

January 2019



Vol. 9, Number 78

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

# ISSUES BRIEF

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## Closures set for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

Many of the City's offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 21, for Martin Luther King, Jr. 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, and the City's Harman Center will be closed.

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

Lions Pool will remain open.



*New outdoor lighting was installed last month for the west parking lot at West Valley Community Park.*

## New lighting improves safety at West Valley Community Park

*Project in response to concerns expressed at Yakima City Council public safety forum*

Lighting upgrades have been completed for the west parking lot at the City of Yakima's West Valley Community Park. The project is in response to a public safety forum the City Council hosted Dec. 10th at the Harman Center.

The City of Yakima's Traffic Operations Signals and Lighting staff completed parking lot upgrades at West Valley Community Park that included replacing two light fixtures with new, LED lights. In addition, staff added another LED light and repaired one of the existing lights.

"The increase in lighting is significant and should add to the safety of the park during the evening hours," said Interim Police Chief Gary Jones. "Our officers appreciate the efforts of City staff members to address this issue so quickly."

In addition to improving safety, the lighting will also enhance the community's ability to detect suspicious activity, Jones said. "If the public sees suspicious activity, we ask that they please report it," he said.

Click <https://yakimapolice.org/yakima-public-safety-forum/> for the results of a previous series of 10 public safety forums the City Council hosted during 2017 and 2018.



# Assistant Mayor Dulce Gutiérrez looks forward in 2019



*Assistant Mayor Dulce Gutiérrez represents District No. 1 on the Yakima City Council*

I am delighted the Yakima City Council concluded the 2019 Budget with policies that replenish general reserve funds and move forward equitable investments in city facilities and services. Many positive improvements are underway like road repairs and a new aquatic facility.

There is still so much to look forward to, like improving Yakima's Airport and modernizing City community facilities. With City financial obligations increasing as the City invests in capital projects, long-term debt planning is crucial to protect City finances and ensure long-term sustainability.

Currently, Yakima is investing over \$2 million dollars annually on road improvements to heighten driver safety, traffic efficiency and boost community pride. In addition, the City of Yakima is investing in recreational opportunities across Yakima.

We committed over \$6 million to construct the SOZO Sports Complex, and formed a 50/50 partnership with YMCA to construct and operate the YMCA Rotary Aquatic Center opening this fall. Additionally, the 2019 Budget supports the expansion of the Yakima Convention Center, studies to modernize both City-owned community centers and studies to modernize Lions Pool, Franklin Pool and a study on the feasibility of re-opening a pool in east Yakima. The City is also seeking improvements and diversification of services offered at Yakima's Airport by adopting a regional approach and economical business model.

The goal is to have an equitable distribution of these investments throughout all areas of the City. Funding sources will include current local Real Estate Excise Tax funds, and property tax and sales tax funds. The City of Yakima will also be applying for grants that prioritize projects in underserved communities. In addition, the City is exploring solar and energy efficient models for the modernization of multiple city facilities to help with cost savings by making use of the 300 days of sunshine the Yakima Valley receives each year.

Major investments being made in Yakima are exciting and part of a larger effort to improve overall quality of life and ensure Yakima remains a competitive city in Central Washington. The City is ensuring past financial investments are sustainable before taking on new endeavors and the City remains committed to investing in improving quality of life for residents across all of Yakima. There is much to look forward to in the city we love!

## Refuse Division seeks help during winter weather



*When the snow flies this winter, there are steps you can take to help Refuse operators ensure timely and safe garbage collection*

To provide the best service possible, the City's Refuse Division is asking customers during winter weather to do the following:

- 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
- 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 garbage during winter weather conditions. Operators may need to drive a smaller refuse vehicle to retrieve your garbage. Having it bagged allows them 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

Contact the Refuse Division at 575-6005 for more information.



## Yakima sees growth in 2018

### *Single-family home starts up 50 percent*

New single-family construction in the City of Yakima rose by more than 50 percent last year.

That is among building permit statistics for the City in 2018 compared to 2017.

There were 144 new single-family homes permitted in Yakima during 2018, with a combined estimated valuation of \$34,254,140.

In 2017, there were 90 permits issued for new single-family homes with a combined estimated valuation of \$21,797,069.

"These are encouraging signs of growth for the City of Yakima," said City Councilmember Jason White, who chairs the Council's Economic Development Committee. "Hopefully, we can sustain this trend through 2019."




"I believe part of the growth success is from the Permit Center in Code Administration," said Code Administration Manager Joe Caruso.

"The objective is meeting and working with architects, builders and residents for a transparent application process from the permit issue stage to the project breaking ground," Caruso said. "The Permit Center has received many accolades for exceptional service of which we are proud."

Building permit statistics for the City of Yakima are available at [www.buildingyakima.com/public/documentsview](http://www.buildingyakima.com/public/documentsview)



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## Yakima Parks and Rec issues Winter/Spring program guide

April Pools Day (a free family swim activity), youth soccer and winter co-rec volleyball are just a few of the seasonal offerings available in the 2019 Winter/Spring Program Guide issued by Yakima Parks and Recreation.

The 16-page guide is available at Yakima Parks and Recreation offices (2301 Fruitvale Boulevard), and at <https://yakimaparks.com/assets/2019-YPR-Winter-Program-Guide.pdf>

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

Also, the City's Harman Center has published its Winter 2019 Newsletter. It is available at <https://yakimaparks.com/assets/2019-Q1-Newsletter.pdf>

It includes information on a community project to knit hats and blankets for premature newborns and chemotherapy patients. The next knitting event is in the Harman Center lobby on January 23rd.

Call 575-6166 or more information on Harman Center programs.

## New business license changes take effect January 2019

Changes made recently by the Washington State Legislature require cities to adopt new business license regulation language and for the new language to take effect January 2019.

Last fall, the Yakima City Council followed the new state law and approved revisions to the City's business license regulations. Council set a minimum annual income threshold of \$12,000, below which both businesses located within the City and businesses which do business within the city but are located elsewhere are exempt from needing to pay the business license fee, but still need a City-issued license.

As a result, those renewing business licenses for 2019 are being affected by the revisions. Additionally, a likely consequence of the state-mandated changes will be that some will now need to get a business license even though they may not have had to before.

The new business license language can be seen by clicking on the following link and navigating to Title 5 and then to Chapter 5.52.020 - <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Yakima/>. Questions about the business license regulation changes can be answered by calling the City's Code Administration office at 575-6126 or e-mailing [codes@yakimawa.gov](mailto:codes@yakimawa.gov)



# Photo of the Month



Sean Davido photo

A group tosses around a medicine ball at Franklin Park doing their part to live up to resolutions early in 2019. Find more folks following up on fitness in the “Snapshots” section of the City of Yakima website at this link. <https://www.yakimawa.gov/media/snapshots/winter-workouts-2019/>



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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](mailto: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.**