

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Kennewick and the Kennewick Public Facilities District announce new Windermere Theatre for the Toyota Center**

The City of Kennewick and the KPFD announces a new partnership with Windermere Real Estate and the introduction of the Windermere Theatre.

The Toyota Center, home to Broadway and More series since 2006, now has a newly designed theater and Windermere Real Estate is the naming sponsor partner.

“We are very excited to have another strong community sponsor step forward and offer to support this new stage in the Toyota Center.” said Dean Strawn, KPFD board President. “This will enable us to improve the Theater experience here in the Tri-Cities.”

“The new Windermere Theatre moves the stage from the previous location in front of the Zamboni entrance to directly across from the suites.” said Cory Pearson, Executive Director for the Three Rivers Campus. “People will notice a more intimate theater setting with new stage curtains and valances used for all performances.”

The new Windermere theatre will make its’ debut as the 2009-2010 Broadway and More series begins with “The Rat Pack is Back” on October 14, 2009.

Along with the new location and curtains, people attending shows will notice new lighting and a larger stage that will allow for bigger shows that could not previously be accommodated.

“Windermere has always supported various community events in the Tri-Cities.” said Jeff Thompson, Co-Owner of Windermere Tri-Cities. “The Windermere Theatre gives us a chance to support the arts and helps create a wonderful setting for these shows that all Tri-Citians and visitors can enjoy.”

“The City Council made an investment in the Toyota Center to provide a better theater experience for its citizens with the anticipation of a private partner and I want to thank Windermere for its support in our vision.” said Kennewick Mayor Tom Moak. “Time after time we have seen where public investment has resulted in significant private investment to the betterment of the entire community. Windermere’s investment in the new “Windermere Theatre” strengthens that public private partnership that will help our city continue to grow. The new set

will provide more event opportunities for all of us to enjoy. Its partnerships that make the difference in Kennewick and I want to thank Windermere, the Kennewick City Council, VenuWorks and the Kennewick Public Facilities District for all stepping forward to make this happen”

The 2009 – 2010 Broadway series includes: “Hal Holbrook in Mark Twain Tonight” on Friday, January 29, 2009. “Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot” on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. “Cabaret” on April 5, 2010, and “Cirque Dreams Illumination” on May 19, 2010.

The new Windermere Theatre will seat 2099, down from the 3,500 in the previous configuration. “The audience will be closer to the stage.” said Jude Strode, Marketing Manager for the Three Rivers Campus. “The acoustics are much improved as will be the entire experience.”