



THIS WEEK IN RENTON

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

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Youth Traffic Court

Municipal Court Judge Jessica Giner convenes innovative option for 16 & 17 year old drivers charged with low-level offenses

Renton Municipal Court continues to innovate; introduces Youth Traffic Court

Renton Municipal Court provides innovative options for residents charged with low-level offenses.

Last July, [Renton Community Court](#) was established to provide community service and pre-trial diversion options. (*Renton plans Community Court; TWIR: Feb. 19, 2021*)

The court has now added [Youth Traffic Court](#) to provide options for youth drivers cited with civil infractions starting Feb. 16.

The court is one of several [youth court diversion programs around Washington state](#). Youth courts have been [recognized under state law since 2002](#).

The program allows 16- and 17-year-old drivers to have cases heard by a jury of their peers instead of appearing in an adult courtroom. Juries are composed of students from Renton high schools.

Civil infractions heard in Youth Traffic Court could include speeding, speeding in a school zone, and using a personal electronic device while driving. Youth Traffic Court does not hear criminal or criminal traffic charges.

"New drivers can learn from their mistakes and focus on alternative ways of making our community whole," explains Municipal Court Judge Jessica Giner. "The alternative includes community service, letters of apology, or writing essays rather than a long-term impact on their driving record or a monetary penalty. Our goal is to help improve driver and community safety."

By using a jury of their peers, the process commits to restorative justice and fairness. To earn a dismissal of their case, the court gives those cited with infractions the opportunity to complete alternative conditions instead of paying a fine. The conditions are determined by the Youth Traffic Court jury. One of the options as a condition of the program includes serving on a youth court jury.

The program receives educational and promotional support from Renton Police Department's patrol and traffic divisions. In addition, high school students, their parents, and teachers can talk to their school's School Resource Officer.

Program applications are [online](#) and can be emailed to rmcourt@rentonwa.gov. They are also available at Renton City Hall on Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

High school students interested in learning more about serving as team members or in having their infraction case heard in Youth Traffic Court should contact Judge Giner through the [program's webpage](#).



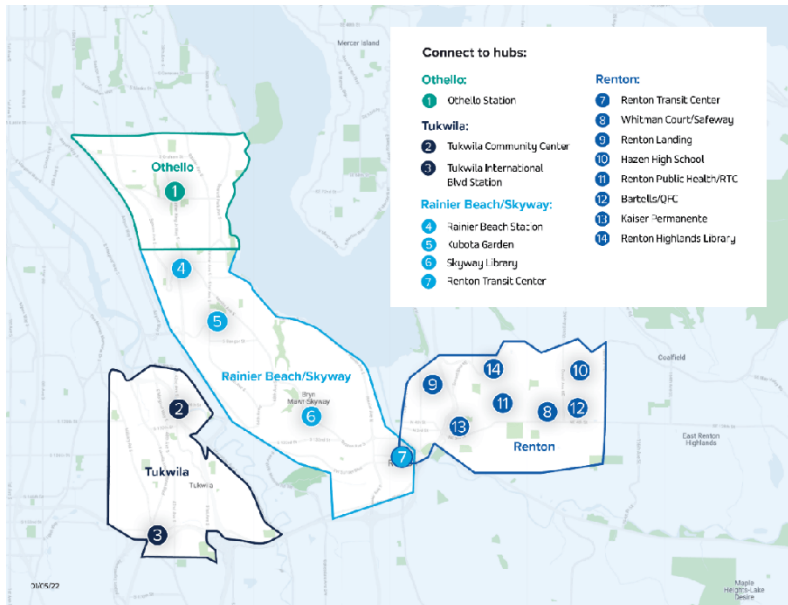
Passport processing at City Hall

The courts have reinstated passports processing by appointment only. [Passports are now processed](#) on

Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call the Court Clerk's office at 425-430-6550 to schedule an appointment. Currently, appointments are full until April, but cancellations do happen.

The United States Post Office does handle [first-time passport applications and renewals](#).

Other court services [are available in person at Renton City Hall](#) on Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Metro expands Via to Transit on-demand service to Renton Highlands

This week Metro expanded [Via to Transit](#) options in Renton Highlands.

Via to Transit is an on-demand service that makes getting to and from transit centers and key community hubs easier and more accessible. It is available to anyone in the Renton Highlands service area by downloading the Via app ([Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)).

Metro's expansion will help people move within Renton Highlands and between the Highlands and elsewhere in our region through expanded services hours and more routes.

Via to Transit is available Mondays through Saturdays from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sundays from 6 a.m. to midnight at these transit hubs in the Highlands:

- Renton Transit Center
- Kaiser Permanente Renton
- Bartell's/QFC (at NE 4th St/Duvall Ave NE)
- Renton Highlands Library
- Renton Technical College/KC Public Health (new)
- Renton Landing (new)
- Hazen High School (new)
- Safeway/Starbucks/Post Office NE 4th St and Union Ave NE (new)

Via to Transit costs the same as riding the bus: \$2.75 for adults, \$1.50 for ORCA LIFT and youth, \$1 with Regional Reduced Fare Permit, and free for children ages five and younger. Using an [ORCA card](#) lets you transfer fares between Via to Transit and buses or Link light rail. You can also pay with a [Transit GO Ticket](#) or a credit/debit card in the Via app/call center.

Accommodations are available for riders with disabilities.

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](#)

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

[Recreation Guide: January and February](#)

[Renton History Museum](#)

[Traffic Projects](#)

[Winter Weather Response](#)