

City of Walla Walla Receives WellCity Award

The City of Walla Walla has earned the 2016 Association of Washington Cities WellCity Award. By earning a WellCity Award, the City gets a 2-percent discount on health care premiums, resulting in a total savings of about \$96,000 on health insurance premiums for the City and its employees.



Employee participation in activities and programs that promote good health make this award, and its accompanying cost savings, possible. This will be the third year in a row that the City has earned the award.

Free Tire Recycling Offered

Walla Walla County residents can drop off tires for recycling from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 21-22 at Walla Walla County's gravel lot on Tausick Way, across from the Sports Complex.

- Proof of residency and ID required.
- No tires from business or retail.
- Limit of 10 tires per residence.
- Tires on rims will not be accepted.
- Motorcycle, passenger car, light truck sizes only.
- Tires larger than 36 inches will not be accepted.



Dispatchers track a dizzying amount of information.

Dispatchers Help Citizens During Some of the Worst Moments of Their Lives

Dispatchers deal with citizens' once-in-a-lifetime emergencies on a daily basis. The stress levels for Dispatchers are incredibly high, because even a minor error can potentially have severe or deadly consequences.

In Walla Walla County, 911 calls are handled by 12 Dispatchers and three supervisors in Walla Walla Emergency Services Communications (WESCOM). They have guided callers through every kind of situation, from delivering a baby to conducting life-saving CPR. In 2015, they handled about 6,000 medical calls and about 200,000 calls for law enforcement, fires, and inquiries.

If you have relied on a Dispatcher to help you during an emergency, please take a few moments to share a note of thanks by sending an email to WESCOM Manager Steve Ruley at sruley@wallawalla.gov.



City workers fixed this leak on Middle Waitsburg Road, which was losing an estimated 200 gallons per minute.

City Saves 148 Million Gallons of Water in 2015

The City of Walla Walla achieved a 4-percent reduction in water loss in 2015, thanks in large part to the efforts of Public Works' Water Distribution and Engineering Divisions. Leaks are the No. 1 source of water loss.

A 4-percent reduction may not seem like much, but it equates to 148 million gallons of water. That's enough water to provide water to all of the homes in Dayton and Waitsburg for one year.

Overall, the City has seen a 9.5-percent reduction in water loss since the start of the Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Program in 2010. Since then, the IRRP program has replaced 5.1 miles of the city's leakiest pipes.



If you see barriers like these do not move them. They are there for your safety.

Areas of Downtown Lots Blocked Off for Safety

Engineering consultants inspected areas where Mill Creek flows under downtown. They found three areas where the support structures were in poor condition.

The City is responsible for two of the three areas. The first area is in the public parking lot south of Rose Street, across from the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Convention Center. The second area is east of Second Avenue, behind the Trust Cellars tasting rooms. Vehicles are not allowed in these areas.

The third area is on a private parking lot behind the Gardner Building at the corner of Third Avenue and Rose Street. The City recommends that only passenger vehicles park here.

The support structures in the areas across from the Marcus Whitman could be from the 1920s. The support structure in the area near Trust Cellars could date back to the late 1800s.

Fire Inspectors Will Be Conducting Annual Fire and Life Safety Inspections

Fire Inspector Jason Strang and Fire Inspector Tim Thompson of the Walla Walla Fire Department are conducting more than 1,700 annual fire and life safety inspections for businesses and for residences with three or more living units.

The goal of the Inspectors is to reduce the chance of fires and to increase safety for business owners, property owners, the public, and our firefighters.

There is no charge for the service. Inspectors identify fire and life safety issues and assist business and property owners with plans and timeframes to resolve those issues.

In order to meet the Fire Department's annual inspections goal, on-duty engine crews will perform a portion of the inspections.



**FIRE INSPECTOR
JASON STRANG**



**FIRE INSPECTOR
TIM THOMPSON**



Sign Up to Receive Emergency Alerts

Walla Walla County Emergency Management has a system that is able to alert residents about severe weather, fire, floods, hazardous materials, radiological events and other emergencies.



Messages can be sent to cell phones, home phones, email addresses, pagers and other devices. On the Internet, please go to <http://bit.ly/wwalerts> to register cell phones, email addresses and other devices at the Walla Walla County Emergency Management website. Citizens who need assistance with registration may contact Walla Walla County Emergency Management by email at emd@co.walla-walla.wa.us or by telephone at **524-2900**.

Public alerts and notifications are essential tools to help save lives and protect property during times of local emergencies and critical events.