



# MATRICS: Saving Lives, Saving Money

For several years the City, in cooperation with other police and fire agencies from Franklin and Benton Counties, has been working to improve public safety and emergency dispatch services. After several years of review, a study was completed which showed the viability of combining dispatch (911) services for both counties into one location. The proposed new entity has been termed the Multi-Agency Three Rivers Information and Communication Services or MATRICS. The implementation of MATRICS will address critical public safety issues in the community in a number of ways, including:

■ **Reduced Response Time:** Currently, each county operates its own dispatch center. Each one takes both emergency and non-emergency calls and dispatches police, fire, or medical units to assist when needed. One of the key concerns with the present system is how calls come into a center. Each county has its own public safety answering point (PSAP) that directs calls to one of the two dispatch centers. About 80% of the emergency

calls that come into the dispatch centers come from cell phones. With landline phones, the call can be easily directed to the correct dispatch center. The direction for a call on a cell phone, however, depends on which cell tower is being used. Consequently, there are times when a call from one county actually goes to the dispatch center of the other county. When this occurs, the center that answers must manually

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Comments about the Pasco Pulse?  
Email to [communications@pasco-wa.gov](mailto: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](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/video).



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(Continued)

forward the call to the other center which can take life-saving time in an emergency. To eliminate this problem, having only one PSAP and one dispatch center makes the most sense. Law enforcement and fire departments in both counties have endorsed the idea of one PSAP in the Tri Cities.

■ **Improved Communications:** Law enforcement in the two counties operates on two incompatible radio frequencies. Pasco and Franklin County law enforcement use a VHF frequency while Benton County uses 800 MHz. The VHF frequency is not as reliable nor as clear as 800 MHz, and police from either county are unable to communicate directly with each other. During an emergency, this can be a safety issue for both the public and officers.

■ **Cost Effectiveness:** Having a single dispatch center is more cost-effective for taxpayers, especially given the growing expense of new technology. One center purchasing equipment for a wider area is much less expensive than multiple centers acquiring gear for smaller areas.

The combining of dispatch services has been occurring across the country for several years, and has shown many benefits for the communities where implemented, most importantly, providing better service for residents and public safety personnel. More information on MATRICS will be coming in the next few months. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact either Pasco Police Chief Bob Metzger at 545-3421, or Pasco Fire Chief Bob Gear at 545-3426.

## Pasco Welcomes New City Manager Dave Zabell

In June, the City Council appointed Dave Zabell as the new Pasco City Manager. Mr. Zabell fills the position, most recently held by Gary Crutchfield, who retired at the end of June. The City Council considered 22 applicants, invited 5 for interviews, with 4 of the 5 accepting the invitation. The 4 finalists had an opportunity to meet the public, then were scrutinized by panels of community stakeholders, and then interviewed by the City Council. After careful deliberation, the Council unanimously selected Mr. Zabell as the new City Manager. The City Manager is the chief executive officer of the City and is responsible to the City Council for the proper delivery of municipal services consistent with Council policy and directives.

Dave Zabell has been in local government for over 33 years, and comes to Pasco after serving as the City Manager for the City of Fife, a position he held since 2011. Prior to that he was Assistant City Manager for Yakima, from 2005 to 2011, and was also the Public Works Director for the City of Bothell for five years. Additionally, he was with the City of Marysville, from 1985 to 2000, serving in positions including Engineer, Public Works Director, and City Administrator. Mr. Zabell has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from Upper Iowa University. Welcome Dave Zabell to the City of Pasco!



## Waterfront Development

~~In September of 2010, the City and Port of Pasco adopted the Boat Basin and Marine Terminal Plan. The plan is a joint effort to guide development of the Marine Terminal area (the former “tank farm” just east of the Cable Bridge) in a manner consistent with the Pasco Comprehensive Plan and the Port’s Osprey Pointe Business Park Plan. The Marine Terminal property was used primarily for petroleum storage and distribution from the 1940’s to 1999. Contamination of the site due to the prior use has required remediation efforts by the Port. Much of the contamination has been removed and remediation efforts may be ending as soon as 2016.~~ This riverfront property has significant assets, including:

- Prime riverfront setting with views of the Cable and BNSF bridges
- Adjacent to the Sacajawea Trail system
- Limited ownership, which provides the opportunity for better control of the pace and quality of development.

The adopted plan maximizes the benefits of the riverfront setting, supports a mix of land uses in the Marine Terminal area and integrates the existing Boat Basin neighborhood into future development.



## Road 68 Construction Continues

As reported in the April edition of the Pasco Pulse, the Road 68 improvements north of I-182 are being constructed. Crews have been installing channelization (curbing) on Road 68 and Burden Boulevard to reduce left-turn and driveway conflicts and installing traffic signal improvements to move cars through the Road 68/Burden Boulevard intersection a bit faster. The City is also planning to provide two turn lanes onto I-182 westbound from southbound Road 68 in 2015, pending approval from WSDOT (Washington State Department of Transportation).

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](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/road68) or call 545-3444.

### HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE City Offices will be closed:

City Offices will be closed  
Monday, September 1  
In observance of Labor Day

*For more information about the City,  
visit our website at [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov)*