

VALLEY BUSINESS NEWS

Chamber news and member happenings!



WALLA WALLA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



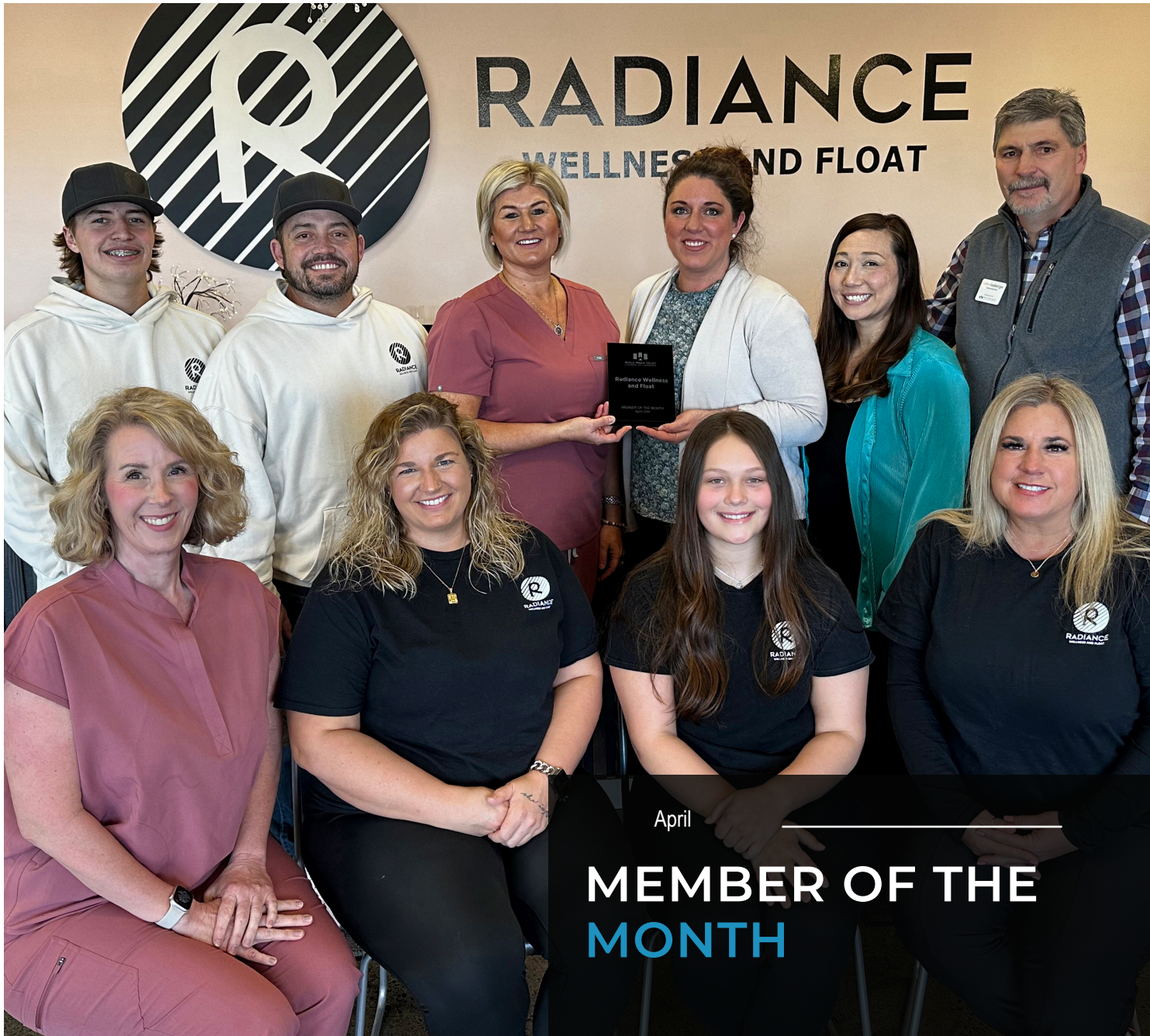
SCORE MENTORING

Enhance your life and another's?



CITY TOURISM SURVEY

Complete the survey in English or Spanish for a chance to win dinner and tickets to Norah Jones for two



April

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

RADIANCE WELLNESS AND FLOAT

Family owned and operated wellness center in Walla Walla. Originally started as a tanning studio, we moved towards the focus of whole body wellness. In March of 2021 we moved into our new facility and more than doubled in size. Come in and take a tour, you will learn about our offerings and how they can apply to you. We take pride in supporting our customers wellness journey.

“

With an emphasis on wellness and self care, we promote thoughtful and positive life change to promote both physical and mental well-being.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTION / BAH

Walla Walla Toyota

Tuesday, April 9
5:30 pm- 7:00 pm

606 N Wilbur Ave
Walla Walla

Purchased by the Lum family in 2021 and renamed to "Walla Walla Toyota", David Lum originally opened Lum's Toyota in Astoria, OR in 1969, with the mission to make community members feel like family and give employees a place where they could thrive. Walla Walla Toyota continues on the traditions set forth over 50 years ago with a commitment to community, maintaining a safe and respectful environment, and a relentless focus on customer service.

This is a Community Connection, an enhanced version of Business After Hours.

To assist our host with a headcount for food and beverage, please RSVP.

[RSVP HERE](#)



RIBBON CUTTINGS

THE DRAYMAN HOUSE

Friday, April 19
2:00 pm

10 N 7th Ave
Walla Walla

Join us to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Drayman House with a Ribbon Cutting! There will be light bites, wine and tours.

In addition to their Friday ribbon cutting, they will also have a Grand Opening celebration on Saturday that includes a chance to win a 9 case locker with a one year membership for those that **RSVP**



Photo by Steph Forrer

CHAMBER ROUNDTABLES



Roundtables are small group discussions where all attendees are encouraged to participate. Roundtables are typically for a specific sector or industry to pose questions, discuss current challenges and exchange ideas.

Roundtables are free and Membership is not required, RSVP is required as space is limited. If capacity has been reached, please add your name to the wait list.

Nonprofits

Tuesday, April 30
8:30 am- 9:45 am

29 E Sumach St
Walla Walla

Those in the nonprofit sectors are invited to join us for a discussion to foster knowledge sharing, connection making and collaboration.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Small Employers & Self Employed

Wednesday, May 22
8:30 am- 9:45 am

29 E Sumach St
Walla Walla

Those who employ five or less employees or are self employed are invited to join us for a discussion to foster knowledge sharing, connection making and collaboration.

[RSVP HERE](#)

WWV YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tell Your Story | Panel Discussion with Local Entrepreneurs

Wednesday, April 10
5:30 pm- 7:30 pm

Rasa Vineyards Tasting Room
38 E Main St #103
Walla Walla

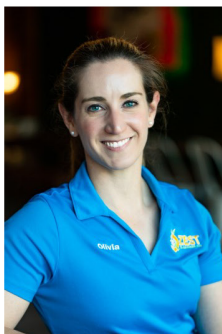
Mark your calendar for the inaugural Walla Walla Valley Young Professionals event! We will host a panel of entrepreneurs from around the Valley to tell their stories. Come be inspired and connect with other young professionals.

Registration includes a beverage of your choice and snacks

[REGISTRATION](#)



Joshua Huh
Carte Coffee



Olivia Kaye
Zest Cleaning



Scott Underwood
NexGen Technology



Chloe Congleton
Enable Art



Cole Walking Eagle
Walking Eagle Mobility



Jaiden Eskil
Walla Walla Wine Walk

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Every month, we pose a new question to several local businesses, and this month we asked:

What qualities do you look for when you are interviewing prospective employees?



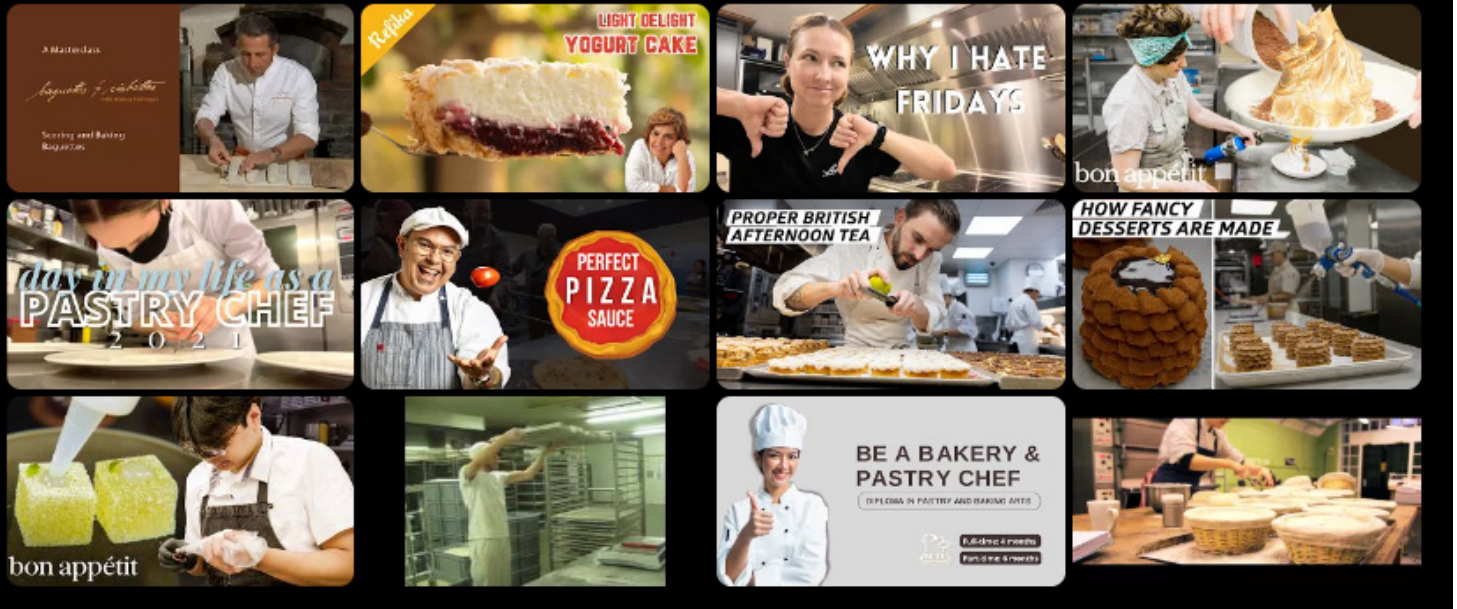
Banner Bank

Brad Baumann
1 E Alder St
Walla Walla, WA
bannerbank.com

When you handle other people's money, trust is a given. According to Brad Baumann, vice president and Walla Walla Main Branch Manager, "The hiring process is exciting and finding the right candidate is very important. The banking positions I hire most for require skills that can be introduced and learned over time. Having an interested candidate that already has previous banking experience is a bonus, but previous banking experience is not necessarily required to start a career in banking. Here are some qualities that I look for when interviewing prospective employees:

- What is the applicant's aptitude and attitude towards goal achievement?
- What are some of the applicants personal and career goals?
- Does the applicant demonstrate being adaptable?
- Does the applicant support a team player environment?
- Does the applicant communicate effectively?
- Does the applicant support community service?
- What is the applicants job history and time of service in prior roles?
- Does the applicant ask great questions?
- Why are they interested in a banking career?

Brad has worked in banking since 1995 and will celebrate his 18th work anniversary with Banner Bank this year. He serves as an officer of the WWV Chamber Board of Directors. Banner Bank is headquartered in Walla Walla with branches in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California. Brad estimates that Banner Bank typically has 20 or more job postings at any given time. Banner Bank was established in 1890 and has been a Chamber member since 1936.



Click the above image to watch the Silver Slice video to see how SCORE helped them and how they can help you.

SCORE MENTORING

Benefits of Volunteering with SCORE as a Business Mentor

Tuesday, April 9
10:00 am

If you have business experience or skills and are eager to help small business owners and entrepreneurs grow in your community, you should consider volunteering as a SCORE Mentor.

SCORE is the nation’s largest source of free, expert mentoring, resources and educational content for small businesses. In 2023, SCORE helped start 31,167 new businesses, creating 120,948 non-owner jobs; 91% of SCORE’s “in business” clients were still in business at the end of 2023 and 48% of “in business” clients reported an increase in revenue.

Hear firsthand from dedicated SCORE mentors during this live webinar about how they utilized their expertise to help local small business owners and how you can become a SCORE Mentor and make a difference in your community.

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION

National Small Business Week

National Small Business Week (NSBW) is April 28- May 4.

SBA and SCORE will co-host the NSBW Virtual Summit April 30- May 1.

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION



COMMUNITY CONCIERGE

A celebration of community spirit and collective empowerment



Do you enjoy connecting with people and sharing your love for the Walla Walla Valley?

The Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce is seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our Community Concierge program!

This volunteer opportunity is perfect for individuals who:

- Are passionate about the Walla Walla Valley and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others.
- Possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills or want to improve them.
- Have a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
- Are Available to volunteer a few hours per week or at special events.

For more information contact the Chamber at 509.525.0850 or info@wwchamber.com

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

In celebration of National Volunteer Month we would like to recognize our Ambassadors by acknowledging their incredible dedication. They willingly give their time and energy to strengthen our business community and their efforts make a real difference. We are so grateful for their warm welcomes to new members, enthusiastic representation of our Chamber at events, and their ongoing commitment to fostering connections. Thank you for embodying the spirit of volunteerism!



Pictured left to right: John Kasberger, Billie Sveska, Kim Heidenrich, Emily Reay, Patricia Guzman, Jim Tackett.

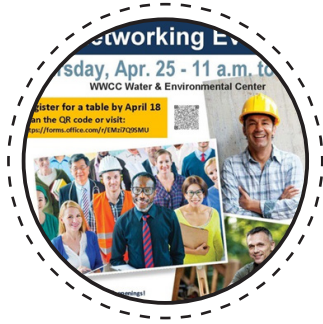
Not Pictured: Paul Bowen, Abbie Clark, Diane Davis, Heidi Kincheloe, Diane Pease, Jim Jean-Francois, Bailey Kissack

RESIDENT SURVEY ON TOURISM

The City of Walla Walla is launching a new community survey to help inform its 10-year master plan for tourism development. The goal of the plan is to promote quality of life for residents while cultivating a highly engaging experience for visitors that features excellent attractions and celebrates the local way of life.

The City of Walla Walla and project partners know the importance of listening to and valuing the voices of our residents and proactively making sure that your priorities are represented in the final plan. The survey provides residents with the opportunity to express your thoughts on how to strengthen and responsibly grow tourism in Walla Walla Valley with questions around priorities, concerns, strengths, and weaknesses. The survey is available in English and Spanish.

[MORE INFO & TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



WORKSOURCE

Career and Internship Networking Fair

April 25
11 am-2 pm

Register for a table by April 18th

Let us help you promote your job openings! Post your jobs with WorkSource at no cost. For help with setting up your employer account & posting jobs, contact WorkSource: 509.527.4393.



THE DRAYMAN HOUSE

Grand Opening Celebration

April 20
4 pm-7pm

Join us to celebrate our official Grand Opening! Meet and mingle with our team, explore the newly finished space and discover what being a member at The Drayman House is all about!

Enjoy light bites by Palette Walla Walla and a glass of wine on the house.

Please RSVP by April 12th. All those who RSVP will be entered into a drawing to win a 9-case locker with a one year membership.



EARLY LEARNING COALITION

Identifying Properties and Spaces for Early Care and Education Programs

The Early Learning Coalition continues to focus on the accessibility and availability of child care and we are working with United Way of the Blue Mountains and the Arrowleaf Group on increasing the available early learning and child care facilities.

We need your help finding spaces and properties in Walla Walla County and Columbia County that could potentially be used by early learning and care programs.

If your organization has a space or property that could potentially be leased by or sold to a child care program, please take a [5 minute survey](#) or email eiledonm@bmacww.org for additional information.



Bright's Candies

Paul Jenes
11 E Main St
Walla Walla, WA
brightscandies.com



“Our biggest criteria in an employee is someone who has a friendly and caring attitude,” said Paul Jenes, owner of Bright’s Candies along with his wife, Tiffany Jenes. “We have found those qualities not only help them be a better worker, but a better team player. Connecting with customers and providing improved service is always a goal. A friendly interaction goes a long way to a good experience at our shop.”

High school and college students seem to be the ones most attracted to work in the sweet environment this business offers. Turnover is fairly high as people of that age range often make frequent transitions. An application for employment is available directly from the shop’s website and if Paul wants more applicants, he turns to social media or Whitman College.

Paul estimates an average of five to eight new employees a year. He is too busy making all of the handmade chocolates so has more experienced team members train the newbies. He and Tiffany bought the business in September 1996 and joined the Chamber in 2004.



Valley Transit

Angie Peters
1401 W Rose St
Walla Walla, WA
valleytransit.com



“To a certain extent, the qualities I seek in interviewing prospective candidates are inherently shaped by the requirements of the role I am hiring for at the time,” explained Angie Peters, general manager of Valley Transit since 2019. Valley Transit, a separate municipal corporation, has been a Chamber member since 1981.

“Nevertheless, across all positions, I prioritize qualities that resonate with our organizational mission and core values,” Angie said. According to Valley Transits website, its mission is ‘empowering people through transportation access’. Angie added, “I value individuals who exhibit a keen willingness to learn, adaptability, and who possess soft skills indicative of a smooth integration with our team culture. We typically post our jobs on our company website, on Indeed, and on Facebook. When we have had more difficulty hiring for roles, we have done paid advertising with the Union Bulletin and/or BMT. We have intermittently posted our jobs on WorkSource and college job boards as well. When our candidates share with us where they heard about the job, it is typically the first three sources I listed or word of mouth. Typically, we would hire 5-10 individuals in a given year to meet our evolving workforce needs.”

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Walla Walla YMCA

Karen Hedine
340 S Park St
Walla Walla, WA
wwwymca.org



The leadership team and staff at Walla Walla YMCA ensure the nonprofit's mission of nurturing youth development, improving healthy living for all ages, and giving back and supporting the community is accomplished.

Karen Hedine, CEO since 2019, notes: "The Y serves as the first job for many of the area youth – from summer counselors to lifeguards and swim instructors to school year aides in sports, youth engagement and other departments. Additionally, our team includes childcare staff, customer service, exercise instructors, personal trainers, and a host of administrative and leadership positions. With over 160 employees year-round employment starts with a great interview. Key qualities we look for include teamwork, initiative, reliability, honesty and organizational skills. A positive outgoing personality is always a plus!"

Karen is involved in interviews for leadership positions however, the HR Director handles the interviews for staff.

The Y was founded in 1886 and became a Chamber member in 1949. Current programs include group activities in the following areas: exercise, aquatics, child development, sports, safety training, wellness and youth engagement.



Public House 124

Jim Sanders & Josiah Ward
124 E Main St
Walla Walla, WA
ph124.com



Even though job openings at Public House 124 are rare, explained Jim Sanders, owner, pictured above right, and Josiah Ward, general manager, pictured left, each echo the other's opinions about what qualities they seek for future team members.

"We want to find out their experience, first of all," Jim said. "In our line of work, a person doesn't have to have a ton of hospitality experience. What's important is availability because the work involves evenings and weekends."

Josiah added, "People who are good with people, flexible with schedules and passionate about the work are who we want to hire. We want customers to feel like they are home when they come in."

Jim explained, "Food and beverage work can get hectic; you have to juggle two or three things at the same time so you must be able to prioritize and multi-task."

They both said an ability to work with others is key.

Jim said, "The staff takes care of us, and we take care of them. We try to find out their goals and move them up as opportunities become open." Josiah is a prime example as he began in the kitchen nine years ago and now manages the entire operation.




Andy's Market

Vicki Zanes
1117 S College Place
College Place, WA
andysmarket.com



The Market by Andy's

130 E Rose St #101
Walla Walla, WA
themarketbyandys.com

Vicki Zanes, general manager of The Market by Andy's in Walla Walla since its opening in January 2020 and also Andy's Market in College Place since her father retired in January 2023, shared the following:

"The interview process is an important part of building a successful team. A willingness to learn new things, good communication skills and interpersonal skills are at the top of my list of qualities I am looking for in a future team member at Andy's Market.

"During the interview process I try to listen just as much, if not more, than I talk. I want to hear about any and everything a potential team member wants to share with me. Good questions that lead to descriptive answers help me learn about a person's personality, preferences and abilities.

"A potential team member's ability to ask good questions during the interview process has always been an important quality that I look for in future team members. You don't know, what you don't know. But the willingness to seek out information and learn as much as you can by asking intelligent questions is a good indicator of someone's eagerness and motivation to learn and perform at their job.

"I once had a young interviewee ask me, 'What skills do you think I will be able to learn and take with me from having had the experience of working here at Andy's Market?' I LOVED this question! It showed me that this individual was here to learn, grow and expand their future."

WORKSPACE AVAILABLE

Rare Opportunity Alert!

Discover your ideal workspace at the heart of the Chamber of Commerce! Coming soon: A coveted private office space tailored for 1-2 individuals. Immerse yourself in a productive environment featuring:

- Seamless Wi-Fi connectivity for uninterrupted work
- Convenient off-street shaded parking for hassle-free arrivals
- 24/7 access with top-notch facility security for peace of mind
- Access to copier facilities for all your printing needs
- Fully equipped kitchenette with a Keurig for your refreshment breaks
- Access to a well-appointed boardroom with AV equipment for your meetings

Experience the tranquility of a quiet, luminous workspace, coupled with the convenience of being just steps away from your favorite local shops and eateries.

Pricing at \$725 per month for an annual lease.

For further details, reach out to the Chamber Office at 509.525.0850 or email ceo@wwwchamber.com. Don't miss out on this exceptional opportunity!



April Anniversaries

Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber!

Columbia Rural Electric Association
 DAMA Wines
 Alder Family Dental
 Walla Walla Toyota
 Frontier Days Foundation
 Blue Mountain Bottled Water
 Fondahn CPA
 Spectrum Reach
 Valdemar Estates
 Circle C Quarry, LLC
 Neutral Ground Dispute Resolution Center
 Runway Market & Sparkling Wine Bar
 NW Touring & Concierge
 Bella Terra Real Estate
 Wonder Worx walla walla
 Fraternal Order of Eagles
 Cedar Rain Spirits
 NWCleaningMasters LLC
 Angeleone

Look Who's Celebrating 25 Years or More!

Total Office Concepts, Inc.	90
Walla Walla Clinic	69
Valley Vision Clinic	62
Coldwell Banker Walla Walla	49
Odom Corporation/NW Beverage	46
Nelson Irrigation Corporation	43
McDonald Zaring Insurance	42
Chervenell Construction	40
Koncrete Industries	33
Dunham Cellars	31
Gesa Credit Union	31
Walla Walla Builders Supply Inc	30
Elsom Roofing, Inc	29
Jeff Callow	25



29 E Sumach St • Walla Walla, WA
 509.525.0850
www.wwwchamber.com
marketing@wwwchamber.com



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



VISIONARIES

