



Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

Plenty of Talent Will Fill Performance Park Every Friday This Summer

As part of its ongoing effort to solidify Downtown Yakima as an arts and entertainment destination, the City of Yakima is producing a series of free concerts every Friday from early June until late August that targets the lunch crowd. Called *Lunchtime Live*, the series will bring high quality music and delicious food to Performance Park, located at the corner of A Street and 2nd Street. In addition to a great lineup of bands, *Lunchtime Live* events, which will run from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm, will also feature local restaurants selling a variety of to-go food.

The series will kick off its 13 performance run on **June 7th** with **Shoot Jake**, a blues/rock/soul/funk group that has built a following throughout the Northwest since it was founded in Yakima in 2010. **Rock Garden** will bring its brand of high-energy rock (with a little country thrown into the mix) to the *Lunchtime Live* stage on **June 14th**. Longtime local favorite **Wayman Chapman**, who has shared his unique blend of musical styles at multiple Yakima Valley venues, will headline the show on **June 21st**. The acoustic rock sounds of **The Deadbeat Drag** will entertain the *Lunchtime Live* crowd on **June 28th**.

On **July 5th**, Seattle-based **Ghosts I've Met** (with special guest Navid Eliot of Not Amy) will add its indie folk vibe to the *Lunchtime Live* lineup. With its combination of rock, blues, and country, Yakima's own **Powerline** will be the featured act on **July 12th** and will be followed on **July 19th** by **City Faire**, a rock/soul band from Seattle. The last *Lunchtime Live* July show will bring classic rock group **Powerhouse** to Downtown Yakima on **July 26th**.



Founded in Yakima three years ago, Shoot Jake will kick off the Lunchtime Live series June 7th.



The Vaughn Jensen Band, a Tri-Cities blues group, will close out the Lunchtime Live series on August 30th.

August will start with **Bart Roderick & Friends**, a big band style group with a three-piece horn section, on **August 2nd**. New wave/indie band **Tieton Drive**, which formed in Yakima six years ago, will be next up on **August 9th**. Well known Yakima area music teacher, composer, director, and performer **Dennis Clauss** and his jazz quartet will be the *Lunchtime Live* act for the **August 16th** show. The up-and-coming **Coyote Ridge Bluegrass Wranglers** will fill Performance Park with its brand of Northwest bluegrass on **August 23rd** and the Tri-Cities-based blues group **The Vaughn Jensen Band** will close out the series on **August 30th**.

Anyone interested in learning more about the *Lunchtime Live* concert series can contact City of Yakima Economic Development Manager Sean Hawkins by phone (575-6274) or by e-mail (sean.hawkins@yakimawa.gov).

Free Music and Movies Back in Yakima Parks This Summer

For many years, spending warm summer evenings in one of Yakima's parks leisurely watching a movie or listening to live music has been something people in our area have looked forward to. The wait for the return of the venerable *Summer Sunset Concert Series*, *Yakima Valley Community Band Concert Series*, and *Outdoor Cinema Series* is almost over as all three Yakima favorites get set to make their 2013 debuts in July.



The new Rotary Pavillion at Franklin Park will be the site of the 2013 Summer Sunset Concert Series.

The *Summer Sunset Concert Series* at Franklin Park will kick off its 2013 season on July 12th and will continue every Friday through August 23rd. While the series has long been held at Franklin Park, this year musicians will get to enjoy performing in the new Yakima Sunrise Rotary Pavillion, which is nearing completion of construction.

Summer Sunset Concert Series performances run from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and while the shows are free to attend, concert goers are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to Northwest Harvest.

This year's lineup includes folk group *The Village Musicians* on July 12th, folk artist *Camille Bloom* on

July 26th, *Gypsy Soul* with its Americana style on August 2nd, the blues sounds of *Rod Giles* on August 9th, folk/rock/blues performer *Ian McFeron* on August 16th, and the Reggae beats of *Adrian Xavier* on August 23rd.

The *Yakima Valley Community Band Concert Series* begins its 2013 run of six free performances at Randall Park on the 4th of July, which is a Thursday. After the Independence Day performance, the series will settle into its usual Wednesday night slot on July 12th and continue with shows on every Wednesday evening through August 7th. *Yakima Valley Community Band Concert Series* performances start at 7:00 pm and usually last about an hour.

Gilbert Park will host this year's free *Outdoor Cinema Series*, which will feature nearly-new releases every Sunday from July 14th through August 18th. The lineup of movies this season includes *Rise of the Guardians* (PG) on July 14th, *Wreck-It Ralph* (PG) on July 21st, *The Lorax* (PG) on July 28th, *Twilight – Breaking Dawn Part 2* (PG-13) on August 4th, *The Boom* (PG-13) on August 11th, and *Madagascar* (PG-13) on August 18th. *Outdoor Cinema Series* movies will begin at sunset, which is usually around 8:30 pm.

The projector and screen used for the *Outdoor Cinema Series* are provided by a grant from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation through Allied Arts. Yakima Pediatric Dentistry is the presenting sponsor for the series. Movie partners for the series include Elliott Insurance, BOR Architecture, Tri-Valley Construction, and Russell Crane.

"All three of these great series have become summertime traditions in Yakima," said Yakima Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. "We're really proud to be able to provide this kind of quality, free entertainment for the community. We couldn't do it without the support of our sponsors. They deserve a lot of credit for helping keep these series going," said Wilkinson.

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Construction Activity About to Ramp Up on MLK, Jr. Blvd Underpass

A bright yellow drill rig, seven stories high, is now towering over the MLK, Jr. Boulevard underpass project construction site ready to swing into action and begin driving steel beams deep underground to provide support for the concrete retaining walls of the new underpass.

Utility relocation work is now finished on the roughly \$10.6 million project that will eventually take MLK, Jr. Blvd traffic below BNSF railroad tracks near North Front Street. The utility work involved relocating power, fiber optic, and water lines in the area that will eventually be excavated to make way for the railroad underpass. Sidewalks and the asphalt roadway surface between 1st Avenue and 1st Street on MLK, Jr. Blvd have also been removed.

The focus of the project will soon be shifting to construction of a temporary track, commonly referred to as a "shoo-fly", that will be used as a detour for BNSF trains while the underpass project is ongoing. Mowat Construction Company, the Woodinville-based firm serving as the project's primary contractor, has completed the initial work of building a stable bed for the temporary track. Once the track bed is finished, BSNF crews will take over and install new tracks for the shoo-fly and put it into service to handle mainline train traffic through Yakima.



A 70-foot tall drilling rig towers over the MLK, Jr. Blvd underpass construction site.

Once the shoo-fly is in place, major excavation work will begin for the underpass. Construction will also start soon on a concrete "bottom seal" that will help keep ground water from seeping into the underpass. By this summer, construction will be well underway on a new railroad bridge and the first section of walls for the underpass.

The underpass project is expected to be ongoing until late summer or early fall of 2014. Until then, motorists on MLK, Jr. Blvd are being encouraged to turn right on 5th Avenue and use Yakima Avenue to continue traveling east. Local access is being maintained on MLK Jr. Blvd between 5th Avenue and 1st Avenue.

You can watch progress on the underpass project by visiting a page on the City of Yakima website - <http://bit.ly/12q70a8>. Two cameras are focused on the construction site and pictures are updated every 30 seconds.

Both the MLK, Jr. Blvd underpass and the Lincoln Avenue underpass, which 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.



Be Part of the Solution!

*If you want to volunteer for one of the many Yakima Community Clean Ups taking place this year, call James Scott at 576-6745.
Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!*