

Stephen D. Clark
Omak City Council Position 6

Family: I have lived in the community for 34 years. I am married with four children, and four grandchildren.

Background: I am 58 and was raised as an Air Force dependant for 20 years. During that time I was educated in a lot of history and different ethnic backgrounds.

Education: I completed my high school education and graduated in 1974 from John F. Kennedy High School in Tumon, Guam.

College: I attended college for 3 ½ yrs; working towards a degree in Psychology and Forestry.

Specialized Training: Washington State Fire Academy-Fire Fighter I, Washington State Emergency Medical Technician, Washington State Criminal Justice Commissioned Reserve Officer, Washington Parks and Recreation Safety and Marine Enforcement Officer, Washington State AIDS/HBV Instructor, and specialized training working with special needs students.

Community Services: For the past 28 years, I am currently a volunteer for Omak City and Okanogan County Fire District 3. I have held the office of Secretary, Vice President, Training Officer, and office of President for 6 consecutive years. I have been a Lieutenant for the Omak City Reserve Officer Program and have been an interim Field Officer, Reserve Deputy, and Marine Enforcement Deputy for the Okanogan County Sheriff Department for a total of 9 years. I also worked 6 years as an EMT for Omak Ambulance Association and helped make the transition when Lifeline Ambulance took over. My wife and I are members of the Cornerstone Free-Methodist Church.

Past Work Experience: I have worked sales in several of the businesses throughout the community, spent one year in agriculture learning about the background of apple orchards.

Current Job: I have worked 21 years with the Omak School District, starting as a bus driver, safety and discipline at the high school and now working at North Elementary as a Para-Educator with Title I and Special Education students.

Current City Achievements: During my term I have been assigned to several committees including, cemetery, sewer, water and solid waste, parks, airport, streets, police and fire, personnel, payroll and vouchers. I have been involved in assisting to negotiate two union/guild contracts for the police department and also public works. I've been appointed as an elected official to the Okanogan County Solid Waste Advisory Board for 6 years, been active on the plans and committee for rebuilding the Stampede Arena and East Park, assisted in working to try to bring in Salmon Air Service for our area, have played a role in helping to bring in both Home Depot and also instrumental in

bringing in the Peppertree Best Western Inn to our community, have been involved in working with our local and state officials to rebuild the Central Street Bridge. I have been actively involved in establishing several comprehensive studies including one for city streets, sewer and water and also our airport. During my term I have also worked with the Economic Alliance for Okanogan County in finding ways to better our economy and growth.

Hobbies: I enjoy camping in our travel trailer or boating with our friends.

I would like this opportunity to take positive action in the growth of our community. Okanogan County is eligible for millions of dollars in grants for economic development and infrastructure projects. Funding, generated by millions in state and federal grant money, Omak can receive a fraction towards matching funds.

There are four areas I would like take an active role in helping Omak grow.

1. **Economically,** My main focus for our community is economics. Our community is like many around the state and this includes many larger industry and businesses. I understand that despite our economic troubles there has been a lot of interest in moving here. We've had two or three firms in the past years come in and look at different buildings and sites. Our community needs to take the needed steps to want these firms to build here. Bringing outside interest can help our depressed economy with jobs and growth. When our community had the timber industry in full swing and agriculture was dominant in the area, we survived easier with the tourism trade we receive during the year. We can't survive and grow on tourism alone; we need to continue to draw economic development and technology to meet the needs for growth. I'm not saying tourism isn't needed or important but saying we also need to take a more serious look at what will help draw the tourism through economic development to our area. Taking an active role means seeing that through changes being looked into, we get the proper training needed and assist those starting over with assisted education, building sites, and finances. Helping to establish what is called are "incubation sites," would help meet these needs.
2. **Technologically,** Bringing in the PUD interfacing fiber optics nodes to our community is needed. Many larger businesses need faster telecommunications to operate, and this is the technology most are using. Several businesses are even willing to help with that cost. Fact: new business creates new jobs and new jobs mean more people working.
3. **Tourism,** Making our parks more accessible by reorienting the ballpark complex would help increase capacity and make the complex more suitable towards attracting tournaments, which will aid in tourism.
4. **Business Hub,** Along with tourism it would be important to have a central business complex, which businesses, clubs, teachers, medical professionals, governmental

agencies, churches, etc., would have to hold conferences and or seminars. Currently in our valley we have no facility that can hold a larger capacity meeting let alone break into smaller groups to hold seminars etc. Having the Tourist Information Center or Chamber of Commerce part of the plan would allow those from out of town a place to go and ask questions about our community and surrounding area, again drawing tourism because we have drawn them in with a needed growth plan for our community.

Having served the public many years through sales in our community, working and talking with many in education, serving many contacts through emergency services by ambulance, fire and law enforcement, I have listened to what people need or would like to see. I will continue to listen to the people and take affirmative action to provide what is best for the peoples needs.