

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for Nov. 2

Information about COVID-19 is evolving rapidly, and our important work as a City is continuing. We want to make sure our City employees have up-to-date information on both COVID and employee news. We will provide this update, as needed, to communicate what you need to know, while we work to reduce the spread of this disease in our community and continue to provide critical public services.

A Message from Mayor Woodward

This week I delivered a final proposed 2022 budget that maintains service levels, strategically invests in economic recovery, and prioritizes public safety, homelessness, housing, and economic development.

My directive throughout the many-months-long process of stakeholder engagement and budget development has been to preserve critical City services while taking a strategic approach to meeting short-term needs in ways that prepare the City for an accelerated recovery and long-term fiscal sustainability. Strict protection of budget reserves has put us in a position to strategically deploy federal recovery resources in the community and organization to make careful one-time investments and meet revenue gaps caused by the pandemic.

Investments in public safety are centered on evolving a system to better meet developing community needs and harnessing a greater sense of security. I have also proposed continuing the fundamental shift in how people transition out of homelessness by improving system resources, filling gaps, introducing greater accountability into the system, and maximizing regional partnerships, and emphasizes increasing housing options to meet community needs while reducing barriers. Our economic development efforts will grow the city as the regional center-place for business and leisure through economic expansion and place-making that prepare the city for more rapid pandemic recovery.

I am proposing to increase investments in police officer training, an in-field partnership between officers and behavioral health specialist, reducing wait times for police public records requests, supporting victims of violent crime and human trafficking, additional downtown and neighborhood clean-up resources, and staffing to support decreasing residential permit times and increase in housing supply.

My budget follows the City's long-standing financial principles of funding the highest priorities first, covering one-time costs with one-time revenues, and meeting ongoing obligations with reoccurring revenue sources. It incorporates priorities identified through months of community and City Council engagement.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of the budget conversations so far. The process now enters the Council hearing phase. By statute, the Council must adopt the budget by the end of the year.

Open Enrollment HAPPENING NOW!

2022 Benefits Open Enrollment is Nov. 1 – 12, 2021.

If you can say "yes" to any of the following questions, you must [access PeopleSoft during Open Enrollment](#):

- Do you want to change medical plans; Premera to Kaiser or Kaiser to Premera?
- Do you want to review or change family coverage?
- Do you want to cover a dependent child, up to age 26, not currently on your medical and/or dental plan?
- Do you want to contribute to the Flexible Spending Health or Flexible Spending Dependent Care accounts in 2022? **NOTE: Even though you are contributing during 2021, you still need to re-enroll during Open Enrollment for 2022!!!**

[Attached is the 2022 Benefits Open Enrollment Guide](#) (this Guide was sent, via USPS, to your mailing address as it appears in PeopleSoft). This Guide will walk you through the Open Enrollment Process.

[Please click here](#) to view critical network changes relating to Premera Blue Cross and Kaiser Permanente.

[Please click here](#) to view a chart to see how these changes affect you and your dependents.

If you have any questions, please contact Employee Benefits at 509-625-6565 or via [email](#).

Health Risk Assessment

Does your position fall under one of the below Associations or Unions?

Your collective bargaining agreement requires you to complete a Health Risk Assessment under your health insurance plan in order to avoid being charged a monthly \$30 Administration Fee.

- Managerial & Professional A & B
- Mayor
- Fire Managerial
- Exempt-Confidential
- City Council
- City Council Staff
- Judges
- Court Commissioners
- Local 270 Prosecuting Attorneys

Employees who complete the annual online Health Risk Assessment will have their monthly Benefit Administration Fee waived for the 2022 plan year. **(Benefits Administration fee is \$30 a month/\$360 a year)**

Premera Members

Premera members must send a copy of their Completion Certificate to the [Employee Benefits Department](#).

After signing into your account at ([Premera.com](#)) go to Benefits Coverage>Wellness Tools>Start Wellness Tools>Health Risk Assessment tile

Kaiser Permanente Members

After signing into your account ([kp.org/wa](#)), go to the "Health Profile" tile on the bottom of the main page. Click on "Complete your Health Profile"

The **Health Risk Assignment should be completed during Oct. 27 – Nov. 30, 2021** If you experience problems logging in, please call the Benefits Department at 509-625-6565.

Last Week to Donate to United Way!

As part of the United Way Giving Campaign, we're offering a special event for participants for a chance to win (who knows how many) M&M's! Anyone who donates to the campaign at www.unitedwayspokane.org/city-spokane gets to send a guess to Jake Summers at jsummers@spokanecity.org. Already donated? Great – send a guess Jake's way! On Thursday, Nov. 4 he'll tally the M&M's and notify the winner! Best of Luck!

****More prizes will be revealed this week for those who donated – please consider a donation to support United Way's work in our community!****



More Information to Assist You

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Breast Cancer Screening](#)
The goal of screening tests is to find cancer at an early stage when it can be treated and may be cured. If a screening test result is abnormal, you may need to have more tests done to find out if you have cancer. These are called diagnostic tests, rather than screening tests.
- [Breast Cancer Prevention](#)
Decreasing the length of time a woman's breast tissue is exposed to estrogen may help prevent breast cancer. Exposure to estrogen is reduced in the following ways:
 - Early pregnancy—Estrogen levels are lower during pregnancy. Women who have a full-term pregnancy before age 20 have a lower risk of breast cancer than women who have not had children or who give birth to their first child after age 35.
 - Breastfeeding—Estrogen levels may remain lower while a woman is breastfeeding. Women who breastfeed have a lower risk of breast cancer than women who have had children but did not breastfeed.

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.