



Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

✦ SunComm Staging 6th Annual Breast Cancer Fundraiser

For the past five years, the dispatchers and calltakers at SunComm, Yakima's 9-1-1 emergency services agency, have put on a fundraiser during October as part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The 6th Annual SunComm Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser will take place on Thursday, October 3rd.

What started out as a relatively small event has continued to grow each year. The 2012 fundraiser was no exception, generating more than \$4,500.

"We try to raise more money every year than we did the year before," said Stacey Garcia, a SunComm dispatcher who organizes the fundraising event along with fellow dispatcher Katy Ybarra. "In 2011, we raised about \$3,600, so last year's total of almost \$1,000 more was really encouraging," said Garcia. "We're working very hard toward increasing the total amount that we'll be able to donate to 'Ohana this year. With the help of the community, we're confident we'll get there."

Since the SunComm crew began staging the fundraiser six years ago, all of the proceeds have gone to support the operations of Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital's 'Ohana Mammography Center.



SunComm's annual fundraiser is part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This year's fundraiser will take place on October 3rd from noon until 8:00 pm in the Yakima Police Department Training Room located at 201 South 3rd Street directly across from the City's Zais Law & Justice Center.

As in past years, the event will include a hot dog lunch, complete with chips and soda, and a bake sale featuring items prepared by SunComm employees, their friends, and family members. Pink hair extensions will also be sold during the fundraiser for \$10.00 a piece and a 50/50 raffle will be held.

"We've had such wonderful participation by the entire community over the years that has kept this event going and growing," said Garcia. "In addition to the contributions from SunComm employees, we have local businesses that make donations, school kids who raise money, and a lot of other people who step up and help out. That's happening again this year and we are looking forward to another very successful fundraiser," said Garcia.

Anyone interested in being part of the 6th Annual SunComm Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser by volunteering, donating baked goods, providing a direct donation, etc. can contact either Stacey Garcia or Katy Ybarra at SunComm at 575-3012.

Yakima Drinking Water Plant Receives Prestigious Award

City of Yakima water customers are enjoying some of the cleanest drinking water in the state.

The City of Yakima's drinking water treatment plant in July received a Bronze Certificate of Achievement from the Washington State Department of Health ("DOH") for outstanding performance. The award recognizes the Yakima water plant for meeting quality standards over the last three years that are more stringent than current regulatory requirements, and Yakima is one of only five water plants in the state to receive an award this year.



Yakima's drinking water treatment plant is located about 7 miles west of the city on Highway 12.

Established in 2001 by the DOH Office of Drinking Water, the purpose of the voluntary Treatment Optimization Program ("TOP") is to maximize public health protection at surface water filtration plants across the state.

Participants in the program commit themselves to working toward meeting treatment goals for particle removal and disinfection that far exceed state and federal water turbidity, meaning clarity, standards. For the calendar years 2010-2012, the Yakima plant's finished water turbidity was 0.10 NTU (nephelometric turbidity units) or less for at least 95 percent of the time, which meets the TOP's turbidity goal. The regulatory requirement is 0.30 NTU.

"This award is due to the commitment of the water treatment plant staff and the leadership of plant supervisor Jeff Bonds to water quality and making sure our customers have the best and safest water we can produce," said Water/Irrigation Manager Dave Brown. "We have worked very hard to take drinking water quality to a whole new level and it is no small task to consistently meet the higher standards required to win a TOP award. So far this year we have met the TOP goals and we are looking forward to a silver award in the future," said Brown.

The Yakima City Council recognized the staff of the Naches River Water Treatment Plant for the TOP award at the September 3rd council meeting.

The Yakima water plant is located off Highway 12 about seven miles west of the city along the Naches River. The water plant treated 3.6 billion gallons of drinking water in 2012. The water system also includes four deep groundwater wells that have recently been pressed into service because of increased turbidity in the river caused by rock and mud slides in the Nile area.

**Help
Wanted**

Be Part of the Solution!

If you see an area in Yakima hit by graffiti, call the City's Graffiti Hotline at 575-3550 or report it using the Yak Back portal on the City's website.

Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!

✦ MLK, Jr. Boulevard Underpass Project is On Track

Construction activity is in full swing at the MLK, Jr. Boulevard railroad underpass site in Downtown Yakima. Major excavation work has been completed on both the west and east sides of the underpass project and drilling activity continues on retaining walls and the critical bottom seal, which will help to keep groundwater from seeping into the underpass.

Mowat Construction Company, the Woodinville-based firm serving as the project's primary contractor, hopes to have concrete girders in place for a new railroad bridge by mid October. Completion of the new railroad bridge this fall will eliminate the need for the so called "shoo-fly", which serves as a temporary detour for mainline train traffic through Yakima. The eventual relocation of the mainline will enable work to begin early next year on a bridge that will allow North Front Street traffic to travel above the finished underpass.

A 70-foot high yellow drill rig will eventually have punched more than 180 shafts into the ground for reinforced concrete columns that will form the underpass's retaining walls. The columns will be four feet in diameter and go as deep as 28 feet below the surface of the underpass. A white 70-foot high drill rig will eventually have dug hundreds of shafts for unreinforced concrete columns that will form parts of the retaining walls and bottom seal. When completed, the underpass will be 900 feet long.



Circular steel cages made from rebar are being used to form reinforced concrete columns for underpass retaining walls.

The roughly \$10.6 million underpass project is expected to continue until late summer or early fall of 2014 and will eventually take MLK, Jr. Blvd traffic below BSNF tracks near North Front Street. Until then, eastbound drivers 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 at the following link - <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.

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