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## *The Pulse*

June 2009  
A bi-monthly publication (April - Dec.)

Progress



Pride



Prosperity



### **Utility Gets Two A's**

In preparation for a new issue of long-term debt to pay for the new water plant on the west end of town, the city applied to Standard & Poor's (S&P) for a current bond credit rating. The credit rating is important when bond buyers determine the rate of interest they require to justify their investment in our system (risk versus return). Given the dire financial circumstances witnessed nationally over the past year, credit ratings have taken on an even-greater influence in the investment marketplace. The result of the city's recent effort: "AA-" representing a substantial upgrade! (equivalent to going from a "C+" to an "A-"). Perhaps more important to ratepayers is the effect the higher rating had on the bonds issued to pay for the new water plant; the lower interest rates translated to reduced interest cost of nearly \$200,000 over the life of the bonds (a net present value of more than \$120,000)!

Two notable factors contributed to the dramatic improvement in the utility's bond rating: customer growth and strong financial management. The tremendous growth in the number of utility customers over the past decade has helped create a larger financial base to absorb major projects (like a second water plant).

Sound financial management was the compelling factor, as indicated by the following quote from the S&P rating report.

***"The financial performance of Pasco's waterworks utility system has been strong"***

These opinions reflect well on the long-term effort by your City Council and staff to keep rates as low as possible while assuring, first and foremost, that the rates are sufficient to cover all debt obligations and operational costs with sufficient "reserves" to absorb unexpected circumstances without increasing rates. This has been the guidance and focus of the utility's management for the past 15 years, leading to appropriate growth, system improvements and modest rates (Pasco's water rate is the lowest of the three cities).



In short, third-party investment advisors (S&P) have graded Pasco as high as any utility in the region, on their "...expectation that the (utility) system will continue to generate net revenues sufficient to maintain good debt service coverage and a strong liquidity position, in line with Pasco's policy." A very good report card - from a very tough grader!

(You can read the report in its entirety at [www.pasco-wa.gov/generalinfo/citycouncilreports](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/generalinfo/citycouncilreports) (click on S&P Credit Rating.)

**Proud to be your home!**



## New Recycling Drop-off Locations!

Several residents have inquired about more recycling opportunities in Pasco and curb side recycling. Curb-side recycling is still cost prohibitive, potentially adding several dollars to the monthly bill for each household. In an effort to be responsive to citizen's requests, the city has collaborated with Basin Disposal Incorporated to provide additional neighborhood recycling centers for glass, mixed paper, newspaper, cardboard, tin and aluminum cans. The recycling center summer hours are Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

### Locations:

- East Lewis & California Street
- Grange Hall/Road 64 & Court Street
- Riverview Plaza/Court Street & Road 32
- Senior Center - 1315 N. 7th Ave.
- TCYSA Soccer Complex - 6200 Burden Blvd.
- Memorial Park - 1520 W. Shoshone Street
- Grigg's Dept. Store - Columbia & 9th Street
- McLoughlin Middle School - 2803 N. Rd. 68
- Ochoa Middle School 1801 E. Sheppard
- Maya Angelou Elementary - 6001 Road 84
- Community Church - 2819 W. Sylvester St.

While you are recycling for the environment you can also recycle gently used items to Goodwill. Goodwill has relocated their drop-off location to the Wal-Mart parking lot on Road 68, relocating the drop-off bin formerly at the TRAC location.

## June is Home Safety Month!

The Home Safety Council has designated June as Home Safety Month. Each year, nearly 21 million family members suffer injuries that could have been prevented.

The three most common preventable injuries involve slips and falls, poisoning, and fires and burns. Following are some simple safety tips for every home:

- \* Install and maintain smoke alarms on each level of the home.
- \* Lower the water heater temperature. Check the setting and make sure it is no higher than 120 degrees F.
- \* Make sure all matches and lighters are locked up where children cannot access them.
- \* Candles should only be used in non-combustible containers and never should be left burning unattended.
- \* Plan and practice fire drills in the home.
- \* More than two-thirds of homes with young children report they have chemicals stored in unlocked places. Typical household cleaners, bleach, and other chemicals can cause a serious poisoning. Know the National Poison Control Center number 1 (800) 222-1222. Lock up all poisons around the home.
- \* Install a Carbon Monoxide Detector to guard against the silent killer.
- Slips and falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury in the home. Bathrooms are especially dangerous. Install grab bars in the tub, shower and near toilets. Use slip-proof mats in the bathtub and shower.
- \* Use bright lights at the top and bottom of stairs and make sure hallways are also lit.
- \* Stairs and steps should have secured handrails in place.
- \* Homes with toddlers should have gates installed at the top and bottom of stairs.
- \* Last but not least, clean up spills promptly!



## Grand Old Fourth Celebration!

Friday, July 3rd launches the two-day celebration of family fun filled events including a parade, fireworks, a car show, movies, pancake breakfast, and family entertainment! Sponsored by City of Pasco, Franklin County, Fluor, and Franklin PUD.

Events take place at the TRAC unless specified.

### July 3 (Friday)

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Car Show pre-registration  
 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Community BBQ - "Cousin's Restaurant" (\$5 per person)  
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Musical entertainment "Retreads"  
 7:15 PM Dust Devil's Baseball Game (Gesa stadium)  
 9:00 PM Outdoor Movie "American Graffiti" on the grass and free to the public (free popcorn and Pepsi products for attendees while they last!)

### July 4 (Saturday)

7:00 AM - 9:15 AM Registration & line-up for car cruise  
 7:00 AM - 12 Noon Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast (Memorial Park)  
 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Parade (Memorial Park)  
 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Car Show includes: Slow Drags, Cinder Block Blow-Ups, Judging and Awards (The remaining events are at the Gesa Stadium)  
 6:30 PM - Gates Open to the Gesa Stadium  
 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Pre-Fireworks Entertainment - The Fun Fun Fun Show: Featuring "The Beach Toys", "Pleasant Valley Sunday" and "Paperback Writer", a tribute to The Beach Boys, The Monkees and The Beatles.  
 10:00 PM Famous Fireworks Show!!  
 Visit our website for more information and entry forms under Recreation Special Events!

## Summer Safety Tips!



Water Safety Tips: Whether you are hanging out at one of the city pools or taking a dip in your backyard pool, don't forget to follow a few simple safety tips to enjoy a safe, injury-free summer.

- Learn to swim.
- Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation or CPR.
- Post emergency information near your swimming pool include CPR instructions & emergency phone numbers.
- Secure doors and windows that lead to the pool area including "doggie" doors.
- Remove pool covers and toys from the swimming pool as they may attract children to the pool.
- Never leave a child alone near the water, not even for a second.
- Teach children basic safety rules to follow in and around the pool such as no running, diving, jumping or pushing.
- Keep radios and electrical appliances away from the pool.
- Clearly mark the deep end of the pool.

## Join the new Bowling Program!

**June 15 - July 13 - Mondays**

**July 20 - August 7 - Mondays**

**Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00PM**

Ages: 5-13 Session Cost: \$31

This league bowling program divides bowlers by age into teams for a summer of fun! Registration includes shoe rental, a shirt, bowling fees and adult supervision!

Where: Go Bowl 2799 W. Lewis St.

Cosponsored by Go Bowl and Pasco Recreation

## Holiday Observance:

City Hall will be closed:

Friday, July 3, 2009

In observance of Independence Day

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

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