

Kitsap County District 2 Highlights

News from Your Kitsap County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido



Qaqad Park Ribbon Cutting

The Manchester community celebrated the opening of qaqad (pronounced ka-kawd), the new stormwater park in Manchester, on November 7. Despite the wet weather, approximately 70 people attended the festivities. Commissioner Garrido hosted the program, which included remarks by Public Works Director Andrew Nelson, and Suquamish Fisheries Director Rob Purser. The Suquamish Singing Group blessed the new park, and fourth graders from Manchester Elementary read a poem and performed a water-related song.

The facility is the first of its kind in Puget Sound. It collects stormwater from approximately 100 acres surrounding Manchester and filters over 90 percent of the pollutants from the water, which previously discharged directly into Puget Sound. In addition to the environmental benefits, the community has gained a gorgeous community commons that will be used and enjoyed for generations. A video about construction of the project can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/144919390>. If you have any questions about qaqad park, or wish to reserve it for an event, call (360)337-5777.



Commissioner Garrido cut the ribbon on ququad park with Public Works staff, members of Suquamish tribe and the Manchester Citizens Advisory Committee.



Manchester Elementary school students led the group in creating a rainstorm, using fingers and hands for sound effects.

South Kitsap Community Conversations

During the public comment period for the county-wide comprehensive plan, Commissioner Garrido hosted three "Community Conversations" in South Kitsap. She heard from citizens about their visions for the futures of their communities. The first meeting was on November 30 in Harper, where small group discussions were facilitated by County staff. The neighbors shared what they like about their community, as well as priorities for the future, and assets they appreciate and want to preserve or enhance.



Similarly formatted meetings were held in Olalla on December 8, at the Olalla Community Club, and December 9 at Pilgrim Firs for the Wicks Lake community.

In each community, the residents noted qualities they appreciate and would like to see reflected in the Comprehensive Plan update. For more information, contact Angie Silva in the Commissioner's Office at (360)337-4841 or asilva@co.kitsap.wa.us.



County Commissioners Garrido, Wolfe, and Gelder help the City of Port Orchard celebrate its 125th birthday in September.



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Food for Tomorrow

Commissioner Garrido attended the New York Times' "Food for Tomorrow" conference in October. Nearly 300 people came for the event, held at the innovative Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, New York, north of New York City.

The conference, held over two very full days, featured panels and speakers on a host of food-related topics. Chefs, CEOs, journalists, presidents of non-profits, White House advisors, farmers, and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture shared ideas about topics from antibiotics in food, animal welfare, food waste, climate change to women in farming and technology in food production and food justice.

The menu was itself a highlight for conference attendees, using food waste products prepared by renowned chefs. The ingredients were sourced from food that is typically thrown away, including such items as rejected potatoes, carrot tops, grape skins, cover-crops, bruised beets, and repurposed bread.

Commissioner Garrido plans to use what she learned at the conference to continue championing for local, sustainable food in Kitsap County, as well as the policies that support the food system.



Cow corn polenta: goat and squash bolognese, waste kraut, carrot tops



Juice pulp cheeseburger: repurposed bread bun, bruised beet ketchup, pickle butts, rejected sweet potato chips



Cornell dropout potato stampot: compost crust, cover crop condiments

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations

Kitsap County hotels and bed and breakfasts collect lodging taxes which fund organizations that, in turn, promote events or activities to bring tourists and visitors to Kitsap County.

A total of 14 applicants sought allocations from these funds in 2015. The Lodging Tax Committee, chaired by Commissioner Garrido, met for two days in late October to interview representatives from each organization. After much discussion, the committee chose to recommend funding for eight. The Board of County Commissioners approved the awards on December 7. For more information, you may contact Lee Reyes at lreyes@co.kitsap.wa.us or (360)337-4471.

Applicant	Amount
Bremerton Symphony	5,000
Center Stage Theatre of County Kitsap	3,000
Kingston Chamber of Commerce	10,000
Kitsap Historical Society	28,000
Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce	9,827
Silverdale Chamber of Commerce	35,000
Visit Kitsap	209,000
Washington State Science & Engineering Fair	7,500
Debt Service for Public Facilities District	22,673
TOTAL	\$330,000

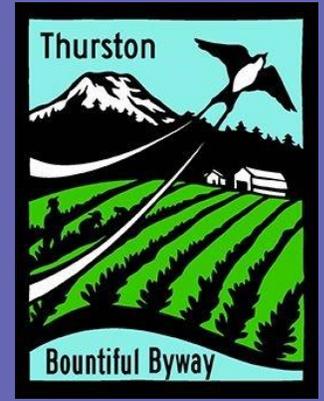
Olalla Boat Launch Improvements



The Olalla boat launch reopened to the public on November 12, after some much-needed improvements to its parking lot. The new parking lot is environmentally friendly, with rain gardens to filter polluted stormwater, and naturalistic armoring using logs and large rocks to prevent erosion. The boat launch parking lot also includes designated parking stalls, interpretive signs, and an area set aside for the traditional "Polar Bear Plunge."



Thurston County Bountiful Byway Tour



Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero arranged for Commissioner Garrido to tour the Thurston County Bountiful Byway in October. The Byway, designated in March 2014, is a scenic route in rural Thurston County that promotes agricultural tourism. The Byway has over 90 stops and activities including creameries, nurseries, wineries, farms, sculpture gardens, and historic sites. The route was developed in cooperation with community partners that include local farmers and business owners, the Visitor and Convention Bureau, WSU Extension, and the Thurston Regional Planning Council.

It is hoped that a model similar to Thurston County's can be applied to Kitsap. The draft Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan contains goals and policies that address the need for increased agritourism opportunities here. The Commissioner and the Food Policy Council seek more opportunities for farmers and food producers to thrive in Kitsap County and produce nourishing food for residents.



Commissioner Romero picking corn