



College Place in Review

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2015

Quick Fact:

City Water Usage

July 2015

82,722,000

July 2014

66,932,000

YTD 2015

293,130,000

Total 2014

429,267,000

Your City Representatives Mayor

Julie L. Scott

Council Members

Melissa Thiessen

Adam Keatts

Marge Nyhagen

Loren Peterson

Greg Tompkins

Heather Schermann

Larry Dickerson

City Administrator

Patrick H. Reay

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

You have likely noticed that we are in the midst of a road revolution in College Place. I want to start this update with a warm welcome to the Scout Lake Construction team from Selah, WA who have also hired a number of local orange-vest clad workers to help with this large project.

In a recent meeting with Scout Lake project chief, Neil Wind (with 38 years of road building expertise), his second in command Bart Schorer (with 14 years), and tireless Paul Hartwig, our public works director, we talked about the road building process, interesting finds along the way, and how College Place has become their home away from home.

They have encountered some interesting and unexpected things as they uncover a roadway in use for at least 100 years (in the 1920's and 30's it was the primary highway through the region). At the basic level, after removing the 1950's era asphalt they uncovered the entirely cement roadway that also had to be removed. Happily, the piles of cement chunks at the south end of College Avenue will all be ground up and used for subgrade rock before new pavement is installed.

One unexpected find was a meticulously brick-lined cistern or drywell that WWU his-

torian, Terrie Aamodt, says was likely a water source for a residence. It had to be filled and covered (previously it was empty and covered with a metal plate) so sidewalks and the roadway in front of Smith Hall can be completed, but the Scout Lake team was impressed with its durable beauty.

Thanks to George Bennett and the rest of the WWU administrators, the university is taking advantage of the reconstruction of the roadway to rethink and reconstruct almost all of the front campus sidewalks, as well as undergrounding their utility poles. If you have walked on campus anytime in the last 50 years, you will be impressed with the thoughtful beauty of the changes. Drivers will also be pleased to know that student crosswalks between 4th and Whitman will be reduced from three to two, and be more clearly lit and designated.

Recently one resident had a question about why, without finishing the large section of North College Avenue that is under construction, workers have also torn up the roadway around 10th Street by Garrison Creek. The simple answer to that question is that the construction crew had only a one-month window (August) to work in the area of the creek according to federal guidelines, thus it was necessary to leap-frog in that direction. The rest of the construction project should proceed sequentially.

City Hall
625 S. College Ave
College Place, WA 99324

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.



NEW Phone Numbers:

Utilities/Finance—394-8509
HR/Administration—394-8508
Accounts Payable—394-8510
Building—394-8522
Fire Department—394-8600
Fire Chief—394-8605
Public Works—394-8526
Planning—394-8524
City Engineer—394-8525
City Shop—394-8653
Police —394-8550
Dispatch—527-1960

Next, I have a couple of requests for citizens. First, please DO NOT drive through the construction areas for the safety of all – you are welcome to walk to the area on the weekends to update yourselves on the progress. Second, please DO patronize our retailers on College Avenue. I recently enjoyed a lovely lunch at Rogers Bakery and, in a chat with owner Kelli Leen, learned that they have had to reduce worker hours because of less traffic. Since utility coordination has taken longer than expected, the slow-down has taken a toll on Rogers and several other retailers. All establishments are accessible from behind – to the east and west, so please help them make it to the grand re-opening of our main thoroughfare.

This will not be our last update on this project, but for now we will close with a warm thank you to Scout Lake and city staff for their on-going hard work as well as everyone for their patience. Thanks as well to Kim Strobel and Chris Drake of the WWU community relations department for their support and information. Chris and his team have made a wonderful video via drone of the CARS project mid-August, which you can find at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUK1Pe9tCEI&feature=share>



Back To School

College Place Public Schools will start on Wednesday, August 26th. Please be aware of kids in crosswalks and observe the speed limits in school zones for the safety of our community's children. Be on the lookout for little ones crossing the street or riding their bicycles, as they are not always as careful as we want them to be, and could run out in front of your car in an instant. After a summer of speeding through the school zones, it is easy to forget that we need to slow down and keep an eye out for the little ones. For more information please visit www.cpps.org.