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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF



State grant to aid City's research

Growing history on Yakima's 'Fruit Row'

A \$12,000 state grant will help the City of Yakima explore the possibility of establishing a National Historic District for the City's "Fruit Row" on First Avenue.

"This is a great opportunity to continue working on an interesting project," said Yakima City Councilmember Jason White, the Council's liaison to the City's Historic Preservation Commission.

The funds are from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation. "The grant will be used to build an inventory of historical buildings on 'Fruit Row' and then examine the condition of the buildings," said Associate Planner Trevor Martin, the Historic Preservation Commission's staff liaison.

"Depending on how well preserved they are, 'Fruit Row' could then be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places to develop an awareness of the area and preserve its historic integrity," Martin said.

"Fruit Row" dates back to the early 1900s. It describes a row of ag-related sites on First Avenue from Yakima Avenue to D Street. The grant-funded work will likely begin in October. See <http://bit.ly/HistoricPres> for more about the Historic Preservation Commission.

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Child and Teen Safety a priority for City Councilmember Kay Funk

Nobel laureate and Challenger investigator Richard Feynman said, *"For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled"*. Whatever the problem, consistency with scientific principles gives a better result.

I am pleased to be able to use my medical training and experience through my appointment to the Yakima Department of Health. I am also serving as a liaison with the Office of Emergency Management, which is sometimes described as "weeks of boredom and days of panic." The complexity of advance planning gets little attention until something goes wrong.

Recently, Yakima was fortunate to NOT experience a disastrous landslide on Rattlesnake Ridge, but readiness for emergency is critical. In particular, I would like to recognize the 911 operators and dispatchers working through the city's SunComm system, and the police and fire units that they dispatch.

They constantly balance safety with cost effectiveness. Emergency response with adequate resources is important, but unnecessary dispatch of emergency vehicles is costly. As always, we appreciate citizens' responsible use of these expensive resources. We particularly ask them to avoid accidental dialing of 911 calls, which always requires time consuming follow up.

Downtown Plaza

The long uncertainty over the Downtown Plaza has frustrated everyone and caused angry feelings. I think that voters are angry about being excluded from the decision making process, and we now have a way to end the speculation and find out what the voters really feel.

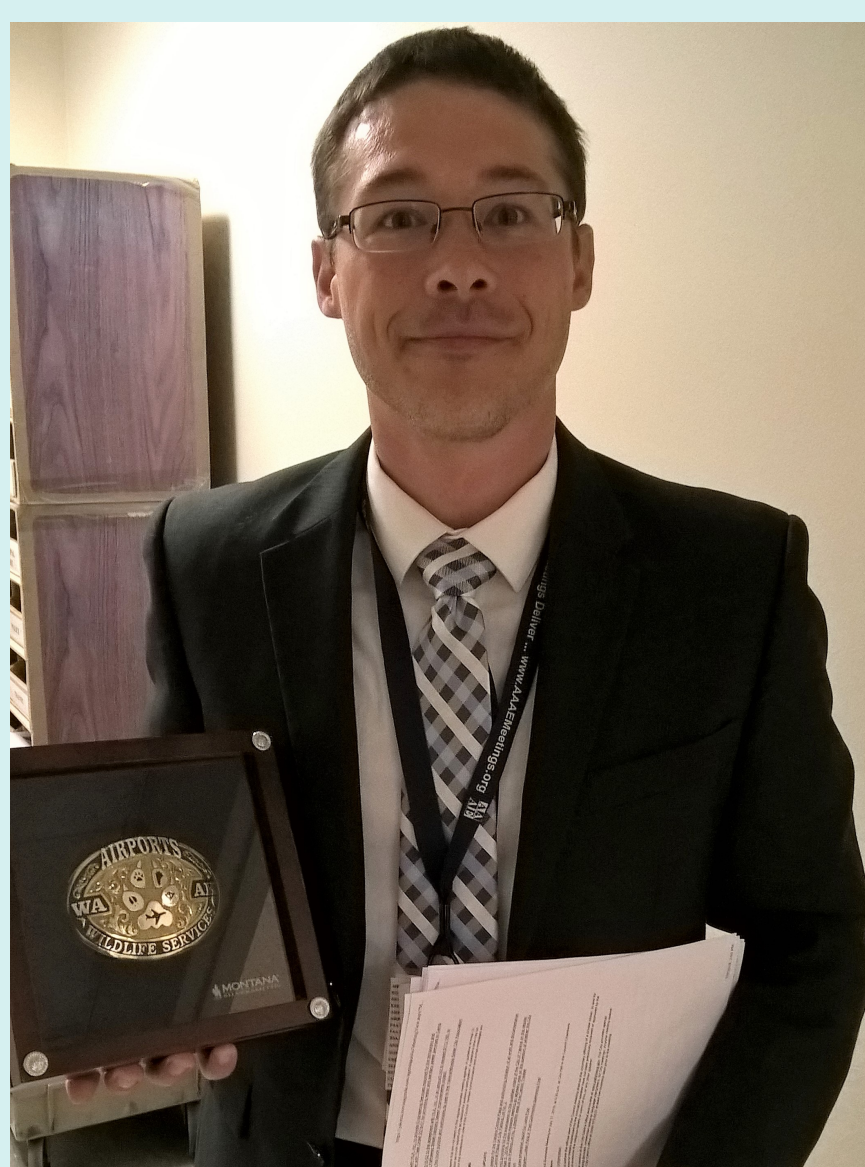
With the generous \$9M+ private donations, the Plaza is the least expensive of the three large capital projects inherited from the Tony O'Rourke administration. The plaza is envisioned as a beautiful public space which will revitalize downtown and attract dynamic businesses. This is not a guaranteed result, but is a great opportunity. I think that the advisory vote is the best route toward healing the wounds caused by this difficult process.

Child and Teen Safety

Governor Jay Inslee came to Yakima last November to listen to citizen concerns about increased gun violence and homicides. Many residents spoke about the need for prevention programs. Keeping children in school and engaged in positive activities is proven to be the best path for preventing them from falling into criminal lifestyle. My personal priority is after-school programs for children and teens, so that they have a safe place when parents are away at work.

The Governor budgeted \$150,000 for prevention activities in Yakima. This money will not be used for direct services, but will be used to strengthen management and grant writing for existing and new youth service programs. The city of Yakima has no revenue dollars to put towards this goal, but new grant money and networking efficiencies will make Yakima a better place for our children

- Yakima City Councilmember Kay Funk represents District No. 4



Wildlife safety honor for Yakima's airport

Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field received the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Airport Wildlife Award for efforts to deter wildlife from interfering with airport operations. Airport

Airport Director Rob Peterson is pictured with the award shortly after announcing the honor during the Yakima City Council's July 10th regular meeting.



Movies, Music Coming to Yakima Parks

City of Yakima parks will be alive with the sound of music – and movies – during three different series that began in July. The Summer Sunset Concert Series at Franklin Park, 2101 Tieton Drive, will feature free concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 pm each Friday through Aug. 17th.

The Viva La Musica Concert Series also returns and this year will be held at two City parks. Concerts are from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Miller Park on July 22nd and July 29th. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, on the corner of South 8th Street and East Beech Street, will feature Viva La Musica concerts on Aug. 5th, Aug. 12th, and Aug. 19th. All are from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Viva La Musica's summer finale will be from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Sept. 16th at Miller Park, featuring entertainment for children by Payaso Cacharro at 4:00 pm, followed by concerts performed by Faraones Del Norte USA at 5:00 pm and La Tropa Chicana at 6:00 pm.

As for the movies, the Outdoor Summer Cinema Series returns to the City of Yakima's Chesterley Park, on the corner of 40th Avenue and River Road. The movies will all begin at sunset, about 8:30 pm, each Sunday through Aug. 19th.

For details, call 575-6020 or see Page 9 of the Parks and Recreation 2018 Summer Program Guide. The guide is at <https://yakimaparks.com/assets/2018-summer-program-guide.pdf>

Yakima City Council highlights...



2018 West Valley High School graduate Savannah Kimzey received a \$1,200 AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship this afternoon during the Association of Washington Cities' conference in Yakima.

She is pictured with Assistant Yakima Mayor Dulce Gutierrez, who introduced Savannah during a conference luncheon.



Mayor Kathy Coffey welcomes the Special Olympics USA torch run last month during a brief ceremony and gift exchange at Millennium Plaza in Downtown Yakima.

About 40 participants made the stop in Yakima on their way to the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics USA games in Seattle.

Photo of the Month



"Old Glory" is translucent during a warm, sunny July day in Yakima.

Sean Davido photo

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The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

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Call 911 in an emergency.**