Your government – who to contact

Here's how to reach out to local, state or national representatives.

If desired, comments for publication on the Views page can be sent to the Stanwood Camano News via email at newsroom@scnews.com or using our online form at SCnews.com/opinion.

City of Stanwood

Mayor
Sid Roberts — 360-629-2181; mayor@ci.stanwood.wa.us

City Administrator
Shawn Smith — 360-454-5235 or shawn.smith@stanwoodwa.org

Councilmembers, 360-629-2181

Position 1 — Dani Gaumond, dani.gaumond@ci.stanwood.wa.us

Position 2 — Marcus Metz, marcus.metz@ci.stanwood.wa.us

Position 3 — Darren Robb, darren.robb@ci.stanwood.wa.us

Position 4 — Robert Hicks, robert.hicks@ci.stanwood.wa.us

Position 5 — Steve Shepro, steve.shepro@ci.stanwood.wa.us

Position 6 — Andreena Bergman, andreena.bergman@ci.stanwood.wa.us

Position 7 — Tim Schmitt, tim.schmitt@ci.stanwood.wa.us

Island County

Commissioner District 3
Janet St. Clair — district3@co.island.wa.us or 360-387-3443 Ext. 0 on Camano

Stanwood-Camano School District

Interim Superintendent
Ryan Ovenell — 360-629-1200; rovenell@stanwood.wednet.edu

Board of Directors
District 1 — Albert Schreiber; aschreiber@stanwood.wednet.edu

District 2 — Charlotte Murry; cmurry@stanwood.wednet.edu

District 3 — Miranda Evans; mevans2@stanwood.wednet.edu

District 4 — Betsy Foster; bfoster@stanwood.wednet.edu
District 5 (at-large) — Steve King; sking@ stanwood.wednet.edu

Snohomish County

Executive
Dave Somers — 425-388-3312; Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

State of Washington

Governor
Bob Ferguson — 360-902-4111; governor.wa.gov

District 10 legislators

Primarily Stanwood and Island counties. To find state legislators in other districts, see leg.wa.gov.

State Senator
Ron Muzzall, R-Oak Harbor — 360-786-7618; ron.muzzall@leg.wa.gov

State Representatives
Clyde Shavers, D-Oak Harbor — 360-786-7884; clyde.shavers@leg.wa.gov

Dave Paul, D-Oak Harbor — 360-786-7914; dave.paul@leg.wa.gov

Federal

U.S. Legislators representing Island, Snohomish, Skagit, San Juan and Whatcom counties

U.S. Senators
Patty Murray, Democrat — 425-259-6515; 202-224-2621; murray.senate.gov

Maria Cantwell, Democrat — 425-303-0114; 202-224-3441; cantwell.senate.gov

U.S. Representative
Rick Larsen, D-District 2 — 425-252-3188; 800-562-1385; 202-225-2605; larsen.house.gov

Register to vote

Visit vote.wa.gov to learn how to register to vote.

NEWS FILES

It was a wonderful day for cyclists

ARCHIVES

JUNE 4, 1925

The weather was perfect and the time fast at the annual bicycle races held Saturday on the Florence Road under the direction of Arthur Knudson of the Wonder Variety Store of Stanwood.

Most of the prizes, which were contributed by manufacturers and business firms, went to contestants from Florence, although some entrants from Stanwood showed up well.

Lawrence Whitehead of Stanwood won the first prize, a gold watch, in the 15-year-old event.

Second prize, a gold medal, went to Iver Folden of Florence.

Gordon Tierne won the gold watch as the winner in the 14-year-old contest. Lars Eide got the silver medal for the second-best showing.

JUNE 6, 1935

The Lee Grocery Company of Everett and Bellingham, Washington, under the leadership of P. P. Lee and his brother, C. P. Lee, are celebrating their Silver Anniversary this year.

As two of the Northwest's outstanding wholesale grocery executives, both Mr. P. P. Lee and Mr. C. P. Lee, President and Vice President, respectively, of the Lee Grocery Company, have played leading roles in the establishment of the Independent Grocers' Alliance in Northwestern Washington.

MAY 31, 1945

Mrs. Max Gilgan and Mr. and Mrs Edward Jacobson, of San Francisco, spent several days recently with Mrs. Jacobson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hundertmark. Mr. Jacobson is an engineer in the Merchant Marine.

It will be remembered by friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hundertmark that Fred and Max Gilgan were both on a ship that was torpedoed in the Caribbean Sea early in the war, but both escaped without injury.

The ship was hit in the bow by a German submarine as it was maneuvering during the night to join a big convoy that was preparing to leave for Murmansk.



SC NEWS FILE

June 3, 1965: STANWOOD SCHOLARS — Torch Honor students in the graduating class of 1965 include, left to right, front row: Kay Thompson, Jane Shelton, Norma Naas, Jeri Solon, Edna Hage, Beth Fortin, Luari Christensen, Janet Jeffrey, Marcia Mikulencak, Chris Mann. Middle row: Elleen Nelson, Judy Stensaa, Camille Krouse. Back row: Tom Lund, Richard Knudson, Kearney Hammer, Brad Ipsen, Bruce Carlson, Pete Flones, Janet Larsen.

JUNE 2, 1955

Due to the inclemency of the weather, the annual gathering of the "Pioneers of Utsalady" was held Sunday in the parish hall at the Camano Island Lutheran church with Mrs. James J. Hansen serving as president.

It was a great gathering and for a very definite purpose — that of keeping alive with tender sentiment a tradition of pioneer heritage that will ever reflect honor to those men and women who came out west and out of the island forests converted the logs into lumber and on the rugged sites established comfortable homes as sanctuaries for their growing families.

The Sivert Johnson family seems to have left the greatest number of descendants, but several of the other early pioneers were represented by members of the following generations.

JUNE 3, 1965

The preliminary budget of $513,675 approved for the 1965-66 school year is down $32,160.41 from the total of the previous year because of changes and reductions in state and federal funds.

Major cuts are in equalization and educational unit allotments from the state, plus bookkeeping juggling that places school monies in less flexible categories.

Attending the hearing were members of the local faculty committee, namely Jackie Ovenell, William Hubschmitt, James Lewinski and Bruce Kollmar, chairman.

Their mission was a plea for salary increases with particular emphasis on greater consideration and stipend incentives for teachers with B.E. and M.A. degrees.

JUNE 4, 1975

Stanwood's Church Creek Park is open daily and area residents as well as visitors are invited to make frequent use of the community facility.

Several picnic tables are arranged at the cooking shelter, and firewood is stacked nearby. An electrical outlet and a sink with running water are part of the shelter facility. Restrooms are also provided.

JUNE 6, 1985

An updated six-year street improvement plan was passed Monday night and includes 14 specific or general projects to upgrade city roadways, drainage and lighting.

Funding for the projects is provided by proceeds from gasoline taxes.

JUNE 6, 1995

Plans by Housing Hope to build 13 units of low-income housing in East Stanwood were thrown into uncertainty Monday night after the Stanwood City Council denied a request to vacate a 6,000-square-foot parcel of land.

For three years, Housing Hope has been developing plans to build low-income housing in an area east of Pioneer Highway between Cedarhome Drive and 272nd St. NW.

During the planning phase of the project, the city approved a Housing Hope petition to subdivide its property from one lot into three lots. Housing Hope officials now contend that approval of that subdivision included vacation of a 6,000 square foot city right-of-way along the eastern edge of the property.

Plans for the 13-unit complex were based on the assumption that the parcel had been vacated.

EDITORIAL

School Board's secret emails undermine public trust

STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

Public institutions should do the public's business in public. That's a basic principle of democracy, yet one to which the Stanwood-Camano School Board does not appear to subscribe.

Members of the board have been using personal email accounts to secretly communicate with each other about key issues affecting the school district, the district's students and their parents.

The Stanwood Camano News discovered the practice when it requested email records from each School Board member in an attempt to gain clarity about the investigation into Utsalady Elementary School Principal Michael Hanna.

Hanna was placed on leave during a special meeting Oct. 23 after community members raised concerns about student safety at the school.

Hanna was brought before the board without a formal complaint being filed against him — an action that violated district policy, which requires a chain of escalation through supervisors and the superintendent before School Board involvement.

The unorthodox process raised questions in the community about why the abrupt action was taken against Hanna.

The Stanwood Camano News, seeking to answer those questions, requested the email exchanges between board members leading up to the meeting.

To its credit, the district promptly responded by turning over emails relating to the Hanna action from board members' district email accounts.

However, in the process of examining the correspondence, it became clear to the newspaper that some of the board members were also communicating about district business through their personal email accounts.

Those emails have not been disclosed by the district despite repeated requests from the newspaper.

Washington's Public Records Act requires the disclosure of all records of a public agency, regardless of where the information is housed.

We don't assume there is anything nefarious in the directors' personal correspondence. We can't know that until the emails are released, and neither can the residents and taxpayers of the district.

It is in the board's best interest to voluntarily release the requested information.

Keeping the emails secret without an adequate explanation of why breeds mistrust and inevitably raises the question of what the board members are hiding.

As things stand, it appears the Stanwood-Camano School Board is using personal email accounts to avoid accountability.

The Stanwood Camano News is determined to see the Public Records Act upheld.

On Thursday, May 29, the newspaper filed a lawsuit against the district to force the release of information that clearly belongs to the public.

The suit promises to be costly for both the school district and the newspaper. But we believe it is necessary in order to maintain the integrity of freedom of information laws.

Our hope is that the school board will acknowledge that the law requires the release of the emails in question.

Doing so would restore public trust and honor the responsibility of these elected officials to be fully transparent with their constituents.

Editorial board members are publisher Rebecca Poynter and editors Isabella Loy and Dan Ruthemeyer.

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