



Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

SunComm Staging 6th Annual Breast Cancer Fundraiser

For the past six 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 Monday, October 13th.

What started out as a relatively small event has continued to grow each year. The 2013 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.

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.

"We're working very hard to increase the total amount that we'll be able to donate to Ohana this year," said Garcia. "With the help of the community, we're confident we'll get there."

This year's fundraiser will take place on October 13th from 11:00 am until 7:00 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. This year's event will also feature a nacho bar.

"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.



The "Tree of Hope" was created as part of this year's Breast Cancer Awareness Month campaign.

Preferred Downtown Plaza Design Accommodates Displaced Parking

At its September 2nd business meeting, the Yakima City Council chose a preferred design for a potential Downtown Yakima Central Plaza which, when combined with restructuring nearby parking spaces, will have almost no impact on the total number of parking spaces in the immediate area.

If the plaza is ultimately built according to the preferred plan, the total number of parking spaces on, adjacent to, or within one block of the plaza site would be 416. Today that number is 417.



The preferred design for a Downtown Yakima Central Plaza would utilize portions of this parking lot between 2nd Street and 3rd Street north of Chestnut Avenue.

The plaza design is in the process of being further refined and it's possible that the final plan will result in a net gain of parking spaces over what we have today, said City Manager Tony O'Rourke. We heard the concerns of community members about possibly losing parking in the area if a plaza were built and pushed our design team to find solutions. The team did just that, said O'Rourke. The discussion can now focus on the plaza rather than on parking.

The landscape architecture firm of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol has led the plaza design process, which resulted in

six potential options being presented to the City Council in August. Five options were developed for space now occupied by a parking lot between 2nd Street and 3rd Street north of Chestnut Avenue. The sixth design option was for space that now is used as a parking lot east of 2nd Street and south of S Sgt Pendleton Way.

The Council chose what was referred to as Option Y-a as the preferred design. Lead designer Kathryn Gustafson, who is originally from Yakima and has become a world-renowned landscape architect during her 30-plus-year career, described Option Y-a as incorporating water features, lawn areas, flexible-use spaces, a large shade structure, and other elements that were identified as being important to community members through surveying and a series of public meetings.

The restructuring of parking near the potential plaza site is going to take place whether a plaza is ultimately constructed or not. Angled parking spaces will replace many existing parallel parking spaces that are adjacent to or within one block of the potential plaza site. Traffic lanes on 2nd Street, 3rd Street, and Chestnut Avenue will be narrowed as a result of the change from parallel parking spaces to angled parking spaces. Research has indicated traffic on those streets is light enough to accommodate lane narrowing.

A refined plaza design along with cost estimates will be presented by the design team at a public meeting on Monday, October 6th at 6:00 pm at Season's Performance Hall and to the City Council at its October 7th business meeting.



An artist's rendering shows one view of "Option Y-a", the preferred design chosen by the Yakima City Council for a potential Downtown Yakima Central Plaza.

Yakima's First Dog Park Under Construction at Randall Park

It won't be long now before dogs and dog lovers will have a place to call their own at Randall Park. Part of a southern section of Randall Park is being transformed into Yakima's first dog park, and is expected to be open within the next few months.

Construction of the dog park is underway on a 1.6 acre section of Randall Park south of Wide Hollow Creek near 48th Avenue. The project involves clearing, leveling, and fencing the area that will become the dog park.



Work recently began on creating Yakima's first dog park on this 1.6 acre section of Randall Park. The idea for the park and its design came from a group of dog lovers from throughout the Yakima area.

New water service is also being extended to the property that will be home to the dog park. New signage, benches, a pathway, and a shade structure will also be installed as part of the project.

The dog park at Randall Park is the brainchild of a dedicated group of dog lovers from throughout the Yakima area. Group members have been volunteering their time since the beginning of the year to not only help design the dog park, but to also help raise funds to pay for it.

The total cost of the dog park will be about \$31,000 and will be covered by a combination of private donations and City funds.

The group of people who volunteered their time to turn the dream of a dog park in Yakima into a reality worked very hard to make this project happen, said Recreation Supervisor Traci Bennett. They really believed in the value of Yakima having its own dog park and pushed to get it done. Yakima is a great place to live and the addition of a dog park is going to make it even better for dogs and dog lovers, said Bennett.

Randall Park is already one of Yakima's most popular outdoor recreation spots. In addition to the new dog park, several improvements are planned at Randall Park. The City is in the midst of the **Randall Park Improvement Challenge**, a fundraising effort designed to generate \$100,000 in donations from the community to match large financial gifts provided last fall by two individual donors. Money from the community fundraising effort will be combined with the two individual donations and a potential state grant to make more than \$500,000 in improvements to Randall Park.

If you are interested in contributing to the effort to upgrade Randall Park, send your donation to the **Randall Park Improvement Challenge, Yakima Valley Community Foundation, 111 University Parkway, Suite 102, Yakima, Washington, 98901.**



Free, family-friendly *Lunchtime Live* concerts will continue every Friday at Performance Park in Downtown Yakima. Click on the link below to see the performer lineup.

<http://bit.ly/1pXWL5r>



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