

THE CAMAS QUARTERLY



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Camas Quarterly

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Hello Camas,

It's the Holiday Season, and what a great season it's been so far! We had an amazing Hometown Holidays celebration in our picturesque downtown, and we're excited about the New Year and all the promise it brings.

I want to thank all of you who attended the various meet and greet events we've had recently, and there's been quite a few. However, your input combined with others helped us make some big decisions this year when it comes to staff.

We recently welcomed Cliff Free as our new Fire Chief. Michelle Jackson arrived this year as our new IT Director, and Alan Peters has joined us as the City's new Community Development Director. You can find a Q & A with Alan later in this newsletter.

But perhaps the biggest accomplishment, at least in my opinion, was the hiring of Doug Quinn as our new City Administrator. For those of you who know Doug, there probably isn't a better fit out there. For those who do not know Doug yet, prepare to be impressed. You can learn more about Doug on page 4.

Besides hires, another area we focused heavily on this year was the City Budget. This wasn't the easiest budget season, but we managed to put together a budget that will help Camas as we grow into the future. As always, I want to thank you for your input. Whether it was the Farmer's Market, our Council meetings, or the Budget Open house we held, your input was highly prized as we constructed the budget. Hopefully we provided budget-related information that gave you a better understanding of how we prioritize as a City.



**MAYOR
STEVE HOGAN**

In other news, we have some big projects on the horizon. Staff is currently seeking input for the Everett Street Corridor Analysis. We want to hear from you about this important corridor. What do you want to see? What do you not want to see? You can find more information about this in the update from Steve Wall, the Director of Public Works .

We're also ready to start working on some of the aspects of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS), which includes a revamp of the Camas-Washougal Skatepark. You can find out more about that project in this newsletter as well. These certainly aren't the only projects taking place, and we encourage you to visit Engage Camas periodically, or follow our social media channels, to stay up to date.

Finally, from all of us at the City of Camas, we wish you a happy holiday and a very happy New Year.

Thank you
Mayor Steve Hogan

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM FOR CAMAS



On January 4, 2023, Doug Quinn will start his role as the new City Administrator for the City of Camas.

To say it's been a journey for the City to get to this point is an understatement. Since the early departure of former City Administrator Jamal Fox, Camas has seen two different mayors and a few individuals roll off Council, with new ones added on. In that time the City also conducted two searches to fill the Administrator role; however, neither came to fruition.

Fast forward to early December and in a fortuitous turn of events, Camas Mayor Steve Hogan announced that Doug Quinn would be the next City Administrator for the City of Camas.

Quinn had applied in the second round of the process, which he said provided him with time to really consider his decision.

"This wasn't the easiest decision at first. I've worked at Clark Public Utilities for almost 20 years, and in that time adopted a deep commitment to my co-workers and the organizational values," said Quinn.

Continued on next page

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM

"It has been rewarding and enlightening and the thought of leaving them at that point was compelling enough to keep me there."

Even though Quinn was feeling the pull to stay with Clark PUD, outside influences can also weigh heavily on an individual. And so, as the first round passed without a candidate, more and more individuals reached out to Quinn with a suggestion...why not you?

"Later, during the second round, I was approached more directly by community members to consider re-engaging with the city," said Quinn. "And, after reconsidering myself, it was an easier decision at the time and one that I'm enthusiastic about."

For those who know Quinn, his decision makes sense. Since 1988, Camas has been home for Doug, his wife Christy and their three children.

In that time in the community, Doug and his wife have been very intentional about supporting the things they value, which resulted in a lifetime of activity around Camas schools, the City, downtown, and businesses.



In addition to his numerous community service positions, Quinn has served on the Camas School Board since 2005, and as Board President from 2009-2011 and 2017-2019. He's also been a Board Member with the Downtown Camas Association since 2005.

"I have a view of Camas that spans about 35 years, and I have seen it change over that time," he said. "Our shared history is relevant to our future, and I believe our City should pursue that which it values. That, to me, is best accomplished by working with the mayor, Council and City employees."

It helps that Quinn isn't a stranger to the inner workings of the City.

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM

He served as Planning Director and Assistant City Engineer from 1988 to 1990, Public Works Director and City Engineer from 1990 to 2003, and Interim City Administrator from 1998 to 1999. During that time, Quinn and current Mayor Steve Hogan got to know each other well and Hogan was able to see that dedication in practice.

"Doug is extremely well-known and respected in this community, but it's his dedication to this City that really made him the clear choice," said Hogan. "I think his familiarity with the City of Camas and his knowledge of the area will be extremely beneficial," he said.

Taking over at a City that has seen some turnover would be a unique challenge for anyone; add in the rapid growth Camas has been experiencing and it's easy to see that Quinn will have as much work as he's ready to handle. But handle it is exactly what he plans to do and for that to occur, he'll need to hit the ground running. In his first 100 days, Quinn said his focus will mostly fall inward.

"My goal is to focus on the existing organizational issues, priorities, and people," he said.



"I am invested in the success of the City agency and, by extension, the success of individual employees and the leadership team."

But that's not all he has on the docket. According to Quinn, his applied daily practice will also include listening and exploring, in order to familiarize himself with the current City culture. He also plans to meet with every department and, ideally, every staff member.

Perhaps most important of all though, Quinn said he will continue to support open and transparent access for all to the workings and decisions of the City.

MEET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ALAN PETERS

Q&A with Alan Peters, Camas
Community Development Director

Alan Peters began his new role as Community Development Director Dec. 5. The Community Development Department is comprised of three divisions: the Planning Division, the Development Engineering Division and the Building Division.

Q. How many years do you have in the industry?

A. I've worked in various roles in community development for almost 12 years, mostly in the public sector. I started my planning career working for Provo, Utah, a mid-sized city that was undergoing a lot of redevelopment at the time, and in particular was seeing a lot of new activity in its historic downtown core. My next role was for a Salt Lake City suburb that was developing at a rapid pace, so I got to work on an interesting mix of large-scale commercial, industrial, residential, and public projects.

Most recently, I spent seven years in Skamania County, where I focused more on environmental planning issues and developed partnerships with state and federal agencies, including the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

While the work has been a little different each place I've worked, I've consistently enjoyed serving and engaging with the public in each of these roles.

Q. You came from Skamania County. Are there any accomplishments that you're really proud of?

A. In 2021, I had the opportunity to lead the creation of a new standalone Community Development Department that included planning, building, fire marshal, and environmental health. In this shift, we focused on becoming an organization that was known for providing excellent customer service.

I'm also proud of leading our department through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and then through two subsequent years of record high development activity in the county.

Throughout my time with Skamania County, I managed several major long-range planning projects, including the development of a new critical areas ordinance and Shoreline Master Program, a major update to our development regulations for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and the zoning of more than 10,000 acres of land.

MEET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ALAN PETERS

Q. What made you interested in this position?

A. I live in Camas and love this community and saw this position as a unique opportunity to take my professional experience and apply it to benefit a place I'm deeply committed to. Our City is growing a lot, and with this growth comes the challenge of maintaining our unique sense of place and ensuring that our kids can afford to live here too. I also knew that the City has a great council and professional staff and knew this was a team I wanted to be a part of.

Q. What is a typical day like in Community Development?

A. Right now, I'm focused on relationship building and listening, so my days have been mostly filled with meetings with staff, elected officials, and community members. Our department provides our customers guidance and assistance throughout the building- and project-review process, so a typical day involves reviewing project plans, conducting inspections, preparing for public hearings, and meeting with residents, builders, and developers about ongoing projects. We also consistently look for ways we can strengthen our regulations and improve our processes.

Q. What are you most looking forward to working on in Camas?

A. We have two exciting projects on the horizon that our community has also been looking forward to.

First, a periodic update to our Citywide Comprehensive Plan and second, our first subarea plan for Downtown Camas. With all the growth happening in Camas, strengthening our downtown will be key in maintaining our unique small-town feel.

Q. What do you enjoy about living in Camas?

A. First, I love my neighborhood and my neighbors. Second, I like the mix of developed areas, parks, trails, and open spaces throughout the community. Third, I enjoy spending time in our downtown. I have a toddler, so right now we enjoy craft and story time at Bookish, finding new toys at Periwinkle's, and grabbing pizza at Camas Slices. We also love spending time at the library.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Connie
Urquhart
Library Director

The Library Turns 100

What a momentous occasion! The Library turns 100 on April 4, 2023. We are honored to be part of such an historic event and excited to bring to our community events and learning opportunities throughout the entire year. Please stop by and pick up a special edition centennial library card, available only during 2023. If you already have a library card, you may swap your current one out free of charge. We'll ask for your stories and memories, too.

Because the Library is you, and us, and everyone here in Camas. So, here's to all of us, and to the Library – a century in the books!

Upcoming Events

History Speaks (Speaker Series)

We've sprinkled six speaking engagements throughout the year to inform citizens and to illuminate our City's illustrious past. The first in the series is our official kick-off for the centennial year.

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

Women Who Shaped Camas

Saturday, January 21, 2 p.m., Garver Theater

Barbara Baldus, a founder of the Library's Second Story Gallery; Nan Henriksen, former mayor of Camas; Carrie Schulstad, executive director of the Downtown Camas Association; and local historian Virginia Warren will lead a panel discussion moderated by Bradley Richardson, executive director of the Clark County Historical Museum. Join us at the special location of the Garver Theater for this event.

Other Speaking Events (All at the Library):

·The Forgotten Front: Gender, Labor, and Politics in Camas, Washington, and the Northwest Paper Industry, 1913-1918 (April)

·Will the 2020s Roar like the 1920s? (May)

·A Promise Not Yet Fulfilled: The Chinook Struggle for Recognition (July)

·Legendary Locals Author Event with Rene Carroll (September)

·Whiskey and Wiretaps: The Northwest's Rumrunning King (November)

The Library Turns 100

Tuesday, April 4, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Stop by the Library anytime during open hours to celebrate the Library's big day. We'll have music, goodies, and giveaways.

Second Story Gallery

Each of the Library's six Second Story Gallery shows will have a connection to the centennial in 2023. Read below for the first two shows, covering January – April.

Read All About It (January & February)

This show will consist of reproduced cover pages from our local newspaper, which was originally called LaCamas Post and is now The Camas-Washougal Post-Record. The headlines will be drawn from the first 50 years of the paper's life, 1908-1958. The reproduced cover pages will reveal to patrons a snapshot of what was happening in our community throughout these years, while also highlighting the local coverage of regional events and reporting on national headlines. The opening reception is Friday, January 6, 5-8 p.m.

A Century In the Books (March & April)

This exhibit will showcase a timeline of Library milestones over the past 100 years. From the initial conception for a public library space to the current building on 4th Avenue, enjoy a walk-through time to see historical photos and learn interesting facts from the past century. The opening reception is Friday, March 3, 5-8 p.m.

And this is just the beginning. We'll have programs for all ages, events around town, and historical documents you can savor online. Join us in 2023 for our biggest birthday yet!

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

Everett Street Corridor Analysis Project

In August 2022, the City of Camas and its consultant team began evaluating the Everett Street Corridor from NE Lake Road to the northerly City limits near NE 3rd Street (not to be confused with NE 3rd Avenue, which runs through downtown).

Our purpose is to analyze the corridor using public input, data, and technical guidance to develop an improvement plan for providing safe, efficient passage and access for all. We will use the input, data, and guidance to develop design concepts for consideration, select one design concept (called a “preferred alternative”), and begin developing the preferred concept into a design plan. Your input is essential to defining the needs of the community – thank you for participating.

Our next step will be to review all the data collected from technical folks and the public, and work with the Technical Advisory Committee to develop a range of options based on the data collected for further exploration with the public.

For more information, visit EngageCamas.com to see more project details and use the “Ask a Question” feature.



Steve
Wall
Public Works
Director



Nakia Creek Fire

The City continues to coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the impacts from the Nakia Creek Fire. Once the emergency team from the Oregon Department of Fire left the site, it was up to DNR to continue monitoring the area, work with property owners that were impacted, and begin restoring the area to the extent practicable.

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.



Nakia Creek Fire - Cont.

That includes DNR's coordination with the City of Camas on the approximately 800+ acres of City-owned forestland that was impacted by the fire.

In addition to working with DNR, City staff has been working to identify the potential for an immediate harvest of the areas impacted. There is still significant monetary value from the trees that were partially burned, but only if they can be harvested within the next year.

If the trees can't be harvested that soon, they will quickly become a liability for the City. Not only will the City not recognize any returns, but the area will become more likely to burn again.

Reforestation would also be much more difficult as less ground will be available to replant due to all the standing dead trees. Likewise, trying to contract to log the area later would ultimately cost the City, as there would be little-to-no-value in the lumber.

For these reasons, it's vital that we try and move quickly. Our partners at DNR and Weyerhaeuser are trying to act just as quickly on the large areas of their properties that also burned.

Continued protection and appropriate management of the City's Jones and Boulder Creek Watersheds is vital for the environment and the ability to bring safe drinking water to the City.

Information
Nakia Creek
WA-PCS-0220
1,918 acres at 10/19/2022 @ 1917hrs

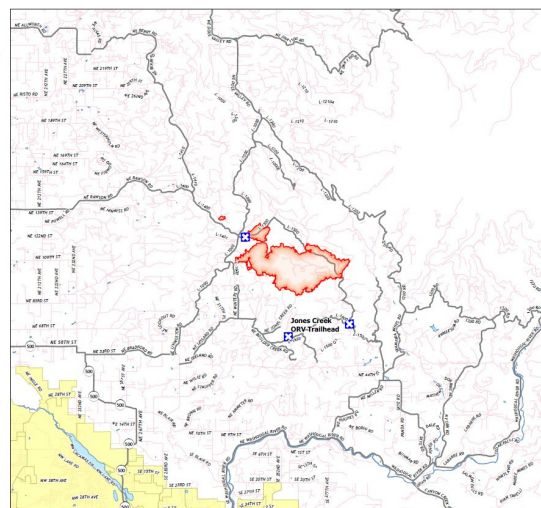
0 1 2
Miles

- Fire Perimeter
- Waterbody
- City Limits
- Road Closure

VICINITY

Logos: CRESA, WASH STATE, WASH COUNTY, ECFR, OFFICIAL FIRE INFORMATION

Scan QR code for more information



Información Pública
Nakia Creek
WA-PCS-0220
Áreas: 1,918 acres según del día 10/19/2022 a las 1917 hrs

0 1 2
Miles

- Perímetro del Incendio
- Protección de la ciudad
- Cuerpo de agua

ALREDEDORES

Logos: CRESA, WASH STATE, WASH COUNTY, ECFR, OFICIAL FIRE INFORMATION

Escanea el código QR para más información

KEEP CALM AND SKATE ON



If you will, flash back to the year 2000. At that time, the U.S. population topped 282 million. Everyone realized Y2K wasn't as scary as had been predicted. And in a small mill town in Southwest Washington, City leaders were working on a skatepark.

The cities of Camas and Washougal decided to work together to provide local youth with a park they could spend hours at, honing their craft, or just having a good time.

To make the park appealing, City staff worked with local skaters on the design, which ultimately resulted in a park that simulated the street style that they were used to. Enter the Camas/Washougal Skatepark.

Completed in 2002, the skate park that was once cutting edge has now been in service for 20 years. In 2017, local resident Tim Laidlaw saw a park that no longer fit the needs of the current skate community. Some features had been removed and the remaining ones were outdated and considered too difficult and awkward for the skaters of today.

Laidlaw decided to do something about that and began working with Riverside Bowl, a group made up of skaters and residents, to help revitalize the skatepark area by volunteering to clean the park and advocating for updates to the park.

That work recently paid off as the skatepark improvement project was prioritized as a capital improvement project by the City of Camas.

This skatepark renovation project was a community driven project in 2017 and continues to be community driven in 2022. In 2018, prior to the pandemic, the Cities of Camas and Washougal initiated an effort to update park design and construct new features.

Energy around the project grew in 2019 with a successful skateboarding demonstration and fundraising event driven by the community, as well as local businesses and organizations. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the project was placed on hold.

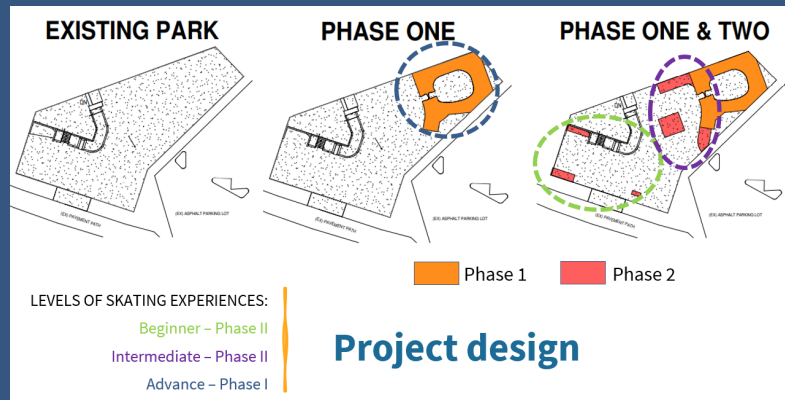
KEEP CALM AND SKATE ON

“Now in 2022, with the support of the community and our non-profit partners Camas Parks Foundation and Parks Foundation of Clark County, the City of Camas is once again moving the project forward.

On December 5, 2022, Council approved the awarding of the low bid to construct the new park improvements to Lee Contractors. Unfortunately, with this restart, the City of Washougal will not be partnering financially on the project.

“The Camas Parks Foundation is thrilled to be able to support the upcoming renovations at our skatepark. This fundraising success is thanks to a small but mighty group of community members who are passionate about this park, skateboarding, and providing safe, outdoor recreation for our local youth,” said Camas Parks Foundation Member, Cassi Marshall.

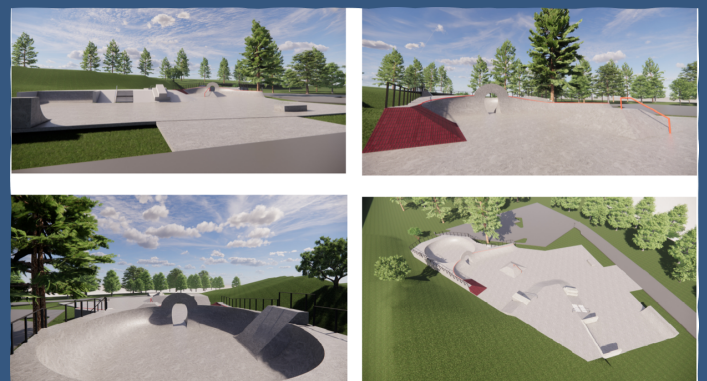
“We are especially grateful to the City of Camas and Parks Commission for supporting this project, the Riverside Bowl group for their constant advocacy, and the C-W Community Chest and the Norm Danielson Foundation for their generous contributions,” she said.



The new 2022 design provides features for skaters of all skill levels, including elements for beginner to advance skaters.

Beginners can start learning tricks on the new funbox and quarter pipe that’s added to the existing loading dock at the southwest end of the park; intermediate skaters can hone their skills with the added entry pyramid and quarter pipe with deck; and advanced skaters can enjoy a new bowl added at the northeast end of the park.

The renovated skatepark should be ready for skaters before Summer 2023.



CAMAS CITY COUNCIL



**Greg
Anderson
Ward 3**



**Marilyn
Boerke
Ward 1**



**Bonnie
Carter
Ward 2**



**Don
Chaney
At Large**



**Tim
Hein
Ward 2**



**John
Nohr
Ward 1**



**Leslie
Lewallen
Ward 3**

The City Council is an elected group of individuals tasked with creating policy for a City. They represent certain wards. The City of Camas has three wards. Of the seven elected Council members, there is one elected at-large and six elected within wards. The wards are established based on population estimates within the City's boundaries and are reviewed and modified periodically by Council.

<https://www.cityofcamas.us/citycouncil/page/city-council-members>

CAMAS CITY COUNCIL



**Greg
Anderson
Ward 3**

To say someone has devoted their life to public service is a big statement. And while Camas City Council Member Greg Anderson hasn't spent his entire life serving the City of Camas, 25 years is quite a feat.

Recently, Council Member Anderson announced he would be leaving office before his full term is complete, and while we are saddened to see him leave, his legacy with the City will continue.

Elected to Council in 1997, Anderson said this wasn't always in the cards.

"After taking my first oath of office as a City Council member, I remember telling myself that this would only be for a few years."

Fast forward 25 years, and Anderson is still a mainstay on Camas' dais. In this time he's seen mayors and councilmembers come and go.

He's dealt with recessions that came to fruition, and events like Y2K, which didn't.

Through it all he's been considered a senior member of the Council, one who is often looked to for his institutional knowledge or even keeled approach. And, most importantly, he has put in the work.

During his time with the City of Camas, Council Member Anderson has realized many accomplishments, and served on many committees. He also served as Mayor Pro-Tem in 2004, 2006, 2011, 2015, and 2020.

Officials with the City are determining the timeline for the application process and will be providing that information in the coming weeks. Once defined, the City Council will discuss the process of filling the Council seat vacancy.

CAMAS CITY COUNCIL



**Bonnie
Carter
Ward 2**



**Tim
Hein
Ward 2**

Bonnie Carter

Hello, Camas. I hope to find you safe and well during this holiday season. This was a challenging budget planning season as we discussed service needs, funding, and how to maintain service levels for our citizens. Inflation impacts all of our pocketbooks, including the City's, and we continue to watch for economic indicators regarding the health of our economy. Council passed the 2023-24 budget this month through compromise and negotiation.

I am a member of the Joint Advisory Policy Committee along with Councilors Chaney and Anderson, and our peers from Washougal. We have been meeting monthly to discuss the current operating status of our joint fire department and its future. As Camas grows, so does our fire/EMS service; however, Washougal isn't growing as quickly.

This next year, our citizens will be asked to listen and learn about these challenges and consider the future structure of this department. I ask for your attention and patience and, mostly, I ask for your questions, in order to better understand your concerns as we research options that will ensure a financially sound, equitable, and high-performing Fire/EMS Department.

Tim Hein

I will be visiting our Polish Sister Cities of Krapkowice and Zabierzow December 11-17. I'm excited to share photos and updates when I return.