



**MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:**

Grandview  
Granger  
Harrah  
Mabton  
Moxee  
Naches  
Selah  
Sunnyside  
Tieton  
Toppenish  
Union Gap  
Wapato  
Yakima  
Yakima County  
Zillah

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE:**

John Hodkinson, Temporary Chair  
*Regional Planning Commission*  
Velva Herrera, Temporary Vice  
Chair, *Mabton, Mayor*  
Mike Leita  
*Yakima County Commission*  
James A. Restucci  
*Sunnyside City Council*  
Dan Olson  
*Union Gap City Council*  
Area 1—Vacant  
*City of Yakima—Vacant*



311 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1550  
FAX 509-574-1551

**AWC Offers Training For Newly Elected Officials**

*By Saadia Hassan, Planner*

Association of Washington Cities (AWC) conducts a day-long training session for newly-elected mayors and council members every two years, following municipal elections. The workshop focuses on the following:

- Legal obligations and liabilities;
- Statutory roles and responsibilities for different positions, and;
- Essential principles of and strategies for effective local government leadership.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington (MRSC) and both AWC and MRSC strongly encourage newly-elected members to attend. Local governance is complex and challenging and there are certain requirements, frequent pitfalls, and basic principles that elected officials must know in order to provide effective municipal governance. This workshop is a good resource to provide them with the essentials tools that help achieve high-performance in municipal governance.

The workshop is offered in four different cities throughout Washington including Yakima. This year the workshop in Yakima will be held on Friday, January 11, 2008 in Yakima Convention Center.

AWC's Small Cities Scholarship Program provides a limited number of free registrations for small cities and towns under 5,000 populations that are in need of financial assistance. These are awarded on a first come, first served basis, with two scholarships per jurisdiction.

For more information visit <http://www.awcnet.org> and go to the "Newly Elected Officials Training" link.

**Al Hubert Receives YVCOG 2008  
Outstanding Service Award**

Al Hubert, YVCOG Chairman and Toppenish City Council Member, was awarded the YVCOG 2008 Outstanding Service Award at the December 12 YVCOG General Membership meeting, held at the Yakima Convention Center.

Al was recognized for his many accomplishments throughout his lifetime as a coach, an outstanding military career, his service to the citizens and community of Toppenish, five years as YVCOG Chairman, and all around great friend, father and husband of Lavonda for 53 years! Al will be sorely missed, but expect to see him 'around town' often. Thank you Al for all you have done for the YVCOG!



*Zillah Community Choir performing at December 12 YVCOG General Membership meeting at the Yakima Convention Center.*

## Toppenish Housing Rehabilitation Program Begins Construction Phase

By Gene Weinmann, Housing Rehab Coordinator



The 2007 Toppenish Housing Rehabilitation Program (THRP) has entered the construction phase, having awarded its first 6 projects to contractors, and initiating construction work on the projects in late December. Loans on an additional 5 projects were approved in the last week of December, with project bids and bid awards scheduled for mid-January, 2008.

The Housing Rehabilitation Program offers Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Weatherization loans to qualified Toppenish residents. Loans are separated into two basic categories, Standard and Elderly. Standard loans require monthly payments ranging from \$40.00 to \$75.00 and require repayment of only 60% of the portion of the project funded by CDBG funds. Elderly loans require monthly payments ranging from \$25.00 to \$60.00 and require repayment of only 50% of the portion of the project funded by CDBG funds. Both loan types are 0% interest.

The Program is targeting a minimum of 15 housing rehabilitation projects within the City's corporate limits. The Toppenish Housing Rehabilitation Program is substantially funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the Washington State Office of Community Development, with the remaining funding provided by the City of Toppenish. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Gene Weinmann, YVCOG Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator at (509) 574-1550.

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## UGA Update

Drew Miller, Senior Planner & Saadia Hassan, Planner

Yakima County has recently finalized the 10 year review of the Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundary and Critical Area Ordinances (CAO). The County Commissioners adopted the new UGA boundaries and the CAO on December 18, 2007, which will be effective from December 31, 2007.

This process started in March 2004 involving an extensive public participation process to solicit suggestions from the public. The process included thirty-six meetings with interest groups, five public meetings, six city and town elected official meetings (Countywide Planning Policy Committee), eight city and town staff meetings, and thirty-six Planning Commission Study Sessions.

## A "Careful what you wish for" update...

by Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

As you may recall, back in February, I wrote an article titled, "Careful what you wish for," in which I announced the legislative decision to continue the Commute Trip Reduction program here in Yakima. The title of the legislation was the *Commute Trip Reduction Efficiency Act*. I also detailed the process that we were required to follow in regards to CTR Plan preparation for both regional and local jurisdictions. I won't attempt to dazzle you (or perhaps bore you to death) with the details, but I would like to announce that the plan preparation process is complete. Through Memorandum's of Agreement with the three affected jurisdictions (City of Yakima, City of Selah, and City of Union Gap) and the YVCOG, the local plans were prepared and a Regional CTR Plan was developed. These plans were reviewed by the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) in October and approved for submittal to the CTR Board for final approval.

The good news is, the plans were all approved by the CTR Board! We now enter phase two; adoption of the plans by the CTR-affected jurisdictions. As these plans have been developed in cooperation with all interested parties including the jurisdictions, transit authorities, the bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee as well as the employers that will be affected by these plans, the adoption process is expected to be smooth.

In addition to plan adoption, the jurisdictions will also be required to update their CTR ordinances to reflect the new requirements of the CTR Efficiency Act. The YVCOG is currently working on a model CTR ordinance which will assist the CTR-affected jurisdictions in making their ordinance updates.

The CTR Plan adoption phase should continue over the next couple of months and we look forward to working with the CTR-affected jurisdictions as they review, approve, and adopt their plans. We will continue to keep you apprised of the progress. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding this process, as always, please do not hesitate to call Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator at YVCOG at 509-574-1550 or email at [curtinb@yvcog.org](mailto:curtinb@yvcog.org).

### TITLE VI Notice to the Public

YVCOG fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <http://www.yvcog.org/title6.pdf> or call (509) 574-1550.

## The Quest to Find a Notebook Computer

By Richard Spada, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator

It is the holiday season and I've made up my mind to buy a notebook (laptop computer). So, I have been shopping around in my quest to find the right computer for me.

Then I realized since I am doing all this research why not use this research to write a newsletter article listing 10 laptops that cost around \$1000, give or take a few hundred dollars here or there.



- Dell Inspiron 1720: The E1505 (Core 2 Duo) is the only \$1000 laptop on the market that comes with discrete graphics, a Core 2 Duo processor, and 2GB of RAM. There's no other system like it, and for that reason, it earns my top choice for a Budget laptop. I will probably purchase one of these.
- Dell Inspiron 1721: At \$999 perfect for frugal shoppers with discerning tastes.
- HP Pavilion dv6500t: At \$899 is one of HP's super aggressive low price laptops. It is loaded with an Intel Core duo processor, 2GB of RAM, and a 120GB hard drive. A great buy.
- Acer Aspire 4710-2013: All in all, you might just be convinced to bypass the Dells and HPs and lay down \$600 for this laptop
- Sony VAIO VGN-NR160: At \$830 this a good deal but you might need to add on an extra 1GB of RAM to run all the software that's installed on this machine.
- Toshiba Tecra M8-S8011: This one I am looking closely at! Mobile business professionals who fancy media features in a business laptop might want to take a look at the Toshiba Tecra M8-S8011. However, I would like a faster processor and more RAM given the \$1,250 price tag.
- Asus EEE PC: Ultra portable. Weighs 2 pounds and \$400 dollars. Only has 4GB of storage and LINUX operating system. This is pure no thrills utilitarian.
- Acer TravelMate 4720-6727: An Excellent business laptop at \$1,049. Very good components and long battery life.
- Fujitsu LifeBook U810: An Ultra light PC that can run a full blown version of windows. This is 1.5 pound handheld with a price of \$999 dollars direct.
- Toshiba Satellite P205-S6237: Middle of the road components but a 17 inch screen that will make you forget about the old desktop at \$999.

These prices are direct prices and are not set in stone. I wanted to give a ball park figure on the price and components of each. It's best to do your own research to find what you like. Refurbished laptops off Ebay are excellent as well. Happy Shopping!

## JANUARY MEETINGS...



**MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, January 10, 2008 - CANCELLED**  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA

**YVCOG Executive Committee &  
MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board**  
**Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.**  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
(The 300 Building)  
Yakima, WA

**YVCOG General Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 16, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.**  
(location to be determined)  
Sunnyside, WA

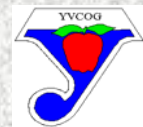
**Program: Nominations & Election of 2008  
YVCOG Executive Committee & Officers**

*Reservations for the YVCOG General Membership meeting are needed no later than Wednesday, January 9. Please call Judy at 509-574-1550 or email at [pricej@yvcog.org](mailto:pricej@yvcog.org) to RSVP. Thank you!*

*(YVCOG General Membership policy regarding reservations for General Membership meetings. If you make a reservation and fail to cancel it by the Friday before the meeting, you will receive an invoice for the cost of the meal. This policy is necessary because YVCOG is obligated to honor the head count given to caterers and restaurants. Thank you for your cooperation.)*



## Your YVCOG Staff:



J. Page Scott, Executive Director  
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator  
Vacant, Senior Planner  
Drew Miller, Senior Transportation Planner  
Saadia Hassan, Planner  
Richard Spada, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator  
Gene E. Weinmann, Housing Rehab Coordinator  
Jim Dixon, Housing Rehab Building Inspector  
Tamara Hayward, Housing Rehab Office Specialist  
Nancy Soules, Administrative Finance Officer  
Judy Price, Office Specialist