

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for June 6

Stay up-to-date on City of Spokane and employee news with our weekly Employee Update.

Employee Spotlight: Teri Stripes

The City's [Brownfields Program](#) helped connect the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLICH) to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield grant opportunity that led to a \$500,000 award for the Spokane Land Bank, properties dedicated toward low-income housing. Target areas for the grant are the Northeast, East Central and West Central Spokane. "This opportunity only came about because of (City Economic Development Planner) Teri Stripes and the City of Spokane's Brownfields Program," SLICH Executive Director Ben Stuckart said. "We are so appreciative of our partnership and the opportunities that arise because of the great work with our community collaboration." Read the EPA press release [here](#).

City Hall Construction

The contractor began work on the west roof (above the loading dock) today. All loading and off-loading of materials and debris will take place prior to 7:30 a.m. each day to allow the west lot to remain operational during normal business hours. It is anticipated that this work will take approximately one week to complete.

Upon completion, the contractor will begin the process of removing the crane and overhead scaffolding protection, allowing for Post Street to be opened again for parking. Please feel free to [contact the Facilities Department](#) with any questions.

Pride Parade Saturday

The Spokane Pride Parade will be held on Saturday, June 10, at 12 pm beginning from Stevens St. and Spokane Falls Blvd.

Some members of the City Council are planning to walk in the parade. City employees are invited to join and should look for a white City of Spokane banner beginning at 11 am. Contact Ginny Ramos (509-564-1914) or Alex Gibilisco (509-904-5465) from the City Council Office for additional details.

The parade route will cover several city blocks. Traffic delays are expected during the parade.

Washington Cares Act (Long-Term Care Tax) Update

The Washington Cares Fund is the mandatory long-term care insurance benefit for workers in Washington state which will help pay for eligible long-term care related expenses. The program will be funded by a mandatory payroll tax by workers in Washington state beginning Saturday, July 1, 2023.

Unless you have purchased a qualified plan that enables you to “opt out” of this tax or you meet an alternate exemption, you will be required to participate in withholding of the tax. [Click here](#) to learn more.

More Information to Assist You

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

[Becoming a Stepparent](#)

Unfortunately, stepparenthood can be a tremendously difficult transitional period. Even though you can offer major contributions to the family unit, you will have to go through an adjustment period, where you will have to adjust to the family and the family will have to adjust to your presence.

[After You Say "I Do": Adjusting to Marriage](#)

Who is this person I married? Who am I becoming in this relationship? Is marriage supposed to be this hard?

If you find yourself asking these questions, you're not alone. All married couples go through periods of adjustment. Adjusting to marriage involves uniting two sets of perceptions, expectations, needs, goals, and personalities.

Employee Information Portal (covid19.spokanecity.org/)

Remember, this Employee Information Portal is a great resource for employees to stay current on what's happening with the COVID-19 response. The [Employee Information Portal](#) can be accessed from work or home, using a computer or mobile device. All of the emailed information we have sent to employees is archived here.