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Mayor

Norma Hernandez

Council Members

Jerry Bobbitt
Michael Cleveland
Marge Nyhagen
Loren Peterson
Melodie Selby
Heather Schermann
Byron Trop

City Administrator

Mike Rizzitiello

625 S. College Ave
509.529.1200

Mayor's Message

Hello Neighbors,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday season and that memories were made that will bring smiles to your hearts as we all move forward in life.

During the month of December, our City kicked off the season with a fantastic Winterfest event that was kicked off by a lighted parade and ended with fireworks lighting the sky. Hundreds of families came together as neighbors, clapping and cheering for participants of the parade, for the lighting of our city Christmas Tree, and for the beauty of the fireworks that filled the sky over College Place with color! Hundreds of children, young and old, smiled from ear to ear as they took pictures with Santa and enjoyed yummy treats. A hearty "thank you" to all of you who joined us on that beautiful evening, to all the vendors who provided great shopping opportunities, and to all the city staff who made such an event possible. I hope you all will continue coming together to support small businesses and celebrating special events in College Place in the year to come.

We also had a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open up the City's first Electric Vehicle Charging Station located on the south side of the Express gas station on the corner of College Ave and Larch street. There are now two charging plugs available to the public at no charge, thanks to the generosity of Columbia REA (for a grant to purchase and install) and Walla Walla University (for donating the location and cost of electricity). This is the first of more Electric Vehicle Charging Stations that will be available along College Avenue. These Charging Stations are one small way for us to encourage and support ways to reduce our reliance on inefficient and costly energy, as well as taking care of the Earth we have been entrusted with.

I attended a Community Holiday Luncheon at College Place High School where staff and students served up hundreds of servings of a wonderful Christmas meal. We also had some fun with musical entertainment, videos, and trivia (great gingerbread houses for prizes!) all done by students; what a fun community event! Thank you to CPHS for providing another delightful community gathering.

As for not so entertaining, but vital, business, the City Council passed the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget of about \$51 million. Please read our City Administrator's Message for details.

Additionally, the City Council voted for a temporary moratorium on industrial hemp farming within the city limits. The moratorium is not about the hemp product, which is not a drug, and has countless beneficial natural uses, but about where farming it would best fit in our city and what rules are needed to ensure the security of the business' financial investment and community's quality of life. The Council welcomes your feedback on this issue as discussions are had, so please keep a lookout on the City Council meeting agendas for dates and times for public comments.

Speaking of public comment during Council Meetings, did you know that during the beginning of every City Council meeting the Council provides time for residents of College Place to share any concerns or thoughts regarding city business? Or perhaps you would like to share your encouragement for the great things that are happening here. So if you have something to say regarding our wonderful city that you believe the Council should know, please attend our twice monthly regularly scheduled City Council meetings for your opportunity and participate in helping make College Place an even better place to live, visit, shop, be educated, and do business. We also have one Council Workshop a month where you are invited to come listen and learn about issues the Council will be making decisions on in future City Council meetings.

As we close out 2019 and enter a new decade, I would like to thank you all for the honor of allowing me to serve you as your Mayor. My sincerest wishes to you and yours for a very Happy New Year; may it be filled with endless laughter and love.

With a thankful heart,

Norma L. Hernández
Mayor
City of College Place

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, the Nextdoor app, and join us during City Council meetings to keep current on City events and news. Council meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month starting at 7 pm. City Council workshops, where issues that will be presented to the City Council for voting, occur every first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. Come learn about the important work the staff is doing, plans for our city, and how our city is run. I hope to see you there!



**College Place
Police Department**
619 S College Avenue
College Place, WA

2020 Dog Licenses

2020 dog licenses will go on sale starting Monday,
December 9th!

Intact dogs: \$30.00
Spayed/Neutered: \$15.00



**Blue Mountain
Humane Society**
7 George St.
Walla Walla, WA

They can be purchased at either location.
Tags are good for one year!



CONNECT WITH US



A Note from the City Administrator



I hope everyone had a great holiday season! Thanks to Columbia REA, city staff, and volunteers for helping put on the Winterfest event. It keeps getting better every year. In December, the City Council adopted the Budget and associated six-year Capital Facility, Equipment Replacement, and Information Technology Plans. The adopted documents are located in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Portal: http://www.cpwa.us/departments/finance/budget_2020.php. Key programmatic highlights include the renewal of the United Way/Campfire Youth Recreation Program in Kiwanis Park this upcoming summer. Also, continuing our contribution to the regional Micro-business Assistance Program to increase start-up business in the City. A variety of capital projects (many primarily grant funded) are in the budget including sidewalks in Central College Place, resurfacing Lamperti Street, resurfacing Meadowbrook Blvd, wrapping up replacement drinking water wells #1 & #2, beginning the required upgrade on the wastewater treatment plant, reconstruct SE 10th from Birch to College, and much more. Take a look at the budget portal webpage for more specifics on funded programs and projects.

The C Street reconstruction project is about wrapped up. Culbert Construction finished putting down pavements the week before the holidays. All that remains is finishing up concrete work on the sidewalks and relatively minor punch list items. We thank Culbert Construction for their expedient work on this project and apologize to area residents for the inconvenience as the roadway was reconstructed.

The new Unified Development Code that was adopted back in October 2019 will take effect on January 1st, 2020. The code simplifies zoning and development processes. Also, it allows cottage housing and accessory dwelling units. It also allows food trucks and food cart pods in the Downtown Mixed-Use District along College Avenue. It also contains a common sense process for dealing with short-term vacation rentals and 5G technology. Information on this code is located here: http://www.cpwa.us/departments/planning/development_code.php

In December we also dedicated an electric vehicle charging station for public use at The Express Gas Station located at the southwest corner of 4th Street & College Avenue. Thank you to Walla Walla University and Columbia REA for the partnership. The City recently received a Pacific Power grant to cover the installation and acquisition of an electric vehicle charging station at the Municipal Campus (625 S. College Ave) for public use. Look for that to be installed by the summer.

For some exciting news on the Library front, the Walla Walla Rural Library District recently signed a five-year lease for space at the former Inland Cellular space in Meadowbrook Plaza across the street from Wal-Mart. The plan is to have a library branch fully operational at the Meadowbrook location at the earliest by March, latest by early May.

2019 was a very productive year and we look forward to what 2020 brings.



WE ARE HIRING

The City of College Place is accepting applications for two full-time positions

Engineer & Community Development Administrative Assistant I

For more information and to stay up to date please visit
http://www.cpwa.us/departments/human_resources/job_opportunities.php

The City of College Place is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING



Walla Walla area Boy Scouts of America, Troop 305 will be picking up your unwanted holiday tree on January 11 and 12. All neighborhoods will be covered; however, if your tree is NOT picked up by the evening of January 12, you may send an email to: treepickup@troop305.net. This e-mail will not be read before January 12, it is used only to locate missed trees. We are sorry, but due to the large number of trees we pick up, individual pick up times cannot be scheduled. Donations to the Boy Scouts are appreciated and will be used for Scouting activities.

Community Calendar

Jan 1st – City Facilities Closed: New Year's Day Observed.

Jan. 6th at 5:00 PM – Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Commission.

Jan. 7th at 5:30 PM – City Council Workshop.

Jan. 14th & 28th at 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting.

Jan. 16th at 4:00 PM – Historic Preservation Commission.

Jan. 20th – City Facilities Closed: Martin Luther King Day.

Jan. 21st at 7:00 PM - Planning Commission.

Jan. 24th at 8:00 AM – Park, Arbor & Recreation Board.

Jan. 29th at 4:00 PM – Youth Advisory Commission.

Unless specified all events are at
City Hall— 625 S. College Ave

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