



ISSUES BRIEF

August 2021 - Vol. XI, Issue 8, Number 108

Parks and Recreation wants your input

Online survey available through September 1st

The City of Yakima wants to hear from the community about Parks and Recreation facilities and programs.

A survey designed to provide guidance and direction for City of Yakima parks facilities and recreation programs over the next decade was sent to 5,000 randomly-selected households throughout the city.

It is a key part of the information that will ultimately be used to update the Parks and Recreation Division's Comprehensive Plan.

The survey is also available in English and Spanish online at [2021 Community Survey | Yakima Parks and Recreation](#)

September 1st, 2021 is the deadline to submit the survey.

As incentive, survey packets include coupons for free swims at Franklin Pool, free round of golf at Fisher Park and punch cards for free activities at the Harman Center.

Staff will distribute free golf, swim and Harman Center punch cards while conducting in-person surveys.



Yakima Parks and Recreation seeks the community's perspective on its facilities and programs through a survey now available online

"The comprehensive plan helps us determine how best to use our resources to provide the kinds of facilities and programs that the community wants most," said Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. "The survey is an excellent way to gather feedback, whether it's positive or negative, that will lead us to craft a plan that will serve us well for the next 10 years."

The survey takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

The four page survey is available in English and Spanish.

Participants will be asked to provide information ranging from when, why, and how they use City parks to optional demographic data.

The survey also provides opportunities to rate parks facilities and recreation programs, evaluate Parks and Recreation Division customer service and to share suggestions and new ideas.

The survey is required in conjunction with the Yakima Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan in order for the City to be eligible for grant funds through the Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office.

Wilkinson said all work on the survey is conducted by City staff. "That saves the Parks and Recreation budget a lot of money," he said.

Staff outreach includes conducting in-person surveys during the Viva La Musica concerts at Martin Luther King Jr. Park (Aug. 1st and Aug. 8th).

Visit yakimaparks.com for more information.

Call to artists issued for next Windows Alive! exhibit

August 31st is the deadline for artist submissions

The Yakima Arts Commission is seeking applications for the Fall/Winter Downtown Yakima Windows Alive! project. The application deadline is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, August 31st.

The goal is to have the show ready by mid-October. Click [Windows Alive! Application and Call to Artist Fall Winter 2021.pdf](#) for an application.

Additional information is available at www.windowalive.com. Questions can also be sent to yakimawindows@gmail.com

This is the 10th season for the popular event.

It enables talented artists and groups of artists to display their works and at the same time help invigorate empty downtown storefront windows. Artists residing in Central Washington are invited to submit entries.

Following the selection process by the Yakima Arts Commission, six projects will be picked for the new display. Individual artists or groups who are chosen to show their work in the windows will be paid a \$250 stipend.

Windows Alive! art displays are located on the north side of Yakima Avenue between Hotel Maison and 3rd Street.

Windows Alive! was created by the Yakima Arts Commission, which serves as an advisory board to the Yakima City Council.



New finance and budget director appointed

Yakima City Manager Bob Harrison has announced that Jennifer Ferrer-Santa Ines has been appointed as the City's Finance and Budget Director.

Ferrer-Santa Ines replaces Steve Groom, who resigned from the City in mid-July to become the finance director for the City of Federal Way. Groom was hired by the City of Yakima in 2018.

"The City is fortunate to have Jennifer as part of its senior management team," said Harrison. "She has a broad range of finance experience in the public sector. She has helped the organizations she's worked for modernize and enhance their finance and budget operations," said Harrison. "Jennifer is an outstanding addition to the City's senior management team."

Ferrer-Santa Ines, who began her tenure with the City of Yakima on July 26th, most recently served as the finance director for the City of Normandy Park, Washington. She had worked for the City of Normandy Park since February 2015. Before that, Ferrer-Santa Ines was a senior fiscal coordinator for the City of Tukwila from 2009 to 2015 and a fiscal coordinator for Tukwila from February to October 2009. She was an accountant for the City of Burien from 2003 to 2009 and was an accountant for the Highline Water District in Kent from 1999 to 2003.

Ferrer-Santa Ines earned a bachelor of science in accounting degree from Central Washington University in 2002 and a master in accounting/finance degree from City University in 2006.

Ferrer-Santa Ines is the past president of the Puget Sound Finance Officers Association, a member of the Local Government Investment Pool Advisory Board, and a member the StART Federal Policy Working Group.



She earned an International City/County Management Association certificate in 2020 and is a 2021 graduate of the Northwest Women's Leadership Academy, a program of the Washington City/County Management Association.

As Yakima's finance and budget director, Ferrer-Santa Ines will oversee a staff of about 35 employees in the Financial Services, Purchasing, and Utility Services divisions. The total budget for the City's Finance and Budget Department in 2021 is about \$4,200,000. Ferrer-Santa Ines' starting salary will be about \$144,000 a year, plus benefits.

Briefly

Work continues on Phase 2 of N. 1st Street

Work on Phase 2 of the North 1st Street revitalization project continues from N Street to J Street.

At least one lane of traffic in each direction will be open most of the time during work on Phase 2.

Traffic may be interrupted completely from time to time, but construction crews will make every effort to maintain at least one lane of traffic both northbound and southbound throughout the project area as much as possible.

The North 1st Street Revitalization Project is intended to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians and increase the economic development potential of the North 1st Street corridor, one of the city's main entrances.

It is anticipated Phase 2 will be complete during the fourth quarter of 2021.

YFD welcomes new deputy fire chief



D.J. Goldsmith is the new Deputy Chief for the Yakima Fire Department (YFD).

"It is exciting to have D.J. on board as Deputy Fire Chief," said Fire Chief Aaron Markham. "This brings us up to full staffing in that role and helps share the workload."

A native of Spokane, Goldsmith was previously a Battalion Chief for the Yakima Training Center Fire Department.

The former State Trooper moved to the Yakima Valley 15 years ago when the Washington State Patrol assigned him to the Yakima detachment.

Prior to joining the State Patrol, Goldsmith worked for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources managing wildland fires.

"I've been blessed," Goldsmith said of his firefighting and law enforcement careers. "They intertwine very well and they are both all about serving the community."

Including service as a volunteer firefighter, Goldsmith has 25 years of firefighting experience. He has volunteered with the West Valley and East Valley Fire Departments and is currently a volunteer with the Naches Fire Department.

Goldsmith is impressed with YFD.

"It is a great organization with phenomenal employees," he said. "They are so involved in the community and committed to be the best."

Goldsmith began his new role as YFD Deputy Chief on June 1st. YFD operates with two deputy chiefs. He fills the post previously held by Patrick Reid. Jeremy Rodriguez was promoted to the other Deputy Chief post in June 2019.

City Council action summary - July 2021

Yakima City Council action during its meetings in July included:

- Reading a National Night Out proclamation
- Authorizing the purchase of new fire apparatus
- Hiring a grant writer for the City of Yakima
- Directing staff to make police technology investments and hire two crime analysts
- Authorizing the purchase of police vehicles

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/agendas-and-minutes).

All council meetings air live on Y-PAC and online at [Live Stream | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/live-stream).

National Night Out kick-off



A family gathers at one of the display tables in Henry Beauchamp Jr. Community Center during a National Night Out kick-off event on Monday, August 2nd. National Night Out activities in the region were also held on Tuesday, August 3rd.

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.**

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the Community Relations Office. Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov with suggestions for future *Issues Brief* articles.