



of Confused Knowledge

Located in Beautiful Skunk Hollow, Washington

June 11th, 2015

Mayor Scott Higgins, City of Camas

Melissa Smith, Camas City Council

Bonnie Carter, Camas City Council

Steve Hogan, Camas City Council

Tim Hazen, Camas City Council

Don Chaney, Camas City Council

Greg Anderson, Camas City Council

Shannon Turk, Camas City Council

Chief Mitch Lackey, Camas Police Department

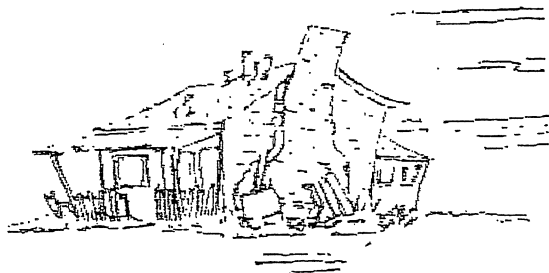
Greetings,

The June 9th edition of the *Post-Record* carried a story about matters that the City of Camas is working on, including considering some possible changes to parking time limits in some downtown parking areas.

There is a parking problem that the City of Camas and the Camas Police Department may not be aware of that I have wanted to bring to the attention of the City for some time but could never seem to find the time to present the problem. However, in view of the fact that the City is reviewing suggested changes to the parking restrictions in some of the downtown area, now might be the proper time to present the problem I mentioned to the attention of the City.

That problem, which occurs only on the weekends when there is a downtown special event and/or activity occurring, is how some visitors to those downtown special events and/or activities park in front of the Camas Post Office for long periods of time.

Main Campus



*The Skunk Hollow
Institute of Confused Knowledge*

The Skunk Hollow Institute's Motto:
Onward through the Fog!

**The Skunk Hollow Institute's
Mission Statement:**
*When in doubt....
....run around....
....and scream and shout!*

The parking spaces in front of the Camas Post Office are signed for 10 minutes parking. There is no wording on the posted signs stating that those parking spaces are 10 minute parking spaces only on weekdays when Postal customer service is available at the Camas Post Office (which would be Monday through Friday except for holidays) or if the 10 minutes parking time is in effect all seven days of the week. I'm of the opinion that the restriction applies all seven days of the week.

On those weekends when there are downtown special events and/or activities occurring, those parking spaces are always full of vehicles that more often than not, remain in those parking spaces for a much longer time than 10 minutes, often for times ranging from a couple of hours to several hours. If I am correct in my opinion that the 10 minutes time restriction is in effect seven days a week, this means that those cars that park in front of the Camas Post Office for those long periods of time are in violation of that time restriction.

So, are those people deliberately violating that parking time limit restriction? I tend to be of the opinion that they are not. I'm thinking that they, knowing that Postal customer service is not available at the Camas Post Office on weekends, think that the 10 minutes parking restriction does not apply on those weekend days.

I disagree with their thinking about that. Even though there is no Postal customer service available at the Camas Post Office on weekends, people still visit the Post Office on weekend days to get their mail from the Post Office boxes they have leased at the Camas Post Office.

But on those weekends when there are downtown special events and/or activities occurring, much more often than not, those people desiring to visit the Post Office on a weekend day cannot find a parking space in front of the Post Office (or within reasonable walking distance from the Camas Post Office) because those parking spaces in front of the Camas Post Office are already filled up with vehicles that will remain there for periods of time greatly exceeding the 10 minutes parking time restriction.

Some of those people that wish to visit the Post Office on those weekend days are people with walking handicaps or disabilities and need to be able to access those parking spaces directly in front of the Camas Post Office building, but are not able to do so because of other people that have parked there thinking that they can leave their vehicles there for as long as they wish to.

Those people that do have walking handicaps or disabilities that are desiring to visit the Camas Post Office on a weekend day should not be denied the opportunity to do so simply because there is a downtown special event and/or activity occurring that has resulted in a large crowd of people to visit the downtown event that has made it being somewhat difficult to find any parking spaces close to the downtown core area, which has resulted in people parking in front of the Camas Post Office for long periods of times.

I urge the Camas City Council to visit this problem and determine what should be done to eliminate or correct this problem.

I'm not advocating that, at the start of any new increased enforcement of the 10 minutes parking restriction in front of the Camas Post Office, that people that do park in those parking spaces in front of the Camas Post Office on those weekend days thinking that it's O.K. to do so because of no Postal customer service available on weekend days be given parking citations or their vehicles being towed. Instead, maybe for the first few months, the people that might park in those spaces, thinking that the restriction does not apply on weekends receive a warning notice with those warnings including printed wording explaining that the restriction is in effect seven days a week because there are people that do visit the Camas Post Office on weekend days. I'm thinking that doing that could, in time, "educate" the people about why that restriction is in effect seven days a week.

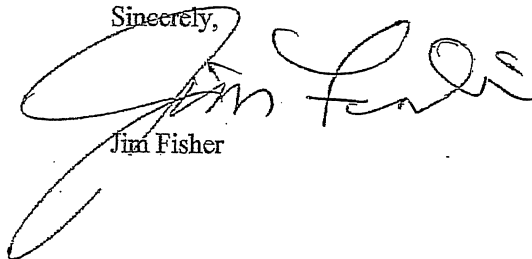
Additionally, it might be a good idea to add to the signs stating that those parking spaces in front of the Camas Post Office are 10 minutes parking spaces a second sign below the 10 minutes sign stating something like "seven days a week" or some wording that would make it clear that people parking there for longer period of time on weekend days are violating that parking restriction?

In addition to the street parking in front of the Camas Post Office building, there is the small parking lot on the west side of the Post Office building. That parking lot has a 30 minutes parking limit (which might be a Postal Service regulation rather than a City parking regulation). I'm of the personal opinion that it would be O.K. for people to park in that parking lot for long periods of time on weekend days because while there are people that do visit the Camas Post Office on weekend days, the number of people visiting the Camas Post Office on weekend days is much smaller than the number of people visiting the Camas Post Office on weekdays, thus, not as many parking spaces are needed to accommodate people visiting the Camas Post Office on weekend days.

I am aware that having the Camas Police Department regularly check the area in front of the Camas Post Office every few minutes on the weekends when there are downtown special events and/or activities occurring might not be something that would be easily doable. But hopefully some degree or type of action can be determined so that this problem is addressed.

In closing, I thank you in advance for considering this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Fisher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Jim Fisher

P. S.: I'm not Jim Fisher, the Portland car dealer. Instead, I'm Jim Fisher, the *Old Hermit at Skunk Hollow*. (That Jim Fisher car dealer guy, he's the real rich Jim Fisher; I'm the real poor Jim Fisher!)

P. P. S.: And in case you were maybe wondering, the *Skunk Hollow Institute of Confused Knowledge* mentioned in the letterhead on the first page of this letter, well.....that's just a name of a fictitious school that I have a lot of fun "promoting".

But.....should I ever build such a school.....oh what a magnificent educational institution that would be!