



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**

Happy New Year Neighbors!

I hope that your holiday season was full of the best and most important gifts of love and laughter that anyone could be blessed with. College Place certainly was festive and fun with all your homes decorated with colorful lights. And how about our Light Up The Avenue event when we light up the city Christmas Tree in front of City Hall and enjoyed the community parade down College Avenue? What a fantastic night that was! I was able to meet more of you whom I had not had the pleasure of meeting, thank you for introducing yourselves. I would like to thank all the businesses and organizations who participated in the parade and all of you who came out celebrate with them.

We did have someone try to ruin things for us when they cut the electrical cords leading to the Christmas Tree and the hedges at City Hall, but the Public Works elves came to the rescue and fixed most of them right up. I am already making big plans on how to top it next year! Send me your suggestions and ideas of what would make our holiday season even better here in College Place. One way is to learn all the words to the Christmas carols I most embarrassingly realized I did not know.

January is starting off with extremely cold, in fact, freezing temperatures. Please prepare yourself as much as possible. Fill your vehicles with gas or have them fully charged in case electricity is lost. Have flashlights and blankets ready, wear coats, hats, and gloves when going out. Please bring in your domestic animals, it is just too cold out there for them to be out. Also, please be safe when using indoor portable heaters and do not leave your vehicles unattended when warming them up. Finally, please check in on elderly or disabled family and neighbors periodically to ensure they have what they need. Safety is key during extreme weather situations like this.

Annually, the Association of Washington Cities Center for Quality Communities offers a competitive scholarship for Washington State high school seniors who will be going on to college or trade schools of \$1,500. This year I wanted to provide College Place seniors the opportunity to apply, therefore, I am pleased to invite them to apply for the 2022 \$1,500 scholarship sponsored by AWC which is meant to encourage leadership development and civic engagement. I will personally be reviewing each application and will nominate one College Place High School or Home-Schooled senior applicant to AWC for consideration for the \$1,500 scholarship. Applications must be submitted to me by Monday, January 10, 2022. Application and deadline information can be found on the city's website at [https://www.cpwa.us/news\\_detail\\_T30\\_R337.php](https://www.cpwa.us/news_detail_T30_R337.php). Please encourage deserving seniors to apply,

when it comes to funds for college, there can never be enough, and I would love to see a College Place student win this year's scholarship!

Did you year that College Place now has free community Wi-Fi access at Lions Park, Kiwanis Park, and Veterans Park? Thanks to a grant awarded to us from AARP during their Community Challenge competition and PocketiNet, who provided the installation and wiring, we are all now able to utilize no-cost internet access during park hours. We believe this will be especially helpful to students who may not have access at home. You can learn more about the grant and the locations on the city's website at [https://www.cpwa.us/news\\_detail\\_T30\\_R336.php](https://www.cpwa.us/news_detail_T30_R336.php).

A serious safety issue that we are having to face as a community is our frighteningly inadequate Fire and EMS staffing capacity. Over the past year there has been a significant increase of twenty percent in calls for medical aid and it has become difficult to accommodate all request for help in a timely manner. Imagine calling 911 and being told that there is no help available because all our firefighters and EMS are already on other calls. It is almost inconceivable. But that is a reality we may face if we do not act now. Fire Chief David Winter has asked the City Council for an addition of four full-time staff to help alleviate some of the risk of not being able to provide lifesaving help. To hire those very needed first responders and provide them with the salary and benefits they deserve we are having to ask you all for help. For months now, the City Council have been carefully reviewing a phased-in ambulance utility tax to help raise the necessary revenue. The Finance Department is still working on the best solution to determine the end cost per month to ensure that we all have the best chance at receiving help when we need it most. If you have any concerns, questions, or would like to express your support, you are welcome to send myself and/or the Council your thoughts either by email or letter to City Hall.

Finally, as we begin our seventy-sixth year as a city, I must once again state that College Place is such a wonderful community. I am so grateful for being able to call it home and you all my neighbors. We have such an amazing future ahead of us with great things coming our way. We are the type of community that cares and knows how to respect one another. I cannot tell you how much getting a smile and a wave warms my heart or how much those small acts of kindness remind me that I am amongst good people. Changes and growth are inevitable in any vibrant and resilient community, but that does not mean we have to lose who we are. College Place will continue to be the type of place where families can build a home, where our future generations will be educated, where businesses will flourish, and where politics do not supersede our humanity. I am proud to call College Place home.

I look forward to sharing 2022 with you all and I am excited to see what wonderful things we achieve. Aaron and I send you and your families our wishes for a year that is filled with love and much laughter.

Happy New Year College Place!

Norma L. Hernández  
Mayor of College Place

## 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!



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



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

# Happy New Year from College Place Public Schools

## Jim Fry, Superintendent

In College Place Public Schools, we look back fondly on all that we accomplished in 2021. We were able to bring our students back to our buildings full time, we were able to support our community with three #CPPS2CARES food drives in partnership with Eden's Pantry, we saw numerous teams compete in state tournaments (some for the first time), and Sager Middle School was named the winner of the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce 2021 Duane Wollmuth Catalyst Award. This is only a few of the many great things that went on in our schools last year.

2021 was not without its challenges and its lingering pandemic effects either. The impacts on staff, students and the broader community have been significant, but our staff know that education and our relationships with students give them the tools they need to be resilient. We will continue to meet each student where they are to take them where they can go.

Looking forward to 2022 is exciting for those of us in College Place Public Schools. We are excited to utilize the six new classrooms installed at Davis Elementary purchased from Federal Stimulus dollars supporting our K-5 students. Additionally, in turning over the year we will implement new bus safety equipment where students will "sign in and out" of each bus allowing parents to know what time their child got off the bus safely. Also, in 2022 CPPS will run a replacement levy for the expiring 2018-2022 Maintenance & Operations and Technology/Safety Levies and the 2020 Transportation Levy.

On your ballots for the February 8, 2022 special election, College Place Public Schools has made the decision to run a single Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy for 2023-2026 to replace the those expiring at the end of 2022. One levy will allow the district the flexibility to address needs of the next four years. Whether that is additional technology, staff, safety equipment, buses, or many other surprises, these funds allow us to support the areas where state and federal funds do not. The funds cannot be used to build any new schools and that is not even in the picture for a number of years.

The replacement levy provides us with technology for students to each have their own device, buses to help us with our growth, cameras and security alarms, and additional staff in the areas of teachers, Para educators, custodians, school resource officer, nursing staff, and much more. The EP&O is also responsible for 100% of the funds to offer our outstanding band, choir, drama, and athletic extracurricular opportunities. College Place taxpayers have come to expect excellent services and programs from us, and these funds ensure we continue to do just that.

Currently, College Place taxpayers are paying \$2.60/\$1,000 of assessed property value for the combined levies. The EP&O is on the February ballot for \$2.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value; **a decrease of \$.10/\$1,000!** CPPS is able to decrease this amount due to the tremendous growth and new construction happening in College Place that allows costs to be shared. The dollars collected over the next four years will allow us to continue to contend with the growth in College Place and provide services that we know will shape the future of College Place and beyond.

Happy New Year!

## MBA Program Info Sessions

Applications for the fifth round of Mercy Corps Northwest's [Micro-Business Assistance Program \(MBA\)](#) will be opening on January 5th, 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 Information

Micro-Business Assistance Program applications will be opened from January 5<sup>th</sup> through February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and will be made available through here: <https://nw.mercycorps.org/business/walla-walla-application>. Any questions please contact Program Manager, Cinthya Montero at [wallawalla@mercycorps.org](mailto:wallawalla@mercycorps.org) or 509-200-6725.

### 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 13 from 6 to 7 p.m. | [REGISTER HERE>>](#)

English – January 27th from 5 to 6 p.m. | [REGISTER HERE>>](#)

## Sesiones de Información del Programa MBA

Solicitudes para el quinto grupo del [Programa de Asistencia para Microempresas \(MBA\)](#) por parte de Mercy Corps Northwest se abren el 5 de enero de 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).

### Información de la aplicación

Nuestras aplicaciones para el programa de Asistencia a Microempresas estará aceptando solicitudes entre Enero 5 - Febrero 11, 2022 y estará disponible aquí: <https://nw.mercycorps.org/business/walla-walla-application>. Si tiene preguntas, porfavor de comunicarse con la Directora del Programa, Cinthya Montero a [wallawalla@mercycorps.org](mailto:wallawalla@mercycorps.org) o 509-200-6725.

### 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 – 13 de enero de 5-6PM | [REGISTRAR AQUI>>](#)

Español – 27 de enero de 6-7PM | [REGISTRAR AQUI>>](#)

## Community Calendar

**Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM** – Economic Development, Tourism, and Events Commission Meeting.

**Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** – City Council Meeting.

**Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM** – Civil Service Meeting.

**Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> City Facilities Closed** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** – Planning Commission Meeting.

**Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM** – Youth Advisory Commission Meeting.

**Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM** – Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

**Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** – City Council Meeting.

**Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM** – Parks, 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](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](mailto: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](mailto:nhernandez@cpwa.us)

### City Administrator

Mike Rizzitiello  
[mrizzitiello@cpwa.us](mailto:mrizzitiello@cpwa.us)

### Community Development Director

Jon Rickard  
[jrickard@cpwa.us](mailto:jrickard@cpwa.us)

### Finance Director

Brian Carleton  
[bcarleton@cpwa.us](mailto:bcarleton@cpwa.us)

### Fire Chief

David Winter  
[dwinter@cpwa.us](mailto:dwinter@cpwa.us)

### Police Chief

Troy Tomaras  
[ttomaras@cpwa.us](mailto:ttomaras@cpwa.us)

### Public Works Director

Robert McAndrews  
[rmcandrews@cpwa.us](mailto:rmcandrews@cpwa.us)