



Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

Dog Paddle Will Be Stroke of Choice During Paws In the Pool

Franklin Pool will welcome dogs and their owners on the last day of the 2015 summer swimming season, Sunday, September 20th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm as the pool plays host to the 8th annual *Paws In the Pool* event.

Admission to the *Paws In the Pool* event is free for dogs, but owners do have to buy a general admission ticket which costs \$2.00 for kids, \$3.75 for adults, and \$2.25 for senior citizens. A family pass, which can be used for up to 2 adults and as many as 4 kids, costs \$13.00.

"The *Paws in the Pool* event is always a lot of fun," said City of Yakima Aquatic Specialist Jason Zeller. "We get dogs of all breeds, shapes, and sizes. They really enjoy getting the chance to splash around in the pool, and so do their owners," said Zeller.



The 8th annual Paws In the Pool event will take place at Franklin Pool on September 20th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

When first arriving for *Paws In the Pool*, dogs need to be kept on leashes. However, once inside the fenced-in area around the pool, dogs are free to do as they please and enjoy a day of swimming fun.

"We've had a great summer at Franklin Pool this year," said Zeller. "We had hot weather for most of the summer and that brought people out to the pool. That's exactly what we hope for every year," said Zeller. "The *Paws in the Pool* event will be a fantastic way to top off the season. We're looking forward to it."

Zeller says there are few rules that dogs need to follow during

the event. However, aggressive dogs are discouraged from taking part in *Paws In the Pool* in order to ensure that the day is fun for everyone.



**Help
Wanted**

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 e-mail (sonya.claartee@yakimawa.gov).

Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!

Thank You Letter to Yakima Community for Firefighter Donations

Editor's Note: During the last week of August, Yakima City Council members Kathy Coffey and Maureen Adkison spearheaded a drive in Yakima to collect supplies to assist firefighters battling the Okanogan Complex fires. The response from the Yakima community was outstanding. Below is a thank you letter to the community from the Yakima City Council, the Yakima Firefighters Association, and City of Yakima employees.



Thank You!



To the Yakima community,

You have warmed our hearts. From August 24th through August 28th, the City of Yakima led an effort to generate donations to assist crews battling the massive Okanogan Complex fires in North Central Washington. The response from the Yakima community was instant and extraordinary.

Literally tons of supplies ranging from t-shirts and socks to granola bars and ChapStick poured into the two Yakima fire stations where they were being accepted from Monday through Friday. More than \$20,000 in cash donations were dropped off. Yakima community members opened their hearts and their wallets to help make the enormous task firefighters are facing a little easier.

The overwhelming generosity of the Yakima community sparked people from elsewhere in the Yakima Valley, throughout the Northwest, and across the U.S. to join the effort. Donations were sent to Yakima from as nearby as Sunnyside, Naches, and the Nile Valley to as far away as Seattle, North Dakota, and Chicago.

Time and again the Yakima community has stepped up when a call for help arrives and has demonstrated what it means to give and ask nothing in return.

Thank you to all of the individuals, businesses, organizations, volunteers and others who made the supply drive such an overwhelming success. Major contributors included Coca Cola Bottling of Yakima, Costco, Haney Truck Line, Inland Fire Protection, Larson Fruit, Michelson Packaging, Paragon Films, Pepsi Cola Bottling of Yakima, Target, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima Downtown Rotary, Yakima Firefighters Association - Local 469, Yakima Herald Republic, Yakima Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints members, Yakima Regional Medical Center, Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, and Yakima Waste Systems.

Through the firefighter supply drive, you have all once again proven why Yakima is an All-America City.

Sincerely,

Yakima City Council
Yakima Okanogan Complex Firefighters Supply Drive Committee
City of Yakima employees

No Fall Leaf Pickup Program in Yakima This Year

Due to budget pressures, the long-running free Fall Leaf Pickup Program that has been operated by the City of Yakima's Solid Waste and Recycling Division will not be conducted this year. The program was eliminated as part of the City Council's 2015 budget deliberation process.

Refuse rates were not increased in 2015 despite costs for the City's garbage collection service having risen. The Fall Leaf Pickup Program alone cost the City about \$100,000 a year to provide.

The current refuse rates are not sufficient enough to support the free Fall Leaf Pickup Program, said City of Yakima Refuse & Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi. Choices had to be made regarding which services are able to be provided and which ones should be discontinued. The Fall Leaf Pickup Program was a popular service, but for now, anyway, the benefits of the program simply do not outweigh the costs, said Zammarchi.

The Fall Leaf Pickup Program had been provided for several years, and since 2008 had included the distribution of free, biodegradable leaf bags. The bags were initially paid for with a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Yakima County Solid Waste Division. Eventually, the City absorbed the cost of providing biodegradable bags, which last year totaled \$45,000.



The City of Yakima's free Fall Leaf Pickup Program, which has included distribution of free biodegradable bags (above) since 2008, won't be conducted this year.

Yakima residents can still dispose of leaves and other yard waste through the City's Refuse & Recycling Division by signing up for a 96-gallon yard waste bin. The monthly cost of a yard waste bin is about \$12.00 (\$2.96 per week). Yard waste bins are picked up weekly and unloaded at the Yakima County Landfill in Terrace Heights where the waste is turned into mulch.

If residents want to have their plastic bags of leaves picked up by Refuse & Recycling drivers, they can do so at a cost of \$2.35 per bag, but need to make special arrangements by calling the Refuse & Recycling Division at 575-6005. If residents want more than 10 plastic bags of leaves picked up, additional arrangements need to be made with the Refuse & Recycling Division.

Whether the Fall Leaf Pickup Program will return anytime in the future is an open question.

We need to be able to be sure that the services that are provided can be covered by the rates that are authorized to be charged. As far as the Fall Leaf Pickup Program, that's just not the case right now, said Zammarchi.



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