

City of Camas Newsletter

Jan - Mar 2021

City Names First-Ever Director of Communications and Director of Parks and Recreation

The City of Camas has selected two new department heads: former City of Boulder Deputy Communications Director Bryan Rachal will become Camas' first-ever director of communications and current University of Portland Associate Vice President for Land Use and Planning Trang Lam will become the director of parks and recreation.



Director of Communications: Bryan Rachal

Said Mayor Barry McDonnell, "Bryan's energy, positivity and overall experience in communications make him the perfect choice for our first director of communications. He is excited to bring his family to Camas and make it their home."

Rachal (pronounced ra-SHALL) has over 12 years of experience and earned his accreditation in public relations (APR) in 2016. As deputy director of communications for the city of Boulder, Colorado, Rachal served as a spokesperson and worked closely with city leaders on cohesive communications strategies.

Prior to joining the Boulder team, Rachal served as the director of university communications for the University of North Alabama. There he managed a team of award-winning professionals in the Office of Communications and Marketing, helping to rebrand the institution. During his time in Alabama, Rachal was a member of Rotary International and served as a board member for Downtown Florence Unlimited.

A storyteller at heart, Rachal has also worked as a reporter for NPR affiliate KUAF in Northwest Arkansas, and as a reporter and news producer for ABC and NBC affiliates in Colorado and Arkansas. Rachal's credentials include a B.A. in journalism from the School of Journalism and Strategic Media at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

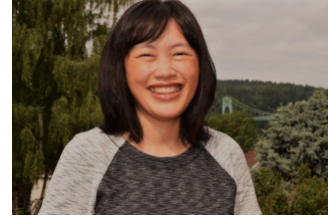
Rachal has been married to his high school sweetheart, Andrea, since 2006; they have two children, Alex (12) and Annabelle (9). The Rachal family is an outdoors family, enjoying hiking and evening walks with their two Brittany Spaniels, Lolli and Cocoa. They are also a foodie family and look forward to experiencing all the

restaurants the area has to offer. Rachal is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fly fishing and skiing.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas, you can usually hear Rachal cheering on the Hogs most weekends in the fall. Rachal is a voracious reader of news and books alike and also a movie buff. He's even named his cat Fredo in honor of his favorite movie of all time, The Godfather.

Rachal will begin his communications post Jan. 11. He was selected from a pool of 130 candidates from across the country.

Director of Parks and Recreation: Trang Lam



Lam comes to the City of Camas with over 20 years of experience in leadership roles at the University of Portland, Portland Parks & Recreation, and Prosper Portland, and as an entrepreneur.

"Trang has a true passion for parks," remarked Mayor McDonnell. "Her leadership and experience combined with her energy will help us take our parks and recreation department into the future."

She has led high-performing teams focused on outcomes that promote people's health and wellbeing through connection to nature and recreation; community development that centers on economic opportunity and prosperity for small business and underserved communities; and, at the University of Portland, the creation of campus spaces that foster a complete learning environment for future leaders, across academia.

Prior to her work as a civil servant and in higher education, she led her family's fledgling food manufacturing company and grew the company to a traded sector business.

Lam immigrated to Portland when she was four, and her family has called the Pacific Northwest their home ever since. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Portland State University. On her time off, you can find her and her husband in the great outdoors hiking and kayaking.

Lam will fill the former role of Jerry Acheson, who retired October 31 after 30 years of service, starting Jan. 25. The city received 60 applications for the parks and recreation position from candidates nationwide.

Both positions were advertised on local, regional, national, and diversity job boards. Prior to selection, each candidate went through a multi-week process that involved input and involvement from all staff levels as well as an initial round of video interviews followed by multiple virtual interviews with a variety of panels.

Calling All HOA Officers!

The City of Camas is updating our list of officers for homeowner associations. When homeowner associations are initially formed, the City is often provided a list of officers, but when officers change or move on, the City is not always notified of those changes. This information is important so that homeowner associations

can be notified of construction projects or other important notices that affect their areas. If you are an officer of a homeowner association or know who they are for your neighborhood, please send a current list of officers to Ronda Syverson, City of Camas, 616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, WA 98607. Ronda can also be reached via e-mail at rsyverson@cityofcamas.us, telephone (360) 817-7256 or fax (360) 834-1535. Your help in collecting this information is greatly appreciated.

@ the library



Camas Library Programs & Events

The Poetic Apothecary: Poems for Healing and Comfort Poet and performer Judith Adams explores poetry's restorative powers by reciting and exploring poems that help us understand grief, fear, sadness, loss, and much more. Saturday, January 9th at 10:30am. Registration is required.

Virtual Trivia Night - Join a lively trivia game from the comfort of your own home! Bring a team or be assigned to one. The second Saturday of the month. Registration is required.

Podcast Club Virtual Meeting - Listen to a podcast, then talk about it via Zoom. The third Thursday of the month. Registration is required.

Financial Literacy Series - Explore how you can move toward your financial goals with Kayla Gunderson, Financial Advisor. Held monthly via Zoom; registration required.

Great Decisions - A national, grass-roots foreign policy discussion program. Sandra Gangle will facilitate discussion of eight new topics for 2021. The last Wednesday of the month. Registration is required.

Meet Cute Book Club - NEW! Starts in February - A virtual discussion of contemporary romance novels. The second Tuesday of the month. Registration is required.

Page Turners Online - A book discussion group for 4th - 6th graders and their adult. The first Thursday of the month; registration is required.

Story Explorers Online - A book discussion group for 2nd - 3rd graders and their adult. The second Monday of the month; registration is required.

Virtual Mindfulness - Mindfulness meditation. Wednesdays at 10am. Contact Kirsten Muskat for meeting details & access: kirstenmuskat@mac.com.

Virtual Mindfulness for Beginners - An introduction to Mindfulness meditation. Tuesdays at 10am. Contact Kirsten Muskat for meeting details & access: kirstenmuskat@mac.com.

Virtual Storytime with Miss Ellen - Every Wednesday at 9:30am on Facebook.

New Years Fireworks Dates & Times

Reminder from the Camas-Washougal Fire Department of the Dates & Times for New Years Fireworks. The use of fireworks in Camas is limited to December 31st between 6 pm through 1 am on January 1st.




The use of illegal fireworks or the discharge of fireworks outside of legal dates and times in the City may result in a \$250 fine and possible seizure of fireworks.



City of Camas

616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas
United States

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