

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - Watch the Latest Coffee with a Commissioner: Wildfire Preparedness and Smoke Safety



In the latest Coffee with a Commissioner episode, Commissioner Carolina Mejia has a conversation with Ben Miller-Todd, Thurston County's Emergency Services Director, and Jeff Johnston, Executive Director at Olympic Region Clean Air Agency. They discuss the health risks of wildfire smoke and how to prepare for wildfire season.

#2 - The Board of County Commissioners Proclaim Thursday, August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day



The Board of County Commissioners proclaimed Thursday, August 31 as International Overdose Awareness Day. The day remembers those who have been lost to a fatal overdose. Katie Strozyk, Opioid Response Coordinator at Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, shared information about the International Overdose Awareness Day resource fair, which occurred on Thursday in Olympia.

Watch the proclamation on the Thurston County [YouTube channel](#).

#3 - Parenting and Postpartum Support Group



Thurston County Parenting & Postpartum Support Group

Join other parents navigating the highs and lows of pregnancy, postpartum, and parenting infants



Where: **Olympia Timberland Library
Meeting Room**
(downtown Olympia location)

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month

1:30pm-3:00pm

Please note doors will close at 1:45pm to ensure a safe sharing environment. Arrivals after 1:45pm will kindly be asked to join the next scheduled meeting.

For more information call or text:
Teresa (360) 968-4037

-Infants and older children welcome!
(quiet activity provided for toddlers)

-free snacks!

2023

**Spring & Summer
Dates:**

May 4th, May 18th,
June 1st, June 15th,
July 6th, July 20th,
Aug 3rd, Aug 17th



Thurston County's Public Health and Social Services, [Parenting & Postpartum Support Group](#) is a new support group in Thurston County. It is designed to support families in the community who are navigating the highs and lows of pregnancy, postpartum, and parenting infants. The support group is held every first and third Thursday at the downtown [Olympia Timberland Library](#) from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This support group strives to provide a non-judgmental space to explore with families how they are feeling and doing. It is a wonderful place to get connected with other parents and experienced facilitators while navigating this journey into parenthood. The group offers parents a place to think about and process their experiences as new parents. Some topics of discussion include the impact of changes to identity, changes in our relationships with partner and others, the real impact of sleep deprivation, feelings around the birth experience, and differences between expectations and the reality of the perinatal period. This group is open to all parents in the period of pregnancy, postpartum, and parenting infants.

#4 - Regional "Ready, Set, Go!" Evacuation Campaign Kicks Off

KNOW WHAT TO DO

LEVEL 1 - BE READY

LEVEL 2 - BE SET

LEVEL 3 - GO NOW



For more information go to
www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em

With smoke recently inundating our region and the evacuations for the wildfires in the Spokane area on people's minds, the four Western Washington counties of King, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston are joining forces, along with partners, to launch a regional "Ready, Set, Go!" Evacuation Campaign. This initiative aims to simplify evacuation messages to the public. These clear, straightforward messages are intended to save lives as people prepare to evacuate.

This evacuation program is also intended for an all-hazards evacuation approach with an initial emphasis on wildfires.

Key Components of the Campaign:

1. **"Ready" Phase:** Be aware of the danger in your area and start preparing for possible evacuation. Monitor local media and check on neighbors. If you do not already have an evacuation plan or a Go! kit, assemble these now. Conditions can change suddenly, and you may not receive a Level 2 "Be Set" warning before you are ordered to Level 3 "Go! ." Prepare both the inside and outside of your home for fire. Leave if you feel unsafe -- do not wait for an official evacuation order.
2. **"Set" Phase:** Short notice evacuation likely in your area (Level 2) – Be prepared for sudden evacuation. People who need help or more time to evacuate — people with disabilities, people with small children, people with medical conditions and people with large animals — should evacuate now. Ensure your evacuation plan checklist is complete and that your Go! kit is in your vehicle. Stay informed and be aware of alerts from local law enforcement and fire departments. Always remember to leave if you feel unsafe, do not wait for an official evacuation order.
3. **"Go" Phase:** Evacuate immediately from your area (Level 3) – Go now! Danger in your area is current or imminent. Follow directions from law enforcement or fire departments and do not return home until officials have determined it is safe. Notification that it is safe to return home will be given as soon as possible.

"Wildfires are becoming a more common and frequent occurrence. We encourage our communities to be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice by building an emergency kit, making an emergency plan, and staying informed so that you are ready, set, and can leave when it's time to go!" said Kyle Bustad, Emergency Management Manager, Thurston County Emergency Management.

For more information on how to prepare your family for an emergency, visit the [Thurston County Emergency Management](http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em) webpage.

#5 - Thurston County Offices Closed for Labor Day,

September 4



Thurston County offices will be closed on Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day.

The county's Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) in Lacey will be open for regular hours. Check with your waste disposal company for curbside garbage and recycling collection schedule.

Call 9-1-1 for emergency police, fire, and medic services. Use 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies only.

Residents of unincorporated Thurston County are urged to call the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number at (360) 704-2740 for non-emergency issues like noise complaints.

County parks and trails are open for regular hours. This includes Burfoot Park, Frye Cove Park, Kenneydell Park, Deschutes Falls Park, and the Off-Leash Dog Park at the WARC.

Before you go....

Due to limited staffing, we will not be sending out the Friday Five on September 8. The Friday Five will be back in your inbox on Friday, September 15!

In the meantime, stay up-to-date on county news, updates, and events by following Thurston County on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

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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