



April 2017

# Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

## ✦ Even in a Good Water Year, Everyone Can Still Help Conserve

The water supply picture for the Yakima Valley this irrigation season is much brighter than it was a couple of years ago when the area experienced severe drought conditions. Even though water supply forecasts are positive this year, it is still important to take measures to use water in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

The City of Yakima is continuing an effort that was launched during the 2015 drought to encourage people to use water wisely.

The City's 42 Ways to Save Water campaign provides tips about how to take small steps toward reducing overall water usage. The City is getting the message out using its website, social media platforms, YCTV and Y-PAC cable channels, news releases, traditional media, and more.

The complete list of the 42 Ways to Save Water is available on the City's website front page in the Points of Interest section. Connect directly to the page by clicking on the following link .

<http://bit.ly/1W4kDbv>.

Just by doing little things like taking shorter showers, not over watering plants and grass, and only running the dishwasher when it's full can save a lot of water, said City of Yakima Irrigation/Water Manager Dave Brown. We need to be doing those kinds of things not only in years when water supplies are tight, we need to do them all the time, said Brown.

Among the 42 Ways to Save Water that the City is suggesting community members consider implementing are setting sprinklers appropriately so water is not wasted, using mulch on plant and flower beds to increase water retention, sweeping patios, driveways, and porches instead of using water to wash them, limiting the use of fertilizer and other chemically-based plant food, and washing dark clothes in cold water.

Even when conditions are not like they were in 2015, it still makes sense for all of us to be as diligent as we can when we are using water, said Brown. Water is a precious commodity and we should be mindful of that not just during droughts.



*Watering flowers, plants, and lawns at night or in the early morning is one of the water saving tips that are being shared through the City of Yakima's "42 Ways to Conserve Water" campaign.*

## **Yakima City/County Buyer Receives Top State Honor**

Susan Knotts, a Buyer II for the combined City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing office, has been named Buyer of the Year by the Washington State Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing ("WANIGP"). Knotts received a plaque marking the accomplishment during ceremonies held earlier this year in Olympia during the Excellence in Procurement Summit.

An WANIGP committee uses a four-part criteria, which emphasis personal and professional development, to determine each year's winner.



***Susan Knotts, a Buyer II with the City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing office, was recently named Buyer of the Year by a statewide organization.***

"We are very proud of Susan," said City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing Manager Sue Ownby. "This is a prestigious award. Susan is very good at what she does and the committee clearly recognized that," said Ownby.

Knotts first came to work for the City's Purchasing Division in 2003 and has served in several capacities since then. After having initially been hired as a Department Assistant, Knotts was promoted to the position of Purchasing Assistant in December 2006. Then, in September 2009 as part of the consolidation of City and County purchasing functions, she was promoted to the position of Buyer I. She currently serves as a Buyer II.

Knotts currently serves as the WANIGP treasurer. She has also been a forum volunteer for the NIGP Forum and a local organizer for the group's Charity and Philanthropy food drive. She received her Certified Public Procurement Officer credentials in 2011 and her Certified Public Procurement Buyer credentials in 2013. She has also served on the City of Yakima's Insurance Board, Wellness Committee, and as shop steward and union representative.

"When it comes to customer service, Susan really gets it," said Ownby. "Her customer service skills are second to none. This award is a testament to Susan's strong commitment to meeting the needs of our customers," said Ownby.

The combined City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing office handles more than \$70 million in business every year.

The Washington State Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing was formed in 2003 and has around 270 members. The national organization has nearly 15,000 members and has been developing, supporting, and promoting the public procurement profession since 1994.

## **Getting Rid of Unwanted Drugs and Documents is Easy...and Free**

All across the U.S., people with outdated, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs can get rid of them for free on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> during the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) eighth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

A drop off site will be open in Yakima from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Yakima site will be located in the parking lot of the Solarity Credit Union branch at 110 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

There is no limit to the amount of prescription medications that can be dropped off at the Yakima location.

In addition to being able to get rid of unneeded prescription medications, Yakima County Crime Stoppers will also be accepting outdated personal documents at the Solarity Credit Union drop off site, which will be shredded for free.

Getting rid of old personal documents is an easy and practical way to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, said Yakima County Crime Stoppers President Dave Purcell. By bringing their documents to one of our drop off sites, people can be assured that they will be shredded and disposed of properly, said Purcell.



***National Drug Take-Back Day is April 29<sup>th</sup>. A drop off site will be open that day in Yakima at the North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Solarity Credit Union location.***

Up to two banker boxes or three shopping bags of documents per person will be accepted at the Yakima drop off site between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm on April 29<sup>th</sup>.



***CI Shred is partnering with Yakima County Crime Stoppers to get rid of old personal documents on April 29<sup>th</sup>.***

The DEA conducted its first National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in 2010 to both curb the misuse of prescription drugs and to reduce the number of prescription drugs improperly disposed of. Since then, participation in the event has consistently grown. In total, almost 3.4 million pounds (1,700 tons) of prescription drugs have been turned in through the program.

More Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the combined number of those who use cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin. The Take-Back Day program also helps reduce the number of prescription drugs that are flushed down the toilet or thrown out with the trash. Prescription drugs that end up in the sewer

system or landfills can result in contamination of both groundwater and surface water supplies.

Having people bring prescription drugs that they no longer use or no longer want to a drop off site is a much better alternative than getting rid of them any other way, said City of Yakima Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. The drop off site provides a free, anonymous, no-questions-asked option to dispose of old pills and medicines safely.

More information about Yakima County Crime Stoppers can be found on the organization's website at <http://www.crimestoppersyakco.org/>. Additional details about Drug Take-Back Day can be found on the DEA website at [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/).