

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

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QUICK FACT:

City Water Usage
December 11
12,867,000
December 10
13,241,000
YTD 2011
380,907,000
Total 2010
384,805,000

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

BY RICK NEWBY

I might be a few weeks behind, but please allow me to wish all of you a very happy and prosperous new year! Before looking forward, however, I thought it would be beneficial to review a few highlights from 2011.

This past year, we were blessed with a number of new businesses that elected to locate in College Place. Sally's Beauty Supply, Pizza Den, Les Schwab, Community Bank, and Gilbert Honda, all opened new stores. At a time when our State and national economy continues to struggle, we are thankful for the investment these companies have made, and for the jobs and financial benefits they bring to our community.

We were, of course, glad to see work begin on the Whitman Street corridor, although we all agree – especially the affected residents – that things could have gone much smoother. While there have understandably been complaints, there were also expressions of appreciation for our Public Works employees, who worked diligently to help mitigate the many problems brought about by the construction process. The encouragement and support we received certainly testifies to the kindness of our residents, and we are grateful. We will continue to work assiduously with the project contractor to ensure that every issue is settled in accordance with the terms of our agreement, and in the best interest of our city.

At first blush, the Myra Road South project might have seemed a bit of a misadventure. However, I believe the initial difficulties actually worked to the advantage of both College Place and the City of Walla Walla. First, and most importantly, the challenges we faced provided an opportunity for us to forge a stronger and more open partnership. I am fond of saying that our two cities share a common future in this valley, so it makes perfect sense for us to cultivate a relationship based on respect, trust, and comity. Second, by working collaboratively, we were able to clearly articulate a set of mutual goals for the project – goals that met the functional needs and public policy objectives of both communities. In doing so, we improved the project design, lowered the overall cost, and averted the need for additional revenues.

The planned upgrades will provide significant transportation and economic benefits by greatly improving general and commercial access to retail markets within and adjacent to the Myra Road corridor. Had we not worked together, we most certainly would have lost most, if not all, State and Federal sources of funding, resulting very likely in the cancellation of the project. I am thankful for the professional manner in which both cities responded to the challenge. We are all committed to building on this success as the future unfolds.

Space does not allow me to continue, but more will be forthcoming in future editions. Until then, I wish all of you much happiness and good health in 2012! May God bless you.

Whitman Central Corridor Project Update

The Whitman Central Corridor Project is currently in a winter suspension. The roadway is open to through traffic throughout the winter shutdown. Residents may park on the street (where permitted). The project will re-start in the spring once the weather is suitable to continue the necessary work.

The following lists the highlights of the project completed and the remainder of work to be completed by the contractor to finish the project:

- All underground utility work has been completed.
- The first “lift” of asphalt has been placed over the entire roadway section.
- Upon start-up in the spring, out-of spec or failed asphalt and/or base rock will be removed and replaced to compliance with specifications.
- Once the final lift of asphalt is placed, utility valve boxes and manholes will be raised to finish grade.
- There are small portions of curb yet to be poured along with some driveway approaches and intersection corner radii sidewalk and ramps.
- The 10’ multi-use path still needs to be prepped for asphalt.
- Yard and irrigation restoration will need to be completed.

Once the project is complete, the residents of the City should see an arterial street that should last many years, complete a major renovation of an east/west thoroughfare, and provide for a smooth ride to all.

Building Permits

Do building permits have an expiration date? The College Place Municipal code 105.04.030 states, “ All permits shall expire and become void if: (a) work is not started within 180 days of obtaining a permit; (b) work is abandoned for 180 days or more after beginning of work; or (c) after two years from the date of permit issuance, regardless of whether the work is finished.

If you complete your project before the permit expires, be sure to call for an inspection. If you cannot complete your project within the 180 days, you may apply for a permit extension. The request for the extension must be in writing. We have a “Permit Extension Request” form available on our web site www.ci.college-place.wa.us or you may pick one up in the building department located at 619 S College Avenue. More than one extension may be given but the permit will expire two years from the date of issuance regardless of whether the work is finished.

Again, remember to call for the final inspection and make sure it passes. Failure to have an approved final inspection could result in warranties being voided or the denial of an insurance claim.

Indoor Water Conservation

Conserving water tips are not just for the summer months, here are a few tips that will help you conserve water all year:

Bathroom –

- Check your toilets for leaks. You can use food coloring in the toilet tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak that requires immediate attention.
- Reduce water level per flush by installing an ultra low-flow toilet or a toilet displacement device. You can

even use a plastic bottle weighted with pebbles and water. **Never use a brick.**

- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip can waste 20 or more gallons of water per day.
- Turn the water off while brushing your teeth and/or shaving. Use a glass of water to rinse or clean your razor in a small pool of water.
- Install water-efficient showerheads and take shorter showers.

Kitchen –

- Only wash dishes when necessary. Turn the dishwasher on only when it is full.
- Use both sides of the sink when washing dishes by hand. Use one side to wash and the other side to rinse. Do not wash dishes under a running faucet.
- Keep a bottle or pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator. This eliminates letting the tap run while waiting for the water to get cold.
- Clean vegetables in a pan of water and not under a running faucet. Water used to clean vegetables can also be used to water houseplants.
- In-sink garbage disposal devices use roughly 11.5 gallons of water each day. Try composting organic wastes instead of throwing them away.

2012 Annual Budget Highlights

The College Place City Council completed another budget process at the end of 2011 as they reviewed and approved the 2012 Annual Budget. The 2012 Annual Budget totals \$18,904,930.

Some of the highlights in this year's budget include some capital projects; some old, some new. The administration has been quite busy searching, finding and applying for outside funding to assist with these major projects. Some of the main projects in the 2012 Annual Budget are:

4th & Larch Overlay Project – This project has a budget of \$700,000 with \$400,000 budgeted in funding from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board.

Street Chip Sealing - \$85,000 has been budgeted to resurface Autumn Meadows, Garrison Creek Heights and Tamarack.

C.A.R.S. Project – The College Avenue & Rose Street Project will begin the preliminary engineering phase in 2012. \$253,000 has been budgeted for this expense. It is anticipated that construction of this project will get underway in 2013.

Whitman Central Corridor Project – This project has been delayed due to the winter shut down. The project should get underway again this spring, as soon as the weather permits. The current remaining outstanding balance on the engineering and construction contracts is \$721,655. Approximately \$248,000 of this amount is related to the Water Improvement Project which began in 2005. This project was carried over to the 2012 Annual Budget.

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Project - This project got underway at the end of 2011 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Due to the lead time to order and receive the required materials to complete the project, the project was carried over into the 2012 Annual Budget. Currently, the total outstanding balance for the engineering and construction contracts is \$296,323.

These are the main (major) projects currently being managed by the administration. Of course there are numerous smaller projects that will be undertaken along with the everyday operation and maintenance responsibilities of the city.

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.



Utility Billing Information

Utility bills are mailed out on the 1st of each month and are due no later than the 25th of the month. Charges not paid by the 25th are subject to a late fee. Late fees are typically generated on the first working day of the following month, with final notice "Red Tags" and disconnect the following week.

How your bill is calculated:

Base fees are billed a month in advance and flow amounts are charged for the previous month.

Rates per residential dwelling unit:

Water Base Rate - \$25.85

Water Flow Rate: \$1.00 per 1,000 gal

Sewer Base Rate - \$40.75 (The base rate includes 3,000 gallons of flow)

Sewer Flow Rate: \$3.75 per 1,000 gal after the first 3,000 gallons

Does summertime irrigation affect your sewer rates?

No, summertime sewer charges are capped at your winter average rate. Your winter average is based on the water you use in the winter months of December, January, and February. We use the second highest usage of your statements dated for January, February and March. That is the highest amount of flow that you will be billed for during the summer months when you are irrigating your lawn. You must have at least two monthly readings during this period in order to calculate a winter average rate.

New residents are billed based on the city wide average for the type of home they have until the next winter calculation months.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February

- 6 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 13 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 20 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 21 - Planning Commission, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 27 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers

March

- 5 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 12 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 196 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 20 - Planning Commission, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 26 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers