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Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

City/County Buyer Receives Certification

Colleen Bailey, a buyer for the combined City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing Division, recently received her credentials as a Certified Public Procurement Officer ("CPPO") from the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council ("UPPCC").

In order to be awarded the CPPBO designation, Bailey, who has worked for the Purchasing Division since 2009, had to meet rigorous education and experience requirements as well as pass a demanding three-and-a-half-hour exam administered by the UPPCC. The exam consists of 190 multiple choice questions covering various aspects of the public procurement profession.

Bailey's CPPO designation is valid for five years and can be renewed for an additional five years through the UPPCC's recertification process.

"To earn CPPO credentials takes a high level of commitment and a lot of hard work," said City/County Purchasing Manager Sue Ownby. "Colleen dedicated herself to the process and passed the exam with flying colors. She has demonstrated her willingness to continue her professional development in order to better serve the citizens of the City and County," said Ownby. "Colleen is truly a valuable asset to our office."

About two years ago, Bailey earned her Certified Public Professional Buyer ("CPPB") credentials from the UPPCC. She is now the fourth member of the City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing Division to receive both CPPB and CPPO credentials, which is a significant accomplishment. Ownby, Senior Buyer Maria Mayhue, and Buyer Susan Knotts have also earned CPPB and CPPO credentials from the UPPCC.



City/County Buyer Colleen Bailey is now credentialed as a Certified Public Procurement Officer by the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council.

Established 30 years ago, the UPPCC promotes and elevates professionalism and ethical conduct in public purchasing through its certification programs. The UPPCC's Certified Public Professional Buyer and Certified Public Purchasing Officer designations are recognized not only in the United States, but also are accredited by the International Federation of Purchasing Supply and Management, which consists of 42 member countries spread across six continents and represents more than 200,000 members worldwide.



Be Part of the Solution!

Help reduce panhandling. Instead of giving money directly to panhandlers, donate to local agencies and organizations that provide services to people who are low-income or homeless.

Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!

Furry Friends Will Rule the Pool During Paws In the Pool

For the eighth year in a row, Franklin Pool will host both dogs and their owners on the last day of the summer swimming season, Sunday, August 24th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for the 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 two adults and as many as four kids, costs \$13.00.

“The *Paws in the Pool* event has become one of the highlights of the year,” said Recreation Supervisor Traci Bennett. “It’s a fun way to close out the summer swimming season. Dogs and their owners get to rule the pool for the afternoon. It doesn’t get much better than that,” said Bennett.



Scuba gear is completely optional for dogs during the 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.

“This has been a very busy year at Franklin Pool,” said Bennett. “The record high temperatures in Yakima this summer made the pool a very popular place. We’ve made some improvements to Franklin over the last few years and the community has responded well to them,” said Bennett.

Bennett says there aren’t many rules that dogs and their owners need to follow during the *Paws In the Pool* event. However, aggressive dogs are discouraged from taking part in in order to ensure that the day is fun for everyone.



Few rules apply during Paws In The Pool. It’s a day for furry friends and their owners to enjoy Franklin Pool.

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City's Fire Hydrants Are Ship Shape

Fire hydrants stand silent guard in neighborhoods throughout the City of Yakima. Few are ever called into action. But each has to be ready to respond at a moment's notice. Ensuring that the City's fire hydrants are in good working order ensures that lives can be saved.

That's why City Water/Irrigation crews have spent time this summer testing a quarter of the more than 3,000 hydrants in the city, just like they do every year.

"Like a lot of the utility system, people tend to take fire hydrants for granted," said City of Yakima Water/Irrigation Manager Dave Brown. "But like anything else, hydrants need to receive regular maintenance so they are ready to go when they're needed. Making sure that all of the City's fire hydrants are working properly isn't exactly the most glamorous job, but it's right up there with the most important ones," said Brown.

Annual testing of hydrants is a requirement of the Washington Survey and Ratings Bureau and plays a role in how insurance rates are established for homes and businesses in the Yakima area and across the state. The Bureau is a non-profit entity that provides services to all companies that sell property insurance in Washington state. The mission of the Bureau is to provide accurate, relevant, and timely information about risk.

In addition to testing to make sure that water will flow correctly if fire hoses are hooked to them, crews also check to see if hydrants need to have a fresh coat of paint applied to them.

"Typically, we'll find quite a few hydrants each year that need their paint jobs touched up," said Brown. "In a normal year, we probably identify about three-quarters of the hydrants that we test that need to be repainted. That means that we'll put a new coat of paint on at least 500 hydrants each year," Brown said.

Some hydrants require touchups because they have been hit by graffiti while others have simply faded over time.

It typically takes about five employees roughly 30 days to complete the hydrant testing/painting program each year.



About 750 of the more than 3000 fire hydrants in Yakima are tested each year to ensure they are working properly.



The final free, family-friendly Downtown Summer Nights concert will be on August 21st on 4th Street from 5 pm to 9 pm. Come join *Hey! Is For Horses*, *Open Country Joy*, and headliner *Blake Nobel* for a night of fun, friends, and great music!



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