



May 2015

Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

✦ Everyone Can Help Conserve Water During Drought Year

The water supply picture for the Yakima Valley this irrigation season continues to worsen. Most of the focus has been on how the drought conditions this year will affect the area's growers, but people who live in urban areas could also be affected if water supply levels dip even more than predicted.

Realizing that everyone needs to help conserve water, the City of Yakima has launched a campaign 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 will get 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/1E4ijUU>.

Mostly 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 just this year when water supplies will be tight, we need to do them all the time, said Brown.

The City ran a similar water conservation campaign in 2005. That year water supply forecasts in the spring were even more dire than they are this year.

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 are predicted to be this 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 29th

The free, family-friendly *Lunchtime Live Concert Series* will begin its 2015 season on Friday, May 29th at Performance Park (2nd Street and S Sgt Pendleton Way) in Downtown Yakima. The spring run of this year's series will include five 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 Carousel French Cuisine, HopTown Wood Fired Pizza, and G. G. & Bø Designer Hot Dogs.



The Vaughn Jensen Band will kick off the 2015 Lunchtime Live concert series on May 29th.

"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 addition of specific, local food vendors for each show this year. 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 2015 *Lunchtime Live* series, which is being sponsored by the City of Yakima, will feature **The Vaughn Jensen Band** on **May 29th**. The blues and rock band from Pasco will be joined

for the event by HopTown Wood Fired Pizza as the featured local food vendor.

Local favorite **The Common Deer** will add its folk, blues, Americana vibe to the *Lunchtime Live* series on **June 5th**. The featured local food vendor that day will be Carousel French Cuisine.

On June 12th, **Sarah Gerritsen and the Shadow Catchers** (with guest, Nick Foster) will take to the *Lunchtime Live* stage while G.G. & Bø Designer Hot Dogs tempts the crowd with its unique lunch selections. Sarah Gerritsen weaves her Native American heritage into her music and is sure to entertain the crowd.

American quintet **Blackheart Honeymoon** will perform on **June 19th**. The Seattle-based band was also part of the 2014 *Lunchtime Live Concert Series* lineup. HopTown Wood Fired Pizza will return for its second go around as the featured local food vendor.

The spring session of the 2015 *Lunchtime Live Concert Series* will wrap up on **June 26th** with the always-popular **Shoot Jake**. Voted best Yakima band in 2013, the group is a mainstay of the local music scene. Carousel French Cuisine will offer its take on lunchtime offerings for the second time of the year.



Blackheart Honeymoon, a Seattle-based band, will perform on June 19th 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 official Downtown Yakima website - <http://bit.ly/1zXtRhy>.

✦ Cleanup Finished at First of Four Former Tiger Bin Mini-Mart Sites

Later this summer, the property at the corner of Nob Hill Boulevard and 24th Avenue, which used to be the site of a Tiger Bin Mini-Mart, will be ready to be returned to commercial use. Cleanup of the property began in early March and was completed within the last few weeks.

Last year, the City of Yakima bought the 24th and Nob Hill property along with three other former Tiger Bin sites for \$1.1 million. For many years the properties had been at the center of a drawn-out legal battle between their former owner, Tiger Oil Corp., and the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE).

The City successfully negotiated the sale of the four sites and, in partnership with DOE, developed a plan to remediate contamination at each property and then sell them to private developers. DOE is providing about 90% of the cost of cleaning up the properties while the City is providing the remainder of the remediation funds.



Crews demolish a former Tiger Bin Mini-Mart at the corner of Nob Hill Boulevard and 24th Avenue on March 9th.

All four of the former Tiger Bin locations are prime commercial properties, said Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. Getting those properties cleaned up will be great because they've been eyesores for so long. But getting them back into commercial use is even more important from an economic perspective, said Beehler.

Now that the 24th and Nob Hill site, which was the most contaminated of the four former Tiger Bin locations, is cleaned up, the City has begun the process that will allow the property to be sold later this year. It's likely bids for the site will be sought sometime in July or August.

The next likely site to be cleaned up is located at 1606 East Nob Hill Boulevard. The City and DOE are still developing a timeline for

that work, but are planning for the cleanup to be completed later this year. In 2016, the two remaining sites, one at 5511 Summitview Avenue and the other at 1808 North 1st Street, will be cleaned up and returned to commercial use.

The City is grateful that DOE has been such a good partner in the effort to get these properties back into commercial use, said Beehler. The process has certainly been challenging, but with the 24th and Nob Hill site now cleaned up, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

**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!