



This Week from the Mayor



AUGUST 4, 2016

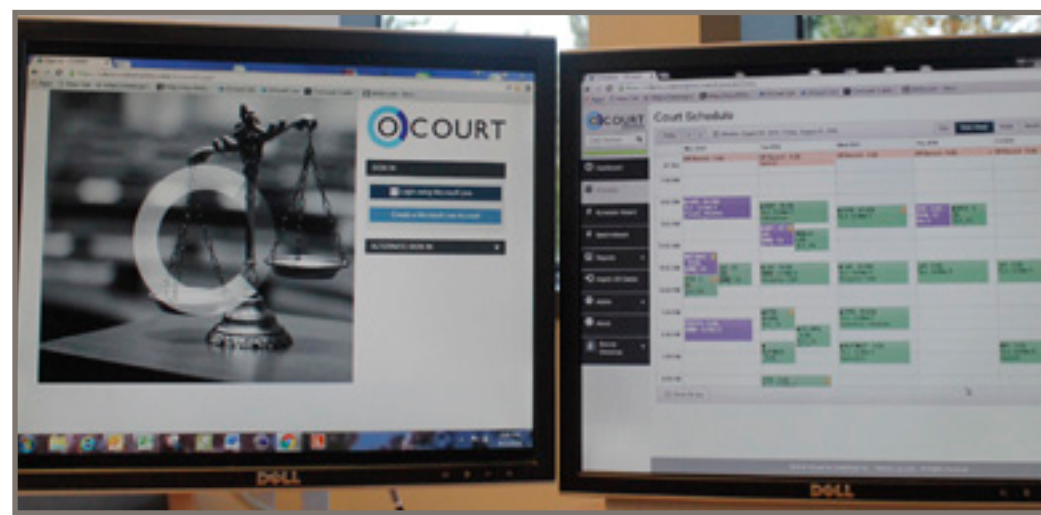
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Inclusion and more

In June 2015 I formed the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force to support the city's mission and goal to serve everybody living and working in our very diverse community. Our task force, which is made up of community leaders representing African Americans, Chinese, East African, East Indian, Filipino, Islamic, Japanese, Latino, LGBTQ, Sikhs, Somali, Sudanese, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, and Renton's senior population, have accomplished a great deal in the past two years. Communications between our residents and the city has been dramatically improved, and the task force has been engaging all of our community members to participate in local events and projects.

The latest project the task force is working on will be a multi-cultural festival that will be held downtown on September 30 and October 1, with dances and entertainment, food booths and other exciting activities for the entire community. You'll soon begin to see a lot of promotion for this upcoming event.

Participants in the recent Renton River Days parade represented a number of diverse cultures. This photograph I took of a woman marching with performers from the Sikh community, carrying an American flag, made me feel proud of where we have come as a community, where people from all backgrounds and cultures come together to live, work and play together. We have made a lot of progress in meeting our goal of building an inclusive city with opportunities for all.



Court goes paperless, increases efficiency, saves taxpayers money

Renton Municipal Court has implemented OCourt, a new cloud-based records system that is saving Renton taxpayers over \$405,000 just this past year. OCourt has created a near-paperless court, making jobs easier and increasing the number of cases judges can hear while utilizing fewer employees. Our court used to hear about 30,000 cases a year and we've been able to increase that number by about 1,000. We are the only court in the region that is using this system and were recently showcased by Microsoft Corporation for our pioneering work.

WELCOME



JAN HAWN

I'm pleased to announce that Jan Hawn has joined our city staff as Administrative Services Director. Jan is part of our senior management team and will lead the Administrative Services Department, which consists of the Finance, Information Technology, City Clerk and Utility Billing divisions. She comes to us from Bellevue where she was their Finance Director.

Jan replaces the retiring Iwen Wang, who served the city with distinction for eight years. Iwen leaves some pretty big shoes to fill, but with her strong background, we know Jan will keep us moving forward.

FEEDBACK

If you have comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please email me at communications@rentonwa.gov. Thanks for reading.



First Financial Northwest opens branch at The Landing

First Financial Northwest has opened a new branch at The Landing. This is their fourth branch office in Washington. The bank is also renewing their partnership with the Renton High School football team where bank staff tutors the players on key financial topics. Congratulations First Financial! We had a ribbon-cutting event last week to celebrate their continued commitment to Renton. Thank you for choosing Renton and for giving back to our community.