

Issues Brief

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Yakima Begins Tour & Talk Outreach

Program for Media Debuted Last Month at Airport Facility

The City of Yakima hosted its first Tour & Talk for media on Tuesday, January 30th.

It was held at the Yakima Air Terminal/McAllister Field maintenance facility, 3106 Washington Avenue.

The event focused on processes and equipment air terminal staff use to combat ice and snow during winter months in an attempt to keep the airport open and operating normally.

Members of the media were invited to video and take pictures of various pieces of equipment used by air terminal staff during inclement weather.

Airport staff provided explanations of how each piece of equipment is utilized and why occasionally the airport may shut down during snow and ice events.

Yakima Air Terminal/McAllister Field Airport Director Rob Peterson led the airport maintenance facility tour.

Yakima City Council members were also invited to attend the Tour & Talk.



Above: Airport Director Rob Peterson is pictured during the City of Yakima's first-ever Tour & Talk for the media. It focused on winter operations, such as efforts in 2016, left, at Yakima Air Terminal/McAllister Field. More Tour & Talk events are planned in the future.

"The Yakima Air Terminal/McAllister Field is well prepared to manage snow and ice events and keep our facilities open and available to our customers," said Peterson. "Our staff is also taking additional steps to enhance its capabilities to battle challenging weather."

Peterson added, "Occasionally though, the weather dictates temporary closures of the airport and we want media and the rest of the community to be well educated about how the airport staff responds to winter weather now and how it plans to do so in the future."

The January 30th Tour & Talk at the airport maintenance facility is the first of what the City plans on making a series of opportunities for media to become more familiar with the work it performs and to share that information with the community.

"Through periodic Tour & Talk events, the City will give media a more 'behind-the-scenes' look at some of its projects, facilities, and programs," said Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler.

Yakima City Council Renews Neighborhood Forum Efforts

*4 planned in 7 days
for community input
on public safety*

Yakima City Council members are hosting four neighborhood forums in February and one in March to focus on public safety.

"The City Council is making an extra effort to give neighbors an opportunity to share their concerns with one another and band together to make it clear that they won't tolerate violence and crime in their neighborhoods," said City Councilmember Dulce Gutiérrez.

The forums will provide opportunities for community members to share their concerns about public safety issues and provide input about potential solutions.

The series of forums begins at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 21st, at McClure Elementary School, 1222 S. 22nd Ave.

That will be followed by a neighborhood forum at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 22nd, at Lewis & Clark Middle School, 1114 Pierce St.

The Feb. 21st and 22nd forums will be hosted by Yakima City Councilmember Carmen Méndez. They will be conducted in English with Spanish-language translation provided.

Councilmember Kay Funk will then host a neighborhood forum at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 24th at Franklin Middle School, 410 S. 19th Avenue.



Yakima City Council members will host four neighborhood forums in seven days to gather public comment on public safety concerns.



The Franklin Middle School forum will also be in English with translation services available.

The 7-day series of forums concludes at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 27, when Councilmember Dulce Gutiérrez hosts a neighborhood forum at Washington Middle School, 510 S. 9th Street.

The Washington Middle School neighborhood forum will be conducted in Spanish, with English-language translation available.

Additional neighborhood forums are planned in the future.

That includes one at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 7th, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 14 North 48th Avenue.

City Councilmembers Holly Cousens and Brad Hill will host the March 7th forum. It will be conducted in English with Spanish-language translation services provided.

The City Council announced plans last year for several neighborhood forums throughout Yakima to gather feedback from community members as part of an effort to develop a long-term strategy addressing public safety issues.

Think Spring: Sign-Ups Underway for Park Programs

Day camps, sports activities, egg hunts are planned

The calendar may say February, but it's time to think Spring for City of Yakima Parks and Recreation programs. Registration is underway now for Spring activities for all ages.

That includes the 2018 Spring Break Day Camp set for April 2-6. The camp is for boys and girls ages 5 through 11. The 5-day camp will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day at Roosevelt Elementary School, 120 N. 16th Avenue.

"Kids will enjoy all-day fun playing exciting games and activities, such as team building games and daily arts and crafts," said Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson.

Parents are asked to provide a sack lunch for their children. There is a cost for the camp. Registration ends March 23rd.

Information about the Spring Break Day Camp, as well as soccer camps for children ages 4 to 7 scheduled during Spring Break, is available at <https://yakimaparks.com/summer-day-camps/>



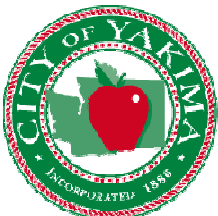
Spring 2018 will see the continuation of popular City programs, such as the Harman Center's monthly Lunch & Learn programs.

Registrations now being accepted for other Spring activities include:

- Women's and co-ed pre-season soccer tournaments on Sunday, March 18th at Chesterley Park, 3606 River Road.
- Red Cross lifeguard training from March 27th through May 24th at Lions Pool, 509 West Pine Street. The classes are 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for ages 15 and older.

- Softball tournaments.
- The Egg Hunt/Candy Dash on Saturday, March 31st at The Fieldhouse indoor facility, 1015 East Lincoln Avenue, Suite 105. The Egg Hunt is at 12:00 p.m. for children up to 4 years of age and the Candy Dash is at 12:45 p.m. for children ages 5 to 10.

Information about City of Yakima Parks and Recreation programs is available at <https://yakimaparks.com/> or by calling 575-6020.



The City of Yakima Issues Brief e-Newsletter is a monthly publication of the City of Yakima Community Relations Office. Questions or suggestions? Contact Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler at 509-575-6045 or randy.beehler@yakimawa.gov.

Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov> for more information about the City of Yakima.