



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

Position 1—Vacant
Michael Cleveland
Loren Peterson
Tito Espinoza Jr.
Melodie Selby
Heather Schermann
Monica Boyle

City Administrator

Mike Rizzitiello

625 S. College Ave
509.529.1200

A Message From The Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

I sit here in my makeshift office at home, which is just an extension of my kitchen, looking out my window hoping to catch a hummingbird make use of one of the many feeders I have in my back yard. During the freezing temperatures, I was diligent about rotating feeders every hour or so to keep liquefied man-made nectar in the feeders, but so far, I have not been given the pleasure of a witnessing a single hummingbird enjoying some sweetness at my window.

However, I take solace in all the other birds who visit daily to enjoy some seeds and give my two cats some theater style entertainment. I also recently added a few bird houses to the yard, hoping to give some of our bird friends some shelter from the cold, and I must admit, I am getting obsessed with wanting birds to habitat them. I was shopping for bird box cameras so that I might know when I have new neighbors, but have not found the right one yet. Do not worry Jim & Sheri and Steve & Gladys your privacy will be well respected-unlike our feathered neighbors, by me.

I would like to use the rest of this letter to discuss the fast-approaching Special Election on February 8th. There is only one item on the ballot, College Place School District's Proposition 1, which is a replacement of the expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O). I will not tell you how to vote, but I do want to do what I can to help you know exactly what the EP&O Levy is and is not about and the consequences of your vote.

In the past, CPPS had two separate levies, however this year they have combined it into one single and simple levy. First, this levy is about a commitment by the voters of our wonderful city to support our children's access to education and extra-curricular mind and body strengthening activities for four years. The proposed 2022 EP&O Levy replaces the two levies that were approved in 2018, however, this one will cost less, while still maintaining the programs that have been supported by the last levy. This levy has built it limitations that will protect property owners from unexpected tax increase surprises. For example, there is a maximum of \$2.50 per \$1,000 assessed value, which is \$0.10 less than the levy expiring at the end of this year. Additionally, there is a total collection ceiling of \$18.9 million that is allowed to be collected between the years of 2023-2026, which will again be broken down by each year. That means, the levy will not be able to collect more no matter what property values go up to. Property owners are assured of collection caps. In fact, the opposite could happen, property owners may actually see a rate lower than the \$2.50 calculated.

Secondly, I know many of us believe that supporting our schools and our children's public education belongs to the state, which already collects taxes from us. While there are some truths to that, it is not so clear cut. The state gives CPPS only the minimum needed to give basic education to students. That's basic reading, writing, arithmetic, science, and history. "Basic" being the key word. The district must collect funds on their own to provide our children with classroom para-educators, nursing, counselors, social & emotional support services, special education services, buses (no, the state does not give money to get children to school or activities), STEM, smaller class sizes, and one-to-one technology devices (I cannot even imagine how much worse our students would have been without district provided Chrome tablets for students to use at home during the long pandemic caused school closures!), everything that is required in order to teach our kids vital thinking and problem solving skills.

Furthermore, the EP&O Levy will fund athletics, vocational programs, the arts-such as band, choir, and drama; intervention services and staffing, the on-campus school resource officer (providing physical safety to our kids), and believe it or not, even utilities, maintenance, and operation expenses. Shocking, is it not?

I know that all of us are tax fatigued and that adding more to is not exactly enticing. Please know, this is **not** a new or additional tax. It is a continuation of what we already pay and at a lower dollar amount than the last four years. We also cannot afford to risk what will become of our children should they only be given "basic" education with no ability to exercise, learn competitive teamwork, to obtain leadership skills, confidence, and fall behind the world due to lack of technology. The state will not make up for any gaps, they will not come to our community's rescue with money for our schools. This is all up to us and us only.

This is not about politics either. No matter who is in the White House or in Olympia, it would still be the same situation. Our kids, their futures, do not deserve to be pawns in political chest pounding games that are not even relevant to their education and social growth. We live in a different world than we grew up in, basic education is not what America's children need to be competitive in our global system. And although I have no kin attending any College Place Public Schools, I will happily invest in the future of someone else's who one day, will be the person making decisions for my future.

To learn more on the 2022 EP&O Levy please visit CPPS's website at <https://www.cpps.org/page/levy-2022>. Also, there are tax exemptions and deferrals available for qualifying senior citizens and individuals who are disabled. For more information or to see if you qualify contact the Walla Walla County Assessor's Office at 509-524-2560. Lastly, if you are not a registered voter you can easily become one by registering to vote online at <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>.

Thank you all for honoring me with your time in reading this month's Mayor's Message. If you have any ideas of how to spy on any potential residents of my bird boxes, please send them my way!

With gratitude,

Norma L. Hernández
Mayor

Do not forget to follow us on FB at www.facebook.com/cityofcpwa or on the Nextdoor app.



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

2022 Dog Licenses

2022 dog licenses went on sale December 6th!

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

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



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



MBA Program Info Sessions

Applications for the fifth round of Mercy Corps Northwest's [Micro-Business Assistance Program \(MBA\)](#) are now open until February 11, 2022. This six-month program provides education and financing to small businesses and prospective entrepreneurs in the Walla Walla Valley. If accepted into the program, participants are also eligible to receive \$4,000 in grant money once all program requirements are met.

Application Support Session

If you are ready to apply to the program, you can attend an application support session for help applying which will be hosted via Zoom.

English – January 27th from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE>](#) or visit <https://nw.mercycorps.org/event/MBA-app-012022>



Sesiones de Información del Programa MBA

Solicitudes para el quinto grupo del [Programa de Asistencia para Microempresas \(MBA\)](#) por parte de Mercy Corps Northwest están abiertas hasta el 11 de febrero 2022. Este programa de seis meses proporciona educación y financiamiento a pequeños negocios y emprendedores prospectivos en el área alrededor de Walla Walla. Para los que están aceptados al programa, también califican para una beca de \$4,000 (cuando se cumplen todos los requisitos del programa).

Soporte de aplicaciones

Si está listo para registrarse al programa, puede asistir a una sesión de soporte de aplicaciones para obtener ayuda con la solicitud, brindado a través de Zoom.

Español – 27 de enero de 6:00 PM—7:00 PM

[REGISTRAR AQUI>>](#) o visitar <https://nw.mercycorps.org/event/MBA-app-es-012022>



Community Garden

The Walla Walla University Enactus team is excited to announce another fine year for the Community Garden in College Place. The garden is located on a beautiful piece of property right beside the fire station and the \$50 lease fee covers the use of the plot and water for the gardening season. The purpose of this garden is to bring the community together and give people an opportunity to foster a garden without having to worry about finding space on their own property. If you're interested in leasing a garden bed this season, contact via:

Email: collegeplacecommunitygarden@gmail.com

Instagram: college_place_garden

Facebook: College Place Community Garden



Community Calendar

Feb. 1st at 5:30 PM – City Council Workshop.

Feb. 7th at 5:00 PM – Economic Development, Tourism, & Events Commission Meeting.

Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting.

Feb. 10th at 12:00 PM – Civil Service Meeting.

Feb. 10th at 3:30 PM – Utility & Transportation Advisory Commission Meeting.

Feb. 15th at 7:00 PM – Planning Commission Meeting.

Feb. 16th at 4:00 PM – Youth Advisory Commission Meeting.

Feb. 17th at 4:00 PM – Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

Feb. 21st City Facilities Closed – Presidents' Day.

Feb. 22nd at 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting.

Feb. 25th at 8:00 AM – Parks, Arbor & Recreation Board.

Feb. 28th at 4:30 PM – Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board Meeting.

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

Mayor

Norma Hernández
nhernandez@cpwa.us

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

Robert McAndrews
rmcandrews@cpwa.us