



ISSUES BRIEF

November 2020 - Vol. X, Issue 11, Number 99

Over 200 small businesses receive grants

City Council sets aside funds to aid with COVID-19 relief

More than 200 small businesses in the city of Yakima received over \$1.4 million in grants the Yakima City Council set aside from federal funds to assist with impacts due to COVID-19.

In July, Council set aside \$480,000 from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a Federal program intended to expand economic opportunities for low and moderate-income persons.

The Council made funds available to the smallest businesses in the City, those with five or fewer employees. Eligible businesses received up to \$10,000 for expenses due to COVID-19.

In September, Council dedicated an additional \$1 million for small business assistance with no repayment requirements. Grant funds were from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.



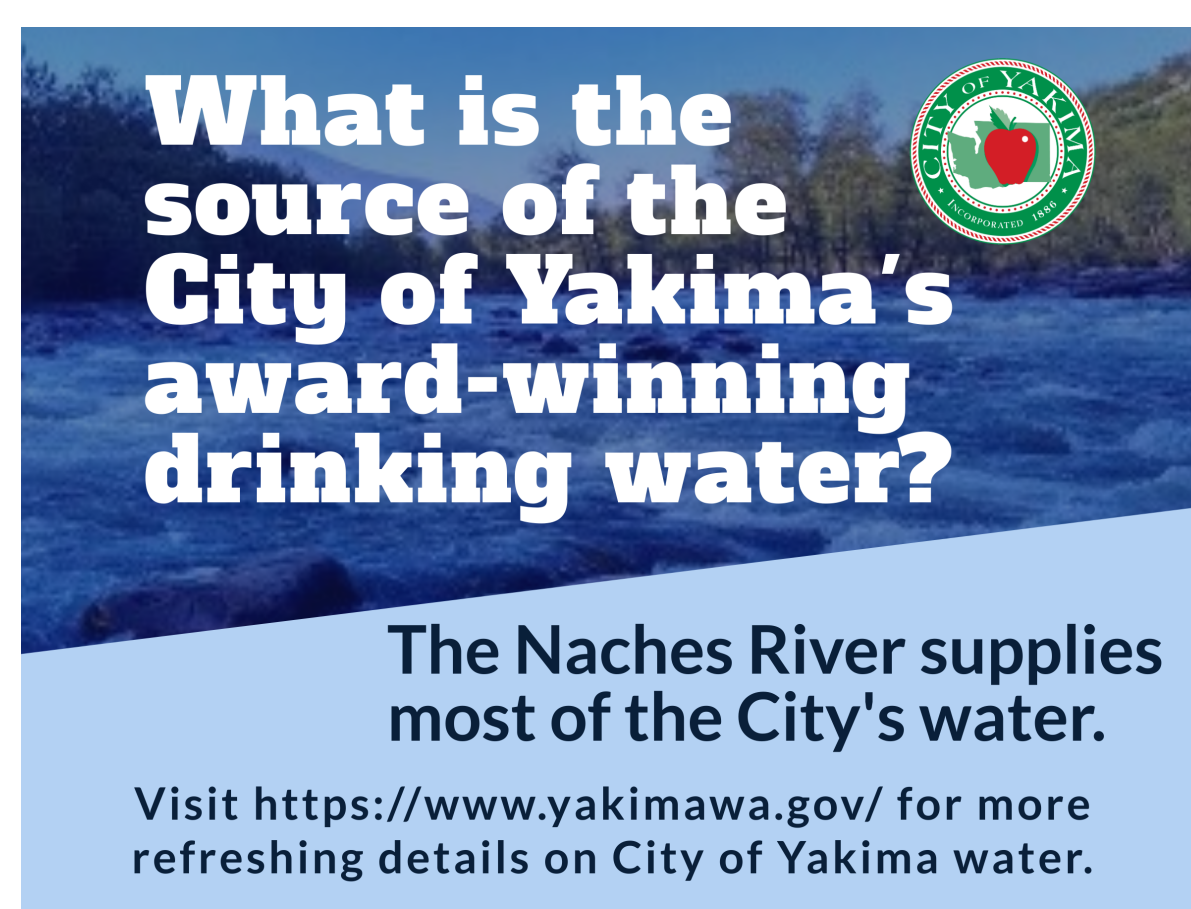
The grant was set aside for businesses in the city limits with 25 or fewer employees.

As with the CDBG grant, businesses could apply for up to \$10,000 in CARES grant funding to assist with impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October, Council set aside \$1.4 million from a second round of CARES grant funds to assist non-profit corporations in the city limits.

The City Council will receive an update at a later date about results from the Yakima CARES grants for non-profit organizations.

City of Yakima launches drinking water campaign



#WaterWednesday social media graphic

Using a wide-range of communication tools, the City of Yakima is promoting its award-winning drinking water.

Two weeks ago the City launched a drinking water campaign on its website at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/media/points-of-interest/city-of-yakima-drinking-water/>

The City's Community Relations Office also posts #WaterWednesday features on social media about the quality of Yakima's drinking water.

There are plans to air an interview with Assistant Public Works Director Dave Brown on an episode of "Y-PAC Check-ins" to discuss the City's water. Y-PAC programming is available on Charter Spectrum Channel 194. Y-PAC's rotation of public service announcements includes infographics for the #WaterWednesday social media posts.

During its meeting on October 20th, the Yakima City Council noted the health benefits of fluoride in City water, the cost-savings for residents in drinking tap water rather than purchasing bottled water and the environmental benefits of reduced plastic consumption by drinking less bottled water and more City of Yakima tap water.

The City Council's discussion in October followed an announcement in August that the City of Yakima Water Treatment Plant received the Gold Certificate of Achievement for 10 years of outstanding performance.

The Gold Certificate of Achievement award was presented to the City of Yakima by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water.

It honored the City water treatment plant for consistently meeting the high standards of DOH's Treatment Optimization Program for 10 continuous years, 2010-2019.

The City of Yakima is one of just eight recipients in Washington state to receive the DOH Gold Certificate of Achievement this year.

Blue Star Memorial ceremony Nov. 11 at Tahoma Cemetery

A Blue Star Memorial will be dedicated at the City of Yakima Tahoma Cemetery this Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11th.

It will be placed near the veterans section of Tahoma Cemetery to honor all who served in the U.S. Armed Services.

The Blue Star Memorial dedication will take place at 11:00 am on Nov. 11th.

The public is invited to attend, with social-distancing protocols required.

The Yakima City Council approved the memorial in March. This will be the first Blue Star marker in the city of Yakima.

The Central District of Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs (WSFGC) initiated the effort for a marker and ceremony, and purchased the Blue Star Memorial.

The Blue & Gold Star Memorials Program honors all men and women who have served in the United States Armed Services. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II.

In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii with metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers.

Click <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/cemetery/> for more about Tahoma Cemetery.

Click <https://gardenclub.org/blue-and-gold-star-memorials> for more about the Blue & Gold Star program.



City of Yakima Harman Center announces Toys for Tots toy drive



*New, unwrapped toys are
being accepted by
appointment through Dec. 14*

The annual Toys for Tots Drive is now underway at the City of Yakima Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Avenue.

The Harman Center is accepting toys through Monday, December 14th, to help families in need during the 2020 holiday season.

"We are asking for donations of new, unwrapped toys to benefit the Toys for Tots program," said Recreation Program Supervisor Leslie Richards.

The Harman Center participates each year in the toy drive, typically collecting over 200 toys annually for Toys for Tots. However, the toy drive is different this year due to COVID-19 precautions.

With the Harman Center closed, except for small health and wellness classes, Richards asks the community to call her at 509-576-6402 to schedule a toy drop-off time at the Harman Center.

"That is really the easiest way for people to donate toys at the Harman Center since we don't have specific times we are open to the general public," said Richards.

Click <https://yakimaparks.com/senior-center/> for more about the Harman Center.

Click <https://www.toysfortots.org/> for more about Toys for Tots.

Briefly...

"Tahoma Tours" shares history

A new video series, "Tahoma Tours," offers historic stories of Yakima from the City's Tahoma Cemetery.

Topics include the cemetery's original section, the Tahoma mausoleum and Civil War veterans.

The series is produced by the City's Community Relations Office.

Watch the series on the City's YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofYakimaWA>

Transit service holiday closures

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

This includes regular, fixed-route buses, Dial-A-Ride paratransit, and the Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter.

Service will resume as normally scheduled on Thursday, November 12th.

There will also be no transit service on Thursday, Nov. 26th in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Service will resume on Friday, Nov. 27th.

Fisher Golf extends season

Weather permitting, the 2020 golfing season at the City of Yakima's Fisher Park Golf Course is extended through Nov. 15th.

Fisher Park Golf Course was scheduled to open March 27th, but was delayed until May 5th due to COVID-19. The golf season typically closes at the end of October.

The course is located at 823 S. 40th Ave., across from Eisenhower High School.

For more about Fisher Golf COVID-19 precautions, fee schedules and daily specials call 575-6075 or visit <https://yakimaparks.com/parks/fisher-park-golf-course/>

YFD receives Yakama Cares grant



The Yakima Fire Department received a \$25,000 Yakama Cares grant from Legends Casino in October. YFD will use the funds to purchase new wildland firefighting equipment. Pictured with the check are from left; Deputy Chief Reid, Shift Captain Norton, Deputy Chief Rodriguez, Firefighter Davis, Chief Markham, Firefighter Ryan, Lt. Nishida, Firefighter Rothwell, Firefighter Lewis and Capt. Wagner.



Powerhouse Road closure continues

A section of Powerhouse Road is closed 24/7 due to a sewer main extension project. The project is from Riverview Manor mobile home court to just short of Cowiche Canyon Road.

The closure began October 21st and is expected to last about a month to allow for re-paving the roadway this year.

Residents at the south end of the project area will have access from 40th Avenue. Those at the north end of the project area will have access from Ackley Road, off of U.S. Highway 12.

Because of heavy traffic volume, drivers can expect delays in the area. Drivers should use alternate routes until the work is completed.

Drivers are reminded that the speed limit through all traffic-related work zones within the City of Yakima is 20 miles-per-hour.

Access to homes and businesses in the project area will be maintained as best as possible and emergency vehicles will be allowed through the project area if necessary.

As always, the schedule for this type of project is subject to change daily dependent on weather, equipment, and emergencies.

The project may cause interruptions in scheduled refuse collection. Contact the City's Refuse Division at 575-6005 for more information.

City of Yakima 2020 budget receives award

The City of Yakima's 2020 budget has earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

The 2020 budget received the honor for comprehensive planning, financial integrity and effective communication.

City finance staff strive to make incremental improvements each year in order to make Yakima an increasingly well-managed city.

City of Yakima technical accounting is provided by Jen Morris. Also, Kathy Miles contributes the complex programming to link financial numbers into the reporting software that produces a budget that is interesting, educational, slightly entertaining and, most importantly, informative for residents.

Budget documents considered for the GFOA award are rated by three independent reviewers who typically work in similar roles in other cities. They are judged on criteria as a policy document, an accountable financial plan, a transparent operations guide and communications vehicle.

Click <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/finance/budget-documents-2/> for the past 10 annual budgets for the City of Yakima and links to proposed budgets for 2021.

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.**



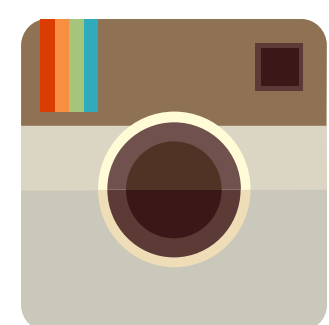
· City of Yakima
· 129 N. 2nd Street
· Yakima, WA 98901
· 509-576-6614
· <https://www.yakimawa.gov/>



<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

City services by phone and online

Yakima City Hall remains 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.