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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

# ISSUES BRIEF

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## Yakima names interim City Manager



Cynthia Martinez, right, takes the oath of office as she is sworn in as interim city manager for the City of Yakima. The oath was administered by City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee. Martinez has been with the City for more than 20 years and served as City prosecutor before she was appointed to the interim city manager post.

### *Cynthia Martinez appointed following Moore's departure*

With the recent departure of Cliff Moore from his position as Yakima city manager, the Yakima City Council appointed City prosecutor Cynthia Martinez to serve as interim city manager.

Martinez, who has been with the City for more than 20 years, will serve as interim city manager while the City Council works to fill the spot on a longer term basis.

In addition, Yakima Public Works Director Scott Schafer is serving as the City's interim assistant city manager until a permanent one is hired.

Martinez was chosen by the Council to serve in the interim city manager role during the search for a manager to fill the job through at least early next year.

The Council is responsible for hiring only one employee - the city manager. The manager is responsible for day-to-day operations of the City.

The Council plans to hire a longer-term city manager from a pool of retired managers who agree to work on an interim basis for several months.

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 17th, the Yakima City Council will review a list of candidates from that pool.

After a longer-term candidate is selected, the City Council will decide how the position will be filled going forward.





A U.S. Air Force aircraft is pictured at Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field during the first "Operation Mobility Guardian" exercise in August 2017.

## Yakima Airport hosting U.S. Air Force exercise

### Military exercise will continue through September 28th

Beginning Sunday, September 8th, Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field will host Mobility Guardian, a nearly three-week military exercise.

During its meeting on August 20th, the Yakima City Council approved a lease with the U.S. Air Force for the Mobility Guardian exercise.

The Air Mobility Command's exercise, which will run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, is expected to be the most realistic real-world, scenario-driven training the command has ever undertaken. It was designed to allow the forces to "train like they fight" by developing and improving techniques and procedures that enhance air mobility operations.

Additionally, this exercise will be hosted by the 92nd and 141st Air Refueling Wings at Fairchild Air Force Base (AFB). Approximately 40 U.S. aircraft will join aircraft from more than two dozen international partners, along with more than 4,000 U.S. and international Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps aviators.

Aircraft expected to be used during the exercise at Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field include the KC-10 Extender, KC-46A Pegasus, KC-135 Stratotanker, C-17 Globemaster and C-130H/J Hercules, as well as Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters.

"The community is going to witness an increased number of military aircraft utilizing the airport" said Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field Director Rob Peterson. "Given the military's presence within the valley the public may witness a minor increase in aircraft noise and vibrations, but at night the Air Force will try to be sensitive to the public."

Anyone interested can watch the operation from behind a fence at the airport. "The best spot to view arriving and departing aircraft would be the aircraft viewing area located south of the McAllister Museum of Aviation," Peterson said. The exercise will not impact regular, day-to-day flight operations at the airport, he said.

For more about the Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field, visit <https://flyykm.com>

## YPD promotes two in public celebration

The Yakima Police Department (YPD) celebrated the promotion of two of its employees, one a police officer and the other a corrections officer, to the rank of sergeant during a ceremony on Thursday, September 5th.

The formal promotions of YPD Officer Scott Grant and YPD Corrections Officer Jason Masters took place at the Sunrise Rotary Pavilion at Franklin Park.

Grant joined the YPD as a police officer in November 2007. Before that, Grant served as an officer for the Toppenish Police Department.

Prior to joining the Toppenish Police Department, Grant worked as a security officer for a private company.

Masters became a YPD corrections officer in November 2005.

Masters had served as a corrections officer for Yakima County for two years before joining the YPD.



## Yakima Fire Department offers back-to-school safety tips

Students are back in class for the 2019-20 school year and the Yakima Fire Department (YFD) is encouraging the community to remember some back-to-school safety tips.

"The goal is to begin the academic year on a positive note, and safety is the number one priority for all students, parents and the community," said Yakima Fire Chief Aaron Markham.

"We recognize that this time of year is busy, but we encourage everyone to have safety on the forefront of their minds going into the new school year," Markham said.



YFD recommends the following National Safety Council tips:

- Never walk while texting.
- Never cross the street while using an electronic device.
- Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.
- Cross only at crosswalks.

Additionally, YFD reminds drivers:

- Stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection.
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.

Call 575-6060 or visit <https://yakimafire.com/> for more information about the Yakima Fire Department.



# Solarize Yakima campaign now underway

People living in Yakima who are interested in installing solar panels as part of the *Solarize Yakima* campaign are invited to attend an upcoming workshop in order to qualify for a free site assessment and a group discount on installation costs.

The campaign is a partnership between the City of Yakima and Spark Northwest, a non-profit committed to accelerating a shift to clean energy one community at a time.

The final free workshops will be held on Wednesday, September 25th at the Henry Beauchamp, Jr. Community Center, 1211 S. 7th St. (see *inset*), and Thursday, October 24th at the Yakima County 1st Street Conference Room (223 N. 1st Street).

All of the workshops will begin at 6:00 pm and last about 90 minutes. The September 25th workshop will be conducted in Spanish.

People can register for one of the workshops by clicking on the following link - <https://solarizenw.org/campaigns/2317/>

## Community members invited to Solarize Yakima workshop

The next workshop will be in Spanish and will be held at 6 pm on Wednesday, September 25th at the Henry Beauchamp, Jr. Community Center (1211 S. 7th Street). The workshop will last about 90 minutes.

People can register for the workshop by clicking <https://solarizenw.org/event/solarizado-del-yakima/>

## Miembros de la comunidad son invitados al taller de Solarize Yakima

El próximo taller será en español y se llevará a cabo a las 6 pm el miércoles 25 de septiembre en el Henry Beauchamp, Jr. Centro Comunitario (1211 S. 7th Street). El taller durará unos 90 minutos.

Las personas pueden registrarse para el taller haciendo clic en este enlace: <https://solarizenw.org/event/solarizado-del-yakima/>

“Many people don’t realize that the price of solar has dropped over 50% in the past five years, so going solar is more achievable than you might think,” said Jill Eikenhorst, Spark Northwest Project Manager.

A volunteer committee is currently undergoing a competitive process to select a local solar installer to provide group purchase installations during the Solarize Yakima campaign.

Participants in the campaign will be eligible for the group discount in addition to a federal tax incentive for the installation of solar energy.

The Solarize Yakima campaign is part of the Solar Plus initiative, a three-year joint effort led by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

The campaign is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Energy Technologies office.

It is intended to develop strategies for increasing solar energy and modernizing energy infrastructure.

Spark Northwest was founded in 2001 and, through renewable energy projects and policy reform, envisions a region powered by clean energy.

## City receives grant to research Naches Avenue history

A \$12,000 state grant will help the City of Yakima explore the possibility of establishing Naches Avenue as a Local Historic District.

The funds are from Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation (DAHP).

The money will be used to research historical buildings on Naches Avenue.

Depending on the condition of the buildings, Naches Avenue could be nominated to the Local Register of Historic Places to develop an awareness of the area and preserve its historic integrity.

Naches Avenue is one of Yakima's oldest residential areas.

The grant-funded work will likely begin in October and continue through next spring.



*This photo courtesy Yakima Valley Museum shows homes along Yakima's Naches Avenue prior to 1918, when the city was still known as North Yakima.*



# Graduation Day for Yakima Fire Department Recruit Academy



The Yakima Fire Department welcomed three new firefighters on Thursday, August 29th with a graduation ceremony at Station 95 to mark their completion of YFD's Recruit Academy. Fire Chief Aaron Markham is pictured greeting each of the firefighters moments after they were sworn in. Pictured from left with Markham are Tyler Edwards, William James and Riley Hawken. The course is the first of two to be offered this year.



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## City Contacts

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<b>Animal Control:</b>	<b>575-6038</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>575-6000</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>575-6000</b>
<b>Codes/Licenses:</b>	<b>575-6126</b>
<b>* Fire:</b>	<b>575-6060</b>
<b>Human Resources:</b>	<b>575-6090</b>
<b>Municipal Court:</b>	<b>575-3050</b>
<b>Parks:</b>	<b>575-6020</b>
<b>Planning:</b>	<b>575-6183</b>
<b>* Police:</b>	<b>575-6200</b>
<b>Refuse:</b>	<b>575-6005</b>
<b>Streets:</b>	<b>575-6005</b>
<b>Transit:</b>	<b>575-6175</b>
<b>Utilities:</b>	<b>575-6080</b>
<b>Wastewater:</b>	<b>575-6077</b>
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The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

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