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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF



The Yakima Police Department's next Community Academy begins on Tuesday, February 26th. Pictured are participants in previous academies.

Apply now for YPD Community Academy

Police Department's 12-week program begins Tuesday, February 26th

Applications are now being accepted for the Yakima Police Department (YPD) Community Academy.

The 12-week academy will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm every Tuesday starting February 26th in the YPD Training Room, 207 South 3rd Street.

The academy, which will be held in a classroom setting, is designed to give community members an opportunity to learn about law enforcement and to learn about the Yakima Police Department's operations.

"This academy provides community members and the Yakima Police Department an opportunity for long-term, meaningful conversation, which is an important component of building trust."

- Interim Police Chief Gary Jones

"It is our intent to provide residents with a better understanding of the job their police officers perform, and to share with them the situations their officers face every day," said Interim Police Chief Gary Jones. "This academy provides community members and the Yakima Police Department an opportunity for long-term, meaningful communication, which is an important component of building trust."

The Community Academy is free. Participants must be at least 18 years old and pass a background check.

The academy will cover a wide range of law enforcement activities including gang enforcement, traffic enforcement, YPD K-9 program, firearms, forensics, criminal investigations, YPD SWAT team and operational structure of the YPD. One optional Saturday class will be offered at the shooting range.

Applications are available at the Yakima Police Department or by contacting Community Services at (509) 575-6197 or ypdcs@yakimawa.gov

Briefly...

North 1st Street project focus of Council meeting

The public is invited to a Yakima City Council special meeting at 3 pm on Monday, Feb. 25th, for an update on the North 1st Street Revitalization Project.

The special Council meeting will be at Union Gospel Mission, 1300 N. 1st Street.

The project will be completed in three phases. It includes reconstructing about 1.5 miles of roadway, rebuilding sidewalks, new lighting, building median islands, redirecting utility lines, and enhancing landscaping along the North 1st Street corridor from U.S. Highway 12 to MLK, Jr. Boulevard.

City closures set for Presidents Day

Many of the City of Yakima's facilities will be closed Monday, Feb. 18th, for Presidents Day.

That includes City Hall, Y-PAC, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation offices.

Business offices for the Police and Fire Departments will be closed. Emergency services will remain available.

Yakima Transit will not provide bus service Monday, Feb. 18th.

The City's Harman Center will be closed on Presidents Day, as will the Tahoma Cemetery office.

City of Yakima garbage pick-up service will continue as scheduled February 18th, but the Refuse Division's office will be closed.

Lions Pool will remain open.



This new snowblower is helping Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field remain open during winter storms.

New equipment helps airport handle winter's snowy blasts

Winter snowstorms this month didn't interrupt operations at Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field.

One reason for that is new equipment the City of Yakima obtained for the airport just last year. That includes a new snow blower that removes large mounds of snow along the edges of the runways and taxiways. "It's quite similar to what you see on Snoqualmie Pass where they throw the snow off to the side," said Yakima Airport Director Rob Peterson.

The City received a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration that covered 90 percent of the cost for the new \$636,406 snow blower. The remaining 10 percent was covered by a \$4.50 tax on each ticket that's collected by the airline and remitted back to the airport.

And operations continue humming at the airport despite the snow thanks to a new liquid anti-icer capable of laying a 50-foot wide swath of non-corrosive and environmentally-friendly liquified anti-icer on the airport's taxiways and runways.

But the airport isn't just staying open because of new equipment, Peterson said.

"The key point here is you have dedicated staff who are focused on ensuring the runway remains safe during snow events and that aircraft can operate safely and efficiently," he said.

Visit <https://flyykm.com/> or call 509-575-6149 for more information about Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field.

Input sought for MLK Jr. Park pool feasibility study

The City of Yakima Parks and Recreation Commission will seek public input for the Martin Luther King Jr. Park pool feasibility study during its meeting at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 13th.

The City hired the consulting firm Counsilman-Hunsaker to conduct the feasibility study. Miklos Valdez from that firm will make a presentation during the March 13th meeting, followed by opportunity for public comment.

"I look forward to hearing comments and questions from the public during the Commission's meeting," said Councilmember Kay Funk, the City Council's liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission.



The feasibility study will be on the Parks & Recreation Commission's agenda on March 13.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meets in Council Chambers at Yakima City Hall, 129 North 2nd Street.

The meeting will be televised live on Y-PAC, Charter Cable Channel 194, and streamed live on the City's website at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream/>

During its regular meeting on January 15th, 2019, the Yakima City Council agreed to a feasibility study contract with Counsilman-Hunsaker.

The cost for the study is not to exceed \$35,000. It will be paid for with Real Estate Excise Tax 1 funds.

Terms of the feasibility study contract include identifying three possible schematic designs for a community outdoor pool at Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

The contract also calls for Counsilman-Hunsaker to provide construction as well as operational costs for each of the three possible pool designs.

Public invited to free low-water landscaping workshop

A free workshop will teach home owners how to develop attractive landscaping that uses little water.

The Spring Heritage Garden Workshop is titled "Low-Water Use Landscaping Made Easy." The public is being invited to participate by the North & South Yakima Conservation Districts. It will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 23rd, at the Yakima Area Arboretum. One of the sponsors is the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) Water Use Committee.

"The focus is on creating water-wise landscapes and gardens in our arid climate," said City of Yakima Assistant Public Works Director David Brown, who chairs the YBIP's Municipal Water Conservation Subgroup. "The workshop is being offered as part of the YBIP's ongoing efforts in water conservation."

Click https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGH94-sF2sVYD7_vJIGWFhqKLRBWcdopfH41Zmt9lilGAWRA/viewform to register for the workshop. The registration deadline is Saturday, March 16th. Space is limited to the first 99 people who sign up.

Besides learning about water conservation, workshop attendees will learn how to create their own unique garden and utilize drip irrigation for their landscape.

For more information about the workshop, contact featured presenters Ann Autrey (528-2683) or Heather Wendt (430-3693).

The March 23rd workshop continues the City of Yakima's water conservation emphasis. Last fall, the City installed low-water use landscaping at the Public Works facility. Last spring, the City installed new landscaping in Downtown Yakima on the east side of 2nd Street that reduced water consumption by about a third.

For more information on those projects, contact Assistant Public Works Director David Brown at 575-6154.



Virtual sets updated for Y-PAC programs



Updates also available for community producers on City of Yakima's YCTV

Digital upgrades for the Yakima Public Affairs Channel (Y-PAC) studio are resulting in new, virtual sets for programming by the City of Yakima's Community Relations Office.

The final transition to digital, high-definition technology late last year is offering more variety for City staff, as well as community producers in creating content for Y-PAC and YCTV.

"It is exciting to see this transition completed, and the positive impact it is having on City of Yakima programming," said Randy Beehler, the City's Public Affairs and Communications Director.

Examples include *CityCast*, the City's video magazine, and the *Yakima On Target* current affairs program.

Both are produced by the City's Community Relations Office and available on the City's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofYakimaWA>

Community members interested in learning about producing YCTV program can contact Senior Community Relations Specialist Bonnie Lozano at 575-6092.



A virtual set is pictured above as Sean Davido interviews Yakima City Manager Cliff Moore during a taping of *Yakima On Target*.

2018 a banner year for Yakima job growth



Thanks in part to new commercial construction, the City of Yakima ended 2018 with a record-low average annual unemployment rate.

“There was definitely job growth during 2018 in the City of Yakima with new retail construction,” said Jonathan Smith, CEO for the Yakima County Development Association.

However, job growth in the city is being experienced across several industries, he added.

“Growth is not tied to one specific industry,” Smith said. “What we are seeing is several longtime local companies adding to their facilities. The cumulative effect of companies adding an additional production line or service is having the largest impact on driving down the city of Yakima’s unemployment rate.”

The state figures released last month also show the city of Yakima’s unemployment rate for December was 6.4 percent, the city’s second-lowest rate ever for the month of December.

City finishes 2018 with record-low average annual unemployment rate

The city of Yakima’s average unemployment rate for 2018 was a record-low 5.5 percent according to year-end figures released last month by the State of Washington’s Employment Security Department.

The numbers, which are not seasonally adjusted, bested the previous record-low annual average unemployment rate of 5.9 percent set in 2017.

The year 2018 marked just the second time the city’s average annual unemployment rate has dipped below the 6 percent threshold.



City of Yakima
129 N. 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901
509-576-6614
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<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 Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler at 575-6045 or Randy.Beehler@yakimawa.gov.

City Contacts

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
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 only.
Call 911 in an emergency.**