



# College Place in Review

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2015

## Mayor's Message

### Quick Fact:

#### City Water Usage

##### November 2014

15,397,000

##### November 2013

17,084,000

##### YTD 2014

417,372,000

##### 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

Happy New Year! 2015 is going to be a big year for changes in College Place. I thought I would begin the year by highlighting the most obvious of them:

- First the CARS Project (College Avenue/Rose Street) will get underway in February, weather allowing, and will be the biggest project in 2015 and 2016. In addition to the support from local tax payers that makes it possible, the local, state, and federal grants for the project total \$4.3 million. Thank you for your support and patience as we commence the biggest single facelift in College Place history.
- In a joint project led by Walla Walla County, College Place will contribute \$365,000 to the reconstruction of Taurmarson Road (Plaza Way to State Route 125). It will make the route safer and smoother, as well as more bike, pedestrian and car friendly.
- We are also planning to fix the sidewalk situation on SE Fourth Street. Thanks to a federal grant of about \$150,000 and city funds of slightly over \$100,000, we will finally have nice sidewalks from SW Davis Avenue to Academy Way.

- Also upgrading sidewalks around our schools, Davis Elementary will get new sidewalks along NE Ash Avenue from SE Whitman Drive to SE Fourth Street. This project is possible because of a state Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant of \$244,337.
- There will also be a reconstruction of NE Cedar street between NE A Street and NE C Street.

These projects are possible because of citizen-support, both through the bonds provided for schools and the CARS project, as well as the hard work in planning and applying for state and federal grants by our fine city staff. It becomes a bit of a virtuous circle when citizens support bond initiatives for improvements in schools and roads. State and federal grantors want to see local interest and involvement in city improvement before they provide grant funds.

So thanks to all of our citizens and our city staff for the improvements we get to look forward to in the next year.

--Julie Scott  
Mayor

### City of College Place Achieves another Exemplary Audit

The City of College Place has just received its audit results for the years 2012 and 2013. The city had **no audit findings**. This makes 21 years in a row that the city has achieved "clean" audits.

Every two years, the City of College Place goes through a rigorous audit process conducted by the State Auditor's Office. The audit process consists of both a financial statement audit and an accountability audit.

In the financial statement portion, the auditors obtain reasonable assurance that the finan-

**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.



cial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by error, fraud, or violations of laws or contracts.

In the accountability audit, the auditors examine financial records to evaluate whether public funds are handled properly and in compliance with laws and regulations. Internal controls are evaluated for their effectiveness.

The audit results are reflective of the efforts of many staff, but in particular, the previous Finance Director, Robert Zielfelder and the current Finance Director, Sarah Killgore, CPA.

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### **What Should I Do When I Approach an Intersection Where the Lights Are Blinking Red or the Lights are Completely Out (Black)?**

Everyone must come to a complete stop and then proceed cautiously through the intersection. The car stopped at the intersection first is the one having the right-of-way to proceed again after stopping completely. This is not new and most all of you are aware of your driving responsibilities when coming to what functions as a “four way stop.”

This happens because occasionally, the traffic signals revert to a flashing red mode as a result of a power surge or mechanical failure. Lights are sometimes completely off or “black” as a result of a power outage. In December we had a malfunction in the system due to the high winds in the Valley at the signal at the intersection of SE 4<sup>th</sup> Street and College Avenue. The city of Walla Walla had several lights with the same problem as a result of the wind storm, so both College Place, Walla Walla, and the State De-

partment of Transportation have teamed up to diagnose and fix the problem.

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### **Planning Commissioner Vacancy**

The City of College Place is accepting applications for a volunteer position on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is a recommending body and hears land use requests such as amendments to the comprehensive plan, amendments to title 15 through 18 of the College Place Municipal Code, and the rezoning of property.

Applicants should be a resident of College Place and able to attend evening meetings. Currently the Planning Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. with occasional workshops and additional meetings as needed.

Those interested in applying to serve on the Planning Commission may go to our web site at [www.ci.college-place.wa.us](http://www.ci.college-place.wa.us) (see “Current News” on home page) or request an application from the Planning Department or the City Clerk’s office at 625 S College Ave; College Place WA 99324. Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled.

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### **Christmas Tree Pickup**

Walla Walla area Boy Scouts of America, Troop 305 will be picking up your unwanted holiday tree on January 10 and 11. All neighborhoods will be covered; however, if your tree is NOT picked up by the evening of January 11, you may send an email to: [treepickup@troop305.net](mailto:treepickup@troop305.net). Donations to the Boy Scouts are appreciated and will be used for scouting activities.