



# Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County Update



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## #1 - Grow with the WSU Master Gardener Program of Thurston County

### Become a WSU Master Gardener Volunteer

Applications now accepted through December 8, 2023.



The application period for the 2024 WSU Master Gardener Volunteer Training is now open. The 2024 training course has 79 hours of comprehensive virtual, classroom, and field-based instruction, starting Friday, January 26, 2024, and ending Friday, June 7, 2024. This training is provided by the Washington State University (WSU) Thurston County Extension Master Gardener Program.

WSU Extension staff and regional experts will teach you how to use resources to research and educate best gardening practices. You will also learn how to answer horticulture questions from the general public. Training topics include basic botany, integrated pest management, soil science, plant identification, pest, and disease diagnosis, and more. In addition, you will complete lesson assignments at home between class sessions. After completion of training, participants are expected to share what they learned via horticultural-related community service.

Tuition for the training is \$325 and covers all course training supplies and field trips. Payment plans and a limited number of full or partial scholarships are available. The deadline to submit a volunteer application is 5 p.m. Friday, December 8, 2023. Applicants must be at least 18 years old to apply.

For more information about the training and the application process, visit: <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/ws-master-gardener-volunteer-training/>

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## #2 - Thurston County Joins the Justice Counts Initiative



# Justice Counts

## PARTNER ORGANIZATION

The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners signed a resolution to join the Justice Counts Initiative. This is a nationwide initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Justice' Bureau of Justice Assistance and co-led by a coalition of 22 organizations representing a broad range of criminal justice expertise.

By joining the Justice Counts Initiative, the county gains access to free technical assistance from the initiative's team. The metrics and digital infrastructure are designed to be feasible and useful for law and justice practitioners and decision-makers alike. With the support of the Board of County Commissioners and our law and justice stakeholders, Justice Counts efforts in Thurston County will work toward the goal of accurate, accessible, and actionable law and justice data.

### **#3 - Apply to the Veterans Assistance Program**



The Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Veterans Assistance Program works with the Lacey Veterans Hub to provide wrap around services to veterans. Examples of services provided include housing support, medical resources, assistance with insurance, food services, mental health support, employment resources, and more. If you are a veteran who lives in Thurston County, you are encouraged to apply. Call 360-867-8236 or apply online at the [Veterans Assistance webpage](#) to see what services you may qualify for.

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### **#4 - Thurston County Public Works Prepares for Winter Weather**





Thurston County Public Works is finalizing preparations for the upcoming winter season to help ensure community safety and smooth access to essential services. The department has thoroughly reviewed its winter operations plan to address the challenges winter weather can bring to the region and mitigate impacts to county roads and facilities.

The Road Operations Division plays a central role in these preparations. Team members have completed an inventory of essential supplies, such as sand and anti-icing materials, ahead of the winter season.

"Our equipment is crucial for successful winter operations," said Mike Lowman, Public Works Road Operations Division Manager. "We've performed comprehensive inspections and maintenance on all machinery, from snowplows to sanders, to ensure they are ready to go when needed."

In addition to equipment readiness, every team member has undergone specialized training in equipment operation and emergency response protocols.

Read the full [news release](#) for more information.

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## **#5 - Thurston County Offices Closed November 23 & 24**



# Thurston County Offices Closed

## November 23 & 24, 2023

Thurston County offices are closed November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Day.

The county's Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) in Lacey will be closed on Thanksgiving, November 23. 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 the upcoming holiday, we will not be sending out the Friday Five on November 24. The Friday Five will be back in your inbox on Friday, December 1!

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



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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](http://Thurstoncountywa.gov)



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