



College Place in Review

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 5

MAY 2015

Quick Fact:

City Water Usage

March 2015
13,051,000

March 2014
13,189,000

YTD 2015
36,137,000

Total 2014
429,267,000

Your City Representatives Mayor

Julie L. Scott

Council Members

Melissa Williams
Adam Keatts
Marge Nyhagen
Loren Peterson
William Jenkins
Larry Dickerson

City Administrator

Patrick H. Reay

Community Events

AcroKnight
Performance - "The
Maxwell Smart Story"

May 16 at 9pm and
May 17 at 2pm and
7pm @ Walla Walla
University Gym

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I recently enjoyed a conversation with Robert Gordon, our city engineer since 2007. Gordon is really enjoying a "sweet spot" in College Place as he helps oversee the launch of the CARS (College Avenue/Rose Street) project – a long-envisioned and worked-for goal for all of us in the city.

Without the effort of staff, citizens and contractors, the CARS project would never have been possible. But Gordon's role as city engineer is particularly central to this project.

Gordon's path to becoming an engineer included dual degrees in English and Civil Engineering, as well as a background in art. He uses all of these skills to varying degrees as he works on proposals, long-term planning, and grant writing. State and Federal Grants are an essential part of all of our road improvements. "I try to tell a story about the future and the plans for our little community; I need to help the readers picture the outcome of the proposal." He notes, "People want to live here; they want to invest in their community."

Working with other members of the city's small staff on the CARS project, especially with Paul Hartwig, the Public Works Director, and Pat Reay, the City Administrator, has been a joint effort. They started with the original scoping of

the project and the realization that the city had multiple individual transportation grants along Rose Street and College Avenue that could be leveraged as a single major project. That led to the successful passage of a \$7 million bond.

Specifically, Gordon's involvement included preparing requests for proposals, the reviewing of engineering firm proposals and the ultimate selection of Keller Associates as the design engineer for the CARS project. Then, once the design was underway, involvement with Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) through Federally-mandated environmental and property acquisition processes became a regular part of the work day. Now, Gordon and the rest of city staff are poised to respond to this next major phase of the project: ensuring the project is built to specifications while addressing concerns from the public as they cope with the challenges of a project of this scale.

Overall, Gordon describes his job as a place where he can make a difference by looking ahead, being responsive to all the small requests that come his way, staying up to date on policy changes, and keeping in touch with the overall pulse of the community – doing what he can along the way to make our little community the best it can be.

CARS PROJECT UPDATE

Construction on the College Avenue/Rose Street (CARS) Reconstruction Project has begun! Scout Lake Construction started mobilizing on April 13, 2015 and as of late April, had already removed the existing College Avenue roadway and sidewalks from Rose Street to Whitman Drive. Roadway excavation is expected to begin the first week of May with water, sewer and stormwater improvements to be installed

through the end of June. Work on this first phase is expected to conclude by the end of July with the reconstruction of the road and sidewalk installation. Work on the six phases is scheduled to be completed as follows:

Phase 1 - College Ave: Blalock Dr. to Whitman Dr. | April 13, 2015 to July 27, 2015

Phase 2 - College Ave: Whitman Dr. to 4th St. | July 28, 2015 - September 28, 2015

Garrison Creek: 10th St. and College Ave | August 10, 2015 to September 24, 2015

Phase 3 - College Ave: 4th St. to 8th St. | September 1, 2015 to November 9, 2015

Phase 4 - College Ave: 8th St. to 12th St. | November 2, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Phase 5 - College Ave: 12th St. to Cedar Bend Dr. | December 24, 2015 to February 22, 2016

Phase 6 - NE Rose St: NE Carey Ct. to College Ave. | February 16, 2016 to May 19, 2016

This schedule is subject to change and we would urge you to stay abreast of developments and updated detour routes with the project web page that can be accessed from Scout Lake's web site: www.scout-lake.com. Construction, by its nature, is disruptive. If you do have concerns, please call the project hotline at (509) 945-8341 or contact Robin Wind by email at robinw@scout-lake.com.

This is an exciting time for our community as we redevelop our main commercial corridor. We thank you for your patience... and we are looking forward to the end result! Just a reminder, traffic through closed areas does remain open to local traffic unless otherwise posted. That includes trips to the local business situated along College Avenue. Please do continue to patronize their services! We know they look forward to serving you.

LOW INCOME UTILITY DISCOUNT

Low income senior citizens and persons with disabilities may qualify for a utility discount. The guidelines are set by city code, which have adopted the federal low-income guidelines. If you are at least sixty-five or are disabled and your income does not exceed the following amounts you may qualify for the 20% discount on your utility bill:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Annual Income Limit</u>
Individual	\$14,713
Couple	\$19,913
Three People	\$25,113

To apply, call the Blue Mountain Action Council at 529-4980, and ask to speak to Bob Castoldi at extension 129.

NOW OFFERING ONLINE BILL PAYMENT AND PAPERLESS BILLING

As a way to offer you more choices in how you pay your bills, College Place now lets you pay your bills online. We have partnered with Xpress Bill Pay, the premier provider for online bill payment systems. All you need is an Internet connection through a Web browser and an e-mail address. Once you sign up for your free account and start using this service, you'll wonder how you ever got along without it!

It's simple to use. Every month we'll send you a reminder e-mail to let you know when your bill is online. Then you just log in to your account at XpressBillPay.com and view your bill. It's formatted like your paper statement so it will look familiar to you. When you're ready to pay your bill, select a payment type. You can pay with credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer. Then enter the information and you're done! It's that easy, and it only takes you a few minutes each month. We offered this service at the request of our customers — You asked and we delivered! To sign up, just go to Xpressbillpay.com and follow the instructions there. And remember, it's free to sign up and free to use. Sign up today!