

INSIDE THE 105

November 2017



City of Yelm Newsletter

From the Desk of Michael Grayum, City Administrator

Christmas in the Park

Christmas in the Park is happening Saturday, December 2nd and everyone is invited to join the fun and festivities. Parade participants will begin lining up at 8:30AM on West Road. The Parade will start at 9:30AM. The City of Yelm Police Department and Public Works Department will shut down all traffic along the parade route at 9:15AM, which is on Yelm Avenue from Clark Road to 1st Street. Detours will be provided and all roads will be re-opened immediately after the parade ends, which will be approximately 10:30AM.

After the parade everyone is invited to enjoy FREE food, Santa pictures, musical performances by Yelm students, and other fun holiday activities at the Yelm Community Center. We will not be using the grass area of the City Park this year to avoid damaging the re-seeded areas. However, the covered structures in the park will be accessible and we will also have canopies in the parking lot for the holiday activities. Parking is limited and we encourage everyone to please be respectful of neighboring residents and businesses.

Yelm Designated Purple Heart City

Earlier this month, Mayor Foster signed a proclamation to make Yelm the fourth city in Washington State to be designated as a Purple Heart City. The Purple Heart is the military's oldest medal and recognizes distinguished merit. It was originally given to soldiers with combat injuries or deaths. Ten years later in 1942, the medal was changed to exclusively recognize combat injuries and deaths.

We appreciate the brave men and women who have stood in defense of our nation and encourage all employees, residents and businesses to join in showing appreciation for the sacrifices Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our freedoms. Join us in appreciating the courage and honor they have earned, and supporting the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

OUR PURPOSE

To provide essential municipal services and proactively manage public resources with transparency, accountability and sustainability.

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

We believe in and strive for collaboration, innovation and excellence in everything we do.



Thank You John Rowland & Welcome Chris Vaccaro

We are excited to announce our new Building Official, Chris Vaccaro, who will be starting December 1st. Hiring for this position has been a long recruitment and interview process, which included experienced professionals from around the country. Like Donni Burnham, who was recently hired as our new Yelm Municipal Court Clerk, Chris is also from the Yelm area. He impressed us with his friendly attitude, breadth of experience in leadership and customer service positions, and desire to continually improve himself and those around him. He will be a great fit and we are excited to have him on the team.

As some of you may know, hiring for this position has been tough due to lots of competition and it has been vacant since January. Despite these challenges, our Planning & Economic Development Department has still accomplished high priority projects and maintained levels of service thanks to the team's hard work and dedication. We especially want to thank Mr. John Rowland who has been filling in and exhaustively doing the work of two people. When you see John, please join me in saying thank you.

New Sustainability & Energy Efficiency Audit

We've partnered with the Washington Dept. of Enterprise Services and Johnson Controls to conduct an efficiency audit to identify potential cost and energy savings at the wastewater plant and other city owned facilities. We should have an assessment and recommendations in the next 45-50 days that will hopefully reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and promote environmental sustainability.

Yelm's First Economic Development Plan

We have been listening and working with local businesses and community partners to identify opportunities and develop strategies to strengthen economic development. The outcome will be Yelm's first ever Economic Development Plan. We are coordinating with the Thurston County Economic Development Council to compile regional data and put the finishing touches on the plan. We are on track to have a full plan by the end of the year. Please stay tuned and thank you to everyone who has been involved in this collaborative community effort.

We Are Hiring

We are reviewing applications for a Project Manager and a Wastewater Operator in the Public Works Department, and a Computer Support Specialist in IT who will also assist the Public Safety Department. The vacant Utility Billing Clerk position will be posted internally for two business days per our union agreement prior to external posting. Ashlee Sund serves as the backup to this position and is stepping up to fill the void in the interim. Thank you Ashlee! We are also finalizing position descriptions for a new Public Works Administrative Assistant and a HR Specialist/Deputy City Clerk that will be posted in the end of December or early January. We are also working with the Civil Service Commission to hire two more Police Officers that were proposed in Mayor Foster's budget and approved by a majority of City Council members.



Meet Our Newest Team Member

Donnielle 'Donni' Burnham recently started as our new Yelm Municipal Court Clerk. Here are some fun facts I wanted to share to help you get to know her. She goes by Donni, lives in Yelm, and is a graduate of Yelm High School. Donni joins us with great experience with local companies, including Attorney at Law, Bernard L. Perez. She has a degree in Legal Office Administration is training with Judy, who will retire at the end of this month. Please join me in welcoming Donni to the team and come say hi.

Favorite joke:

What did the tie say to the hat? You go on *ahead* and I'll just hang around.

Favorite quote: "When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us." - Helen Keller

Definition of success: Setting and completing goals, personally and professionally.

Favorite meal: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn and biscuits.

Fun activities: Working out, reading, and enjoying time with her husband and animals.

Favorite vacation: Maui