



Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

The Easter Bunny Making Another Appearance 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, April 4th for a special breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt+ event.



As part of his holiday schedule, the Easter Bunny will stop by the Harman Center on April 4th 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. To be part of the egg hunt, a breakfast for participating kids will need to be purchased.

It will cost only \$5.00 for the delicious breakfast on April 4th, 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 are 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 and Easter Egg Hunt+event at the Harman Center on Saturday, April 4th are being asked to make reservations no later than March 31st by calling 575-6166.



The Easter Bunny's Harman Center visit on April 4th will include an Easter egg hunt at 9:30 am.

2015 Irrigation Season Starts on April 1st

Wednesday, April 1st will mark the start of the 2015 irrigation season for the vast majority of the residential and business customers served by the City of Yakima's irrigation system. That's the day that the majority of the collection of systems operated by the City's Water/Irrigation Division are scheduled to begin delivering water.

All City of Yakima irrigation systems should be fully operational by mid-April. The few other irrigation systems that operate independently from the City system will also be gearing up during April and should be fully operational by the beginning of May.

It's a good idea for people to spend some time now preparing for the start of the irrigation season, said Irrigation Supervisor Rich Sanislo. They need to make repairs to the pipes that are on their property, now is the right time to do that. Customers should also be sure that all of their faucets are turned off before the water starts flowing on April 1st so that they avoid any unnecessary flooding when the systems are turned on, said Sanislo.

The irrigation season in Yakima typically runs from early April to mid-October each year.

By developing innovative irrigation water delivery systems in Yakima in the late 1800s, the region's pioneers took advantage of the rich soil in the Yakima Valley, deposited by multiple ancient volcanic eruptions, and established one of the most productive and diverse agricultural regions in the country.



This undated photograph shows ongoing construction of an early irrigation canal in the Yakima Valley. Today, water is delivered by such canals to more than 460,000 acres of land in the region. Irrigation has been the key to making the Yakima Valley one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world.

The earliest known experiment with irrigation in the Yakima Valley is believed to have taken place in 1864 when water was diverted from Ahtanum Creek to help grow a few acres of crops for the Catholic mission nearby. After achieving some success, private canal companies began to form to bring water to more and more land. But the late 1800s, irrigation had proven its worth in unlocking the agricultural bounty of the Yakima Valley.

After a few years of lobbying the federal government, leaders from the Yakima Valley convinced Congress to study, and ultimately begin to build in 1905, a network of canals and other delivery system to turn the region into what its earliest settlers had envisioned . an agricultural powerhouse.

Over the many decades that followed, irrigation systems in the Yakima area were expanded and refined. Today, the irrigated lands within what came to be known as the Yakima Project total more than 460,000 acres, including lawns and gardens in the city of Yakima.

The City of Yakima has operated irrigation systems since the early 1900s. The system that now exists to deliver water to customers in Yakima actually consists of 66 individual, smaller systems that were consolidated almost 20 years ago into a single utility. Through that utility, the City currently provides water to about 11,000 customers.

Time to Tee It Up at Fisher Park Golf Course

The City of Yakima's Fisher Park Golf Course, a 9-hole, par-3 layout, will open for the 2015 season on Friday, March 27th. The course is located across 40th Avenue from the southeast section of the Eisenhower High School campus.

Golfers who are familiar with Fisher will notice a big change this season . an expanded parking lot. Although it won't quite be ready for opening day, the new and improved lot will more than double (from 10 to 23) the number of parking spaces available on course property.

The part of the IKE school parking lot that used to be just across 40th Avenue from Fisher is no longer there, said Yakima Parks & Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. We've made the investment to expand our own parking lot so playing at Fisher is as convenient as possible for golfers, said Wilkinson.

Regular greens fees at Fisher Park Golf Course are \$9.25 for adults (9 holes), \$8.25 for juniors (ages 9-18) and senior citizens (9 holes), and \$4.75 for youth (ages 4-8, 9 holes). A 20-round pass for adults is \$148 and \$130 for juniors and senior citizens.

As in past years, several pricing specials will make playing at Fisher even more affordable this season.

From opening day (March 27th) through May 22nd, anyone can play a round of 9 holes for \$7.00.

On Ladies Day (every Tuesday) and Men's Day (every Thursday), 9 holes will cost only \$7.00 for eligible golfers. On Senior Citizens Day (every Monday), eligible golfers will pay just \$5.00 for 9 holes. During spring break, junior golfers will also be able to play 9 holes for only \$5.00.

On Mother's Day (May 10th), moms will get to shoot 9 holes for free as long as they play with another paying golfer. On Father's Day (June 21st), it will be the dads turn to play 9 holes at no cost as long as another paying golfer joins them. June is National Women's Golf Month. During June, women will be able to play a round of 9 holes at Fisher for just \$7.00.

Fisher will host two 18-hole tournaments this spring . a twosome best ball event on April 11th and a twosome scramble tourney on May 17th. A parent-junior tournament will also be held on April 26th. Entry fees are \$15 a piece for each of the three tournaments.

On May 30th, Fisher will host the Saturday Night Glow Ball Outing, during which golfers will test their skills in the dark (\$25 entry fee).

Fisher's expert instructor, Pam Foster, also will help golfers improve their games through group lessons for Pee Wees (4-6 years old), Youth (7-16 years old), and Adult Beginners. Foster will also schedule private lessons for golfers of any age.

Fisher rewards its most faithful players through its Loyalty Golfers Club. Joining the club is free. Each time golfers play 9 holes at Fisher, they will receive a punch on their club card. Once they accumulate 10 punches, they will earn a free round of 9 holes at the course.

To learn more about Fisher Park Golf Course, including special pricing offers, tournaments, the Loyalty Golfers Club, dates and times for group lessons, and how to schedule private lessons, look at pages 10 and 11 of the online version of the current Yakima Parks & Recreation Program Guide at the following link - <http://www.yakimaparks.com/assets/2015-YPR-Winter-ProGuide.pdf>.



Golfers of all ages help make Fisher Park Golf Course one of the most family-friendly courses in the Yakima area.