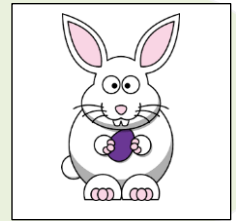




# Walla Walla County Community Development Department

[www.co.walla-walla.wa.us](http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us)



## From the Director's Desk by Tom Glover, AICP

Spring has sprung! We are now in the second quarter of 2017, and continuing some exciting projects.

**Voluntary Stewardship Program: 2016 – 2017:** The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) for Walla Walla County started spring 2016. The VSP is an alternative to the Growth Management Act (GMA) regulation of agricultural activities. The Walla Walla County Community Development Department and the Walla Walla County Conservation District are working together with our agriculture sector to develop a “work plan” in response to the requirement by the GMA that agricultural activities in critical environmental areas be satisfactorily managed. Walla Walla County received a grant not to exceed \$270,000 from the State of Washington to develop the plan. The work plan document must be in compliance with RCW 36.70A.700 and show how critical areas will be protected, and how agricultural viability will be maintained. The VSP work group aims to have a working draft available for public comment by summer 2017.

**Wallula Gap Business Park: 2016 – 2017:** Walla Walla County received a grant from the State Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Grant Program in the amount of \$100,000 to assist the Port of Walla Walla in conducting an industrial wastewater assessment and environmental analysis of the Wallula Gap Business Park. The 1,400-acre site is located east of Highway 12, near the Boise Cascade paper mill. The purpose of the assessment is to identify permitting and infrastructure requirements for developing the site to accommodate future light and heavy industrial projects.

**Blue Mountain Region Trails Project: 2016 – 2017:** The National Park Service awarded this region with a grant in the form of technical expertise and support for the development of a regionwide non-motorized trail and transportation plan. The cities of College Place, Dayton, Milton-Freewater, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla, joined forces with the counties of Columbia, Umatilla, and Walla Walla, the county health departments, the Partnership for Greater Burbank, the ports of Columbia and Walla Walla, as well as the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Community Council to develop a Blue Mountain Region trails plan that will span all local jurisdictions, and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. The information collected from residents at a series of public workshops is being summarized in preparation for additional public meetings to be held in May. Watch for notice of meetings for your community!

**2017 Amendments:** In response to our annual call for comprehensive plan and development regulations we have received two applications. The first, submitted by Roberta Cavalli, is a request to change the land use designation on 18.3 acres owned by the applicant, from Agriculture Residential to Rural Residential, and the corresponding zoning from AR-10 to RR-5. The property is located west of Walla Walla at the intersection of Wallula Avenue and McKinney Road.

The second application, submitted by Brent Knowles, is a request to amend the County’s code, Chapter 17.31, Development Standards – Cluster Developments on Resource Lands. The amendments propose to increase the allowed average lot size of cluster lots; allow the creation of 20-acre lots in the AR-10 zone; and review the code as it pertains to density transfers.

Find us on the web at: [www.co.walla-walla.wa.us](http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

From the Directors Desk	1	Crafty Ideas	2
Spring Road Report	2	Building Safety Month	3
Partner Spotlight	4	Tire Events	4

## Crafty Tire Recycling Ideas



If you are not crafty enough to make these, then please come to our FREE TIRE RECYCLING EVENT – [Details on Page 4](#)

## Ron's Spring Road Report by Ron Bull

I have noticed a new animal littering our county roads. At first, it was difficult to identify. Feathers of varying colors, with various bird parts, sticking out at weird angles. After closer examination, I recognized the domesticated chicken, mostly roosters. Why the sudden influx of dead chickens on the road? After talking to several (micro) chicken farmers, I have developed a hypothesis for the phenomenon.

There is a growing trend to build an elaborate chicken house, and order a bunch of little, cute, cuddly chicks. The idea is to have fresh eggs, with the obvious advantage of knowing what the chickens eat, to create wonderful organic food. The problem is, that most chicks are not sexed before shipping. By the law of averages, half could be roosters. My daughter is one such poultry farmer. My grandchildren have named all the chickens, and have treated them like pets.

Here lies the problem, no matter what variety: Araconas, Rhode Island Reds, Cochens, Brahmens, Buff Orpingtons, etc. Chickens are not bred for brains. Like the rooster from Moana, they pretty much live life looking for food and each other. The chicken invented the blank stare. My daughter's favorite, and smartest chicken, is Stella. Stella knows to run out to meet my daughter when she goes out to feed the flock. As will happen, as they grew older, half the chickens start picking (literally) on the other half. This is called "Rooster Surplus". What do you do when Elda, Nina, Lauren, and Felicia, turn out to be Todd, Spike, Tom, and Sam? The result is many bachelor roosters running around looking for unattached hens. Being an ex-farmer, I had a solution.

Add Hens. In the absence of *hens*, ducks, geese and wild turkeys will confuse these male birds, and cause road carnage. My solution was first met with resistance, and some degree of severe criticism. So, remember, if you see a rooster, slow to a stop, because there is no telling which direction he will run to, when a car approaches.



## Building Safety Month by Todd Blevins

### MAY IS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

For the last 37 years, the 57,000 worldwide members of the International Code Council (ICC) have celebrated advances in constructing safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient buildings and homes. The ongoing support of Building Safety Month, and the important role that code officials play in public safety in the built environment, comes from the President of the United States, governors, mayors, county executives and other government officials and construction industry professionals. The Building Safety Month campaign helps to improve public safety by increasing awareness about how building codes and code officials improve and protect the places where we live, learn, work, worship and play. The first topic of the month is *Mentoring the Next Generation of Code Professionals*.

### MEETING THE NEED FOR TRAINED BUILDING PROFESSIONALS

The Construction industry is experiencing a mass retirement of skilled professionals. One study indicates that over the next 15 years the industry will experience a loss of 80 percent of the existing skilled workforce. Employers are seeking qualified building trades professionals to fill the positions of retiring employees and will be vying to hire the best of the best to reinforce their decreasing workforce. Trained professionals are needed in the building industry to prevent a major job shortage in the future.

In addition to learning about construction, engineering and architecture, the work force needs to become knowledgeable about the building codes to ensure the very best, resilient buildings. ICC and industry partners are providing training and mentoring about the latest design, technology and innovations in the high schools, colleges and in career training programs.

Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO) has started an education program to help facilitate this training with an online college course specifically tailored for the code official. WABO also provides education as the new codes are developed every three years. These changes are enforced, interpreted and taught to our partners in the community by the code official. This training helps your code official create a safe building environment.

---

310 W Poplar St Suite 200  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Main Line 509-524-2610  
[commdev@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:commdev@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Inspection Request Line 509-524-2611

Residential Burn Decision Line 509-524-2612

Permit/Document Submittals  
[permits@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:permits@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Thomas E. Glover, AICP, Director  
509-524-2621  
[tglover@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:tglover@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Lauri Withers, Permit Technician  
509-524-2614  
[lwithers@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:lwithers@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Felicia Gorze, Administrative Assistant  
509-524-2619  
[fgorze@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:fgorze@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Lauren Prentice, Principal Planner  
509-524-2620  
[lprentice@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:lprentice@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Blake Nass, Assistant Planner  
509-524- 2618  
[bnass@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:bnass@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Todd Blevins, Building Official  
509-524-2617  
[tblevins@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:tblevins@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Ron Bull, Building Inspector I  
509-524-2615  
[rbull@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:rbull@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Nina Baston, Code Compliance/  
Burn Control Officer  
509-524-2616  
[nbaston@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:nbaston@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

Inspection Hours 7AM – 4 PM  
Office Hours: 8AM – 5PM  
(Closed for lunch from noon – 1pm)

NO PAYMENTS ACCEPTED AFTER 4 PM

---



## Spotlight on our Partners – DOE Waste to Resources Program & TDR

Each year we apply for grant monies through the Department of Ecology’s (DOE) Waste 2 Resources Program (W2R) for funding of Tire Recycling Amnesty Events. We work with Tire Disposal and Recycling (TDR) out of Portland, Oregon to have free tire recycling days. Tire recycle amnesty events promote responsible disposal in our local community. Many residents don’t know what to do with their used tires and are likely to stockpile them or just leave them lying around. This is potentially hazardous to humans, wildlife and the environment. Organizing regular amnesty programs encourages the community to properly deal with their waste tires that seem to accumulate in the garage or backyard over the years. When people know where to bring their spare tires, they are less likely to let them sit around, collect water, and perhaps create mosquito breeding grounds. Since 2011, we have recycled approximately 36,000 tires through these tire amnesty events. Thank You, DOE and TDR for support of Walla Walla County residents!

## FREE Tire Recycling Events Coming Soon

Saturday and Sunday  
MAY 13 and 14, 2017

9 am until 5 pm on Saturday, the 13th  
and 9 am until the trucks fill (or 3 pm)  
on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Walla Walla County’s Gravel Lot on Tausick Way in  
Walla Walla (Across from the Sports Complex)

- Open to Walla Walla County Residents **ONLY** -  
must show proof of residency and ID –  
no business or retail accepted
- Limit of 10 tires per residence – tires on rims will  
NOT be accepted
- Motorcycle, passenger car, light truck sizes only –  
tires larger than 36” will NOT be accepted

**Volunteers needed. Please call Nina @ 524-2616**