PHOTO & VIDEO OF THE WEEK
City’s first mini roundabout installed
The city’s Transportation Division has installed Renton’s first mini roundabout to improve traffic flow, help vehicles operate safely, and guide pedestrians through the intersection at Puget Drive SE and Royal Hills Dr. SE. The project included island curbing, guideposts, pavement marking, ADA-compliant ramps and marked crosswalks. In the coming days, staff will be installing pedestrian-activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons for the west side crosswalk and additional One Way signing and directional arrow pavement marking to reduce wrong-way operations.

As with anything new, there will be an adjustment period. So, we’ve included a roundabout safety video from WSDOT to help you with the transition.

COVER STORY
Middle school students leave impact with public art
The world always seems brighter when you’ve just made something that wasn’t there before. - Neil Gaiman

Gaiman, an English author, didn’t have the Nelsen Middle School Art Club members in mind when he said that, but he could have. Last February, art teacher Sheri Bendes Stephens collaborated with Hanna Dillingham, the Benson Hill Community Development Specialist with the AmeriCorps Vista Program at the City of Renton. The goal was to create community engagement through art. At the same time, they wanted the students to experience the process of creating public art.

Since the club’s formation, members of the club had been busy working towards both goals. Their first project involved placing rocks that they placed around the community. The goal was to spread joy and bring excitement to those who found them.

Their latest project was a little more ambitious: students painted acrylic artwork on 11” x 14” hardboards with the intent for their design to be incorporated into a utility box wrap within the Benson community.
This Week in Renton

For this project, they were assisted by Yvonne Chan, a local artist. Yvonne shared her experiences as an artist and gave the students a prompt—“dream world”—to reflect on while painting. The completed artwork was secured to the chain-link fence at the entrance of the school.

Yvonne is transforming the artwork into a utility box wrap via funding from Renton Municipal Arts Commission and the city’s Neighborhood Program. The wrap will encompass exact elements from each of the student’s artwork. It will be installed by TrafficWrapz the week of Sept. 13 on the corner of 108th Ave. SE and SE 168th St. in the Benson Hill neighborhood. Now when you see it, you’ll know the whole story.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Helping kick off construction of the Solera Project are (left to right) Councilmember Ruth Pérez; David Ratliff, president of DevCo LLC; Jack Hunden, founder of DevCo LLC; Mayor Armondo Pavone; Councilmember Angelina Benedetti; and Charles Seil, Planning Commission Vice-Chair.

Solera project breaks ground

On Tuesday, we held a groundbreaking for the Solera project in the Sunset neighborhood. The project is the cornerstone of our ongoing redevelopment of the Sunset area. It will bring much-needed affordable and market-rate housing units: 275 affordable housing units, 315 market-rate units, and 96 townhomes to the neighborhood. It also has approximately 39,000 sq. ft. of retail space, daycare facilities, and more than 1,000 parking spots.

The project is also the first to receive funding from the Evergreen Impact Housing Fund (EIHF). EIHF helps finance affordable housing projects in collaboration with the Seattle Foundation and five area credit unions.

DevCo, Inc., a privately held real estate investment company headquartered in Bellevue, will develop the project.

Loans and grants available through SBA

Renton small businesses and nonprofits still have time to apply for long-term, low-interest loans and small grants through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program. OneEastside will present a webinar on Sept. 8, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., featuring SBA speakers who will provide program updates and walk attendees through the application. Live interpretation provided in Arabic العربية, Spanish Español, Chinese 中文简体, Korean 한국어, Russian русский язык, Somali Soomaali, and Vietnamese Tiếng Việt.

PUBLIC WORKS

Taking stock of city sidewalks

Public Works has contracted with StreetScan to undertake an assessment of the city’s entire Vertical Measurement Unit (VMU) utilizing 3D imaging to gather detailed information on the sidewalks’ condition by measuring a sidewalk’s bumps, holes, tilt, slope, and acceleration. The imaging also notes surface textures and cracking.

The resulting reports will assist the department in making data-driven decisions for both sidewalk planning and repair. StreetScan’s crews will be collecting data through mid-September.
Schools are open; drive safely

Students in grades 1–12 returned to their Renton schools earlier this week. That means an increase in pedestrian traffic around district schools and the activation of the 20 mph speed limit in school zones.

When in school zones, please remember to:
• Slow down and watch for students crossing the street, especially near school zones and bus stops.
• Obey school bus and school zone laws. For example, it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus with an extended stop sign and lights flashing.
• Talk to your children about traffic safety.
• Be patient.

Volunteer during National Day of Service and Remembrance

We still have openings for two volunteer events for those 16 and older on Saturday, Sept. 11, at Tiffany Park (1902 Lake Youngs Way SE). The events commemorate National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Volunteers can install storm drain markers and distribute educational materials while walking the Rolling Hills and Victoria Hills neighborhoods. Or you can choose to be part of a park restoration project. Volunteers for both events will meet at the park at 9 a.m. You'll be finished by 11:30 a.m., and a light lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m.

Help shape our trees

Our Urban and Community Forestry Division is in the middle of developing a 10-year Urban Forest Management Plan. The plan will use input from residents to create an urban forestry road map, which will guide our growth as a sustainable, healthy, and vibrant city. Their second survey is now available through Sept. 30. The 11 questions will define values and preferences for maintaining and enhancing the urban forest now and for future generations.

COVID UPDATE

King County issues large gathering mask requirement

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 7, King County will require masks at large outdoor gatherings. The county defined “large gatherings” as 500 or more people. The
That virtual even Nearly In • Kaiser Permanente • HealthPoint • Building I. Masks are required inside. vaccination clinic Renton Technical College interpreters, captioning services and/or other accommodation for programs. request. Please Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available. Language support in Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese will be provided.

For questions or to reserve a vaccine please call 206-462-7184 or email vaccine.reservation@kaiserpermanente.org.

Renton Library hosts free vaccine clinic on Sept. 14

This clinic will be at the downtown Renton Library (100 Mill Ave. S, 98057) on Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 5-9 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome. Registration is not required.

Single-dose and 2-dose vaccines are available. The vaccine is available regardless of insurance, citizenship, or immigration status. Medical staff will provide information and answer questions. Interpreters will be available.

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available by request. Please contact the library at least seven days before the event for ASL interpretation, captioning services and/or other accommodation for programs.

Renton Technical College Renton Technical College and Bird’s Eye Medical are hosting a free COVID-19 vaccination clinic on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the RTC Cafeteria. Building I is required inside.

Walk-in clinics are available. No appointment is necessary.

Vaccines: Johnson & Johnson (1 dose), Pfizer & Moderna (2 doses). Parents or guardians must be present for minors younger than 18 years of age.

Persons who are 16-17 years old must have a parent or guardian call 866-893-3171 to schedule an appointment.

Kaiser Permanent

Kaiser Permanente members.

Schedule online.

King County

Getting vaccinated in King County IN-PERSON SERVICES

In-persons available Monday-Wednesday at City Hall

Nearly all of our 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 provide some services in city hall as follows:

Finance and programming center are open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. 9 a.m. to 4 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 for our library.

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COVID-19 VACCINES

Free vaccination clinic on Saturday

International Community Health Services and Viai Waii Asian Food Market will host a walk, a COVID-19 vaccination clinic Saturday, Sept. 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Viai Waii is located at 2523 NE Sunset Blvd, 98056. The clinic will offer both the Pfizer (2 doses) and Johnson & Johnson (1 dose) vaccines. Persons should be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.

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Municipal Court 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.

Council meeting recap
The council did not meet on Aug. 30. They will next meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 13. Committee of the Whole will meet at 5:45 p.m.

• Meeting documents (approved committee reports, motion sheets, and council committee meeting calendar)
• Council meeting video
• Committee of the Whole video
• Approval Minutes (up to 4 meetings)

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. Past meetings are available at rentonwa.gov/youtube.

CALENDAR
Dally, 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 giveaway 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 their new Renton Live Facebook page.

Library resources and events, ongoing. Filter by event, program, and location. kcls.org

Renton History Museum hosts When You Can’t Go Home, portraits by Karisa Keasey through Nov. 6. The exhibit couples inspiring stories with the facts surrounding the global refugee crisis. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 4, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Art Swap hosted by Renton Municipal Arts Commission, 1713 Union Ave NE. 98058-3901. Bring gently used art supplies to swap or donate. Open to all makers, crafters, artists, and supporters. Free.

Saturday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Mini Recycle Event accepting Styrofoam & documents for shredding. Renton Technical College, North Parking Lot, NE 6th Place & Monroe Ave. NE. See rentonwa.gov/recycleevents for details on accepted materials.