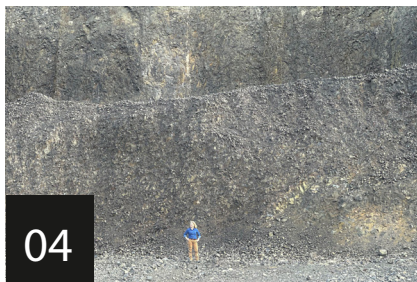


VALLEY BUSINESS NEWS



Chamber news and member happenings!



PRIORITY ITEMS FOR 2024

The Chamber interviewed eight businesses for this month's question



NATIONAL CIVICS BEE

Calling all middle schoolers! Enter this year's National Civics Bee.





November

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Eck Agency (Allstate)

Derek has gotten to know many local families as an Allstate agent in Walla Walla. He enjoys being a part of the community, and building local relationships is one of the best parts of his job. He knows what life is like here in Walla Walla – that you choose your car and your home to fit your lifestyle and your budget. He also knows how important it is to do the same when it comes to insurance. He looks forward to getting to know you and helping you to find the solutions that meet your needs.

“

I'm committed to helping Walla Walla residents assess their immediate and long-term needs

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Reininger Winery

Tuesday, November 14
5:30 pm- 7:00 pm

5858 Old Hwy 12
Walla Walla

Join us for our monthly networking event at Reininger Winery. This is an informal open house style event open to anyone who would like to network with other professionals in the Walla Walla Valley.

You do not need to be a Chamber member and it is free to attend. Come enjoy Reininger's beautiful tasting room while sipping some of their award winning wine and some local bites.

To assist our host with a headcount for food and beverage, please RSVP: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/ZNEOANV/BAHNov>



RIBBON CUTTINGS

Enable Art

Friday, November 3
3:15 pm

508 S College Ave
College Place, WA

Join Enable Art to celebrate the opening of their brand new studio with a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening from 3 pm-5 pm!

Planet Fitness

Wednesday, November 8
4:30 pm

1631 W Rose St
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Join us to celebrate the grand opening of Planet Fitness with a Ribbon Cutting! The Grand Opening celebration will run from 4 pm-6 pm with prizes, snacks and tours of the gym!

Hayden Homes

Thursday, November 9
4 pm

1193 Ava St
Walla Walla, WA

Join us for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Hayden Homes model home for the Harvey Ranch Estates development. Enjoy Caprio Cellars wine and hors d'oeuvres from TMACS.

Grand Opening Weekend!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 | 12:00 – 2:00PM

Avennia Ribbon Cutting 10/5



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Leading through Challenges



Wednesday, November 15
11:30 am-1:00 pm
Courtyard by Marriott

Join us for a look at leading through challenges. Our featured speaker, Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Manager for the City of Walla Walla, provides a peek into being the first woman city manager in Walla Walla, and how she has worked through the many unique obstacles we have experienced locally and globally just within the last few years.

Visit wwwchamber.com/womeninbusinesslunch to register.

BRINGING BACK WWV YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Help us cultivate emerging professionals in the Walla Walla Valley through connecting, leadership, philanthropy, and workforce development. The Walla Walla Valley Chamber is looking for local professionals to join a steering committee to design the program for launch and going forward. Whether you consider yourself young or young at heart we are seeking individuals interested in sharing insights and feedback to build a program that creates a positive impact on the Valley and business community.

If you are interested in joining the steering committee, please contact Arlene Alen at ceo@wwwchamber.com

SPA & WELLNESS SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

Monday, November 13
9 am-11:00 am

WWV Chamber Office
29 E Sumach St.

In response to the Roundtable discussion for local professionals in the Spa and Wellness industries, the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce is co-hosting an in-person social media class with Sarah Magill of The Reel Sarah.

Sarah Magill is a local Social Media Coach, Content Creator, Speaker and College Instructor. She has worked with many local businesses and organizations to strategize and streamline their posting, writing, editing and engagement processes in a way that works for their specific businesses..

Reserve your spot here!



Wylie Monuments

Virgil Badgett
501 W Main St
Walla Walla, WA 99362
wylie monuments.com

When your work is written in stone, it's important that you pay attention to the details. Virgil Badgett, manager of Wylie Monuments in Walla Walla, carries on the tradition of making lasting memorials for loved ones, including pets, and continues the WWV Chamber membership started on March 4, 1940.

Virgil remembers his childhood growing up in this area. "I used to go ice skating near the old Walla Walla Armory. The building is still there," he said. "There's nothing for middle-schoolers to do. They have to go to Pendleton to ice skate or, go over to the Tri-Cities to jump on trampolines. We need something here in town for those kids around junior high school age to do."

Virgil went to work for the Wylie family in 2010. When the business was sold to Jon and Kathy Reece of Quiring Monuments, Inc., in September 2018, he stayed on as manager taking on a more prominent role as the solo person in the office.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Every month, we'll pose a new question to several local businesses, and this month, we're starting the conversation with the following question:

What priority item do you think the City/County should act on in 2024?



Walla Walla Sheriff's Foundation

Steve Hoffmann
ww-sf.org



"My personal opinion is based on being a part of the Walla Walla North County fire district," said Steve Hoffmann, co-founder of PocketiNet, former emergency medical technician, emergency room nurse, and volunteer firefighter. "We need to have better radio communication for emergency services in North County which includes places such as Prescott, Eureka and areas along the Snake River. It's really touch and go."

Steve explained that emergency personnel are dispatched by text message. After responding in certain areas, radio communication can be garbled and unreadable, or in some cases, "completely dead." He lives in the Eureka's District 3, near the border of District 1, both in North County.

Steve serves as treasurer of the Walla Walla Sheriff's Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports various initiatives for the sheriffs. He added that the sheriff's radio system is also impacted by this issue which is a complicated one that has no easy solution.



VINTAGE PHOTO FRIDAY

Here's a throwback that comes to us from circa 1983! We figured since we were sharing photos from this week's Halloween festivities, this was the perfect time to share this photo. It looks like this group had a great time celebrating Halloween at the Chamber.

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@wwv-chamber.com.

HALLOWEEN FUN

On Tuesday, October 31st the Chamber, ambassadors and board members had a great time participating in not one, but two, trick-or-treating events! Here are some photos from Downtown Walla Walla's Games on Alder and the College Place Trunk-or-Treat.



NATIONAL CIVICS BEE SUBMISSIONS OPEN **NOV. 13**



The Walla Walla Valley Chamber is partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to host a first-of-its-kind civics competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Participating 6th, 7th and 8th graders will flex their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes. Finalists will be invited to Washington, DC to compete in the inaugural National Civics Bee national championship.

WHY CIVICS?

The Walla Walla Valley Chamber is participating in the National Civics Bee because we believe that informed and active citizens make for a strong country, a strong economy, and a strong workforce, and that our continued prosperity depends on the strength of all three. Through the Bee, we are promoting greater civic knowledge in Washington and celebrating our civic pride in this year's National Civics Bee.

To enter the National Civics Bee students will submit a 500 word essay to "Identify a problem facing your community. How might a citizen solve the problem?". The application window opens on November 13, 2023, and closes on January 8, 2024. Twenty finalists will be selected to move on to the live round that will be held in Spring of 2024 at Walla Walla Community College.

For additional details and sponsorship opportunities visit our website <https://www.wvwchamber.com/civicsbee>

OFFICE SPACE

Need to elevate your work environment to a quiet, friendly downtown setting?

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. \$850 a month/annual lease.

Call the Chamber Office for additional details 509.525.0850.

2024 CITY MAP

The Walla Walla Valley Chamber is partnering with E&M Consulting for the 2024 City Map.

Beginning early October, E&M will be contacting members about map ad renewals and ad opportunities. We want to make everyone aware that they are a legitimate partner of the Chamber and we are not partnering with any other firms on this official map.

If you have any questions about E&M or the Chambers annual map, please contact the Chamber office at 509.525.0850.



DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA FOUNDATION

Veterans Day Parade

November 11
11:11 am

Walla Walla's annual Veterans Day Parade is Saturday, November 11 at 11:11 am. Please come downtown and join us as we show our support and gratitude for our local Veterans and their families.

Photo provided by Amy White of
A by A Photography



WALLA WALLA VALLEY VISITOR GUIDE

2024 Visitor Guide Ads

The annual Walla Walla Visitor Guide is the most widely read tourist publication in the region. Created in collaboration with Visit Walla Walla, the guide is chock full of things to do and places to visit.

The 2024 Visitor Guide will be distributed Saturday, January 6 by the Union-Bulletin. Additional guides will be distributed throughout the year by Visit Walla Walla, the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce as well as numerous other targeted locales including Seattle, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Yakima, and Pendleton, OR.



FORT WALLA WALLA

Cavalry Sabers Presentat on

November 10
2- 4 pm

The Museum is hosting the meeting of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at 2:00 pm on November 10. At 3:00 pm, James Payne will present a history of U.S. Cavalry Sabers with original examples from the Revolutionary War through WWI. The presentation is available with standard admission, and free for museum members.



Circle C Quarry

Marilyn Jones Shefvland
circlecquarry.com



Whenever you need 50,000 tons of Columbia River basalt, call Marilyn Jones Shefvland, project and new business development manager of Circle C Quarry, LLC, a 90-acre basalt quarry available for lease located near Wallula Junction on U.S. Highway 12.

Marilyn's great-grandfather homesteaded in the Wallula area, and her grandfather later acquired the property where the Circle C Quarry is located.

Marilyn's priority is to "Identify new ways to collaborate with stakeholders to address our most pressing social and economic issues. The goal is to build upon Walla Walla's solid foundation of collaboration by implementing new and more creative ways to utilize the vast resources of higher education, civic groups, non-profits, places of worship, and the business community. The combined talents of these entities with government initiatives are critical to making Walla Walla the best place to live, learn, prosper, and work."

The quarry offers high-quality basalt for roads, highways, railways, and other large-scale projects. And for farmers, basalt rock dust is now being used on crops for carbon dioxide capture, and for improving crop yields and soil health, a welcomed innovation for the agricultural industry (more information at lithoscarbon.com).



Blue Valley RV Park

Dean and Toni Bowers
 50 West George St
 Walla Walla, WA 99362
bluevalleyrv.com



Dean and Toni Bowers, owners of Blue Valley RV Park in Walla Walla, wanted Teri Beeman, office manager, and Gary Bennett, in charge of maintenance, to be part of the conversation to answer this month's question.

The group wants to see a wider variety of activities that families can do together including the addition of more bike routes. Dean explained a lot of their business is repeat customers from out of town. "I want the city to identify and target the groups of people that they want to attract to Walla Walla. Winery people spend money, but families come here too."

Road construction occurs during the peak summer months making it a challenge to get around. Teri noted, "Our state tree is the orange traffic cone."

Teri and Gary have worked with Dean and Toni since the couple bought the business in 2014. They all feel like family.



Umpqua Bank

Kim Heidenrich
680 W Rose St
Walla Walla, WA
umpquabank.com



In Kim Heidenrich's work as Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager of Umpqua Bank in Walla Walla, she sees more people unable to obtain loans due to their debt-to-income ratios. In Kim's personal opinion, affordable housing should be focused on.

"It is very difficult for anyone in this valley to rent or buy a home and feel financially stable. Being in the banking industry I see people struggling financially daily. With increased taxes, interest rates, high utilities and rising economic market prices, it is almost impossible for a single income individual or family to live in Walla Walla County and those that are blessed to have a two-income household are barely making it to have their basic needs met."

Kim has worked for Umpqua Bank and Columbia Bank for 18 years. She said the two banks merged in March 2023. Umpqua Bank is the largest regional bank in the northwest and offers a variety of home loans.



The Little Theatre of Walla Walla

Martin Fortney
1130 E Sumach St
Walla Walla, WA 99362
ltww.org



"Being a lifelong resident of Walla Walla and experiencing the changes to downtown and businesses in the community has me cautiously excited for opportunities the city and county can focus on in 2024," said Martin Fortney, executive director of the Little Theatre of Walla Walla located at 1130 Sumach Street.

"We have definite pockets of growth around the valley. However, housing costs continue to rise making it difficult for individuals or young families to live here, as evidenced by declining enrollment in area schools. I'd like the city and county to be even more aggressive in enticing new businesses to develop or come to the valley with non-seasonal full-time living wage employment opportunities for families to stay or relocate here. Ideally these opportunities would provide the means for consumers to in turn spend within the community to support our arts, entertainment, food and beverage, and other industries we have become famous for."

A change at the Little Theatre includes new seating. Unfortunately, Martin is too busy working to enjoy an entire show.



Friends of Children of Walla Walla

Scott Kasenga
1150 W Chestnut St Ste #121
Walla Walla, WA 99362
wallawallafriends.org



Scott Kasenga's passion for children drives his answer: "In 2024, Walla Walla should focus on building Community Resilience through connecting businesses with non-profits to support the mental health of our youth.

"According to the 2021 Healthy Youth Survey, 15% of eighth-graders in Walla Walla County felt they do not have an adult to turn to when depressed, 66% feel nervous, anxious, or on edge, and 53% were unable to stop or control their worrying. We should highlight the importance of positive mental health, focusing on the children."

Scott is the executive director of Friends of Children of Walla Walla, a non-profit organization established in 1999. He added, "My family has been lucky to be a part of the community for the past eight years, not nearly as long as many generational families who have assisted me throughout my Walla Walla experience. When presented with an issue, the Walla Walla community responds with activism and support."



Eritage Resort

Zane Osterhout
1319 Bergevin Springs Rd
Walla Walla, WA
eritageresort.com



"I would like to see the rest of Bergevin Springs Road be paved," said Zane Osterhout, director of operations at Eritage Resort and Restaurant and acting general manager. He chuckled, then gave the question more thought and said, "I think the City is doing a good job. The new plaza helps attract more businesses and even though tourism is down a bit, this type of project attracts locals and visitors alike."

Zane, a native of Idaho, started as assistant project manager of Eritage in 2017. He describes the property as "quiet, a place to come and relax, rejuvenate, regroup and still have a wine experience."

Eritage has 10 units in the main building and 10 side-by-side units around the lake – perfect for a staycation or special getaway with friends – and an on-site restaurant open to the public for happy hour and dinner, located at 1281 Bergevin Springs Road, about a 10-minute drive north from downtown Walla Walla.

November Anniversaries

Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber!

Holiday Inn Express
 Forgeron Cellars
 Community Bank
 Napa Auto Parts
 Wine Valley Golf Club
 Community Council
 Ski Bluewood
 WRO Enterprises
 Friends of Children of Walla Walla
 P1FCU
 The Finch Hotel
 Spectrum
 BestMed Urgent Care
 NexGen Technology Services

Look Who's Celebrating 25 Years or More!

College Place Heating & Air Conditioning	54
Gillespie Roofing, Inc	32
Treasure Valley Coffee Company	32
Walla Walla Symphony	30
Inland Cellular	30
Graphic Apparel	27
Goodwill Industries of the Columbia, Inc	27



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



2023 VISIONARY MEMBERS

