

THIS WEEK IN YELM

Official newsletter of the City of Yelm

8,000 BICYCLISTS TO TRAVEL THROUGH YELM THIS WEEKEND



Great events continue to cycle through our new City Park! We have another great weekend of activities ahead with the Yelm Farmers Market and Annual Seattle to Portland bike ride this weekend! WSDOT expects more than 8,000 cyclists to travel through Yelm July 13-14, so please be patient and allow extra travel time.

For the third consecutive year, the Yelm City Park and Community Center will serve as an official 'mini stop' at mile marker 73, 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.

Yelm High School sports medicine students will be on hand to treat minor abrasions, strains and blisters, while the Fire Authority will be there to provide backup for more serious injuries.

Locally grown fruit, vegetables, and handmade products can be found at the Farmers Market on McKenzie Street, in front of the Public Safety Building.

The City of Yelm Police Department and Public Works Department will be directing cyclists as they travel from Yelm Avenue through 3rd Street, Mossman Avenue, 2nd Street, and across 507 to the Yelm-Tenino Trail. Second Street will be closed from Mossman to Washington for the Farmer's Market.

Thank you to all of our residents for your patience and caution of the cyclists traversing the region this weekend. We appreciate all of our community partners and event sponsors who make this event a success! Special thanks to Alaska Airlines, Performance Bicycle, Wilcox Family Farms, Nuun Hydration and Darigold.

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Yelm City Park Update
- Water Tower Restoration Project
- Yelm Water Quality Report
- Six-Year Transportation Plan

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Seattle to Portland Bike Ride, July 13 - 14
- Yelm Farmer's Market, July 13
- Movie in the Park, July 13
- Yelm Mermaid Festival, July 20

PLEASE EXPECT INTERMITTENT PLAYGROUND CLOSURES

We loved seeing all the smiling faces at the new play area at Yelm City Park the last couple of weeks! To let the new grass settle in and allow for maintenance on the irrigation system, we will close the playground intermittently for your safety. The fences will all come down on July 19th and the playground and surrounding grass areas will be completely open.

Regarding the Splash Pad, chemical balancing and performance testing is underway. We are hopefully at the final steps of getting it certified from Thurston County. We are responding to questions and comments from the State and County Health Departments, and planning for their pre-opening inspection. Thank you for your patience as we work to bring the whole park online and open very soon!



YELM WATER TOWER RESTORATION PLANNED TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER



Among the many improvements being made in our City this summer, the Yelm water tower restoration project is anticipated to begin this summer, thanks to the advocacy of our local residents and business owners.

Before long, the iconic tower will be a community art piece in the heart of town with fresh paint and outfitted with LED lighting with an impressive arrangement of different features and colors to coincide with the holidays and other special events. The project will also include new fencing, landscaping and an interpretive kiosk to tell the story.

The decommissioned tower was put on the state Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation in 2017 and is maintained by "Save the Historic Yelm Water Tower," which was founded by local business owner Steve Craig. Craig advocated for the nearly \$500,000 allocated to the nonprofit to complete this project and anticipates the preparation, sanding, and painting will be finished before the end of summer with the lighting expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The 125-foot, 500,000 gallon water tower was built in 1946 by the Chicago Bridge & Iron Company to replace the two 1,000 gallon pressurized tanks when Yelm was added to the Thurston County Fire District No. 2 in 1946. The tower was placed on the Washington Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation historic register in June 2017. The tower is maintained by the nonprofit, whose members include Craig, Margaret Clapp, Barrie Wilcox, EJ Curry, and Beverly Vines Haines.

The tower is a big part of our history and served as the foundation that allowed us to grow into the community that we are today and continues to serve



as a reminder of our past and a familiar welcome sign when coming into town. We are appreciative of the efforts by the nonprofit to save the tower and look forward to seeing the 125-foot structure come back to life as a community art piece that we can all be proud of!

2018 WATER QUALITY REPORT SHOWS CLEAN, HEALTHY SUPPLY



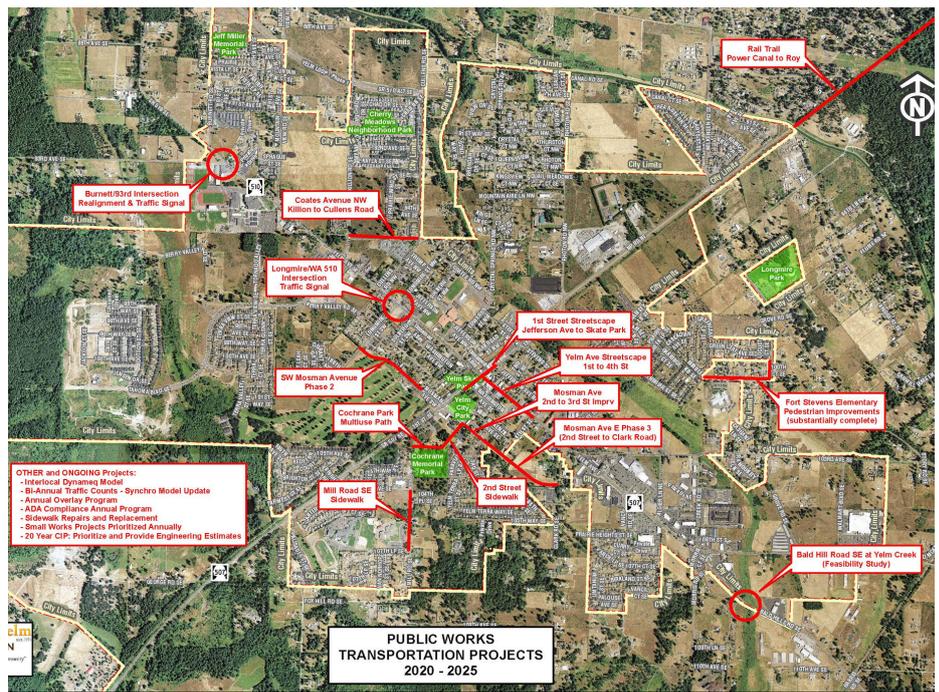
One of our top priorities is to provide residents with safe, dependable drinking water and to protect our water resources.

The 2018 Water Quality Report shows that our water supply is healthy, clean, and well within compliance, established by the Washington State Department of Health and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For your convenience, the 2018 Water Quality Report was mailed out to customers and is also publicly available at <https://www.yelmwa.gov>

The City of Yelm continuously monitors drinking water for various contaminants in the water supply, including nitrates, chlorine residuals, lead, and copper to ensure we meet all regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions or concerns about your water quality, testing methods, and additional steps you can take to maintain your water quality, please visit the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

COUNCIL ADOPTS UPDATED SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN



City Council on Tuesday, approved the updated six-year Transportation Improvement Plan that will include many street and sidewalk improvement projects to increase pedestrian safety and reduce traffic in Yelm.

This year, we have already completed the Fort Stevens Sidewalk project, eliminated more than 400 trip hazards on existing sidewalks throughout the City, and adopted the downtown corridor plan. In the updated plan, we look forward to the completion of the Bypass, extending Mossman Avenue through to Longmire, and adding multiple sidewalks to make our City more walkable.

According to the downtown corridor study conducted by SCJ Alliance, The Yelm Bypass, formally known as the Yelm Loop will reduce the amount of regional and truck traffic through town, while “mini-loops, including extending Mossman to Longmire Street will further reduce traffic by offering route alternatives both north and south of Yelm Avenue. With the additional traffic flow on Longmire with the extension of Mossman, the transportation plan includes a street light at Longmire and Yelm Avenue.

Along with street improvements, the transportation Improvement Plan accounts for many pedestrian improvements, including the addition of sidewalks on Mill Road connecting dozens of residential houses to Mill Pond Elementary and Ridgeline Middle School, 2nd Street sidewalk improvements to better connect the City parks and services. The plan also includes the connection of the Yelm-Tenino Trail to the Rail Trail which will connect to Roy.

We look forward to improving traffic flow, enhancing pedestrian safety and enhancing downtown vitality by better connecting residents to services. This plan will act as a guiding document in prioritizing projects for the betterment of Yelm.

IN THE NEWS

PRAIRIE DAYS 2019: A HIT WITH FAMILIES

By Daniel Warn

Nisqually Valley News

Hundreds of people gathered in Yelm City Park Saturday to celebrate Prairie Days and the festival it usually brings. Some changes were made this year, including the decision to make all events free.

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



Kids at Yelm's Prairie Days enjoy a crab-walking race Saturday, June 29, at Yelm City Park. Photo by Daniel Warn, Nisqually Valley News

'I THINK WE KNOCKED IT OUT OF THE PARK': COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR FIRST YELM BBQ RALLY

By Eric Roseane

Nisqually Valley News

Hundreds of community members came out to chow down on barbecue delicacies from about a half-dozen vendors, enjoy family activities such as bull riding and hopscotch, cool down with some adult refreshments in the beer garden and enjoy music from local bands. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.yelmonline.com**



Fafo Coulliette, with Steele Barrel BBQ Company, serves up a pulled pork sandwich with sauce during Saturday's first annual barbecue rally. Photo by Eric Roseane, Nisqually Valley News

NISQUALLY RIVER TARGETED FOR \$1.37M IN SALMON RESTORATION GRANTS

By Eric Roseane

Nisqually Valley News

Thurston and Pierce counties were among nearly a dozen other counties that will be the recipients of a total state investment of \$45 million by the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board to help salmon populations. **Click on the picture for the entire article or visit www.yelmonline.com**



The Nisqually River flows on an early, spring morning near the 6th Avenue fishing and river access site. Photo By Eric Rosane, Nisqually Valley News.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Seattle to Portland (STP) Bike Ride Riders Will Be Traveling Through Yelm July 13-14

Riders of the STP will travel through Yelm on their way to Portland. The iconic 206-mile bicycle ride is the largest multi-day bicycle event in the Pacific Northwest with up to 8,000 participants riding from Seattle to Portland in one or two days every year



Yelm Farmers Market Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE July 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Yelm Farmers Market is open for the summer season and held every Saturday until October 22. Please click on the image on the left for more information regarding the Farmers Market.



Movie in the Park: 'Back to the Future' Longmire Park, 16820 Canal Rd. July 13, 6:30 to 11 p.m.

The 2019 Movies in the Park Season kicks off with the classic "Back to the Future". 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.



Mermaid Festival Yelm City Park, 301 2nd St. SE July 20, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Yelm Mermaid Festival is a free, all ages event with more than 20 vendors selling unique mermaid related products, and seven food vendors to choose from. The festival will have professional mermaids shows, mermaids to take pictures with, make your own jellyfish stations, shell digging and many other mermaid related activities.

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.