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City Approves New Library Agreement

New services in west Pasco, continued access to the Mid-Columbia Library system, and a revised, more affordable base fee are all a part of the new agreement between Pasco and the Mid-Columbia Library approved by the City Council in June.

Contract negotiations between the two organizations began as the end of the current contract was drawing near.

The city recognized that the rapid increase in its assessed valuation, driven by significant construction growth over the last decade, escalated its annual fee for library services from \$455,000 in 2000 to \$1.2 million in 2009, while services remained relatively static.

A 2008 report suggested it would be possible for the city to provide its own library services for approximately \$1 million annually, but the service would be without the benefit of the Mid-Columbia collection.

The new 10-year agreement, which begins January 1, 2011, sets the city's fee for 2011 at \$1.1 million. Future fees will be limited by changes in the library district's annual tax levy, which averaged under four percent increase per year since 2000, compared to

the previous agreement which (driven by the city's assessed value growth) averaged over 10 percent per year increase in the same timeframe.



New Branch. In addition to a change in the fee structure, Mid-Columbia Library also agreed to open and operate, by 2013, a new branch facility in west Pasco.

Most likely the new branch will be in a storefront utilizing between 3,000 to 5,000 square feet. This reflects a trend in library branch facilities – smaller collections of books onsite (but with the availability of books from the main library), with more electronic and computer access and self-service check out.

The city appreciates the library district's willingness during the contract negotiations to lower and limit its fees, expand services to the growing west Pasco area while continuing to provide Pasco residents access to the quality services provided by the library district.

Proud to be your home!

Introducing New Council Member Saul Martinez

In May, Saul Martinez was appointed to the Pasco City Council to fill the district #4 council seat left vacant by the resignation of former Mayor Joyce Olson.



Councilman Martinez was one of seven candidates for the position. Before joining the Council, he served as president of the Pasco School Board, a position he has since relinquished. He works as an environmental compliance officer for Mission Support Alliance at Hanford.

Councilman Martinez's appointment continues until December 31, 2011.

Calling All Seniors! 17th All-Senior Picnic

September 23, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Don't miss this annual event. Activities include food, live entertainment, prizes, booths and much more. All in the climate-controlled TRAC.

Tickets are now on sale for just \$5. Pre-registration and payment can be made at the Pasco Senior Center, Kennewick Senior Center or the Richland Community Center. Please register by September 17, 2010.

For more information, call the Pasco Senior Center at 545-3459.



Keeping Pasco Up to Code

All Pasco resident property owners and businesses are encouraged to maintain their property and structures in good condition at all times.

To help inform Pasco residents and businesses about specific codes and requirements (plus other useful information), the city has published Good Neighbor Handbooks for both residential and commercial properties. These are available online at the city's website (www.Pasco-Wa.gov) and hard copies can be obtained from the Inspection Services Division, on the second floor of City Hall.

If residents observe conditions in their neighborhoods or adjacent properties that may be in violation of property maintenance or nuisance codes, please call 543-5743 and ask to speak to any code enforcement officer.



New Pasco Water Treatment Plant

The new Water Treatment Plant, at the west end of Court Street, is an integral part of the city's comprehensive water plan. The new plant uses technology known as "pressure membrane filtration" which allows a smaller building and lowers construction costs. It is designed to produce 6 million gallons of high-quality drinking water daily, with the capability of expanding to 18 million gallons.

Along with the development of Pasco's separate irrigation system, water use conservation program, and leak detection program, the investment in the new treatment plant will ensure the delivery of enough safe, reliable drinking water to meet the present and future needs of our growing community.

Back to School Safety

In late August, children will be returning to school. Remember some simple safety tips to help keep our children safe.

Crosswalk Safety:

Drivers are required by law to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Drivers should never enter a crosswalk if there is a pedestrian crossing within it.

Pedestrians should always look both ways before crossing the street, even if they are crossing in a crosswalk.

Pedestrians should always cross the street only in a marked crosswalk (if one is available.)

School Zones:

The speed limit in a school zone is **20 mph**. Though many are, not all school zones are equipped with flashing lights. Pay close attention to street signs anytime you are around a school.

If you are unsure of whether the school zone is active, slow down!

Fines for speeding in a school zone are a minimum of \$189 and can be as high as \$550, or can even land you in jail.

Avoid in-car distractions, such as the use of cell phones (which is now illegal and subject to a \$124 infraction).

Please help us to make this school year an enjoyable and safe one!!!



Domestic Violence is Everybody's Business

***Every 9 seconds in the U.S. a woman is assaulted or beaten.** Domestic violence continues to be a threat in our community. It is a serious crime affecting people of all races, ages, income levels and religious beliefs. Domestic violence impacts the community in medical expenses, police and court costs, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity.

Domestic violence is wrong. It affects not only the direct victims, but their children and families as well. Working together, men and women can change attitudes and perceptions about domestic violence. *Office on Violence Against Women

5 Facts You Should Know

* One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

85% of domestic violence victims are women.

* Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk of injury from intimate partner violence.

* Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.

* Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.

Mark your calendars now to attend the Domestic Violence Services Vigil, on October 28 at John Dam Plaza in Richland, from 6:15 - 7 p.m. For more information, contact Kim Keltch, Domestic Violence Services Coordinator at (509) 544-3068 or keltchk@pasco-wa.gov.

Holiday Observance:

City Hall will be closed:

Monday, September 6, 2010
In observance of Labor Day

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