

THE CHAMBER VOICE



Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce

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

March - April 2021

Message From Verlynn Best



Spring is here, although the wind machines were reeling this morning! We are in a season of new beginnings and I cannot help but feel optimistic.

We are in Phase 3 and we are not going back! Did I just say that? It is time to open using all the safeguards that we have been using - handwashing, masking up, social distancing and vaccinations. We all have to continue to do our part. Big businesses have been able to continue to operate during waves of this pandemic, so small businesses should be allowed to follow their example - right?

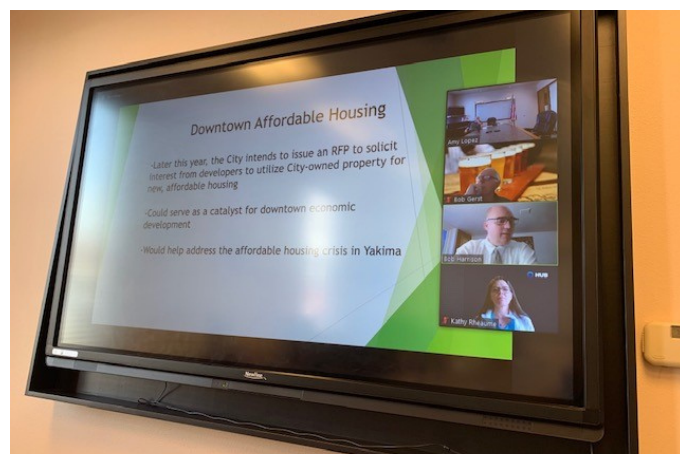
Across Washington state there have been 2,369 closures within the food service industry alone, the Washington Hospitality Association reported and many of our local businesses are on the brink. Small businesses employ 1.4 million workers which is half of the state's private sector workforce and 98 percent of these retailers are small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Source: National Retail Federation. Let's support our local businesses!

Exercise your freedoms thoughtfully and those who use the mask or get the vaccine are exercising their freedoms. My motto is to be kinder and do what you know is best for you, your family, and your community. My personal path you may not like, but it is my choice and I prayerfully made it. I got vaccinations to protect not just myself, but my family, as well, especially my granddaughter who is a type one diabetic. Many of my friends do not want to get the vaccine and that is their choice. I sincerely hope we can listen, learn, and grow with one another.

Let us all be more understanding and less offended.

Verlynn Best

March Chamber Power Hour with Yakima City Manager Bob Harrison



Community Mask Giveaway

Since the beginning of January the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, Central Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Yakima County Development Association, Downtown Association of Yakima and Yakima Valley Tourism have given out over 2,000 masks to the community. A special thanks to Yakima County Emergency Management.



Member Profile

Yakima Schools Foundation Celebrates its 30th Anniversary During Annual Celebrate Our Youth



Yakima Schools Foundation reaches the milestone this year of celebrating its 30th Anniversary during the annual Celebrate Our Youth event! The Foundation is honored to support the amazing teachers and staff within the Yakima School District so that they are able to provide students with excellence in their education.

It has been a different year for the Foundation, but we are proud of the many ways we've come together to ensure Yakima Public Schools students and teachers were equipped with the necessary tools for success so far, and we look forward to continuing this important work. We believe a community engaged in making educational excellence a priority will transform Yakima and are looking forward to furthering that impactful change with our community's support.

This year, the Celebrate Our Youth event will be held on Wednesday, April 28th, at 12:15pm virtually. We'll be celebrating our past, present, and future of the Foundation. We are more excited to hear from keynote speaker, Author Noé Álvarez and honoring the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council as our Champion of Youth Award recipient this year! Tickets are now available. Receive your very own signed copy of Spirit Run and delicious lunch crafted by Chef Julie Kirchoff of The Lab with your ticket purchase. You can also choose to purchase a ticket to be donated to a student by selecting student ticket and donate.



Welcome, New Members!

AED Advocates, Inc
2807 W Washington Ave.
Yakima, WA 98903
509-492-4709

Catalyss Homes, LLC
200 Gallaway Dr.
Yakima, WA 98908
509-966-2048
www.catalysshomes.com

Kittitas Interactive Management
6 S. 2nd ST. STE 510
Yakima, WA 98901
509-607-6628
www.kittitasinteractive.com

Maverick Gaming
12530 NE 144th ST.
Kirkland, WA 98034
253-444-8913
www.maverickgaming.com

Meraki Creations
1510 Summitview Ave.
Yakima, WA 98902
509-833-3004

Premera Blue Cross
3900 E Sprague Ave. MS 722
Spokane, WA 99202
509-362-9277
www.premera.com

Sev-Rend
53041 Horseshoe Lake Rd.
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-619-2144
www.sev-rend.com

Tri Cities Monarchs 3 VS 3
816 W Francis Ave. #1069
Spokane, WA 99205
509-895-5622

US Cellular
102 N Fair Ave. STE 101
Yakima, WA 98901
509-452-1083

Vance Heating and Air
2608 Terrace Heights Dr.
Yakima, WA 98901
509-248-9450
www.vanceheating.com

Private Clinic for COVID 19 Vaccination:

Overview: The goal of the private clinic is to set up a time to have vaccinations administered that is convenient, easy, and efficient. There are 2 options for the private clinic; 1) On site at Yakima COVID Vaccination Center (Yakima CVC) located at the Yakima State Fair Park, 2) Off site with a mobile team.

On-Site Private Clinic

If you want to arrange a block of time at the Yakima CVC for employees, citizens, members, etc. we can accommodate that with our private clinic. This would guarantee vaccines and allow a block of time to be set aside for you and your members to get the COVID 19 vaccine together.

Please provide the following information and email to:

yakimavaccine@co.yakima.wa.us

- Name of business/organization
- Point of contact (email and phone number)
- Two possible dates you'd like to come
- Time frame you would like to come
- Number of appointments required

Once we have received this information we will send you a link to the Private Clinic for you to register your employees or members.

Off Site Mobile Team

If you want to arrange a visit from our mobile team for employees, citizens, family members, etc. we can accommodate that with our private clinic. This would guarantee vaccines and allow a block of time to be set aside for you and your members to get the COVID 19 vaccine together at a location that is convenient for you.

If this option works please provide the following information and email to: **yakimavaccinemobileteam@gmail.com**

- Name of business/organization
- Point of contact Name- email - phone number
- Date you want to come
- Time frame you would like to come
- Number of appointments required
- Location you'd like to host the clinic
- Location should have access to bathrooms, chairs, and plenty of space for people to wait for 15 minutes.

Once we have received this information we will send you a link to the Private Clinic for you to register your employees, members, etc. Please provide all information for registration prior to the mobile vaccine event for faster processing and screening.

State Fair Park COVID 19 Vaccination Site

Monday- Wednesday and Friday - Sunday: 9am - 3 pm
Thursday: 12pm - 6 pm

Executive Board

Chair: Kristi Foster, Wheatland Bank

Immediate Past Chair: Bob Gerst, John I Haas

First Vice Chair: Kathy Rheame,
HUB International

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

Past Chair Advisor: Rich Austin
Yakima Sports Commission

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

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

Second Vice Chair: Kathy Rheame,
HUB International

President/CEO: Verlynn Best

Board of Directors

Ranie Haas, Washington State
Tree Fruit Association

Jack "JD" Bewley, McDonalds of Yakima

Steve Mercy, Yakima Theatres

Natasha Trudeau, Triumph
Actuation Systems

Vicki Baker, Grocery Outlet
Terry Wheat

Ben Record, AAI Financial Group

Jamon Rivera, Virginia Mason Memorial

Jamie Cuevas Jr., Ramsey Companies

Linda DiLembo, Valley Mall

Ron L. Cardey, Kwik Lok Corp.

Ex-Officio Members

Ladon Linde, Yakima County Commissioner

LTC Luke Wittmer, Base Commander
Yakima Training Center

John Cooper, Yakima Valley Tourism

Kathy Kramer, 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

Chamber Members who renewed their Memberships.

Please support these businesses that support your Chamber!



Members For Over 100 Years:

Helliesen Lumber & Supply - 100

Horizon Distribution - 100

International Paper - 108

Pacific Power - 111

Yakima Federal - 115

Members for 80 - 89 Years:

Halverson Northwest Law Group

Keith & Keith Funeral Services

Yakima School District

Members for 70 - 79 Years:

Burrows Tractor, Inc.

Members for 60 - 69 Years:

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

HUB International Northwest, LLC

KNDO TV

McKinney Glass

Members for 50 - 59 Years:

Alegria & Company, P.S.

Clifton/Larson/Allen

Dunbar Jewelers

Shaw & Sons Funeral Directors

Members for 40 - 49 Years:

Bernd Moving

Chalet Dental

Comprehensive Health Care

Langevin El Pasaiso Funeral Home

PayneWest Insurance

Stephens Metal Products, Inc.

Tri-Ply Construction, LLC

Yakima Steel

Yakima Valley College

Members for 30 - 39 Years:

Cascade Eye Center

Cowiche Growers, Inc.

Design Service Corporation

Farmers Insurance and Financial Services

John L. Scott Real Estate

Terrace Height Development, LLC

The Capitol Theatre

Therapeutic Associates - Yakima Physical Therapy

T&M Heating of Washington

United Business Machines of Washington

Vintiques of Yakima Car Club

Members for 20-29 Years:

Akland Pump & Irrigation Co.

All American Self Storage

American Medical Response

Bruner Painting Inc.

Central Washington University - Yakima Center

Don Jordan Energy Systems

Glenmoor Green Apartments

Joe Park Construction, LLC

Johnston Insurance

Ken Leingang Excavating

MSI Construction, Inc.

Orchard-Rite, Ltd.

Pacific Alliance Title, LLC

Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center

Thomas Upton Surveying

Triumph Treatment Services

URM Cash and Carry #4

Chamber Staff

Verlynn Best, President & CEO

Amy Lopez, Operations & Marketing

Trena Cloyd, Director of Member Services

Citlali Mason, Office Assistant



Yakima high schools Davis and Ike received over 6,000 masks. Adrienne Garner from the Henry Beauchamp Community Center helped make the deliveries to the schools.

Chamber Members who renewed their Memberships.

Members for 10- 14 Years:

AAU Sports
Bob's Burgers & Brew
Community Health of Central Washington
Community Living
FirstFruits Marketing, LLC
Hilton Garden Inn Yakima
Ledgestone Hotel
M Seigny Construction Inc.
Sole Therapy Day Spa
Tieton Capital Management
Treveri Cellars
Washington Fruit Place & Gift Shop
Wheatland Bank

Members for 5 - 9 Years:

Abeyta Nelson Injury Law
Absolute Comfort Technology
Assurance Healthcare and Counseling Center
Aubrey's R.V. Center Inc.
Bale Breaker Brewing Company
Central Washington RV
Cornerstone Home Lending - Yakima
ENIGMA, Inc.
Express Employment Professionals
Hayden Homes
Human Resources & Management Solutions
Inklings Bookshop
Love INC.
Malone Workforce Solutions
McCormick Air Center
Ultra Yield Micronutrients
Washington Broadband Inc.
Washington Federal
WSU Spokane College of Pharmacy
Yakima Humane Society
Yakima Symphony Orchestra
Yakima Valley Museum
Yakima Valley Pippins

Members for 15-19 Years:

Abbott's Printing
Amtech Corporation, LLC
CALCOE Federal Credit Union - Yakima Branch
Columbia Distributing
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
Kana Winery
Meredith Furniture, Inc
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences
The Salvation Army

Members for 1 - 4 Years:

American Family Insurance - J. Munoz
Baymont Inn & Suites
Bekins Northwest
BBM Financial Services, Inc.
BBSI
Centerplate
Center for Sharing
Christina Williams Insurance Agency
Columbia Asphalt & Ready Mix
Copiers Northwest
Denny's
DermaHealth/DermaCare
Double M Orchards, LLC
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Yakima
Escrow Pacific LLC
Fieldstone Orchard West
Freehand Cellars
Friendly Automotive & Tires
Hayden Homes
Kicking Assets Bookkeeping LLC
Kwik Lok Corp.
Lamar Advertising Company of Central WA
LS Networks
Mary and Ron Anderson
Oak Hollow Custom Framing & Gallery
Paint Smith Company
Ponderosa Assisted Living Community
Raul Castillo Insurance Agency LLC
Soma Aesthetics
The Cleaning Brothers, LLC
The Hotel Y
Timothy Joseph Surber Agency/State Farm

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."



Obesity & Diabetes In Yakima: A Silent Epidemic

**By Lily Gonzalez, MPH, DE,
Yakima Valley Memorial**

Yakima County was hit hard by the pandemic, both in the first surge in June and the second surge during the holidays. The impact of COVID-19 in our community has been front-page news for months, but there's another, silent epidemic with a devastating impact on our community that isn't on the front page: obesity and diabetes.

Why it is important to focus on these conditions during the pandemic? According to the Centers for Disease Control, adults of any age with obesity and/or type 2 diabetes are at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.

A major portion of the Yakima County population is affected by obesity and diabetes: 37% percent of adults in Yakima County are obese, which is 6% higher than the state as a whole. Obesity is a primary risk factor for prediabetes and diabetes. At least one in three American adults, or a total of 88 million, has prediabetes, and 84% of people with prediabetes don't know they have it.

Without weight loss and moderate physical activity, many people with prediabetes could develop type 2 diabetes within five years. About 14% of adults in Yakima County suffer from diabetes, a rate that is also higher than the state as a whole.

Here are some things to watch out for:

Risk factors for Prediabetes and Type 2 Diabetes

- Overweight
- 45 years of age or older
- Parent or sibling has type 2 diabetes
- Physically active fewer than 3 times per week
- Gave birth to a baby that weighed more than 9 pounds
- Had diabetes while pregnant (gestational diabetes)

Race and ethnicity also affect your risk. African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, American Indians, Pacific Islanders, and some Asian Americans are at particularly high risk for type 2 diabetes.

If you are overweight, prediabetic, living with diabetes, or think that you may be at risk, there is good news! These conditions are preventable and controllable.

These programs at Yakima Valley Memorial can help:

- Diabetes education and management classes
- Diabetes support group
- Diabetes prevention classes
- ACT program – obesity prevention program for children and their families

Call Lori Gibbons in Community Health and Education at 509-249-5317 for more information.

