

# ISSUES BRIEF

February 2022 - Vol. XII, Issue 2, Number 114



## Jobless rate hits record low

The City of Yakima's unemployment rate for December 2021 was 4.4% - the City's lowest ever for that month.

In more good news, the City's average jobless rate for 2021 was 5.5% - also a record.

For City unemployment rates dating all the way back to 1990 visit <http://ow.ly/H4EO50HCO8O>

## Federal program offers help with internet costs

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched the Affordable Connectivity Program, the \$14.2 billion successor program to the **\*Emergency Broadband Benefit** which helped almost 9 million afford internet access during the pandemic.

Eligible households are encouraged to apply to receive up to \$30 per month discount toward internet service and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below [200% of the federal poverty guidelines](#);
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC or [Lifeline](#);
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

Receive assistance through SNAP, Medicaid or free school-lunch programs?



You could be eligible for help with costs for internet service via the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program.

Visit <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> for details on eligibility and signing up

**FC** Helping Households Connect



**\*Emergency Broadband Benefit** recipients fully enrolled as of December 31, 2021 will automatically continue to receive their current monthly benefit until March 1, 2022. You can learn more the program transition and steps you may need to take to stay enrolled after March 1st, by visiting [fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit).

For more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program, visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/ACP>.

## Briefly

### Holiday will not impact Refuse, Lions Pool

Yakima City Hall and facilities will close Monday, Feb. 21st, for Presidents Day. In addition, Yakima Transit will not provide bus service.

However, City of Yakima garbage pick-up service will continue as scheduled Feb. 21st. There will be no collection delays.

Lions Pool will be open to the public on Presidents Day.

### YFD promoting burn awareness

Feb. 6-12 is National Burn Awareness Week.

During that week Yakima Fire Department will share related safety messages on Facebook, @YakimaFireDepartment and on Twitter, @YakimaCityFire

## Refuse Division needs your help

Winter is still here and the City of Yakima's Refuse Division is asking for your help during those times when the season brings more snow and ice:

- Make sure garbage carts are accessible and clear of all snow and ice at the curbside
- Keep a 36-inch wide path around carts so equipment can safely pick them up
- If your cart is not collected on the normal pick-up day, leave it so it can be collected later
- Do not jam garbage into carts
- If you live on steep terrain, please bag your garbage. Operators may need to drive a smaller refuse vehicle to retrieve your garbage. Having it bagged allows operators to remove refuse from a cart in a safe and timely manner
- Maintain clearance and access around dumpsters
- Avoid parking on the street on collection days to ensure access to your garbage cart



“Ice and snow cause driving problems for everyone and when you drive a 30-ton garbage truck, it can be especially challenging,” said Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. “We appreciate the public’s assistance.”

While trying to maintain regular schedules, garbage collection could be suspended if a street is considered unsafe due to snow and icy conditions.

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Yakima Refuse Division at 509-575-6005. Information is also available at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/refuse/>

## Nelson Dam project continues in 2022



Work continues in 2022 on the Nelson Dam project. When complete, the dam's removal will improve fish passage and habitat, decrease flooding risks for nearby landowners, and improve water supply reliability. Visit [yakimawa.gov](http://yakimawa.gov) for more about the project and recent photos from work on the project in January. The project is a partnership with Yakima County as well as state and federal agencies.

## City Council action summary - Jan. 2022

Yakima City Council action during its regular meetings in January included:

- Appointing Councilmember Holly Cousens to serve on the Yakima Greenway Board of Directors
- Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding for development and construction of a bicycle pump track at Randall Park
- Issuing a proclamation declaring the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Jan, 17th, as a Day of Service
- Deciding to continue holding Council meetings in an in-person/Zoom hybrid format

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).

## Yakima City Council



**Eliana Macias**  
Council member,  
District 1



**Danny Herrera**  
Council member,  
District 2



**Paricia Byers**  
Council member,  
District 3



**Janice Deccio**  
Mayor  
Council member,  
District 4



**Soneya Lund**  
Assistant Mayor  
Council member,  
District 5



**Matt Brown**  
Council member,  
District 6



**Holly Cousens**  
Council member,  
District 7

Regular meetings are 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month at 5:30 pm in person at City Hall and via Zoom  
Face coverings required for in-person attendance at City Council meetings

Watch live on Y-PAC, Charter Spectrum 194  
or [www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream/](https://www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream/)

## Connect with the City of Yakima

509 area code required for dialing

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

**\* 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](https://www.yakimawa.gov). Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or [John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov](mailto:John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov) with suggestions for future *Issues Brief* articles.