

# N O R T H N E I G H B O R H O O D C H A T T E R



## Could This Be Your Last Newsletter?

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It could be if you do not act now. Due to the ever-expanding area of our neighborhood, the difficulty in finding volunteers to participate in delivery, and the widespread usage of e-mail, our beloved *The North Renton Neighborhood Chatter* is going electronic. So if you wish to keep yourself informed of neighborhood happenings, events and news, you will need to subscribe to the

electronic version of *The Chatter*.

To subscribe simply visit our website at: [www.northrenton.com](http://www.northrenton.com) or e-mail us at: [northrenton@msn.com](mailto:northrenton@msn.com).

You can be assured that your e-mail address will be held in strict confidence and you will only receive copies of the quarterly newsletter.

However, I encourage you to join the North Renton e-mailing list. Then, not only will you receive *The Chatter*, but you will also receive time-sensitive and informative e-mails regarding subjects that impact our neighborhood, the City, and our wonderful North Renton way of life. Again, your e-mail address will be held in strict confidence.

### At A Glance

- **NRNA Quarterly Meeting: Thursday, January 25th, 7:00 pm at the Renton Senior Activity Center.**

## From the President

By President Rich Zwicker

I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season! I hope everyone enjoys a safe, happy and prosperous 2007. I also hope you take a moment to subscribe to the online edition of *The North Renton Neighborhood Chatter* (see accompanying article). It was a difficult decision to end house-to-house delivery and I fear it will make things in the neighborhood even more

impersonal. But, it's now the electronic world and we receive a lot of our information on-line. I know that the neighborhood updates we send by e-mail are very well received-I've met many of you at community events throughout Renton and I often hear how much you appreciate them. But let's at least step away from our computers every three months to

attend the NRNA Quarterly Meeting. Let's get together to get to know one another a little better, to share our thoughts and ideas and to continue to be informed by neighborhood leaders, elected officials and other important presenters. Come on. Once every three months. That's not too much to ask, is it? Hope to see you at the next meeting on January 25, 2007.

-Rich

## Things to Chatter About

Information courtesy of the City of Renton Neighborhood News and City of Renton website

### Shattuck Ave Railroad Bridge Re-opens

Have you noticed your favorite, and secret passageway to south Renton has been closed? In November a vehicle exceeding the posted vertical limit closed the single-lane portion of Shattuck Avenue that passes underneath the railroad bridge. Burlington Northern Sante Fe construction crews are repairing the damage by replacing the wing walls adjacent to the bridge, removing unused timber members and adding new steel beams on each side of the bridge to stop vehicles that exceed the height restriction before they reach the bridge. The roadway is expected to reopen in early December.

### DVD Showcases Renton Is THE Place to Live, Work

The Renton Community Marketing Campaign, a partnership between the City of Renton, the Renton School District, Renton Technical College, Valley Medical Center, and Greater Renton Chamber of Commerce, has released a new video, "The Center of Opportunity." This video builds on the acclaimed and successful "Renton. Ahead of

the Curve" community marketing brand.

This new video celebrates Renton's economic expansion and showcases the many reasons that Renton is a great place to do business, live, visit, and work. Featured personalities range from Kim Browne, current president of the Kennydale Elementary School PTA, to Dr. Dorcas McLennon, Valley Medical Center obstetrician, to Martha Fuller, chief financial officer of the Seattle Seahawks.

"Renton is the center of opportunity in the Puget Sound region where businesses and families thrive," said Mayor Kathy Keolker. "After watching this video, I think that anyone-whether you're a business executive considering a new location for a company, a family looking to relocate to a great neighborhood you can actually afford, or a technology worker looking for a well-paying high-quality job-will be convinced that Renton offers you an opportunity to achieve your goals."

DVD copies of this video are available from the Department of Economic Development, Neighborhoods, and Strategic Planning. Please call 425.430.6580 to request a copy.

## Strander Boulevard Will Connect Renton to Tukwila

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has selected key transportation projects in Renton to receive funding in 2007. The SW 27th St./Strander Boulevard Connection will receive \$4.6 million of federal funds. The Sam Chastain Waterfront Trail on Lake Washington's south shore will receive \$900,000. These projects play a critical role in implementing Destination 2030, the region's long-range transportation plan, through support for centers and the corridors that connect them. PSRC's Executive Board made the final decision on the projects after a thorough examination by the Transportation Policy Board, a month-long public comment and review period and air quality modeling that demonstrated that the region would continue to meet its clean air goals.

The SW 27th St./Strander Boulevard project will extend Strander Boulevard in Tukwila to connect to



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SW 27 Street in Renton. It will establish a new east-west roadway on Strander Boulevard between the West Valley Highway (SR-181) and Oakesdale Avenue and widen the existing SW 27th Street. The next stage of this project is relocation of the Union Pacific rail tracks, with design work being done in 2006-2007 and construction in 2007-2008.

The Sam Chastain Waterfront Trail provides the missing link between the Cedar River Trail and the Lake Washington Trail on Lake Washington's south shore and serves as a critical connection for Renton residents, the business community and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## North Renton Labeled "Blighted" by the City— Eminent Domain Action Forthcoming?

By President Rich Zwicker

That's not true, of course, but did that get your attention? If not, what will? Neighborhood participation in the North Renton Neighborhood Association is nearing an all-time low.

At our October quarterly meeting, Councilmembers Marcie Palmer and Denis Law joined us for a presentation on emerging issues impacting the City and our North Renton Neighborhood. An informative meeting to be sure, but the attendance was approximately eight neighbors.

What will it take to get you involved? Let us know what we can do to make participating easier, more interesting, etc. We need active neighbors to participate to keep this a viable and important neighborhood association. Our neighborhood faces an exciting and uncertain future and we need to stay informed and active.

Please plan on joining us at the next quarterly meeting on January 25, 2007 at 6:30 at the Renton Senior Activity Center.





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## Don't Have E-Mail Access?

Fear not. We want you to be informed about neighborhood happenings and meetings. So if you wish to have a paper copy mailed to you, please send your name and address to Rich Zwicker, NRNA, PO Box 326, Renton, Washington 98057 and we will send you the quarterly newsletter and meeting notices by mail.



## Strander Boulevard (Continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

regional trail users to the Downtown Core. The project includes approximately 2,600 feet of regional trails and boardwalk, shoreline restoration, bulkhead replacement, landscaping and other amenities.

"We are very pleased with the decision of PSRC's Executive Board," said Mayor Kathy Keolker. "Transportation continues to be a major challenge facing our region and we need to

build a strong transportation infrastructure to secure our future economic growth and make it easier for people to get around. These projects will fund needed improvements in Renton and support smart growth in our region."

Other projects in PSRC's 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that benefit the Renton area include constructing high-occupancy-vehicle lanes and signal improvements on Maple Valley Highway (SR-169) from I-405 to the end of the Stoneway

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## Strander Boulevard (Continued)

*(Continued from page 3)*

property, just east of Cedar River Park. The PSRC approved \$765,993 of federal funds for this project last year. Construction is expected to start spring or summer of 2007.

Puget Sound Regional Council coordinates decisions about regional growth and transportation planning in King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the City of Renton has several major transportation improvements planned for 2007 including construction around The Landing, widening of Duvall Avenue from Sunset Boulevard to the Newcastle city line and the potential rail bridge relocations for the Hardie and Rainier Avenue corridor projects.

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