



THIS WEEK IN RENTON

Send story ideas or comments to communications@rentonwa.gov.

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Friday, Jan. 7, 2022 | Vol. VII | Issue 1

Public Works Street Maintenance Division

SNOW STATS

DEC. 25, 2021 to JAN. 1, 2022

24-HR SHIFTS
RUNNING FOR 8 DAYS

11,800
GALLONS OF DEICER

550
TONS OF 50/50
SALT/SAND

500
TONS OF
SALT

11,836
PLOW TRUCK MILES

1,912
DEICER TRUCK MILES

& RENTON POLICE
RESPONDED TO

45
WEATHER-
RELATED CALLS



Snow puts crews to work from Christmas through New Year's Day

It was a white Christmas in Renton, which meant our [Public Works Street Maintenance Division](#) crews were busy plowing, sanding, and deicing roads.

The crews worked overlapping 12-hour shifts starting Christmas Day evening through New Year's Day, keeping plows on the road around the clock. During that time, they:

- Plowed 11,836 miles
- Deiced 1,912 miles
- Used 11,800 gallons of deicer
- Spread 550 tons of 50/50 sand/salt mixture
- Spread 500 tons of salt

They applied deicer late on Christmas Day before the snow started to keep it from sticking. Next, salt was spread on primary and secondary arterials to help with plowing. However, once the temperature dropped into the teens, plows could not move the frozen snow, and salt was no longer effective. Crews then used sand and a 50/50 sand/salt mixture to provide traction and melt the snow.

When snow falls, our crews follow designated routes across the city. These include high-volume traffic areas, collectors, bridges, schools, hospitals, and fire stations. Once these areas are safe, the trucks move into neighborhoods.

One area—sidewalks—are the responsibility of Renton resident property owners. [Section 9-8-2 of the Renton Municipal Code](#), adopted in 2016, places sidewalk maintenance on the owner of the abutting property: *"it shall be the responsibility of the owner of property abutting upon a public sidewalk to maintain the sidewalk at all times in a safe condition, free of any and all obstructions or hazardous conditions, including but not limited to ice, snow, vegetation, loose dirt, rocks and debris."*

To help keep your sidewalks safe, our crews have compiled tips about [snow removal](#).

Renton police were also busy responding to 45 weather-related calls over the same eight-day period. Most of their calls involved vehicles that were disabled and blocking or in hazardous locations.



Renton Mayor & City Council



ARMONDO PAVONE
Mayor



RYAN MCIRVIN
Council President



JAMES ALBERSON JR.
Councilmember



VALERIE O'HALLORAN
Councilmember



RUTH PÉREZ
Councilmember



ED PRINCE
Councilmember



CARMEN RIVERA
Councilmember



KIM-KHÁNH VÂN
Councilmember

City Council convenes

Renton City Council held its first meeting of the year on Monday. The meeting started with the ceremonial swearing-in of two new councilmembers, James Alberson, Jr. and Carmen Rivera, and third-term Councilmember Ruth Pérez.



Third-term Councilmember Ruth Pérez takes the council oath in December from Renton Municipal Court Judge Jessica Giner as her family looks on.

Councilmember Alberson was sworn in by his father James Alberson, Sr., Councilmember Rivera by her partner Jasmine Maisonette, and Councilmember Pérez by Washington State Supreme Court Associate Justice Mary Yu.

All three won their elections last November and had their official ceremonies in December to ensure continuity.

Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, beginning his sixth year on the council, will serve as Council President for 2022. Entering his tenth year, Councilmember Ed Prince will serve as Council President Pro-Tem. Valerie O'Halloran and Kim-Khánh Vãn, both in their second year, complete the council.

The council meets the first four Mondays of the month, except for holidays. Committee meetings are also held during the week.

The most current meeting information, agenda, committee assignments, and links for viewing meetings can be found at rentonwa.gov/council.



Over \$200,000 in COVID relief grants distributed to downtown businesses

Thirty businesses in Renton have received or will soon receive \$7,500 each (total of \$225,000) to offset direct economic hardships due to COVID-19.

The money is part of a \$600,000 grant program authorized last fall by Renton City Council. The money comes from the city's American Rescue Plan fund allocation from the federal government.

Nine of the businesses received their grant checks before the end of 2021. The remaining grant recipients will receive their funds once the paperwork is complete.

Grant funds support the cost of business interruption due to COVID-19 resulting from required closures, voluntary closures to promote physical distancing or decreased customer demand. Expenses the funds can cover include:

- Payroll
- Rent
- Utilities
- Machinery and equipment (including advanced technology)
- Revamping, or conversion into, a virtual business
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and/or sanitation supplies, equipment, and services
- Modifications and changes temporarily or permanent to business operations
- Marketing

This first round of funding focused on businesses downtown affected by both COVID and the Wells/Williams Conversion construction project. Planning is underway for another round of funding that will be city-wide.



Slide temporarily closes Maple Valley Highway

Our thanks and appreciation to our Street Maintenance crews, Renton Fire Department, and Renton Regional Fire Authority for their quick work removing dirt, rocks, and trees that block lanes on Maple Valley Highway Thursday night.

Working in less-than-ideal conditions, crews removed debris and reopened the road in just a few hours.

Our thanks too for everyone's patience during the closure.

In the news this week

A recap of news posted on the city's social media accounts. You can find us (@cityofrenton) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), & [Twitter](#). Renton residents can also find us on [Nextdoor](#).

[City Council update](#)

[COVID-19 resources](#)

[First Friday](#)

[In-person services at city hall](#)

[Polar Bears in the Park](#)

[Recreation Guide: January and December](#)

[Renton History Museum](#)

[Traffic Projects](#)

[Winter Weather Response](#)