



ISSUES BRIEF

June 2020 - Vol. X, Issue 6, Number 95

Emergency declaration extended to July 7

City Council approves extension during meeting

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd, the Yakima City Council extended an emergency proclamation due to COVID-19.

City Council action extends the mayor's declaration through July 7.

The declaration enables the City to potentially be eligible for state and federal assistance needed for costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Patricia Byers signed the initial emergency declaration March 12th. 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 13th.

Council then extended the order another 30 days during its meeting on Tuesday, April 7th and again during the meeting on May 19th.

Yakima City Council approves face mask proclamation due to COVID-19 concerns

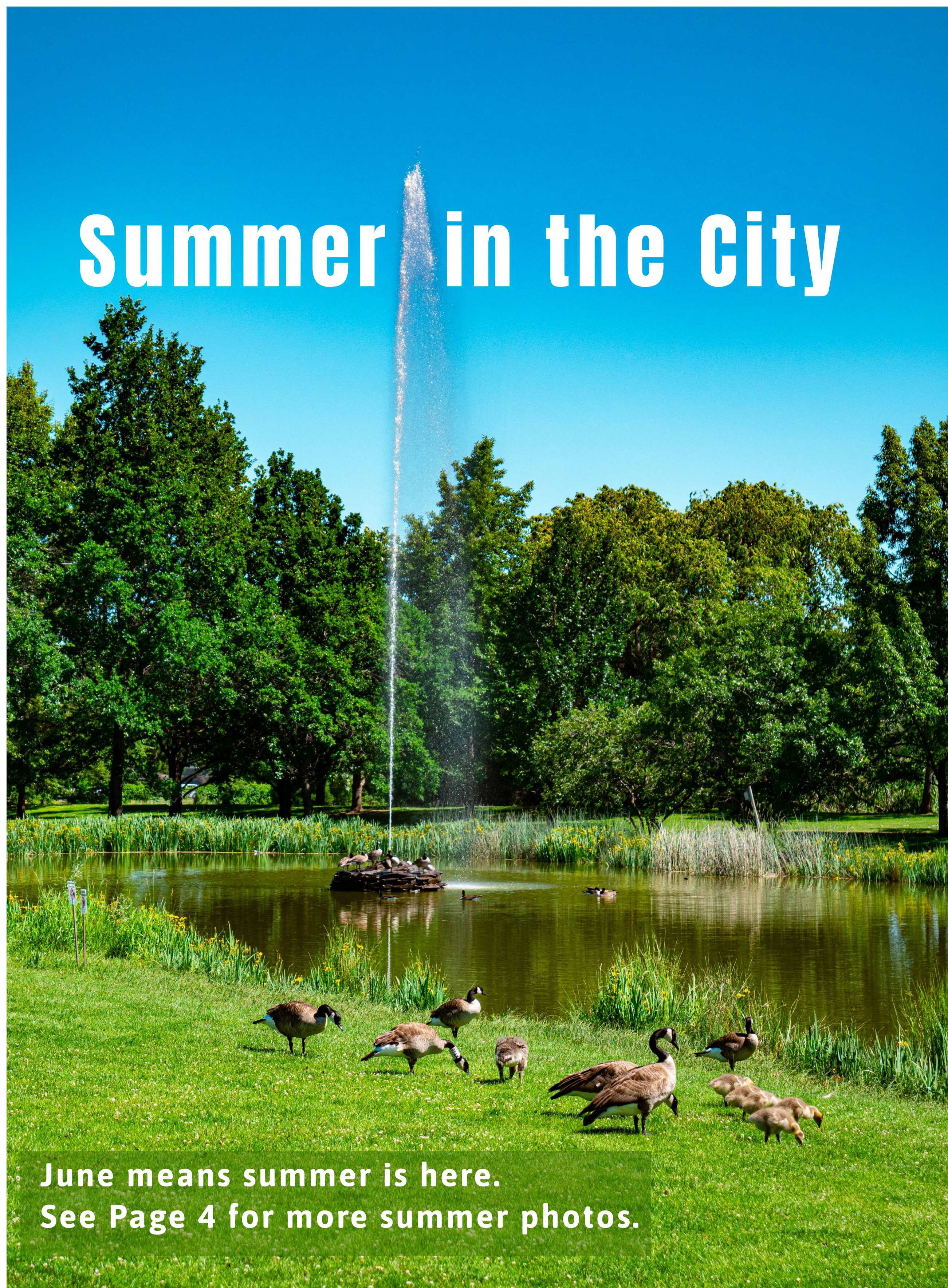
During its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd, the Yakima City Council ratified a proclamation by Mayor Patricia Byers that recommends community members wear face masks to assist in stopping the spread of COVID-19. The proclamation and recommendation are in place through July 7th.

Previously, the Yakima Health District (YHD) issued a directive calling on Yakima County residents to wear a face covering while at any indoor or outdoor public space where they may be within 6 feet of someone who is not in their household.

As with YHD's directive, the Mayor's proclamation is not an order. There are no criminal, civil or financial penalties associated with failure to comply.

Residents are asked to comply in order to educate, encourage and persuade others to wear face coverings.

By wearing face coverings, you are protecting others and they are protecting you from possible exposure to COVID-19.



June means summer is here.
See Page 4 for more summer photos.

Yakima County remains in Phase 1 of state plan

COVID-19 infection rate too high for Phase 2 of state's Safe Start program

The state's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Order ended June 1.

Under Gov. Jay Inslee's "Safe Start Washington" plan, counties will continue to need to apply to move through each of the plan's four phases. The application process requires counties to demonstrate they are prepared to move between phases.

Unfortunately, Yakima County is not meeting any of the metrics necessary to move out of Phase 1.

COVID-19 activity continues to be extremely high in our community. In a two-week span, for example, Yakima County saw an increase of almost 1,200 cases.

Yakima's percent positivity test rate is at almost 24%, the highest in the state. Hospitalizations due to confirmed cases of COVID-19 have increased.

The local hospital system is at capacity and has few Intensive Care Unit beds available. While testing capabilities have improved, and case contact tracing capacity is being increased, there is still more progress needed before there is sufficient capacity to keep up with the caseload.

PHASE 1

Washington state's Phased Approach to re-opening:

High-Risk Populations:	Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy.
Recreation:	Hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking.
Gatherings:	Drive-in spiritual service with one vehicle per household. Outdoor spiritual service with fewer than 100 people, with masks and social distancing.
Travel:	Essential travel and limited non-essential travel for Phase 1 permissible activities.
Business/Employers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essential businesses open• Existing construction that meets agreed upon criteria• Landscaping• Auto/RV/boat/ORV sales• Retail (curb-side pickup orders only)• Car washes• Pet walkers

The Yakima Health District continues to monitor multiple active outbreaks of COVID-19 at long-term care facilities, employers and among other vulnerable communities.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms get tested right away and isolate. If you've been in contact with someone who has or may have COVID-19, quarantine at home for 14 days after your exposure.

"This is a call to action. The time is now to act with purpose and commitment and do everything you can to move our community forward," said Andre Fresco, Yakima Health District Executive Director

Community members should continue adhering to the following public health recommendations:

1. Stay home as much as possible.
2. Avoid close contact with those not in your immediate household.
3. If you must go out, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.
4. Wear a mask when going out in public.
5. Wash hands frequently.
6. Sanitize frequently used surfaces often.

A successful Safe Start means we all have to do our part.

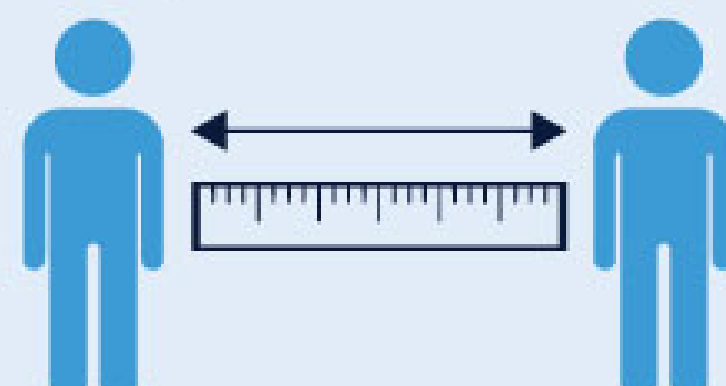
It's safest to stay home.

BUT IF YOU HEAD OUT:

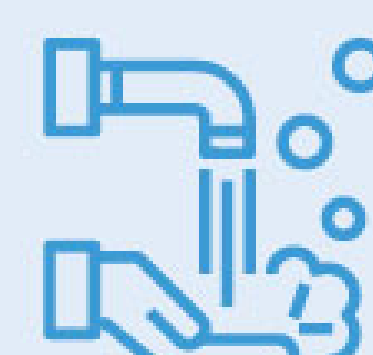
Wear a mask.



Stay six feet apart.



Wash your hands.



Prevent the spread by staying local.

Airport runway closing last week in August

*Improvements planned
August 24 thru August 29*

Airline passengers will need to make alternate plans during the last week of August 2020 as the Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field (YKM) runway will close for planned improvements.

Runway 27 will close from 8 am Monday, August 24th, through 8 pm Saturday, August 29th.

The improvements include replacing runway edge lights, asphalt maintenance and updating runway markings to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) current standards.

An airport navigation aid will also be relocated during the week-long project.

“We encourage airline passengers to seek alternate travel arrangements between August 24th and August 29th,” said Airport Director Robert Peterson. “During the project, passengers may wish to use the Airporter Shuttle service between YKM and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.”



Contact Airporter Shuttle at 866-235-5247 or visit <https://airporter.com/shuttle/reservations/> to make reservations.

The Runway 27 project is funded through the FAA’s Airport Improvement Program. Its estimated cost is \$1.4 million.

The Yakima City Council approved a contract with Road Products, Inc. for Runway 27 during its May 19th meeting.

Runway 27 sees the most use at YKM, with more than 95 percent of all flights departing or arriving on this surface. It is the longest runway at YKM, extending 7,604 feet. It is the airport’s only runway available to airlines.



The late August timeline was selected to avoid the busy fall and holiday travel seasons.

The last week of August was also chosen for the low probability of precipitation, as dry weather is necessary for asphalt maintenance.

For more information, contact the YKM administration office at 575-6149 or visit the Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field website at flyykm.com

Stagnant water concerns for commercial building closures

Extensive COVID-19 stay-at-home orders have resulted in many commercial buildings (offices, hotels, medical facilities, etc.) with little or no water use.

Stagnant water in these buildings can cause conditions that increase the risk for growth and spread of Legionella (Legionnaire’s disease), lead to low or undetectable levels of the disinfectant chlorine, and create unsafe levels of lead and copper.

The CDC updated its building water system guidance at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

Other resources include:

- The Washington State Department of Health issued a COVID-19 Guidance for Legionella and Building Water System Closures. It focuses on reducing pathogen and corrosion concerns that occur when there is a large drop in building water use.
- The Environmental Science, Policy & Research Institute and AH Environmental Consultants, Inc. developed coronavirus building flushing guidance at <https://esprinstitute.org/coronavirus-building-flushing-guidance/>

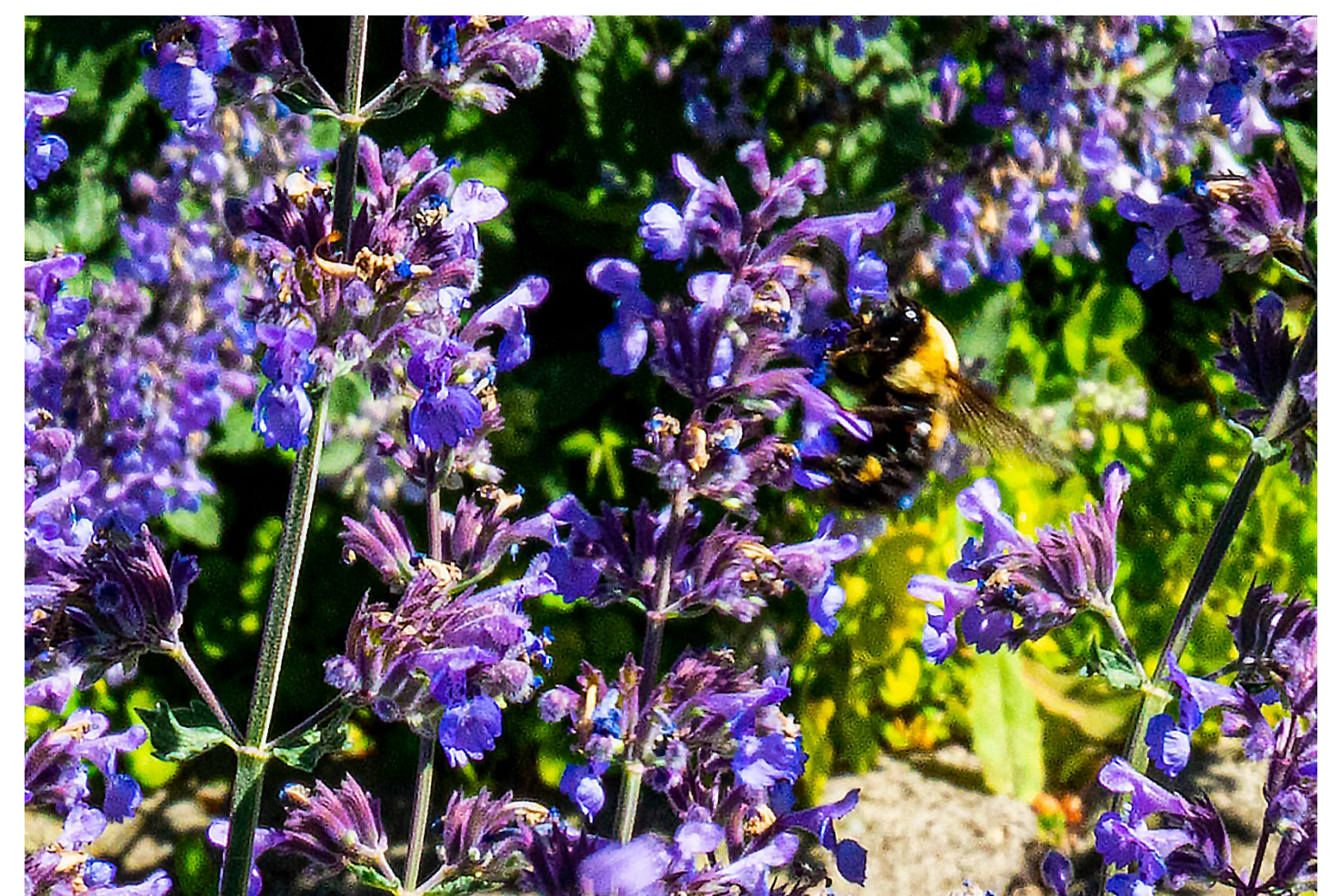
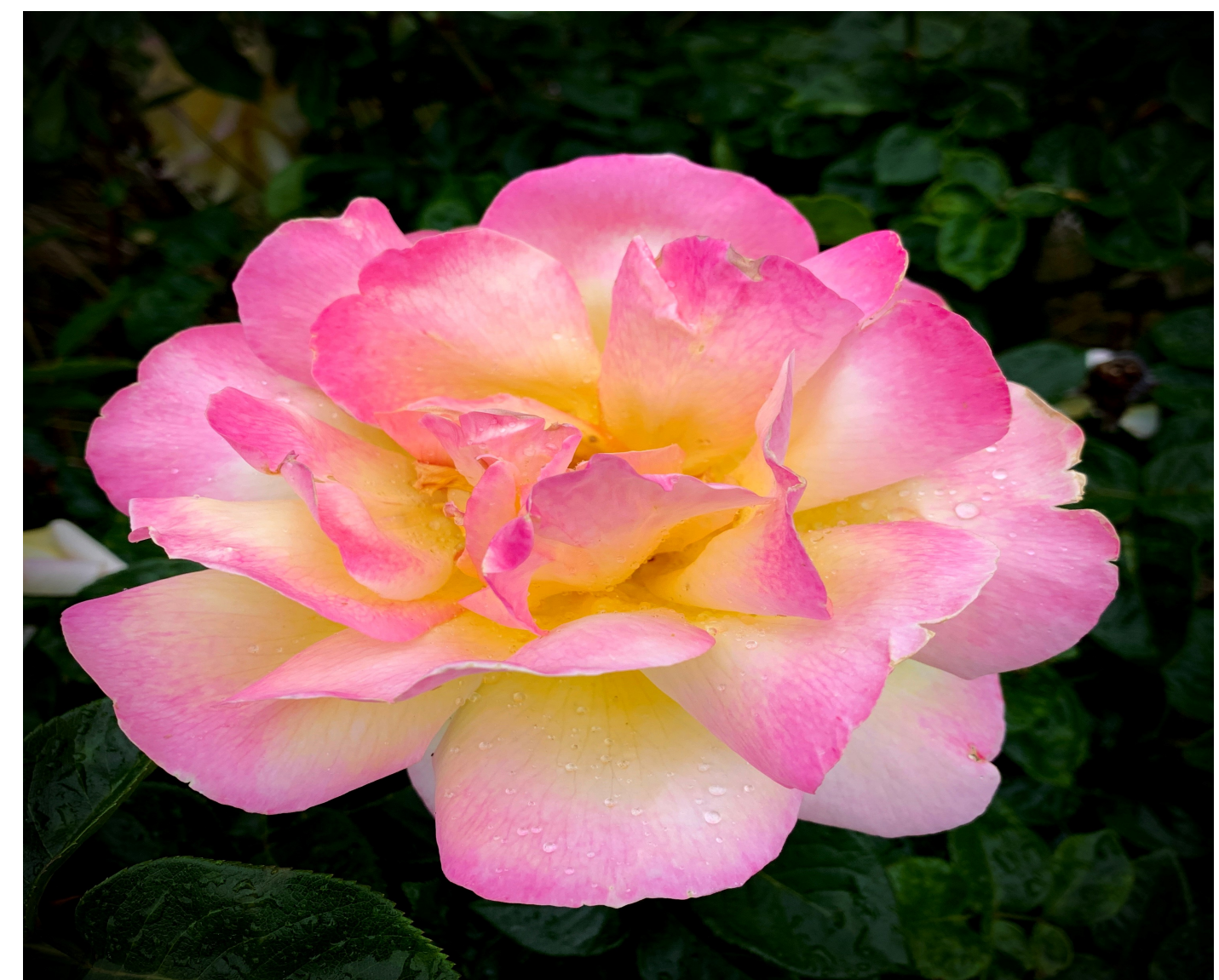
- The Purdue University Center for Plumbing Safety organized a rapid response study for reducing the risk of harmful water in low to no occupancy buildings.

For more information contact Assistant Public Works Director David Brown at 575-6204.





Summer in the City



Sean Davido/City of Yakima photos



June brings the official start of summer.

From Downtown to flora and fauna at the Yakima Area Arboretum, signs of the new season are evident throughout the City of Yakima.

Connect with the City of Yakima

Airport:	575-6149	Parks	575-6020
Animal Control:	575-6038	Planning:	575-6183
City Clerk:	575-6000	* Police:	575-6200
City Manager:	575-6000	Refuse:	575-6005
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126	Streets:	575-6005
Engineering:	575-6111	Transit:	575-6175
* Fire:	575-6060	Utilities:	575-6080
Human Resources:	575-6090	Wastewater:	575-6077
Legal	575-6030	Water/Irrig:	575-6154
Municipal Court:	575-3050	YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

*** NON-EMERGENCY only. Call 911 in an emergency.**



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· Yakima, WA 98901
· 509-576-6614
· <https://www.yakimawa.gov/>



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<https://www.instagram.com/cityofyakima/>



<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

City services by phone and online

City of Yakima buildings remain 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/ 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.