

City Vision



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Editor: Barbara Baldus

Your information link to the Camas Community

Open House Scheduled to Explain SR 14's Newest Design

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) engineers are busy designing the widening of Highway 14 where it skirts the southern edges of Camas and Washougal. New elements in

the design of both the highway and the interchanges are prompting an informational open house that has been set for Tuesday, April 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Community Room of the Camas Police

Department, 2100 NE Third Ave.

The design has been updated to accommodate the Camas and Washougal communities while providing construction cost savings. Although at first glance the project looks different than an earlier version, all of the key elements remain the same, according to WSDOT. Residents, business owners and other community members are invited to attend the open house and learn about the newly altered design.



TRAFFIC CIRCLES, like this one near Ridgefield, will be added alongside Highway 14 at Union Street in Camas with other improvements. To take a test drive on this completed roundabout, head north on Interstate 5 to the Ridgefield/Pioneer Street Exit and travel west about three-fourths of a mile. Transportation officials explain the traffic circle concept, complete with video, on a web site: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/roundabouts/>

City Clean Up of Yard Debris Set for Saturday, May 17

Date: Saturday, May 17 **Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Location:** Triangle Resources, 612 SE Union St.

Sponsored by: City of Camas, United Camas Association of Neighborhoods, Triangle Resources

Contact Information: City of Camas, Ronda Syverson, 817-1561 ext. 4256 or UCAN, Barney Syverson, 834-5265

A coupon is not required; however, you must live within the Camas city limits (proof of address may be requested) and a donation of two canned food items is requested. Camas citizens are entitled to one (1) free drop-off and disposal of up to two (2) cubic yards of yard debris per household. Permitted Materials: yard debris such as tree branches. We cannot accept sod, grass clippings, leaves, etc. Remember, you must live within the city limits of Camas to qualify for this City event.



Fire Station 42 opens to public for annual public safety event

Camas Fire Department invites local residents to its eighth annual Open House Saturday April 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Station 42, located at 4321 NW Parker St. The event will include a visit from Life Flight, residential fire sprinkler demonstrations, fire extinguisher training and EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home), where children can learn how to escape from a burning house.

Kids can also have bicycle and skateboard helmets fitted--and helmets will be available for purchase as well. The Washougal Fire Department will be providing child safety seat inspections. Other participants include Trauma Nurses Talk Tough, Clark County Sheriff's Peacekeeper Unit, American Red Cross and other fire, health and life safety related groups as well as Shiner clowns. Please come and enjoy the day with your local firefighters and other public safety educators.

Backflow device testing time

City of Camas water customers with lawn irrigation systems are reminded that their backflow devices require annual testing as outlined in Washington State Law. A backflow assembly is installed on irrigation systems to protect drinking water from contaminants. Any mechanical device can fail, so to ensure that the system is working properly, it must be tested annually by a tester certified by the state. For questions about backflow device testing, call the City of Camas Backflow Hotline at **817-1569**.

While on the subject of watering lawns, remember that one inch per week is all that's needed to keep them green. The City of Camas recommends watering on an odd/even rotation, corresponding to your house number.

Also, aim for the root area of your plants, and choose plants native to the local area because these generally require less watering. Installing a drip irrigation system supplies a slow but steady drink of water to plant roots, saving up to 60 percent over other systems.

Use a timer and water only when needed. Water in the early morning or late evening to limit water loss due to evaporation. Also, water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.

Avoid wasting water on sidewalks or streets by aiming the sprinklers where they'll do the most good.

Library offers gardening help

Five gardening lectures will be offered in April and May at the Camas Public Library culminating in the popular Courtyard Plant Swap set for May 8.

This free garden series has become a spring tradition, thanks to financial support from the Friends and Foundation of the Camas Library.

Xeriscaping--that's landscaping without irrigation--with Athena McElrath is April 2; garden structures with Vern Nelson is April 8; horizontal holds for vines with Linda Beutler is April 15;

Sprouting Soon~

Camas grows its own farmers market

The Camas Downtown Vision Coalition is reserving the block of 5th Avenue between Birch and Cedar for a Camas Farmer's Market to be unveiled Saturday, May 17. According to organizers, this market will be agriculturally-based and focused on supporting the connections between local farmers and the community. Vendors from

local farms will be offering organic produce, plants, fresh flowers, and prepared foods every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 4.

Live music will be provided on market days, along with cooking and how-to demonstrations.

"Farmer's markets enrich the entire community. They promote healthy eating at home and provide a day out with your family, whether you have a lot or a little to spend. I like that this market will be true to it's roots--promoting local farmers helps everyone. I'm excited as a merchant, as a citizen, and as a mom to have this market in the heart of our downtown," says Carrie Schulstad, downtown Camas merchant and DVC Board President.

Adds Camas City Council Representative Steve Hogan, "Farmer's markets help create more of a sense of community. Please support our local effort."

Farmer's markets provide locally grown produce, plants, and flowers directly from the growers to the community. If you would like to participate as a farmer or as a volunteer, or would like more information, visit www.camasfarmersmarket.org or call Carren Walker, Camas Farmer's Market Executive Director, at **838-1032**.



hummingbird gardening with Athena McElrath is April 23; mason bees with Sherian Wright is April 30. All lecture programs are 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the library's meeting room. The May 8 Plant Swap for gardeners to share their extras will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. May 8.

Movies, manga aimed at kids

The Camas Library knows that Spring Break is just around the corner, March 31 to April 4 to be exact. The library is offering movies, many with a book tie-in, on a big screen every weekday at 2 p.m. in the library's meeting room. The free

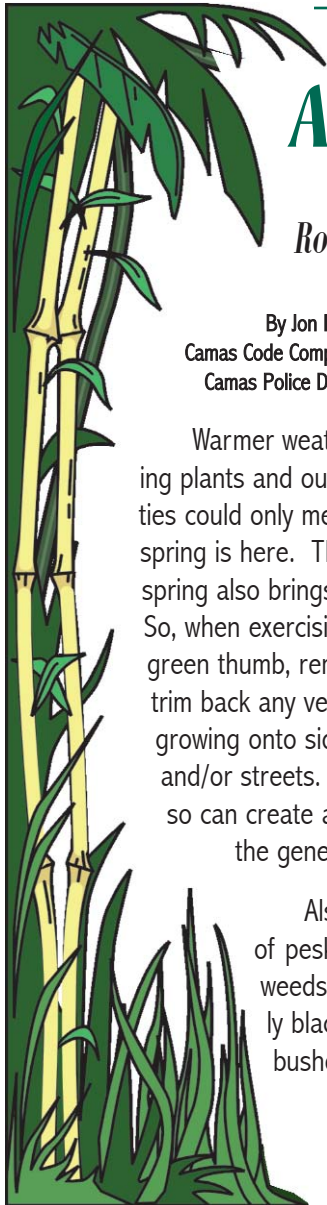
movies come with free popcorn and are all rated G or PG. A list is at the library.

For teens and "tweens" at least 9 years old, Camas Youth Librarian Ellen Good is offering "Cosplay." First, let's tackle the definitions. A cosplay is a contraction of the words "costume" and "play." Ellen says basically, it's an event where people dress up as their favorite anime or manga characters and show off their costumes. Animes are cartoon animations (generally) made in Japan, and manga are comics (generally) made in Japan.

Cosplay will take place Thursday, April 17, as part of the library's ongoing Anime and Manga Club meeting. There will be prizes for those dressing up and showing up from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Trading cards for grown-ups

Another library "club," this one open to adults with a creative bent, has just formed and will meet twice a month to design and exchange Artist Trading Cards. These tiny pieces of art are bringing folks together from 6 to 8:45 p.m. April 9 and 24 at the library.



A Code By Any Other Name . . .

Roses as well as other plants require careful trimming to comply with city laws

By Jon Love
Camas Code Compliance Officer
Camas Police Department

Warmer weather, flowering plants and outdoor activities could only mean that spring is here. The arrival of spring also brings yard work. So, when exercising your green thumb, remember to trim back any vegetation growing onto sidewalks and/or streets. Not doing so can create a hazard for the general public.

Also be wary of pesky noxious weeds, particularly blackberry bushes, that can

quickly spread from your property to neighboring yards. These are considered public nuisances and need to be removed.

In addition, drier days mean neighborhood garage sales showcasing all those little knickknacks you found during spring cleaning that you believe someone else can find value in. When organizing a garage, yard, moving or estate sale, please remember to refrain from posting signs on utility/telephone poles, light posts or traffic signs. Also, based on City ordinance, these sales are not allowed to run longer than three consecutive days.

Finally, this time of year is when many citizens return to outdoor recreation. Whether this means camping, water sports or any number of activities, be sure that recreational vehicles such as

motor homes and trailers hauling boats, jet-skis, quads and the like are not parked on city streets except for the purpose of loading or unloading.

For more information on the topics briefly covered in this article, please review the online Camas Municipal Code at: <http://bpc.iserver.net/codes/camas/index.htm> and click on Title 8, relating to public health and safety. For more detailed information on noxious weeds, visit the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board website at: http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_list/regions/region8.htm.

Should you have any questions regarding the information specified here, please contact Jon Love during regular business hours in the Camas Code Compliance office at 817-1506.

What's Camas Reading? Check out this book

All together now, grab the *Piano Tuner*, then meet the author

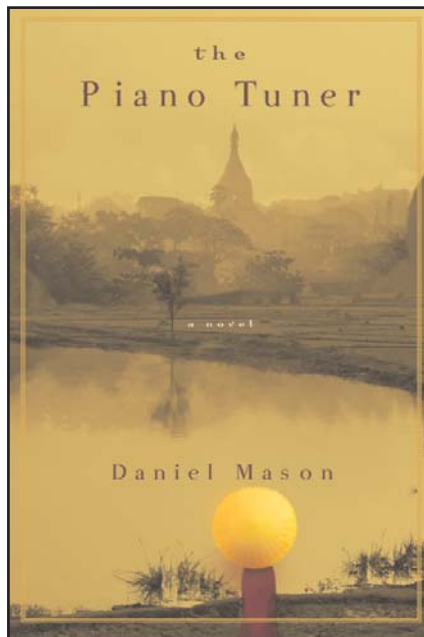
You may have heard of “One Book, One Community” reading programs in other locales like Seattle, Spokane or Chicago. A title is selected and in a short span of time, citizens are encouraged to read the book, invite their friends over for a discussion or attend one planned by an organization like their community library.

The Camas Public Library is sponsoring such a program this spring. Ours is called “What's Camas Reading?” and this year we are reading *The*

Piano Tuner by Daniel Mason. This historical novel is about an English piano tuner who accepts a commission to travel to Burma to repair a general's Erard grand piano.

Many extra copies of the book—enough to fill a grand piano—are available at the library for people to take home with them. The staff has organized four book discussions to serve as a follow-up to the enjoyable read.

These include three to be held at the library at 7 p.m. March 31, 1 p.m. April 1, and



Spring selection: *The Piano Tuner* by Daniel Mason

10:30 a.m. April 2. The fourth will be held April 2 at 7 p.m. at Twilight Pizza.

Besides these gatherings, readers are encouraged to host their own discussion groups with prepared study questions, available with the book at the library.

In addition to the book groups, you are invited to three related programs.

On April 3, at 7 p.m. at the library, Dr. Pavithra Narayanan, a WSU professor, will speak. Her program is titled, “*From Burma to Myanmar: The East India Company and Beyond.*”

On April 7, at 7 p.m. at the library, selections from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier will be performed by Linda Barker. Don Mitchell of the Vancouver Piano Hospital will talk about “*The History and Tuning of Grand Pianos.*”

Finally, the most awaited program will offer a chance to meet with the author, Daniel Mason, on Thursday evening, April 10, at 7 p.m. at the library.

Stop by the library and pick up your copy of *The Piano Tuner* soon and attend as many of the programs as you can. For further details, call the library at **834-4692**.

This program is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Washington Office of the Secretary of State, State Library Division.

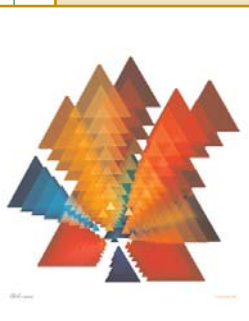
Local Photographer Captures Pinpoints of Light on Canvas

The Featured artist for April at Second Story Gallery is photographer Ray Klein, who constructs abstract designs from the glints he sees through the lens. His “Visions of Light” exhibit opens with a First Friday reception April 4 and continues through April 26 in the exhibition space upstairs in the Camas Public Library.

Klein spent his career as a commercial photographer in Chicago studios before retiring in Vancouver. He says he gradually became attracted to the the sideline images created when light passes through shaped apertures or glances off other surfaces. He captures these glints, works with them digitally, then applies his creations to canvas. The results are subjects infrequently seen in pictures themselves, he notes, they're exposed through the photographer's imagination.

Klein will explain his techniques and show some of his film originals in a special evening discussion Tuesday, April 22, at 7 p.m. at the library. The lecture is free and open to the public, with a special invitation extended to interested photographers.

In May, Second Story Gallery will mark the fifth anniversary of the library building's renovation by inviting back all of the artists who have shown in the space for a show of new work. A gala reception will take place Friday, May 2.



Autumn reflections by Ray Klein