

THE CAMAS QUARTERLY



JUNE 2023 . VOLUME 6

*A CITY OF
CAMAS, WA
PUBLICATION*



Camas Quarterly



03 A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HOGAN

04 A MESSAGE FROM DOUG QUINN

05 WHEN YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE FAMILY

08 FUNDING THE FUTURE

10 DEPARTMENT UPDATES

14 HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Hello Camas,

Here we are in June and this summer has already been in full swing! Summer in Camas is always exciting. We have an abundance of water in which to recreate, we have an extensive trail system which can help you connect with nature, and we have events! Whether it's movies in the park or our annual Camas Days celebration, Camas truly offers something for everyone.

In my last newsletter I mentioned that we were working on legislative affairs, and to say we have been successful would be an understatement. We received a significant amount of funding and grants from our state and legislators, and we'll discuss how much and where that money will be spent on **page 8**.

One area that received significant grant funding was our Parks & Recreation Department. This group is always working on something to make our City that much more enjoyable. On the horizon we have changes coming to Crown Park as part of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. However, in the next few weeks, we will open the newly refurbished and renamed Riverside Bowl Skatepark in Camas. We're excited about this new park and the hours of recreation it will provide for the community. We're also thankful for the community support and passion that has surrounded this project.

Earlier I discussed our abundance of water, and as you probably know, one area we're focused on is the water quality in our lakes. Over the past year, we've been testing water samples and looking at plant life along the shoreline.



MAYOR
STEVE HOGAN

Now, we're ready to present the next steps in our Lake Management Plan. Be sure to join us July 12, at the Lacamas Lake Lodge 6 - 7:30 p.m., for an open house to hear what we've learned about the water in Fallen Leaf, Lacamas, and Round Lakes, and get a first look at the draft Lake Management Plan and solutions being proposed to improve water quality.

This year also marked a momentous occasion; we welcomed members from our Polish Sister Cities program to Camas in April. Representatives from the Polish cities of, Krapkowice, Morawica, and Zabierzow, and the Opole Province, as well as other European dignitaries, visited Camas to meet with elected officials and staff, tour the City, and learn more about their American counterparts. You can learn more about their visit on **Page 5**.

As you can see, there's always something going on in Camas. I encourage you to be a part of your community, whether it's through volunteering, attending Council meetings, or just staying up to date with what's going on. And we hope to see you at Camas Days!

Thank you
Mayor Steve Hogan



CITY ADMINISTRATOR
DOUG QUINN

Hello Camas,

It's hard to believe that I'm already writing my second newsletter to you as your City Administrator. This year has been amazing so far, and I'm thrilled about the upcoming summer festivities.

A significant part of my role involves working with Department Heads to ensure the City is on the right track. One aspect of this is encouraging our teams to pursue grant opportunities, and we have been highly successful in this endeavor, as you'll read about later in this newsletter.

Another important initiative we're currently undertaking is transitioning the City to a new enterprise resource program (ERP) system. This will enable seamless connections between City services, making it easier for residents to secure permits, pay bills, and access information.

After 32 years of dedicated service to the City of Camas, Police Chief Mitch Lackey will be retiring this month. Chief Lackey has been a pillar in our community, and under his leadership, we have consistently been ranked as one of the safest cities in Washington. Please join me in expressing gratitude to Chief Lackey for his decades of service and commitment to our safety.

This brings me to our new Police Chief, Tina M. Jones. Chief Jones stood out for her impressive background in law enforcement and her deep understanding of our community's needs and aspirations. We believe Chief Jones has the qualities required to lead our department into the future. We are incredibly excited to see the contributions she will make to Camas. You can learn more about Chief Jones on **page 14**.

Finally, with construction season underway, I urge you to closely follow our social media accounts, including Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor. There, you will find information about

ongoing construction projects, potential road closures, and areas to avoid. For the safety of our employees and your own, please exercise caution when workers are present and consider using alternate routes whenever possible.

If you attend any of our summer events, please don't hesitate to say "hello!" We always appreciate hearing your concerns or compliments.

Thank you,

Doug Quinn
City Administrator

WHEN YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE FAMILY

AVISIT WITH CAMAS' SISTER CITIES



In the realm of Sister Cities, where camaraderie replaces sibling rivalry, the bond between Camas and its Polish counterparts was showcased in full glory this past April. Dignitaries from various cities, including Poland Slovakia, and Ukraine, embarked on a journey to Camas, eager to explore the Democratic essence of their American sibling.

The delegation comprised thirteen esteemed individuals, representing a diverse range of positions and locations, and included:

Mr. Marian Buras – Mayor – Morawica, Poland

Ms. Alina Buras – Supporter – Morawica, Poland

Mr. Andrzej Kasiura – Mayor – Krapkowice, Poland

Ms. Zuzanna Donath-Kasiura – Deputy Marshal – Opole Province, Poland

Ms. Elzbieta Burtan – Mayor – Zabierzow, Poland

Mr. Henryk Kraczyk – Council Chair – Zabierzow, Poland

Ms. Aleksandra Malek – Cultural Center Director – Zabierzow, Poland

WHEN YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE FAMILY

Mr. Marcin Marzec – Mayor –
Sandomierz, Poland

Mr. Bernard Antos – Sekretarz –
Skarzysko-Kamienna, Poland

Mr. Hubert Dziadczykowski –
Sekretarz – Opatow, Poland

Ms. Roma Toft – Council Member –
Zielonki, Poland

Mr. Michal Drotovan – Mayor – Raca,
Slovakia

Mr. Andrii Kavunets – Deputy Chief –
Vinnystsia Province, Ukraine

From Poland to Ukraine, these visitors hailed from different corners of Europe with the goal to foster cultural exchange and understanding. Their collective aim was to gain insight into Camas' democratic government, a political structure that emerged in Poland after the country's transition from communism in 1989, followed by a full parliamentary system in 1997, leaving behind the remnants of socialism.

To achieve their objective, the dignitaries embarked on a comprehensive itinerary across various cities in western Washington. Renton, Seattle, Tukwila, Washougal, and others opened their doors to these international guests, providing glimpses into their own governance systems.



The culmination of their visit arrived when three delegation members took center stage as keynote speakers at the Pacific Northwest Regional Council (PNRC) National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials meeting in Portland.

These trips generally occur every four to five years and alternate between Polish visitors coming to Camas and Camas residents traveling to Poland. While the primary focus lies in sharing knowledge about democratic governance, Camas elected officials have found themselves on the receiving end of valuable lessons as well.

Mayor Steve Hogan expressed his enthusiasm, emphasizing the mutual exchange of perspectives.

WHEN YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE FAMILY

"These visits are always fascinating because, in addition to showcasing our practices, we gain fresh insights from their unique business conduct in Poland," he said.

Mayor Hogan acknowledged the significance of these connections, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and honoring the bonds forged between the local communities and foreign governments.

He extended his gratitude to Lloyd Halverson, former Camas City Administrator, who played an instrumental role in facilitating the Sister Cities organization and ensuring the success of the visit.

While the recent visit welcomed representatives from Poland, Camas also boasts sister cities in Japan, adding another layer of international collaboration. Although there are currently no discussions about potential visits from their Japanese counterparts, Mayor Hogan expressed the City's eagerness to seize such opportunities should they arise.

Overall, the visit by dignitaries from Camas' Polish Sister Cities organization exemplified the spirit of camaraderie and cultural exchange that defines these international relationships. As borders blurred and knowledge flowed, the bonds between nations grew stronger, fostering a global community based on mutual understanding and shared experiences.



FUNDING THE FUTURE

Money, money, money. It's a common topic of conversation at the City level. Whether it's capital projects, hiring more staff, or providing amenities for the community, it all takes an abundance of one thing...money.

As such, many cities are often looking for ways to help offset those costs; and the City of Camas is no exception. The City continuously looks for potential grants and other funding opportunities to lessen the financial burden when trying to construct new projects. Traditionally, the City has been very successful in this endeavor, including working with local state and federal legislators in requesting direct appropriations.

As such, prior to the legislative session, or applying for grants, staff looks for realistic projects that will appeal to state and federal partners, projects that are ready to proceed, and projects they know can be delivered on.

Which is why the recent news of successful grants and a helping hand from the state legislature in terms of monetary funds for City projects is something to get excited about.

In total, the City of Camas received close to \$3 million from a combination of grants and state funds. With that being said, that money is divided among the Library, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works.

In addition, the money does not come without caveats, the main one being that the City of Camas will match that amount for the selected projects as well.

The Camas Public Library, which is celebrating 100 years this year, received \$730,000 as a matching grant from the Department of Commerce's Library Capital Improvement Program, pushing the total project funding amount to \$1.46 million. That money has been earmarked for interior improvements such as the new "Bee Hive Learning Center" and exterior improvements around the Library, including accessibility and safety updates, with one example being the replacement of the exterior doors at each entrance.

However, not every project is equal in the eyes of the grantors. Library Director Connie Urquhart said her team determined which project to submit for the grant through a combination of factors.

"An older building like ours has many areas that need attention," said Urquhart. "When applying for capital grants, proposals which seek to mitigate accessibility and life safety issues tend to be more successful than more cosmetic ones."

The Camas Parks & Recreation Department also received significant funding through the state grant process, with a total of \$1.75 million from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Of this amount, \$500,000 will be used for the upcoming Crown Park construction, while the other \$1.25 million will be used as reimbursement for the Green Mountain acquisition completed in 2020.

Parks Director Trang Lam said this year things were slightly different as there seemed to be more funds available.

“WWRP grants this legislative session were unprecedented,” said Lam. “This is the first time the available grant funds peaked over \$100 million, with total funding reaching the \$120 million mark.”

Lam said the key to their success this year was project timing, readiness, and competitiveness.

Not to be outdone, the Public Works Department also received money for the Lake Management Plan. A total of \$515,000 in State Capital Budget appropriations will be matched by the City to continue the process of implementing strategies to improve the water quality in Fallen Leaf, Lacamas, and Round Lakes.

Public Works Director Steve Wall said Senator Lynda Wilson and Representatives Paul Harris and Kevin Waters should get recognized for spearheading the Lake Management Plan request.

“With limited funding, the City only brings forward projects that will support the broader community and are of great need that we feel can be supported and delivered,” said Wall. “That’s why we were excited to have the support of our local legislators on this important community project.”

Ultimately, there is no secret formula that guarantees success. It takes a lot of time and effort to apply for grants and low interest loans as the programs are typically very competitive.

Likewise, it takes a lot of City representatives time and energy lobbying local legislators for Camas projects and providing all the information required by the local delegation to garner support for our projects.

Beyond the numbers and bureaucratic processes lie the tangible benefits for the community. The improved library facilities, enhanced parks, and cleaner lakes will contribute to the quality of life for Camas residents. These achievements exemplify the city's commitment to providing valuable resources and amenities, making Camas an even better place to call home.

In the end, the hard work paid off for Camas, and the residents will soon reap the rewards for that hard work.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



**Trang
Lam**

**Parks and
Recreation Director**

Riverside Bowl Skate Park Grand Reopening – Save the Date!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the numerous community advocates, the dedicated design team, and the generous fundraising efforts that have propelled us towards securing support, funding, and approval from the City Council, which enabled us to bring this project to life. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated! Skatepark renovations are currently underway, and we are excited to unveil new features just in time for summer.

The grand reopening event will take place Thursday, July 27, 4-7 p.m.

In honor of the former Riverside Bowling Alley, which stood next to the skatepark, as well as the grassroots Riverside Bowl skate community and the newly incorporated bowl design at the park, the Parks & Recreation Commission has officially approved the renaming of the park from the Camas-Washougal Skate Park to the Riverside Bowl Skatepark. The new park name will be immortalized through a skatepark mural. Kevin Seagraves, a local Washougal artist, has been selected to create this new mural. You will have the opportunity to meet Kevin and see his mural design during the grand reopening event.

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

PFAS

The City of Camas has reactivated Well 13. A notice to water customers mailed in January stated that based on sampling completed in 2022, Well 13 had an elevated level of Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which were above the State Action Level (SAL) of 15 parts per trillion. In response to this elevated level, Well 13 was turned off in early 2023.

Recent testing for Well 13 completed in May did not detect any PFAS, meaning if there was any PFAS they could not be quantified.

Since the level of PFAS is lower than the SAL (not detected in this instance), the City is not required to send out additional public notification(s); however, the City will continue providing updates to our citizens as new information becomes available or our use of Well 13 changes. The City turned on Well 13 at the end of May and will conduct multiple tests per month over the next quarter to determine if the PFAS returns and to inform future planning. This testing is above any Washington State Department of Health (DOH) requirements, but it's crucial information for both the City and its water users.

Please note, the City has increased PFAS testing in all City wells and will continue to monitor conditions.



Steve
Wall
Public Works
Director

In addition to testing, the City continues to research options to treat our drinking water for potential PFAS contamination and plan for future changes in regulation by the EPA and/or DOH. If you have concerns about PFAS in your drinking water, DOH has developed information regarding options to reduce PFAS in your household tap water: <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/331-699.pdf>.

The DOH has also launched a new PFAS in Drinking Water Data dashboard. The dashboard provides public access to data collected by public water systems under a state board of health rule adopted in 2021. The rule requires more than 2,400 water systems to test for PFAS before December 2025. About one-quarter of the required testing has been completed so far. Results are published on DOH's PFAS data page <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/pfas/dashboard>.



Connie
Urquhart
Library
Director

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program begins Saturday, June 17, and participation is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Read! Participants earn prizes for every ten days they read. After 30 days, they receive a scratch-off ticket for a chance to win a bigger prize. After 40 days, they receive another scratch-off, this time for a chance at a grand prize! Reading can be logged via the app, on the website, or on a paper gameboard. As a reminder, magazines, ebooks, listening to audiobooks, and having books read to you all count as reading. The Library also has a new program for children 5 and under this year.



2. Join in! The Summer Kick-Off Party is at noon on June 17. We'll continue to have events for all ages throughout the summer, from puppet shows and Storytime in the Park to all kinds of do-it-yourself arts & crafts, and book clubs. There truly is something for everyone. For details, visit camaspl.org/Events.

3. Enjoy! This year's Summer Reading theme is "Find Your Voice," which encourages self-expression. The Library invites all community members to enjoy the final product of those who have lent their creative talents to the Library. Open invitations include:

- Poetry Open Mic. Held the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; feel free to bring your dinner from the Camas Farmer's Market in to eat while listening to talented poets!
- Pop-Up Museum: Drawing Showcase. On Wednesday, August 16, from 4-5 p.m., come by to see the hand-picked drawings of 1st-5th graders that will be on display in our meeting rooms.
- Second Story Gallery exhibits. Student artwork will be on display this summer as the two scheduled exhibits will feature Camas School District high school art (July) and middle school art (August).
- Tiny Art Show. Our annual (and beloved) Tiny Art Show is back! Artists' work will be displayed in the main corridor glass case throughout the month of July.

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

Summer Reading Program - cont.

The Summer Reading Program could not happen without the generous support and donations from our sponsors. These sponsors have donated at least \$500 to the Summer Reading Program:

- Burgerville
- Dairy Queen
- Friends & Foundation of the Camas Library
- LiveWell Camas
- Lutz Hardware
- McDonald's
- My Gym Children's Fitness Center - Fisher's Landing
- North Bank Masonic Lodge
- Periwinkle's Toy Shoppe
- Truly Scrumptious

Construction

If you've been at or near the Library lately, surely you've noticed the construction on the Library's roof. This has been a long process, as we had many areas ??? in disrepair. The new metal roof has an estimated lifespan of 30 years. If all goes well the project is slated to wrap up by the end of the summer.

Among other projects in the pipeline for the Library: a new heating and cooling (HVAC) system, exterior improvements with an eye toward safety and accessibility, renovations to the Children's Library, and a new security system.



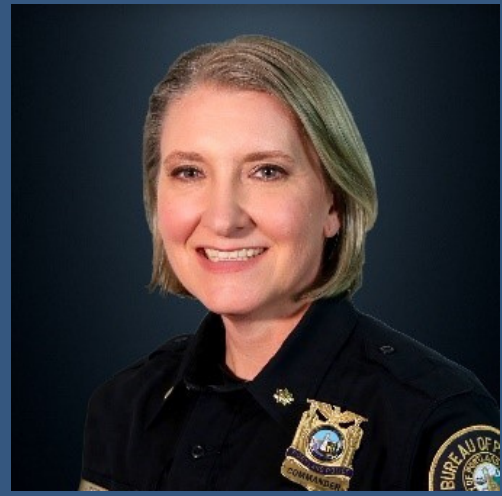
Connie
Urquhart
Library
Director

Construction

The roof, exterior improvements, and HVAC are all partially funded by grants from the Washington State Department of Commerce Library Capital Improvement Program. Other building upgrades have been budgeted in the City of Camas 2023-2024 biennial budget.



HAIL TO THE CHIEF



Following a nationwide search, the City of Camas announced that Tina M. Jones will be the next Chief of the Camas Police Department. With that in mind we sat down with our new Chief to learn a little more about her!

What made you interested in law enforcement?

I have always had a passion for mysteries and had a strong sense of the importance of justice. As a little girl, I was a prolific reader of Nancy Drew mystery books and had a detective agency with my two best friends in 4th grade. I did not initially pursue coursework in criminal justice in college, but once I got on that path, I was fortunate to have several mentors in the profession who encouraged me. I started working in a local jail, then realized I really wanted to be out in the community as a police officer.

What was it about Camas that interested you in this position?

Camas has a unique history that resonates with me as there are a number of parallels in my family's history, including work in a mill and orchards. It is a special place that feels like home and the community members are highly engaged.

It is a place where it is obvious the community loves their police and the police love serving their community. This balance is much sought after and not to be taken for granted.

Are there any accomplishments from your time in Portland that you're proud of and would like to highlight?

About twelve years ago, I worked with a team to bring a domestic violence response advocate program to life which is still in existence. This team responds to calls in the field at the request of officers and provides direct services to survivors in their time of need.

I also changed how our communications team responds during major events by organizing a Joint Information Center. This allowed us to collaborate with communication partners throughout the region and get more timely information to the media and public during major events to increase safety and awareness. In every assignment, I strive to improve systems and processes to increase safety and efficiency for my team and the community.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

What are you looking forward to the most when you arrive in Camas?

I am most looking forward to getting to know my new team, the community, other City employees, and regional partners. I am a very relationship-oriented person and find it rewarding to get to know people and learn about their passions and strengths. I enjoy collaborating with others and identifying creative solutions to problems; I have found there is a lot of power in relationships to overcome obstacles.

Any goals for your first 6 months on the job?

First and foremost, taking time to get to know my team, community members, other City employees, and regional partners is a priority. Retention of our team members and identifying strategies for recruitment is also important to me. Gathering information and assessing where there are immediate needs and identifying strategies to address challenges is also key.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I am very excited to join the Camas Police Department, which is comprised of a phenomenal team committed to serving the Camas community.

I hope to meet many of you at Camas Days and other community events. On a personal level, I find balance with fishing, RV camping, Pilates, collecting art, gardening, and spending time with my three miniature dachshunds.



CAMAS CITY COUNCIL



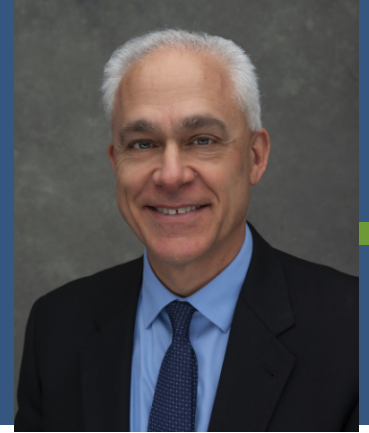
Marilyn Boerke
Ward 1



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

As a Council Member I am also on the following committees appointed by the Mayor:

- C-Tran
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Sister Cities

It was great to have the recent visit from the Camas Sister Cities as it provides an ongoing opportunity to share and learn.

C-Tran is evaluating the current routes in Clark County and would like feedback on all existing routes.

Feedback is desired on these proposed routes so that service to citizens can be optimized. Citizens can provide feedback by accessing the following link:
<https://mail.c-tran.com/fall-2023-proposals>

City Council Meeting Information

City Council Meetings are held the first and third Monday of the month from 7:00 p.m. until adjournment at Camas City Hall, 616 NE 4th Avenue.

To participate remotely, see the agenda, published six days before the meeting, for the Zoom details. Note: if a holiday falls on the Monday of a Council meeting, the meeting is held on Tuesday.

City Council Workshops are also held the first and third Monday at Camas City Hall, 616 NE 4th Avenue.

To participate remotely, see the agenda, published six days before the meeting, for the Zoom details. Workshop meetings begin at 4:30 p.m.



Camas Days

Hometown Festival

Friday & Saturday, July 21-22

Children's Parade Friday at 12:15pm

Grand Parade Saturday at 11am

Beer & Wine Garden Friday & Saturday 5-11pm
with Live Music by The Sonny Hess Band 5-7pm
and The Caddies 7-10:30pm

Street Festival with Artisans & Vendors 10am-8pm

Family Fun with Kids' Street 11am-8pm

Steak Feed at Grove Field Airport Saturday at 5pm

Visit CWChamber.com to download full schedule of events.

For more information, contact Camas Washougal Chamber at 360-834-2472

Thank you to our community partners: City of Camas & Camas Public Works Department



"A Fairytale"
Celebrating 100 years of the Camas Library