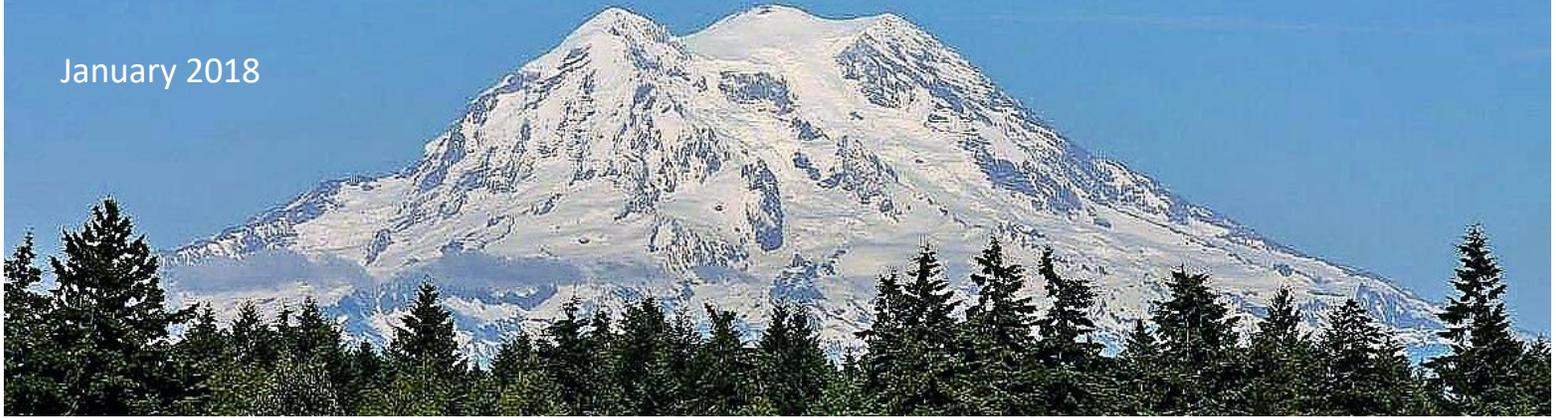


INSIDE THE 105

January 2018



City of Yelm Newsletter

From the Desk of Michael Grayum, City Administrator

Funding For New Park Playground and Fix For Water Rights

The Washington State Legislature recently passed the State Capital Budget, which included funding for us to install new playground equipment at Yelm City Park next to the Community Center. This will be in addition to the Spray Park residents have been meeting with Parks Agency volunteers to help design and install this year. The Legislature also adopted legislation that creates the clear path forward we've been working on to obtain additional water rights for the future of Yelm.

We crafted and worked to advance a water rights solution in collaboration with other communities and tribal government partners, which became part of a larger piece of legislation, ESSB 6091. This bill is known as the Hirst/Foster bill, which was passed to address both the Hirst Court decision on permit exempt wells and the Foster decision that originated with the City of Yelm water right case. Thank you to our Economic Development and Public Works Departments for your diligence and out of the box thinking. As a result, current and future residents and businesses will all benefit.

City Shows Strong Support For Schools and Proposition 1

Mayor Foster proposed and the Yelm City Council unanimously voted YES to support proposition 1, the upcoming School Bond initiated by Yelm Community Schools to rebuild Yelm Middle School and Southworth Elementary, remodel Prairie Elementary, and improve safety across the district. More than 4,000 'YES' votes are needed to reach the 60% supermajority required to pass the measure. Yelm residents must return their ballots by February 13.

If you receive questions about the School Bond, please refer them to the school district website at: <https://www.ycs.wednet.edu/bond>

The City Resolution of support is available at:
<http://yelmwa.gov/uploads/library/review/schools.pdf>



Yelm City Park
W19795-1A | 2,816 SQ FT | 235.5 GPM | Perspective View

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 1st – Chad Bedlington
Jan. 17th – EJ Curryy
Jan. 28th – Tom Meyer
Jan. 30th – Randy Hatch

Feb. 4th – Aris McClelland
Feb. 9th – Dan Rozier
Feb. 17th – Joe Depinto
Feb. 22nd – Ashlee Sund
Feb. 23rd – Tillman Atkins
Feb. 26th – John Edwards
Feb. 28th – Ted Johnson

Increasing Crosswalk Safety at Yelm High School

Superintendent Wharton and Yelm Community Schools are working with the City to install new flashing crosswalks to improve safety at Yelm High School and Yelm Middle School. It required a team effort because it is a state highway and large scale projects aren't within the City or School District's authority. These new flashing beacons will have alternating flashers on both sides of the State Highway and are activated by the push of a button. This is a significant improvement over the flag system students currently use. We greatly appreciate the collaborative work with the School District, Mayor Foster, and our Public Works Department to keep kids safe. Great job to everyone involved!

Welcome New Team Members

We are excited to welcome three new employees to our team:

- Jared Swanson is our new Wastewater Operator on the Public Works Team! He is a local Yelm resident and brings excellent skills to us as a previous septic technician with A+ Services in Lacey. He will be an exceptional addition to the important work at our Water Reclamation Facility and will be instrumental in helping maintain our highly advanced STEP system.
- Joe Rivera is our new Computer Support Specialist. Joe is no stranger to the City as a long-time and well respected reserve officer with the Police Department. He is familiar with the IT support needed by the Police Department and will be working a flex schedule in the evenings to be at the Public Safety Building to help our officers in need. He plans on continuing his work as a reserve officer as his 'hobby' while working for us full-time in IT. Everyone should be warned... Joe has been authorized by the Chief to tase anyone who doesn't use the IT Helpdesk!
- Grace Friberg is our new Utility Clerk in the Finance Department. The interview team ranked her as the highest qualified applicant and we believe we found a gem. Grace has an Economics Degree from George Fox University, with a background in Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and Payroll. She is very familiar with Quality Improvement efforts related to financial processes, has a great attitude, is very sharp, and has a great approach to customer service that will complement the high bar set by the rest of the team in the Finance Department.

Please join me in welcoming these folks to our team. We have accomplished so much this past year and will continue doing great things with the additional resources these new team members bring. As I wrote in our last newsletter, our focus for 2018 is to establish the processes, policies, and systems for continued success. You can find previous newsletters on the City Administrator Page of our website. Thank you all for your hard work, collaboration, and commitment to continuous improvement!



Meet Grace Friberg

We're excited to highlight Grace Friberg as our new Utility Clerk. She joins our team with excellent analytical experience and extensive customer service experience.

Favorite joke:

Where does the king keep his armies? In his sleeves!

Most Interesting Job:

Working at Jumping Jack's Family Fun Center in high school where I learned to multitask and make almost anything on a Panini press.

Favorite activities:

Doing jigsaw puzzles and finding interesting new shows and movies to watch.

Favorite quote:

"In the long run, we're all dead."
—John Maynard Keynes

Definition of success:

Going home at night knowing I did my very best work and/or remembering to make my bed every morning. I like to think of success within the context of daily life.

Favorite vacation:

While I was living in Seville, Spain I visited the small, coastal city of Cadiz. After living in the Pacific NW for so long, encountering warm ocean water was pretty amazing! It's definitely a goal of mine to go back.