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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF



Works by six artists from the Yakima Valley went on display this month for the new Windows Alive! art exhibit. Pictured art works are by LeAnne Ries, left, and Gail Molina, above.

Downtown Yakima art installment continues through March 15, 2019

New Windows Alive! Exhibit on Display

Empty storefronts in Downtown Yakima are taking on a new life with the latest "Windows Alive!" installment.

Works by six Yakima Valley artists were unveiled October 5th during a First Friday event. The artwork is displayed in storefront windows along the north side of Yakima Avenue between 3rd Street and 4th Street.

Following an evaluation of submitted art work, artists from the region were chosen to be part of the latest "Windows Alive!" exhibit, which continues through March 15th, 2019.

"It's always exciting to see the new artwork," said Yakima Arts Commission Chair Noel Moxley. "Windows Alive! is a wonderful program that adds to the vibrancy of Downtown Yakima."

Each artist received a \$250 stipend.

The Yakima Arts Commission developed the Windows Alive! idea to harness the creativity of Central Washington artists.

The commission is an advisory group appointed by the Yakima City Council.

Meet the Artists

- **Maria Navarro**, a watercolor artist based in Yakima. Her subject matter focuses on faces, birds and nature.
- **LeAnne Ries** of Yakima works in mixed media and acrylic. Most of her paintings have collaged elements, with surfaces sanded, scratched and manipulated to create texture.
- **Gail Molina** of Yakima. Molina's work uses candy and gum wrappers to create art, including art pieces inspired by nature and the workings of the brain.
- **Guy Brooke** of Naches. Brooke's work focuses on custom-carved doors depicting scenery and geometric designs. He primarily works with knotty alder wood.
- **Bessie Wilson** of the Yakama Nation. Wilson uses a type of weaving known as twining. Her work features seasonal colors.
- **Meghan Flynn** of Yakima. Her paintings and drawings explore concepts and displays of human emotion.



Public Works landscaping to save water

Work is wrapping up on a second City of Yakima landscaping project that will conserve water. The current project involves installing irrigation lines and plants that require little water in landscaping areas around the City of Yakima's Public Works Division at 2301 Fruitvale Blvd.

"There is a two-fold purpose: One is to conserve water and the other is to install a demonstration garden to show residents an alternative to grass and high-water-use plants," said Assistant Public Works Director David Brown. "We are showing that low-water-use gardens can be beautiful. We have focused on planting native, low-water-use species that are aesthetically pleasing."

Costs for the new water-conservation effort are being covered from a \$63,500 Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow (SMART) grant through the Bureau of Reclamation, sponsored through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Earlier this spring the City installed new grant-funded landscaping in Downtown Yakima on the east side of 2nd Street from Yakima Avenue to Staff Sgt. Pendleton Way. That project, too, involved new landscaping that required little water. It will reduce water consumption by about a third, Brown said.

City of Yakima names new Finance Director



Steve Groom

Yakima City Manager Cliff Moore has announced that Steve Groom has been chosen as the City's new Finance and Budget Director.

"The City is fortunate to have Steve Groom joining its senior management team," said Moore. "Steve has a broad range of finance experience in both the public and private sectors. He has helped the organizations he's worked for modernize and enhance their finance and budget operations."

He previously served as finance director for the City of Palestine, Texas until August of this year.

Before that, Groom had been the chief financial officer for the City of Keller, Texas and the Beach Cities Health District (Redondo Beach, Calif.).

Groom worked for the non-profit Phoenix Houses of California, a substance abuse treatment organization, from 2000 to 2004, and Burbank, California-based UniHealth Ventures Pharmacy from 1992 to 2000.

"A city budget is not about money, it's about delivering quality services to the community, albeit with limited resources," said Groom.

He and his wife, Kathleen, have a total of four children, all of whom are grown.

As Director of Finance and Budget, Groom will oversee a staff of about 35 employees in the Financial Services, Purchasing, and Utility Services divisions. The total budget for the City's Finance and Budget Department in 2018 is about \$4,000,000.

Briefly...

Randall Park parking lot re-opens

The 44th Avenue parking lot at the City of Yakima's Randall Park is open.

The lot had been closed for improvements that included resurfacing and additional parking spaces.

Other amenities planned for the lot include landscaping and lights.

Y-PAC airing Council budget meetings

The Yakima City Council's budget study sessions and budget-related hearings are airing live on the Yakima Public Affairs Channel (Y-PAC), Charter Cable Channel 194.

The series of nine budget-related meetings are also streamed live at <https://www.yakimaw.a.gov/council/live-stream/>

See Page 4 in this *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* for a schedule of meetings for 2019 budget discussions.

Toy drive underway for "Toys for Tots"

Yakima's Harman Center is getting a jump start on the holiday season with a "Toys for Tots" toy drive.

New, unwrapped toys can be brought to the the Harman Center front desk through Dec. 14.



Video Voters Pamphlet now on the air

Candidates for four Yakima County races interviewed

The City of Yakima's Community Relations Office is providing a tool for voters heading into the 2018 General Election.

Y-PAC, the City of Yakima's government access channel, has produced a 2018 Video Voters Pamphlet focusing on candidates for four Yakima County offices.

The program features **James (Jim) Curtice** and **Jack B. Hawkins** running for Yakima County Coroner, **Robert C. Udell** and **Nolan Wentz** running for Yakima County Sheriff, **Norm Childress** and **Susan Soto Palmer** running for Yakima County Commissioner, and **Janelle Riddle** and **Tracey Slagle** running for Yakima County Clerk.

The program airs on Y-PAC, Charter Cable Channel 194, and can be viewed anytime at <http://bit.ly/2018VideoVotersPamphlet>



Yakima County Elections Calendar

Oct. 19th - General Election ballots will be available.

Oct. 29th - New Voter Registration Deadline.

This deadline is only for individuals who are not currently registered to vote in Washington State. Must appear in-person at the County Auditor's Office by 4 pm on Oct. 29th.

Nov. 6th - Election Day.

Nov. 27th - Yakima County results of the 2018 General Election will be certified.

Wastewater plant earns "Outstanding" award

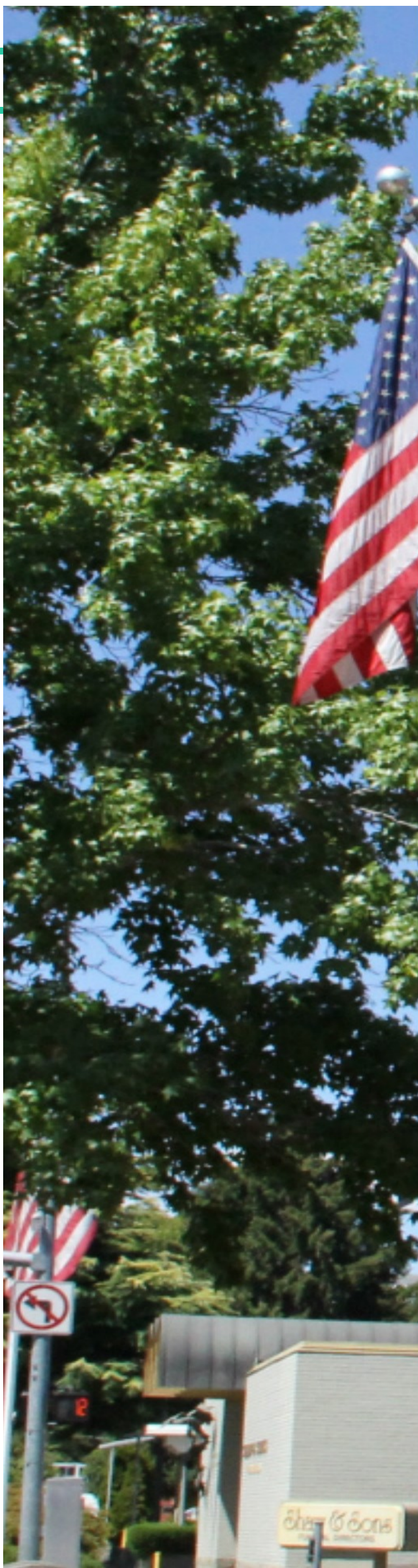


The Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant has been recognized by the Washington State Department of Ecology ("DOE") for having achieved full compliance with all clean water requirements during 2017.

DOE presented the Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award during the Yakima City Council's meeting on Oct. 2nd.

"Yakima is well served by dedicated employees who made this award possible," said City of Yakima Public Works Director Scott Schafer. "Their efforts are commendable and much appreciated."

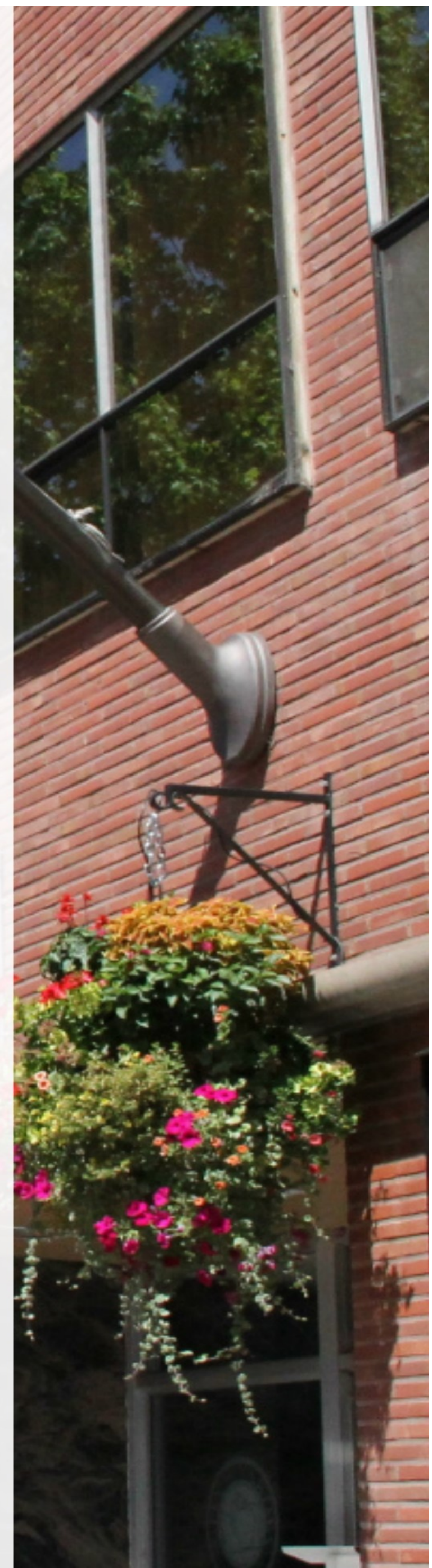
The City of Yakima-owned plant processes wastewater from homes, businesses, and industrial facilities in Yakima, Union Gap, Terrace Heights, and Moxee.



Yakima City Council

Meetings for the 2019 Budget

- Study Session - 9 am, Oct. 9
- Study Session - 5 pm, Oct. 11
- Study Session - 5 pm, Oct. 17
- Study Session - 5 pm, Oct. 18
- Ad Valorem (Property) Tax hearing, 6:30 pm on Nov. 6
- Public hearing, 6:30 pm, Nov. 13
- Public Hearing, 6:30 pm, Dec. 4



City of Yakima
129 N. 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901
509-576-6614
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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 Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler at 575-6045 or Randy.Beehler@yakimawa.gov.

City Contacts

Airport:	575-6149
Animal Control:	575-6038
City Clerk:	575-6000
City Manager:	575-6000
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126
* Fire:	575-6060
Human Resources:	575-6090
Municipal Court:	575-3050
Parks:	575-6020
Planning:	575-6183
* Police:	575-6200
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Streets:	575-6005
Transit:	575-6175
Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

*** NON-EMERGENCY only.**
Call 911 in an emergency.