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Mayor

Norma Hernández

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

Earned Income Tax Credit

What is Earned Income Tax Credit?

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is an important benefit providing a financial boost to working individuals and families. To claim EITC, you need to meet certain qualifications and file a tax return even if you have no other filing requirement or owe no tax. Find more EITC Information on www.irs.gov/eitc.

Are You Eligible for EITC?

Find out if you are eligible by answering questions and providing basic income information using the EITC Assistant on irs.gov. It helps determine your filing status, the number of qualifying children you have, if any, and estimates the amount of your EITC. English/Spanish/Russian Version of the EITC Assistant available at: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/use-the-eitc-assistant>

Free Tax Preparation?

For information on free tax preparation, call the AARP Tax Aid Program at **443-499-3622** to schedule an appointment or use the online application, MyFreeTaxes at: <https://www.myfreetaxes.com/>

Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo

¿Qué es el Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo?

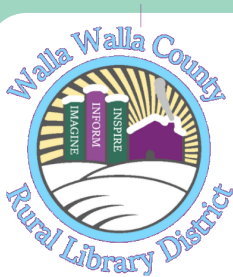
El Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo (EITC) es un beneficio importante que brinda un impulso financiero a las personas y familias que trabajan. Para reclamar el EITC, debe cumplir con ciertos requisitos y presentar una declaración de impuestos incluso si no tiene otros requisitos de presentación o no debe impuestos. Encuentre más información sobre el EITC en www.irs.gov/eitc.

¿Es elegible para el EITC?

Averigüe si es elegible respondiendo preguntas y proporcionando información básica sobre ingresos utilizando el Asistente de EITC en irs.gov. Ayuda a determinar su estado civil para efectos de la declaración, la cantidad de hijos calificados que tiene, si los tiene, y calcula la cantidad de su EITC. Versión en inglés / español / ruso del Asistente de EITC disponible en: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/use-the-eitc-assistant>

Preparación de impuestos gratis?

Para obtener información sobre la preparación gratuita de impuestos, llame al número de teléfono del Programa de Ayuda Fiscal de AARP 443-499-3622 para programar una cita o utilice MyFreeTaxes en línea en: <https://www.myfreetaxes.com/>



Happy February, College Place!

Here at College Place Library we're continuing our (extended hours!) curbside service, all of our regular programming (Story time Live on Facebook, Music Mondays on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, Weekly children's Take and Make crafts!) and we have a few new things to tell you about as well.

We've got a new spice blend to give away this month with our **Spice Up Your Reading** program – we're traveling domestically this month to the Ozarks! Give us a shout if you'd like an Ozarks spice packet and a companion brochure with recipes, book & movie suggestions, and to learn all about the spice blend of the month. Send us pictures of whatever you cook up and we'll post them on our Facebook page!

Curbside Hours

Mondays: 12-6

Tuesdays: 12-6

Wednesdays: 12-6

Thursdays: 12-6

Fridays: 12-5

Saturdays: 10-2

We're thrilled to announce our new **Graphic Art Collection - Visual Browsing Tumblr**. We know it's frustrating not to be able to come in and browse the shelves, and particularly hard for fans of graphic novels and manga. Check out WWCRLD.tumblr.com to see what manga series we have here, including the covers, example interior art, and a description of each series. If you see something you like, you can click straight through to our catalog to place a hold! Easy peasy. It's a big project that is being added to all the time (graphic novels after manga is complete), so check it out now, but be sure to check in periodically to find something great to read.

For our younger patrons, our Story time Live themes for February are Black History Month, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Weather. Be sure to tune into our Facebook page to hear great stories with Ms. Jessica from Burbank and Mr. Chris from College Place branch! Let us know if you'd like to pick up the "Take and Make" of the week when you pick up your holds via Curbside Pickup.

Wishing you the coziest of Februaries,
Chessa Grasso Hickox
College Place Library Branch Supervisor



A New Year in College Place Public Schools

It is February in College Place Public Schools and we are pleased to have our students back in the school buildings learning. It has been extremely trying for all to navigate these unsteady and ever changing times, but the research and data related to safely opening schools is showing that schools can operate safely. This has helped us to reopen our doors, programs, and even begin some athletic practices.

School's staff are masterful when it comes to implementing routines and logistics. That is what we do each and every day. From moving hundreds of students from place to place in a five-minute passing period, to exiting an entire student body out of the school for a fire drill, we do it regularly. Challenging us with mask wearing, handwashing, and social distancing requirements was a doozy, I'm not going to lie. However, our staff has risen to the occasion over and over again and made the impossible possible.

Schools look and feel different right now as we work to combat the impacts of the pandemic. Our staff continues to strive to defeat the loss of learning and other struggles brought on by these last ten months with relationships and personalized attention. We cannot afford to have thirteen grades of learners lose a year and never get it back. Our staff will continue to fight to overcome these and other challenges for the greater good of our community.

College Place Public Schools will offer a variety of new after school programs soon and programs this summer to support our students. From social emotional support and basic academic skills, to high school credit recovery, we will have more opportunities for students than ever before. We encourage parents, guardians, and caretakers in our community to reach out to your student's teacher and principal to find out what these might mean for your child.

Jim Fry, Superintendent

Mercy Corps Northwest Walla Walla MBA Program

Applications for Mercy Corps Northwest's 2021 Micro-Business Assistance (MBA) Program are now open!

Mercy Corps Northwest is the regional arm of the global nonprofit Mercy Corps. This organization works to support individuals and business owners who are looking to start or grow a small business, and who might not qualify for traditional banking services.

The MBA Program provides education and financing to small business owners and entrepreneurs in the Walla Walla and College Place area. Over the course of six months, program participants save \$500, which is then matched with a \$4,000 grant from MCNW. Participants also complete education and training, including writing a business plan, and acquire all the necessary licensing for their businesses.



To apply to the MBA Program, please visit bit.ly/mcnw-mba-APPLY. Applications close on February 16th, 2021 at 5 pm PST. If you have any questions or need help filling out your application, please reach out to us at wallawallainfo@mercycorps.org.

¡Las solicitudes para el Programa de Asistencia para Microempresas (MBA) de Mercy Corps Northwest para el año 2021 ya están abiertas!

Mercy Corps Northwest es la rama regional de Mercy Corps, una organización mundial sin fines de lucro. La organización trabaja para apoyar a individuos y empresarios los que quieren iniciar o hacer crecer un pequeño negocio, pero quizás no califiquen para los servicios de un banco tradicional.

El Programa MBA proporciona educación y financiamiento a los dueños de pequeños negocios y emprendedores en el área alrededor de Walla Walla y College Place. Durante seis meses, los participantes del programa ahorran \$500, y después reciben una beca de \$4,000 por parte de MCNW, la que se basa en una coincidencia de los fondos que han ahorrado. Los participantes también completan educación y entrenamiento, incluso escribir un plan de negocios, y adquieren toda la licencia necesaria para sus negocios.

Para solicitar al Programa MBA, por favor de visitor bit.ly/mcnw-mba-SOLICITAR. Las solicitudes cerrarán el 16 de febrero de 2021 a las 5:00 PM PST. Si tiene cualquier pregunta o necesita ayuda para completar la solicitud, por favor de comunicarse con nosotros por enviar un correo electrónico a wallawallainfo@mercycorps.org.



City of College Place 2021 Utility Rates

Beginning January 1, 2021 the City updated the utility rates based on the Fees Resolution that was passed by council on December 8th, 2020. The 2021 Utility Rates can be found on our website here: http://www.cpwa.us/residents/city_utilities.php. City Facilities are still closed to the public, but we are able to assist you by phone. If you have questions about your utility bill, please call the Utility Clerk at 509-529-1200.

We plan to open back to the public following the guidelines set in place by the Healthy Washington—Roadmap to Recovery Plan.

COVID-19 Virtual Meeting Protocol for Public Comment

When submitting public comments, include both your name and address regardless of the manner you are using. There are three ways to submit a public comment.

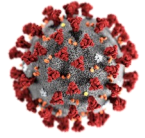
- Comments in writing of no more than 1 page (If typed, no less than 11 pt. font) may be submitted **no later than 4:30 PM** on the meeting date to be included in the record.
- Comments may be made by telephone during the meeting by calling a number that will be provided to you upon notification to the City Clerk **no later than 4:30 PM the day of the meeting.** *
- Comments may be made by virtual meeting attendance, with a link that will be provided to your email upon notification to the City Clerk **no later than 4:30 PM the day of the meeting.** *

*If you would like to make a public comment by either phone or virtual attendance, you can contact the City Clerk at Ineissl@cpwa.us or by phone at 509-394-8511 no later than 4:30 PM on the meeting date.

BMAC: COVID ASSISTANCE

The City of College Place has donated additional funding to Blue Mountain Action Council in wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Special funding is available to new and past clients. If you've already received assistance from BMAC this year, you may be eligible for additional funds. Please call Bob or Sylvia at 509-529-4980. Spanish speaking assistance provided. Emergency assistance is also sometimes available through Helpline or the Salvation Army.

Bob Castoldi • 509-529-4980 • bobc@bmacww.org
Sylvia Schaeffer • 509-529-4980 • sylvias@bmacww.org
www.bmacww.org



Spread the Love & Volunteer

SonBridge is a non-profit organization that seeks to bring hope and wholeness to the disadvantaged in our community. A large part of our team consists of volunteers from all walks of life and all ages too. This February, we encourage you to share the love with your neighbors by becoming a volunteer at SonBridge. We always have room for more volunteers to help with anything from sorting and pricing items for our thrift store, to maintenance and outreach projects in our community. For many, volunteering is a wonderful way to make friends and find a new love to give to others. We hope to see you soon. To learn more, contact us at admin@sonbridge.org or call (509) 529-3100.

Community Calendar

- Feb. 1st at 5:00 PM** – Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Commission.
- Feb. 2nd at 5:30 PM** – City Council Workshop.
- Feb. 8th at 4:30 PM** – Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board Meeting.
- Feb. 9th & 23rd at 7:00 PM** – City Council Meeting.
- Feb. 11th at 12:00 PM** – Civil Service Meeting.
- Feb. 11th at 3:30 PM** – Utilities & Transportation Advisory Commission.
- Feb. 15th** – City Facilities Closed: Presidents' Day
- Feb. 16th at 7:00 PM** - Planning Commission.
- Feb. 17th at 4:00 PM** – Youth Advisory Commission.
- Feb. 18th at 4:00 PM** – Historic Preservation Commission.
- Feb. 19th at 8:00 AM** – Special Park, Arbor & Recreation Board.
- Feb. 26th at 8:00 AM** – Park, Arbor & Recreation Board.

All meetings are being held virtually. You can watch a livestream on the City YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbx3qrqzLDL_05NusReSl-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!

College Place Department Contacts

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Finance Director

Brian Carleton
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Fire Chief

David Winter
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Police Chief

Troy Tomaras
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Public Works Director

Paul Hartwig
phartwig@cpwa.us