

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - Water Safety Tips for the Summer



10 WATER SAFETY TIPS



If you grew up in the Pacific Northwest, or anywhere else with cold waters, you often learn about hypothermia. What you may not know is that cold-water shock and swim failure are risks that come before hypothermia. If you survive a fall into cold water long enough to get hypothermia — you're lucky. Many drowning victims die within minutes of going overboard due to cold-water shock. Follow the 10 tips of water safety, [provided by the CDC](#), to ensure you build a strong cold water safety net.

1. DO learn to swim. If you like to have a good time doing water activities, being a strong swimmer is a must.
2. DO take a friend along. Even though you may be a good swimmer, you never know when you may need help. Having friends around is safer and just more fun!
3. DO know your limits. Watch out for the “too’s” — too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much hard activity.
4. DO swim in supervised (watched) areas only, and follow all signs and warnings.
5. DO wear a life jacket when boating, jet skiing, water skiing, rafting, or fishing.
6. DO stay alert to currents. They can change quickly! If you get caught in a strong current, don’t fight it. Swim parallel to the shore until you have passed through it. Near piers, jetties (lines of big rocks), small dams, and docks, the current gets unpredictable and could knock you around. If you find it hard to move around, head to shore. Learn to recognize and watch for dangerous waves and signs of rip currents — water that is a weird color, really choppy, foamy, or filled with pieces of stuff.
7. DO keep an eye on the weather. If you spot bad weather (dark clouds, lighting), pack up and take the fun inside.
8. DON’T mess around in the water. Pushing or dunking your friends can get easily out of hand.
9. DON’T dive into shallow water. If you don’t know how deep the water is, don’t dive.
10. DON’T float where you can’t swim. Keep checking to see if the water is too deep, or if you are too far away from the shore or the poolside.

#2 - Let Thurston County Help You Host a Low-Waste Event



Whether you're planning a family reunion, community potluck, music festival, sporting event, or company picnic don't stress over making sure you have enough garbage and recycling receptacles! We provide free portable bins, signs, and bags for a successful event. Reservations are as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Decide how many bins you need.
2. Complete your reservation [online](#) or by contacting one of the [participating locations](#).
3. Pick them up before your event and return them after your event is over (during normal business hours).

Bins are available for Thurston County residents and businesses on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve yours [online](#) today! Learn more about our Borrow-A-Bin program and locations [here](#).

#3 - Residents Move into Maple Court, a New, Enhanced Homeless Shelter



Governor Jay Inslee attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at [Maple Court](#) on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. Maple Court, formerly the Days Inn in Lacey, is a new, enhanced homeless shelter that will house residents moving from the encampments along Interstate 5.

[Thurston Regional Housing Council](#) is leading a coordinated effort to implement a regional plan funded by the Governor's Rights of Way Initiative. "Rights of way," in this context, refers to the highways and freeways the state oversees. The goal of the [Rights of Way Initiative \(ROW\)](#) is to move people living on ROW sites into better living situations and permanently clear these encampments. Maple Court is one element of the regional plan. "This is multi-unit, over 125 people, getting them off our right of ways into housing. This is going big and going fast. Congratulations to everybody who's worked on this project." Governor Inslee said in his speech at the ceremony.

Maple Court has staff on site to help people access services and move into permanent housing. There are 118 furnished rooms for residents and six rooms for staff and case-management offices. The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) manages Maple Court. They manage similar properties around the state. LIHI established a community advisory group to meet monthly to address any potential questions and concerns from local business owners and residents.

#4 - Thurston County and City of Yelm to Hold Hearing on Yelm Joint Plan

Thurston County Public Hearing



The Thurston County and City of Yelm Planning Commissions will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to receive public testimony on the City of Yelm and Thurston County Joint Plan.

For more information about meetings, public hearings, and work session agendas, visit: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/board-county-commissioners/meetings-public-hearings-and-work-session-agendas>

You can view more detailed information about the proposal at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/rainier-tenino-yelm-joint-plans>.

#5 - Fire Safety Burn Ban in Effect July 5 through September 29



The Thurston County Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Thurston County Director of Emergency Services, Department of Natural Resources, and the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA), determined weather conditions within the county meet the fire danger level necessary to enact restrictions on outdoor burning to all lands regulated by Thurston County.

The Fire Safety Burn Ban applies to residential yard waste burning and all land clearing burns. The restrictions on outdoor burning during the summer have resulted in a significant drop in brush fires and property damage each of the past several years, according to fire officials.

“The fire safety burn ban is enacted when weather and fire fuel conditions reach a level of danger that may pose a threat to people and their property,” said Fire Marshal, Joshua Cummings. “The Department of Natural Resources has moved their fire risk on public lands in our region to ‘moderate’ which triggers the county’s process to enact the fire safety ban to minimize the threat of fires as much as possible through the restriction of residential and land clearing burns.”

For more information about the Fire Safety Burn Ban visit:

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/news/thurston-county-initiates-countywide-fire-safety-burn-ban-effective-wednesday-july-5>

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.



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