

## ***City Council:***

**Mayor Joyce Olson (Dist. 4)**  
545-4936

**olsoncouncil@pasco-wa.gov**

**Mayor Pro Tem Matt Watkins (At Large)**  
545-4916

**councilmatt@mattwatkins.net**

**Councilwoman Rebecca Francik (Dist. 5)**  
545-6134

**francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov**

**Councilman Mike Garrison (Dist. 2)**  
545-9743

**Mike.g@a-lcompressedgases.com**

**Councilman Bob Hoffmann (Dist. 3)**  
547-7373

**rshoff@juno.com**

**Councilman Al Yenney (Dist. 1)**  
547-8021

**yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov**

**Councilman Tom Larsen (At Large)**  
545-9916

**tomlarsenpasco@aol.com**

## ***Manager & Officials:***

**City Manager Gary Crutchfield 545-3404**  
**citymanager@pasco-wa.gov**

**Deputy City Manager Stan Strebel 543-5760**  
**strebel@pasco-wa.gov**

**Police Chief Denis Austin 545-3481**  
**pascopolice@pasco-wa.gov**

**Fire Chief Bob Gear 545-3426**  
**pascofire@pasco-wa.gov**

**Community Dev. Rick White 545-3441**  
**communitydevelopment@pasco-wa.gov**

**Public Works Bob Alberts 543-5738**  
**publicworks@pasco-wa.gov**

**Admin. & Community Srvc. Rick Terway**  
543-5757; **acsadmin@pasco-wa.gov**

City of Pasco  
P.O. Box 293  
Pasco, WA 99301-0923



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## *The Pulse*

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

Progress



Pride



Prosperity



### **Public Safety Partnership**

As a result of several joint meetings earlier this year, the City Council and County Commission recently agreed to jointly request the voters approve a sales tax increase (3/10 of one cent) to pay for a larger jail, larger police station and an additional courtroom. The tax increase (representing three cents on a \$10 purchase) would expire when the debt is paid off, expected to be 25 years.

The joint effort reflects the mutual responsibilities of the city and county in dealing with the effects of the tremendous growth in Pasco over the past 20 years. During those 20 years, Pasco's crime rate has been driven down from its high of 160 (per thousand population) in 1988 to its current historic low of 35 (lower than the state and national average). Meanwhile, "calls for service" from Pasco's citizens have doubled, from nearly 27,000 in 1998 to more than 54,000 last year. In order to keep up with the demand for police services, the city has added 22 police officers over the past 10 years alone.

All of the additional police activity has resulted in more court filings, to assure that those who violate the law are held accountable. Pasco municipal court's filings (misdemeanors) have more than doubled,

jumping from 4,200 in 1998 to more than 10,000 last year (and it continues to grow each year). The city's 40-year lease of a county courtroom will expire in 2012, when the county will need to use the existing courtroom to absorb the growth in superior and district court activity.

The current jail was designed in 1985 to hold 105 prisoners – it is consistently holding at least 200 inmates every day and the length of jail terms for crimes in the community are being influenced by the lack of sufficient jail space. A 30-year projection indicates the need to house another 200 inmates. Construction of such a facility next to the old jail will cost an estimated \$20 million and renovation of the old jail another \$5 million.

The sales tax increase is estimated to generate \$1.9 million to the county and another \$1.2 million to the city each year. The county will dedicate its portion to pay off the jail construction debt, while the city would do the same for its police station and courtroom. Sales tax growth over time, could be used for other public safety purposes (law enforcement, fire protection, emergency communications, etc.).



## **Proud to be your home!**

## New Legislation Paves the Way for Regional Public Facilities District

At the urging of the three cities, the state legislature has approved a new law, critical to improving the quality of life in the Tri-Cities.

The new law will allow Pasco, Kennewick, and Richland to create a "regional" public facilities district (PFD) that can develop and operate regional centers, such as an aquatics center, performing arts center and other similar facilities. The regional PFD provides the mechanism to finance collectively a regional facility that could not be supported by a single community.

With voter approval, the regional PFD could finance as much as \$60 million of new regional centers. The collaborative effort is reflective of the three cities working together to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Tri-Cities.

## Need a Down Payment?

Do you qualify? There are more than 150 foreclosed homes throughout the city. If you find one you would like to make your own, the city may be able to provide down payment assistance!

Foreclosed homes can create security issues and devalue a neighborhood. Through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), the city is utilizing federal funding to reduce the number of homes in foreclosure and keep the quality of the community in "good" standing.

There is down payment assistance of up to \$10,000 for the purchase of foreclosed homes.

Find out if you are eligible! Priority is given to low/moderate income levels, and must be your primary residence; rentals are not permitted. For more information call Angie Pitman at 543-5739.

## Smart Partners!

Sacagawea Heritage Trail Project is recognized by Gov. Chris Gregoire as a winner of the 2009 Smart Communities Awards for creating livable communities.

"The leadership of these award winners helps to make Washington a great state in which to live and do business," said Gregoire.

The awards honor 9 communities across the state for outstanding achievements in growth management. The Sacagawea Heritage Trail received the "Smart Partnerships Award."

The Sacagawea Heritage Trail is a result of 12 years of cooperative effort between the three cities, the three ports, two counties, and the Visitor and Convention Bureau and Bechtel Corporation and is maintained by the local jurisdictions.



## Having a Party?

Having a party but need additional space? Looking for the perfect place for a holiday event? The City of Pasco has several facilities

available for rent that can accommodate large group meetings, dances, birthday parties and an indoor basketball court! During the summer season, pool rentals are also available. Contact the recreation office at 545-3456 for additional



information regarding cost and availability. Make your reservations early for the holidays! For more information call 545-3456.



Come down to the river for an adventure! Enter to win fun and fabulous prizes while exploring the complete Sacagawea Heritage Trail. Go to any of the 18 checkpoints along the trail to register for prizes. The more checkpoints you reach, the greater your chance to win! \* Kayak along the trail, bicycle along the trail or race along the trail! For the course description, logon to [www.VisitTri-Cities.com](http://www.VisitTri-Cities.com) or call 735-8486.



Bring the entire family! **The event is free to the public!** No advance registration required.

**Saturday, September 12, 2009**

**9:00A.M. - 12 Noon**

Various starting points include: Sacagawea Park, Riverview Park, Wade Park, Chiawana Park and Schlagel Park. Take the challenge!

\* Drawing will be held after completion of the event. Winners will be notified the week of September 21.



## Back to School! August 31

In just a few weeks, August 31, our children will be returning to school. Remember to drive safely and obey the school zone laws.

### School Crossing Zone Tips:

- Slow down, and follow posted speed limits.
- Don't pass another vehicle in a school zone.
- Avoid potential distractions like cell phones (even hands-free).
- Fines for speeding in school zones cannot be reduced by the judge per Washington State law.

### Speeding in School Zone Fines:

- 1-5 MPH over the Limit \$189.00
- 6-10 MPH over the Limit \$210.00
- 11-15 MPH over the Limit \$271.00
- 21-25 MPH over the Limit \$456.00

Pedestrian Crossing outside Crosswalk: \$56.00

Failure to Yield to Pedestrian in Crosswalk: \$112.00

Back to school safety involves everyone!

### Holiday Observance:

City Hall will be closed:

Monday, September 7, 2009

In observance of Labor 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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