



**YELM**  
WASHINGTON



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CITY OF YELM  
NEWSLETTER

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**INSIDE THE CITY**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

# PEOPLE

## PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the Employee of the Month, Tobie Stevens!

Tobie's leadership and service as a lead employee has proven him to be a great asset to the City of Yelm. The Public Works Department wouldn't be what it is today without his guidance and mentorship over the years.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lori Lucas  
Todd Stancil  
Eric Kolb  
Stephanie Calton  
Don Moody  
Tony Edwards  
Tobie Stevens  
Aaron Green  
Mayor Foster



## RECOGNITION OF SERVICE



It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Reserve Officer Joe Rivera. Joe has been with the City of Yelm for eight years and during that time he was awarded Reserve Officer of the Year in 2016, 2018 and 2019 and has dedicated 4,500 hours of service to the department. We wish him the best of luck in his move to Florida and all his future endeavors.

## WELCOME DETECTIVE SPARKUHL

The testing is complete and we now have our next Detective. Anthony Sparkuhl came out as the number one candidate in a highly competitive group of applicants. All the candidates served as excellent examples of the caliber of people and officers we have here in our department. Congratulations Officer Sparkuhl!



# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Despite the restrictions COVID-19 has had on our community, **Yelm Police Department's** dedication to being accessible to the citizens of Yelm has never changed. They have adapted to our new online world by contracting with Police 2 Citizens, which allows people to report crimes and incidents through their online portal. You can go directly to the reporting site through the City of Yelm website or be referred to the site by Thurston 9-1-1 Communications. A huge thank you to Assistant Chief Carlson and Administrative Assistant Stephanie Calton for spearheading this project. The Yelm Police Department also launched a community survey on public safety and law enforcement. Once completed, Officer Moody will compile the information and do an internal report of showing how the residents think the department is doing. We invite everyone to check out the public survey and the Police 2 Citizens portal on our website:

[www.yelmwa.gov/connect/departments/police\\_department](http://www.yelmwa.gov/connect/departments/police_department)



**Community Development** achieved two major project milestones last month. On October 13th, 2020 Mayor Foster signed a professional service agreement with BRCA, an excellent design firm, to facilitate a community visioning session to prepare a conceptual design and cost estimate for the Yelm Education & Innovation Center. The other project that the team is making great strides forward on is the Yelm-Prairie Line Trail, which is currently ranked 9th out of all the projects statewide. Once complete, this trail will increase tourism and recreation in Yelm.

**Public Works** has made incredible improvements to our facilities, beautified the city and increased training of their employees. Some of the recently completed projects include:

- Pressure Wash City Hall
- Training on Maintenance and Facility Management Software
- Graffiti Removal from Water Tower
- Inspect Hatch on Water Tower
- Joined the WA WARN
- Started a Fleet Maintenance Program
- Certified Entire Staff for CPR/First Aid
- Installed Flagpole at City Hall



Another huge accomplishment for the department was receiving their first ever perfect review from the Department of Ecology. The team worked collectively to paint, fix valves and take care of issues that haven't been resolved in years. Not only did they improve the look of the facility, the work they did will save the city a significant amount of money in the future. To read more about the ways "Yelm Public Works Department Reduces Costs and Increases Efficiency in 2020", check out this article from Thurston Talk: [www.thurstontalk.com/2020/10/29/yelms-public-works-department-reduces-costs-and-increases-efficiency-in-2020/](http://www.thurstontalk.com/2020/10/29/yelms-public-works-department-reduces-costs-and-increases-efficiency-in-2020/)

On October 28th, the Public Works management team hosted a virtual reality tour of the new Water Reclamation facility for council and city staff. Participants were able to walk thorough the entire facility and get a more through understanding of the design and capabilities the new facility will have. Thank you to Parametrix for all the work they have put into this project.



The **Human Resources** department continues to create safe and socially distanced ways to promote the health and wellness of our staff. On October 15th, they put on an Employee Wellness Event and Flu Shot Clinic. They gave out:

- 58 Wellness Bags
- 40 Wellness Appreciation Boxed Lunches
- 17 Flu Shots administered by Tim's Pharmacy

Thank you to Lori Lucas, Karen Bennett and Becky Jackson for coordinating this wellness event and to everyone for their participation.



The **Customer Service Team** has been working tirelessly to assist customers with their utility bills in person, over the phone and online. They are encouraging customers to sign up for Xpress Bill Pay to make managing accounts and paying bills as easy as possible. Last month, Xpress released their mobile app for both iPhone and Android which allows customers to access their information from anywhere. To find out more information or create an account, please visit: [xpressbillpay.com](http://xpressbillpay.com)

**xpress** BILL PAY

## NOVEMBER

- Veteran's Day (City Hall CLOSED) - November 11
- Yelm Farmers Market - November 21
- Gift of Gobble - November 23
- City Council Meeting - November 24
- Thanksgiving (City Hall CLOSED) - November 26

## DECEMBER

- City Council Meeting - December 1 & 8
- Blood Drive @ Yelm Community Center - December 1 & 2
- COVID-19 Testing @ Yelm Community Center - December 6

## UPCOMING EVENTS