

# Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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## #1 - April is Work Zone Safety Month



April is Work Zone Safety Month in Thurston County! [Target Zero Task Force](#) is conducting extra patrols throughout the month to bring awareness to reduce distractions and other traffic violations in work zones. Most drivers understand the law requires motorists to move over or slow down for emergency vehicles, but the law also includes work crews such as WSDOT and local Public Works departments. The Target Zero Task Force reminds all drivers to stay safe and avoid a pricey ticket by planning ahead to avoid construction zones when possible, staying focused, and slowing down. Road crews count on drivers to do their part to help send them home safely!

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## #2 - Stream Team Summer Activities and Programs



Thurston County's population was expanding in the early 1990s, and so was the need to protect our shared water resources. The Cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater, and Thurston County collaborated to form [Stream Team](#), a group of educators, scientists, and habitat specialists. During the last thirty years, Stream Team has coordinated thousands of hours of family-friendly lectures, community science opportunities, restoration events, volunteer training, and K-12 programming. Stream Team shares the message that each small action you take adds up to a future of clean water. Habits like picking up pet waste, practicing natural yard care, and taking your car to a commercial car wash all contribute to healthy drinking water, swimming, and fish populations!

Stream Team is gearing up for a summer full of fun activities and programs you can be a part of:

- **World's Ocean Day:** A celebration of the ocean, full of music, food, and fun.
- [Nature Sleuths](#): A do-at-your-own-pace scavenger hunt in local parks.
- [Marine Creature Mondays](#): A chance to get up close and personal with Boston Harbor Marine Life.
- [Stream Bug Monitoring](#): Learn why stream bugs are an indicator of the health of the water.
- **Salmon Stewards:** Volunteers share their knowledge about the local salmon runs.

Be sure to check out the newly updated [Stream Team Newsletter](#) for information. To get involved or learn more, go to: [StreamTeam.info](#)

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## #3 - Thurston County Designated Green Business





This April, Thurston County proudly joins more than 100 other business and organizations as a designated “[Thurston Green Business](#).” The county received its certificate at the [Thurston County Chamber of Commerce’s](#) Green Business Forum on Wednesday, April 12. The county was recognized for its progress in transportation and commute trip reduction, solid waste and recycling, and social performance indicators. Specific actions include adding electric vehicles to the county fleet, updating the county’s telework policy, reducing use of single-use plastics, and composting in some county offices. With the recent hiring of the Climate Mitigation Senior Program Manager, Rebecca Harvey, Thurston County is expanding its green initiatives and integrating carbon reduction goals across county programs and operations.

Visit the [Climate Mitigation Program](#) webpage to learn more.

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## **#4 - Reminder: Special Election is Tuesday, April 25**



The Thurston County Auditor's Office reminds voters the deadline to return ballots for the Special Election is Tuesday, April 25. Districts included in the special election are the Cities of Olympia and Tumwater, and the Centralia School District. If you have not received a ballot or misplaced your ballot, you can request a replacement the following ways:

- E-mail [elections@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.thurston.wa.us)
- Call the Auditor's Elections Division at 360.786.5408
- Download a ballot at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov)
- Visit the Voting Center at 2400 Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia 98502.

Return envelopes must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 25, or deposited into one of 13 ballot drop boxes no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Drop box locations are listed at [ThurstonWAVotes.gov](http://ThurstonWAVotes.gov), in the voters' pamphlet, and in the ballot packet. Voters who mail their ballot should check mailbox pickup times to make sure the ballot will receive an Election Day postmark. No stamp is necessary. The Thurston County Auditor's Elections Office is a designated voting center during business hours. Voters may register to vote, update their current registration, obtain a ballot, or use a voting assistance device at the Voting Center.

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## **#5 - Property Taxes are due April 30**





The deadline for Thurston County residents to pay their 2023 first half property taxes is April 30, 2023. Because the 30th falls on a Sunday this year, the law allows the payment to be made the next business day, which is Monday, May 1st without late fees being added.

Taxpayers have four options for paying their property taxes:

- **Online:** Pay online at [www.thurstoncountywa.gov/treasurer](http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/treasurer). There is no additional charge for the electronic check payment option on-line, but there is a 2.35% transaction fee for a major credit card payment and a flat fee of \$3.95 for a VISA debit card payment.
- **Mail:** Mail check or money order payments to the Thurston County Treasurer, 3000 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Payments made by mail must be postmarked by May 1, 2023.
- **Drop Off:** Payments can be dropped in the secure outside drop box located near the flag poles – at our new office location of 3000 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia.
- **In-Person:** Payments can be made in person at the Treasurer's Office. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. If paying by credit card there is a 2.35% transaction fee and a flat fee of \$3.95 for a VISA debit card payment.

As required by Washington State law, late fees will be charged for those who do not make their tax payment on time.

Treasurer staff are available to answer your questions by phone or email during our business hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Call us at 360-786-5550 or email us at [trsr@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:trsr@co.thurston.wa.us).

You can also sign up for Paperless Property Tax Bills to receive future property tax bills electronically, saving paper and postage. For those who create an account, it comes with the option to schedule your tax payment in advance of the due date and email payment reminders will be sent ahead of the due date. To learn more or sign up for this service please visit our website at [www.thurstoncountywa.gov/treasurer](http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/treasurer).

## Before you go....

The Commissioners proclaimed April 22 Earth Day in Thurston County



On Tuesday, April 18, the Commissioners proclaimed April 22 as Earth Day in Thurston County. Thurston County provides regional leadership to enhance sustainability for its citizens and for future generations. Students from Marshall Middle School presented at the proclamation about the environmental and sustainability projects they have been working on in their community.

Watch the proclamation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLW8MQXI9PA>

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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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