COVID-19
Facing Unique New Challenges

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Latest Updates

PERMIT CENTER
Online Upgrades

SPOKANE VALLEY POLICE
Changing of the Guard
SVexpress is a service that is available on the city’s website or in a mobile app that allows citizens to report a concern to the City of Spokane Valley and request assistance.

Common issues that are reported include downed street signs, potholes, overgrown vegetation, plugged drains, illegal graffiti or dumping of trash.

When a concern is reported, SVexpress assigns the case to the appropriate city department for processing. The system allows city staff to communicate by email to the citizen that reported the concern after the issue has been corrected or resolved.

Citizens should not use SVexpress to report an emergency, but rather dial 911. For non-emergency crimes call Crime Check at 509.456.2233.

Through SVexpress, citizens can take an active role in ensuring their city streets, pathways and parks are clean and safe.

HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN

- Download the SVexpress mobile app from the Apple Store or Google Play to file a report on your mobile device.
- Go to spokanevalley.org/311 and file a report online.
- Call the city at 509.720.5000

Citizens can submit a request 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
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**FOLLOW THE CITY**

- facebook.com/CityofSpokaneValley/
- twitter.com/CityofSV
- instagram.com/cityspokanevalley/
- linkedin.com/company/cityofspokanevalley

[SpokaneValley.org](https://www.spokanevalley.org)
1. **ELLA ROAD SIDEWALK**  
   (COMPLETES GAP BETWEEN BROADWAY AVE. TO ALKI AVE.)  
   **Timeline:** Summer 2020  
   This project involves the installation of new curb, gutter and sidewalk on the west side of Ella Road and paving the east shoulder of Ella Road along with the completion of necessary stormwater improvements.  
   **Estimated cost:** $400,000

2. **SULLIVAN BRIDGE DECK**  
   **Timeline:** Fall 2020  
   This project will resurface the existing bridge deck on Sullivan Road northbound over the Union Pacific rail tracks.  
   **Estimated cost:** $338,000

3. **PINES ROAD & MISSION AVENUE INTERSECTION**  
   **Timeline:** Fall 2020 - Spring 2021  
   This project is designed to improve signal timing and add turn lanes to increase the capacity of the intersection.  
   **Estimated cost:** $600,000

4. **INDIANA AVENUE**  
   (EVERGREEN ROAD TO SULLIVAN ROAD)  
   **Timeline:** Spring - Summer 2020  
   This project resurfaces the road with curb ramps being updated to current ADA standards, stormwater facilities regraded and traffic signals upgraded. Traffic delays and road closures may occur.  
   **Estimated cost:** $2.4 million
ADAMS ROAD SIDEWALK (COMPLETES GAP BETWEEN 16TH AVE. & 22ND AVE.)
Timeline: Spring 2020
This project completes the gap between 16th and 22nd by installing new sidewalk, curb, gutter and completing stormwater improvements. Paving of the east shoulder will also occur. The street will be closed to through traffic during construction.
Estimated cost: $445,000

BARKER ROAD - SPOKANE RIVER TO EUCLID AVENUE
Timeline: Summer - Fall 2020
This project reconstructs Barker Road into a three-lane road from Euclid Avenue to the Spokane River.
Estimated cost: $4.5 million

CENTERPLACE REGIONAL EVENT CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT
Timeline: Summer - Fall 2020
This project replaces the existing roofing.
Estimated cost: $815,000

CENTERPLACE REGIONAL EVENT CENTER WEST LAWN IMPROVEMENTS
Timeline: Spring - Summer 2020
This project is in the final phase of development. The area west of CenterPlace is being developed to handle large-scale events, by creating a hardscaped plaza with a concert stage, dance area, space for vendors and food trucks, restrooms, a storage building and upgrading electrical and lighting.
Estimated cost: $2 million

NORTH SULLIVAN ITS
Timeline: Spring - Summer 2020
This project installs conduit, fiber optic lines and controls for the continuation of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) along Sullivan Road from I-90 to Trent Ave. (SR 290).
Estimated cost: $1 million

CONKLIN ROAD SIDEWALK
Timeline: Spring 2020
This project installs new sidewalk on the west side of South Conklin Road, repaves and installs accessible ramps at Riceland Lane. Conklin may be periodically reduced to one lane with flaggers. Temporary driveway closures for paving, concrete pouring, and curing will occur.
Estimated cost: $140,000

GARLAND AVENUE - FLORA TO BARKER
Timeline: Spring 2020
This project, which began in October 2019, completes construction of a new 40’ wide two-lane road between Flora Road and Barker Road, creating a detour route during the Barker Road Grade Separation Project.
Estimated cost: $2 million

Barker Homes Preservation & Sewer
Timeline: Summer - Fall 2020
This project is a partnership with Spokane County and will install sewer and repave several streets east of Barker Road between Euclid Avenue and the Spokane River.

Spokane County is coordinating the project. Additionally, the city has provided Community Development Block Grant funds to assist eligible households with sewer assessment and connection fees.
Estimated cost: City ($1.6 million); Spokane County ($1.8 million)

APPLEWAY TRAIL EXPANSION (PATHWAY BETWEEN EVERGREEN ROAD TO SULLIVAN ROAD)
Timeline: Spring - Summer 2020
This project involves constructing the final section of the 5.1 mile Appleway Trail so it can run continuously from the heart of Spokane Valley to Liberty Lake.
Estimated cost: $2.5 million

CITYWIDE REFLECTIVE SIGNAL BACKPLATES
Spring 2020 – Winter 2021
This project involves installing retroreflective signal back plates on traffic signal locations throughout the city.
Estimated cost: $180,000

CITYWIDE REFLECTIVE SIGN POST PANELS
Timeline: Spring 2020 – Winter 2021
This project involves installing retroreflective panels on stop and speed limit sign posts at locations throughout the city.
Estimated cost: $80,000

For questions or comments, email cityhall@spokanevalley.org or call 509.720.5000.
Fourth generation Spokane Valley native Ben Wick was selected earlier this year to be the city’s mayor for 2020 and 2021. Wick served on City Council since being elected in November 2017 for a four-year term and previously served on City Council from 2012 through 2015. He is a graduate of East Valley High School, and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from Eastern Washington University. Wick currently works as an IT Manager for Spokane Industries, and is the publisher of the Spokane Valley Current and the Liberty Lake Splash community newspapers.

While still in his 30s, Mayor Wick is already in his second term on City Council and serves on several boards throughout Spokane County, including currently serving as the Board Chair for both the Spokane Regional Health District and the Spokane Regional Transportation Council. As a fiscal conservative and with projections of major declines in the revenues (specifically sales tax which is the largest income stream for the city) given the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the economy, Wick along with his fellow City Council members and City Manager Mark Calhoun are focused on maintaining the city's solid financial standing.

Earlier this year, Mayor Wick started off his role by equitably distributing the cities representative positions on boards and commissions across all of the council members receiving unanimous support from the rest of the city council. Wick desires an inclusive and collaborative city that works in sync by planning our future together, encouraging citizen involvement and community participation.

As attention turned to the COVID-19 pandemic, and businesses closed and people stayed home to stay healthy, Mayor Wick and City Council stayed physically apart, while still working together. They implemented social distancing and now embrace technology to work remotely to continue to move the city forward. City employees have continued the important work of maintaining our roads, permitting projects and doing what needed to be done to meet the ongoing needs of our residents through a variety of creative solutions. Although the pandemic has caused much devastation to individuals, families and businesses, City Council is committed now more than ever to support the businesses and residents, working as one, because we are stronger together.
PROPOSED SUMMER AQUATIC PLANS
Due to the ongoing challenges to provide events and activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spokane Valley Parks and Recreation Department announced modifications to many programs this summer. There are tentative plans for the summer aquatic program, which takes place at three city pools, located at Park Road, Terrace View and Valley Mission parks.

Typically city pools open around June 15, although with the COVID-19 pandemic, pools are not able to open to the public until Spokane County is in Phase 3 of the state’s recovery plan. As part of Phase 3, the limit on the total number of staff and patrons present is 50 people, while typical capacity at each pool is 200 patrons plus staff.

Three different pool season scenarios are being considered, a 4-week, 6-week, and 8-week season. Each option concludes in late August and would operate within the 2020 aquatics budget with no additional funds required. To comply with Washington State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control guidelines, some pool features will be closed, including the Lazy River at the Terrace View Pool and the Slide at Park Road Pool.

While swim lessons are canceled, lap swim and water exercise will be offered. Open swim sessions will be shortened from 4.5 hours to 1.5 hours. Swimmers will be screened prior to entry and may have temperature checks performed. Staff will monitor and enforce physical distancing, as well as sanitizing locker rooms and other high touch areas. COVID-19 materials, including Personal Protective Equipment, sneeze guards, signs, and sanitization materials will be present. Staff normally budgeted for swim lessons will be re-tasked to screening, monitoring and sanitizing duties.

MODIFICATIONS TO RECREATION PROGRAMS
Modifications to summer recreation programs include no in-person summer day camps or teen camps and the Game On event at Terrace View Park has been canceled.

The summer camp program has been updated with to-go options so children ages 6 to 11 can still experience camp. The program is called “Camp in a Box” and includes themed boxes that include crafts (all supplies provided), games, virtual field trips, coupons, recipe cards, and outdoor ideas to play with family. Online registration and payment will be made available soon and curbside pickup will be the only method to receive camp materials.

The two Movies in the Park events planned for this summer will be presented as drive-in movies. Both will be shown at Valley Mission Park. The movies will be held on August 7 and August 21, beginning at sunset. Those attending should follow Washington state COVID-19 guidelines for outdoor/drive-in movies based on the phase Spokane County is in at the time of movie showings.

The annual Summer Meal Program began on June 15 and continues every week Monday through Thursday through August 6 at Edgecliff Park, Terrace View Park and Valley Mission Park. Children and teens 18 and younger receive a free sack lunch and next day’s breakfast provided by the East Valley School District (EVSD). Along with the meals, Spokane Valley’s Parks and Recreation Department is giving away to-go activity kits. Children do not need to be EVSD students to receive meals or kits.

For the latest Parks and Recreation updates visit spokanevalley.org or call 509.720.5200.
Plastic bags, why can’t I put them in my recycling?

Plastic bags are the #1 issue in the recycling process.

A lot of recyclable material goes to the recycling facility to get processed. For Spokane Valley residents, our materials go to the SMART Center in Spokane.

To properly process these materials, the facility uses machinery along with people to sort out the different materials. Plastic bags often become tangled in the equipment requiring the facility to shut down several times each day, so workers can climb into the machinery and manually cut out the plastic bags (and other materials that get tangled up) from the gears and screens. This dramatically slows down the process of recycling materials, wastes time, and also creates a safety threat to workers, thereby increasing the cost of recycling.

Please, do not put ANY plastic bags in your recycling cart. It’s the #1 issue in the recycling process.
Spokane Valley Farmers Market Now Open!

SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Spokane Valley Farmers Market is now open from 5 – 8 p.m. Friday nights through September 18. The market will again be located in the parking lot outside the CenterPlace Regional Event Center, located at 2426 N. Discovery Place, which is near the Discovery Playground.

THE FARMERS MARKET HAS IMPLEMENTED A SERIES OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES INCLUDING:

- The layout of the market has been modified to increase space between vendors to follow adequate social distancing requirements
- Sampling will not be allowed
- There are no tables or seating options available
- Extra handwashing stations, sanitizer, and signage around the market are provided along with an individual responsible to maintain these supplies
- Public restrooms may not be available
- Only two food trucks per week, with plenty of space between each truck
- Vendors bag all products and avoid putting out high touch items, such as condiment bottles
- A zero tolerance policy on sick workers by eliminating cancellation fees so the sick stay home

As you may have heard, farmers markets are part of the Food and Agriculture’s essential workforce, which includes grocery stores, food banks, farm and produce stands and food establishments. The Spokane Valley Farmers Market operates in compliance with public health directives, providing a vital link between neighbors needing healthy food and hundreds of Washington farmers and food producers. The focus is to keep vendors and attendees as safe as possible, while continuing to support this vital economic and community activity.

Families and individuals enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), can stretch their SNAP EBT dollars at the Spokane Valley Farmers Market. You can double your money when using SNAP EBT to shop for fresh fruits and vegetables! Visit the market’s information booth, swipe your EBT card for the amount you want to spend, receive the same amount in SNAP Market Match Dollars to spend on local fresh fruits and vegetables.

TO KEEP THE MARKET SAFE AND HEALTHY THEY ASK FOR THOSE VISITING TO DO YOUR PART:

- Shop alone - Avoid bringing others and leave pets at home
- Don’t touch – Let the vendors select and bag items
- Stay connected – Follow the market and vendors on social media for updates
- Electronic payments - Use credit/debit cards, digital payments or exact change
- Good habits - Use face coverings and keep your distance from others
- No eating or drinking - Please take your purchases home to enjoy
- Get In, Get Out – Be ready to order, if possible pre-order
- If sick, stay home

Learn more at spokanevalleyfarmersmarket.org
LAST SECTION OF APPLEWAY TRAIL NEARLY COMPLETED

Crews are putting the finishing touches to be open 100% of the time on the pathway between Evergreen Road and Sullivan Road. The 5.1 mile Appleway Trail runs continuously from University Road in Spokane Valley east to Liberty Lake. At an estimated cost of $2.5 million, this last section involved construction of a 12’ wide paved pathway with landscaping, a restroom, trailhead parking, benches and lighting. The crossings at Evergreen and Sullivan have been marked with flashing yellow beacons.

The trail provides a safe and accessible alternative for pedestrians and bicyclists seeking east-west transportation options. It also provides a place for people of all ages and abilities to improve their health through recreation. The trail has been constructed on the Milwaukee Railroad right-of-way. The railroad ran through agricultural lands in Spokane Valley in the early 20th Century, eventually being abandoned and removed. In 2012, the city secured a collaborative agreement with Spokane County that allowed for development of a paved multi-use path on the property. The first section of the trail was constructed in 2015, with additional sections added in recent years. In the future, a connection is planned between Balfour Park and University Road.

Dedicated trail parking is available at the University Road, Tschiirley Road, Best Road and Pines Road locations. A HAWK traffic signal is located at the crossing at Pines Road to increase safety of trail users. Flashing yellow beacons are located at Bowdish and McDonald Roads to increase safety for trail users crossing those streets. Water stations are located throughout the trail to keep trail users hydrated. Benches, garbage cans and pet waste stations are available along the trail at various locations. Future amenities may include exercise equipment, playgrounds, picnic shelters and other offerings along the trail.

Earlier this year, the city was awarded a $25,000 grant by the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) to complete an economic development study for the Appleway Trail. The trail could be used as a catalyst to spur new businesses and job growth along the Sprague Avenue corridor. These CERB funds are matched by $8,333 in local resources. The CERB project represents an important partnership between state and local communities resulting in enhanced economic vitality. Spokane County was one of eight counties in Washington state to receive a CERB award.

Learn more about the trail at SpokaneValley.org/applewaytrail.
CENTERPLACE TO REPLACE ROOF

This summer and fall will see the replacement of the roof at CenterPlace as the existing roofing material which has experienced leaks over several years will be replaced with an asphalt composition shingle roof that has a 30-year life cycle. The estimated project cost for the new roof including design, construction and related inspections is budgeted to be $815,000.

IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY ON THE WEST LAWN AT CENTERPLACE

The two-phased effort to develop the west lawn area at CenterPlace is designed to create a flexible and accessible outdoor space to better support a large array of events, improve access for attendees with all abilities and add to the marketability of the facility.

Phase I, completed in 2018 at a cost of $205,000 consisted of modifying berms, swales, and dry wells to create a flat west lawn north and west of CenterPlace. A meadow north of the building was graded and leveled and electricity, irrigation, and sod installed with trees and fencing.

Phase II, which will cost approximately $2 million begun this past March and is expected to wrap up in late summer. The area west of CenterPlace is being developed into a tree-lined hardscaped plaza with extensive lawn areas that will have a stage, dance area, space for vendors and food trucks, restrooms, a storage building and additional electrical and lighting. These enhancements will create the ability to handle multiple large events.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WORKS AT BROWNS PARK

Browns Park has been converted from an under-utilized neighborhood park to a multipurpose facility that features 16 sand volleyball courts with the ability to host competitive regional events. The city received a $536,000 appropriation from the 2019-2021 Washington State Capital Budget for park improvements that include adding a small picnic shelter, restroom and a new playground. The design work will be completed in 2020 with construction set for spring of 2021. This project will complete the implementation of the Browns Park Master Plan.
Your Spokane Valley mayor and councilmembers value the opportunity to hear from you directly, and want you to know they are just an email or phone call away when you need to discuss city government or legislation. To email the entire council, send to: citycouncil@spokanevalley.org

City of Spokane Valley administration are committed to providing excellent customer service. They want to hear from you anytime you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding legislative policy or city operations and services.

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CITY HALL  
GENERAL INFORMATION

10210 E. Sprague Avenue  
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509.720.5065 Fax  
cityhall@spokanevalley.org  
spokanevalley.org

WASTE MANAGEMENT  
TRANSFER STATION

Spokane Valley University  
Road Transfer Station  
2405 N. University Road  
509.924.5678  
spokanevalley.org/solidwaste
Dear Community,

We are living in some trying times, which are difficult for everyone. Even though the pandemic and the Governor’s executive orders have changed our normal routines at home, work, and how we play, I want to assure you that we are still here and working hard to represent and advocate for you. We want to keep everyone safe and healthy, while opening up our economy to get back to some sort of normalcy. Both Councilmember Thompson and I serve as the City of Spokane Valley’s representatives on the Spokane Regional Health District working with our local health officer and the state Department of Health to share examples of the impacts on our community to find ways we can keep our community and economy moving forward. Deputy Mayor Peetz serves on the local Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors keeping our council connected to leaders in the business community. Councilmembers Haley and Hattenburg advocate for us on the Spokane Transit Board communicating the importance of bus routes and service for the Spokane Valley. These are just the start of examples on how we are all involved daily serving our community.

At the city we know there is going to challenging financial times coming, and working with our City Manager we have taken steps to re-evaluate all open staff positions before filling them. We also continue to evaluate the needs for certain activities and projects previously approved within our budget to determine if those activities are still priorities given the change in times. We have scheduled a more in depth review of the budget for early August (which is days after we find out what our sales tax revenues will be).

However, our commitment to and recognition of the importance of public safety remains as we continue finding ways to provide even better service for our community. For example, we were successful in participating in a regional grant which has given our Spokane Valley Police Department the ability to have a dedicated Mental Health Co-Response Team. This is a special team or unit within the department that pairs a mental health professional with an officer allowing them to provide better service and care. Citizens needing mental health support are getting medical services instead of jail time and we are able to streamline the time needed by our officers to check people into medical services, making our officers more available for the rest of the community. This shared service team has already demonstrated numerous successes and cost savings for the city as we look for new ways to provide better service while reducing costs.

These are just some of the steps we have made at the city. We always welcome your input and feedback on how we are doing. I hope you are enjoying the new format for our citywide newsletter. We are trying something new to be more engaging and increase our communication with residents. Please let us know what you think!

Ben Wick, Mayor

“Our commitment to and recognition of the importance of public safety remains as we continue finding ways to provide even better service for our community.”
Visit the Online Permit Portal at spokanevalley.org/permits
Permit Center Expands Online Options

SIMPLIFYING THE PERMIT PROCESS

Spokane Valley has made permitting even easier by expanding its permitting online, by phone and email. Although the Permit Center in City Hall is currently open for limited pick up/drop off services by appointment only, at this time paper submittals and documentation will not be accepted and must be sent via USPS mail or courier such as UPS/FedEx.

Permit fees can be paid via the online permit portal or by phone at 509.720.5240. Please contact the Permit Center for assistance or technical support weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 509.720.5240 or email permitcenter@spokanevalley.org.

For planning or zoning questions, call the Permit Center weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 509.720.5240 or email planning@spokanevalley.org.

Access our newly-enhanced Online Permit Portal or email your application documents, questions, and reports to permitcenter@spokanevalley.org. Permit documents can be uploaded and permits can be issued using the Online Permit Portal at spokanevalley.org/permits for all types of building permits! Please review all permit documentation for accuracy and make note of any permit conditions in your permit documentation.

The Online Permit Portal can be used to complete applications for the permits identified below. The portal allows applicants to electronically submit the application, pay fees, obtain the permit and schedule an inspection.

THESE PERMITS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THIS TIME:

- Commercial building (new build, additions & remodels)
- Residential building (new build, additions & remodels)
- Residential accessory (sheds, detached garages)
- Re-roofing
- Mechanical/HVAC
- Plumbing
- Right of Way/Approach
- Demolition
- Signs
- FAS/MFG Placements
- Engineered Grading
- New permit types continue to be added to the portal

Many staff members are working from off-site locations and using various methods to perform permit reviews and assist customers with projects. Email is the best way to reach a staff member; please feel free to attach project information, plans and maps. We can even arrange conference calls and virtual meetings to keep your project on track!

If you have questions in the permitting process, contact the Permit Center at 509.720.5240 or email permitcenter@spokanevalley.org to discuss your project with city staff.
Venturing Out During COVID-19

Since mid-March customers have been expected to take precautions as they safely venture into stores and restaurants. Spokane Valley residents have shown compassion, kindness and support for impacted friends, neighbors and community members. Please continue to act responsibly as businesses reopen under phased-in guidelines that impact customer service. Please consider these helpful tips to make your shopping experience safer and more enjoyable:

**RETAIL STORES**

**Order online or use curbside pickup.** Order items online for home delivery or in advance for curbside pickup if you need to limit your potential exposure in support of family members or others that you live with, which may include at-risk populations such as the elderly.

**Practice recommended physical and social distancing in stores.** Stay 6 feet away from other people to continue to prevent the spread of the virus. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) notes that is generally the distance within people can pick up the coronavirus.

**Wear a face covering.** The Washington State Department of Health and the CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings when they are in public settings where they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from others. If a store sells products or services to a population that is considered high risk, then it may encourage or even require customers to wear masks.

**Take hand sanitizer with you.** Wipe your hands after you shop, especially if you use a shopping cart or basket. Many stores offer cleaning wipes or hand sanitizer when you enter the store. Take a minute to wipe the cart handle. Sanitize your hands again as you leave the store.

**Wash reusable face masks.** If you utilize face masks, wash them after each use or use disposable face masks.

**Shop at a time when the store is less busy.** Fewer customers can make it easier to stay 6 feet apart. Shop when foot traffic is at its lowest.

**Plan ahead and make your list in advance.** Have a shopping list ready and move quickly through the store. This will help limit the number of customers in the store at one time.

**Use a credit or debit card.** Avoid handling bills or coins. Also, use your own pen to sign receipts or documents. If possible, utilize a virtual payment system like Apple Pay so that you don’t have to open your wallet.

**Bank online whenever possible.** If you visit the bank, use the drive-through ATM if one is available. Clean the ATM keyboard with a disinfecting wipe before you use it. Use a hand sanitizer or wash your hands when you get home.

**Don’t bring the whole family.** If possible, shop alone until the spread of the virus is much lower. Leaving your children or a partner at home will help limit your family’s exposure and reduces the number of people in stores.

**When out in public, always practice good hygiene.** Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using public facilities. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. Cover your coughs or sneezes in your elbow or into a tissue.

**RESTAURANTS**

Be aware of capacity limitations in restaurants in each phase or use curbside pickup if you prefer. Most restaurants have posted menus online. Visit the city’s list of restaurants providing take out/delivery at spokanevalleyed.org/SVrestaurants.

- If permitted, make a reservation in advance to ensure you have a table.
- Dine in small groups until social and physical distancing measures are lifted.
- If your party must wait to be seated, please wait in your vehicle or in a location where there is room to physical distance from other parties.
- Practice good hygiene before and after you dine.
- Be patient and supportive through your dining experience.
As modifications to how we live, work and play change, we wanted to provide general recommendations for businesses that may appreciate guidance in reopening and ongoing operations.

**KNOW AND UNDERSTAND** state reopening guidelines that impact your business or industry, and then develop a plan. Business activities are not authorized to reopen or resume until a business is able to meet all safety criteria outlined by the state. Visit coronavirus.wa.gov, AWB.org or spokanevalleyed.org/covid19

**CLEAN AND DISINFECT** your business facility. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local health departments have recommendations for ensuring your facility is clean and safe as both employees and customers return to the business. Visit cdc.gov, doh.wa.gov or srhd.org

**LOCATE AND PURCHASE** any personal protective equipment (PPE) or other types of equipment that you or your employees need to resume operations. This will help limit the spread of coronavirus. Visit AWB.org, greaterspokane.org/COVID-19 or contact a local supplier.

**IMPLEMENT YOUR PLAN** and stay informed after you reopen. Train your employees on safe practices. Utilize clear signage. Keep your customers informed of future developments through your website or social media. Visit coronavirus.wa.gov, greaterspokane.org/COVID-19 or spokanevalley.org/covid19

**CONNECT** with your local business development organizations. The Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce and Greater Spokane Inc. provide a wide range of topical resources and information related to loans, grants and other valuable local, regional, state and federal opportunities. Visit spokanevalleychamber.org or greaterspokane.org

**A successful Safe Start** means we all have to do our part.

It’s safest to stay home.

**BUT IF YOU HEAD OUT:**

- Wear a mask.
- Stay six feet apart.
- Wash your hands.

Prevent the spread by staying local.

**Opening and Operating your Business in COVID-19**

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Changing of the Guard

SPOKANE VALLEY POLICE CHIEF RETIRES; NEW CHIEF BEGAN JULY 1

After a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, Spokane Valley Police Chief Mark Werner announced this past winter that he would retire at the end of June.

Werner began his career spending nine years in the United States Air Force, followed by the last 21 years with the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office. Prior to becoming Chief of Police for Spokane Valley, he served six years as the Patrol Division Commander where he oversaw the SWAT Team, Traffic Unit, K9 Unit, Search and Rescue, Dive Team, Marine Enforcement and the Regional Air Support Unit.

Throughout Chief Werner’s law enforcement career, he held a variety of leadership positions and these experiences instilled in him the value of teamwork. Chief Werner strongly believes law enforcement is much more effective when working in collaboration with community partners and the citizens to resolve issues and address concerns impacting the public. Chief Werner has built positive relationships with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, as well as community groups.

Reflecting on his decision to retire, Chief Werner responded “I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as the chief of police for the Spokane Valley these past four years. The Spokane Valley Police Department has tremendous support from citizens, city staff and elected officials for which we are extremely grateful. I greatly appreciate having worked beside so many outstanding people during my tenure and would like to thank the men and women of the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office and Spokane Valley Police Department for their dedication and commitment in making our community safer.”

With Chief Werner retired, City Manager Mark Calhoun appointed Under Sheriff Dave Ellis to begin serving as the new Spokane Valley Police Chief beginning July 1.

Ellis started his law enforcement career with the Post Falls Police Department in 1998. During that time, he worked as a patrol officer, and as a member of the SWAT team. In 2000, he received the Officer of the Year Award. In 2002, Ellis joined the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office where he has worked as a patrol deputy, field training officer, regional training coordinator, detective, patrol sergeant, as well as a tactical flight officer and supervisor of the air support unit.

Before his appointment as the Spokane Valley Police Chief, Ellis oversaw the Sheriff’s Office Patrol, Investigative, and Intelligence Divisions, including the Spokane Regional Air Support Unit and the Emergency Operations (dive/swift water rescue) Team. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Spokane Valley Mayor Ben Wick said, “Under Sheriff Ellis has dedicated more than 20 years to keeping our communities safe in a wide range of vital positions in law enforcement. He knows the ever changing needs of Spokane Valley residents and businesses and how to mobilize teams to keep public safety a priority for our city. I appreciate the amazing contributions by Chief Werner and know that Under Sheriff Ellis will continue the exemplary foundation that has been built.”

Congratulations to new Police Chief Ellis!
What a difference a few months can make! At the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce’s February Business Connections Breakfast 265 guests listened in on a thoughtful discussion on Corporate Culture from some of our region’s most well-known business entrepreneurs. That discussion was moderated by local leadership expert Kevin Parker and continued a trend of packed events, with meaningful connections that the Chamber has become notorious for. Jump ahead to March and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual State of the City event was canceled that the chamber hosts each year.

As the Chamber looked to retool its events, they turned to the digital arena. In late April, the Chamber hosted an “Education Town Hall” featuring a joint presentation by the Superintendents from Central Valley School District, East Valley School District, Freeman School District, and West Valley School District. This unique event had an attendance of nearly 800 on Zoom! The Chamber plans to continue to host events in a digital format while Spokane County progresses through Washington’s Phased Approach to Reopening. Check the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce’s website and Facebook page to learn more about upcoming events.

Visit spokanevalleychamber.org for more information.

The Spokane Valley Chamber Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to promoting and enhancing community development through the creation and sponsorship of scholarships, leadership development, and educational programs.

CAREER TECH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Students applying for two-year vocational and trade school programs at trade schools locally have opportunities for financial support through the Spokane Valley Chamber Foundation. A combined need-based and merit-based scholarship program has been cultivated to support students in the Greater Spokane Valley region.

The scholarship is open to high school seniors and prior graduates of Spokane Valley high schools who are pursuing a degree or certificate in a trade. Students who attended the following school districts are eligible: Central Valley, East Valley, West Valley and Freeman. Consideration is also given to private school students and homeschool students. Scholarships vary, up to $4,500, which can be used for tuition, fees and the cost of any tools/equipment needed for their program.

The Spokane Valley Chamber Foundation has already awarded over $22,000 in scholarships in 2020.
Business Licensing

A COMMUNITY WHERE BUSINESSES FLOURISH AND PROSPER

Did you know that Spokane Valley has over 10,000 registered businesses licensed in the city?

A business license is required for all businesses located within city limits or conducting business within city limits. If you have more than one business on a single property, you must complete a separate application for each business.

It’s true. Following Spokane Valley Municipal Code 5.05, every person engaged in business or continuing business during the calendar year is required to annually register with the City. City business registration is provided through the Washington State Department of Revenue (DOR) Business Licensing Service. You can apply online at dor.wa.gov/city-license-endorsements/spokane-valley.

Annual city business registration and state business license renewals are also provided through the State Business Licensing Service. Renewals may be submitted online at bls.dor.wa.gov/renewbusiness.aspx.

For questions regarding the application, please contact DOR Business Licensing at 360.705.6741. They also have a Spokane office located at 1330 N. Washington St., #5600, Spokane, WA 99201 or you can call them at 509.327.0200.

HOME BUSINESS APPLICANTS

Any business license with a location as a residential address will be asked to complete a home business application. This will be provided by the City of Spokane Valley to the business owner.

To check the status of your license, get a copy of your license, or ask general business licensing questions please contact us at 509.720.5333.

BUSINESS RESOURCES

The Washington State Small Business Website is a helpful place for finding resources and answers to your questions regarding starting and operating a business in Washington. Visit business.wa.gov for a roadmap for opening a business and additional links to Washington's Small Business Liaisons.