



INSIDE

# Astorian

150TH YEAR, NO. 27

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

\$1.50



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

There are two contested races for Astoria City Council in November.

## Lineup takes shape for November election

Housing, homelessness, child care and economic development likely to dominate

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

Voters on the North Coast will choose city leadership in the November election, with issues such as housing, homelessness, child care and economic development likely to dominate the campaigns.

Ballots will feature contested races for mayor in Warrenton and Cannon Beach and for City Council in Astoria, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach.

Voters will also weigh several ballot measures, including improvements to the Astoria and Warrenton libraries and temporary bans on psilocybin in Seaside and the unincorporated parts of Clatsop County.

The last day for local candidates to file was Tuesday.

Along with the city elections, voters will decide who will represent the region in Salem in the state House and Senate.

### Astoria

In Astoria, three of the five slots on the City Council were open after Mayor Bruce Jones, City Councilor Joan Herman and City Councilor Roger Rocka chose not to run for reelection.

Sean Fitzpatrick, who owns Wecoma Partners and serves on the Planning Commission, is uncontested for mayor.

Elisabeth Adams, the owner of Wild Roots Movement & Massage, and Kris Haefker, a general contractor and housing provider, will run in Herman's downtown Ward 3.

Andy Davis, a senior research analyst for the Oregon Health Authority, and Geoff Gunn, the chef and general manager of Bridgewater Bistro, will vie for Rocka's Ward 1, which covers the Port of Astoria, Union-

town and the western edge of downtown.

An \$8 million bond would help finance a \$10.6 million renovation of the Astoria Library. The tax rate is estimated at 57 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The renovation project would make the library more accessible and upgrade infrastructure in the 55-year-old building on 10th Street.

City leaders have stressed that designs for the renovation are conceptual and could change with public feedback if the bond measure is approved.

### Warrenton

In Warrenton, Mayor Henry Balensifer and City Commissioner Rick Newton will compete for the top post.

Balensifer, a sales and marketing manager at JBT AeroTech who was elected to the City Commission in 2012, was appointed mayor in 2017 and elected to a four-year term the following year.

Newton, a former NAPA Auto Parts store owner, was elected to the City Commission in 2014. Over the past year, he has clashed with Balensifer and other commissioners over the city's direction and resisted calls from fellow commissioners that he resign over his behavior.

Paul Mitchell, the chairman of the Planning Commission, is uncontested to replace Newton in Position 4.

A five-year local option levy would fund operations and community programs, support staff and extend hours at the Warrenton Community Library.

The levy, which would raise the tax rate from 33 cents to 38 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, would generate nearly \$1.5 million.

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### ELECTION 2022

The lineup is set for the Nov. 8 election.

#### ASTORIA

##### Mayor

- Sean Fitzpatrick

##### Ward 1

- Andy Davis
- Geoff Gunn

##### Ward 3

- Elisabeth Adams
- Kris Haefker

#### WARRENTON

##### Mayor

- Mayor Henry Balensifer
- City Commissioner Rick Newton

##### Position 4

- Paul Mitchell

#### GEARHART

##### Position 1

- City Councilor Dana Gould
- Anne Mesch

##### Position 3

- City Councilor Brent Warren
- Preston Devereaux

#### SEASIDE

##### Mayor

- City Councilor Steve Wright

##### Ward 1

- Steve Dillard
- Duane Solem

##### Ward 2

- City Councilor Tita Montero
- Dan Schorr

##### Ward 3 and Ward 4

- Seamus McVey
- Seth Morrissy
- Marcus Runkle

#### CANNON BEACH

##### Mayor

- Barb Knop
- Erik Ostrander

##### City Council at-large

- City Councilor Robin Risley
- Gary Hayes
- Lisa Kerr

- Deanna Pauli-Hammond
- Jenee Pearce-Mushen
- Laurie Simpkins

##### State House District 32

- Cyrus Javadi (R)
- Logan Laity (D)

##### State Senate District 16

- Melissa Busch (D)
- Rep. Suzanne Weber (R)



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

The Port of Astoria is encouraged by the financial performance of the West Mooring Basin and boatyard.

## Port sees improved revenue

Better return from boatyard, marina

By ETHAN MYERS  
*The Astorian*

As the Port of Astoria recovers from years of financial instability, the agency has seen improved revenue from the boatyard and West Mooring Basin.

While the numbers are estimated until the agency's audit is complete, the financials from the last fiscal year that ended in June show the boatyard received over \$220,000 — or 158% — above what was budgeted.

Revenue from the West Mooring Basin came in \$46,813 — or 107% — above projections. The revenue from both facilities were higher than the previous fiscal year's figures.

Will Isom, the Port's executive director, called the financial performance of the boatyard and marina "encouraging."

"One of the goals back when I started at the Port actually, specifically

looking at the marina, which had operated in the red for a long time, was to make sure that that business unit was more self-sustained," he said. " ... Ideally, these business units would be able to operate on a stand-alone basis and the revenue they generate would be sufficient to not only fund annual operations, but also invest back into the facility."

For the marina, Isom partially attributed the increased revenue to the higher price of fuel and an ongoing rate increase to moorage, but added that the volume of customers has been high.

Looking to meet the demand for moorage, the Port has invested in the replacement of pilings and dredging.

Isom said the boatyard is also seeing greater demand. In June, the Port received

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Lydia Ely/The Astorian

A play area at the Step Ahead Academy in Gearhart.

## New preschool opens in Gearhart

Organizers hope to fill need

By ABBEY McDONALD  
*The Astorian*

GEARHART — Colorful backpacks hang in the cubbies at the front of Step Ahead Academy and books line the shelves inside. Toys wait in boxes, and each tiny chair is perfectly in place at every tiny table. Pickle the tadpole floats in his tank atop a shelf.

The only thing missing from the new preschool is

the students.

Nancy Taylor, the owner of Infinity Gymnastics in Astoria, has opened a new preschool in Gearhart. She's hoping to address the region's child care shortage, but is still working on getting the word out about it.

"There was a big need for it in our area, so we're trying to fill a need," Taylor said.

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