

BEST REAL ESTATE BUSINESS

PACIFIC PRO REALTY

ASTORIA

Runner-up: Lighthouse Realty, Long Beach
Honorable mention: Area Properties, Astoria

By KATIE WILSON

Local real estate company Pacific Pro Realty knows buying a home or property can be daunting.

"We work with people regardless of whether they're trying to buy a \$100,000 property or a \$2 million property," owner Chris LaPointe said. "Our hope here is always, 'Client first.'"

Many of the agents LaPointe employs have deep ties to the area. Five of them are native to the Oregon Coast with diverse backgrounds that include historic



COLIN MURPHEY PHOTO

Pacific Pro Realty was voted Best Real Estate by Coast Weekend readers.

preservation and work as a contractor. LaPointe himself spent years in custom home building.

When the agency opened in Astoria in 2012, it was a buyer's market. Now it's a seller's market, according to LaPointe. A competitive time to be a buyer, but a very good thing if you are selling.

He and his agents have found that the history of the area draws people here.

"When they come here they feel like they're a part of something," LaPointe said.

The agency handle properties throughout Clatsop County. **CW**

The Illahee Apartments



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BEST APARTMENT COMPLEX

ILLAHEE APARTMENTS

ASTORIA



COLIN MURPHEY PHOTO

The Illahee Apartment complex overlooking downtown Astoria was voted Best Apartment Complex in the 2017 Readers' Choice contest.

Runner-up:
Gearhart by the Sea, Gearhart
Honorable mention:
Sunset Surf Apartments, Seaside

By KATIE WILSON

When he was 9 years old and spending the summer in the Astoria area, Sean

Fitzpatrick fell in love with the Illahee Apartments. He thought the buildings' faces — a series of sharp, marching edges that look like a collection of enormous "E"s and "F"s — were the coolest things he had ever seen.

He told his aunt, "I'm going to own it someday." She said, "That's ridiculous."

In 1990, now an adult, he moved to Astoria briefly and saw the apartments again. They weren't as cool as he remembered. When he moved back to Astoria in 2000, he once again looked at the apartments. They were cool again.

Fitzpatrick and his wife, Anne, purchased the complex in 2004 and have managed the apartments ever since.

The Illahee Apartments first opened in 1969 and cover an entire city block. They rest on Astoria's north hillside right above the downtown core. The complex contains 35 units,

a mix of two- and one-bedroom apartments. One-bedroom units start at \$1,100 a month; two-bedroom units at \$1,250.

Over the years the demographic of the residents has changed, Fitzpatrick said. When the couple first took over the buildings, it was primarily seniors who lived there. Fitzpatrick was told that when the buildings were built they were intended for seniors and, in particular, the widows of men who worked in Astoria's traditional but dangerous logging and fishing industries.

"It was a tradition, but it was never a law," Fitzpatrick said.

Older and young people now fill the apartments. Sean and Anne Fitzpatrick also live there and they love it, in large part because they get to walk everywhere.

"It's a really great community of people here," Sean Fitzpatrick said. "I'm very proud of what we have here." **CW**

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