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**Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 45**



### Renton Severe Weather Shelter opens Dec. 26

The City of Renton is activating the Severe Weather Shelter at [Highlands Neighborhood Center](#) (800 Edmonds Avenue NE) beginning Sunday night, Dec. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022.

The shelter is operated by [REACH Renton](#) staff and has a capacity of 22-25 people. Registration is required before entering.

This is a mat on floor shelter with separate sleeping spaces for single women, single men, couples, and homeless families with children living on the streets or in vehicles.

As with all shelters, rules for the health and safety of clients and staff will apply, and COVID guidelines will be followed.

- 8 p.m. - Check-in and registration
- 7 a.m. - Shelter closes; all must vacate
- Shelter information: Call 2-1-1 (Crisis Connections)

You can find more [city resources on our website](#). In addition, King County has posted [cold weather resources](#).



### Snow is forecast and our crews are ready

With snow in the forecast, city street maintenance crews spent Tuesday and Wednesday attaching plows, loading sanders, preparing deicer trucks, and checking supplies. They are ready to respond if needed.

We detailed their winter preparations in our [December 3 This Week in Renton](#). The story includes plowing strategies, tips on assisting, and reporting any issues.

We will have regular updates on our social media channels if the situation warrants it.



### James Alberson takes council oath

James Alberson was sworn into Renton City Council Position One by City Clerk Jason Seth on Wednesday afternoon. He was elected to the position in November.

Mr. Alberson has lived in Renton for the past 24 years. He is the owner and principal of Top Tier Training & Development and a nine-year Renton Chamber of Commerce board member. Mr. Alberson attended Purdue University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Technology and a Master of Business Administration in Marketing. He and his wife Jessica have two daughters, who attend the University of Washington and high school.

Mr. Alberson's first [council meeting](#) will be Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at 7 p.m.

## Holiday Events

Holiday events on tap this weekend and next week:

- **Renton’s Holiday Lights:** Holiday lights are on display at [Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park](#) (1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N), [Piazza Park](#), and downtown street light poles from 5 to 9 p.m. through Jan. 1, 2022.
- **Polar Bear Plunge:** Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, [Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park](#) (1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N). Join your family, friends, and neighbors to ring in the new year with a plunge into Lake Washington. The 2022 Plunge requires registration for either a 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. time slot. Registration opens on Dec. 1. Our [Polar Bear Plunge](#) webpage has registration information.