



July 2015

Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

✦ Yakima's Population Estimate Now More Than 93,200

After breaking the 93,000 barrier last year, an estimate from a State of Washington agency shows Yakima now has more than 93,200 people living within its city limits.

The most recent estimate from the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) puts the current population of Yakima at 93,220. That represents an increase of 140 people from the 2013 OFM estimate of 92,960 and an increase of 2024 residents above the 2010 U.S. Census count.



The latest estimate from the Washington State Office of Financial Management puts Yakima's current population at 93,220. Since the 2010 U.S. Census count, Yakima's population has grown by more than 2,400 people.

In between each U.S. Census count, which occur every 10 years, the OFM produces population estimates annually. The estimates are critical because the allocation of state and federal financial support for local governments is based in large part on the OFM numbers. Population estimates from the OFM also affect business recruitment and economic development because the numbers are used to establish potential market size.

Based on the 2015 OFM estimate, Yakima dropped from its 2014 ranking as the 9th largest city (by population) in Washington State to the 10th largest city in the state.

Seattle (662,400) remains the largest city in the state by population followed by Spokane (213,100), Tacoma (202,300), Vancouver (170,400), Bellevue (135,000), Kent (122,900), Everett (105,800), Renton (98,470), Spokane Valley (93,340), and Yakima.

According to the 2014 OFM estimates, Yakima County also increased its population slightly since last year from 248,800 to 249,970.

Yakima remains the largest of the 14 cities and towns in the county by far. Sunnyside (16,280) is next on the list followed by Grandview (11,200), Toppenish (8,955), Selah (7,495), Union Gap (6,150), Wapato (5,040), Moxee (3,810), Granger (3,640), Zillah (3,140), Mabton (2,310), Tieton (1,255), Naches (830), and Harrah (650).

National Night Out Set For August 4th

Throughout the Yakima Valley and across the nation, communities will be throwing a "going away party for crime" during the annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th. In addition to numerous neighborhood block parties, several organizations and businesses will be sponsoring National Night Out events.

National Night Out was started in 1984 and is the brainchild of Matt Peskin, who was the executive director of the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) at the time. The NATW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the development and growth of crime and drug prevention programs nationwide. NATW's membership now includes now more than 6,500 crime, drug, and violence prevention organizations.

In the early 1980s, the NATW estimated that in a typical community, only 5% to 7% of residents were actively engaged in crime prevention. Peskin was convinced that more people would become involved in fighting crime if given the opportunity. He believed that in order to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anti-crime efforts, a high-profile, high-impact type of event was needed on a national scale. Peskin's idea grew to become National Night Out.

In its first year, about 400 communities participated in National Night Out activities. The 32nd annual version of the event this year is expected to include more than 16,000 cities and towns and an estimated 37 million people.



National Night Out activities will take place across the Yakima Valley and throughout the nation on Tuesday, August 4th. The annual event, which has taken place since 1984, includes block parties like the one pictured above at the City of Yakima Richard A. Zais Law & Justice Center and many other "going away party for crime" events.

While the traditional lights on and front porch vigils remain a part of National Night Out, the variety of events that take place in communities has expanded considerably over the years to include block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, festivals, neighborhood walks, safety fairs, contests, rallies and meetings.

National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie, said Peskin. While the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs, and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year. It's a night to celebrate safety and crime prevention successes and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days, said Peskin.



Be Part of the Solution!

You can serve your community by becoming part of a citizen board, committee, or commission. To learn more, contact the City of Yakima Clerk's office by phone (575-6037) or e-mail (sonya.claartee@yakimawa.gov).

Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!

✦ Do Your Part to Conserve Water Not Just During Droughts

The Yakima Valley, Washington state, and much of the Northwest continue to experience significant drought conditions this summer. Little relief is in sight, meaning the lack of water in the region is expected to persist at least until this fall.

In Central Washington, so far the drought conditions have mostly affected growers. Water supplies to farms, orchards, and ranches served by certain irrigation districts have been restricted. To this point, though, people in urban areas have not faced any limitations on the amount of water they can use and likely won't unless supplies were to drop more than they are predicted to.

Still, reducing water usage, whether for irrigation or other household uses, enhances the long-term viability of the water supply and can help the average family save money.



Watering lawns, gardens, and plants only at night or early in the morning results in less evaporation and allows more water to soak into the soil. The end result is that less water is needed to irrigate.

As it did in 2005 during the last major drought to hit our area, the City of Yakima has launched a campaign called **12 Ways to Save Water** to provide simple advice about how to reduce overall water usage. Tips on conserving water are posted in the Points of Interest section on the front page of the City's website at yakimawa.gov.

The **12 Ways to Save Water** include shortening shower times, watering lawns, gardens, and plants at nighttime or early in the morning, landscaping with low-water-use plants, only running dishwashers and washing machines when they are full, and using mulch on plants and flower beds. The **12 Ways to Save Water** are applicable at all times, not just during drought conditions.

One of the most helpful things homeowners can do to reduce the amount of irrigation water they use is to make sure that their sprinklers are set correctly, said Water/Irrigation Division Manager Dave Brown. It's not uncommon this time of year to see sprinklers spraying water on driveways or sidewalks or out in the street. If sprinklers aren't set correctly, water is being wasted and is just going to flow into gutters and end up in the stormwater system, said Brown. Taking a little bit of time to make sure sprinklers are only hitting landscaped areas can save a lot of water.

Additional water saving tips can be found on the City's website at <http://bit.ly/1Dd4WD6> and the Washington State Department of Health website at <http://1.usa.gov/1Gi7xLY>. Information about how drought conditions in our region are being addressed can be found on the Washington State Department of Ecology website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/>.



The free, family-friendly Downtown Summer Nights Concert Series is back for its third year. Shows take place every Thursday night through August 20th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on 4th Street behind the Capitol Theatre. To see a complete list of performers, go to www.downtownsummernights.com.



Brought to you by Stewart Subaru, Townsquare Media, Chinook Entertainment, and the City of Yakima