

PLAIN TALK

with Bud

Thurston County Commissioner
District #3
August 2016
Issue #4



Celebrating Swede Days in Rochester

Habitat Conservation Plan: Focus on Solutions

We can protect Thurston County property owners and the gopher

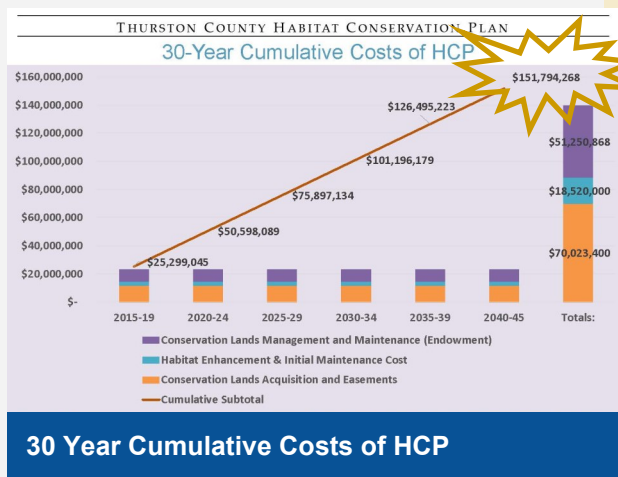
Protecting the habitat of the pocket gopher as well as 3 other ESA-listed species is a mandate from the federal government, one that Thurston County has responded to with its [Habitat Conservation Plan](#) (HCP).

Implementation of this plan imposes and proposes enormous financial burdens (\$151 mil) and land use restrictions, the lion's share of which falls on our taxpayers and property owners.

While we have discussed this extensively in [previous editions of Plain Talk](#), I believe it is time to focus on *balanced solutions* that maintain our environmental assurances, while ensuring our citizens can thrive in Thurston County.

We must find alternative solutions to 1) the high cost of financing the HCP, 2) the heavy toll of land mitigation, and 3) the confusing thicket of our land use policies.

[Read more](#)



To my Thurston County friends and neighbors,

Election season is upon us, both locally and on the national stage. With the retirements of Commissioners Wolfe and Romero, changes are coming here at the County. I am excited for the opportunity new commissioners can bring. For my short list in 2017, a few items I plan to tackle for the County include: Innovative Justice, Mental Health & Chemical Dependency Improvements, Economic & Environmental Policy Development, and Security (Law Enforcement & Courthouse).

Being efficient in how we conduct our business, being good stewards of the land we live on, and most importantly, being good stewards of your hard earned tax dollars is what drives me to keep working as your County Commissioner.

Bud Blake

Changes aimed at getting people into treatment, out of jails

2016 changes include new Thurston Mason BHO, Triage Center, Mobile Crisis Teams

It's a story repeated over and over again in Thurston County and across America: people who are suffering from addiction or mental illness are in crisis throughout the community, but the only opportunity they have to get help is when they are confronted by a police officer.

Cycling people through our criminal justice system over and over again without addressing the underlying causes of their behavior is not just unfair, it's also expensive. Finding ways to get people in crisis the resources, guidance and treatment they need is not only a moral obligation, it's in our taxpayers' best interest.

One of my top priorities as your County Commissioner has been to address this issue as one of our community's most pressing public safety challenges, and I'm pleased to report that through the newly formed Board of Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization, we have made significant progress in this area so far this year, with more in store for the second half of 2016. Here are a few highlights:

- New [Thurston-Mason Behavioral Health Organization](#)
- New Triage Center (Opening Sept 1, 2016)
- Coming Soon Mobile Crisis Teams



[Read More](#)

What's Next:

Find information about public hearing times and dates here:
<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/pub-mtgs-hrgs/posting-history.htm>

Thurston County Commissioners
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Building 1, Room 269
Olympia, WA 98502
Phone: 360-786-5414

blakeb@co.thurston.wa.us



Community News

COUNTY COMMISSION MID-YEAR UPDATE:

Items passed, proposed & in the pipeline

The first half of 2016 is now in the books, and the Board of Thurston County Commissioners has already accomplished quite a bit in the last seven months. But there are also a number of legislative items before the Board now, and several hot issues that will come to the Board in the second half of this year. Here are a few of the highlights:

WHAT'S PASSED:

- Fireworks amendment
- UGA Zoning Codes for Urban Ag
- Title 26
- Impact Fee Deferral

WHAT'S NOW:

- [On Site Septic System Management Plan Update](#)
- [Transportation Benefit District Vehicle License Fee](#)
- Marijuana Regulation Update– (Sept 20)

WHAT'S NEXT:

- Low Impact Development
- Habitat Conservation Plan
- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Sign Code update