

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

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Your City Representatives

<u>Mayor</u>

Norma Hernández

Council Members

Paul Jessup Michael Cleveland Loren Peterson Tito Espinoza Jr. Melodie Williams Heather Schermann Monica Boyle

City Administrator

Mike Rizzitiello

625 S. College Ave 509.529.1200

A Message From The Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

Happy new year to you all! I find it very strange to be living in the year 2023, that is just something I had never thought about when I was younger, that a year that seemed so far away is actually within my lifetime. I am a big history buff and an antiques lover and it is not unusual for me to hold something in my hand and wonder about the history of the people who held it first. Everyone has a story and I wish I knew theirs. And while I do not know who they were, I hope that my appreciation of what was once theirs and my thoughts of them keep their presence in this world alive.

I know that the cost of living and housing has gone up and has become difficult for some of us to afford. Times are financially difficult for many of our neighbors. That is why last November while working on solidifying the city's 2023 fiscal year budget, I asked our city finance director and city administrator for a version of the budget with a zero increase on property taxes to review. I want to see if the city could afford to not raise property taxes in 2023 and still be able to cover all the much needed infrastructure improvements around our city. I was happy to see that the city could indeed afford to waive property tax increases for 2023. Therefore, we submitted that budget version to the city council for approval. The vote was unanimous to pass the budget as presented, with no increase in property tax by the city for College Place citizens. In fact, before the vote was to happen, city council member Peterson informed us that he would not support a budget if it included increased property taxes. Great minds think alike and I am proud of all seven city council members for being conscious as to what is happening around our city and for caring enough to take the step to be different.

I wanted to discuss some things with you that have been popping up in social media and emails to me. I want to provide explanations behind some decisions made by the city in hopes that it provides some understanding behind them. First, fireworks. Some of us love them and some of us loathe them, but they have been part of celebrations around the world for centuries and I do not believe we will be seeing the end of them anytime soon. Knowing this, we at the city do our best to find compromise for the benefit of all.

City <u>Ordinance 8.08.060 - Discharge of fireworks</u> provides for dates and times that fireworks can be used. However, there is no denying that some of us have neighbors who ignore good neighbor behavior. But let me step back as to why the city allows for fireworks in the first place. We understand that some grew up with fireworks as part of their celebratory experiences, that great joy can be had in sharing that with their friends and family. On the other hand, there are some who find the noises of fireworks extremely disturbing and may cause great emotional distress to our veterans of war and our pets, which should weigh heavy on all of us. As you can see there is no one easy solution, which is why compromise is needed. As to enforcement on those few who ruin things for the rest of us by doing fireworks with zero consideration as to why a civil society has established rules around respectful conduct, the response is the same-we do the best we can do. There are rules that law enforcement must also follow around identifying who the violators are. These laws are in place to protect citizens from feeling harassed or falsely accused. Therefore, before enforcement can be done an officer must witness the violation in real time themselves, a report by a neighbor or a video of the violation is not sufficient. This would be seeing a person actually light the firework, which I think you would agree, would be a rare instance. It is unfortunate and sad that we have neighbors who abuse a community's attempts to be considerate and fair. I know this is not going to appease everyone, but I simply wanted to share what must be considered when making and enforcing laws.

Next, the city has posted a public notice advising of the city's application and proposal for a complete renovation of Lions Park. We are quite excited about it! This project will include adding a splash pad, an inclusive playground, exercise stations, new baseball backstop, a multi-use sports field, walking pathways, new picnic shelter, new restrooms, a fishing dock, and new lighting. Additionally, work will be done to enhance the water quality of the pond and Garrison Creek by intercepting discharge, and Lions pond will be dredged and isolated from the Garrison Creek channel, so that the pond can continue to be stocked with rainbow trout. Truly an amazing addition to our wonderful city.

Some questions and comments have been made in regards to who is paying for these renovations. Three years ago the city council voted for the renovation of Lions Park, however it was clear that it would only happen if the city was able to raise outside funds to pay for the majority of the cost. City Administrator Mike Rizzitiello went to work on finding and applying for as many grants as he could find. Last year, we believed we had raised enough funds to start the project, however like many others the city felt the effects of supply chain issues and increasing cost of goods. Poor Mike, he had to go back to work to seek the funds to make up the added costs. But alas, I am happy to share that seventy percent of the cost to renovate Lions Park is coming from outside funding sources, including a \$500,000 grant from Sherwood Trust. Is that not just amazingly great work and support of our community? I cannot wait to share the grand opening of the new and improved Lions Park with you all!

I thank you for your time in reading my messages, I truly appreciate it. I hope to meet you out and about, please do introduce yourselves to me if we ever are in the same place at the same time.

Warmest regards, Norma L. Hernandez Mayor

Free Concert at WWU- Walla Walla

Young Artist Night! Free Admission

University

When: Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. Where: Fine Arts Center Auditorium 204 S. College Ave., College Place.

You are invited to join us for a special evening showcasing WWU's finest student musicians.

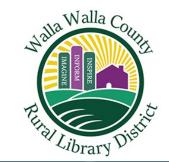




<u>Winter Hours</u> Monday-Thursday 10AM-6PM Friday 11AM-5PM Saturday & Sunday 11AM-4PM

<u>Location</u>

1605 SE Meadowbrook Blvd. Suite 7 College Place, WA 99324



It's February, and love of books is in the air at College Place Library! Come check out our display of LOVE or ask us how ebooks work! Many titles are available NOW in electronic form. and it's not hard to learn how to read them. It's not to soon to start planning for Summer Reading Program, we're planning some neat stuff for June!

Taken by more than 45 million people to date, the scientifically based assessment shows you the true age of the body you're living in - the first step toward improving your well-being. Conceived in 1993, RealAge has been externally validated to be more predictive of mortality than the Framingham Heart Study and chronological age.

This community health survey asks you about your eating, exercise, and sleep habits, along with family health history, behaviors, and existing conditions. At the end, you will get a result that estimates your body's age based on more than 100 well-being factors. The test takes about 15 minutes to take.

After taking the test, you can use the free well-being app to find ways to improve your overall health. Your anonymous data is collected to help us determine the overall health of our community and if Blue Zone's Project is reaching our improvement goals. Do yourself and Walla Walla Valley a favor, let us know how you're doing so we can work on making things healthier and happier for all of us!

To take the RealAge[®] Test go to <u>https://</u> <u>bzpwallawallavalley.sharecare.com/rewards-</u> <u>program/active</u>.



live longer, better*

BLUE ZONES PROJECT

Art Programs by Enable Art®

Located in College Place, WA

EVENING ART CLASSES

These classes happen weekly and were created to teach people of all ages, at any artistic level, how to be creative in a fun and relaxed environment. These classes are open to the wider community and are for people who are looking to stretch their creativity.

These classes are adult classes but children 12+ are allowed to come as long as parents or guardians attend class WITH them.

Classes are \$40 per person (Ask about our Gold Brush Membership)

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES

These After School Art Classes start the beginning of September and go through May! Classes for kids and youth run Tuesday-Thursday 3:15-5:00pm. Students are welcome to come once a week or all week.

These classes teach students how to create beautiful projects while using high quality art supplies. These classes are a blast for young artists since they are in a creative space learning about art with other students that are just as excited to learn! Kid's classes average out to about \$16 an hour per kid, while youth programs average out to \$17.5 an hour per kid (before tax). In these classes, all supplies and snacks are included in the final price.



WEB: www.Enable-Art.com EMAIL: Chloe@Enable-Art.com



SonBridge Center for Better Living is pleased to announce that we are now providing the services previously offered by Helpline. We are continuing the Helpline legacy by screening, assisting and referring people in need in our community for services.

Helpline@SonBridge is located at **1200 SE 12th Street** in College Place.

For more information or to receive services, please call 509-529-3377.

Blue Zones Project Walla Walla Valley Trauma-Informed Community Service Training

Date: Wednesday, February 15 Time: 11:30AM—1:30PM Location: Whitman College Reid Campus Center Ballroom

Date: Thursday, February 16 Time: 5:30—7:30PM Location: SonBridge



	CIFIC LITTLE 2023 EAGUE OF SPRING SEASON (MARCH-JUNE)	Little Pacifico de Walla Walla (marzo-junio)
Offering Baseball Programs Scan Me T-Ball Ages 5 & 6 Coach Pitch Ages 6-8 Minors (Kid Pitch) Ages 9-1	Register by	Accession and a series of the series of t
Majors (Kid Pitch) Ages 9-1 Intermediate-Ages 11-13	2 March 18, 2023	Becas disponsibles! Escanear aqui son necesitados
Get off the couch and get in the game! Scholarships Available!	Volunteers Always Needed Scan Here to Sign Up:	College Place Department Contacts Mayor
Community Calendar Feb 6 th at 5:00 PM – Economic Development, Tourism, & Events		Norma Hernández <u>nhernandez@cpwa.us</u> · 509-394-8505 City Administrator
Commission Meeting.		Mike Rizzitiello <u>mrizzitiello@cpwa.us</u> · 509-394-8506
 Feb. 7th at 5:30 PM – City Council Workshop. Feb. 9th at 12:00 PM – Civil Service Meeting. Feb. 9th at 3:30 PM – Utilities & Transportation Advisory Commission 		Community Development Director Jon Rickard <u>jrickard@cpwa.us</u> · 509-394-8520
 Feb. 14th at 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting. Feb. 15th at 4:00 PM – Youth Advisory Commission. 		Finance Director Brian Carleton <u>bcarleton@cpwa.us</u> · 509-394-8500
 Feb. 16th at 4:00 PM – Historic Preservation Commission Meeting. Feb. 20th – Presidents' Day — City Facilities Closed. Feb. 21st at 7:00 PM – Planning Commission Meeting. 		Fire Chief David Winter <u>dwinter@cpwa.us</u> · 509-394-8602
 Feb. 28th at 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting. "All meetings are being held virtually. You can watch a livestream on the City YouTube page at <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/</u> 		Police Chief Troy Tomaras <u>ttomaras@cpwa.us</u> · 509-394-8550
<u>UCbx3qrqzLDL_05NusReSI-g</u> . If you have a comment you would like to make, please contact the City Clerk at <u>sstclair@cpwa.us</u> . 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!"		Public Works DirectorRobert McAndrewsrmcandrews@cpwa.us· 509-394-8520