

Issues Brief

January 2018 - City of Yakima e-Newsletter - Vol. 8, No. 66

Yakima Celebrating a Centennial in 2018

City's name was changed on January 1, 1918

The City of Yakima is celebrating a centennial this year. That's because on January 1, 1918, the City's name officially changed from North Yakima to Yakima.

During its regular business meeting on January 2nd, the City Council honored the centennial with help from the Historical Society. Mayor Kathy Coffey read aloud a proclamation commemorating the centennial during the January 2nd meeting.

Yakima City was incorporated in 1883, but about a year later, a dispute between land owners and the Northern Pacific Railway Company led the railroad to establish a new town about 4 miles north of the original site.

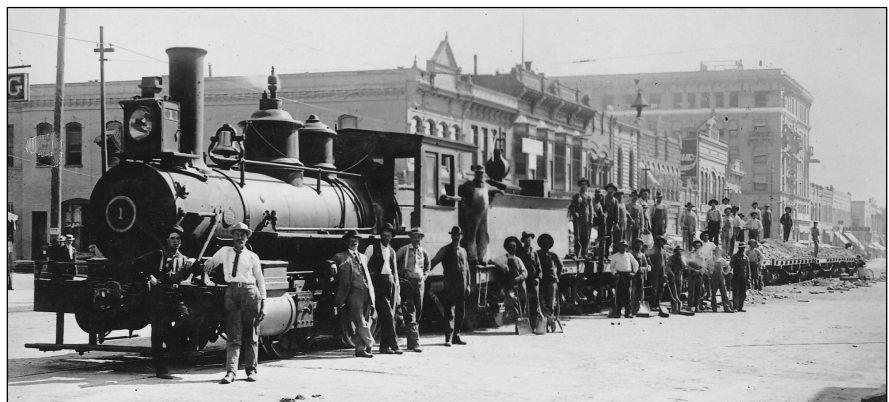
More than 100 buildings were moved by having horses pull them along atop rolling logs.

The new town was called North Yakima and was officially incorporated in 1886. The Washington State Legislature officially renamed the city Yakima in 1918.

Yakima City's name was changed to Union Gap about



Interior view of Thompson Fruit Co.'s Packing Plant, North Yakima, Washington



The label on a historic photo inside a packing plant reflects the City's former name of "North Yakima." The railroad helped establish the early days of "North Yakima." Photos courtesy Yakima Valley Museum.

six months earlier, in June 1917.

"The real push for the name changes came from the U.S. Post Office," said John Baule, Director Emeritus/Archivist for Yakima Valley Museum. "It didn't like having two communities with similar names right next to each other."

As for why Northern Pacific established the new town of

North Yakima, later changed to Yakima, Baule said it came down to logistics.

"The problem the railroad had with Yakima City (Union Gap) is it was located right on the Yakima River and had a lot of wetlands around it," Baule said.

For more information see www.yakimawa.gov/visit/about/ or yakimavalleymuseum.org/

Mayor Coffey Looks Forward to Change and Progress in 2018

** Editor's Note: This is the next in a series of articles written by Yakima City Council members published each month in the City of Yakima Issues Brief e-Newsletter.*

It has been my distinct pleasure to have served our community as a member of the Yakima City Council since 2008. I was truly honored to have been chosen by my fellow Council members in August of 2016 to become Yakima's mayor and again in January of this year to serve a second term as mayor.

Yakima is poised to make even more progress toward achieving key goals in 2018 and I am proud to be part of ushering in a new era for our community.

During the year ahead, the City Council will be taking important steps to improve our community's roads and sidewalks, stimulate economic development, ensure the highest levels of safety and security, and strengthen existing partnerships.

Earlier this month, three new Council members were sworn in. Jason White (District #2), Kay Funk (District #4), and Brad Hill (District #6) are poised to provide new energy, enthusiasm, and ideas to the City Council.

On behalf of the entire City Council, I thank Avina Gutiérrez, Bill Lover, and Maureen Adkison, whose terms as Council members concluded at the end of 2017, for the outstanding service they provided to our community and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

In 2017, the City Council made difficult but crucial decisions to



Kathy Coffey has served on the Yakima City Council since 2008. She was recently selected to serve a second term as mayor.

establish a Transportation Benefit District ("TBD") and to adopt a funding mechanism that will allow critical road and sidewalk improvements to be made.

Those improvements, which are key to pedestrian and driver safety as well as continued economic growth in Yakima, should begin getting underway later this year or early in 2019.

The tremendous generosity of the Yakima community was on full display near the end of 2017 when it was announced a private-sector fundraising committee had met its December 31st goal of generating at least \$9 million in donations to build the Yakima Central Plaza.

Final plans for the construction of the plaza are happening now. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the plaza should begin being built in 2018

and be completed sometime in the fall of 2019.

Throughout 2018 the City will work hard to build on and enhance partnerships designed to reduce crime and violence, particularly gang-related crime and violence, and foster a sense of safety and security in our community.

Focus this year will also continue on partnerships developed in recent years that are central to the successful implementation of a comprehensive, multi-layered economic development strategic plan that was launched in 2017.

Throughout 2018, I encourage everyone who calls Yakima home to provide feedback and input to me and the rest of the City Council so the many and varied voices in our community are heard and considered as the Council goes about the important work of developing programs, services, and policies that will help Yakima continue to be the special place that it is.

Thank you for the trust you have put in me and my fellow Council members. We are committed to making decisions that benefit the entire Yakima community in the coming year and into the future.

Refuse Division Seeks Public's Help During Winter

Snow and ice present challenges for refuse pick-up

The public's help is being sought to help City of Yakima refuse operators keep on schedule during winter weather.

"Ice and snow cause driving problems for everyone and when you drive a 30-ton garbage truck, it can be especially challenging," said City of Yakima Solid Waste Manager Loretta Zammarchi.

To provide the best service possible, the City's Refuse Division is asking customers to:

- Make sure garbage carts are accessible and clear of all snow and ice at the curbside
- Keep a 36-inch-wide path around the carts to enable equipment to safely pick them up
- Do not jam garbage into carts
- Maintain clearance and access around dumpsters
- Avoid parking on the street on collection days to ensure access to your garbage cart



City of Yakima refuse operators will do their best to keep garbage collections on schedule during ice and snow. In addition, they are asking for the public's help when challenging conditions occur in winter weather.

"We'll do the best we can to collect garbage on schedule," Zammarchi said. "We appreciate the public's assistance in helping us help them."

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

If your cart is not collected on the normal pick-up day, leave it so it can be collected later.

Those who live in areas with steep terrain are asked to bag

their garbage because refuse operators may need to drive a smaller vehicle to retrieve garbage.

Having the garbage bagged ahead of time allows city operators to remove refuse from a cart in a safe and timely manner.

For more information, contact the City of Yakima Refuse Division at 575-6005 or visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/refuse/>



The City of Yakima Issues Brief e-Newsletter is a monthly publication of the City of Yakima Community Relations Office. Questions or suggestions? Contact Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler at 509-575-6045 or randy.beehler@yakimawa.gov.

Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov> for more information about the City of Yakima.