

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:

Mayor's Message
Page 1
CARS Project
Lions Club Fishing Derby
Page 2
Building Safety
Whitman Central
Corridor Project
Page 3
Nuisance Abatement
Community Calendar
Page 4

QUICK FACT:

City Water Usage
March 2012
12,401,000
March 2011
13,050,000
YTD 2012
39,755,000
Total 2011
380,907,000

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

BY RICK NEWBY

In the April 2012 edition of the Chamber News, Damien Sinnott, Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Public Policy and Business Development, wrote an excellent article entitled, "Business is Good". While there is insufficient space to reproduce the entire message, I believe one particular portion deserves special emphasis:

"BUSINESS IS GOOD. BUSINESS IS GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY. Do I want to build our community around businesses that focus on profits? ABSOLUTELY! I want businesses to be as profitable as possible. I want businesses to be wildly successful so that they can employ more and more of my friends and neighbors so that they can put food on their tables and roofs over their heads. I want businesses to have oodles and oodles of profit so that they can continue to sponsor local baseball teams, charitable organizations, and community events. I want to spend the bulk of my time celebrating business successes, not defending their right to be successful. I want everyone to embrace the obvious: business is good."

I strongly concur with Mr. Sinnott. Businesses are absolutely vital to the health, safety, and welfare of our community. Not only do they provide jobs, but they support important public services – like police and fire protection – through the taxes they pay. They provide the products and services we depend on to maintain a high standard of living, and they sponsor important community activities and events that we all enjoy. Additionally, when businesses are developed they pay to install and improve the supporting infrastructure that contributes significant value to our city, such as water, sewer, streets, sidewalks, traffic control, and landscaping. They also contribute to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas that helps sustain the ecological integrity of our region.

Sadly, there are some at the state, federal, and local levels of government that are hostile toward business, and often minimize or ignore the benefits they provide. They seem to believe that punishing success (defined as making a profit) through excessive taxation and regulation is somehow conducive to the economic and social health of our community. In reality, the opposite is true - when businesses struggle, it is detrimental to everyone.

I believe that our quality of life is best measured by giving equal consideration to the general economic well-being of our citizens. By adopting reasonable fiscal and regulatory policies, we can create a business-friendly environment that will attract additional commercial investment in our area – both through the growth of existing businesses, and the development of new ones. With this in mind, I am happy to join Mr. Sinnott in saying that "business is good", and I am committed to supporting a healthy community by promoting diverse economic development in College Place.

May God bless you.

COLLEGE AVE/ROSE ST (CARS) RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The City of College Place is seeking funding for a large road reconstruction project. The CARS project will completely reconstruct Rose Street from Myra Road on the northeast periphery of College Place to the intersection of College Avenue and from there, along College Avenue through the central business district to the intersection with Mojonner Road/ Lamperti Street towards the south end of the city. That is 11,300 feet of roadway in desperate need of replacement. The south side of Rose Street would also receive 2750 feet of widened sidewalks/multi-use paths with a parking strip and College Avenue will receive 14,200 feet of 10 foot sidewalks along both sides of the road.

As an added safety and aesthetic amenity, street lights (and street trees) will be introduced along both sides of College Avenue to improve lighting and downtown aesthetics. The College Avenue/Rose Street intersection will be reconfigured to allow for full turning movements and a signal installed at the Whitman Drive intersection. Intersections with 12th Street and Lamperti Street would also be improved under the project.

This is an exciting project that has been at the core of the City's comprehensive plan over the past 10 years; however, a project of this magnitude will require a significant investment by the community. The City has been able to assemble significant outside funding for the project. On April 28th, City Council approved an ordinance authorizing the City to put bonding for the project to a vote of the people. Council has considered it important that the community be provided the opportunity to finance the project while outside funding is still available. It is expected that, in any event, the continuing deterioration of Rose Street and College Avenue road surfaces will force the project to be completed within the next few years even if we hold off on the project at this time.

As a result, you will see a bond measure coming your way August 7th. This will coincide with two current bond measures that are expiring at about the same time this new bond would take effect. And the cost to you as a property owner? We will keep you informed. This will be your opportunity to weigh in on whether you would like the project to move forward now with outside funding in place, or hold off on the project with the hopes of obtaining outside funds in the future to offset local funds. You can also see the latest updates on our web site at <http://www.ci.college-place.wa.us/>. "CARS" project updates can be found under "Construction Project Updates/Road Closures" on the "Public Works & Engineering" department page.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM OWNERS

This is just a reminder that State Law and City Code require that all backflow devices be tested by an approved assembly tester. The City will be mailing out reminder notices this spring to those who have a device that needs to be tested. A list of approved testers is included with the notice letter or you can get the list from the City's website at www.ci.college-place.wa.us.

We appreciate your cooperation in completing the testing of your backflow device, as it is an integral part of protecting the City's water supply.

LIONS CLUB FISHING DERBY

The College Place Lions Club is sponsoring the Youth Fishing Derby and Pancake Feed on May 19th. The Pancake Feed is \$3.00 per person in the Lions Club building and goes from 7 a.m. to noon. The Fishing Derby starts at 8 a.m. for youth up to age 14.

MAY IS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

The City of College Place Participates in Building Safety Month – an International Celebration of Safe and Sensible Structures

When you enter a house or building, most likely you assume it is safe and was properly constructed in accordance with building codes. Fortunately, your local safety experts work hard to assure building safety and fire prevention every day. To help raise awareness of building safety, the City of College Place proudly celebrates *Building Safety Month* this May. The theme, “An International Celebration of Safe and Sensible Structures” highlights four areas: *Energy and Green Building; Disaster Safety and Mitigation; Fire Safety and Awareness; and Backyard Safety.*

Across the nation, leaders and communities are promoting the use and understanding of these topics to protect lives and property. A 2011 Presidential Proclamation declared May Building Safety Month across the country. During the last three years, nearly 6,000 people and more than 135 jurisdictions from across the United States have issued proclamations, declarations and letters of support for Building Safety Month.

When building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings during and after construction, they are ensuring that the places where you live, learn, work, worship and play are safe. The important work they do is often overlooked until a catastrophic tragedy occurs.

Building safety and fire prevention codes address all aspects of construction, such as structural soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, contractors and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

Public safety is the number one concern of our building department during Building Safety Month and all year long. Building safety and fire prevention officials are here to help protect you, your family and our community.

WHITMAN CENTRAL CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Whitman Central Corridor Project, the project that is reconstructing Whitman Drive from Larch to Academy Way, has started back up in earnest after a winter suspension. By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have already started to see construction activity along the corridor.

Yard and sprinkler system restoration is at the top of our priority list and you should start to see some of this work beginning. Once restoration work on a lot is completed, we will be contacting the owner to confirm that all is in order.

The City also expects to see portions of the asphalt on Whitman Drive removed and replaced. The contractor placed much of the asphalt under adverse weather conditions (too wet and too cold) and we have noticed significant failure in multiple locations. This means that you will see future road closures similar to what you experienced last year as asphalt is removed and the road repaved. You will also see the final asphalt lift placed on the road (no more “bumps” at transitions to existing asphalt) and the multi-use path paved. We are still working with the contractor on their schedule for this work.

We will continue to provide project updates at the two informational signs located at either end of the project, near the intersection of Whitman with Larch and with Academy. You can also see the latest updates on our web site at <http://www.ci.college-place.wa.us/>. “Whitman Central Corridor Project” updates can be found under “Construction Project Updates/Road Closures” on the “Public Works & Engineering” department page.

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.



Nuisance Abatement

The condition of all properties within the City of College Place represents the community as a whole and the livability and enjoyment of our neighborhoods. In an effort to encourage voluntary clean-up, folks are asked to look around their property and get rid of junk, debris, old appliances, abandoned vehicles and trash.

This also includes mowing weeds and removing immobile vehicles, trailers, and boats etc. from the public rights of way. Immobile vehicles or project vehicles are required to be stored inside a garage that is enclosed on all sides. Temporary structures such as portable carports are required to meet front yard setbacks and are not allowed in driveway or front yards.

A nuisance abatement focus is currently underway and may result in letters to homeowners with code violations. Please be proactive and make a difference in your neighborhood. If you have any questions about the Nuisance Ordinance, College Place Municipal Code 8.24, it is available on-line at http://www.municode.com/library/WA/College_Place or if you have any questions regarding this ordinance, please call 525-0510.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

- 7 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 14 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 15 - Planning Commission, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 19 - WWVA Acro Knights, 9 pm, WWU Gym
- 20 - WWVA Acro Knights, 2 pm and 7 pm, WWU Gym
- 21 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 28 - Memorial Day - City Hall Closed

JUNE

- 4 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 11 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 18 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 19 - Planning Commission, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 25 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers