

ISSUES BRIEF

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Support builds momentum for aquatic center at MLK Jr. Park

Efforts to build an aquatic center at the City's Martin Luther King Jr. Park gained momentum last month with two pledges totaling \$725,000.

OIC of Washington (OIC) announced a pledge of \$500,000 and the Yakima Valley Community Foundation (YVCF) said it is giving a gift of \$225,000.

Construction of the Aquatic Center at MLK, Jr. Park is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2024.

A grassroots, community-based committee was formed earlier this summer to generate \$3 million from private donors to build the aquatic center. All donations are being made to the YVCF, who is also managing the [aquatic center fund](#).

Design work on what is being called the "Aquatic Center at MLK, Jr. Park" has been underway since last year. Yakima Parks & Recreation has recently been sharing artist's renderings of the aquatic center at Yakima City Council meetings, other City committee meetings, and community organizations.

The estimated cost of the aquatic center is about \$11 million. The City and Yakima County have each committed \$3 million to the project. The Washington State Legislature has also contributed more than \$2 million to the aquatic center.



Artist's rendering of the aquatic center at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

OIC of Washington announced a community rally at 11 am on Saturday, Oct. 7, at MLK Jr. Park, 8th and Beech St, to support the aquatic center. Call Eric Silvers at 509-453-8286 or visit <http://splashyakima.org> for more information.



Fair fun for everyone!

The Central Washington State Fair ended another successful year on October 1st and, in keeping with this year's theme, provided "fun for all."



**In this
issue:**

Irrigation season ends Oct. 13
National Fire Prevention Week
New Windows Alive! exhibit
City Council action summary

Page 2
Page 2
Page 3
Page 3

Briefly...

City irrigation season ends Oct. 13

Friday, October 13th, marks the end of another 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 the system operated by the City's Water/Irrigation Division will be shut off until next spring.

The few other irrigation systems in the area that operate independently from City systems will also be shutting down over the next few weeks.

Click [Water and Irrigation - City of Yakima \(yakimawa.gov\)](http://Water and Irrigation - City of Yakima (yakimawa.gov)) for more about the City of Yakima's irrigation system.

Toys for Tots drive is now underway

The City of Yakima's Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Ave., is holding a Toys for Tots toy drive through December 8th.

For more about the toy drive - as well as other Harman Center activities such as a Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 5th - call 509-575-6166.

YFD marks National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 8-14

The Yakima Fire Department (YFD) is partnering with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 8-14.

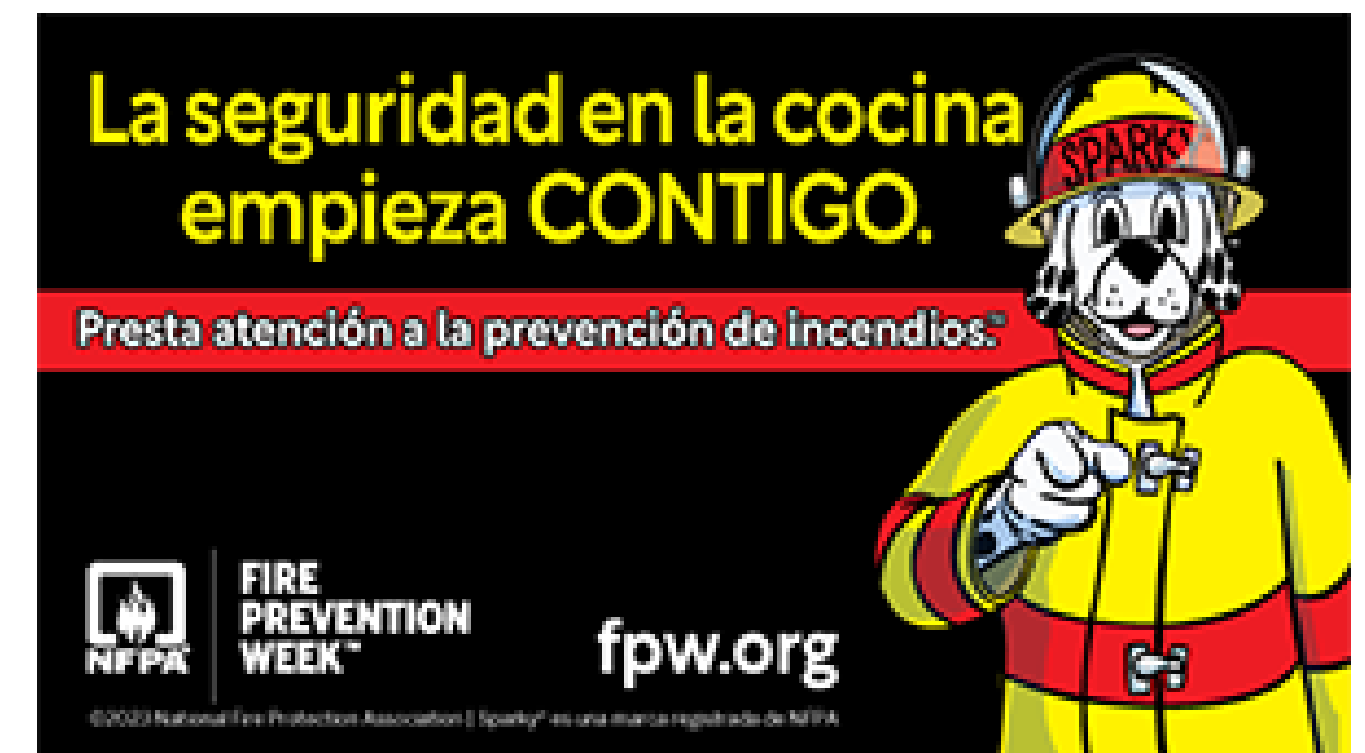
The 2023 campaign theme is, "Cooking safety starts with YOU."

"Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for nearly half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires," said Yakima Fire Chief Aaron Markham.

YFD offers the following cooking safety tips:

- Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Throughout Fire Prevention Week, YFD will provide reminders of these and other important tips on-line at <https://yakimafire.com/life-safety/national-fire-prevention-week/> and on social media.



Lighting the way

On Oct 2nd a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Kiwanis Park celebrated the completion of a partnership with local Rotary clubs providing lights at Kiwanis Park skate park and basketball courts, Chesterley Park skate park and Randall Park basketball court. Three Rotary Clubs and Rotary Trust committed over \$170,000 for lighting.

*photo courtesy
Southwest Rotary of Yakima*

City Council action summary - Sept. 2023

Yakima City Council action during meetings in September included:

- Recognizing the retirement of Gary Hill for 43 years of service with the City of Yakima
- Recognizing John Callahan for 40 years of service to the City of Yakima
- Approving Lodging Tax Advisory Committee recommendations
- Authorizing a contract with Apollo Inc. for the North 1st St Phase 3 Project
- Adopting Yakima Transit's development plan for 2023-28 and annual report for 2022
- Authorizing an application to the Yakima County SIED Program on behalf of Yakima Chief Hops for a project at South 3rd Avenue and Division Street

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/Agendas-and-Minutes-City-Council)

Downtown Yakima unveils new Windows Alive! exhibit

The new Windows Alive! art exhibit is on display in Downtown Yakima. It can be seen on the northside of Yakima Avenue between Hotel Maison and 3rd St.

Following are Central Washington artists selected for the new Fall/Winter 2023 Windows Alive! exhibit, including an excerpt from artist bios/statements:

- Braydon Maier: "My art is a way for me to escape the overwhelming and complex life that we live in. It's a way for me to escape right where I'm at without having to physically go somewhere."

- Alice Gardner: "I love decorating and crafting. My studio is a hashing of beads, stacks of materials, a bookshelf of dried flowers, sticks and quilts."

- Skylar Stephens: "Night time is my canvas, where the ordinary transforms into the extraordinary."



- Daniel Tennison: "America's National Parks system houses some of the most breathtaking views nature has to offer. These photos depict scenes from Yosemite, Zion and Mount Rainier."

- Ellie Gilmore: "I am passionate about using various media; including paint, clay and others, to convey my emotions, ideas and experiences through tactile art."

- Daniel Mendoza (*art sample above*): "My inspiration comes out through mixed media collage. I find myself drawn to color(s) and the 'clash' with black & white imagery."

Each artist received a \$250 stipend.

In this its 10th year, Windows Alive has featured artwork of over 120 Central Washington artists.

The Yakima Arts Commission, an advisory group appointed by the Yakima City Council, developed the Windows Alive! idea to harness the creativity of Central Washington artists.

follow the City of Yakima on social media:



watch City meetings any time, on demand:



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The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact Community Outreach Specialist John Fannin at 509-249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov.

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City Manager:	575-6000
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126
* Fire:	575-6060
Human Resources:	575-6090
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Refuse:	575-6005
Streets:	575-6005
Transit:	575-6175
Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

* NON-EMERGENCY. Call 911 in an emergency.