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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF



Crews are busy at work on new sidewalks in East Yakima, including this project near Adams Elementary School. Work is expected to wrap up before the 2018-19 school year begins later in August.

Sidewalk project underway in East Yakima

Preparing the way for school days

The City of Yakima is installing sidewalks just in time for the start of a new school year.

"Improving sidewalks in neighborhoods and keeping Yakima children safe are certainly priorities of the Yakima City Council," said Assistant Mayor Dulce Gutierrez, who chairs the Council's Public Safety Committee. "Results from partnerships with local schools are starting to show in Yakima neighborhoods."

Work is underway on sidewalks around East Yakima schools and neighborhoods in Council District 2 near Adams Elementary School and Washington Middle School. The project includes ramps that are compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). The \$357,000 project is expected to finish before Yakima schools start classes later this month.

The new sidewalks are part of Safe Routes to Schools projects that will continue in 2019 with plans for areas in Council District 1 around Garfield Elementary School and also in Council District 3 in the area around McClure Elementary School.

The work next year in those areas will include not only new sidewalks, but ramps, signs and signals on several streets in the neighborhoods surrounding those schools. They should be completed before the 2019-2020 school year begins.

Also in this issue

Page 2: National honor for local landmark

Page 3: Building momentum in Yakima

Page 3: Lip sync challenge video goes viral

Page 3: Briefly, City of Yakima news in brief

Page 4: Photo of the Month

Page 4: City Contacts

City commission supported preservation efforts

Historic recognition for Yakima landmark

An historic Downtown Yakima building is receiving national recognition. Hotel Maison, 321 E. Yakima Avenue, unveiled a plaque designating it on the National Register of Historic Places during a ceremony on August 13th.

The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. In 2016, the City of Yakima's Historic Preservation Commission approved the Hotel Maison's application for historic preservation tax credits.

"With that nomination and listing, the building's owners were able to use preservation tax credits while the property underwent renovations," said City Councilmember Jason White, the Council's liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission.

"Our goal in applying for the National Register of Historic Places was to help preserve the original grandeur of the property and share a glance into the history and evolution of the Yakima Valley," said Elizabeth Morrier McGree, Vice President of JEM Development Real Estate, Inc.

The tallest building between Seattle and Spokane when built in 1911, it was constructed by local Yakima Freemasons. It included a Masonic ceremonial temple on the top floor, with commercial and retail spaces located on the lower floors.

While the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996, the plaque formally recognizes the efforts made to preserve the historic nature and integrity of the property.

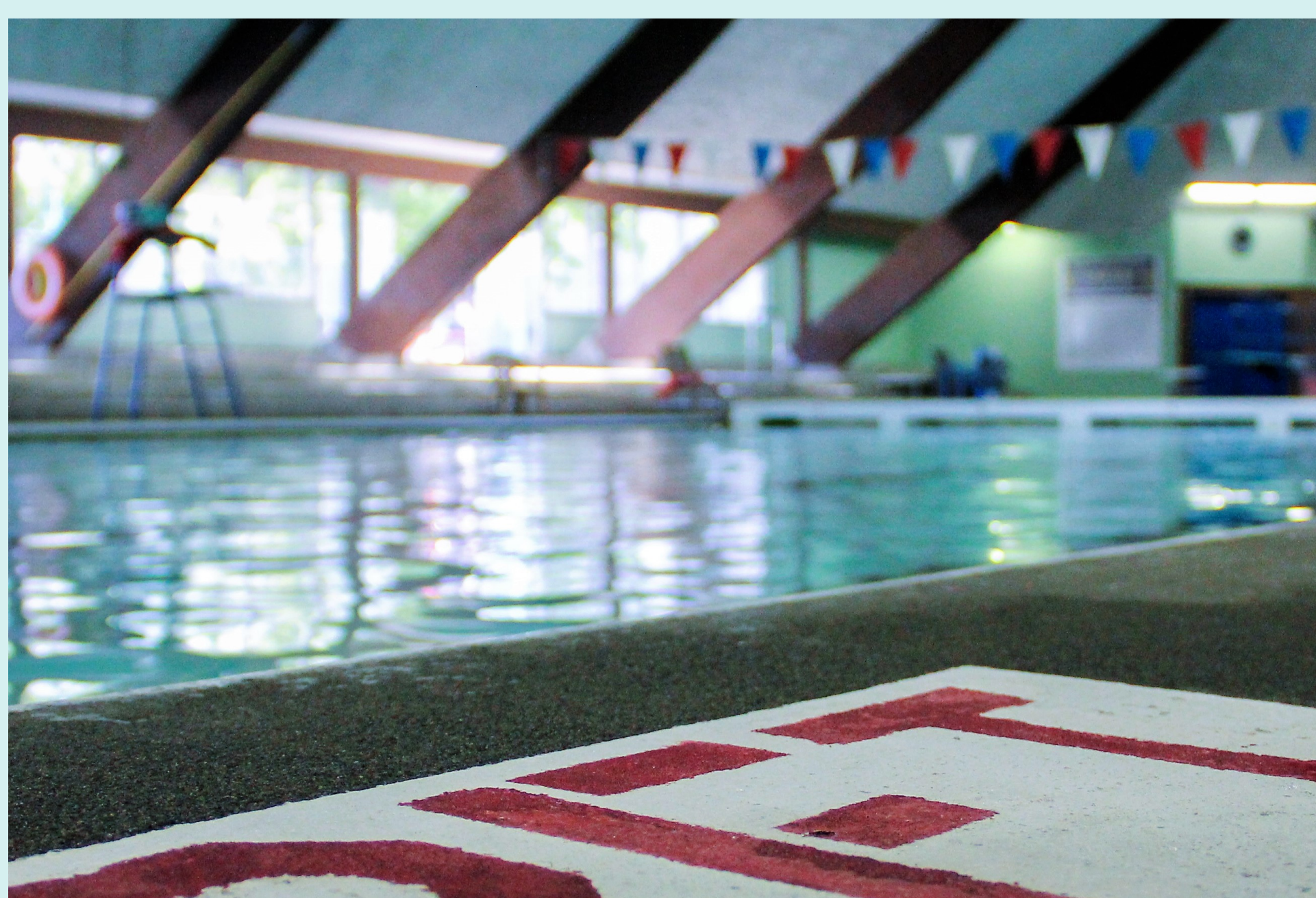
JEM Development Real Estate, Inc. opened the building as a hotel in December 2015 after extensive preservation efforts.



JEM Development Real Estate, Inc. Vice President Elizabeth Morrier McGree admires Hotel Maison's 1911 Masonic temple. [Click here for a photo essay of the temple and plaque ceremony.](#)



A crowd, including local media, gathered for a ceremony outside Hotel Maison on Monday, August 13th, for the plaque's official unveiling.



Lions Pool closed for maintenance until 8/27

The City of Yakima's Lions Pool will be closed through Monday, August 27 so needed annual maintenance on the pool can be performed. The closure went into effect on August 4.

City Parks & Recreation crews will complete maintenance and repairs on the pool, and some areas will be repainted.



Building momentum

Construction activity is off to a strong start in the City of Yakima for the first half of 2018.

Information from the City's Planning Division shows 617 permits issued through the first six months of 2018 (Jan. 1 through June 30), with a total combined valuation of \$69.7 million. That's well above the pace at this point last year, when the City of Yakima issued 538 permits with a valuation of \$37.9 million were issued during the first six months of 2017.

"It has been a busy first-half of the year," said Director of Community Development Joan Davenport. "It is encouraging to see such growth in 2018. Other statistics for the first six months of 2018 show 72 permits issued for construction of single-family homes with combined valuation of \$17 million. By comparison, 47 permits were issued in the first half of 2017 with a valuation of \$11.9 million.

Another area of significant growth is new commercial construction. There were 35 permits for new commercial construction issued through the first six months of 2018 with a combined valuation of \$34.6 million. The numbers through the first half of 2017 were 29 permits with \$11.3 million valuation.

Building permit statistics by month and year-to-date are available on the City of Yakima's "Permits" page, <http://bit.ly/PermitStats>

Briefly...

Forum Q&A results available on-line

Between June 2017 and March 2018, Yakima City Council members held a series of 10 community forums to discuss public safety concerns within the City of Yakima.

The public provided valuable feedback. That included questions from the community ranging from 911 calls to forming neighborhood block watches.

The result is a Q&A page developed for the Yakima Police Department website.

The page is available at <http://bit.ly/ForumQandA>

Tahoma Cemetery tours continue

Guided historical walking tours of the City of Yakima's Tahoma Cemetery continue through this Fall.

Call 575-6020 for scheduled tours and to register for a tour.

School supply drive underway

The City of Yakima's Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Ave., is continuing a school supply drive through the end of September.

Items can be brought to the Center. Call 575-6166 for a school supply list.

Yakima Police lip sync video goes viral

With more than 300,000 views and 9,000 shares to date, the Yakima Police Department has more than met the national lip sync video challenge.

The video debuted August 13th after three weeks of preparation with support from the City's Community Relations Office, the Yakima Fire Department, City employees and the community.

It is available on the City of Yakima's YouTube channel.



Photo of the Month



Sean Davido photo

Splash pads at the City of Yakima's Miller Park and Martin Luther King Jr. Park provide a break from hot summer days.



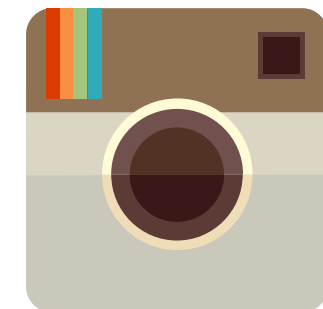
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Questions? Suggestions?

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