



YAKIMA VALLEY

CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

Volume 45...Issue 5 September 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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Welcome to the YVCOG Team

Lance Larsen



My name is Lance Larsen. I graduated from Central Washington University with a B.S. in Accounting. I started my professional career as a tax accountant and auditor at a regional CPA firm, specializing in auditing organizations receiving federal grant funding. Most recently, I worked as the Assistant Controller of a Federally Qualified Health Center.

I met my wife at the CPA firm, she is also an accountant by trade but has recently left accounting for entrepreneurship. We have a son who turns five in September and are expecting our next child in September as well.

My hobbies include golfing, reading, coaching my son's T-Ball team, running my fantasy football league and cheering on the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday. My music playlist depends on the day but ranges from Tchaikovsky to today's hits to Lynyrd Skynyrd.



From Executive Director, Larry Mattson



Many of you have asked us if we could offer a la carte services in addition to the core programs YVCOG provides on your behalf. Per your requests, we plan to make several new services available to you meet your unique needs.

You can secure your service request at a discounted rate by adding these options individually or in-total, to be included in your assessment rate to help you with:

- ***Funding to build that park or other project*** - Grant research and writing services;
- ***Education*** - Training opportunities for you and your staff;
- ***Bridging the gap between today and your future vision*** - Strategic planning services

We're excited to offer these new services (and several others) in response to your needs. In advance of our 2018 budget letter and to explain these services in more detail, we'll be attending your council meeting in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Larry Mattson

In Memory of Brian Curtin



We are deeply saddened by the sudden death of our friend and colleague.

Please feel free to mail sympathy cards to YVCOG and we will make sure they get to his loved ones.

311 N. 4th Street, Ste 204 Yakima, WA 98901



Yakima Region Awarded \$3.72 Million for Transportation Services



by Alan Adolf (YVCOG), Madelyn Carlson (People for People), & Tom Gaulke (Entrust)

WSDOT awarded \$3,710,848 for six Yakima regional projects to improve transportation options to residents with limited transportation options or special needs. YVCOG's projects were part of a 124-project statewide list totaling more than \$60 Million for the 2017-2019 biennium. The projects allow public and non-profit transportation providers to transport individuals with special needs and the general public to health care, education, employment, nutrition, shopping, and other activities that improve quality of life. "It is so important that all citizens have the opportunity to remain active and connect with their communities," Public Transportation Director, Brian Lagerberg stated.

WSDOT's Public Transportation Office states that, *"These projects improve public transportation within and between rural communities, provide transportation services between cities, purchase new buses and other equipment, and provide public transportation service for the elderly and persons with disabilities. These grant funds allow local programs to leverage state and federal funds to deliver services to their communities. Grantees competed for state and federal funds, and were awarded funding based on scoring and ranking criteria established by WSDOT, an advisory committee, and the priorities of regional planning councils."*

YVCOG's supported committee, M-PACT (Mobilizing Public Access to Countywide Transportation), reviewed seven project proposals and prioritized the submittals based on:

- ✦ Preservation of Existing Services
- ✦ Coordination to avoid non-duplication of resources
- ✦ Effectiveness/Cost Efficient to ensure transportation resources meet the community's needs

Greatest Need for Transportation Services

The prioritized projects list was presented last fall to YVCOG's Transportation Policy Board for approval and forwarded to WSDOT for consideration based on project eligibility and funding availability. On June 15, WSDOT notified YVCOG of this biennium's grant results (See attached table below).

PFP CEO Madelyn Carlson stated "People For People has provided transportation services since 1982 and appreciates the ongoing support for residents that live in our rural communities to have mobility options that allow them to remain independent in their own home and in their community. This is best captured by PFP riders [Marlene & Dan] ."

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Marlene said, “I am so thankful that I have this assistance and help.”

http://www.pfp.org/Video/Testimonial_Marlene.mp4

Dan who was in an accident said, “They are very professional, very courteous, and they’ll help you the best that they can.” http://www.pfp.org/Video/Testimonial_Dan.mp4

Entrust Community Services is a first-time recipient of consolidated grant funds. Entrust is a local non-profit that has provided services to people with disabilities for over 45 years throughout Yakima County, providing employment and training services to nearly 150 people each day in their Yakima and Sunnyside service centers. One service provided is Group Supported Employment (GSE). GSE allows people with developmental disabilities the opportunity to gain valuable work skills by training and working at a variety of work sites we have developed in our community. This practical experience is crucial for people to take the next step and get jobs of their own in the community. Unfortunately, these opportunities often occur either outside the current public transportation corridors or outside of the operational hours of the current transportation system.

Executive Director Tom Gaulke said “Entrust is pleased receive funding for the first time through WSDOT to transport these individuals to and from their education, work training and community activities in the lower valley. This will help expand the network of transportation to this area and this population.”

We congratulate all the programs funded by the Consolidated Grants Program.



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

**Public Transportation
Division**

2017 – 2019 Consolidated Grant Program Regional Award List

Yakima Valley COG

	Name of Organization	Doing Business As	Project	Grant Award
1	City of Yakima	Yakima Transit	Yakima Transit - Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter Expansion Project	\$ 41,252
2	City of Yakima	Yakima Transit	Yakima Transit - Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter Existing Project	\$ 435,811
3	Entrust Community Services		Entrust Employment Transportation	\$ 87,799
4	People For People	N/A	Yakima County Preservation of Mobility Management	\$ 125,101
5	People For People	N/A	Yakima County Replacement Vehicles to Sustain Special Needs Transportation	\$ 519,603
6	People For People	N/A	Yakima County Preservation of Rural Special Needs Transportation	\$ 2,509,918
7	Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG)	Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG)	Yakima County Regional Transit Feasibility Study - Phase I	\$ -
Total Awarded (6 out of 7 projects)				\$3,719,484



IS PASSENGER RAIL A POSSIBILITY AGAIN IN YAKIMA COUNTY?

(By Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager)

October 1981, Ronald Reagan was still in the first nine months of his presidency, “Incoming Call Identification Arrangement” (or “Caller ID” as we know it today) was first patented, **Mommie Dearest** was just arriving in theaters; and “*That’s Incredible*” (ABC) and “*Real People*” (NBC) were the popular standard for “Reality Television” for most Americans. October 1981 was also the last time Passenger Rail Service stopped in the Yakima Valley.

Now some 36 year later, there are stirrings afoot to seek interest and support for returning passenger rail service to Yakima Valley Residents. In 2016, the Yakima Valley Rail & Steam Museum Association in Toppenish hosted 75 people from all over Central Washington, including elected officials, business leaders, and rail enthusiasts to discuss issues related to passenger rail’s return. The DRYVE & TRANS-Action Transportation Advocacy Committees has also hosted separate meetings with ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON (AAWA), a rail advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the improvement of passenger & freight rail transportation in the state of Washington, and a representative of AMTRAK’s Government Affairs Office that provided local transportation experts and elected officials with the current state of passenger rail service in the state and expected strategies and costs of bringing passenger rail infrastructure up to date.



Click Here to take the
Stampede Pass Rail Study
www.stampedepassrailstudy.com

AAWA, a long-time partner of Western Washington Rail interests, and supported the development the AMTRAK Cascades program and all intercity passenger service in Washington State, will be hosting its annual Eastern Washington Meeting in Pasco on Saturday, September 16th. According to AAWA’s website *“This meeting will explore what will be required to restore regular passenger train service in the Yakima Valley, on the Stampede Pass line, which originates in Auburn at the BNSF Seattle-Portland mainline and heads east over Stampede Pass, serving Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Yakima, Toppenish and Pasco. Eventually service would go on to Spokane. State and local elected officials, including Washington State Senate Transportation Committee Chair Curtis King (R-Yakima), and community and business leaders from the Yakima Valley...BNSF, Amtrak, [and] WSDOT’s Rail Division...are invited”*. While the meeting will serve to broaden public interest, real research is also underway to provide local decision makers with verifiable data on the subject.

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AAWA Pasco rail summit is September 16
September 16 @ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Central Washington University Department of Geography Professor John Bowen and CWU Graduate Noah Westbay are leading a research effort on regional demand for returning passenger rail to the Yakima Valley. The Ellensburg/Yakima/Prosser region remains the most populated part of the Pacific Northwest without passenger rail service. Results of this demand study will be shared at the September 16th AAWA Pasco Meeting.



All interested persons can still register for the event online at <http://allaboardwashington.org/pasco-meeting/> for \$25, which includes lunch and a six-month membership with AAWA.

For More information, View these links:

<https://www.stampedepassrailstudy.com/>

<http://allaboardwashington.org/>

http://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/editorials/want-passenger-rail-in-the-yakima-valley-here-s-a/article_413ed48a-89ae-11e7-a295-df1a8d3d20b6.html



Available YVCOG RFP

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) is seeking Requests for Proposals for programs that will address the Extreme Winter Weather Shelter needs of the homeless in Yakima County. Funding is available for projects in an amount up to \$200,000 for this purpose. To apply for funding please go to: <https://zoomgrants.com/gprop.asp?donorid=2257&limited=1537>

The deadline for applications is September 11 at 11:59 p.m. Awards will be determined on approximately October 4, 2017, and funding will be available November 15, 2017. This is a one-time grant of funding. For questions, please contact Crystal Testerman, Homeless Program Manager at 509-424-4695 or crystal.testerman@yvcog.org.

The Extreme Winter Weather Shelter Application is a single application to provide temporary emergency shelter from November 15, 2017 through March 31, 2018 when extremely low temperatures create dangerous conditions for anyone who remains without shelter:

1. The Applicant shall be responsible for providing emergency shelter to the homeless population of the city Yakima and/or cities within Yakima County. A successful applicant shall be expected to provide minimum shelter space sufficient to accommodate the target populations(s), as defined, with preference given to applicants capable of providing the necessary capacity at a single shelter location. The Applicant shall also be expected to provide overflow capacity as necessary. Applicants may be disqualified if unable to demonstrate the capacity to meet any of the requirements detailed in this RFP.

The Extreme Winter Weather Shelter Application is a single application to provide temporary emergency shelter from November 15, 2017 through March 31, 2018 when extremely low temperatures create dangerous conditions for anyone who remains without shelter:

Emergency Shelter: Include essential services related to emergency shelter and street outreach, rehabilitation and conversion of buildings to be used as emergency shelters, operation of emergency shelters for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

2. Hotel - Motel Vouchers: Include essential services related to emergency shelter and street outreach, rehabilitation and securing rooms in hotels and motels in the community to be used as emergency shelters, for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness that because of unique circumstances or because there are no available beds in an emergency shelter, qualify for a hotel/motel voucher.
3. Day Warming Shelter: Provide a warming shelter for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Menglou Wang Departs as Wapato's Public Works Director Familiar Face Returns

(By Alan Adolf & Sue Pearson – Wapato's Clerk/Treasurer)

Menglou Wang, Wapato's Public Works Director for the past four years, has returned to the Westside.

During Menglou's tenure, Wapato has seen many infrastructure improvements that benefit the citizens and businesses of Wapato. Amongst Wapato's successes are:

- City's Community Garden project,
- Setting up a hydrant flushing program which helped to know which hydrants that needed replacement or fixing,
- Received a "Relight Washington" grant along with mapping all the city street lights and Pacific Power street lights,
- The North Wasco/North Sitcum Avenue Improvement Project when Valicoff Fruit moved to Wapato (with water line [main] improvements),
- TIB-funded "Multi-location Street Projects (that included water main improvements),
- 9th Street Sidewalk Project with the Wapato School District,
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade along with additions done to the WWTP Building,
- New park gazebo with water and electricity behind the Community Center
- Two new bays at the Public Works Shop, and
- Cemetery restroom design and pre-construction project.



Menglou was also a contributor to the YVCOG Newsletter, a member of the local Lion's Club, and was active in Wapato's Memorial Day Festival, Harvest Festival, and Christmas Party for area kids.

Gary Potter has agreed to come out of retirement and fill in as Wapato interim Public Works Director. The entire YVCOG family extends its best wishes to Menglou, and his future endeavors!

YVCOG is now offering an online video of the **April 19, 2017 Jurassic Parliament class with Ann Macfarlane.**

This is an online video that you can watch anywhere and at your own leisure. *\$25 fee if you didn't attend the class in April and aren't a member of YVCOG.

Contact Jessica at info@yvcog.org to check out the website video link and receive a password to view the video.



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

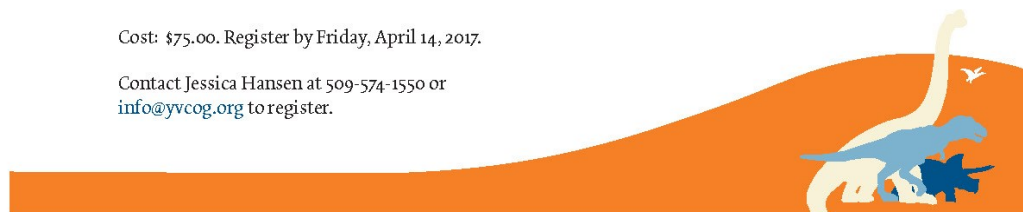
Union Gap, WA 98903

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.





RECORDS RETENTION 101

PRESENTED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE ARCHIVES

Hosted by: YVCOG

September 21, 2017

9:00am-12:00pm (Check in starts at 8:30am)

LOCATION:

Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management
2403 S 18th Street Union Gap, WA 98903

EVENT DETAILS:

This session is appropriate for newcomers to public records management and as a refresher for seasoned records veterans. Presentation will cover the rules and requirements for managing records in their various formats in accordance with Chapter 40.14 RCW – Preservation and Destruction of Public Records.

Topics include:

- Fundamentals of records management
- Terms and definitions commonly used in records management
- What a records retention schedule is
- How to implement and apply retention schedules to your agency records

Register:

Register by emailing Jessica at info@yvcog.org or call 509-574-1550

Cost: \$0 per person

Check in starts at: 8:30 am

Presenter: Scott Sackett

Electronic Records Management Consultant

Washington State Archives

<https://www.yvcog.org/records-retention-101/>

ESSENTIALS OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS MANAGEMENT



PRESENTED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE ARCHIVES

Hosted by: YVCOG

September 21, 2017

1:00pm-4:00pm (Check in starts at 12:30pm)

LOCATION:

Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management
2403 S 18th Street Union Gap, WA 98903

EVENT DETAILS:

This session is for those new to managing records in electronic formats. Presentation will cover the rules and requirements for electronic records and will introduce beginning level strategies for managing electronic records. Topics will cover definitions and terms common to electronic records such as metadata and indexing, will cover imaging systems and “scanning and tossing” and how to manage electronic information such as Emails, Websites, Databases, Electronic Content Management (ECM), Social Media and Cloud Computing.

Register:

Register by emailing Jessica at info@yvcog.org or call 509-574-1550

Cost: \$0 per person

Check in starts at: 12:30 pm

Presenter: Scott Sackett

Electronic Records Management Consultant

Washington State Archives

<https://www.yvcog.org/electronic-records-management-1-0/>

Save the Date: YVCOG General Membership Meeting

YVCOG's September 20, 2017 General Membership meeting: Legislative update

At this year's legislative update, you'll have the opportunity to hear stories from this past session, and hear about goals for the upcoming session. The evening is intended to be a pleasant and informal opportunity for you to interact with your legislators.

Location:

The Mt Adams Country Club
1250 Rocky Ford Rd, Toppenish, WA 98948

Dinner menu: Roast beef and/or chicken breast with red potatoes, green beans, salad bar, and dinner rolls. (Gluten Free and Vegetarian options available.) Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake

Our agenda:

6:30 PM – Social Half-Hour
7:00 PM – Dinner
7:30 PM – Program: The 2018 Legislature - A Look Ahead



RSVPs due to info@yvcog.org prior to noon on **THURSDAY September 14, 2017**

YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director
Christina Wickenhagen, Deputy Director
Mike Shuttleworth, Planning Manager
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Admin
Brian Galloway, Associate Planner
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist

Jessica Hansen, Office and Communication Specialist
Crystal Testerman, Homeless Program Manager
William Denton, Homeless Program Coordinator
Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager
Lance Larsen, Homeless Program Financial Coordinator

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



509-574-1550 / www.yvcog.org



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