

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. If you would like to send a comment to the Mayor or City Council, please visit yelmwa.gov/connect.

City's Revenue and Expenses on Par with 2019 Budget and Council Approves Resolution to Establish a Budget Schedule

The City's 2019 revenues and expenditures are on track with the 2019 budget through September, according to a staff report by Interim Finance Director Heidi MacDonald. Finance updates, similar to the one in this report, will be made available on a regular basis after Council unanimously passed a resolution to develop a budget calendar.

The Yelm Finance Committee developed a proposed budget calendar to continue providing predictability and planning for future budgets, with an additional emphasis on establishing City Council retreats to establish priorities and surveys to solicit feedback from the community to inform Council decision making on the budget process.

MacDonald's report showed the City is on a sustainable path through the first nine months of 2019 as the City has received \$17.4 million in revenue, while expenditures total \$16.2 million.

To date the City has received 80 percent of the expected revenues and spent 65 percent of the total budgeted expenses for 2019. In the same report, MacDonald announced the audit for 2018 was completed on Oct. 11 and an exit interview is scheduled for Nov. 1. More details regarding the audit will follow the exit interview.

The Finance Department is currently working to compare the 2019 year-to-date revenue and expenditures to the biennial budget and prepare budget amendments needed. The amendments will come before Council by the end of the year.

As we continue to increase government transparency and provide predictability and planning for future budgets, the Finance Department will prepare a budget calendar that will prepare updates using year-to-date actual revenue and expenditures in March, July, and November of every year.



Homelessness Task Force Prepares to Bring Recommendations and Final Report to Council

Following the most recent Homelessness Task Force meeting on Oct. 15, Molly Carmody, a City Councilmember and Co-Chair of the Yelm Homelessness Task Force, announced the advisory group had convened for the last time. Their last meeting ended with seven initial recommendations, while lots of work on the details and analysis remains to be completed before proposals are brought forward for Council consideration.

The seven recommendations are as follows: A monthly clinic at the Yelm Community Center for service providers, establishing a permanent homelessness commission, increase law enforcement, review City ordinances, work with local nonprofits to provide services, temporarily open the Community Center as a shelter during hazardous weather, and to create a jobs program.



Once the final report of the Task Force is complete, the information will be brought forward to the City Council for deliberation and consideration as formal public policies. The report is anticipated to be completed by early-December. All Council meetings are open to the public and are streamed live on the City of Yelm YouTube channel.

Community members who would like to participate in the discussion or ask questions are encouraged to email by "Contact the Council" on Yelmwa.gov.

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City Lays Groundwork for Water Reclamation Facility Overhaul

At the Oct. 8 Council Meeting, City Administrator Michael Grayum updated Council on the current state of the Water Reclamation Facility and the path forward for repair and replacement.

The Reclamation Facility, which is the first of its kind in the state and now the oldest, serves as the wastewater treatment facility and heart of the City's irrigation system. Over the last few years, the facility has undergone many improvements, including the replacement of the system control software, elimination of single points of failure and restored many operational systems to keep the facility within compliance of federal and state standards.

The next step includes moving from the Sequential Batch Reactor system to a Membrane Biological Reactor system to remain in compliance with permits and to keep up with growth. The framework to begin construction on the facility is in progress and the City expects to submit a professional service agreement for engineering and design, up to 30 percent in the summer in 2020, according to Grayum's report.



Yelm Avenue Sidewalk Improvements to Be Complete This Year

On Tuesday, the Yelm City Council unanimously approved a \$117,000 construction agreement to replace many sections of sidewalk along Yelm Avenue that present tripping hazards and areas that lack protection from traffic.

This project coincides with the Council's objective and decision to allocate funding in the 2019-20 biennial budget to repair existing sidewalks to improve walkability, and increase pedestrian safety throughout our community. Many sections will be replaced using the existing footprint, while three sections will be replaced with wider sidewalks that align with the Downtown Transportation Strategy, a forward



thinking plan which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of Council. The replacement will also include ADA ramps that are currently non-existent on the north side of Yelm Avenue.

The bid was awarded to NPM Construction Company and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2019.

Council Proclaims Support to Remodel S.E Thurston's Lake Lawrence Fire Station

The Yelm City Council pledged their support for the remodel and reopening of the Lake Lawrence Fire Station #22, which is currently out of commission and unable to house any firefighters.

The Fire Authority intends to apply for a \$900,000 facilities grant from the state and garnering the official support of the Council will help advance their



Rendering provided by Coates Design Architects

application in a competitive grant selection process.

Reopening the station will help provide faster response times to accidents occurring near Lawrence Lake and to the entire Yelm area by keeping life saving resources from traveling near and far during back-to-back calls.

IT'S GETTING COLD! BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR TIRE PRESSURE!

1. START WITH COLD TIRES IF POSSIBLE

Vehicle manufacturers specify PSI – literally “pounds per square inch” of pressure – assuming tires are cold. Tires are considered cold when the vehicle has been parked for three hours or more, or if the vehicle has been driven less than a mile (1.6 km) at moderate speed. PSI is the unit your pressure gauge uses to provide readings.

2. CHECK THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED PSI

Look on the driver's side door jamb or your owner's manual to find the recommended cold tire PSI for your front and rear tires. If you cannot find it, you should consult your vehicle dealer, manufacturer, or a qualified tire professional.

3. WRITE DOWN THE PSI FOR EACH TIRE

If your front and rear tires require different pressure levels, write down the correct PSI for each to avoid getting confused as you move around your vehicle checking tire pressure.

4. CHECK TIRE PRESSURE WITH YOUR GAUGE

Remove the valve cap from one of your tires. Then place the pressure gauge on the valve stem and press down hard enough so the hiss sound disappears and your gauge provides a reading. With a standard gauge, the air pressure will push a small bar out from the bottom of the gauge. Measurement units are etched into the bar. A digital gauge will show you the reading on a screen. Write down the reading and repeat this process for all four tires.

5. FILL TO THE RECOMMENDED PSI

Use an air compressor to refill any tires with low pressure. Many air compressors are different, so read directions carefully to be sure you're using it correctly. If you're using the air compressor at a gas station, be sure to park so that the hose will reach all four tires. Insert change into the machine until you hear the motor running. Fill each tire by placing the end of the hose over the valve stem and pressing on the lever. Using a gas station air compressor means your tires might be “hot.” If it is necessary to adjust inflation pressure when tires are “hot”, set their pressure to 4 psi (14 kPa) above the recommended cold inflation pressure. Recheck the inflation pressure when the tires are cold. After filling your tires, use the gauge to check pressure again. At this point, it's okay if you overfilled the tires because you can always let some air back out. Never drive on over-inflated tires. Over-inflation can result in decreased traction, premature wear, and decreased impact absorption.

6. REPEAT: CHECK TIRE PRESSURE MONTHLY

Make the above procedure a monthly ritual. Regularly checking your tire pressure is the best way to ensure your tires never dip far below the optimal PSI.

TIRE PRESSURE GAUGE ACCURACY

Accuracy matters and you should keep that in mind when choosing a gauge. For just a few dollars, you can find a quality, accurate tire pressure gauge that gives accurate readings. If you're not sure which one to purchase, ask a professional technician which he or she prefers.

A digital tire pressure gauge will provide accurate readings, but don't forget that it operates on a battery. If you think having to replace the battery will prevent you from using it, it's best to go with a standard gauge. It's best to use your personal tire gauge versus those available attached to air hoses at service stations. Of all the pressure gauges out there, they're the most likely to be weathered, and possibly inaccurate.



NEW LED STREETLIGHTS IMPROVE 2ND STREET WALKABILITY

As part of our effort to improve pedestrian safety, this morning was spent replacing the streetlights on 2nd St.

near the municipal buildings and the Yelm City Park from HPS bulbs to brighter and more efficient LEDs. This is just one small piece of our ongoing sidewalk improvement projects to better connect our residents to schools, businesses and other community services in the safest and most efficient ways possible.

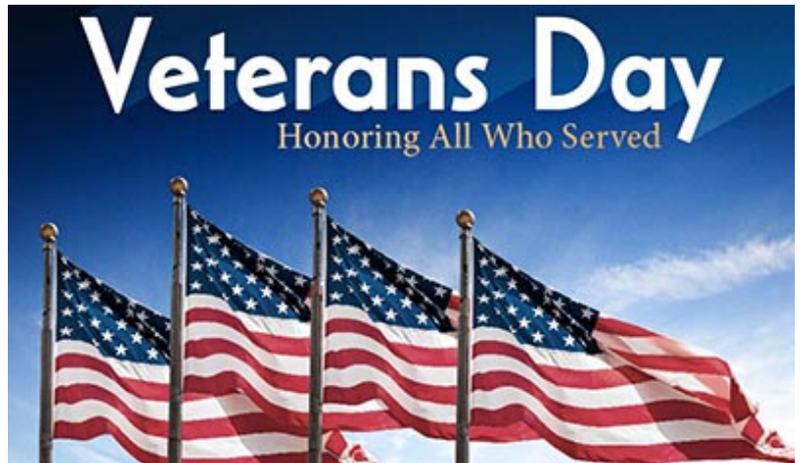


JOIN THE VFW & CITY FOR VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Join the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their annual celebration 3 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE.

Last year, the post changed their annual ceremony from visiting the Roy and Yelm cemeteries to honor all veterans, including the service-members who are still alive.

When the ceremony part of the celebration is over, everyone is invited to hang out for a social gathering with hotdogs, chips, and soda for everyone free of charge.



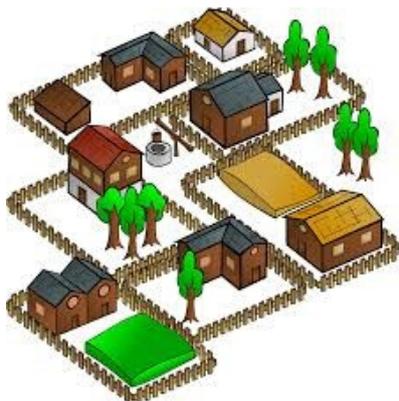
JOIN US FOR CHAT WITH THE CHIEF ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH!



We had a fantastic turnout for the City of Yelm Police Department's monthly Chat with the Chief Wednesday afternoon! Thanks to everyone who engaged in discussion and asked questions regarding City and Police matters – we truly enjoy having lunch with our community members! We hope to see you at the next Chat with the Chief 1 to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at Mr. Dougs Restaurant.

PLANNING COMMISSION ENCOURAGES PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSED UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATES

The Yelm Planning Commission encourages public input on proposed updates to the Unified Development Code, Title 18 of the Yelm Municipal Code. An Open House is scheduled for 5- 7 p.m., Monday, November 4, 2019 at the Yelm Community Center, and a public hearing scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2019.



The Commission was asked to review the Unified Development Code and provide an amendment to update the code in response to recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rulings on wireless communication facilities and to encourage more affordable housing within the City.

The code has a proposed update to comply with FCC rulings by including application timing requirements for wireless communication facility applications, a franchise agreement to locate within City Right-of-way, and provides design standards for co-located antennas and equipment. The goal of the update regarding affordable housing is to be more consistent with the Yelm Comprehensive Plan's objective to encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of the state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.

The Planning Commission first defined affordable housing in context to this review: There is a national affordable housing crisis, and the City of Yelm is not excluded. In order to address and respond to affordable housing needs within the City, a full housing needs assessment will need to be completed. In order to implement programs for requiring low income housing (exclusionary zoning), and take advantage of state funding programs such as tax incentives and impact fee waivers, a more detailed and in-depth study needs to occur to determine current market analysis, vacancy rates,

median income, and Yelm's specific needs. In absence of this, the committee chose not to include specific low income or extremely low income housing in their review.

Considering there just over 400 apartment units within City Limits, 197 units being subsidized or considered low-income housing with waiting lists for the majority of apartment rentals within the City, the Commission looked at new housing construction and sales within the City and found most new housing is single-family homes with large square-footage within subdivisions, while a mix of housing sizes, townhomes, and multi-family housing are missing.

Although the current code does provide opportunity to develop townhomes, or mixed housing varieties, these options are not taken advantage of and while many barriers are outside of local control, the Commission looked to the code and suggested options to encourage and incentivize this type of housing to come to Yelm.

Options explored were to increase minimum density requirements, limit maximum lot coverage, provide density bonuses for housing variety, relax development standards for accessory dwelling units (ADU), remove height limitation for multi-family buildings, change minimum height for accessory buildings, reduce minimum parking requirements for multi-family dwellings, and explore possible results to public infrastructure with density increase.

Comments will be received up to and at the public hearing, Nov. 18. Written comments may be submitted to tamim@yelmwa.gov, or mailed to City of Yelm Community Development Department, 106 2nd Street SE, Yelm, WA 98597.

Following public input, the Commission's final draft updates will be brought forward to City Council at a future Council meeting where the Council will vote on the Planning Commission's recommendation. All meetings are open to the public and are streamed live on the City of Yelm YouTube channel.

If you would like to receive email or text notifications regarding Planning and City Council Agendas, please visit <https://yelmwa.gov/enotify/index.php>.

KIMBERLY RACHOR, ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

It's a pleasure to welcome Kimberly "Kim" Rachor as the Accounting Assistant for City of Yelm!

Kim is a native Washingtonian and resides in the outskirts of Yelm with her husband, four kids, and various farm animals. She brings experience from the King County Department of Transportation and is currently a Senior Accounting student at Western Governors University and plans to take the Certified Public Accountant exam upon graduation, with an objective to earn her master's degree shortly after.

Outside of the office, you can find Kim at the beach, at a bonfire with friends, doing "Jeep things," which entails traveling to different rock crawling and offroading competitions, and most commonly, shuttling kids back and forth to football and cheer practice, gymnastics lessons and girl scout adventures.

Kim has already proven to be a great fit for the City and her expertise will help the Finance Department uphold recent accomplishments and sustain the newly established budget calendar that will provide predictability and planning for future budgets.



STEVE CLARK, INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Please join us in welcoming Interim Public Works Director Steve Clark to the team!

Steve took the helm in the Public Works Department in mid-October and will be working to improve organizational management and will make structural improvements within the department.

Steve brings more than 40 years of experience in public works and capital project planning and works in interim leadership through the consulting firm Prothman Company.

We are excited to welcome a fresh outlook, and with his experience, will be an essential resource in laying the groundwork for improved efficiency in day-to-day operations, communications, and long-term strategic planning. Steve currently resides in Bellevue with his wife, and their dog, Foxy. In his free time, Steve enjoys golfing, hiking, and restoring old hot rods — most recently a 1939 Ford Coupe.



IN THE NEWS

To read the entire article, please visit www.theolympian.com or yelmonline.com for articles by the Nisqually Valley News

WHAT \$30 CAR TABS COULD COST THE THURSTON COUNTY REGION

By Sara Gentzler
The Olympian

In Yelm, spokesperson Andrew Kollar said the city is concerned it could delay funding for the second phase of the Yelm Loop project that's scheduled to begin construction in early 2022.



Photo by The Olympian

YELM SCHOOL BOARD GETS A LOOK AT WHAT NEW SOUTHWORTH ELEMENTARY MIGHT LOOK LIKE

By Eric Rosane
Nisqually Valley News

The first external renderings and education specifications for the new Southworth Elementary were shown to the Yelm Community Schools Board of Directors during a regular meeting last week.



Rendering courtesy of BCRA Designs

CEREMONY MARKS THE GRAND OPENING FOR YELM'S NEW BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

By Eric Rosane
Nisqually Valley News

Community members lined the outside courtyard Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 23, to celebrate the opening of the new Yelm Boys and Girls Club with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted in collaboration with the Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce.



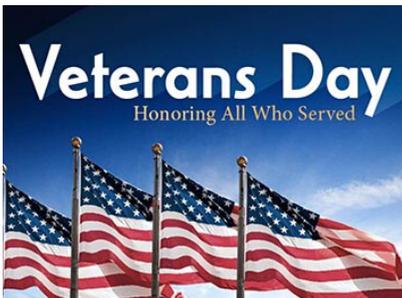
Mayor JW Foster and Boys & Girls Club CEO cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the new Yelm Boys & Girls Club

UPCOMING EVENTS



2019 Best of Nisqually Gala **Puget Sound Entertainment, 103 93rd Ave SE** **Nov. 7, 6 to 10 p.m.**

Join the Yelm Chamber of Commerce as they announce and celebrate the Best of Nisqually award winners. The event will be host to a cash bar, dinner, complimentary champagne toast, awards, and FUN! This is a ticket-event only. All event-goers must be over 21 years-old and register before the event.



City Hall Closed for Veterans Day **106 2nd St. SE** **Nov. 11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

City Hall is Closed for Veterans Day and will reopen on Nov. 12. We hope you join the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their annual celebration 3 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE.



Digital Media Panel: November Chamber Forum **Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE** **Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The monthly Yelm Chamber of Commerce forum & luncheon will be a digital media panel designed to help your business grow its online presence in 2020. Join experts in video production, podcasting, and social media marketing! We will talk about best practices for each aspect, and our panel will be available to answer questions. Lunch will be provided. Cost for Chamber members is \$20, nonmembers \$25



Yelm High School Choir Mattress Fundraiser **Yelm High School, 1315 West Yelm Ave.** **Nov. 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Looking for a new mattress? There is no better time to upgrade your existing mattress than Saturday, November 16 and by doing so, you will save money, and most importantly, help support the Yelm High School Choir program. The fundraiser, in its third year at YHS, has already proven to be successful, boasting more than 20,000 raised for choir related programs.

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.