

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - Free Composting Workshops with the Master Recycler Composter Program of Thurston County

Free Composting Workshops with the Master Recycler Composter Program of Thurston County



The Master Recycler Composter Program of Thurston County is hosting free composting workshops throughout the year. No advance registration is required for in-person workshops. Three upcoming workshops on food and yard waste composting will take place:

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dirt Works Demonstration Garden, 530 Alta Street SW, Olympia WA 98502

Sunday, July 9, 2023

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Closed Loop Park Demonstration Garden, 2420 Hogum Bay Rd. NE, Lacey WA 98516

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dirt Works Demonstration Garden, 530 Alta Street SW, Olympia WA 98502

Please note: The demonstration gardens are outside so dress for the weather. Seating is limited and filled on a first come, first served basis. Handouts are available at the demonstration.

For more information, visit the [Composting Workshops](#) webpage.

Can't make a workshop? Email your composting/recycling/waste reduction/gardening questions to our Question/Answer Clinic at master@co.thurston.wa.us.

Certified Master Recycler Composter and WSU Master Gardener volunteers are answering your questions via email and at select in-person events around Thurston County. This service is free. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

#2 - Volunteer to be a River Spotter with Thurston County Emergency Management



Thurston County Emergency Management is seeking volunteers who live by or visit area rivers to become River Spotters. River Spotters safely observe river conditions and send photos of the rivers throughout the year to help provide real-time information and visuals of what the rivers are doing at any given moment. This information will help responders effectively manage and respond to river conditions.

The four main rivers in Thurston County are the Chehalis, Deschutes, Nisqually, and Skookumchuck. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has gauges along each of these rivers to measure stream flow in cubic feet per second. While this is helpful in knowing when flooding might occur, visual observation is the best way to know how the river's flow corresponds to the gauges. In addition, the gauges often do not accurately reflect a river's immediate condition upstream and downstream due to changes in the river's course, sediment, or debris.

If you are interested in becoming a River Spotter, contact Sonya Kroese with Thurston County Emergency Management at 360-280-3993, or sonya.kroese@co.thurston.wa.us.

#3 - Public Hearing to be held June 13 for 2023 Clements Open Space Application

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing



The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public on Tuesday, June 13 at 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. on the 2023 Clements Open Space Application.

For more information about meetings, public hearings, and work session agendas, visit: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/board-county-commissioners/meetings-public-hearings-and-work-session-agendas>

#4 - Suspect a Harmful Algae Bloom? Here is What You Should Do

Harmful Algae Bloom



What to do if you suspect an algae bloom:

- ✓ Do not drink water
- ✓ Avoid contact with water
- ✓ Do not swim or water ski in areas with algae
- ✓ Keep pets and livestock away from bloom areas
- ✓ Do not eat fish that come from the lake during an algae bloom

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are bacteria which have some of the characteristics of plants. Cyanobacteria often form blooms when conditions are favorable, typically during warm summer and early fall months. In our state, toxic blooms also can occur during colder winter months.

Because many cyanobacteria species can regulate their buoyancy, they often rise to the surface of the water to form a surface scum. A scum is a thin oily-looking film that can become several inches thick (and can sometimes look like spilled paint). When conditions are good for a bloom, a lake or pond can change from clear to murky within just a few days.

What to do if you suspect an algae bloom:

When there is an algae bloom present or you suspect that an algae bloom is occurring, take extra precautions to avoid the health risks posed by potential toxins:

- Do not drink the lake water.
- Avoid contact with water containing algae.
- Do not swim or water ski in areas with algae.
- Keep pets and livestock away from areas where algae blooms are present.
- When fishing, use only catch-and-release of any fish caught during an algae bloom.
- Do not eat fish that come from the lake during an algae bloom.
- Avoid areas of scum when boating.

Report all suspected algae blooms using this [link](#), or call (360)867-2626.

How can we prevent algal blooms? Reducing nutrient pollution to waterbodies is the key action you can take to reduce these blooms. Here's how:

- Pick up after your pets and encourage others to do the same.
- Prevent livestock from entering the water and agriculture waste runoff.
- Reduce fertilizers and apply them at times to avoid runoff.
- Maintain your septic system.
- Plant native species to reduce erosion and runoff.
- Use water efficient equipment to reduce wastewater generated.
- Educate your community!

#5 - Board of County Commissioners Proclaim June as Pride Month



The Board of County Commissioners proclaimed the month of June in Thurston County as Pride Month to honor, celebrate, and recognize the accomplishments and history of the LGBTQIA+ community. Thurston County strives to uplift and honor those of the LGBTQIA+ community. Members of the [P-Flag Olympia](#) chapter, an organization committed to the civil rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community, shared their personal stories and upcoming pride celebrations open to the public.

Watch the Pride Month proclamation [here](#).

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.

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