

City Vision

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Your information link to the Camas Community



Come celebrate the holiday season in historic Downtown Camas. Camas Parks and Recreation will once again be coordinating and hosting this year's free tree-lighting event on Friday, Dec. 5. Join Mayor Paul Dennis in lighting the community Christmas tree at 6:30 p.m. sharp. Then, visit Santa to tell him your wish list and pose for photos. This celebration, featuring holiday music, refreshments and crafts for the kids, will be held alongside the Camas Downtown First Friday event sponsored by merchants and galleries.

Note: Downtown core streets will be closed to all parking and vehicular traffic at 2 p.m. Vehicles parked in "closed" areas after that time are subject to being towed and ticketed. For those needing handicapped parking, please contact the Parks Department at 834-5307.

It's Win-Win for Fish Habitat and the City of Camas

The City of Camas has received new water rights which will be sufficient to meet the City's water demand projections for the next 20 years. The new water rights add 500 gallons per minute to the withdrawal rate at the City's existing Well No. 8 and will allow the City to draw 1,000 gallons per minute from each of three new wells planned in the Oak Park area.

The City is currently working to develop one of the new wells (Well No. 14) west of Goot Park. This well is expected to be in operation for the 2009 summer pumping season and is partially funded with a \$390,000 grant from the Department of Ecology.

With the water rights to withdraw additional water near the lower reaches of the Washougal River, the City has agreed to stop the diversion of water from Jones and Boulder Creeks from May 15 through Oct. 31 each year. During these months, the water that normally would be withdrawn from the two creeks will flow 18 miles downstream through the Washougal River basin to provide more water for improved fish habitat.

The City has been drawing surface water from Jones and Boulder Creeks since the 1920's. In the early years, the water flowed through a seven-mile pipeline and was distributed untreated throughout Camas. In 1965, the City built a filtration plant near Round Lake that is still used today to treat and filter about 1.5 million gallons per day. Along with the Jones and Boulder Creek surface water source, the City currently operates nine wells to supply an average of 3.76 million gallons per day with summer peak days of 7 to 8 million gallons.

The granting of the water rights and the suspension of the diversion of water during key fish habitat months is consistent with recommendations made in the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 27/28 Watershed Management Plan. The Watershed Management Plan is the result of an eight-year effort involving local, state and federal agencies. The completion of the plan and subsequently carrying out one of the recommendations is truly a "win-win" for the community and for the Washougal Basin fish habitat.



Camas Public Library Earns New Status as Best in the Entire State

The 2008 Hennen's American Public Library Ratings were published Oct. 8 and the Camas Public Library now ranks as the best public library in the State of Washington.

"We're whooping it up at the library," said David Zavortink, library director. "We have a score of 836, which puts us in the 98th percentile nationally."

"There is no plaque, no award, no picture on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. It's just a national ranking that shows the world the importance of the library in the life of Camas and that we have a darn good library."

The Hennen Ratings were created by Wisconsin Librarian Thomas J. Hennen Jr. as a way to find out how his library stacked up against others to measure the public's investment in its libraries.

By using a weighted formula and federal statistics for 15 factors, Hennen designed a tool to arrive at a score that he felt was meaningful at the library level. His first national ratings came out in 1999.

"At the Library Foundation's first gala in 2001 we announced our goal to be the best in the state. We knew the new building would propel us in that direction and here we are," Zavortink said.

"The many contributions of the Camas Library Friends and Foundation have really had an impact on the ratings," he noted. "They have been able to supplement the city-provided budget and that's meant more materials and that means more user satisfaction—and ultimately, a higher ranking."

"And, of course, it is the hard work

and dedication of library employees connecting people with reading, and that's a major component as well."

"Obviously, Northwesterners are readers and demand strong public libraries and support them."

As for the library's future rating, Zavortink said, "There will be some fluctuation in the rankings, I'm sure, but with luck and some more hard work, there's a chance that we could break into the top 10 in the U.S. in the next few years. We've set our sights on that goal."

The Camas Public Library, founded in 1923, is an independent municipal library funded by the citizens of the City of Camas. The library is located at 625 NE Fourth Ave. in the heart of downtown Camas. For more information, visit www.ci.camas.wa.us/library/index.htm

Library is a happening place

One reason the Camas Public Library is tops is because of the number and variety of educational and entertainment opportunities that the library offers to the community. And they don't slow down for the winter.

For instance, the library has a number of book discussion groups. In December, the grade school group is discussing *The Secret Garden*, the middle school group is going through *The Giver*, the teen choice will be *Deathwatch*, the adult fiction group's title is *The Observations*, and the adult mystery readers group will be discussing *Down the Rabbit Hole*. If you like literature and discussing it, the library is the place.

During school breaks, the library tries to have something for kids to get

out of the house and do. At 3 p.m. on Dec. 22, 27, 29 and Jan. 3, the library will be showing Winter Break Movies for all ages. Call the library to find out the titles.

Last year's Gingerbread Man Contest was so much fun, we're doing it again! Kids of all ages are invited to decorate (and eat) a gourmet gingerbread man Jan. 22 from 7-8 p.m. in the library.

Story times are a library tradition.

Here's your chance to serve on the best library board

There are two Library Board of Trustee positions to be filled for 2009. Applications are available at Camas City Hall. The deadline for applications is Friday, Dec. 5 at 5 p.m.

Baby Storytimes for ages 0-3 include songs, stories, and movement. They're held Thursdays at 10:30 or 11:30 a.m. On Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:30 or 11:30 a.m., the library's Family Storytimes are held for ages 3-5.

The English Conversation Club for folks learning English as a second language meets Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

If group activities aren't your cup of tea, the library has lots of new DVD titles, new paper books and new audio books to pass a winter evening. And "Play-aways," similar to MP3 players, are great whether you're on a plane or stuck in the airport on your holiday visit.

Tax forms should arrive at the library around Jan. 1. Once again, VITA tax volunteers will be helping prepare returns starting in February 2009.

Meet & Greet the City Council *An occasional visit with your neighbors in public office*

Greg Anderson was first appointed to the Camas City Council in February 1997 and has served continuously since then. Greg moved to Camas in 1993 and soon became active with Camas Schools, including a term on the Camas School District Citizens Advisory Committee and on a committee reviewing the facility needs and for a levy/bond election.



During his 11 years on the City Council, Greg has often focused on fire services through the EMS and Fire Department Operations Advisory Board and the committee overseeing the building of Fire Station 42. He currently serves on the Fire Shared Service Planning Committee. Greg was born in Iowa and grew up in Mesa, Arizona. He attended Arizona

State University, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration. He then served four years on active duty in the US Army, attaining the rank of Captain. After the service, Greg returned to Arizona and resumed a career in logistics operations/planning & management. In 1987 Greg was transferred to the Northwest to manage a local division of a national company, and he has lived in Clark County since.

Greg is married, with two children. In his spare time he enjoys gardening and reading fiction (Tom Clancy and Robin Cook are favorite authors).

Linda Dietzman is serving her second term as a city council member.

She grew up in rural Clark County, moved to the Camas



area in 1972 and has lived within the Camas city limits for over 20 years. She and husband John have two grown children, Heather and Bill, who each graduated from Camas High School.

In 2007, Linda received the designation of Certified Municipal Leader from the Association of Washington Cities and received the Advanced Certified Municipal Leader designation in 2008.

Linda has experience in the antique/collectible field, finance and sales. She earned an associate degree from Clark College in 1970.

She has been active with the Camas-Washougal Community Chest since 1997.

She has also been involved in 4-H, Boy Scouts, the Lower Columbia Women's Soccer League and CW Youth Soccer League. In her spare time she enjoys walking, especially with the Osprey walking group, square dancing, reading and genealogy.

Linda's first civic involvement began in 1994 as neighborhood chairperson and as Secretary of UCAN (United Camas Association of Neighborhoods). She served

on the Highway 500 Task Force and the Traffic Management Committee.

As a city council representative, Linda represents Camas and Washougal on the C-TRAN Board. She is also a member of the Clark County Mosquito Control Board, Shoreline Management Committee and Community Center Development Committee and is alternate liaison for the Library Board and Sister City Organization.

2009 Sanitary Collection Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day Holiday

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Friday, January 2

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 19, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Tuesday, January 20

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 16, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Tuesday, February 17

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Tuesday, May 26

Independence Day Holiday

Friday, July 3, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Monday, July 6

Labor Day

Monday, September 7, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Tuesday, September 8

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Thursday, November 12

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday-Friday, November 26-27, 2009

Thursday garbage and recycling will be
picked up on Monday, November 30;
Friday garbage and recycling will be
picked up on Tuesday, December 1

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Monday, December 28

New Year's Day Holiday

Friday, January 1, 2009

Garbage and recycling will be picked up
on Monday, January 4, 2010

Volcano in the Clouds

photograph
by Lois Settlemeier



Prize-winning photography by Camas resident Lois Settlemeier will go on display at Second Story Gallery in December. In addition to this shot of Mt. Hood, which was named a Top Ten Photo of the Year in 2007 in a Portland contest, Settlemeier's work has placed in competitions sponsored by the Oregonian and other publications. At the gallery in the library she will display limited edition prints on canvas, opening with a reception Dec. 5 and continuing until Dec. 27.

Hoops on the sidewalks require owners' attention

A very popular and fun way to keep active is by shooting hoops or playing pick-up basketball games at your home. Many citizens make use of portable basketball hoops in this manner. Quite often, these structures are placed in the street or on the sidewalk and after use, are left in those places.

This action creates a hazard to pedestrians trying to make use of the sidewalk, causing them to step out into the road, potentially in the midst of traffic. Also, hoops left in the street can be hazards to passing vehicles.

Citizens who own portable basketball hoops

should be mindful of these hazards and remove these hoop structures from the sidewalk and street when not in use.

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

Parks Department takes class schedule digital

As part of the City's effort to support sustainability and reduce printing and paper costs, the Parks and Recreation Department will no longer be mailing out its quarterly newsletter. The last printed edition will go into the mail in December and will cover classes and

events being offered January-March 2009.

Alternatives will be available to receive information on all of the services that parks department has to offer, including by mail.

To register to have the newsletter sent directly via

e-mail or U.S. mail, call 834-5307. Copies will still be available at the Camas Community Center or at the Camas Public Library.

The newsletter will continue to be accessible on the City's web site: www.ci.camas.wa.us/parks/index.htm