

# COLLEGE PLACE IN REVIEW

## Your City Representatives

### Mayor

Rick Newby

### Council Members

Larry Dickerson  
David Beamer  
William Jenkins  
Marge Nyhagen  
Steve Dickerson  
Bernard Yanke  
Alexander Scott

### City Administrator

Patrick H. Reay

### INSIDE THIS

#### ISSUE:

Pacific Power Grant  
Garbage Rate Increase  
Travel Tips  
Page 1  
Snow & Ice Control  
Page 2  
Street Light Outages  
Christmas Tree Lighting  
Community Calendar  
Page 4

### QUICK FACT:

City Water Usage  
**October 2012**  
36,366,000  
**October 2011**  
36,760,000  
**YTD 2012**  
367,386,000  
**Total 2011**  
380,907,000

## FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FROM PACIFIC POWER FOUNDATION

The Fire Department recently received a grant from the Pacific Power Foundation to assist in the purchase of a cargo trailer. This trailer will be stocked with building materials and tools to assist after a fire with boarding up, and securing buildings. The Pacific Power Foundation helps communities by supporting efforts in education, culture and arts, civic and community, and health and welfare. The Fire Department is extremely grateful for the financial contribution, as it will directly affect our community when they need assistance the most.

## SOLID WASTE (GARBAGE) RATE INCREASE

The City's solid waste contractor, BDI, presented the City Council with their annual report at the November 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Their report discussed their rate adjustment that was approved last year by the City Council, the number of customers, and recycling. They also presented the Council with the proposed rate increase on the service portion of the garbage bill. The City's contract with BDI states that the rate increase allowed by the contractor shall be based on the average of 2 CPIs for the collection portion of the bill. Any landfill increases will be a pass through charge on the landfill portion of the bill. The City Council authorized a 2.2% increase on the collection portion of the rate. Since Walla Walla has not increased the landfill rate at this time, the landfill portion of the bill will remain the same. The new rates on residential containers, effective January 1, 2013, will be as follows:

- 96 gallon container \$20.71
- 64 gallon container \$15.12
- 32 gallon container \$11.82

If you have any questions regarding the rates or service, you may contact BDI at 525-1711.

## TRAVEL TIPS

The two most common travel times are during the summer or winter holidays when families can spend some time away from the home together. The point of any vacation is to have fun, relax and get away from it all, but it is important to take a few safety precautions to make sure your trip and return home is trouble free.

### Prepare For Departure

Part of getting ready for a vacation involves choosing a destination, reserving a hotel, making travel arrangements and of course packing for the journey. But there are several other things you should do as well. Before you leave for any trip, make sure that

a friend or trusted neighbor knows where you are going and how long you will be gone. That way if you haven't returned when you should have, they will have an idea that something may be wrong. Give them an emergency contact number in case they need to reach you. Ask them to drop by your home now and then to check on it, and give them a key so they can get inside.

Have newspaper and mail delivery service temporarily stopped while you are away. This is done to prevent your home from looking temporarily vacated. A criminal who passes by your house and notices a full mailbox or several days' worth of newspapers on the lawn will realize that you are not around, and it may look like an invitation to criminals. After you take care of these details, there are a few other tricks you can use to make the house look occupied.

### **Fool a Burglar**

Criminals look for an easy target, so a burglar watches for a home that is dark and seems to be temporarily empty. You can do a few things to give the illusion that someone is still at home. First off, just having a friend drop by now and then will be a clear sign to a potential intruder that someone has access to the house. When no one is inside, you can make it appear otherwise by purchasing timers for your lights and television. These will turn on at a pre-determined time each night so someone who is stalking your house will believe somebody is home. You can also turn on a radio to a talk station to emulate the sounds of a conversation going on in case a criminal comes close enough to listen.

Just in case a burglar does get close, make sure the ringer on your phone and answering machine are turned off. A phone that is never answered will arouse suspicion, and may cause the law breaker to perform a more thorough inspection. While you're at it, you may want to trim back any hedges that are directly in front of your house. Eliminate any possible hiding spaces that a criminal could use to remain concealed if they decide to take a closer look

### **Be Observant In Public**

When you load the family into the car and head out to a fun filled destination, always keep in mind that criminals may be sharing your day with you. By following a few simple outdoor safety tips you can do everything possible to avoid being victimized by predators who might be watching. Law breakers are always on the lookout for an easy target, so make sure you don't give them one.

Always lock your doors and roll up the windows when you leave your car. Car thieves regularly patrol parking lots and try door handles to see if they will open. They are hoping for an unlocked vehicle that they can get into quickly and take anything that was left inside. You should always store valuable items in the trunk, so that a criminal does not see them and become tempted to break in.

While enjoying your day, keep a close eye on your entire family ... and everyone around you. Look for strangers who seem to be watching you or getting too close. They may be trying to determine if you have something they can take. Protect your loved ones and personal items carefully, and make sure no predator has a chance to steal from you.

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## **SNOW AND ICE CONTROL**

We all know how unpredictable our weather can be. We have experienced many winters (normally the months of December, January, and February) with no snow accumulation to winters with over 36 inches of measurable snow. With a population of 9,000 and approximately 40 miles of streets, the City strives to provide an acceptable level of snow and ice control.

**Normal Snow and Ice Conditions:** Plows remove snow from the travel lane when snow depth and estimated accumulation indicate the need to plow. Our fleet of snow fighting equipment consists of a grader, salter, sander

and two backhoes which are readied and manned by our crew of trained equipment operators by October 31 each year. The City's present snow control policy establishes the degree of snow control to be used on the streets with the following priority:

**First Priority:** All major arterial streets and arterial intersections considered to be the minimum network which must be kept open to provide a transportation system connecting hospitals, fire stations, police stations and emergency medical services.

College Avenue, SE 12th Street, NE Rose Street, Lamperti Street, SE Meadowbrook Boulevard, Taumanson Road, Whitman Drive, Larch Avenue, 4th Street and "C" Street.

**Second Priority:** Intersections, topographical difficult streets, and those streets serving public/private schools.

**Third Priority:** Residential streets.

**Emergency Snow Conditions:** When winter weather conditions are severe, the City Administrator may declare a snow emergency. Factors such as wind, temperature, current and projected snow accumulations influence this decision. Newspapers and local radio and TV stations are immediately informed in an effort to alert the public.

Equipment operators may work in shifts for a 24 hour per day operation and appreciate courteous and friendly drivers and pedestrians. Please help them help you!

**Citizen Responsibilities and Tips:** Snow can be beautiful, but it can also create hazards. When residents fail to clear their sidewalks, the results can be a treacherous ice patch. We need your help in protecting pedestrians from possible injury.

Residents are responsible for maintaining the sidewalks adjacent to their property. If your sidewalk is icy, you may correct the hazard by applying a heavy coat of sand.

- Give plenty of room to snow plows and sanders- these vehicles make frequent stops, turns, and back-ups.
- Park cars off the street where possible to avoid being plowed in. This also allows the plow to place the snow next to the curb.
- Keep the sidewalks in front of your home free from snow and ice.
- Please pile the snow on your yard, not in the street.
- Shovel snow to the right hand side of driveway when facing the street. This will reduce snow being plowed back into your driveway.
- Clear the entrance to your driveway after the snow plow has plowed your street.
- Keep a clear path to your mail box.
- Please help your neighbors with snow removal from their driveway and sidewalk. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated.
- Some local organizations have volunteers who are willing to assist the elderly or handicapped with snow removal.

#### **Common Questions about Snow Control:**

**Can't the City remove the snow they put in my driveway and sidewalk?** When you consider the large number of driveways and amount of sidewalks in the City, it is too costly and time consuming to use additional people and equipment to perform this service. Our primary duty is to open and keep open the main roadway system.

**Can I park my car on the street?** Sure, but to help our operators perform their plowing duties in a safe and efficient manner; we ask that residents park elsewhere when snow begins to accumulate. Vehicles will only be towed when a snow emergency is declared on those designated streets where parking is normally allowed.

City of College Place  
625 S. College Ave.  
College Place, WA 99324

**Phone Numbers:**

City Hall— 529-1200  
Court— Ext. 16  
Utilities— Ext. 11  
Building/Planning/Public  
Works/Engineering—  
525-0510  
Fire Dept.— 529-6506  
Police — 525-7778 or 7773  
Dispatch— 527-1960



**Municipal Building Hours:**

Monday through Thursday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Police Department Hours:**

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Having to maneuver a snowplow in and out between parked vehicles is not only dangerous, but also nerve-wracking for our drivers. We cannot do an efficient job with parked vehicles on the street. Also, your car may get plowed in with a snow bank.

**You towed my car! Where is it?** When the City has your vehicle towed, you can call the Police Department at 525-7778 to find out who has your vehicle.

**Why are residential streets seldom plowed?** With over 40 miles of streets to maintain, limited equipment and staff, it is usually not possible to plow all of the streets. We make every effort to get to lower priority streets when conditions allow.

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### STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

Is the street light in your area flickering on and off? Is the light out completely? You can help keep your neighborhood safe by reporting street light outages. Pacific Power requires the pole number when reporting such an outage. The pole number can be found on a metal plate or sticker 6 to 7 feet from the base of the pole. Go to <http://www.pacificpower.net/ed/streetlights.html> or call 1-877-508-5088. If you are being serviced by Columbia REA call 526-4041.

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### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held at the Fire Station on Wednesday, December 5th, at 5:30. The Remmabrook Raiders and Rockin' Rhythms Choirs from College Place Public Schools will be performing, and the local VFW will be providing refreshments.

Don't forget to bring a donation of non-perishable food for a local family in need and enter in the drawing for gifts donated by area merchants. We hear that Santa is taking time out of his busy schedule to make an appearance, so make sure that those Christmas lists are ready!

We look forward to kicking off the holiday season with you at this wonderful community event.

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR DECEMBER

- 5 - Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:30 pm, Fire Station
- 6 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 10 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 18 - Planning Commission, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 20 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 25 - 26, Christmas Holiday, City Hall Closed