



YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

Don't do it!
Do Not
Commute!
Page 3

Energy
Grant
Page 8

GIS
Keepin' it
Fresh!
Page 13

Volume 44...Issue 4 July 2016

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

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Growing Vegetables and Community at Wapato's Community Garden



By: Menglou Wang, Public Works Director at City of Wapato

The Wapato Community Garden is located in the Wapato Sports Park near Wapato Middle School. The 24 garden boxes are within a fenced area (100 feet long and 60 feet wide). It was built in 2013 using a grant of \$10,000 and Job Corps labor and City of Wapato inmate labor. Barbara Peterson, Co-Executive Director of Northwest Learning and Achievement (NLA), prepared the grant application, and former Police Chief, Richard Sanchez, was leading the construction efforts.

When the Community Garden was built in 2013 it was near the end of the growing season. Some vegetables were planted immediately after the garden was built, but they died soon. Although the City of Wapato provides free irrigation water and there is no charge to adopt a vegetable garden, no one adopted the garden boxes and nothing was planted in the Community Garden in 2014 or 2015. The Community Garden was full of weed for two years.

Barbara and Sister Maryellen Robinson do not want to see the Community Garden be abandoned. They talked to people in the community about the Community Garden at the beginning of 2016 and soon several volunteers committed to joining them to activate the Community Garden.

Continued on page 4



From Executive Director, Larry Mattson



Greetings YVCOG Member,

Summer is here and we are off and running here at the COG! Our valley is alive with projects. From construction to traffic counts, new roads and new businesses, it is a very busy time for us all. Our members and associates have been working to make Yakima Valley a better place to live and raise their families. I am honored to know that my staff helps you achieve your goals, saves your city a little money, and overall helps us make the Yakima Valley a great place to work and play.

The last month's focus has been about homelessness and developing a plan to present to our members who have homeless people within their jurisdiction. With the growing encampment on 6th and Chestnut, we've been taking action with the City of Yakima along with other agencies, to rectify the situation. Working with the city and the Department of Health, we were able to get porta potties delivered to the site and we now have a proposal for housing vouchers to start placing those in the encampment. We also just released our 2016 point in time counts (PIT.) Overall, homelessness has been reduced by over 50 percent since 2006 within Yakima County, but there are still areas of concern and housing rental rates are rising. The problem of homeless people living on the streets, living out of their cars, staying a day or two with friends or staying in an emergency shelter is a problem we are addressing head-on. We want to hear from members about possible solutions you believe could work in your city.

Two other important efforts are currently underway here at COG. First, our communications efforts. We are almost done with the new website. As promised, it will be user-friendly and help make sure you know where the next events are happening, provide the minutes and agendas of all YVCOG Executive, General Membership and Policy Board meetings, and what's new around the valley and in your city. The other effort has been COG's strategic plan. With our growing membership and changes in staff, I feel it is time to chart a new path for our future. We'll make the plan available on our website once it's adopted by the YVCOG Executive Committee.

We wish you and your families a Happy 4th of July. Barbeque up some hamburgers and hot dogs, listen to kids laugh and play, and be proud of the community you serve! Together, we will continue to make the Yakima Valley a great place to live.



Top Ten Reasons Not to Commute By Bike

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

- 10 Your health insurance is a company benefit and your increased health would equate to a loss by using your benefits less.
- 9 It's hard to smoke, put on make-up, shave, or talk on the cell phone when you are cycling.
- 8 You won't spend as much quality time sitting in your truly enjoyable car.
- 7 Your insurance agent is a great guy and you would hate to stop paying car insurance premiums.
- 6 If too many people do it, gas stations and car lots will go out of business, adding to the unemployed.
- 5 The many options of what you can do with the money saved on gas, insurance, and maintenance, may cause minor dilemmas.
- 4 The natural high and energy rush you'll feel daily will increase your performance at work; possibly leading to a promotion and better pay; further compounding reason number 5.
- 3 You'll lose weight and new clothes are too darn expensive!
- 2 Your fitness level may cause you to outlive your friends and be lonely in your old age.
- 1 Its just too much trouble eating all the extra food you will need for energy.

And now, five exceptional reasons why you should bike commute:

1. Ride for your body

Riding a bike offers many health benefits. Here are just a few:

increased cardiovascular fitness
increased strength
increased balance and flexibility
increased endurance and stamina
increased calories burned

It can be done by people of all ages, from childhood up even through the adult years when achy joints don't allow for more stressful exercise like jogging.

2. Ride for Your State of Mind

Riding a bike is a proven stress releaser. Regardless of if you are riding purely for pleasure or for a specific purpose, you will arrive at your destination feeling relaxed, energized and happier about the world and yourself.

Plus, being out on your bike is just flat-out fun.

3. Ride for Your Community

Being out on your bike is good for the people around you as well. You are able to go the places you want to go and yet put one less car on the road.

You don't bring with you the noise that a car generates and are actually able to interact with people as you move. From my bike you can wave to a neighbor, say hi to a kid, smell someone's dinner cooking and be a warm and friendly human presence on the streets.

Also, not insignificant: operating a bicycling does not harm the environment. There is no polluting exhaust released; no oil or gas consumed. And the energy and materials used to manufacture one automobile could be used to create a hundred bikes.

4. Ride for Convenience

There is an undeniable convenience factor you'll discover when riding a bike. Front row parking spaces are guaranteed no matter where you go. Traffic jams are also irrelevant.

Continued on page 6



Wapato Community Garden

Continued from front cover

The first meeting was held early March to discuss why people are not interested in the Community Garden and what we could do to motivate them to grow something. The group recommended that a timer-controlled irrigation system be installed in the Community Garden. Otherwise plants would die in a hot summer day without irrigation. With the donation of \$250 from a local business owner and \$500 provided by the City of Wapato, the Community Garden Committee members designed a drip irrigation system and installed it. They dug trenches and installed drip tubing, timers, and pressure regulators with the assistance of some local residents. The actual material cost of the drip irrigation system was approximately \$300.



Garden is not just to grow vegetables, but also to grow relationships. All the 24 garden boxes have been adopted by Wapato residents. Most of them live in the Blessed Kateri Village, a low-income housing complex owned by Catholic Charity Housing Services. The Wapato Community Garden is likely to have the first harvest season this year.

Roger and Marilyn Yockey serve as the Community Garden Committee chair and secretary, respectively. Other team members include Barbara Peterson, Sister Maryellen Robinson, Mickey Wittner, Claire Hitchins, Heather Richardson, Michelle Howell, Mike Kennedy, and Menglou Wang. Not all committee members are farmers or gardening experts, but they all have the passion for the community.

The main goal of the Community Garden is to provide free and healthy food for low-income families. The Community Garden will also bring people together, teach people how to garden, and share their produce. The goal of the Community





GMA Periodic Updates: Due June 30, 2017 in a City Near You

By Shawn Conrad, Sr. Planner



As all our member jurisdictions should know by now (and if you don't, imagine Shawn throwing her hands in the air and crying, "Have I taught you nothing?!"), Growth Management Act (GMA)



Periodic Updates are due June 30, 2017 for all jurisdictions in Yakima County. YVCOG has been hard at work assisting the cities of Grandview, Selah, Naches, Mabton, and Granger with getting their updates done on time.

Sometimes GMA requirements can spawn some confusion. Because of that, read on for a quick FAQ. And if you have additional questions, feel free to contact me.

What must my city do to complete all requirements for the GMA Periodic Update?

In a nutshell, your city must review and update its 1) comprehensive plan, 2) development regulations (zoning, subdivisions, etc.), and 3) critical areas ordinance during a public process, and then take legislative action on the entire update.

If none of the above need updating, do I still have to complete a GMA Periodic Update?

Essentially, yes. To be compliant, you will still have to review all of the items above during a public process, and then take legislative action – even if there are no changes.

What will happen if my city doesn't complete its GMA Periodic Update by June 30, 2017?

After June 30, 2017, your city will not be eligible for grant or loan funding under several major Washington

State infrastructure funding programs, until your city attains compliance with GMA.

Which state infrastructure funding programs have GMA requirements?

Public Works Trust Fund, Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund, Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and Transportation Improvement Board – urban programs.



My city is growing very slowly. Does that qualify my city for an extension on the deadline?

Possibly. The Department of Commerce has determined that the Town of Naches and City of Mabton may be



eligible for an extension. However, due to the way the State legislation is written, Commerce won't be able to make a determination on who qualifies for an extension until after – you guessed it, June 30, 2017.

Weren't there going to be some state grants to help cities pay for the GMA Periodic Update?

There were, but funding was not approved for our region for the current biennium. It's possible there could be grant funding in the 2017-2019 biennium for latecomers, but no promises. And that will be after June 30, 2017.

What's a good resource to help my city get started on their GMA Periodic Update?

I highly recommend visiting the Department of Commerce GMA Periodic Update page at <http://tinyurl.com/Commerce-GMA> – especially Appendix D, Checklists.

What if my city just completed its last update?

Sorry, all. Even if your city just completed its last GMA Periodic Update (the one that was due for most Yakima County jurisdictions in 2006), you still are required to complete the update process for the current update cycle as well to remain eligible for State infrastructure funding program.

Continued on page 7



Top Ten Reasons Not to Commute By Bike

Continued from page 3

Though cars will certainly make better time on long trips, you'll find for many short trips or through heavy traffic, you can travel just as fast or faster on your bike.

Have you ever been to a massive festival or concert in a park somewhere, the type of event that draws so many people that just getting there is a problem? Going in on a bike is a perfect solution. Zip in, zip out. You don't have to get there hours early to get a parking spot or else face parking miles away from the event. And you won't have to wait hours in traffic to get out once it's over.

5. Ride for Your Pocketbook

It costs between 20 and 30 cents per mile to operate a car, depending on the vehicle. This is based on expenses like gas, oil, maintenance, etc., that go up when you drive more. This figure doesn't include the hidden costs of vehicle ownership like depreciation, taxes, and insurance. These factors make the actual per mile cost to operate a car much higher.

When you start multiplying cost per mile to operate a car by the distance you ride, you can easily calculate how much money you save by riding a bike. For example: my daily roundtrip commute is 16 miles. If I do that just twice a week, I will save over \$400 in operating costs alone in the course of a year. (16 miles x 2 trips per week x 52 weeks x .25 cents per mile.)

And if you would otherwise have to pay for parking, tolls, and the like, don't forget to factor that in too. It can add up quickly.

And most important: Ride For You!

When you ride your bike, you are doing a lot of good things, many of which are for the benefit of others. But ultimately, the one who benefits the most is you, through better health, peace of mind, increased confidence and self-reliance, heck, even through a fatter bank account.



YVCOG's Hiring



Grant Accountant. There is one full-time opening with Yakima Valley Conference of Governments Finance Department. The position is COG's primary point of contact regarding Local, State and Federal Grants. This position interacts with grant program managers, grant fiscal agents, COG sub-recipients and vendors, COG Members, Associate Members, Elected Officials and other stakeholders. Job closes July 15 at noon. YVCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug-free environment. Application and complete job description at: www.yvcog.org or email yvcog.hr@yvcog.org



Accountability Audit

By Chris Wickenhagen, Deputy Director

YVCOG just completed an Accountability Audit for the period January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015. The audit performed by the State Auditor's Office took a little under two weeks. We provided them all of the minutes from General Membership, Executive Committee, and MPO/RTPO Policy Board meetings. In addition, we provided them internal policies, contracts, general disbursements, credit card use, travel advances, billings and receivables for this three-year period.

It is our pleasure to inform you, our members, a clean audit with no findings or management letters.

The auditor's results stated:

In the areas we audited, Council operation complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The Council also complies with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

... In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Open Public Meetings Act
- General disbursements
- Credit and use
- Travel advances
- Contracts
- Billings and receivables

Thank you for trusting us with your business. We are proud of the work we do for our members and we are proud of the staff at the COG.



GMA Periodic Updates: Due June 30, 2017 in a City Near You

Continued from page 5

Do you have any other tips?

Yes. Don't forget, Commerce has a 60-day review requirement for GMA updates, and adopted updates must also be submitted to Commerce. If they're not submitted, Commerce won't know you're done with your update and thus, neither will the State funding programs.

In addition, YVCOG must certify all comprehensive plan transportation chapters.

Can YVCOG help with my update?

Absolutely. YVCOG can assist with your update via a contract for services. We are able to offset some costs, and you will benefit from the efficiencies resulting from the fact that we have completed a large

number of GMA Periodic Updates throughout the valley over the years.

Caveat:

YVCOG's small staff is currently assisting five cities with their updates, and will soon be assisting three more. If you think you will need assistance, contact Shawn sooner rather than later so we can talk about costs and timing, at (509) 574-1550 or shawn.conrad@yvcog.org.





City of Wapato Energy Grant

By: Menglou Wang, Public Works Director at City of Wapato

The City of Wapato received an Energy Efficiency Grant of \$313,797 from the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) in May 2016. The grant will be used for retrofitting eight of the City's buildings to improve energy efficiency. These buildings include the City Hall, Library, Police Building, Fire Station, Community Center, Swimming Pool, Public Works Shop, and Wastewater Treatment Plant. The energy conservation improvements to these buildings mainly include HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning)



replacement, de-stratification fan installation, insulation upgrade, lighting upgrade, and variable frequency control installation for blowers in the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sensors will be installed on the garage doors at the Fire Station and Public Works Shop to disable the heaters when the garage doors are open.

The total project cost is approximately \$510,200.

The energy grant provides needed funding to upgrade the City's aging facilities. In addition, the project will save the City approximately \$18,300 per year in energy costs. Besides the Commerce grant, the City will receive \$15,500 in energy incentives from the gas and power companies, and the City will provide an \$180,900 local match. The State will lend \$180,900 to Wapato and the annual payment of the loan is \$18,000. Since the annual energy saving is more than the annual loan payment, the City actually does not have any out-of-pocket cost.

The Commerce Energy Efficiency Grant preparation requires HVAC knowledge and expertise. Our grant application was prepared by Sunset Air Inc., an HVAC and electrical company based in Lacey, Washington. Wapato is not within the service area of Sunset Air, but a manager of the company knows former Mayor Jesse Farias and offered to help Wapato. The project is expected to start in September 2016.





Two Local Companies First in State to Enroll in New Economic Gardening Program

The first two companies in the State's new Economic Gardening program are from Yakima County; Mayflower Metals and Washington Vision Therapy. Two more Yakima County companies have indicated they would also like to participate.

What is Economic Gardening®? A method of supporting second stage growth companies by identifying and implementing customized development and expansion strategies. Economic Gardening specialists assist CEOs to identify potential or missed opportunities such as leveraging new or emerging markets, refining business models and gaining access to competitive intelligence. The team facilitates access to new tools and information that can be applied immediately.

How the EG model works: Partnering with the National Center for Economic Gardening, New Vision will provide eligible businesses virtual access to teams of highly skilled research specialists who mine sophisticated databases and leverage a number of high-end tools related to search engine optimization, social media marketing and geographic information systems. These research teams are assigned to this select group of qualifying companies. Using private conference calls and a secure online workspace, the teams will interview the companies to identify their specific growth issues. The team devotes about 36 hours to each company over the course of a few weeks as they work quickly to deliver action-oriented information.

To be eligible for the program, participants must:

- Be a for-profit, privately-held company that has been headquartered in Washington for at least two years.
- Generate annual revenue or working capital of between \$750,000 and \$50 million.
- Employ between 6 and 99 full-time employees.
- Demonstrate growth in employment and/or revenue during two of the past five years.
- Provide products or services beyond the local area to regional, national or global markets.
- Be referred by a participating economic development or entrepreneur support organization.

Business Commitments:

Fees: The cost to a participating business is \$750.

Time: Accepted companies will spend 8 to 12 hours collaborating with their research team over the phone. The Economic Gardening team dedicates 36 hours to perform analysis and research.

Objectives: Identify and prioritize sales leads and business opportunities; refine core strategies and business model; and identify marketing strategies.

Logistics: All communication is handled by phone and through a secure online portal.

If your business meets these criteria and you're interested in enrolling or learning more, please contact Jean at (509) 575-1140, or email Jean@ycda.com for more information.



MPACT Corner

By: Deb LaCombe, Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO

The Mobilizing Public Access to Countywide Transportation (MPACT) committee meets quarterly and advises YVCOG's Transportation Policy Board regarding plans, programs, and policies related to public transportation in this region.

The primary focus of the MPACT committee is to engage with Yakima County stakeholders to build relationships, to gather information that identifies the needs of a diverse population, and to plan and promote equitable transportation services for our community through all modes of transportation. Our community includes all of Yakima County, both urban and rural areas.

Public transportation includes any form of transportation that is accessible and available to the public that does not involve a single person in a motorized vehicle - such as buses, rail, bikes, and pedestrians. Public in this sense refers to the access to the service, not to the ownership of the system providing the service.

In the June meeting, the member highlighting their services was the locally owned and operated transportation provider Medstar.

Here is what Betsy Dunbar, the Transportation Manager, would like you to know about the company.:

Medstar is a family owned business that has provided scheduled and on demand transportation throughout Eastern Washington, 24/7 and 365 days a year for over 32 years.

Started in 1984 by Brad & MaryLynne Bergener in the Yakima Valley with just 1 van, Brad was the only driver and MaryLynne providing customer service from home. Before retiring, Brad was instrumental in passing House Bill 1237 which gives patients confined to a stretcher a low cost option for travel.

Building on the strong foundation built by his parents, son Justin Bergener is taking Medstar into the future. Today Medstar has grown to become a transportation company with over 100 vehicles and as CEO, Justin has propelled Medstar's growth in the non-emergency medical transportation industry and expanded to provide transit and private car services while maintaining some of the most cost efficient, safe and reliable transportation available in the Northwest.

Medstar also operates the Dial A Ride service for the City of Yakima, the fixed route and the Dial A Ride service for the City of Union Gap and provides the Guaranteed Ride Home for YVCOG's Commute Trip Reduction program.

The future of Medstar looks bright as we continue our mission to provide transportation for all with a focus on technology and customer service for the best transportation experience possible.

The pictures below: Son, Justin Bergener





Transportation Performance Measures Start Rolling Out – Slowly

By: Deb LaCombe, Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Transportation planning at YVCOG

Little bit of history

On July 12, 2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) was signed into law. This transportation bill was the first longer term bill in over a decade and sought to create standard performance measures by which the evaluation of projects across the United States would be equitable. Although there were many measures to use to determine where money was needed to improve transportation system performance, reliability, congestion, and safety, the measures were locally set and varied greatly from urban settings to rural settings and from state highways to local streets. MAP-21 sought to create a universal set of measures to improve the transportation system to acceptable levels, maintain the systems to protect prior investments, and achieve reductions in fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. Quite an ambitious endeavor.

Originally there were 7 primary goal areas identified: safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays.

The development of measures for us here in Yakima County would start with some goals and measures at the federal level, then Washington State

Department of Transportation (WSDOT) would set targets for those measures, then at the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) level, the locals including public transportation providers would evaluate the targets set by the state and either adopt those proposed by the state or come up with their own targets. The State DOTs and MPOs were intended to coordinate their efforts so that they could comment on the federal measures together and then build the targets cooperatively.



Washington State Department of Transportation

The development of this new performance-based system was originally on an aggressive timeline. The federal performance measures would need to be ready for hand-off to the states within 18 months. The State DOTs would have 12 months to set performance targets in support of those measures. Then, MPOs would have 6 months to set performance targets for their regions.

Fast forward to 2016

April 14, 2016, two final rules became effective: Safety Performance Measure and Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Continued on page 12



Once Upon a Map – Telling Stories of Place

By: John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS / IT Manager YVCOG



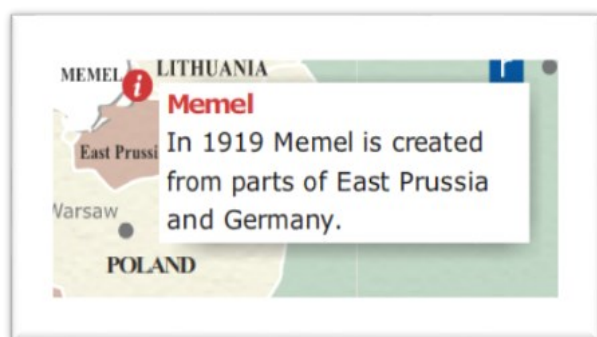
I'm not sure about our average reader but I am fascinated with how a map can tell the story of a place and its people. Recently, while researching other topics I came across a site which captured my attention for way too long! The National Archives of the United Kingdom has a great little map application online entitled: "Maps In Time"

(<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/themes/maps-interactive/maps-in-time.htm>).

It's not fancy but it's very illuminating for key events in history. To watch the world change through time, simply click on the time period on the page-top timeline:



The map then changes to show how the geopolitical landscapes have changed in the chosen time period. The maps include snippets of historical facts some locations (I had to look up 'Memel'!):



This application is a superbly simple example of how maps can be used to tell critical stories. The YVCOG has a comprehensive GIS mapping system that can create maps to tell similarly important stories. Contact the YVCOG and find out how we can help tell the stories your community needs to tell.



Transportation Performance Measures Start Rolling Out – Slowly

Continued from page 11

Another final rule is anticipated as early as the end of August. That rule is FHWA/FTA Metropolitan and Statewide Planning. The DRAFT rule is already out for comment.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) performance measures sub-committee was formed in 2015 and went inactive as we waited for federal and state steps to be taken. Now it's time to reconvene the group to sift through the safety rule and evaluate WSDOT's proposed set of targets before determining whether to adopt WSDOT's targets or set targets unique to our region.

Our sub-committee will strive to understand the performance measures, the proposed targets, and will use that knowledge to advise the TAC and Transportation Policy Board about how to align the upcoming project prioritizations in order to start making progress towards targets we choose.

Exciting and detailed work indeed for volunteers. If you would like to join this sub-committee please contact Deb LaCombe at deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org. I have a Doodle Poll out currently to determine our kick-off meeting date and time. Stay tuned!



'Keepin' It Fresh' at YVCOG

Your Geographic Information Systems 'Grocery Store'

By: Larry Mattson, Executive Director & John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS / IT Manager at YVCOG

In modern times, we often take maps for granted. Maps are everywhere, from our smartphone applications to navigation systems in our cars. What you as the map "user" don't see is the complex dance of analysis, assembly and artistry that goes in to making the final map products we use almost every day now.

This dance happens inside a GIS or; Geographic Information System. The 'short and sweet' definition of a GIS is a computer-based system for storing map data and making maps. Simply put, to make the maps we need takes a system that stores data about places and can logically assemble these data in ways that are **current, fresh, accurate**, and is **customizable** based on the interests or needs of the map user or "customer" of the GIS.

"A geographic information system or geographical information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data."

Industry definition of GIS

To better understand this concept let's consider a GIS as a grocery store. To run a proper grocery, **you need to fill you shelves with current products** that your customers desire. In this same regard, a GIS analyst and manager needs to be on top of several factors of what goes in to

other stores.

In very similar fashion, a GIS manager must gather and "stock" current and up-to-date map data. In order to create a useful map product a GIS system must have boundary information (states, counties, cities, urban areas, etc.), transportation corridors (roads, trails, rail lines, etc.), hydrology (oceans, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and others) and other relevant map data. Just having the right products on your "shelf" isn't enough.

Continuing with our grocery store analogy, have you ever purchased a food item and read the caution "Best if used before __," only to see a date that is days or worse months old? Believe it or not, **GIS data can have its own "freshness date" stamp**. So like our metaphorical grocer, the GIS needs to "stock" current or "fresh" data in order to create map products that meet the needs of the customers.

One example might be a current set of parcel boundaries. With boundary line adjustments, segregations, and other land use actions, parcel data is very dynamic. Here's another example of keep your GIS data fresh. Let's say you requested of your GIS, a map of Europe and received the information below. Being a smart GIS "shopper" you realize something is horribly wrong. Can you find a least three things wrong with this map which reflects its lack of "freshness"?



maps that 'customers' might want. I'm guessing a good grocer will know that his or her customers will want the "usual" products; dairy, meats, breads, etc. However, a **good grocer will seek to understand market trends** and perhaps stock organic foods, trendy snack foods, and other current "fad foods" so as not to lose customers to



Continued on page 14



Meet Your Member



(Pictured: Jan Ollivier and family)

Jan Ollivier is a native to this region - born in the City of Yakima and raised in Selah and Ellensburg. Jan had to leave the region for work after receiving her Bachelors of Arts in Geography from Central Washington University. But she returned to Yakima with a husband and a plan to start a family here.

Jan has been working in the transportation field since 1984. She has a Masters' of Science in civil engineering with an emphasis in transportation planning from the University of Washington. She has worked as a transportation planner for the City of Seattle, King County, University of Washington, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. The past ten years she was Kittitas County's Transportation Manager and just recently joined People for People as their Transportation Contracts Manager.

One of the main attractions for Jan to join People for People was their mission and reputation for helping people in need of transportation services. People for People provides transportation services throughout Yakima County, Grant County, Adams County, and Lincoln County – with routes that cross into neighboring counties. These services help empower people to lead self-sufficient and enriched lives.

Jan is excited to be the chair of the MPACT committee and will work hard to make this coalition a coordinated and cooperative group that seeks to serve the Yakima community.



'Keepin' It Fresh' at YVCOG

Continued from page 13

Hints: Two Germanys, a Gorbachevian USSR, Burma, among others! As you can see, this map does not reflect the current needs of our shopper and most certainly has data used beyond its freshness date!

Managing a GIS to ensure that it's current, relevant, and useful, is a constant and complex task. Like our grocery store, our data store needs to be constantly restocked with new data to maintain currency. The data often needs to be adjusted to "match up" with data already on the "shelves" of the GIS database.

Often, in the same way that no two shoppers have the same grocery list, no two map request are alike. The GIS analyst / cartographer must ask key questions prior to making a map such as:

- Who is the audience or map users?
- What is the focus of the map?
- Where will the map be used?

All these questions help to collect the correct data and lay it all out in a manner to again, best serve the map user. This task, like purchasing inventory and stocking shelves, should always be on-going.

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments has a comprehensive GIS program with a current and dynamic database striving to maintain current data for all subject areas in order to meet the mapping and analysis needs of our members or other customers. Your YVCOG staff works hard behind the scenes in order to produce accurate, high-quality maps and analysis for you with a quick turn-around time. We encourage you to come and shop!



What's Happening? Member City Events

Toppenish Rodeo- July 1st-2nd It doesn't get much better than the Toppenish Rodeo. Come join the fun on Friday and Saturday night and get in on the action!

CITY OF TOPPENISH



"Where the West Still Lives"



Pioneer Power Show & Swap Meet 2016 08/20/2016

- **08/21/2016** Location: Fullbright Park/Central Washington Ag Museum - Union Gap Join us at **Union Gap's** Fullbright Park the 3rd weekend in August for this exciting event. Highlights include something for everyone of all ages! From farm equipment displays, farm tractor pulls, vintage trucks and engines for the equipment enthusiasts to our popular equipment parade, we know you'll have a great time.



7/23/2016 2016 Pirate Plunder Adventure Race The Pirate Plunder will be a 3+ mile, 16-obstacle race, held at Pirate's Landing (the intersection of South 22nd Street and Highway 24) in **Yakima**. The race will be held in 60-person waves every 20 minutes beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing throughout the day. Participants will climb over walls up to 14' high, crawl through a 40-foot long mud pit, slide down a 30-foot water slide, battle through tires, and face many other challenges, all while running through a combination of fields, mud, and sand pits. Open to racers 15 and older. The Pirate Plunder will feature cold beverages, live music, and great



Nile Valley Community Days, Naches WA 7/16/2016 - 7/17/2016

Many vendors with hand-crafted items, displays, kid's games, live entertainment, Lions' Bingo, black-powder demonstrations, horseshoe tournaments, gold prospecting demonstrations. Food vendors include corn on the cob and freshly baked pies!

A highlight of the day is the amateur wood events including the spike drive, cross-cut saw, wood-splitting, and axe throw. When available, we also have archery demonstrations, pony rides for the kids, alpacas on display, and other events.



City of Grandview's Community Parade Thursday August 11, 2016—6:30pm start time. Head over to the fair within one hour of the end of the parade and get in for only \$1.00!

Yakima Valley Fair and Rodeo August 10-13th. Rodeo is on August 12th—13th. Doors open at 7pm. Car show Saturday August 13th, 2016—\$700 cash grand prize. Team Pull Event — Friday, August 12th @1pm. Mutton Busting 6pm sign ups prior to the rodeo.



Submit your city's next event to: jessica.hansen@yvcog.org



SAVE *the* DATE

Wenatchee
Convention Center

**OCTOBER
18-20, 2016**

Infrastructure
Assistance
Coordinating
Council

Conference



YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director
Christina Wickenhagen, Deputy Director
Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator
Tim Sullivan, Homeless Housing Program Manager
Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

Joseph Calhoun, Senior Planner
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Admin
Avery Zoglman, Homeless Housing Program Analyst
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist
Jessica Hansen, Office and Communication Specialist

Save the Date: YVCOG General Membership Meeting

WHERE: Sunnyside, WA
WHEN: *September 21, 2016 6:30-9:30 p.m.*
DINNER: \$20 at 7 p.m.

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



509-574-1550 / www.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/title_vi.htm or call (509) 574-1550.