

Plant Fair returns to Two Rivers Heritage Museum

The Camas-Washougal Historical Society's popular annual Plant Fair returns this spring, offering a wide selection of locally grown plants at affordable prices. The event will be hosted from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, June 14, at the Two Rivers Heritage Museum, 1 Durgen St., Washougal.

For weeks leading to the sale, volunteers collect and cultivate plants from local gardens to ensure a diverse and healthy selection. "Shoppers can find unique, locally grown plants that add beauty and character to their gardens," organizer Alma Ladd, the museum's longtime "plant lady," said in a press statement.

A limited number of highly sought-after Camas lilies will be available again this year, and early arrival is encouraged for the best selection.

Beyond the plants themselves, organizers say the event reflects the region's gardening heritage. "These plants have been grown locally for many years," said museum volunteer and



Alma Ladd and Jackie Farley gather local plants for the upcoming Plant Fair planned for Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, June 14.

board member Janine Bernard. "By offering them at the Plant Fair, we're giving gardeners a chance to enjoy the variety and heritage of plants grown right here in our community."

The Plant Fair also serves as a key fundraiser

supporting the CWHHS's mission to preserve and share local history. "It's more than a sale, it's a tradition," said museum director Julianne Lawrence. "People return year after year to find great plants and connect with the stories



Camas-Washougal Historical Society courtesy photos | Skamania County Pioneer

Janine Bernard has been volunteering with the plant fair preparation for several years.

that make this community special by touring the museum."

In preparation for the sale, volunteers recently gathered at the Washougal home of Thor Larsen to dig plants. Larsen and his late wife, Lilla, have opened

their garden and yard for more than a decade. Harvested plants include lilies of the valley, raspberries, ferns, violets and wild bleeding hearts. "There are always plenty to share,"

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News Briefs

Public invited to American Legion Post meeting

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of The American Legion Trading Post 137, the first Saturday of every even numbered month, at 841 Wind River Hwy, Carson, Washington. For information, go online to AmericanLegionPost-WA137.org.

Source: American Legion Post 137

Expect delays on SR 14 for tunnel inspections, April 29

Travelers who use State Route 14 in Klickitat and Skamania counties should plan ahead.

Beginning Tuesday, April 28, the Washington State Department of Transportation bridge maintenance crew began to inspect six SR 14 tunnels in Klickitat and Skamania counties: Tunnels 128, 129, 130, 133, 134 and 214. These yearly inspections help keep the tunnels safe and in good condition for all travelers and extend their lifespan.

Source: Washington State Department of Transportation

Chamber looking for fair volunteers

The Skamania County Chamber of Commerce is looking for upbeat, dependable volunteers who can work well with everyone and help create a fun, welcoming fair for the whole community. If you enjoy meeting people, pitching in where needed, and being part of a great local tradition, we'd love to have you on board.

We need volunteers who are: Friendly and respectful; flexible and ready to help; comfortable working with all kinds of people and team players with a positive attitude.

Volunteer opportunities may include: Greeting fairgoers; helping with setup and cleanup; assisting with check-in at the exhibit hall (training will be provided) and sharing information and directions with guests.

Why volunteer? Be part of one of the community's favorite events, meet new people while making connections, giving back in a meaningful way and helping to make the fair a great experience for everyone.

A specific need is for an assistant floral superintendent, some floral knowledge is required.

Source: Skamania County Chamber of Commerce

Camas-Washougal community service organizations announce 2026 grant awards

The Camas-Washougal Community Chest and its partners, the Rotary Foundation of Camas-Washougal and the Camas Lions Foundation, recently announced the award of 37 grants totaling \$140,760 to non-profit organizations delivering services, exclusively, to children and families in Camas and Washougal. The Rotary commitment to Service above Self also adds volunteers to the mix as they work to make a difference in the community.

The grants will fund such diverse services as emergency food assistance, aid to families in crisis or needing emergency services, safe temporary shelter for at-risk youth, a Safe Stay overnight car park program at St. Anne's Episcopal Church and water quality monitoring in the Lacamas Creek watershed.

New organizations receiving grants for the first time offer services such as a computer for volunteers' research use, business and financial literacy programs, cover costs for students to attend summer camp, providing direct support to families and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and funding community outreach for mental illness presentations.

Community Programs/Projects Funded in 2026

Akin East County Family Resource Center (formerly Children's Home Society)

Help fund operations at the Resource Center located in Washougal. Help fund parent educa-

tion groups, youth support groups, emergency basic assistance, behavioral health services and health care services provided by ECFRC or by a partner agency. Funds emergency food, diapers and hygiene items, including a weekend food backpack program.

Camas School District, Principal's Checkbook (aka Camas Family Community Resource Center)

Funds will assist students and their families who are living in situational instability with their essential needs, particularly those that assist directly in the furthering of a student's education or their physical/emotional well-being. These requests most often come directly from school building counselors, which also relieves their anxiety when students need additional support for their best learning.

Camas Farmers Market

Help fund "Produce Pals," a weekly activities program to educate children about where and how food is produced. Children completing the weekly program receive a \$2 token to spend at Camas Farmers Market for locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Camas Robotics Booster Club (aka Team Mean Machine)

Help fund registration and transportation costs for students in financial need to participate in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) classes and activities. Will also help fund STEM education and outreach activities in the Camas and Washougal

area.

Camas Washougal Historical Society

The grant will fund a laptop computer for use by volunteers doing research regarding artifacts, stories, pictures and documents about the local area.

Camas Washougal Parent Co-op Preschool

Help fund operating budget, specifically paying for a 50 percent increase in the group's annual property rental costs.

Camp Currie

Help fund replacement of footbridge No. 4 in the middle of the Camp's trail system. There are permitting, purchase of materials and labor costs during this next phase of completing improvements to this rustic camp.

Cascadia Technical Academy Foundation

Help fund purchase of required student uniforms for students from families with financial constraints. Help fund basic family needs such as food and transportation when the family is facing a financial emergency such as loss of a job or a medical emergency. Lastly, funds will be used to provide transportation services during summer school, when the school buses are not running.

Columbia Play Project

Help fund a three-part summer event series focused on the history of play in Washington and the important role that materials, tools and craftsmanship have played in the cultural

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No commercial huckleberry harvest in 2026 in GP Forest

The U.S. Forest Service's Gifford Pinchot National Forest announced today that commercial huckleberry permits will not be issued in 2026. The decision reflects the Forest's commitment to tribal treaty rights and trust responsibility, ecological recovery and a long-term management approach built on genuine collaboration and long-term sustainability. The decision follows months of engagement that included an online public questionnaire, a community roundtable in February 2026, conversations with industry and government-to-government consultations with tribal nations. The Yakama Nation, Tulalip Tribes and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) each formally requested permanent cessation of commercial huckleberry harvest on the Forest.

ATNI's resolution documents the cultural, ceremonial and subsistence importance of huckleberries and notes that during 2025 without commercial harvest, tribal gatherers observed improved berry abundance, reduced harassment and safer gathering conditions. "Our responsibility is to steward huckleberry habitat in a way that honors treaty-reserved rights and trust responsibility, protects cultural resources and ensures these plants remain abundant for generations," Forest Supervisor Johanna Kovarik said in a press statement. "We heard clearly from tribal governments, forest users and local communities about the impacts of commercial harvest, and we are committed to a path forward that prioritizes ecological health

and cultural respect." The Forest is initiating a multi-year planning effort to evaluate long-term management options. This process will include government-to-government consultation with affected tribes, targeted and public engagement, continued huckleberry field restoration and formal consideration of tribal requests for permanent closure. The goal is a durable, transparent and culturally respectful management framework that supports both ecological and community needs. Huckleberry fields across the Forest are experiencing long-term decline from conifer encroachment, fire suppression, drought and invasive species. The Forest has a long history of huckleberry restoration through timber harvest, prescribed fire and vegetation treatments. Active restoration projects with huckleberry components include the Yellowjacket Project on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, precommercial thinning on the Mt. Adams Ranger District, and the Forest-wide Plantation Thin Environmental Assessment. Personal-use huckleberry picking remains open under existing Forest regulations. Free permits are available online at gp.fs2c.usda.gov/gp/. All visitors are encouraged to harvest responsibly and respect tribal treaty rights and trust responsibility and traditional gathering areas. Additional information is available online at www.fs.usda.gov/r06/giffordpinchot.

Source: U.S. Forest Service

'Shred for Fred'

Get sensitive documents shredded, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 2 at Riverview Bank, 225 Second St., Stevenson. Limit five boxes/bags per vehicle.



Sponsored by Skamania County Lions Club.

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This day in history

- 1429 Joan of Arc relieves Orleans during the Hundred Years' War.
- 1945 U.S. Army liberates Dachau concentration camp.
- 1974 President Nixon announces release of Watergate tapes.
- 2004 World War II monument opens in Washington, D.C.