



CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR ALL OF THURSTON COUNTY THROUGH RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE USE.

MARCH 2026

Commission

## Event Calendar

- March 9 - Commission Meeting (4 p.m.)
- March 16 - Commission Work Session (4 p.m.)
- March 17 - POCAC Meeting (4 p.m.)
- March 23 - Commission Meeting (4 p.m.)
- March 24 - Commission Retreat

## Commission

The Commission recently held a retreat to align on priorities for planning purposes for the years ahead. The commission has outlined their committee assignments and continue to attend and represent the Port at various partner organization events, forums, meetings and conduct speaking engagements throughout the community.

## Environmental

The Port's construction team has begun mobilization to install an upgraded stormwater treatment system at Swantown Boatworks. We're partnering with the Pacific Shellfish Institute on a ROSE grant project to test recycled oyster shells for heavy metal removal from stormwater, including spring and fall sampling. Staff will attend Washington's largest stormwater conference in March and are collaborating with the Budd Inlet Citizens Advisory Committee on an educational Story map about the regional environment.

## Marine Terminal

Labor continues to load pulp trucks daily going to local paper mills throughout the NW. February 20, 2026, the Global Symphony finished loading logs destined for Japan. The next import paper pulp vessel ETA from Brazil is March 11 and the next export log vessel ETA is March 23.

## Olympia Regional Airport

The airport is out to bid for a taxiway and apron rehabilitation project. This project provides important maintenance and protection for vital airport infrastructure while making significant safety improvements for aircraft operations. The project will start this September following the Streaked Horned Lark breeding season.

## Swantown Marina & Boatworks

As nicer weather quickly approaches, Swantown Marina is focusing on the upcoming boating season. We are currently planning for summer events and have booked 10 yacht club cruise reservations already, with more on the way. The office will return to summer operating hours as of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Real Estate

Extended the Commodities Unlimited lease in Tumwater through February 2029 as they continue to provide organic bark, compost, rock and topsoil to Thurston County. The Olympia Community Sailing just signed a license agreement that will allow the sailing program to operate out of Swantown Marina this spring. This non-profit organization is dedicated to creating a diverse sailing community in the greater Thurston County area by providing access, recreation, and competition for all through programs, classes and experiences for all ages and skill levels.



### In Focus: Meet Your Port Commission

As the newly formed Commission enters its third month, their collaborative work is helping shape the Port's strategic direction and priorities in service to our community. Together, they are focusing on responsible growth, environmental stewardship, and increased public outreach and transparency. You're invited to [connect with Commissioners](#) directly through our website and by attending [Port Commission meetings](#). Let your voice be heard and help guide the future of your Port.



### Vision 2050: Budd Inlet Update

West Bay Testing Results and Third Round of Sampling Set for March. With testing completed in both East and West Bays, the Port is now ready to sample the northern section of Budd Inlet. Although we may perform additional spot sampling as necessary, this will be the final round of sediment testing. To learn more about the encouraging results and likely clean up actions, read our most recent [BLOG HERE](#)

### Update: Proposed Waterfront Hotel Project

The Port of Olympia continues to advance long-term waterfront revitalization as part of its [Destination Waterfront vision](#), aimed at transforming the Port Peninsula into a vibrant, accessible and economically sustainable destination. As part of this broader initiative, a waterfront hotel proposal through a solicitation of interest has recently emerged as a potential development project. To learn more about the process and opportunity, [READ MORE HERE](#)

### AHA! Museum Partnership

The Port has established a local partnership with The Olympia Arts & Heritage Alliance Museum (Olympia AHA Museum). A gathering space where art, cultures, and history converge to honor our past, celebrate our present, and inspire our future. This partnership further highlights the ports mission to creating economic opportunities and building community for all of Thurston County through responsible resource use. [Learn more about AHA! Museum HERE.](#)