



City of Yakima e-Newsletter

# ISSUES BRIEF

January 2021 - Vol. XI, Issue 1, Number 101



At left, a City vehicle clears a section of 2nd Street. Above, Snow Routes are in effect downtown when snow accumulation reaches three inches.

## 'Tis the season: Snow removal in Yakima

Winter can be a snowy experience in the City of Yakima. Snow and ice can be challenging for residents and the City street crews to control.

When snow accumulation reaches three inches, the City will plow the major arterial streets, and the streets near schools, hospitals, hills and other critical locations. Visit [Snow Removal Policies & Tips | Streets & Traffic \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/streets-traffic) for City snow removal policies and tips.

If you have concerns with the plowing of your street, please call 576-6713.

Property owners are responsible to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their homes or businesses. The best time to shovel snow is immediately after it falls, before ice forms.

After clearing the sidewalk of snow, you may choose to apply an ice-melting substance. The City of Yakima recommends use of Calcium Chloride, (sometimes called "hot melt") rather than Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt) because it is less damaging to sidewalks and plants. Also, it works at a much lower temperature, so it is more effective in freezing conditions.

Those with a home or business on a street corner are advised to remove snow from sidewalk ramps and dig out fire hydrants as a safety precaution.

### Other snow-related tips for residents:

- Don't throw snow from your sidewalk or driveway into the street – it's against the law.
- To avoid snow covering your driveway from city plows, shovel snow to the left of your driveway into your yard and not the street.
- If you are elderly, disabled or have other special conditions that makes snow removal hazardous, please contact the Office of Neighborhood Development Services (ONDS) at 575-6101.
- Put safety first. Drive only if necessary during winter storms. Dress warmly and prepare for travel delays. Carry blankets, flashlights, water and other emergency supplies.
- Try to keep your vehicle off the street. If you must park on the street, park as close to the curb as possible.
- Don't follow a de-icing spray truck, snowplow or sanding truck too closely. They may stop suddenly or spray sand, rocks or other material.
- Do not sled on streets or sidewalks.



# Firefighters receive vaccine

First responders with the Yakima Fire Department (YFD) have begun receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

On January 5th, the first YFD firefighters received the Pfizer vaccination at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. Additional first responders will continue to receive it.

"The injection didn't hurt. It felt no different than the flu shot I get every year," said Fire Chief Aaron Markham, one of nine from YFD to receive the Pfizer COVID-29 vaccine on January 5th.

"It is great to see YFD and the community take this important step in combating the pandemic," Markham added.

Click [COVID-19 Vaccine | Yakima County, WA](#) for COVID-19 vaccine information from the Yakima Health District.

Click [COVID-19 | Yakima Fire Department](#) for more about the Yakima Fire Department's response to COVID-19.



Fire Chief Aaron Markham receives the COVID-19 vaccine at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

## Briefly...

### Emergency declaration extended

During its regular meeting on January 5th, the Yakima City Council extended an emergency proclamation due to COVID-19. It extends the mayor's declaration through Feb. 2nd.

It allows the city to potentially be eligible for state and federal assistance needed to meet costs associated with the COVID-19 emergency and to make purchases necessary to respond to the emergency without usual procurement procedures.

Mayor Patricia Byers signed the initial emergency declaration March 12, 2020. It took effect immediately.

Under state law, the full Council needed to ratify the declaration in order for it to remain in effect long term. Council did so during a special meeting held March 13, 2020.

Council has since extended the order each month.

# Improvements underway at City's Miller Park

## Miller Park project included in Gov. Inslee's proposed budget, City Council legislative priorities

An effort is underway to make improvements at the City of Yakima's Miller Park, located at 4th Street and E Street. The Miller Park basketball courts were recently resurfaced as a first step in the improvement project.

The Yakima City Council has also included the project as one of its priorities for the 2021 state legislative session. Gov. Jay Inslee has set aside funds for Miller Park in his proposed budget.

The Miller Park Improvement Project was announced in September 2020. Community members, led by Bertha Alicia Garza, began the effort in conjunction with Yakima Parks and Recreation.

"We are asking the public to help us restore this essential northeast neighborhood park," said Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. "Our purpose is revitalize Miller Park as the heart of the community."

With a fundraising target of \$400,000 for improvements at Miller Park, the goals are to increase safety, health & recreation opportunities and a community gathering place for education, outreach and collaboration.



Proposed park improvements include:

- New park pavilion, benches, tables and restrooms.
- Resurfacing, striping, updating four basketball courts and improving court lighting.
- Constructing walkways and paths
- Covering the performance stage area
- Adding a community information board
- Installing a playground

Donations can be sent to:  
Yakima Valley Community Foundation  
Miller Park Improvement Fund  
111 University Parkway, Suite 102  
Yakima, WA 98901

Miller Park was constructed in 1923 and sits on nearly four acres. It was Yakima's first designated neighborhood park.

For more about the Miller Park improvement project visit [Miller Park improvement project | Points of Interest \(yakimawa.gov\)](#)



# 2020 Rewind

The year 2020 was eventful in many ways for the City of Yakima.

City staff recap 2020 with photos highlighting the year.





# Connect with the City of Yakima

<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.**



· City of Yakima  
· 129 N. 2nd Street  
· Yakima, WA 98901  
· 509-576-6614  
· <https://www.yakimawa.gov/>



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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 Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or [John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov](mailto:John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov)

## City services by phone and online

Yakima City Hall remains closed to the public to help stem the spread of COVID-19.

The City continues to provide services to the community.

Visit

<https://www.yakimawa.gov/media/points-of-interest/online-city-services/> to connect with City departments.

See [www.yakimawa.gov/covid19/](https://www.yakimawa.gov/covid19/) for information on the City's response to the pandemic. The link also provides helpful precautions and links related to COVID-19 and the Yakima community.