

Issues Brief

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New Yakima Fire Chief Named

A former Yakima Deputy Fire Chief is now the City's Fire Chief.

Yakima City Manager Cliff Moore appointed Aaron Markham to serve as Yakima's next fire chief. Markham officially began his tenure as Yakima Fire Chief on Friday, June 1st.

"Aaron has many years of experience in the fire service in a variety of roles," said Moore. "During the intensive interview process, he distinguished himself with his comprehensive understanding and appreciation of administering a fire department and the complexities of providing a wide range of emergency response capabilities. I'm confident our community will be well served by Aaron as Yakima Fire Chief," said Moore.

Markham, who was born in Toppenish and raised in Yakima, succeeds Bob Stewart who retired in February. Markham joined the Sunnyside Fire Department in 1991 as a firefighter/EMT.

In 2001, he was promoted to battalion chief/fire marshal for the Sunnyside Fire Department. Markham served as interim fire chief



Yakima Fire Chief Aaron Markham officially began his duties on June 1st. He was previously a Yakima Deputy Fire Chief and prior to that served as Sunnyside Fire Chief. He replaces Bob Stewart, who retired as Yakima's fire chief in February of this year.

for the Sunnyside Fire Department in 2004 before being given the permanent fire chief job in 2005. In March of this year, Markham was hired as a deputy fire chief for the Yakima Fire Department.

Markham earned a bachelor's degree in fire service administration from Eastern Oregon University and in 2017 earned Executive Fire Officer Certification from the National Fire Academy.

He has served as president of the Yakima County Fire Chief's Association and currently is a board member

of the Washington State Fire Chief's Association.

As Yakima Fire Chief, Markham oversees a department with 137 total staff members. The department's 2018 budget is about \$19 million.

Markham was chosen from a finalist pool that also included current Indian River State College (Fort Pierce, Florida) Adjunct EMS Instructor Daniel Harshburger, current Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Chief Richard Elliot, and current Yakima Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Reid.

Yakima Seeks Input on Bike Rack Locations

Web-based app
available for users of
mobile devices,
desktop computers

Where are bike racks located in the City of Yakima? Where are they needed, or in need of repairs?

A new City of Yakima web-based app aims to help the City's Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee find answers to those questions.

The City has created a bike rack data collection system application online at <http://www.yakimawa.gov/bike-racks> that seeks the public's input on where bike racks are located, where they are needed, or where there should be more bike racks.

"Members of the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and City staff are to be commended for their initiative in asking for the community's suggestions about bike racks," said City Councilmember Jason White, who is the Council's liaison to the Committee.

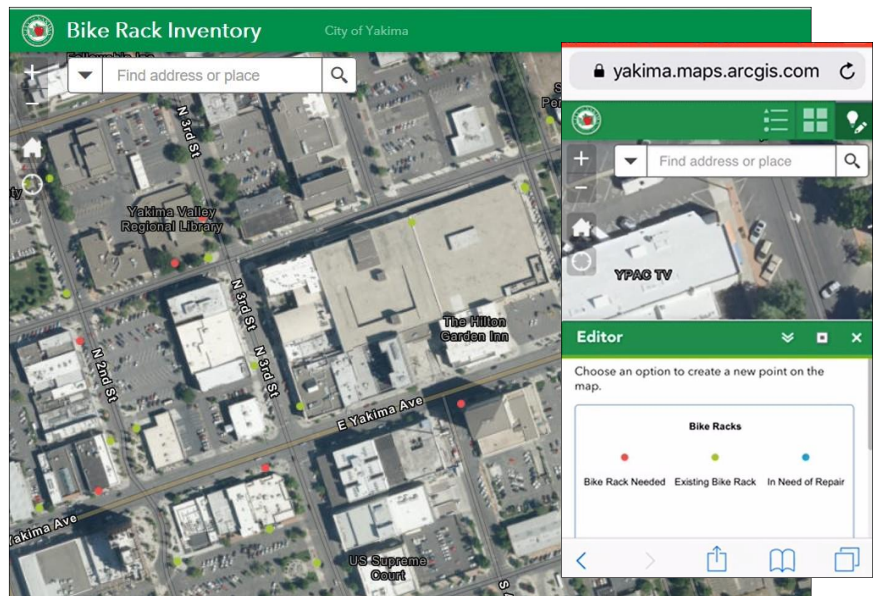
"The City wants to hear from its residents about enhancing bicycle access and safety, and this app is a great option for the public to weigh in," White said.

Users can also upload a picture to show space where a rack is needed or if there is a damaged rack in need of repair.

"The application is pretty easy to use and is compatible with mobile devices," said City of



The City of Yakima's Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is conducting an inventory of bike racks in the City like this one on South First Street.



Pictured are desktop and mobile screen shots of the new, web-based bike rack app created by the City of Yakima.

Yakima Chief Engineer Brett Sheffield.

"Simply zoom in to the area, or use the address bar in the upper left, select one of the three categories and give a brief description," he said.

Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/council/boards-commissions/> for more information about the Bike and Pedestrian Committee as well as other appointed City commissions, committees and boards.



Captain Jeff Pfaff, right, is congratulated by Fire Chief Aaron Markham.



Pfaff Receives State Honor

Yakima Fire Prevention Captain & Public Information Officer Jeff Pfaff is the Outstanding Washington Fire Educator of the Year for 2018. He received the honor last month during the Washington Fire Chiefs' annual banquet.

"Captain Pfaff is well worthy of this award," said Yakima Assistant Mayor Dulce Gutierrez, who chairs the Council's Public Safety Committee. "He is to be commended for his commitment to his fellow fire crew members and the City of Yakima."

In a social media post, the Washington Fire Chiefs organization praised Pfaff for his "courageous attitude to blaze new paths, serve the community, reach out to others AND make the world a better place."

Pfaff's work with the Yakima Fire Department includes not only serving at the scene of emergencies, but researching ways to improve safety for firefighters and the community.

His efforts in the Yakima Fire Department have included providing the community and local media with outreach on a host of topics including keeping dryer vents clean to prevent the risk of fire, protecting families from carbon monoxide poisoning, and outdoor cooking safety.

Pfaff on behalf of the department recently wrote and received a grant from Legends Casino in the amount of \$3,000 for the purchase of smoke alarms and fire education materials. "These efforts exhibit not only Captain Pfaff's commitment to educate the community but also so to seek out funding sources to help support the programs," said Fire Chief Aaron Markham.

"Captain Pfaff's dedication and leadership are well known in the community," said Markham. "I appreciate his drive to help and educate others about fire safety."

Briefly...

Downtown Summer Nights now underway

The annual Downtown Summer Nights concert series will continue each Thursday from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Yakima's historic North Front Street. Motorists are advised the free series will require the closure of North Front Street between Staff Sgt. Pendleton Way and Yakima Avenue.

Immigrant Heritage Month proclaimed

During its meeting on Tuesday, June 5th, the Yakima City Council proclaimed June as Immigrant Heritage Month. The proclamation issued by Mayor Kathy Coffey recognizes the contributions immigrants have made.

Let's go Lego

Pre-registration is now underway for a Lego Tournament at the City of Yakima's Harman Center. The tournament is Saturday, July 14th, but pre-registration is required by July 9th. Call 575-6166 for more information.

Guided tours planned

The first of several free, guided historical walking tours of Tahoma Cemetery is 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 19th. Call 575-6026 for other scheduled tours and to register for a tour.

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published by the City of Yakima Community Relations Office. Contact Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler at 575-6045 for more information.