

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



In This Issue...

1. Thurston County Designated "SolSmart Silver" for Solar Energy Leadership
2. Thurston County Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 23
3. The Commissioners Proclaimed September 15 through October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month
4. Thurston County Manager Ramiro Chavez Resigns, Effective October 5
5. Accepting Applications for the Climate Mitigation Community Advisory Workgroup

#1 - Thurston County Designated 'SolSmart Silver' for Solar Energy Leadership



Thurston County received a 'Silver' designation from the national [SolSmart](#) program for encouraging the growth of clean, affordable solar energy at the local level. As a SolSmart designee, Thurston County adopted nationally recognized best practices to advance solar market growth. The county worked with SolSmart's no-cost technical assistance team to

increase local knowledge of solar energy so the entire community can benefit.

“Solar energy is an important strategy of the [Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan](#) to help reduce local greenhouse gas emissions while helping our residents and businesses save money on their utility bills,” said Rebecca Harvey, Thurston County’s Climate Mitigation Senior Program Manager. “The City of Tumwater also received SolSmart ‘Silver’ designation this week, which is just one example of how the county is working with the cities toward shared climate goals.”

For more information and resources on solar, visit thurstoncountywa.gov/solar.

#2 - Thurston County Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 23

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



PREPARE TO PROTECT

Preparing for emergencies is protecting everyone you love

THURSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

PREPAREDNESS EXPO

Saturday, September 23, 2023

10 AM TO 2 PM

Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School
237 Dennis St Tumwater, WA

Come learn how we protect you, and how you can prepare to protect
yourself from emergencies.

Free activities for the whole family!

Community Emergency Response Team—Law Enforcement—Fire Department

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em/Pages/prep-expo.aspx>



THURSTON COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Bucoda • Confederate Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation • Lacey • Nisqually Indian Tribe
Olympia • Rainier • Tenino • Thurston County • Tumwater • Yelm

September is National Preparedness Month and a great opportunity to learn how to prepare for emergencies and protect yourself and your family.

Thurston County Emergency Management Council is hosting a free [Preparedness Expo](#) on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School in Tumwater.

Please join us and learn how we protect you, and how you can prepare to protect yourself from and during emergencies.

There will be free activities for the whole family. Don't miss it!

#3 - The Commissioners Proclaimed September 15 through October 15 as National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month



The Thurston Board of County Commissioners proclaimed September 15 through October 15 as National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month. This proclamation celebrates the Hispanic and Latino community and highlights its countless achievements. Representatives from the [Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs](#), [CIELO - Centro Integral Educativo Latino de Olympia](#) and [Hispanic Roundtable of South Sound](#) shared information about their organizations and the resources they provide locally.

Watch the proclamation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S61ZrX-IrAc>

#4 - Thurston County Manager Ramiro Chavez Resigns, Effective October 5



On August 29, Thurston County Manager, Ramiro Chavez submitted his letter of resignation to the Board of County Commissioners, effective October 5. Chavez's last day serving as the County Manager will be Wednesday, October 4. Chavez has accepted a conditional offer with the City of Tacoma as their Public Works Director.

"Being a part of this exceptional team has been a truly remarkable experience, and I am honored to have served as Thurston County Manager. I extend my utmost gratitude to the Board of County Commissioners and the entire staff for their support," said Chavez. He added, "I am confident I have exerted my utmost effort to serve the community to the best of my abilities"

In a two to one vote, the Board of County Commissioners selected Assistant County Manager, Robin Campbell to serve as the Interim County Manager while they move

through the hiring process.

Commissioner Gary Edwards said about his 'no' vote, "I nominated Rob Gelder because he is a new, fresh face at the county." He added, "I believe he would have provided an opportunity for a clean slate and is a well-qualified individual for the interim county manager position, as he is currently serving as one of the assistant county managers."

"Speaking for the board, I want to thank Ramiro for his years of service at Thurston County and his leadership in this role," said Chair of the Board, Carolina Mejia. "We wish him the best of luck in this new chapter."

#5 - Accepting Applications for Climate Mitigation Community Advisory Workgroup

**Help shape the next
steps for climate action
in the Thurston Region**



Now Accepting Applications for the Community Advisory Workgroup

As the Thurston region moves forward to address the climate crisis, let your voice be heard! The Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative (TCMC) is now accepting applications for the Community Advisory Workgroup (CAW). Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater have come together as the TCMC to create the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, which aims to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030, and 85% by 2050, compared to 2015 levels.

The CAW meets monthly to share community perspectives and provide feedback on strategies and actions to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions. Experience in climate science or climate policy is not required. We encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds including youth, seniors, tribal members, people with disabilities, people of color, business owners, poor and working-class folks, professionals—in short, anyone who cares about our community and wants to share their perspective on climate solutions! As a member, you can receive compensation of \$50 per meeting, unless you are paid by your employer while attending meetings.

The application will be open through September 30, 2023. Learn more and apply online at www.ThurstonCAW.org.

Stay current on upcoming public hearings, meetings, and work sessions by bookmarking the [Board of County Commissioners' master calendar](#)! Please call the Board of County Commissioners office at (360) 786-5440 if you're having problems viewing the calendar.

Thurstoncountywa.gov



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