This year Lacey Elementary celebrates its 50th anniversary! Also known as the “round school” for its unique architecture, Lacey Elementary opened its doors Monday, September 30, 1968. Despite hopes that they might open in time for the fall term, delays in the availability of ceiling beams, bad weather, and picketing by union members from an Oregon mill made this “on time” opening impossible. Students enrolled at Lacey Elementary, around 492 youngsters, instead attended half-day classes at Mountain View Elementary School from September 3 until Lacey Elementary School opened three weeks later. Students enrolled at Mountain View attended classes in the morning while the Lacey students occupied the school in the afternoon. Aiming for as little disruption as possible, the students maintained their regular bus stops and school teachers.

Expected to cost $672,437, the completed project came in at $750,000. All 20 classrooms opened to the outside and could hold around 750 students. During a 2002-2003 modernization, all building and site components were completely upgraded. The original play shed (gazebo-like structure in the above picture) was later converted to a kitchen/art/music facility. A new play shed was built, along with parking lots and drives. The site was re-landscaped and irrigation was added. The site now includes 27 instructional spaces, plus 10 portable classrooms serving kindergarten through 5th grade.

Lacey Elementary will be celebrating this momentous occasion. Stay tuned and as more details become available, we will share them with you.

Trunks Will Bring Museum to Classrooms

The Lacey Museum is in the process of developing history education traveling trunks. Much like those provided by the Washington State History Museum, these trunks are meant to provide classrooms with some of the lessons, principles, and informal history learning like you would find at a museum. The current Lacey Museum has significant space limitations and the inability to conduct tours and lessons for large groups presents a barrier to serving classrooms in North Thurston Public Schools. These traveling trunks will alleviate some of these issues while bringing all the fun and knowledge of the Lacey Museum to local classrooms. Stay tuned at laceymuseum.org for more information.
Historical Commissioner Seth Huff

Lacey Historical Commissioner, Seth Huff, was born and raised in Elwood, Indiana. Growing up in a small town in the Midwest, his appreciation for history was fostered by the story of his hometown’s most famous resident, Wendell Willkie. Willkie was the Republican nominee for President of the United States in 1940. While he was unsuccessful in his bid to become president, his story captivated Seth from a young age and his words as a statesman helped Seth to understand what truly makes the fabric of America strong.

After graduating high school in 1993, Seth joined the United States Army and served honorably for six years. While serving, he met another soldier who would become his wife, Sergeant Wendy Goodwin. He also met many interesting and diverse people from all parts of America and beyond. Getting to know them and their life histories was a special privilege for him. He and his family have lived in Lacey for over 17 years. About Lacey he says: “We take pride in living in Lacey and are looking forward to watching Lacey grow and flourish in the coming years. I believe we have to be good stewards of our environment; not only our physical environment but our historical environment as well.”

Seth has quickly become a valuable member of the Commission. In partnership with Puget Sound Energy, he researched historical information to place geocaches at local historic sites, a project that had been on the Commission’s work plan for two years. Seth continues to serve the Lacey community with pride and distinction.

Thank you for your service, Seth!

What is geocaching?

Started right here in Washington State, it is the world’s largest treasure hunt! All around you, wherever you go, geocaching.com can lead you to containers of all shapes and sizes in places of interest and beauty you might not otherwise have found.

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“A Deadly Wind Book Talk

On Columbus Day 1962, one of the most powerful extratropical cyclones on record rocked the greater Pacific Northwest. Also known as the ‘Big Blow’ or ‘Typhoon Freda,’ this freak windstorm reportedly caused $230 million in damage and was linked to 46 fatalities.

More than half a century later, veteran journalist John Dodge assumed the task of detailing this calamity in his aptly named book, A Deadly Wind, scheduled to be released on Columbus Day 2018.

Join Dodge, the Lacey Museum and the Lacey Timberland Library, Thursday, November 8th at 5:30pm to learn more about this historic event. Meet the author, hear about his new book and get your copy of A Deadly Wind signed. This free event will be hosted at and in partnership with the Lacey Timberland Library. To keep up with John and his new book, check out his blog at: https://johndodgewrites.wordpress.com/
The History of Capitol City Golf Estates

Golf Course so that it could be developed into the Panorama City retirement community. Loveless and a group of investors then called the Thurston County Development Company, purchased the land that now encompasses Capitol City Golf Club Estates and Capitol City Golf Course as a replacement for Mountain Aire. This initial lot consisted of 410 residential lots surrounded by 240 acres and a 18-hole golf course. By 1963 over 100 residential lots were sold and the golf course was ready to play. Residential lots at this time cost anywhere between $1,750 to $4,000.

Speculation at the time determined that Loveless, while having the vision, did not have the funds to complete the development. By June 1963 Loveless sold the Thurston County Development Company for $500,000, turning over his business and the Capitol City Golf Estates and Golf Course to the Seattle-based Isaacson Corporation.

By 1967, sales of the lots already sold amounted to over $408,000 and was slated to surpass $1 million by 1968. 220 of the original 410 lots remained and were advertised as low as $345 down at $34.50 a month (less than $260 today)! A new clubhouse costing $200,000 was opened in 1968.

By the 1980s, after much debate and controversy, eight condominiums, an apartment complex, and a few additional lots were added. The now 419-lot Capitol City Gold Estates and golf course has remained to the present day.

This article was written by Randy Luke, Treasurer for Capitol City Golf Club Estates and edited for length by museum staff.

Capital Heritage Grant Update

The Heritage Capital Projects program, or HCP, was created in 1995 by an act of the Washington State Legislature. This program provides a path to capital funds for projects that increase public access to history through historic preservation and interpretation. This year the HCP panel met Wednesday, August 15, to discuss final considerations for the 2019-2021 biennium.

The Lacey Museum applied to this grant in hopes of gathering enough funds construction documents for the new museum. After much consideration, the City of Lacey’s grant was placed on the final recommended funding list. Another local project to make it to the final recommended for funding list was the City of Tumwater’s Old Brew House Tower Rehabilitation.

You can see a list of all of the projects at this website: http://www.washingtonhistory.org/support/heritage/capitalprojectsfund/

If you wish to see these projects move forward, you can contact your local legislator and voice your opinion. Information on how to contact your local legislator can be found on: http://leg.wa.gov.

The Lacey Museum thanks you for your continued support of our new museum project!
Historic Neighborhood Walking Tour

We had record-breaking turnout for this year's historic walking tour! Seventy people came out to hear tour guides share stories of the religious roots of Lacey's historic neighborhood and former residents.

A highlight of the tour was the delightful presence of Karen Fraser, former Mayor of Lacey.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who made the event run smoothly and kept participants safe!

Lacey Museum

829 Lacey Street SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Open Thursday & Friday 11 am - 3 pm
Saturday 10 am - 4 pm
FREE Admission

Phone: 360-438-0209
E-mail: museum@ci.lacey.wa.us
www.laceymuseum.org

Preserving the past for the future

The Lacey Museum's mission is to collect, interpret, and display historical materials that illustrate the history of the Lacey area in all periods of its development.

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