



Camas/Washougal Fire Department Newsletter

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Our Mission:
To provide the highest quality service to our community through the protection and preservation of life and property



First Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee meeting held

On May 16, 2012, the first meeting of the Camas-Washougal Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee was held at Camas City Hall. Committee members present included Washougal Councilors Connie Joe Freeman and Jon Russell, along with Camas Councilors Don Chaney and Greg Anderson. Items discussed included a roadmap for future meetings and items that need to be completed before the end of the year. There was a reminder that the group will be exploring other forms of permanent consolidation besides just the formation of an RFA. The group settled on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm for future meetings. Due to a scheduling conflict, however, the June meeting will be held June 26, 5:30 pm, at the Camas Library. All meetings are open to the public. For a copy of the minutes, please contact Fire Chief Nick Swinhart, nswinhart@ci.camass.wa.us.



FEMA

Fire Department receives \$490,000 staffing grant

On May 18, 2012, the Camas-Washougal Fire Department received word of the award of \$490,000 for the hiring of three Firefighter/IV-techs. The grant would pay for full salary and benefits of these personnel with no obligation to retain them after the two years. If the grant is accepted, such personnel would be used to augment staffing, increase levels of service to the community, and help reduce overtime. The Camas City Council will decide whether to accept the grant at their regular meeting of June 18 at 7:00 pm. If approved, advertisement for the hiring of these new positions would begin immediately.



Don't Forget to Vote!

Please do not forget to vote on August 7, 2012! This ballot will contain a very important levy renewal for the Camas Emergency Medical Services Levy. This levy helps maintain the top notch paramedic transport service our communities have enjoyed for over a quarter of a century. It is used to train volunteer and career firefighters in emergency medical procedures and buys cutting edge medications and equipment that have made our EMS system one of the best in the nation. The levy rate was at 25 cents/\$1000 valuation for 28 years. In 2006, the levy rate was increased to 35 cents/\$1000. Owing to call volumes that have increased over 20% since then, rapidly increasing population, and the escalating costs of providing medical services, it is necessary for a change. Voters will be asked to approve an increase to 46 cents/\$1000 valuation, which will keep the system stable for years to come. This rate is still much lower than other local EMS levies and would represent an additional \$33 per year to the owner of a \$300,000 home.

Remember: Fireworks discharge is legal in Camas between July 1 and July 4 only. In Washougal, the only legal discharge date is July 4. BE SAFE!