

THIS WEEK IN YELM

Official newsletter of the City of Yelm

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OPENS TO SERVE YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The newly established Yelm Boys & Girls Club is officially open!

The Club offers organized activities, a technology lab, and homework help to nearly 50 students within the Yelm Schools boundaries.

The newly established Yelm branch was made possible following City Council approval to relocate City Hall last year to better meet the need of our growing City by improving customer service and operational efficiencies. After the purchase agreement of the new City Hall building, the City invited and encouraged public comment regarding the use of the former building.

The General Government committee received community input and recommended repurposing the building to serve youth and veterans. After hearing the proposal by the General Government Committee and listening to the citizens of Yelm, council elected to dedicate the space to house a Yelm branch of the Thurston County Boys & Girls Club and a Veterans Resource Center.

With the relocation of City Hall, the City is now able to help organizations, including the Yelm Boys & Girls Club start, grow, and expand into our community by reducing barriers to entry, and promoting community services in the City of Yelm by utilizing existing infrastructure. The Yelm Boys & Girls Club was established through a partnership with the Thurston County Boys & Girls Club, and Yelm Community Schools. The City provides the space, performs outside maintenance, and donated several computer monitors while Yelm Community Schools organized bus routes to the club, donated computers, and provided tech support to get the Club online.

[See Club, Page 2](#)



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Yelm High School Opens New Field
- Yelm Water Rights Application Update
- Homelessness Task Force Forum
- Center for Business Opens in Yelm
- Education & Economic Development Hub
- City Council Updates

UPCOMING EVENTS

- YHS Homecoming Football Game, Sept. 27
- Marvin Road Closure Sept. 27-30
- Center for Business Classes, Oct. 2
- Green House Rock, Oct. 5
- Yelm Homelessness Task Force, Oct. 9



The newly established Yelm branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Thurston County is located in the former City Hall building

Club:

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Not only does the Club provide a safe place for area students and help prepare them for real-world success, but the Yelm branch also established five jobs and created many volunteer opportunities. Andrew Chase, the new director of the Yelm branch is a Yelm High School Graduate and previous director of the Olympia branch.

At a March City Council meeting, Council adopted a resolution to authorize Mayor JW Foster to enter into a lease agreement with the Thurston County Boys and Girls Club and a Veterans Resource Center. The agreement allowed for the Yelm Boys and Girls Club to open on the first day of the 2019-2020 school year.

The City is still working and collaborating with multiple different veterans organizations to establish a Veterans Resource Center that will provide service and support programs to active military service members, veterans, and their families.

The City is proud to support our local youth and families, and this building will continue to serve as a valuable resource for the community with the establishment of these two public services. It has been used as the City Court, City Library, Council Chambers, City Hall, and this agreement will continue the trend by providing much needed resources for our local youth, families and veterans.

YELM HIGH SCHOOL, CITY, AND SEAHAWKS CELEBRATE NEW YELM HIGH SCHOOL FIELD

Excitement filled the Yelm High School stadium as the Tornados took to the new field for the first home game of the season under the Friday night lights.

Before the game between the Tornados and Skyview, Seattle Seahawk Demetrius Knox and dancers presented a \$250,000 grant to help fund the new field. After the presentation, Mayor JW Foster and Yelm Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Line Critchfield held the ribbon as School Board Member Debbie Edwards made the celebratory cut at the grand opening of the new field.

Last year, the Tornados went 5-2 in conference with an 8-4 record overall, earning them their first playoff appearance in 30 years. The team looks to rally from last year's success and has high expectations for themselves as they enter the 2019 season.



YELM LEADS THE WAY IN STATEWIDE WATER MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Having been punished for being a pioneer in watershed management, leaving Yelm with negligible room for growth, City Administrator Michael Grayum presented to the Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation to champion the City's progressive and earth-friendly approach to water mitigation, and advocate for the for the citizens and business owners of Yelm.

"Our economic development is at a standstill without additional water rights and the cost to repair our aging infrastructure will be born on the backs of our current residents," Grayum told the Task Force.

"That's highly unfair considering most of the current rate payers are residential customers. We need to diversify our tax base but we can't do that without additional water rights."

In a 2015 Washington Supreme Court ruling, known as the "Foster Decision," the Supreme Court rejected the Washington State Department of Ecology's (WDOE) decision to grant new water rights to the City. The decision revoked the previously granted rights which has contributed to utility rate increases by preventing additional housing and industry in our area.

The current population of Yelm is about 9,200 with the population estimated to grow to 25,000 by 2040 in accordance with the Growth Management Act which requires fast-growing cities and counties to develop a comprehensive plan to manage population growth. With only 208 water connections remaining before growth comes to a complete standstill, the City is no longer accepting subdivision applications.

In 2018, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill 6091 known as the "Stream Flow Restoration Act," or "Hirst Fix," which authorized the WDOE to create the Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation that will oversee five water rights pilot projects including Yelm. The pilot projects, monitored by the WDOE will use different water mitigation strategies to measure the ecological impact and benefits of each program.

The Task Force will review the treatment of surface and ground water appropriations as they relate to instream flows and fish habitat, to develop and recommend a mitigation sequencing process and scoring system, and to review the Washington Supreme Court decision in Foster v. Department of Ecology, according to RCW 90.94.090.

Pilot projects must improve function and productivity of the affected fish populations and related aquatic habitat, known as the net ecological benefit. The net ecological benefit identified through available data, ecological context and local expertise, according to the WDOE.

Another innovative part of Yelm's water mitigation plan is the City's Water Reclamation Facility which serves as the wastewater treatment facility and the heart of the irrigation system. The facility takes reclaimed water, cleaner than California drinking water standards, and puts it back into the aquifer at Cochrane Park, and distributes it for irrigation at City parks, Yelm Community Schools' ballfields, and is used for fire flows.



The Smith Farm project is one of many water mitigation strategies implemented by the City of Yelm

Water:

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The City is proud to have the first water reclamation facility in the state, built in 1999, which is now the oldest and in need of significant improvements to accommodate growth as required by the GMA, and to provide additional reclaimed water to support the City's water mitigation plan. The WRF was recently toured by Senator Judy Warnick R-Moses Lake and many other state policy makers on the task force to show the recent progress and future challenges of the facility.



Water is infiltrated into the aquifer at Cochrane Park to support the City's water mitigation strategy.

"Yelm is a model that we should be looking at for the rest of our areas," Warnick told the Task Force. "I was very impressed with what (Yelm) has done and with their future plans."

Over a three-year period, the City has replaced many components to keep the current facility functional, including the system control software, distribution system, and eliminated single points of failure but still requires an estimated \$27 Million overhaul to manage current and future demand. The City is exploring a variety of options to renovate the facility while keeping utility rates as low as possible for the citizens and businesses of Yelm. Options include a widely used Membrane Bioreactor system, and advocating for State Funding and allow Yelm to be a leader for other innovative treatment options including ceramics and algae.

"We are willing to be another pilot project," Grayum said. "We were the first water reclamation facility in the state and we are willing to be an innovator for a system and once again, be used as a model for other cities."

The City is on track to submit the water rights application to the WDOE by the end of 2019 which is anticipated to be the first water mitigation pilot to submit an application. If the application is approved, Yelm will regain its water rights and open the door for additional housing and new industries to move in, allowing the City to maintain infrastructure, diversify the tax base, and reduce the impact on existing residents and businesses.



One of the latest upgrades include new Variable Frequency Drives which control the pumps on the water reuse skid shown in the picture to the right.

The Water re-use skid was replaced as part of Immediate phase 1 improvement plan launched in 2017.

YELM HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE TO HOST OPEN PUBLIC FORUM OCTOBER 9

The Yelm Homelessness Task Force will host an open public forum 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Yelm Community Center to gain input before their recommendation to City Council which is anticipated to be put forward before the end of 2019. The Council ultimately has the authority to accept or deny the recommendation proposed by the Task Force.

To date, the work of the Task Force has been to survey available resources to homeless people in the Yelm area and identify service gaps. Future work will include framing several possible recommendations which range from doing nothing, to boosting services, to providing city funded property or housing.

The Task Force's public meeting will provide an opportunity for residents and business owners to listen to the Task Force's preliminary proposals before going to Council and gives the community at large an opportunity to comment on the proposed options before they are formalized. A formal recommendation will be presented to City Council at a regular Council meeting or Council Study Session, which are all open to the public.

The Resolution to form the Homelessness Task Force was created and authorized by the City Council in November 2018.



Molly Carmody,
Yelm City Council



Joe DePinto
Yelm City Council

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, members of non-profit organizations which provide services to the homeless, and a citizen-at-large.

While the upcoming Oct. 9 meeting is an open public forum, regular meetings are not designed as such. Members who are not a part of the Task Force are encouraged to attend and listen as a member of the audience for regular meetings. Community members looking to participate in the discussion are encouraged to attend the open public forum or email joed@yelmwa.gov or mollyc@yelmwa.gov with their input.

Homelessness Task Force, City Council, Planning Commission, and other Special Meetings are streamed live and archived on the City of Yelm Youtube Channel!



Click the button to view

CONSTRUCTION ALERT: 510 OVERPASS ON MARVIN RD. CLOSED THROUGH WEEKEND

Heads Up, Travelers! The State Route 510 overpass on Marvin Road will be CLOSED to all vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians 10 p.m. Friday Sept 27 through 5 a.m. Monday Sept. 30. The Marvin Road. southbound on-ramp will remain open while the northbound on-ramp will be closed.



For more information, please click on the image above or visit www.wsdot.wa.gov

CITY REQUESTS DESIGN PROPOSALS FOR CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HUB

The City of Yelm is seeking proposals for the architectural design of a multi-story, multi-use building that will provide space for education and economic development, following \$200,000 in grant funding through the Washington State Legislature.

In 2018, the City purchased an office building to relocate City Hall and an adjacent half-acre of vacant property within Yelm's central business district. The purchase consolidated City operations, created a more defined civic center and provided an opportunity to create new services for the Yelm community, including the addition of the Yelm branch of the Thurston County Boys & Girls Club.

A new building will provide a dedicated space for education, training, and technology to serve members of the rural parts of Thurston and Pierce Counties, and catalyze the startup and expansion of small business by breaking down barriers to entry for local businesses to continue to strengthen our local economy.

The multi-use building was also identified in the recently adopted Downtown Corridor Strategy which lists projects that will improve connectivity



Please click on the picture or visit www.yelmwa.gov to view the entire Downtown Transportation Strategy

and downtown vitality while maintaining the character of Yelm's historic corridor. This project includes converting Washington Street and McKenzie Avenue into one way streets between 2nd and 3rd Street.

The City is requesting proposals from three different firms based on their statement of qualifications through the Municipal Research and Service Center. The firm will be responsible for working with stakeholders to identify community needs, develop a space plan for the building, develop and implement a robust public participation strategy, preparing a conceptual building design and alternatives, and a preliminary cost estimate.

Firms will be selected based on their experience in federally funded projects and their team's expertise, stakeholder outreach plan, project approach, and references. Proposals were due Sept. 20 and a firm will be selected by the end of the year. Design is expected to be complete by July 2020.

MAYOR PROCLAIMS FRIDAY AS 'RED AND BLACK DAY'

In honor of the Yem Community Schools' homecoming week, themed "Hometown Homecoming," Mayor JW Foster proclaimed next Friday as Red and Black Day in the City of Yelm. We are excited to celebrate our hometown pride with our schools, alumni, and everyone else who makes this a great community to live and work in.

The Homecoming football game will kickoff 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27.





Recognizing National Voter Registration Day



The City of Yelm proclaimed Sept. 24, 2019 as National Voter Registration Day in Yelm to encourage all eligible city residents to register to vote.

"Registering to vote empowers eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote on Election Day," The proclamation reads in part. "The City of Yelm is committed to strengthening democracy by encouraging voter registration and increasing participation in all elections."

National Voter Registration Day was established by civic-minded people and organizations, and helps promote awareness of elections and motivate eligible citizens to vote in the coming months. Please visit <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> to register or update your voting information. The last day to register online is Oct. 28 but registration is open up to 8 p.m. on election day, Nov. 5.

Yelm Proclaims September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

The City of Yelm Proclaimed September 2019 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to encourage residents to learn more about childhood cancers, and to discover ways to support research and development for the prevention and treatment of childhood cancers.



"The causes of childhood cancer are largely unknown and more studies are needed to understand which treatments work best for children," the proclamation reads in part. "Yelm is a community that cares about its children and their families."

Pediatric cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children ,with 1 in 285 children in the United States being diagnosed by age 20, and 80 percent of childhood cancer cases are diagnosed only after the disease has metastasized and spread to other areas of the body. We hope you join the City of Yelm in researching and supporting pediatric cancer patients. More information can be found through the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org

Five Lots Annexed into City Limits

The City of Yelm grew by five homes on Tuesday after an area resident successfully petitioned to be annexed into the City limits of Yelm. Welcome to the City!

Council approved the circulation of the petition at the Aug. 27 Council meeting and all five property owners signed the petition and wish to be incorporated into City limits. Two of the homes are already on the City's water and sewer system, while all five are already connected to City water. The annexation has no additional impact to City water rights as the homes were already connected to City water.

The record owners of at least sixty percent of the value of the property have petitioned for annexation into the City of Yelm," the Ordinance reads. "The City Council finds that such annexation is in the best interest of the City and conforms with annexation policies of the City as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan and Yelm Municipal Code."

Council Postpones Vote to Re-Evaluate Water and Sewer Utility Rates

It is the goal of the City of Yelm to keep utility rates as low as possible for our customers, while properly funding the infrastructure that delivers quality drinking water and safe wastewater treatment and reuse.

City staff and Council worked together in open meetings to develop a sustainable funding plan to limit the impact to our residents. The plan included utility rates that were adopted by the Council in December of 2017 and implemented in 2018 after the previous forecast by FCS Group.

The current funding plan is set to expire Jan.1 2021 and rates will then increase with the rate of inflation, based on the most recent Consumer Price Index. The midterm analysis will determine if the water and sewer utility rates are keeping the City on a sustainable financial trajectory by evaluating standard operating costs, reserves, debt service, and capital improvement costs.

Council will vote regarding the agreement at the next regular council meeting Oct. 9.

CENTER FOR BUSINESS & INNOVATION SATELLITE OFFICE OPENS IN YELM

The Thurston Economic Development Council (EDC) and the South Thurston Economic Development Council (STEDI) launched a Center for Business & Innovation (CB&I) satellite office in partnership with the City of Yelm. The satellite office is open 2 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday at Yelm City Hall.

"We are thrilled to be able to partner with the City of Yelm & the Yelm Chamber of Commerce to help support and grow their local businesses! We love to work alongside cities and chambers to help start and foster sustainable businesses that become key parts of the local community,"

Kaylee Purcell Director CB&I said. "We know business owners are loaded down with so much to do these days, we hope that by locating our services closer to them we will be able to support them better."

The CB&I exists to support people from the idea phase of starting a business to scaling a successful medium size business with up to 100 employees. We offer one-on-one coaching, workshops, and additional resources to help start, grow, and streamline business development. CB&I resources include Washington Center for Women in Business, Washington Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Senior Core of Retired Executives, Small Business Development Centers, and STEDI.

"We are looking forward to the strengthening our partnership with the Center for Business & Innovation by opening this satellite office in Yelm," said Michael Grayum, City Administrator. "The technical and strategic support they provide will help current and future businesses continue to thrive in our growing community."

In addition to the Satellite office, the CB&I, City of Yelm, Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Center for Women in Business will hold two workshops: "Where's My Money? A Cash Flow System to Help You Keep Your Profit and Sanity," 2-4 p.m. September 18, and "How to Start a Business: A Step by Step Road Map to Start Your Successful Small Business," 6 to 8 p.m. October 2. The workshops will take place in the Council Chambers at Yelm City Hall.

"The Yelm Chamber is so excited to cement our partnership with the Economic Development Council and CB&I, and the City of Yelm, to ensure that business owners have the resources they need to thrive, right here in the heart of Yelm. We hope that business owners will take advantage of these benefits, visit the satellite office, and attend workshops that will take place." said Line Critchfield, Executive Director of the Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Satellite Office is open for walk-in visitors 2 to 3 p.m. and scheduled appointments 3 to 5 p.m. To schedule an appointment contact Ryan Norskog, 360-464-6060 or email at rnorskog@thurstonedc.com.

For more information about the Thurston EDC CB&I Yelm Satellite office visit <https://thurstonedc.com/cbi/> or contact George Sharp, Rural Program Manager at 360-464-6043 or gsharp@thurstonedc.com.



Workshop Details:

- "How to Start a Business: A Step by Step Road Map to Start Your Successful Small Business!" October 2, 6-8 p.m., Yelm City Hall Council Chambers, 106 Second St. SE, Yelm, WA 98597

IN THE NEWS

YELM FFA ALUMNI RAISE MORE THAN \$3,000 AT CAR SHOW

By Nisqually Valley News

Hundreds of folks spent time looking at vehicles, grabbing a bite to eat and bidding on items at the inaugural Yelm FFA Alumni Association Car Show and Silent Auction Saturday at Yelm Middle School. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.yelmonline.com**



FIRST YELM PUB CRAWL TO SUPPORT JUSTIN NORTON SCHOLARSHIP

By Eric Rosane
Nisqually Valley News

Attendees of the first Yelm Pub Crawl will hit the town at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, to eat and drink in the name of raising money for a good cause. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.yelmonline.com**



Photo By Eric Rosane / Nisqually Valley News

NEW FIELD TO BE UTILIZED AS COMMUNITY AMENITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

By Heidi Smith
Thurstontalk

Nearly 2,000 excited fans packed the Yelm High School stadium as the Yelm High School Tornados took to the new synthetic-turf field for the first home football game of the season under the Friday night lights. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.thurstontalk.com**



Yelm High School's football team, as well as its soccer teams, can now practice throughout the season regardless of weather. **Photo by Yelm Community Schools**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Yelm High School Homecoming Football Game 1315 W Yelm Ave. Sept. 27, Kickoff at 7 p.m.

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



Center for Business & Innovation Class 106 2nd St SE. Oct. 2 6-8 p.m.

The Center for Business & Innovation will host How to Start a Business: A Step by Step Road Map to Start Your Successful Small Business! Oct. 2, 6-8 p.m. at the Yelm City Hall Council Chambers. In this 2-hour workshop, the CB&I will help future business owners develop a strategy for their first year of business. The workshop is taught by Tawn Holstra Auston, Rural Business Coach for the Washington Center for Women in Business Rural Services Program.



Green House Rock! Jason's Greenhouse Farm, 14225 Yelm Hwy Oct. 5, 6 to 9 p.m

Join The Citizens for Support of Yelm Schools for the best party of the fall season! Themed after all of our favorite math singalongs, Green House Rock will provide live music by Clownfish, Dancing, Food by Casa Mia, and many other fantastic festivities! All proceeds and funds raised will go toward the Citizens for Support of Yelm Schools.



Yelm Homelessness Task Force Public Forum 301 2nd St SE. Oct. 9 6:30 p.m.

The Task Force is seeking feedback and will host an open public forum 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9 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 to Council.

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.