

## SAVE THE DATE:

- **Saturday, May 9, 10-4, Thurston County Through the Decades, Huntamer Park**
- **Friday, July 10, 6-8 pm, A Mid-summer's Ice Cream, Lacey Museum**
- **Saturday, August 8, 10-11 am, Lacey Historic Neighborhood Walking Tour, Lacey Museum**

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## Lacey's Own Lavender, the Wyckoff

Did you know that the Horizon Pointe area of Lacey (then called Chambers' Prairie) was once a lavender farm, and according to newspapers of the time, the first lavender farm in the United States?

Luther J. Wyckoff came to the Lacey area in the early 1940s and began a non-profit, Plant Research Foundation, to experiment with the growing of lavender and other plants. The U.S. Department of Agriculture was a collaborator in the early years, but ceased once it had been demonstrated that a basic quantity of lavender could be produced in this area.

His farm became so successful that 5,000 cuttings of his lavender were sent to Yardley and

Co., Ltd., at the time the world's largest user of lavender oil. The strains he developed were desired for their high quality and resistance to disease.

Wyckoff even had a variety named after him that is still in production today, *lavendula Wyckoff*, pictured below.



Mr. Wyckoff was quoted as saying that the Puget Sound region is "climatically suited to lavender growing as long as you keep your operation on high, well-drained ground." He must have been on to something. There are now over 30 lavender farms in Washington state, mostly in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley, where the sunny dry climate is most similar to the Mediterranean climate in France where lavender was originally grown.

This summer you can see lavender grown right here at Evergreen Valley Lavender Farms, located at 9733 Evergreen Valley Rd. just south of the Yelm Highway off Meridian Rd. They are open to visitors beginning June 14th, Thursday through Sunday, 11-4.

## Lacey Museum Commits to Best Practices

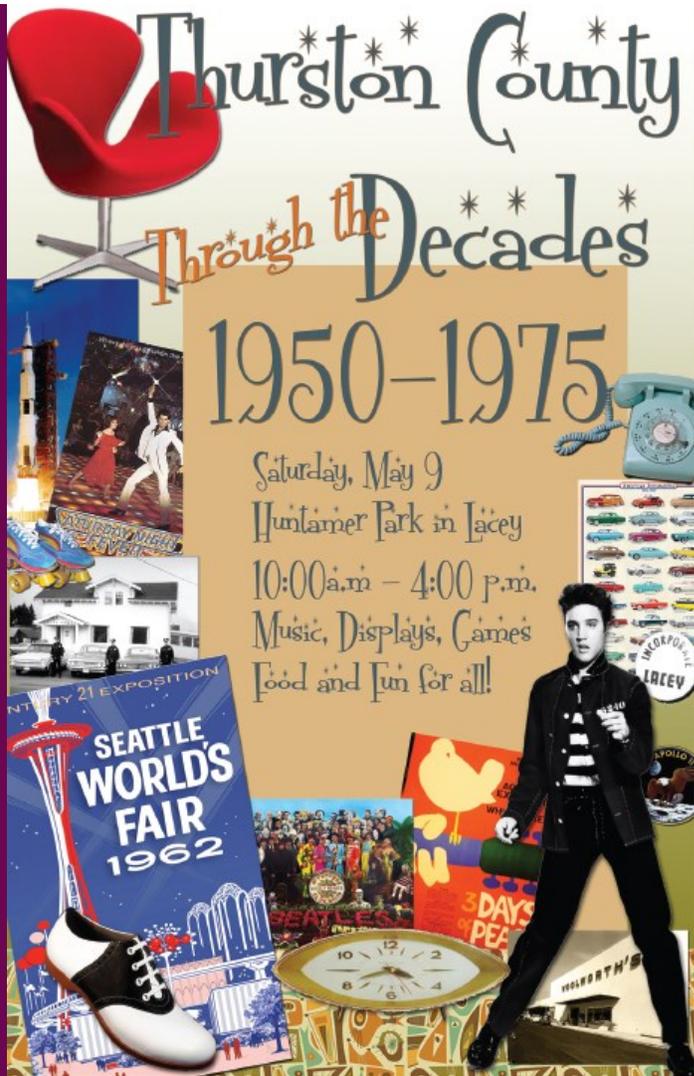
The Lacey Museum, in demonstrating its commitment to upholding best standards and practices in the museum field has joined the American Association for State & Local History's Standards and Excellence Program (StEPs) for History Organizations. This self-assessment program designed for small- to mid-

sized museums helps assess museum policies and practices, improve museum operations and plan for the future.

"The StEPs program will help staff and the Lacey Historical Commission prioritize tasks that we have already determined are important," said Museum Curator, Erin Quinn Valcho. "With a

limited budget and staff, celebrating milestones is very important." The StEPs program offers a certificate for reaching the Basic, Good or Better levels of each section which includes topics such as audience, mission, and collections.

Stay tuned for updates on our progress!



The years 1950 to 1975 were HUGE in Lacey history. Momentous events included the creation of the North Thurston School District (1953), the opening of South Sound Center (1966) and the incorporation of the city (1966). All this and more will be celebrated on May 9<sup>th</sup> as Thurston County's historical organizations gather in Huntamer Park to share their histories through exhibits, games and activities. Visitors can stroll through closed off streets adjoining the park and admire antique cars and Lacey Fire District's historic fire truck. Yummy Mexican food (popularized in the USA during this time period) can be purchased from Lacey's own Pacos Tacos. Enjoy (and even dance) to the tunes provided by DJ SmyleZ.

This will be the ninth in the Thurston County Through The Decades series, held semi-annually. This spring's event is co-sponsored by the Lacey Historical Society and the City of Lacey. Although not a necessity for this occasion, wearing period dress not only gives you a chance to raid your closet and uncover recently unworn treasures such as bell bottom pants, it adds to the festivity of the occasion. The event is free and open to everyone. Join us May 9 and learn how much fun history can be.



Groom-Turner House

## Consultant Hired for Property Research

The City of Lacey is pleased to announce that it has accepted a proposal for historic property research from well-known local historian Shanna Stevenson through her consulting business, Heritage Services. The Lacey Museum received funding from the Thurston County Heritage Grant pro-

gram to complete a Historic Neighborhood walking tour brochure, which including hiring a research professional. Museum Curator, Erin Quinn Valcho, shared her enthusiasm for the selection: "Ms. Stevenson's vast experience researching properties in Washington state and working on

projects of this type will greatly enhance our project, which includes a new brochure, an interactive online story map and a walking tour." The walking tour will take place on Saturday, August 8 at 10 am and will start at the Lacey Museum. It will be led by Museum Curator, Erin Quinn Valcho.

# Meet New Historical Commissioner, Joseph Govednik



Joseph Govednik recently moved to Thurston County and wanted to connect more actively with his community. Joseph brings an impressive resume of expertise to fulfill his role as a professional commissioner on the Lacey Historical Com-

mission. He is currently the Curator of Collections at the Foss Waterway Seaport's Maritime Museum in Tacoma. Joseph has an M.A. in Anthropology, Museum Studies & Business Administration. He also serves as president of the Washington Museums Association, and is on the board of the Tacoma Waterfront Association and Heritage League of Pierce County. When Joseph learned of the opportunity on the Commission, he thought it was a perfect match for his interests in building community, his

passion for history, and a professional background in museums.

On being a Lacey Historical Commissioner, Joseph says "I hope to promote the Lacey Museum and Lacey heritage to our local communities. Active community engagement is paramount to demonstrating the relevance of Lacey's remarkable history. I am serving on the Policy Committee and look forward to contributing my experience working in museums towards updating the Lacey Museum Policy Manual."

Joseph and his wife, Erin, welcomed their daughter, Nora, to the household in December. Congratulations, Joseph!

## Don't Miss This Incredible Event!

The Lacey Museum will be hosting the Lacey Historical Commission's "A Midsummer's Ice Cream" at the Lacey Museum on Friday, July 10th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This free summer evening will be jam-packed full of family fun and entertainment.

Kids and adults alike will enjoy the crafts and activities area hosted by Michael's craft store, period music and storytellers with surprising tales of Lacey's past. The Lacey Fire guys will be bringing their antique fire truck for kids to climb into. Don't forget your camera for that not-to-be missed photo opportunity.

The highlight of the event will of course be the FREE ice cream, sponsored by Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, who will be supplying the delicious toppings to make each creation tasty and unique. Come out and join us for this free community event! A Midsummer's Ice Cream is just one of many Lacey Days events happening between June 27th and July 11th. Learn more at [LaceyDays.org](http://LaceyDays.org). You don't have to leave town to have a great summer!

## 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](mailto:museum@ci.lacey.wa.us)  
[www.ci.lacey.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacey.wa.us)



## 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.

### Museum Staff Contact

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### Lacey Historical Commissioners

Kimberley Bauman, Chair	Joseph Govednik
Erich Ebel, Vice Chair	Alan Tyler
Yasemin Alptekin	Kristina Trebil
Fernnell Dowell III	Amber Granger, Youth Commissioner

## Lacey's Growing Pains

By Richard Jones

In 1966, my office was in Olympia and I was a member of the Olympia Kiwanis Club. Every Monday I attended the luncheon meeting which at that time was held in the Hotel Olympian. (This building still stands at 116 Legion Street SE north of Sylvester Park).

It also happened that I lived in the area of Lacey being proposed for incorporation and I agreed to include my name on the ballot as a candidate for Councilman.

One Monday after my name had been listed as supporting Lacey's incorporation, I went as I usually did to the Kiwanis luncheon meeting. I found myself sitting a table with the Olympia City Manager and a City Commissioner. (From 1925-1982, Olympia was under the three-commissioner

form of government.)

These men had always been friends of mine, and I was more than surprised when my greeting to them was ignored. It was soon obvious that I was no longer acceptable company to them. For the first time in my life I experienced feeling shunned.

Although it wasn't always so, just with my friends, the cities of Lacey and Olympia eventually became good neighbors. They cooperate on common issues and there is a cordial respect between the officials of the two cities.

*-Richard Jones was the 2014 Historian of the Year and is a Lacey Museum volunteer. He was elected to Lacey's first City Council in 1967.*



Looking at Lacey before incorporation, 1964  
Courtesy Lacey Museum