



College Place in Review

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2016

Quick Fact:

City Water Usage

December 2015

11,683,000

December 2014

11,895,000

YTD 2015

449,354,000

Total 2014

429,267,000

Your City Representatives Mayor

Julie L. Scott

Council Members

Jerry Bobbitt
Marge Nyhagen
Loren Peterson
Greg Tompkins
Heather Schermann
Larry Dickerson

City Administrator

Patrick H. Reay

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

One of the reasons that we are working hard to improve the roads, sidewalks, and the infrastructure under the ground along College Avenue and Rose Streets is to make College Place an attractive place for retail business. We also want our citizens to enjoy walking and driving around our city, and keep things safe for both activities, but sales tax revenue is an important part of the city's operating budget. So I want to take a couple of paragraphs to introduce two relatively recent businesses in College Place.

The first opened in 2014, but has had a new manager for the last year. Walla Walla Valley Honda has revitalized the new but briefly closed facility on Commercial Drive and been a wonderful addition to our city. I met recently with Bryant Gibby, general sales manager, who relocated to our valley from Salt Lake City, UT.

He and his wife and children have loved the area, which has proved to have more going on than he expected in a small town. School, sports, and parent support networks have filled up their personal time. He has also enjoyed his time on the job, where providing great

cars and great service are central to all they do, but being involved in the community is essential to their business model.

"One of the goals of our business is to be really plugged in to the community, and support other businesses and community activities," says Gibby, "there is a lot going on, but the pace of life is less hectic than Salt Lake City, and that has been great for our family, and the business." Gibby goes on to describe how the sales model at WW Valley Honda is to not pay sales staff a commission, but a salary and have a "promise price" on every vehicle. "It is a low enough price to attract customers locally and from all over the Northwest," he adds.

The newest retail business in the city is the College Place Convenience Store at the site of the previous Wayne's Automotive on College Avenue. The work of the investors from Dayton, Washington has been a great addition to the city – taking an older building in a central location and revitalizing it.

"I have been very happy to get to know the city planner and inspector as we worked on the space," says Store Man-

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



ager, Jay Takhar, “they were great to work with.” We talked one rainy afternoon in a space that I remember as nice but very garage-like, that has been transformed into a gleaming, warm, place to grab a bite to eat or a drink. “I was glad to have four walls to start with rather than building new,” Takhar described, “and I really wanted to start a business in College Place.”

Takhar says that residents have been very enthusiastic about welcoming him to the city. Originally from Southern California, he has been in business for eight years in Dayton, and has so far really enjoyed getting to know the people of College Place. The city staff a few doors down, also describe how very friendly he is and how wonderful it is to have his store right around the corner.

The Convenience Store is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, but plans are afoot to extend hours when the weather and daylight improves. “If people need something early in the morning, we want to make sure we are open to provide it” says Takhar.

I want to offer a warm welcome to both of these businesses, and look forward to welcoming other businesses to our fair city.