



# College Place in Review

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 8

DECEMBER 2014

## Mayor's Message

### Quick Fact:

#### City Water Usage

##### October 2014

48,548,000

##### October 2013

26,540,000

##### YTD 2014

401,975,000

##### Total 2013

411,766,000

#### Your City Representatives Mayor

Julie L. Scott

#### Council Members

Melissa Williams

Adam Keatts

Marge Nyhagen

Loren Peterson

William Jenkins

Larry Dickerson

Bernie Yanke

#### City Administrator

Patrick H. Reay

As we discussed last month in this newsletter, public safety is the main financial expenditure for a small town like College Place. It is also one of those things, like insurance, that you are glad to have available but hope never to use. Recently David Winter, the College Place Fire Chief, described the equipment, personnel, joys, and challenges of managing our College Place Fire Department.

Training and equipment are primary areas of focus in our FD. College Place voters helped to build the up-to-date facility that has been the home of our fire department since 2001. Standing in the large bays surrounded by rescue vehicles, fire trucks, and other equipment I recognized a clock on the wall from over 30 years ago – the clock that used to grace the outside wall of the old College Place City Hall and Fire Department. Happily, we have come a long way.

The Fire Department has recently acquired a rescue vehicle that will replace the van that has been used for Emergency Medical Services personnel and equipment. In addition to much more flexible space (the Jaws of Life and other gas-powered tools can be carried in the back of the vehicle, unlike in the van), it can also provide transport back-up should that be needed in an emergency. The fire department also has two fire engines, kept in top-notch condition.

Personnel is another important element of Winter's time and budget. There are three full-time employees in the fire department- Winter, the chief, John Boose, fire marshal, Charlie Drury, fire fighter, as well as 40 volunteers. Some of the volunteers are community members who help on emergency calls as needed, another group are young adults who board on the second floor in comfortable dormitory space that includes common areas for cooking, exercising and relaxing.

The boarding space in the fire department is actually an auxiliary dormitory for Walla Walla University, and some of Chief Winter's responsibilities are dorm-dean-like. But all of the residents are also training and working as emergency medical technicians or firefighters in shifts between school responsibilities. It is a beneficial arrangement for students and city residents alike. It is also an incubator for CP's future leaders, as both Winter and Drury started as student volunteers.

Recently I was in a situation in our city where we called 911. I was very grateful to see the prompt young professionals of the CP Fire Department arrive with emergency equipment and calm efficiency. Happily it ended up being only a minor emergency, but it really was wonderful to have excellent help only a quick call away.

**City Hall**  
**625 S. College Ave**  
**College Place, WA 99324**  
**Phone Numbers:**  
City Hall—529-1200  
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.



## CARS PROJECT UPDATE

The last two hurdles to starting construction on the College Avenue/Rose Street Reconstruction (CARS) Project have been met and the City is now advertising for bids. The first hurdle, the City's right-of-way plan, was certified under Federal regulations on September 29, 2014. On November 3, 2014, the City successfully resubmitted their financial funding and expenditure plan reflecting recent changes in how the Federal government allocates funds. That was the last hurdle, and on November 17, we received approval to advertise for construction. That's a big step, especially when you consider this effort began back in October 2011 when we initially requested project proposals.

Here are some more details. Bids will be opened on January 8<sup>th</sup> with Council authorization to award the contract expected on January 26, 2015 and a tentative notice-to-proceed to be issued by February 16, 2015. That means if weather is favorable, we could see the beginning of construction activity in mid to late February of next year.

The contractor will have a total of 310 working days to complete the project. We had originally hoped to have the project completed by the end of 2015, but meeting the requirements of Federal funding processes has taken a substantial amount of time and that means a project completion date sometime during the summer of 2016.

Stay tuned. Part of our contract requires the contractor to keep the community up to date on the progress of the project. There will be meetings, web site updates, etc. Once we have the contractor on board, we'll be finalizing the dates and times and avenues for making sure project information is available in a timely manner.

Thank you again for your support for this project. The \$7 million local bond passed by the citizens of College Place back in August of 2012 is the true back-bone of this project and in no small way influenced funding agencies to be a part of what will be a truly long-term investment in our community. This is your project. Thank you!

### Community Calendar December

- 3 - Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:30 pm, City Hall Lawn
- 3- Lions Club, 5:30 pm, Lions Park
- 8 - City Council, 7 pm, Council Chambers
- 16 - Planning Commission, 7 pm, Council Chambers