

CITY OF EGEPLACE Where small-town living and learning meet.

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 8

Hello Neighbors,

AUGUST 2021

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Your City Representatives

<u>Mayor</u>

Norma Hernández

Council Members

Jerry Bobbitt Michael Cleveland Marge Nyhagen Loren Peterson Melodie Selby Heather Schermann Monica Boyle

City Administrator

Mike Rizzitiello

625 S. College Ave 509.529.1200

A Message From The Mayor

This month I want to share some news on the topics of our growth and income revenue, which is vital to preventing property and utility tax increases.

July did bring some good news for College Place, the introduction of two new businesses: A Goodwill Store & Employment Connection Center, which is going up on C Street, across from Home Depot and Burger King, which will be located next to HAPO Credit union on Taumarson Road. Goodwill is moving their retail store from downtown Walla Walla to College Place, which is bringing jobs, shopping opportunities, and retail sales taxes to our community. Additionally, they bring their new building to the Valley, a new Employment Connection Center (ECC), which provides opportunities for employment services and solutions. This indeed is an exciting opportunity for the citizens of College Place.

Burger King also will bring job opportunities, especially for our youth who are seeking work experience and income earning potential. City Hall has received some concerns regarding the location, as it is near some residential communities. We completely understand, however unfortunately College Place has been allowed very limited commercial zoning space by Walla Walla County, forcing commerce to be placed on small swaths of existing land.

In 2019 the City Council and I instructed our City Administrator and Community Development Director to officially request an expansion of our Urban Growth Area (UGA), which is controlled by the County. Sadly, after months of meetings, presentations, needs assessments, appeals, and even some legal actions, the County Commissioners still voted to deny College Place any opportunity to expand our critical land use area for the next five years. What this means to the citizens of College Place is that we have no ability to build, be it residential or commercial, elsewhere. This is producing higher density within city limits, bringing more traffic and noise to our neighborhoods.

I, the City Council, and all the city staff are diligently working to reduce as many negative impacts as possible that growth brings to our community. Nevertheless, no matter what we

do, until we are given more of our designated UGA land by our County Commissioners, we all will experience some unfortunate inconveniences in one way or the other. There are so many cogs in the wheel that runs the city and I hope this helps you understand this one.

Finally, keep a lookout on the City's social media sites (Facebook, Nextdoor App, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram) for information on upcoming dates for Coffee with the Mayor at Rogers Bakery and Pizza with the Mayor at Murray's Fire Engine Pizza, where I invite you to come chat with me and enjoy some great beverages, sweets, sandwiches, or pizza while supporting some of our fantastic local small businesses.

Wishing you safety and good health.— Mayor Norma L. Hernández—nhernandez@cpwa.us

Navigating the current economic and social crises is something our service members should not have to face alone. If you or someone you know served in the military and is struggling with housing issues, we want to help however we can. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program at Blue Mountain Action Council is a VA grant-funded program available to serve eligible low-income Veteran households through case management and housing assistance.

Serving Walla Walla, and 16 other counties throughout Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. Prior to COVID-19, our program eligibility was limited to Veteran households who were without housing and those at risk of losing housing due to eviction. However, due to COVID-19, temporary program changes have allowed us to serve eligible low-income Veteran households who have simply fallen behind on rent.

Although the household must still meet the military service, income, and other screening criteria, we believe this will allow us to prevent housing loss for a greater number of Veteran households. To learn more about the SSVF program and eligibility, contact BMAC at 509-529-4980.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES Worried about housing?



LOW INCOME:

HOUSING CRISIS:

How Can We Help?

Housing Support Help with finding housing or keeping housing

Case Management Support to reach your goals

Referrals



Let's Talk.

Call today to find out what is available

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACTION COUNCIL

BMAC: 509.529.4980 | BMACWW.ORG

¿Preocupado/a por su vivienda?

SERVICIOS DE APOYO PARA LAS FAMILIAS DE VETERANOS

SERVICIOS MILITARES:

- **BAIOS INGRESOS:**
- **CRISIS DE VIVIENDA:**

¿CÓMO PODEMOS AYUDARLO/A?

Con apoyo de vivienda Avuda para encontrar vivienda o mantener su vivienda

Gestión de su caso Apoyo para alcanzar sus metas)

Referencias

BMAC:



nversemos.

Llama hoy para saber qué servicios hay disponible para usted. 509.529.4980 | BMACWW.ORG **BLUE MOUNTAIN ACTION COUNCIL**



College Place Public Schools Getting Ready for Fall 2021

College Place Public Schools had a highly successful conclusion to the 2020-2021 school year with every grade fully in person for the final seven weeks. The staff did an amazing job in working through the many pandemic-related challenges that they faced. This work has been the springboard for our fall preparations.



Registration for Fall 2021 in all of our excellent schools is now open. Community members can scan the QR with their phone to be taken directly to our registration page. We are excited to see the many new students who will be joining CP in the fall! Any child turning 5 before August 31st is eligible for Kindergarten and any student 3-5 may be eligible for our Developmental Preschool for students with

disabilities or ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program).

The growth in College Place, along with the continuing issues with COVID-19 were cause for CPPS to invest in three additional double portable classrooms for Davis Elementary School. These portables, once installed and ready for use in late September, will allow the campus to handle its ongoing growth, as well as allow for social distancing and other pandemic-related accommodation requirements. The district utilized funds provided by ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Funds and no local funds were utilized for this project.

College Place Public Schools expects to return to fully in person in the fall and will continue to implement the required safety guidelines that the state gives us so that we can. We are challenged often to disregard the guidelines from the state; This is not a choice. If we want to open, we are required to follow the guidelines from the Washington Department of Health and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. We expect those to arrive in the upcoming weeks.

We continue to be thankful of our outstanding community that we partner with daily. The challenges faced in communities come in many fashions and we are fortunate to have a tight team environment where can overcome what is thrown at us. From the pandemic to road closures, we continue to find ways to ensure that our students and our community grown. We look forward to 2021-2022 being a tremendous year.



Enjoy Coffee With The Mayor at Rogers Bakery or Mayor at Murray's Fire Engine Pizza!



July 29th, 2021 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm 536 NE C St



College Place Department Contacts

Mayor

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City Administrator Mike Rizzitiello mrizzitiello@cpwa.us

Community Development Director Jon Rickard jrickard@cpwa.us

> **Finance Director** Brian Carleton bcarleton@cpwa.us

Fire Chief David Winter dwinter@cpwa.us

Police Chief Troy Tomaras ttomaras@cpwa.us

Public Works Director Paul Hartwig phartwig@cpwa.us

Community Calendar

Aug 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th at 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM - College Place Farmers

Market at Lions Park

Aug 2nd at 5:00 PM – Economic Development, Tourism, & Events Commission.

Aug 3rd at 5:30 PM – City Council Workshop.

Aug 7th at Dusk – City of College Place Movie in The Park at Lions Park - A Bug's Life

Aug 10th & 24th at 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting.

Aug 12th at 12:00 PM – Civil Service Meeting.

Aug 12th at 3:30 PM – Utilities & Transportation Advisory Commission.

Aug 16th at 4:30 PM – Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board Meeting.

Aug 17th at 7:00 PM - Planning Commission.

Aug 19th at 4:00 PM – Historic Preservation Commission.

Aug 27th at 8:00 AM – Park, Arbor & Recreation Board.

Aug 28th at Dusk – City of College Place Movie in The Park at Lions Park - Coco

All meetings are being held virtually. You can watch a livestream on the City YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCbx3qrqzLDL 05NusReSI-g. If you have a comment you would like to make, please contact Lisa Neissl - City Clerk at Ineissl@cpwa.us. Comment requests received by the Clerk no later than 4:30 PM on the meeting date will be accepted. Check our website and Facebook Page for updates!