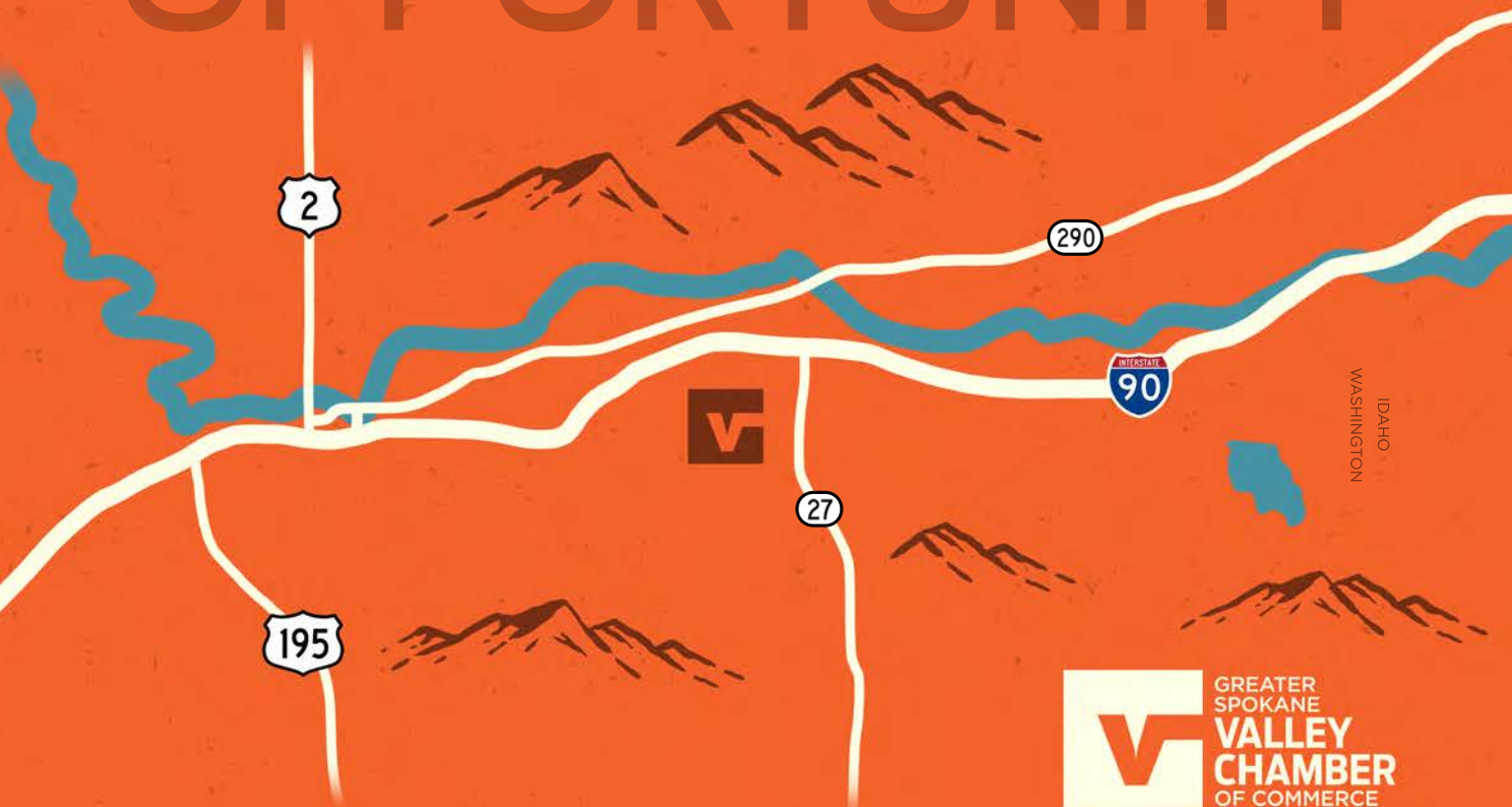


# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS DRIVING COLLABORATION CHAMPIONING OPPORTUNITY



2022 Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce Magazine

A Journal of Business Supplement



# Injured on the job?

Receive care at one of four  
Occupational Medicine locations

Providence Occupational Medicine offers work-related care when and where you need it. Whether it's for an on-the-job injury or pre-employment screening, we coordinate all aspects of communication and care.

---

#### SPOKANE VALLEY

Providence Medical Park  
16528 E. Desmet  
Suite 1600  
509.944.8907

#### AIRWAY HEIGHTS

11919 W. Sunset Hwy  
Suite D  
509.474.2650

#### DOWNTOWN SPOKANE

Fifth and Division  
421 S. Division  
Suite 2  
509.474.5858

#### NORTH SPOKANE

Hawthorne and Hwy 2  
551 E. Hawthorne Road  
509.252.1905


---

Are you a business owner? We offer custom programs designed to improve employee wellness and reduce your healthcare costs.

Call today for a  
free consultation

**509.944.8832**

[Providence.org/SpokaneOccupationalMedicine](https://Providence.org/SpokaneOccupationalMedicine)



Think you can't build  
that home office?

# Join a bank that believes you can.

Whether you're looking for a personal line  
of credit to build a new office or a loan to  
take your business to the next level, we're  
here to help.

Visit [watrust.com](https://www.watrust.com) to get started.

1902-2022 **120** years

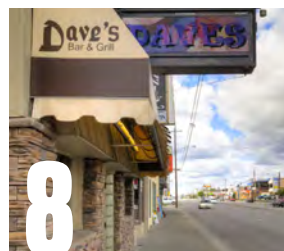


**Washington Trust Bank**  
Member FDIC





# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<b>4</b>	Message from Board Chair
<b>5</b>	Welcome Letter
<b>6</b>	Strategic Priorities
<b>7</b>	Our Mission
<b>8</b>	Dave's Bar & Grill
<b>12</b>	Taylor'd Containers
<b>14</b>	Youth Workforce Development
<b>18</b>	Infrastructure & Development Tracker
<b>20</b>	Greenstone Community Farm
<b>23</b>	Coeur d'Alene Casino
<b>25</b>	Area Facts
<b>26</b>	Chamber Facts
<b>28</b>	Highbridge Learning Center
<b>30</b>	COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Brooke Baker Spink

Baker Construction & Development Inc.

### Kevin Brockbank

Spokane Community College

### Ray Corwin

Bank of America

### Tisha Goodman

Greenstone Corporation

### Scott Hislop

Wolff, Hislop, & Crockett, PLLC

### Shelly Johnson

Coldwell Banker Tomlinson

### Terry Judge

HOTSTART, Inc.

### Wade Larson

Wagstaff, Inc.

### Dee Dee McGowan

Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel

### Joe Morgan

Modern Electric Water Company

### Neil Muller

Bell-Anderson Insurance

### Bonnie Quinn

QUINN Advertising

### Kevin Rasler

Inland Empire Paper Company

### Sarah Russell

Inland Imaging

### Suzanne Schmidt

Candidate for 4th District Representative, Former - Associated Builders and Contractors

### Jeff Severs

Northwestern Mutual

### Chris Severin

STCU

### Clinton Slovarp

Walmart

### Chud Wendle

Hutton Settlement

### Doug Yost

Centennial Real Estate Investments

## CHAMBER STAFF

### Lance Beck

President & CEO

### Licett Figueroa Garbe

Director of Community Engagement & Policy

### Sue Rusnak

Office Manager

### Beth Taylor

Strategic Initiatives Manager

### Shelby Wilkins

Communications Coordinator

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Chair: Matt Albright

Providence

### President/CEO: Lance Beck

Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce

### Chair-Elect: Trent Maier

Trailbreaker Cider

### Secretary: Kelly Fukai

Spokane International Airport

### Treasurer: Phil Champlin

HUB Sports Center

### Vice Chair: Kelli Pearson

Pearson & Weary Pain Relief Clinic

### Vice Chair: Wanda Buddrius

BECU

### Member-at-Large: Melanie

Rose

Avista

### Past Chair: Tami Yager

WM

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### GREATER SPOKANE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

10808 E Sprague Ave.

Spokane Valley, WA 99206

509.924.4994

info@spokanevalleychamber.org

### CREDITS:

Graphic Design: Rebecca

Caligan, Journal of Business



**We're right here.  
With you.**

Just like you, we at Avista call the Inland Northwest "home." We're your neighbors, living and working alongside you each and every day. It's why we care so much about our commitments to you.

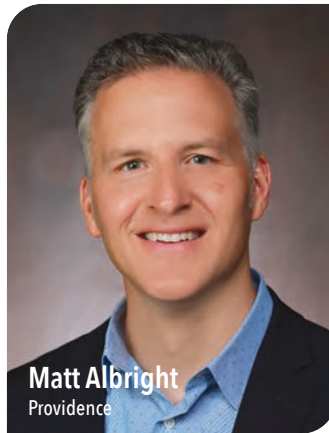
You can count on us to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy. You also have our promise to help the regional communities we serve, whether it's building prosperity through strategic partnerships and technology or offering our time, talents and resources to civic organizations and charities. Our mission is and will always be to improve life for us all.





## MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

# A NEW DAY WITH A FOCUS ON ACTION



Matt Albright  
Providence

Words cannot explain how proud the entire Board is for the tireless effort the Chamber Team has put in to make it through the COVID crisis and come out the backside with an even more stable foundation. We are also incredibly thankful for the dedication of our members during a time when everyone was stretched to their limits. We know we will continue to be challenged with the state of our economy, but we will continue to dedicate our heart & soul to being the biggest champion for you, our local businesses, in the Greater Spokane Valley. It is a new day and we are excited for the future...

For the future, our most significant body of work to be accomplished this year is establishing an actionable 'Strategic Focus' that will significantly benefit our members and our community. In March, your Board held a strategic planning retreat and

refined its focus on five priorities for its members: **Business Climate, Development & Infrastructure, Education & Workforce, Healthcare, Quality of Life & Community.** During this process, we ensured our previous priorities of the BIG 5 were incorporated and aligned the priorities with our Legislative Agenda. Each board member has been assigned a priority and they have already met multiple times, and established strong and measurable Initiatives. The next step will be inviting our members for feedback and refining our action plan. We are very excited to get to work!

To close, I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you for the opportunity to be your Board Chair. It has been a true honor to serve you and the entire Greater Spokane Valley community!

## PAST LEADERS

*Terry T. Grant* | 1921 & 1922  
*M.J. Luby* | 1923  
*J.B. Felts* | 1924  
*Harry E. Nelson* | 1926  
*Raymond P. Kelley* | 1927 & 1928  
*Oscar D. Reinemer* | 1929  
*A.H. Syverson* | 1930  
*Earl Z. Smith* | 1931  
*J. Fink Giboney* | 1932 & 1933  
*John M. Booth* | 1934  
*Wm J. Green* | 1935  
*Dr. N.E. Bayne* | 1936  
*George W. Pierce* | 1937  
*R.B. McCabe* | 1938 & 1939  
*Thomas H. Bienz* | 1940  
*Gene Kenney* | 1941  
*David R. Meigs* | 1942 & 1943  
*Sig T. Hanson* | 1944  
*Clyde H. Jones* | 1946  
*Ray Horte* | 1947 & 1948

*Vernon Bryant* | 1949  
*Don R. Stephens* | 1949  
*J. Orville Humphries* | 1950  
*Roy H. Nyholm* | 1951  
*Carlos H. Landa* | 1952  
*E. Dawson Whitaker* | 1953  
*Jack Morrison* | 1957  
*Robert Jarvis* | 1958  
*Lloyd D. Martin* | 1959  
*Tom S. Smith* | 1960  
*Harry Chambers* | 1961  
*Joe W. Custer* | 1962 & 1963  
*Don L. Jordin* | 1964  
*Carl V. Erickson* | 1965  
*Arthur J. Davis* | 1966  
*Ronald A. Franklin* | 1966  
*C. Fritz Nelsen* | 1967  
*John Vlahovich* | 1968  
*Alan V. Carlson* | 1969  
*Joseph B. Olson* | 1970  
*Lawrence E. Peretti* | 1971  
*Raymond E. Perry* | 1972  
*William S. Featherstone* | 1973

*Cecil Cleveland* | 1974  
*Don Pederson* | 1975  
*Jack Cunningham* | 1976  
*Gordon Richardson* | 1977  
*Mel Kaylor* | 1978  
*Clark Hager* | 1979  
*Norma Ventris* | 1980  
*Dick Doty* | 1981  
*Chet Arnold* | 1982  
*Richard Ahrens* | 1983  
*Grant Person* | 1984  
*Mac McGrath* | 1985  
*Merwin Cederblom* | 1986  
*Phyllis Campbell* | 1987  
*Jack Heuston* | 1988  
*Dennis Halsey* | 1989  
*David Gilman* | 1990  
*Judi Williams* | 1991  
*Ed Allen* | 1992  
*Linda Tompkins* | 1993  
*Lonnie Bailey* | 1994  
*Steve Baker* | 1995  
*John Hanson* | 1996

*Terry Lynch* | 1997  
*Robert Henry* | 1998  
*Frank Tombari* | 1999  
*Greg Bever* | 2000  
*Dick Denenny* | 2001  
*Jim Bowles* | 2001-2002  
*Doug Kelley* | 2002-2003  
*Julie Prafke* | 2003-2005  
*Wayne Frost* | 2005-2006  
*Matt Ewers* | 2006-2007  
*Rustin Hall* | 2007  
*Dr. Phillip Rudy* | 2008-2009  
*Damon Smith* | 2010-2011  
*Nancy Holmes* | 2012  
*John Guarisco* | 2013  
*Barry Baker* | 2014  
*Denny York* | 2015  
*Ben Small* | 2016  
*Greg Repetti* | 2017  
*Erica Young* | 2018  
*Kelly Fukai* | 2019  
*Kevin Ralser* | 2020  
*Tami Yager* | 2021



Lance Beck  
President & CEO Greater Spokane  
Valley Chamber of Commerce

At the Valley Chamber, our mission is to be the catalyst for building relationships, driving collaboration and championing opportunity in the Greater Spokane Valley. This past year has been one for the Greater Spokane Valley to shine. We have seen exciting investments into our community, new businesses and much more. So many of our small business owners had the opportunity to expand their operations or start new ventures. Growth in our community also translated into growth for us here at the Chamber as we welcomed 116 new members, and celebrated 13 new business ribbon cuttings since July 1 of 2021!

The Chamber remains a strong advocate of small businesses and their importance in our community. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, there were 32.5 million small businesses in the United States in 2021. They truly are the foundation of commerce in our country. As we continue to work our way through the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, please join us in supporting our local businesses by shopping and buying local.

In the following pages, we'll look back on some of the exciting accomplishments of our members and the Valley Chamber over the past year. It was certainly a great year, and we couldn't have done it without our member's support!

## INVESTOR & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## VISIONARY PARTNERS



## One, One Campus, Stop!

The WorkSource Spokane Campus is Spokane County's integrated career service destination that builds skilled employees, assists thriving businesses, and develops strong community.

With three dedicated one-stop centers, we have everything you need to find the right job and the right talent.

Visit us to learn more and connect with our services:  
**spokaneworkforce.org**

Funding and strategic oversight of the WorkSource Spokane Campus provided by:



The Spokane Workforce Council and its WorkSource Spokane Campus' career and social one-stop centers are proud partners of the American Job Center Network and equal opportunity employers/programs. Auxiliary aids are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.



Employment services that build a skilled workforce.



Employer services that meet business needs from end-to-end.



Career training and education opportunities for young adults.



Support and resources to overcome financial hardships.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## BUSINESS CLIMATE



We work to create a vibrant business climate that promotes innovation and allows business to thrive. A healthy business climate is vital to ensure that our region stays competitive, sustainable, and attractive to future business. We support legislation that promotes economic growth, develops a strong workforce and reduces the tax and regulatory burden.

## QUALITY OF LIFE & COMMUNITY



We work to enhance our vibrant community with diverse opportunities to live, work, and play. We are committed to a high quality of life for individuals and families in our area through community initiatives, as well as advocating for citizen access to housing, entertainment, and a clean and safe environment.

## DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE



We work to maintain and develop infrastructure systems that power economic growth. We promote growth by supporting projects that preserve existing infrastructure and development, while strategically increasing capacity to drive economic development. We support legislation and infrastructure investments that optimize development opportunities through increased accessibility, reliability and safety while providing sustainable funding and local control to uniquely address the needs of our communities.

## HEALTHCARE



We work to develop access to robust services that improve the health of our community. Expanding access to healthcare and the resources needed to identify and address public health issues is vital to a strong economy. We support legislation that will improve access to physical and behavioral health services and strengthen the healthcare workforce.

## WORKFORCE & EDUCATION



We work to support an education system that meets the needs the workforce demands of our region. Investment in education increases the opportunities of our students and meets the needs of our business community. Developing a skilled workforce of the future depends upon a robust education system that serves students of all ages. We support a fully-funded education system with clear and challenging academic standards, expanded options that are innovative and affordable, and the system that operates with accountability, efficiency and transparency.

Learn more at [spokanevalleychamber.org](http://spokanevalleychamber.org)



## OUR MISSION

We are the catalyst for building relationships, driving collaboration, and championing opportunity for the Greater Spokane Valley.



**MY JOURNAL.**

**MY COMMUNITY.**

**MY NEWS.**

**MY COPY.**

**ON MY DEVICE.**

SUBSCRIBE TO THE JOURNAL OF BUSINESS AND GET YOUR VERY OWN COPY. CALL TODAY FOR A SPECIAL PRICE.

CALL (509) 344-1280

**JOURNAL** OF BUSINESS  
Serving Spokane & Kootenai Counties

*Be a Girl Scout!*  
**girl scouts**  
of eastern washington  
and northern idaho

Building girls of courage,  
confidence and character,  
who make the world  
a better place.

Join Girl Scouts  
Today!  
[gsewni.org](http://gsewni.org)







# DAVE'S BAR & GRILL

**A** community cornerstone in Spokane Valley, Dave's Bar & Grill opened its doors in 1989. This neighborhood bar and grill has a welcoming atmosphere and offers delicious American-Style food, ranging from burgers, fish and chips, deli sandwiches, steaks, and so much more.

Dave Thompson, former owner of Dave's Bar & Grill, did not envision himself opening a restaurant and bar. "My folks had been in the tavern business in Greengrass since the '60s," he said. "I really didn't want to get into the tavern business. I had been around it most of my life."

Dave was born and raised in Spokane Valley. He started school at South Pines Elementary, then moved on to Bowditch Middle School, University

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



We do our part  
so she can do hers.

Her focus is a quality product and growing her local business. Ours is protecting the supply of electric power to her shop. Together we power the future.

Learn more at [selinc.com/ourpart](https://selinc.com/ourpart).

**SEL** SCHWEITZER ENGINEERING LABORATORIES



Creating the workforce  
of the future...

**we are  
CVSD!**

**CENTRAL VALLEY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

check us out! [cvsd.org](https://cvsd.org)

[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) [d](#)

**B|E|C|U**

# TODAY, TOMORROW, TOGETHER IN SPOKANE

Experience the best of personalized financial service at any of our Spokane locations or at a BECU location near you. We're a credit union with nearly a century of experience in changing financial lives for the better.

**BECU Spokane Locations:**

**Spokane Division NFC:** Mon - Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm  
916 N Division Street Spokane, WA 99202

**Spokane Valley NFC:** Mon - Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm  
615 N Sullivan Road Spokane Valley, WA 99037

**North Spokane NFC:** Mon - Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm  
9420 N Newport Hwy Spokane, WA 99218



**You may also launch your camera app and scan the QR code.**

Federally insured by NCUA.



*Dave & Susan Thompson receiving the Citizens of the Year Award at the Valley Chamber's 2022 Business Awards.*

High School, and finally went to the University of Idaho where he received his bachelor's in business administration. Then he moved back home to Spokane Valley to work and the opportunity to open the bar and grill presented itself. In need of work, Dave took the leap of faith.

"It really wasn't anything I wanted to do but I knew enough about it to make it work," Dave said. "Then I ended up running Dave's for 32 years. I enjoyed it, and I really enjoyed the people."

As of March 9th of 2022, Dave transferred ownership of Dave's Bar & Grill to Andrew and Nicole Taes.

"I reached out to Andrew when I got to thinking about selling it. I've known his family forever and he had mentioned, 'you know if you ever want to sell give me a call.' So, I did," Dave said.

Andrew never expected to own a restaurant either, but it was an opportunity he couldn't let pass.

"When this opportunity came up, my wife and I looked at it as a very exciting opportunity to be involved more in the community, to

*Dave's Bar & Grill is located at 12124 E Sprague Ave in Spokane Valley.*



be business owners, and to give back to the customers and the employees," Andrew said.

The Taes' do not plan on changing Dave's Bar & Grill. They have kept the same employees and menu for new and returning customers to enjoy.

"We want to keep it the way it's always been. That is our big main goal," the Taes' said. "Yes, it's a transition but Dave has built this legacy. We want to make sure that it lives on because he has done such an amazing thing with it."

In 2003, Dave was appointed to the Board of Directors for Modern Electric Water Company. He currently sits as the President of the Board.

"That has been a real positive part of my life, Modern Electric, as well as Dave's of course," he said. "Working at Modern Electric and giving back to the community has been a gift."

Dave and his wife, Susan, are big advocates for giving back to the community. Their key focus is supporting organizations that are Valley or kid-oriented such as Valleyfest, Spokane Valley Partners, and HUB Sports Center, to name a few.

"You do it because there's a need and somebody hasn't taken on the challenge to fulfill that need for the community and they need a little help," Dave said. "So that's our motivation."

The Thompson's were awarded the Greater Spokane Valley Cham-

ber of Commerce's Citizens of the Year award at the 2022 Valley Chamber Business Awards. The decision to award the Thompson's was concentrated on their history of giving to the community.

"I get involved because it's the right thing to do," Dave said. "If you have the means to give back to the community, why wouldn't you?" ■

# Do you really need a bigger bank?

# Or just a better bank?

Get the complete, expert banking solutions you need and the friendly, hometown service you want.

**Spokane Valley**  
12321 E. Mission Ave.  
509-891-0792

**Spokane**  
7407 N. Division St.  
509-466-0200



**Mountain West Bank**

Today. Tomorrow. Together.

[MountainWestBank.com](https://MountainWestBank.com) [f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) [d](#) [FDIC](#)



# TAYLOR'D CONTAINERS LOCKS UP NICHE AS LOCAL STARTUP



*Taylor Rowan, Owner of Taylor'd Containers at the FDIC International Conference in Indianapolis.*

**A**s an All-American place-kicker in college and later for the Spokane Shock, Taylor Rowan had a knack for covering long distances with a single boot.

As the owner of Taylor'd Containers, Rowan now closes a different kind of gap for a growing customer base by providing smart and innovative solutions.

Rowan made his mark at Western Illinois University as a four-year starter and holder of numerous school records, including a 56-yard field goal. After graduating in 2009, the Florida native began a professional football journey that would take him to three leagues – the AF2, UFL, and AFL. In 2010, he was part of the Shock's Arena Bowl XXIII championship.

Rowan earned a degree in construction management at Western Illinois but never anticipated launching a company after football that would specialize in custom-made storage containers.

"I knew I wanted to be an entrepreneur in something," he said.

Before starting Taylor'd Containers in 2017, Rowan had heard about storage containers being used in the construction of homes, even studying the approach as part of a college project on non-traditional building materials. In 2015, while working for his father-in-law at Frencken America Inc., a manufacturing company in Liberty Lake, Rowan was tasked with the responsibility of finding a storage container.

"I was just trying to find the best deal I could," he said. "I started learning the terminology of containers and figuring out their resale value here."

The search for a bargain container led Rowan down a path to his own enterprise. He secured a Commercial Driver's License, bought a truck and trailer, and began hauling 40-foot containers from the west side of the state to sell in the Spokane area. At one point, he was making five round-trips a week.

"Being in Spokane, it was the perfect distance," Rowan said.

"When you start a business, you truly have to wear all the hats to appreciate and understand what needs to be done."

The venture grew at a steady pace with a considerable profit margin. Rowan began hiring drivers and turned his focus to delivering containers once they arrived. He was operating out of his home at the time, leasing space in a large field behind his residence to handle the substantial logistics.

Rowan admits he was surprised by the demand for containers.

"People just want lockable storage that is a cheaper solution than building a shed," he said. "Plus they're a lot more secure."

By 2019, Taylor'd Containers had brought on its first full-time salesperson. Times were prosperous until the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020.

"Everything shut down, when China shut down," Rowan said. "We had to pivot."

The Spokane Valley-based company dropped to an average of one to three containers sold per week. Around that time, the Airway Heights Fire Department reached out to Rowan about providing a custom-made container that could be used to train firefighters.

"My goal was always to modify containers," Rowan said. "We had started some of that fabricating in 2019."

Rowan moved quickly, outsourcing engineering and architectural advice to assist in the construction of training facilities out of containers where fire safety personnel could practice search and rescue while offering versatility previously not available. A prop soon took shape that featured 10 different training apparatuses within the confines of a parking lot.

*Local fire department testing and giving feedback on a training apparatus.*



"Now, 50 to 75 percent of their training can be done at their facility," Rowan said.

The patented prop was ready by March of 2022. The following month, Rowan unveiled the idea at a trade show in Indianapolis. Interest soared and in the wake of the appearance, 116 requests for qualifications streamed into Taylor'd Containers from all over the world.

"This is the threshold point for our company," Rowan said.

The specialized training towers are utilized locally by Kootenai County Fire and Rescue Training, and Spokane County Districts 10 and 13. Rowan has also been talking with the Spokane Valley Fire Department as part of the development of a prototype of the original prop.

Stan Kirk, fire chief for Spokane Fire District 13 in Newman Lake, helped Rowan with the original design of the prop. He said the custom-made facilities promote "critical thinking, problem-solving and situational awareness" in the training process.

"It's been a very useful tool," Kirk said. "These are less expensive and you can design them in multiple ways to create a variety of scenarios. Different departments are modifying them for their training needs."

Rowan secured a general contractor's license that focuses on container customization for the training towers as well as a diversity of residential and commercial uses. The company, based at 18009 E. Appleway in Spokane Valley, now has four full-time fabricators/welders on staff.

"We're really starting to find our footing," Rowan said. ■



## SUMMER PASS

**Unlimited rides for youth age 6-18 and K-12 students!**

- ✓ STA Summer Passes are valid June 15 through the end of September
- ✓ Pick up a pass at your local library beginning June 15
- ✓ Over 14 years-old please bring ID

Learn more about STA Summer Pass: [spokanetransit.com/summerpass](https://spokanetransit.com/summerpass)

Trip planning and more: [spokanetransit.com](https://spokanetransit.com)

**Or call 328-RIDE**





CVSD Job Fair held on May 12th at  
Ridgeline High School.

## LOCAL EFFORTS PRIORITIZE YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**K**elli Demarest doesn't coach a sport at Ridgeline High School but she can still deliver an impressive pep talk.

Instead of preparing athletes to excel on the playing field, Demarest helps students gear up for success in fields like manufacturing, retail, healthcare, technology, and more.

Earlier this year, Demarest coordinated a job fair at Ridgeline – a new high school in Liberty Lake that opened last fall [2021] – under the banner of the Central Valley School District (CVSD). The event on May 12, 2022, was attended by close to 1,000 students and featured booths from 35 companies. Demarest, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, worked closely with the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce to recruit a variety of businesses and promote the job fair.

"Having the chamber as a partner was huge," Demarest said. "They really helped us get the word out."

Demarest said students were enthused about the chance to survey the local employment landscape.

"We really emphasized opportunities that are out there right now," she said. "The job market is ripe. If they're responsible and reliable and put their phones away, they're going to get hired."

The fair focused on summer jobs, internships, and job shadows. Companies ranged from household names like Nike and Amazon to local pillars like the Spokane Valley Fire Department and the City of Liberty Lake. Students spoke with representatives from a variety of industries, including food services, banking, manufacturing, hospitality, health-

care, landscaping, and the non-profit sector.

"It was a fun but also a professional-type atmosphere," Demarest said. "I think it was encouraging for the employers to see how great kids really are. Sometimes, kids get a bad rap."

Along with Ridgeline, Spokane Valley Tech, Central Valley, Mica Peak, and University high schools were represented with attendees.

Demarest arrived at CVSD for the beginning of the 2021-22 school year following 17 years in the Deer Park School District. After being hired, she met with Karen Hay, CTE and Secondary Curriculum director for CVSD, who came up with the idea for a job fair.

Demarest met with all the sophomores and juniors at Ridgeline (the school had no senior class in its inaugural year) in the month

leading up to the event.

"We worked on putting together resumes and cover letters and went over job interview skills," she said. "They created resumes and brought them to the job fair."

A survey from employers following the fair produced rave reviews. A total of 57 percent found the event "very valuable" while 43 percent felt it was "somewhat valuable."

"We got such great feedback," Demarest said. "People said it was well-organized and it made sense to have it during the school day. I think it exceeded expectations."

Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Lance Beck said Demarest deserves credit for her orchestration efforts.

"Kelli was at the chamber several days a week working on this early in the planning process,"



## Opening 2024!



## Join us as we come together to build our region's Spokane Valley Performing Arts Center.

For more information:  
[www.spokanevalleypac.com](http://www.spokanevalleypac.com)





Beck said. “She did a great job bridging the gap between the new school and employers and using the Chamber as a tool.”

Demarest said some students secured employment based on contacts made at the event.

CVSD also now features a digital employment board that includes job leads and resources for resumes and interview preparation.

Just a few miles to the west of the Ridgeline campus, another showcase this fall will shed additional light on youth workforce development.

An event called “Unlock Your Future” will take place at the HUB Sports Center in Liberty Lake on October 5, 2022, with a focus on what the HUB’s Executive Director, Phil Champlin, described as industries that have jobs not requiring a college degree.

“We know there are other pathways to success,” he said.

Champlin said the idea for the event branched off the HUB 360 afterschool program that began in 2009.

“Part of that program is talking about what skills, trades, and jobs are needed as the current labor force retires,” he said. “Kids also learned that a college degree doesn’t automatically equal success. College is a tool that you can use to be successful but there are also other avenues.”

The inaugural version of Unlock Your Future, originally slated for October of 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A committee comprised of local nonprofits, school administrators, counselors, CTE staff and local business chambers, including the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, began meeting in early 2020 to discuss the event.

The rescheduled gathering was set to happen last October [2021] with over 40 companies on board. Then the Delta variant hit. Leading up to the occasion, an employment handbook was created for middle school students. In early October last year, 5,400 cop-



*More than 30 employers talked with the students about career opportunities for the summer.*

ies were distributed in District 81 as well as the Central Valley, East Valley, West Valley, Mead, Cheney and Freeman school districts.

The resource guide features scholarship and program information along with summaries of companies in fields like manufacturing, medical, construction as well as information on trades and apprenticeships.

“This also gives (school) counselors another opportunity to have these discussions,” Champlin said.

Champlin said he spoke with representatives from the homebuilding industry in preparation for the event, basing it loosely on a Career Construction Day format.

“They told me about the need for something like this,” he said. “Just to present what opportunities are out there.”

Opportunity is a byword of the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a 501 c(3) sister entity of the chamber that provides CTE scholarships to seniors and graduates of Spokane Valley area high schools. Applicants must be pursuing a degree or certificate in a trade.

The foundation bills itself as “an organization committed to promoting and enhancing community development through the creation and sponsorship of scholarships, leadership development and educational programs.”

Scholarships range up to \$4,500 and can go toward tuition, fees, and tools or equipment required for a program. Beck said a high percentage of students earning the grants attend schools like Spokane Community College, North Idaho College, Anvil Welding Instruction, and Oxarc Welding School.

“This is a needs-based and merit-based program,” Beck said. “Our goal is to keep kids staying local.”

Beck said those who work in trades are critical to the vitality of local commerce.

“We can’t have a functioning community without plumbers, welders, machinists and other workers like that,” he said. “Those jobs have been the backbone of the greater Spokane Valley for decades.” ■



# Achieve your business goals

Want to ramp up inventory or fund seasonal cash flow?

Gesa Credit Union offers both revolving and non-revolving Lines of Credit and Term Loans to fit your needs.

- ✓ Obtain sizeable lines of credit
- ✓ Choose between fixed or variable interest rates
- ✓ Find your best options from secured or unsecured, receivables, or inventory
- ✓ Stay organized with convenient automatic payments

All business loans are subject to credit approval. Insured by NCUA

gesa.com | (888) 946-4372



## Get in touch with our team



**Rick Fisher**  
Commercial Team Leader  
(509) 464-4074



**Scott Bleeker**  
Senior Commercial Loan Officer  
(509) 465-1296



**Greg Partch**  
Senior Commercial Loan Officer  
(509) 464-4073



# INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT TRACKER

## Bigelow Gulch Phase 6

When completed, this project will reroute traffic from east Bigelow Gulch/North Progress Road directly to the Sullivan/Wellesley intersection. This is all part of a long-term plan to reduce congestion and improve vehicle and pedestrian safety.



## Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation

The project will improve safety by replacing the existing at-grade BNSF Railway crossing on Barker Road with an overpass and constructing a roundabout at the Barker Road Trent Avenue intersection. Eventually, this will allow for the closure of the Flora Road/ BNSF Railway crossing.



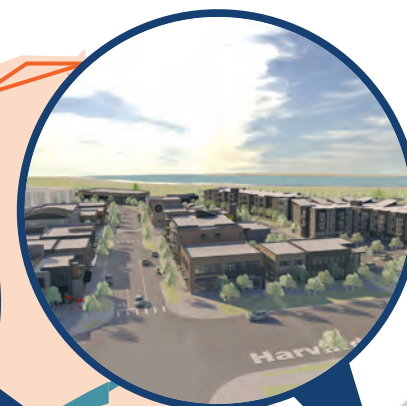
## Knife River Prestress

Knife River is building a new Precast/Prestress plant that is scheduled to begin production Q3 2022. The new plant will feature the latest technology, enclosed batching, and 185,000 square feet of indoor controlled space.



## North Liberty Lake

Liberty Lake's newest retail corridor, NoLL is taking shape with restaurants, services, and shops. Located within the vibrant River District community and tied together by a network of trails and pathways.



## Western States Cat

Western States broke ground on their new facility. This will be the biggest facility project Western States has taken and all Spokane employees will move to this location once it is completed. The new store will include eco-friendly materials in its design, an automation system, and a half-mile walking path for pedestrians.



90

27

## Doris Morrison Learning Center

The 4,000 square foot facility is designed to allow visitors to learn about the history, geology, and ecology of the Saltese Flats. The \$2 million facility, which sits on a hill overlooking the wetland, is scheduled to open next year.



## Henry Road Overpass

This new road bridge across I-90 will connect Mission Avenue and Country Vista Drive. The project will help the flow of people traveling to and from the north and south side of Liberty Lake.



## Spokane Valley Library

The new 28,000 square foot Spokane Valley library will feature contemporary technology, a large community room, a fully equipped audio/visual studio for public use, conference rooms, and a spacious children's area.





# GREENSTONE INGENUITY CULTIVATES RIVER DISTRICT FARM



*River District Farm is located at 20291 E Indiana Ave in the NoLL River District.*

**F**amily expeditions to the apple orchards and produce stands of Spokane Valley were common as Jim Frank was growing up in Spokane's West Central neighborhood.

The outings left an impression on Frank, who founded Greenstone Homes in 1983 and, from the start, placed an emphasis on preserving greenspace and honoring the agricultural heritage of the area. In 2002, Frank and his sister Susan Parker launched the Liberty Lake Farmers Market with eight vendors in front of the Greenstone Building on Meadowwood Lane.

When Greenstone mapped out plans for the River District development on the north side of Liberty Lake, space was set aside for a u-pick fruit orchard. The blueprint eventually expanded into a project that would be known as the River District Farm.

"As time went on, we started talking about making this into something bigger," Frank said.

Dirt began moving in the summer of 2021 with the planting of a 50-tree fruit orchard along with construction of a 900-square-foot greenhouse. That fall, vegetable beds were tilled. By February of this year, plants were getting their start in the greenhouse and by April 30, River District Farm held its first plant sale. The site at 20291 E. Indiana in Liberty Lake also features a farm stand, reminiscent of the roadside produce stands Frank and his family patronized years ago.

"We wanted to create a gathering place that would enhance the fabric of the community," Frank said. "This is also intended to support local agriculture and educate people about gardening and growing vegetables."

The farm sits on four acres in the River District and is overseen by Adam and Emily Powell, propri-

etors of Lilac City Harvest, an organic farm in Spokane Valley that originated in 2018 and specializes in low-till, regenerative agricultural practices that prioritize soil health and nutritional density.

"They're a good fit," said Frank of the Powells.

On the River District Farm website ([www.rdfarm.com](http://www.rdfarm.com)), a reference is made to the farm's land being "the ancestral territory of the Ktunaxa, Schitsu'umsh and Spokane Tribes who have stewarded the land, the Spokane River and all its bountiful resources with deeply held principles of respect, harmony and reciprocity."

"It is our goal to continue this stewardship," the statement concludes.

Frank said he hopes the project will "enhance the resilience of food production and teach people where their food comes from."

"People are taken by the idea," Frank said about farm's inaugural season. "The community is excit-

ed about it."

The farm offers early access membership that runs \$100 annually and features a \$50 farm stand credit and insider alerts on pre-season plant sales and farm stand offerings – both online and in-person. Among other features, the membership includes invitations to farm-to-table dinners, classes, farm updates and a newsletter stocked with recipes.

"Being a member of the farm creates that ownership," Frank said.

Those who sign up for the farm's Harvest Box program automatically become members and can receive produce boxes from the beginning of June until the end of August. Boxes can be picked up at the farm or at one of three community distribution sites, including a spot in the River District's 55-plus Trutina neighborhood.

"Farm shares" are also available to the public. It is part of a model that allows shareholders to pur-

## CenterPlace

### REGIONAL EVENT CENTER

Set against the backdrop of Mirabeau Point Park and the Spokane River, most visitors describe CenterPlace Regional Event Center in one word: Wow! This beautiful building and its adjacent outdoor event spaces provide multiple options for any event. Located along the Interstate 90 corridor between Spokane, WA. and Coeur d'Alene, ID, CenterPlace is easily accessible and offers free parking, onsite catering and an event-planning team that guarantees great customer service.



2426 N Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, WA 99216



- Several meeting and event rooms
- Large view windows in all rooms
- Your ideal site for all events
- State of the art audio visual equipment
- Complimentary wireless internet
- New outdoor venue for large events



**509.720.5200**

[www.centerplacespokanevalley.com](http://www.centerplacespokanevalley.com)

# HENNESSEY

## SPOKANE VALLEY

### Funeral Home & Crematory



509-926-2423

[hennesseyvalley.com](http://hennesseyvalley.com)





River District Farm offers the community locally grown produce.

chase select produce from the farm throughout the calendar year. The program translates into a kickstart to the growing season, “allowing for the most possible diversity and opportunities for sustainability,” according to the River District Farm website.

Frank said the farm’s diverse programming has the potential to make the farm self-sustainable.

“We hope that in a year or two, the farm will pay for itself,” he said. “We’d like to sell enough produce that this will be a profitable venture.”

Frank said establishing a small community farm in the middle of a residential development is “about approaching things from a different angle.”

“We felt it would work well in the neighborhood,” Frank said.

Liberty Lake Mayor Cris Kaminskis said she appreciates Greenstone’s efforts to not only establish the River District Farm but also to “donate land for parks and to preserve greenspace in the city.”

“This farm is a great alternative for our residents to access locally produced, farm-grown food in what is technically an urban growth area,” Kaminskis said.

While farm operations will wind down with the end of the growing season in September, Frank said there has been talk of utilizing the site in the cold weather months to sell year-round items like eggs. He added that the farm stand could operate on an honor system with or without staff.

“In a way, we’re producing another market for local farmers,” Frank said.

A sale on May 7 offered tomato, pepper, and onion starts. The burgeoning orchard will feature primarily apples.

“In the meantime, we’re working with local orchards to purchase fruit from them,” Frank said. “It will take years for the orchard to produce more. It’s like anything, you have to plant seeds.” ■

**SPOKANE VALLEY UNIVERSITY TRANSFER STATION**  
Making a Clean Scene!

OPERATED BY  
**Sunshine Disposal & Recycling**  
509-924-5678 | sunshinedisposal.com

**Open Daily**  
7:30AM—5:00PM  
We are closed for National Holidays: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**Material Accepted**  
General Refuse, Construction Demolition Material, Green/Yard Waste, and Household Hazardous Waste.

[spokanevalley.org/solidwaste](http://spokanevalley.org/solidwaste)

**MODERN Electric Water Company**  
reliably serving the Spokane Valley since 1905

**We Are More Powerful Together!**  
Modern Electric Water Company, a customer-owned utility, striving to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric and water services, as well as enhance and enrich the lives of the community we serve.

**Modern is a proud investor and community partner of The Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, The Champion of Local Business!**



# COEUR D'ALENE CASINO RESORT HOTEL

Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel is located at 37914 S Nukwalqw St in Worley, Idaho.

**“W**elcome Home.” A phrase that you’ll hear upon entering Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort Hotel. It also describes the spirit of the company’s culture and how they share the vibrant landscape and traditional Native American hospitality with all of those who visit. Its mission is to educate and celebrate the Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s traditions, values, and history.

For the tribe itself, education is a top priority. When the council met with the State of Idaho 29 years ago to discuss their gaming compact, the tribe insisted that 5% of their net profits went to education. To this day the Coeur d’Alene Casino has given over \$35 million to educational organizations in the state of Idaho.

“It keeps growing,” Dee Dee McGowan, Cultural Tourism and Tour Bussing Manager for the Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort Hotel said.

Coeur d’Alene Casino also educates its guests through its Cultural Tourism programs. McGowan started the Cultural Tourism department six years ago. They offer a variety of different tours for guests to choose from including hiking, kayaking, traditional arts, painting workshops, and authentic cultural dinner events with live song, drum and dance, foodie groups, and mystery tours where guests don’t know what they will be experiencing until the morning of the tour.

“My favorite tour is the Majestic Encounters - Eagle Aviary Tour,” McGowan said. “It’s so educational, not only are you learning about the Coeur d’Alene Tribe but you’re also learning about how important eagles are to the tribe.”

Coeur d’Alene Tribe is one of nine tribes in the United States that have a federal permit to own their own eagles. The eagles are rescued and have permanent injuries which mean can’t be returned to the wild.

McGowan also partners with local restaurants, businesses, and organizations to create a three-to-seven-day experience for tour groups. Trailbreaker Cider is a local hard cider company that is one of many tours that guests coming in from outside of the area can experience.

“I met Trent at a Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce After 5 Networking Event,” McGowan said.





"His facility is amazing, and I love that it's local. Also, cider is different compared to a brewery or winery, and people like that unique experience."

Trent Maier, owner of Trailbreaker Cider leads all of the tour groups and shares his story of how it all got started.

"Our local support has grown a lot in the last three years since opening Trailbreaker Cider in 2019, and during some of our hardest months, it was always a breath of fresh air to see Dee Dee and her team arrive with energetic audiences when we most needed it," Trent said. "One of the reasons we participate in Chamber events is to become connected with all sorts of partners in our community, especially those that offer the benefit of mutual participation and growth. Seeing their tour offerings and the expansion into our industry is great for both of us and we look forward to showing others what both of us can offer."

"I'm trying to build our local tours and working with



businesses to see what we can do to create an experience for our travelers," McGowan said.

The connections made are not just limited to the cultural tours. McGowan also manages sponsorships for the casino.

"We try to be out in the community as much as possible," she said. "When we sponsor an event, we not only support with in-kind donations or dollars, but we also support in person as

well. I think showing a presence and knowing that people can see that we've taken the time out of our schedules to be there, and support is really important."

Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel continuously shows their support in the community by sponsoring, Valleyfest, Spokane Valley Farmers Market, CRAVE, Communities in Schools, Blessings Under the Bridge, Winter Blessing, and much more.

"It's very important to us that we give back to the community," McGowan said. "We wouldn't be here as a casino without the community." ■



# SHOGUN+

**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**  
**– Rise from the Ashes & Pandemic –**  
**HIBACHI STEAK & SEAFOOD**  
**BIRTHDAY HOTLINE 509-534-7777**



20 N Raymond Road, Spokane Valley



## 4,652

Establishments

**in the City of  
Spokane Valley**



## 9,200

Licensed Business



## 1,208

Manufacturing and  
Distribution Businesses



## 504

Establishments

**in the City of  
Liberty Lake**

Healthcare and Social  
Services is the top  
industry with

## 56

Establishments



## 122

Establishments

**in the City of  
Millwood**

Retail is the top  
industry with

## 25

Establishments

# AREA FACTS

Population  
of Millwood:

## 1,915

Population of  
Liberty Lake:

## 12,480

Population of  
Spokane Valley:

## 104,500

**Spokane Valley's Largest Employers**

As of Nov. 1, 2021

Employer	Employees
State of Washington <sup>1</sup>	5,715
Providence Inland Northwest WA	6,784
MultiCare Health System-INW <sup>2</sup>	3,201
Spokane County	2,058
Central Valley School District	1,549

<sup>1</sup>This state figure is a headcount and includes: Department of Corrections, Department of Transportation, Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, and various other departments. <sup>2</sup>This figure includes Deaconess Hospital, Rockwood Clinic, and Valley Hospital. Sources: Representatives of the organizations, Office of State HR Director.

**Alliant**

alliantbenefits.com

818 W. Riverside, Suite 800  
Spokane, WA 99201  
800-801-4448



## Making a Difference Where it Matters Most

Alliant Employee Benefits is dedicated to solving challenges for employers, from cutting healthcare costs to creating an environment where employees thrive. With the resources and know-how that you've been looking for, we're here to help you make a difference at your organization.

With Alliant, you get the national strength you need backed by the local expertise that matters.

© 2021 Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Alliant Employee Benefits is a division of Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. CA License No. 0C36861



## LARGEST MEMBER CATEGORIES

- 1 Business & Professional Services
- 2 Nonprofit Organizations
- 3 Finance & Insurance
- 4 Restaurants, Food & Beverage
- 5 Health Care
- 6 Government & Education
- 7 Construction Equipment & Contractors
- 8 Advertising & Media
- 9 Real Estate, Moving & Storage
- 10 Shopping & Specialty Retail



**646** NEW MEMBERS  
MEMBERS ADDED IN 2021 **107**

**160** TOTAL ATTENDEES **2824**

**PROGRAMS & EVENTS**  
In 2021, the Chamber hosted a hybrid of virtual and in-person events with the lift of some COVID restrictions. We brought our members together to discuss, network, learn, and celebrate the business community in the Greater Spokane region.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**AWARDED**  
**\$21,499**

to five students by the Spokane Valley Chamber Foundation

## ADVOCACY EFFORTS

12 Government Action Committee Meetings, & 4 Regional Transportation Coalitions Meetings

## AMBASSADORS



**110** NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

**5** Workshops

**9** SIGNATURE EVENTS

**88%** MEMBER RETENTION RATE

**7,642** SOCIAL MEDIA

followers across all platforms & 79 newsletters sent



**16** MEMBER BUSINESSES

highlighted in the Shop Local Campaign encouraging the community to support local businesses.

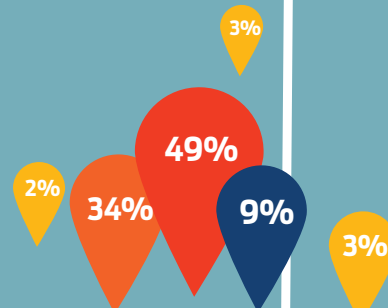
## COVID-19 MEMBERSHIP RECOVERY

At the start of 2020 the Valley Chamber had 671 active members. At year-end of 2020 we lost 58 members due to Covid related challenges impacting business.

At the conclusion of 2021 our membership has grown steadily to 646 active members. The community remains resilient and strong membership growth is projected in 2022.

## MEMBERSHIP BY LOCATION

49%	Spokane Valley
34%	Spokane
9%	Liberty Lake
3%	North Idaho
2%	West Plains
3%	Other



**14 RIBBON CUTTINGS**

**IMPACT**  
WASHINGTON

PART OF THE  
**MEP**  
National  
Network™

## ACTIVATE YOUR POTENTIAL

Successful manufacturers are flexible, efficient and quick to adapt to change by leveraging the latest trends and technologies.

Our purpose is to provide knowledge and resources to help you stay ahead of competitors and create transformative results so you can not only survive, but thrive in an ever-evolving industry.

**innovate**

with Growth and Innovation Programs

**inspire**

with Workforce Development Programs

**improve**

with Operational Excellence Programs

**MANUFACTURER FOCUSED, VALUE DRIVEN SOLUTIONS**

Impactwashington.org | info@impactwashington.org | 425.438.1146





Highbridge Learning Center is located at 11400 E Sprague Ave in Spokane Valley.

# HIGHBRIDGE LEARNING CENTER

**S**isters, Cheri and Jana Johnson have a passion for helping others improve their academic and social success.

Cheri is an occupational therapist with 35 years of experience in the education field, about 26 of those she spent at Central Valley School District. Cheri also has 16 years of experience using balance/auditory/vision exercises.

Jana is a teacher with over 33 years of administrative experience along with ten years of teaching prekindergarten-12th grade and college, curriculum creation, and teaching English as a second language. Jana learned about the Bal-A-Vis-X program from her sister and the two joined forces to open Highbridge Learning Center in 2021.

Highbridge Learning Center features a unique learning model that includes individualized learning plans, and brain and body techniques for optimum academic, social and behavioral success.

The Johnson's use a series of balance/auditory/vision exercises of varying complexity, also known as Bal-A-Vis-X. Created by Bill Hubert, the Bal-A-Vis-X program focuses on integrating the brain and body through repetitive, patterned, and predictable exercise. This process helps develop new neural pathways – empowering children to be able to process what they are being asked to learn all while maintaining an emotional state of wellbeing.

Cheri said being able to utilize the program with both special education youth, as well as the higher education students that are at risk of falling through the gaps, has really helped optimize learning.

“Our program started out as an after-school program that was linked with health and fitness. Quickly we expanded to also offering programs before school. Next thing we knew, stu-

dents actually started bringing friends they thought would benefit from the program,” Cheri said. “It just blossomed.”

The learning center is for children from kindergarten through 5th grade. Work focuses on life skills and core academics, as well as preparations for standardized testing. They’re currently in the process of becoming a recognized private school for the upcoming school year. The school could hold up to 30 students ranging from prekindergarten to 5th grade.

Highbridge Learning Center is currently developing their grounds to be accessible for students to use for play. The plan is to add a garden, track, gym, and a sensory playground.

A sensory playground uses equipment and activities to stimulate the senses such as touch, smell, and sight. The Johnsons enlisted the help of Katie Getman, Owner of Katie Getman Designs, to design the playground.

“I met Katie at the East Valley Networking Group through the Valley Chamber,” Cheri said. “Katie has been helping us with the playground, and she got us connected with PlayCreation who designs and installs playground equipment. They have both been phenomenal to work with.”

When Katie first met with Cheri and Jana, she did a consultation with them for designing the inside of the learning center. During the visit, Katie learned what they wanted to do for the outside area as well.

“I don’t normally do outside landscaped design, but I was able to utilize a lot of my design and project management skills and apply similar concepts to their space,” Katie said. “We came up with a design that mimics nature. We all agreed that it’s so important for kids who have a high sensory need to connect with nature.”

Cheri said they hope to have the playground done by September, just in the time for the start of school year. “All we have left to do is fundraise,” Cheri said.

The Johnson’s have more plans to expand the school into a preschool and elementary school the in the years to follow.

“We are really focused on the students’ wellbeing and giving them all the tools possible, they need for success in the future,” Jana said. “I think that’s what makes us stand out and really gives us an edge.” ■



Highbridge’s students learn brain and body exercises to support academics and well-being.

**Grow your business with us.**

<small>VIEW AVAILABILITY:</small>  <small>Douglaslp.com</small>	<small>POTENTIAL LEASABLE SPACE:</small> <b>1.5M SF</b>	<small>TOTAL LOT SIZE:</small> <b>127 ACRES</b>
	<small>INDUSTRIAL FLOOR PLANS:</small> <b>88K-500K SF</b>	<small>CEILING CLEARANCE:</small> <b>30 FT</b>

FOR LEASING INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**CHRIS BELL NAI BLACK** — [cbell@naiblack.com](mailto:cbell@naiblack.com) — 509.245.2901



Meet by the  
Riverside.

Transform your event into something memorable with five-star service in the heart of Downtown Spokane! Our two outdoor tented spaces can accommodate 200+ guests and offer breathtaking views of the Spokane River and Riverfront Park, creating the perfect backdrop for your reception, party, banquet or meetings. Let us work with you to make your next event a success!

**509.279.7007**

[sales@spokanepfd.org](mailto:sales@spokanepfd.org)  
[spokanecenter.com/meetings](http://spokanecenter.com/meetings)





# VALLEY COVID-19 TEST SITE FUELED BY COLLABORATIVE ENERGY

**E**arlier this year, Daniel Pulse found himself on a scavenger hunt.

Instead of tracking down a variety of random items, Pulse was searching for one thing – a space in Spokane Valley that could host a drive-thru COVID-19 test site.

Pulse works for Discovery Health MD, a physician-led company that provides health services for employers, travelers, and communities. The Seattle-based organization worked with the Washington State Department of Health to open its first drive-thru test site in Enumclaw in December of 2020, a location in Tacoma was next, followed by other sites on the west side.

Establishing similar venues east of the Cascades was next for Pulse and his team. Discovery Health MD launched a drive-thru venue at Spokane Falls Community College on October 18, 2021 and administered 310 tests on the first day.

Just over a month later, another site premiered at the Spokane County Interstate Fairgrounds. When it became clear at the start of 2022 that the fairgrounds would need the space for incoming events, Pulse began the pursuit of a location that could serve Valley residents.

*The Valley's Covid-19 testing site is located in the parking lot of Ashley Furniture HomeStore Outlet at 13414 E Sprague Ave.*

“We knew it was a priority,” said Spokane County Commissioner Mary Kuney, who represents District 2, which includes Spokane Valley. “We couldn’t have it at the fairgrounds, so what would be the alternative?”

As chair of the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) Board, Kuney was in discussions with Spokane County Health Officer Dr. Frank Velazquez about the need for a Valley site. Velazquez then reached out to Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Lance Beck, for input.

“The goal is to have as much testing coverage as possible,” said Velazquez. “We wanted an option within the boundaries of Spokane Valley. We have a very strong history of collaboration with our chambers of commerce. They have knowledge of what is where.”

Kuney added, “I knew that once we handed it over to the chamber, we wouldn’t have to worry

about it.”

After surveying a variety of potential Valley options, Beck connected with Pulse on a possible solution – the parking lot of Ashley Furniture HomeStore Outlet at 13414 E. Sprague Ave. The property owner, Tombari Properties, became a key to securing the venue along with the Chamber.

“We got a call from the Valley Chamber saying they needed to find a site in the Valley in a couple of weeks,” said Terry Tombari, President and CEO of Tombari Properties. “They mentioned that location, so we got a lease together and got them in there. This is a social health cause so it’s important to have test sites and this is a convenient location for the public.”

By March 7, the first cars were pulling into the makeshift clinic.

“We were having a heck of a time finding a site in the Valley,” Pulse said. “Lance and the Chamber were super helpful. They had a



number of ideas right off the bat. They were integral in developing that relationship and helping us secure that space.”

Those who get tested enjoy the convenience of remaining in their vehicles. There is no cost. The site administers two kinds of tests – a rapid antigen version and a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. If the rapid test turns up negative, a PCR test follows as a backup.

“We’ve been able to get really large volumes of people tested,” said Kira Lewis, a public health nurse with SRHD. “We are way more streamlined and efficient in how we’re approaching this.”

Pulse said both the Valley and SFCC sites will remain open through September.

“We hope to be able to continue this beyond September pending solutions for funding,” he said. “I’m optimistic about that.”

Discovery Health MD also has a permanent site at 429 E. Sprague

Ave. that specializes in COVID-19 testing for travelers.

“We want people to get a test when they need it,” Pulse said.

Velazquez said the partnership with Discovery Health MD “has been a great collaboration that should continue.” The Valley site has averaged around 70 tests per week since it opened.

“There’s no appointment necessary,” Velazquez said. “It’s very flexible, very user-friendly. I’ve heard from a lot of citizens who have gone.”

Velazquez emphasized that reinvesting in COVID-19 “reduces the impact on high-acuity clinical settings like ERs and hospitals.” He pointed out other free resources for tests, including a program through the federal government – [www.covid.gov/test](http://www.covid.gov/test) that provides at-home kits.

As positive cases have been on the increase this summer, Kelli Hawkins, spokesperson for SRHD, said, continued community teamwork will be one of the factors to

an effective response.

“We now have a process unlike early on in the pandemic,” she said. “These partnerships have been instrumental in finding solutions.”

As for the effort that went into making the Valley site a reality, Beck expressed appreciation for the commitment of his chamber colleagues.

“I’m just really proud of our team and what we did to track down all the property options to make sure the Valley was being served,” he said. ■



## PINECROWN BUSINESS PARK

*The Inland Northwest's Premier Business Campus*

- Campus setting with on-site management
- Three convenient I-90 freeway on/off ramps
- Central location provides easy access for employees and visitors
- Spokane River with walking/bike trail along eastern boundary
- Build to Suit opportunities
- Park amenities include a restaurant, executive boardroom and exercise facility with showers

[www.PinecrownBusinessPark.com](http://www.PinecrownBusinessPark.com)

**(509) 927-7747**

12709 E. Mirabeau Parkway, Ste 10 • Spokane Valley, WA 99216





# START HERE. GROW HERE. PROSPER.



*Spokane Valley  
is an ideal city to  
start or expand  
your business.*

## Where “big city” conveniences meet “small city” characteristics.

Centrally located along Interstate 90 between Spokane and Coeur d’Alene, the City of Spokane Valley is a thriving hub of health care, small manufacturing and construction companies, and home to the largest retail center in the region. If you require a building permit, the city offers a streamlined, online application process that is transparent and efficient.

In Spokane Valley, residents enjoy a slower pace of life and a closeness to nature. The community’s award-winning schools and family-friendly neighborhoods create a safe place where employees want to live, work and play.

**To learn more, contact our Economic Development Specialist.**



**SPOKANE  
VALLEY**  
— ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT —

Susan Joseph Nielsen  
509.720.5058  
[snielsen@spokanevalley.org](mailto:snielsen@spokanevalley.org)  
[SpokaneValleyED.org](http://SpokaneValleyED.org)



STCU COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

# Business. Partners.

Businesses are built on relationships. Our team of experts can help to manage your money with state-of-the-art tools like same-day ACH, remote deposit, and merchant services.

To learn more about STCU's commercial and business services, scan the QR code, go to **[stcu.org/business](https://stcu.org/business)**, or call (509) 344-2200.

Insured by NCUA.







## Sip & Gather

with 20-300 of your favorite people inside, and a 3/4 of-an-acre patio and lawn space available outside.

Centrally located in Liberty Lake, WA, we are filling a void in much needed event space options.

- **Corporate Events**
- **Weddings**
- **Private/Holiday Parties**



Enjoy our modern and unique interior space with full audio availability inside and out. Full service catering including customizable food and beverage menus. Contact us today with questions from cider to site tours.

📷 📱 @trailbreakercider

2204 N Madson Rd  
Liberty Lake, WA  
509.279.2159  
trailbreakercider.com  
events@trailbreakercider.com

