



Issues Brief

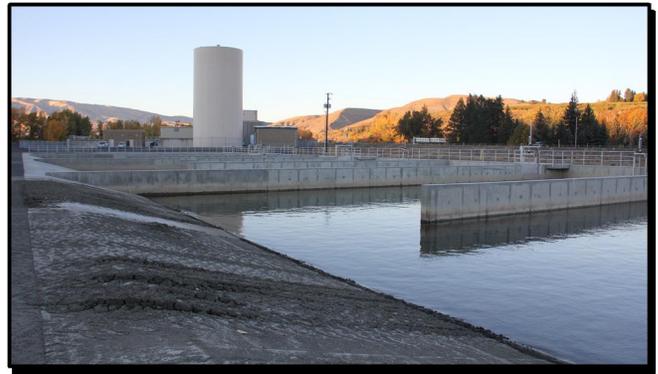
City of Yakima e-Newsletter

✦ Yakima Water Treatment Plant Staff Receives Water Quality Award

The Washington State Department of Health has presented a Silver Certificate of Achievement Award to the staff of the City of Yakima's Naches River Water Treatment Plant for achieving consistently high drinking water quality.

The plant is located six miles west of Yakima and is one of five in the state of Washington to receive an award this year for meeting water quality standards that are more stringent than current regulatory requirements.

In 2001, the state Office of Drinking Water created the Treatment Optimization Program (%OP+), which uses water turbidity levels as a key indicator of drinking water quality. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by particles that are generally invisible to the naked eye. While state and federal turbidity level standards are 0.30 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (%NTU+), the Yakima plant has been at 0.10 NTU for the past five years. In addition to meeting turbidity goals, award winning plants must remain free of any drinking water violations during the evaluation period.



The City of Yakima Water Treatment Plant staff has been presented with a Silver Certificate of Achievement Award marking five years of meeting strict water quality standards.

"The award is due to the commitment of the water treatment plant staff and the leadership of plant Supervisor Jeff Bonds," said Yakima Water/Irrigation Manager Dave Brown. "We are always looking at water quality and making sure the residents of Yakima have the best and safest water we can produce," added Brown.

The Yakima treatment plant must meet the TOP standards for ten consecutive years to reach the Gold Certificate of Achievement level. "The silver award marks five years of accomplishments and we have already met our goals for 2015. We are looking forward to receiving the gold award in a few years," said Brown.

In 2014, the Yakima water treatment plant produced 2.63 billion gallons of safe drinking water.



Become part of the City of Yakima social network by liking the City on Facebook and following the City on Twitter. To join, click on the icons on the front page of the City's webpage at www.yakimawa.gov.



Snow Routes in Effect in Yakima for Second Year

In 2014, the Yakima City Council adopted a new snow removal plan that included establishing snow routes along which no parking would be allowed during plowing operations so those streets could be cleared more quickly. Due to unusually mild weather last winter, the snow plan never had to be implemented.

As it had planned to do last winter, the City of Yakima will lean toward notification and education during the first snowfall that results in the plan being initiated this winter.

It's going to take some time for everyone to become familiar with how the snow route concept works, said Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. For the first snowfall that requires the new plan to be initiated, we're going to focus on helping people get up to speed with what we're trying to accomplish. We'll use flyers that we'll place on cars, businesses, and houses in the downtown area, announcements to the media, information on the City own communications platforms, and other means to get the word out, said Beehler. The ultimate goal of the snow removal plan and the snow routes is to get the community moving again as soon as we can after a big snowfall.



Snow route signs are now posted along major streets to identify roadways along which parking will not be allowed during plowing operations.

The City Council decided to revise the City's snow removal plan last fall after having heard complaints about how long it sometimes can take to get downtown streets and main arterials plowed. Under the old plan, downtown streets were sometimes the last to be plowed. Car owners were given plenty of time to move their cars from downtown streets, which resulted in plows having to maneuver around them or simply avoid streets that had a lot of cars parked on them. The plan adopted by the Council last year makes getting downtown streets cleared of snow a priority.

When a snowfall reaches three inches in depth, a Snow Alert will be issued by the City letting car owners know they need to move their vehicles from the designated snow routes as soon as possible. With cars off of those streets, the work of plowing crews will be faster and safer. Cars that are not moved off of the designated snow routes can be towed and their owners fined \$50 per violation. But, as mentioned, the City does not plan to enforce the new snow route rules right away.

Utilizing the snow routes approach will require the cooperation of people who park along those streets, said Beehler. Once the system is understood, we're confident that the community will be happy with the results. Our streets will be safer to drive on more quickly than what Yakima has been used to, said Beehler.

When snow is falling, people can find out if a Snow Alert has been issued by looking at posts on the City's various communications platforms, paying attention to local media reports, or can call 575-3015.

To see a map of the snow routes, along with the rest of the priority plowing routes throughout the city, click on the following link - <http://www.yakimawa.gov/apps/snow-routes/>.

Santa to Again Share Breakfast at the Harman Center

With Christmas fast approaching, preparations are underway around the world for visits from the Jolly Old Elf himself, Santa Claus. Part of Santa's packed public appearance schedule includes his annual stop at Yakima's Harman Senior Center on Saturday, December 5th for a special Breakfast With Santa event.



Part of a very busy pre-Christmas schedule for Mr. Claus will be a visit to Yakima's Harman Senior Center on December 6th.

The man known to many as Father Christmas will spend a couple of hours at the Harman Center greeting people, taking gift requests, and handing out candy canes. Santa 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 Mr. Claus. Anyone interested in snapping a photo of themselves with Santa, who will be donning his traditional outfit of a red coat with white collar and cuffs, white-cuffed red trousers, matching hat, and black boots and belt, should bring their own camera or other picture taking device.

It will cost only \$5.00 for the delicious breakfast on December 5th, 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 really looking forward to Santa being here on December 5th for breakfast, said Parks and Recreation Supervisor Traci Bennett. We are already working to get the Harman Center decorated with lots of holiday cheer. On the day of the breakfast, we will have Christmas music playing, the fireplace will be blazing – it will be a lot of fun, said Bennett.

People who plan on attending the special Breakfast With Santa event at the Harman Center on Saturday, December 5th are being asked to make reservations before November 27th. Reservations can be made by calling 575-6166.



Be Part of the Solution!

You can serve your community by becoming part of a citizen board committee, or commission. To learn more, contact the City of Yakima Clerk's office by phone (575-6037) or by e-mail (sonya.claartee@yakimawa.gov).

Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!