



County Up Close

Thurston County, Washington

Fall 2018

Volume 1, Issue 3

Passport Services Come to Thurston County

Open Monday - Friday 8 am to 4 pm



[Learn More About Passport Services](#)

On October 15, the Thurston County Auditor's Office became the only passport services agency in the County to provide passport services five days a week for full business hours.

"We want to make sure our customers have easy access to passport services," said Jared Krause, manager of the Auditor's licensing and recording division. "Our office is joining the network of passport service providers in Thurston County so customers can apply for passports any day of the work week."

This marks the first time the County has provided passport services since it

suspended services in 2009, due to budget cuts. The new service will help meet increased demand for passports in South Puget Sound and across the state.

The number of passports issued in Washington has increased by 51% over the last five years, and demand is expected to rise as a result of the federal REAL ID requirements.

Standard state driver's licenses and ID cards (non-enhanced) will no longer be accepted at airports or border crossings beginning October 2020. Passengers will need enhanced drivers licenses or passports to board commercial airlines.

"Recently, we noticed a need for more passport service providers in the County given the significant increase in passport applications over the last few years and upcoming changes resulting from federal REAL ID," said Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall. "Customers can find our new passport services at the same location with the same friendly, professional and knowledgeable staff. We're looking forward to being part of your next adventure!"

The Auditor's Office expects to serve between 3,000 and 8,000 customers each year, with the number of customers growing over time as people become familiar with the service, and REAL ID requirements go into effect. Other passport service providers in Thurston County include the Olympia Post Office, the City of Lacey, and Yelm Municipal Court.

STAY INFORMED

SUBSCRIBE

Find Meeting Agendas and Briefing Packets at Thurstoncountywa.gov/bocc

Live Stream BoCC meetings at <https://goo.gl/xzmXqe>

BoCC Highlights

Approved contract for [comprehensive feasibility study](#) of three potential sites for a new Courthouse and Civic Center

Adopted a [Five Year Homeless Housing Plan](#) for Thurston County

Passed resolution affirming the [climate mitigation targets for the Thurston County region](#), as County continues work with other local governments to address climate change

Amended [Building and Construction Code \(Title 14\)](#), reducing permitting requirements and working to protect residents from flooding hazards

Submitted [Habitat Conservation Plan](#) to U.S. Fish and Wildlife for review

Broke ground on one of [five fish passage barrier removal projects](#) in Thurston County

Participated in 58th Annual [County Commissioners Pancake Breakfast](#) at the Thurston County Fair. Find pictures [here](#)

[County News Releases](#)

CONTACT US

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502-1045
(360) 754-3800

Disability Accommodations
(360) 786-5440

Speech or Hearing Disabilities
711 or 800-833-6388

Thurstoncountywa.gov



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Community Planning



Are you interested in developing and managing budget control systems and processes? The Community Planning and Economic Development Department is seeking a committed and professional Fiscal Manager to join their management team and direct the department's entire accounting and financial functions.

For more information, or to apply, please visit: <http://bit.ly/FiscalManager>

COUNTY BULLETIN

Opioid Response Task Force Meeting

Monday, Oct. 29, 3 pm - 5 pm
412 Lilly Rd. Olympia, Room 107

Public Hearing: Interim Marijuana Regulations Renewal

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 5:30 pm
2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia,
Building 1, Room 280

Rochester and Grand Mound Planning Open House

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 6 pm - 7:30 pm
Rochester High School Commons
19800 Carper Rd. SW, Rochester

[See the BoCC Master Calendar for additional meeting information](#)



What's in a Courthouse and Civic Center? You Tell Us!

Do you have an idea of what you would like to see in a new Courthouse and Civic Center facility in Thurston County? Come to one of our [open houses](#) on November 6 at the Lacey Community Center, or November 7 in Rainier or Rochester. There, you can learn more about the project and provide us with your feedback on site selection and what you think would make a new courthouse distinctly Thurston County. Can't make it? Don't worry! We will be recording one of the sessions and making it available on our [project webpage](#).



Go Paperless with the County Treasurer



The Thurston County Treasurer now offers a convenient and simple way for property owners to receive their annual property tax statement electronically. Taxpayers who create an online account and choose to go paperless can have their property tax statement delivered to their personal account, schedule a payment, view payment history, and receive email reminders of upcoming payment due dates. Access to property account information is online on a secure and easy to navigate website. Learn more or sign up for this new service at co.thurston.wa.us/treasurer/tax_info.htm.

Tobacco Free County Parks and Trails

The Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance amending the Park Code of Thurston County to prohibit smoking and vaping in Thurston County parks, preserves, and on Thurston County trails, on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Violation of the ordinance would be a misdemeanor offense, subject to the same penalties as other violations of the Park Code. This includes paying a fine on a first offense, which increases with each additional offense. Tobacco use is the leading contributor to heart disease, lung disease, and certain cancers. Learn more at thurstoncountywa.gov.



County Pilots Infant at Workplace Program



The County is piloting a one-year [Infant at Work project](#) at the Public Health and Social Services Department on Lilly Road. Employees can bring their infants aged six weeks to six months to work through September 2019. Research shows Infant at Work programs get parents back to work sooner, reducing the gender pay gap, and increases the duration of breastfeeding, which has life-time health benefits for mothers and children. The Commissioners will evaluate the results of the pilot, with the goal of determining lessons learned, for possible expansion to other County departments and offices.