

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - Commissioners Proclaim May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

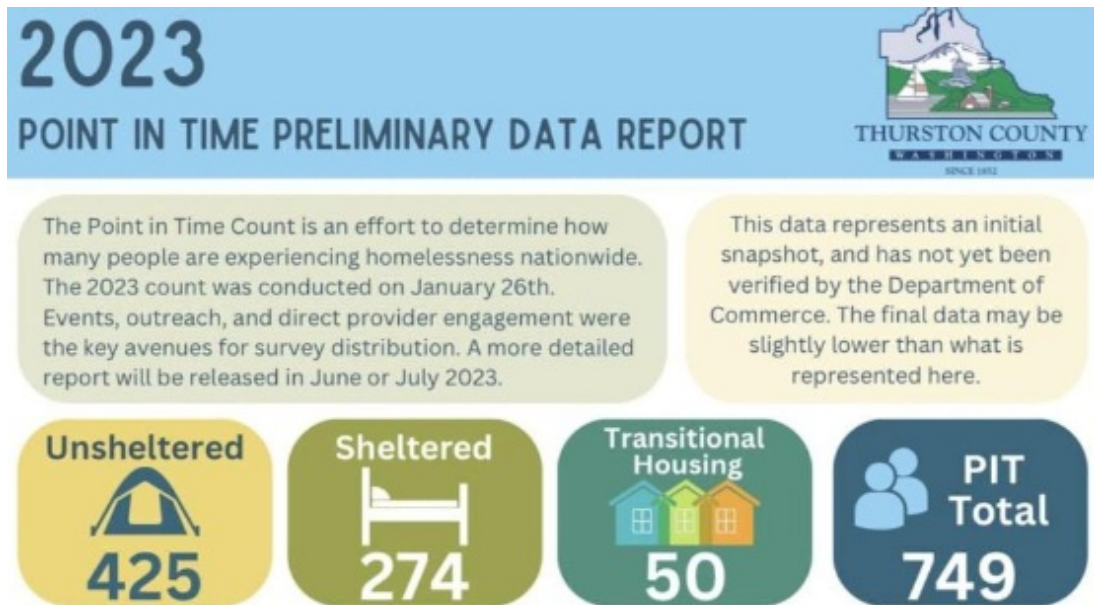


On May 2nd, the Board of County Commissioners proclaimed the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. This proclamation honors and recognizes the work and accomplishments of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Representatives from the Japanese American Citizens League and the Asian Pacific

Islander Coalition of South Puget Sound were present to receive the proclamation.

You can watch the proclamation on the [Thurston County YouTube](#) channel.

#2 - 2023 Point-in-Time Homeless Census Preliminary Data Released



The Point-in-Time Homeless Census (PIT) is an effort to count all people experiencing homelessness in Thurston County. Public Health and Social Services, Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention (OHHP) conducts the PIT count annually on the last Thursday in January. While the count represents a single night, the process of gathering information takes place over the course of the week, which includes conducting surveys, doing outreach, and holding events to drive engagement. The Homeless Management Information System, a database for homeless service providers across Washington, and a mix of surveys were used to conduct this year's count. The quality of data varies from year to year depending on methodology used, the weather, and other complications related to unsheltered homelessness. This year's PIT occurred on January 26, 2023. It collected data on individuals who are unsheltered (living outdoors), in emergency shelter, living in RVs/vehicles, or living in Transitional Housing. This is a preliminary count, so members of OHHP work in collaboration with the Department of Commerce to audit and confirm the list.

749 people have been included in the preliminary count, 323 of which slept out of doors or in their vehicle or RV. This year marked a dramatic shift from the previous two years, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the PIT, events like two days of free laundry were provided to support various populations, including seniors, youth, and young adults. Each of these events provided opportunities to connect individuals to the survey, different service providers, community resources, incentives, and survival gear.

The PIT is a great opportunity for housed community members to volunteer and engage with the homeless community. Thurston County partnered with United Way, to bring in more than 60 volunteers across the different events. We expect the final report to be published by the end of May 2023.

Read more information about the [2023 PIT Homeless Census](#).

#3 - Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program Launches in Thurston County

THURSTON COUNTY ARE YOU WILDFIRE READY?

Sign up to get your free Wildfire Ready Plan and
get entered to win a \$300 Rochester Lumber gift card.



PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IN FOUR STEPS:

- 1. Join Wildfire Ready Neighbors**
Sign up at WildfireReady.com or by phone at 1-877-WA-READY.
- 2. Get your FREE Wildfire Ready Plan and schedule a consultation from our local wildfire experts**
We'll give you an action plan to help you prepare for wildfire based on your property, budget and lifestyle.
- 3. Get entered to win a \$300 Rochester Lumber gift card**
If you join before **MAY 29**, you'll be automatically entered to win.
- 4. Help reduce wildfire risk in our county**
Put your Wildfire Ready Plan into action to protect your property, connect with local resources and contractors, and help your community.

ÚNETE A LISTOS PARA LOS INCENDIOS

Obtén un plan de protección para tu propiedad gratuito y participa para ganar un premio de \$300.

ListosParaIncendios.com

WildfireReady.com | 1-877-WA-READY

*Winners will be randomly selected from all program participants in June 2023 and contacted via the email or phone number provided at sign up.
Gift cards are valid only at Rochester Lumber.

Wildfires are a fact of life. But when we come together as neighbors, we can reduce the risk wildfires pose to our properties, homes, and community. By working together, everyone benefits.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources has launched their Wildfire Ready Neighbors program in Thurston County. You can take action today to be prepared and ready for wildland fires. Thurston County residents can visit WildfireReady.com to sign up and get a free Wildfire Ready Plan.

#4 - Celebrate Prairie Appreciation Day on Saturday, May 13



Join Thurston County's Community Planning and Noxious Weeds departments, Stream Team, and many other local organizations at this year's Prairie Appreciation Day on May 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.!

Prairie Appreciation Day features guided walks and activities highlighting the ecology, history, and cultural significance of prairies.

Prairies are an essential part of the South Sound landscape. Some of the services they provide include:

- Supporting pollinators
- Providing open space for birdwatchers and nature-walkers
- Protecting nearby communities from wildfire
- Sequestering carbon

They are also culturally significant to many Indigenous communities in the region who have long relied on prairies for food, medicine, and ceremony.

During Prairie Appreciation Day, attendees can learn about the history of prairies in the region, the challenges they face from development and invasive species, the ongoing efforts to protect and restore them, and what you can do on your property to support this rare ecosystem.

The event is organized by Friends of Puget Prairies and is a great opportunity for people of all ages to connect with nature and learn about the importance of preserving our natural heritage.

Visit the [Prairie Appreciation Day website](#) for more event information.

#5 - View the April 2023 Special Election Results



Daily results from the April 25, 2023 Special Election are posted at the [Auditor's Election Division webpage](#). As of Thursday, May 4, turnout in the elections for the cities of Olympia and Tumwater and the Centralia School District precincts in Thurston County is 33.61%.

Following the election, election materials (including results) are stored on the [Auditor's Election Archive page](#).

The special election will be certified today, Friday, May 5 by the canvassing board. You can find more information on certification, the canvassing board, and other election activities at the [election schedule](#).

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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