

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

# ISSUES BRIEF

December 2023 - Vol. XIII, Issue 12, Number 136

## Lights, letters and more in store!

*Parade, tree lighting on December 3  
kick-off the holiday season in Yakima*

The Holiday Lighted Parade and tree-lighting ceremony Sunday, Dec. 3rd, at Millennium Plaza will kick-off holiday festivities in Yakima.

The parade begins at 6 pm at 6th Ave and continues on Yakima Ave to 3rd St, ending in front of the Capitol Theatre.

No on-street parking will be allowed along the parade route from 4 pm (4:15 pm on S. 3rd St.) on Sunday until the completion of the parade. The parade route will also be closed to motorized traffic.

Immediately after the parade, a lighting ceremony will be held for the community tree at Millennium Plaza.

### Transit shuttles canceled for Luminaria

Luminaria at Yakima Area Arboretum is Dec. 8th and 9th. The grounds will be lit by over a thousand candles and twinkling lights. Children's crafts and shopping in the Arboretum's gift shop will also be available.

However, Yakima Transit will not provide shuttles to Luminaria this year due to a driver shortage. As a result, the Arboretum has an online, timed-entry reservation system for parking during Luminaria.

Visit [ahtrees.org](http://ahtrees.org) for more about Luminaria and the reservation system for parking at the Arboretum.

Other holiday festivities include:

- Yakima Parks and Recreation's **drive-thru Letters to Santa event at the City's Public Works facility, 2301 Fruitvale Blvd, on Saturday, December 9th**, 5:30 pm to 7 pm. The free event features music, Christmas Trucks and a special mailbox for letters to Santa. Lighted features include Christmas-themed inflatable displays.
- The fourth annual drive-thru **Holiday Light Fest at State Fair Park, Dec. 7-17**. Visit [www.statefairpark.org](http://www.statefairpark.org) for more information.



## Tree-mendous Teamwork

Crews from Downtown Association of Yakima, City of Yakima Public Works, Russell Crane and Carrell Crane worked together to install Yakima's Community Christmas Tree at Millennium Plaza on Nov. 27th. The tree was hauled from Glead.

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## Briefly

### City announces holiday closures

All City of Yakima facilities will be closed Monday, Dec. 25th, and Jan. 1st, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

There will be no garbage collection service on either day. The City's Refuse Division garbage pickup service will be on a one-day delay both weeks.

There will be no Yakima Transit bus service on Christmas and New Year's Day.

### Harman Center hosting toy drive

A Toys for Tots Drive is underway at the Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Ave. New, unwrapped toys are accepted through Dec. 8.

The center closes Dec. 23rd and 25th, as well as Dec. 30th and Jan. 1st for the holidays.

### See a pothole? Report a pothole!

With over 400 miles of streets to maintain, we need your help reporting potholes. You can report potholes using the City's "Yak Back" feature at [yakimawa.gov/yak-back](http://yakimawa.gov/yak-back)

Alternatively, call the Street Repair Hotline at 509-576-6713.

## City welcomes new finance director

Yakima City Manager Bob Harrison has announced that Mark Roberts has been appointed as the City's finance and budget director.

Roberts replaces Jennifer Ferrer-Santa Ines, who resigned earlier this year to become the finance director for the City of Marysville. Ferrer-Santa Ines was hired by the City of Yakima in 2021.

Roberts began his tenure with the City of Yakima on Nov. 8th. He most recently served as director of finance for the City of Salinas, California.

Before being hired by the City of Salinas in 2021, he had worked as the finance director for the City of National City, California since 2012.



As Yakima's finance and budget director, Roberts oversees a staff of about 30 employees in the Financial Services, Purchasing, and Utility Services divisions.

The total budget for the City's Finance and Budget Department in 2023 is about \$5.6 million.

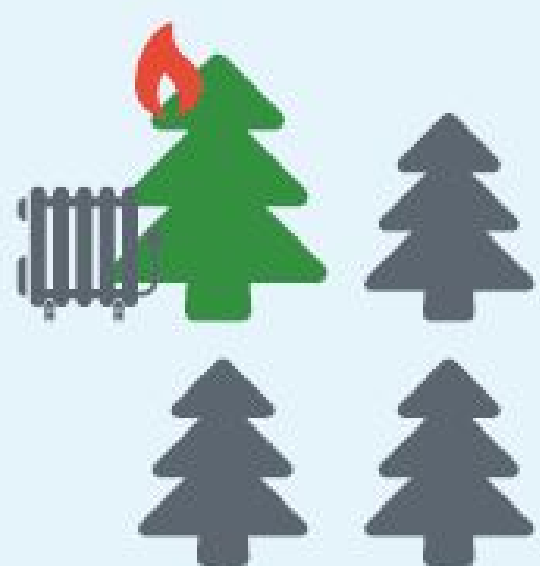
IF Yakima School District classes are **DELAYED** or **CANCELED** due to weather



**Harman Center,  
Washington Fruit  
Community Center and  
Lions Pool** are as well

## Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

### Did you know?



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.

### As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.



U.S. Fire  
Administration



# City Council action summary - Nov. 2023

Yakima City Council action  
during meetings in  
November included:

- Holding public hearings on the 2024 Mid-Biennial Budget for the City of Yakima
- Consideration of Naches Avenue Historic Overlay Zone Standards
- Opting out of the 3M and DuPont PFAS settlements
- Accepting a grant from U.S. Dept. of Transportation to assist the City for air service development and marketing strategies toward increased flights to and from Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field
- Adopting the 2024 state and federal legislative priorities
- Approving ordinances pertaining to Ad Valorem Taxes to be levied for collection in Fiscal Year 2024

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



## Downtown Decor

👶 Santa's helpers (aka the City of Yakima Public Works crews!) installed approximately 80 lighted decorations in Downtown Yakima on Nov. 30th in anticipation of the holiday season.

👉 Visit [yakimawa.gov](http://yakimawa.gov) for a summary of holiday festivities in Yakima.

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.