



ISSUES BRIEF

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Dog park, tennis and pickleball courts open

Social distancing protocols required

City of Yakima tennis courts at Franklin Park and Kissel Park, as well as pickleball courts at Franklin Park are again open to the public.

That is also the case for the Randall Park Dog Park.

The courts and dog park all re-opened on August 28th after the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) approved small, outdoor gatherings of five people or less from outside the household, with six feet of separation, as part of Yakima County's modified Phase 1 "Roadmap to Recovery" plan.

Social-distancing protocols are posted at the tennis and pickleball courts, as well as the dog park in response to COVID-19.

Those protocols include wearing face coverings, maintaining six feet of separation and washing hands.



The courts and dog park are open for the first time since March, when COVID-19 restrictions began.

"We are so excited to get these much loved recreation facilities available once again for people to enjoy," said Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. "However, we need to insist all users follow all the Safe Start requirements, which include masks and social distancing."

Click <https://yakimaparks.com/> for more about City of Yakima parks and recreation programs and facilities.

Yakima County moved to a modified Phase 1 of the state's Safe Start program in July thanks to county residents wearing masks when in public. The City is helping to lead the effort through the ongoing "Mask up to open up" campaign.

And in breaking (ground) news...



Yakima Mayor Patricia Byers, third from left, participates in a groundbreaking ceremony last month to mark the beginning of construction on the East-West Corridor. When complete, the project will provide a second route linking Terrace Heights to Yakima.

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Walmart on W. Nob Hill Blvd. provided \$3,500 for the City of Yakima's graffiti abatement program. YPD Corrections Manager Maritza Davis is pictured with the check.

Graffiti abatement options

The City of Yakima seeks the community's assistance while working toward a solution to the current graffiti problem.

"There is no question that graffiti, especially gang graffiti, drives violent crime," said Yakima Police Chief Matthew Murray. "Graffiti is one of the primary forms of communication among rival gangs. It can often predict when the next shooting will take place, and actual shootings have demonstrated this to be true. The most effective means of removing the connection between graffiti and violence is rapid abatement. With the community's help, we can also reduce graffiti and make our community a safer place."

Recently, the Yakima City Council passed a revision to Section 11.11 of the Yakima Municipal Code. This will allow residents to use resources in a more efficient and economical manner. It will also provide more incentive for property owners, managers and tenants to abate or cover graffiti.

The City recommends the following measures, in order of preference, to abate graffiti in a timely manner:

1. **Tenant/Owner/Manager Abatement:** Abate the graffiti immediately as the owner or tenant of the property that has been victimized. Sherwin-Williams Paint Store #8052 (1230 South 1st Street, Yakima, WA 98901) is offering a community discount coupon on paint if it has been determined you are a victim of graffiti within the city limits of Yakima. Report the graffiti by submitting a [Yak Back](#) request to have a Code Compliance Officer verify the graffiti and provide you with a coupon. The coupon availability is subject to a limited quantity and restrictions and exclusions may apply.
 1. **City Supplied Paint:** If you are unable to obtain paint and/or supplies but would still like to abate graffiti on your property, the City through donations from Walmart will provide a quart of paint and a brush or roller. If this is a feasible option for you, report the graffiti by submitting a [Yak Back](#) request and a Code Compliance Officer will contact you.
 2. **City Of Yakima Graffiti Abatement Program:** Those who are victims of graffiti can request the City's graffiti abatement program to cover graffiti on their property. However, due to limited supplies and available work force, this is not a guaranteed service and may not be available at the time of request. The Yakima Municipal Code also identifies what areas get priority based on how the property is zoned in [Section 11.11.035](#). A [permission slip](#) needs to be completed before the City can abate graffiti on your property.
 3. **City Enforcement:** If none of the options above are used and graffiti is not abated in a timely manner, Section 11.11.060 of the Yakima Municipal Code states a \$25 penalty may be assessed if graffiti is not abated 10 days after a Notice of Intent has been issued. An additional \$25 penalty may be added for every additional 5-day period thereafter. Abating graffiti in a timely manner will prevent penalties from accruing.

"Fining graffiti victims is absolutely the last resort," said Communications and Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. "The City will do all it can to assist residents and property owners if they are victims of graffiti."

The preferred method of communication about graffiti is through the City [Yak Back](#) program. You can also call the Graffiti Hotline at 575-3550.

See <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/codes/graffiti-abatement-program/> for more about the City's graffiti abatement program.

Opciones Disponibles Para la Eliminación de Grafiti

La Ciudad de Yakima busca la ayuda de la comunidad mientras trabaja hacia una solución al problema actual del grafiti.

"No hay duda alguna que el grafiti, en particular el grafiti pandillero, atribuye a crímenes violentos," declaró el Jefe de Policía Matthew Murray. "El grafiti es una de las principales formas de comunicación entre las pandillas rivales. A menudo el grafiti puede predecir cuándo se llevara a cabo el próximo tiroteo, y previos tiroteos han mostrado que esto es cierto. El medio más efectivo para eliminar la conexión entre el grafiti y la violencia es la eliminación rápida. Con la ayuda de la comunidad, también podemos reducir el grafiti y hacer de nuestra comunidad un lugar más seguro."

Recientemente, el Concejo Municipal de la ciudad de Yakima aprobó una revisión a la Sección 11.11 del Código Municipal de Yakima. Esto permitirá que la ciudad de Yakima y sus residentes usen sus recursos de una manera más eficaz e económica. También proporcionara más incentivos para que los propietarios, gerentes e inquilinos disminuyan de manera proactiva el grafiti.

La ciudad de Yakima recomienda las siguientes medidas, en orden de preferencia, para eliminar el grafiti de manera eficaz:

1. **Inquilino/Propietario/Administrador:** Eliminar el grafiti inmediatamente como propietario/a o inquilino/a de la propiedad que haya sido victimizada. La tienda de pintura Sherwin-Williams #8052 (1230 South 1st Street, Yakima, WA 98901), ofrecerá un cupón de descuento para la compra de pintura si se determina que es víctima de grafiti para propiedad dentro de los límites de la ciudad de Yakima. Reporte el grafiti enviando una solicitud mediante la plataforma [Yak Back](#) para que un oficial de Cumplimiento de Códigos verifique el grafiti y le proporcione un cupón. La disponibilidad del cupón está sujeta a una cantidad limitada y pueden aplicarse restricciones y exclusiones.
 1. **Pintura Suministrada por la Ciudad:** Si usted no puede obtener pintura y/o suministros, pero aún desea eliminar de manera proactiva el grafiti en su propiedad, la ciudad de Yakima, a través de donaciones de Wal-Mart, le proporcionara un cuarto de galón de pintura y una brocha o rodillo. Si esta es una opción practica para usted, reporte el grafiti presentando una solicitud mediante la plataforma [Yak Back](#) y un oficial de Cumplimiento de Códigos se comunicara con usted.
 2. **Programa de Eliminación de Grafiti de la Ciudad de Yakima:** Las personas víctimas de grafiti pueden solicitar al Programa de Eliminación de Grafiti de la ciudad que cubra el grafiti en su propiedad. Debido a los suministros limitados y la fuerza laboral disponible, este no es un servicio garantizado y puede no estar disponible en el momento de la solicitud. El Código Municipal de Yakima también identifica áreas de prioridad a base de la zonificación de la propiedad, según la [Sección 11.11.035](#). Deberá completar un formulario otorgando permiso antes de que la ciudad de Yakima pueda entrar e eliminar el grafiti de su propiedad. Ese formulario se puede obtener en línea en: <https://www.yakimawa.gov/graffiti-abatement/>
 3. **Cumplimiento por Disposición de la Ciudad de Yakima:** Si no se utiliza ninguna de las opciones anteriores y la eliminación de grafiti no se completa de manera oportuna, la aplicación del código de la ciudad se convierte en el método de eliminación. Sección 11.11.060 del Código Municipal de Yakima establece que se puede imponer una multa de 444\$25 si el grafiti no se elimina diez (10) días después de que se haya emitido el Aviso de Intención. Se puede agregar una multa adicional de \$25 por cada periodo adicional de cinco (5) días a partir de entonces. Eliminar el grafiti de manera oportuna evitara que se acumulen sanciones.

"Multar a las víctimas de grafiti es absolutamente el último recurso," dijo el Director de Comunicaciones y Asuntos Públicos Randy Beehler. "La Ciudad hará todo lo posible para ayudar a los residentes y propietarios si son víctimas de grafiti."

El método preferido de comunicación con la ciudad de Yakima es a través de la plataforma en línea [Yak Back](#). También puede llamar a la línea directa de Grafiti al 575-3550.

Para obtener más información sobre el programa de eliminación de grafiti de la ciudad de Yakima, visite la página en internet: <https://www.yakimawa.gov/graffiti-abatement/>



Yakima Municipal Court offers phased-in court appearances

Yakima Municipal Court is phasing in resumption of in-person hearings and jury trials at the City of Yakima's Richard A. Zais, Jr. Law and Justice Center, 200 S. 3rd Street.

The Court is following prevailing public health guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Washington State Department of Health and the Yakima Health District. Modifications to the facility include:

- Requiring facial coverings;
- Social distancing as marked by floor and courtroom seating decals;
- Installation of numerous hand sanitizing stations;
- Signage concerning public health guidelines to be observed;
- Installation of plexiglass barriers at the clerk's station in the courtrooms

The following protocols will be in place for:

Criminal Cases:

- Court appearances will be staggered based on the capacity of each courtroom to safely accommodate 9 to 11 individuals in the audience.
 - Out of custody arraignments will be heard mornings at 9:30, 10 and 10:30 am
 - Status conferences heard afternoons at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm., Friday at 8:30 am
- Virtual hearings may be scheduled by a defendant's lawyer via
 - Zoom
 - Telephone
- It is anticipated that jury selection will be conducted at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th Street, to accommodate social distancing of jury pools with 30 to 40 potential jurors. Once the panel of six jurors is selected, the trial will be conducted at Yakima Municipal Court with strict adherence to public safety measures. It is anticipated that jury trials will start in October.

Infractions:

- Those with traffic or animal infractions are encouraged to submit an electronic explanation via the Court website. Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/municipal-court/> and click Infraction options.
- The Court will also consider written explanations mailed through U.S. Postal Service.
- In-person hearings will be accommodated, but only at the rate of 9 people in the court at a time beginning every 30 minutes from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Infraction dockets typically have 50 to 75 cases scheduled.

Notices for both criminal and infractions hearings will have specific appearance times and instructions to court users as to how hearings will be conducted in compliance with public health guidelines.

Customer service windows:

- Normal hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11 am, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
- Social distancing of six feet between individuals
- Hand sanitizer at the counter
- Court Clerk available by phone at 575-3050 Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

Payments:

- Telephone, 575-3050
- Mail: Richard Zais Justice Center, 200 South 3rd Street, Yakima, WA 98901
- In-person

Access to the Public:

Courts have constitutional and statutory duties to provide access to justice. All court proceedings are live-streamed via Zoom and accessed through the court's website to further ensure public access to the Municipal Court during the pandemic.

Live streaming is the least restrictive means available for protecting the public, the parties, and court staff. More on live-streaming of court proceedings is available at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/municipal-court/live-streaming/>

Yakima Municipal Court established emergency measures in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including continuing in-person hearings and jury trials. These modifications to court operations were based upon Supreme Court orders designed to protect the public, the parties and court staff from acquiring or transmitting COVID-19.

The Court continues to review and revise court operations in response to evolving COVID-19 epidemiology.

Briefly...

Yakima Police plan virtual ceremony

The Yakima Police Department is honoring its employees through a promotion ceremony on Facebook Live.

The ceremony will be Friday, September 11th, at 1 pm at Franklin Park.

Watch live at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2761048967503795/>

Schedule set for flashing lights in school zones

City of Yakima crews have set the schedules for the operation of yellow flashing lights for school zones within the Yakima School District. The following schedules are in effect each **Wednesday** for meal distribution:

11 am to 1 pm

Barge-Lincoln Elem.,
Discovery Lab, Franklin
Middle, Garfield
Elem., Gilbert Elem., MLK
Jr. Elem., McClure
Elem., Nob Hill Elem.,
Ridgeview Elem.,
Robertson Elem.,
Roosevelt Elem.,
Whitney Elem.

11:30 am to 1 pm

Eisenhower High School

City water plant receives honor

The City of Yakima Water Treatment Plant is earning statewide praise as it received the Gold Certificate of Achievement for 10 years of outstanding performance.

It was presented by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water for meeting the high standards of DOH's Treatment Optimization Program for 10 continuous years, 2010-2019.

Yakima's is one of just eight water treatment plants in the state receiving the Gold Certificate this year.

City garbage collection seeks community's help

As the state of Washington works to re-open and recover from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Yakima Refuse Division continues its efforts each day to meet the community's trash-removal needs.

"While we are optimistic our state is on its way to recovery, we continue to ask customers to help keep our refuse workers safe by complying with simple steps," said Refuse and Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi.

The Refuse Division requests the following:

- Continue to bag all trash
- Make sure all bags are completely closed and tied
- Have carts out by 6:00 am on the day of scheduled garbage collection.
- The Refuse Division is not currently providing special haul service. Those with large items can utilize the Division's temporary metal bin service for an additional fee.

City of Yakima housing plan survey deadline is September 30

The City of Yakima Housing Action Plan (HAP) survey deadline is September 30, 2020.

Click the links below to take the survey in English or Spanish. The Spanish-language version of the survey has been modified to provide additional clarification and background on the HAP.

English –
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YakimaEng>

Spanish –
<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/YakimaSpan>

Survey results will help the City create a HAP that meets local housing needs. The City of Yakima received a \$100,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce to develop the plan.

Learn more about the HAP at the project website,
<https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/planning/hap/>

To be added to the HAP contact list, provide your email and mailing address to ask.planning@yakimawa.gov

"The City will continue to provide refuse and yard waste services during these trying times. We ask our community's help to protect the health and safety of our drivers and residents."

- Refuse and Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi

- Items left at the curb will not be picked up without prior arrangements made with the Refuse Division. All garbage must fit inside the cart.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, illegal dumping continues to be a health and safety concern. Please report any illegal dumping through the City of Yakima Yak Back program at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/yak-back/>

"The City will continue to provide refuse and yard waste services during these trying times," said Zammarchi. "We ask our community's help to protect the health and safety of our drivers and residents."

Call 575-6005 or visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/refuse/> for updates on garbage and yard waste collection by the City's Refuse Division.



Se Aproxima la Fecha Límite Para la Encuesta del Plan de Acción de Viviendas

La fecha límite para la encuesta del Plan de Acción de Viviendas (HAP) de la ciudad de Yakima es el 30 de septiembre 2020.

Haga clic en los siguientes enlaces para tomar la encuesta en inglés o español. La versión en español de la encuesta ha sido modificada para proporcionar aclaraciones y antecedentes adicionales sobre el Plan de Acción de Viviendas.

Inglés:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YakimaEng>

Español:
<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/YakimaSpan>

Los resultados de la encuesta ayudaran a la ciudad de Yakima crear un Plan de Acción de Viviendas que aborden las necesidades de viviendas locales. La Ciudad de Yakima recibió un subsidio de \$100,000 del Departamento de Comercio del Estado de Washington para desarrollar un Plan de Acción de Viviendas (HAP).

Obtenga más información sobre el Plan en el sitio web del proyecto:
<https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/planning/hap/>

Si desea ser agregado a nuestra lista de contactos, proporciones su correo electrónico y dirección postal a: ask.planning@yakimawa.gov

September's smoky skies



The Evans Canyon Fire, as well as other fires in the Pacific Northwest, created unhealthy air quality for much of Yakima County as smoke blotted out blue skies. When there is poor air quality, keep your windows, doors, and vents closed while at home and driving in your car. Do not add to indoor pollution by using vacuums, candles, fireplaces, or gas stoves.

State Fair Park hosting Fair Food Fest

Although the annual Central Washington State Fair has been canceled, you will be able to get your fair food fix, September 17 through the 20th.

The Fair is partnering with Yakima Federal Savings and Loan to present a drive-thru "Fair Food Fest" experience. Guests can stop at vendors from the safety of their vehicles and order their favorite fair food to go.

"Since we had to cancel the beloved Central Washington State Fair, it was important for us to bring some element of the fair to the community while keeping everyone safe," said Kathy Kramer, CEO & President of Central Washington Fair Association.

"We know one of the top reasons people attend fairs is for the food," Kramer said. "We could not imagine going a whole year without enjoying some of your fair food favorites."

To enter the event, vehicles will use Gate 15 located on Pacific Avenue. The gate will open one hour before start time each day.



Hours of operation are Thursday, September 17, 3 pm – 8 pm; Friday, September 18, 11 am – 8 pm; Saturday, September 19, 11 am – 8 pm; and Sunday, September 20 11 am– 6 pm. There is no charge for admission to this event.

Upon entering Fair Food Fest, guests will be provided a menu with the food selections from each of the vendors and a coordinating vendor location map. To find out more about the vendors in advance and to review menu selections, visit fairfun.com.

The drive through route for the event will be two one-way lanes. One lane for exiting to vendor stands, another lane to keep moving around the path until you want to exit to a vendor location. Once your order has been completed, proceed back into the drive-thru lane to find your next food adventure. Credit or debit cards are preferred, but cash will be accepted as well.

"Everyone needs to remember this is not your traditional fast-food drive-thru experience. It will take a little time to reach all desired stops on the Fair Food Fest route, so plan accordingly and enjoy," Kramer said.

A food drive will also be part of the event. State Fair Park has partnered with Downtown Rotary Club of Yakima to collect canned food items as attendees enter.

For more information visit www.fairfun.com

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.