

OCTOBER 2024

Parks & Recreation



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TUMWATER
PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation Division Highlights

Pumpkin Painting:

Parks & Recreation hosted the 22nd Annual Schilter Farm Family Pumpkin Painting event on Thursday, October 17, at Tumwater Middle School.

Over 235 community members attended. Pumpkins were painted, kettle corn was eaten, and fun was had by all. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Schilter Family Farm for donating all of the pumpkins and to our sponsors Eric Zabala State Farm Agency, and WSECU, for helping to make this a free family event for our community.



Tumwater Youth Program:

The Tumwater Youth Program (TYP) is off to a great start! We have offered two events this school year, with 400 grade school students and 300 middle school students attending. Activities included inflatable obstacle courses, pumpkin decorating, costume contests, dancing, face painting, sports, crafts, and much more! 45 volunteers assisted supervising students and running games at the two events. Since September, 15 new volunteers have completed the orientation process and are ready to begin assisting at future TYP events. TYP will offer 22 events this school year for our community's youth, grades 2-12.

Recreational and Competitive Basketball Leagues:

The Tumwater Basketball began practices in October. Between the recreational and competitive leagues, this season of Tumwater Basketball will include 96 teams and nearly 1000 youth players. It's the biggest league in Thurston County - and one of the largest in western Washington! Over 200 volunteer coaches make this program possible and will contribute over 7,000 volunteer hours this season.

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Volunteer Tumwater Highlights

Clean-up, Drop-off Stats:

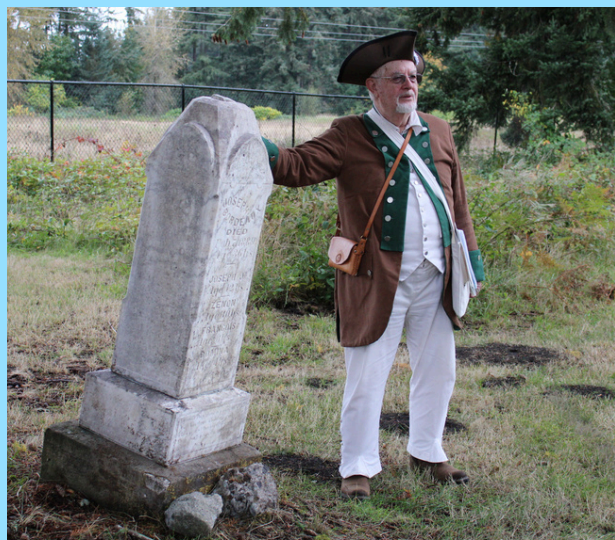
We held the annual Clean-up, Drop-off event at City Hall on Saturday, October 5. This year's stats are pretty impressive!

- Over 4.23 tons of paper shredded
- 8 medication lock boxes distributed
- 76 pounds of batteries recycled
- 125 pounds of prescription medication collected
- 1,435 pounds of food and \$328 donated to the Thurston County Food Bank

Union Pioneer Calvary Cemetery Talking Headstones Tour & Cemetery Dedication:

The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution approached the City earlier this year with the goal of cleaning, restoring, and leveling all the headstones in the Union Pioneer Calvary Cemetery. The group dedicated over 500 hours to this project and just finished in September. To celebrate their work and to honor the cemetery, Parks & Recreation held a dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 19. Close to 200 people attended the ceremony and participated in the Talking Headstone Tour. Participants included Mayor Debbie Sullivan, Parks & Recreation Commissioners, State officials, and descendants of the Bush family and Rutledge family.

The Parks & Recreation Department would like to extend our sincerest thank you to the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution for all they have done to bring the Union Pioneer Calvary Cemetery back to life.



Volunteer
Tumwater

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Facilities Division Highlights

The big news in the Facilities division is that our new Facilities Manager, Chris Graham, started on Monday, October 21.

Chris comes to us from the state Department of Enterprise Services as the Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance and Repairs at the Capitol campus, which encompasses 27 buildings and 4 state parks. Chris has a great deal of experience in managing stakeholders, priorities, budgets and scheduling of staff. He has a background as an electrician and has worked and supervised large staffs and projects in construction, painting, HVAC, electrical, and grounds. Chris graduated from the University of Washington but our resident Cougar, Chuck Denney, said he won't hold that against him. Meanwhile, Recreation Supervisor Charlie Groth is happy to finally have a fellow Husky on the team!

We are excited to have Chris on board - please say "hi" and welcome him to Team Tumwater if you get a chance!



Parks Division Highlights

This month, Parks staff (alongside Volunteer Coordinator Brianna Feller) helped support the work of volunteers at Union Pioneer Calvary Cemetery. Volunteers did an amazing job cleaning and leveling marker stones while Parks staff helped clearing overgrown brush, mowing, and removing dead and fallen trees.

In preparation for putting up our usual holiday display, staff realized that it was time to replace some pretty old lights. Staff are starting to assemble over a MILE of Christmas lights that will go up on City Hall and Old Town Center, at the golf course, and of course on Tumwater's own Christmas tree.

The smaller play structure for 2 - 5 year olds at Historical Park will be closed for approximately one week, starting Monday October 21, while staff work to repair and upgrade the glider play toy. This toy is a special one as it allows for wheelchair access and helps make this playground more accessible to children of all abilities.

When asked what's coming up next for the Parks division, Manager Matt Patton responded, "Leaves, leaves, leaves for the foreseeable future." Hey, it must be fall! 🍂



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Golf Operations Division Highlights

October was an exciting month at the Tumwater Valley Golf Course (TVGC) as nature's transformation paralleled the vibrant events unfolding on our greens. With the colorful autumn leaves setting the stage, TVGC hosted a couple of events that brought both competition and community spirit to life.

TVGC hosted the first-ever South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) Invitational. This landmark event witnessed an influx of talent as 60 college players descended upon TVGC over two thrilling days.

Following the excitement of the SPSCC invitational, TVGC welcomed the district golf event for 1A schools. Teams from all over Southwest WA converged on our course, bringing over 60 players to compete over a challenging two-day stretch. TVGC plays a pivotal role in making junior golf a cornerstone of our offerings.

Recently spotted: A beautiful October sunrise over the course.



Golf Maintenance Division Highlights

October has been a busy and fast month for the golf Maintenance division. With a drier than normal month, with rainfall at 1.8 inches vs. the typical 3 inches, and warmer than normal temperatures, the golf course has been full of play. This means that staff have been doing routine maintenance at a higher rate than normal for this time of year. The grass has not slowed down! With continued good weather we hope to do some more aeration and top-dressing projects.

In addition, we have successfully hosted 2 quality tournaments (as described in the Operations Division report above), one for AA High School Districts and the second for the First South Puget Sound Community College Invitational NWAC.

