

Incumbents on Cannon Beach fire board seek re-election

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Garry Smith and Mark Mekenas will run for re-election to the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Smith will run unopposed for Position 3 and Mekenas is unopposed in his Position 4 bid.

Smith is a firefighter with 35 years experience and six years on the board. "I am running for re-election to continue to help maintain an effective and professionally run fire department for the residents and visitors in our area," Smith said. "I am very proud of the 35 years that I have been associated with Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue and of the volunteers today, who give selflessly of



Garry Smith



Mark Mekenas

their time to keep our community safe."

Mekenas, owner of Cannon Beach Surf and the Beach Store since 1998, filled a vacant board seat in 2015. "I'm looking to keep improving our fire department here in town," Mekenas said. "I have never been a firefighter, but I have been fortunate to have these guys teach me about firefighting through all the things they do."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Truck 3249 joins the Cannon Beach Fire Department.

"Cannon Beach Fire District has a diverse group of board members that are dedicated to the safety and welfare of the citizens we serve," Chief Matt Benedict said. The board was in the news

from the fallout over the firing of former Fire Chief Mike Balzer, who settled a civil rights lawsuit against the district. Smith was one of three board members who survived a recall last year motivated by Balzer's dismissal.

Committee proposes new road, bridge spending

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A subgroup of the legislative committee crafting a statewide transportation package has recommended an increase of \$255.6 million to \$312.4 million in annual spending to upgrade roads and bridges.

That would require raising revenues equivalent to a 9- to

11-cent increase in the state's 30-cent gas tax. The money would likely come from a combination of sources, which could include a hike in the gas tax, registration fees, tolling or other options.

"Even the equivalent of 11 cents is yet to be determined," said Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose. "This is all highly fluid."

The state now spends

about \$1.3 billion a year on transportation maintenance and upgrades. The Oregon Transportation Commission has recommended spending an additional \$574 million a year to upgrade roads and bridges to ease congestion, particularly in the Portland metro area.

But the legislative subgroup could not reach a consensus on an amount, said

Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, who led the group.

"We didn't reach consensus on much of anything, but I think we all agreed we need to do something," Bentz said.

The recommendation comes from the first of five subgroups from the legislative Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization, each working on different aspects of the package.

South County Citizen's Police Academy now open to public

Cannon Beach, Seaside and Gearhart police departments have joined up with Clatsop County Sheriff's Office to start its 10th South County Citizen's Police Academy. Classes will be held every Monday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. Classes start April 10 and end June 12

with an optional Saturday class as well. The academy is open to community members who have an interest in law enforcement and want to learn more about their police agencies in the South County.

The goal is to educate citizens about the different as-

pects of law enforcement and strengthen our community ties. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about each department, tour the facilities, learn about crime scenes, criminal investigations, learn about the Taser, shoot different weapons, tour the jail and participate

in confrontational simulations that Officers deal with.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older. All applicants are subject to a criminal background investigation. Applications are due by April 7. Contact your local police department for more information.

CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

March 12

4:51 a.m., 300 block Fifth Avenue: Officer assisted another agency with a disturbance where one subject was taken into custody and placed on police officer hold. During that time, the subject made threats to officers. For officer's safety, the subject was transported to police headquarters to be evaluated by a mental health professional.

5:34 a.m., 800 block S. Roosevelt: An injured deer struck by a traveling motorist was humanely dispatched; Cannon Beach police directed traffic around the situation, and until the deer could be removed from the road.

11:50 a.m., 1100 block S. Hemlock: A lost dog was reunited with its owner.

11:51 a.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: A smoke alarm went off when food was burned.

5:58 p.m., Hemlock and Tanana: Police respond to a report of a highly intoxicated man passed out beneath a street sign. The man indicated he became separated from his friend while on the beach. The friend reportedly parked at the Tolovana Wayside. Police escorted the man to the Wayside where his friend was located and released him to his friend.

March 13

4:48 a.m., 800 block N. Necanicum: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside police with a disturbance and subsequent warrant arrest. The subject was contacted and arrested.

11:38 a.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Officers assist other agency with a report of suspicious circumstances. The subjects involved are told to clean up their mess and given resources where to go next.

2:30 p.m., Elk Creek: A utility trailer is reported stolen.

5:11 p.m., Elk Creek Terrace: A subject is arrested on an outstanding warrant.

March 14

6:27 p.m., 3600 Block E. Chinook: An elderly woman with respiratory issues is assisted to the hospital.

March 15

4:15 p.m., 300 Block Elk Creek Road: An abandoned vehicle is moved.

March 16

6:51 p.m., Hemlock and Warren Way: Police respond to a report of a missing stop sign or a sign not clearly visible at intersection due to construction in the area. The temporary stop sign is moved into a better position.

March 17

12:34 a.m., 100 block W. Kenai: Police respond to a report of a possibly abandoned vehicle parked in the roadway. Officers checking say the vehicle is not in the road and is on private property.

5:37 p.m., 1800 block S. Pacific: Police assist fire department with a report of a carbon monoxide alarm going off at a residence. Carbon monoxide was found inside the residence by the fire department, and a responsible person arrived to address the issue with them.

March 18

2:14 a.m., Highway 101: Police assist the fire department about a call regarding a line being down in the vicinity of Highway 101 and Mile Post 32.5. After further investigation, police observed a power line that had snapped and was lying on a tree. The tree was burning. Roadway travel was maintained by the Cannon beach fire department as well as Oregon Department of Transportation. Pacific Power was alerted to the situation.

1:52 p.m., North Entrance Swooper: Elk are observed. Police put out flares at the north entrance.

5:05 p.m., Beach: Police respond to a report of a missing child. The child safely was returned home.

21:04 p.m., Highway 101, MP 26: Police on patrol pull over a vehicle for failure to dim headlights. Driver is found to not have a valid license, although they are eligible for reinstatement. Police warn the driver and confiscate the license.

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