



City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF

December 2021 - Vol. XI, Issue 12, Number 112

Yakima Transit offers Luminaria lift

City will provide free shuttle to Arboretum event, Dec. 10-11



photo courtesy Yakima Area Arboretum

Yakima Transit will provide free shuttle bus service to the Yakima Area Arboretum's 2021 Luminaria Candle-Lit Walk event on Friday, Dec. 10th and Saturday, Dec. 11th.

Shuttle buses will run continuously from the parking lot of the current U-Haul Neighborhood Dealer (formerly the K-Mart store parking lot), located south of Highway 24.

The Arboretum is located north of Highway 24, just across the road from the U-Haul parking lot.

Shuttle buses will load passengers in the parking lot and take them directly to the Arboretum's Jewett Interpretive Center.

Due to federal regulations, all passengers are required to wear masks or face coverings while on board the bus.

Yakima Transit shuttles run from 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm on both December 10th and 11th. The Luminaria Walk on those days will run from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Yakima Transit typically provides over 6,000 passenger trips during the 2-day event.

Visit <https://www.ahtrees.org/> for more about Yakima Area Arboretum and Luminaria, including parking and traffic restrictions on arboretum grounds during the two nights.

Call 509-575-6175 or visit <https://yakimatransit.org/> for more about Yakima Transit.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Jewett Interpretive Center will be closed during Luminaria.

The Center's courtyard will be open with fire pits. Doughnuts and warm drinks will be available.

Clean City Program continues progress

Referring and placing 148 people in shelters, abating/cleaning approximately 6,000 incidents of graffiti, clearing nearly 60 tons of garbage and removing more than 900 grocery carts are some of the activities provided by the City of Yakima Clean City Program during the first nine months of 2020.

The Yakima City Council received a report on the program in its agenda packet for the November 17th meeting. Click [Coversheet \(novusagenda.com\)](https://novusagenda.com) for a copy of the report.

The City of Yakima developed "Clean City" as a program in 2019.

It's main objectives are:

- Address visual blight (trash, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, etc.)



- Address unscheduled collection of waste and litter from the City's public areas/thoroughfares
- Expedite clean-up of such illegal dumps
- Clean up homeless encampments
- Support Yakima Police Department officers in unlawful camping enforcement
- Provide coordination with neighborhoods for clean-up events
- Create educational components
- Engage community partners & volunteers

Clean City, under the direction of the City's Public Works Division, coordinates the efforts of several City departments and community partners.

They include:

City of Yakima Public Works:

- Public Works Administration
- Refuse Division
- Streets & Traffic Division
- Parks & Recreation Division

City of Yakima Codes Division

City of Yakima Legal Department

Yakima Police Department

Sunrise Outreach

Click

<https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/public-works/> for more about the City of Yakima Public Works Division.

Briefly

Transit service holiday closures

All City of Yakima facilities will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24th, and Dec. 31st, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

Yakima Transit will not provide bus service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Regular scheduled routes resume Monday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

Since Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Saturday, there will be no interruption for garbage collection service.

Harman Center hosts toy drive

A Toys for Tots Drive is underway at the Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Avenue.

New, unwrapped toys are accepted through Dec. 14. The center is closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 for the holidays.

Interim Assistant City Manager named

Matthew "Selby" Selby began serving as the City of Yakima's Interim Assistant City Manager on November 15th.

Selby will serve as Interim Assistant City Manager during the search for a permanent placement.

He was introduced to the Yakima City Council during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 16th.

Selby previously had been serving as the interim executive director at Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce in Acton, MA.

Prior to that he was the Land Use & Economic Development Director for the Town of Acton, MA.

His previous experience also includes serving as the Director of Community Development and Health for the Town of Ashland, MA, and Economic Development Coordinator for the Town of Ashland, MA.



Matthew "Selby" Selby

Selby has a Certificate in Local Government Leadership from Suffolk University and the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

He also earned a Master of Science, Resource Management and Administration degree from Antioch University New England, in Keene, NH, and a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN.

Structure fire a reminder to 'Close before you Doze'

Property damage reduced due to closed bedroom door

On Nov. 17th the Yakima Fire Department (YFD) responded to a structure fire that served as a reminder about the importance of closing bedroom doors before going to sleep.

Firefighters were called to the 500 block of North 6th Avenue early on the morning of November 17th for a house fire that injured one person and caused an estimated \$100,000 in damages.

Crews were able to contain the fire to half of the house. Closed doors helped minimize damage to the remainder of the house.

YFD encourages community members to close bedroom doors, especially before going to sleep. The [Fire Safety Research Institute](https://closeyourdoor.org/) notes that closed doors can reduce fire growth, limit property damage, keep temperatures down and save lives.

Research proves a closed door can mean the difference between 1,000 degrees and 100 degrees in the event of a fire.

Click <https://closeyourdoor.org/> for more about the many reasons to "Close Before You Doze."



Photos from a Fire Safety Research Institute educational video show the dramatic difference it can make when bedroom doors are shut during a house fire.

City Council action summary - Nov. 2021

Yakima City Council action during meetings in November included:

- Approving Ad Valorem Taxes to be levied for collection in Fiscal Year 2022;
- Affirming and adopting the Hearing Examiner's decision regarding a modification to an existing site plan for Apple Valley Elementary School;
- Adopting the revised 2022 City of Yakima state and federal legislative priorities;
- Issuing a Family Court Awareness Month Proclamation
- Approving refuse tax increase

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](#).

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

DOWNTOWN DECOR



The City of Yakima's street crews were busy in late November placing holiday decorations throughout the downtown area in preparation for festivities this month.

Connect with the City of Yakima

509 area code required for dialing

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. Events may be subject to change due to COVID-19. For up-to-date information, visit [yakimawa.gov](#). Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov with suggestions for future *Issues Brief* articles.