places members in city programs and at non-profits to boost the reach and impact of these programs. Opportunities range from workforce development and downtown revitalization to food insecurity, housing, and neighborhoods.

Available openings with the AmeriCorps VISTA program include age-friendly/seniors, Benson Hill neighborhood, Sunset neighborhood, downtown business district, farmers market and community gardens.

Other VISTA openings are with Renton Housing Authority, Renton School District, Renton Chamber of Commerce, food distribution through grocery stores, after-school programs, and workforce development.

For more information and to apply for a VISTA position, go to the [AmeriCorps website](#), create an account, and browse the listings.

## COVID-19 SUPPORT

UTILITY MORATORIUM ENDS SEPTEMBER 30.

The infographic is divided into three colored panels. The first panel is blue and says 'Call your utility.' with an icon of a document with three dollar signs. An arrow points to the second panel, which is grey and says 'Make a plan.' with an icon of a house with an 'X' in each window. Another arrow points to the third panel, which is orange and says 'Keep your service.' with an icon of a house with a lightbulb and a faucet.

### State utility moratorium ends Sept. 30

The governor's moratorium preventing shut-off of water, electricity, or natural gas is scheduled to end on Sept. 30. After that, standard utility billing collection practices will resume.

This has been a difficult time, and many of our residents need assistance. If you're not able to pay the minimum past due balance by Sept. 30, please call the city's Utility Billing Customer Service office at 425-430-6852 to arrange an acceptable payment plan.

Our staff is available Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are happy to help set up a payment arrangement and/or refer you to community resources.



### Pop-up lunch event on Sept. 28

The next SOS pop-up free lunch event is Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 1:30 to 2 p.m. at 300 Rainier Ave N. The location is on the west side of the Renton Municipal Airport and north of the Rainier Ave N & Airport Way intersection.

The pop-up benefits the unsheltered and those Renton residents with food insecurities. Among the available items:

- Amazon Fresh ready-to-eat food & drinks
- Personal hygiene kits
- Cleaning supplies
- Socks

## BUSINESS SUPPORT



### Comcast RISE to award one million in grants to businesses owned by people of color

Comcast is awarding [\\$10,000 grants to 100 small businesses](#) owned by people of color in King and Pierce Counties. They are also making technology and marketing resources available to eligible businesses in the area. The grants come from the [Comcast RISE Investment Fund](#).

The application window will be open from Oct. 1 to 14. Recipients will be announced on Nov. 23.

Comcast has produced a series of videos to explain both RISE and the application process.

- [About RISE](#)
- [How to Apply](#)
- [FAQs](#)



### King County launches \$20 million for cultural sector grants

[King County has allocated \\$20 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding](#) to support the re-opening of the cultural sector. This includes large cultural organizations, science organizations, independently owned live music venues, and independently owned movie theaters. The deadline to apply is Oct. 18. Award winners will be notified in mid-December.



### Small business flex fund has \$100 million to loan

The state department of commerce is partnering with financial institutions and community-based organizations to lend \$100 million to help grow small businesses and non-profits through the [Flex Fund](#). The money can be used on payroll, utilities & rent, supplies, marketing & advertising, building improvements or repairs, and other business expenses. Loan terms are 60 or 72 months with interest rates between 3-4.5%.

The [Small Business Administration](#) also increased [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) (EIDL) limits to \$2 million. In addition, an EIDL loan can now pay down commercial debt or be used for a deferral payment plan. Finally, there's a 30-day application window for main street businesses.

## COMMUNITY



### Final Renton Farmers Market on Tuesday

[Renton Farmers Market](#) concludes its 20th season downtown on Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. The market is in Gateway Park at the corner of S 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Logan Ave. Free parking is available in the City Center Parking Garage one block away.



### Watch the salmon return to the Cedar River in October

Three spots in Renton are prime viewing areas to watch the [Cedar River Salmon Journey](#) this fall.

Watch Chinook, as well as Sockeye and Coho, salmon return at Renton Library (100 Mill Ave), Cedar River Park (1717 Maple Valley Hwy), or Riverview Park (3201 Maple Valley Hwy) on Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 2 to 24. A naturalist trained by the Seattle Aquarium will be at each site from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### Washington state single-use plastic bag ban

Starting on Oct. 1, Washington state will impose a ban on single-use plastic bags. Passed by the legislature in 2020, the ban was to take effect on Jan. 1, 2021 but was delayed by the governor.

Two critical components for consumers:

- Prohibit single-use plastic carryout bags in retail and grocery stores, restaurants, takeout establishments, festivals, and markets.
- Require an 8-cent charge for all recycled content paper carryout bags and reusable carryout bags made of film plastic.

The Department of Ecology has [detailed information and reasons](#) for the ban and its anticipated impact on our state's recycling system.

## 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 Anaelina Benedetti.

### Council meets on Monday, Sept. 27

The council will next meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 27. Committee of the Whole will not meet.

Anyone who wishes to speak during the meeting's audience comment period are asked to register by 5 p.m. on the meeting day. Those registering after will be asked to re-register for the next meeting.

The change was made to:

1. Ensure everyone who desires to speak during the audience comment portion is recognized and allowed to speak. There have been times speakers have tried to raise their hand and have been missed.
2. Allow city staff to collect contact information and provide timely responses.
3. Establish a more formal administrative process to manage records.

There are three ways to register:

- Complete the [Request to Speak Registration Form](#)
- Copy/paste the following URL into your browser to complete the form: <https://forms.office.com/g/bTJUj6NrEE>

**OR**

- Call (425) 430-6501, mail [jsubia@rentonwa.gov](mailto:jsubia@rentonwa.gov) or [cityclerk@rentonwa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rentonwa.gov). Please provide your full name, city of residence, email address and/or phone number, and topic in your message.

**Sept. 20 meeting review**

- [Meeting documents](#) (approved committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)
- [Council meeting video](#)
- [Committee of the Whole video](#)
- [Approved Minutes](#) (Sept. 13 meeting)

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

## IN-PERSON SERVICES



**In-person services available Monday-Wednesday at city hall**

[Nearly all services are available online](#) and our staff is, in many ways, even more accessible than ever thanks to innovative improvements to our virtual environment.

That said, we recognize that not everyone has access to technology, so we are continuing to offer [in-person services](#) at city hall as follows:

- Finance and police counters are open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Note: Fingerprinting is not currently available.

- Our in-person permit counter is closed but is [available virtually](#). We can provide a computer and telephone to attend a pre-scheduled appointment in our lobby.
- Municipal Court Counter Services are available Thursdays and Fridays  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Note: Hearings continue to be via Zoom/virtual

Note: Passports are not currently available

Masks are required to enter our buildings, including City Hall. You will be asked health screening questions and we are limiting the number of people inside at our counters so you may be asked to wait outside until space is available.

## COVID-19



**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](#)

**King County**

- [Getting vaccinated in King County](#)

## CALENDAR

**Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Free. Sustainable Renton [drive-thru grocery store](#), St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.**

**Tuesdays, 2-6 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, non-profits, and activities within the Renton community. Find the weekly link on their new [Renton Live Facebook page](#).

**Daily, King County Libraries**, resources and events. Filter by [event, program, and location](#).

**Sunday, Sept. 26, 2-7 p.m.** Black Love Market, [Renton Chamber of Commerce](#). Black-owned businesses, vendors, artists, entertainers, jewelry, honey, clothing, soaps, lotions, candles, music, art, and food. It's a circus theme: bounce house, free popcorn, dancing mimes, ringmaster, games, and food.

**Friday, Oct. 8, 3-5 p.m. Skyway Resource Center, [Skyway Fire Station](#).** Free drive-thru with resources for families and individuals. Masks and social distance guidelines will be enforced. Courtesy of Renton Innovation Zone Partnership.

**Friday-Sunday, Oct. 8-10, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. King County Wastemobile, [McLendon Hardware](#).** Free. [King County Hazardous Waste](#) has a list of accepted items.

**Friday, Oct. 22, 5-7:30 p.m. Halloween Drive-Thru.** Free. Gather the ghosts and goblins for a Halloween experience at [Renton Community Center](#). Cruise through trucks, themed stations, and special guests. Each vehicle will collect plenty of treats and a few tricks. Wear your costume. [Register online](#).

**Oct. 23-30, Olde Fashioned Halloween Scavenger Hunt**, downtown. Free. [Renton Downtown Partnership](#) has your map to clues in storefronts. Solve the riddle and turn in your completed game card on Saturday, Oct. 30, in [Gateway Park](#), from 1 to 5 p.m. to claim your goodie bag.

**When You Can't Go Home**, portraits by Karisa Keasey through Nov. 6, [Renton History Museum](#). The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.