

Issues Brief

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Fall Family Fun Planned at Yakima's Harman Center

First Halloween costume contest now in the works

The City of Yakima's Harman Center is kicking off the fall season with a calendar full of activities.

They include the first Halloween costume contest in the Harman Center ballroom. It is planned in conjunction with a Halloween Dance from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Friday, October 27th.

"It will be family friendly, so bring the grandkids," said Recreation Program Supervisor Leslie Richards. "Local businesses have donated prizes for the costume contest."

A DJ will also be on hand and refreshments will be provided. The cost is \$3 per person or \$4 per couple for the dance/costume contest.

Seasonal flair continues at the senior center, located at 101 North 65th Avenue, with the Harman Center Holiday Bazaar from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 4th.

"We extended it by two hours to give the public more time to shop. It was too short for people to have time to get here," Richards said. "The vendors are excited. It should be a really fun event."



The City of Yakima's Harman Center had a full house last month during an apple crisp/style show to kick off the fall season.

As many as 60 vendors are expected to be on hand, offering items ranging from handmade crafts to jewelry.

To create more parking options, a shuttle will be offered to shoppers from nearby Summitview Elementary School directly to the Harman Center.

Yakima Valley Senior Citizens, Inc. will offer breakfast and lunch during the bazaar at a cost of \$5 each.

And a salute to veterans is planned during a Veterans Day Social at the center on Thursday, November 9th from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

"It's a get together to say thank you to all our service men and women," Richards said. Cake and punch will also be served.

The Harman Center ballroom continues to be the site for a series of free classic movie nights this fall.

"Come enjoy the movies, everyone's invited," Richards said. Showtime is 6:00 pm for each of the movies scheduled.

Upcoming films include:

- "Frankenstein" starring Boris Karloff on October 19th.
- "My Fair Lady" on November 16th.
- "White Christmas" on November 30th.
- "Holiday Inn" on December 14th.

For more about the Harman Center call 575-6166 or visit <https://yakimaparks.com/senior-center>

Councilmember Holly Cousens Shares City Progress

** Editor's Note: This is the next in a series of articles written by Yakima City Council members that are being published each month in the City of Yakima Issues Brief e-Newsletter.*

In January 2016, I was elected along with three other City Council members.

We were known as "The chosen 4" or the "Trail Blazing Women." From day one, there were high expectations. I was personally eager to get started on my platform and to work with the other talented members of this City Council.

I have learned a great deal as part of the current Council. I have met so many of you, and I am eager to meet so many more. The process of government has always fascinated me, but being able to make a difference on a local level has become my passion.

During my campaign I made promises to all of you, promises I have kept to this day. **Public Safety** is one of those.

I have worked diligently to look after the streets in District #7. Through tenaciousness and persistence, the City Council, neighborhood leaders, and City staff were successful in pulling together to make significant improvements to the dangerous intersection of 72nd Avenue and Mead Avenue, including upgrading the crosswalk, enhancing sidewalks, and installing traffic signals.

This intersection was so dangerous for the children walking to and from school every day, not to mention the parents coming and going to drop off their family members. Today, the intersection is safe and secure.



Holly Cousens was elected to the Yakima City Council in 2015 and holds the District #7 seat.

I also led efforts to conduct a forum regarding the intersection of 40th Avenue and Chestnut Avenue. That intersection has been tied for the #1 spot in the city for the most traffic accidents. The City Council approved a project that will result in a no left turn barrier being and two crosswalks being installed at that intersection.

When completed, the improvements will ensure greater safety for drivers, walkers, bikers, etc. The construction is scheduled to begin mid-October. There are so many issues facing our community that are connected to public safety that must be addressed. Along with my Council seatmates and law enforcement, strides will be made toward restoring a sense of calm and safety in Yakima. Public Safety is this Council's to priority, and it will continue to be. I'm confident with focused

effort and strategic thinking, we will accomplish that goal.

Another campaign promise I have upheld was **Fiscal Responsibility**. There have been some hard votes the past two, but I have made votes that have been business-friendly, yet fiscally responsible. I have held to my campaign promises and will continue to do so.

I sit on the **Council Economic Development Committee** and continue to look for ways to bring business to Yakima, create jobs, and help make Yakima a better place for everyone.

I am so grateful to have been given a unique and rewarding opportunity to serve Yakima as the District #7 Council representative. I look forward to meeting you and helping you with any concerns you may face or needs you may have.

More Art Planned for City Traffic Signal Boxes

Ten intersections will be completed by the end of 2017

A project two years in the making continues this fall with artwork wrapped around traffic signal control boxes at intersections in Yakima.

"As you drive around Yakima it's nice to see the displays at those locations," said Yakima Arts Commission Chair Noel Moxley.

The Yakima Arts Commission began the project two years ago with a single prototype.

By the end of this year 10 signal boxes will be wrapped in bright, colorful artwork mostly from local artists.

Recent installations include signal boxes at Fruitvale Blvd and North 16th Avenue, South Third Avenue and West Nob Hill Blvd, and 40th and Summitview.

A ninth box will be covered in art at Third Avenue and Viola Avenue, Hawkins said, and a 10th art piece will be installed at a site to be determined.

The City's plans call for the art project to continue beyond 2017. "We hope to install four or five art pieces each year," Hawkins said.



This traffic signal control box at 40th Avenue and Summitview Avenue in Yakima was recently wrapped in artwork created by a local artist

"As the program continues, more art is being showcased all across the area," he said.

The City of Yakima has a total of 125 traffic signal control boxes that could have artwork added over time, he said.

The beautification project involves swapping the plain metal boxes at intersections and dressing them up with colorful local art selections.

The Arts Commission, an advisory group appointed by the City Council, selects work by area artists.

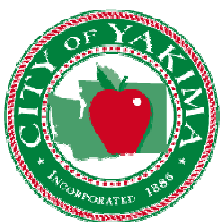
It then sends the selections over to the City of Yakima sign shop, which prints and installs the artwork.



The City of Yakima's sign shop prints and installs the artistic wraps after designs are approved by the Yakima Arts Commission.

Visit <http://arcg.is/2ftWUGs> to see more about the City's signal box arts project.

It includes an interactive map showing locations and photos of each art piece installed to date.



The City of Yakima Issues Brief e-Newsletter is a monthly publication of the City of Yakima Community Relations Office. Questions or suggestions? Contact Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler at 509-575-6045 or randy.beehler@yakimawa.gov.

Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov> for more information about the City of Yakima.