



City of Yakima e-Newsletter

# ISSUES BRIEF

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[Click for Snow Route map](#)



*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/snow-removal-policies-tips) for City snow removal policies and tips.

If you have concerns with the plowing of your street, please call 509-576-6713.

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 dial 2-1-1 for assistance.
- 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.

## City Council action summary - Dec. 2021

Yakima City Council action during meetings in December included:

- Administering Oaths of Office to Judge Woodward and Judge Olwell
- Issuing a Homeless Persons Memorial Proclamation
- Recognizing outgoing Council members Funk, Hill and White
- Adopting the 2022 Budget for the City of Yakima

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/Agendas-and-Minutes-City-Council).

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

Yakima City Council regular meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm

Council study sessions are typically scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday of each month and begin at 5 pm.



City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee administers the oath of office to new Council members (L-R) Danny Herrera, Janice Deccio and Matt Brown. during the Jan. 4 Yakima City Council meeting.

## Yakima welcomes new City Council members

*Council meetings will continue in a Zoom/in-person hybrid format*

The Yakima City Council opened 2022 by welcoming three new Council members during the first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 4th.

During the meeting new Council members Danny Herrera (District 2), Janice Deccio (District 4) and Matt Brown (District 6) were sworn into office.

Action by the Council during its first meeting of 2022 included electing Deccio as Mayor and Councilmember Soneya Lund as Assistant Mayor.

The first meeting of 2022 was also Council's first in a Zoom/In-person hybrid format, providing the public an opportunity to either attend in person wearing a face mask as required by state proclamation or participating via Zoom.

During its Jan. 4 meeting, Council agreed to continue holding its meetings in the hybrid format.

Click [City Council - City of Yakima, Washington \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/City-Council-City-of-Yakima-Washington) for more about the Yakima City Council

## Councilmember Cousens earns Certificate of Municipal Leadership

Late last year Yakima City Councilmember Holly Cousens received a Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

AWC's Certificate of Municipal Leadership (CML) program recognizes city and town elected officials for accomplishing training in four core areas:

- Roles, responsibilities and legal requirements
- Public sector resource management
- Community planning and development
- Effective local leadership

"Being a city leader in Washington is a complex job," said AWC Interim CEO Alicia Seegers Martinelli. "Through our CML program we are helping mayors and councilmembers better understand and address the challenges of effective and equitable leadership, including understanding the legal landscape, budget and resource management, planning and development and more."



Cousens completed more than 30 hours of training credits to earn this distinction.

She represents District 7 on the Yakima City Council. She was elected to City Council in November 2015 and re-elected in November 2019. She served as assistant mayor in 2020 and 2021.

Councilmember Cousens teaches Business Technology courses at Yakima Valley College.

She obtained two masters degrees from City University of Seattle, one in Organizational Leadership and in Business Administration (MBA)

Also in 2021, Councilmember and former mayor Patricia Byers earned her Certificate of Municipal Leadership through AWC.

Click [City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/City-Council) for more about the Yakima City Council and City Council members.

AWC serves its members through advocacy, education and services.

Founded in 1933, AWC is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's 281 cities and towns before the state legislature, the state executive branch, and with regulatory agencies.

Visit [wacities.org](https://www.wacities.org) for more about AWC.

# 2021 Rewind

2021 was eventful in many ways for the City of Yakima.

The following photos recap some of the events in the City of Yakima during the past year.



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## Keep safety in mind during winter weather driving

Yakima has experienced its first significant weather event this winter and emergency responders encourage drivers to follow simple safety measures to avoid being involved in an accident. They include:

- Driving more slowly increases the chance that you'll be able to avoid being involved in an accident. Slow and cautious are the most important words to remember when driving in winter weather.
- Increasing the following distance between you and the car in front of you is a simple but highly effective way to avoid accidents. A good rule of thumb for following distance is five to six seconds.
- Braking with firm, steady pressure applied by the ball of your foot can keep your car brakes from locking up. When brakes lock up, your car is likely to slide on a road covered in snow and ice.
- Drivers are also encouraged to avoid driving up or down steep hills in winter conditions. If you have to drive up a hill, apply the gas pedal slowly and consistently. Avoid sudden changes in the amount of power being applied to the wheels and you will avoid spinning your tires.
- Applying power slowly and consistently helps keep tires from slipping on flat roadways.

## Briefly

### Sign up for Alert Yakima

Stay in the know with Everbridge, a free service providing emergency alerts via voice or text. It is the emergency notification system for Yakima Valley Emergency Management.

Click <https://yakimacounty.us/350/Emergency-Management...> for details and to sign up.

### Harman Center newsletter

The Harman Center's Winter 2022 newsletter is now available at [2022Q1.pdf \(yakimaparks.com\)](#).

It includes 2022 Travel Journal highlights and photos from Harman Center activities during 2021.

## Parks and Recreation issues Winter/Spring program guide



The return of April Pools Day (a free family swim activity), youth soccer as well as winter and spring co-rec volleyball are just a few of the seasonal offerings in the 2022 Winter/Spring Program Guide issued recently by Yakima Parks and Recreation.

The 16-page guide is available at Yakima City Hall and Yakima Parks and Recreation offices (2301 Fruitvale Boulevard), as well as online at [2022-YPR-Winter-ProGuide.pdf \(yakimaparks.com\)](#).

It features information about activities and programs at City park facilities, including the Harman Center and Washington Fruit Community Center (WFCC). Speaking of WFCC, the guide offers details about new programs at the community center such as family movie nights and indoor pickleball for seniors.

For more information about City of Yakima organized Winter/Spring activities click the link above or call Yakima Parks and Recreation at 575-6020.

## 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. 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.