



# County Up Close

Fall 2019: Volume 2, Issue 4

## **Ballot Drop Box's**

During the August primary election, a man knocked one of our ballot drop boxes off its base. He drove his SUV into the ballot drop box at the Lacey City Hall parking lot.

The strength of that drop box shows how important it is to us that we get your ballot on election day. The 28 drop boxes across Thurston County are the backbone of our ballot return system. Even though postage is paid on your ballot, more than half of Thurston County voters continue to use drop boxes. It also saves your tax dollars. Drop boxes remain the most reliable way to make sure your ballot makes it to our processing center.

[County Drop Box Location Map](#)



## **Flu Season**

Flu vaccines are now widely available, and free for children up to 18 years old. There may be an administrative fee, which can be waived by request, so call and ask if this is a concern. Unless a provider advises otherwise, everyone from the age of six months and older should get vaccinated. Those over 65 should talk with their provider first. Besides vaccination, the best methods of prevention are to cover your cough, crook of your elbow is best, wash your hands well, especially before eating, and stay home from school or work if you're sick. Remember the flu vaccine takes up to two weeks to provide full protection. The other methods of prevention will also help with colds or other viruses. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/illnessanddisease/flu> .





# MOVEMBER®

Image found at <https://us.movember.com/>

## Movember!!!

The Thurston County Board of Health will proclaim November as Movember at their next Board of Health meeting on November 5th. It's a month when men all over the nation grow a mustache to highlight health issues that impact men in their communities. Specifically, Movember is a charity organization that wants to shine a light on statistics around men's health and the steps men, and the people who love them, can take to help prevent prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health problems, and suicide. Their slogan for this year is "Whatever you grow, will save a bro." To learn more, get engaged, or to see prevention recommendations, visit <https://us.movember.com/>.

## Are you prepared for a flood?

One of the most frequent weather-related events that occur in Thurston County is flooding due to heavy rains. Do you know where frequent flood zones are located? Is your home prepared in the event a flood occurs? Find out information about sandbag stations review river graphs and more on the Thurston County Emergency Management website at:

<https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/Flood/FloodInfo.htm>

**FLOODPLAINS PREPARED**

**FLOODPLAINS PROVIDE**

**flood and erosion control**  
Floodplains develop ways to handle flooding and erosion with natural features that provide floodwater storage and passage. This reduces flood speeds, volume peaks, and curbs sedimentation.

**biological resources**  
Floodplains support a high rate of plant growth. This helps to maintain biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems.

**higher quality of life**  
Floodplains benefit people by providing soil for farming, recreational opportunities, and scientific knowledge. Understanding that floodplains are community assets, not "problem areas" can improve the quality of life for all residents. Parks, bike paths, open spaces, wildlife conservation areas, and aesthetic features are important to citizens. Assets like these make the community more appealing to potential employers, investors, residents, property owners, and tourists.

**EVACUATION DO'S AND DON'TS**

- DO** Prepare a Go-Kit with essential items such as food, water, medications, a flashlight, a battery operated radio, and extra batteries.
- DO** Fill your gas tank.
- DO** Develop a get-away plan that includes at least two additional reliable sources of transportation—a friend, relative, or other means.
- DO** Tell a friend or relative when you leave home and where you are going.
- DO** Take copies of important documents.
- DO NOT** Don't walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- DO NOT** Don't drive around road barriers. The road or bridge may be washed out!
- DO NOT** Don't drive on flooded roads. "Turn around, don't drown!" Even if you can see the road under the water, don't drive on it! As little as 18 inches of water can float a small car. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it quickly and climb to higher ground.

**EVACUATING FARM ANIMALS**

- Have transportation available and train animals to board vehicles.
- List neighbors within a 100-mile radius willing to board your animals if forced to evacuate.
- Identify local organizations prepared to rescue and house displaced livestock.
- Involve family and neighbors in making an evacuation plan for animals in barns and outlying buildings.
- Keep a supply of feed at a separate location that could be air-dropped if animals become stranded.
- Assemble leads, halters, species-specific first aid kits, quieting hoods for easy transport, and water.
- Keep photos of you with your pet and a copy of your ownership papers or brands with you at all times, in case you are separated from your animals.

**PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS**

1. Don't clear or build in a flood plain.
2. Maintain native vegetation along streams and rivers.
3. Do not dump anything in storm drains, ditches, or waterways.

## Look for #Thurston101 on Social Media!

# Welcome to Thurston 101!



Where we share weekly facts about your local government. Look for [#Thurston101](#) to learn about:

how your government works

what services we provide

and opportunities for you to participate



This year we're sharing facts about the services you receive from your local government on Facebook and Twitter. Keep an eye out for [#Thurston101](#)!

