

THIS WEEK IN YELM



FORT STEVENS SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

By The City of Yelm

Students will have a much safer walk to school following the construction of 5-foot sidewalks, and newly painted crosswalks to better connect dozens of residential houses to Fort Stevens Elementary.

More than 950 feet of sidewalk was laid to improve safety for students and pedestrians along the north side of 100th Way Southeast and along the west side of Grove Road Southeast. The project also added ADA compliant access facilities, construction of 1,970 feet of curb, and created stormwater systems.

The project began in March and was completed April, just over two weeks ahead of schedule.

The City will be back in the fall to plant trees in the right of ways to keep our long-standing commitment to beautifying our city and maintaining our urban forest.

This is a federally funded project. The total project cost, including environmental surveys, engineering design and construction was \$794,600. Construction was funded by combination of grants from the Transportation Alternatives Program, Surface Transportation Program, and the Federal Highway Administration.

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Community Kickoff for Local Veteran
- Splash Pad & Playground Update
- City Awarded for Green Practices
- Stamp out Hunger
- Veterans Golf Tournament
- Stamp Out Hunger
- City Receives Small Cities Grant

UPCOMING EVENTS

- State of the City May 14
- Council Meeting May 14
- Spring Cleanup May 18
- 5K for the Fallen May 24
- Farmers Market Opens May 25

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HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS KICKS OFF CONSTRUCTION FOR LOCAL VETERAN MAY 11

Retired Army Sgt. Aaron Boyle of the Yelm area will receive a specially adapted home through Homes for our Troops after losing his right arm, and right leg while serving in Afghanistan in 2010.

Boyle joined the Army after graduating Woodrow Wilson High School in Tacoma and served his first deployment as an Infantryman in 2008. He was injured Sept. 21, 2010 after stepping on an improvised explosive device while on patrol in the Arghandab River Valley, Afghanistan.

Homes for our Troops' mission is to build and donate custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives.

"Homes For Our Troops is amazing, life changing," Boyle said. "It helps amputees get back to living a normal life, not being weighed down by the restrictions and challenges."

Boyle is medically retired but continues to stay active both in the gym and in the community.

He frequently trains at the Freedom Training Center in McKenna, pursuing a career as physical fitness trainer and volunteers his time at several events held at the American Lake Golf Course. Although Boyle hasn't let his injuries hold him back, his current home was not designed for a wheelchair, making everyday tasks burdensome.

"They only way I can get to the washer and dryer is having to stop my wheelchair and then hop with the basket of laundry," Boyle said. "I can't be in the kitchen with my wheelchair and have the dishwasher open or the oven open."

Boyle lives with his wife, Lynn and his three children and loves to cook and host gatherings but the current home makes it difficult to do so. Homes for our Troops will build a home that allows better wheelchair access with an open floor plan and wide doorways, granting Aaron the ability to cook with Lynn, bathe his kids, and share the load when they host family and friends.

"It's a second chance, a chance to be able to take that burden off of us, financially and physically with the limits our house has now," Aaron said.

The community is encouraged to attend the community kickoff 10 to 11 a.m. May 11 at the New Life Christian Center to celebrate the beginning of the project and welcome Aaron and his family to the community. For more information about the organization, or to RSVP, please visit [Homes for our Troops](#).

"We are greatly honored that Sgt. Boyle will call Yelm home," City Administrator Michael Grayum said. "Homes for Our Troops is an incredible organization and a valuable resource for injured heroes. As a City, we have taken great strides to improve services by creating a Veterans Resource Center so local service members, like Sgt. Boyle can get the assistance they need."

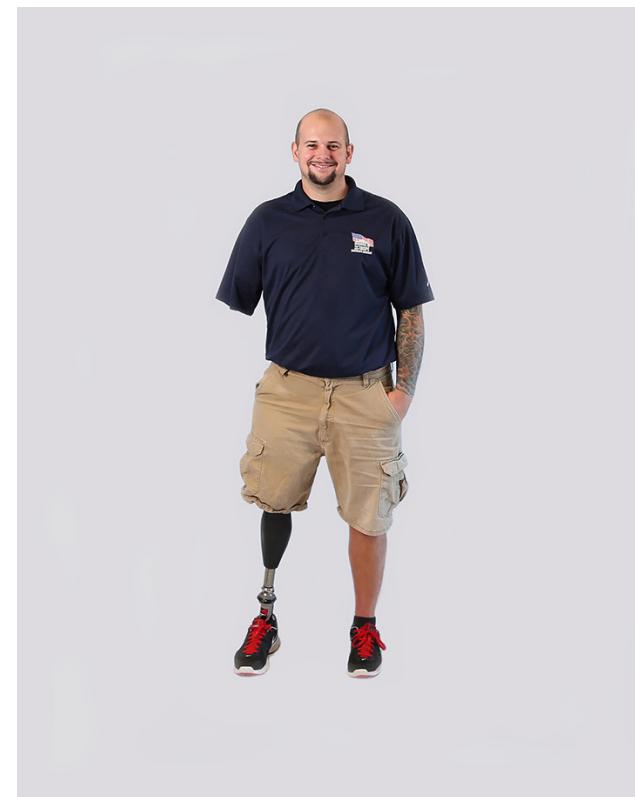


Photo By Homes for Our Troops

"Homes For Our Troops is life changing. It helps amputees get back to living a normal life, not being weighed down by the restrictions and challenges."

— Sgt. Aaron Boyle

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY FOR SPLASH PAD AND PLAYGROUND

Construction is underway at Yelm City Park for the new City splash pad and updated playground equipment and on schedule to be complete by the annual Prairie Days Festival.

"It's exciting to see the final plans coming together in time for summer," Mayor JW Foster said. "These improvements, along with many others over the last few years have made the park a destination in the heart of our community."

The splash pad is designed to cover an estimated 1,780 square-feet, located within the Yelm City Park, adjacent to the Yelm Community Center. The splash pad will feature multiple water fountains, water rings, water cannons, and other features for children to recreate, and will use a recirculating water system to conserve water.

The updated playground equipment will replace the existing playground, and will expand to an estimated 6,700 square-feet. The new playground will have swings, slides, climbing features, bridges, a tree house, and will have ADA compliant access. A concrete pavilion will surround both the splash pad and playground equipment.

"I look forward to seeing the park filled with kids in the splash park, teens at the skatepark, and parents at the Yelm Farmers Market," Foster said. "With these final projects, the park will truly be a place for everybody to enjoy."



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— Yelm Mayor JW Foster

CITY RECOGNIZED FOR GREEN PRACTICES



The City of Yelm was recognized for taking action to improve the health of our community and environment with a Thurston Green Business Award.

The City has made it a priority to save water, conserve energy, reduce waste, and lower our environmental impact. Thurston County continues to be a leader in protecting and preserving our natural resources with nearly 100 businesses honored alongside the City of Yelm for environmental stewardship.

The Thurston Green Business Committee encourages local business to take steps to lower their environmental footprint which will save money and preserve natural resources.

ANNUAL STAMP OUT HUNGER THIS WEEKEND

Stamp Out Hunger will carry out their 27th annual Letter Carrier Food Drive Saturday, May 11 to help fight against hunger.

To donate, simply leave a bag of non-perishable food by your mailbox on May 11, 2019



and your letter carrier will pick it up, where it will then be delivered to food banks and pantries in our local area. The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is the outgrowth of the National Association of Letter Carriers' tradition of community service,

a tradition exhibited repeatedly by members of the letter carriers' union over the years. Find more information about the food drive by clicking the stamp to the left.

VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT MAY 11

The Veterans Independence Foundation will host a charity golf tournament at the Tahoma Valley Golf Course this weekend to eliminate barriers and promote success for veterans returning from the line of duty.



The four-person scramble will tee-off with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. May 11 with a number of contests and prizes, including \$10k for a hole-in-one, \$1,000 putting contest, \$100 closest to the pin, and a \$100 long drive contest. Along with multiple contests, every participant will receive a rental cart, tournament T-shirt lunch, raffle opportunities and a swag bag. Registration is open until 7 a.m. on the day of the tournament and is \$95 per player. The nonprofit encourages

non-golfers to sponsor a veteran or donate to Veterans Independence Foundation.

The Veterans Independence Foundation is a registered non profit organization that focuses on short term barriers to long term health, happiness and success for all Veterans.



YELM RECEIVES SMALL CITIES GRANT TO PURCHASE PORTABLE READERBOARDS

As a part of the Port of Olympia's Small Cities Program, Yelm will receive funding to help purchase portable, electronic message boards that will alert residents and commuters of emergencies, traffic advisories, and community events.

"These reader boards will act as a multi-use tool for delivering valuable information to the community year-round," Yelm.

Police Chief Todd Stancil said. "Not only will they promote local events or alert commuters if I-5 is shut down, but they could serve as a vital communication tool in the event of a natural disaster."

The readerboards, equipped with a solar charger and a maneuverable 8-foot by 4-foot screen will create another avenue for the City to relay information to the community.

The Port Commission

awarded Yelm, Rainier, Tenino, and Bucoda \$10,000 each, for community and economic development investments. The Small Cities Program was established in 2010 and provides gap funding for community and economic development initiatives within incorporated Thurston County cities with fewer than 15,000 residents.

IN THE NEWS

TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY AIMS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND DOWNTOWN VITALITY

Featured in Thurston Talk

Yelm City Council adopted a Downtown Transportation Strategy Plan to improve safety, access, and circulation within Yelm's downtown core while balancing the character of the historic corridor.

The City, in partnership with SCJ Alliance, conducted a Downtown Corridor Study to identify projects that will improve flow, vitality, connectivity,



and safety for all travelers. The projects include a wide scope of improvements from wayfinding signage to sidewalk replacement and expansion to improve walkability and business access. The plan provides safer pedestrian crossings, additional parking, integration of two major trail routes, and a better sense of place. Click the picture for the entire article.

FORMER CITY HALL BUILDING WILL LAUNCH BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Featured in Thurston Talk

The City of Yelm will repurpose the former City Hall building to establish a Boys & Girls Club, and a Veterans Resource Center, following the relocation of City Hall. The recent land acquisition to relocate City Hall allowed the space to better support the demand



of our growing city, and created an opportunity for these organizations to commence in Yelm. Additional funding will not be required from the City, as the tenants are responsible for making modifications to the interior of the building, while the City will continue to maintain the exterior aspects of the building. Click the picture for the entire article

YELM CELEBRATES 23 YEARS OF BEING A TREE CITY

By Eric Rosane
Nisqually Valley News

Community members turned out Friday, April 26 to the Yelm Community Center in celebration of the city's 23 years of being a Tree City. The city was also awarded an accolade from the National Arbor Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The Arbor Day celebrations included an artwalk and contest by Yelm



Community Schools students, choir performances by Mill Pond Elementary and Yelm Middle School Students, a tree exchange with Yelm's "Sister City" Lacey and free saplings for attendees. Click on the picture for the entire article.

UPCOMING EVENTS



State of the City

Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE

Tuesday, May 14 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Yelm Mayor JW Foster will be the featured speaker of the May 14 Chamber forum and luncheon to present the annual State of the City Address. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Mayor Foster was appointed as mayor by the Yelm City Council August 2016 and elected in November 2017.



City Council Meeting

Public Safety Building, 206 Mckenzie Ave

Tuesday, May 14, 6 p.m.

Yelm City Council will proclaim May as Bicycle Month, and vote on the adoption of the Nisqually Watershed Plan and an ordinance to adopt an Arts Commission. Please click on the picture to view the current council agenda.



Spring Cleanup

Public Works Shop, 901 NW Rhoton Rd.

Saturday, May 18, 8 a.m. until full

Residents within the City limits have the opportunity to dispose of one standard sized truck load of residential waste for free disposal at the Yelm Public Works Shop. **Residents must have the issued postcard in hand to utilize this service.** Senior and disabled citizens may arrange for pickup by calling Public Works at 360-458-3244 or 360-458-8406 by May 13.



5K for the Fallen

Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE

May 24, 3:30 p.m.

Join us this Friday for Yelm's second annual '5K for the Fallen' event honoring those who've made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom! Please register by clicking the image to the left.



Farmers Market

Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE

May 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Yelm Farmers Market will open for the summer season Saturday, May 25. Please click on the image on the left for more information regarding the Farmers Market.