



YAKIMA VALLEY

CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

Volume 45...Issue 1 January 2017

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

James A. Restucci, Chair
Mayor, City of Sunnyside
Mike Leita
Yakima County Commissioner
Maureen Adkison
City of Yakima City Council
Area 1 — Dan Olson
Union Gap City Council
Area 2 — Janice Gonzales,
City of Zillah, City Council
Area 3 — Mario Martinez
Mayor, City of Mabton
Member At Large-
John Hodgkinson, Jr., Vice Chair

Meet the New YVCOG Team



My name is Mike Shuttleworth. I was born and raised in Goldendale. My wife Jill and I have lived in the lower valley on a small farm for about 25 years. We have two grown daughters and two grandsons. I enjoy spending time with my grandsons and seeing the world through their eyes. I received a Bachelor in Economics from Washington State University. I worked for the Town of Steilacoom and the City of Bonney Lake, before spending 24 years with Benton County. As Larry likes to say, I was working in planning before the

Growth Management Act was voted into law. I have enjoyed meeting with the staff, planning commission members and the elected officials of the cities. We all have a lot to complete in the next 6 months to meet the deadlines for the Growth Management Act and I look forward to working with all of you.

My name is Brian Galloway. I was born and raised in a small town in southern California (Moorpark), about 40 miles NE of Los Angeles. Just before coming here to work for YVCOG I was in the Peace Corps serving in rural Panama. Our focus was sustainable agriculture. I have a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Eastern Washington University, and have worked for city, county, and tribal governments. I'm looking forward to being part of YVCOG and helping the local communities reach their goals.





From Executive Director, Larry Mattson



What does 2017 look like at YVCOG?

Training for You and Your Staff

April 17-21, we're bringing several different classes to the Valley. These courses should be of interest to both elected officials and city staff. Here's how the schedule is shaping up:

Short Course on Local Planning – Monday evening, April 17. This popular class on land use planning and the Growth Management Act is taught by Department of Commerce staff and local experts. Useful to planning commissioners, new planning staff, and interested elected officials. This course is free.

Plain Talk – Tuesday, April 18. Peabody Communications teaches this course on writing and speaking clearly and directly. See more at www.peabodycommunications.com The fee for this class will be approximately \$60 per person.

Jurassic Parliament – Wednesday, April 19. Parliamentarian Ann Macfarlane brings her popular class to the Yakima Valley. Ideal for anyone new to Roberts Rules, or who could use a refresher. Details are available at www.jurassicparliament.com The fee for this class is approximately \$50 per person.

Infrastructure Funding Workshop – Thursday, April 20. This 'funder's forum' workshop brought to you by YVCOG and the Department of Commerce will help you line up grants and low-interest loans for your water, sewer, and other big—ticket projects.

Help with Grants

Several of you have asked me if YVCOG can help your city with researching and writing grants, as well as managing your successful grants. We are gearing up to provide you with those services in 2017. Look for more details on how we can help your city fund projects in late Spring/early Summer.

The Trump Administration and Local Government

What will the next four years look like for cities and counties? We'll be attending the National Association of Regional Councils conference in February to learn more. We'll keep you posted as we learn more throughout the spring about President Trump's vision for how his administration will work with local government.



MPACT Corner—Meet your Member



Goin' was selected as the integration partner for Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority FTA Mobility On Demand grant

Goin' a software service by Justin Bergener was selected to become the integration provider for PSTA's Mobility on demand grant to pilot a program that will provide the first ever on demand paratransit rides. As riders call in they will be able to choose which provider they want based on estimated time of arrival. PSTA will also use Goin's digital wallet to create a cashless, ticketless, and cardless payment system.

Accessible Transportation Community Initiative (ATCI)

Medstar Transportation is looking to work with the Easterseals project Action Consulting's Accessible Transportation Community Initiative (ATCI), which aims to help communities improve their local transportation access to make it easy and convenient for children, families, caregivers, and older adults to get to where they want to go. Improved transportation access will enhance the quality of life through a systems change model through the ATCI and to promote greater access to the community (Healthcare, education, employment, recreation, etc.)

We are looking for a coalition of 20-30 individuals from the community to help address finding solutions to transportation access issues. The coalition will bring forward and address the critical issues that our community faces with independent mobility. Together the coalition will develop an accessible transportation plan that will be implemented into the community with the use of the funds awarded by ESPAC.





Homeless Program Update

By Crystal Testerman, Homeless Program Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR! What a great time of year to reflect on all of our accomplishments of years past and be so incredibly thankful for all that we have!

Homeless Program Transition – Starting January 1, 2017, the Homeless Program officially transferred from Yakima County to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. YVCOG will now be the administrative and fiscal agent for state, federal, and locally funded homeless programs throughout the mid, upper and lower Yakima Valleys. The transition started 18 months ago when the County asked YVCOG to administer this program because of its strong relationship with their general membership of 14 cities and the county. YVCOG is excited by the potential to build this program with the help of their advisory committee, the *Homeless Planning and Policy Council*, area service providers and community engagement. YVCOG will be dedicated in making strategic, compliant, and transparent funding decisions that will lead to long-term solutions.



Emergency Winter Shelters - As outdoor temperatures have dropped below freezing, YVCOG has made it a top priority to work with service providers to provide available shelter for our homeless men, women, and children. We contracted with Yakima Neighborhood Health Services to open and staff three local churches that can accommodate night time shelter for single men and women. Also included in that contract was additional funding to allow for higher utilization of 'The Depot' as a day warming shelter. Unfortunately, not all homeless people can easily be served through these shelter options (such as those with chemical dependency and physical or mental ailments) and so we have also contracted with Northwest Community Action Center to provide hotel/motel vouchers for the entire county.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

I would like to give a personal thank you to all the service providers and volunteers who are working so hard to keep our homeless warm and safe throughout these winter months!!!

100 Day Challenge - I am happy to report that our county recently participated in a 100-Day Challenge issued by the Department of Commerce in which there were two pre-determined goals:

1. Zero Children Sleeping On the Streets, Zero Children Sleeping in Tents, Zero Children Sleeping in Cars.
2. Creating Lasting System Changes



The challenge concluded on December 7th, 2016 and our county was recognized in a celebration for providing permanent housing to 14+ unsheltered families since the start of the challenge on August 15, 2016. The challenge also provided the opportunity to learn best practices in reducing homelessness through a Housing First model from experienced consultants.

Our focus for creating lasting system change was specifically dedicated to finishing the design and implementation of a coordinated entry system. The use of coordinated entry is mandatory to maintain compliance for state and federal funding and is intended to coordinate low barrier entry, with assessment, and rapid exits of clients (particularly the chronically homeless that are considered the hardest to serve). The challenge coincided perfectly with the transition of the Homeless Program from the Yakima County to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments and kept us moving rapidly forward when progress could otherwise have stalled. A special thanks to Kathy Barko, Aspire Consulting, and Emily Mirra, Building Changes!!!

Here's to a fresh start in the New Year with new program direction and new relationships!!!

Sincerely,

Crystal Testerman
Homeless Program Manager



Safe shopping

By John Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst and System Admin

Although the Christmas season has come and gone for another year, if you're anything like me, you are still shopping online. I find myself searching all over the place for various accessories for a new device, a different belt to match new clothing, etc. It seems there always something to hunt for and as such, always a need to practice safe online shopping. The USDHS, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) came out with some incredibly valuable information that I thought I'd share for the new year. Awareness is the first step to victory over people with malicious intent whether they be terrorists attacking malls or online predators looking for your financial information. Knowledge is power.

How do attackers target online shoppers?

There are three common ways that attackers can take advantage of online shoppers:

Creating fraudulent sites and email messages – Unlike traditional shopping, where you know that a store is actually the store it claims to be, attackers can create malicious websites or email messages that appear to be legitimate. Attackers create these malicious sites and email messages to try to convince you to supply personal and financial information.

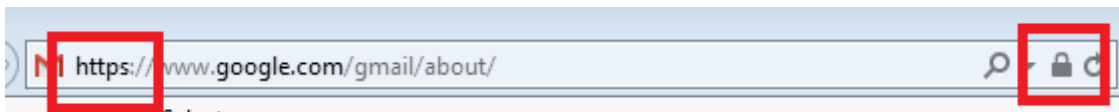
Intercepting insecure transactions – If a vendor does not use encryption, an attacker may be able to intercept your information as it is transmitted.

Targeting vulnerable computers – If you do not take steps to protect your computer from viruses or other malicious code, an attacker may be able to gain access to your computer and all of the information on it.

How can you protect yourself?

Do business with reputable vendors – Before providing any personal or financial information, make sure that you are interacting with a reputable, established vendor. Some attackers may try to trick you by creating malicious websites that appear to be legitimate, so you should verify the legitimacy before supplying any information.

Make sure your information is being encrypted – Many sites use secure sockets layer (SSL) to encrypt information. Indications that your information will be encrypted include a URL that begins with "https:" instead of "http:" and a padlock icon (see the attached graphic for an example). If the padlock is closed, the information is encrypted. A user can click on the padlock to view the certificate, verifying its authenticity.



Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

I cannot stress this one enough: **BE WARY OF EMAILS REQUESTING INFORMATION** - Attackers may attempt to gather information by sending emails requesting that you confirm purchase or account information. Legitimate businesses will not solicit this type of information through email. Do not provide sensitive information through email.

Finally, although this one seems like common sense: **CHECK YOUR STATEMENTS**. Keep a record of your purchases and copies of confirmation pages, and compare them to your bank statements. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately.

Although following these steps will increase your online shopping safety, be aware that nothing can truly **GUARANTEE** your safety more than your diligence. The internet is likely filled with more malicious users than valid ones, in this day and age. The less you expose yourself to the release of sensitive information, the better of you'll be!

(article written by YVCOG with information provided by US-CERT).



TOURISM UPDATE

WINTER SPORTS • WINE TASTING • 2017 PLANNING **JANUARY 2017**

UNION GAP HAS THE CLOSEST HOTELS TO THE POPULAR AHTANUM SNO-PARK



Winter sports enthusiasts agree that the Ahtanum Sno-Park is a fantastic location for cross country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and old fashioned sledding. The snow has been great!

RED WINE AND CHOCOLATE IS A FEBRUARY TRADITION!

Book your weekend now in Union Gap for this popular wine tasting weekend in the Yakima Valley. Our hotels are all located conveniently to Highway 82 making it easy for you to get to your favorite participating wineries from Yakima to Prosser.

(2016 Contest Winners Enjoy Red Wine & Chocolate Weekend)



SAVE THE DATES

Union Gap has multiple events throughout the year, here are some of the highlights you should know about.

- February 18-20: Red Wine & Chocolate
- March 25-26: Plowing Bee
- April 23 – Old Steel Car Show
- April 27-30 – Tear Drop Trailer Gathering
- May 19-21 – Play the Gap – A slice of Americana
- June 17-18 – Old Town Days & Civil War Reenactments
- August 19-20 – Pioneer Power Show

Email: info@visituniongap.com
Call: 509-575-8770

www.visituniongap.com



Save the Date: YVCOG General Membership Meeting

When: January 18, 2017

Where: Bon Vino's Bistro

122 N 16th St, Sunnyside, WA 98944

6:30 p.m. - Social

Diner: 7:00 p.m. - Please make checks payable to:

Bon Vino's Bistro for \$20

Program: 7:30 p.m. - YCDA / New Vision - Joe Schmitt



“New Vision, the Yakima County Development Association is a non-profit, publicly and privately funded organization that focuses on business recruitment, growing local industry, assisting entrepreneurs, and attracting technical and professional talent to the region. Our goal is to enhance the income and employment stability of our local economy.”

RSVPs due to jessica.hansen@yvcog.org prior to noon on January 13, 2017.



YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director
Christina Wickenhagen, Deputy Director
Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator
Mike Shuttleworth, Senior Planner

Crystal Testerman, Homeless Program Manager
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Admin
Brian Galloway, Assistant Planner
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist
Jessica Hansen, Office and Communication Specialist

YVCOG: 311 North 4th Street, Suite 204 Yakima, WA 98901



509-574-1550 / www.yvcog.org

