

THIS WEEK IN YELM

Official newsletter of the City of Yelm

YELM FIRE AND POLICE RESCUE PUPS FROM BURNING HOME

A residential fire on Quail Meadows Court was put out thanks to a quick response by S. E. Thurston Fire Authority. Not only did the Fire Fighters and our beloved Yelm Police Officer Don Moody rescue these pups from the burning home, but paramedics were on scene to provide the highest level of care to help the dogs recover from smoke inhalation. Please join us in thanking to all our public safety professionals who care for our homes, families, and our four legged friends.



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Jazz in the Park
- City Park Update
- Seattle to Portland Recap
- City Names Interim Finance Director
- Mayor Awarded for Advanced Leadership
- Boys & Girls Club Update
- Community Resource Center Now Open

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Cuffs & Trucks Golf Tournament, July 27
- Movie in the Park "Elf," July 27
- Jazz in the Park Aug. 2-3
- National Night Out, Aug. 6
- Primary Election, Aug. 6
- Movie in the Park "Coco," Aug. 10

DANCE AND RELAX AT JAZZ IN THE PARK FESTIVAL NEXT WEEKEND



Backed by popular demand, the annual Jazz in the Park Festival will transport concert goers to Paris for the third year in a row as live musicians deliver sweet, rhythmic tunes for two summer nights. The free event will take place 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 and 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3.

Since the event's inaugural year in 2017, this free music festival — sponsored by La Gitana Pizzeria and the City — has brought family and friends together to enjoy the summer evening while listening to relaxing music, dancing, and relaxing under the stars with about 1,000 people attending last year's event.

Now in its third year, Pizzeria La Gitana owner Marian Licxandru anticipates an even stronger turnout this year with multiple musicians on deck, a dance floor, beer and wine garden, and relaxing ambiance with gas fire pits, patio heaters, and string lights. He recommends bringing your family and friends, picnic baskets, blankets and to be prepared to be transported to a vacation state of mind.

The Friday lineup will include El Cajon, Choro Tomorrow, and Swing Strings, while the Saturday Lineup will include Black Satin, Jessica Blinn Quartet, Eden Lane Quartet, Vendredi's Bag, and LaVon Hardison Quartet. All of the musicians on in the lineup regularly play at one or both of La Pizzeria Lagitana's locations.

Hardison performed at the first jazz festival and sings jazz standards, originals and covers.

Many of her tunes are derived from songs found in the Great American Song Book. Training in the Boston Lyric Opera and performing in dramatic and musical theater, she has since been a featured performer at the festival of World Sacred Music in New Delhi, India. Hardison won the Seattle-Kobe Sister Jazz Vocalist Audition which prompted her to perform in Kobe, Osaka and Tokyo. Along with her performances in Japan, Hardison has performed in Oregon and Massachusetts.

Jazz in the park was the first music festival to make its way to Yelm City Park three years ago and since then, the park has undergone many improvements, including the newly constructed splash pad and playground equipment. This event and among many other newly established community gatherings have made the park a destination in the heart of our community. We hope you join us for relaxing summer evening filled with great music!



Photos Provided by Jazz in the Park



We continue to comply with everything being asked of us by the State and County to get the splash pad online and open! We've submitted the Operation Manual to the State and County Health Department, which is currently under review. We received the as built drawings from the contractor and personally delivered three copies to the Department of Health.

While we await approval from Thurston County, we are retrofitting the existing shed to safely store chemicals, repairing a drinking fountain at the Community Center, upgrading the signage around the park, and installing trashcans around the playground and splash pad.

Most of the temporary fencing has been removed, aside from a small section near the pavilion that will remain fenced while the grass takes root but the rest of the area is open for all to enjoy.

We are currently working with the Thurston County Department of Health to get their final inspection underway. This inspection, in conjunction with obtaining an operating permit, is essentially the last step before we are allowed to open the splash pad.

Thank you for your patience as our team works tirelessly with multiple agencies to get the entire park online. We are finally seeing light at the end of this County tunnel! Updates will be posted on our City of Yelm - Government Facebook page and www.yelmwa.gov



CUFFS & TRUCKS GOLF TOURNAMENT TEES-OFF THIS WEEKEND

Calling all golfers! The Cuffs & Trucks golf tournament, benefiting the Justin Norton Memorial Scholarship Foundation will tee-off 9 a.m. this Saturday, July 27 at the Tahoma Valley Golf Course. Registration for the four-person scramble is \$400 per team and includes snacks, lunch, and beverages. Golfers can also purchase raffle tickets and enter the crazy shirt, long drive, chipping, and putting contests.

The Justin Norton Memorial Scholarship foundation provides scholarships to Yelm and Rainier High School Seniors and the annual golf tournament has raised more than \$15,000 for our local students in Justin's memory.

To register, email billdeyelmwa.gov



CITY PROVIDES PIT STOP FOR 8,000 SEATTLE TO PORTLAND CYCLISTS

Thousands of Bicyclists ride through Yelm every year to complete the incredible accomplishment of cycling more than 200 miles from Seattle to Portland and the City of Yelm is proud to support them as they peddle through our City.

For the third consecutive year, the Yelm City Park and Community Center served as an official 'mini stop' at mile marker 73 to provide racers snacks, drinks, first aid and space for bike repairs. The stop was sponsored by KIND Snacks, in partnership with Cascade Bicycle Club, Yelm Community Schools Sports Medicine and FFA Alumni, and the S. E. Thurston Fire Authority. Locally grown fruit, vegetables, and handmade products were also available at the Yelm Farmers Market.

The Public Works Department did a great job of posting clear signage to help direct cyclists through town, while our Police Department did an outstanding job of directing motor and bicycle traffic to ensure the safety of all travelers.

The Seattle to Portland bike race also provides an opportunity for the Yelm Community Schools Sports Medicine Program to work alongside the S. E. Thurston Fire Authority as they treat injured cyclists, providing them with real-world medical experience. Students were on hand to treat minor abrasions, strains, and blisters while the Fire Authority was there to provide backup for more serious injuries.

Thank you again to all of our residents and commuters for your patience and caution as these cyclists traveled through our City.



Cyclist ride along the Yelm-Tenino Trail on their way to Portland. Photo by Mike Cozzetti



Southeast Thurston Fire and the Yelm High School Sports Medicine students provide first aid at the mini-stop in Yelm

CENTERLINE PAINTING TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEKEND

Commuters beware! We will be painting centerlines and fog-lines north of Yelm Ave this weekend, July 26-29. Striping restoration is completed on half of the City each year. Primary pedestrian crossings and school zone markings are done annually to increase pedestrian and commuter safety. Please allow for a little extra travel time and although the paint is dry within an hour, be mindful of wet paint on the roadway.



SENIOR ACCOUNTANT APPOINTED INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR



The City of Yelm recently appointed Heidi MacDonald as the interim finance director.

Heidi was hired as the senior accountant for the City in September of 2017 and played a key role in the recent accomplishments of the finance department, including the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award for transforming the city's budget into a comprehensive document, guided by the city's mission, vision, values, goals, and financial policies – established in 2016.

Her expertise was instrumental in working alongside the State Auditor's Office to ensure all

financial records were updated and consistent with the City's bank accounts, leading to an unmodified opinion for the fiscal years 2015 through 2017. She will continue run point in working with the State Auditor for the 2018 audit, which is scheduled for the end of July.

With Heidi at the helm, the city will continue to uphold and achieve these accomplishments made in recent years, while forging ahead to integrate operations of the finance and customer service teams at City Hall, implement stronger internal controls, and provide council with monthly reports and quarterly budget updates.

Heidi graduated from Eastern Oregon University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and an additional major in Leadership and Organization . Heidi brings experience from the special district and nonprofit sectors in preparing and presenting financial reports.

Heidi's team mindset will help renew the spirit of team work across our dedicated team of city employees and her experience will keep us on a positive path going forward.

MAYOR FOSTER AWARDED ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP



Mayor JW Foster recently became one of just 300 municipal leaders in the state of Washington to have earned the Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), since the program's inception in 1997.

To earn this award, Foster completed more than 60 hours of training through a variety of AWC-sponsored workshops, and demonstrated an additional 30 hours of community service.

"Since joining the Yelm City Council in 2011, I've been taking advantage of the web-training, local seminars and conferences offered by the AWC to be the best leader I can be for our community," Foster said. "As an elected leader, it is important to utilize the education and support offered by the AWC to continue to expand skills in budgeting, planning, and leadership."

The AWC's Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership program provides elected municipal leaders with training to effectively operate within the law, plan for the future, secure and manage funds, and enrich community and staff relationships.



Foster:

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Foster moved to Yelm with his wife Nicki in 1996 to raise their four children and spent many years coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for Yelm Community Schools, and working with local service organizations on a variety of projects. He was appointed to the planning commission before being elected to the Yelm City Council in 2011 and reelected in 2015. Foster was elected Mayor in 2017 after being appointed in 2016 to replace Mayor Ron Harding, who left to take work in Oregon.

Foster currently serves on the Sports Medicine advisory committee and as Chair of the General Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education for Yelm Community Schools. JW and Nicki also volunteer for the Nisqually Land Trust, Rotary Club of Yelm, and Lions Club projects.

"The path to Yelm's best future starts with a strong foundation in our local schools and organizations," Foster said. "It's always been a strong family value of ours to work with our neighbors to make our community better for everyone"

In addition to his local Mayoral duties and local involvement, Foster continues to engage at the regional level, serving as Vice-Chair of the Thurston Regional Planning Council, and engaging with other municipal leaders and military counterparts through the South Sound Military and Community Partnership.

The AWC is a private, nonprofit, non-partisan corporation that represents Washington's cities and towns before the state Legislature, the state executive branch and with regulatory agencies. The AWC serves its members through advocacy, education and services.

MEET OUR OFFICERS AT NATIONAL POLICE NIGHT OUT AUG. 6

Please join the Yelm Police Department, S.E. Thurston Fire Authority and Thurston County Sheriff's Office for National Police Night Out at the Yelm Community Center on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

National Night Out against Crime is an opportunity for communities to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. While the 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.

In participation of National Police Night Out, the Yelm Police Department will host an open house at the Yelm Community Center Tuesday, Aug. 6. Members of the Yelm Police Department, S.E. Thurston Fire Authority and Thurston County Sheriff's Office SWAT team invite community members to come out, ask questions and talk with the men and women who keep us safe.



The event heightens crime and drug prevention awareness, generates participation in local anticrime prevention programs, and strengthens neighborhood spirit and police community relationships.

The Yelm Community Center is anticipated to be full local residents and curious youngsters as we enjoy a night of conversation. Complimentary hot dogs and other goodies will be available to attendees.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AIMS TO OPEN YELM BRANCH SEPT. 4



With the school year quickly approaching, the Boys & Girls Club of Thurston County is seeking community support and donations to open the club on the first day of the 2019-20 school year.

The Yelm Boys & Girls Club was established through a partnership with the Thurston County Boys & Girls Club, and Yelm Community Schools and will utilize the former City Hall building to establish roots in the community.

Administrators of the future Yelm Branch, are currently working to secure funding from individual and corporate donors to cover startup costs and ensure long-term and sustainable operations of the Club.

The club will provide a space for school aged kids to take part in programs that focus on character development to better prepare youth for real-world success by focusing on Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Club offers a safe place for young people to be themselves, have fun, and learn life skills that will help them achieve great futures. After school, youth can enjoy a snack, engage in organized activities, or work on and get assistance with homework. Each Club offers a host of tested, proven, and nationally recognized programs in core program areas that closely align with the developmental needs of all young people. Updates are provided through <https://bgctc.org/yelm/> and registration is expected to open Aug. 1



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER OPEN TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Summer hours
July 9th - August 22
Tuesday & Thursday
10am-2pm
Yelm Middle School

resource room
402 W Yelm Ave
Behind Annex at Rice St. SW

Access free clothing, body care supplies, food, & community resources

FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND THE YELM COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COMMUNITY

*Yelm Community Schools does not sponsor and assumes no responsibility for this event/funding. (For additional information refer to board policy 4000)

“Together!” a nonprofit with a mission to advance the health, safety and success of our youth hosts a Community Resource Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the Yelm Middle School to offer free clothing, body care supplies, food, and community resources to students, families and anyone within the Yelm Community Schools boundary.

In coordination with the Community Resource Center, “Together!” also hosts the Sea-Mar Community Health Center every Tuesday to help local residents sign up for insurance and other benefits. The nonprofit was founded in 1989 and offers after-school and summer programs, dropout prevention, connection to basic need services, parenting and family workshops. They partner local organizations, schools and governments to improve the health and wellbeing of as many young people as possible and strive to support a healthy, safe life for young people.

IN THE NEWS

ENJOY SUMMERTIME FOOD AND TUNES AT YELM'S JAZZ IN THE PARK

By Kathryn Millhorn
Thurston Talk

Jazz music is an intensified feeling of nonchalance, said French playwright Françoise Sagan. The same air of easy unconcern could describe warm, lazy summer days and long, balmy nights spent outdoors with family and friends.

Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.Thurstontalk.com



This two evening event is free, family-friendly fun with music, dancing, food, and community. Photo courtesy: Jazz in the Park

HEARING EXAMINER APPROVES NEW 118-UNIT YELM SUBDIVISION

By Eric Rosane
Nisqually Valley News

A Sumner development firm recently received approval from the city of Yelm hearing examiner to move forward with the subdivision of a 19.5-acre development off Mountain View Road in Yelm, with conditions.

Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.yelmonline.com.



A public notice sign sits at the soon-to-be entrance of The Hutch, just off Killion Road. About 19.5 acres will be parceled up into 118 single-family dwelling lots. Photo by Eric Roseane / Nisqually Valley News

STREET, SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS PART OF YELM'S UPDATED SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN

By Nisqually Valley News

The plan includes street and sidewalk improvement projects aimed at increasing pedestrian safety and reducing traffic congestion in Yelm.

Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.yelmonline.com



A map shows all of the projects listed in the six-year transportation improvement plan, approved by the Yelm City Council Tuesday, July 9. Map Provided by the City of Yelm

UPCOMING EVENTS



Movie in the Park: 'Back to the Future' **Longmire Park, 16820 Canal Rd.** **July 27, Movie begins at Sundown**

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



Justin Norton Memorial Golf Tournament **Tahoma Valley Golf Course, 15425 Mosman Ave** **July 27, Registration Opens at 8 a.m.**

Registration for the four-person scramble is \$400 per team and includes snacks, lunch, and beverages. Golfers can also purchase raffle tickets and enter the crazy shirt, long drive, chipping, and putting contests. The Justin Norton Memorial Scholarship foundation provides scholarships to Yelm and Rainier High School Seniors and the annual golf tournament has raised more than \$15,000 for our local students in Justin's memory.



National Police Night Out **Yelm Community Center, 301 Second St. SE** **Aug. 6**

National Night Out against Crime is an opportunity for communities to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie.



Primary Election **Any Mailbox or Ballot Drop Box** **Ballots Are Due 8 p.m. Aug. 6**

Washington State is implementing Same Day Voter Registration beginning with the August Primary Election. You may register to vote online, by mail, and voter registration drive up to 8 days prior to Election Day. You may register to vote in-person and update your voter registration address up to 8 p.m. on Election Day. **More information can be found by clicking on the image to the left.**

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 or calling 360-458-8420.