

THE CAMAS QUARTERLY



MARCH 2024 . VOLUME 9

A CITY OF
CAMAS, WA
PUBLICATION



Camas Quarterly

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Hello Camas,

Welcome to spring in Camas! What a wonderful place to call home!

This spring is slated to be a busy one for the City of Camas, with a whole host of events and projects taking place. Our Parks and Recreation department always hosts some amazing events, including our famous Camas Egg Scramble. This annual event will take place at Crown Park on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 1:30 p.m. All egg hunting areas start at the same time, so don't be late! Can you believe we are in our 33rd year of hosting this event in the City? Shout out to Krista Bashaw and all her volunteers for the work they put into this and all our amazing City events.

And speaking of Parks and Recreation, the City of Camas is currently collaborating with a consultant team to develop our Parks and Open Space Management Plan (POSMP).

The goal of this plan is to collectively increase the resilience of our parks, open spaces, and natural ecosystems. We're working together to help develop best practices, clear guidance, and prioritize our resources to ensure the preservation and enhancement of our natural areas to benefit the current and future generations of Camasonians. You can learn more about this endeavor in our Department Updates section on page 15.

As you may or may not know, Our Camas 2045 and our Downtown Subarea Plan, Our Downtown Camas 2045, are in full swing. Our Camas 2045 will establish a vision for growth and development and will articulate goals, objectives, policies, and actions to guide our future. The plan will also address recent changes to Washington's Growth Management Act related to housing and climate change.



MAYOR
STEVE HOGAN

The most important aspect of both these projects is that we need your input to help shape our future. With that in mind, I hope you'll visit Engage Camas to take a survey, pick up a community conversation kit, or use the interactive map to identify specific areas of opportunity (for improvement, change, or preservation) and to point out areas you have concerns about (traffic safety, infrastructure, etc.).

And finally, in terms of legislation, this was a short session for the State Legislature. However, that didn't stop our staff from venturing up to Olympia to discuss our corner of the world and ways they might be able to help us in Camas. We usually see success in Olympia, and that's because there's a method to our madness, so to speak. You can learn more about the process and how it all works on page 5.

With that, I hope you enjoy learning more about the City through this newsletter. This is just another opportunity for us to discuss this amazing place we call home and all the work that goes into making it special.

As always, please shop locally and don't forget to say "hello" if you see me around downtown.

Thank you,
Mayor Steve Hogan



CITY ADMINISTRATOR
DOUG QUINN

Hello Camas,

Spring is in the air! I've lived in the PNW for a long time, and I'm always amazed at how we can transition from non-stop rain to perhaps one of the most beautifully colored landscapes I've ever seen. Spring in Camas is something to behold.

Speaking of spring, is there a better time to venture out and take in all our area has to offer? From our amazing trails and parks we have locally, all the way to Multnomah Falls, this area has an abundance of recreational opportunities. With that in mind, we looked a little closer at some of those options, and you can too on page 8.

Switching gears, have you ever wondered what makes Camas unique? That could be a loaded question, as there are countless things that make us stand out from the rest. But in terms of the actual City, we're unique in that we have a Fire Department and an ambulance service. Believe it or not, that isn't always the case. All that to say, the City's EMS Renewal Levy will be on the April 23, 2024, Special Election ballot. As such, we have provided facts about our EMS service. You can find that information on page 17.

As the City Administrator, I work to empower our exceptional staff to operate at their utmost potential. While we already demonstrate remarkable capabilities, there is always room for improvement. In pursuit of this objective, the City of Camas's Department Head team has been engaged in strategic planning, focusing on refining our vision and values. While we're in the early stages of the process, I want you to keep in mind that we will be reaching out to you, the public, for your input on the process. This will be an important step, so please stay tuned for more information related to this topic as we move forward.

With that, I will close and wish you all a wonderful spring. I hope to see you at one of our many events taking place, or perhaps on one of our amazing trails as I mentioned earlier. As always, you can stay updated with everything happening in the City by following us on social media, subscribing to this newsletter, or by attending City Council workshops and meetings.

Thank you,

Doug Quinn
City Administrator



The Legislative Process



Often, you will hear the City discuss visits to Olympia to work on legislative issues. Most recently, Mayor Steve Hogan, City Administrator Doug Quinn, former City Administrator Lloyd Halverson, Council Member John Svilarich, Public Works Director Steve Wall, and Communications Director Bryan Rachal attended AWC Action Days in Olympia.

For those unfamiliar, AWC, or the Association of Washington Cities, is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's cities and towns before the state legislature, the state executive branch, and regulatory agencies.

Basically, they are a lobbying agency that works on behalf of Camas and many others. AWC Action days occur when the Legislature is in session, providing opportunities for elected officials and City staff to gather for informative sessions on current or proposed legislation, meet with their elected officials, and work together to push for legislation that benefits all Washington cities.

For example, on this recent trip, the City of Camas had three main requests: support for Senate Bill 6137, the Semiconductor Tax Incentive Bill, and the companion House Bill 2482; support for the West Camas Slough Bridge project; and support for the Everett Street Corridor Project.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

While these projects would greatly benefit Camas, they would also impact Vancouver, Washougal, Clark County, Skamania County, and other parts of the state.

But before we delve into how it all works, it's important to understand the State Legislature. The Washington State Legislature is a bicameral body, composed of the lower Washington House of Representatives, with 98 Representatives, and the upper Washington State Senate, with 49 Senators plus the Lieutenant Governor acting as president. The Legislature begins each session annually in January, starting on the second Monday. Additionally, the length of the session varies depending on the year. In odd-numbered years, when the budget is debated, they meet for 105 days, and in even-numbered years, they meet for a short session of 60 days, as is the case this year.

For legislative purposes, the state is divided into 49 legislative districts, each of which elects one senator and two representatives. Camas is currently in the 17th District and is represented by Rep. Paul Harris (R), Rep. Kevin Waters (R), and Sen. Lynda Williams (R). These individuals work on behalf of the residents of District 17. So, what does that mean? Well, quite simply, these are the individuals for whom we would "lobby" for the needs of our City. They are also the individuals that AWC will "lobby" on our behalf.



However, they are not the only ones; many cities will hire a separate lobbyist or lobbying firm to help advocate for their City. For Camas, currently, that individual is Lloyd Halverson.

Prior to and during the legislative session, Mr. Halverson will work to set up meetings between Camas City Officials, our respective senators and representatives, and others in the Senate and House whom we believe may help the City meet our objectives. In these meetings, we discuss particular bills proposed by the Legislature and provide input regarding whether a proposal may be beneficial or detrimental to the citizens of Camas. We also discuss important projects and the funding needed to help move them along or complete them altogether, in the event there may be money within the State Budget that can be appropriated for our benefit.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

However, we don't bring everything we need funding for; instead, we prioritize projects that we think might have the biggest impact or be more enticing from a State perspective, like the ones listed above. Basically, we're looking for projects that we think have a good chance of competing with all the other requests throughout the State and receiving funding.

And that's what this is really all about. There's only so much State money to go around, and it's a city's job to get as much of that money as they can to help relieve the burden from their residents. Camas' motto is always, "we bring good projects, and we deliver." And so far, that has been the case. Just in the last two legislative sessions, this process has provided funding for things like the Lacamas Lake Management Plan and planned Lake Treatment, improvements to the Library including a new heating and air conditioning system and an improved children's area, money to determine the best path forward to upgrade the SR14 Slough Bridge, and passage of the Semiconductor Tax Incentive Bill which could help maintain and bring new jobs to the City. Going back further, projects like Lake Road and SR14 between I-205 and 164th Avenue have been partially funded through these same efforts. Camas has been very successful over the years in "getting back" some of the money citizens pay in taxes to the State to support our community.



In addition to setting up meetings, lobbyists will also try to approach Representatives and Senators while they're on the "floor" debating and discussing bills. This is a great opportunity to engage with your Senator or Representative while they're in the midst of action, which can hopefully be influenced with a quick conversation. All the while, groups like AWC are working behind the scenes to further legislation that they deem will help all cities.

It's an intricate dance with no exact science behind it. It's also somewhat like the lottery, in the sense that each City or County is waiting for the funding lists to be released to see if they won or lost in the current session.



(Washington Gov. Jay Inslee speaks to attendees at AWC Action Days in Olympia)

RECREATION AWAITS!

When people talk about what they love about Camas, a couple of answers come to mind. We always hear about the excellent schools, the quaint town vibe, and perhaps most importantly, the amazing parks and trail systems.

One reason for the love of parks is their accessibility. It's easy to leave your house in Camas and be walking on a trail within 10 minutes.

Trails are a significant recreation asset for Camas. Many citizens participate in trail-related activities such as hiking, nature walks, in-line skating, and off-road bicycling. The trails in Camas provide a good starting point for outdoor walking and bicycling experiences.

The Heritage Trail along Lacamas Lake is a long continuous nature corridor that sees considerable use. Paved and unpaved trails in Lacamas Park and Lacamas Creek Park offer a great outdoor experience that is easily accessible to the public. The beginning of a trail system in the Washougal River Greenway provides a different but equally rewarding outdoor nature experience.

And be sure to keep an eye out for our trail courtesy signs. An example of the sign is at the end of this article.

But our trails are just one part of the equation: we're also home to numerous parks, from the City's crown jewel, Crown Park, to ancillary parks like Dorothy Fox and Goot. Camas simply has it all. Speaking of Crown Park, we have some exciting updates planned for this year including:

- Inclusive playground
- Interactive water feature
- Permanent restrooms
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Sports court
- Flexible open lawn
- New ADA accessible pathways
- Access improvements to Scout Hall
- New site furnishings
- Upgraded irrigation system
- Stormwater management gardens and updated plantings

In the following pages, you will find maps to Camas' trails and park locations, where a whole world of outdoor adventures await you.

Interested in expanding beyond Camas? Luckily, Clark and Skamania Counties offer a wide variety of outdoor activities.

RECREATION AWAITS!

Our neighbor to the west, the City of Vancouver, offers over 191 area parks for people to take advantage of, while our neighbor to the east, the City of Washougal, has 19 parks plus several acres of undeveloped open space.

Perhaps the best area to experience nature and the outdoors is the amazing Columbia River Gorge. Just a few minutes' drive from Camas, HWY 14 will take you through the Gorge, which is one of only 10 National Scenic Areas in the U.S. The 80-mile Columbia River Gorge has winding trails, quintessential PNW forests, gorgeous panoramic views, and more waterfalls than you can imagine. While in the Gorge, you can visit the famous Pendleton Woolen Mill and take a free tour, or cross the famed Bridge of the Gods, a steel truss cantilever bridge that spans the Columbia River between Cascade Locks, Oregon, and Washington. The toll bridge is also the location where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses the Columbia River.

If waterfalls are your thing, we have plenty. As mentioned, you can view numerous falls in the Columbia River Gorge, including the well-known Multnomah Falls in Oregon.

Multnomah Falls is the most visited natural recreation site in the Pacific Northwest with more than 2 million visitors annually according to the National Forest Service.

Not a fan of crowds? Then Moulton Falls in Clark County might be your best bet. This day trip can be experienced by taking a 40-minute drive from Vancouver along the Northern Clark County Scenic Drive. There, you will find a 387-acre park at the confluence of the East Fork of the Lewis River and Big Tree Creek, which features not one, but two waterfalls and an amazing wooden arch bridge. With heavy forest on both sides of the river, the Moulton Falls Trail guides hikers of all skill levels four miles out-and-back along the river. More experienced explorers can start at the longer and steeper Bells Mountain Trail, approximately a quarter of a mile downriver from the bridge.

And not to be outdone by our much-photographed neighbor to the south, Mt. Hood, Washington's infamous Mount St. Helens has a lot to offer including more than 200 miles of trails.

RECREATION AWAITS!

Your first visit should be to the Johnston Ridge Observatory, located at the end of State Highway 504. There, they provide information about the historic 1980 eruption, and it is also one of the closest viewing areas on the north side of the volcano, with rangers present to share their knowledge. Hikes of all lengths and difficulties can be found, and even one underground at Ape Cave. Please note, climbing permits are required to get to the top of Mount St. Helens between April 1 and Oct. 31. And for any backcountry enthusiast looking for a challenge, try your hand at the 28-mile Loowit Trail that circumnavigates the volcano.

And we're barely scratching the surface of all the things you can do outdoors in this area; we haven't even mentioned the beaches yet.

Whether you're a trained outdoor warrior or simply a weekend warrior looking for some scenery and exercise, our little corner of the world has a lot to offer. Yes, you can venture out to the Gorge or up to St. Helens, but you can also explore an amazing network of trails, parks, and scenery right here in your own backyard.

Did you know that many of our neighborhood Homeowners Associations maintain trails in various neighborhoods around Camas?

While trails and hiking are fun for many, our Parks and Recreation department also offers a variety of spring and summer classes at the Lacamas Lake Lodge and the Camas Community Center. And for those with little ones, don't forget about our famed summer camp for kids. All this information and more can be found at https://www.cityofcamas.us/parks_rec.

With all that we have to offer, one question comes to mind: how lucky are we to call Camas home?

TRAIL COURTESY

ANNOUNCE



PASS LEFT

BE AWARE



KEEP RIGHT



T1 HERITAGE TRAIL (easy)



From the trailhead on Goodwin Road to Heritage Park near the Lacamas Lake Lodge, this gravel shared-use trail extends for 3.5 flat miles along the western edge of Lacamas Lake and Lacamas Creek. Parking & restrooms are located at the trailhead on Goodwin Rd and in Heritage Park on NE Lake Road. Mile markers offer distance measurements for walkers and runners.

The trail is also shared with cyclists. The trail meanders through large trees, native plants and wildflowers with extensive views of the Lake. Occasional benches provide for rest and lakeside viewing. Opportunities for picnicking, wildlife viewing and playgrounds exist along the way.

TRAILS

Trails are an important recreation asset to Camas. Many of our citizens participate in trail-related activities including hiking, nature walks, in-line skating, and off-road bicycling. The below listed trails in Camas provide a good start for outdoor walking, running and bicycling experiences.

The Heritage Trail along Lacamas Lake is a long continuous nature corridor that receives considerable use. Paved trails adjacent to Round Lake and a network of trails in Lacamas Park and Lacamas Creek Park provide a good outdoor experience that is easily accessible to the public. The Washougal River Greenway Trail provides a different, but equally rewarding, outdoor nature experience. An expanded network of trails is proposed for the Camas area that will provide linkages between parks and other parts of the community.

T1 – HERITAGE TRAIL
7.0 mile round trip *easy* | gravel

T2 – GRASS VALLEY TRAIL
1 mile *moderate* | paved

T3 – MILL DITCH TRAIL
2.6 miles *easy* | unpaved

T4 – LACAMAS PARK TRAILS
A 6 mile network of scenic hiking and cycling trails covering 297 acres *moderate* | gravel

T5 – LACAMAS CREEK TRAIL
Almost one mile *easy* | gravel

T6 – WASHOUGAL RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL
Over 2 mile round trip *easy* | paved

T6 WASHOUGAL RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL (easy)



This paved accessible trail along the Washougal River and the ponds on the south side of the River can be accessed from Baz River Front Park at NE 3rd Loop. The ponds were created from reclaimed gravel mining pits. A small gravel pull-off accommodates 4-6 cars. The trailhead

connects to the boardwalk crossing wetlands at the northwest end of the trail. A long arching trail bridge spans the river affording views both up and down stream. The 1.1-mile trail weaves between the ponds frequented by ducks, cormorants, and occasional ospreys and bald eagles. The other end of the Greenway Trail is at the corner of Yale and NE 2nd Street, 2 blocks north of Goot Park. The trail crosses the Washougal River and offers access for bank fishing, wildlife observation and scenic views of the Washougal River.

T2**GRASS VALLEY TRAIL (moderate)**

Approximately 1 mile starting in Grass Valley Park on NW 38th Ave. (going east) and ending at Utah St. Wide paved path. Moderate difficulty due to hills. Parking and restrooms located at trailhead in Grass Valley Park. Scenic creek-side path through fir trees, forested wetland and open space.

T3**MILL DITCH TRAIL (easy)**

Approximately 2.6 miles from NW Drake to Round Lake. Trail is accessible from many of the main streets such as NE Dallas and NE Garfield. Unpaved. Can get muddy. Mostly Flat. Numerous street crossings. Travels alongside Georgia Pacific Mill's water ditch which supplies water for paper production. Ditch was hand dug by 125 Chinese laborers in about five months in 1884.

T5-T6 CONNECTION

Connecting between the Lacamas Creek Trail and the Washougal River Greenway Trail is feasible along the NE 3rd Avenue sidewalk, crossing at the pedestrian signal at the intersection of Crown Road and NE 3rd Loop, then following the NE 3rd Loop sidewalk to Baz River Front Park.

**T4****LACAMAS PARK TRAILS (moderate)**

A network of trails cover the regional county park. The main trailhead is at the park entrance on NE Everett Rd with parking and restrooms near the beginning of Round Lake. The park's picnic area and playground adjacent to Round Lake, contain flat paved trails. The park's main interior trails are mostly compact gravel. Side trails are variable with stone to mud surfacing,

steep hills, and rocky pathways. Camas lilies bloom in the spring on the rocky outcropping above Round Lake. Lakes, creeks, waterfalls, wildflowers, native plants, and wildlife make this park a hiker's favorite. One, three and five-mile loops can accommodate a variety of hiking experiences. The routes are popular for families, hikers, runners and bikers.

**T5****LACAMAS CREEK TRAIL (easy)**

The trailhead at NE 3rd Avenue provides gravel parking and southern connection through Lacamas Creek Park, crossing the pedestrian bridge after .67 miles into Lacamas Lake Regional Park. The McEnry Bridge over Lacamas Creek offers easy viewing of the Lower Falls. Picnic tables and a bench provide resting spots near the bridge. The shared-use path is gravel-surfaced with undulating

hills and travels through forested slopes of the Lacamas Creek corridor. To continue along the Creek within Lacamas Park turn left after the bridge and follow the more rugged hiking trail to the dam that impounds Round Lake. Crossing the narrow path on the dam structure leads to Round Lake's picnic and playground area.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Camas Trails map is in its first year of production. Re-printings will be made in future years. We ask you, our users, to let us know of any revisions, updates, suggestions, etc., you may have for the next map printing. You may visit our offices at Lacamas Lake Lodge, 227 NE Lake Road, mail us revisions to 616 NE 4th Ave., or call us at 360-834-5307.

NUMBERS TO CALL FOR INFORMATION

Camas Parks and Recreation360-834-5307
Clark County Parks360-397-2285
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife360-696-6211
City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation..360-487-8311
Washougal Parks.....360-835-2662

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Environmental, clean-up, and event volunteer opportunities exist in both the City of Camas Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments. Opportunities include trail maintenance, improvement projects, special events such as Camtown Youth Festival, and clean-up events. Call the Public Works Department at 834-2457 or Camas Parks and Recreation at 834-5307 for more information.

LOCAL NATURE CLUBS

Friends of the Columbia Gorge503-241-3762
Monthly hikes held on weekends
Osprey Walking Group 360-944-8190
Meets every weekday at 8:00AM in the Lacamas Park parking lot—rain or shine. All abilities welcome.
All Weather Walkers 360-944-8190

TRAIL USE

- Informational signage is posted in City parks and at most of the City's trailheads. Please obey trail and park rules.
- Hiking and bicycling is allowed on all city trails. Some restrictions apply in Lacamas Park.
- When bicycling, please keep your speed down for the safety of others and especially in high use areas and areas of low visibility.
- Please respect your parks and trails. Pack out all trash.
- Dogs on leashes are welcome on all trails and at all parks except for Crown Park. Scoop and carry out dog waste. Trash containers are located at most trailheads.
- Remain on the trails to protect native plants and wildlife habitat.
- Please be respectful of all trail users.
- **Restrooms:** Permanent restrooms are located within Grass Valley Park, Lacamas Park (at Round Lake), Heritage Park, Goot Park, Louis Bloch Park, Prune Hill Sports and at the Goodwin Road trailhead. Chemical toilets (portable potties) are provided at Lacamas Creek Trailhead, Crown Park, Skate Park, Oak Park, Forest Home Park and Dorothy Fox Park. Klickitat Park restroom is closed seasonally from November to March.

REGIONAL TRAILS

Lacamas Park trails are owned and maintained by Clark County Parks & Trails. Trail maps are available through Clark County's or Camas' Parks and Recreation Departments. Phone numbers are listed above. Bicyclists should stay to the right of the trail and warn users when passing. Hikers should stop and allow approaching bicyclists to pass.

FACILITY RENTAL INFORMATION

Lacamas Lake Lodge & Conference Center, 227 NE Lake Road
From corporate meetings to wedding receptions, we can work with you to accommodate whatever your event needs may be. The main hall can accommodate up to 150 people and includes the use of a warming kitchen. Tables and chairs are included in the rental and A/V equipment is available for an additional fee.

Fallen Leaf Lake Shelter, 2911 NE Everett Street
This is a beautiful lake-front facility including a large picnic shelter, restrooms, picnic tables and a large charcoal BBQ grill. The shelter kitchen area has running water, a large counter top for food preparation & electrical outlets. There is a large open grass area perfect for games. This facility has a 150 person capacity.

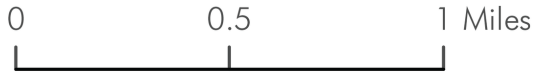
Camas Community Center, 1718 SE 7th Avenue
The Camas Community Center is a community facility featuring a 1500 sq. ft. Ballroom, charming Reception Room and functional Conference Room. This facility is a great venue for weddings, birthday parties, anniversary parties, family reunions, company celebrations, meetings and many other events.



Camas Parks & Recreation Offices are located at:
LACAMAS LAKE LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTER
227 NE LAKE ROAD, CAMAS, WA, 98607
360-834-5307 • <https://register.cityofcamas.us>

LEGEND

- ▲ Trail Access
- P Parking
- 🚤 Boat Ramp
- 🏠 Picnic Shelter
- 🚻 Restrooms
- ⛵ Picnic Area
- T Trail Label
- ↪ City Trail
- ↪ Lacamas Park Trail
- 🟢 Public Park
- 🟡 City Open Space
- 🟠 School Land
- 🟤 City of Camas
- ⬜ Camas UGB
- ★ Special Site



DEPARTMENT UPDATES



**Trang
Lam**
Parks and
Recreation
Director

We recognize the intrinsic value of our parks and open spaces as essential assets that contribute to Camas' character and our community's quality of life through a variety of ecosystem services. The City of Camas is currently collaborating with a consultant team to develop our Parks and Open Space Management Plan (POSMP). The goal of this plan is to collectively increase the resilience of our parks, open spaces, and natural ecosystems.

We're working together to help develop best practices, clear guidance, and prioritize our resources in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of our natural areas to benefit the current and future generations of Camasonians.

We all have a role to play! Join us for a weekend of engagement to learn more about the plan, share your feedback, and participate in a tree inventory that will provide key data for decision-making. There are many components that make up an effective management plan for parks and open spaces.

DEPT. UPDATES - CONT.

A systems approach to management involves understanding and addressing the complex interactions within and between these elements. We want to know how the natural spaces and systems of Camas impact you, what your concerns are, and your ideas on what strategies we should invest in as a city. We also want your thoughts on our proposal to prioritize our resources through a lens of what matters most to us as a community. **Please join us on Friday, April 19th for a public open house on the POSMP, and Saturday April 20th to learn about and contribute to our city tree inventory.**

Please visit EngageCamas.com for event details. Hope to see you there!



Cliff
Free
Fire Chief

Join us for an open house to learn about early plans for a proposed new downtown Camas Fire Station!

The meeting will take place from 6 - 7 p.m., March 21, at Fire Station 41 (616 NE 4th Avenue). There will be a brief presentation at 6:10 p.m., followed by facility tours.

The CWFD is developing plans to replace the existing Fire Station 41 to ensure adequate fire and emergency medical services for our community as we continue to grow. The current Fire Station 41 has outlived its useful life, does not meet seismic code standards for an essential facility, and cannot be increased in size to accommodate the needs required of a modern fire station.

Visit engagecamas.com to learn more.

EMS FACTS AND FIGURES

Proposal:

On the April 23, 2024, Special Election Ballot voters will be asked to renew the expiring EMS Levy. Camas voters last renewed the EMS Levy at a rate of forty-six cents (\$.46) per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in the 2018 Election.

History/Background:

The State of Washington created voter approved EMS levies to give communities the ability to provide a stable, dedicated funding source to help pay for the provision of emergency medical services. Camas voters have repeatedly approved an EMS levy for decades to fund these services. The current EMS levy will expire at the end of this calendar year.

What is an EMS Levy?

An EMS levy is a property tax levy specifically designed and used for the provision of emergency medical services in communities.

What will the EMS Levy be used for?

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department has provided emergency medical services and ambulance transport services for decades. EMS levy funds are restricted to providing EMS services and will only be used to continue the provision of these services in our community.

How long will the new rate be in place?

The proposition would authorize the City to assess an EMS levy for six years (2025-2030).

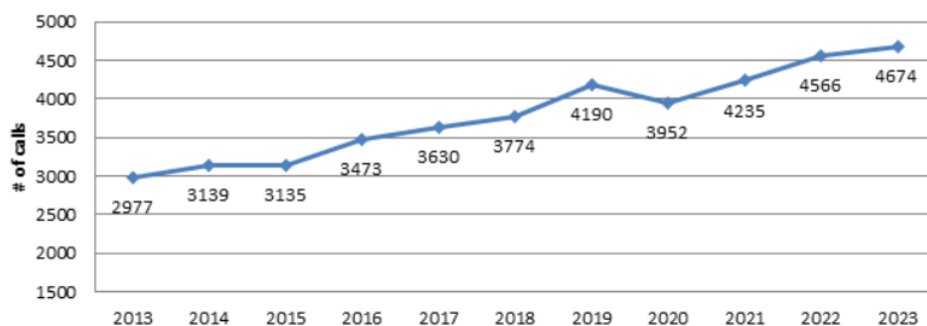
Why do we need to renew the EMS Levy?

The EMS levy is a dedicated source of funding used for the provision of emergency medical services in Camas. Approval of the EMS levy would allow the CWFD to continue to provide ambulance services to the residents of Camas. EMS levy funds are primarily used to fund the staffing and equipment required to operate 3 ambulances 24/7.

How will the Levy renewal affect my tax rate?

If voters approve the proposed Replacement EMS Levy for emergency services, the City Council will assess a levy in 2025 for collection in 2025 that will result in an EMS levy rate of not more than forty-six cents (\$.46) per \$1,000 of assessed value. The amount collected by the EMS Levy will not increase by more than a maximum of 1% per year. The levy rate cannot exceed forty-six cents (\$.46) per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Total EMS Call Volume



CAMAS CITY COUNCIL



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



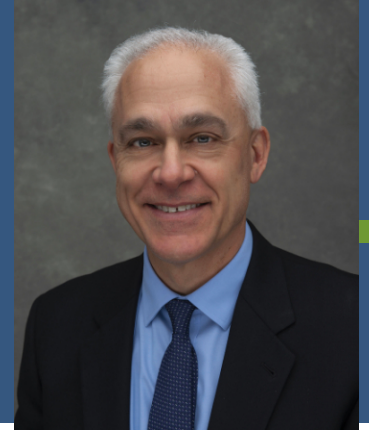
Marilyn Boerke
Ward 1



John Nohr
Ward 1



Bonnie Carter
Ward 2



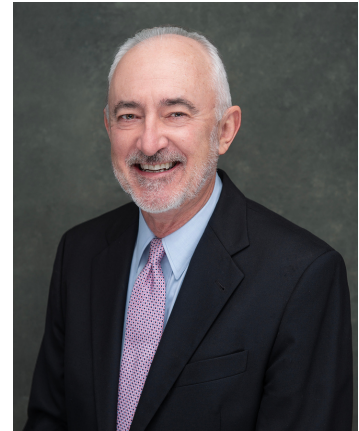
Tim Hein
Ward 2



Jennifer Senescu
Ward 3



Leslie Lewallen
Ward 3



John Svilarich
At Large

Upcoming Council Meetings

April 1, 2024

April 15, 2024

May 6, 2024

May 20, 2024

Join us in person or online for the Camas City Council Workshop at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Council Meeting at 7 p.m.

www.cityofcamas.us/meetings

UPCOMING DCA EVENTS

April 2024

May 2024

June 2024

Friday, April 5, 5-8 p.m.

Spring Into History & Student-Led Asian Culture Fair

A family-friendly celebration of Camas history and the arrival of spring! Come learn about what makes Camas unique, make paper, and enjoy fun games and crafts that teach us about our history. Additionally, enjoy an Asian Culture Fair organized by a CHS senior for her senior project, featuring music, food, art, dance, activities, and more!

Sunday, April 21, 1-4 p.m.

Spring Clean-Up & Planting Day

A community-powered floral beautification day! Bring gloves, buckets, shovels, and come help spruce up and plant flowers in Downtown Camas! Lunch will be provided by Journey Church at 12:30 pm. Meet at 4th and Birch.

Friday, May 3, 5-8 p.m.

Gnome & Fairy Backyard Adventure

Discover what the gnomes, fairies, and other backyard creatures are up to in participating businesses and be entered to win!

Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Camas Plant & Garden Fair

Over 100 local vendors fill historic Downtown Camas with everything for your yard and garden! Enjoy the day exploring all the plants, trees, flowers, garden art, and more. Live music, a petting zoo, kids' zone, fresh food, local shops, and historic charm add to the festivities. Visit www.cwplantfair.org for more information.

Friday, June 7, 5-8 p.m.

Unicorns, Rainbows & Mythical Beasts

Take part in the Downtown Camas Unicorn, Rainbow & Mythical Beast Sticker Challenge and be entered to win! Also, enjoy Unicorn, Rainbow, and Mythical Beast themed games and activities. Dressing up is encouraged!

Saturday, June 29, 2-7 p.m.

Camas Car Show

Celebrate classic and custom cars throughout the charming streets of Downtown Camas! Enjoy live music and entertainment, kids' activities, and food vendors.

<https://downtowncamas.com/>

Inside Camas City Hall

Office of the Mayor - 360-487-8629

Steve Hogan, Mayor



Call the City.

City Administrator	360-834-6864
Building Dept.	360-817-1568
Code Compliance	360-834-4151
Sanitation/Garbage Hotline	360-817-1531
Public Works Dept.	360-817-1563
After Hours Utility Emergencies	360-737-0592
Utility Billing	360-834-2462
Pay a Utility Bill	360-817-7117
Finance Dept.	360-834-2462
Parks and Recreation	360-834-5307
Community Development	360-817-1568
Library	360-834-4692
Fire Department	360-834-2262
Fire Marshal's Office	360-834-6191
Camas Police Dept.	360-834-4151