



ISSUES BRIEF

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Council approves contract with Robert Harrison

New City Manager will start work September 1

During its August 4th regular meeting, the Yakima City Council approved a contract with Robert Harrison, under which Harrison will become the next Yakima City Manager.

Harrison's first official day on the job will be Tuesday, September 1st.

As part of the agreement, Harrison will receive an annual base salary of \$207,000. After the first year of the City Manager contract term, the City may increase Harrison's base salary and/or other benefits in such amounts and to such an extent as the City Council may determine appropriate on the basis of an annual performance evaluation.

Harrison was Renton's chief administrative officer from 2018 until May of this year.



Before that, he was the city administrator in Issaquah (2010-2018), city manager in Wyoming, Ohio, city administrator/clerk/treasurer in Mosinee, Wisconsin (1996-1998), and assistant to the city administrator in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin (1995-1996).

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On Tuesday, July 7th, Harrison was one of four finalists for the City Manager position who were interviewed by a panel of seven community members and a panel of seven senior City staff members. The finalist pool included Harrison, Pasco City Manager Dave Zabell, City of Paso Robles, California Public Works Director Dick McKinley, and current City of Yakima Interim City Manager Alex Meyerhoff.

On Wednesday, July 8th, the finalists were interviewed by the Yakima City Council during a special meeting. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Yakima City Council voted to enter into negotiations with Harrison.

Parks & Recreation offers series of drive-in movies

Activity allowed in modified Phase 1

Yakima Parks and Recreation is offering three opportunities for free drive-in movies during the month of August.

Movies will be shown at the Gateway Complex at Kiwanis Park. Showtime each night will be approximately 8:30 pm. The schedule is as follows:

- *Sonic the Hedgehog*, Saturday, August 8th
- *Aladdin*, Saturday, August 15th
- *Rudy*, Saturday, August 22nd.

Film-goers can listen to the movie audio by tuning to 106.9 FM, KRZLN KTCR

Concessions will not be offered. Those attending the movies will need to remain in their vehicles.

Yakima Parks and Recreation encourages community members to only have members of their immediate household in their vehicles. Those who need to leave their vehicle to visit the restroom will need to wear face coverings.

Yakima Parks and Recreation is offering the drive-in movies because expanded activities are allowed in Yakima County under a modified Phase 1 of the state's Safe Start program.



Set up utilities online with help from City staff

In-person assistance at the Harman Center available by appointment

The City of Yakima Utility Services Division is offering free one-on-one assistance in person to help residents register their City water, sewer, garbage and irrigation accounts online.

The benefit of online payment is it allows City utility customers to manage accounts at their convenience without coming to Yakima City Hall, which is closed to the public due to the state's COVID-19 restrictions

One-on-one sessions are by appointment only from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm each Tuesday starting August 11. They will be at the City's Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Ave.



Call the Utility Services Division at 575-6080 to schedule an appointment.

Residents will need to bring the following to their appointment:

- Photo identification such as a driver's license or state-issued ID
- City of Yakima utility invoice
- Payment method

The following precautions are in place:

- No more than two per household should attend.
- Residents are asked to stay home if they have symptoms related to COVID-19.

- When arriving for their appointment, residents will be met by City staff at the Harman Center's front door.

- Masks, gloves and hand sanitizer are available if residents do not bring any.

Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/utility-services/> for more about the Utility Services Division and online utility payments.

City of Yakima seeks input for Housing Action Plan

Community asked to complete survey of housing needs

The City of Yakima is seeking the community's input on housing needs through a survey in English and Spanish.

The City received a \$100,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce to develop a Housing Action Plan (HAP). The survey will assist the City in creating the plan.

"Help us develop a great plan by telling us about your housing needs," said Planning Manager Joseph Calhoun. "This plan will support and encourage new housing production for more housing choices and to address local housing needs."

Click

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YakimaEng> for the survey in English.

Click

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/YakimaSpan> for the survey in Spanish.



Learn more about the HAP at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/planning/hap/>

Work to develop the HAP will take place throughout 2020 and early 2021. It will consider the housing needs of current residents and workforce, as well as projected future population growth.

There are four primary areas of focus:

- Provide more housing types and opportunities within existing neighborhoods

- Home ownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families
- Housing solutions for seniors and the elderly
- Temporary and permanent supportive housing for those struggling with homelessness.

Send your email and mailing address to ask.planning@yakimawa.gov to be added to the Planning Division's contact list regarding development of the HAP.

Somber Salute



The Yakima Health District planted more than 8,000 flags at the City of Yakima's Chesterley Park last month to recognize victims of COVID-19 in Yakima County. The red flags represented those in Yakima County who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Black flags represented those who died in Yakima County due to the pandemic.

Yakima Parks present "A Bearable Adventure"

A community outreach of hope and support during the COVID-19 pandemic is the focus of Yakima Parks and Recreation's new "Bearable Adventure" initiative.

"Bearable Adventure" calls for Yakima residents to place a teddy bear in a window as a symbol of comfort. Yakima residents are encouraged to get outdoors and, while practicing social distancing, search for bears in their neighborhoods and local businesses.

Here's how to participate:

- Get active on a walk, run or ride through the community and be on the lookout for teddy bears waving to you from the windows.
- Keep track of how many you can find in one outing and be sure to take note of your favorite teddy bear display.
- Place any teddy bear in your front home windows, on porches, lawns, store fronts or anywhere visible to those passing by.
- Share your Yakima bear adventures on the Yakima Parks and Recreation Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/yakima.parks>

Be on the lookout for special bear challenges from Yakima Parks and Recreation and local businesses. Click <https://yakimaparks.com/a-bearable-adventure/> for more about A Bearable Adventure, Yakima Parks and Recreation partnered with the Yakima Police Department, Hogback Development and Safe Yakima Valley on the project.

City of Yakima receives Certificate of Achievement

The City of Yakima has received the Certificate of Achievement in Performance Management from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

This is the first time the City has received the certificate. Yakima is one of only 3 Washington cities to have been recognized for this achievement to date. Certificates are based on established criteria. Recipients collect and verify data to ensure reliability, train staff in performance measurement, and report data to the public through budgets, newsletters, and information provided to elected officials.

The ICMA began the awards program in 2002 and recognizes approximately 60 local governments each year.

The awards are part of ICMA's efforts to advance the practice of professional local government management. It recognizes the efforts of local government staff to maintain a focus on data-driven management even in the face of ongoing pandemic conditions.

Visit www.yakimawa.gov/ for more about the City of Yakima and its response to COVID-19.

Visit <https://icma.org/> for more about ICMA

Council extends COVID-19 emergency

During its regular meeting on Aug. 4th, the Yakima City Council extended an emergency proclamation due to COVID-19.

It extends the mayor's declaration through Sept. 1.

Mayor Patricia Byers signed the initial emergency declaration March 12th. It took effect immediately.

Under state law, the full Council needed to ratify the declaration in order for it to remain in effect long term. Council did so during a special meeting held March 13th.

Council extended the order another 30 days during its meetings on April 7, May 5, June 2 and July 7.

Lions Pool is Open!

Call 575-6046 or visit yakimaparks.com/aquatics/ for social-distancing protocols

**Yakima
& Parks
& Recreation**
Come Out and Play!

Second Seattle flight returns to Yakima Airport

Alaska Airlines is resuming a second flight between Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field (YKM) and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA).

The second flight is thanks to an increase in passengers at YKM and it also provides additional travel flexibility from Yakima.

The number of airline passengers began decreasing nationwide in early 2020 due to COVID-19. Alaska Airlines had been offering one YKM flight per day since May. With ridership on the rise in Yakima, Alaska Airlines is resuming a second daily flight.

The second flight resumed effective Sunday, August 2nd. YKM's daily flight schedule will be as follows:



YKM-SEA departs 5:35 am
YKM-SEA departs 11:10 am
SEA-YKM departs Seattle 9:45 am
SEA-YKM departs Seattle 9:30 pm

Passengers will see continued precautions at YKM due to COVID-19.

They include additional cleaning efforts, social distancing markers, mask requirements throughout travel and hand sanitizing stations.

YKM received more than 12,000 masks for airport tenants, passengers and visitors to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Click <https://flyykm.com/> for more about YKM.

FLY 
YKM

Yakima Air Terminal - McAllister Field

Connect with the City of Yakima

Airport:	575-6149	Parks	575-6020
Animal Control:	575-6038	Planning:	575-6183
City Clerk:	575-6000	* Police:	575-6200
City Manager:	575-6000	Refuse:	575-6005
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126	Streets:	575-6005
Engineering:	575-6111	Transit:	575-6175
* Fire:	575-6060	Utilities:	575-6080
Human Resources:	575-6090	Wastewater:	575-6077
Legal	575-6030	Water/Irrig:	575-6154
Municipal Court:	575-3050	YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

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



· City of Yakima
· 129 N. 2nd Street
· Yakima, WA 98901
· 509-576-6614
· <https://www.yakimawa.gov/>



<https://www.facebook.com/cityofyakimafb/>



<https://twitter.com/CityofYakima>



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



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

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

City services by phone and online

Yakima City Hall remains closed to the public to help stem the spread of COVID-19.

The City continues to provide services to the community.

Visit

<https://www.yakimawa.gov/media/points-of-interest/online-city-services/> to connect with City departments.

See www.yakimawa.gov/covid19/ for information on the City's response to the pandemic. The link also provides helpful precautions and links related to COVID-19 and the Yakima community.