



YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

Volume 45...Issue 2 March 2017

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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City of Yakima City Council
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City of Zillah, City Council
Area 3 — Mario Martinez
Mayor, City of Mabton
Member At Large-
John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair

Check out YVCOG's Upcoming April Classes on pages 6 & 7

- **April 12th**—Trauma Informed Service Provider Training by the Department of Commerce
- **April 18th**—Writing in Plain Talk—Peabody Communications
- **April 19th**—Jurassic Parliament / Robert's Rules by Ann Macfarlane
- **April 20th**—Tools for Funding Future Infrastructure Projects by CERB
- **April 26th**—Short Course on Local Planning

Meet the New YVCOG Team Member



My name is William Denton. My family and I are new to the Yakima Valley. We have recently moved from Nevada with our two Siberian Huskies. I am an avid baseball fan of the Los Angeles Angels baseball team. I bring with me to YVCOG over 14 years of Military Police experience. I have also worked in the HUD/VASH program for the Veterans Administration helping homeless Veterans. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Colorado State University. I look forward to working with everyone involved in the YVCOG and the local communities we help support.

William Denton is the new YVCOG Homeless Program Coordinator. You can contact him directly at 509-424-4694 or email him at William.Denton@yvcog.org



From Executive Director, Larry Mattson



Greetings YVCOG members –

In mid-February I traveled to Washington D.C. for the National Association of Regional Councils' (NARC) annual Conference of Regions. With a new president in office, I was eager to learn more about what's in store for cities, counties and regions. I was met instead with a recommendation: 'Don't hold your breath for new infrastructure dollars this year.'

Several transportation experts said that the near-term (this calendar year) prospects don't look bright for funding outside of the main highway spending program. Programs that could see cuts this year include new starts, small starts, and large transit

systems. Fortunately, I don't think our region will be affected if there are cuts to those programs. Longer-term, Jeff Davis of the Eno Transportation Center said that the future of the TIGER grant program doesn't look bright.

DC Water's CEO George Hawkins noted the high level of fragmentation in the water and wastewater treatment industries. He encouraged COGs to step into this arena to help foster regional solutions to reduce costs and drive innovation.

Despite this dismal outlook on near-term federal funding, we are working to increase our grant research and writing capacity to help you. Mike Shuttleworth and Brian Galloway are sharpening their grant skills as we speak. This spring, their focus will be on leveraging existing transportation and homeless program dollars to expand services within those programs. This summer, we plan to roll out a grant research, writing, and administration service to help your cities compete for and win grants.

VISIT UNION GAP

EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT • PLOWING BEE • HORSE SPECTACULAR

MARCH 2017

PLOWING BEE & HORSE SPECTACULAR

TICKETS
\$5 per person
\$10 standard
car load

MARCH 25-26, 10AM-4PM

FIRST ANNUAL PLOWING BEE AT FULLBRIGHT PARK!

Join us **March 25-26** and watch plowing teams show you how farming was done before modern machinery. We know you'll be impressed!



THE HORSE SPECTACULAR INCLUDES JOUSTING AND CAVALRY DEMONSTRATIONS PLUS CARRIAGE RIDES



Have you ever wanted to see live jousting? Now's your chance! Or, how about a cavalry demonstration? We have that too! Plus, ride with a loved one or friends in one of our horse drawn carriages. Museum grounds will be open and there'll be tram rides, the kiddie train is open, blacksmith demonstrations and more!

MASTER GARDENER'S SPRING SYMPOSIUM



Union Gap's Ahtanum Youth Park is the proud home to the WSU's Extension Center's Master Garden. Sign up now for the symposium at PNWU.

**Robin Haglund,
Daniel Mount,
Elizabeth Murphy
and Jessi Bloom**

are the featured presenters. **Wednesdays, March 8-March 29.** Book your stay at a Union Gap hotel!

VISIT [HTTP://EXTENSION.WSU.EDU/VAKIMA/HOME-GARDEN/MASTER-GARDENERS/](http://extension.wsu.edu/vakima/home-garden/master-gardeners/)

THE BARONESS' WAR IS COMING TO UNION GAP!



Take a turn back in history to the Kingdom of An Tir for this medieval experience which includes a siege cooking contest, archery, Baroness Tea and more. **VISIT [WWW.ANTIR.SCA.ORG](http://www.antir.sca.org)** <[HTTP://WWW.ANTIR.SCA.ORG](http://www.antir.sca.org)> for more details.
April 7-April 9 Central Washington Ag Museum

SAVE THE DATES

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

- March 25-26: Plowing Bee and Horse Spectacular
- March 8-29: Wednesdays, Master Gardener's Spring Symposium
- April 7-9 – Baroness' War
- April 23 – Old Steel Car Show
- April 27-30 – Tear Drop Trailer Gathering
- May 13, CWAM Letterpress Exhibit Ribbon Ceremony with Ben Franklin and Self Guided CWAM Walking Tour
- 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 and SWAP Meet

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

www.visituniongap.com





Fort Simcoe Job Corps Helps Wapato

By Menglou Wang, City of Wapato Public Works Director

Shortly before Christmas 2016, a bus load of students from Fort Simcoe Job Corps came to Wapato City Hall. They had been invited by Mayor Tony Guzman to lunch. During lunch the Mayor gave a brief speech to express his gratitude and greetings to the Job Corps crew for providing free labor to construct various facilities for the City of Wapato. The Mayor also presented a plaque to the Job Corps crew. The plaque says "In Sincere Appreciation for your Talents, Skills and Dedication to the Wapato Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Building Renovation in Summer 2016".



Mayor Guzman spoke to Job Corps crew
at lunch on December 12, 2016

In 2014 the City of Wapato's Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project was advertised for bid. A new Operations Building at an estimated construction cost of \$400,000 was part of the treatment plant project. Because the low bid was higher than the project budget, the City Council chose to eliminate the new Operations Building before the contract was awarded.

The reason for the City to add the new Operations Building was that the existing Operations Building does not have a lunchroom. The plant operators eat lunch in the lab, which poses health and safety risks and it is a code violation. The City's Lead Wastewater Operator Jeff Schumacker, Building Official Tony Hernandez, City Electrician Amber

Musgrave and I developed several options to modify the existing Operations Building to create a lunchroom. The option approved by the then-Mayor Jesse Farias was to convert the existing carport to a garage, and renovate the existing garage area to add two offices and a lunchroom. If the building renovation project had been done by a private contractor, it would cost the City around \$150,000. The Job Corps crew did most part of the project in 2016 at a material cost of \$24,000 and City staff will complete the remaining work with an additional material cost of \$7,000 in 2017. The Operations Building project is of tremendous help to Wapato because it has avoided the City spending \$400,000 to build a new Operations Building.

Job Corps
saved the City
of Wapato over
\$350,000.

Besides the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Building renovation, students of different classes at Fort Simcoe Job Corps have helped the City of Wapato with other construction projects. These projects include the Lions Park Stage constructed in 2013, the Wapato Community Garden built in 2013, a picnic shelter in Lions Park installed in 2014, and the Public Works Shop storage expansion completed in 2015. These projects have saved the City a significant amount of money. The material cost is normally 15% to 25% of the construction price quote from a private contractor. For example, a private contractor has given an estimate to construct the picnic shelter in Lions Park at \$80,000. The City actually spent \$12,000 for materials with the help of Job Corps to complete the project in 2014.

Job Corps
saved
\$65,000

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Job Corps crew is converting the Operations Building carport to a garage in 2016



Lions Park stage constructed by Fort Simcoe Job Corps in 2013



Wapato Community Garden built by Fort Simcoe Job Corps in 2013



Picnic shelter in Lions Park constructed by Fort Simcoe Job Corps in 2014



Public Works storage shed being built by Fort Simcoe Job Corps in 2015

At the Fort Simcoe Job Corps training center, students receive the skills needed to succeed in today's workforce. We are very proud of these young men and young women looking for a better quality of life. They actually change other people's lives even when they are students. They make a more positive difference in their community after graduation. Jaime De La Torre is a local business owner in Wapato. He and his brother Juan both went through training at Fort Simcoe Job Corps. They own and operate multiple businesses including Anytime Fitness, Bella Brew, Lava Max Laundromat, and DLT Construction. These businesses employ more than 30 people. The De La Torre brothers have a lot of successful stories. Their stories started from Fort Simcoe Job Corps when they were students.

Upcoming classes brought to you by YVCOG

Department of Commerce—Trauma Informed Service Provider Training

April 12, 2017 Course Length: 8am-5pm

Yakima County Office of Emergency Management

2403 South 18th Street Suite 200 Union Gap, WA 98903

Trauma-Informed Service is a best practice in the provision of both victim services and homeless services.

Trauma-Informed Service is an approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives. Come learn the basic principles of Trauma-Informed Services and how to apply it to your daily work with people experiencing homelessness.

For more information visit the YVCOG website at: <http://www.yvcog.org/events/trauma-informed-service-provider-training/>

Peabody Communications—Writing Documents in Plain Talk

April 18, 2017 Course Length: 8:30am-5pm / Course Fee: \$75.00

Yakima County Office of Emergency Management

2403 South 18th Street Suite 200 Union Gap, WA 98903

This course will cover the general principles and seven guidelines of Plain Talk as it applies to writing instructions, announcements, publications, and other documents. As a writer or editor for a state agency you should write and design your documents for easy use and customer understanding. In order to do so, you need to use plain language or writing that the typical customer can act upon after a single reading. Writing in Plain Talk allows government to excel at what it does best - serve the public. |

For more information visit the YVCOG website at: <http://www.yvcog.org/events/writing-documents-in-plain-talk/>

CERB—Tools for Funding Future Infrastructure Projects

April 20, 2017 Course Length: 9am-3:30pm

Best Western Plus—Zillah, WA

911 Vintage Valley Pkwy Zillah, WA 98953

On April 20th, staff from a variety of state and federal funding programs will be available to meet individually with a limited number of communities or water & sewer systems, to discuss your priority infrastructure needs.

For more information visit the YVCOG website at: <http://www.yvcog.org/events/tools-for-funding-future-infrastructure-projects/>

Department of Commerce—Short Course on Local Planning

April 26, 2017 Course Length: 6:15pm-9:15pm

Best Western Plus—Zillah, WA

911 Vintage Valley Pkwy Zillah, WA 98953

The Short Course on Local Planning is a three-hour workshop covering: An overview of the complex mix of land use planning laws that work together to support land-use decision-making in Washington state; An introduction to comprehensive planning and plan implementation under the Growth Management Act; A review of the roles in planning and best practices for public participation; and Mandatory training on the Open Public Meetings Act for local government officials.

For more information visit the YVCOG website at: <http://www.yvcog.org/events/short-course-on-local-planning/>

Master Robert's Rules

Would you like to

- Have more efficient and pleasant meetings?
- Deal with challenging meeting situations?
- Run meetings that are fair to everyone?
- Handle difficult colleagues?

Attend this unique workshop

Jurassic Parliament: Running Great Meetings Using Robert's Rules of Order

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Yakima County Office of Emergency Management

2403 S. 18th St., Suite 200

Union Gap, WA 98903

Ann G. Macfarlane, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian, presents her unusual workshop sponsored by the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. Attendees rave about this workshop, which has been presented to nonprofit boards, city councils, boards, commissions and committees, public entity pools, professional societies, trade associations, city clerks and administrative assistants. A great way to improve your meetings, get more done, and enjoy the process. A great introduction or refresher for everyone who uses Robert's Rules in their meetings. And also a lot of fun!



Cost: \$75.00. Register by Friday, April 14, 2017.

Contact Jessica Hansen at 509-574-1550 or info@yvcog.org to register.



For more information visit the YVCOG website at: <http://www.yvcog.org/events/jurassic-parliament-roberts-rules-of-order/>

Save the Date: YVCOG General Membership Meeting

When: March 15, 2017

Where: Bon Vino's Bistro

122 N 16th St, Sunnyside, WA 98944

6:30 p.m.—Social

7:00 p.m.—Dinner



Please make checks payable to: Bon Vino's Bistro for \$20

Speakers: Joe Schmitt, YCDA; Jacki Skaught, CERB; Jay Hester, Port of Sunnyside

**Menu: Beef & Chicken Ragu served with Pasta,
Green Salad with Dressing, Rolls & Dessert**

**RSVPs due to info@yvcog.org prior
to noon on March 10, 2017.**



YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director
Christina Wickenhagen, Deputy Director
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator
Mike Shuttleworth, Senior Planner
Crystal Testerman, Homeless Program Manager

John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Admin
Brian Galloway, Associate Planner
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist
Jessica Hansen, Office and Communication Specialist
William Denton, Homeless Program Coordinator

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



509-574-1550 / www.yvcog.org

