

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for Nov. 9

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

Spokane and its regional partners fulfilled a major promise in its efforts to achieve functional zero for homelessness. Cutting the ribbon on The Way Out Center, the new Bridge Housing program operated by The Salvation Army Spokane, was a special moment for the 60 people who will be served at any one time and the next movement in the fundamental shift to how we address homelessness in our community.

It is a true regional partnership between the City of Spokane, Spokane Valley, Spokane County, and the private sector. Each contributed significantly to the cost of the program and the three regional governments sat side-by-side at the table with The Salvation Army to plan and operationalize a vision.

Bringing the vision to reality is the final push on a three-year journey that occurred during a global health pandemic. The referral-based, services-intensive program, which wraps employment, housing, treatment, and life-skills supports around a measure of personal accountability, enhances our regional resources to move people out of homelessness and into permanent housing when they are ready.

The journey is as gratifying as it is challenging, which John, one of the program's first participants, reminded us at the ceremony. John has been homeless for about two-and-a-half years and sober about two-and-a-half months. Lately, he has been splitting his time checking in with The Salvation Army and local service providers while he waits to enroll in the program and go to school to learn to be a welder.

John first met The Salvation Army staff when he came to the night-by-night shelter the organization operated for nearly a year during the pandemic. His step into the more intensive program creates a space in the drop-in system for another to follow in his footsteps.

Coupled with the movement away from seasonal sheltering to a year-round contract model in the night-by-night system, the transformation is really beginning to take shape with more to come from our deepening regional collaboration.

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](#).

United Way Giving Campaign Extended To Nov. 12

Prize Time!



The United Way Giving Campaign Has Been Extended to Friday, Nov. 12! Any employee who has donated during the campaign will be entered to win one of four exciting prizes! Fill out the [online pledge form](#)!

Every contribution – large and small – makes a huge impact in this community. Thank you for the work you do every day and for your careful consideration of support of Spokane County United Way.

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. The Health Risk Assessment should be **completed by Tuesday, Nov. 30**.

- 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](https://www.premiera.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](https://www.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.

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.