

# THIS WEEK IN YELM

Official newsletter of the City of Yelm

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL RESPONDERS

The Yelm City Park and Community Center was packed full of community members, young and old as local law enforcement and first responders put their Police vehicles and fire trucks on display, along with a demonstration by the Thurston County K-9 Unit at last Tuesday's National Night Out.

Hundreds of local community members enjoyed an evening of conversation and fun with the men and women who keep us safe while being treated to hotdogs, corndogs and other goodies. Our officers loved getting the chance to strengthen

Neighborhood spirit and community relationships by chatting with everyone, especially the youngsters.

Tyler Davis, 6 is one kiddo with his own police cruiser and a passion for police work. Tyler looks forward to the event all year long, his mom Amanda Davis said. Tyler met Yelm Police Officer Joel Turner on July 4th of last year, sparking an unbreakable friendship between the two and since then, Tyler has become well-known within the Yelm Police Department for his enthusiasm. As excited as Tyler was to see his friends in uniform, Yelm Police Chief Todd Stancil said they were just as excited to see the future officer.



*Tyler Davis, 6 drives his police car at National police Night Out. He said he wants to be a police officer when he grows up.*

**See Police, Page 2**

### THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- National Police Night Out
- Lost Dogs Facebook Group
- Splash Pad Opening
- Wolf Building Mural
- Upcoming Sidewalk Improvement Projects
- Applications Open for Arts Commission
- Homelessness Task Force Seeks Input
- Jazz in the Park Recap

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- YHS Football Home Opener, Sept. 6
- SRo Presents "Mamma Mia!" Sept. 6-29
- Movie in the Park "Incredibles 2" Sept. 7
- Chat with the Chief, Sept. 11

**Police:**

*Continued from Page 1*

In addition to posing for pictures with kids, Stancil manned grill while first responders of the Southeast Thurston Fire Authority showed off their fire engine and the Thurston County Sheriff's Office displayed their Tactical Rescue Vehicle – all of which were a hit with the children. While kids were captivated with the police and emergency vehicles, the biggest attraction of the night came in the form of four legs as K-9 Dexter was on scene to receive attention and love from kiddos.

Along with receiving attention from children, the 5-year-old German Shepard demonstrated a take-down as another Thurston County Sheriff's Deputy played a "bad guy" with a bite sleeve. Before Dexter was able to patrol, he went through more than 400 hours of training to track criminals, search for missing persons, detect explosives, subdue someone on the run, and then to instantly become a loving pet on command. While one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs, and violence, National Night Out represents the kind of spirit, energy, and determination to help make neighborhoods a safer place year round.



*First responders with the Southeast Thurston Fire Authority were on scene to provide plastic firefighter hats and engine tours for local kids.*



*Yelm Police Chief Todd Stancil greets "Junior Officer" Tyler Davis, 6 in between grilling hot dogs last Tuesday. The two of them are best friends, according to Tyler's mom, Amanda Davis.*

## CITY CREATES FACEBOOK GROUP TO HELP REUNITE FURRY FRIENDS WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Please share with friends and neighbors that we have created a dedicated, separate Facebook group, City of Yelm Lost Dogs to help reunite our four legged friends with their families.

Care and compassion for animals is a priority for the City as we increase our presence in online animal rescue groups to reunite lost family members and to find homes for neglected dogs. **Please click on one of the images to the right to join the page.**



*Please note: All of the dogs in the above photos have been reunited with their loved ones.*

# YELM SPLASH PAD AND PLAYGROUND CREATE DESTINATION IN THE HEART OF COMMUNITY



*Cedar was the very first person to use the splash pad after it opened - he was very quickly joined by many more kids (and a couple adults!)*

The rhythmic soundwaves of Jazz wasn't the only excitement to splash down at the Yelm City Park last Friday as water shot out of the Splash Pad for the first time for public use at 2 p.m., just hours before the annual Jazz in the Park Festival. Since then, the park has quickly become the most popular family attraction in the community.

"Turning this park into a destination for our local families is one of the greatest achievements that has come out of this administration," Mayor JW Foster said. "Our team worked tirelessly to get this park open for the summer season and nothing makes us happier than seeing families enjoy this public resource."

Hundreds of Yelm-area kids have already slid down the slides, run through the water rings, and shot the water cannons, while parents land their picnic basket on the green grass or on one of the many new tables throughout the park.

The splash pad is open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The playground and splash pad were funded in part by a \$305,019 Community Development Block Grant, a \$239,590 State Capital Budget Grant, and \$460,750 coming from local funds.

After the concept was approved by Council, the City was able to find contributions through other funding sources and save on other capital improvement projects to make the park the best that it can be with the funding available.

Local funding sources include the Municipal Building Fund, Street Capital Fund, Water Capital Fund as the water recirculating system is owned and operated by the water utility, and the Sewer Utility Fund due to the backwash tank and filtration system being owned and operated by the sewer utility. All funding for these projects were made from the 2018 and 2019-2020 capital budgets, approved by Yelm City Council.

"As the project went along, we saw great opportunities to augment the park," Foster said. "Our Public Works Director and Project Manager were excellent in finding contributions to the project through other funding sources in our budget, by saving on other projects, and re-prioritizing others to make this park an asset now and for future generations "



*Local youngsters rejoice as they run through the water rings and shoot water cannons for the first time.*



# MOUNT RAINIER EXEMPLIFIED IN WOLF BUILDING MURAL



*The mural, a giant landscape illustration of Mount Rainier from a vantage point of a lush, green forest with a pristine river will capture the view and shape of the mountain as seen from Yelm and will read, "Yelm –Gateway to Mount Rainier."*

The historic Wolf building on the corner of Yelm Avenue and First Street is now home to a mural that beautifies the City, and exemplifies the proximity and view of Mount Rainier from our incredible City.

The mural, a giant landscape illustration of Mount Rainier from a vantage point of a lush, green forest with a pristine river will capture the view and shape of the mountain as seen from Yelm.

Seth Leamer is the artist behind the illustration has created more than 40 murals in multiple different cities and paints community oriented murals for new and existing Trader Joe's Stores.

"The goal is to invoke innovative neighborhood focused murals and themes that people will immediately recognize," Leamer said. "This includes historical buildings, landscapes and events that capture the essence of a community."

Steve Craig, owner of the building, which is on the City's historic register and home to the Triad Theater expects the mural to add to the aesthetic appeal of Yelm and create a better sense of place within the downtown core. The mural is a way for the City to embrace the gateway status and establish a connection between Yelm, Mount Rainier and the Triad Theater, Craig said.

The Yelm Historic Commission unanimously accepted the placement of the mural on the building under the condition that the landscape reflected Yelm's view of the mountain.

Since the building was constructed in 1925, it has been utilized for many different purposes and once served as the leading grocery and department store before the 1960s. The building is now home to the Triad Theater, which got its name from Mount Rainier's three highest points, is operated by Cameron Jayne. The Triad acts as the center for performing arts year round with several concerts and productions, including the upcoming show "Mamma Mia!" which will show every Friday-Sunday in September.

In addition to coordinating the mural project, Craig recently helped establish the Yelm Arts Commission who will identify and actively encourage the development and sustainability of all forms of art in the City. The Commission is currently seeking applicants who will serve as the City's primary resource to promote and preserve our city's unique community assets by providing public input, establishing policies and implementing art into City owned public spaces.

Together, in partnership with local business owners, residents, and organizations, the city is actively looking to display paintings, sculptures, landscape architecture, music, and literature. This shared vision will enhance the overall beautification of Yelm and vibrancy of our community. If you would like to apply for the Arts Commission, please fill out an Advisory Board Application online at [www.yelmwa.gov](http://www.yelmwa.gov).

# CITY TO ENHANCE DOWNTOWN WALKABILITY AND ECONOMIC VITALITY THROUGH SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS



With many sidewalks around the City in need of repair and replacement, Yelm City Council allocated funding in the 2019-2020 biennial budget to repair sidewalks, improve walkability, and increase pedestrian safety throughout our community.

As a first order of business, the Public Works Department conducted a sidewalk study to locate sections that could be repaired and began planning for other areas that will be completely replaced this year, including sections along Yelm Avenue.

Through the study and the work that followed, more than 400 trip hazards were eliminated by grinding them down to a level surface, while 30 sections were identified to be replaced. Most of the larger sidewalk replacement projects will take place along Yelm Avenue which are the oldest sidewalks in the City. The next course of action will be to replace the sections of sidewalk that are not salvageable which will eliminate all remaining trip hazards.

In addition to repairing existing sidewalks, the City also constructed 900 feet of sidewalk to provide a much safer walk to school following the construction of 5-foot sidewalks and newly painted crosswalks to better connect dozens of homes to Fort Stevens Elementary.

Another priority of the 2019-2020 budget is to construct sidewalks on Mill Road, extend sidewalks through Second Street and onto Mosman Avenue, and to design and construct a multi-use path through Cochrane Park. These sidewalk improvement projects were prioritized to improve student safety and better connect residents to City parks, local businesses and community services. Connecting neighborhoods to nearby services takes cars off the road, which improves personal and environmental health while boosting support for local businesses. Cities with high walkability scores have been proven to be appealing to residents and tourists when shops and restaurants are walkable, appealing, and easily accessible.

Looking beyond the two year budget, the City partnered with SCJ Alliance to create the Downtown Corridor Transportation Strategy which includes a wide scope of pedestrian improvement projects. The project list includes cost estimates, and a community benefit score, allowing each to be prioritized and implemented as resources become available. This forward looking plan was adopted by an overwhelming number of City Councilmembers.

Specifically, this Transportation Strategy identified 14 individual projects that will improve flow, connectivity, economic vitality, and safety for all travelers while balancing the character of the historic corridor. All projects identified will improve pedestrian safety and create a better sense of place. The plan includes adding additional sidewalks to the city and the replacement of sidewalks that are currently in disrepair on Yelm Avenue with 10-foot sidewalks.

As Yelm continues to grow and more businesses are established, we will continue to enhance pedestrian safety and bolster downtown vitality by connecting our residents to schools, businesses and other community services in the safest and most efficient way possible.

**Please click on the image above to view the full Downtown Transportation Strategy.**

# COUNCIL APPROVES DESIGN AGREEMENT FOR MILL ROAD SIDEWALK

Yelm City Council unanimously approved a nearly \$90,000 environmental and engineering services agreement to design sidewalks alongside Mill Road which will connect dozens of residential homes to Mill Pond Elementary and Ridgeline Middle School.

With Council approval, the sidewalk will be designed by WHPacific this summer and will provide a scope of work that will go out for a construction bid in the spring of 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin following the end of the school year in June and complete soon after.



The new-ADA compliant sidewalk will be 6-foot-wide and run approximately 1,130-feet in length between 104th Way Southeast to the intersection of 107th Loop Southeast. The project will also include a planter strip, vertical curb and gutter, lighting, and crossing enhancements to improve visibility and safety through the corridor.

The project is listed in the six-year Capital Improvement Program, while the design phase was accounted for in the Road and Street Construction Fund included in the Council-approved 2019-2020 budget. The City applied for state funding for the construction phase through the Transportation Improvement Board's Urban Sidewalk Program. Projects selected for funding will be announced November 2019.

## CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR YELM ARTS COMMISSION

The City is now accepting applications for the recently established Yelm Arts Commission. Any person who works, lives, or owns a business in the Yelm area is qualified to apply.

The Yelm City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance to form an Arts Commission who will identify and actively encourage the development and sustainability of all forms of art in the City, including paintings, sculptures, landscape architecture, music, literature, and other forms of art to enhance the overall beautification of Yelm.

The Arts Commission will be composed of five to 12 volunteers, approved by Council, and will serve as the City's primary resource to promote and preserve our city's unique community assets by providing public input, establishing policies and implementing art into City owned public spaces.

The commission is seeking representatives from as many art related professions as possible to celebrate the diverse cultural development of the City. The commission may include one member

recommended by the Yelm Chamber of Commerce, a member from the recommendation of the Nisqually Tribe, a local student interested in the arts, and one member to be an arts educator. Applicants do not need to live within City Limits to be appointed to the commission.

The Art Commission will not require budget allocation from the City as art programs and cultural services will be funded through donations, admission charges, and grants obtained by the commission. The commission fills the need to represent our local art, music, and culture and the City of Yelm is grateful that residents brought forth the idea and are willing to volunteer their time to get the Art's Commission established. The first meeting of the Yelm Arts Commission is anticipated to occur no later than October 31 to discuss bylaws and to schedule future meetings. Applications for the Arts Commission can be downloaded by clicking on the title of this article and are also available at Yelm City Hall.

# YELM HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

The Yelm Homelessness Task Force is working to develop policy recommendations to the Yelm City Council by December 2019.

The Task Force is seeking feedback and will host an open public meeting 5:30 p.m. September 17 at the Yelm Community Center. To date, the work of the Task Force has been to survey available resources to homeless people in the Yelm area. Future work will be to frame several possible recommendations which range from doing nothing, boosting services and resources, to providing a city funded property or housing.

The Task Force's public meeting will provide a chance for residents and businesses to listen to these proposed options and provide an opportunity for the community at large to engage in discussion before the proposals are formalized and sent as recommendations to City Council at a regular City Council meeting or Council Study Session, which are all open to the public.

The Council Resolution to form the Homelessness Task Force was created and authorized by City Council in November 2018. Councilmember Molly Carmody spearheaded the proposal and currently facilitates the meetings with Councilmember Joe DePinto.

The Task Force is composed of representatives from multiple different stakeholder groups, including two members of the City Council, a City staff member, and members of non-profit organizations which provide services to the homeless, and a citizen-at-large.

All meetings held by the Task Force are open to the public but the meetings are not designed as a public forum. Members who are not a part of the Task Force are encouraged to attend and listen as a member of the audience. Audience members who would like to participate in the discussion are encouraged to attend the open public meeting or email [joedeyelmwa.gov](mailto:joedeyelmwa.gov) or [mollyc@yelmwa.gov](mailto:mollyc@yelmwa.gov) with their input.



Photo By Matthew Waitunski

## REGISTER ONLINE FOR FREE CPR CLASSES

Thurston County Medic One recently launched a web page to allow citizens who live or work in Thurston County to register online for free CPR classes.

The classes run between 60-90 minutes and are offered multiple times per week at eight different locations, including the Bald Hills Fire Department in Yelm. Classes meet nationally recognized criteria for CPR training in the workplace and include compression-only CPR and External Defibrillator (AED) training.

Medic One does not provide neither First Aid training nor Health Care Provider classes. For further questions, please call 360-704-2790. If you are planning to purchase an AED, please call Medic One, 360-704-2788.



# JAZZ IN THE PARK FESTIVAL PRESERVES HOMETOWN FEEL AND SMALL-TOWN CHARM



*LaVon Hardison closes down the Jazz in the Park Festival by singing jazz standards and tunes derived from the Great American Song Book.*

After an afternoon of slight drizzle, the skies parted just in time for one of the most anticipated events of the summer.

String lights and gas fire pits lined the newly revamped Yelm City Park as rhythmic soundwaves of jazz splashed onto the grounds— simultaneously with jetting water from the newly opened splash pad.

After a successful two years, the Jazz in the Park Festival, sponsored by Pizzeria La Gitana owners Marian and Lumi Licxandru, and the City of Yelm, made its third appearance — this year as a two-day event.

Between the two nights nearly 2,000 Yelm-area residents flocked to the park, filled with live music, food vendors, and a beer garden. The park was a venue for people of all ages to enjoy — kids were running around on the new playground equipment and splash pad, adults filled the beer and wine garden, dancers of all ages hit the dance floor, and many families set up their picnic blankets and lawn chairs in the grass in front of the stage for a warm summer evening under the stars.

Music was performed by many local jazz bands and quartets, including the LaVon Hardison Quartet, a local fan favorite who closed down the show with jazz standards and other tunes derived from the Great American Song Book. All of the artists are regular performers at Pizzeria La Gitana in Yelm and Olympia.

Creating free, family oriented events and activities has been a focus of the City in recent years.

As our community continues to grow, improved parks and a summer filled with community events will help preserve our hometown feel and small-town charm.

It's hard to believe that four short summers ago, the Prairie Days Parade and Carnival was the only City-sponsored, summer event. Today, the City Park is a focal point of entertainment on a daily basis and booked with community events all summer long, including the annual Jazz in the Park Festival, Barbecue Rally, Revamped Prairie Days Festival, and even a Mermaid Festival. All of which were kicked off following Marian's vision of creating a free music festival and a desire by City leadership to support family oriented events.



*Hundreds of people lounge in the beer garden at the 3rd annual Jazz in the Park Festival. Photo by Kathryn Cullum*



*String lights, hay bails and gas fire pits lined the park, transporting festival goers to a vacation state of mind. Photo by Kathryn Cullum.*



# IN THE NEWS

## OLYMPIA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB DIRECTOR SELECTED TO LEAD NEW YELM BRANCH

By Eric Roseane

Nisqually Valley News

Andrew Chase, director of the Olympia branch of Boys and Girls Clubs of Thurston County, has been selected to lead the new Yelm location slated to open in September.

**Click on the picture for the entire article or visit**

**[www.yelmonline.com](http://www.yelmonline.com)**



Andrew Chase was named the Director of the newly established Yelm Boys & Girls Club.

Photo by Nisqually Valley News

## YELM PRESERVES THE PAST WHILE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

By Heidi Smith

Thurston Talk

Through two new projects funded by the Washington State Legislature, the City of Yelm is simultaneously preserving the past while looking to the future. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit [www.yelmonline.com](http://www.yelmonline.com).**



The iconic 125-foot water tower is undergoing a full restoration, while a new building will house a satellite branch of South Puget Sound Community College and a business incubator space. **Photo by City of Yelm**

## THROWING BAGS AT THE INAUGURAL LIONS CLUB CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

By Jack Belcher

Nisqually Valley News

The tournament raised about \$2,500. Yelm Police Chief Todd Stancil, who organized the event, said the money will go toward backpacks for homeless youth, scholarships and services for underprivileged youths. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit [www.yelmonline.com](http://www.yelmonline.com)**



Ten cornhole sets were lined up, so that 20 teams could play at the same time. Although the bags were the same, each board was slightly different, making each game a new experience. **Photo by Jack Belcher, Nisqually Valley News**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## **Yelm High School Football Home Opener 1315 W Yelm Ave.**

**Sept. 6, Kickoff at 7 p.m.**

Come out and support the Yelm High School football team as they square off against Skyview in their season opener and the first game on the new synthetic turf field. Last year, the Tornados went 5-2 in conference with an 8-4 record overall, earning them their first playoff appearance in 30. The team looks to rally from last year's success and has high expectations for themselves as they enter the 2019 season.



## **Standing Room Only Presents "Mamma Mia!" Triad Theater, 102 E Yelm Ave.**

**Sept. 6-29,**

Standing Room Only invites you to "Mamma Mia!" as the hit Broadway musical, featuring songs by ABBA will splash down at the Yelm stage. Showdates include: September 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 (Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 3pm).



## **Movie in the Park: 'Incredibles 2' Longmire Park, 16820 Canal Rd. Sept. 7. 24, Movie begins at Sundown**

The 2019 Movies in the Park Season continues with "Mary Poppins Returns". The FREE show starts at sundown - bring blankets, chairs, and a spirit of adventure! Concessions will open at 6.30 p.m. All profits from concessions sales benefit Movies in The Park and other Lions events.



## **Chat with the Chief Mr. Dougs, 210 NE 103rd Ave Sept. 11, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**

Our monthly Chat with the Chief is held on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 at Mr. Doug's Restaurant (lower room). Bring a friend and take part in an energetic conversation about what is going on in our great city. If you can't make the monthly meeting, click on the image to make an appointment to meet with the Chief directly or to send him a message.

If you have items of interest for us to include in future issues of "This Week in Yelm" or other questions or concerns, please contact: Communications Specialist Andrew Kollar by emailing [andrewk@yelmwa.gov](mailto:andrewk@yelmwa.gov) or calling 360-458-8420.