

April 2016

Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

✦ Even in a Good Water Year, Everyone Can Still Help Conserve

The water supply picture for the Yakima Valley this irrigation season is much brighter than it was last year, when the area experienced severe drought conditions. Even though water supply forecasts are positive this year, it is still important to take measures to use water in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

The City of Yakima is continuing an effort that was launched during last year's drought to encourage people to use water wisely.

The City's 42 Ways to Save Water campaign provides tips about how to take small steps toward reducing overall water usage. The City is getting the message out using its website, social media platforms, YCTV and Y-PAC cable channels, news releases, traditional media, and more.

The complete list of the 42 Ways to Save Water is available on the City's website front page in the Points of Interest section. Connect directly to the page by clicking on the following link .

<http://bit.ly/1W4kDbv>.

Just by doing little things like taking shorter showers, not over watering plants and grass, and only running the dishwasher when it's full can save a lot of water, said City of Yakima Irrigation/Water Manager Dave Brown. We need to be doing those kinds of things not only in years when water supplies are tight, we need to do them all the time, said Brown.

Among the 42 Ways to Save Water that the City is suggesting community members consider implementing are setting sprinklers appropriately so water is not wasted, using mulch on plant and flower beds to increase water retention, sweeping patios, driveways, and porches instead of using water to wash them, limiting the use of fertilizer and other chemically-based plant food, and washing dark clothes in cold water.

Even when conditions are not like they were last year, it still makes sense for all of us to be as diligent as we can when we are using water, said Brown. Water is a precious commodity and we should be mindful of that not just during droughts.



Watering flowers, plants, and lawns at night or in the early morning is one of the water saving tips that are being shared through the City of Yakima's "42 Ways to Conserve Water" campaign.

✦ Lunchtime Live Concert Series Returns to Performance Park May 6th

The free, family-friendly *Lunchtime Live Concert Series* will begin its 2016 season on Friday, May 6th at Performance Park (2nd Street and S Sgt Pendleton Way) in Downtown Yakima. The spring run of this year's series will include six Friday lunchtime performances, all of which will begin at 11:45 am and run until 1:15 pm.

In addition to the featured performers, this year's version of the *Lunchtime Live* series will include different local food vendors that will be featured at each event. The participating food vendors include Flying Pig BBQ, Hop Town Wood Fired Pizza, and Crafted Gastropub and Catering.



Singer-songwriter Jacob Navarro will kick off the 2016 Lunchtime Live concert series on May 6th.

"We're continuing to make adjustments to the *Lunchtime Live* series so that it meets the needs of our audience," said City Economic Development Manager Sean Hawkins. "We're excited about the local food vendors that will be part of this year's series. Combined with the top-notch talent the series will showcase, *Lunchtime Live* will be a great way for people to enjoy the beautiful Yakima weather and hear some outstanding music," said Hawkins.

The first show in the 2016 *Lunchtime Live* series, which is being sponsored by the City of Yakima, will feature **Jacob Navarro** on **May 6th**. The singer-songwriter from Western Washington will be joined

for the event by Flying Pig BBQ as the featured local food vendor.

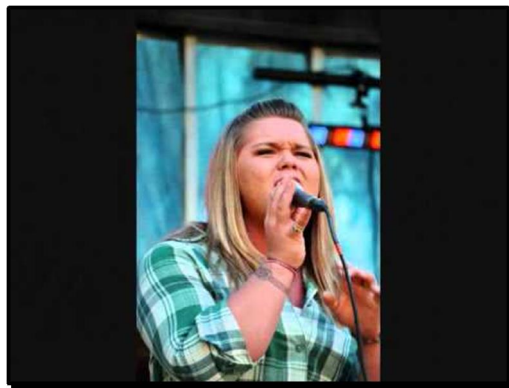
Local favorite **Shoot Jake** will add its always-popular vibe to the *Lunchtime Live* series on **May 13th**. The featured local food vendor that day will be Hop Town Wood Fired Pizza.

On **May 20th**, **Hillfolk Noir** will take to the *Lunchtime Live* stage while Crafted Gastropub and Catering tempts the crowd with its unique lunch selections. The Boise-based *Hillfolk Noir* will introduce its unique "punkerdash" sound to the Yakima crowd.

Seattle-based folk band **Ruler** will headline the show on **May 27th**. Flying Pig BBQ will return that day for its second go around as the featured local food vendor.

The **June 3rd** show will feature music from **Hilldogs**, a folk-rock band from Portland, and food from Hop Town Wood Fired Pizza.

The six show run of the 2016 *Lunchtime Live Concert Series* will wrap up on **June 10th** with **Audre Belt**, an award-winning country, blues, and bluegrass singer from Ellensburg. Crafted Gastropub and Catering will offer its take on lunchtime offerings for the second time of the year.



Audre Belt, a singer from Ellensburg, will perform on June 10th as part of the Lunchtime Live series.

For more information about the lineup of music and other activities in Downtown Yakima this summer and fall, click on the link to the Downtown Yakima website . downtownyakima.com/

Getting Rid of Unwanted Drugs and Documents is Easy...and Free

All across the U.S., people with outdated, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs can get rid of them for free on Saturday, April 30th during the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) eighth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

A drop off site will be open in Yakima from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Yakima site will be located in the parking lot of the Solarity Credit Union branch at 110 North 5th Avenue.

There is no limit to the amount of prescription medications that can be dropped off at the Yakima location.

In addition to being able to get rid of unneeded prescription medications, Yakima County Crime Stoppers will also be accepting outdated personal documents at the Solarity Credit Union drop off site, which will be shredded for free.

Getting rid of old personal documents is an easy and practical way to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, said Yakima County Crime Stoppers President Dave Purcell. By bringing their documents to one of our drop off sites, people can be assured that they will be shredded and disposed of properly, said Purcell.



National Drug Take-Back Day is April 30th. A drop off site will be open that day in Yakima at the North 5th Avenue Solarity Credit Union location.

Up to two banker boxes or three shopping bags of documents per person will be accepted at the Yakima drop off site between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm on April 30th.



CI Shred is partnering with Yakima County Crime Stoppers to get rid of old personal documents on April 30th.

The DEA conducted its first National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in 2010 to both curb the misuse of prescription drugs and to reduce the number of prescription drugs improperly disposed of. Since then, participation in the event has consistently grown. In total, almost 3.4 million pounds (1,700 tons) of prescription drugs have been turned in through the program.

More Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the combined number of those who use cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin. The Take-Back Day program also helps reduce the number of prescription drugs that are flushed down the toilet or thrown out with the trash. Prescription drugs that end up in the sewer

system or landfills can result in contamination of both groundwater and surface water supplies.

Having people bring prescription drugs that they no longer use or no longer want to a drop off site is a much better alternative than getting rid of them any other way, said City of Yakima Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. The drop off sites provide a free, anonymous, no-questions-asked option to dispose of old pills and medicines safely.

More information about Yakima County Crime Stoppers can be found on the organization's website at <http://www.crimestoppersyakco.org/>. Additional details about Drug Take-Back Day can be found on the DEA website at http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.