



YELM
WASHINGTON



CITY OF YELM
NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2020

PEOPLE

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the Public Works Employee of the Month, Eric Kolb! Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Eric exemplifies the values of the City and upholds the highest work ethic. He is an example that all employees can strive to be like and hope to emulate.



BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

Garrett Mittelstaedt
Ryan Cox
Jason Hardy
Brian Bard
Michael Grayum

JANUARY

Derek McCoy

OFFICER HIGHLIGHT

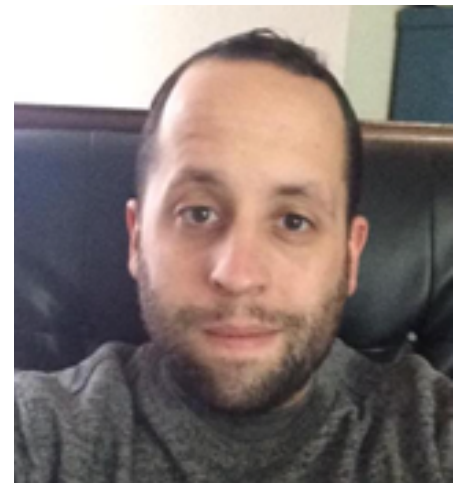


Officer Sparkuhl was on patrol in the City of Yelm just after midnight on November 20th when he heard an audible alarm coming from Tim's Pharmacy. Upon arrival, Officer Sparkuhl observed a male inside the pharmacy carrying a large trash bag. The suspect was ordered to exit the building and was arrested by Officer Sparkuhl and assisting Deputy Reed for theft of prescription drugs and burglary. Thanks to Officer Sparkuhl's diligent policing, the suspect was caught and transported to the Thurston County Jail.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Reserve Officer Brittanie High



Officer David Nissen

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The **Municipal Court** has made significant changes to their building and have made great progress in adapting to a new online environment. The added security and changes implemented due to COVID provides a safer environment for staff, court customers and others doing business in the Public Safety Building.

- Completed the installation and utilization of metal detectors in the Public Safety Building
- Implemented audio/video conferencing transmission for in custody defendants when scheduled for court rather than transporting them to the courtroom
- Installed nCourt for online, mobile and call center payments
- Added Virtual Zoom court appearances to make it easier, safer and more convenient for court customers



In addition to making changes to the building, staff have also completed multiple trainings and implemented additional services to meet the needs of our community and those that the court serves.

- Court Administrator, Sonia Ramirez, obtained a Court Management Certification through the National Center for State Courts
- Strengthened partnership with Safe Place of Olympia and Family Support Center
- Partnered with Thurston County District Court for their Mental Health Court and Veterans Court Programs
- Collaborated with the Thurston County District and Municipal Courts to offer two way Amnesty days

The **Finance and Executive Departments** have successfully completed and submitted the CARES Act reimbursement of \$411,075. The funds were used for the COVID-19 Business Grants for local businesses and nonprofits, as well as to the Yelm Community Relief Fund that offered financial assistance to citizens during the pandemic. A huge thank you to Mayor Foster and his wife Nicki for establishing the Relief Fund and their innovative solutions to assist the citizens of Yelm. It should also be highlighted the hard work and dedication to this project from Michael Grayum, City Administrator, Michael Malek, Financial Analyst, Kim Rachor, Accounting Assistant, and Brianna Feller, Communications Specialist.

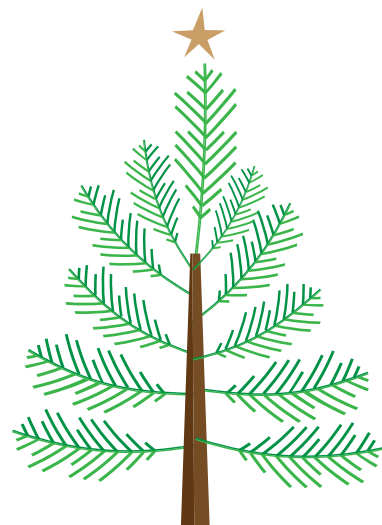


Each member of the **Customer Service Team** has shown dedication and resiliency during these times. Over the past month they have all been cross trained with the other positions, making each person a "one-stop-shop" for anything City related. This process was made easier thanks to the 15 years of expertise from Michelle Christin, City Hall Administrative Assistant. You can always count on Michelle to help her co-workers, customers and anyone that walks through our front doors. "When I first came on as the Utility Clerk, Michelle was here everyday helping to guide me, teach me and feel comfortable in my position. She is so patient and kind, transitioning into this job would have been a lot different if I didn't have Michelle to turn to. We all think the world of her and words can't explain how much she means to everyone working for the City of Yelm," said Jennifer Beauchamp.



Christmas Tree Recycling at Yelm City Park

LeMay will be placing dumpster at City Park on December 23rd and removing them on January 11th for people to recycle their Christmas trees! After the dumpsters are filled they will take the trees to a transfer station where they will be turned into usable mulch that is available to the public for free to use in home gardening. Be sure to place your tree inside the dumpster, not on the outside.

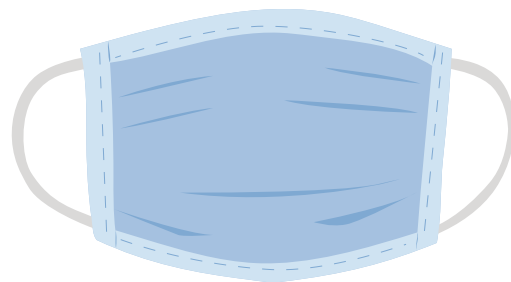


COVID-19 Testing at the Yelm Community Center

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services is offering free COVID-19 tests at the Yelm Community Center every other Monday from 10 am - 1 pm starting January 4, 2020.

Who should get tested?

- Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- Advised by your healthcare provider or Thurston County Public Health to get tested for COVID-19



EVENTS

DECEMBER

- Christmas Tree Recycling @ City Park - December 23 - January 11
- Christmas (City Hall CLOSED) - December 25
- Christmas in the Park - Events and Activities all Month Long
 - <https://www.facebook.com/yelmchristmasinthepark>

JANUARY

- New Years (City Hall CLOSED) - January 1
- City Council Meetings - January 5, 12 & 26
- COVID Testing @ YCC - January 4 & 18