



June 2015

Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

Take the Bus for Free to Take a Dip in the Pool This Summer

Just like last year, Yakima Transit and Yakima Parks and Recreation have teamed up to make it easier for swimmers to use Franklin and Lions pools this summer.

From now until August 30th, paying to swim in one of Yakima's two City-owned pools entitles the purchaser to a special Yakima Transit bus pass. Each pass is good for two tickets to ride Yakima Transit and that means free transportation all summer to swim.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," says Yakima Transit Marketing and Contract Administrator Karen Allen who launched the program in 2014. Bus ridership is lower in the summertime when school is out, so there are seats available to handle swimmers. We like to be involved in programs that increase bus ridership and, hopefully, get more people in the habit of hopping on the bus to get where they want to go. It's a natural partnership between Yakima Transit and Yakima Parks and Rec, said Allen.



Franklin Pool welcomes swimmers all summer long. Like in 2014, everyone who pays to get in to Franklin Pool or Lions Pool will also get two free passes to ride Yakima Transit. The hope is more people will ride the bus not just to the pools, but to other locations in town.

A lack of transportation often prevents kids and adults from being able to swim as much as they would like during the summer months. "This helps solve that problem," says Yakima Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. "We are very excited about the opportunity to increase the number of people utilizing our pools."

Admission to both Franklin Pool and Lions Pool costs \$2.00 for youth and \$3.75 for adults. Punch cards and three-month passes are also available.

Franklin Pool officially opened on Wednesday, June 10th and offers a variety of aquatics activities including swimming lessons, water walking, lap swims and recreational swimming. Lions Pool is open year round and offers similar classes and activities to those at Franklin. Additional information is available on the Yakima Parks and Recreation website at <http://www.yakimaparks.com/aquatics/> or by calling Franklin Pool at 575-6035 or Lions Pool at 575-6046.

Yakima Transit runs seven days a week and schedule information is available online at www.yakimatransit.org or by calling 575-6175.

Free Music and Movies to Fill Yakima Parks Again this Summer

Spending warm summer evenings in one of Yakima's parks leisurely watching a movie or listening to live music has been something people in our area have looked forward to for many years. The wait for the return of the venerable *Summer Sunset Concert Series*, *Yakima Valley Community Band Concert Series*, and *Outdoor Cinema Series* is almost over as all three Yakima favorites get set to make their 2014 debuts in July.

In addition, the second season of the *Viva La Música Concert Series* will make its debut in the middle of next month and Franklin Park will host a special performance by the *Yakima Valley of the Sun Barbershop Chorus* in late June.



The Viva La Musica Concert Series was very popular during its debut season in 2014. The family-friendly series returns to Miller Park this year for 10 Sunday evening performances.

The *Yakima Valley of the Sun Barbershop Chorus* was founded in 1952 and currently has about 20 members. The group will showcase its a cappella stylings during its performance at the Franklin Park Rotary Pavilion on Friday, June 26th. The show will get underway at 6:30 pm.

The *Summer Sunset Concert Series* at Franklin Park will kick off its 2015 season on July 17th and will continue every Friday through August 21st. The performances run from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Yakima Sunrise Rotary Pavilion.

This year's lineup includes Country/Folk group **Mark Pickerel & His Praying Hands** on **July 17th**, Americana group **The Mongrels** on **July 24th**, Rock/Soul band **Graig Market & The 88th Street Band** on **July 31st**,

Blues/Folk artist **Alice Stewart** on **August 7th**, Yakima favorite **Wayman Chapman** on **August 14th**, and **Pugwash**, a Rock/Pop band from Dublin, Ireland, on **August 21st**.

The *Yakima Valley Community Band Concert Series* begins its 2015 run of free Wednesday evening performances at Randall Park on **July 1st**. Performances start at 7:00 pm and last about an hour. As is tradition, the *Yakima Valley Community Band* will also play a special concert to celebrate our nation's birthday beginning at 7:00 pm on the 4th of July, which this year falls on a Saturday.

Following its very successful debut last year, the second season of the *Viva La Música Concert Series* will run from July 12th through September 13th at Miller Park. The lineup for the sophomore season includes **Leopardo Salvje** on **July 12th**, **Los Pumas de Jalisco** on **July 19th**, **Enamorados** on **July 26th**, **Principio de Tierra Caliente** on **August 2nd**, **Banda Reyna del Sur** on **August 9th**, **Grupo Antifaz** on **August 16th**, **Chikos de la Banda** on **August 23rd**, **Hermanos Gonzalez** on **August 30th**, and **Sinceridad de la Sierra** on **September 6th**. Those nine performances will begin at 5:00 pm and last until 7:00 pm. The year's final show on **September 13th**, which will run from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm and feature special music celebrating Mexico's Independence Day (September 16th), will include **Rebeldes del la Sierra**, **Corazon de Tierra Caliente**, and **Banda Centenario**.

Chesterly Park will host this year's free *Outdoor Cinema Series*, which will feature nearly-new releases every Sunday from July 19th through August 23rd. The lineup of movies this season includes **Planes: Fire & Rescue** (PG) on **July 19th**, **Paddington** (PG) on **July 26th**, **Monsters, Inc.** (G) on **August 2nd**, **Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day** (PG) on **August 9th**, **The Hunger Games – Mocking Jay Part 1** (PG-13) on **August 16th**, and **When the Game Stands Still** (PG) on **August 23rd**. *Outdoor Cinema Series* movies begin at sunset, which is usually around 8:30 pm.

New Communications Center Open and Operating in Union Gap

The first 9-1-1 calls at the new SunComm Communications Center in Union Gap came in literally moments after a few buttons were pushed during the early morning hours of May 28th in order to reroute emergency calls from the old center in Downtown Yakima. The rerouting of calls from the old center to the much larger and more modern site marked the culmination of several years of discussion and planning and several months of construction.

The new 10,000 square foot SunComm center is in part of a Yakima County-owned building at 2403 S. 18th Street next door to the Union Gap Police Department. The previous site on the second floor of the City of Yakima's Richard A. Zais Law & Justice Center on 3rd Street and Walnut Avenue was about half as big.



The new SunComm Communications Center is outfitted with the most up-to-date technology to handle 9-1-1 calls and to dispatch emergency responders. The center is operated by the City of Yakima and is located in a building owned by Yakima County in Union Gap near the Valley Mall.

"SunComm had really needed a larger space for many years, said Communications Manager Brad Coughenour. "Now we have the room we need and the most up-to-date technology that will help us do our job better."

The City of Yakima provides 9-1-1 call taking and emergency dispatch services for nearly all law enforcement agencies and fire departments in the Upper Yakima Valley through SunComm operating agreements. The new facility was built with enough space to incorporate other public safety dispatch services in the county such as the Yakima

County Sheriff's Office and Yakima County Fire District 5. Although not yet being utilized, the center also has the potential to receive reports of emergencies via text messaging.

"We designed the new center to be able to serve the needs of the Yakima Valley for many years to come, said Coughenour. "We've made an investment that will allow the center to adapt and grow as demand increases."

The new SunComm Communications Center cost about \$4.4 million to build, equip, and furnish. Half of that amount came from the City of Yakima while the remaining fifty percent was generated by a 9-1-1 tax on phone services that is applied throughout Yakima County.



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!