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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF

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Murray selected next Yakima Police Chief

Tentatively scheduled start date is May 1st

Yakima City Manager Cliff Moore has selected Matt Murray to be the next Yakima police chief.

“Matt stood out among the five police chief candidates who came to Yakima last week because of the vast amount of experience he has gained during his long career in law enforcement, the significant breadth of responsibilities he has had serving in a variety of leadership roles, and his understanding and embracing of 21st Century Policing principles,” said Moore during a news conference on Friday, March 29th.

Murray, who is currently serving as a lieutenant in the Denver Police Department, was one of five police chief candidates interviewed by Moore and four separate panels.

The candidates participated in two “Meet & Greet” sessions on Friday, March 22 – one with Yakima Police Department (YPD) staff and one with community members.

Murray must still pass psychological and polygraph testing and undergo a comprehensive background check before officially joining the City.

“Like the city manager, I have been impressed by Matt’s depth of experience in law enforcement,” Mayor Kathy Coffey said at the news conference announcing Murray’s selection. “I am confident (he) is well positioned to take the reins of the Yakima Police Department and to continue to grow the department’s reputation as an outstanding law enforcement agency.”



Matt Murray speaks during the news conference on March 29.

Murray began his career with the Denver PD in 1991 as a patrol officer.

During his tenure at the Denver PD, Murray has also served as a sergeant in the Volunteers in Policing Unit, the Homicide Unit, and the Major Crimes Division.

In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and oversaw the Patrol Division in one of Denver’s police districts.

While serving as a lieutenant/chief of staff, Murray led an effort in 2009 to launch the department’s social media efforts to combat biased information that was being distributed about the Denver PD.

In 2014, he became part of the Denver PD command staff serving as a police commander/chief of staff.

About a year later, Murray was made a deputy chief of police/chief of staff by the Denver police chief.

Last year, Murray returned to his position as a lieutenant in the Denver PD.

Murray holds a bachelor of arts degree in management from the University of Phoenix and a master of science degree in organizational leadership from Regis University in Denver. He is also a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum.

Murray will succeed Dominic Rizzi, who held the Yakima police chief position from spring 2012 until fall 2018.

Murray will oversee a department that includes about 190 total employees, both commissioned and non-commissioned. The total 2019 YPD budget is just over \$30 million.

The tentative start date of Murray’s tenure as Yakima police chief is May 1st.

Mayor Coffey welcomes spring, community cleanup



It is exciting to see all that winter snow finally give way to the sunshine and flowers of spring time! It is a time of new life for our trees and plants, a season of experiencing the outdoors and enjoying warmer temperatures. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year.

The break from our long winter also provides opportunities for the City of Yakima to work on infrastructure improvements, such as getting started on Phase 1 of the North 1st Street Revitalization Project.

This new season offers an opportunity for all of us here in the City of Yakima to do our part for spring cleaning. That can include clearing debris from our yards and signing up for yard waste pick-up service through the City's Refuse Division.

And it can extend to beautifying our neighborhoods, participating in community clean-up efforts offered by the City, or neighbors working together on their own in volunteering to beautify their area.

This spring the City is also taking initial steps towards developing the Clean City Program, an initiative to address community clean-up and city-wide refuse removal.

Join me in welcoming spring as well as seeking out opportunities to beautify our city.

Briefly

Number available for 911 outages

SunComm 9-1-1 Communications has added an additional emergency number to the county system in the event of a 9-1-1 outage.

Residents are asked to add (509) 453-9000 to their home emergency plan, including mobile and computer-based phone systems,

The (509) 453-9000 number should only be used if residents receive a notification of 9-1-1 services being disrupted.

Irrigation season began April 1st

April 1 marked the start of the 2019 irrigation season for the vast majority of residential and business customers served by the City of Yakima's irrigation system.

See <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/water-irrigation/> for more information.

Community cleanup event is April 13th

Available for areas from South 1st Street to I-82 between E. Chestnut Avenue and Pacific Avenue

Residents in one area of Yakima will have the opportunity to spruce up their neighborhoods on Saturday, April 13th during a free Community Cleanup event.

Households located from South 1st Street to Interstate 82 between East Chestnut Avenue and Pacific Avenue are eligible to participate in the free cleanup. Residents in those areas can bring their items to a temporary disposal site at the Yakima Speedway parking lot, 1600 Pacific Avenue, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on April 13th.

No commercial waste, construction or demolition debris, concrete, car parts or hazardous waste will be accepted at the temporary disposal site.

Each household will be limited to no more than four tires (passenger car and small truck tires only). No household hazardous waste will be accepted during the cleanup event. However, the Terrace Heights landfill has an ongoing program through which it accepts household hazardous waste for free.

"This is a great opportunity for people living in the designated cleanup area to get rid of items they no longer need for free," said City of Yakima Refuse & Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi.



"By doing so, they will help keep our community safe, clean, and healthy," Zammarchi said.

In addition, volunteers from local churches and Safe Yakima will offer curbside pick-up in the designated cleanup area from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Items not at the curb or alley by 8:00 am will not be picked up.

"We encourage residents in the designated cleanup area to sign up as teams in their respective blocks and work with their neighbors to help," said Zammarchi.

Volunteers will also be needed to assist staff at the disposal site, Zammarchi said.

Call the City of Yakima Refuse Division at 576-6739 for more information about the April 13th Community Cleanup event. To organize a neighborhood cleanup team, call 248-2291, extension 102, or e-mail outreach@together.church.

The event is being sponsored by the City of Yakima Solid Waste Division, Yakima Waste Systems, and Yakima County.

New Windows Alive! display debuts



"Color Flow" by Sharon Azhderian Cox

Empty storefronts in Downtown Yakima will come alive again on Friday, April 5th when the talents of local artists are put on public display for the latest "Windows Alive!" installment.

Six years ago, the Yakima Arts Commission, an advisory group appointed by the Yakima City Council, developed the idea to harness the creativity of Central Washington artists.

Following a submission and evaluation process, outstanding artists from the region were chosen to be part of the latest "Windows Alive!" exhibition, which will run from April 5th through this September.

"It's always exciting to see the new artwork," said Yakima Arts Commission Chair Noel Moxley. "Windows Alive! is a wonderful program that continues to add to the vibrancy of Downtown Yakima."

Art will be displayed in storefront windows located along the north side of Yakima Avenue between 3rd Street and 4th Street. Artists selected for the latest "Windows Alive!" exhibition are:

- Sharon Azhderian Cox, of Selah, who enjoys experimenting with several different mediums. The subject matter of her art includes abstracts, landscapes, animals, trees and people.
- Brad Phillips of Yakima works in oils. He uses pictures and still life as the basis for most of his artwork.
- Stounson (Steven Mollett) of Yakima takes inspiration from Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat for his paintings.
- Don Wolterstorff of Yakima is a landscape and wildlife photographer specializing in images from around the Yakima Valley.
- Francisco Noe Maltos of Yakima creates black and white as well as color drawings. The inspiration for his artwork includes watching his father draw, books he has read and his connection with nature.
- Dorothy Groszhans of Yakima creates graphite and charcoal drawings, inspired by actual news reports covering worldwide refugees and immigrants.

Additional information is available at <http://www.windowalive.com/>

Yakima breaks ground on North 1st Street

Work on Phase 1 began last month

Work began in March on Phase 1 of the City of Yakima's North 1st Street Revitalization Project.

Phase 1 includes North 1st Street from U.S. Highway 12 to N Street.

This phase will cost about \$3.3 million and be funded through a federal grant, as well as City water and wastewater capital funds.

All together, the three phases include reconstructing about 1.5 miles of roadway.

The project includes rebuilding sidewalks, installing new lighting, building median islands, redirecting utility lines and enhancing landscaping along North 1st Street corridor from U.S. Highway 12 to MLK, Jr. Boulevard.



A flagger directs traffic as crews begin on Phase 1.

Phase 2 is scheduled to start in Spring 2020 and Phase 3 in 2021. It will be paid for with a combination of federal transportation funds, City utility funds, and money generated from Transportation Benefit District fees approved by the City Council in 2017. For more information visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/strategic-projects/north-first-street-revitalization-project/>

Emergency Notification System Available for Area Residents

A free service is available to Yakima area residents that provides emergency alerts via voice or text communications.

Offered by Everbridge, the service is the emergency notification system for Yakima Valley Emergency Management.

“I encourage City of Yakima residents to sign up for this system so they can stay in the know when there are emergencies in our area,” said Assistant Yakima Mayor Dulce Gutiérrez, who also chairs the City Council’s Public Safety Committee.

Sign up for the emergency alert system at www.yakimacounty.us/AlertYakima

Information is also available by visiting www.co.yakima.wa.us/oem
“It only takes a couple of minutes to sign up and is very simple,” said Yakima Fire Chief Aaron Markham. “If someone is signing up via a mobile device they need to go to the app store and download Everbridge.”

Users can opt-in to enter their contact information and subscribe to emergency notifications based on their location. The information is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

They can also specify particular times during the day when they would prefer to block notifications. Users can select notification options that include text, e-mail, cell phone, home landline, work phone or the mobile app.

This system will be used to notify users about imminent threats to health and safety as well as informational notifications that affect their locations or work environments. Administrators will send notifications regarding severe weather or other local emergencies via the notification methods that users specify.



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<https://www.yakimawa.gov/>



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<https://twitter.com/CityofYakima>



<https://www.instagram.com/cityofyakima/>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofYakimaWA>

City Contacts

Airport:	575-6149
Animal Control:	575-6038
City Clerk:	575-6000
City Manager:	575-6000
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126
* Fire:	575-6060
Human Resources:	575-6090
Municipal Court:	575-3050
Parks:	575-6020
Planning:	575-6183
* Police:	575-6200
Refuse:	575-6005
Streets:	575-6005
Transit:	575-6175
Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov.