

# Moving Ahead to Keep You Moving

Lots of planning has taken place over the past couple of years to address some of the traffic safety and congestion concerns that have evolved with the growth over the past decade. Fortunately, the City has been able to obtain funding for several projects to occur this year and get ready for more projects next year.

Perhaps affecting the most people (and cars), several safety and congestion relief improvements will be installed on Road 68, north of the highway. About \$1 million will be used this summer to install channelization (curbing) on Road 68 and Burden Boulevard to reduce left-turn and driveway conflicts as well as signal improvements to move cars through the Burden Blvd intersection a bit faster. In order to get approval of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), a study will be conducted to evaluate the best way to provide two lanes turning onto I-182 westbound; this is a change the City has sought for several years, but state highway officials have refused thus far. To diffuse some of the congestion on Road 68 during peak times, the City will construct a new two-lane roadway on Powerline Road between Road 68 and Road 100 this year (some of the commuter traffic will be able to use the Road 100 interchange rather than Road 68).

A state grant of over \$600,000 will allow the City to upgrade the traffic signals and sidewalk ramps along Court Street (between 4th Avenue and Highway 395) so the disabled and other pedestrians can more safely use that corridor. Another \$175,000 state grant will upgrade several school crossings with newer flashing light systems, improving the safety of children in those areas. North 4th Avenue (between Court Street and I-182) is planned for a corridor enhancement



this year, including new driveways and pedestrian ramps as well as landscape; the project will improve both function and appearance of one of the primary entrance corridors into the City (recommended as a priority corridor improvement in the Corridor Enhancement Plan several years ago). And, more than \$1 million will be spent to overlay several streets to avoid long-term damage where cracks are beginning to worsen; an ounce of prevention will avoid several pounds of cure!

City engineers will prepare plans for widening Argent Road between 20th Avenue and Road 36, to include a possible traffic signal at Road 36. The \$2 million project will depend largely on financing by the primary beneficiaries (the airport and CBC) but is tentatively planned for construction in 2014. Planning for widening Oregon Avenue is underway, as WSDOT (it is a designated state route – SR397) has approved the concept of adding a two-way left turn lane. The changes will make access to properties much safer and will encourage better utilization of adjacent lands for commerce, thus improving the community's tax base. The first phase, costing about \$2 million, is expected to be underway next spring.

Visit our website at: [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov)

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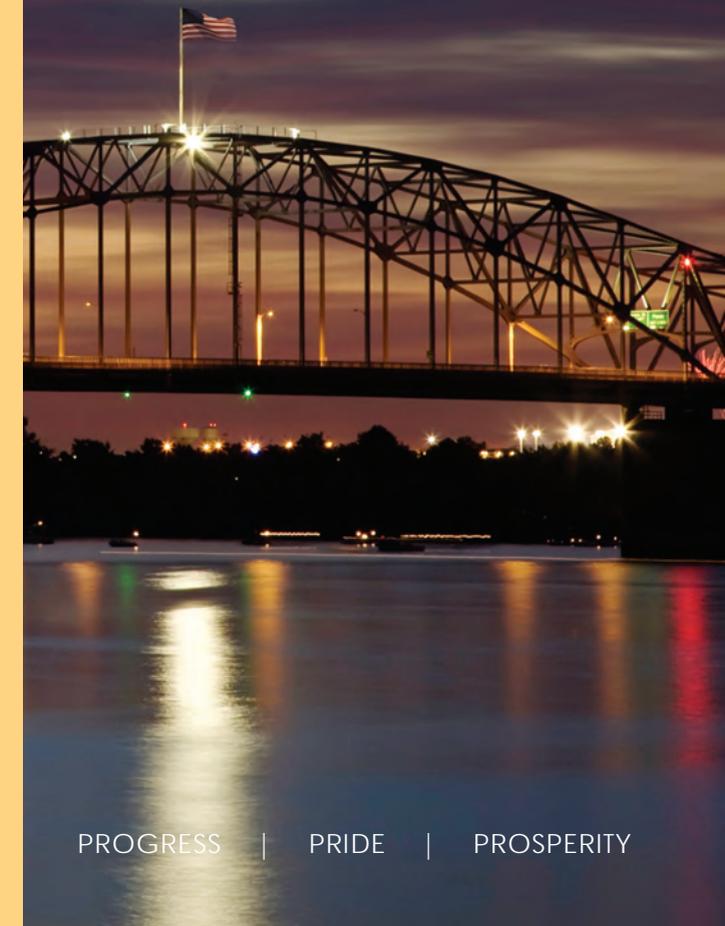
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The Pasco City Council meets every Monday at 7pm (except for 5th Mondays) at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Ave. Watch the Council meetings LIVE on PSC-TV Channel 12 on Charter Cable, or on the web at [www.pasco-wa.gov/video](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/video).



PROGRESS | PRIDE | PROSPERITY

## Pasco Police Street Crimes Unit has early SUCCESS



The Pasco Police Street Crimes Unit

(SCU), formed late in 2012 and out in the community in 2013, has already produced significant results. The unit, consisting of one sergeant and 3 officers, was authorized by the Pasco City Council after voter approval of the public safety sales tax in late 2011.

In the unit's first 2 months of operation, 63 people were arrested (about 1 per day).

The results:

- 39 documented gang members were arrested
- 30 new criminal charges were filed
- 80 outstanding warrants were cleared

In addition to the arrests over the past 2 months:

- 5 search warrants were served
- 51 field contacts were completed on other gang members
- 8 gang members were referred to the courts for probation violations

An example of the effect the SCU can have on neighborhood safety: A particular block in Pasco, on average, had a police call every 5 days since 2006. Since the SCU made several arrests in early 2013 at just one house in this block, there were no dispatched calls for police service in the following eight weeks.

The Street Crimes Unit (and the public safety sales tax that pays for it) will continue to help make Pasco a great and safer place to live, work, learn and play.

## CAFR: Not just "government speak"

CAFR is not a random set of letters, rather, CAFR stands for Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and is the City's official report of the financial condition and activities as of the end of each calendar year. At the end of 2012, the City had \$369 million in assets and \$114 million in expenses in 51 separate accounting funds. The format, content and the accounting rules the CAFR follows are prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). By state law, the City is only required to prepare Basic Financial Statements each year, but has voluntarily elected to prepare the CAFR, which is a more in-depth, comprehensive report.



The report is reviewed by two independent organizations to insure accuracy and reliability. First, the Office of the State Auditor performs audit tests and expresses an opinion on the report. This audit is required by state law. The City also voluntarily submits the report to the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This national association has created a CAFR award program to encourage a higher standard of financial reporting by governments. GFOA has awarded the City's CAFR the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" for each of the last two years. The CAFR, usually published by July each year, is available online at the City's website, [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov). For more information, contact the City's Finance Manager at (509) 544-3065.

### HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

City Offices will be closed:

Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day

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

## Make Today a Special Pet's "Forever Day"

So many stray pets in our region need a loving home. Will you be willing to be a "forever" home for that lost and lonely dog or cat? The Tri-Cities Animal Shelter (18th Avenue in Pasco) has lots of great animals in need of your care and concern. Pet adoption includes spaying/neutering, microchip, a free health exam from a local veterinarian, 30 day pet insurance and the first shots.



In addition, the Foster Program allows volunteers to take animals home temporarily to give them the love, attention and special care they need until a forever home can be found. Volunteers are needed for:

- **Pregnant Cats & Dogs:** They need a safe and comfortable place to have their litters of kittens or puppies.
- **Young Puppies & Kittens:** The shelter often has very young animals that need special attention: bottle feeding, wet canned food, or medication. Some are just too young and need a place to live until they are older.
- **Sick or Injured Animals:** There is a need for a place for animals to stay after a surgery (such as a spay or neuter). They need a

comfortable, quiet home with someone who can look after their needs. Some animals may have an illness that requires special medication or a stress free environment where they can rehabilitate.

- **Extra Socialization:** There are some animals in the shelter that are not very social due to past events and would thrive in a home environment. This may include animals that are timid, scared or have not been around people very much. This will help them to be a great pet for someone!

For more information, visit the Shelter's website at [www.tri-citiesanimalshelter.com](http://www.tri-citiesanimalshelter.com) or call 545-3740.

## 2013 City Council Elections



City Council elections will be held in 2013. One at-large seat, plus seats

for districts 2,3, and 4 will be up for election. The City Council recently made adjustments to the council district boundaries to reflect growth

in the City over the last two years. The 2013 council district map can be viewed at [www.pasco-wa.gov/CouncilMap](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/CouncilMap).

Candidates must file for City offices between May 13-17 with the Franklin County Auditor's Office ([www.co.franklin.wa.us/auditor](http://www.co.franklin.wa.us/auditor), 545-3502).