



VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1
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Quick Fact:

City Water Usage

November 2017
19,738,000

November 2016
14,303,000

YTD 2017
485,923,000

Total 2016
395,952,000

Your City Representatives

Mayor

Harvey Crowder

Council Members

Jerry Bobbitt
Michael Cleveland
Marge Nyhagen
Loren Peterson
Melodie Selby
Heather Schermann
Larry Dickerson

City Administrator

Mike Rizzitiello

625 S. College Ave
509.529.1200

City News

A Message From The Mayor



Starting in January, you will find an increase to your water and sewer bills and smaller increases in other utility bills. The increases were approved after thorough and careful consideration by your city council. The increases are helping cover deficits in operations costs of the utilities, providing for infrastructure replacements/upgrades, and are funding the replacement of necessary personnel that were eliminated during the recent economic downturn. They're necessary to continue providing minimum levels of services to our citizens.

Operations

Both the water and sewer utilities have recently undergone intense scrutiny and analysis by third party consultants to determine sustainable rate structures necessary to keep the utilities providing clean water and sanitary sewer services for our citizens. Both utilities have been operating at a deficit in the last few years, as the cost of providing the services has increased but no rate adjustments were done to compensate.

Infrastructure

In the area of infrastructure, the City has three wells. One is completely out of service and another is failing, which leaves just one well providing water to the whole city most of the time. In the sewer utility, the Department of Ecology is imposing extremely strict new requirements for water purity, at the cost of tens of millions of dollars to the City. Much of the cost of these projects will be funded through debt, but some must also be funded through increased rates.

Personnel

Finally, the City has gone from a high of 54 budgeted full-time employees in 2008-2009 to only 34 actual full-time employees in 2017. During this time the City's population has grown by almost 10%, from 8600 to 9440 residents. The City has been seriously under staffed for a number of years; we can no longer safely provide police and fire services or provide an organized plan for the City's growth. Part of the utility increases will fund replacement of two police officers, a fire training officer in the Fire Department and a community development service technician.

The City Council and I recognize the utility changes and the recent changes to garbage disposal provided by Basin Disposal are an increase in your costs; however, they are necessary if the City is going to provide a clean, safe, and welcoming place to call home. Questions? Feel free to contact me or the City Administrator, Mike Rizzitiello, or stop by to chat at one of Mike and mine's "Coffee with the Mayor and Administrator."

Call either Mike or myself at 509-529-1200 or email me at hcrowder@cpwa.us

Why School Levies Are Important

Every four years the College Place School District asks voters to decide on a four-year Maintenance and Replacement Levy. This year's election is scheduled for Feb. 13, 2018 and voters are being asked to replace the levy which expires at the end of 2018.

School levies supplement the funding received from the state and federal government. Without levies, College Place Public Schools would look very different. Levies fund student learning and staffing, health and safety, technology, athletics, activities, transportation, operations and maintenance.

Voters need to be aware that sweeping changes have been made to K-12 Educational Funding. During the last legislative session, our state government enacted a law which will take effect in 2018. These changes will impact your taxes and also regulate how districts can collect and use local levy dollars. Specifically, the state increased the statewide property tax *by an average of \$0.81/\$1000 of assessed value.** This helps pay for teacher salaries and limited basic education needs.

The state also reduced the amount of money that can be collected at local levels through school levies to \$1.50/ \$1000 of assessed value and renamed them School Programs & Operations Levy.

While the upcoming levy replaces the current levy, it now is limited to what it covers. Our District is now required to run separate levies for School Programs & Operations, Safety & Technology and Transportation.

The Good News

These items were already in the last voter approved levy and the three levies combined will reduce your taxes* beginning in 2019 when the new levy takes effect.

So remember when voting this February 13th, that the three levies;

1) School Programs & Operations, 2) Safety & Technology and 3) Transportation Vehicle Fund are included in the current local levy but are now required by the state to be listed separately on the upcoming ballot.

Levy Fast Facts

*The current 4- year levy expires December 2018

*The state reduced the amount the district can collect to \$1.50/\$1000 of assessed value

*This is NOT a new tax, it REPLACES the current Maintenance & Operations Levy

*The district is required to run separate levies for School Programs & Operations, Safety & Technology & Transportation

*This is NOT a Bond to build something

*The current levy is \$3.10/\$1000 of assessed value

**This amount is calculated on a county basis*

**This is an estimate based on current assessed property values*

Make sure you register to vote!

Register To Vote and Support the Kids of College Place!

In person by February 1, 2018

Walla Walla County Elections Office
310 West Poplar St., Walla Walla WA



City of College Place Parks & Recreation Survey Outreach

The City's Park and Recreation Board wants your help in developing a plan for the parks and natural resources of College Place. The plan will be a guide for the maintenance and improvement of our natural areas, parks, trails and related facilities in order to better accommodate the needs of citizens and visitors. An updated Parks Plan, developed with public input, is essential in obtaining money to fund, maintain and prioritize park and natural resource projects.

Your input provides important data in looking for ways to provide amenities and facilities to enhance your recreational experience in College Place. Help us make the most of our beautiful location and what it has to offer those who live or visit here. Please fill out this survey by January 31 to provide your input in the City's 2018 Parks Plan.

Surveys can be completed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GSBXTTW> or paper copies are available at City Hall. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cpwa.us> or call: 509-529-1200.

Thank you for taking the time to share ideas!





City Of College Place Library Card Program



The City Council has established a Library Card Program to fund library cards for verified residents of the City of College Place. Individuals or families that qualify for this program shall be entitled to payment sent directly to either the City of Walla Walla Library, or the Walla Walla Rural Library District, for the cost of a non-resident membership after successfully filling out a city application for the library card. This program is only in effect while funds are available in the current year budget.

The 2018 Budget has \$3,000 set aside for payment of library cards. Applications will be accepted on the first working day of 2018 and processed as long as there are funds remaining. Applications will be processed and payments made on a first come, first served basis.

To apply for City funding of your library card, complete a [form](#) and turn it in to the City Clerk at 625 S College Ave, College Place WA 99324 or lneissl@cpwa.us. You will also need to provide a document for residency verification. Acceptable documents are:

- Current WA St. Driver License / ID Card - (Showing your current College Place address)
- Current Rental Agreement - (for Applicant at College Place address)
- Current Utility Billing - (Must be for services received at residence with applicant name, such as power or gas bill, or city utility bill. Cell phone billings are not an acceptable proof of residency.)



City of College Place Residential GARBAGE CAN CHANGES

Beginning on January 1st, 2018 your default garbage can size is changing! Rather than using smaller sizes, Basin Disposal is issuing new 96 gallon containers to households. To learn more how this transition will work for your family, read the following or call at 509-525-1711 or 509-547-2476

64 GALLON »» 96 GALLON

32 GALLON »» 96 GALLON

If you are subscribed to a 64 gallon container *PRIOR* to **January 1st, 2018** you will transition to the 96 gallon container on that date. Expect the following:

- *PRIOR* to January 1st, a new container will be delivered to your home and the old 64 gallon container *REMOVED*
- *BILLING* will change to reflect your new waste service level, and will be shown in your January statement.

If you are subscribed to a 32 gallon container *PRIOR* to **December 1st, 2017**, you will be “Grandfathered” and keep your container and current plan beyond that date. Grandfathered Status will continue until one of the following events requires that you upgrade.

- The *NAME* on the account changes
- The *PERSON* at the address changes
- The *ADDRESS* on the account changes to a new address or parcel
- Waste is left to the side of the container *MORE THAN 2 TIMES* (on separate days)



Did You Know?



The City of College Place offers lifetime bicycle licenses! This is a good way to **identify** and **track** your bike in the event that it is lost or stolen. Currently, the bike licenses are only \$7.00 and can be purchased at the College Place Police Department. Don't forget that dog licenses are also available at the College Place Police Department!

xpress BILL PAY

Free iPhone App

Go to iTunes and type in
“Xpress Bill Pay” for the FREE app

Classes Begin in Newly Renovated Bowers Hall Space

As we ring in the New Year in 2018, Walla Walla University is looking forward to a new beginning when classes start on Monday, Jan. 8, in the newly renovated Bowers Hall, home of the WWU School of Business.

More than 500 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand reopening of Bowers Hall on Dec. 7 during the University's 125th anniversary celebration. The year-long renovation project added more than 3,000 square feet to the existing building and reorganized classroom and office space. The building now includes an innovation classroom/laboratory, technologies that enhance digital learning, efficient group study spaces, and multifunctional meeting spaces.

Many of our friends and neighbors worked on the project, including employees of Opp & Seibold General Contractor Inc., Walla Walla Electric, Alden Plumbing/Advanced Plumbing, Grassi Refrigeration, Modern Masonry, Narum Concrete, Conner's Flooring & Design, A-Sharpe Painting, Perfection/Yale Glass, Gillespie Roofing, Smith Brothers Landscaping, AKey Excavating, Systematic Wood Design, Colfield Framing, and Smith Insulation.

Among the most historical buildings on the WWU campus, initial construction on Bowers Hall was completed in 1924. In 1955 it was named in honor of George Bowers, chair of the chemistry department and later the 13th WWU president. Perhaps best known as the chemistry building, over the years Bowers Hall also housed the Department of History and Philosophy, an archeology laboratory, and the School of Theology. The School of Business moved into the building in '09.

"It is no haphazard choice to renovate and expand Bowers Hall," said John McVay, WWU president. "This building signals our intentions to further strengthen Walla Walla University by growing our School of Business."

To learn more about the WWU School of Business, visit business.wallawalla.edu or call (509) 527-2951.

Chamber Membership 2.0.18:Upgrades designed to benefit your business.

Alright, back to work. 2017 was one for the books, and now it's in the books. Time to move on, learn, adapt. And that is what we plan to do with our Chamber membership benefits package. In my very short, almost 3 years at the Chamber, I have learned a little bit, I hope, about the Chamber's role in our community, and where we can excel, bring value, and create opportunities for business to thrive. So, that's what we are going to do. The Chamber will be embracing and focusing on it's role as an economic development engine in the Walla Walla Valley. It is our goal to sow a healthy business climate so everyone, and every business, can reap the benefits, from College Place to Touchet to Waitsburg, Dayton and all points in between. We are going to expand on our mission statement – to be the best advocate for business in the Walla Walla Valley – to include being the best resource for business as well. Whether you need assistance with starting your own small business; or you would like to explore leadership and training opportunities for you and/or your

staff; or you need an advocate for business on public policy issues; or you are interested in getting more involved with community development through one of our many non-profit friends, or workforce development through our excellent school systems, the Chamber wants to be your go-to for answers, resources, partnerships and professional development.

How will we do this? How will we be remaking the Chamber in this dramatic fashion in a short time? Two-part answer: 1) We are not that far away from being able to provide these tools now. It's a matter of execution and delivery. 2) We are redeveloping our website to be a more robust resource for members and non-members alike to gain access to more in-depth resources in all of the areas I mentioned, and more. Brian and I will be reaching out to all of our members in early 2018 to talk more about our vision for the Chamber and how we can maximize the value of your membership, and with 600 members or so, it will take us a while to complete the transition and get everything in place. It won't be an instant makeover, but the Chamber will most definitely remain open while under renovation. And never fear, we will still be offering all of our fun events, and we'll even be adding a few more opportunities for you to not only build your business, but to partner with the Chamber in creating and maintaining a thriving business community throughout the Valley. Chamber 2.0.18! Coming soon!

Community Calendar

Jan. 1st - New Years Day - City Facilities closed

Jan. 8th at 5PM – Economic Development, Tourism, & Events Commission

Jan. 9th at 7PM – City Council

Jan. 15th - Martin Luther King Jr Day - City Facilities Closed

Jan. 16th at 7PM – Planning Commission

Jan. 18th at 4PM – Historic Preservation Commission

Jan. 23rd at 7PM – City Council

Jan. 26th at 8AM – Park, Arbor, & Recreation Board

Jan. 31st at 5PM – Coffee with the Mayor - Roger's Bakery

Feb 15th - Comp Plan Workshop - TBD

Unless specified all events are at
City Hall— 625 S. College Ave

