



The drop box located at Lion's Park has been removed due to inactive use. The drop box located at City Hall is still available for use. We apologize for any inconvenience.

### **Your City Representatives**

#### **Mayor**

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**

Hello Neighbors,

It has been a very busy summer here in College Place and thanks to our great staff, we are entering into fall with some vital infrastructure improvements. I know that when we talk about what great things are happening here in College Place one might think about park improvements, the additions of sidewalks, new home developments, or celebrating the successes of our small businesses. What may not immediately come to mind is the many complex water systems that, for the most part, do their jobs out of sight. But it is important for us to remember that without them the normalcy of our lives would be upended.

Two years ago, when I became Mayor, our community was walking a fine line with disaster with our (clean) water wells. At times, we were operating with less than two functioning wells, which was woefully insufficient for a city our size. Additionally, as our city grew over the decades our sewer and wastewater systems had gone unchanged, putting us at risk for some very gross and potentially unhealthy sewage overflows and backups. Then there was our stormwater system, which often failed to meet the Departments of Health and Ecology's standards, spilling harmful water runoff into our groundwater, creeks and streams.

Thankfully, the staff, City Council, and I came together to prioritize repairs and upgrades, as waiting was no longer an option. One of the reasons our water systems went neglected were concerns of the cost and the burden that would put on our residents. However, Mike Rizzitiello, our fantastic City Administrator, was able to acquire legislative appropriation grants (thank you former Senators Walsh and Jenkins), as well as grants and low interest loans from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund and the Department of Health, reducing the end cost to College Place to a very minimal amount. We have already made significant progress over the last two years, with two new water wells completed and one more in

progress. The great news is that by the end of 2022 we will have all our water systems (wells, sewer/wastewater, and stormwater) up and running-and to code! This is no small feat and is taking countless hours of staff time, but there has been no question in any of our minds that College Place is worth it.

I hope you all had an opportunity to visit our Farmer's and Artisan's Market or to join us at Movies in the Park, they are such great community events. This summer was especially wonderful for me because on different occasions I was able to share these events and my wonderful community with my children, my sister, and my brother and his family. I also enjoyed meeting and laughing with so many of you. Meeting neighbors and learning from you is one of my favorite things to do.

Lastly, while I am so very happy for him and his family, I am sad for College Place to announce that Paul Hartwig, who has been with the city for over forty years, and most recently was our Director of Public Works, retires on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Paul has been instrumental in improving our community and quality of life here in College Place. In fact, I do not believe that there is one area of our city that has not been impacted by Paul's hard work and commitment to the future of College Place. Please join me in thanking Paul, and his family, for all the years of service. He will certainly be missed.

Before the summer is over, I hope to meet more of you. Please keep an eye out for more 'Coffee with the Mayor' dates and locations on the city's Facebook page and the Nextdoor app to join me for great conversations, refreshing drinks, and delicious eats. Or if you see me out and about, please say "hi."

Stay safe and healthy, your grateful Mayor,

Norma L. Hernández



## Michelle's Story at SonBridge Dental Clinic



Michelle\* was an addict for a month and already needed to have 24 teeth removed. This made her extremely nervous about her upcoming appointment. During the span of appointments, Michelle was also in the process of getting a divorce.

The stress of the divorce made the healing process difficult for fitting dentures. After a few additional appointments to make adjustments, the dentures were ready. Michelle was excited. "I have my dress, my earrings, my shoes ready. I know what I am going to say when I get my dentures in. All I need is my smile." Michelle wants to pursue a career in housekeeping and eventually management. In this line of work, appearances are everything. SonBridge is happy to help people like Michelle get a new start in life. A project we have started is the fundraising and purchase of new dental chairs for both dentists and patients. The seats we currently use were generously donated to us years ago when we first opened up our clinic. They have been well-loved and well used. Consider donating here: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/SonBridge/donate.html> for this project so we all can help more people like Michelle. (\* Not her real name.)



## ADA TRANSITION PLAN

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

*The City of College Place is working on an ADA Transition Plan for the community. Share your thoughts - the survey only takes 10 minutes*  
Survey Link <https://arcg.is/0rSKT5>

PLEASE TAKE THIS SURVEY!



(ENGLISH SURVEY)

### NOS GUSTARÍA SUS COMENTARIOS

*La ciudad de College Place está elaborando un plan para atender el acceso en las instalaciones peatonales en toda la comunidad. Deje escuchar su voz - le tomará 10 minutos completar la encuesta. Enlace de encuesta <https://arcg.is/1X1nvb>*

¡RESPONDA ESTA ENCUESTA POR FAVOR!



(ENCUESTA EN ESPAÑOL)



## City of College Place Public Works Director

### Retirement Announcement



After 44 years of hard work and dedication to the City of College Place, Public Works Director, Paul Hartwig, has announced

his retirement at the end of August 2021. Mr. Hartwig held a variety of roles for the City, but ended with the esteemed role of Public Works Director. He has been a strong contributing factor in the development, continued efficiency, and improvements in all aspects of the city. We can't thank Paul and his family enough for his years of service. He will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his years of retirement. Congratulations Paul on this major accomplishment!

## Update From Walla Walla Valley Academy



WWVA is excited for this coming school year. We're proud to say that last school year we stayed open and in person the whole time, and we plan to do the same this year. In addition, we are broadening our Fine Arts offerings, and we are excited to welcome a new science teacher, Brianna Toelke who will be helping us expand our science classes.

Lots of our students have school jobs to help pay for their tuition. In this picture WWVA students are helping pay for their bill by painting the back of the auditorium, which the art students got to spray paint at the end of the school year. We invite you to check out our website at [wwva.org](http://wwva.org), or give us a call at (509) 525-1050 for any questions or to ask about enrollment.



## New City of College Place Public Works Director



My name is Robert McAndrews, I started my career with the City of Shoreline WA where I worked as a seasonal maintenance technician for about 3 years before being hired on full time in 2006. In 2011 I took a job with the City of Redmond WA. At the beginning of 2018 I relocated my family to Walla Walla after accepting the position of Chief of Road Operations and Fleet Management with Walla Walla County Public Works. Throughout my Public Works career I have been most heavily involved in streets, facilities, and fleet, but have also worked very closely with water, wastewater, and storm. I have a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Washington State University (Go Cougs!), and a Master of Public Administration from University of Phoenix. My amazing and supportive wife Shannon and I have been married since 2013, and we have two beautiful young daughters, Sadie (5), and Riley (4), as well as a 9 month old charcoal lab puppy named River. We currently live on the east side of Walla Walla. In my spare time I love to get outdoors whenever I can. I enjoy mountain biking, snowboarding, snowmobiling, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and watching Cougar Football. I also love to travel when I can find the time. I am excited to be a part of the College Place team and look forward to many years with the City.

### Community Calendar

**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM** – College Place Farmers Market at Lions Park

**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>** – City Facilities Closed: Labor Day

**Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM** – City Council Workshop.

**Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM** – Civil Service Meeting.

**Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM** – Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Commission.

**Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** – City Council Meeting.

**Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM** – Historic Preservation Commission.

**Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM** - Planning Commission.

**Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 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\\_05NusReSI-g](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 [lnaissl@cpwa.us](mailto:lnaissl@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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#### City Administrator

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#### Community Development Director

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#### Finance Director

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#### Fire Chief

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#### Police Chief

Troy Tomaras  
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#### Public Works Director

Robert McAndrews  
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