

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

May 2012
24,855,000
May 2011
19,912,000
YTD 2012
80,519,000
Total 2011
380,907,000

The C.A.R.S Project – College Avenue and Rose Street Reconstruction Project

By Patrick H. Reay, City Administrator

Every once in awhile, a project comes along that has the potential to impact everyone in a community and elevate that community to a new level. The City of College Place is at such a threshold, as transportation systems are key elements to a community's financial vitality. For over 10 years, our community has been planning for this moment and this project.

What project? The CARS project is not just a public works transportation improvement project, but it is a project that has the potential to transform, revitalize, rejuvenate and even help define who we are as a community. *CARS is the College Avenue/Rose Street Reconstruction Project.*

The project consists of the full reconstruction of the two principal arterials serving our City: College Avenue and Rose Street. It begins at the entry point into our community off of Myra Road. Rose Street will be completely reconstructed with two regular lanes and a third middle turn lane. A 10' multi-use path separated from the road by a planting strip, street trees and plantings similar to what we have on East Whitman Drive is envisioned from Lambert Street to the intersection of Rose Street and College Avenue. That intersection will also be reconstructed as an attractive gateway to our commercial area and will provide for a left-turn onto Rose Street if you are headed south on College Avenue. You currently cannot make that turn today.

College Avenue will be completely reconstructed from Rose Street to Lamperti Street. It will remain the main thoroughfare for the community, but its look and function will be different. Instead of the feel of a main thoroughfare with traffic intent on getting through town, we expect traffic will move more leisurely, in part from a narrowed road section, but also in part because it will become more of a place where we want to encourage commercial and retail activities. From Rose Street to 10th Street, College Avenue will be narrowed to two lanes to provide room on either side for 10-foot-wide sidewalks, street trees and decorative street lights. Parking will be retained on both sides of the street all along College Avenue, except between Whitman Drive and 4th Street due to safety concerns for Walla Walla University staff and students. Between 10th and Lamperti, City right-of-way is substantial and the road will be widened to include a center turn lane. A new streetlight and reconfiguration of the street lanes at Whitman and College Avenue is also planned.

Additionally, there will be some utility work included in the project. You don't want to have to tear up a new road to replace ailing water or sewer lines. There will also be new storm lines and stormwater facilities installed in some areas.

This is the concept. We still expect some changes as we work with the Walla Walla University on their needs and receive your input as well. For example, we've heard that it might be preferable to trade the multi-use path on Rose Street for a curb-tight sidewalk and dedicated bike lane. As we continue through the design tasks, we'll be looking at some of those options.

What's the status of the project? Conceptual design of the project is complete and the 60% design task has been authorized by City Council. You will see a project funding bond on the ballot for your consideration on the August 7th ballot. **PLEASE VOTE.** If the bond is passed, design will continue and we expect the project will be bid in 2013 with construction either starting in late 2013 or early 2014. In order to keep project costs to a minimum and streamline our schedule, we have, as much as possible, limited the project impacts to our existing right-of-ways.

Funding Update: The CARS project costs have been estimated from between \$10.5 million to \$13.5 million. But there are a couple of things working in our favor. First, we have already secured \$2,676,299 of grant and local funding. This could increase to \$3,726,299 as staff continues to pursue all possible state and federal funds, or an amount that is roughly a **third** of the full project costs. Second, the city is poised to retire two bonds in the next two years: the bond for the construction of the fire station and the bond that financed the street and utility improvements on Meadowbrook Boulevard. Replacing the existing bond costs as they expire with a CARS project bond will increase property assessments, but not by as much as might be expected. Currently, the two expiring bonds amount to \$60.21 annually per \$100,000 in assessed value. Replacing these with the CARS project would increase your current cost per \$100,000 of valuation by \$34.05 to a total of \$94.26 per year. That means if your home is valued at \$100,000, you will be paying \$34.05 more per year, or \$2.84 per month for a complete reconstruction of College Avenue and Rose Street. Is it worth it? That's for you to decide.

We can wait on CARS, but it comes at a cost. To wait means we must return or say "no" to \$3,473,299 in funding from the County, the Transportation Improvement Board, WSDOT, and the Federal Government. There is no guarantee those funds will be available in the future, in fact, one of the real costs of deferring the project may not just be the funds themselves, but the loss of future funding potential.

But there is more to it. If we return the funding and wait on construction, the cost of borrowing those funds will make a future project substantially more expensive. We are currently applying for a Public Works Trust Fund loan to fund the project and use the bond proceeds to pay off the loan at 1% interest. It is a case of pay now or pay more later... unless we were somehow able to reassemble the funding we returned. That does not look likely given the shrinking size of funding available from the state and Federal government for street improvements.

Will \$7 million be enough? At this time, the City's approach is to compress the scope of the project as necessary to keep ourselves to a \$10.5 million project. The \$7 million bond we placed on the ballot will only be used up to the amount we need to complete the project elements. Any remaining funds will be used to accelerate repayment or will be returned to the voters in the form of immediate tax relief. Either way that reduces costs to property owners and the \$34.05 in additional annual costs will be reduced (or be eliminated sooner). That is why we are continuing to aggressively seek additional outside funding.

We are at a crossroads, a threshold. John F. Kennedy is famous for his national admonition to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Voting to finance a project of this magnitude really is more than just a commitment to a roadway; it is a commitment to our community, to each other, and to the future.

We do want to be sure that you have a good understanding of what this opportunity offers and the related costs and benefits so that you can make an informed decision. We are your City. If you have project questions, concerns or input, please contact your city staff or elected officials. We will also be providing project updates on the city website at: www.ci.college-place.wa.us.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Soliciting Door to Door

By Chief Dennis L. Lepiane

Persons either selling or buying products or services by means of going door to door in the city of College Place are regulated by Municipal Code 5.04. By going to the city's website any one can review this code which governs this type of activity in the community.

The definition of a solicitor/peddler is defined in the Code as follows: *All persons, both principals and agents, as well as employers, and employees, who shall sell, offer for or expose for sale, or who shall trade, deal or traffic in any personal property or services in the city by going from house to house, from place to place, or by indiscriminately approaching individuals from a location on any street, alley, sidewalk or other public thoroughfare.* This definition does not apply to yard sales or other selling related activities by the owners of property where such sales are being conducted.

Requirements to sell or buy by going from house to house include the following:

- 1) Must have a current license obtained from the College Place Police Department
- 2) The cost of the license/permit is determined by city council resolution.
- 3) Once approved this license and photo identification must be carried at all times while soliciting and shall be exhibited to anyone approached by the person asking to see it.
- 4) Solicitors cannot operate in the city between the hours of 8PM and 8AM.

The timing of this article coincides with a recent fraudulent door to door soliciting operation that occurred in Walla Walla County and the city of Walla Walla. The city of College Place did not receive any complaints. Several people were subsequently arrested for providing false information in their effort to bilk people out of their money by claiming to work for legitimate organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project. They were well organized and presented a good clean appearance, articulated their sales pitch well, and were prepared to answer questions, even though their entire activity was fraudulent. They also studied the area to familiarize themselves with local geography. This was part of a much larger ring of people that in this particular case were not from this area.

Fourth of July Safety Message

Summer is here, school is out, and July 4th will soon be here! I wanted to take this opportunity to help you make July 4th as SAFE as it is FUN. Fourth of July means Food, Family and Fireworks. It is legal to sell and purchase consumer fireworks within the City of College Place from 9am to 11pm on each day from the first of July through the fourth of July and from 5pm to 11pm on the thirty-first of December of each year. The minimum age to purchase fireworks is 16 years old.

Consumer fireworks may be used or discharged each day between the hours of 9am and 11pm on the first of July to the third of July, and on July fourth between the hours of 9am and midnight, and between the hours of 9am and 11pm on July fifth and from 6pm on December 31st until 1am on January 1st of the new year. It is unlawful to discharge fireworks on the property of another without permission of the property owner. It is unlawful to discharge fireworks in a public park without permission from the Fire Chief. It is unlawful to discharge fireworks on city property that is not a park without permission of the city council.

Let's remember a few safety rules about Fireworks. Before You Light Fireworks - Be Prepared. Purchase only legal fireworks, available at approved stands. Place Pets indoors, they may become frightened. Keep a bucket of water nearby in which to place all used fireworks. Have a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby to put out stray sparks. Know your address, location, basic first aid, and remember to call 911 if you need emergency assistance.

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

We're on the web!
www.ci.college-place.wa.us

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.



When Lighting Fireworks - Be Safe. Have a designated adult light all fireworks. Use eye protection, wear safety goggles. Light one at a time, move away quickly, and keep at a safe distance until the display is finished. Use only outdoors, away from anything that can burn. To prevent injuries, never throw fireworks and never hold fireworks in your hand.

After You Finish - Be Responsible. Clean up all debris when finished. Duds can be dangerous. If a device does not light or fire, an adult should wait at least five minutes and approach it carefully and place it in a bucket of water to soak.

More information on The City of College Place's Fireworks Code can be found in the *College Place Municipal Code* Section 8.08. http://library.municode.com/HTML/14763/level2/TIT8HESA_CH8.08FI.html. Have a Fun and Safe July 4th and a great summer!

Vendors: It Is Time to Update

Twice each year, the city updates its Vendors List Roster. The purpose of the roster is to provide vendors the opportunity to provide informal quotations for materials, supplies, equipment and services. Vendors may apply to be on this roster by submitting an application form to the College Place City Clerk. An ad will be placed in the Union Bulletin during July for those interested in applying. Forms are available at City Hall or on the city's website: www.ci.college-place.wa.us. All responsible vendors are welcome to apply.

For more information regarding the Vendors List Roster, you may review the College Place Municipal Code Chapter 3:31. The municipal code can be viewed online at the city's website.

Yard Sales

Yard Sales are a favorite summer activity for a lot of people and a way for other people to rid themselves of unwanted stuff. While the City of College Place does not currently have regulations governing yard sales, there are some regulations that do apply to yard sales.

Do not attach yard sale signs to utility poles, street signs or place them in the right of way. If the signs are placed on private property, other than your own, get permission from the property owner. Pick up signs when the yard sale is complete. When the sale is complete, clean up the remnants of the sale. Holding a continual summer yard sale becomes a business and is not appropriate for a residential neighborhood. Be considerate of your neighbors.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JULY

- 5 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 9 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 17 - Planning Commission, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 19 - VFW Post 466, 7 pm, Fire Station
- 23 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers