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Emailed Agendas, City News, and more!

Wouldn't it be nice if you could get an email that would let you know what the City Council will be talking about at their next meeting? Or an emailed "heads up" with news and announcements from the City of Spokane Valley? Now you can!

Just go to our website at www.spokanevalley.org and select the "[Emailed Updates](#)" link to select from a variety of options for getting information from the City via an email sent directly to your inbox.

Choose from Council Agendas, copies of City News-Media Releases, Traffic Alerts, SnowInfo updates and more. Sign up for just one, or as many as you like.

If your email inbox is already too full, you can also opt to subscribe to RSS Feed updates that you can access from your web browser whenever it's convenient for you. Just select the [RSS feed](#) option instead, and choose from a wide variety of offerings.

If you know someone who is interested in staying informed and involved in City issues, be sure to let them know so they can stay up-to-date, too.

QuickFact

At about \$1.52 per thousand dollars of valuation, Spokane Valley's city property tax rate is the second lowest of all cities in Spokane County.



A plow working during a snowstorm last December helped keep traffic moving.

How to Know When & Where the Plows Will Go

We were just barely into Fall when the City of Spokane Valley started thinking a lot about snow. Why? Because we know you count on us to keep critical Spokane Valley roadways cleared of snow and ice so you and your family can get where you need to go.

So how do you know when and where the plows and deicers will go? In Spokane Valley, [snow plowing and deicing are prioritized](#), with highly traveled roadways and potentially slippery hillsides taking top priorities. Less traveled residential streets on the valley floor are addressed based on conditions and impact on traffic movement.

Deicing activities begin whenever snow, ice or frost are predicted. Liquid deicer is applied first on bridges, arterial intersections, and hillsides. If a limited amount of snow has started to accu-

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What to do when "There's nothing to do!"

It happens every year. The days become shorter, the temperatures drop and "There's nothing to do!" Before you know it, you have a serious case of cabin fever. Thankfully, the Spokane Valley Parks and Recreation Department has the cure: A good dose of the [Fall and Winter Recreation Guide](#), your resource for all the fun and interesting activities that Parks and Recreation, CenterPlace and the Valley Senior Center have to offer.

One of the best ways to cure the winter doldrums is to try something new. Adults can check out a dance lesson in saucy dance styles like Swing or Latin. For parents with preschoolers, the SoccerTots® and Lil Sluggers® child physical development programs are great ways to involve children in sports and physical activity. Parents can also introduce their 1 to 3 year olds to the world of rhythm and beat at Tune Tales Music where children can explore music through hands-on activities.

The [Spokane Valley Senior Center](#) always has fun activities to enjoy, too. Spend time exercising, making friends and learning something new at Tai Chi, a ceramics class or a game of Texas Hold 'Em.

You could also start the holidays on a high note by having Breakfast with Santa. Bring your family and friends on Saturday, December 3 and enjoy breakfast, crafts and plenty of reindeer games before a face-to-face meeting with the man himself: Santa Claus.

The new Health and Wellness section in the Recreation Guide is a feel good chapter that will motivate you to feel your best. Sign up

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Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S. (Citizen Action Request online Entry System)

Last winter, the City of Spokane Valley quietly launched its new online system that lets community members submit Citizen Action Requests for plowing, potholes, information, and more. Now we've had the chance to watch it in action and see how well it's working, we're ready for a full-scale launch.

The system is known as [Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S.](#), which stands for [Citizen Action Request online Entry System](#). It offers you the ability to report problems online any time of day or night that is convenient for you.

You can also request an emailed confirmation and see

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Leading the Pledge of Allegiance

Before each meeting of the Spokane Valley City Council, Councilmembers, staff, and audience members recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tom Towey welcomes scout troops, veterans organizations and other groups who are interested in leading the Pledge at these meetings.

To reserve a date for your group, contact City Clerk Chris Bainbridge at 720-5102 or cbainbridge@spokanevalley.org. Please be sure to contact us no later than the close of business on the Friday before the meeting at which you want to lead the Pledge.

Council meetings are held on Tuesdays at 6:00pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 11707 E. Sprague Avenue, Suite 101.

SnowInfo—720-5311

Stay “in the know” whenever snow removal and de-icing operations are under way with Spokane Valley’s SnowInfo updates.

These are the same alerts provided to local media that thousands rely on to know when and where City of Spokane Valley snow plows and de-icing equipment will be working during wintry weather. And you can access that information whenever it’s convenient for you.

To hear recorded SnowInfo Updates, just call 720-5311 any time of day or night for the latest information on snow removal operations in Spokane Valley.

Or, sign up to receive

emailed SnowInfo Updates sent directly to your email In Box. Go to our website at www.spokanevalley.org and select the “Emailed Updates” link in the lower left corner of the home page. While you’re there, you can also select from a variety of other city-related emailed updates that are available.

If you prefer get snow plowing and de-icing information via RSS Feed, we offer those, too. You’ll find the RSS subscribe link next to the link for Emailed Updates on the home page of our website.

So, no matter how you choose to get SnowInfo updates, you’ll be “in the know,” when it comes to snow.

Snow & Ice Clearing Tips

The first snow of the year is an exciting event. The world looks pristine, the kids are excited and it finally feels like winter. Unfortunately, it doesn’t take long to realize that the snow covering sidewalks and driveways presents a slippery hazard.

As in many northwest communities, property owners in Spokane Valley are responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within a reasonable amount of time. Keeping sidewalks clear reduces the risk of injury and makes it easier for children, those with mobility concerns, and other pedestrians to use the sidewalk.

Below are a few helpful hints for making the task a little easier.

- Have snow shoveling/deicing equipment and supplies ready before it snows so you’re ready to go.
- If your budget allows, consider investing in a snow blower. A single-stage blower is easy to maneuver and can clear a sidewalk in

as little as two passes.

- Spread a layer of sand or deicer before it snows to help prevent ice from sticking later. Magnesium chloride is a great deicer that won’t damage concrete or plants. Or, try spreading alfalfa meal on steps and high traffic areas for extra traction. Bonus: The alfalfa meal fertilizes your yard in the spring.
- Be proactive. Shovel early and shovel often so it stays manageable.
- Spray shovels with cooking oil to prevent snow from sticking to the blade.
- Use an ice chipper for stubborn patches of ice.
- Move snow to an out of the way spot on your property and away from the street where it can cause traffic problems.
- Share the load! Ask a friend or neighbor for help or offer them your help.
- And remember: A cup of hot cocoa is a great way to say “Thanks for shoveling,” even if it’s for yourself!

Snow Shoveling Safety

- * Dress in layers that you can remove or add as needed.
- * Wear warm gloves with a good grip.
- * Winter boots with good tread or cleats will keep your feet cozy and help you avoid slipping.
- * Warm up and stretch before shoveling to avoid muscle strain.
- * Push your snow shovel instead of lifting, and use your legs to avoid straining your back.
- * Drink plenty of water—you can get dehydrated, even in cold weather.
- * Apply sunscreen. Even if it is overcast, the sun can take a toll.
- * **And don’t forget your pets**—clean their paws following time spent outdoors. Chemical deicers can be harmful to animals.

Spokane Valley Rotary Club & The City of Spokane Valley Presents.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 3 9am-11am

\$4 per person

DON'T WAIT IN LINE! Go to www.spokanevalley.org and pre-register for the breakfast! Through the Spokane Valley Parks and Recreation home page go to the online registration link. You may also still pay at the door the day of the event.

At CenterPlace Regional Event Center
2426 N. Discovery Pl. ~ Spokane Valley, WA ~ 509.688.0300

Snow FAQs

Answers to frequently asked questions about snow removal and deicing in Spokane Valley

When will my street get plowed? Please see “How to Know...” on page 1 and the Snow Plowing & Deicing Priority map at right.

There’s a lot of snow on my street/it’s snowed more than once; why hasn’t my street been plowed? If it has been determined that traffic flow is substantially inhibited on residential roadways and citywide snow plowing has been initiated, there are a couple of common reasons why you might not have seen plows along your residential street yet. It typically takes about two days to completely plow the City. If snow continues to fall, plows may be diverted temporarily to re-plow arterials, hillsides, and problem areas, and then will usually return to residential areas. Plowing may also be suspended if the forecast predicts weather that will be warm enough to melt the accumulated snow within a short period. If you believe your street may have been inadvertently missed, please let us know via Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S. (see page 1) or call us at 921-1000 so we can check into it for you.

Why can’t the driver lift the plow blade so there isn’t a berm left in front of my driveway or mailbox? Because lifting blades at each of the thousands of driveways in Spokane Valley would significantly delay completion of snow plowing and place additional financial burden on taxpayers, this practice has not been adopted.

Why are there two plows side-by-side on the same street? On main arterials, two or more trucks may plow adjacent lanes at the same time so these critical roadways can be cleared more quickly and they can move on to other priority areas.

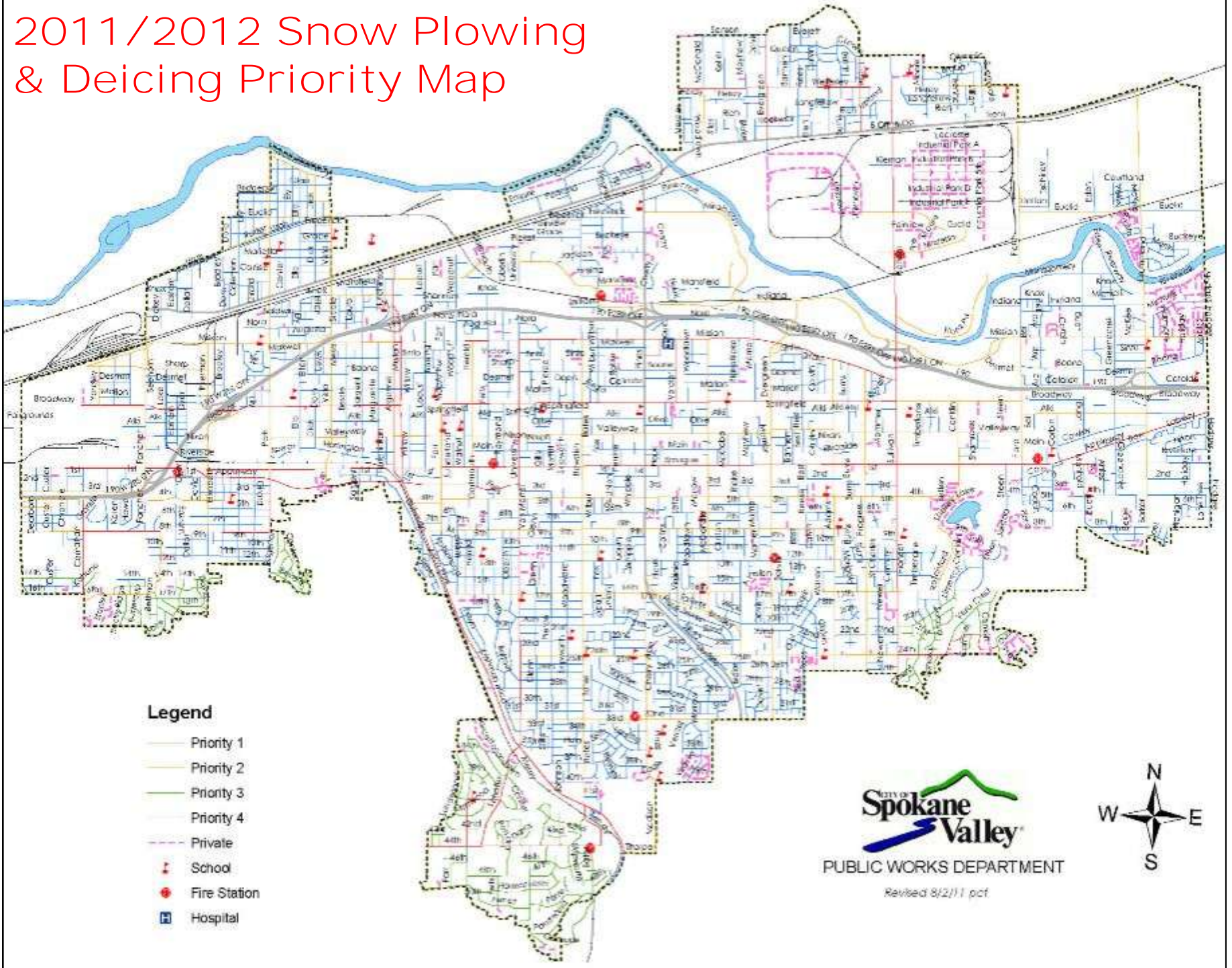
I see plows go by with their blades up. Why aren’t they plowing? Typically when you see plows driving with their blades up, they are moving from one high priority area to another. Trucks that also have sanding/deicing units may be applying sand or deicer.

I don’t see my street on the plowing and deicing map—why? If you live in a newly developed area, your street may not yet show on our map. If that’s the case, please don’t hesitate to contact us using Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S. (see page 1) or call us at 921-1000 and let us know. Streets in privately owned Planned Unit Developments (PUD) are maintained by the homeowners’ association or according to covenants that apply in those areas.

Should I clear the snow and ice from the storm drain in front of my house? For your safety, please do not clear snow and ice from the storm drain. If snowmelt is causing flooding at the storm drain, please go to our website and let us know through Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S. (see article on page 1) or call us at 921-1000 so maintenance crews can address the problem.

There’s a busy intersection (or hillside) in my neighborhood and drivers are unable to stop. We work closely with the Spokane Valley Police Department to address problem areas, but if you see that a situation has changed or gotten worse and is posing a real danger, please call 9-1-1.

2011/2012 Snow Plowing & Deicing Priority Map



...when and where the plows will go

(Continued from page 1)

mulate in these areas, solid granular deicer may be used instead. If needed, granular deicer may also be used on arterials.

Typically, deicer is not applied to residential streets except at controlled intersections and at selected problem areas.

The street priorities for snow plowing are the same as

those for deicing, with more highly traveled primary and secondary arterials taking top priority.

Hillside roadways, whether arterials or residential, come next in priority, due to the increased potential for sliding vehicles.

Residential roadways will be considered for plowing when traffic flow is substantially inhibited.

We also work closely with the Spokane Valley Police Department so problem areas get addressed as needed.

The 2011/2012 Snow Plowing & Deicing Priority Map above can help you determine which roadways are assigned each of the different priorities. Knowing which roadways are top priority can also help you plan ahead for easier/safer driving during snowy and icy weather.

Our community members are great resources for letting us know about problem areas, so we've made it easier for them to contact us.

Using our new [Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S.](#) (Citizen Action Request online Entry Sys-

tem—see story on page 1), you can ask questions and send us information about problem areas online.

Just go to our website any time of day or night at www.spokanevalley.org, select the "[Report a Problem](#)" link on the left side of our home page, and complete the "Snow Plow/Removal" request form.

Or, call the SnowInfo Line at 720-5311, (see *In the Know* on page 2) and leave us a message. Be sure to include a detailed description of the problem area and an email or phone number if you'd like to be contacted about your request.

So now you know when and where the plows will go.

Stay on top with Hot Topic!

Hot Topic is a community newsletter designed to keep you informed about City of Spokane Valley programs, projects and activities.

Inserted semi-annually into the Valley News Herald and the Spokesman Review's Valley Voice, copies are also available at City offices, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, Spokane Valley Library, Spokane Valley Partners, Spokane Valley Police Precinct and Spokane Valley Heritage Museum.

Hot Topic is also available for email delivery by going to our website at www.spokanevalley.org and selecting the "Emailed Updates" link at the lower left corner of the Home page or by calling 509-720-5411.

On behalf of the Spokane Valley City Council and the citizens of Spokane Valley, writing, editing and photography provided by:

- Carolbelle Branch, Public Information Officer
- Julia Zurcher, Public Information Intern

Produced under the direction of:

- Mike Jackson, City Manager with additional content contributed by Councilmembers and City staff.

Questions, comments and story ideas may be directed to Carolbelle Branch at 509-720-5411 or e-mailed to cbranch@spokanevalley.org.

When Do They Meet

Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 11707 E. Sprague Avenue, Suite 101.

Regular Council meetings, at which legislative action is usually taken and periods for open public comment are provided, are typically scheduled for the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of each month.

Council Study Sessions, where detailed information on projects, programs and issues is presented and discussed, are typically scheduled for the **first, third and fifth Tuesdays** of each month. Study Session do not usually include time for open public comment, but if legislative action items have been added to the agenda, then opportunity is included at the time each item is discussed by the Council.

Council agendas are available on our website at www.spokanevalley.org, or by calling 720-5102. They are generally available by the Friday preceding the upcoming Council meeting. Or, you can sign up to receive agenda information by email or RSS feed. Just go to our website at www.spokanevalley.org and select the "Emailed Updates" link or the "RSS Feeds" link.

Planning Commission: Second and fourth Thursdays, 6:00pm in Council Chambers, **11707 E. Sprague Ave., Suite 101**

Hearing Examiner: The Hearing Examiner's Public Hearings schedule is available on our website at www.spokanevalley.org or by calling 720-5301.

... nothing to do!"

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for the Group Exercise Sampler," offered in partnership with the YMCA, to try a variety of fitness courses. The electrifying ZUMBA® class or the challenging Pilates/Yoga courses are sure to keep you smiling all winter long.

Also offered are a variety of nutrition courses taught by Erin Kuh, a registered dietician. Her Smart Cart Grocery Store Tour will take you to a local grocery store where you'll learn how to shop for great tasting foods that are good for you and your budget.

In another of her classes, you'll learn about foods and healthy eating habits that can make you "Heart Healthy for Life."

The Art of Holiday Etiquette & Dining for Children course will help your 7 to 12 year-olds approach the holiday social season with confidence using tips for proper dress, grooming and table manners.

...Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S.

(Continued from page 1)

updates on the status of your requests, too.

Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S. is easy to use, too. Just go to www.spokanevalley.org and select the "Report a Problem" link from the menu on the left side of the Home page. Then, just follow the directions and complete the information requested.

Your request will be as-

And the ever-popular Babysitters Training for 11 to 15 year-olds is back to teach the skills that will make them sought-after caregivers.

The Guide is also packed with practical information, including instructions for reserving a park facility for an event, a list of park rules and regulations and a staff directory. Pick one up at CenterPlace Regional Event Center, City Hall or at the Millwood and Spokane Valley Public Libraries.

Register for these and other classes and events online at www.spokanevalley.org by selecting the Park/Pools/Rec link from the menu on the left side of the home page. You can also register in person at CenterPlace or by calling 688-0300.

Thanks to the fun and interesting activities in the Park and Recreation Department's Fall and Winter Recreation Guide, you can skip a bout of cabin fever and enjoy this winter, no matter how cold it gets.

signed a tracking number that you can use to check the status of your request. If you provide an email address, you can even request an emailed response.

So, the next time you have a pothole to report, stormwater concerns, or any type of city-related request or concern, you can easily send us details and request information because Spokane Valley C.A.R.E.S.

City of Spokane Valley Quick Reference Guide FACILITIES



City Hall
11707 E. Sprague Avenue, Suite 106
509-921-1000
cityhall@spokanevalley.org

Permit Center
11703 E. Sprague Avenue,
Suite B-3
509-720-5240



CenterPlace Regional Event Center
2426 N. Discovery Place
509-688-0300
(also home to Spokane Valley Parks & Recreation Dept. and Spokane Valley Senior Center)

Spokane Valley Police Precinct
12710 E. Sprague Avenue
Emergencies: Call 911
Crime Check: 509-456-2233
Business: 509-477-3300



CITY COUNCIL
509-921-1000

CityCouncil@spokanevalley.org

CITY MANAGER Mike Jackson
509-921-1000

mjackson@spokanevalley.org

CITY SERVICES

Information: 509-921-1000
cityhall@spokanevalley.org

Abandoned Vehicles—Call Crime Check	509-456-2233
Animal Control—SCRAPS	509-477-2532
Building Inspection	509-688-0054
Business Registration	509-921-1000
CenterPlace Regional Event Center	509-688-0300
City Clerk	509-720-5102
City Council	509-921-1000
Code Compliance/nuisances	509-720-5240
Crime Check	509-456-2233
Graffiti Reporting	509-456-2233
District Court/Traffic Tickets	509-477-3390
Finance	509-720-5044
Graffiti—call Crime Check	509-456-2233
Human Resources	509-720-5251
Parks & Recreation	509-688-0300
Permit Center	509-720-5240
Planning & Zoning	509-720-5310
Police—Emergency	9-1-1
Police—Non-emergency—Call Crime Check	509-456-2233
Police—Business	509-477-3300
Public Information Office	509-720-5411
Public Records Requests	509-720-5102
Senior Center	509-926-1937
Stormwater Hotline	509-688-0321
Street Maintenance	509-720-5110

Website: www.spokanevalley.org