

THE CHAMBER VOICE



**Greater Yakima Chamber of
Commerce**

10 N. 9th St.
Yakima, WA. 98901
www.yakima.org
509-248-2021

May - June 2020

Message From Verlynn Best, CEO



As of March 13th, 2020 the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce closed our building to the Public and every day since our business community has been challenged, changed, and struggling with questions. What can I do, how can I survive, and what can I do for my employees? As a Chamber we are adjusting as well. People are contacting their local chamber as a trusted source for information and resources. We are sifting through new information as it comes in, reviewing government loan programs, Washington state programs, and trying to give the facts so businesses can make decisions that are best for them.

Yakima, we are going to get through this! The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, Yakima County Development Association, Small Business Development Center, Rural Community Development Resources, South Central Workforce Council, City of Yakima, Yakima County, and many others are working to serve you and keep you informed. All of these organizations have information and resources for you, if we do not have an answer for you, we can direct you to someone that does. We are partners, a team that cares about our community. We know firsthand this is not easy, we have all had to make some tough decisions. I believe if we all pull together with our hearts, minds, and get creative we will prevail. All of us are vested in the future of this Valley, our State, and Country.

Stay safe and stay strong Yakima!

Verlynn Best

A Message From Members

Greetings from Fiddlesticks! We've been in operation since 1976 and we're not going to let Covid-19 be a deal breaker! We can't express enough how much we appreciate the loyalty of our local customers as well as so many visitors who make Fiddlesticks a "Must See" stop when visiting the Yakima Valley. Your support is so important to us, now more than ever. We are open to serve you Monday through Saturday 10am - 2pm. www.fiddlesticksyakima.com 452-7718 Thanks Yakima!

Renos on The Runway

We feel so blessed to have the support of many local people here at Renos on The Runway. The support has kept us going pretty strong considering the tough times. We went from busy Restaurant to only a walk-up window overnight. It was a huge adjustment for us as well as many other businesses.

We understand that we have to put our heads down and do what we know is best and that's making great food for people, it brings joy to us.



The Lab Ribbon Cutting
910 Summitview Ave. STE 7A
Yakima, WA 98902
509-367-6490

Message From Bob Gerst, Board Chair

I read an article by Bill Gates that began, "When historians write the book on the Covid-19 pandemic, what we've lived through so far will probably take up only the first third or so. The bulk of the story will be what happens next." We are at the start of our sixth week of the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order and even though 63% of the Yakima workforce is considered essential, meaning they are still working, and a number of other nonessential businesses have found ways to keep operating through telework and creative solutions, everyone feels the effects of the pandemic. It's clear we are months away from "more normal" and I'm sure you'll agree that will still be far from the pre-COVID-19 "normal" we're used to. Until a safe and effective vaccine is available for all, life and work will be different than it was. At best, we are talking about a path to "near normal" and as has been explained by government and health officials, it will come in phases where each lifts a certain set of restrictions (i.e. allows for portions of normal behavior to return). Is this easy? No, it is not. But, through all of this uncertainty and the many tragedies, I've seen examples of great courage, compassion, and caring by people and businesses which has led to innovation, hope, and support for each other.

Now more than ever, it's important we keep moving forward with our mission and purpose, "... the Chamber of Commerce is an organization that promotes pride in our diverse communities through positive, active leadership aimed at creating a cohesive, successful business climate in our county." We are here to help as you navigate current and future challenges.

Will we have scares from this experience? Yes, we will – physical, mental, and emotional. But I know each of our Chamber staff and all our members strive to be kind, helpful, and safe. Thank you for your care and support.



Catering Creations by Toni started a program called " Food for the Front Lines".

Welcome, New Members!

American Family Insurance – Justin Klingler
4603 Valencia Dr.
Pasco, WA 99301
706-755-1821
jklingle@amfam.com

College Success Foundation
1825 N. Hutchinson Rd. STE 200
Spokane Valley, WA 99212
(509) 742-5184
cgarza@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Fat Pastor Productions
910 Summitview Ave. STE 7A
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 230-4451
thefatpastoryakima@gmail.com

Grand Columbia Council
Scouts of America
12 N. 10th Ave.
Yakima WA 98902
(509) 453-4795

H2 Electric LLC
Sunnyside, WA 98944
(509) 837-1453

Paul's Air F/X, LTD
3714 W. Nob Hill BLVD
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 225-3420
paul@paulsairfx.com

Members For Over 90-99 Years:
Sundquist Fruit & Cold Storage

Business Briefs



2nd Harvest COVID - 19 Response Update

In order to keep up with the growing demand in the rural parts of our service territory, Second Harvest has formalized additional deliveries to several partners in the Tri-Cities, Mattawa, Royal City, Ellensburg, the Gorge, Toppenish and Yakima. These consistent deliveries of additional food will help meet the increasing need for food assistance due to COVID-19 in these communities.

Second Harvest teamed up with Food Lifeline and Northwest Harvest to create a statewide food access map. The map shows food banks and meal programs across Washington and provides information such as address, phone number and hours of operation. The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting service hours at some locations, so please be sure to call the number listed to confirm they will be open.



Yakima Valley
Community Foundation

The economic impacts are real and businesses and families need neighborly assistance. Visit www.yakimavalleyneeds.org to learn of non-profits serving our community in need of supplies and volunteers. Make a donation to the Yakima Valley Resilience and Response Fund where over \$1 Million has been gifted to help organizations providing food, medical care, rental assistance, shelter and more. And, don't forget to shop local!

Executive Board

Chair: Bob Gerst, John I Haas

Immediate Past Chair: Rich Austin,
Yakima Sports Commission

First Vice Chair: Kristi Foster,
Wheatland Bank

Past Chair Advisor: Joe Mann,
Ron's Coin & Collectible

Secretary/Treasurer: Danelle Kindell
Alegria & Company, P.S.

Legal Counsel: Jon L. Seitz
Lyon, Weigand & Gustafson PS

Second Vice Chair: Kathy Rheaume
HUB International

President/CEO: Verlynn Best

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Tree Fruit Association

Jack "JD" Bewley, McDonalds of Yakima

Steve Mercy, Yakima Theatres

Natasha Trudeau, Triumph
Actuation Systems

Bertha Alicia Garza, Centro de
Servicios Comunitarios

Terry Wheat

Jamon Rivera, Virginia Mason Memorial

Jamie Cuevas Jr., Stokes Law

Linda DiLembo, Valley Mall

Ron L. Cardey, Kwik Lok Corp.

Dr. Christopher Boggess

Anchored Chiropractic LLC

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Commissioner

LTC Roger Gavriluk, Base Commander
Yakima Training Center

John Cooper, Yakima Valley Tourism
State Fair Park

Dennis Matson, YV Tech

Johnathan Smith, YCDA

Christine Cote, Perry Technical Institute

Jess Camacho, Central Washington

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Patricia Byers, City of Yakima



Downtown Yakima Farmers Market Set to Open May 24th

Yakima, WA — The Downtown Yakima Farmers Market is tentatively scheduled to open May 24th and run 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 the grocery store. However, in essence, they are still a public gathering and thus, many safety measures must be installed and managed.

Yvette Lippert, Market Manager comments. "I have been working closely with the Yakima County Health Department, the City of Yakima, and Washington State Farmers Market Association since the end of March," said Lippert. "I'm confident we will have everything in place to allow social distancing, sanitation, and use of PPE."

The Farmers Market plays a vital role in the community. DAY is fully committed to providing a market, says Andrew Holt, as long as it is safe for everyone involved. To guarantee that, there will be many measures taken, such as the market will have a designated entrance and exit, movement through the market will be only one-way, established social distancing will be enforced along with no sampling or touching of products, shoppers will be asked to limit their time at the market, mandated handwashing stations will be in place, and so on. Yet, Holt and Lippert emphasize that "Now, more than ever, farmers markets are essential. Markets like ours offer healthy foods to communities in a fresh air setting while ensuring public safety as a first priority." There is still room for additional vendors.



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

U.S Chamber of Commerce

WHAT IS PATH FORWARD?

America is beginning to consider what it will take to restart the economy after a lengthy shutdown. It's increasingly clear that the most likely approach is a gradual, phased reopening linked to regional conditions. But any effort to bring millions of people back to work comes with lots of big, complicated questions.

Path Forward, a new program from the U.S. Chamber Foundation, is designed to help business and community leaders find the answers they need to develop a responsible reopening strategy.

When will it be safe to reopen? How do we protect employees and customers from the coronavirus? Where will my staff get COVID-19 tests? Masks? Gloves? Who's going to pay for all this? Each episode features conversations between the U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Suzanne Clark and experts with practical recommendations for businesses of all sizes. Path Forward events take place at 3 p.m. EST every Monday and Thursday.

If you can't attend, you'll find a recording of each episode on the Foundation's website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.



Gunslingers Ribbon Cutting & Open House
32 N Front St #102



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU //

Caring for people in the Yakima Valley for 70 years.

Since 1950, Virginia Mason Memorial has been a part of the fabric of this community. Welcoming new life. Healing broken bones. Caring for illness. Overcoming cancer. We've been here through it all.

Today, Virginia Mason Memorial offers a wide range of highly specialized care, if and when you need it. We're committed to a healthier Yakima, and we promise to always be here for you.

Photo by MM3 Photography



yakimamemorial.org



Virginia Mason Memorial

Business Briefs

Washington State Retail Association

Over the past several weeks, Washington Retail has worked to develop a detailed plan to safely reopen many closed retailers currently deemed as “non-essential” under the current order. Thousands of department stores, small businesses and specialty retailers who are the life blood of their local communities are currently closed. The line between “essential” and “non-essential” designations is now leading to significant upheaval and unintended consequences within the retail sector.

The six-point plan rests upon health screening, facial coverings, social distancing, adaptive management and safe shopping guidelines and best practices for employees and customers.

WR’s goal is to accomplish a gradual, phased-in reopening of the retail sector as soon as possible, that may vary by location and type of business in cooperation with state health authorities. The plan which will be shared in the coming week, would be adaptable to change based upon emerging data and information on the effectiveness of protective measures.

Inslee has announced that he will appoint three leadership groups in the coming days and weeks to assist him on reopening the economy. The groups will advise Inslee on public health and the state’s health care system; economic recovery; and a safe return to work. Since issuing and later extending the stay-home order, Inslee has said the virus still is causing too many deaths to relax restrictions that would risk more people mixing without practicing social distancing.

A fully engaged and operating retail industry is vital to the state economy. The industry normally generates roughly half of the state’s general fund budget from sales taxes and employs one in four people. More important now, though, is that owners of the small closed specialty shops and retailers throughout our state are as fully committed to operating safely as the “essential retailers” who have implemented a host of best practices and made numerous operational adjustments to protect their customers and employees.



YAKIMA COUNTY

**The First Annual Lemonade Day Yakima County
is coming to the Yakima Valley Fall 2020!**

Children in Yakima and Union Gap of kindergarten through fifth grade age are invited to register to participate in Lemonade Day, a fun, experiential learning program that teaches children how to start, own and operate their very own business – a lemonade stand. Lemonade Day is a national program presented to Yakima through The Yakima Chamber Foundation.

Due to the current situation in our community and with more and more people being in their homes and needing access to digital learning, we are moving to the Lemonopolis platform for our Lemonade Day lessons!

Lemonopolis is an online, interactive version of the Lemonade Day program. Lemonopolis is a virtual world where youth learn everything they need to know about starting, owning and operating their own business - a lemonade stand. Registration is open now!

For more information visit:
lemonadeday.org/yakima-county

Thank you to our Sponsors:



Heritage
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Pucker Pal Sponsors:
CWHCC - Little Caesars
Lower Valley Credit Union
Pacific Power - WestRock
Yakima Chief Hops

Chamber Members who renewed their Memberships.

Please support these businesses that support your Chamber!



Members for 50 - 59 Years:

Clifton/Larson/Allen

Members for 40 - 49 Years:

Wilbur-Ellis Company

Members for 30 - 39 Years:

Banner Bank

Central Washington Home Builders Assoc.

Solarity Credit Union Home Office

Super 8 Motel of Yakima

Members for 20-29 Years:

Associated General Contractors

Bergen Screen Print

Farmers Insurance

Heritage University

Trailer Inns RV Park, Inc.

Windermere Real Estate - Yakima

Members for 15-19 Years:

Pacific Steel & Recycling

Steve Hahn's Mercedes, Volkswagen, Kia

Valley Ford Nissan

Members for 10- 14 Years:

Cascade Foot & Ankle

Members for 5 - 9 Years:

Centerplate

Cowiche Canyon Kitchen & Icehouse Bar

Fieldstone Memory Care

Finance of America Mortgage

Gesa Credit Union

Image Point Mobile Medical Services

Law Office Sonia Rodriguez True

Rod's House

Safe Yakima Valley

Total Care Home Health

Wild Fire Services Environmental

Willamette Dental Group

Members for 1 - 4 Years:

Best Western Plus Yakima Hotel

Canon Solutions America

Cashmere Valley Bank

Hopebridge Services

Jerry's Pest Service

Lower Valley Credit Union

MAK Daddy Coffee Roasters

Parker Youth & Sports Foundation

Richard L Miller LLC

Second Harvest Inland Northwest

Sylvan Learning Center

Wilson Real Estate

WSU Spokane - College of Pharmacy



Chamber Staff

Verlynn Best, President & CEO

Amy Lopez, Operations & Marketing

Trena Schab, Director of Member Services

Citlali Mason, Office Assistant

Mission Statement



"The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce is an organization that promotes pride in our diverse communities through positive, active leadership aimed at creating a cohesive, successful business climate in our County."