



ISSUES BRIEF

May 2020 - Vol. X, Issue 5, Number 94

Yakima City Council extends emergency declaration to June 4

An emergency declaration for the City of Yakima has been extended a second time and is in place through June 4th.

The Yakima City Council agreed to extend the declaration during its meeting on Tuesday, May 5th.

Council's action follows the decision by Gov. Jay Inslee on May 1st to extend his stay-at-home orders through May 31st. It is in response to concerns about COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus.

Gov. Inslee has a 4-phase process to re-open the state's economy. A link to it is available on the City of Yakima's COVID-19 webpage - <https://www.yakimawa.gov/covid19/>

All City buildings are closed to the public to help stem the spread of COVID-19.

The City continues to provide services to the community. See Page 4 in this issue for options to connect with the City by phone or online.

Mayor Patricia Byers signed the initial emergency declaration on March 12th, which took effect immediately.

Under state law, the full Yakima City Council needed to ratify the declaration in order for it to remain in effect long term. Council did so unanimously during a special meeting held March 13th.

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

Airport, Transit receive CARES grants



Yakima Airport qualifies for nearly \$1.3 million grant

Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field (YKM) has qualified for \$1,286,003 in federal funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) grant.

The Yakima City Council voted to apply and accept the grant funds during its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 5th.

The grant is part of a \$10 billion federal package providing assistance to airports in response to COVID-19 economic impacts.

Visit <https://flyykm.com/> or call 575-6149 for more about the Yakima Airport.

Yakima Transit receiving more than \$6 million in funds

Yakima Transit will receive \$6,268,035 from the Federal Transit Administration as part of the CARES Act to assist with economic impacts as a result of COVID-19 (coronavirus).



Yakima Transit continues to take precautions to stem the spread of COVID-19. They include:

- Daily disinfection procedures in all of its vehicles and facilities.
- Bus operators wear personal protective equipment (masks and gloves) while on duty.
- Plexiglass doors installed in buses between transit drivers and the public.
- Since City facilities are closed due to the pandemic, bus passes and tickets can be purchased at the Transit Center, located at South 4th Street and Walnut Avenue, calling 575-6175 or at Wray's grocery stores in Yakima. Bus passes will be mailed if ordered via telephone.

Call 575-6175 or visit <https://yakimatransit.org/> for more about Yakima Transit.

Progress and Precaution:

Fisher Park Golf opens for the 2020 season with protocols in place

The City's Fisher Park Golf Course opened on May 5th with safety in mind.

Visit <https://yakimaparks.com/parks/fisher-park-golf-course/> to see the complete list of precautions required for the golf course's May 5th opening.

Some of the precautions include:

- Golfers should bring their own hand sanitizer or antibacterial wipes and use them during and after their round.
- To minimize exposure to staff, the clubhouse will be closed entirely for all services and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to all golf course staff.
- Golfers must prepay their tee time online at <https://yakimaparks.com/> and show paper or electronic receipt at check-in window.
- Twosomes will only be allowed at this time. However, if all golfers are from the same household they will be able to golf together up to a maximum of four golfers.
- Rental clubs, pull carts and motorized golf carts will not be available.
- Players must not touch the flagstick and must leave the pin in place at all times.

Call 575-6075 for more about Fisher Park Golf.

Downtown Farmers Market to open with social distancing

The Downtown Yakima Farmers Market (DYFM) is tentatively scheduled to open May 24th.

The market is held on 3rd Street, in front of the Capitol Theatre. It will be open each Sunday from 9 am to 1 pm through October 11th.

The Governor's restriction on public gatherings does not include farmers' markets as they are considered essential businesses in the same category as a grocery store. However, they are still a public gathering and many safety measures must be installed and managed.

Precautions will include:

- A designated entrance and exit,
- Movement through the market will be one-way.
- Social distancing will be enforced along with no sampling or touching of products.
- Visitors will be asked to limit shopping time.
- Handwashing stations will be in place.

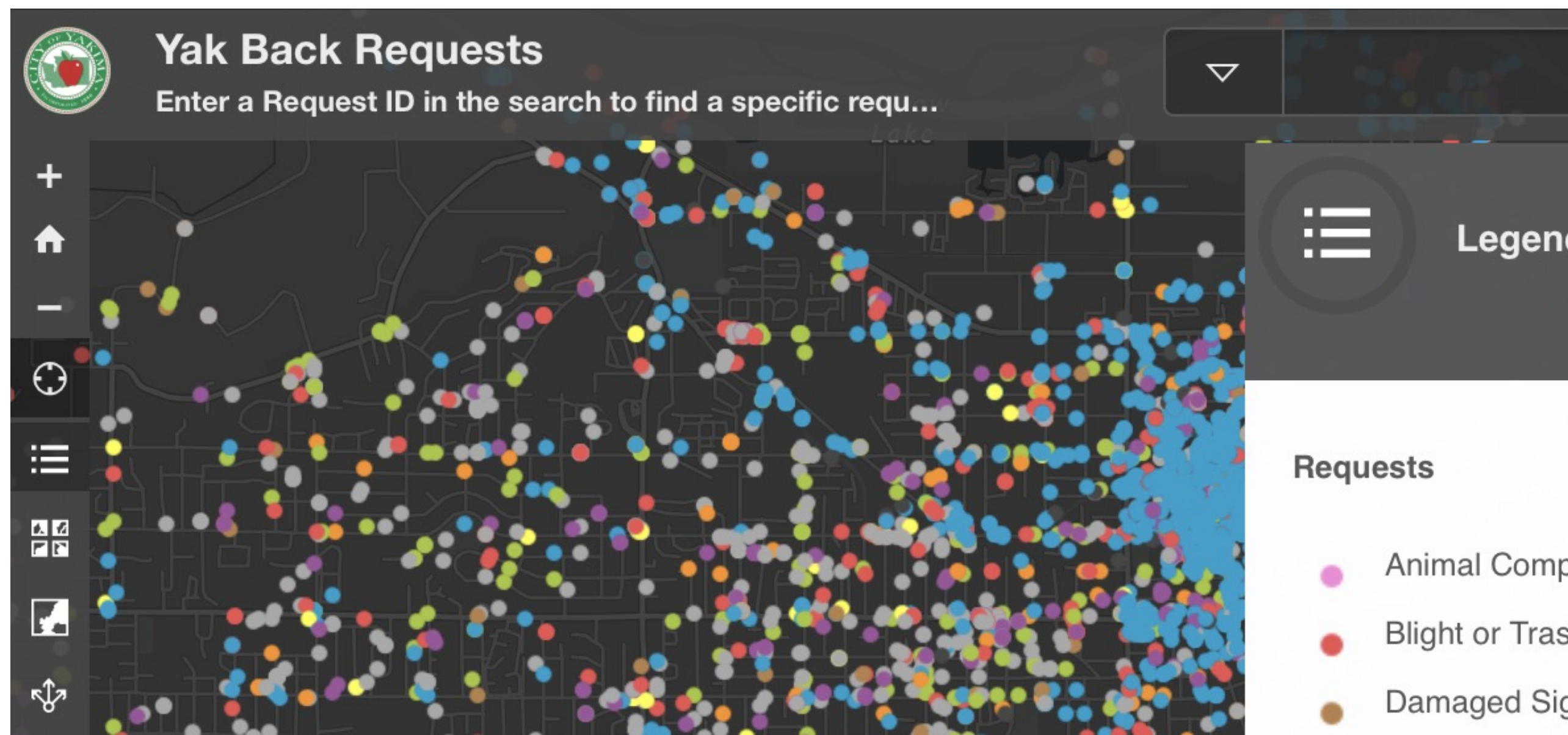
There is still room for additional vendors. To become a DYFM vendor, sponsor or volunteer visit the market's website at www.downtownyakimafarmersmarket.com

The market is administered by the Downtown Association of Yakima.



Work continues on Yakima Convention Center expansion

Construction continues on a project to expand the Yakima Convention Center by 18,000 square feet. Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/> for details about the Convention Center expansion.



Screen shots of the new Yak Back show a map of requests and responses, as well as a Spanish-language option.



City unveils new Yak Back

The City of Yakima's popular Yak Back app has a new look and new options thanks to an upgrade that was completed in April by the City's Information Technology Services staff.

Improvements include the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to provide users an interactive map for tracking their Yak Back requests and to see locations of other Yak Back requests in the City. As with the current app, the improved Yak Back will show City staff responses to requests posted by residents.

The app is also available in Spanish, thanks to the upgrade.

Yak Back provides a way for community members to report issues to City departments such as potholes, graffiti and damaged street signs. It is available at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/yak-back/>

Do your part to help workers stay safe

The City of Yakima continues to provide services during COVID-19.

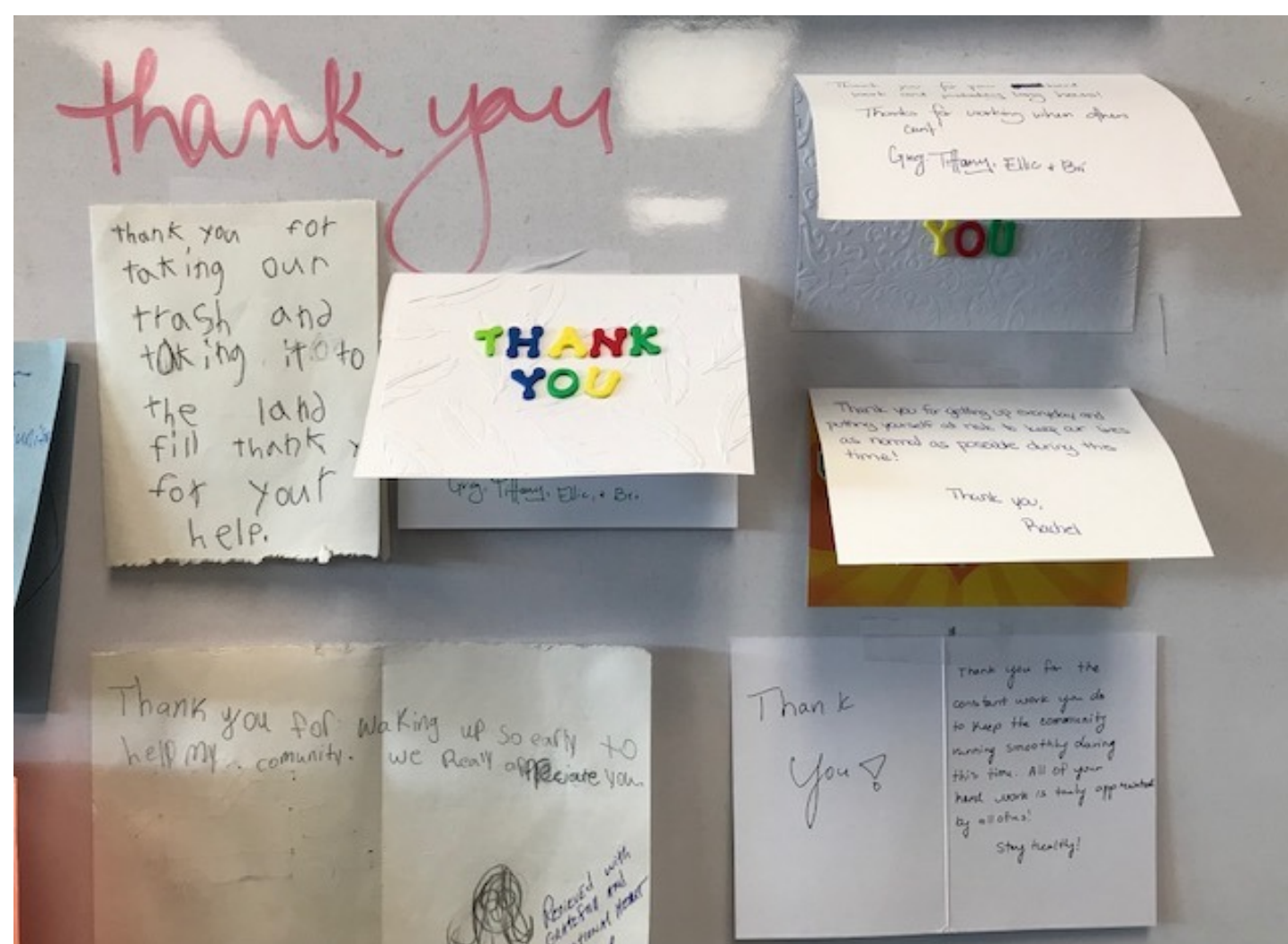
They include essentials such as garbage removal as well as water/irrigation utilities.

The community is asked to help keep City employees safe from the coronavirus by following a few simple steps.

For example, please maintain at least 6 feet of separation from water and irrigation employees while they are at work in the community ensuring safe, reliable water supply.

Another example: Please make sure all garbage is bagged. Garbage that is not bagged will not be collected. Call 575-6005 for more information.

Visit www.yakimawa.gov/covid19 for more on Yakima's response to the virus.



Briefly...

City Finance Director named to state board

City of Yakima Director of Finance & Budget Steve Groom was appointed to the Washington Public Treasurers Association (WPTA) board last month.

In 2019, the WPTA recognized the City's investment policy with a Certificate of Excellence.

The award calls the City's investment policy "an exemplary model for other cities."

The City of Yakima's quarterly treasury reports and the investment policy are available at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/finance/treasury/>

Harman Center offers hotline, Zoom classes

The City's Harman Center is offering virtual classes on Zoom. Contact Recreation Program Supervisor Leslie Richards at 576-6402 or e-mail Leslie.Richards@yakimawa.gov to sign up.

"We do not want any of our senior population to feel isolated at this time," said Richards.

Information is also available on the Harman Center's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/YakimaHarmanCenter/>

In response to social distancing due to COVID-19, the Harman Center is also announcing a "Hotline for Seniors." It is available at 575-6166.

The Harman Center and all City buildings are closed to the public due to COVID-19.

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.**



City of Yakima
129 N. 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901
509-576-6614
<https://www.yakimawa.gov/>



<https://www.facebook.com/cityofyakimafb/>



<https://twitter.com/CityofYakima>



<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

Issues Brief production note

The May 2020 *Issues Brief* is only available online due to coronavirus-related closures of public buildings and facilities, such as Yakima City Hall, the Harman Center and the Yakima Central Library.

You can click on each story in this *Issues Brief* for links to additional, related information that is available on the City of Yakima website at yakimawa.gov.

Print copies of *Issues Brief* will resume when stay-at-home orders are lifted and public buildings are again open to the community.

In the meantime, take care and thanks for reading.