

# ISSUES BRIEF

April 2023 - Vol. XIII, Issue 4, Number 128

## City of Yakima will offer third Community Action Day on April 20

The City of Yakima would like to invite all community members for a Community Action Day event on Thursday, April 20th, from 5 pm to 7 pm. It will be at Lewis and Clark Middle School, 1114 W. Pierce St.

What to expect:

- Free hamburgers, drinks and snacks
- Free resources from community organizations

- Claim a free Sherwin-Williams paint bucket and supply kit to paint over future vandalism on your property (Limit 1 per household)
- Create new relationships with law enforcement, City of Yakima officials, school staff and other community organizations to increase crime prevention efforts throughout Yakima

During this event law enforcement, city officials, schools, and local organizations will foster community relationships by clarifying roles regarding vandalism abatement.

For more information contact Tony Doan at 509-576-6524 or e-mail [tony.doan@yakimawa.gov](mailto:tony.doan@yakimawa.gov)

## Rosalinda Ibarra named new City Clerk

Yakima City Manager Bob Harrison announced that longtime City employee Rosalinda Ibarra has been selected to fill the position of city clerk once the current city clerk, Sonya Claar Tee, retires in June.

“Rosalinda has been an outstanding part of the City team for many years,” said Harrison. “The city clerk position is a key part of the City’s senior staff and I am confident Rosalinda will continue the great work Sonya has done to make the clerk’s office as efficient and effective as possible.”

“I’m excited about taking on this new challenge in my career,” said Ibarra. “I look forward to working with the staff in the city clerk’s office and the entire City.”

Ibarra began training for the city clerk’s position on March 13th when she officially joined the clerk’s office. Claar Tee will retire after over 30 years with the City on June 22.

Ibarra graduated from Sunnyside High School in 2002. She attended Heritage University and focused on general college studies.

Ibarra was hired by the City in 2005 as a bilingual department assistant in the Public Works Department. In 2007, she was promoted to a traffic sign specialist. That same year, Ibarra was again promoted, this time to a planning technician position in the Community Development Department. In 2009, she was promoted to a planning specialist position and, in 2013, was promoted to community development administrative assistant.



Recently selected Yakima City Clerk Rosalinda Ibarra receives the oath of office during the April 4th meeting of the Yakima City Council.

Claar Tee first joined the City in 1992 as a department assistant in the Utility Services Division.

In 1994, she joined the city manager’s office and served in a variety of roles before being promoted to the deputy city clerk position in 2011. The next year, she was promoted to the city clerk position.

“Sonya has been an invaluable asset to the City of Yakima for more than three decades,” said Harrison. “She will be deeply missed. We wish her all the best in her retirement.”

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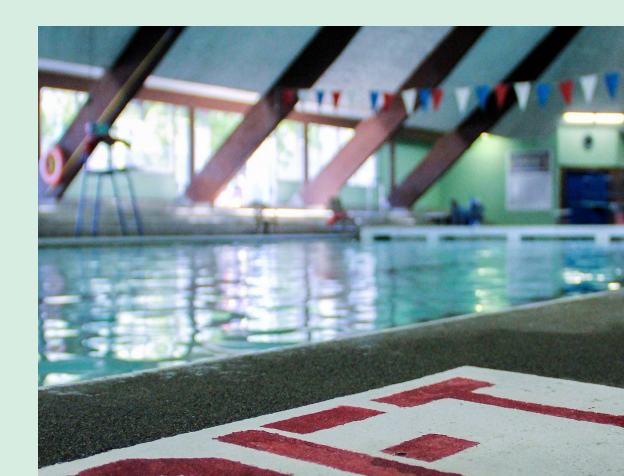
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# City of Yakima names new airport director

Yakima City Manager Bob Harrison announced today that Robert Hodgman has been selected to fill the position of Yakima Air Terminal director.

“Rob brings to the City a wealth of experience in a wide range of aviation disciplines,” said Harrison. “Rob honed his leadership and management skills during a distinguished military career and has continued to expand his aviation expertise,” said Harrison. “That depth and breadth of knowledge will serve the City of Yakima and the Yakima Air Terminal well.”

“I’m looking forward to applying my experience to the Yakima Air Terminal,” said Hodgman. “The Yakima Air Terminal is an important part of the Yakima area economy and has so much potential to be an even larger factor.”

Hodgman graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

He joined the U.S. Army that same year and had multiple aviation assignments. In 1997, he became a member of the Washington Army National Guard, again fulfilling multiple aviation assignments.



“I’m looking forward to applying my experience to the Yakima Air Terminal. The Yakima Air Terminal is an important part of the Yakima area economy and has so much potential to be an even larger factor.”

- Yakima Air Terminal Director Rob Hodgman

In 2003, Hodgman graduated from Saint Martin’s University with a master’s degree in business administration and became financial resource and budget manager for Washington Army National Guard. Two years later, he became the Guard’s deputy construction and facilities management officer.

Then, from 2011 to 2012, Hodgman served as the Washington Air National Guard’s contracting officer representative/project manager.

In 2012, Hodgman joined the Washington State Department of Transportation – Aviation staff as the State Capital Improvement Program manager. Later that year, he became aviation senior planner for WSDOT.

The previous Yakima Air Terminal director was Rob Peterson, who resigned in November 2021 for a job in North Carolina. Jaime Vera, current Yakima Air Terminal operations & maintenance manager, filled the director role until January 2023 when former YFD chief Bob Stewart stepped in as interim airport director.

## Community Cleanup



City of Yakima Public Works Department joined with local groups and volunteers for a free community cleanup on March 25th in the Barge Lincoln neighborhood. It was sponsored by City of Yakima Public Works, OIC of Washington, Poor Boys Auto Wrecking, Yakima County, Yakima Waste Systems, The Heights Church, Safe Yakima and Champions Centre.



## Lions Pool to close during May for improvements

Lions Pool, the City of Yakima's indoor aquatics facility, will close temporarily from May 1st through June 18th for improvements.

Work will include construction and installation of a new air handling and dehumidification system.

When repairs are finished and the pool is ready to be re-opened, the City will provide notice using its various communications platforms.

"We certainly appreciate the patience of Lion's Pool's loyal users during this project," said Parks & Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson.

Visit [yakimaparks.com/aquatics](http://yakimaparks.com/aquatics) or call 509-575-6046 for more about City of Yakima aquatic programs.

# YFD forms regional training academy



Pictured is a live training in March near Ellensburg. It was conducted by YFD and Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue.

The Yakima Fire Department (YFD) and Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (KVFR) have partnered to form the Central Washington Fire Training Academy (CWFTA).

Through CWFTA, firefighters learn essentials of firefighting, wildland firefighting and responding to incidents involving medical issues and hazardous materials. CWFTA's most recent live fire training was March 22nd, on Road 6 just south of Ellensburg.

CWFTA began in January due to the need for training recruits in a timely manner because of vacancies, the cost of surrounding academies and benefit of YFD and KVFR teaching their own recruits. "This a great benefit to both agencies. YFD and KVFR have a long-standing partnership in working together. This will greatly increase efficiency on emergency scenes as we work and train the same way," said YFD Chief Aaron Markham.

Two additional CWFTA training sessions are scheduled for May and September of this year, bringing the total number of new firefighters trained for both agencies up to possibly 30 or more by the end of 2023. CWFTA training classes are held at the YFD training center, while live fire training is conducted in KVFR's coverage area.

"CWFTA Instructors are highly qualified and trained personnel from YFD and KVFR, and it showed last month in the recruits' performance on a live burn training exercise," said YFD Deputy Chief D.J. Goldsmith.

Click <https://yakimafire.com/> for more about YFD or call 509-575-6060.

follow the City of Yakima on social media:



watch City meetings any time, on demand:



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

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact Community Outreach Specialist John Fannin at 509-249-6858 or [John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov](mailto:John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov).

## City Directory

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
Purchasing	575.6093
Refuse:	575-6005
Streets:	575-6005
Transit:	575-6175
Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

\* **NON-EMERGENCY. Call 911 in an emergency.**