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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF

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City of Yakima in contract talks with interim city manager candidate



The Yakima City Council interviews interim city manager candidate Alex Meyerhoff (above) during a special meeting held on Tuesday, October 1st.

The City of Yakima is preparing to enter into negotiations with Alex Meyerhoff for the interim city manager position.

Meyerhoff was one of two candidates for the post interviewed via Skype during a special meeting of the Yakima City Council on October 1st.

Meyerhoff has nearly 30 years of experience in local government, including having served as city manager/executive director in Holtville, California (2011-2014), Hemet, California (2016-2017), and San Fernando, California (2017-2019).

Meyerhoff earned a bachelor of arts in history degree from the University of California (1991) and a master of arts in urban planning, transportation, and environmental analysis, also from the University of California (1993).

The other candidate interviewed on Skype during the October 1st special meeting was James Patrick, who has more than 20 years of experience in local government.

Following former City Manager Cliff Moore's resignation in August, the Council advertised the interim city manager position to Managers in Transition - a pool of retired municipal managers and managers who are between positions.

Since Moore's departure, Senior City Attorney Cynthia Martinez has been serving as interim Yakima city manager.

Martinez's appointment was intended to be temporary while the Council conducted a process to hire an interim manager on a longer-term basis.

Interim city manager interviews airing on Y-PAC

The Yakima City Council's interviews with two candidates for interim city manager can be viewed on-demand on the Yakima Public Affairs Channel, Y-PAC.

The interviews are available at <http://videos.yakimawa.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/9482?channel=2>

The interviews were conducted via Skype during a special City Council meeting on October 1st.

City of Yakima firefighters to train in West Valley school buildings

New school construction projects creating training opportunities in former elementary school buildings



This fall, the Yakima Fire Department (YFD) and West Valley Fire Department (WVFD) will have training opportunities thanks to the cooperation of the West Valley School District.

As the West Valley School District's (WVSD) Apple Valley and Summitview elementary school buildings are being prepared for demolition, WVSD is partnering with local first responders for an opportunity for invaluable trainings.

The abatement and demolition permitting process will take approximately two months. This gives WVSD freedom to allow first responders to take their time to train in the buildings.

"We appreciate the West Valley School District's partnership in granting first responders these training opportunities," said Yakima Fire Chief Aaron Markham. "These live exercises will help YFD's firefighters practice crucial life-saving skills."

"Training in a large area will allow us to enhance our skills that we apply at schools, commercial buildings, and large apartment buildings," said YFD Deputy Chief Patrick Reid.

"We appreciate the West Valley School District's partnership in granting first responders these training opportunities. These live exercises will help YFD's firefighters practice crucial life-saving skills."

- Yakima Fire Chief Aaron Markham

Trainings will include large area searches, extending a charged hose line into a building for long distances, firefighter situational awareness, self-rescue drills and evacuating smoke from a building.

WVFD Training Captain Jim Johnston wants residents to know the department will be using artificial non-toxic smoke in their trainings and they should not be alarmed if they see smoke emitting from the buildings.

"The opportunity to train in a structure such as this is very important to our team. It allows us to train in ways that aren't very common or readily available to us," said Johnston.

"The West Valley School District feels fortunate these buildings can serve in strengthening our communities before their demolition," said WVSD Communications Director Anjerie Nemrow.

The Apple Valley Elementary School building is located at 7 North 88th Avenue. The Summitview Elementary School building is located at 6305 West Chestnut Avenue.

Click <https://www.wvsd208.org/> for more about WVSD. Click <https://yakimafire.com/> for more about YFD.

Fun at the Fair with the Yakima Police Department



A Squad officers of the Yakima Police Department assigned to the Central Washington State Fair last month were able to enjoy some of the attractions before the crowd. Chief Matt Murray even joined in on the fun!

Briefly...

Y-PAC airing Council budget meetings

The Yakima City Council's 2020 budget study sessions and budget hearings are airing live on the Yakima Public Affairs Channel (Y-PAC), Charter Cable Channel 194.

The series of nine budget-related meetings are also streamed live at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream/>

The Council will hold budget study sessions in City Hall on Oct. 1, Oct. 3, Oct. 16 and Oct. 17.

All begin at 10 am.

The Ad Valorem (property) tax hearing and the first 2020 budget hearing will be at 6 pm on Nov. 5.

The final 2020 budget hearing is set for 6 pm on Nov. 19.

Toy drive underway for "Toys for Tots"

Yakima's Harman Center is getting a jump start on the holiday season with a "Toys for Tots" toy drive.

New, unwrapped toys can be brought to the the Harman Center front desk through Dec. 13.



Video Voters Pamphlet airs this month

Candidates for City Council seats interviewed

The City of Yakima's Community Relations Office is providing a tool for voters heading into the November 5th General Election.

Y-PAC, the City of Yakima's government access channel, has produced a 2019 Video Voters Pamphlet focusing on candidates for four Yakima City Council seats.

The candidates for Yakima City Council are **Eliana Macias** and **Kenton (Kent) Gartrell** (District 1), **Patricia Byers** and **Thomas Sund** (District 3), **Soneya Lund** and **Liz Hallock** (District 5) and **Holly Cousens** (District 7). Cousens' opponent, Sarah Towell, withdrew from the race.

It is airing on Y-PAC, Charter Cable Channel 194 and on-line at <http://videos.yakimawa.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/9494?channel=2>



Yakima County Elections Calendar

Oct. 18th - General Election ballots will be available.

Oct. 29th - By mail and on-line registration and update deadline.

Nov. 5th - Election Day. In-person registration and update deadline is 8 pm. Yakima County Auditor's Office hours are 8 am to 8 pm

Nov. 26th - Yakima County results of the 2018 General Election will be certified.

City wastewater plant earns "Outstanding" award



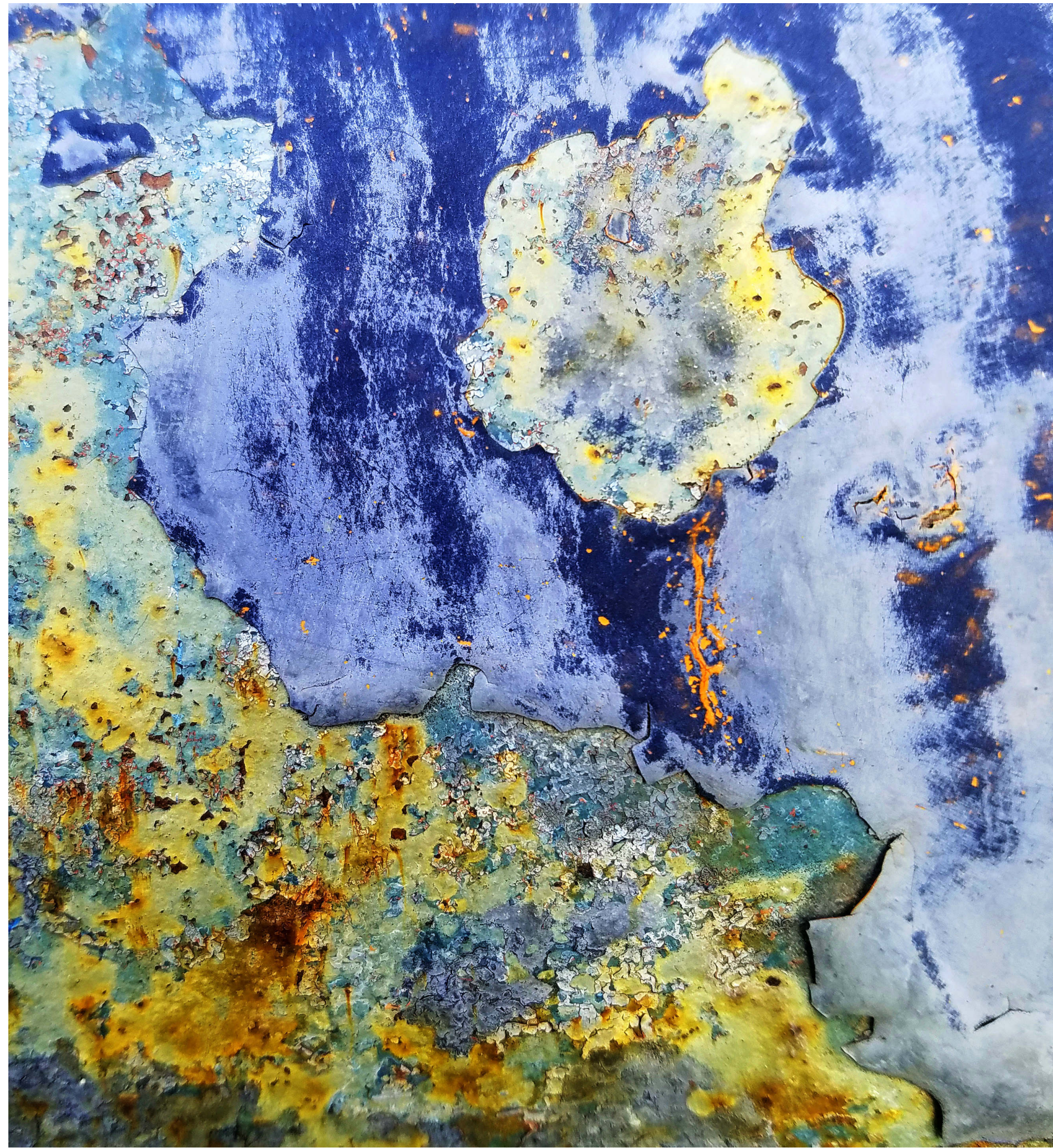
The Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant has been recognized by the Washington State Department of Ecology ("DOE") for having achieved full compliance with all clean water requirements during 2018.

DOE presented the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award during the Sept. 17th Yakima City Council meeting.

"Yakima is well served by dedicated employees who made this award possible," said City of Yakima Public Works Director Scott Schafer. "Their efforts are commendable and much appreciated."

The City of Yakima-owned plant processes wastewater from homes, businesses, and industrial facilities in Yakima, Union Gap, Terrace Heights, and Moxee.

New Windows Alive! display opens in Downtown Yakima



Kelly McKnight - Blue Paint Over Time

Empty storefronts in Downtown Yakima came alive again on Friday, October 4th when the talents of local artists were put on public display for the latest "Windows Alive!" installment.

Six years ago, the Yakima Arts Commission, an advisory group appointed by the Yakima City Council, developed the idea to harness the creativity of Central Washington artists.

Following a submission and evaluation process, outstanding artists from the region were chosen to be part of the latest "Windows Alive!" exhibition, which will run from October 4th until March 2020.

The artists are Joan Neubauer, Kelly McKnight, Jeremy Dubow, Janice La Verne Baker, Maria Rueda and Jeremy Bartheld.

Click <http://www.windowalive.com/> for more about the artists in the new Windows Alive! exhibit..



Book art by Joan Neubauer



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<https://www.instagram.com/cityofyakima/>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofYakimaWA>

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Questions? Suggestions?

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