

Subject: Yakima Transit Offering Free Shuttle to Luminaria Contact: Yakima Transit Manager Alvie Maxey – 575-6415 Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler – 901-1142 Release Date: Thursday, December 5th, 2019

Yakima Transit Offering Free Shuttle Bus to Luminaria

Yakima Transit will provide free shuttle bus service to the Yakima Area Arboretum's 2019 Luminaria Candle-Lit Walk event on Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th.

Shuttle buses will run continuously from the parking lot of the current U-Haul Neighborhood Dealer (formerly the K-Mart store parking lot), located south of Highway 24. The Arboretum is located north of Highway 24, just across the road from the U-Haul parking lot. Shuttle buses will load passengers in the parking lot and take them directly to the Arboretum's Jewett Interpretive Center.

Yakima Transit shuttles will run from 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm on both December 13th and 14th. The Luminaria Walk event on those days will run from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

"No vehicle traffic will be allowed on the Arboretum's grounds this year," said Yakima Transit Manager Alvie Maxey. "By not allowing traffic on the grounds, congestion will be relieved and safety will be improved."

During Luminaria 2018, Yakima Transit provided 6,393 passenger trips during the 2-day event.

The Arboretum's annual Luminaria Walk has become a signature event for the organization. It features a loop trail through the Arboretum's landscape lit by the light of more than 1,000 candles. While walking the trail, visitors will enjoy listening to music from the Arboretum's Carillon Bell Tower and see groves of trees strung with thousands of twinkling lights.

Inside the Jewett Interpretative Center, Starbuck's coffee and Tree Top apple cider will be served. Live music will be performed by a variety of local artists in the Center. Children will be invited to take part in various crafts activities in the Center and everyone can enjoy browsing the Arboretum's Tree House Gift Shop.

New this year, the Arboretum is hosting a coat and blanket drive during Luminaria.

Visit <u>https://www.ahtrees.org/</u> for more about the Yakima Area Arboretum, Luminaria, as well as the coat and blanket drive.

Call 575-6175 or visit <u>https://yakimatransit.org/</u> for more about Yakima Transit routes and the free Luminaria shuttle.