

# Spokane Building Department May 2008 Summary Report

## Economic Development

High praise for our city continues to stream in as *Newsweek* announced that we're home to two of the best high schools in the nation (Ferris High School and Lewis & Clark High School) and *Forbes* has ranked Spokane as one of the Top Ten Places for Business and Careers.

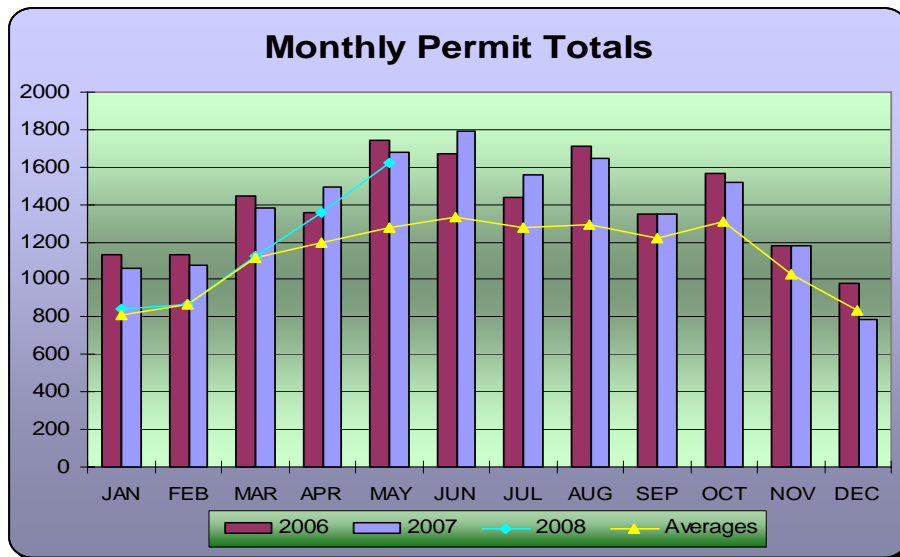
The latter accolade is due in part to our climate of encouraging development within the city limits by maintaining some of the lowest Building Permit fees and the quickest construction approval times in the State. Over the past 12 months, commercial Plan Reviews have only taken an average of:

- 17 days for Tenant Improvements
- 29 days for New Commercial Buildings & Additions

This doesn't factor in the smaller Tenant Improvements which can be approved by appointment on the same day they are brought in. Check out [Over-the-Counter Intake form](#) in the Applications section of our website [www.buildingspokane.org](http://www.buildingspokane.org) to see if your project qualifies.

## Building Permits

Overall permit activity climbed by more than 200 permits processed for the third straight month leading to over 1,600 permits processed for only the eighth time ever!!



This surge in activity has been split between Commercial Construction and Residential Remodels which continue to be strong as both are on pace to make 2008 the third best year on record for those categories.

**WinCo Foods is coming!!** The largest project for permits issued in May was for the 101,000 square foot, \$8.2 million [WinCo Foods](#) at 9527 North Nevada Street.

WinCo, which stands for "Winning Company" (*and also forms an acronym for the five states in which it has stores: [Washington](#), [Idaho](#), [Nevada](#), [California](#), and [Oregon](#)*) is an employee owned, 24-hour, low-price supermarket that promises to employ over 100 of our city's finest with competitive wages that "generally exceed community standards" plus stock options with a lucrative annual growth rate of 21.2% that helps foster an "extremely dedicated workforce" with a turnover rate that is "20% below average" according to their [website](#).

### Building Department Performance Measurements

Permits/CO's	2007	May 08	YTD 2008
Construction Permits	4,729	506	1,619
Commercial Permits Issued Over the Counter	101	13	45
New Single-Family Residences	390	23	88
<b>Total Permits</b>	16,236	1,458	5,661
Certificates of Occupancy	675	52	302
<b>Total Valuation</b>	\$315,499,076	\$31,354,765	\$132,427,950

Calls	May
Total Calls	4,464
Average Wait Time	0:00:44
Longest Wait Time	0:13:34
% Abandoned Calls	13%

### Going Green

The recently completed [Lincoln Heights Elementary](#) has just become the first public school in Washington State to be recognized with a Gold LEED award bringing national attention to our community for resource conservation and the going green initiative.

This [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) award certifies that the City of Spokane has demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility by having Lincoln Heights Elementary School built to standards that lower operating costs, reduce waste, conserve energy and water, last longer and utilize either recycled materials and/or materials produced and manufactured nearby helping to reduce fuel and resources used to get products to the job site.

### Training & Promotions

Congratulations to Jane Freeman-Nordling!! For recognition of her knowledge and training in the processing of permits, she will be promoted to Permit Specialist.

Jane has been a welcome presence in the Permit Center as an extremely conscientious team member who seeks to help our customers and staff however she can. As a statement of her dedication, she has already become the first Permit Specialist in the City to achieve the ICC Standards that recognize her as a Certified Permit Technician.