

Former newspaper editor runs for council

McCarthy led Cannon Beach Gazette and Seaside Signal

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Nancy McCarthy hopes to have a say in decisions at Cannon Beach City Council meetings after nine years of covering them as an editor and reporter.

From living in Cannon Beach and covering local news, she said she has a “deep background of knowledge” about the city.

“I know the issues in town and I thought I would try to contribute my expertise,” McCarthy said. “I’ve probably attended more meetings than almost anyone around, not to mention having written in great detail over most issues.”

“I know a lot of people here and I know a lot of their concerns,” she added.

The City Council will have two open seats this fall, when Wendy Higgins and Melissa Cadwallader term out. New councilors will replace them in January.

Herb Florer and Brandon Ogilvie are competing with McCarthy for the two slots. The filing deadline for candidates is Aug. 30.

Long career before coming ‘home’

After retiring from full-time newspaper work in 2015, McCarthy now has the time and ability to participate in local government without a conflict of interest.

McCarthy has 50 years of journalism experience, including covering state, county and local politics. She also wrote about education, health, immigration, home-

lessness, business, real estate and more.

Between writing for publications, McCarthy was an aide to the Oregon Legislature in 1979.

In 2007, McCarthy began living in Cannon Beach full time and became the Cannon Beach Gazette editor. In 2008, she became the South County reporter for The Daily Astorian, and in 2013 was named editor of the Gazette and Seaside Signal.

McCarthy served on the Friends of Haystack Rock committee and the farmers market committee for several years. She is on the Coaster Theatre board and volunteers at the farmers market information booth.

Finding a balance

If elected, McCarthy hopes to address affordable housing and the needs of both tourists and residents.

“I’d like to see Cannon Beach retain its village atmosphere, as much as possible, and still have a healthy business sector,” she said. “To do that, I think

we have to work together a lot more closely.”

A balance between being a destination resort and a community village is needed, McCarthy said, with town forums one potential way to address community concerns.

“There needs to be a lot more discussion between year-round residents that deal with the tourism industry and businesses,” she said. “I’m not sure that the great influx of tourists helps businesses as much as people think.”

McCarthy is interested in examining how tourism and arts money is spent.

“I think we need to take a look at how we’re distributing the money, in terms of the organizations receiving it and some things the city can do with that money under state law,” she said.



Nancy McCarthy

Former port deputy director seeks slot

Florer also has Marine Corps, volunteer experience

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Local volunteer and former Port of Astoria deputy director Herb Florer is running for a spot on the Cannon Beach City Council in November.

A Cannon Beach resident for 12 years, Florer served on the city’s budget committee and Planning Commission for eight years.

“It was interesting, educational and rewarding to hopefully be a constructive part of helping Cannon Beach be a great place to live,” Florer said.

He is now on the emer-

gency preparedness committee and considers long-term planning and resiliency to be important issues in earthquake and tsunami readiness.

Florer and two other residents, Nancy McCarthy and Brandon Ogilvie, are vying for two seats on the council. The filing deadline is Aug. 30.

In previous City Council elections, candidates have run unopposed.

“I thought it was important for people to be given a choice,” Florer said.

Port director

Florer spent about seven years working in marina administration and as property manager and deputy director for the Port of Astoria.

He represented the port at regional meetings on transportation, economic development, resiliency planning and emergency planning.

Florer’s work with the transportation task group helped contribute to the 2013 Oregon resilience plan, which involves improving recovery for the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami.

Florer has also been a U.S. Marine Corps officer, U.S. Naval Academy instructor trainer, paralegal representing veterans for VISTA and the city of Seattle, and a manager for a small sailing business.

As a Marine, he underwent training in Hawaii, receiving lessons in leadership, public speaking and

teaching, and was deployed for six months in Twentynine Palms, California.

He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science from Reed College in Portland.

No quick fixes

Florer would like to see Cannon Beach “continue to be Cannon Beach,” though he said there are no quick fixes for maintaining the community’s livability.

“There are two sides to every story,” he said. “It’s important to listen and not leap to conclusions.”

Florer said his family background and work and volunteer experiences influenced his decision to run for council.

“If I have the ability to contribute, I should,” he said. “I think my background and experiences might be useful.”



Herb Florer

Former planning commissioner enters the race

Ogilvie serves on affordable housing task force

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Brandon Ogilvie, a former Cannon Beach Planning Commission chairman and a member of the city’s affordable housing task force, will run for City Council in November.

Ogilvie is a self-employed carpentry contractor, a career that has helped him grasp land use.

“My job as a builder helps me understand certain land use issues,” he said.

While serving on the Planning Commission, Ogilvie said he enjoyed “the process of civic participation.”

Ogilvie said it is important for residents to speak out on issues that affect them.

“I’m a champion of civic participation on both sides, not just the people that are in city government but actual citizens that live here,” he said.

“Even if it’s just a letter, it gets put into the record.”

Affordable housing is one issue that interests him, though he said there are “no simple answers.”

Before Ogilvie became a carpenter and builder, he was a bartender at local restaurants like Bill’s Tavern for more than a decade.

“It was a good way to

meet people,” he said.

Drawn to the beach from the Seattle area, Ogilvie has lived in Cannon Beach for 24 years. He has raised his daughter in town.

“I think I have appreciation for parents and their needs,” he said. “We no longer have a school here, which is a shame.”

There will be two open seats on the council. Ogilvie and two other residents, Herb Florer and Nancy McCarthy, have filed to run. The filing deadline for candidates is Aug. 30.



Brandon Ogilvie

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Corrections deputy to graduate basic training

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office corrections deputy Elijah St. Helen is among 37 officers and deputies across the state to graduate from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training’s basic corrections training.

The graduation of Basic Corrections Local #BCL023

will be held at 11 a.m. Aug. 19 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp will be the guest speaker.

The state Department of Public Safety Standards and Training provides training to more than 25,000 students each year through the state at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem.

Health advisories lifted at Rockaway, Seal Rock shores

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Oregon Health Authority is telling beachgoers they can head back into the water at Rockaway Beach in Tillamook County and Seal Rock State Park near Newport.

The health authority had issued health advisories Wednesday after water samples showed higher-than-normal levels of fecal bacteria, which can cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, skin rashes and upper respiratory infections.

Officials said Thursday those levels have subsided.

Increased bacteria levels in the ocean can come from both shore and inland sources, including animal waste, stormwater runoff, sewer overflows and failing septic systems.

Officials still recommend staying out of large pools on the beach that are frequented

by birds, and runoff from those pools, because the water may contain increased bacteria from fecal matter.

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