

VALLEY BUSINESS NEWS

Chamber news and member happenings!



WALLA WALLA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



WALLA WALLA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



FOUNDATION WALLA WALLA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



04

CHAMBER 2024

Launching new and enhanced events, programs and resources in 2024.



07

SCORE COMES TO WW VALLEY

Free mentorship for entrepreneurs in the Walla Walla Valley.



January

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

SANDY'S U-RENT

Sandy's U-Rent has been in the rental business for over 60 years. Ever since opening our doors in 1961 we have been committed to giving our customers the best equipment and service to have a very special event.

We specialize in party and special occasion rentals and sales. Providing high quality, well-maintained party and special event equipment.

“

It starts with an idea! We help bring your vision to life”

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

T-Post Tavern

Tuesday, January 9

5:30 pm- 7:00 pm

1415 Plaza Way
Walla Walla

As we usher in a new year and head into the Chamber's 125th anniversary we're kicking it off with Business After Hours at T-Post Tavern!

Join us for an evening of connections with other valley professionals while experiencing food, beverage and maybe a little bull riding from Walla Walla's newest country bar. You do not need to be a Chamber member and it is free to attend this open-house style event.

To assist our host with a headcount for food and beverage, please RSVP: [BAH RSVP](#)



RIBBON CUTTINGS

The Heritage Clinic

Wednesday, February 22

1:00 pm

1129 S 2nd Ave Suite B
Walla Walla, WA

Join us for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening of The Heritage Clinic. After the ribbon cutting, stick around to make connections with other business, industry and medical professionals.

The Heritage Clinic will also be hosting an open house on Saturday, February 24 from 9 am-1 pm.

We hosted 22 Ribbon Cuttings for grand openings, anniversaries, re-brandings and relocations in 2023. We look forward to helping even more Walla Walla Valley businesses celebrate with the big scissors in 2024!



Hayden Homes Ribbon Cutting 11/09

Hope Heals Ribbon Cutting 12/13



CHAMBER 2024

Building the Next Generation of Business & Workforce in the Walla Walla Valley

The WWV Chamber heads into 2024 celebrating not one, but two milestones. The first being the 125th anniversary of the Chamber and the second being the 25th anniversary of the Chamber Foundation.

Both will have much to celebrate this year as we focus on enhancing and adding to our programs, resources and initiatives. You may have noticed some of these being implemented over the last few months such as the very successful Chamber Cafés and the new First Friday digital magazine which includes “Question of the Month” interviews showcasing many of our amazing members and businesses around the Valley. Receiving very positive feedback, we feel confident the additional work started in 2023 will continue to yield positive results and provide the benefits our members are seeking.

We invite you to join us for our Annual Meeting on January 17th to learn more about Chamber 2024. We encourage all to attend. Whether you are actively engaged with the Chamber, would like to re-engage with the Chamber, or are interested in learning more about the Chamber- whether you are a current member or not- we look forward to introducing you to Chamber 2024.

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 17
9:00 am- 10:00 am

Marcus Whitman Hotel
6 W. Rose St.
Walla Walla

Join us for the Annual Meeting for all the exciting updates about Chamber 2024! Celebrating 125 years, the Chamber will be rolling into the new year with updated events, initiatives and programs!

Whether you are a current member or curious about the Chamber this is the perfect event to attend. Join us to see the Chamber’s recent achievements and learn about the strategic priorities for the upcoming year and how they can benefit you and your business.

CONNECTIONS THAT MATTER



Attendees can look forward to:

- 2024 Board Chair announcement
- Outgoing and incoming Board Member announcements
- Ambassador of the Year
- 2023 Achievements
- 2024 Goals and priorities

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Pacific Power

Lori Wyman
650 E Douglas St
Walla Walla, WA
pacificpower.net

According to Lori Wyman, Regional Business Manager at Pacific Power: “We are working towards the four-year action plan submitted to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to advance the 2030 & 2045 clean energy directives to support the Clean Energy Transformation Act, signed into law May 7, 2019. CETA commits Washington to an electric supply free of greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Pacific Power created a newly formed Equity Advisory Group (EAG) to ensure our customers and communities are included in the planning process. We are also going to focus on multicultural communication in 2024 and an increased awareness of Pacific Power’s Wattsmart® residential and business energy efficiency programs.”

For more information, visit: Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act & Equitable Distribution of Benefits (pacificcorp.com)

Pacific Power provides safe and reliable electric service to more than 800,000 customers in Oregon, Washington and California and is the largest regulated utility owner of wind power in the West.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

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

Do you have any plans to try something new for your business/organization in 2024?

Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival



Timothy Christie
29 E Sumach St
Walla Walla, WA
www.wwcmf.org



Each new year provides an opportunity for a diverse range of musicians and ensembles to perform during the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, founded in 2007 by Timothy Christie, a music professor at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma who also serves as artistic director.

Timothy, known for his knack of bringing in musicians and ensembles on the cusp of wider acclaim, discovered Walla Walla had no chamber music festival when he first visited with his wife, Maria, and very young daughter, Charlotte, for a wine event. They loved the wine, setting and charm of the town and wanted to bring chamber music to the area.

According to Timothy, “In January we will host the pianist Benjamin Hochman who will play a much beloved Beethoven piano sonata. In addition, the Girsky String Quartet will present a Ned Rorum piece inspired by ten Pablo Picasso paintings and drawings. Then in June, the festival will highlight the unique percussion group, Beyond this Point, which features an elaborate light show whose special effects are triggered by the group’s wide range of musical sounds. The WWCMF distinguishes itself among peer organizations nationally by its sheer variety of musical sources, including women and composers of color.”

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

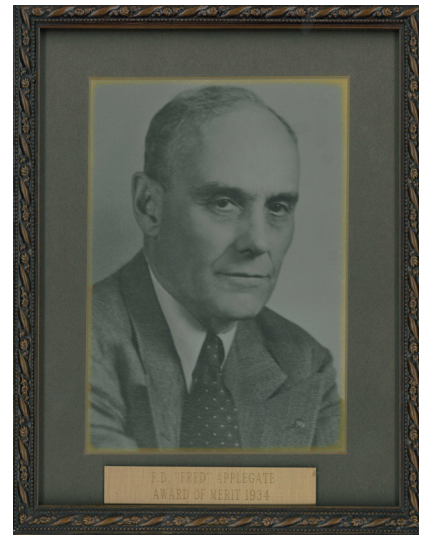
With Throwback Logos and Photos



D. Frank Baker | President 1932-33

For those that have been in our Board Room, you are familiar with our collection of photos. We have a photo archive of past Board Chairs/Presidents and Award of Merit Recipients dating back to 1932!

It's always fun to browse through them and see how the styles have changed over the years and when visitors recognize relatives and friends they didn't know his or her photo was displayed.



F.D. "Fred" Applegate | Award of Merit 1934

More Throwback Photos



If you have any photos you would like to share with the chamber or have information about any of the photos we share, email Tawni Gama, tgama@wwwchamber.com.

CHAMBER UPDATES & NEWS

Civics Bee: Submission Deadline Extended to January 22



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has extended the essay submission deadline to January 22nd!

Washington Middle Schoolers still have two weeks to submit their 500 word essays on the topic "Identify a problem facing your community. How might a citizen solve the problem?"

SCORE: Get Free Business Advice From Experienced Mentors

The Chamber is committed to assisting this community in re-imagining and revitalization by investing in our community to strengthen the area by creating opportunities to assist our businesses in rebounding and sustainable growth.



We have partnered with SCORE to do just that. With this partnership, we are excited to be able to assist all levels of business on an ongoing basis.

New Year New Space: Office Space Available

Think about a rare upcoming opening for a private lockable office space for 1-2 in the Chamber of Commerce. You will enjoy uninterrupted Wi-Fi connectivity, off-street shaded parking, 24/7 access with facility security, copier usage, kitchen & Keurig, board room with AV available for meetings. Walk to your favorite shops and restaurants. Asking \$850 a month/annual lease.

Call the Chamber Office for additional details
509.525.0850.

MEMBER NEWS

Petersen Hastings



Petersen Hastings Wealth Advisors (formerly Petersen Hastings), a nationally and locally recognized, fee-only Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm headquartered in Kennewick, unveiled its "Where You're Invested" rebrand that includes a new company logo, brand style, and tagline. The revitalization of the firm's brand is aligned with a modern and cohesive image as Petersen Hastings Wealth Advisors embarks on its further expansion into new markets.

Columbia REA



Columbia REA Scholarship applications are now available online.

Columbia REA established the academic scholarship program in 1999. This year, the Clark A. Brewington Scholarship Program, named in memory of former Columbia REA General Manager, Clark Brewington, will award three (3) academic scholarships to deserving students living within the Columbia REA service area.

Baker Boyer



Baker Boyer announces the appointments of Craig Hamada, Lora Linn, and TJ Middlesworth to Vice President, effective Jan. 1, 2024. These promotions strengthen the Bank with expertise for the future and for our clients.

"Baker Boyer's legacy began with a vision for a better tomorrow, and these promotions continue that commitment through strong leadership," says Baker Boyer President and CEO Mark Kajita.



LIKE VELVET Electrolysis

New Permanent Hair Removal Service Now Open in Walla Walla

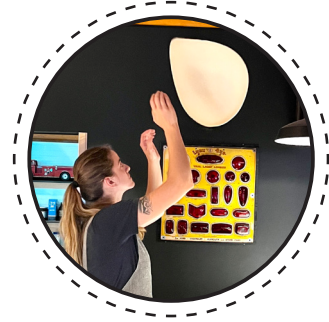
Tired of shaving, tweezing, waxing, messy creams, and other hair removal methods that don't work and don't last?

It's time to try electrolysis!

The ONLY technique endorsed by the FDA, proven safe, and 100% effective in achieving permanent hair removal – regardless of hair or skin color.

Visit us online to learn more, schedule a free 30-minute consultation, and take advantage of our New Year, New You January special.

509-730-5221



AMERICAN 35

Pizza Making Class

January 10
5:30 pm

Pizzaiolo Tom Bennett was trained in Tuscany to make pizza, and now he's ready to share what he knows with you. You'll learn all aspects of handling dough, creating exciting topping combinations, and baking your masterpiece to perfection.

Call to reserve your spot
(509) 337 3111



FORT WALLA WALLA

Museum After Hours: New Caldonian Games History Book Talk

January 25
4- 5 pm

Come hear Athena's Sue Friese who collaborated on a new book called, "Tell It To Me Again: Sharing Athena's Scottish History." She is bringing her own Scottish items to peruse and may even have a piper with her to play a wee tune. Athena's Scots organized a heritage association back in 1888 to promote Scottish values and traditions among the Scottish wheat farmers immigrating to the region.



Rogers' Bakery and Café

Kelli Leen
116 N College Ave
College Place, WA
rogersbakeryandcafe.com



While the recipes at Rogers' Bakery and Café – a College Place institution since 1962 – remain the same, Kelli Leen, the owner, tries different ways to market the business she's owned since 2002.

"We will offer specials to start and end each week with Maple Mondays and Fritter Fridays. Every Monday, maple bars will be two for the price of one and every Friday, our apple fritters will cost \$2.75 each. Rogers' will also start a punch card program for college students who attend Walla Walla University, Whitman College or Walla Walla Community College – buy 10 sandwiches and get one free."

The bakery and café was destroyed by a fire in 2010. A year later, the structure was reconstructed, and everything was back to business as usual. Mornings are bustling with regulars who appreciate that all of the baked goods are made from scratch.

"Last year was busy and we're looking forward to an even busier year," Kelli added.



Walla Walla Electric

Charlie Barron
1225 W Poplar St
Walla Walla, WA
wwelectric.com



For the new year, Charlie Barron, Walla Walla Electric's President, CEO, and Estimator, said, "We pretty much will keep doing things the same way." Although, he later added, "Technology is rapidly changing. Updates are needed and national electric codes change every three years so continuing education is ongoing."

Walla Walla Electric has been a member of the Chamber since 1982. The company was originally founded by Everett Knudson in 1975 and provides electrical services and solar panel installations for residential, commercial and industrial projects in Washington and Oregon.

In 1998 Everett hired Charlie, an 18-year-old straight out of high school. Charlie was groomed to take over when Everett retired in 2014 and Walla Walla Electric became employee owned. Charlie explained it is no longer possible to be hired as he was then. Now, apprentices go through a state training program. Charlie pays for Walla Walla Electric to be a registered "training agent" for the state's electrical apprenticeship program.

Despite the change, Charlie still tries "to spark an interest in someone" to go into the trade by attending job fairs. It's his way to try and help reverse the growing shortage of electricians.



Walla Walla Presbyterian Church



Pastor Albert Gillin
325 1st Ave
Walla Walla, WA
wwpc.org



Many different plans have come to fruition in Walla Walla Presbyterian Church's 150 year history, but under the leadership of Pastor Albert Gillin, a few in recent history include the construction of a new atrium area with an elevator to access all five levels of the church, a new Friday Communion Vespers Service at 5:30 p.m. and a food ministry outreach with students at Sharpstein Elementary, in partnership with Community in Schools.

"We have a long history of supporting families," said Pastor Gillin, noting that space was given to Walla Walla's Head Start program when it first started in the Presbyterian Church before Walla Walla Public School's took over the federal program.

Pastor Gillin moved his wife and two young sons from Southern California to Walla Walla in 2002 to serve in the Walla Walla Presbyterian Church, a Chamber member since 2003. Pastor Gillin believes Chamber membership is important for two reasons: 1) economic vitality for the community, and 2) to be in touch with newcomers in the area.

"We adapt to the changing environment," Pastor Gillin added, noting the growth in area wine and technology industries and the opportunities they bring and have exciting projects to launch in 2024.



Bacchus & Barley Tours and Transportation

Greg Lovell & Nancy Helms-Lovell
bacchusandbarleyww.com



Nancy Helms-Lovell notes: "At Bacchus & Barley Tours and Transportation, dogs are family too. That's why we are excited to announce the launch of our Bacchus & Barley dog-friendly wine tour! This Fido-friendly escapade makes sure your beloved pup is part of the experience. We will visit select dog-welcoming wineries, leash in hand, for a delightful journey. Your furry companion gets pampered too—organic dog treats, water bowls, and stylish kerchiefs to ensure they're as chic as the wines you'll taste. Unwind, savor, and make memories together on this tail-wagging tour!"

Nancy and her spouse, Greg Lovell, combined their years of experience and knowledge of wine and hospitality to create a business of their own with two Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Passenger Vans that can each transport 11 passengers, along with a 2019 Honda CRV for smaller transfers and tours for couples.

Another addition is a new team member, John Litten, pictured above with Gracie, both formerly of Alaska. John, a dog-lover, has decades of experience as a driver and tour guide.



Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless

Jordan Green
1181 W Rees Ave
Walla Walla, WA
wwallianceforthehomeless.com



“Our whole focus is meeting people where they are,” said Jordan Green, Executive Director of Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless. “Something new we are offering is classes and programming available onsite so there are no barriers to the resources. There is a ‘Certified Ready to Rent Program’ to build a foundation of life skills for long term success, as well as a trauma class to better understand the physical and emotional effects of trauma on the brain and body.”

The Shelter Community provides temporary emergency shelter for 50 people each night- those in need of a safe place to sleep for the short term. And there is also transitional housing for up to 11 people, pictured above, with heat and air conditioning, for as long as six months.

Jordan says the past three years as executive director has been the best thing he’s ever done – taking care of people.

The Cotton Wool

the cotton wool

Kim Nemeth
9 S 1st Ave
Walla Walla, WA
thecottonwool.com



Kim Nemeth, a weaver originally from Ohio, opened her business - The Cotton Wool - in November 2021. The “ever-evolving gallery and studio space” features Kim’s original woven artwork and wearables, along with artwork and functional pieces by artisans from the Walla Walla Valley.

“I am always looking to find new ways to incorporate more local artists and crafters,” Kim said. “While I plan to expand on the themed group shows that occur regularly, I am looking to incorporate more performative artists to showcase the craft of music, dance and spoken word.”

One of Kim’s themes was “local wheat”. She added, “It was fun and interesting to see what people are making.”

Kim was inspired by a leather artisan in Madrid, Spain, who sold purses and bags he made along with pieces by other local artists, in a combined studio and gallery space. You can find her at work on an antique floor loom while browsing amongst the unique and creative efforts of our locals.

January Anniversaries

Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber!

Krivoshein/McDaniels Financial PLLC /
 Raymond James Financial Services
 Sandy's U-Rent
 Vivio Technologies
 D.A. Davidson & Co
 Cougar Crest Estate Winery
 Les Schwab Tire Centers- College Place
 Columbia Basin Hearing Center
 Walla Walla Valley Association of REALTORS®
 Willis & Toews PLLC
 Boyer House
 La Quinta Inn & Suites Walla Walla
 Gard Vintners
 Eritage Hospitality
 Bobbie Jo Haggard, NMLS# 92472-
 Heartland Mortgage Inc., NMLS# 3205
 Dayton Historical Depot Society
 Tom's Yard Care
 Premera Blue Cross
 Seattle Ballooning
 Eck Agency LLC (Allstate Insurance)
 Churchill Mortgage- NMLS #1591
 Mero

2nd Street Distilling Company
 S & K Mountain Construction Inc
 Walla Walla Beer Parlor
 FRHC
 Kelley Connect
 Vineyard Farm Labor
 Isenhower Cellars, LLC
 Green Valley Gardens
 SHIFT boutique

Look Who's Celebrating 25 Years or More!

Herring Funeral Home	98
Falkenberg's Jewelers	90
Baker Boyer Bank	90
Walla Walla Title Company	74
Grapeland Supply	73
Tallmans Pharmacy	72
City of Walla Walla	62
WorkSource Walla Walla	62
Dairy Queen	59
Lillie Rice Center	43
Pacific Power	42
Port of Walla Walla/Regional Airport	42
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin	42
Walla Walla Community College	41
Washington State Penitentiary	34
Arthur H. Griff	31



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marketing@wwwchamber.com



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



VISIONARIES

