

THIS WEEK IN YELM

Official newsletter of the City of Yelm

STATE OF THE CITY: 'ON A POSITIVE PATH TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE'

Mayor JW Foster delivered his State of the City address during the recent Yelm Chamber Forum, highlighting the progress of recent years due to an award winning budget and a long-term revenue forecast.

One of the first projects Foster took on as mayor was to invest in personnel and training within the City's Finance Department to ensure sustainable funding for current and future employees, including additional police officers.

"We don't hire people for a trial run, we hire them for careers and we have to make sure the money is going to be there next year, in 10 years, and 20 years down the road," Foster said. "We took our time and put money where it needed to go and that was in the foundation of our City government."

With the new budget in place, the City was able to make all funds



Mayor JW Foster delivers his 2019 State of the City address at the Yelm Chamber Forum.

self-sustaining and included an equipment replacement repair fund to ensure the City doesn't have to scramble every time a police car needs to be replaced. The previous two budget cycles

have shown exceptional financial growth, with a sustained revenue increase of about 5 percent each year.

See Foster, Page 2

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Mayor's State of the City
- 5K for the Fallen Recap
- Yelm Farmers Market Now Open
- Sign Up For Electronic Notifications
- Community Welcomes Sgt. Aaron Boyle
- High School 21+ Returns for Summer

UPCOMING EVENTS IN YELM

- Yelm Farmers Market, June 1
- Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, June 2
- Chat with the Police Chief, June 5
- Monthly Chamber Forum, June 11



Mayor JW Foster opens the ground breaking ceremony for the Splash Park in late April.



The Fort Stevens Elementary sidewalk project was complete in April, connecting dozens of residential houses to the school. The project is one of many federally funded improvements completed under Foster's mayorship.

Foster:

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"We are confident now for two reasons – we've got a sustainable income stream, a handle on our expenditures and our audit shows us that we are on a positive path to a sustainable future."

Over the course of two years, Yelm has hired three additional police officers, now having more officers than anytime in Yelm's history and filled several other positions. Foster said it has been a priority to invest in our officers and provide training so they can be better equipped to deal with victims of domestic violence, mentally ill patients, and those struggling with addiction. Foster said providing officers with narcan and giving officers the ability to save a life of someone who has overdosed on opioids, is one of the programs he is most proud of implementing. Within one week of the program's existence, a Yelm police officer saved a patient's life by deploying narcan up their nose.

"No matter how you feel about that – and I feel very strongly about that from my career (as a paramedic for the Tumwater Fire District) – You save the life and

then you treat the addiction," Foster said. "That's exactly what our officers are stepping up to do."

Along with investing in personnel and training, Foster noted the City's effort to keep money within the community by shopping local and the ability to bring federal tax dollars back to Yelm to help pay for local projects. He referenced the expansion of the local business sector and complimented the community for their desire to support local business and new events. Foster also thanked our state representatives for supporting Yelm, referencing the recent groundbreaking of the mostly federally funded splash pad, Fort Stevens sidewalk project, and funding for the Yelm Loop.

"This is our own money that we pay in taxes that comes back to Yelm in the form of projects like these," Foster said.

Foster reminded the audience that although the population within the City limits is around 9,500 people, Yelm acts as an economic hub for upwards of 45,000 people and emphasized the importance of public programs and services.

"Yelm is regionally important," Foster said. Everyone with the

98597 zip code says that they are from Yelm. If you live out at Lawrence Lake, you live in Yelm. If you live in Clearwood, you live in Yelm. Your kids go to Yelm Schools because you live in Yelm."

The City has also been busy on other projects including the launch of a Boys & Girls Club, and Veterans Resource Center at the former City Hall building, securing funding for a satellite branch of South Puget Sound Community College and a business incubator space in partnership with Thurston Economic Development Council, developing a City habitat conservation plan for the endangered Mazama Pocket Gopher, and a strategy to reacquire water rights.

"My goal all along is to make Yelm a safe, healthy, happy home for all," Foster said. "And thank you for your continued investment in Yelm."

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5K FOR THE FALLEN: A RUN TO HEAL, A RUN TO REMEMBER

Before firing up the barbecue for the long weekend, many members of the community gathered for the City of Yelm's annual 5K for the Fallen to walk, run, or bike in honor of the countless men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

"I appreciate everyone starting Memorial Day weekend here, in the City of Yelm but even more as a community, a community that is committed to honoring and remembering the sacrifice of our American Military," Lisa Hallet, founder of wear blue: run to remember said.

The 5K began with a circle of remembrance where participants shared the name of every soldier they were dedicating their 5K to and then honored our fallen service members with a moment of silence. After the names were shared, participants took to the Yelm-



Runners take off along the Yelm-Tenino trail at last Friday's 5K for the Fallen

Tenino trail, lined with several posters of fallen soldiers where the runners, walkers, and bikers collectively logged 450 miles in remembrance of the countless soldiers who lost their lives in the

line of duty.

"wear blue: run to remember" is a community that honors the service and sacrifice of the American military and creates a

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Mayor JW Foster, Sgt. Rob Carlson, and Computer Support Specialist Aaron Green chat before last Friday's 5K for the Fallen.



Runners high-five as they run past each other at the annual 5K for the Fallen

5K:

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support network for military members and their families. The nonprofit bridges the gap between military and civilian communities and it creates a living memorial for our country's fallen military members.

Lisa created "wear blue: run to remember" after her husband, Capt. John Hallet was killed in action in 2009, leaving behind his wife Lisa and their three children, ages 3, 1, and three-weeks. Lisa began running as a way to heal and now runs to remember.



City Administrator Michael Grayum, wear blue:run to remember founder Lisa Hallett, and Mayor JW Foster were all smiles after the second annual 5k for the Fallen.



Council Member Cody Colt and Program Manager of South Sound Military Communities Partnership Sarah Luna walk along the Yelm-Tenino Trail last Friday

"We take this moment to celebrate the lives of these men and women who lived so courageously and let the inspiration of their lives inspire how we live ours, Hallet said.



Mayor JW Foster was among the many runners and walkers at last Friday's 5K for the Fallen

"Today we are going to ground our steps by taking the time to speak their names. By speaking their names we are able to carry their lives and their stories with us."



People of all ages came out to run, walk and bike along the Yelm-Tenino Trail.



Members of the Yelm Veterans of Foreign Wars post 5580 hand out poppies to runners in remembrance of our fallen service members.



Runners, walkers and bike riders gather in a circle of remembrance and speak the name of the person they are running for before taking to the Yelm-Tenino Trail.

YELM FARMERS MARKET NOW OPEN

The ever-expanding Yelm Farmers Market is open for the 2019 summer season with more local vendors and foot traffic than ever before.

Yelm area residents will find the Yelm City Park and Community Center filled with locally grown fruit, vegetables, and other hand-crafted products 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday until October 26.

"Last year we had more foot traffic at the market than any other year," Market Manager Jon Jamieson said in reference to moving the market back to the Yelm City Park last year. "We expect even more visitors this year with the new splash pad and playground at Yelm City Park — Saturdays at the market will be a day that everyone can enjoy."

More than 35 local vendors, including the Masonry Cafe, who will be slinging baked goods out of the Community Center kitchen all season came out for opening weekend, which is 10 more vendors than opening day last year. The market requires 80 percent of vendor products to be made or grown by the vendor, providing shoppers the experience of purchasing goods that aren't available anywhere else.

Another highlight of this year's market is the emphasis on young market-goers and the Power of



Photo by Yelm Farmers Market

Produce program, a program that gives children \$2 in tokens per week to get them involved in the market. Market vendors will have discounted or low cost items set aside, specifically for kids to purchase with their tokens, giving them the ability to choose what they want to buy. Kids can also choose to save their weekly tokens and purchase something at a higher price.

The Power of Produce program not only teaches kids money handling skills, but introduces them to locally grown produce and the importance of supporting local businesses, according to Kayla Blanch, Power of Produce program manager and Bounty for Families board member.

"The Farmer's Market is such a valuable event for the community and local businesses and we are

glad to have it back in Yelm," City Administrator Michael Grayum said. "Last year was a tremendous success and it should continue to grow in popularity, especially with many other events happening alongside the market this year."

With the recent expansion of community events, the market will share space with Prairie Days, the Seattle to Portland bicycle race, Jazz Festival, and Yelm's first Barbecue Rally. The City and the Farmers Market have worked with many event organizers to make it a habit for community members to get out and pay a visit to Yelm City Park on Saturdays.

"It's going to be a great summer season with plenty of activities for everyone," Jamieson said. "I can't wait to see everyone out there enjoying the great things this community has to offer."

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEW NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The City of Yelm has fully integrated email and text notifications through the City website to improve customer service and enhance City communication.

This new system is replacing the current email distribution list and anyone who receives the current

agenda from City Clerk, Lori Lucas will need to subscribe if they would like to be emailed when a new Council agenda is posted.

With the new software, users can now sign up for notifications on multiple pages across the City website, including when our newly introduced newsletter "This Week

in Yelm," City updates, or when a City Council agenda is posted.

If you would like to receive email or text notifications, please sign up at <https://yelmwa.gov/enotify/index.php> Or click on the headline to sign up!

COMMUNITY KICKS OFF CONSTRUCTION FOR LOCAL VETERAN'S NEW HOME



From the left, Thurston County Sheriff John Snaza, Amber Snaza, Mayor JW Foster, and Thurston County Commissioner Gary Edwards stand with Sgt. Aaron Boyle at the welcoming ceremony last Saturday.

More than 150 community members turned out last weekend with American flags in hand to welcome Sgt. Aaron Boyle, a medically retired, veteran to the neighborhood and celebrate the beginning of a new life for him and his family. Homes For Our Troops, a nonprofit that has builds homes for injured veterans selected to build a modified home for Boyle after losing his right leg and right arm while serving in Afghanistan in 2010.

Boyle joined the Army after graduating Woodrow Wilson High School in Tacoma and currently



Sgt. Aaron expresses his gratitude at the welcoming ceremony last weekend
Photo provided by Homes for Our Troops

lives in Roy with his wife Lynn, and their three children. Aaron gets by but their current home makes it difficult to cook, bathe their kids, and host gatherings.

The new home will allow for better wheelchair access with an open floor plan and wide doorways, granting Boyle the ability to interact with his family in the home without limitations.

"We often say that we need to take care of our Veterans, and here is an example of how that's done," Yelm Mayor JW Foster said. "Welcome to Yelm, Boyle family!"



Community members wave their flags to welcome Sgt. Aaron Boyle to the kickoff ceremony last Saturday.



More than 150 community members turned out last weekend to celebrate the building of Sgt. Aaron Boyle's new home.

HIGH SCHOOL 21+ RETURNS FOR SUMMER

Yelm Community Schools (YCS) will host an informational meeting about their 21+ program which helps people over 21-years-old earn a high school diploma 6 to 8 p.m. June 10 and 12 at the Yelm Extension School.

In a partnership with South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC), Yelm Timberline Library, and the South Sound YMCA, YCS will host their second session of their High School 21+ program as part of their Graduate Yelm! initiative. The districts goal with this initiative is to breakdown all barriers to education for Yelm-area residents.

High School 21+, students will have access to Chromebooks; onsite YMCA childcare; and printing, wifi, and electronic research tools through Yelm Timberland Library. SPSCC provides career counseling, including financial information and access to certificate and degree programs. All services are free of charge to High School 21+ students.

Classes will be held 5 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, June 1 to Aug. 22 at the Yelm Extension School.

The City of Yelm also partnered with SPSCC to bring college courses to the Yelm Community Center this past winter, and making college more accessible for Yelm residents. SPSCC and the City of Yelm are currently working to expand the amount of courses offered by including business, marketing, and communication classes.

THIRD GRADER TAKES ON ROLE OF MAYOR FOR THE DAY

Meet Dustin Sawyer, 3rd grader at Eagle View Christian School and Tuesday's Mayor of Yelm.

Dustin started the morning by briefing City management of all things Yelm before taking a grand tour of the City with Mayor JW Foster. It's always fun to have students meet City staff and learn about their local government.

Thanks for stopping by, Dustin!



Dustin Sawyer, Yelm's Mayor for the Day helps Mayor JW respond to emails on Tuesday



Dustin meets Computer Support Specialist Aaron Green on his tour of Yelm City Hall.



Dustin leads the management team meeting on Tuesday before taking a tour of the City.

NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMISSION TO EXEMPLIFY YELM ART AND CULTURE

Yelm City Council unanimously approved an ordinance to establish an Arts Commission, who will identify and actively encourage the development and sustainability of all forms of art in the City.

The Arts Commission, composed of five to 12 volunteers, appointed by Council will serve as the City's primary resource to promote and preserve our city's unique community assets by providing public input, establishing policies and implementing art into City owned public spaces. Citizen engagement will help the City actively display paintings,

sculptures, landscape architecture, music, and literature, which enhances the overall beautification of Yelm and plays an important role in promoting the character of our community.

"We have an amazing community with a lot of artistic talents," City Administrator Michael Grayum said. "The commission fills the need to represent our local art, music, and culture and we are grateful that residents brought forth the idea and are willing to volunteer their time to get this commission established."

The City will seek representatives from many art

related professions, including one member from the recommendation of the Yelm Chamber of Commerce, and one member from the recommendation of the Nisqually Tribe, along with a local student interested in the arts, and one member to be an arts educator. Any person who works, lives, or owns a business in Yelm is qualified to apply.

The Art Commission will not require budget allocation from the City as art programs and cultural services will be funded through donations, admission charges, and grants obtained by the commission.

IN THE NEWS

YELM CITIZENS BOARD STEPS DOWN IN WAKE OF BOND PASSING

By The Nisqually Valley News

Now that the school bond has been passed, the members of Citizens for the Support of Yelm Schools (CSYS) board are stepping down.

“Campaigning is really hard work and we are so grateful to this community for their support,” said Sandra Manwiller, co-chair for CSYS, [Click on the picture for the entire article.](#)



The outgoing Citizens for Support of Yelm Schools Board members who successfully campaigned for the 2019 Yelm School bond: (from the left) Randy Hinton, Susan Hinton, LaNora Siggelkow, Sandra Manwiller, Paul Manwiller, and John Corak

'I'M JUST PROUD OF THEM': YELM MAKES RUN TO 3A CHAMPIONSHIP, FALLS 10-4

By Eric Rosane
Nisqually Valley News

The Yelm High School fastpitch team had a chance to break its 15-year state championship drought Saturday against Garfield, but the Tornados couldn't counter a big fourth inning by the Bulldogs, who went on to win 10-4.

[Click on the picture for the entire article.](#)



Tornados fastpitch pose with their trophy after a championship match with Garfield, who won it out 10-4 against Yelm. Photo by Eric Rosane/Nisqually Valley News

SUMMER BRINGS BARBECUE, JAZZ, SPLASH PARK AND MORE TO YELM

By Heidi Smith
Thurston Talk

It's hard to believe, but just three short years ago, the City of Yelm hosted only two events annually: the Prairie Days celebration and Christmas in the Park. [Click on the picture for the entire article.](#)



Prairie Days will feature a community street dance along with a 5K and multiple activities for families. Photo courtesy: Yelm Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING EVENTS



Yelm Farmers Market **Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE** **June 1, 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.



Culpepper & Merriweather Circus **American Legion Grounds, 16733 103rd Ave SE** **June 2, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.**

The Yelm Community Education Foundation will host the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus under the big top at the American Legion Grounds. Tickets will be sold at the door. Please click on the image on the left for more information regarding the Circus.



Chat with the Chief **Mr. Doug's Restaurant , 210 NE 103rd Ave** **June 5, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**

Our monthly Chat with the Chief is held on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 at Mr. Doug's Restaurant (lower room). Bring a friend and take part in an energetic conversation about what is going on in our great city. If you can't make the monthly meeting, click on the image to make an appointment to meet with the Chief directly or to send him a message.



Monthly Chamber Forum **Yelm Community Center, 301 2nd St. SE** **June 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The Yelm Chamber Forum and Luncheon is once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday. Registration and networking starts at 11:30 am. June's forum will feature Crime Prevention Officer Stacy Field of the City of Yelm Police Department, who will be tackling ways for businesses to stay safe during the summer months. This forum is sponsored by Tracie Choate, Realtor with ReMax Northwest. Click on the image for more information.

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