

County race: Warrenton representation and jail seen as top issues

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manager and heard later that he'd ruffled feathers.

"So I arranged to have a meeting with Cameron Moore," and they parted on good terms, Davis said. "With the County Commission,

At a glance

George McCartin



- Age: 81
- City: Astoria
- Occupation: Retired former lawyer and land-use consultant

Andy Davis



- Age: 40
- City: Astoria
- Occupation: Data analyst for Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.

Mark Kujala



- Age: 47
- City: Warrenton
- Occupation: Small business owner; membership director for Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce

there have been some issues where both parties feel the other has overstepped their bounds. Some of those issues are just about communicating and listening to each other."

McCartin, 81, of Astoria has spent much of his life bringing people together as a mediator and volunteer.

"That's kind of the closing point of my candidacy," McCartin said. "I have many years of experience bringing people of divergent views together. We should be working toward solidarity and you don't walk away from one another. Sometimes it appears the commissions and councils here just become totally divided ... and that doesn't serve the people's interests very well."

Some Warrenton residents have expressed concern that the city's interests have gotten short shrift during the past eight years. Lee, the current board chairman, lives and owns a business in Astoria.

"This is a big geographical area, but it's a small population," McCartin said. "We should work together."

Said Davis: "It's a totally valid concern. Either part of a

district should expect representation. If Mark got elected, there could be a concern of Warrenton representation at the exclusion of Astoria."

Davis previously worked in Warrenton.

"The commissioner that represents District 1 must also represent the interests of Warrenton and Hammond and I would try to do that to the best of my ability," Davis said. "I absolutely have an open door."

Kujala's previous experience as Warrenton's mayor and current work with the joint chamber of commerce gives him a good background to serve both communities well, he said.

"I took a year to work with my business and to be with my family and it was really good for me," Kujala said. "I'm reinvigorated and wanting to get back into public service ... I think Warrenton really needs to be represented."

All three men listed the jail as one of the county's top issues.

McCartin doesn't believe the sheriff needs so much money to convert the Oregon Youth Authority facility in Warrenton into a working jail.

"We have to look at how our tax dollars are spent," McCartin said. "I've been going to commission meetings the last few years and what troubles me is the amount of money that's spent on outside consultants ... and here again an outside consultant was hired. "Twice they have tried to get a bond for a new jail and now they're going to rehab a building that the state abandoned because the state thought it was too expensive to maintain any longer."

Kujala still is undecided on the bond issue.

"It's going to be a challenging environment, I think, just knowing taxpayers are going to be considering a lot

of bond measures in the next year," Kujala said.

Davis supports the jail bond, but wants the most fiscally responsible plan.

I've reviewed the plan they've put forward and it seems like the sheriff and his department have done their due diligence," Davis said. "There are a lot of opportunities in our justice system for ... people in the community to be utilizing more behavioral health resources than to be in jail.

"I take him (DA Josh Marquis) and the sheriff at their word that we do have capacity challenges here. We don't want people on the street who pose a public safety risk."

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Trains: Rail hobby keeps group on track

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all things old and nostalgic.

Steve Kellow, 68, has been collecting and building scale rail cars and accessories since he was 5.

Family members were real railroaders and encouraged his hobby.

"It's a godsend," he said, adding that it fills a need for something engaging to do after retiring a couple of years ago. Since Kellow's custom-built home in Astoria is nearly complete, he and the club will soon

begin creating a large train layout in the basement.

Many clubs are known for creating and maintaining impressive dioramas for the education of future generations.

Don Carter, 67, of Astoria was a founding member of the club in 1996.

The following year, they were asked to create a realistic model of Fort Stevens in Hammond as it existed during the war years, reflecting many archived pictures and documents of the Army base during that era.

The public can visit their masterpiece at the Fort Stevens Historical Museum during regular park hours. One might even find Carter there several times a month, cleaning and tinkering to keep it all running smoothly while offering friendly advice.

One of Carter's favorite aspects of the hobby is that "No one keeps secrets."

Have a local hobby club you'd like featured? Email D.B. Lewis at db@thecolumbiapress.com.