



City of Yakima e-Newsletter

ISSUES BRIEF

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City of Yakima sees housing growth



The City of Yakima developed a Housing Action Plan to support and encourage new housing production to provide more housing choices and address local housing needs.

This work took place throughout 2020 and early 2021. It considers the housing needs of current residents and workforce as well as projected future population growth.

The city continues to see growth in housing. During the third quarter of 2021 (July - Sept) the City of Yakima Planning Division reported the completion of 102 new residential housing units, resulting in 231 new living units and/or bedrooms.

Visit [Housing Information | Planning Division \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://yakimawa.gov/Housing-Information-Planning-Division) for more housing information.

City of Yakima experiences record-low unemployment, rate drops below 4%

In other recent positive economic news, the city of Yakima's unemployment rate for September 2021 was 3.9 percent. That is a record low for the city, according to State of Washington Employment Security Department numbers dating back to 1990.

"The latest unemployment numbers continue a recovery from 2020, which saw significant jobless increases due to the pandemic," said Beehler. "For example, the city's unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in September 2020."

Besides setting an all-time record-low unemployment rate, the city has a chance to record its lowest ever year-end jobless rate.

Currently, the city's average monthly unemployment rate is 5.9 percent for 2021. The record low is 5.7 percent, set in 2018.

Downtown Yakima parade to honor veterans

Veterans Day Parade is 10:45 am to 12:30 pm on Thursday, Nov. 11

The Yakima community will honor its veterans and all U.S. military veterans by staging the 2021 Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Yakima on Thursday, November 11th.

The parade is sponsored annually by the Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 379.

The parade will begin at 10:45 am at the intersection of Yakima Avenue and 6th Street. The route will continue west on Yakima Avenue to 6th Avenue.

It is scheduled to end at 12:30 pm.

City closures planned for Veterans Day

Many of the City of Yakima's facilities will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. That includes City Hall, Y-PAC, and Parks and Recreation offices. Business offices for the Police and Fire Departments will be closed. Emergency services will remain available.

The Harman Center will be closed on November 11th in observance of Veterans Day and Yakima Transit will not provide bus service that day. Garbage service will not be interrupted by the November 11th closures.

The Refuse Division will provide regular garbage collection services on Nov. 11.

Organizers anticipate approximately 750 participants and 50 vehicles in the parade.

No parking will be allowed on Yakima Avenue between 6th Street and 6th Avenue from 8:45 am on November 11th until the parade is completed.

Cars parked along that portion of Yakima Avenue during that time will be subject to being towed at the owner's expense.

Yakima Avenue will be closed to motorized traffic from 6th Avenue to 6th Street.

ORANGE YOU GLAD IT'S FALL?

Orange, red and yellow are just some of the hues you can enjoy here in Yakima during Autumn.

A great place to enjoy fall foliage is the Yakima Area Arboretum, where these photos were snapped last month.



Briefly

Transit service holiday closures

There will be no Yakima Transit service on Thursday, Nov. 11th in observance of Veterans Day.

This includes regular, fixed-route buses, Dial-A-Ride paratransit, and Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter. Service will resume on Friday, Nov. 12th.

There will be no transit service on Thursday, Nov. 25th for Thanksgiving Day. Service will resume Friday, Nov. 26th.

Harman Center hosts toy drive

A Toys for Tots Drive is now underway at the Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Avenue.

The Harman Center is accepting new, unwrapped toys through Dec. 14th.

Search is on for community Christmas tree

The City of Yakima and the Downtown Association of Yakima (DAY) are asking area residents to consider donating a tree from their property for the annual holiday festivities in Downtown Yakima.

To nominate your tree as the Community Christmas Tree, call Cally Price, the Assistant to the City Manager, at 509-575-6040.

It is anticipated that crews will arrive to remove the tree during the week of November 15th–19th, transporting it to Millennium Plaza for installation. DAY is working with the City of Yakima to coordinate the tree removal/installation.

DAY is planning a tree-lighting ceremony for Sunday, Dec. 5th.

"It needs be an evergreen, preferably 15 to 25 feet tall," said John O'Rourke, Operations Manager for DAY. "It has to be in a location that we can access with a crane and get a truck to it."



photo courtesy Downtown Association of Yakima
A visitor to Downtown Yakima admires the community tree during December 2020.

If property owners nominating a tree are unsure about its dimension or access to it they can call O'Rourke at 509-952-8052.

The selected tree will be removed at no cost to the owner.

City Council action summary - Oct. 2021

Yakima City Council action during its meetings in October included:

- Creating a board to oversee sustainability and adverse effects of climate change;
- Adopting Yakima Transit's Transit Development Plan for 2021-26 and 2020 annual report;
- Adding Juneteenth as a paid holiday;
- Authorizing federal grant application for up to \$500,000 under the Economic Development Administration.

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](#).

All council meetings air live on Y-PAC and online at [Live Stream | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](#).

YPD Facebook Live series



In October the Yakima Police Department (YPD) held a series of Facebook Live discussions on the book, **"Don't Shoot: One Man, A Street Fellowship, And The End of Violence in Inner-City America"** written by David M. Kennedy.

The series featured a number of special guests, including the book's author. Pictured above is an image from the October 21st discussion that included Police Chief Matt Murray, City Attorney Sara Watkins, Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney Joe Brusic and U.S. Attorneys Office representatives.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/YakimaPoliceDepartment> to watch the series on YPD's Facebook page.

Connect with the City of Yakima

509 area code required for dialing

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.**

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the Community Relations Office. Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov with suggestions for future *Issues Brief* articles.