

# 2010 Clean Air Calendar

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency



## Message from the Director



Congratulations Spokane! For the last 12 years, air quality throughout our county has measured within federal, health-based standards.

We've all benefited from new technologies in motor vehicle engines, fuels and wood heating appliances. In addition, many of us are making clean air choices like altering our commute habit, switching to cleaner heating devices, and composting yard and garden debris instead of burning it. We are moving in the right direction.

Spokane Clean Air has evolved as an organization at the same time. We have expanded our compliance assistance role to complement our regulatory role. In addition to conducting annual compliance inspections at facilities we regulate, we are now offering no-cost pollution prevention consultations and consequently, are reaching more businesses with our air quality messages.

We no longer administer a program for residential yard and garden debris burning; instead we're working with partners to promote cleaner, safer alternatives. We secured state and federal funds to provide financial incentives for 215 area homeowners who changed-out their old wood stoves for new ones with cleaner technology, resulting in annual emissions reductions of over 90 tons.

As we look ahead to 2010 and beyond, our challenges include:

- ❖ meeting the more stringent health protective standards for ground-level ozone and fine particles that are being developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ❖ enacting a new odor and nuisance regulation to protect the public's right to enjoyment of life and property
- ❖ implementing new federal programs to protect the public from hazardous air pollutants
- ❖ maintaining adequate program funding to meet these and other challenges

We present this calendar/annual report to you, our partners, for making and maintaining Spokane as a city and county where good air quality is one of our highest values.

*William O. Dameworth*

Bill Dameworth

## Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

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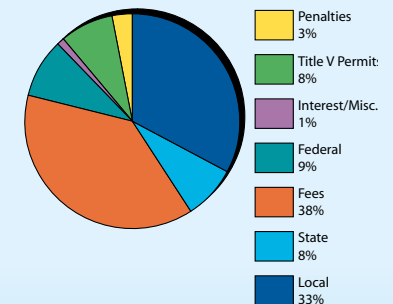
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### Agency Funding

Spokane County and its cities and towns all contribute to the work we do on behalf of their citizens through an annual assessment. The assessment is based on a formula outlined in the state's Clean Air Act.

Spokane Clean Air's budget for fiscal year 2010 is approximately \$1.8 million. Our funding comes from a variety of sources, most of it local.

Permit and registration fees from businesses are another funding source, and we also receive state and federal grant money.



FY 2010 Funding Sources

## Our programs:

- **Air Monitoring** — We operate a network of 10 air quality monitoring stations located throughout Spokane County, including three new sites in Airway Heights, Deer Park and Spokane Valley. Monitoring data assists our staff in forecasting air quality conditions and significant events (e.g. stagnations) reporting current and forecasted air quality to the public, and issuing burn bans.
- **Emissions Inventory** — Our agency is required to compile emissions inventories on the sources of air pollution in Spokane County. The emissions inventory identifies the air pollution sources in an area and the quantities of the pollutants. The information is used to help evaluate the need for control programs.
- **Business Registration and Facility Inspections** — To achieve emissions reductions from industrial and commercial operations, Spokane Clean Air annually registers and inspects approximately 650 commercial and industrial operations.
- **Compliance Assistance Program, Pollution Prevention Consultations** — We assist local businesses achieve emissions reduction by encouraging them to go beyond compliance. We provide resource materials, on-site visits, as well as technical workshops for source categories such as gasoline stations, drycleaners and surface coaters. We also offer free, pollution prevention consultations.
- **Complaint Response and Enforcement** — Our staff responds to hundreds of complaints from citizens concerned about air quality. Most of the complaints are related to smoke, dust and odors. We are in the process of revising our "odors and nuisances" regulation to protect the public's right to enjoyment of life and property.
- **Wood Heating** — Our goal is to reduce fine smoke particles from wood burning devices by partnering with local organizations to promote cleaner wood burning practices. We also apply for state and federal funding to provide incentives for residents to upgrade old, inefficient wood stoves and inserts to new, cleaner wood, pellet and gas devices. From January 2008-June 2009, 215 old wood burning devices were changed out, resulting in emissions reductions of over 90 tons of pollutants.
- **Asbestos** — Asbestos, a known human carcinogen, is still being imported to the United States and used in manufacturing. To help protect the public from exposure to asbestos, we enforce rules related to commercial and residential asbestos abatement projects, including the renovation and demolition of structures.
- **Outdoor Burning** — Spokane Clean Air no longer administers an 8-day "burn season" for residential yard and garden debris. Instead, we're working with partners to promote the use of alternatives to burning such as composting, chipping, mulching and hauling debris to transfer stations and other community "drop box" locations.
- **Education and Outreach** — The majority of air pollution comes from individual actions, which is why public awareness of air pollution problems and the solutions is key to achieving long term behavior change. If we all made just one air-friendly change—how we get to work, how we heat our homes, how we maintain our yards—collectively we could reduce emissions and keep our region's air healthy and clean.

## Featured Program: Business Recognition

Spokane Clean Air offers two business recognition programs:

**Annual Clean Air Award** — This annual award is bestowed on a facility for their extraordinary efforts to minimize or eliminate air emissions resulting from a significant change in their equipment, processes and/or products.

**2009 Award Recipient: Ross Printing Company** — The company installed solvent-free plate setter technology, eliminating 100% of the volatile organic compound emissions from this process. In addition, they switched to low VOC, soy-based inks and an alcohol-free press wash, which over two years reduced VOC emissions by 50%. They also installed a new energy-efficient heating and cooling system for their 35,000 square foot production facility. Combined, this cut their electric and natural gas consumption by about 35%.

Below are past recipients of the Clean Air Award. A write-up on each recipient can be found online at [www.spokanecleanair.org/business\\_recognition.asp](http://www.spokanecleanair.org/business_recognition.asp).

Fairchild Air Force Base (2004)

TransCanada (2006)

Inland Empire Paper Co. (2008)

Avista Corporation (2005)

Huntwood Industries (2007)

**Doing Our Share for Clean Air** — Every two years, Spokane Clean Air recognizes registered facilities that apply for recognition and meet the minimum criteria. There are two levels of recognition: Silver and Gold.

To receive "Silver" recognition, a facility must meet three criteria: Their annual registration fees are paid on time, their annual registration form is complete and submitted on time, and their facility has not received a Notice of Violation by Spokane Clean Air in the last three years.

To achieve "Gold" recognition, a facility must meet the "Silver" criteria, plus go beyond compliance by implementing programs in three of five pollution prevention categories. The 2009-2010 "Gold Level" recipients are:

Central Pre-Mix (3 sites)

Columbia Paint

Contemporary Fiberglass

Custom Painting

Cylinder Head Service

Dishman Dodge

Ed's Premier Auto Body

Pathology Associates Medical Labs

Inland Asphalt

Interstate Concrete

Itron

Sonderen Packaging

Western Concrete

**More information about our recognition programs is available online at [www.spokanecleanair.org/business\\_recognition.asp](http://www.spokanecleanair.org/business_recognition.asp)**



# january

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7 Third Qtr. Moon	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 New Moon	16
17	18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23 First Qtr. Moon
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Full
31						

## Resolve to Travel Green in 2010

At least half of our air pollution is from motor vehicles, so let's all resolve to drive less! Leaving the car home once a week will make a difference for our air and your wallet.

Carpooling with a spouse, friend or co-worker is a great alternative to driving alone. It's one of the most flexible and convenient commute options. Not only do you have someone to visit with during the drive, you save money by sharing the cost of gas.

Riding the bus allows you to do things that you just can't do when you drive alone, like reading a book or the newspaper, texting and emailing, or just catching a few zzz's after a busy workday.

Consider hopping on a bike and peddling to work. Biking, walking or jogging not only get you out of traffic, they help you improve your health.

Spokane County Commute Trip Reduction staff can help you travel green! Call 477-7650 or go online: [www.mycommute.org](http://www.mycommute.org).

dec 09

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feb 10

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# february

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Third Qtr. Moon	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 New Moon
14 Valentine's Day Chinese New Year begins	15 Presidents' Day Orthodox Lent begins	16 Mardi Gras	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 First Qtr. Moon	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25	26	27
28 Full Moon						

## Industrial and Commercial Sources of Air Pollution

There are approximately 650 commercial and industrial facilities throughout Spokane County that emit pollutants to the air and are subject to Spokane Clean Air annual inspections and reporting requirements.

A handful of these facilities are larger manufacturing plants, but the majority are smaller businesses that provide products and services we use regularly, such as auto body shops, dry cleaners and gasoline stations.

Many facilities have reduced emissions by using improved control technology, properly training employees, maintaining equipment and practicing good housekeeping.

These efforts result in cleaner air for us all. In fact, less than 20% of our air pollution is attributable to business and industry.



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jan 10

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mar 10

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# march

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Third Qtr. Moon	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time begins	15 New Moon	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Spring begins
21	22	23 First Qtr. Moon	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday	29 Full Moon	30 First Day of Passover	31			

## Burning Is Out, but There Are Options

Burning natural vegetation from your residential yard and garden (leaves, needles, lawn clippings, tree trimmings) creates unhealthy smoke that is as dangerous to your health as cigarette smoke.

This is one reason why this type of burning is no longer allowed in most areas of Spokane County.

The other reason? Alternatives to burning are more readily available and accepted, such as composting or hauling debris to a nearby transfer station.

The best way to handle this material is to chip, mulch or compost it. Mulch increases water absorption and compost offers nutrients—aiding with weed and erosion control.

Free composting seminars and chipping/collection events are held at various times and locations in Spokane County. For more details, call the Recycling Hotline at 625-6800.



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feb 10

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apr 10

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# april

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1 April Fool's Day	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Orthodox Easter	5 Easter Monday (Canada)	6 Third Qtr. Moon Passover begins at sundown	7 World Health Day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 New Moon	15	16	17
18 Administrative Professional's Week	19	20	21 First Qtr. Moon	22 Earth Day	23 New Moon	24
25	26	27	28 Full Moon	29	30 National Arbor Day	

## Protect Yourself from Asbestos

Did you know that asbestos is still being used today in manufacturing? Common products that may have asbestos include cement board siding, furnace insulation, vinyl sheet flooring (linoleum), vinyl floor tile, joint compound, blown-in insulation, "popcorn" ceiling texture and roofing materials, just to name a few.

Exposure to asbestos fibers can cause cancer and lung diseases. Asbestos is only a concern if products containing asbestos are damaged or disturbed such as during a building remodel or demolition.

Prior to starting any remodeling, renovation or demolition project, whether you're doing the work yourself or hiring a contractor, specific procedures must be followed.

Failure to meet these and other requirements may result in fines as well as unnecessary exposure to asbestos fibers. Call Spokane Clean Air for information, 477-4727.

mar 10

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may 10

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# may

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
						1 May Day
2	3	4 World Asthma Day	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 Third Qtr. Moon	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13 New Moon	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16	17	18	19	20 First Qtr. Moon	21	22
23 Bike to Work Week	24 Victoria Day (Canada)	25	26	27 Full Moon	28	29
30 Bike to Work Week	31 Memorial Day, observed					

## 5 Things You Can Do for Clean Air

May is National Clean Air Month! Help celebrate by finding something new you can do to improve the air we share. Here are five ideas:

1. Keep your vehicle engine tuned-up and tires properly inflated for greater fuel efficiency and less pollution.
2. Be aware that certain actions can affect air quality in your neighborhood, including spray painting, recreational fires, wood burning, and dust from various activities.
3. Reduce traffic during busy commute hours by riding the bus, carpooling, walking or bicycling to work.
4. Refuel your car at gasoline stations that use vapor recovery nozzles. For a list, call Spokane Clean Air, 477-4727.
5. Switch to electric or manual yard and garden equipment where feasible.

apr 10

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jun 10

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# june

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2	3	4 Third Qtr. Moon	5 World Environment Day
6	7 1967 Washington State Clean Air Act	8	9	10	11	12 New Moon
13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 First Qtr. Moon
20 Father's Day	21 Summer Begins	22	23	24	25	26 Full Moon
27	28	29	30			

## Smoke, Smells and Other Complaints

With so many of us living and working close together, it's no wonder that our actions can sometimes affect one another.

Spokane Clean Air receives around 900 complaints each year from area residents who are being affected by smoke, dust and odors.

Our inspectors will follow-up on these complaints, often with a phone call, letter or an on-site visit. The goal is to educate the public, but enforcement action is taken when necessary.

Most individuals and businesses want to be good neighbors. When we follow-up with them, they typically want to fix the issue as soon as possible.

If you have an air quality concern where you live or work, contact Spokane Clean Air. A complaint can be filed online at [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org) or by calling 477-4727.

may 10

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jul 10

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# july

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1 Canada Day (Canada)	2	3
4 Independence Day New Moon	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 First Qtr. Moon	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Full Moon	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Third Qtr. Moon	31

## It's Summer Ozone Season

Ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant that is formed when vapors from gasoline, solvents and other compounds react photochemically. It is especially a problem on the hottest days of summer.

When inhaled, ozone harms the lungs and contributes to chronic asthma and bronchitis.

Everyone can help reduce summer ozone pollution:

- Cut unnecessary car trips: combine errands, and bike, walk, take the bus or carpool to work.
- Avoid overfilling the gas tank and put the gas cap on tightly to reduce evaporation of harmful vapors.
- Wait until evening or a cooler day to use gas-powered lawn equipment.
- Switch to manual or electric yard and garden tools whenever feasible.

For more tips visit:  
[www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org).



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jun 10

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aug 10

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# august

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1	2 Civic Holiday (Canada)	3 Third Qtr. Moon	4	5	6	7
8	9 New Moon	10	11 First Day of Ramadan	12	13	14
15	16 First Qtr. Moon	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Full Moon	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Back-to-School 2 + 2 = 4 Clean Air

Children will soon be returning to school and you can help improve the air they breathe.

Children breathe 50% more air than adults, per pound of body weight. And their lungs are still developing, making them more prone to the harmful effects of air pollution.

Over the last few years, 282 school buses in Spokane County have been retrofitted with air pollution control devices. This has resulted in a 50-70% reduction of emissions per bus!

If you drive kids to school, consider starting a "walking school bus" with other families who live near the school, and take turns being the lead.

To reduce children's exposure to vehicle exhaust, we offer the No-Idle Zone program to area schools. The program encourages adults to turn-off the car while waiting at school. Call 477-4727 to schedule the program at your school.



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jul 10

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sep 10

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# september

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1 Third Qtr. Moon	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day Labour Day (Canada)	7	8 New Moon	9 First Day of Rosh Hoshanah	10 First Day of Eid al-Fir	11 Patriot Day
12 Grandparent's Day	13	14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month begins World Ozone Day	16	17	18 Yom Kippur
19	20	21	22	23 Autumn begins Full Moon	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Third Qtr. Moon		

## Think Twice About Backyard "Recreational" Fires

It's nice to be able to relax and enjoy your patio or deck after a busy day. For some, this means firing up a patio heater or backyard fire pit to take off the evening chill.

There's a catch though. Smoke from a wood burning recreational fire is very likely impacting your neighbors. In fact, many citizen complaints made to Spokane Clean Air are about this very issue.

Smoke, from what seems like a harmless backyard fire, trails into neighbors' open windows. Smoke contains harmful microscopic particles that travel far and can penetrate into homes easily.

How to address the problem? Choose to limit your burning and avoid burning at night when the air cools and settles near the ground, trapping smoke. Better yet, choose a natural gas, propane or electric patio or deck heater.

aug 10

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# october

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 New Moon	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day, observed	12	13	14 First Qtr. Moon	15 National Boss' Day	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	28	29	30 Third Qtr. Moon
31 Halloween						

## Burn Wise.

A single log tossed into the fire-  
place may not seem like much,  
but when burned, that log  
releases harmful gases and par-  
ticles into our neighborhoods.

In fact, chimney exhaust is the  
chief source of wintertime air  
pollution in our area. Children  
and people over 50 are at a  
higher health risk from breath-  
ing smoke particles.

If you heat with wood, follow  
these tips to reduce smoke:

- Only burn clean wood that has dried for 9-12 months.
- Keep your fire small by feeding it fewer pieces, but more often.
- Provide lots of air to the fire by opening the damper. An ample supply of air is critical for good combustion.
- Check your chimney! After a 20-minute start-up period, you should see heat waves—and no smoke!
- Upgrade to a clean and efficient wood or gas device.

For a complimentary DVD on  
burning cleaner, call 477-4727.

sep 10

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nov 10

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# november

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1 All Saints Day	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6 New Moon
7 Daylight Savings Time ends	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day Remembrance Day (Canada)	12	13 First Qtr. Moon
14	15	16 First Day of Eid al-Adha	17	18	19	20
21 Full Moon	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 First Sunday of Advent Third Qtr. Moon	29	30				

## Measuring What's in the Air.

Spokane Clean Air operates a network of 10 air quality monitoring stations. Each station has sophisticated equipment to measure concentrations of various air pollutants, including fine particles, ozone, sulfur dioxides, nitrogen dioxides, volatile organic compounds and hydrocarbons.

The data is used by our staff to forecast, to report air quality conditions and significant events (e.g. dust storms), and to issue burn bans.

Prior to reporting air quality conditions to the public, the data is converted to the Air Quality Index (AQI) which is a national, standardized method for reporting air quality using categories such as "good," "moderate," and "unhealthy for sensitive groups."

The AQI is updated hourly and can be accessed by calling 477-2571 or at [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org). Email notification is also available. Sign-up online at the web address above.



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oct 10

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dec 10

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# december

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1	2 First Day of Hanukkah EPA formed in 1970	3	4
5 New Moon	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11
12	13 First Qtr. Moon	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Winter Solstice Full Moon	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa begins Boxing Day (Canada)	27	28 Third Qtr. Moon	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

## Radon Facts

Because we spend more time indoors during winter, we all need to be aware of the air quality in our homes.

Radon is an invisible radioactive gas that seeps into homes undetected through foundation cracks. It can reach harmful levels if trapped indoors.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Americans.

Breathing radon indoors causes nearly 100 times more deaths each year than carbon monoxide poisoning.

The radon threat is preventable with some simple steps, starting with buying an easy-to-use radon test kit. If a high level exists in your home, lowering it might be possible with a straight-forward radon venting system installed by a contractor.

For more information about radon, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/radon> or call 1-800-SOS-RADON (767-7236).



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nov 10

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# Ways to Protect Our Air

Since most air pollution comes from our everyday activities, there are a number of choices you can make for clean air. Every little bit we do to reduce emissions helps our air quality. Here are some suggestions:

- **Drive Less** — Leaving the car at home, even just once a week, can make a huge impact: Automobiles are still the largest contributor to air pollution. Skip a trip by combining errands, sharing rides with family/friends, taking a bus, riding a bicycle or walking.
- **Drive Smart** — Better gas mileage means fewer trips to the gas station, which means less air pollution. Improve your mileage by driving the speed limit, avoiding jackrabbit starts and stops, keeping your car well-maintained and your tires properly inflated.
- **Make the Switch** — When feasible, switch from gas-powered lawn and garden equipment to electric or manual powered tools. Not only are they cleaner and quieter, but they require little maintenance compared to their gas counterparts.
- **Upgrade Your Heat** — If you have an older wood stove or fireplace insert (pre-1990), a lot of your heat may be going up the chimney as smoke. Not only are these devices dirtier, they don't burn as efficiently, and use at least one-third more wood than a newer device to heat the same area.
- **Be a Good Neighbor** — If you choose to heat with wood, do so properly so that you don't smoke out your neighbors. Build a small, hot fire using clean, dry wood. Watch the chimney. After initial start-up, you should only see heat waves. Excessive smoke is unlawful and harmful to you and your neighbors.
- **Be Aware of Asbestos** — If you're planning a home remodel or repair project, get familiar with the asbestos rules. Rules apply to both homeowners and businesses. For more information, call 477-4727 or visit [www.spokanecleanair.org/asbestos.asp](http://www.spokanecleanair.org/asbestos.asp).

Visit [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org) for more information on how you can help keep our air clean and healthy.

3104 E. Augusta Avenue, Spokane, WA 99207  
(509) 477-4727 • [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org)  
Current Air Quality: 477-2571 • Burn Info Hotline: 477-4710



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## Images:

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*A Couple of Doves*

FEBRUARY – © Pat Schilling  
*Bridging the Gap*

MARCH – © Pat Schilling  
*Close-up of Pavillion*

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NOVEMBER – © John D. Moore, CPP  
*The Jundt Art Center and Museum, Gonzaga University*

DECEMBER – © Tony Horpel  
*Local Farm*

## Photographers:

**Claudia Biggs** is passionate about photography and flowers. Since her retirement, she has been able to devote time and resources to both. She has earned the nickname "Dahlia Lady" and is now the Image Librarian for the American Dahlia Society. Her dahlia gardens can be seen at the Veterans Hospital. Contact Claudia at [dbiggs@mindspring.com](mailto:dbiggs@mindspring.com).

**Tony Horpel** has been carrying cameras since he was 12 years old. Over the last 36 years, Tony has never been able to put his camera down. He has won many ribbons and trophies for photographic excellence and has been recognized by organizations locally and nationally. Contact Tony at 509-435-6435 or [thorpel1@comcast.net](mailto:thorpel1@comcast.net).

**Bonnie Lackey's** love of photography started when she received her first digital camera. It has given her a whole new way of looking at the world. Seeking out photo opportunities has slowed her step and increased her patience. Contact Bonnie through [www.BetterPhoto.com](http://www.BetterPhoto.com) and do a search on her full name.

**John D. Moore, CPP**, is a 31 year veteran of the law enforcement field, seven of which were involved with photographing crime scenes and collisions, mostly after dark. The result? The documentary process of Spokane, after dark. John has received many awards and his work has been used in magazines, video media productions, professional digests and television movies. Contact John at [www.spokanenightscenes.com](http://www.spokanenightscenes.com) or [photos@spokanenightscenes.com](mailto:photos@spokanenightscenes.com).

**David Sams** purchased his first camera for .25 cents at a rummage sale at the Valleyford School when he was thirteen years old. By the time he was in high school, he had a 35mm camera and was processing and printing his own film! He currently teaches some of the photography classes at Spokane Falls Community College. Contact David at [dave@runway.net](mailto:dave@runway.net).

**Pat Schilling's** goal in photography is simple: to capture the beauty he sees in the world around him and share that with others. He's always been in awe of the magnificence of nature. Pat has received numerous awards locally through the Spokane Camera Club and has been recognized throughout the Pacific Northwest. Contact Pat at [www.patschilling.com](http://www.patschilling.com) or [patschilling@juno.com](mailto:patschilling@juno.com).