



March 2013

Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

Fisher Park Golf Course Will Open for the Season March 29th

The City of Yakima's Fisher Park Golf Course welcomes golfers to its 2013 season. The par-3 layout, located on 40th Avenue across the street from Eisenhower High School, will begin play on Friday, March 29th. Depending on weather conditions, Fisher usually operates each year from late March until mid October.

Golfers will be able to take advantage of several pricing specials at Fisher this year.

On Ladies' Day, which is every Tuesday, and on Men's Day, which is every Thursday, 9 holes at Fisher only cost \$7.00.

From opening day through May 25th, the price to play 9 holes at Fisher will also be just \$7.00 for everyone.

During Spring Break, golfers under the age of 16 can play 9 holes for just \$5.00.

On Mother's Day (May 12th) moms will get to shoot 9 holes for free as long as they play with another paying golfer. The same will be true for dads on Father's Day (June 16th).



Yakima Parks and Rec Manager Ken Wilkinson warms up on the Fisher putting green.

June is National Women's Golf Month. During June, women can play 9 holes of golf at Fisher for only \$7.00. Sundays are Family Days at Fisher and anyone golfing after 3:00 pm can play 9 holes for \$5.00.

In addition to offering private lessons for golfers of all ages, Fisher is home to men's and women's leagues and a Thursday evening couples league.

Fisher will also host two 18-hole best ball tournaments this spring – one on April 14th and another on May 11th. A parent-junior alternate shot tournament will be held on April 27th. Entries fees are \$15.00 per player for each of those tournaments.

On June 8th, a new event called the "Greens Keepers' Revenge" (\$15.00 entry fee) will feature obstacles, like work cars and sprinklers, that golfers will have to avoid to win prizes. And on both May 17th and June 7th, golfers can test their skills playing golf in the dark during "Friday Night Glow Ball Outings" (\$25.00 entry fee).

Regular greens fees at Fisher Park Golf Course are \$9.25 for adults to play 9 holes, \$8.25 for juniors and seniors to play 9 holes, and \$4.75 for youth (age 4-8) to play 9 holes. Monthly passes, 20-round passes, and special family rates are also available.

MLK, Jr. Blvd. Underpass Project is Underway

Work has formally begun on the roughly \$10.6 million project that will send MLK, Jr. Blvd. traffic below the BNSF railroad tracks near North Front Street.

In late February, crews from Mowat Construction Company, the Woodinville based firm serving as the project's primary contractor, began preparing to close MLK, Jr. between 1st Street and 1st Avenue and worked on setting up a detour route. On March 11th, the closure of MLK, Jr. Blvd. took effect and drivers began to navigate through the detour route which encourages eastbound traffic turn right on 5th Avenue and use Yakima Avenue to continue traveling east. North Front Street is also closed between "A" Street and the Lincoln Avenue underpass bridge.



The section of MLK, Jr. Blvd. between 1st Street and 1st Avenue will remain closed to traffic while a new underpass is built.

Those traffic revisions will remain in effect throughout construction of the underpass, which is expected to be ongoing until late summer or early fall of 2014.

The next step Mowat will take in constructing the underpass is relocating utilities in the area which will eventually be excavated. BNSF will begin constructing a temporary track commonly referred to as a "shoo fly" that will be used as a detour by trains while the underpass project is ongoing.

Within the next few months, major work on the underpass, including excavation and the building of a new train bridge, is expected to begin.

"The activity around the construction area and the streets nearby is going to start picking up," said City Engineer Doug Mayo. "Once it gets underway, there will be a lot of changes that occur rather quickly. We learned some valuable lessons during the Lincoln Avenue underpass project that we are going to apply to the MLK, Jr. Boulevard project," said Mayo.

Both the MLK, Jr. Blvd. underpass and the Lincoln Avenue underpass, which was opened in May 2012, have been designed to improve driver and pedestrian safety, reduce exhaust emissions from cars waiting for trains to pass, and speed the response times for police, fire, and other emergency services providers.

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The Easter Bunny to Share Breakfast at the Harman Center

With Easter fast approaching, preparations are underway for Yakima to welcome a very special visitor. The Easter Bunny will skip into town and make a hop stop at Yakima's Harman Senior Center on Saturday, March 23rd for a special "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" event.



As part of his holiday schedule, the Easter Bunny will stop by the Harman Center on March 23rd for breakfast.

While hippity hopping down the bunny trail, the famous rabbit will spend a couple of hours at the Harman Center frolicking about, greeting people, and of course... hiding eggs. The Easter Bunny is scheduled to be at the Senior Center, which is located at 101 North 65th Avenue, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am that day.

During his visit, everyone will also have the chance to get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Anyone interested in snapping a photo with the lovable rabbit should bring their own camera or other picture taking device.

At 9:30 am sharp, be sure to have your Easter basket handy as the expert egg hider will be helping kids 10 and under search for hidden treasures around the outside of the center. Be sure to bring a coat unless you have bunny fur to keep you warm.

It will cost only \$5.00 for the delicious breakfast on March 23rd, which is being sponsored by Yakima Valley Senior Citizens, Inc., a non-profit group that supports activities and programs at the Harman Senior Center.

"We're very excited to have such a prestigious guest coming to breakfast," said Parks and Recreation Supervisor Traci Bennett. "First Santa made a stop at Christmas and now the Easter Bunny... who could have imagined it?"

People who plan on attending the special "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" event at the Harman Center on Saturday, March 23rd are being asked to make reservations by calling 575-6166.



The Easter Bunny's Harman Center visit will include an Easter Egg hunt.



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