

# THIS WEEK IN YELM

Official newsletter of the City of Yelm

## YELM GIVES BACK DURING THE HOLIDAYS

While the holidays are some of the best days of the year, filled with great food, family and our favorite holiday tunes, many of our local families have a difficult time putting food on the table and presents under the tree.

Our community has an excellent reputation of helping our neighbors in need and with that, we are compiling a list of organizations and local business seeking donations to provide seasonal needs for our local families.



*John Graver, a volunteer for Bounty for Families helps prepare more than 60 Thanksgiving dinners for local families.*

### In the spirit of giving, here is a list of organizations that help local families during the holidays:

**Nisqually Party For a Purpose:** The parent charity for the Yelm Pub Crawl donated 40 turkey dinners to support McKenna Elementary Turkey Bingo, a fundraiser that supports McKenna Elementary families. Great work, Scotty Brown!

**Bounty For Families Gift of Gobble:** For ten consecutive years, the Gift of Gobble has annually fed 25 families from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, 27 families from nine local churches, six families from community schools and dozens of individual families nominated by friends and colleagues.

**The Lackamas PTO** collected donations for their Giving Tree. Donations went to provide Thanksgiving meals and other holiday needs for Lackamas-area families.

**VFW Post 5580** is donating meals to the school district for families in need. They currently have 120 meals planned. More information can be found here [www.vfw5580.org](http://www.vfw5580.org)

**Perfect Potluck** is collecting items for hygiene kits for Yelm High School students who are classified as homeless. More information can be found here <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/RHFJ9241>

It's inspiring to see the amount of effort that is put in by our community members to give back! If you know of a local program or charity geared for the Holiday season, we would like to add them to our list of resources. Please email [andrewkeyelmwa.gov](mailto:andrewkeyelmwa.gov) with a link to their website or Facebook page to help ensure a happy holiday season is had by all of our local families! **Please Note:** City Hall will be closed Nov. 28 and 29

### THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Yelm Gives Back for the Holidays
- Yelm Officer Released from Hospital
- Yelm University
- City Council Condensed
- State Grant Awarded for Mill Rd. Sidewalks
- Best of Nisqually Awards

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- City Hall Closed, Nov. 28-29
- Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30
- Yelm University, Dec. 5
- Christmas in the Park, Dec. 7
- Sgt. Aaron Boyle's Key Ceremony, Dec. 7

## OFFICER RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL AFTER HIGH-SPEED PURSUIT ENDS IN YELM

Please join us in thanking the City of Yelm Police Department, Thurston County-Sheriff, and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department for their quick response on Sunday afternoon.



A 38-year-old man from Snohomish County was arrested and booked on multiple felony charges after a high-speed pursuit ended in Yelm.



The suspect attempted to elude police by ramming two Pierce County deputies before fleeing to Yelm and colliding head-on with Yelm Officer Joe Rivera near Canal Road and Wilkinson. The suspect ditched the truck and continued his attempt to elude the police on foot before being blocked-in by a fence and detained. He was arrested and booked into the Thurston County jail for multiple felony charges.

Officer Rivera spent the night in a local hospital for evaluation and was released the following day. He is a bit sore from the collision but we are happy to report Rivera did not sustain any serious injuries.

## COMMUNITY INVITED TO KEY CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE A NEW JOURNEY FOR A LOCAL VETERAN

We hope you join Homes For Our Troops as they present the keys to Sgt. Aaron Boyle and his family!

This is a great example of what our community can do when we come together. More than 250 people from the greater Yelm area came out last month to help our neighbor landscape his new, specially-adapted home. Now it's time to celebrate the beginning this new journey!

The Key Ceremony will take place 1 to 3 p.m.



This event is held following the Christmas in the Park Parade, so before you make your way to the the key ceremony, be sure to swing by the park, take your picture with Santa, warm up with a chili dog and a cup of hot cocoa. We look forward to seeing you at both of these fantastic community celebrations! For details on location, please RSVP by clicking the image above.

## LEARN ABOUT CITY OPERATIONS AT YELM UNIVERSITY

We have an exciting opportunity coming up and want to ensure everyone in Yelm gets the invitation.

On December 5, the City will host the first ever "Yelm University" to bring community members together to learn about day to day operations and long-range planning of the City of Yelm.

Every student in attendance will gain a better understanding of local government, learn about

City programs and services, and will have an opportunity to contribute feedback to help guide City priorities.



We invite you to come out, meet our staff, and learn a little bit more about your local municipality.

This event is free but we do ask that you RSVP by clicking the image or visiting [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com) and search Yelm University.

We look forward to seeing you there!

# CITY RECEIVES \$300,000 GRANT TO CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK ALONG MILL ROAD

The City of Yelm was awarded a \$300,000 grant through the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) to construct a sidewalk along Mill Road, eliminating a gap in our sidewalk system and better connecting dozens of nearby homes to Mill Pond Elementary and Ridgeline Middle School.

"This is a great example of the diligence and persistence we have as a City. We are constantly reaching out to state agencies to bring taxpayer dollars back to Yelm, which allows us to complete projects that we couldn't have accomplished on our own," Mayor JW Foster said.

The TIB awarded \$100.3 million for 138 street and sidewalk improvement grants to agencies across Washington state.

The existing roadway, although it does not currently offer any protection from vehicles, is a popular route for nearby students living near both schools. The Mill Road sidewalk project, along with many other recent projects, including the Fort Stevens Sidewalk project is consistent with our objective to increase safety and connectivity for all travelers.

The project is listed in the six-year Capital Improvement Program, and the



*A small, 18-inch dirt path will be replaced by a 6-foot-wide sidewalk to improve pedestrian safety before the next school year.*

design phase was accounted for in the Road and Street Construction Fund, included in the Council-approved 2019-2020 budget.

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 overall safety through the corridor.

The City Council unanimously authorized Mayor Foster to sign a \$90,000 design agreement last August and is scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2020. The total projected cost of the new sidewalk is \$710,000 with \$410,000 coming from local funds.

"This is such an important project for our students who walk to school and one that we have all wanted to see come to fruition for a long time," Foster said. "We needed to get this done for the safety of our students."

## 2019 'BEST OF NISQUALLY' AWARDS

The 2019 Best of Nisqually Gala is one of many examples of our community coming together to support each other. In 2019, the City welcomed dozens of new businesses while existing businesses continue to find success in Yelm. This year, the City was honored to receive the awards for 'Best Festival' in Prairie Days and the 'Best Park,' following the Recent improvements at Yelm City Park. A special congratulations is owed to Yelm Police Detective Bill DeVore for earning 'Officer of the Year.' We appreciate your commitment to the community!

### Officer of the Year: Bill DeVore



### Best Festival: Yelm Prairie Days



### Best Park: Yelm City Park

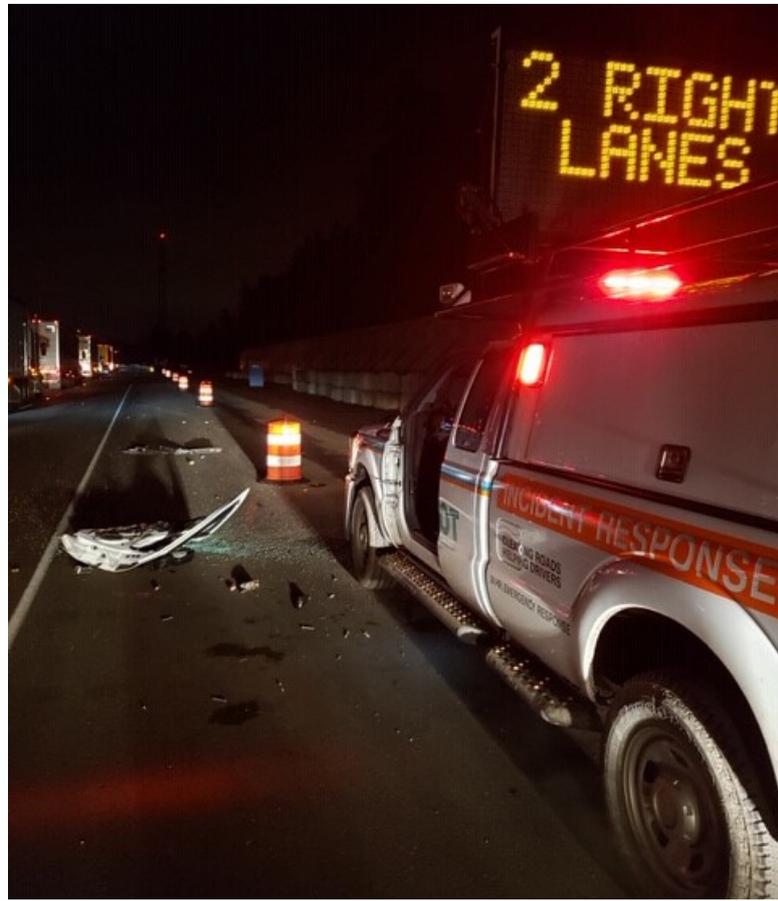


## EMERGENCIES HAPPEN, WILL YOU BE NOTIFIED?

Please join the more than 3,000 people who have already signed up for Smart 911, a notification system that alerts residents of an emergency by text, phone, or email. This service is offered free to the community and can help residents prepare for an emergency or natural disaster and can serve as a line of communication in the aftermath of a disaster.

This service also allows us to notify subscribers of many other incidents that have a significant impact to area residents, similar to last week's incident that shut down I-5 and caused a gridlock in Yelm. We were able to alert 3,150 subscribers of the traffic impacts but we would like to alert more of you in situations like those!

If you would like to receive emergency alerts for events like these, please sign up for our emergency notification system by clicking on the image or by visiting <https://www.smart911.com/.../regis.../registrationLanding.action>



## JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK NEXT SATURDAY

For 31 consecutive years, our local businesses, organizations, and the community at large has joined together to celebrate the holidays. We are so fortunate to have a free event that provides an entire day of holiday festivities without forcing families to break out their wallets.

The festival will kick off with the Christmas in the Park Parade beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Yelm Cinemas parking lot and will make its way along Yelm Avenue to the Yelm City Park. This year's parade will feature Grand Marshals Bill and Sara DeVore. Bill serves as the Detective for the Yelm Police Department and was recently named Officer of the year in the Nisqually Valley and Sara is a treasurer at Yelm High School.

Both are outstanding members of the community and are well-deserving of this honor.

Following the parade, you can expect the park filled with people and Christmas tunes, provided by all grade levels of the Yelm Community School's band and choir students. Every year the local businesses work together to feed our community by serving hot chili, cocoa, cookies, hotdogs, and many other goodies throughout the day. The City will also provide free pictures with Santa in the Yelm Community Center.

This event remains free through the generous donations made by our local organizations and businesses. This includes: Mr. Dougs Restaurant, the Yelm Rotary Club, the Timberland Regional Library, the Lions Club, FFA, FBLA, Yelm Community Schools Today's Dental, "Shear Perfections Grooming" and Citizens for the Support of Yelm Schools.

We can't wait to celebrate the holidays with you!

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS, SHOP LOCAL THIS SATURDAY!

As the busy shopping weekend approaches, we encourage you to support the businesses that support our community by shopping local this Holiday Season.

The Yelm Chamber is celebrating Small Business Saturday with a raffle. To enter, shop at a local business on Saturday, Nov. 30 and bring your receipt into the Chamber office Dec. 2 through Dec. 5. You will be given one raffle ticket for every small business you shop at.

# CITY COUNCIL CONDENSED



*City Council Condensed is a brief summary of the most recent Yelm City Council meetings with each Council member's roll call votes. Meetings can be viewed on the City of Yelm YouTube channel and agendas can be viewed on [yelmwa.gov](http://yelmwa.gov). If you would like to send a comment to the Mayor or City Council, please visit [yelmwa.gov/connect](http://yelmwa.gov/connect).*

## City Council Passes 1 Percent Levy Increase to Fund Essential City Programs and Services.

The Yelm City Council voted in a 4-1 vote to adopt a one percent levy increase to fund public safety, City parks, and day-to-day operations, as accounted for in the Council-approved 2019-20 biennial budget.

Washington State Law allows cities with a population of less than 10,000 can increase their levy amount by one percent without a vote, which will result in an increase from \$1.516 to \$1.531 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The median home, valued at \$291,400 will see an increase of \$5 in 2021, equaling \$0.36 per month. The fixed ad valorem amount must be adopted by Council on an annual basis.

The Thurston County Assessor's Office assessed the total value of the homes in Yelm to be at \$992,824,762, equaling an increase of \$87.6 million compared to the previous year.

The 1 percent ad valorem levy increase accounts for \$15,000 of previously budgeted expenditures for services, including police, roadway maintenance, snow removal, parks maintenance, and other programs that benefit the entire community.

Senior and disabled citizens on limited incomes are eligible for exemption from paying some property taxes, depending on their income levels. More information for tax exemption is available [here](#).

Property Tax Rate History for the City of Yelm



## City Holds One of Two Public Hearings for Proposed Amendments for 2019-20 Biennium Budget

Finance Director Heidi MacDonald presented proposed budget amendments for the fiscal year of 2020 to the City Council on Tuesday, which also served as one of two public hearings.

In December of 2018, the Council adopted the first two year budget the City has ever developed to provide better long-term revenue and expenditure forecast. The biennial budget is adopted every even year, while amendments are made every odd year.

MacDonald reported the City's revenue for 2019 is projected to come in at 47 percent of the anticipated revenue over the two-year period, meaning the City will budget to receive the other 53 percent in 2020 and equaling 100 percent over the 2019-20 biennium. The City is projected to end 2019 with expenditures coming in at 9 percent under budget, having spent 41 percent of the full budget.

The amendments account for minor revenue and expenditure adjustments different areas of the budget and will bring our beginning fund balances, which were projections when the original biennium budget was adopted, to actual beginning fund balances. The amendments ensure the budget remains balanced, while supporting essential services.

City Council will review the mid-biennium budget amendment in detail at their Dec.3 study session and will vote on the amendment at the Dec. 10 City Council meeting. All Council meetings are open to the public and streamed live to the City of Yelm YouTube Channel.



*As a reminder, City offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 28-29. From all of us at the City of Yelm, we hope you have a splendid holiday weekend!*

To read the entire article, please visit [www.thurstontalk.com](http://www.thurstontalk.com) or [yelmonline.com](http://yelmonline.com) for articles by the Nisqually Valley News

## BILL AND SARA DEVORE SELECTED AS YELM CHRISTMAS PARADE GRAND MARSHALS

By Eric Rosane  
The Nisqually Valley News

Bill and Sara DeVore, owners of the 507 Taproom and Filling Station, have been chosen as grand marshals for this year's Christmas Parade, put on by the Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce.



The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. at Yelm Cinemas and will run along Yelm Avenue to the Yelm City Park.

Photo by Eric Rosane / Nisqually Valley News

## 'PARTY FOR A PURPOSE' DONATES 40 TURKEYS TO MCKENNA SCHOOL FOR TURKEY BINGO, FILLING LAST-MINUTE NEEDS

By Eric Rosane  
Nisqually Valley News

Yelm-based nonprofit Party For a Purpose stepped in at the last minute to help McKenna Elementary with a donation of 40 turkeys and a \$225 gift card for its annual Turkey Bingo.



Members of Party for a Purpose donate 40 turkeys to benefit McKenna Elementary school families. From the Left Tad Stillwell, Line Critchfield, Scotty Brown, Principal Kari Martin, and School Counselor Myrna Porter.

Photo by Eric Rosane / Nisqually Valley News

## YELM CHAMBER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINE CRITCHFIELD IS A FORCE FOR COMMUNITY UNITY

By Heidi Smith  
Thurston Talk

Go to almost any community event and you'll find Line Critchfield there. Aside from her role as chamber director, she serves on the board of Citizens for Support of Yelm Community Schools (CSYCS) and hosts weekly trivia contests at the Uptown Lounge.





## **City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving** **106 2nd St. SE** **Nov. 28-29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

City Hall is Closed for Thanksgiving and will reopen on December 2. From all of us at the City of Yelm, we hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving weekend. The amount of effort that is put in by our community to ensure everyone in the Yelm area has a meal on Thanksgiving was truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



## **Small Business Saturday** **Every Local Business!** **Nov. 30, All Day**

This year, our local businesses went above and beyond to give back to the community this holiday season, and now it's time for us to support them. We encourage you to stop by the local coffee shops, restaurants, boutique stores, and all of the other retailers that aren't a part of a national chain. In addition, The Yelm Chamber is holding a raffle. To enter, shop at a local business on Saturday, Nov. 30 and bring your receipt into the Chamber office Dec. 2 through Dec. 5. You will be given one raffle ticket for every small business you shop at.



## **Christmas in the Park Parade & Festival** **Yelm City Park, 115 Mosman Ave SE** **Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.**

For 31 consecutive years, our local businesses, organizations, and the community at large has joined together to celebrate the holidays. Every year the local businesses work together to feed our community by serving hot chili, cocoa, cookies, hotdogs, and many other goodies throughout the day. The City will also provide free pictures with Santa in the Yelm Community Center.



## **Key Ceremony for Army SGT Aaron Boyle** **Address Available Upon RSVP** **Dec. 7, 1 to 3 p.m.**

This is a great example of what our community can do when we come together. More than 250 people from the greater Yelm area came out last month to help our neighbor landscape his new, specially-adapted home. Now it's time to celebrate the beginning of this new journey! RSVP 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](mailto:andrewk@yelmwa.gov) or calling 360-458-8420.