

City Vision



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Your information link to the Camas Community

Camas weathers the storm

Take Your Pick, We Face Snowy Conditions and Economic Challenges

A Message from Mayor Paul Dennis

A big THANK YOU to the citizens of Camas for your patience and understanding during the recent winter storms. I know many of you were inconvenienced during this historic event. I'd like to commend our city crews in their efforts to provide safe and clear conditions for emergency vehicles on our designated "priority routes." When all of the priority routes were passable, efforts shifted to non-priority and neighborhood streets.

A map showing the 45 miles of priority routes can be viewed on our website at www.ci.camas.wa.us/services/forms/OP/Snowplow08.pdf. City crews staffed snow plows and anti-icing trucks around the clock, working 12-hour shifts for more than a week, using six chains and 10,000 gallons of de-icer.

I also commend our sanitation crews for helping to clean up our community as the snow and ice delayed garbage pick-up; the week following the storm, the Sanitation Crew collected over half a million pounds of garbage, making 34 trips to the transfer station to get the entire City caught up with the collection schedules.

As the year ended with a bang, we enter the New Year with an eye toward economic recovery and our community's future. There has been a lot of discussion about the Federal Government's "Economic Recovery" Plan and the funding of local projects. It appears the focus will be on infrastructure projects and long-term job creation. Our city staff has been working hard to ensure that many of our capital suggestions make the list of potential projects. Proposals have to be adopted locally, regionally, and in some cases, by the state in order to be considered for funding.

Our community continues to garner interest from both domestic and international companies,

especially alternative energy companies. We are working with local and regional partners to assist us in bring these companies to Camas. We will also support efforts for statewide legislation that will improve our competitiveness with Oregon.

Many of you have noticed several business closures, unfortunately affected by the economic down turn; it is always difficult to see a business close its doors. There have been a number of

rumors floating around about other businesses closing or potentially closing but spreading rumors without factual information can be devastating. When you hear something, get the facts before passing on erroneous information and that way innocent people don't get hurt.

On a brighter side, a number of new businesses have come to town to fill in many of the vacancies. I've made an effort to welcome most of the new business owners, who are local residents. If you get a chance, stop by and check out their products and services as well as those of our existing companies. And if you can, try to buy locally, as your dollars stay within the community and help our families and entrepreneurs. In closing, I'd like to wish our entire community a better 2009; while we are in difficult economic times, together we will endure. ■



Lacamas Lake appears serene in this late December photograph by City staffer Kristin Berquist.

Schedule Changes Trim Costs for City Vision

As one cost-cutting measure adopted by the City of Camas, this newsletter will be reduced in frequency in 2009. Instead of being mailed to residents every other month with your City statement, *City Vision* will appear in May, July and November. In addition, Parks and Recreation will make the switch to an on-line quarterly class schedule this spring. Find it at ci.camas.wa.us/parks/index.htm



Meet & Greet the City Council

an occasional visit with your neighbors in public office

Don Chaney is the newest member of the City Council, having started his four-year term in January 2008. He retired from the Camas Police Department after 35 years of service, working his way through the ranks to lead the department as Chief the last 10 years of his career.



Don graduated from Evergreen High in 1965 and Clark College before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1967. He served overseas in South Korea for a year of his four-year enlistment. After his military service, Don drove school bus while he finished his AA degree at Clark College. Don was hired by the City of Camas in 1973.

Don and his wife Linda have three adult children, Brenda, David and Amanda, as well as two grandchildren, all residing in the Camas community.

Don served on various community committees during his career, including the Camas School Board between 1992 and 1998. Don and Linda owned Smitty's Restaurant from 1978-1981 and The Guest House Motel in Vancouver from 1985 thru 2001. He was a coach of the CHS Girl's State Champion softball team in 2003. He enjoys spending time with family, golf, computers, NASCAR and is a 20+ year Trailblazers season ticket holder.

Paul Dennis enters his sixth year as your Mayor; he previously served six and a half years on the City Council. He volunteers with several local committees and regional organizations that include Camas Community Center, Camas Downtown Vision Coalition, Georgia Pacific Community Advisory Board, Executive Board Member of the Columbia River Economic Development Council, City of Camas/Camas School District Partnership Committee, Camas High School Math Science Magnet Program Advisory Board, and Clark County Commercial Code Update Committee. Paul also volunteers his time promoting and assisting local school programs such as read-a-thons, art contests, annual carnivals, second grade community education, and career enrichment.



Paul started his own economic development and planning firm six years ago. His work includes market studies for major national retailers, long-range facility planning for school districts, and commercial and industrial land use planning. Most of his current work focuses on economic benefits associated with alternative energy businesses.

Mayor Dennis graduated from Columbia River High School in 1987. He went on to Clark College, earning an AA degree, before graduating from Western Washington University in 1991 with a BA in Economics.

Paul has two children Sean and Olivia. Together, they share soccer, camping, fishing, skiing and golf. Paul enjoys having lunch with his kids and their friends once a week at school. Paul also coaches Sean's soccer team and has helped out with Olivia's team.

Easter Events April 11 & 12 will appeal to youngsters and older night-time hunters

The 18th annual night-time egg hunt gets underway April 11 and remains exclusively for ages 10 through 12 years only! Join Camas Parks and Recreation in Crown Park (NE Everett & NE 17th Ave.) to search for over 4000 candy and prize-filled eggs hidden in the dark. Children will need to bring a basket or bag for their eggs, a flashlight, and clothing appropriate for the evening's weather. This is a "rain or shine" event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The event is free and begins at 9 p.m. sharp, so don't be late!

For our younger crowd, join us at the Easter Day Hunt where eggs will be hidden for ages 2 through 9 years. This event is free and will also take place in Crown Park at 1:30 p.m. sharp! Candy and prize-filled eggs will be hidden in designated egg hunting areas color-marked for age groups 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, and 8-9. Children should bring a basket or bag for their eggs. Children must be



These night hunters—one wisely wearing a headlamp—check the eggs they have gathered at a past Easter Egg Hunt for those who are 10 through 12.

accompanied by an adult. The Traditional Easter Bonnet and Contemporary Hat contest will take place immediately following the egg hunt. This is a "rain or shine" event.

Calling all HOA officers

The City of Camas is updating its data base list of officers for homeowner associations. When homeowner associations are initially formed, the City is pro-

vided 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 projects or other important information that affects their areas.

If you are an officer of a homeowner association or know who they are for

your neighborhood, please mail a current list of officers to Ronda Syverson, City of Camas, P.O. Box 1055, Camas, WA 98607. Ronda can also be reached via e-mail at rsyverson@ci.camas.wa.us, by phone, 817-1561 extension 4256, or by fax, 834-1535. Your help in collecting this information is greatly appreciated.

Award recipients are, back row left to right: Chuck Nadgwick, Nicolle Sorensen, Joe Vrtiska, Garry Reed, Eric Levison, Bob Cunningham, Jim Hodges, David Zavortink. Front row left to right, seated: Henry Scott, Ameer Rasmussen, Steve Durspek, Krista Bashaw, Sandy Glover, Ed Senchyna

Annual Awards Recognize City Staff Dedication

The City of Camas held its annual Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony in December acknowledging employees who demonstrate the qualities of leadership, professionalism, dedication, innovation and excellent public service.

Krista Bashaw, the Recreation and Special Events Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department, was recognized as the 2008 Employee of the Year. Krista has been with the City for over 13 years.

In presenting the award, Mayor Paul Dennis stated "Krista is a wonderful person who gives more than 100 percent, day in and day out. We at the City and in the community are truly blessed to have Krista."

"The events she coordinates are a



wonderful way to celebrate our community and my kids and I, as well as other families, have benefited from Krista's hard work and dedication."

Along with Bashaw's award, several

- Inspirational Award**
Interim Building Official Bob Cunningham
- Valor Award**
Police Officer Henry Scott
- Citizenship Award**
Financial Assistant Ameer Rasmussen
- Outstanding Customer Service Award**
Accounting Assistant Nicolle Sorensen
- Power of Humor Award**
Sanitation Worker Garry Reed
- Dollars and Sense Award**
Public Works Project Manager Jim Hodges
- Outstanding Rookie Award**
Information Systems Analyst Joe Vrtiska

other employees were recognized for their contributions to the City (see the list in the box at left).

Police Chief Mitch Lackey bestowed on Sergeant Chuck Nadgwick the 2008 Police Department Employee of the Year Award.

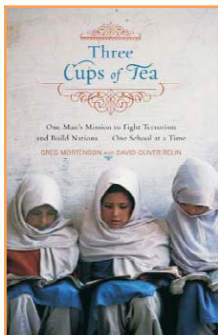
Earning a new Green Giant Award for their bicycle commutes were Ed Senchyna, senior grounds worker; Steve Durspek, engineer, and Sandy Glover, assistant library director.

The Mayor also presented a special award to Library Director David Zavortink titled the Kapellmeister Award in recognition of his ability to create a vision, orchestrate, and creatively nurture the Camas Public Library into becoming the "Best Library in Washington State."

What's Camas Reading?

Library to Offer *Three Cups of Tea*

After several months of collecting suggestions, narrowing the choices, and contacting authors and their agents,



Camas Public Library directors have selected *Three Cups of Tea* by David Relin and Greg Mortensen as the 2009 "What's Camas Reading?" title.

This project is a one book/one community program funded by the Institute of

Museum and Library Services through the Washington Office of the Secretary of State. The goal is to encourage as many readers as possible to read the same book at the same time, fostering discussion and a sense of community.

A larger-than-usual number of copies of the book will be available at the library. Beginning in mid-February, activities will include book discussions, a film night featuring a movie set in Afghanistan, Himalayan tea tasting, the creation of an afghan for the Red Cross "Afghans for Afghanistan" project, and an evening with co-author David Relin. Event details are available on the library's web site www.ci.camas.wa.us/library and blog.

Three Cups of Tea is the true story, written with journalist Relin, of Greg Mortensen's quest to build a school for the remote community that saved his life after his failed K2 attempt in 1993. The story follows his continued endeavors to build schools and raise opportunities,



Author David Relin with Ibrahim, an elder of Hushe village, located at the head of the Hushe Valley in Pakistan. This is a locale in the book where a school was built.

especially for girls and women, in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Three Cups of Tea was named non-fiction winner of the Kiriama Prize, 2007 Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Book Of The Year, Time Magazine Asia Book Of The Year, People Magazine Critic's Choice, and a BookSense Notable Title.

Relin lives in Portland. His journalism has won numerous awards and he continues to focus on reporting about social issues and their affect on children, both in the U.S. and around the world. Currently, he's working on a documentary film about Sherpa mountain climbers. He is also at work on a secret book about food, a children's book with the artist Amy Ruppel, and a novel about Vietnam.

Library Book Events

Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.
Sipping Himalayan Teas

Wednesday, Feb 18 at 7 p.m.
Book Discussion of *Three Cups of Tea*

Monday, Feb 23 at 2 p.m.
Book Discussion of *Three Cups of Tea*

Tuesday, Feb 24 at 7 p.m.
Book Discussion of *Three Cups of Tea*
at Cafe Piccolo Paradiso
309 NE Birch Street

Thursday, Feb 26 at 7 p.m.
Author David Relin's appearance

Monday, March 2, 9 p.m.
Knitted or crocheted squares due at the library for an 'Afghan for Afghanistan'

Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m.
Screening of a film set in Afghanistan

Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m.
final Book Discussion of
Three Cups of Tea

Unless otherwise designated, all programs take place in Meeting Room A of Camas Public Library, 625 NE 4th Ave.

Second Story Gallery seeks quilters for show

Quilters with new or antique works of art are invited to display them at the annual February show "Quilts with Heart" at Second Story Gallery in the Camas Public Library.

The deadline for submitting pieces will be 5 p.m. Jan. 30, in the Library's second floor office. Quilters must prepare each entry with a hanging sleeve running across the top or it will not be accepted. Past shows have included small quilted pictures or wall hangings, some with embellishments, all the way up to large bedspreads. Pieces may be for display only or for sale, where a portion of the proceeds are returned to the gallery as a commission.

"Quilts with Heart" will open with a First Friday reception welcoming the fabric artists Feb. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the gallery. The show will continue through Feb. 27.