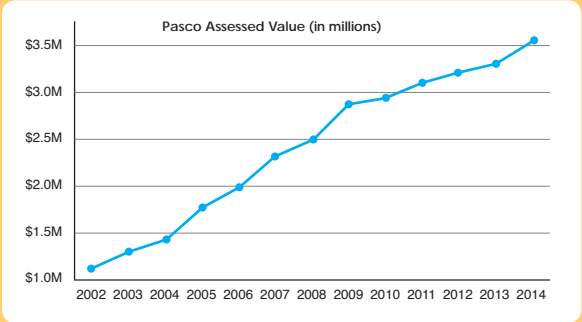


More Industry = Lower Taxes

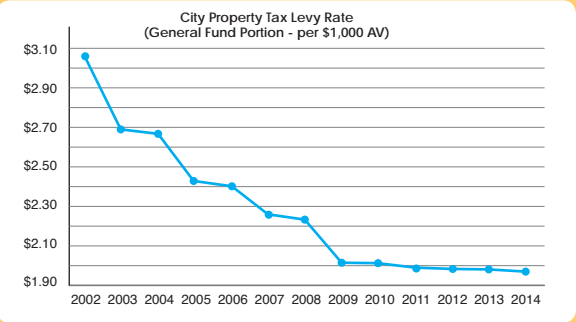
With all the housing development in Pasco over the past 15 years, one would think the City does not need more growth. But in fact, it does - it needs to grow its tax base with more commercial/ industrial development. The residential boom created an imbalance as commercial and industrial development is now a much smaller portion of the community's tax base.

Why is that a concern? Not surprisingly, residential development generally requires more on-going services (police, parks, streets, schools, etc.) than does commercial and industrial development, so it is a “consumer” of financial resources. Commercial and industrial development generally consumes less than it provides in taxes, so it is considered a “generator” of financial resources for the community, thus benefitting the resident population.

A classic example of tax base expansion has been the Pasco Processing Center near Foster Wells Road and SR395. In the early 1990s the City prepared to build and operate a process water



disposal system for the food processing industry and the Port of Pasco prepared to install streets and utilities to serve industrial sites for food processing plants. When the Simplot Company showed interest in the concept in 1994, the City built the process water disposal system, the Port sold a site with streets and utilities to Simplot and the PUD installed a new substation nearby to serve the electrical needs of the new vegetable plant (and others to come). All of that visible effort occurred in 1994-1995, but followed four years of diligent but invisible effort on the part of the City, Port, and PUD to develop the Pasco Processing Center concept. Twenty years later, over \$150 million of taxable investment is at the center in Pasco, generating \$1.3 million in annual property tax payments in support of schools, police, courts, fire and other essential community services. Were it not for that tax base expansion, those are dollars that would otherwise have to come from the residential segment of the community (those who use most of the services), meaning higher property tax rates and/or reduced service levels.



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Visit our website at: www.pasco-wa.gov

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Comments about the Pasco Pulse?
Email to communications@pasco-wa.gov

The Pasco City Council meets every Monday at 7pm (except for 5th Mondays) at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Ave. Watch the Council meetings LIVE on PSC-TV Channel 191 on Charter Cable, or on the web at www.pasco-wa.gov/video.

the **Pulse** BI-MONTHLY (APRIL - DEC)



APRIL 2014



PROGRESS | PRIDE | PROSPERITY

City of Pasco Crime Rate Drops Again

The City of Pasco released the 2013 crime statistics showing the rate continues its downward trend. The City's crime rate for 2013 was 27 victims per 1,000 population; this represents an 11% drop from 2012 and an incredible 83% decrease in crime since 1989. Pasco's crime rate remains significantly lower than the state average of 39.5 and national average of 34.



“The Pasco community should be very proud of these numbers,” said Pasco Police Chief Bob Metzger. “The community’s effort, especially the commitment shown in approving the public safety sales tax increase in 2011, is really paying off with these lower crime numbers.”

83% DROP IN THE LAST 25 years

“The dramatic drop in crime in the last 25 years is due to long-standing community support of the City’s anti-crime programs and community policing initiatives,” said City Manager Gary Crutchfield. “Pasco is now, and has been for some years, one of the safest communities in the entire state, not just the Tri-Cities.”



Road 68 Summer Construction

As the City gears up for the peak construction season, the project that will most likely affect the most people (and cars) will be the Road 68 improvements north of I-182. Crews will be installing channelization (curbing) on Road 68 and Burden Boulevard to reduce left-turn and driveway conflicts as well as signal improvements to move cars through the Burden Boulevard intersection a bit faster. The City is also continuing to work with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to provide two turn lanes onto I-182 westbound from southbound Road 68; this is a change the City has sought for several years. Please be on the lookout for construction crews and any lane closures. For more information about the Road 68 project, please visit the project’s page on the City’s website, www.pasco-wa.gov/road68 or call 545-3444.

Spring Cleaning & Code Enforcement

Spring began on March 20, and it’s time to start thinking about cleaning up your yard for the dry season. Here are some pointers from the City’s Code Enforcement Division that will help you keep your property looking great and safe:



- Properly dispose of all yard waste, including leaves and debris from tree trimming, by bagging or bundling the debris and placing at the curb on trash pick-up day, instead of storing on your property. Pick-up is free by BDI for City residents.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they are not in contact with houses or fences.
- Store all combustible material (including lumber, firewood, paint, chemicals) away from houses and fences.
- While cleaning up the landscape don’t forget to tend to planting strips located between your house and the street and the area between the yard and any alleys that run by the property.

Doing these simple steps will keep your property looking better and will keep our neighborhoods attractive. If you see a code violation, you can report it to the City’s Code Enforcement office online at www.pasco-wa.gov/codeenforcement or call 543-5743.

HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE City Offices will be closed:

Monday, May 26
In observance of Memorial Day

For more information about the City,
visit our website at www.pasco-wa.gov

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To promote industrial development in Pasco, the City has worked diligently with owners of industrial lands in the city over the past decade. Utility lines have been extended to industrial sites and streets have been extended or widened to provide the transportation system that industry needs to thrive.

A more recent example of the targeted utility extension strategy is the new carrot plant on the east side of town. The company was looking for a suitable location somewhere between Othello and Hermiston near a major highway. When they looked at Pasco, the site they liked was near a new sewer pump station the City had already planned to construct to attract industry. Within a matter of weeks the company and City officials were able to agree on mutual commitments and the carrot plant is now constructed and in operation – adding \$20 million to the local property tax base over the next few years. If the City had not been prepared to make the sewer investment, the carrot plant might now be in Hermiston and the Pasco community would not be realizing the expanded tax base.

Industrial growth is much more sporadic than is residential but its importance in the balance of Pasco’s tax base cannot be overstated. As the City continues to make strategic public investments (like streets and utilities) and work with industrial land owners – as well as the Port of Pasco – to attract companies, more industrial investment will occur and help expand and balance the tax base. Doing so will not only help keep the tax rates down, but will also help to ensure the community maintains its quality of life.