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## The Pulse

December 2009  
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Progress



Pride



Prosperity



### Industrial Development Helps All

The Pasco Processing Center is now home to a new seed processing plant developed and operated by Syngenta, a Switzerland-based global agricultural company. The \$42 million “state-of-the-art” plant is the latest addition to the Center, which was developed in 1995 through a joint effort of the City, Port and PUD. The Center is now home to more than 1,000 jobs during the growing season; adds value to the many crops grown throughout the Columbia Basin; and creates many other jobs in the supply and service sectors, in support of the plant activities at the Center. And it has expanded the City’s property tax base by more than \$200 million, representing nearly 10% of the City’s total assessed value.



Expansion of the City’s property tax base is essential to the financial health of the greater Pasco community. The Pasco School District relies greatly on property taxes for its operation and, in particular, construction of new schools. Delivery of Franklin County’s general services are very dependent on property tax receipts, too. And, property tax represents a quarter of the annual revenue needed to operate City

services. Because most industrial facilities generate more property tax receipts than they consume in public services, attraction of major industrial facilities (especially the \$40 million variety) works to reduce the property tax burden for industrial property owners throughout the community. Simply put, if the Pasco Processing Center didn’t exist, your property tax bill would be about 10% higher!



Though the 250-acre Pasco Processing Center is nearing full development, the City has been working several years with property owners south of east “A” Street to foster creation of a new industrial center. About 400 acres there will become “Heritage Industrial Center” and, over the next decade or two, should become home to more of the large industrial facilities, like Syngenta. And the Heritage Industrial Center, like the Pasco Processing Center before it, started as a goal of the City Council; given proper planning, infrastructure investment, marketing and perseverance, Pasco will not only realize more significant industrial investment over the years to come, but will also improve the financial health of many local public agencies that rely on property tax income to provide essential services to the greater community.

## Proud to be your home!



## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ Pavilion Dedication!

Recently, the City commemorated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Pasco and dedication of the new Volunteer Park Pavilion.

Pasco was founded in 1884 when the Northern Pacific Railroad moved its operation from Ainsworth to the newly established settlement called Pasco. Pasco was named after a city in the Andes Mountains in Peru "Cerro de Pasco," one of the highest cities in the world, founded in 1572. According to Virgil G. Bogue, a construction engineer for Northern Pacific Railroad, (who located the railway through Pasco and also across the Andes in Peru) the windy dust storms in Pasco reminded him of Cerro de Pasco, Peru; thus the naming of Pasco, Washington.

Volunteers helped to build Volunteer Park and, more recently, volunteers also built the Park Pavilion. The Pavilion was made possible by Sharefest, Bethel Church, corporate sponsors and more than 50 volunteers donating over 200 hours of their time and talent to install the structure in Volunteer Park! Corporate partner, ThyssenKrupp Safway, Incorporated donated scaffolding to assist in successful erection of the structure. The Pasco-Kennewick Rotary club also planted shrubs and flowers at the base of the pavilion. The renovation of Volunteer Park began in 2001 with redesigning of the three major entrances to the park and the planting of over 100 trees. Community volunteers, corporate sponsors and the City of Pasco, working together towards a better quality of life for our community and our children!

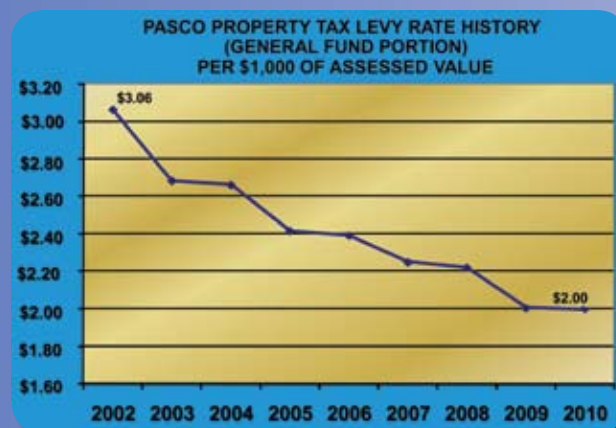


## Budget Report -No Service Cuts!

The Pasco City Council began consideration of the City's 2010 Operations and Capital Improvements budgets in early November. When the budget is finally adopted in December, it is anticipated that general fund expenditures, totaling just over \$30 million, will be about 9% less than budgeted 2009 expenditures.

Sales tax revenues for 2009 and 2010 are expected to be below 2008 receipts primarily due to decreased construction activity and lower sales of motor vehicles. Sales tax is the largest single revenue source for the City's general fund operations. The projected 2010 budget provides for no cuts in City service levels and no layoffs of City staff, although three vacant positions have been eliminated.

On November 16, the City Council adopted the 2010 General Property Tax levy of \$5.8 million. Collections of property tax are used to support general City services. The levy rate for 2010 is projected to be \$2.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value or \$200 for a \$100,000 value property. This rate is virtually the same as the 2009 levy rate. The Council's action reflects a 35% reduction in the City property tax rate since 2002, when the rate was \$3.06.



## Community Forums - Be Heard!

The City of Pasco will hold a series of community forums at different locations in the city during January.



The forum meetings, which will be held in the evening, will be moderated by a facilitator and attended by members of the City Council and City management staff.

General community interest forums will be held as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Location:** Pasco Senior Center

**Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Location:** Robinson Elementary School

**Date:** Tuesday, January 26, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Location:** TRAC

In addition, the city will hold a special forum for "business interests" on:

**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Location:** Pasco City Hall

You are cordially invited to attend one or more of the forums to share ideas or concerns about the community. Information gathered from the forum sessions will be used by the City Council in responding to needs and shaping goals for Pasco's future. The City Council will hold its biennial goal-setting retreat later in the spring.

## PSC-TV Video On Demand Online!

PSC-TV is three years old and until recently has only been available to citizens who subscribed to Charter Communications Basic cable service.



Now a number of public meetings, our own local programs and some special events are available for viewing On Demand on our web site at [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov). From the home page click on "See & Hear" ⇒ "Videos" and you will find our online library of available programs.

The City Council meetings, Planning Commission meetings and Code Enforcement Board meetings are available On Demand online for one month. Other programs that are available include "City Beat" a program that takes a behind the scenes look at your city government at work, from the men and women who deliver our services. You can also view special programming such as the annual State of the City Address.

Available beginning mid-January, you will also be able to watch PSC-TV via the internet, simulcast live online 24/7. Log on and tune in to the City Council meetings live each Monday evening at 7:00PM (excluding holidays).

## Holiday Observance:

City Hall will be closed:

Friday, December 25, 2009

In observance of Christmas Day

Friday, January 1, 2010

In observance of New Year's Day

For information regarding City Council meetings, visit our web site at [www.Pasco-WA.gov](http://www.Pasco-WA.gov)

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