



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
Monday, May 14, 2018, 7:00 PM
City Hall, 616 NE 4th Avenue

SPECIAL MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Greg Anderson, Bonnie Carter, Don Chaney, Steve Hogan, Deanna Rusch, Melissa Smith and Shannon Turk

Staff: Bernie Bacon, Phil Bourquin, Pete Capell, Mitch Lackey, Ron Schumacher and Nick Swinhart

Press: No one from the press was present

IV. MEETING ITEM

A. Fireworks Public Hearing

Details: The Council had requested that a Public Hearing be held to determine if the City should revise the Fireworks Code. The City currently allows fireworks to be discharged on July 3rd and 4th and December 31st. Options include keeping the code the same, limiting it to July 4th and December 31st, limiting it to "Safe and Sane" ground level fireworks, or a complete ban of all fireworks. After the Council heard public testimony and read written comments, Council will direct staff how to proceed at a future Council Workshop Meeting.

Presenter: Pete Capell, City Administrator

 [Fireworks Memorandum](#)

[Public Comments Received](#)

Mayor Scott Higgins opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

The following members of the public spoke:

Gary Fields, 2814 NW Leadbetter PKWY
Dean Osterman, 2741 NW Leadbetter PKWY
Scott Culbertson, 4739 NW Aspen CT
Mindy Stone-Szabo, 2635 NW 22nd AVE
Taylor, 1210 NW 23rd AVE

Kris Marlow, 3505 SE Washougal River RD
Gabriel Kern, 1812 NW 38th AVE
Daniel Kern, 1823 NW 38th AVE
Sean Wade, 1417 NW Ash ST
Bhavani Shankar, 3523 NE Hayes ST
Ken Valk, 4717 NW Dahlia DR
Christine Schoenkopf, 1627 NW 35th CIR
Ron King, 2832 NW Leadbetter PKWY
Ben Dominge, 5248 NW Fernridge DR
Barb Hail, 3429 NE Garfield ST
Rocky Fresh, 1331 NE 6th AVE
Jonathan Natiuck, 1427 NE 5th AVE
Dave Kesmodel, 1506 NE 6th AVE
Eric Fischer, 3206 NW 47th DR
Tara Rog
Mike Cogan, 3717 NW 25th AVE
Julie Brown, 4508 NW Dahlia DR
Wyatt Johnson, 2952 NW Ivy LN
Joshua Martinez, 4478 NW Emily WY
Jeff Trapp, 3027 NW 31st AVE
Katie, 1210 NW 23rd AVE
Gene Marlow, Mean Gene Fireworks
Terry Doepken, 4736 NW Dahlia DR
Don Gaston, 3311 NW 9th AVE

The City also received email messages of public testimony, which are included in the pages following these meeting minutes.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

NOTE: The City welcomes public meeting citizen participation. For accommodations; call 360.834.6864.

14
May 2, 2018

**Subject: Absentee For May 7th Proposed Firework Ordinance
Meeting For The City Of Camas**

**I, Christopher J Kralik of 631 NW 18th Loop am in favor of
abolishing the use of aerial exploding fireworks within the
city limits of Camas, WA.**

The factors include:

- 1) The widespread threat of fires that the CWFD would not be able
to handle. Global warming is creating a more intense fire
scenario.**
- 2) The noise and the debris through out our neighborhoods.**
- 3) Some residents do not obey the existing law. Fireworks
continue through out the night after the cut off time.**
- 4) Animals are affected by the noise.**
- 5) People from outside the city limits are coming here to set off
their fireworks, due to the ban from other cities like
Vancouver and Washougal.**

Thank you!

Christopher J Kralik



*I emailed Chris to confirm to him
that this subject is on the May 14th
Public Hearing date. He indicated he still may be
unable to attend that date either. He offered to
supply another letter referencing the correct date
& told him that wasn't necessary
-B Bacon*

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Jordan [mailto:susanevansjordan@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 5:02 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks

As a resident of Camas, I hope to see fireworks restricted to public displays.

1. Many of our military veterans suffer from PTSD, and report distress when fireworks are ignited in their neighborhoods. Out of respect for them, I believe we should not allow private fireworks.
2. Hot, dry weather provides dangerous fuel for fires to be ignited by fireworks. Our fire department is understaffed as it is. Fighting a fire caused by fireworks is unnecessary.
3. The loud noise made by many fireworks awakens babies and young children. It seems selfish to disturb them. Exhausted parents of babies need to have a break.
4. Although I am not a pet owner, I know that many dogs and cats are traumatized by the noise of fireworks. Even when they are closed up in their home, the noise is disturbing.

These are some of the main reasons I hope fireworks will be disallowed in Camas, other than in public fireworks shows.

I am neither a Veteran, a parent of young children, nor a pet owner, but I understand their plight.

I believe it is the responsibility of our city government to protect its citizens.

Thank you.

Susan Jordan

1220 NW 23rd Ave.

Camas, WA 98607

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Heather DeVore [mailto:heatherd74@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, May 04, 2018 2:26 AM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Warm greetings,

I would like the city of Camas to follow Vancouver in banning fireworks. I have lived in Camas for 14 years. Each year I have seen an increase in fireworks here in our town, a lot of which are not legal nor handled in a safe and responsible manner.

The fireworks go on for days and on the 4th late into the night. My neighborhood feels like a war zone. There are numerous people affected in a negative way, such as our military men and women who have come home from war with PTSD and are re-traumatized by the sounds of fireworks, also people that have to work the next morning and people that have animals etc.

I for one have two dogs and spend the 4th of July and surrounding days every year trying to care for large traumatized and confused pets late into the night when I have to work in the morning.

I understand people want to celebrate but I feel the amount of fireworks in our town has gotten out of control and become extremely unsafe.

Our fire department's resources should be put to use on calls that are not firework related and in general brought on by negligent people.

There are multiple places that put on large SAFE firework displays that people can go enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heather DeVore

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: J Reed [mailto:reedme2004@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, May 04, 2018 7:26 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks

I think that fireworks have gotten completely out of hand, they aren't just sparklers and ground fireworks any longer. They are large and loud. I wish they would stop being legal. They are a disturbance to many people.

- 1) Veterans, pets and wild animals are terrified. We shouldn't have to be prisoners in our homes. There is no where to go to escape the noise. The outside animals have no where to hide.
- 2) Fireworks land in neighbors yards, trees, and on roofs and are fire hazards. Our neighbors had burn marks in their backyard lawn from flying burning debris. We have to stay home to protect our property.
- 3) People do not abide by the hours permitted and you don't know where they are coming from to report them. Some people have to get up early to go to work and cant sleep because of the noise. This goes on for days.
- 4) We have to clean our street, drive ways, and roofs, from firework debris.
- 5) We don't need anymore fires like our precious gorge caused by people playing with fire.

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Bill Udy [mailto:udy3567@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 8:31 AM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: fireworks testimony

I don't mind a few kids lighting sparklers in front of their house before bedtime, with loving parents hovering over them.

But I don't appreciate adults disrespecting their neighbors. Every year, we have adults and older teenagers spending a small fortune on fireworks and spending hours blowing them off in public spaces in my neighborhood (Parker Estates), creating a mess that they may or may not half-heartedly clean up. Then long into the night the noise pollution continues, sometimes with earth shaking explosions.

My two cats get so distressed, I finally had to have my veterinarian prescribe a tranquilizer for them.

Sincerely,

Bill Udy
3714 NW 27th Ave
Camas, Washington
Cell: 503-754-1980
E-mail: udy3567@comcast.net

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Ophelia Pasibe-Glasser [<mailto:ophelia@jodyglasser.net>]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 1:15 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Thank you for posting on Nextdoor, unfortunately, I'm unable to attend the scheduled meeting but wanted to give input. After last year's fires at the gorge, I am completely against having any fireworks within the City of Camas. If the city wants to sponsor a fireworks show over the river, it's fine but irresponsible neighbors shooting fireworks, NO. I've had fireworks come very close to our home and it has always scared me, not to mention my pet. Even with time restrictions, people aren't respecting them and continue to shoot past time allotted. With a skeleton crew in the Camas FD, it isn't worth risking fires by allowing individual use of fireworks. I think they should be completely banned in Camas.

Ophelia Glasser

Grand Ridge Dr.

Twitter: @op_omom

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Scholtes [mailto:ron.scholtes@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 5:49 PM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: 4th of July fireworks in Cdmass

From: Ron and Susan Scholtes

2620 NW Quartz St, Camas

We do not want fireworks that shoot in Camas, and here are our reasons:

*It is not safe.

*Surrounding communities have outlawed them as dangerous.

*When fired we have had them stick on our home and left burn marks.

*They are messy and are not cleaned up.

*The plastic shards are in our yard, on our property, and in the street. These are found months after the event. People may step on them.

*The papers are fired onto our roof, in both our front and back yard. We are not sure if we will get caught on fire as this goes on until 12-1 in the morning. Looks messy too.

*They are damaging to our cars.

Please outlaw this unsafe event in our community.

Sent from my iPhone.

From: Fran Bylsma <mazamiler1@comcast.net>

Date: May 7, 2018 at 7:36:19 PM PDT

To: citycouncilgrp@cityofcamas.us

Subject: Fireworks

Thank you for the meeting to open the fireworks issue. Please align with Vancouver and, at least, Washougal to make our town safer and saner by eliminating the fireworks hazards. Thank you. Fran Bylsma

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: J L [<mailto:jtlorincz@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 9:40 AM
To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Dear Bernie Bacon,

It was nice to meet you yesterday at the meeting!

As I won't be able to attend the meeting next Monday about the Fireworks in Camas, I am sending you my take on it.

1. It seems to me that even though there is a 3 day limit on the fireworks, it is not being honored by the public. I know this is an event that draws people from nearby cities (far and near) where fireworks are already banned. So I am not sure if it's the locals or the guests who don't obey the rules. One thing is for sure that the time limit is not being honored and is impossible to enforce. If fireworks will have to be a THING in Camas, I'd be happier with a one day celebration period.
2. 4th of July is (usually) one of the driest day around here therefore the event becomes a potential fire hazard. As of right now Camas can not afford to keep enough firefighters on staff. I wonder, with the growing population, increasing amount of fireworks, understaffed fire stations what will it take to the city to recognize this catch 22?
3. The small celebrational fireworks don't concern me. I am however frightened by the mortar like illegal bombs that shake my house when fired nearby.
4. My heart goes out to all the veterans whom are dealing with PTSD and are triggered by fireworks, and also the pets/farm animals/wildlife that are shaking/trembling, some of them even causing injuries to themselves in the attempt to hide/escape.
5. My last point is about cleanup. One would think it is a common courtesy to clean up after self when playing with fireworks even if it was in the middle of the city's road. However, the day after fireworks I am driving through neighborhoods that are littered with leftover papers, plastics, and boxes blowing all over. Nature is forced to clean up after us. How safe is it for all that explosive litter to get into the drain system and into our waters eventually? Are not those posing some additional danger not only to the environment but also to the public's health?

Overall, even though I am not totally against fireworks, I feel strongly that the time frame should be shortened and new guidelines created and enforced to preserve public safety/health. Maybe appointing areas to be safely using fireworks could be a solution?

Thank you for reading my points.

Sincerely,

Judit Lorincz

Bernie Bacon

From: Lynette Shaw [mailto:lynettejshaw@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 10:43 AM
To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks Input

Hi there -

I received your email address from Next Door. I unfortunately missed the window for the survey related to fireworks in Camas so am sending you my input via email.

I know there are quite a few folks on both sides of the fence on this one. My husband and I are against the current fireworks policy in Camas. Our dog was traumatized since our first 4th of July and would not go walking at night any longer. I know many neighbor pets went missing (and some never found) or were left very frightened. People leave their mess all over the street for someone else to clean up and I worry one year my house is going to catch on fire from careless use.

We were kind of blown away by the level of fireworks allowed when we moved here 3 years ago, this is probably the only thing that bums us out about Camas. We love it here but seriously, the fireworks are a bit out of control and 4th of July is a holiday we no longer look forward. I think we will plan to go out of town this year so our pets and family do not have to withstand the trauma.

Would love to see fireworks limited to 1 day only and made the safe and sane kind. In addition, let the community pitch in for a big fireworks show done by professionals, what a great way to celebrate with our neighbors.

Thank you for listening!

Lynette Shaw
Grass Valley

Bernie Bacon

From: Erin Nickel <enickel@vincentbenjamin.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 4:09 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Good afternoon,

I am writing to voice my concerns for the fireworks allowed in Camas. Over the last 4 years it has gotten considerably worse. Our neighbors shoots off very large fireworks that not only shakes our house, but last year they actually burned holes in our patio cover. The other, and probably more important to me, is the effect it has on our dogs. No amount of music, fans, or loud TV drowns out the noise of the fireworks. Last year I spent nearly three hundred dollars on medications for my dogs, JUST FOR THE 4th. I am not against the City having a designated area or sponsor a show, but I don't feel it should be in my backyard. I literally feel like I am in the middle of a war zone.

Thank you, Erin

Erin Nickel

Bernie Bacon

From: Jill Jensen <ourdogsmakemelaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 4:50 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks Testimony

Dear City of Camas

The 4th of July, and the days leading up to it, are my family's most dreaded week of the year. The intrusion of fireworks in my neighborhood has been bad since we moved to Camas in 1996, but it is getting worse each year.

There has been a proliferation of the very large, explosive aerial fireworks (I have no idea what they are called) that go silently up in the air and then you hear a single LOUD boom. These booms rattle our windows and shake me to my core. Our neighborhood is more like a war zone, certainly not what anyone could call a patriotic celebration.

We always have at least one dog (up to 3 at a time over the years) and they are/have been sensitive to the fireworks noise. If we are at home on July 4, we are forced to keep the windows and doors closed, turn fans and TVs on, etc to try to mitigate the noise and they still hide and shake.

Some years we load our dogs in the car and just drive around (away from houses) from around 7 pm to 11:30 pm or so. Other years we have driven to various business park parking lots (away from houses) and just sat in the car with the windows rolled up for hours. A couple times we have paid to camp at Beacon Rock State Park from 7 pm on to try to get away from the noise. We have not found a viable solution to get away from it. We have no idea what we will do this year.

We have mixed emotions about not being home on July 4. There are so many fireworks going off in our neighborhood (Parker Estates) that the air is so smoky you can't even see across the street. We are very concerned about the risk of fire from fireworks landing on our roof or landscaping. Our neighbor has a row of Arborvitae less than 20 feet from our house. By July, they are dry and flammable.

Then there is all the debris from the fireworks that cover our yard, driveway and roof. My husband goes up on the roof each July 5 and collects all the fireworks debris. Even though we have a small house, some years he has filled a 5 gallon bucket. Some neighbors try to sweep up/collect their fireworks debris from the street, but they never come to our property to clean up. Other neighbors leave their spent fireworks in the street or at the curb for others to clean up.

Fireworks on the 4th of July are one thing, but having them legal on days leading up to the 4th make no sense. My preference is to have all fireworks banned in the city of Camas completely. If that is felt to be too harsh, then at least limit them to one day, on July 4. Then it can be revisited in a couple years so they can be banned completely.

Thank you for asking for my opinion.

Respectfully,
Jill Jensen

Bernie Bacon

From: Michelle Culhane <meculhane@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: County fireworks

Hello,

We moved off prune hill to a camas county address by Union High school 3 yrs ago. Fireworks were like mini battles on the hill and worse in county. I fully support a ban on fireworks. My yard is littered with them, I had a puppy almost die chewing plastic left overs, drunk neighbors, no one cleans up. These are million dollar homes!
It's turned into a hot mess bc nobody seems to have personal restraint anymore.
I'm all for celebrating but a definite no on any fireworks in Clark county!



Michelle

Please excuse brevity and spelling errors. Sent from my iPhone.

Bernie Bacon

From: Gary Medvigy <Mgmedvigy@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 6:28 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks testimony

I am retired from the US Army after 33 years and since a boy looked forward to the 4th of July fireworks and honoring our country's flag. I have retired to Camas.

I am disappointed by the amount of lawlessness over this holiday in this community. Community fireworks by the community, Port or a local high school as a display of patriotism is a safe way to commemorate the fourth. (It could also be a fundraiser or at least be self sustaining by charging viewers).

Houses and forest areas can burn out of control with poorly used or unsupervised use of incendiary devices. That is what they are and every community in the US that has a fire danger and fireworks has examples of burned roofs, entire homes, fields and forest areas.

What has been shocking to me and most of my neighborhood is the complete disregard for existing laws and the rights and safety of others by the discharge of firearms and explosive devices already prohibited by federal and state law. There appears to be no enforcement and the people doing it, seem to selfishly do it at all hours and for many days.

I understand that one can buy illegal fireworks at the local reservation. They have a right I guess to sell them, but they shouldn't leave the reservation.

For the sake of our pets and livestock that go crazy during this time, stop it... at least exercise reasonable control over the use and limit fireworks to reasonable hours on the fourth and better yet only at restricted locations or at organized community celebrations.

Arrest those recklessly discharging firearms and detonating home made bombs.

We shouldn't have to do without celebrations, but the selfish and indiscriminate use of large explosive devices at all hours, over many days creating fire danger and a state of chaos should be the responsibility of local government through law enforcement to protect the greater community.

Gary Medvigy

Sent from my iPad

Bernie Bacon

From: Judy <reedme2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

It is a celebration of the 4th. Not the 1st through the 5th and for some a longer period. It is traumatic for pets and wildlife. I would understand the true celebration but it is a money driven event. A place safe and on the 4th would be appreciated by many Thank you Kent Reed

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Nate Jackson <nate.d.jackson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 10:33 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Hi, I want to express my concerns about allowing personal fireworks in Camas.

My wife and I live in a very old house, just up the hill from the mill which has historical significance (1906, Hugh MacMaster). The building has original wood shiplap siding attached directly to the framing with no sheathing layer. The house is also a balloon frame structure which means there is no fire blocking in the exterior walls between floors all the way up to the attic. If a firework hit the side of our house, there is a distinct possibility that embers could enter into the wall structure and could spread between the floors faster than our ability to exit the house safely. Given the limited staff per fire engine in Camas, I feel like neighborhood fireworks present a very real risk to our safety and property, and to the safety of first responders if there were a fire started or accelerated by fireworks. This risk is perfectly illustrated by the fireworks incident that completely destroyed an old home on SE Tampa St in May last year.

Last year on July 4, we had a couple of groups of neighbors lighting many fireworks in our corner intersection. At least half a dozen fireworks were accidentally launched at our house and into our yard (accidentally fired sideways!). I saw a few hit our roof and siding, which left marks on the house, and a couple went into our yard which started the lawn on fire in a couple of places. The next morning we found much to our dismay that some fireworks had even found their way into our upstairs porch that we didn't see at the time. Fortunately, I had gone out with the hose earlier and thoroughly watered the whole exterior down with the hose. I'm glad I did because otherwise we very well may have had a house fire disaster. There's no way we could have left the house unattended in any case.

We also have three dogs, who were extremely stressed from the noise. My wife and I would have preferred to kennel them in a quiet part of the house and go out to enjoy some municipal fireworks. Unfortunately we felt like we had to stay around the house in case of a fire.

The next morning nobody had cleaned up, so I went out and picked up many little pieces of plastic and cardboard that were left all over the street, and the various pieces that had gone into our yard. Only one neighbor who had been setting off fireworks went out with their kid to clean up after I started picking up, but they only picked up the area immediately in front of their house and then went back in. There were so many tiny pieces of plastic that it was not possible to get all of them and many probably ended up in the storm drain.

While we did enjoy the display put on by our neighbors, it was not without MAJOR anxiety and concern for the safety of our home and our dogs. It would have been much more enjoyable if Camas sponsored an official fireworks show perhaps over the lake or the river and disallowed personal fireworks.

I don't think that Camas should continue to accommodate people for wanting to shoot fireworks in the neighborhood, at the expense of significant harm and stress to those in the community. I've seen neighborhood message board comments from many people who consider their privilege to use fireworks (irresponsibly) as more important than the effects they may have on others. It's extremely selfish and inconsiderate to those who are put at risk of health or property. I especially think of how insensitive this attitude is for the war veterans in the community who often have PTSD and don't always have the ability just leave town for the day (which is what they're told by folks who want to do fireworks).

PLEASE ban fireworks in Camas! We can still celebrate the 4th with fireworks with an official, local professional fireworks display for the community and strictly enforce the ban so we can leave our homes to enjoy it!

Thanks for your consideration.

-Nate Jackson
1123 NE Adams St, Camas

Bernie Bacon

From: Nancy Sturges <nlsturges@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 4:17 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in a Camas

I think it is time to end fireworks in a Camas. We do not set them off at our house, however the amount of debris over our yard and roof each year is incredible. This is a disaster waiting to happen.

Sent from my iPad

Bernie Bacon

From: Judith Kerker <judy.kerker@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 5:58 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

I am a resident of Camas and strongly object to fireworks in Camas. Aside from the dangers of fireworks, they are extremely noisy, cause garbage on the streets and lawns and are terribly disturbing to animals, who are frightened at the loud noises. Fireworks lovers should watch the professional displays which are pretty rather than using the small fireworks which are only noisy.

Thank you

Judith Kerker
judy.kerker@gmail.com

Bernie Bacon

From: Leahann Sperl <lasperl@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 6:24 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: No fireworks

On the evening of July 4th and in the morning I found remnants of overhead fireworks on my doorstep and on my patio next to my sliding glass door. I think the fireworks are extremely dangerous and people are not using common sense. There should not be any fireworks in city limits. People are shooting off fireworks in the middle of the street that shoot up. No one can tell where they come down. I live near the shell station in the summit condos on prune hill. Thank you. Leah Ann Sperl

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Dave Drasin <dave@drasin.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 8:01 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Hello. I'm writing in support of fireworks in Camas. Ive been a homeowner and resident of Camas since 2010. We enjoy fireworks as a family event, and ive been pleased to have bought a home in a city that does not restrict my ability to enjoy fireworks at home.

I do understand that some other residents may not agree. But I dont think its fair that the minority gets to silence the majority or that the liberties of those against trumps the liberties of those for to the extent that the city would make such a change to create fireworks restrictions.

I ask that the city of camas not change fireworks policy.

David Drasin
1236 NW Klickitat Ln

Bernie Bacon

From: Karen Grice <grice4373@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 8:36 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Hello,

We don't support the use of fireworks by individual citizens for a number of reasons. First, most new subdivisions are high density developments that increase the likelihood of an accidental fire on a rooftop or shrubbery. Second, it literally terrorizes our pets and many of my friend's pets. Third, fireworks contain harmful substances that are very bad for the air, soil and water. I think having a nice city fireworks display that everyone can enjoy in a safe area makes much more sense. In this way, the pollutants and noise are confined to one area and greatly reduces the chance of fire and accidental injury. Please think about the welfare of our planet, pets and the safety of our children and opt for a lovely city display. It makes much more sense. People need to get creative and find less destructive ways to raise money for their organizations. Fireworks are too dangerous and destructive.

Thanks!

Steve and Karen Grice

Sent from my iPhone

From: Vince Myers <vince.myers@townofyacolt.com>

Date: May 10, 2018 at 8:37:47 PM PDT

To: Scott Higgins <SHiggins@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: Camas council meeting

Scott,

I was contacted by a representative of the fireworks vendors to come and speak at your council meeting on Mondays in support of keeping consumer grade fireworks available for sale at the current levels allowed by law.

I just don't think it would be appropriate for a Mayor from another jurisdiction to just show up like that without courtesy contact ahead of time.

I know fireworks has become a hot topic across the County, however the data provided so far by the County Fire Marshal does not prove that firework discharge is a public safety concern or health concern. It actually proves the opposite.

My concern all along has been elected officials making policy decisions based on emotion rather than known facts. The fact that advocates for banning fireworks are using only noise complaints as the primary reason a ban is needed is troubling. County wide there were 570 complaints on fireworks during the 4th of July holiday period. While it seems like a large number, it's really a very small number, it equals 0.001% of the population. The ratio for 2016 and 2015 are similar. The data provided by the Fire Marshal does not indicate how many of the complaints were from the same caller, does not indicate the time of day of the call, does not indicate the number of actual fires caused by fireworks versus fires caused by other factors.

I believe limiting people's freedoms even when it is a privilege should not be done lightly nor should it be done without a vote of the constituency being effected.

I'd be glad to talk with you about this further if you'd like. I work full time and don't have my Town device with me at my regular job. If you'd like a fuller perspective on this you can call me on my cell phone (360) 281-2208, I may be at a point where I could take a break and chat.

Vince Myers
Mayor, Town of Yacolt

Sent from my Galaxy Tab A

Bernie Bacon

From: LINDA HERMAN <lintro28@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 8:42 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Dear Mr. Bacon,

I'm in favor of having fireworks on the 4th of July! I've read many reviews from those who want to ban fireworks and I haven't seen the mayhem described by many. We've lived on Prune Hill for 16 years and look very forward to watching the fireworks display by our neighbors! The neighborhood camaraderie would be lost without fireworks! I know a few don't follow the rules, but it's only one night, and a fun way to celebrate our amazing freedoms. We don't want to brave the crowds, traffic congestion, and drunk drivers on the roadways during this time, so staying home and enjoying the celebration from our house is very much worth a little extra cleanup!

There are two sides in this debate, we've seen the restrictions over the years and of course, fire danger needs to be a consideration! Since going to only the night of the 4th, there is not nearly the ongoing nightly display of previous years. Many more people are following the rules than are not, and it's a sad day when we have to give up yet another freedom, because of someone's fears about what hasn't happened. With prudent guidelines, there's no need to eliminate what's been a tradition, and night of fun for the entire neighborhood for many years!

Thank you,

Linda Herman

Bernie Bacon

From: Tracey Kasten Heil <tracey.heil@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 10:43 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Against Fireworks in City of Camas

Deputy City Clerk Bernie Bacon,

Thank you for taking a moment to consider our position against legalizing fireworks within the City of Camas. By now, you are far too familiar with the concerns from those whose pets are traumatized by fireworks every year (like ours are), or from veterans who have served our country and suffer from PTSD, like our neighbor does, or whose homes (and lives!) might be impacted by stray fireworks during the midst of dry summer. These impact far more families than you might imagine. The important thing to consider is that by not legalizing fireworks, the chances of random fireworks going off at different days/times would arguably be drastically reduced, and would (hopefully) increase fines/prosecution rates for those who choose to break the law.

That said, I admire a nice fireworks show as much as the next person. The best way to work around this would be to have the city sponsor (or support someone else sponsoring) a big fireworks display by the waterfront so that those who would like to express their patriotism in this manner can appreciate the spirit of the commemorative event in a more organized manner. The schools and scouts clubs can replace revenue for their respective organizations lost from fireworks sales by hosting concessions at a community event. By not having fireworks randomly being set off around their neighborhoods at different days/times, people can better plan ahead for the chaos that might affect them if they knew they could schedule around an organized fireworks display away from their neighborhoods.

Please help keep Camas a loving and proactively caring community for EVERYONE who enjoys calling Camas home by making independent fireworks purchases ILLEGAL, and by supporting a venue where fireworks-enjoying residents can come together and enjoy the spirit of the event in a spirited yet orderly fashion within a given timeframe. I would happily pay to see a fireworks display – especially if I didn't have to drive down to Fort Vancouver to do so! I'd much rather celebrate with those in my own community!

Best regards,

Tracey Kasten Heil
Camas, WA
360-852-3250

Bernie Bacon

From: David Meigs <dcmeigs1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: In support of a ban on fireworks Fireworks

Dear sir,

As Camas residents, I wish to comment on the discussion regarding the private use of fireworks.

For me, the celebratory aspects are not worth the property damage, fire risk, stress to animals, mess, cleanup costs and air pollution created by the private use of fireworks. I love the holiday as much as anyone, but fireworks are just one aspect of the celebration and there are plenty of public displays to satisfy our needs.

Last year rockets fired over our roof from the street burned a hole in our outdoor furniture. They covered our roof with litter that ultimately required gutter cleaning and weeks of cleanup as it blew from the roof. Those responsible didn't bother to clean up the mess they left in the street. I did not recognize these people as being our neighbors.

With fireworks wisely outlawed in Vancouver, it just follows that those from Vancouver unhappy with that decision will travel to Camas where they may legally shoot off their fireworks on our public streets. This shifts the fire suppression costs and cleanup costs from Vancouver taxpayers to those of us in Camas. This is a burden I don't cheerfully shoulder.

You will hear complaints about stressed animals. It's of course a valid complaint and one I support, but it's not just the animals that suffer. Our labs were so frightened by fireworks we were forced to stay home and comfort them rather than go out and celebrate the occasion with our friends as we would have preferred. Those who do celebrate with private fireworks displays do so at the expense of others enjoyment of the occasion.

Finally, each year we read of veterans returning from our various wars who suffer from the effects of PTSD. I find it painfully ironic that we celebrate a war victory by terrorizing our living war veterans.

It's time now that we outlaw fireworks in densely populated areas so that we may all live together in consideration of our neighbors well-being.

Sincerely

David Meigs

2042 NW Fargo Loop
Camas, WA

Bernie Bacon

From: keith shaw <zug101@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 8:32 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: fireworks in Camas

Thank you for your interest in this subject. I am opposed to fireworks in Camas. Why? Because we have a greenspace/wetland adjacent to our backyard with is ripe with "FUEL", as many of Camas neighborhoods do. Our neighbors set off fireworks which land in our back patio canvas covered pergola. I water it down before each 4th of July evening. Please help in banning these airborne fireworks. - Keith Shaw

Bernie Bacon

From: tdehart@earthlink.net
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 9:02 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Cc: sldehart@earthlink.net
Subject: Message in Support of Legal Fireworks in Camas

Dear Mr. Bacon,

As a former USMC Aviation Ordnance Technician, I support the use of legal fireworks to celebrate Independence Day.

Point 1: These bans don't work. I was raised in SE Portland and the ban was clearly ineffectual.

Point 2: A ban on legal use of fireworks can lead to increased use of illegal, unregulated fireworks. I've seen it happen.

Point 3: The noise of these pyrotechnic devices sound nothing at all like a "war zone." I believe that the people who are inconvenienced by the noise should instead think about the "inconvenience" experienced by our military men and women in harm's way.

Point 4: The current Camas rules for citizen fireworks displays are reasonable and fair.

Thank you for listening.

Terry DeHart
Camas, WA

Bernie Bacon

From: Laura Nanson <laurananson@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 9:19 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Please. The fireworks are out of control. Why should these incredibly loud fireworks be allowed to disrupt so many neighborhoods? My dogs are terrified, my daughter is terrified and I have to stay up late, all because of the noise. Ugh! What a horrible time of year. I dread it. Please don't equate patriotism with fireworks. Please don't tell me it is a once-a-year-fundraiser for organizations. It's a huge intrusion.

Laura Nanson

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Comcast <cmping@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Dear Sir or Madam,

We moved to Camas about 1 1/2 years ago so have only experienced two New Years' and one 4th of July celebrations. Previously, we lived outside of a small California town and fireworks were prohibited. After our move we were absolutely astounded by the amount of disruption in our lives caused by the noise (literally bombs overhead) and the complete disregard for and lack of enforcement of any time restrictions that might exist. It was as if we moved to the Wild West! It was impossible to sleep at night and it went on for days. Our animals were frantic, even with medication we obtained from the vet.

We are a military family and are very patriotic. We enjoy watching and strongly support fireworks but believe they should be handled by professionals at a community event in a designated area. Given the extensive fires of last year caused by a firecracker it is mind boggling that any governmental entity would continue to allow indiscriminate use by the general public. Please stop this madness. Perhaps a local non-profit (Rotary) could organize a community picnic with fireworks, charge admission, add a band, and allow other Community clubs to sell food and drink?

Christine Ping

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Lindsey Hunt <lindseyhunt1018@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 11:30 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Firework use

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing you today in response to the debate regarding the possibly firework ban in Camas. I initially was going to wait out the results without putting any input in but after reading comment after comment on social media of disheartening opinions, I figured I would share my point of view.

My family moved to Camas in 1995 into Parker Estates. We were fortunate enough to live on a street with other families where we would play with the other kids until the street lights came on. We had street barbecues, holiday parties and participated in neighborhood events- One of these events being the Fourth of July. The Moms cooked and the Dads planned out the fireworks to put on the best show possible for the kids. We ended the fireworks at 12am and woke early with our gloves and garbage bags to pick up the debris from the fireworks and swept the streets until the street was spotless. Our family participated in this for 10 years before having to move to a bigger home.

My point of giving you this background is to shine light on the traditions of mine and my husbands that The City of Camas would be taking from my children and those other children who eagerly wait for this holiday every year. Our planned street barbecue would be canceled and we will have to make the trek to one of the over crowded venues that allowed fireworks. I hear and understand the voiced concerns regarding those who are irresponsible and inconsiderate of their neighbors and use the fireworks until the early hours of the morning. Or the people who have pets under distress from the noise; but stripping the fun for everyone else because of the actions of a few or discomfort of animals for just one night seems unfair and dramatic. Not to mention disappointing for those of us who are trying to start traditions with our newly growing family.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope The City of Camas takes these points into consideration when making a final decision.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Kern

Bernie Bacon

From: Connie Roach <connie.gleason@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 11:50 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: fire works

Can't make Monday as I will be out of town. Oh, the passion on both sides will be displayed.

I am for allowing fireworks to be used in the city by citizens. I have young grandchildren, under age 11, and they prefer small fireworks at home with their dads lighting to sitting and watching the large show. I prefer sitting and watching, I am old.

It would be easier on all, people and dogs, if July 4, was the only day for fire works. It use to be that way. In trying to appease everyone with adding days we seem to be aggravating the negatives. I always have had dogs and the noise is hard on them. Days and days of exploding is difficult on animals.

Connie Roach

210 NE 22nd Ave

Bernie Bacon

From: Douglas Strabel <dstrabel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Camas Fireworks - 2018

We are writing to express our support for the 100% ban on fireworks in Camas

Because;

- Peace and quiet is destroyed
- Fire hazard
- Health hazard - both people and animals
- Domestic animals are frightened and driven crazy

Enough is enough - The 4th of July is not about blowing up stuff !!!!!!!

thank you

Kathy and Douglas Strabel
4307 NW Oregon St.
Camas, WA

Bernie Bacon

From: Brittany Hickey <brittany.hickey12@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 12:46 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Ban Fireworks!

Hello,

I wanted to make my opinion known about fireworks but I will make it short and sweet. I do not believe letting fireworks off should be something necessary to celebrate our Independence Day. It is a holiday many of us now dread. I do not think it is fair that we make people suffer (those with PTSD, pets, etc.) so that a few can get enjoyment of letting off explosives. There are many places they can go to see a fireworks display for free. It is harder for all of us to try and find a place that doesn't let off fireworks (somewhere like sunriver). Where we then have to drive there a couple days before and stay a couple days after because people let them off during that whole week whether it is legal or not. This is expensive and not everyone can pay to do something like that. So the other people just have to deal with the loud obnoxious noises and dangerous activity around them. People say they are safe about it when it comes to letting off fireworks. Unfortunately, there's often not a lot of control when things go wrong with fireworks. No matter how safe you are, things can go bad very quickly. When I was younger my family went to 4th of July parties and 4 years in a row someone in my family got injured by a firework that was not made properly. My mom got hit in the face and her whole chin bled, I got hit in the leg and still have a scar and another time my shirt that left a big hole, and my dad got hit on the top of his head. These are dangerous and it is sad we still allow them just so people can get a hype out of them.

Thank you for reading,
Brittany Hickey

Bernie Bacon

From: Benjamin Eneas <benjamin.eneas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 2:33 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FIREWORKS

I personally love fireworks and am so happy that Camas still allows them. I could write a thousand word essay if needed, but do we really need a huge argument to counter the its loud complaint? Little background, I'm a first generation foreigner who endured communism and is not at all offended by the patriotic display.

Thanks,
Benjamin Eneas

Bernie Bacon

From: Connie Roach [<mailto:connie.gleason@comcast.net>]

Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 11:50 AM

To: Bernie Bacon <bbacon@cityofcamas.us>

Subject: fire works

Can't make Monday as I will be out of town. Oh, the passion on both sides will be displayed.

I am for allowing fireworks to be used in the city by citizens. I have young grandchildren, under age 11, and they prefer small fireworks at home with their dads lighting to sitting and watching the large show. I prefer sitting and watching, I am old.

It would be easier on all, people and dogs, if July 4, was the only day for fire works. It use to be that way. In trying to appease everyone with adding days we seem to be aggravating the negatives. I always have had dogs and the noise is hard on them. Days and days of exploding is difficult on animals.

Connie Roach

210 NE 22nd Ave

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Bernie Bacon

From: Bob Huckvale <rwhuck@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

I want to express my support for keeping the fireworks regulations as they are. It is key part of why I love living in Camas. I feel like much of the complaining is targeted at those who violate the laws by using fireworks at prohibited times, or using illegal fireworks. Those who are responsible and safe, including thoroughly cleaning up afterwards, should not be penalized for those who violate laws and don't use common sense. Hearing and seeing fireworks for me and my family is a key part of enjoying independence day. We routinely have friends and family come from Oregon and other parts of the state just to be able to enjoy the fireworks. Let's keep Camas fun, while also promoting and enforcing safety and compliance to laws.

Best regards,

Bob

Robert W. Huckvale
3529 NE Franklin Loop
Camas, WA 98607
rwhuck@comcast.net
Cell: 360-607-4110
Home: 360-834-6547

Bernie Bacon

From: Larry Larimer <ldjt1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 8:35 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

I prefer to continue the sale and use of fireworks without any changes from last year.

Larry Larimer
3151 NW Valley Street
Camas

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Benjamin Jacobs <benjaminjacobs@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 12, 2018 7:35 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Testimony for hearing re: fireworks in Camas

Please accept this written testimony as I am unable to attend the hearing in person. Thank you.

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Benjamin Jacobs, MD
Re: Fireworks in the City of Camas

Thank you for hosting a public hearing regarding fireworks in the City of Camas. Like many of your families, my family calls Camas home. We love many things about our town, including several of Camas' traditions that mark the holidays and seasons. **However, as a hand surgeon and a parent, I unequivocally recommend that Camas discontinue allowing fireworks to be used by its citizens.** At the hearing, you will hear from people on both sides of this debate. Many of the people against allowing the use of fireworks in our city will make reasonable and valid arguments: fireworks terrify children and pets, they cause a fire risk at the driest time of year in our heavily wooded area, they pollute... While these are all accurate and persuasive reasons to be concerned about fireworks use, my position on the subject is a little bit different. I am in the unique position to see the devastating and traumatic injuries that fireworks cause. My partners and I have treated firework injuries that have forever impacted the lives of our patients and their families. From this vantage point, here is what I know: fireworks, even non-explosive ones such as sparklers, are dangerous. Firework injuries, which are due to burns and blasts, can cause damage to bones and soft tissue that require extensive surgery and even amputation. A high percentage of these injuries occur in children. In firework injuries to people of all ages, the hand, fingers, head, and face are the most commonly injured areas. Explosive fireworks are inherently unpredictable and can cause injuries which involve loss of extremities and even vital organs. Even sparklers, which burn at more than 1000 degrees F, cause well over a thousand injuries a year to hands and fingers alone. Fireworks are among the easiest ways to turn a celebration into a tragedy. Let's leave them to the professionals and keep our town safer. Thank you.

Bernie Bacon

From: DogsMakeMeLaugh <dogsmakemelaugh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 12, 2018 8:32 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas - Public Input

Fireworks in Camas

My personal preference is for the City Council to eliminate them altogether. If the Council cannot see fit to do so, at least limit all fireworks to safe-sane, and only for 1 day, the 4th of July holiday itself. Fireworks between Christmas and New Year's? Get rid of that too, entirely.

Issues

1. Noise pollution. The noise each year makes me a prisoner in my own home. I cannot go outside during displays, and I am sensitive to the noise. My dogs cannot tolerate the noise any better than I can. Why should I have to pay money to sedate them, which doesn't really work. Although they don't react due to the drugs, they still hear the monstrous explosions and show fear in their eyes. They become forever fearful of loud noises. I cannot imagine what veterans go through, and why should they have to endure the insanity
2. Litter. Each year our neighborhood, Parker Estates, becomes a war-zone for all the days available to light-off fireworks, and it is the worst on the 4th. There is debris everywhere. Some neighbors claim they clean-up after themselves, but at best they only clean-up some of the debris in the streets. I happen to be routinely down-wind of a large contingent of neighbors that explode them, and over the 20+ years I have lived here, not once has anyone picked-up the debris from my yard, my driveway, or my roof (and there has been plenty). If I don't collect it, it persists for years as the chemicals (or plastic) do not allow the components to break down in the environment. Doesn't this constitute littering, a misdemeanor offense?
3. Air pollution. Air pollution is already a problem, is worse in the summer, and the major fireworks that are exploded each year contribute to the problem. There is all the pollution from shipping them here from a foreign country, as well as all the fuel expended by those who travel to buy them.
4. Water pollution occurs because of all the chemicals associated with their use, and many people leave them in the streets where they eventually make their way into the storm water system.
5. After legal hours. There are plenty of people that insist on exploding them well beyond the official hours. Even if they are a mile or two away, the power of these devices are heard for long distances. Further, there is no recourse. Even if one goes off nearby in the middle of the night, it is difficult if not impossible to determine the doer. Regardless, by then it's too late, as everyone is awake.
6. Fire danger. With the climate doing stranger things each year, I've noticed more trees dying and shrubs being stressed, and plants around my home and those of neighbors are becoming more susceptible. The chance of having a fire is only getting worse, and it doesn't make sense to continue the risk. Just look what happened in the gorge last year, in large part because people cannot be trusted to exercise good judgement.
7. A few years ago, the council was ready to limit fireworks to one day, that is until one member of the community, Ken Fisher, spoke at a public meeting. It was obvious the influence he had as the council, with the exception of Melissa Smith, changed their mind. Only his opinion mattered, and that was an insult to the then majority of the community.

Lighting fireworks does not make someone a patriot. Causing noise, air, and water pollution anything but patriotic and does not help our community.

Please, put an end to this madness and get rid of fireworks. Make Camas a peaceful town year-round. If people want to partake in such festivities, let them go to sanctioned displays such as at Fort Vancouver or Portland where they are conducted by professionals, and only for a short period of time on the actual holiday.

Cal Stone
3802 NW 27th Ave.
Camas

Bernie Bacon

From: gabe kern <gabekern32@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 9:43 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Cc: Bryce.cloutier@gmail.com; Daniel Kern; Conner King; Chad Wiley; Jeremy Faulkner; Jake Southard; Chris Kern; Alex Jack Colby; Andrew Kern73; bryce.yama@gmail.com; Nancy Kern; number31kx@gmail.com; ryanjosephartman@gmail.com; ryan@almartool.com; Jennifer Colby; cnschoendorf@gmail.com; nolan.hunt22@gmail.com; Lindsey Hunt
Subject: Please Allow Fireworks on 4th of July in Camas

Bernie and City of Camas Representatives,

Thank you for serving our town and allowing Camas residents to share their views on fireworks allowed on the 4th of July. I have lived in Camas for my entire life, born and raised here. I now have the opportunity to raise my two children in camas (daughter 2 years old and son is 6 months old) along with our 3 dogs and 4 cats. Wife is an animal lover and also grew up in Camas, we met attending Camas high School. We want fireworks on the 4th of July in this community.

I want my kids to be able to enjoy this holiday like I was able to through my child hood. I believe your council took appropriate action when you addressed this a few years ago and we appreciate the time and detail your team went through in making this tough decision. Below are views and experiences from young Camas home owners and business owners who are the future leaders and role models for our citizens. All emails cc'd here are Camas highschool graduates, born and raised here in Camas and grew up with me and my wife and chose to stay in Camas to raise their families and build their lives here. They share similar views below and support allowing fireworks on 4th of July.

Veterans:

My Father Daniel Kern cc'd here served our country for 40 years in the US Army and retired as a full bird colonel after two tours in Afghanistan. He suffers from PTSD and lives with it every day. He has helped hundreds of veterans cope with PTSD with his personal experience and extensive leadership training from our nation's military. Our family views this holiday as a way to say thank you to my father and his service to our country and reflect on the men and women who have sacrificed so much for Independence and freedom we have here in Camas. My Father looks forward to our neighborhood barbeques where his grandchildren and other kids in the neighborhood come together and the parents have an opportunity to continue to build on the home town feel Camas is known for. This place is different, let's keep it this way. Veterans who are camas residents want to keep our right to have fireworks in camas.

Parents with Young Children:

We have 2 young children (2 year old and 6 month old) and many of the Camas residents cc'd in here have young children. They look forward to this one special holiday each year where the kids come together and the parents put together responsible fireworks shows for their families. With today's technology its fairly easy to create sounds during sleep to cover the sound of fireworks going off one day out of the year, we have never had a problem with our children sleeping on this holiday. Fans, sleep sounds, many apps offer this now with the developments in technology are some approaches my wife and I use and share with our friends. Young parents in camas want to keep our right to fireworks on fourth of July.

Residents with Pets:

We have 3 dogs (Chihuahua and 2 Saint Bernards) and 4 cats. Wife is a huge animal lover and saved all of these animals from abuse and abandonment cases. Many cc'd here not only have children but also pets as well. The 4th of July has always been a time to keep them in doors and utilize fans or sleep sounds to ease them at night

with routine check ins. Never had a material issue with our farm of pets over the past 20 years. All cc'd here share a similar view. Pet owners who have lived their entire lives in Camas want to keep our right to have fireworks in Camas.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and again we camas residents greatly appreciate the time your team has taken to analyze this issue, do your homework and make the best decision possible for our community. Also, Happy Mother's Day to all the Camas mom's that continue to develop and shape our communities future, we appreciate you in this community!

Best,

Gabriel Kern
Lacamas View Neighborhood on Prune Hill
Camas, WA

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Bernie Bacon

From: Walker, Candi <Candi.Walker@ctt.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 4:36 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

I'm against having fireworks for more than on the 4th. It had gotten so out of hand with no one following the time restrictions and days.

Kind Regards,

Candi Walker, V.P
Assistant County Manager
Chicago Title & Fidelity National Title
(360)773-8500
Sent from iPhone, please excuse any misspelled words

"Do things better than they have ever been done before." - Pete Carroll

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Bernie Bacon

From: wes finn <wesfinnfam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 4:54 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks, please ban them for use by private citizens!!!!

Fireworks have no business being allowed by private citizens if they are in the city and surrounded by folks who do not want or like them being set off. We dread it, every time they are allowed to be blown up everywhere. My husband is a veteran, we have a dog and cat who are extremely upset by them and most of us just do NOT WANT the NOISE! The folks who are setting them off just don't care if they are upsetting anybody else in the neighborhood. The year before last the people across the street from where we live, threw a big party with huge speakers which were aimed in our direction and the music was so loud our windows were rattling and we couldn't even hear our tv or music, plus setting off big booming fireworks until after midnight!!! This behavior should be stopped. Most of the time it seems these people are sitting around getting drunk and getting louder and louder.

If they want to watch fireworks they should go down to Fort Vancouver!

Thanks for your time

Sandra Finn

Bernie Bacon

From: Aunna Elm <aunnaelm@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 5:23 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Ban above-ground fireworks in Camas

Dear Deputy City Clerk Bacon,

I can't attend the meeting tomorrow night but please take my comment here. And by the way, I did not see a notice of this meeting in a prominent place in the Camas Post-Record - I certainly hope enough residents know about the hearing tomorrow night, or their invitation to submit emails, that it isn't just people in favor of fireworks that attend!

The City of Camas Mayor and Council should join Washougal and Vancouver in banning above ground fireworks, allowing only "safe and sane". It is CRITICAL that they take decisive action, particularly in light of what our surrounding municipal neighbors have done. Camas is literally sandwiched in between two communities that have banned fireworks - the explosive, above-ground kind - and yet to date our Camas leadership has failed to act??

There are many reasons to object to the use of fireworks, including the insanely loud, intrusive noise, pollution in the air, and garbage on the ground. But my primary concern is public safety. I find it shocking that our Mayor and Council haven't banned fireworks years ago considering increasing fire risks, particularly the July fireworks - with summers in the PNW that are increasingly hot and dry. There is NO reason to presume that the same devastating fires that affected the Columbia River Gorge (not that far from us - started by a firework!), and the Napa, California area last summer, couldn't happen in Camas. And yet here Mayor and Council have continued to endorse the equivalent of people intentionally spraying literally zillions of burning embers all across our beautiful, green city.

In 2016, my neighbor two doors over found a smoldering fire on his property after fireworks exploded for hours behind and in front of our homes over July 4th. And last year - 2017, my next door neighbor's tree ignited hours after everyone had gone to bed. Had it not been for a neighbor noticing the tree on fire when she got up to check on her kids, who knows what would have happened.

We have kids, we have pets, we have homes we love, and greenspaces and trees galore in this beautiful community. And it breaks my brain that Mayor and Council would consider anything less than allowing ONLY "safe and sane" fireworks, particularly given that - as I said - our municipal neighbors - Vancouver and Washougal - on both sides have banned above ground. Obviously the appeal for people living outside of Camas to come here because, "Hey! Fireworks are legal in Camas!", is going to be strong.

I implore Mayor and Council to act now. I implored them to act last year while the Gorge burned not far from Camas and we couldn't breath, I84 was shut down for weeks, all of which hurt our region in so many ways.

Finally, I will point out that apparently our Fire Department is underfunded on top of everything else. Seriously?!?

Act now - ban above ground fireworks, and DO NOT cave to the pressure of people who want to be able to blow stuff up without regard for their neighbors and the safety and well being of our community. Sure, there will be violators but that is no excuse for not doing the right thing. We support our city-sanctioned fireworks - they are fantastic and safer because they are controlled, and then they are *over*, not keeping everyone awake all night.

Sincerely,
Aunna Elm

3520 NW 24th Ave., Camas

Bernie Bacon

From: Joe Walker <walker.joe@frontier.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 6:22 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Against fireworks in Camas

I was given this email address to give my opinion about fireworks in Camas. I don't want to write a book here so I will just tell you that I am 100 percent against fireworks in Camas. I am sick and tired of literally being run out of my own home every year!

Thanks for your time,

Joe Walker

4013 NW 14th ave

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Bernie Bacon

From: Alan Ruger <alanruger@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 8:23 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Mr. Bernie Bacon
Deputy City Clerk, City of Camas, Wa

Dear Mr. Bacon and the City of Camas;

We strongly appose the use of fireworks in the City of Camas by the public. I would only support hand-held items such as sparklers.

The 4th of July "celebration" has become a time for incivility. Our neighborhood is surrounded by a green-space that is highly susceptible to fire. The hillside down to Lake Road would then be landslide prone.

Each year my wife and I spend hours trying to cleanup our property and street, rain gutters get clogged, debris blows around and reappears for months. Much of this ends up in ground water runoff and streams.

I wear ear plugs, but the noise is still very distressful. We used to leave town around the 4th, but now we try to water down the green-space.

There is a long list of negatives for the public use of fireworks. By allowing fireworks, the City is imposing costs on everyone else. Most of us grew-up with handheld sparklers and a city sponsored fireworks display in a park. That is a community celebration, that is civility.

The current fireworks laws are not enforceable and short of a ban on fireworks will be an enforcement nightmare for the police and firefighters. The City of Camas needs to do their job and ban fireworks. Don't attempt to pass the job on to the police and firefighters.

Sincerely,

Alan and Debra Ruger
905 NW 44th Ave.
Camas, Wa 98607

Bernie Bacon

From: Ken O'Day <kenoday@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 9:03 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Dear Mayor and Council,

I strongly urge the City of Camas to ban fireworks. Other local jurisdictions have already made this move, but the City of Camas has been slow to deal with the increasing problem posed by this activity. The types of fireworks sold in the area and used by Camas residents are not the fireworks that we had when I was a kid (firecrackers, bottle rockets, and sparklers). They are much larger, louder, and more dangerous. The noise is overwhelming and unfortunately people ignore the time restrictions and shoot them off well beyond the curfew period keeping us awake. The air and ground pollution is obnoxious and the people who shoot them off often neglect to clean up after themselves. The risk of personal injury is high - I have witnessed children almost hit by malfunctioning fireworks. And perhaps most importantly the risk of fire is significant. The recent fire in the Gorge makes it obvious that the risk of a firework caused fire destroying green space and/or homes in Camas is a real possibility. In fact, twice in recent years there have been smoldering mulch fires in neighbor's yards that if not noticed and put out could have burned homes down.

The people who want the fireworks are not acting responsibly and are not equipped to handle what are clearly commercial grade fireworks. If they want to see fireworks the appropriate venue is a City or County sponsored event.

Please do the right thing and ban fireworks like all the other local jurisdictions. Doing so will actually create more community as people focus on spending time with families, neighbors, and friends instead of shooting off explosives.

Sincerely,
Ken O'Day
3520 NW 24th Circle
Camas, WA

Bernie Bacon

From: Kristi Hickey <kristihickey27@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 6:20 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

I planned to attend tonight's meeting, however am now unable to due to commitments at work.

I am a very easy-going person who considers all sides of issues, however I have grown to be very passionate about this topic and find it more and more difficult to understand the rationale behind allowing public fireworks.

There are many things in life that are "fun," yet there are laws that limit or restrict them due to concerns of safety. This should be one of them. Here are a few of my experiences:

2006: My 10 year old son was hit with a firework, which burned the top of his head. This was during a neighborhood gathering. My son was sitting in a lawn chair simply watching the firework display.

2008: My 13 year old daughter was burned in the shoulder with a firework. Her friend was hit with the same firework, which burned a hole in her shirt and left a mark on her. This was during a 4th of July celebration with a few other families.

Approximately 2012: I was hit with a firework that flew up into the air, exploded, and ejected a parachute-type object. Again, it was during a 4th of July party with friends. I was standing always away from our firework display talking with some friends when the object hit me hard and burned a bloody circle in my cheek. Luckily, it didn't leave the scar I thought it would.

As a young child, my dog jumped through our front, glass screen door to try to escape the noise, injuring himself and costing my family expensive vet bills.

Presently, I spend the 4th (after dealing with the sporadic noises the week of) sedating my own dog and locking ourselves downstairs with the TV blasted to drown the sound in order to give him some relief. This is a rescue dog who was most likely formerly abused dog. It's heartbreaking to watch him uncontrollably shake and try to hide for hours - even medicated. I can only imagine what other people's pets (and the surrounding wild animals) deal with. My daughter shared a comment to this that someone wrote on our Nextdoor app- he basically said that if people don't like how animals react then maybe we shouldn't have pets. Hmmm... we shouldn't give these pets homes simply because you get a thrill of lighting fireworks one day a year? I can only imagine what type of person wrote that.

In 2014 we moved into our new home. We went up the hill to be with our parents on the 4th and when we came home, our back yard was lit up with a smoldering fire. My son and 2 of his friends were inside- they had no idea what was happening outside.

On a much lower scale, I feel this is the place to mention the disrespect I feel when I light NOT ONE single firework, yet spend 2+ hours the next morning cleaning in front of my home (not to mention finding the debris all around my home for months. I can't imagine "dumping" my garbage on someone else's property would be okay? But it happens every year. Yes, many people have talked about "cleaning up the next day," but they're referring to their own home. What about the people whose homes you littered with your firework

debris? When I stepped outside in July 5th last year and shook my head because I knew how I'd be spending my morning, I looked around and, you're right, everyone else's property looked great. Mine, on the other hand, was untouched and a mess. Thankfully, my fantastic next door neighbor ended up helping me.

I say all this with passion for prohibiting fireworks in Camas, but then one thing that trumps even those things are what our Veterans must deal with every year. No, (I say this to those people who constantly defend this) not ALL of our Veterans, but there are many who suffer each year when the 4th rolls around. This is where it becomes "black and white" to me- we are celebrating our country's independence by imposing this fear on the very people who defended us? Nope- that's just it- How many of you that want to continue allowing public fireworks in Camas even THINK about the reason your lighting them? My guess is that you don't. Instead it's just the thrill for you. It's your fun at the cost of everything I've said and more. I find that hard to understand. If you want to celebrate, there's many events around that you can attend. I'm all about celebrations and love the daytime atmosphere of the 4th with barbecues and friends/family gatherings, but I can't imagine anyone saying it's okay for you to do things that are unsafe and "damaging" to humans and pets. Littering by itself is against the law?

PLEASE consider prohibiting fireworks in Camas.

Thank you for listening,

Kristi

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Gina Little <surfergin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 7:57 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in the City of Camas

Dear Deputy City Clerk Bernie Bacon,

I think its extremely sad that this situation is decided on those that can not follow the rules with the fireworks . The City of Camas looks so magical when it comes to life with the fireworks. Neighbors ; friends and family mostly share in this experience and it allows some bonding to happen as well. There is always going to be a pet or person who is afraid of the noise but if there was a way to restrict the use around those special ones so that the rest of us who love to see it still can. Plus here on 1st ave people do clean up after themselves so that is not an issue here. I know it would take some extra effort but I hope we can save the fireworks!!

Thanks you for letting me share my view

Gina Little
928 e. 1st ave
Camas, Wa

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:16 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Fireworks

-----Original Message-----

From: David Marks [mailto:loving76@icloud.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:28 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks

Please keep the fire works in Camas, it's a big family and friends event in Camas and brings are communities together.

David Marks
3634 NW Norwood St

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:16 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Fireworks Meeting Tonight

From: Brian Owens [mailto:brian-owens@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:38 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks Meeting Tonight

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but I would like to go on record against any changes to the current fireworks laws. Fireworks are an important part of our celebrations and I do not want to see any changes. Thank you.

Brian Owens
1552 NW 37th Ave
Camas, Wa. 98607.

Brian Owens
Sales Director
Cell: 503-260-8014
brian.owens@ipaper.com

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:16 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: I want FireWorks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Pond [mailto:jasonpondemail@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:44 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: I want FireWorks!

My name is Jason Pond. I am the president of Greenberry Industrial

I live at 1520 NE 249TH, Camas, Washington 98607

I love being able to do fireworks at my home.

Please do not change things

My cell is 360-949-3494

Sincerely

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:15 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Fireworks

From: Kenneth Rich [mailto:richresources1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:58 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks

We really enjoy our fireworks and would hate the city Council banning these. Please vote to keeping Camas special.

Kenneth Rich
3136 nw valley st
3602107619

Thanks,
Kenneth

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:14 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: City of Camas Proposed Fireworks Ban

From: Eric Wilsey [mailto:ewlegal@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:06 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: RE: City of Camas Proposed Fireworks Ban

To Whom It May Concern,

I was informed today that a proposal is set forth for the banning of fireworks in the City of Camas. My name is Eric Wilsey and I live in the Summit Oaks Community at 3549 NW Norwood St in Camas, WA. I do not support such a ban and hope that this email is received with many other emails from additional community members that share my opinion.

The responsible use of fireworks in our community during the 4th of July celebration is a special time of the year that brings our neighborhood and community together. The use of fireworks on this special day creates an equal atmosphere of fun and enjoyment for all all ages. Households are able to watch and share the visual fun they provide and the sale of such products generate funds for charitable causes that further support our community members and economy.

I feel it would be a terrible mistake to impose such a ban in our community and would create a greater negative effect than any positives that are being sought after.

Respectfully,

Eric R. Wilsey.

Bernie Bacon

From: krista stevenson <stevensonracing@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:17 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks

Dear City Council,

I am writing as a family that has resided in the City of Camas for the past 10 years. I am sending this email to let you know that our family does not support any changes to the current laws and the fireworks are important to us! Please do not change or take away our ability to have fireworks in the community.

Thank You,

Roger and Krista Stevenson
1726 NW 37th Ave
Camas, Wa 98607

Bernie Bacon

From: Jeff Immel <jimmel7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Don't take away our fireworks - Let freedom still ring in Camas

Dear City Council,

Please don't take away our ability to celebrate the Fourth of July in Camas with fireworks.

My name is Jeff Immel and I live at 3513 NE Garfield Street in the Waterleaf subdivision.

The Fourth of July is one of the highlights of the year for our 67-home community. We have a community bike parade where all the kids decorate their bikes and follow one of our neighbor's classic cars. Neighbors step-up tables and chairs in their driveways and during a walk about the neighborhood you'll be offered to stop by for a hot dog and a soda more times than you could possibly eat or drink. And, all of this culminates with various personal fireworks shows throughout the neighborhood starting at dusk.

I fear that if you take away the fireworks, it will diminish the highlight of our Fourth of July celebrations. There will be less neighbors that stay in town to host a gathering for their neighbors and we'll miss a great opportunity to build community pride and comradery. There's more community interaction in our subdivision on the Fourth of July than any other day of the year!

Fireworks are part of the tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July in Camas. It's a tradition worth saving.

I urge the City Council to reject any changes to our current fireworks regulations.

Thank you for your time and for serving our great city of Camas.

Sincerely,

Jeff Immel
3513 NE Garfield Street
jimmel7@hotmail.com

Bernie Bacon

From: Chantell Wilsey <chantellalia@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:26 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Ban on Fireworks

To Whom It May Concern,

I was informed today that a proposal is set forth for the banning of fireworks in the City of Camas. My name is Chantell Wilsey and I live in the Summit Oaks Community on NW Norwood St in Camas, WA. I do not support such a ban and hope that this email is received with many other emails from additional community members that share my opinion.

We are very responsible when using fireworks in our community during the 4th of July celebration and it is a special time of the year that brings our neighborhood together. We really enjoy this time of year and neighbors who are unable to get out or away from their homes are able to watch the fireworks and feel like they are part of the community still.

I feel it would be a terrible mistake to impose such a ban in our community and would create a greater negative effect than any positives that are being sought after.

Thank you for considering what the ban may do to our city.

Chantell Wilsey

Bernie Bacon

From: Jonathan <jnatiuk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 11:02 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Hello,

Thank you for letting the community discuss this. I appreciate the way in which this is all being handled.

I feel very strongly on continuing to allow fireworks to be used in the city of Camas. I also feel strongly that there needs to be clear laws surrounding their usage and strict penalties for those that violate the laws (also understanding it's difficult to catch and enforce).

There are 363 other days on which fireworks can't be used. So for the people that wish to not participate, they only must be concerned about 2 days of the entire year. It seems to me that this is a fair balance that has existed for decades. Why should we change it now?

To me, fireworks on the 4th of July is part of growing up as an American. I want my two children to share that experience right here, in their hometown of Camas.

Thank you,
Jonathan Natiuk
1427 NE 5th Ave.
360.513.7647

Bernie Bacon

From: Will McKay <will.mckay84@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 11:25 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks

To whom it may concern,

My name is Will McKay and I live on 4529 nw Valley st camas wa. I know there is a meeting tonight about changing fireworks rules and ordinances. I will be coaching a little league game so I will be unable to attend. I do however want to share my opinion. I don't think the vocal minority should represent us as a Camas community. The current laws and ordinances are fine. Having the ability to gather as a neighborhood and a community to set fireworks off is a great experience for families. I know the people who want these laws changed will tell you to go down to ft Vancouver or one of the other shows to watch them. Having younger kids that is a process that's not really enjoyable for a family. If I so chose to gather some friends and have their kids off to light some fountains in the street is a better family and community experience.

I don't always buy fireworks but having the ability to continue the past time we have all done as kids is something I think we should still have the option to do.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Darcy Shirley <darcy286@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks meeting

Good morning!

I am working this evening and will be unable to attend the meeting, but would like to provide my input. The following was also posted on an online message board (Nextdoor.com):

If you like fireworks, fine, but the idea that they are a 'right' is a bit of a stretch. Your right to celebrate the holiday as you want to ends when it becomes a safety issue and a nuisance for your neighbors / community. My own distaste for fireworks is mainly with the noise, though we have had a couple occasions where neighbors have almost caused fires on our home because they were setting them off without regard to the wind conditions. My own pets don't seem to be too bothered, though I've known enough that are to know that it is a real problem. I also have empathy for the humans with sleep disorders (like me) or other issues with PTSD and so forth. Also, believe it or not, it is possible to celebrate the Fourth without blowing things up in the street. [It doesn't make you more patriotic, it just means you like blowing things up.] That being said... I don't like fireworks, but I can live with them for a few hours on a couple days of the year. What I can not abide is when they go late into the night or go for days on end while everyone uses up their stashes. It seems reasonable to limit them in some way time-wise, and to specific days (e.g., 7/4 and 1/1). If they are banned entirely, I wouldn't be mad, though; anyone who had a problem with that could take it up with the folks who ruined it for the rest of you by being inconsiderate and irresponsible.

Please let me know if you need further info.

Thank you!

-- Darcy Shirley
Prune Hill, Camas

Bernie Bacon

From: Jina Stainbrook <j.stainbrook@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 11:34 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks

Hello,

We are writing to ask that no changes be made to the existing fireworks rules in the city of Camas.

Thank you,
Duane and Jina Stainbrook
3603 NW OREGON COURT
360-210-4313
Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Molly Fields <mollylvnv@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 11:37 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Firework Ban

Camas City Council,

I have never written a letter or email to the city until now. This fireworks debacle that has been festering for the 18 years that my family has lived in Camas has got to end. Our neighborhood has turned in to a war zone with each passing year. We have gone to other parts of the state during this time to get away from the madness but I worry that I will come home to a burned up yard / house. It is only about 2 in 5 neighbors that are causing the problem but those that do have a total disregard to the rights of us that do not believe that concussion explosions, fire raining down on our homes and gardens, danger from burning landscape, frightened pets and air that is filled with toxic fumes is ok as long as they can continue to "celebrate" the Fourth of July holiday. Each year I have to get up on my house with my blower to remove the garbage from my roof and gutters from my thoughtless neighbors. I then have to clean the street as they refuse and say its the city's responsibility. There was almost a fight last year after a group of us tried to talk to them. We were threatened with physical violence from the group that was mostly from Oregon and Vancouver, which banned this lunacy last year. I'm afraid that it is going to be worse this year as our city is becoming a magnet for this type of behavior. We tried to contact our police but they were too busy to respond. As for the "sports boosters" that collect all this money for their causes, do what the other 95% of the US does and find another source of revenue that doesn't cause so much pain and suffering on decent people. I have a right to live in peace and it is your responsibility to ensure my rights. During this weeks time period, Camas goes from a wonderful, family orientated community to miserable place to live. If they must have their destructive fix, go to the Vancouver fireworks show at the fort. Something has got to be done or we will look for someplace else to live. Ban all explosive, airborne fireworks and fountains and only limit sparklers to July 4th on users property.

Sincerely,

Gary and Heidi Fields

2814 NW Leadbetter Parkway

Camas, WA 98607

Bernie Bacon

From: Darwin Rusu <darwin@bridgeagripartners.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 11:53 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks

Hello,

I do not support any changes to the current fireworks laws. Fireworks are an important tradition in my family.

Darwin Rusu
29705 NE 64th way
Camas, Wa 98607

--

Darwin Rusu | Bridge Agri Partners Inc | Mobile 503.724.8116

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: 4th of July Fireworks

-----Original Message-----

From: Robin Parmer [mailto:parmer4family@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 12:37 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: 4th of July Fireworks

Camas City Council,

Fireworks have always been a fun tradition to celebrate our great nation. I do not support any changes to the current laws.

Robin & Jake Parmer
2451 NW Lorenz St
Camas, WA 98607

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: fireworks

From: Catherine Bush [mailto:cathnw2@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 12:43 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: fireworks

We enjoy our firework laws the way they are written now. Please do not make any changes.

Catherine Bush
14 year resident

Bernie Bacon

From: Mindy Stone-Szabo <Mindy.Stone-Szabo@papamurphys.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 1:05 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Mr. Bacon,

First, thank you for opening this up for discussion among Camas residents. I appreciate the opportunity to express my and my family's opinion on this topic. I will start by saying that **we strongly oppose the way fireworks are handled in Camas.**

We have two teenage kids and their grandparents (who are in their late 70's) live across the street from us at the top of Prune Hill. When we moved here a few years ago, we thought it was odd that people warned us about the 4th of July. They referred to Prune Hill as Baghdad. They said we'd feel like we were in the line of fire and to just be ready for it. Of course we thought they were exaggerating – that seemed a bit extreme - but they were dead-on right. For hours on end, fireworks zip past our windows, skimming our trees and even the side of our house. We now know to expect thunderous booms and high pitched whistles continuing non-stop from at least 8pm to 2 am, all while many of us have get up early the next morning for work.

For us though, it's about more than waking up tired the next morning.

1. It's about Camas residents who are my parents' age and older, and may or may not have family who can be with them on the 4th. My parents have already told us that they don't want to ever have to endure the 4th here again and will pay the money to go somewhere else to spend the night and will *still* be nervous all night that their house doesn't catch on fire. That's not okay.
2. It's about Camas families who have children with special needs, newborns and small children. Fireworks will often cause severe anxiety for kids with sensory issues, and it can create undue stress for parents trying their best to get their little ones to sleep but can't. When Prune Hill Baghdad erupts, these parents don't have a choice but to turn on some loud music, turn up the TV, wear headphones, hide in a closet, or leave their home. They shouldn't have to choose any of these.
3. It's about our Camas military vets who suffer from PTSD. These loud, ongoing fireworks at all hours can be extremely common triggers for combat veterans suffering from PTSD. I think people forget this as they are shooting off the thousands of dollars they spent trying to one-up their neighbor.
4. It's about our pets. They are terrified and in obvious distress. I know this is a common complaint but it's common because it's real and it affects so many of us and our family members. We shouldn't have to heavily sedate our animals when we are in our own homes.

5. Lastly, it's about the clear and imminent dangers fireworks bring. Between injuries and fires, why would we want to keep putting ourselves at risk? Anyone can Google statistics on the dangers of fireworks and see just how devastating it is. It's not a joke, so why we would wait for something more horrible than what happened in the Gorge last year for us to make a change in policy here in Camas?

As you can probably tell, we don't oppose this for the sake of being cranky, Debbie-downers. We don't want to spoil people's 4th of July fun. We completely support having fun and we love fireworks. But when we want to see and hear them, we'll go one of the dozen scheduled municipal shows around the Portland/Vancouver area. It's truly that simple.

Rather than looking forward to the 4th of July, we now dread it. We have never, ever experienced anything like the Baghdad fireworks mayhem we have here in Camas, and we do hope policy changes to make the overall experience a better one for everyone. If a compromise needs to be made, please consider at least a reasonable start and end time when people can shoot off their personal fireworks, that is well-regulated, so residents who want/need to leave their homes will know they can come back that same night and not have to deal with the noise and danger.

When we know better, we need to do better. And we know better. Thank you for your time.

Mindy Stone-Szabo | Director | Learning & Development
Papa Murphy's Intl. | C 303.921.1852 | d 360.449.4067

"Most Likely to Recommend", awarded by Technomic 2015 Consumer's Choice Awards

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Bernie Bacon

From: sturbelle@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 1:41 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks discussion for Camas

Hello Camas council group,

As a resident of Camas, I would like to give input for tonight's discussion and consideration of fireworks complete ban, reduction of days for selling and/or use, etc. I am not only a resident of Camas, but also a professional firefighter for the past 25 years ,mostly with City of Vancouver.

I have not only witnessed and enjoyed some of the use of fireworks, but also have seen some injuries and unfortunate damage that it has done to properties over the years.

There's no argument that the type of fireworks currently allowed within parts of Clark county can have some devastating effect if improperly handled. And yes, over the past 25 years I have seen a few house fires from it, lots of landscaping destroyed, a few injuries and a bit of mess in many neighborhoods. I can't say from what I've seen that the numbers are huge as far as house fires or injuries goes. I've seen years where things are pretty mild, low call volumes from fireworks and some years high. The weather plays a factor in this too. No doubt with the type of fireworks allowed in Camas, and other parts of Clark county can have some bad outcomes. There's always a small percentage every year that can present a small danger. More so, I do believe there is a vast amount of people that are prudent and safe with fireworks. I am sympathetic that it is a concern for our pets(I know, I have a dog), people with PTSD, and the mess it leaves behind...besides the risk and concerns mentioned above.

I do enjoy a little bit of fireworks, but I don't necessarily enjoy it for hours...or days. I think there is a compromise here, and that use of current fireworks sold (within Camas) should only be allowed on the December 31st and July 4th. The sales could be allowed for additional days. There are many other factors to consider by reducing use days or complete elimination, like less OT for staffing the fire dept on these days that fireworks are allowed. Camas already has an understaffed dept., which I'm sure you are very aware of, and would hope this issue becomes a priority.

Thank you for your service and please feel free to contact me for additional info.

Dave Sturbelle
2220 NW 45 ave
Camas, WA 98607
360-834-5204

Bernie Bacon

From: Charlie <Charlie@yourpartycenter.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 1:44 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks

I would like to see the regulations stay the same. I don't think there is any good reason for the change.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Bernie Bacon

From: Don Gaston <dmgaston@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 2:01 PM
To: Melissa Smith; Deanna Rusch; Bonnie Carter; Steve Hogan; Greg Anderson; Shannon Turk; Don Chaney; Bernie Bacon
Subject: Keep Fireworks Legal in Camas

City Council:

My name is Don Gaston and I am a decade plus resident, property owner and taxpayer of Camas.

Thank you for your service to the town. And thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the strong majority of Camas residents that very much want to keep enjoying fireworks with their families - just as the City already allows under its current code.

- It's somewhat confusing to me why this subject has come up again – the City Council reviewed this at length with public comments and a public hearing in September of 2015
 - To my knowledge, **nothing has changed**
 - It's almost like what happens when I tell my 9-year-old son “no” – he runs to mom hoping to get a “yes” by asking multiple times before news of my decline travels too far!
- One of the great attractions when we moved to Camas in early 2007 was its small town feel and sensibilities coupled with its strong commitment to education and growth looking forward
- The City Council has done a good job of moving Camas forward and positioning it for the future
 - And done so by NOT making decisions that “everyone else” would or has
- Camas has often chosen its “own path” – and this fireworks issue should be no different
 - Camas truly is unique and special
 - There's no reason Camas must be like everyone else in the area
 - Frankly – that's not the Papermaker way
- I know a number of online comments have been directed at concerns about the weather and heightened fire risks.
 - The City has already given authority to the Fire Marshal to stop the use of fireworks when weather conditions make it necessary
 - We already have trusted professional public safety officials making that decision
 - Please don't let a small minority mob drown out common sense
- Today we debate fireworks. What's next? Dogs outlawed because they bark after 8pm? Kids not allowed outside after 7pm because they're too loud when they're having fun? Getting rid of certain books? Only allowing certain this? Or certain that?
- Vocal minorities morph into tyrannies – let's just avoid that slippery slope altogether.

Last but certainly not least - some of my favorite Camas memories thus far have been spent with my kids watching fireworks in Deer Creek with family, friends and neighbors. These are the types of memories that will last a lifetime. At a time when so many in our nation focus on things that tear their communities apart, I urge the City Council to focus on not taking away something that helps bring families and the community of Camas closer together.

Please keep fireworks legal in Camas – please let Camas be Camas. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Bernie Bacon

From: Mary Sauer <mary@sauerdevgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 2:13 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Comment re Fireworks

Dear Council Members,

I understand you having a Public Hearing tonight re fireworks regulations within the City of Camas. I am unable to attend this evening but I would like to provide my opinion.

After reviewing the 4 options, I vote for keeping it the same - option 1 or I would be fine with option 2. I am not in favor of only offering Safe & Sane Fireworks or a total Ban. Many families hold gatherings for 7/4 and 1/1 and the fireworks have been a huge part of these events. It is too bad that a small percentage of the people doing fireworks are disrespectful or careless and they punish the rest of us who are respectful of our neighbors and surroundings and are careful with the fireworks. Please don't punish the majority.

Thanks,

Mary Sauer
Co-owner
Sauer Holdings LLC
754 SE Union Street
Camas, WA 98607

Bernie Bacon

From: Pauline <pauline@yourpartycenter.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 2:14 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks

Dear City Council,

Please consider leaving the existing firework rules in place.

Kind Regards,

Pauline Mulcahy
Director of Sales/Events

Your Party Center
3006 Ne 112th Ave Suite E
Vancouver, WA 98682
Office: 360-844-7044
Cell: 360-608-6663
www.yourpartycenter.com

Bernie Bacon

From: Alex Owens <alex-owens@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 2:42 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP)
Subject: Fireworks law changes

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting on the above mentioned subject. I did however want my opinion noted. I am against any changes to the current fireworks laws.

Thank you,
Alex Owens
1552 NW 37th Ave
Camas, WA 98607

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 3:30 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Fireworks

-----Original Message-----

From: Comcast [mailto:laniharrington@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 3:10 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks

I don't support any changes in the city regulation on use of fireworks! These people have many employee many who are Camas high students.

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Joe Johnson <19cali543@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 3:30 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Camas Fireworks

Hello council members,

I am writing in to support the current laws as they stand. Modifying to limit to discharge on the 4th and New Years would be fine as well, but unnecessary. I came to Camas from a city where fireworks had been banned in previous years, and honestly it did not seem to help much with disturbance issues. People just purchased them elsewhere and lit them off anyway. Not to mention all the good it does in the community. Our church group used to run a stand, and I know of many other organizations that have benefited from Fireworks. Not to mention it is the 4th of July! Not sure what the 4th would be without fireworks!

Thank you,
Calista Jones

Bernie Bacon

From: Brandon Roberts <brandon_roberts77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

Mr. Bacon,

Please DO NOT ban fireworks in the City of Camas.

I feel for individuals, especially veterans, and the animals that may be frightened by the sound. BUT, I also look for the joy on my children's faces when they are able to see a firework up close.

IF you have to tighten the time-frame for fireworks to be lit...I'm all for it...within reason.

In my opinion, Camas is a family friendly community. A community where dreams and memories are made. Please don't take away the memories/family gatherings that are centered around fireworks on our Independence Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Roberts

1346 NE 5th Avenue

Camas, WA 98607

Bernie Bacon

From: Ben Dominge <bendominge@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 5:25 PM
To: Melissa Smith; Bonnie Carter; Greg Anderson; Don Chaney; Deanna Rusch; Steve Hogan; Shannon Turk; Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

All,

I wanted to send you all a quick email regarding tonight's council meeting and the Firework Public hearing. I also plan to attend the meeting.

I currently live in the Grand Ridge subdivision. My son attends Prune Hill Elementary, where my wife and I volunteer. I am also an assist baseball coach for the Camas Little League and my wife volunteers for various other activities within the community.

I email you today asking that you please leave the Firework Code alone.

As a member of the community I enjoy the 4th of July. I think setting off Fireworks sets our city apart. We moved from California to Camas because we wanted a small town city feel were we felt close to our neighbors. We got that right away and the rest of our family saw it as well. This resulted in my wife's mother, grandparents, two cousins and their families relocating to Camas. We all love the 4th and the sense of pride it instills in our country and the city.

It seems like we are considering changing the code because of only a few people. If we are truly going to consider something like this shouldn't we vote or have a majority of the community weigh in?

Not allowing everyone an opportunity to be heard makes our city feel a lot like the California cities I grew up in. I know tonight is the public hearing, but the announcement to the public was limited to newspapers. Most of the younger families in the community are very active and do not receive a newspaper. With this in mind, I do not believe you will get the opinion of the masses. I would like to avoid this and ask that you leave the code alone until a proper survey of all of the residents can be done.

Thank you for your time.
Ben

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Fireworks in Camas

-----Original Message-----

From: BRIAN JONES [mailto:brjonesy@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 7:53 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks in Camas

I do not feel there should be any changes to the firework laws in Camas

1613 NW 37th Ave

Brian Jones
360-954-5277

Bernie Bacon

From: Isaac Dizon <dizon.isaac@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:09 PM
To: Bernie Bacon; Scott Higgins
Subject: Keep Fireworks in Camas

To the members of the City Council,

In support of community gatherings, local businesses and memories of firework displays on Independence Day, I am writing to you with enthusiastic support of KEEPING fireworks in our community. Fireworks are part of Camas Pride. Each year, they are displayed across the sky at Camas High School's homecoming football game. They are seen lighting up the skyline during the annual Hometown Holidays celebration in downtown Camas. On the Fourth of July, from Camas Meadows to the Port of Camas-Washougal, families gather at homes to celebrate American independence while watching fireworks glare across the sky. A ban on fireworks would not only make these events distant memories, it would decimate local firework businesses such as Mean Gene Fireworks which happens to donate many of the displays I mentioned above to the city each year. I strongly urge you to keep legal fireworks a tradition in our community.

Thank you,
Isaac Dizon

dizon.isaac@gmail.com
360-553-5874

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Keep Fireworks in Camas

-----Original Message-----

From: Isaac Dizon [mailto:dizon.isaac@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:17 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Keep Fireworks in Camas

To the members of the City Council,

In support of community gatherings, local businesses and memories of firework displays on Independence Day, I am writing to you with enthusiastic support of KEEPING fireworks in our community. Fireworks are part of Camas Pride. Each year, they are displayed across the sky at Camas High School's homecoming football game. They are seen lighting up the skyline during the annual Hometown Holidays celebration in downtown Camas. On the Fourth of July, from Camas Meadows to the Port of Camas-Washougal, families gather at homes to celebrate American independence while watching fireworks glare across the sky. A ban on fireworks would not only make these events distant memories, it would decimate local firework businesses such as Mean Gene Fireworks which happens to donate many of the displays I mentioned above to the city each year. I strongly urge you to keep legal fireworks a tradition in our community.

Thank you,
Isaac Dizon

dizon.isaac@gmail.com
360-553-5874

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:05 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Keep Fireworks in Camas

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Dizon [mailto:markdizon70@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:26 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Keep Fireworks in Camas

To the City Council,

Please consider keeping fireworks legal in the City of Camas. They are a tradition in the community and would really be missed if they were no longer allowed to be let off each year.

Thanks for considering my message,
Mark Dizon

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:05 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Fireworks Law Change

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Middleton [mailto:nmiddleton22@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 10:59 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks Law Change

To Whomever it May Concern-

We do not support any changes to firework laws in Camas as fireworks are important to us and our family.

Thanks.

Nick Middleton
1814 nw 21st Ct
Camas, WA. 98607

Sent from MiPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:04 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Council Meeting of 5/14/18

From: Scott CULBERTSON [mailto:culbertson14@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 7:09 AM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Council Meeting of 5/14/18

Hello Council Members -

Thank you again for holding the meeting last night regarding Fireworks. After listening to the public speak, I know that this is a very divisive issue. Both sides believe they are in the majority. As representatives of the people of Camas, I would encourage you to put this out to a vote of the people. After all, the Council should support what the majority of Camas citizens want. Although I applaud your efforts, a public hearing does not achieve a scientific method of answering this question.

My opinion is that due to changing climate, you risk a major fire. We will not be able to "unburn" our green spaces. Once that happens, it is too late. That on top of the noise, stress, and pollution makes me think we should have a sane and safe gathering for a community fireworks show operated by professional and stop this madness.

That is just my opinion. Let's find out what the majority want.

Thank you again for your efforts here.

Scott Culbertson

4739 NW Aspen Crt.

Camas, WA 98607

Bernie Bacon

From: Julie Melton <melton.juliea@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks Vote - Comments

Dear Mr. Bacon,

I am writing to share my comments regarding the upcoming decision about continuing legal fireworks in the City of Camas. Our family believe the cons of continuing legal fireworks in Camas far outweigh the pros.

CONS:

- **DAMAGE TO PERSONAL AND PUBLIC PROPERTY:** Our neighboring cities and communities have banned certain fireworks, increasing the amount of people coming into Camas on the 4th of July to set them off. Last year, we had complete strangers set up a fireworks display in a quiet cul-de-sac in our neighborhood. They left a huge mess and a potential hazard to nearby homes and green space.

- **STRESS AND WORRY FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS:** Fireworks are used on the days leading up to the 4th and many days after - frightening young children and keeping families awake who have to wake up and go to work the next day(s). Why do we allow our wonderful community to be so negatively impact with a seemingly easy decision - we are causing neighbors, children, adults, veterans and pets unnecessary suffering. MANY, in fact a majority of cities throughout the country have assessed these risks and made the prudent decision to eliminate the larger fireworks. Our children are young and one is very frightening by the loud noises at night. We have a very traumatic week because of the careless approach of the city and we know we are not alone in wishing Camas would get on board with the prudent choice.

PROS:

- Entertainment for a few days?? Childhood memories? (You don't need to blow things up to make memories :-))

I am very patriotic and believe you can celebrate with small fireworks and sparklers at home and enjoy a large, professional display, at many local venues. Why take the risk of people being injured, fires being started and cause all of the clean up and stress on our communities? It doesn't feel patriotic at all.

I sometimes wonder what it will take for our community to seriously reconsider the legalization of fireworks. Why take those risks when we can compromise now and set reasonable standards in our community to both enjoy the holiday and our community?

This will already be a taxing holiday on local law enforcement so whatever is determined should be enforceable and reasonable.

Thank you,
Julie Melton
3228 NW 45th Court
Camas, WA 98607

Bernie Bacon

From: Peter Capell
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: FW: Fireworks!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Harrington [mailto:little3h@me.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 6:58 PM
To: City Council Members (GRP) <CityCouncilGRP@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Fireworks!!

To whom it may concern,

I would like to say that my family loves Fireworks and we would like to keep our family tradition of 4th of July alive in Camas.

Thank you
Lisa Harrington

Sent from my iPhone

Bernie Bacon

From: marsh17@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 2:08 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Comment About Fireworks

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Thank you for giving the Camas community the opportunity to speak our concerns about the fireworks display in the city. I thought I would say something last night, but I was engrossed by the ideas and concerns expressed by other residents. I was also aware that if I did address you, I would sound a bit “professorial”; I was a college professor in San Francisco before moving here when I retired.

Our 1st 4th of July in the area was a big surprise. No one had told us about the extent of the displays before we arrived. Actually, we enjoyed them and even looked forward to next year’s display. That first experience was more than fourteen years ago and times have changed since then. Each year we have noticed that the neighborhood displays seem to have increased; that is not a surprise considering the extent of new housing developments. Recently, it seems like there is little concern about the number of days restricted for displays or the number of hours that they continue; last year neighbors were still shooting explosive fireworks at 2:00am. We now dread the 4th of July and plan to risk leaving our house in order to find a sanctuary where my husband, our dog and I can celebrate the 4th with a true sense of pride as Americans, not the anxiety and distress we felt last year.

I taught Ecology and Environmental Sciences for thirty years in San Francisco. My students usually blamed the environmental issues on the lack of foresight of their parents and their generation. I recommended that before they got too judgmental they read a short article by the environmentalist, Garrett Hardin, *Tragedy of the Commons*.

Hardin explains how the ecological misuse developed over time: In earlier communities, certain land was held “in common” by all residents of the area. No one owned the timber in a forest or the prime grazing land used by cattle. These common areas were maintained in good condition without the need for laws to regulate their use. Everyone in the community knew all the other residents, their neighbors, and everyone felt the collective pressure to use the commons wisely; what was wise was dictated by common sense.

The environmental tragedy developed when populations increased and close ties with fellow residents dissolved. The philosophy that anyone can use the commons remained, but the use of it for personal gain and pleasure seemed ok; after all the commons belonged to everyone and could be used without restriction. As conditions in the commons became threatened by overuse, laws were passed to regulate behavior and define how the commons could be used, for example a penalty for misuse. As time passed, the laws pile up and the quality of life declined. Behavior became regulated by law not by common sense, conscience, or what your neighbors might say or think.

Last night I heard the concerns of many residents, several expressing their fear of fire, emotional stress, polluted air and dirty streets. I also heard other speakers worried that their personal freedoms were being threatened, finances would be lost, charities would go unfunded, and children would be denied a community building, patriotic activity. It hit me that the *Tragedy of the Commons* had come home to roost in Camas. You are being asked to institute regulations, which will indeed threaten the quality of our lives. Hardin claimed this loss of quality is the tragedy of misuse, it is bound to occur and there will be unhappy citizens no matter what decision is made.

I believe, it is your obligation to preserve a sense of community for Camas. You can begin to do that by establishing laws that give something to every member of the community; there will be winners and losers on both sides of this issue. I don't believe your obligation is met by either a total ban of fireworks or no change beyond the present regulations. Reduce the number of days fireworks can be ignited and/or prohibit the most offensive types, such as aerial or percussion explosions. Everyone wins and loses something.

Now you know why I held off speaking last night! I can get into a lecture mode. Thank you for the wonderful example of democracy I witnessed last night; I look forward to your decision.

Edmund Bedecarrax
1735 NW 40th Avenue

Bernie Bacon

From: Greg Smith <gsmith@kvhealth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 6:51 PM
To: Bernie Bacon
Subject: Fireworks

Hello,

I'd love to see something for fireworks that limits it to one evening.

My dog freaks out and having it continue for days is difficult to manage.

Also, the amount of trash and inability to sleep when things are so loud all night is difficult.

A policy of respect for each other will be great. And enforce it.

Thanks,
Greg

3434 NE HAYES
CAMAS, WA

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