

ESBA Mission: At the East Spokane Business Association, our mission is clear: To support the East Spokane Business District by preserving and improving its unique facilities, infrastructure, and commercial interests.



United in Purpose: Dignitaries and sponsors take center stage, proudly showcasing the \$30,000 donation check for Spokane Hope at the East Spokane Business Association's Annual Dinner Event.

Celebrating Progress on the North Spokane Freeway Connection

A Triumph for East Central's Connectivity and Economic Growth.

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East Spokane Business Association's Annual Dinner Event Celebrated as a Resounding Success

Gathering of Community Leaders, Championing East Spokane's Bright Future.

The East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) hosted its Annual Dinner Event last September, drawing a crowd of over 300 attendees. The event was a significant milestone for the organization, reaffirming its commitment to fostering collaboration and community engagement.

The ESBA Annual Dinner Event attracted a notable gathering of dignitaries, elected officials, and representatives from local businesses. This impressive assembly highlighted the event's significance in strengthening the bond between local governance and the East Spokane business community.

Over 60 sponsors came forward to support the ESBA Annual Dinner Event, reflecting the strong commitment of the business community to the growth and development of the East Spokane Neighborhood. Their support contributed to the event's overall success and exemplified the collaborative spirit that defines the East Spokane neighborhood.

During the event, Spokane Hope, a vital East Central Neighborhood resource, received a substantial \$30,000 donation. This contribution was generated by ESBA's generous sponsors, highlighting the strong sense of philanthropy and community support that characterizes the East Central Neigh-

New Members

Associated Industries

Avista Corp

Carpet Barn

Dogtown Company & Wicked Studios

Fleet Painting Inc

Freeform

Healing Room Ministries International

On Fire Ministries

Spokane Fatherhood Initiative

Spokane HOPE

Spokane Tin & Sheet Iron Works

Stoneway Electric Supply

Suzanne Schmidt

The Whipple Law Group

Wendy Fishburne, LMFT, PLLC

Witter & Goulet Family Dentistry

Continue To Make A Difference

Recruit New Members



**INVITE A LOCAL
BUSINESS TO JOIN
TODAY!**



To become a member, simply have them visit our website at:
<https://esbiz.org/annual-membership/>
and fill out the membership form

Dinner Event *Continued from Page 1*

borhood. Additionally, the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children received recognition for their ongoing contributions to the community.

The ESBA Annual Dinner Event also featured an awards ceremony, recognizing individuals who made significant contributions to the East Spokane Neighborhood. Honorees included Freda Gandy, the Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center, Clint Harris, Director of Street Department City of Spokane, Marlene Feist, Director of Public Works City of Spokane, Andy Billig, Senator 3rd Legislative District Spokane and Majority Leader, and Mike Gribner, Assistant Secretary – Regions/Chief Engineer – Washington State Department of Transportation. These distinguished individuals were celebrated for their tireless efforts in promoting the well-being and development of the East Spokane neighborhood.

ESBA's Annual Dinner Event served as a testament to the spirit of unity and collaboration that defines the East Spokane Neighborhood. With a diverse and influential group of attendees, generous sponsors, and recognition of outstanding community leaders, the event has reinforced ESBA's role as a catalyst for positive change and progress in East Spokane neighborhood. As the association looks to the future, this year's success serves as a strong foundation for continued growth and prosperity in the East Spokane Neighborhood. ■



Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga University

ESBA Event last September, showcasing the vibrant mingling of over 300 attendees, including dignitaries, elected officials, local business representatives, and esteemed community leaders.

Celebrating Progress on the North Spokane Freeway Connection

Advancing Connectivity and Economic Growth with the North Spokane Freeway's Significant Milestones



North Spokane Freeway (NSC)

A striking view of the newly completed segment of the North Spokane Freeway (NSC) that will connect East Central Spokane. The sleek design and modern infrastructure reflect a blend of functionality and aesthetics, symbolizing the community's commitment to progress and connectivity in the Spokane region.

At the East Spokane Business Association (ESBA), we have always championed projects that benefit our neighborhood and the broader region. We are happy to share some new developments concerning the North Spokane Freeway (NSC) and its connection to Interstate 90.

ESBA has long been a staunch supporter of the NSC, recognizing its role as a vital transportation artery that not only benefits East Central residents but also the entire Spokane region. This project carries immense potential for economic growth, improved connectivity, and enhanced accessibility.

We were happy to witness the grand opening of the NSC south to Wellesley. This milestone marks substantial progress toward realizing this critical infrastructure project.

Additionally, we are pleased to report that a segment of the freeway, situated just south of the river, has already been constructed in East Central. This accomplishment brings us one step closer to a more connected and accessible neighborhood.

ESBA has collaborated closely with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for over a decade to ensure a robust NSC connection to Interstate 90 through East Central. Two decades ago, we faced mixed messages and the risk of nearly losing our entire Altamont interchange.

To address these concerns, ESBA organized numerous informative sessions for Spokane residents and highlighting the importance of the NSC connection

to Interstate 90. We partnered with dedicated elected officials who worked tirelessly to secure a strong connection for the Spokane region. In the end, ESBA's efforts resulted in the construction of two roundabouts at Altamont and the establishment of three interchanges providing greater access to the East Central neighborhood.

Our partnership with the WSDOT team, led by Mike Gribner, Assistant Secretary - Regions/Chief Engineer, spanned more than a decade. During this time, WSDOT consistently displayed openness to the concerns of the East Central Neighborhood Council and the East Spokane Business Association. Countless meetings and discussions paved the way for progress.

On August 16, 2023, WSDOT announced its final decision regarding the NSC Freeway and I-90 connection. ESBA is delighted to report that our neighborhood's voice was heard, and WSDOT's decision aligns well with East Spokane's interests and the broader region.

In the end, East Central will benefit from two roundabouts on Altamont Street, three out of four requested freeway interchanges, and outstanding access to the NSC. We firmly believe this outcome will significantly enhance our community and contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of East Spokane.

We extend our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and engagement. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for East Central. ■

ESBA and BID: Keeping Finances Clear for Community Benefit

Transparent Financial Management and Unified Advocacy for a Thriving East Central Community

In the heart of our East Central neighborhood, two organizations, the East Spokane Business Association (ESBA) and the Business Improvement District (BID), work together to make our community better. While they share a common goal of improving our neighborhood, there are some important details for understanding what guidelines they follow for the two entities to be properly kept separate and accountable:

- **Taking Care of Money:** ESBA is like the banker for BID. They make sure BID's money is used for things that help our neighborhood, like keeping it clean and safe.
- **Money Separation:** ESBA and BID have their own paperwork and bank accounts. They do not mix their money. This makes it clear where every dollar goes.
- **Not Picking Sides:** ESBA does not play favorites in politics. They invite politicians in office or candidates running for office to talk about issues that matter to our neighborhood. It is about helping us make smart choices that benefit Spokane, specifically the East Central residents and businesses.
- **Speaking Up for Our Community:** Even though they stay out of politics, ESBA does speak up when things affect our neighborhood's businesses and people. They are like our community's voice.

In simple terms, ESBA and BID are like teammates. They work together to help our neighborhood, and they make sure everyone knows where the money goes. While they do not play favorites in politics, they do make sure our community's needs are heard. Together, they make our neighborhood a better place. ■

Our Business Improvement District Joining Hands

Combating Graffiti



Community volunteers diligently paint over graffiti under the bridge in East Central, symbolizing collective efforts to renew our community.

New ESD101's Youth Gang Intervention Task Force and our Business Improvement District (BID) are collaborating to renew our community. The BID and New ESD101's Youth Gang Intervention Program are combining community interaction with graffiti removal to offer hope to the next generation.

New ESD101 Youth Gang Intervention Task Force provides high barrier youth active opportunities for job training and recreation. Calen Robertson (Project Coordinator), and Brandi Langhofer (Program Director) with New ESD101, provide mentorship and one-on-one individualized plans to track goals. The

Youth Gang Intervention Task Force is using the BIDs Graffiti Program "to let kids be kids in a safe environment while experiencing something different than what they are used to. This is in a pace that they get to decide", stated Calen Robertson.

New ESD101 serves all of Spokane and Spokane Valley. You can contact Program Director Brandi Langhofer Blanghofer@esd101.net or Project Coordinator Calen Robertson Cr Robertson@esd101.net for more information. ■

PBIA's Remarkable Achievements

Revitalizing East Sprague Through Community Collaboration



Sprague Ave

Streets Adorned: Flags and Flowers Illuminate East Sprague, Reflecting PBIA's Commitment to Neighborhood Beauty and Pride

In recent years, the East Sprague Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA) has been instrumental in revitalizing the East Sprague neighborhood through community-driven initiatives. These efforts have significantly transformed the area, making it more attractive to residents and visitors alike.

PBIA's accomplishments include installing 108 hanging baskets, removing graffiti from five sites, displaying 51 US flags along East Sprague Avenue, and removing five tons of garbage, enhancing the overall aesthetics and cleanliness of East Sprague.

The organization has also increased community engagement through higher board meeting attendance and proactively monitored viaducts and alleyways for safety and cleanliness.

Furthermore, PBIA has engaged with the Spokane City Staff to discuss replacing the City's fixed assets (trees and garbage cans), collaborated with Avista to expand the flag program, reintroduced community events through the "On the Ave" program, and welcomed community partners to amplify their efforts.

The East Sprague Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA) has made remarkable strides in revitalizing the neighborhood. Through initiatives focused on aesthetics, community engagement, and strategic partnerships, PBIA has transformed East Sprague into a more attractive, vibrant, and welcoming place to live, work, and visit. ■

2024 ESBA Board Members



Barbara Woodbridge
President



Danny Beard
Vice President



George Demakis
Treasurer



Jake Swartz
Secretary



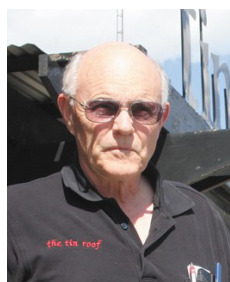
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