

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - Winter Storm Resources in Thurston County



Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds lasting a few hours to several days. It can cut off heat, power, and communication services as well as put older adults, children, sick individuals, and pets at greater risk. There is also a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion during a storm.

To stay safe during winter storms, please refer to the updated winter related information and resources here are several helpful websites:

- [Thurston County Emergency Management](#)
- [Thurston County Public Works Winter Storm Response](#)
- [Puget Sound Energy Outage Map](#)
- [InterCity Transit Rider Alerts](#)
- [Washington State Department of Transportation Real-time travel data](#)
- [National Weather Service Forecast Information](#)

To stay connected, follow Thurston County Emergency Management on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#).

#2 - Thurston County Board of County Commissioners Award Treatment Sales Tax Funds



Thurston County
Treatment Sales Tax

Thurston County Board of County Commissioners Award Treatment Sales Tax Funds



These grants will provide critical mental health and substance use services to Thurston County residents.

For more information about Treatment Sales Tax visit:
www.thurstoncountywa.gov/tst

On January 9, 2024, the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners approved \$640,000 in Treatment Sales Tax (TST) funds over a two-year period for three community organizations to provide services in Thurston County. These awards will benefit Thurston County residents with mental health concerns or substance use disorders.

To qualify for TST funds, organizations must use evidence-based or promising practices, demonstrating consistent and effective help for people with substance abuse disorders or mental health concerns achieve their goals.

Read more about the awarded TST funds in the [news release](#).

#3 - Board of County Commissioners Proclaim January 15 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Thurston County



On January 9, the Board of County Commissioners issued their annual Proclamation recognizing the life, work, and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was an honor to have Dr. Thelma Jackson, Nat Jackson, and Rev. David Reaves give a short presentation and be present at the proclamation.

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

#4 - Thurston County Accepting Applications to Fund Conservation Projects



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO FUND CONSERVATION PROJECTS



[www.thurstoncountywa.gov
/planning/Pages/incentives
-conservation-futures.aspx](http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/incentives-conservation-futures.aspx)



Thurston County is seeking qualified projects to apply for Conservation Futures funding for 2024, with an application deadline of 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024. This is a great opportunity for landowners who wish for their land to remain undeveloped but would like the financial benefits of selling their property.

Conservation Futures is a land preservation program allowing landowners to sell their property or future development rights to a qualified conservation organization. To be eligible, a property must contain unique or valuable wildlife habitat, agricultural, forestry, historic, or recreational features. Applications must be sponsored by an eligible organization, such as a land trust or city government.

For more information or to download the application, visit the [Conservation Futures webpage](#).

#5 - Thurston County Point in Time Count



Every January, partners of the Thurston County Homeless Crisis Response System and community volunteers conduct a count of unsheltered individuals living in Thurston County. This annual event is called the Point in Time Count and it's required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Point in Time Count takes place over one week starting on the third Thursday of January. It's made up of a series of events where unsheltered community members can complete surveys, specifically asking where they stayed on the third Thursday night of January to count the unsheltered population at that specific point in time. In addition to the survey of unsheltered individuals, people staying in shelters and transitional housing are counted. The events include snacks, information about resources, and incentives like survival gear and winter clothing. This year, the Point in Time Count is from January 25 – February 1.

The data from the annual Point in Time Count is published and submitted to HUD to be included in national data. The [2023 Point in Time Count Report](#) was published earlier last fall and reports from previous years are available on Thurston County Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention's [Data and Reports](#) webpage.



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