

August 2013

Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

Yakima Wastewater Treatment Plant Ranked Among the Best

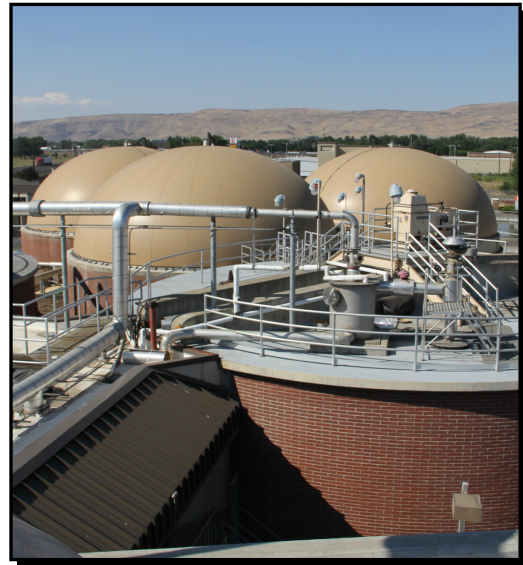
The Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is operated by the City of Yakima, has again received a perfect score from the Washington State Department of Ecology ("DOE") for its compliance with strict environmental regulations and reporting requirements.

The City was recently notified by DOE that it will be receiving the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award for the second year in a row.

"It takes diligent operators and a strong management team, working effectively together, to achieve this high level of compliance," said DOE Water Quality Program Manager Kelly Susewind in a letter notifying the City of the award. "It's not easy to operate a wastewater treatment plant 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, without violations. Your excellent record proves that dedicated operators run the Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and their combined efforts lead to outstanding results," said Susewind.

Only about a third of the approximately 300 wastewater treatment plants in Washington State achieved full compliance in 2012 with the operational demands of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. Before DOE began its Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award program in 1995, only 14 treatment plants out of more than 280 in the state had perfect compliance.

"Using primarily low-interest loans and grants, the City has made significant investments in the last few years to upgrade and expand the Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plan to ensure that it can continue to operate at the highest standards in the future," said Acting Wastewater Manager Shelley Willson. "Those kinds of investments are continuing now and will be for several years to come. However, even with the best technology in place, it is the dedication and commitment of our staff that makes our plant one of the best run facilities in the state," said Willson. "Yakima has some of the most talented and hard working wastewater treatment employees anywhere, and receiving this award proves that."



The Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant has received the DOE's Outstanding Performance Award two years in a row.

New Solid Waste & Recycling, HR, and Airport Managers Named

City Manager Tony O'Rourke has hired a former Yakama Nation Solid Waste Supervisor as the City's new Solid Waste & Recycling Manager and has promoted the City's Deputy Human Resources Manager and Assistant Airport Manager to head their respective operations.

On August 1st, Loretta Zammarchi took over as the City's Solid Waste & Recycling Manager, Cheryl Ann Mattia was elevated to the Human Resources Manager position, and Rob Peterson stepped into his new role as Yakima Airport Manager.

Zammarchi graduated from San Francisco State University in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in social welfare/community development. She spent the early part of her career working for a variety of community-based organizations in California, Seattle, Montana, and Connecticut. In 1990, Zammarchi moved to Yakima and worked as an organizational and program development consultant. In 1992, she served as a Project Assistant for the Partnership for Rural Improvement. That same year, she was hired as an Environmental Educator/Outreach Specialist for the Washington State Department of Ecology. From 1993 to 2006, Zammarchi was a Program Coordinator for Yakima County's Solid Waste Division. Just prior to being hired by the City, she had been the Solid Waste Planner/Supervisor for the Yakama Nation since 2006.

A native of Selah, Mattia has worked in the human resources field since 1990 when she was hired as the Human Resources Manager for Mitsubishi (MC Snack) Yakima. From 1994 to 1995, Mattia served as a Personnel Representative for Yakima County. In 1998, she became the Human Resources Manager for John I. Haas Inc., an international hops grower and distributor. From 2002 to 2007, Mattia was the Western Regional Human Resources Manager for Filtrona Extrusion, USA, Inc., a plastics extrusion company now known as Pexco. In 2007, Mattia became the Assistant Human Resources Director for Triumph Treatment Services, a Yakima-based chemical dependency recovery provider. Just prior to being hired by the City as Deputy Human Resources Manager in July 2011, Mattia had been the Human Resources Director for E.W. Brandt & Sons, Inc., a leading Yakima Valley tree fruit growing and shipping company.

Peterson began his career in 2002 as a Flight Operations Supervisor for Atlantic Coast Airlines after graduating from Southern Illinois University ("SIU") with a bachelor's degree in aviation management. In 2007, after earning a master's degree in public administration in aviation from SIU, Peterson was hired as an Aviation Operations Representative at Denver International Airport. In 2009, he served for about a year as Airport Operations/Maintenance Supervisor at Dayton (Ohio) International Airport before becoming Airport Operations Officer at Fort Worth (Texas) Meacham International Airport. Since March 2011, Peterson has been Assistant Airport Manager of the Yakima Air Terminal.

Zammarchi replaces longtime Refuse Manager Nancy Fortier, who retired from the City earlier this year. Mattia is replacing Colleen Chapin, who left the City in May. Peterson replaces Lee Rummel, who retired in September 2012.



*City of Yakima Refuse &
Recycling Manager
Loretta Zammarchi*



*City of Yakima Human
Resources Manager
Cheryl Ann Mattia*



*Yakima Airport Manager
Rob Peterson*

Dog Paddle Will Be Stroke of Choice During Paws In the Pool

Franklin Pool will welcome dogs and their owners on the last day of the summer swimming season, Sunday, August 25th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm as the pool plays host to the 7th annual *Paws In the Pool* event.

Admission to the *Paws In the Pool* event is free for dogs, but owners do have to buy a general admission ticket which costs \$2.00 for kids, \$3.75 for adults, and \$2.25 for senior citizens. A family pass, which can be used for up to 2 adults and as many as 4 kids, costs \$13.00.

"The *Paws in the Pool* event is always a lot of fun," said Recreation Supervisor Traci Bennett. "We get dogs of all breeds, shapes, and sizes. They really enjoy getting the chance to splash around in the pool, and so do their owners," said Bennett.



Both dogs and their humans enjoy the annual *Paws In the Pool* event at Franklin Pool.

The event also provides a great community outreach opportunity for the Humane Society of Central Washington. Society staff will be on hand to provide information to pet owners and to accept donations of money and/or supplies, including pet food, towels, laundry soap, bleach, and kitty litter. The Society, which has been operating as a non-profit organization in Yakima since 1904, provides a range of services to the community including pet adoption, animal control, pet owner education, and quality animal care.

When first arriving for *Paws In the Pool*, dogs need to be kept on leashes. However, once inside the fenced-in area around the pool, dogs are free to do as they please and enjoy a day of swimming fun.

"We've had a great summer at Franklin Pool this year," said Bennett. "We had hot weather for most of the summer and that brought people out to the pool. That's exactly what we hope for every year," said Bennett. "The *Paws in the Pool* event will be a fantastic way to top off the season. We're looking forward to it."

Bennett says there are few rules that dogs need to follow during the event. However, aggressive dogs are discouraged from taking part in *Paws In the Pool* in order to ensure that the day is fun for everyone.



Simply lounging in the pool is another option for dogs and their owners at the *Paws In the Pool* event.



Be Part of the Solution!

If you see an area in Yakima hit by graffiti, call the City's Graffiti Hotline at 575-3550 or report it using the Yak Back portal on the City's website.

Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!