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"Census Central"

Census 2020 / Censo 2020



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Dept. awards



Improvements now in the works for Martin Luther King Jr. Park

New playground, lighting and picnic shelter planned

A groundbreaking ceremony on February 27th marked more than \$160,000 in improvements to the City of Yakima's Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Improvements include playground equipment, a 576 square-foot picnic shelter and more security lighting.

Yakima Downtown Rotary President Eric Silvers chose the park as the site for the new playground. The new playground equipment is ready for installation at the site of the old playground.

Yakima Downtown Rotary, Sunrise Rotary, Southwest Rotary and Rotary Trust contributed to the improvements planned at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The park is located at East Race Street and South 9th Street.

"We are grateful for a generous community that gives back and helps create improvements to our parks," said Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. "The Yakima Parks & Recreation Division is able to do much more because of great partners like our Rotary Clubs. Eric Silvers leadership has been so key to making these needed improvements possible."



Above: A groundbreaking ceremony on February 27th provided youngsters an opportunity to celebrate with City of Yakima officials such as Councilmember Jason White and Interim City Manager Alex Meyerhoff. Left: An artist rendering of the new playground at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Interim City Manager Alex Meyerhoff, Mayor Patricia Byers and Councilmember Jason White were among those who spoke at the ceremony.

The planned date for the playground installation is April 18.

Rotarians will build the playground with help from City of Yakima Park Maintenance staff and the staff from PlayCreation.

Visit <https://yakimaparks.com> for more about Yakima Parks and Recreation programs.

Yakima Police Department honors officers, staff during awards ceremony



Above left: Yakima Mayor Patricia Byers, Councilmember Eliana Macias, Interim City Manager Alex Meyerhoff and Councilmember Kay Funk congratulated each of the award winners and retirees. Upper right: Officer Ben Graves receives the Officer of the Year award from Yakima Police Chief Matthew Murray. Lower right: Kelsey Donaldson receives the Non-Commissioned Employee of the Year award from Chief Murray.

Graves named officer of the year, Donaldson named non-commissioned employee of the year

The Yakima Police Department recently honored several officers and employees during an awards ceremony on February 18th.

Award recipients included Kelsey Donaldson. She is the non-Commissioned Employee of the Year for her work in supervising YPD's Administrative and Property & Evidence Units.

During 2019, Donaldson's contributions included improving existing policies and procedures that were not meeting departmental needs.

She worked with others to improve the way the department utilized the City's timekeeping program.

Officer Ben Graves is the Yakima Police Department Officer of the Year for his efforts. They include often leading his squad in warrant and observed arrests.

He follows radio calls through to the end and is always in the top two in traffic stats for the year, all while covering his assigned area and backing up his fellow officers.

During 2019, Officer Graves hosted two Community Musters; one at Larson Park and the second at Randall Park.

Both had excellent community attendance and were huge successes, providing staff positive interactions with the community.

Yakima Police Department awards and honors presented during the ceremony also included:

- Officer Jesus Sanchez, Officer Scott Gronewald and Kristen Drury - Certificate of Excellence
- Officer Jeff Miller - Certificate of Merit
- Officers Ian Cole, Casey Kim, Gonzo Deloza and Marc Scherzinger - Lifesaving ribbons



- Retirees:
 - Gary Jones (33 years)
 - Tony Bennett (30 years)
 - Tim Bardwell (31 years)
 - Uriel Mendoza (23 years)
 - Dwight Charlton (21 years)
 - Scott Gylling (29 years)
 - Tarin Miller (24 years)
 - Rico Reyes (20 years)
- Years of Service:
 - Darryl Henning (30 years)
 - Joe Scherschlight (35 years)
 - Jeff Miller (17 years)
- Promotion:
 - Maritza Davis, promoted to the rank of Commander

Visit yakimawa.gov to watch Y-PAC coverage of the entire Yakima Police Department awards ceremony.



City of Yakima yard waste collection now underway

Yard waste collection in the City of Yakima began Monday, March 2. The City's Refuse Division will provide weekly yard waste pick-up through November 30.

"Please have the green yard waste cart available by 6:00 a.m. on the curb or alley on the day of scheduled pick-up," said Refuse and Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi. "Place the container 4 feet from obstacles."

There is a charge for the service, which is limited to collecting grass clippings, leaves, and small branches. Branches should be cut into lengths of 3 feet or less and not exceed 3 inches in diameter. All yard waste must fit inside the cart with the lid closed.

"Our trucks can pick up yard waste carts weighing up to 150 pounds," Zammarchi said. "Carts exceeding the weight limit will not be collected."

Items that are unacceptable for yard waste pick-up include garbage, plastic bags, food scraps, animal waste, ashes and sod, building materials, and tree trunks or large branches. The items are not acceptable by the Yakima County landfill as yard waste. They are considered contaminants.

Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/refuse/yard-waste-collection/> or call 575-6005 for more information about yard waste collection.

City of Yakima launches new "Census Central" website

Yakima households will soon be receiving forms for the 2020 Census.

Forms will arrive in March and you can respond in one of three ways: by phone, on-line or by mail.

It is vital to have an accurate count of everyone living in Yakima. That's because our share of \$800 billion in federal funds for roads, schools and other needs will depend on results of the 2020 Census.

As a result, the City of Yakima has created "Census Central / Censo Central" on its website at yakimawa.gov

Census Central provides Census information and a timeline of key dates in both English and Spanish.

Briefly

Garden workshop deadline is March 25

A free workshop will teach home owners how to develop attractive landscaping that uses little water.

The Spring Heritage Garden Workshop is titled "Sharing the Love for Native Plants & Pollinators." It is 9 am to noon on Saturday, March 28th, at the Yakima Area Arboretum.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 25th.

Contact Heritage Garden Program Assistant Ann Autrey at 509-528-2683 for more about the workshop.

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Municipal Water Conservation Committee is one of the workshop sponsors.

April Pools Day set for Saturday, April 4

The community is invited to jump into Lions Pool on Saturday, April 4th for an April Pools Day event.

April Pools Day is 1 to 3 pm on April 4th. The free event includes water safety activities and swim time.

Lions Pool is located at 509 W. Pine Street. Call 575-6046 for more information about April Pools Day or other Lions Pool activities.

Wastewater project to impact traffic

A wastewater line installation project will impact traffic on a section of Fair Avenue through mid-May.

The section of Fair Avenue between Beech Street and Spruce Street will be limited to local access only until the project is completed.

Detours will be in place to allow drivers to navigate around the project area and alternate bus routes will be in effect until the project is complete.

Yakima Fire Department hosts pre-school tour



In February, Yakima Fire Department Station 91 hosted a tour for 28 pre-school students from Central Lutheran Cooperative Preschool of Yakima. Teachers and parents joined the children on the tour led by Station 91 staff. Click <https://yakimafire.com/request/> to schedule your Yakima Fire Department tour.



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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 Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov

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Human Resources:	575-6090
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* Police:	575-6200
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Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

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