

# THE CAMAS QUARTERLY

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A CITY OF  
CAMAS, WA  
PUBLICATION



# Camas Quarterly



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Hello Camas,

It's hard to believe it's March already, and that this edition of the Camas Quarterly marks a full year since we re-issued the City Newsletter. I hope you're enjoying the information we provide in these newsletters, and that it better helps you understand all that goes into running a City. Quite honestly, it's a lot!

So, what's going on with Camas as we move through 2023? There's a lot on the horizon, especially when it comes to legislative affairs.

So far this year, City Administrator Doug Quinn and I have visited Olympia to meet with our elected officials and representatives in the hopes that they will include Camas in their plans for funding. Some of the areas where we're looking for State help include capital projects; the environment, open spaces, and parks; and transportation. In terms of capital, we're looking at funding for much-needed improvements to our fire stations. When it comes to the environment, we're really hoping for help with one of our biggest projects: the Lake Management Plan. Finally, for transportation, we're hopeful that the City will get State help to widen the Camas Slough Bridge and to help with costs related to the Everett Street Corridor improvements.

And speaking of transportation, we just came through one of the heaviest snowstorms this area has seen in many years. I want to personally thank all our first responders and our Public Works crew for working around the clock in horrible conditions to save lives and make our travel safer. Unfortunately, the unexpected amounts of snow caused some issues with driving around Camas. It also raised a lot of questions about our snow response, how we plow or, perhaps more importantly, where we plow, where we don't, and why?



**MAYOR**  
**STEVE HOGAN**

You can view the story on our storm response on page 05.

2023 also marks a momentous occasion: the Camas Public Library is celebrating 100 years. Their slogan is "A Century in the Books" and what a century it has been for this Camas jewel. The Library has a whole host of events planned for the year, which you can find at the Camas Public Library page through [cityofcamas.us](http://cityofcamas.us). But the biggest event of all is the Library's actual birthday in April. Visit page 13 to learn about the celebration and what other exciting things they have planned for their Centennial year.

Finally, at the tail end of 2022, the City of Camas released a community survey and asked for your feedback. Well, you came through for us, and we have data that we'll be looking at as we progress as a City. In some areas we'll need to improve; in other areas we'll need to keep doing what we're doing because you all seem to think we do it well. All in all, we rank higher than the national average and other cities in the PNW when it comes to resident satisfaction, and that's something to be excited about. Check out that story on page 09.

Thank you  
Mayor Steve Hogan





**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DOUG QUINN**

Hello Camas,

I'm Doug Quinn, and I'm happy to serve as your City Administrator. I am honored to serve in this role, and I am enjoying the active pace of City leadership. Some may know that I used to be the Director of Public Works for the City of Camas; however, a lot has changed since the last time I was a City of Camas employee in 2003.

Fast forward 20 years, and here I am again, but with a much larger, and very different City in terms of priorities. What hasn't changed in that 20 years is the passion Camas' citizens feel for this very special City. The consummate question is always: how do we manage growth in Camas without losing what drew many of us to the community? It is a work of passion and patience, and something that City employees, the City Council, and the Mayor, work on daily.

I'm lucky in a sense, because I have a view of Camas that spans 35 years, and I have seen the results over time, such as our early efforts around economic diversification, protection and purchase of open spaces, and downtown development. What is apparent to me is that 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 City employees, the City Council, and the Mayor.

And that's exactly what I've been doing the two months that I've been here, listening to and working with our residents, staff, and Council. I'm learning what each group's priorities are and how these priorities can mesh to provide the best possible services to Camas.

What does that all boil down to? Quite simply, I'm excited about what the future holds for the City. We have excellent employees, a dedicated Council and a community that cares. What more could you ask for?

Thank you,

Doug Quinn  
City Administrator



(As you can see, I'm already enlisting our next generation to help our community. This was a planting event co-sponsored by the City of Camas and the Watershed Alliance. My handy helper in this photo is my grandson, Erik )



# PLOW, REST AND REPEAT - CAMAS' STORM RESPONSE



Snow, snow, and more snow. That's what the first part of 2023 seemed to be full of for the City of Camas and the rest of Clark County. While we're often able to predict with some accuracy the amount of snowfall for our area, there are times when everyone is surprised by just how much snow we receive.

This is the exact situation that occurred at the end of February. The City of Camas and surrounding areas received a massive amount of snow, coupled with cold weather and icy conditions, resulting in multiple days of inclement weather and poor street conditions.

And with all the snow, there also comes a lot of questions relating to the City of Camas' storm response. Hopefully, we can shed some light here on how the City responds to snow events.

The first step in the process is determining when we need to get the plows out. This happens in a variety of ways. City leadership looks at weather models, consults with the County and CRESA, and has crews out very early, or sometimes the night before, watching the weather to see what happens.

# PLOW, REST AND REPEAT

If we're able to anticipate a large amount of snow on the horizon, we can pretreat the roads to help ourselves when the snow does fall. However, that's not always possible.

Pretreatment in advance of a storm only helps when the roads are dry. Unfortunately, if it's wet or raining, it just washes the pretreatment off the road before it snows or freezes.

Another question we often get: how many plows does the City of Camas currently have? **Camas currently has a total of 6 plows**, but not all plows are the same. The City currently operates four large snowplows with solid deicer - and sand-dispersing capabilities, along with two smaller plows on flatbed trucks with liquid deicing units. Unfortunately, this equipment is not enough to keep all City streets maintained during snow or ice events. This leads to the need to identify priority routes as discussed later in this story.

We also currently **only have seven total Street Crew employees who are the first to respond and are all capable of driving the trucks with plows**. However, for safety reasons, we run two employees in each truck. But this puts us at an employee deficit!



One option that we do employ is to pull members from other crews such as the Garbage, Stormwater, and Parks maintenance divisions. But that doesn't mean just anyone can operate the plows.

**To be able to operate the snowplow and deicing equipment, our employees need special training, and they also need a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).** Most Public Works employees have their CDL; however, not everyone has had the opportunity to receive specialized training in the snow/ice-removal equipment. So, this also limits our response and can have a dramatic impact on being able to provide other services to the community.

With large, sustained events that are forecasted with high confidence, the City will also employ a "split shift" with our operations and maintenance personnel.



# PLOW, REST AND REPEAT

This means that we will split the full 24-hour day into two, 12-hour shifts (or some other variation) **and work approximately 24 hours/day until the storm event has concluded.** This is tough on the employees, and obviously comes at a large cost. This option can really only be efficiently used when there's a high certainty of a large event.

When it comes to inclement weather, no two storm events are exactly the same, but the City typically follows a standard response.

Generally speaking, we focus on the primary arterials that handle the most traffic, then work our way to the collectors, and then down from there and ultimately to the residential side streets.

**The City's Snowplow & Anti-Icing Routes Map identifies Priority 1 Routes (Red Lines), Priority 2 Routes (Green Lines), Priority 3 Routes (Yellow Lines), and the typical Road Closures (Blue Lines) during inclement weather.** All other streets will be serviced during regularly scheduled hours after the Priority Routes have been serviced with the exception that snow and ice removal crews will treat non-priority routes as dispatched or requested by emergency services. The Snow and Ice Map” can be found under our “Government” tab on the homepage, or by visiting <http://ow.ly/pLqL50NjboC>

As mentioned, we also have a few roads that we always close during snow and ice events. They are as follows:

- NW 23rd Avenue, from NW Douglas Loop to NW Hood Street
- NW Forest Home Road from NW 10th Avenue to NW Astor Street
- Division Street from NE 6th Avenue to NE 11th Avenue
- NE Dallas Street from NE 6th Avenue to NE 14th Avenue
- NW Dahlia Drive from NW 30th Circle to NW 34th Circle
- NW Lacamas Lane from NW Jasmine Street to NW Lake Road
- NW 44th Avenue from NW Jasmine to NW Lacamas Lane.





# PLOW, REST AND REPEAT

Often, we will hear individuals ask what it would take to be able to plow the whole City when events like this do occur. To be honest, we don't even know if that's possible, but what we do know is that something on that large of a scale would take an abundance of one thing - money. That's in the form of more employees and more equipment. While we can always add equipment, we must have trained employees to use that equipment safely and effectively.

As we see an uptick in storms like the few we've experienced over the past 3 years, and as the City continues to grow, the idea of investing more money in snow equipment definitely seems logical. But that ultimately comes down to the matter of cost versus benefit. **There is a risk of paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for one truck/plow and then only using it for snow and ice response one or two days in an entire year.**

In reality, the vast majority of snow/ice events are over before there's a chance to get to the side streets, and sometimes even before getting to Priority 2 Routes - meaning the temperatures warm up enough to melt things while crews are still attempting to get the main roads cleared. This most recent storm was one of those rare occasions when that did not occur.



Finally, one great question that has been floating around on social media is why do residents sometimes see a plow truck driving by with the blade up?

There are many reasons a plow operator may have the blade up. They may be responding to an emergency call, there could be an equipment malfunction, or the operator determined that plowing would be ineffective or make things worse. It could also be that they're using the tire chains and the weight of the truck to break up the ice coating to allow for future plowing.

Needless to say, things aren't always as they seem, just like with weather prediction.



# OPINIONS MATTER

## THE 2022 CAMAS COMMUNITY SURVEY

Flash back to 2019 if you will, for a moment. At that time, we had not yet heard of the COVID-19 Pandemic that would grind most things in the world to a screeching halt. Camas was growing, as it continually does. And it was also the last time the City of Camas conducted a Community Survey. Generally, like most municipalities, Camas reached out to residents on a two-year basis to understand how they felt about City services. Unfortunately, as mentioned above, the pandemic put that on hold. Flash forward to 2022 and Camas once again reached out to its citizens to see how they felt about the City, the City Departments, and many other areas.

The ETC Institute distributes the community survey for Camas and many other municipalities. According to ETC, overall, satisfaction ratings across the country are down from 2019. However, just like in previous years, the City of Camas satisfaction ratings are much higher than other communities in most areas.

ETC provided Camas with a full report, which can be found at [cityofcamas.us](http://cityofcamas.us), under the “Communications” page. ETC’s goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 400 residents. The goal was met, with a total of 447 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 447 households have a precision of at least +/-4.6% at the 95% level of confidence.

### Overall Perceptions of the City

Three-fourths (75%) of the residents surveyed, who had an opinion, indicated they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the overall quality of services provided by the City. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of those surveyed, who had an opinion, indicated they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the overall feeling of safety in the City, and 87% were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the overall quality of life in the City.

### Overall Satisfaction with City Services

The major areas of City services that had the highest levels of satisfaction, based upon the combined percentage of “very satisfied” and “satisfied” responses among residents who had an opinion, were quality of the City’s garbage services (86%); quality of the City’s public Library services (86%); fire, emergency medical, and ambulance services (80%); and quality of City parks, open spaces, and trails (80%).

Based on the sum of their top three choices, the City services that residents thought should receive the most emphasis over the next two years were: 1) the maintenance of City streets, 2) the effectiveness of economic development efforts, and 3) the quality of City parks, open spaces, and trails.



# OPINIONS MATTER

THE 2022 CAMAS COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Additional Findings

### Customer Service

49% of respondents indicated they have called, sent an e-mail, or visited the City with a complaint, problem, or question during the past year. 52% of respondents indicated they contacted the Municipal Services department, 17% contacted Financial Services/Utility Billing, and 17% contacted the Police Department. More than three-fourths (77%) indicated it was either “very easy” or “somewhat easy” to contact the person they needed to reach; 22% of respondents found it “difficult” or “very difficult” to contact the person they needed to reach.

Respondents who had called, sent an e-mail, or visited the City with a complaint, problem or question, during the past year were asked to indicate how often the employees they contacted displayed four different behaviors. Based upon the combined percentage of “always” and “usually” responses, among residents who had an opinion, the most frequently displayed behavior was being courteous and polite (95%).

### Land Development

Respondents were asked to indicate how fast or slow the City’s current pace of development is in ten different areas. The areas for which respondents felt the development pace was too fast included townhomes or row houses, large lots and large homes, and apartments.

The items for which respondents felt the development pace was too slow included employment opportunities, housing options for the aging population, and technology and other industry.

### Tax Increases

Respondents were asked to identify one new community amenity that could be provided by the City. 62% of respondents indicated they would be willing to pay more in taxes or fees to support the community amenity they suggested, 28% would not support a new community amenity, and 10% did not provide a response.

### Service Expansion

71% of respondents, who had an opinion, indicated the maintenance of infrastructure should be “much higher” or a “little higher.” 32% indicated they would be willing to pay more in taxes or fees to support increased service levels.

### How the City of Camas Compared to Other Communities Nationally

Satisfaction ratings for the City of Camas rated above the U.S. average in 32 of the 40 areas that were assessed. The City of Camas rated significantly higher than the U.S. average (difference of 5% or more) in 23 of these areas.

For the full 2022 Community Survey report and maps visit:  
[www.cityofcamas.us/communications/page/city-camas-community-surveys](http://www.cityofcamas.us/communications/page/city-camas-community-surveys)



# DEPARTMENT UPDATES



**Trang  
Lam**

Parks and  
Recreation Director

## **Parks and Recreation**

Spring is a wonderful time in Camas. We have amazing flowers blooming, the weather is warming, and it's a busy time for Parks and Recreation. And speaking of the Parks and Recreation team, they've been working on many initiatives so far this year.

Perhaps one of the most exciting is the renaming of the Camas-Washougal Skate park to what will now be known as the Riverside Bowl. Staff worked with the Camas Parks and Recreation Commission on the name change that will grace the newly renovated skatepark, set to be completed this summer.

Spring also means the Camas Parks and Recreation Spring Guide is out, and you can find all of that great information at our website at [www.cityofcamas.us](http://www.cityofcamas.us), then click on "Parks and Recreation."

And make sure to save the dates for these exciting upcoming events, which can be found at [www.cityofcamas.us](http://www.cityofcamas.us), click on "Parks," then "Special Events."



# DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

## Everett Street Corridor Analysis Project

Please join us on Wednesday, April 26, for our second community open house!

The event will be held at Lacamas Lake Lodge, located at 227 NE Lake Road, starting at 6 pm. Attendees will learn about the corridor options we're exploring and have a chance to offer input.

An online survey to collect additional input on the corridor options will also be available here on Engage Camas from April 26 to May 26, 2023. A printed version of the online survey will be available at the event as well as at City Hall and Camas Library after the event through May 26.

Please note: We are in the early stages of this long-range, multi-phase project. Your participation and feedback matter!



Steve  
Wall  
Public Works  
Director

### About the Project

Purpose – The City of Camas is evaluating the Everett Street Corridor from NE Lake Road to city limits near NE 3rd Street (not to be confused with NE 3rd Avenue running through downtown Camas) to determine how the roadway and intersections can be best configured to allow for safe, efficient passage through and access to the area by motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists who work, live, and play in Camas and the neighboring vicinities, while providing for planned growth.



 City of Camas  
616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, WA 98607

### EVERETT STREET CORRIDOR ANALYSIS OPEN HOUSE 2

Join us to learn about the corridor options we're exploring and tell us what you think.


Then, take an online survey on EngageCamas.com from April 26 to May 26. Printed versions will be at the event, City Hall, and Camas Library.


We are in the early stages of this long-range, multiphase project. Your participation and feedback matter!

 Wednesday, April 26, 2023

 6:00 pm

 Lacamas Lake Lodge  
227 NE Lake Road, Camas, WA 98607

 Online Survey 2: April 26–May 26  
EngageCamas.com, City Hall & Camas Library

 James Carothers, City of Camas Engineering Manager  
360.817.7230 | jcarothers@cityofcamas.us

# 100 NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD!



**CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
1923-2023**

100 years. That's a big number, and honestly a lot can happen in 100 years. A century ago, Russia was still in the midst of a terrible famine, the Lincoln Memorial was completed in Washington D.C., and in a small mill town in Camas, Washington, a group of women had an idea.

That group of women was the Women's Club of Camas and that idea, well that was the birth of the Camas Public Library. Venture 100 years into the future and here we are today, ready to celebrate a 100-year-old community gem. Could the Women's Club have even imagined that not only would the Library still be here, but that it'd still be a focal point of the community?

Well, it is. And we're ready to celebrate, and you can too! Make plans to join us Tuesday, April 4, for the 100th Birthday of the Camas Public Library.

To honor those 100 years, we will have a day-long celebration that will include giveaways, treats, and a scavenger hunt for kids.

But that's not all, every 100th person that enters the Library during normal business hours that day will receive a fabulous prize!

And in honor of the time period the Library was established, we'll close out the day's events with a throwback 1920s celebration in the Totem Pole Room from 4 - 6 p.m. The event is for all ages and will include a swing band and dancers, plus a free raffle.

As for the other birthday-themed activities taking place the week of April 3, please see below:

**Wednesday, April 5, 2 p.m.**  
**Spring Bingo!**  
**Virtual**  
**For Kids K-5**

Join us for a fun bingo game via Zoom that celebrates the Library's 100th Birthday! Winners get prizes. Registration is required and you will be emailed the link the day before the event.

**Thursday, April 6, 2:30 p.m.**  
**Teen DIY Library Merch**  
**Meeting Rooms A&B**  
**For Teens**

Join us to commemorate our 100th year by creating a one-of-a-kind item of your choice! We'll use a Cricut machine and vinyl to make a keychain, mug or tote! All materials will be provided.



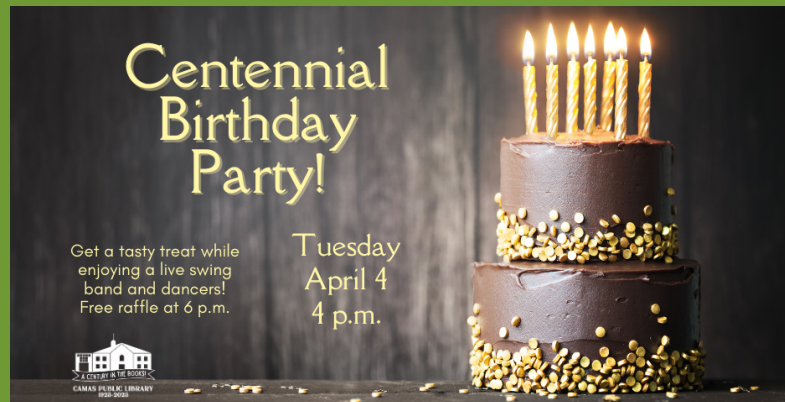
# 100 NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD!

**Friday, April 7, 5 p.m.**  
**A Century in the Books**  
**Gallery**  
**For All Ages**

Please join us for the First Friday reception of this entertaining and historical exhibit. The show includes a timeline of Library milestones from 1923 to 2023. From the initial conception of a public library space to the current building on 4th Avenue, enjoy a walk-through time to learn interesting facts and see historical photos and artifacts from the past one hundred years.

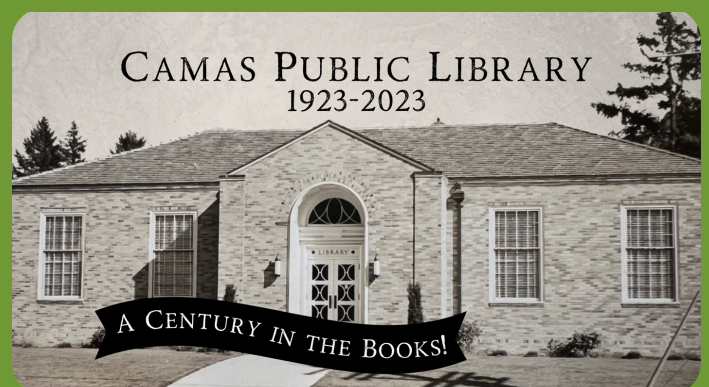
**Saturday, April 8, 7 p.m.**  
**Virtual Trivia Night: Special Edition**  
**For All Ages**

Enjoy a lively trivia night from the comfort of your own home! To celebrate the Library's 100th birthday, in this special edition of Virtual Trivia Night we will be focusing on history from the last 100 years. Join with a team or be assigned a team at the event. You must have a computer with video/audio and Zoom. We encourage you to have snacks and beverages handy. The trivia is free to play, and open to adults and teens. Registration is required.



While the Library's birthday is certainly a grand event, it's not the only thing the Library has scheduled to celebrate its centennial year. You can find more information and a full list of activities taking place this year at the [Cityofcamas.us](http://Cityofcamas.us), and click on "Library."

As for the next 100 years, there's honesty no telling what the future holds. But we do know that more than likely, the Camas Public Library will be in the center of it all, just like it has been for the past 100 years.



# CAMAS CITY COUNCIL



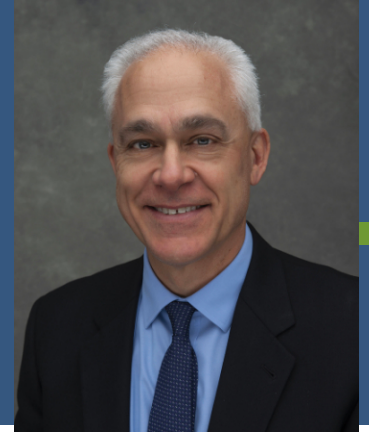
**Marilyn Boerke**  
Ward 1



**John Nohr**  
Ward 1



**Bonnie Carter**  
Ward 2



**Tim Hein**  
Ward 2



**Jennifer Senescu**  
Ward 3



**Leslie Lewallen**  
Ward 3



**Don Chaney**  
At Large

**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



**Tim  
Hein  
Ward 2**

## **Tim Hein**

Effective January 1, 2023, I have been appointed to these additional committees by Mayor Steve Hogan: C-Tran, CW Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Strategy Committee for Economic Incentives, Finance Committee, GP Mill Clean-Up Advisory Committee, Parks & Recreation, and Sister Cities. Most of these committees meet monthly. Please contact me if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for me regarding these committees.

The Ward 2 Town Hall was held on Tuesday, February 7, at the Zellerbach Administration Center of the Camas School District. I want to thank everyone who attended in-person and online for the comments we received.

A follow-up will be provided in mid-April after the Ward 1 and 3 Town Hall meetings have been held, to give City Staff time to respond in a comprehensive manner to all issues raised at these three meetings.

I want to thank citizens who have contacted and met with me for their concerns, questions, and recommendations, as to thought process and the decisions I have made with my votes.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at [thein@cityofcamas.us](mailto:thein@cityofcamas.us) or 360-833-1903.

Thank you,  
Tim Hein  
Camas Council, Ward 2, City of Camas