

## CITY COUNCIL:

**Mayor Matt Watkins (At Large)**  
416-6696, councilmatt@mattwatkins.net

**Mayor ProTem 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

**Councilman Saul Martinez (Dist. 4)**  
547-7285, martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov

## MANAGER & OFFICIALS:

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

**Deputy City Manager Stan Strebel**  
543-5760, strebels@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 Director Ahmad Qayoumi**  
543-5738, publicworks@pasco-wa.gov

**Admin. & Community Services Rick Terway**  
543-5757, acsadmin@pasco-wa.gov

Send Comments to: [Communications@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:Communications@pasco-wa.gov)

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



PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 800  
GOLDSTREET  
97301



## The Pulse

August 2011  
A bi-monthly publication (April - Dec.)

Progress



Pride



Prosperity



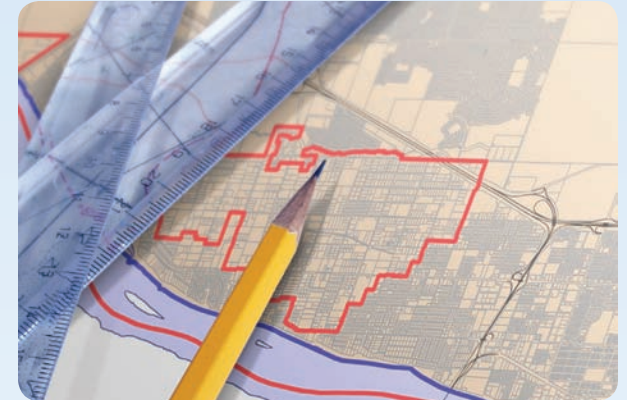
### Annexing the “Donut Hole”

In July, the City Council discussed a recent change in state law that provides for an alternative process for annexation of unincorporated land within the Pasco Urban Growth Area (UGA). The UGA was fixed by Franklin County in the 1990s, and all but about two square miles have been incorporated by the City over the past 20 years. The main unincorporated area (sometimes referred to as the “donut hole”) includes roughly the land between Argent Road and Court Street and Road 40 and Road 100.

Most recently, annexation has occurred through “Water Agreements,” signed by property owners when connecting to the City’s water system (or buyers when purchasing homes connected to the system) in unincorporated areas. Once 60% of the assessed value of an area is represented by these agreements, annexation can occur.

State law was amended to provide a new process so areas like Pasco’s “donut hole” can be annexed via agreement between the city and the affected fire district and county. Such agreements typically address timing, the transfer of revenues and assets, coordination of capital projects and service delivery, and may include revenue sharing to address effects of annexation.

The rationale for annexing the donut hole relates to efficiency and making best use of local tax resources. At present, the City travels through this area daily to provide services to the rest of Pasco; Franklin County



and Fire District No. 3 do likewise for the balance of the unincorporated areas. Most taxpayers in the donut hole would benefit from annexation, too, as the typical household would realize a net reduction in taxes and utility costs after annexation.

Another important factor is that state-shared revenues for cities are allocated at a higher rate; thus, Pasco would receive from the state an estimated \$100,000 annually more than the county for the same population.

If the Fire District, Franklin County, and the City agree to a process of negotiating an annexation agreement, the public would be assured a voice in the process as required by law. The results of this plan would be a path of timely annexation for the City, efficient service delivery for citizens and reliable mitigation for the Fire District and Franklin County - a “win-win-win.”

PROUD TO BE YOUR HOME!

## Dave Petersen Named Municipal Court Judge

Longtime Municipal Court Judge Pro-tem Dave Petersen is the city's new part-time Municipal Court Judge, replacing Judge Mary Ramirez.



Judge Petersen served for 11 years as pro tem for the court before taking over the job in late May. As head of the court, he will manage the 12-employee department and also continue his private practice in Richland.

Judge Ramirez served for 25 years before her recent retirement.

## Chief Denis Austin Retires

Pasco's Chief of Police Denis Austin is set to retire on August 31.

During his 16-year tenure, the city's crime rate decreased dramatically. In 2010, for the sixth year in a row, Part I crime (homicide, rape, assault, robbery, larceny, arson, etc.) declined even as the city continued to experience rapid population growth. The 2010 crime rate of 29 victims per 1,000 was an all-time low, and is significantly lower than national and state averages.

Chief Austin implemented a "Community Oriented Policing" strategy in Pasco, including the establishment of police "mini-stations", School Resource Officers, the Citizens' Police Academy, the Citizens' Advisory Commission, and the institution of the Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program.

Pasco hopes to name a new Chief of Police sometime in August.

Thank you, Chief Austin, for your work in making Pasco a better community for all of us.



Left to right: Carson Roske, Luis Flores, Mario Corrales, Officer Fairley, Jennifer Pedemonte, Yesinia Cruz, Mayra Romero

## Police Explorers Take Trip to Washington, DC

Six members of the Pasco Police Explorers visited Washington, D.C., during National Police Week.

The group, ages 16 to 20 years old, toured the U.S. Capitol, FBI, and Pentagon as well as attended the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

This is the first time a group from the Pasco Police Explorers has traveled across the country. The trip was paid for by a scholarship from the Fraternal Order of Police. Pasco Police Officer Zach Fairley, lead advisor of the group, accompanied the Explorers on the trip.

The Police Explorers' group is designed for young people interested in careers in law enforcement and is under the direction of the Pasco Police Department.

## State Awards City "Gold Achievement" for Water Quality



The Washington State Department of Health recently awarded the City of Pasco the prestigious "Gold Certificate of Achievement" for meeting 10 years of stringent water quality standards.

The Department of Health - Office of Drinking Water's "Treatment Optimization Program" (TOP) is an effort to improve the performance of water systems. The purpose of this voluntary program is to maximize public health protection provided by water systems such as Pasco's.

Participants in the program commit themselves to work toward meeting standards for particle removal and disinfection that are more strict than current requirements.

According to Denise Clifford, Director of the Office of Drinking Water, "Achieving consistent high drinking water quality like this is the mark of a highly dedicated and skilled water department staff."

To receive this award a plant must also meet other rigorous criteria related to public health protection. The City of Pasco's water system is one of only four systems in the entire state, and the only one in eastern Washington, to receive the Gold Certificate of Achievement out of the 64 eligible to participate in TOP.

### *Holiday Observance:*

*City Hall will be closed: Monday, September 5, 2011 In observance of Labor Day*

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

## Tri-Cities Regional Public Facilities District Moving Forward

The Tri-Cities Regional Public Facilities District, a cooperative effort of Pasco, Richland and Kennewick, continues its work to identify potential regional projects to present to voters. The nine-member board has narrowed the list of potential projects to four:

- Building a regional aquatics center.
- Building a regional performing arts center.
- Expanding the Three Rivers Convention Center with a new exhibit hall.
- Provide partial funding for the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center.

The board is also reviewing results from a community survey of Tri-City citizens. The survey, which was sent to 3,000 random households in May, asked voters to respond to questions regarding preference, operation and financing of the four projects.

The board will evaluate each of the projects based upon criteria including benefit to the region, what projects serve a public need, what projects the community is likely to support as well as legal and financial issues.

More than one project may be presented to voters for support, with a projected timeline of 2012 or later.

The Tri-Cities Regional Public Facilities District is a vehicle for the three cities to jointly cooperate on the identification, planning, funding and operation of regional centers, which may be too large or costly for a single city to undertake, but which would serve the region as a whole. To be constructed, any regional center project would require approval of the majority of voters within the three-city district. The vote would also authorize an increase in the local sales tax rate of up to .2 percent (20 cents on a \$100 purchase) to pay for the project(s).