

CAMAS-WASHOUGAL POST-RECORD

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8 Sections, 50 Pages • \$1.00

Community center headed for ballot

Camas council OKs \$78 million bond measure to build aquatics facility, renovate sports fields

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

The fate of a Camas-based community aquatics center will soon be in voters' hands.

Camas City Council members on Monday agreed to put a proposition on the Nov. 5, 2019 General Election ballot that would allow the city to issue general obligation bonds in an amount up to \$78 million for the construction of a new community aquatics center and renovation of three Camas sports fields.

City councilman Steve Hogan said talks of building a community center have popped up several times during his 14 years on the Camas council.

"It's time to move forward with something," Hogan said at a Monday council workshop held before the council voted to place the bond measure on the November ballot. "A lot of good people over the years have tried to get this on the table."

Another longtime Camas city councilman, Greg Anderson, agreed with Hogan.

"I've heard this many times," Anderson said of the push to build a community center.

He added that, of the 12 options presented to council showing different configurations of community centers, field improvements and even a new sports field complex, he thought "the full meal deal" — building a larger community center with a recreation and competition pool as well as

See Center, page A5

Hunt for new chief of police begins

Washougal will raise upper salary level to \$138,612

By **DOUG FLANAGAN**
Post-Record staff writer

Washougal City Council members approved a motion to increase the maximum salary for the city's police chief position at their July 8 meeting.

One day later, the city posted an advertisement for the position to replace Washougal Police Chief Ron Mitchell, who is set to retire in November.

City officials hope to begin interviewing candidates in August.

See Search, page A2

Port unveils concepts for Washougal waterfront

Community's input sought on plans for development

By **DOUG FLANAGAN**
Post-Record staff writer

The Port of Camas-Washougal's waterfront development should take advantage of the area's natural features and incorporate local history, the owner of RKM Development said at a "Lunch With Dave" event, held July 10 at the Port of Camas-Washougal office.

Roy Kim, who was chosen in April to develop the 35-acre Parker's Landing site into a mixed-use urban center, told a crowd of about 30 people that he's making determinations about what community members want to see from the development based on surveys conducted by himself and Port staff members.

"The views are amazing. The marina is an asset and the waterfront is an asset. That's why people come here," he said. "We looked at a lot of old pictures to try to get an idea, because the history of the site — the Parker House, we talked about that, we talked about the people that came here very early — we want to take all of that into account when we're master planning."

See Waterfront, page A6

SANDY SWIMMING HOLE IN WASHOUGAL



WAYNE HAVRELLY/POST-RECORD

Richard Tacket and his family visit the Sandy Swimming Hole on Friday, July 12, nearly three weeks after a man drove through the Washougal park's barrier, running over and killing a German couple on the beach. Tacket placed his niece's carseat behind a tree, saying "you can't be too careful."

Weeks after tragedy, crowds return to park

Site of fatal hit-and-run is 'returning to normal,' neighbors say

By **WAYNE HAVRELLY**
Post-Record staff writer

It's a warm, sunny Friday and swimmers and families have made their way back to the Sandy Swimming Hole in Washougal.

If it weren't for the memorial of wilted flowers adorning the park's newly repaired fence in the parking lot, there

would be little evidence that this normally peaceful, tranquil Washougal River beach was the scene of a horrific crime just two weeks prior — when a man driving a Jeep Cherokee crashed his vehicle through a park barrier and drove onto the beach, running over and killing two German tourists before driving away.

A Washougal man was charged in the incident.

David Crosswell, 71, is lodged at the Clark County jail, charged with two counts of vehicular homicide and two counts of felony hit and run for allegedly driving under the influence and running away from the scene on June 25, after killing Regina and Rudolf Hohstadt, a German couple in their 60s who were visiting family in the Portland-Vancouver area.

For many families who have returned to the small Washougal park, the tragedy is still on their minds.

Richard Tackett and his fiancée, Jane Cruz, brought their infant niece and young nephew to their favorite spot on the Washougal River to cool off and make chili dogs on Friday, July 12. The couple, who

See Park, page A6

Sit-in calls out urban 'clear-cutting' in Camas

Advocates dismayed after city settles with developer, allows more than 70 trees to be felled



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMAS TREE PROTECTORS

Felled trees pile up at a site off Northwest 43rd Avenue in Camas on Monday, July 15.

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

A small subdivision planned for Camas' Northwest 43rd Avenue area became ground zero in a battle to protect that city's urban tree canopy this week after members of Camas Tree Protectors (CTP) organized a sit-in to protest the destruction of more than 70 trees on a lot planned for 12 new single-family homes.

Alicia King is a member of the CTP group, which boasts more than 500

members on its Facebook site.

King said the sit-in, which took place Wednesday evening, July 17, near the development at 2223 N.W. 43rd Ave., came about after group members learned Camas city leaders had signed a private settlement with the developer, Waverly Homes LLC of Vancouver, effectively dismantling a Clark County hearings examiner's 2018 decision to retain nearly 40 trees on the property.

See Trees, page A5

What's Inside...

Index

- Death Notices A2
- Hometown B1
- Obituaries A2
- Around Town B2
- News Briefs A3
- Classifieds B3
- Opinion A4
- Public Notices B5



MAC POTTS LANDS GIG IN WASHOUGAL

Vancouver musician appeared on 'American Idol'

Hometown, Page B1



'LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY' VIGIL DRAWS CROWD

Camas residents join call for end to abuse of immigrants at border:

News Briefs, Page A3

Center:

From page A1

a gymnasium and several community spaces — made the most sense.

"It's a big ask, but there's a lot in this ask," Anderson said.

The councilman added that, if voters approve the bond proposition in November, he would like to see the community center built on a 6.3-acre piece of city-owned property located on the south side of Lake Road, across from the entrance to Camas' Heritage Park near Lacamas Lake.

"I'd like to see us work with the location we have now," Anderson said. "That lake — both lakes — are part of (Camas)."

To pass, the proposition will need to garner the approval of 60 percent of voters in the Nov. 5 election.

According to the city's finance director, Cathy Huber Nickerson, the bond would cost Camas property owners \$1.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2021 and decrease gradually to 67 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2039. This would cost the owner of a \$464,400 home — the median Camas home price — \$41 per month, or \$492 per year, in 2021.

The bond would cover the costs of construction as well as the equipment and furniture needed for the community aquatics center and renovations at the three sports fields.

Capell said a Camas-Washougal group working to build a joint community center had previously estimated operating costs for a similarly sized aquatics center at around \$2.6 million per year, with revenues from member fees and other usage projected to be about \$2.3 million.

"So a (city) subsidy of about \$300,000 would be needed," Capell said. "We will refine that, but that was their estimate."

The bond proposition option approved by a unanimous council vote Monday — Option I — was not the largest of the 12 options presented by staff, but did include the most amenities for the aquatic-community center. Councilors did not feel comfortable including a \$12 million new sports field complex in the ballot proposition, but did say they wanted to add roughly \$6 million worth of improvements to existing sports fields.

The option approved Monday would include \$2.7 million worth of renovations, including turf and lighting, at Forest Home Park; \$2.3 million in improvements at Prune Hill Sports Park; and \$1 million in renovations to sports fields at Dorothy Fox Park.

On the community center side, the councilmembers approved an option that would build a 78,000-square-foot community center with a recreation pool, a competition pool, gymnasium, community rooms, cardio and weight rooms, and an indoor walk-jog track overlooking the gym courts and the site's forested areas.

Preliminary plans show a community center that "nestles into the site" and blends in with the forested land by having simple, low-profile rooflines, according to architects working with the city.

City staff held an in-person open house on June 18 and an online "open house" June 18-30 to unveil the community center options presented to council on Monday and gauge the community's thoughts on building a new community aquatics center and renovating or building sports fields throughout Camas.

Camas City Administrator Pete Capell said Monday that 101 people attended the June 18 open house at Lacamas Lake Lodge, 1,690 people voted online and 593 people left online comments.

A majority listed a leisure pool, competitive pool and fitness center as their top three priorities for the community aquatics center.

Several commenters said they didn't like the planned Lake Road site, and many were concerned about traffic on Northeast Lake Road and nearby Northeast Everett Street.

Camas Public Works Director Steve Wall said city staff had examined traffic scenarios for a similarly sized center on the Lake Road property and found that, even extending out to 2040, the center's traffic impacts to the Lake Road-Everett intersection would be "fairly minimal."

Wall said the negative traffic impacts of adding a community center to the Lake Road site would mean, at most, a delay of two to four seconds and one car length to any "queueing up" at the intersection.

"Even in the 2040 timeframe, the intersection still operates the way we'd like to see it," Wall told councilmembers Monday.

Addressing many residents' questions about parking at the future community center, Capell said the inclusion of \$5 million worth of off-site improvements would add parking at the nearby Heritage Park and that the site itself would have 134 parking spots at its full build-out.

"If we had a sunny day on the weekend with special events at (Lacamas Lake Lodge) and at the community center, we could have a problem, but most of the time we'll be more than capable of addressing the parking needs at the community center," Capell said.

City staff will have illustrations and information available online as well as at the Camas Days festival in downtown Camas on July 26 and July 27.

Trees:

From page A1

"It was very upsetting," King said of the legal settlement between the city and Waverly Homes, "because we lost everything we'd fought for on that property."

The settlement, reached in late March, was in response to a lawsuit filed by Waverly Homes against the city of Camas after a third-party hearings examiner ruled the developer must take greater steps to preserve a wetlands area and retain more significant trees on the site.

"The property owner was not satisfied with the land-use (ruling) and was alleging multiple claims against the city and seeking damages," Camas City Administrator Pete Capell told the Post-Record this week.

The city's own attorney, as well as lawyers with the Washington Cities Insurance Authority, counseled city staff and Mayor Shannon Turk to settle with the developer.

"Rather than spending a lot of staff time and money, we thought we should see if we (couldn't) reach a settlement," Capell said.

Under the terms of the settlement, the developer must keep trees located inside a 0.5-acre wetlands area, retain an arborist report on other trees they wish to remove from the property — and compensate the city's tree fund for any significant trees removed — and plant trees along the property's Northwest 43rd Avenue boundary that Capell said are "significantly larger" than what would normally be required by city code.

The settlement calls for trees at least 10 feet high and 4 inches in diameter to be planted every 20 feet along the property's Northwest 43rd Avenue frontage.

The developer will be required to pay up to \$15,000 to the city's tree fund — a pool of money for replacing trees lost in developments by planting new trees in other areas of Camas — with set amounts for each tree removed from the property.

Settlement dismantles earlier ruling

In August 2018, the Waverly Homes application landed in an impartial court hearing before Clark County Hearings Examiner Joe Turner.

At that hearing, the city of Camas' lead planner, Sarah Fox, showed the developer's proposal for the 12-lot subdivision, which called for the removal of all but a handful of the 79 trees at the site and halved the existing wetlands, and said city staff believed the developer could retain more trees and better protect the critical wetlands area, per requirements in the city's code.

Turner agreed. In the hearings examiner's final decision, Turner ruled that Waverly Homes needed to modify its development plans to avoid all direct wetlands impacts, revise grading and frontage improvement plans to save 12 trees near Northwest 43rd Avenue and retain 22 existing trees deemed "significant" and in good or fair health by the developer's arborist.

Capell said the city was satisfied with Turner's agreement, and King said the tree advocates felt relieved by the decision.

"This is just one little property, but for once we felt like we'd timed it right and we actually organized and showed up and they did something to protect the trees," King said. "Now, we've been told there's nothing we can do because of the settlement."

Although the city and tree advocates were pleased with Turner's decision, the developers were frustrated by the new requirements.

During the August 2018 hearing before Turner, Waverly Homes representative Brett Simpson said the developers had reconfigured the site several times to lessen wetlands impacts and retain trees.

"We've decreased lot sizes and ... pushed it down as far as we could," Simpson testified at the August 2018 hearing. "We've reduced it as much

as we possibly could while still trying to maintain a neighborhood."

Simpson told Turner that retaining the site's existing trees was complicated by city requirements to the site that would require extensive grading, filling and construction near the trees' root zones.

"We've done what we could to comply with city code," Simpson told Turner. "We're not taking down trees because I want to do it. It costs money to take down trees. I'm fine with leaving the trees and not doing road improvements (along Northwest 43rd Avenue), but I can't do both."

Simpson said the construction work would smother and damage tree roots in several areas of the site, threatening the trees' ability to live after the development was established.

He also argued that taking down the trees in this particular development, which is boxed in by other housing subdivisions, was preferable to removing trees in a less urban environment.

"To me it's more of a macro issue," Simpson told Turner. "Urban infill is regarded as having much less of an (environmental) impact than urban sprawl."

In the end, however, Turner ruled the developer could take steps during the construction to protect the root zones for several existing trees.

In his final order, Turner found that "with revised grading and frontage improvement designs, 12 trees near the (Northwest Third Avenue) right of way could be preserved" and that the developer must retain 22 significant trees on the site and avoid direct wetlands impacts.

Unhappy with Turner's decision, Waverly Homes — a Vancouver developer that has subdivisions underway throughout Clark County, including the 19-home "Magnolia" development in northwest Washougal — sued the city of Camas for damages.

"I feel like the developers were bullying," King said. "The way they went

about this — suing the city — is just wrong."

King said the private settlement made many of the tree advocates question if they can have any real impact on their city's livability.

"There was this tiny window to make some change and we felt like we'd had this small win. We were so excited," King said. "But now we've been told there's nothing we can do because of the settlement. It's like, 'What's the point?'"

King also worries that the city is settling on other land-use issues and essentially paying money to lawyers that only benefits private developers.

"How much did the city pay to have their lawyers go back and forth on this?" King asked. "And for what? What does the city get out of it?"

Capell said these types of private settlements are rare. In his nearly six years as Camas' city administrator, he can only remember two other instances when the city settled with a developer over a land-use issue.

The city's new urban tree ordinance, which requires greater tree preservation efforts on new developments, should help solve some of these disputes before they get to a hearings examiner or lawsuit stage, Capell added.

"The new ordinance spells it out better so we'll get more consistency," Capell said.

On Monday, members of the CTP group photographed the first felled trees on the property. King said she and other group members knew the sit-in wouldn't save the Northwest 43rd Avenue trees, but wanted to draw the public's attention to similar developments still in the pipeline in Camas.

"Our goals are to stop the clearcutting of trees in Camas and to tell developers we want them to think outside the box," King said. "Why can't we be a community that incorporates trees into our landscapes, into our developments? We should be able to do that here."

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WASHOUGAL
YOUNG ATHLETE OF THE Week



Amelia Pullen, WHS grad

This week's Camas-Washougal Young Athlete of the Week is recent Washougal High School graduate Amelia Pullen. Pullen won the state 2A cross-country championship and will be running track and field at Warner Pacific College in the fall. She thanks her faithful dog and daily running partner, Cienna, for much of her running success. Pullen also was one of four valedictorians for the Washougal High School class of 2019 and plans to become a veterinarian.

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CAMAS-WASHOUGAL POST-RECORD

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9 Sections, 98 Pages • \$1.00

CAMAS STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

Mayor pressured on aquatics center

Turk faces outbursts, questions about \$78 million bond during annual event

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

Community address, held Sept. 19 at Lacamas Lake Lodge in Camas.

Camas leaders from the city, school district and port greeted a standing-room-only crowd at the 2019 Camas State of the

Camas School Board President Doug Quinn moderated the annual showcase of local government agencies' most recent accomplishments and fu-

ture ambitions.

Camas Mayor Shannon Turk delivered her first State of the Community speech since being appointed mayor in November 2018, and spoke about the city's current Brady Road repair project, the construction of a \$2 million water reservoir, the planned Lake Road-Everett Street traffic round-

about, growth in the North Shore area, acquisition of open space land and the city's new plans for communicating with the general public.

Of all the issues Turk discussed at the State of the Community address, however, one topic — the city's November ballot proposition asking Camas voters to approve a \$78 million bond to build a community aquatics cen-

ter and upgrade several Camas-area athletic fields — received the most push-back during the event's question-and-answer session.

Reading from cards that community members had filled out before the State of the Community event got underway, Quinn asked Turk if the bond proposition would adversely impact other taxpayer-

funded city services.

"No, it would not, because that is revenue we are asking you to provide through our bond," Turk began to explain before a man in the audience began yelling.

"Does \$78 million in ..." the unidentified man shouted before Quinn cut him off, pointing toward

See Address, page A2

Bear of a sculpture to settle in Washougal

City will install bronze artwork made by 'Seaman' artist next month in downtown

By **DOUG FLANAGAN**
Post-Record staff writer

A bear is coming to downtown Washougal.

Local residents have no reason to fear, however. This bear is made of bronze and deemed "family friendly" by its creator, Cascade Locks, Oregon artist Heather Söderberg.

The Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance (WACA) recently purchased "Dreaming," Söderberg's bronze sculpture of a grizzly bear, with the intention of donating it to the city of Washougal.

WACA board member Chuck Carpenter said the 400-pound sculpture will be installed at the southwest corner of the Pendleton Way and "A" Street intersection in early October.

"This life-sized bear is

amazing in its character and detail and is certain to become a community and visitor favorite," Carpenter said in a news release issued by WACA. "Like the bronze 'Seaman' sculpture in Reflection Plaza, this too will be large enough for people to sit with for pictures and will add more charm and interest to our downtown."

WACA has been fundraising for more than a year to purchase the \$30,000 "Dreaming" sculpture. Money raised for the purchase came from the city's lodging tax funds, WACA membership fees, individual donations (including a "substantial contribution" from Washougal residents Jim and Betty Cooper) and fundraising



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO COURTESY OF RENE CARROLL

Heather Söderberg, an artist from Cascade Locks, Ore., stands by her bear sculpture, which will be sited in downtown Washougal in October. The Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance fundraised for more than a year to purchase the \$30,000 bronze bear sculpture.

events, including the Washougal Arts festival held in August.

Suzanne Grover, the city's parks and cemetery program manager, said the art sculpture will add to the city's public art offerings and is on the city's "art walk" tour.

Söderberg, owner of the Söderberg Gallery and Stu-

dio in Cascade Locks, has designed other public art for Washougal, including the "Seaman" sculpture in Reflection Plaza and the "Chak Chak American Eagle" at Washougal Waterfront Park.

She started work on the bear sculpture about six years ago "just for fun."

See Sculpture, page A3

Washougal waterfront plan coming into focus

Port leaders want to finalize Waterfront at Parker's Landing master plan by year's end

By **DOUG FLANAGAN**
Post-Record staff writer

For the past several months the Port of Camas-Washougal has been soliciting feedback from local residents about their preferences for the Port's waterfront development.

For potential amenities, bars, brewpubs and eateries emerged as the most popular choices. That didn't surprise Port chief executive officer David Ripp; in fact, he voted for those things as well.

"I like restaurants," Ripp said. "I want to sit outside. Even if it's just having a beer or a coffee or an appetizer, I want people to come down for the ambience. There are good restaurants all over, but we want to draw people here with what we call 'destination purpose.' That's what really excites me about this development."

A strong retail base, filled with eating and drinking spots, will be a part of The Waterfront at Parker's Landing, which Port officials hope will be "a lively, walkable place with community gathering and character spaces, commercial, retail, mixed-use and residential uses," according to the Port's website.

At the Port commissioners' Sept. 15 meeting, Matt Brown of YBA Architects, a Portland-based firm that is working on the project along with Portland-based RKM Development, presented three master-plan options, which were created with the help of the community's feedback.

However, Port officials aren't interested in choosing one of the options, which have been posted on the Port's website and social media channels.

"We do not want to pick the best one," Port commissioner Larry Keister said at the Sept. 15 meeting. "We want to encourage the discussion of, what part of each one do (local residents) like and what concepts would they like to see put together? This is the beginning of the development of our ideas so that we can start putting things together to make things possible. This is the (public's) project, and there will be many opportunities for us to continue on with this discussion. We want to put together the best package we possibly can."

That means the Port is likely to pull together a fourth waterfront option that represents a mixture of elements from the three designs.

"We'll start talking about that in more depth and detail and take more input from the public at our (upcoming) workshop and meetings, and eventually narrow it down," Ripp said. "We have to push. We want to keep moving forward. We don't want to delay, because the more we delay, future events are delayed moving forward."

See Waterfront, page A3

Camas schools, classified workers reach deal

Three-year contract includes tool stipends for mechanics, cost of living adjustments

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

The Camas School Board this week approved a three-year bargaining contract with the SEIU 1948 Public

School Employees of Camas union that represents the district's hundreds of classified workers.

The two groups had been bargaining since June 19, and Marilyn Boerke, the school district's director of

talent development, told school board members Monday night at the board's regular meeting that she was pleased by the end results of the contract bargaining sessions.

"I was thrilled with the way the negotiations went," Boerke said, praising the union's leaders. "You could see how passionate people

are about their work they do and about each other."

The Public School Employees (PSE) union leaders said Monday their group hadn't had a chance to sign the bargaining agreement, but that union members had already approved the contract language.

See Contract, page A6

What's Inside...

Index

- Obituaries..... A2
- Opinion..... A4
- Sports..... A5
- Around Town..... B2
- Classifieds..... B3
- Public Notices B4



TREESONG YEARNING FOR A YURT

Concert, art show to help Washougal-area nonprofit add space:
Hometown, Page B1

STRIDING TOWARD EXCELLENCE



WHS cross country teams reloading with young talent:
Sports, Page A5



DEATH NOTICES

Apple, Joseph J., 58, Washougal, died Sept. 17, 2019. All County Cremation and Burial Services. 360-718-7948.

Buntin, Jeanette Y., 93, Vancouver, died Sept. 10, 2019. Straub's Funeral Home & Columbia River Cremation. 360-834-4563.

Herndon, Wayne, 77, Camas, died Sept. 20, 2019. All County Cremation and Burial Services. 360-718-7948.

Johnson, Phyllis A., 79, Washougal, died Sept. 15, 2019. Straub's Funeral Home & Columbia River Cremation. 360-834-4563.

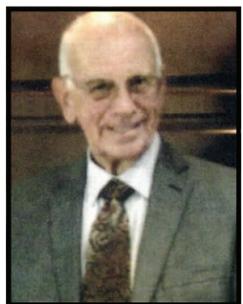
Hart, Lowell D., 91, Washougal, died Sept. 12, 2019. Brown's Funeral Home. 360-834-3692.

Pratt, John D., 66, Washougal, died Sept. 5, 2019. All County Cremation and Burial Services. 360-718-7948.

Warren, Cleo M., Vancouver (formerly Washougal), died Sept. 10, 2019. All County Cremation and Burial Services. 360-718-7948.

Wilmarth, Charles R. III, 79, Vancouver, died Sept. 15, 2019. Brown's Funeral Home. 360-834-3692.

OBITUARIES



JAMES "JIM" C. DAVIS, JR.
March 24, 1929 ~ August 21, 2019

On Aug. 21, 2019, James "Jim" C. Davis, Jr., 90, of Temecula, CA, went to Glory. He was born in Seattle, WA to Bernice and James Davis, Sr. At 3 years old, Jim's mother died. His father remarried Veloise (Johnny) Litts in Oct. 1935 and had two sons, Rev. Ted Davis and Michael Davis (deceased) and two daughters, Joy (Davis) Newman and Joanna (Davis) Phillips. James Sr. remained on active duty in the Pacific after the attack on Pearl Harbor. His family evacuated to IA, retiring in 1947, when they moved to Washougal, WA. Jim graduated from Washougal High School in 1948. He married Carol Nagel Waimot on Dec. 24, 1950 and they moved to Ontario, CA where Jim worked for the Gas Co., retiring after 32 years. Jim and Carol were married 42 years and raised 3 children: Angela (Davis) Roland, Paul and Mark Nagel. Carol died in 1992. Jim remarried in 1993 to Margaret "Meg" Rogers, gaining five loving children. Jim's Celebration of Life was held in August at his church at Gateway Nazarene in Temecula, CA. (Jim's favorite scripture was Matt 25:21.)

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From page A1

the back of the crowded room where the man was seated.

"Excuse me, sir, no. I'm going to make a point right now. I will not tolerate outbursts from the audience. I would ask you to please be respectful and submit your question. If you have a statement to make, after the meeting you can approach the mayor or the council. That is appropriate. That," Quinn said, referencing the man's outburst, "is not."

The crowd burst into applause at Quinn's response, and the mayor finished her answer: "OK, so as far as building the facility itself, no, city programs would not be in jeopardy because we are asking for money specific for the construction of that facility."

Turk added that city leaders "will make sure that our current existing services ... are not jeopardized by the start of that community center" and that money the city spends on recreation services right now would go toward similar services offered at the new community-aquatics center.

The second question of the night centered around costs for using the community center: If Camas taxpayers pay to build the center, would Camas residents also receive a membership discount?

"Absolutely," Turk said, "your tax dollars are paying for that investment ... you will get a discounted rate versus somebody who is coming to our community center from Vancouver."

The third question asked Turk to speak to those in the room who support and oppose the community aquatics center.

To the center's supporters, Turk said: "Thank you. You are probably one of the people that have filled out our community surveys and told us over the years that this is a high priority for you. And we have listened to you. We have pulled information together, and this is the best proposal we could put together."

To those who oppose the \$78 million community center bond proposal, Turk said: "I'm asking you to trust me."

A community member shouted "No," to that, but Turk kept going.

"This is a concept that we are putting together based on community surveys," Turk said. "This is the best concept that we have at this point. There (is) \$78 million for this facility and sports fields improvements. It's a concept. The ballot measure is the



KELLY MOYER/POST-RECORD

Camas Mayor Shannon Turk speaks to a crowded house at the Lacamas Lake Lodge on Sept. 19, during her first Camas State of the Community address.

absolute highest amount we can collect."

Turk compared the \$78 million "huge ask" to someone getting pre-approved for a \$500,000 home loan and finding a home for \$400,000, so they only take out a loan for \$400,000.

"If we don't ask for (\$78 million) then we might not get the center," Turk said. "People have, quite frankly, they've told me that I'm stupid. They say, 'You should not have asked for such a high amount. It's never going to pass. You should have asked for \$50 million and fundraised to get it up there.' To that I say, 'Yes, that's one way we could have gone.' ... But I know of facilities in this area that have plans for competitive pools sitting in the drawer. They've never fundraised. They're never getting that pool."

Turk added that she realized asking for \$78 million was "a risk" on the city's part.

"But I'm hoping that you trust me, that we are going to put together the best plan we have on the best site," Turk said. "I know there are questions about sites, about what will be done specifically at this center, but I'm asking you to trust the city. And if you don't trust me, trust the city council. You have seven amazing people with diverse backgrounds, with diverse interests, that keep me in check. That's their job. We have a system of checks and balances. We're all working together. This is where we're going. We can talk about different locations and about different things happening (at the center) after the ballot passes."

Turk said the school district leader highlighted recent accomplishments within the district — a Camas educator named Washington's 2020 Teacher of the Year; graduation rates topping 90 percent; nearing completion on facilities funded by the district's 2016 building bond and working through a 2019-20 budget that saw revenue deficits of more than \$8 million.

School funding has been and "Building 20" plans and the school district's recent acquisition of the former United Laboratories (UL) building and land. Ripp said the Port has had great success filling buildings in its industrial development park, and pointed to plans for "Building 20," a 50,000-square-foot spec building the Port hopes to begin construction on in 2021. Like Building 18, an industrial building the Port finished in May 2018 that is at 100-percent occupancy with six businesses, Ripp said Port leaders expect to have little trouble filling space in the planned Building 20 development. The Port also is working to complete a long-awaited project at Parker's Landing on waterfront land at the edge of Camas and Washougal.

"We're trying to look at what you like in the options," Ripp said.

The Port will "meld" those ideas into a main design concept that the public should be able to see later this year, Ripp said. (For more information about the three waterfront designs, see a related article in today's Post-Record.)

In Snell's State of the Community address, the school district leader highlighted recent accomplishments within the district — a Camas educator named Washington's 2020 Teacher of the Year; graduation rates topping 90 percent; nearing completion on facilities funded by the district's 2016 building bond and working through a 2019-20 budget that saw revenue deficits of more than \$8 million.

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"We asked, 'What does the community want to see (on the waterfront)?" Ripp said in his State of the Community address. "Last Monday we presented three concepts. And it's not about what we want, it's about what you want."

Ripp said Port leaders are looking at the three concept designs to see which elements from each design most appeal to community members.

"We're trying to look at what you like in the options," Ripp said.

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School funding has been

"volatile" over the past two to three years, Snell said, and may continue to be volatile for the next couple years as school districts and state legislators continue to grapple with the issue of adequately — and equitably — funding Washington's K-12 public schools.

"We went through 4.5 percent budget reductions last year and that was tough," Snell said. "No one wants to go through a budget reduction process."

On the positive side, Snell pointed to the district's recent acquisition of the former UL property and building in Camas, the opening of the new Lacamas Lake Elementary and Discovery High schools and 2016 building-bond work that will soon "bring the Garver Theatre back online" and upgrade athletic fields with new turf.

Snell said district leaders and educators are working to address students' social-emotional health in Camas.

"You've told us you're worried about kids' stress levels and (emotional) health," Snell said, adding that recent surveys showing one in five Camas students have expressed self-harm or suicidal thoughts are concerning.

"We know it's not OK," Snell said of the "one in five" number and of recent data showing suicide deaths in Camas have not decreased in recent years.

He encouraged community members to look at the district's 2-year-old "All-Student Wellness Program," which offers in-person classes, online videos and other resources for improving young people's social-emotional health at camas.wednet.edu.

City to host 'Camas 101' courses

Education and community outreach was another aspect of Turk's city presentation at the State of the Community, and the mayor said city leaders are holding Ward meetings throughout the year to speak about issues that impact various areas of the city.

Also new in 2020 is "Camas 101," a program Turk has modeled on the Leadership Clark County courses that teach citizens about the inner workings of county government.

The Camas 101 program will offer an eight-week course, with a maximum of 25 participants, to teach community members about the history of Camas, the roles of the city's mayor and city council, and the city's role in funding and implementing various programs and city services.

"We envision this as a way to meet your neighbors and know more about your community," Turk said of the Camas 101 program, which is slated to begin in 2020.

Port, school district spotlight future developments, students' emotional health

Other highlights from this year's State of the Community address came from Ripp and Snell as they discussed the Port's waterfront development

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FISHER INVESTMENTS

\$3B lost after founder's comments

Ken Fisher's Oct. 8 remarks deemed sexist by his peers

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

It has been a little more than three weeks since money manager Ken

Fisher, founder of Fisher Investments, Camas' largest private employer, was called out in national media for making comments deemed inappropriate and sexist by his peers at an Oct. 8 investors conference in San Francisco.

The fallout has been swift, with media outlets like the New York Times, Washington Post, the Or-

egonian and Forbes reporting nearly every day since that clients are distancing themselves from Fisher Investments. Over the past three weeks, the firm has lost more than \$3 billion from clients such as the Michigan Department of Treasury's Bureau of Investments, the Los Angeles fire and police pension board and the New Hamp-

shire Retirement System.

On Friday, Oct. 25, Fisher penned an open letter to the Camas community apologizing for his comments — and assuring residents that Fisher Investments is in no danger.

"I know that this situation — one for which I and I alone am entirely responsible — caused stress, negativity, fear and no end

of hassle for our employees, their families and this town," Fisher stated in his letter sent to the Post-Record last week. "For my whole career, I've worked to build a great reality for our clients and our associates, while trying to be a good corporate citizen in the communities where we live. Clearly, on this occasion, I failed them and you

— and I deeply apologize. But I will never repeat this kind of error in any way in either my business or my personal life. I promise you that."

Fisher said the firm, which employs 3,500 workers throughout the world, including 1,750 employees at the company's 200-acre

See Fisher, page A3

CAMAS' \$78M QUESTION

Prop. 2 asks voters to build community-aquatics center, renovate sports fields



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF CITY OF CAMAS

An illustration shows what the future Camas Community Aquatics Center might look like if voters approve a \$78 million bond on the Nov. 5 ballot and city leaders opt to build the center on a city-owned parcel near Lacamas and Fallen Leaf lakes.

Camas leaders say center is decades in the making; opponents question costs, location

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

"There have been a lot of studies, but no actions," Camas City Councilman Greg Anderson told his council peers in April when the group first brought up the idea of bringing a community center bond proposal to voters in the next general election. "I would rather do something and fail than do nothing."

Anderson, who has lived in Camas for 26 years and been a member of the city council for more than 22 years, said the idea of building a community center in Camas was something that had been kicked around as long as he could remember.

Three months later, Anderson and the rest of the Council agreed to put a proposition on the Nov. 5, 2019 General Election ballot that would allow the city to issue general obligation bonds in an amount up to \$78 million for the construction of a new community-aquatics center and renovation of three Camas sports fields.

Steve Hogan, another longtime Camas city councilman who had seen the idea of a Camas community center pop up several times in his 14 years on council, agreed the issue was ready to come before voters.

"It's time to move forward with something," Hogan said in July. "A lot of good people

See Bond, page A5

"I would rather do something and fail than do nothing."

— Greg Anderson, Camas City Councilman



KELLY MOYER/POST-RECORD

"Vote No" and "Vote Yes" signs related to the city of Camas' proposed \$78 million community-aquatics center bond mingle with candidate signs throughout Camas.



Forum puts candidates in spotlight

League of Women Voters event at Camas Library hits on range of topics

By **DOUG FLANAGAN AND KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record staff writers

Dozens of Camas-Washougal community members attended the League of Women Voters' annual candidate forum last week to hear local candidates running for city council, school board, port commission and county council seats answer questions composed by League members.

Moderated by League member Jane Johnson and held Oct. 23 at the Camas Public Library, the event was one of three regional candidate forums hosted by the League in the run-up to the Nov. 5 general election.

The Oct. 23 forum featured Camas City Councilwoman Deanna Rusch and her challenger, Shannon Roberts; Washougal School Board candidates Jim Cooper and Bill Durgan; Port of Camas-Washougal Commissioner Bill Ward and his challenger, Cassi Marshall; as well as candidates running for Clark County Council and the Evergreen School District.

The League had also invited Washougal City Councilman Ray Kutch and his challenger, Denise Korhonen, to speak at the forum, but canceled the appearance after Korhonen declined to participate.

See Forum, page A6

Camas youth host hopefuls at annual forum

Oct. 24 event at Discovery High quizzed Camas candidates on city's growth, community center bond

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

Camas candidates vying for county and city councils as well as the Camas mayor's seat attended the Camas Youth Advisory Council (CYAC)'s 17th annual candidate forum last week to answer questions crafted by Camas youth.

Candidates invited to the local youth-hosted

forum typically gather at Camas High School each October, but CYAC members, including moderators Julia Bintz, Lily Dozier, Ingrid Larsen, Walter Scholdorf and Victor Wu, chose to host this year's forum at the Camas School District's new Discovery High, a projects-based learning school that opened in 2018.

See Youth, page A2

Frustrated by lack of candidates, Camas newcomer runs for mayor

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

By the time Barry McDonnell felt called to local politics, it was far too late to enter the Camas mayoral race as anything other than a write-in candidate.

"It was really in September of this year that I decided (to run)," McDonnell, 41, said.

The Camas City Council's mid-July decision to put a com-

munity-aquatics center bond proposition on the Nov. 5 general election ballot was the issue that made McDonnell first take note of his new city's locally elected officials.

"I was really frustrated that there weren't other candidates other than the appointed mayor, McDonnell said. "Towards the end of September, I decided, 'Maybe it's me.' And, on Oct. 2, I made the decision (to run as a write-in mayoral candidate)."

Over the past month, Mc-

Donnell has been actively trying to get his name out to Camas voters, sending mailers, putting out yard signs, answering questions on social media sites like NextDoor, establishing a website — write inbarryforcamas.com — and starting a podcast to talk about himself and his family, which includes wife, Anastasia, and the couple's four children, ages 2 to 13.

See McDonnell, page A8



Barry McDonnell, Write-in candidate for Camas mayor

What's Inside...

Index

- Obituaries.....A2
- Around Town.....B4
- Community.....B5
- Schools.....B3
- Sports.....B1-2
- Opinion.....A4
- Classifieds.....B6
- Public Notices....B7



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INSIDE

RIVALRY WEEK FOR PAPERMAKERS

Camas football team to face defending champs after win over Storm:

Sports, Page B1



Bond:

From page A1

over the years have tried to get this on the table.”

Camas voters will decide the fate of the city's Proposition 2 in the Nov. 5 general election. To pass, the proposition will need to garner the approval of 60 percent of voters.

'A compilation of needs and requests'

Proposition 2 asks Camas voters to approve up to \$78 million to build a community-aquatics center at a yet-to-be-determined location in Camas, and renovate sports fields throughout the city.

When they voted in July to bring the issue to voters, city councilors had reviewed 12 options presented by city staff.

The selected option was not the most expensive — the highest ticket option also included a \$12 million sports complex — but it did include the most amenities for the community-aquatics center, such as a 78,000-square-foot building with a recreation pool, a competition lap pool, gymnasium, community rooms, cardio and weight rooms, and an indoor walk-jog track overlooking the gym courts and the preferred (but not definite) site's forested areas.

The selected option also includes \$6 million worth of upgrades to local sports fields. If approved by voters on Nov. 5, the proposal would make \$2.7 million worth of renovations, including turf and lighting, at Forest Home Park; \$2.3 million in improvements at Prune Hill Sports Park; and \$1 million in renovations to sports fields at Dorothy Fox Park.

Camas Mayor Shannon Turk recently told the Post-Record the bond proposal is “a compilation of the needs and requests” city leaders have heard from community members for the past two decades.

“I understand why this might feel like several bond measures in one request, but this is the compilation of many years worth of requests,” Turk said.

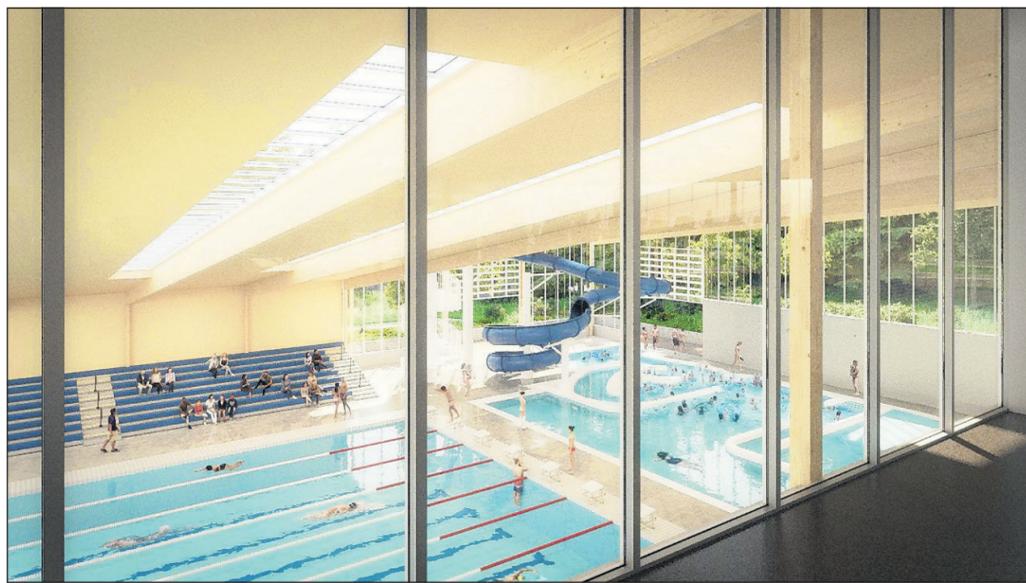
During her three terms on the Camas City Council, Turk, who holds a master's degree in public administration from Portland State University and has worked for local governments in the Pacific Northwest since the late 1990s, said she regularly heard from constituents about a desire for more and improved sports fields as well as a new community center.

“I think sports fields improvements was one of the biggest improvements I heard during my council years,” Turk said. “I know getting a replacement (swimming) pool was also important to the community.”

Camas officials voted in 2018 to demolish the city's 65-year-old outdoor municipal swimming pool in Crown Park, after Washington State Department of Health regulators told city leaders the pool had severe mechanical and structural issues. The city was already spending around \$75,000 a year just to open the pool for about 10 weeks each year, and never recouped the costs to maintain the pool from its user fees. In 2017, city officials faced an additional \$300,000 to open the pool and even that was no guarantee that the pool wouldn't need additional fixes down the road.

“There was no guarantee those same problems wouldn't crop up again. We didn't know if we would spend this money, at least \$300,000, and then it would be a year or two before we had the same problem,” Turk told the Post-Record in early 2019, just weeks before the pool's demolition.

Once the city decided to



An illustration shows what the inside of a future Camas Community Aquatics Center might look like if voters approve a \$78 million bond on the Nov. 5 ballot. The center would include community center amenities, a gymnasium, weight/cardio rooms and two pools, including the competition pool (left) and recreation pool (right) shown here.

close the public pool, state rules demanded the pool be demolished or reopened within one year. City officials OK'd the pool's demolition and crews dismantled the historic pool — the only outdoor public swimming pool in Clark County — in early 2019.

But the community-aquatics center was never intended to be a straight substitution for the outdoor pool, Turk said. And city officials still intend to revamp Crown Park, where all that remains of the historic swimming pool is a flat, grassy field.

“We have not forgotten about Crown Park,” Turk said. “It's definitely not going to be forgotten. It's the most loved park in our city.”

While city leaders still intend to redo Crown Park, possibly installing an outdoor water feature like a splash pad near the former site of the outdoor swimming pool, the idea of building a community center with an indoor, year-round pool is something that was on city officials' radar long before they discovered the city's outdoor pool was having major problems.

In 2017, the city hired consultants from the Portland-based firm Greenworks PC to help plan the future of Camas' Crown Park. More than 1,400 residents weighed in on the firm's survey.

During this process, Randy Curtis, then chairman of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, told the Post-Record a number of respondents said they would rather see a year-round aquatics center in Camas.

An indoor aquatics center was something Curtis, the 2016 Camas “Citizen of the Year,” also was passionate about.

“We've seen in surveys that have been done (on a potential Camas community center), that one of the key things people want is an indoor aquatics center,” Curtis told the Post-Record in 2017.

Turk said she supports the community-aquatics center proposal for that very same reason.

“We have great recreation opportunities in Camas for about four months out of the year, but then, the rest of the year, people need a different place to go and that means families are going into Vancouver,” Turk said. “The community-aquatics center would provide year-round recreation opportunities for local families.”

City officials have long known the cost of building a community-aquatics center would be pricey. In April 2018, a Washougal-based community center study committee received preliminary information from a Colorado consultant showing the cost of a 63,875-square-foot multi-use community center with a lap pool and a leisure pool as well as a gym,

walk/jog track, community room, kitchen, classroom, game room, weight/cardio area, cafe and drop-in child daycare area would cost nearly \$40 million to construct.

Likewise, in October 2018, a committee exploring a joint Camas-Washougal community-aquatics center discovered it would likely cost about \$60 million to build a 87,000-square-foot community center with a 7,500-square-foot recreational pool, an eight-lane competition pool and an indoor walking track.

When they approved sending the issue to voters, Camas city councilors said they recognized the \$78 million was a big ask for the community, but thought the community was driven to get something like the proposed community-aquatics center built in Camas.

“We do a survey every two years and the community center has been in the top five ‘wants’ in nearly every survey for a while,” Anderson told the Post-Record earlier this month. “This is something people have been asking for.”

Camas City Administrator Pete Capell said the community support shown in the bi-annual surveys weighed into the council's decision to “do the full thing instead of phasing it” when it came time to take the bond to voters.

Capell said council members have not yet indicated if they might be willing to come back in a future election with a smaller community-aquatics center bond if voters knock down Proposition 2 on Nov. 5. “Early on, (council members) said, ‘Well, people are asking for it now, so rather than continue to study it, we'll see what the voters want,’” Capell said. “Previously they have said they'll put it to rest (if the bond proposition fails), but they can always revisit it.”

Opponents questions location, costs

The issue of where to place the community-aquatics center has convoluted the bond proposition for many voters.

Although many city officials seemed drawn to a city-owned parcel near the intersection of Northwest Lake Road and Everett Street, between Lacamas and Fallen Leaf lakes, Turk said opposition to the proposed site have made her realize the city will likely need to reevaluate location if the bond passes on Nov. 5. “I do believe the concept (on the site near Lacamas Lake) is absolutely beautiful,” Turk said. “But there have been enough concerns brought up that movement of the center may be advisable.”

Leaders of a “No on Prop 2” group did not return

the Post-Record's requests for interviews, but many residents critical of the bond proposal have said they have questions about the proposed center's traffic and environmental impacts if city officials choose to site it at the proposed site off Lake Road.

Capell said preliminary studies by city staff have shown the center would not overload the nearby traffic intersection at Lake Road and Everett Street, which is set to be reconfigured into a roundabout that should accommodate Camas' growing population for at least 30 years. He also said more extensive environmental and traffic impact studies would be required for any site city officials choose for the proposed community-aquatics center.

City leaders have considered several sites for the community center, including the former site of the now-closed James David Zellerbach School at 841 N.E. 22nd Ave.; a parcel known as “the Anderson property” near Camas' Goot Park off Southeast Zenith Street; some downtown Camas parcels; land owned by Georgia-Pacific; and the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) property off Northwest Lake Road recently purchased by the Camas School District.

The current bond proposition includes \$5.8 million in site improvement costs, so if the city chose another location, those costs — slated for things like improvements to Lake Road and parking expansion at nearby Heritage Park — could be rolled into the construction costs, especially if the city had to purchase land for the community center.

“There have been some concerns about the location and not just about the traffic,” Capell told the Post-Record this week. “There is nothing in the bond proposition that states it has to go there (off Lake Road). We would evaluate the site in more detail if (the bond) passes. And we have considered alternate locations.”

Bond opponents also have questioned how the center's construction — as well as future operations and maintenance — costs will impact Camas' property owners.

According to the city's finance director, Cathy Huber Nickerson, the bond would cost Camas property owners and additional \$1.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2021 and decrease gradually to 67 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2039. This would cost the owner of a \$464,400 home — the median Camas home price

— \$41 per month, or \$492 per year, in 2021. There are tax exemptions available for those age 61 and older, disabled residents and veterans with a household income of \$50,348.

The bond would last 20 years and would be more spread out amongst taxpayers as the city, expected to increase its population by nearly 50 percent over the next 20 years, continues to grow.

“What ends up happening is that the bond debt is the same amount every year but we end up with new construction and new people moving in, so (the cost of the bond) is spread out,” Capell said.

The costs to commercial property owners in Camas, Capell admitted, could be substantial, but city leaders say they believe the construction of a community-aquatics center would help attract and retain corporations and business owners looking to locate in an area with a high quality of life.

“We as a community have always voted in school levies because the quality of education, the quality of life is really important to this community,” Capell said. “It's also what attracts a lot of employers and businesses. So, yes, if you're a large employer with lots of property, you're going to be paying a lot, but also it's going to be the kind of community you want to live in.”

Many residents have approached the city council and mayor with questions about the center's future operations and maintenance costs. Some worry city officials will return with a request for more taxpayer money to keep the center going if Prop 2 passes on Nov. 5.

Turk and Capell have both said the city will not go out to voters with an operations and maintenance levy request for the proposed community-aquatics center.

An analysis by a city consultant showed the difference between the center's expenses and revenues would be \$843,000 annually, Capell said the city has \$400,000 from its Parks and Recreation budget to help decrease that annual cost as well as the roughly \$100,000 the city spent each year to repair and open the now-defunct Crown Park swimming pool. Indirect costs for human resources, administration and finance connected to the staff costs at the center would likely generate another \$76,000 from the city's enterprise funds such as water and sewer, Capell said. That would put the operating and maintenance costs to the city around \$267,000 a

year. “These are just ballpark numbers,” Capell said. “It may end up being less. ... The bottom line is: we're not going to ask voters for a new tax (to cover the operating and maintenance costs).”

Turk said she has heard from people concerned the community-aquatics center could endanger local businesses that provide similar services.

“It is not our intention to put anyone out of business,” Turk said. “Instead of thinking that, if we offer dance classes we'll put a local dance company out of business, I see (the community center) as an opportunity for local instructors to partner with us.”

Turk said she sees the community-aquatics center as an incubator of sorts for local recreational businesses and dance or yoga studios: the community center classes would help open people's eyes to a variety of athletic pursuits but only offer beginning type of classes so residents would need to visit local businesses to take more advanced classes in dance, yoga or martial arts.

Capell agreed and said he believes similar businesses can thrive in a community like Camas.

“I look around downtown Camas and it amazes me how many coffee shops and beer shops we have,” Capell said. “It seems like, when another one opens, the (existing businesses) thrive and do just as well.”

'Never once have I wavered on the importance of this bond'

Turk has received the brunt of the bond opponents' ire this election season, even drawing two write-in candidates for her position as Camas' mayor, but said she stands behind Proposition 2 and believes the community-aquatics center would be good for Camas residents and for the city's future.

“If this passes, we're going to be a more livable community,” Turk said. “I've worked in parks and recreation for a long time and I've seen the benefits (of community centers). If this passes, the kids here will have a place to go. They can dive into a pool instead of jumping into the potholes (a dangerous spot near Camas' Round Lake). Seniors will come and won't have to feel so isolated or alone. The teens would have a place to go instead of going home and hiding out. I think about what this would mean to our community. I think about the people who would gain new skills through classes at the community center, about the neighbors gaining new connections to other neighbors. About my home's value going up.”

Turk admitted there have been times this election season when she wondered why she ever opened this particular can of worms, but said she still believes the community-aquatics center — despite backlash from some residents — would be a boon to Camas.

“I personally believe in this 100 percent,” Turk said. “I'm confident that we are setting the community up for success. I'm sure of that. Never once have I wavered on the importance of this bond.”

To view links to Post-Record stories on the Camas pool and community center dating back to 2017, visit camaspostrecord.com.

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Camas voters sink aquatics center

90 percent of voters saying 'no' to \$78 million community-aquatics center

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

Camas' Proposition 2, also known as the "\$78 million pool bond," has failed.

With about 73 percent of ballots counted Tuesday evening, the ballot proposition — which asked Camas voters to approve up to \$78 million to build a community-aquatics center at a yet-to-be-determined loca-

tion in Camas, and renovate sports fields throughout the city — had only garnered 10 percent voter approval.

Camas Mayor Shannon Turk said she was still happy city leaders had put the issue to voters despite the failing proposition.

"I would say that the people have spoken loud



and clear," Turk said Tuesday night. "We put the issue to the people for them to decide. We will listen to that and decide how to move on."

The proposition needed

60 percent approval to pass.

Online and in public meetings, bond opponents questioned everything from the price tag, which would have cost taxpayers an additional \$1.04 per \$1,000 in assessed property value in 2021, to the proposed location of the center on a busy stretch of

Northeast Lake Road near Lacamas and Fallen Leaf lakes, to the ongoing maintenance and operations costs the center would have required.

City council members were unanimous in their decision to put the issue to voters, and many longtime

See Bond, page A2

Honored to Serve

Washougal veteran Ken Shold, 96, recounts World War II experiences

By **DOUG FLANAGAN**
Post-Record staff writer

Asked about his most vivid memories from World War II, Ken Shold, a 96-year-old Washougal veteran, tilts his head back, closes his eyes and stays silent for a moment before responding.

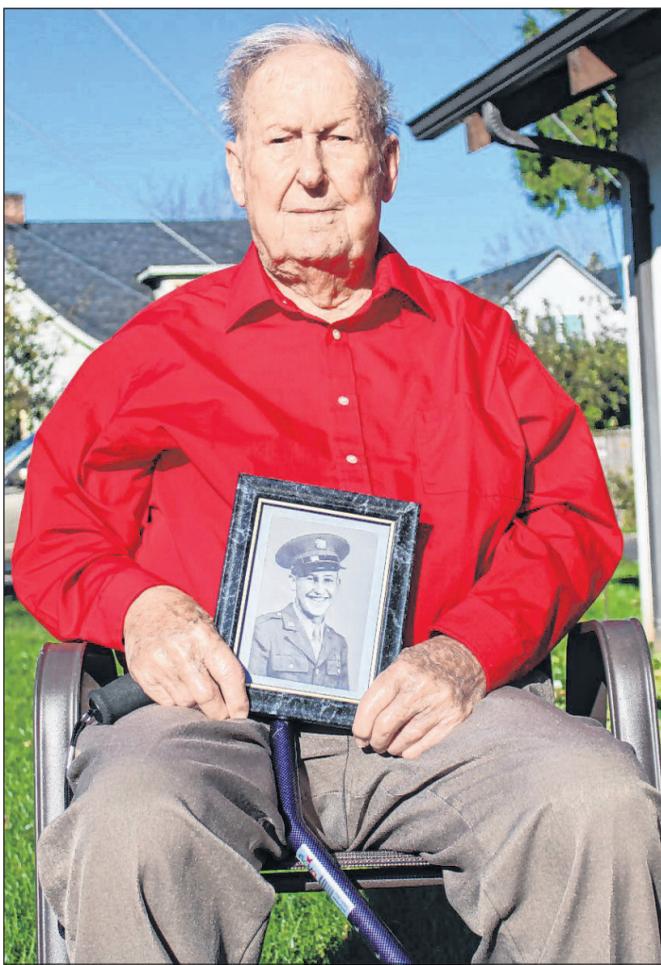
"Foxholes," he says. He remembers the foxholes — and the hardships they could present.

According to Shold, soldiers were forced to make a choice: Should they spend valuable time digging a hole deep enough to get into a good sleeping position with adequate cover or should they dig a shallow hole and run the risk of being seen by enemy forces?

"There was always that conflict of safety against exposure," Shold explains.

There were other problems as well. Sometimes, on a rainy or snowy day, a freshly dug foxhole would be half-filled with water by the time a soldier was ready to lie in it.

"But everybody else (was enduring the same conditions), so you could always tolerate it, because it wasn't just



DOUG FLANAGAN/POST-RECORD

Ken Shold sits outside his home in Washougal on Friday, Nov. 1. He's holding a photo of himself that was taken in the 1940s when Shold was serving in the United States Army during World War II.

See Veteran, page A3

Port hopefuls in dead heat

Incumbent Ward, challenger Marshall earn similar vote totals

By **DOUG FLANAGAN**
Post-Record staff writer

The race for the Port of Camas-Washougal's No. 2 commissioner position is too close to call.

With 73 percent of ballots counted as of 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, challenger Cassi Marshall had earned 4,063 votes (50.2 percent), and incumbent Bill Ward had garnered 3,969 votes (49.1 percent).

Ward has served as a commissioner since 2008.

"I had to do some searching about (running for re-election), but I realized right now we've got a lot of unfinished business," Ward told the Post-Record in October. "We've got



DOUG FLANAGAN/POST-RECORD

Bill Ward (left) and Cassi Marshall, candidates for the Port of Camas-Washougal's No. 2 commissioner position, speak at the Clark County League of Women Voters candidate forum the Camas Public Library on Oct. 23.

it started, and I want to see it finished successfully to maximize benefits to the community.

... I've got the experience. I've got the education. I've got the temperament to help the Port give the greatest value to the community."



A registered professional engineer, Ward has owned and operated Management Engineering Associates, a Camas-based engineering consulting firm, for more than 40 years.

See Port, page A2

CAMAS MAYOR'S RACE

Write-ins have edge on Turk

Incumbent up against 2 last-minute opponents

By **KELLY MOYER**
Post-Record editor

There are still about 27 percent of the ballots left to be counted in the Nov. 5 general election, but it appears a write-in candidate may have won the Camas mayoral

As of Tuesday evening's unofficial results, with 73 percent of votes counted, the write-in candidates had 2,753 votes to Mayor Shannon Turk's 1,898 votes.

No one knows for sure if either of the two write-in candidates, longtime Camas City Council member Melissa Smith and political newcomer Barry McDonnell, have enough votes to beat Turk.

"My understanding is that they count me and all write-in candidates are grouped together," Turk said Tuesday night. "Then ... sometime in the upcoming days, they go through (the write-in votes) to see (how many votes Smith and McDonnell received.)"

The Camas mayoral race was

expected to be a walk in the park this election cycle. Turk, a former city councilor appointed to the mayoral seat left vacant in 2018 after then-Mayor Scott Higgins unexpectedly resigned, was running unopposed throughout the primary and much of the general election seasons.

And then October happened.

That's when two write-in candidates threw their hats into the ring.

Smith said Tuesday she was told the elections office will need to go back and look at the write-in votes to see who is the actual winner of the race.

"I'm not going to sleep tonight," Smith said Tuesday.

Turk said voters' enthusiasm for the write-in candidates did not surprise her, especially considering that so many Camas voters shot down the community-aquatics center bond — something Turk had backed.

"There was a very strong opinion on the pool. Clearly, that carried into the individual races as

See Mayor, page A5

Papermakers clinch league championship

Camas football team advances to playoffs, will face Olympia Bears this Friday, Nov. 8



WAYNE HAVRELLY/POST-RECORD

The Camas High School (CHS) football team celebrates its 28-14 win over Union High School at Doc Harris Stadium on Friday, Nov. 1. The Papermakers (9-0), who clinched the 4A Greater St. Helens League championship with the victory, will now turn their attention to the postseason. They'll take on Olympia High School in a Week 10 playoff game at Doc Harris Stadium on Friday, Nov. 8. For more information about the CHS football team, see page A6.

What's Inside...

Index

- Opinion A4
- Sports A6
- Around Town B2
- Schools B3
- Classifieds B4
- Public Notices B6



SANTA CLAUSES ARE COMING TO TOWN

Washougal church's holiday bazaar known for soup, pies, santas: **Hometown, Page B1**

CHS RUNNER WINS WESTSIDE CLASSIC

Jenkins siblings lead Papermakers boys, girls to team titles: **Sports, Page A6**



Newcomer upset in Camas council race

Navy veteran Shannon Roberts leads Councilor Deanna Rusch 56% to 42%

By KELLY MOYER
Post-Record editor

Shannon Roberts, a newcomer to local politics, is leading the race for Camas City Council Ward 1, Position 1 over incumbent Deanna Rusch.

With 73 percent of ballots counted on Tuesday, Roberts was beating Rusch 56 to 42 percent, and had captured 2,501 votes to Rusch's 1,899 votes.

Roberts, a United States Navy veteran and real estate professional with a background in data analysis and project management, said she was holding off on any big celebrations. "I'm waiting until 4 this afternoon," Roberts said Wednesday. "I'm always cautious about celebrating too early."

Roberts said Rusch, who had gained support from a broad range of community groups, including the local firefighters' union, was "a worthy opponent."

"She put up a good cam-

paign," Roberts said of Rusch, a lead attorney for McKean Smith LLC in downtown Vancouver who was appointed the city council nearly two years ago to fill a seat left vacant when former councilman Tim Hazen resigned. "I did have a bit of trepidation (about competing against Rusch) but I've been thinking about this for a couple years. It was not an off-the-cuff decision."

Roberts also said she was saddened to see that voter turnout was only 22 percent as of the first ballot count on Tuesday.

In interviews with the Post-Record, Roberts described herself as fiscally conservative and said that, although she was not opposed to building a community center in Camas, she believed the city leaders should not have been so quick to dismiss efforts to build a joint Camas-Washougal center — and should have presented voters with a less expensive, "phased in" bond

measure.

Noting that the vast majority of voters Tuesday had rejected the city's \$78 million community-aquatics center bond proposal, Roberts said she believed people in Camas still wanted to see a pool and "some sort of community center," but "not at the scale that was proposed."

Roberts, a 65-year-old native of Tennessee, served as a Navy aviation electronics technician during the Gulf War, and later went on to work for NASA's Ames Research Center in California and the U.S. government doing communications work in England for more than a decade.

When she returned to the U.S. in 2007, Roberts moved to White Salmon, Washington, in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, to be closer to family. She worked for seven years doing data analysis for Insitu Inc., a subsidiary of Boeing, and later went into the real estate business.

Roberts moved to Camas in 2015, and said the

small city reminded her of her hometown in Tennessee.

"I loved the scenery, and the fact that you could walk down the street and people say 'hi' to you," Roberts said.

On Wednesday afternoon, Rusch said she was disappointed by the vote, but that she would still try to serve her community despite not being a member of the city council.

"I'm proud of my accomplishments and I've really loved getting to know people I probably wouldn't have gotten to know without being on council," Rusch said, citing the hiring of more firefighters and preserving hundreds of acres of land north of Lacamas Lake for natural, open space as two achievements she was most proud of during

her time on council.

"I will miss seeing my colleagues ... and I will miss the citizen engagement — good, bad and neutral," Rusch said, adding that she believed the community-aquatics center bond proposal was the one issue that influenced voters weighing her against Roberts.

"If there was anything else I did during my time on council (that voters didn't like), I certainly didn't hear about it," she said.

Other city council incumbents hold on to seats

Most Camas City Council incumbents were running unopposed in Tuesday's election, but write-in candidates managed to capture more than a few votes.

Bonnie Carter, who has been elected to her first term in November 2015 after being appointed in February 2015, held on to her Ward 2, Position 1 seat with 92 percent of the votes.

Ellen Burton, appointed to the council in January 2019, held on to her Ward 3, Position 2 seat with 91 percent of the votes.

Don Chaney, a former Camas police chief who has served on the council since 2008, also retained his Councilor At-Large seat with 95 percent of the votes.

The only council member aside from Rusch who faced an opponent this year was the council's longest-running member, Greg Anderson.

Anderson, who was appointed to council in February 1997 and has been elected and re-elected with no opposition ever since, had a write-in challenger — Margaret Tweet — this year.

As of Tuesday evening, Anderson was leading Tweet with 72 percent of the votes.



Deanna Rusch



Shannon Roberts

Councilor Ray Kutch earns 74% of vote to retain seat

Position 5 incumbent saw challenge from Denise Korhonen

By DOUG FLANAGAN
Post-Record staff writer

It appears Ray Kutch will retain his seat on the Washougal city council.

With 73 percent of ballots counted as of 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, Kutch had earned 74 percent of the votes for the city's No. 5 council position to take a commanding lead over challenger Denise Korhonen.

"I'm pleased with (the result)," Kutch said. "I think I've done a decent job as a council member. I enjoy being of service to the community, and I'm glad to get recognized as having done a good job. I was feeling pretty confident. I was getting support from many people who don't necessarily think like I do. They realize I want to do what's best for the community."

In February 2017, Washougal city council members appointed

Kutch, who was running against nine other applicants, to fill a seat left vacant after Washougal city councilwoman Jennifer McDaniel resigned. In November 2017, voters elected Kutch to serve the remainder of McDaniel's term.

"We have to be collaborative," he said. "We have to work with each other regardless of political thinking. We can complain about everything that's going on nationally, but the most important things happening right now are in the local communities. If we don't get it right here, how can we expect Olympia or Washington D.C. to do it right?"

Kutch served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1970, earning "four or



Ray Kutch

five medals" for his performance as a pilot during the Vietnam War, then served as a Naval instructor for several years.

After earning a master's degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., Kutch moved to Vancouver in 1979, then to Washougal in 1990. He worked as a salesman at the Portland branch of Ingersoll Rand, an industrial manufacturing company, before becoming the owner of Dodge City Bar & Grill, a western-themed tavern in Vancouver and Camas, from 1992 to 2013.

Kutch has been married to his wife, Judy, for 55 years and has three children and six grandchildren.



CONTRIBUTED ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF CITY OF CAMAS

An illustration depicts how the "aquatics" portion of the proposed Camas Community and Aquatics Center may have looked if voters had approved a \$78 million bond proposal Tuesday.

Bond:

From page A1

Camas leaders said the idea of building a public community-aquatics center — as well as improving sports fields in the city — was something that had long ranked as a priority for Camas citizens.

When they voted in July to bring the issue to voters, city councilors had reviewed 12 options presented by city staff.

The selected option was not the most expensive —

the highest ticket option also included a \$12 million sports complex — but it did include the most amenities for the community-aquatic center such as a 78,000-square-foot building with a recreation pool, a competition lap pool, gymnasium, community rooms, cardio and weight rooms, and an indoor walk-jog track overlooking the gym courts and the preferred (but not definite) site's forested areas.

The bond proposal also included \$6 million worth of upgrades to local sports fields: \$2.7 million worth of renovations, including

turf and lighting, at Forest Home Park; \$2.3 million in improvements at Prune Hill Sports Park; and \$1 million in renovations to sports fields at Dorothy Fox Park.

Camas Mayor Shannon Turk told the Post-Record in October the bond proposal was "a compilation of the needs and requests" city leaders have heard from community members for the past two decades.

"I understand why this might feel like several bond measures in one request, but this is the compilation of many years worth of requests," Turk said.

Port:

From page A1

Ward, who earned an engineering degree from Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, and a master of business administration (MBA) degree from the University of Portland, has been a member of the Camas-Washougal Rotary Club for 24 years and active with the Columbia River Economic Development Commission, Camas-Washougal Economic Development Association, Washington Public Ports Association, East Vancouver Business Association and the Camas-Washougal Chamber of

Commerce.

Marshall is the co-owner of Marshall Development, a local residential development business, and spent 17 years working for the Washougal School District as a highly-capable student coordinator and administrative assistant.

"Our business is very small-scale, nothing of the proportion that the Port is doing," Marshall told the Post-Record in October, "but I'm really familiar with that kind of construction process, (as well as) the timelines, the budgets, all of that. I have pretty decent communication skills and enjoy working with the public, and with my engineering background I'm comfortable with technical aspects of the construction

reports."

Marshall received a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She then worked as a structural dynamics engineer at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, before moving to Camas and transitioning to the education field.

Marshall is a member of the Camas Parks Commission and has also been active with Partners with Camas Parks and Recreation, the Camas Ivy League, Washougal Festival of Trees, Lacamas Little League, Sierra Club and the Helen Baller Parent Teacher Association.

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Navidi's hit with negative reviews

Some cell tower opponents direct ire toward property owners' local olive oil shop

By KELLY MOYER
Post-Record editor

A downtown Camas business became the target of an online "negative review" campaign this week after a small group of local residents decided to get personal with their efforts to move a proposed cell tower away from a local elementary school.

The negative reviews started appearing on the Navidi's Olive Oils and Vinegars online sites on Friday, Jan. 24.

Most of the negative messages were of a similar vein: People could not endorse the 10-year-old Camas business because its owners, Ken and Gabrielle Navidi, intend to lease their private land, located about 300 feet from Camas' Woodburn Elementary School, to the telecommunications giant Verizon for the construction of a 120-foot cell tower.

A woman identifying herself as Dani West of Portland sent a message to the Camas-based Hills at Round Lake community's private Facebook page on Friday, stating that she and Camas resident Doina Graetz were "looking to launch a campaign to target the Navidis and hurt their business in Camas."

"Verizon will never back down in the name of our children's safety — we must take this into our own hands and I believe we can," West wrote to the Camas neighborhood members in a post that linked to the Navidis' business site. "We need everyone to write a negative review — share it and then we need people that are willing to help picket, order signs/fliers, etc."

See Navidi's, page A5

Washougal 'Dreaming'

City's new public art installation is a 400-pound bronze bear



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE LOFTUS, CITY OF WASHOUGAL
A bronze bear sculpture — designed and crafted by artist Heather Soderberg, of Cascade Locks, Oregon — is installed at the southwest corner of the Pendleton Way and "A" Street intersection in Washougal on Wednesday, Jan. 22. The Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance purchased the 400-pound sculpture, titled "Dreaming," last year with the intention of donating it to the city of Washougal.

WASHOUGAL SCHOOLS

Voters asked to replace 2 levies

Ballot measures aim to renew funding for tech, educational programs

By DOUG FLANAGAN
Post-Record staff writer

Washougal School District voters are being asked to replace two levies in the Feb. 11 special election — an operational levy that helps pay for educational services and maintenance not funded by the state or federal government as well as a technology levy that helps keep Washougal students' technology and computer training up-to-date.

The Washougal School Board voted in November 2019 to place the replacement levies on the Feb. 11 ballot. If approved, they will replace the district's current levies which expire on Dec. 31.

The Washougal Levy Committee is spreading its message through its website at washougal4schools.org, social media sites and via public-speaking engagements. The group is emphasizing that the levies will not result in new taxes; provide funding for more than 14 percent of the district's budget; fund basic programs for the next three years; and do not pay for school construction.

See Levies, page A2

Artists' 'Love Fest' all about connection

John and Anni Furniss to host free event featuring 40 artists, live music on Feb. 8

By DOUG FLANAGAN
Post-Record staff writer

John and Anni Furniss have what they consider to be a romantic love story.

By creating Love Fest, an art bazaar and community gathering to be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Black Pearl on the Columbia in Washougal, the Washougal artists hope to not only share that story, but to show others that the old adage of "love makes the world go around" is really true, and more important now than ever.

"Our lives are surrounded by love in different ways," Anni said. "John and I are an example of what love can accomplish, not just romantically, but because of how much support we've received from the community, our friends and our family. The world can be a pretty tough place, especially right now. The idea (of this event) is about connection."

The free event will feature artwork from 40 regional artists; live music; food; and children's crafts.

"I think it's a manifestation of things that are important to us," Anni said. "We love to create, and this is just another one of our creations. We don't have kids, so we make other things."

"We joke around that since we don't have kids, we pour ourselves into our creations, so it's kind of like they're our kids," John added. "This is the only instance when it's OK to sell your kids."

John, also known as "The Blind Woodsman," is a renowned woodworker who creates tables, lamps, jewelry boxes, bowls and other items from recycled materials with a lathe. Anni is an acrylic painter and mixed media artist.

"I think a big part of creating love in a community is connecting and gathering people for the same kind of purpose, and (having) people being able to connect on that level," Anni



DOUG FLANAGAN/POST-RECORD
John and Anni Furniss display some of their artwork in their Washougal woodshop on Thursday, Jan. 23. The artists created Love Fest, an art bazaar and community gathering, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Black Pearl on the Columbia in Washougal.

said. "For John and I, art is a big connector. Huge. That's how we met, and something that has helped us overcome some pretty hard things in our lives."

"For me art has been a big healing tool," she continued. "I had depression when I was a teenager, and I used art to cope with that. John and I talk a lot about how art is healing. We go to schools and do talks.

We have seen how art brings people together. That was the idea of this event. There's all these different layers to it."

The Furnisses have been assisted by several local artists, including Washougal residents Kelli Rule and Jeffrey White, who are organizing the event's musical performances.

See 'Love Fest', page A3

Officials reflect on failed pool bond

Camas councilors talk about lessons from contentious '19 election

By KELLY MOYER
Post-Record editor

Camas City Council members and Camas Mayor Barry McDonnell reflected this week on lessons they learned from the November 2019 general election, when a clear majority (90 percent) of voters shut down the city's proposed \$78 million community-aquatics center construction bond.

"One of the main things I regret is that we didn't slow down," said Councilwoman Bonnie Carter. "We should have taken another year (and) said, 'We need more data.' We had years of data but we're really good about keeping that data in a bubble and weren't good about pushing that data out to the community."

See Bond, page A6

What's Inside...

Index

- Obituaries..... A2
- Death Notices A2
- Opinion A4
- Sports B1
- Around Town..... B2
- Schools B3
- Classifieds..... B4
- Public Notices B5



'IT'S ALL ABOUT PHOTO TIME'

Local businessman has passion for taking high school sports pictures:

Sports, Page B1

AN HONOR TO PLAY

Washougal students to perform at North County Honor Band concert:

Schools, Page B3





KELLY MOYER/POST-RECORD

Camas officials meet for the Camas City Council's annual planning retreat on Friday, Jan. 24, at Lacamas Lake Lodge. Pictured from left to right (around the table) are Camas School District Superintendent and planning retreat mediator Jeff Snell, Camas Mayor Barry McDonnell and Council members Ellen Burton, Bonnie Carter, Shannon Roberts, Steve Hogan, Melissa Smith and Greg Anderson. Audience members seated to the left of city officials included Camas Police Chief Mitch Lackey (back row, far left).

Bond:

From page A1

Carter added that she regretted the fact that council members didn't "pump the brakes" instead of trying to rush the issue to the ballot.

"I know we felt we wanted to give the opportunity to the public to vote ... because we'd been talking about a pool for so many years, but I regret we didn't slow it down," Carter said.

The issue came up during the city council's annual planning retreat, held Friday and Saturday, Jan. 24-25, at Lacamas Lake Lodge in Camas.

"This past fall was an interesting time for our community and there was a lot of energy (around the community-aquatics center bond) and it was different from what we're used to," said Camas School District Superintendent Jeff Snell, who was in charge of mediating Friday's council planning retreat.

Snell added that the city hadn't put a bond on the

ballot in a very long time, but that the Camas School District was used to that process.

"It was a little different in your situation," Snell told the council members and mayor. "As you look back to the fall — in whatever role you were playing — what kinds of things will you take forward ... to help serve the community in the future?"

Snell said that, for him personally, the energy surrounding the failed bond made him feel "nervous for (the) community."

"I had the sense that our community didn't feel the same as it felt before," he said.

Councilman Greg Anderson, the council's longest-serving member with more than two decades' worth of experience as a city official, said he felt that, normally, city leaders would "stop and listen and pause at the right time," but that they obviously had not when it came to the community-aquatics center bond.

"We've done one bond measure in 20 years ... and then we did a second," Anderson said. "We're not

very good at it."

Both Anderson and Councilman Steve Hogan said they would like to know more about how the Camas School District (CSD) goes about putting a bond or levy issue to voters.

"(CSD) has so much listening and outreach," Anderson said of the district's "pre-bond" communications with the community.

Councilwoman Ellen Burton also said she thought the city could learn from the school district's bond and levy process.

"School districts do this all the time. We don't," Burton said. "So we need to bring in the experts. There are talents in this community. (We need to) bring in the right talent."

Burton added that she thought one of the lessons from the failed bond is that the city should rely more on its alliances with other jurisdictions.

"We had the opportunity to work with Washougal (on a joint Camas-Washougal community-aquatics center)," Burton said. "There is a lot of value to having partnerships, of keeping those alliances

and strengthening (the partnerships) ... and of sometimes taking trade-offs."

Burton added that she felt city leaders would need to regain the public's trust following the failed bond proposition.

"It takes so long to build trust and (it's) so easy to lose it," she said. "Our job ahead is ... to purposely build trust, which will be a continuous effort"

McDonnell, who ran for mayor as a write-in candidate who opposed the community-aquatics center bond proposal, said he felt the city rushed the bond process.

"It felt very disconnected in the direction we were going versus what people were going for," McDonnell said. "As it was communicated out to the public, it didn't feel transparent to the public. It was scary from my perspective when you don't have all the information. It creates a whole level of distrust ... it was scary."

Councilwoman Shannon Roberts, who also ran as a newcomer to city politics who opposed the November 2019 version of the

community-aquatics center bond, said she felt the city's communication about the bond proposal could have been better.

"There was no sense of peace that everything was good, that wise decisions were being made," Roberts said, adding that if the city wanted to do surveys about issues like building a community center, they should attach prices to possible bond measures required for such efforts.

"You have to have price tags attached (to surveys or polls) so they will think about that," Roberts told her council peers on Friday.

Councilwoman Melissa Smith, a Camas native who is serving her fourth term on the Council and who also ran as a write-in mayoral candidate in the November 2019, said she felt city leaders "did a poor job communicating what (they) were asking of the citizens."

"The impression I got from citizens was that the council ... had voted 'yes' (on the community center bond), but all we did was put it out there for the people to decide. We weren't advocating one way or an-

other."

Hogan said he wished the council had had a way of stopping the process after they'd decided to put the issue on the ballot but before they had more information from city staff.

"There was a beginning (when we) said, 'Yeah, go for it, get this formed,' but the next key step — if we didn't have it put together properly — that's where we should have said, 'No, we don't have a full deck of cards here.' Everyone should have felt comfortable shooting it down at that point."

Even if the city had spent money preparing the bond for the ballot, Hogan said, if the council's "key checks" didn't pan out before the deadline to place the bond on the ballot, council members should have felt OK holding off on putting the issue to voters.

"For me, (the lesson from the election is) understanding that it's OK to go ahead and start the process, but that is just one point and then (we should have) key checks and no problem at all saying, 'No, we're not going to do this,'" Hogan said.

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