

City hires new community development director

Adams to replace Barnes

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach has a new community development director.

Jeffrey Adams, of Bryan County, Georgia, will fill the shoes of City Planner Mark Barnes, who plans to retire by the end of October after five years with the city. While the title is new, the position remains largely the same, which is to oversee development and code enforcement. He will start by Oct. 15.



Jeffrey Adams

Adams has about 20 years of planning experience, most recently working as planning and zoning director for Bryan County and as a community development director of St. Marys, Georgia. In these positions, he led the city's first comprehensive planning

'...he has an excellent grasp of planning principles. He was personable, loved the town and is excited about moving here.'

City Manager Bruce St. Denis

project and served as project manager for the disaster recovery efforts through Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma.

He started his career as a research assistant for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before moving to work as a

planner for Flint Hills, Kansas, and Blaine County, Idaho.

Adams holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia and the University of Illinois. He also holds a doctorate in philosophy and social theory from the University of London.

Adams was chosen out of five candidates, City Manager Bruce St. Denis said.

"We found Jeff to be bright and that he has an excellent grasp of planning principles," St. Denis said. "He was personable, loved the town and is excited about moving here."



FILE PHOTO

Rental rules in Cannon Beach may undergo changes.

Short-term rental rules face change

Rentals from Page 1A

"We wouldn't be eliminating the ability to rent a house ... just limiting having a house turning into a hotel with renters every weekend in a residential area," Mayor Sam Steidel said.

City Councilor George Vetter disagrees with the idea of removing the lottery, arguing that by doing so the city will be "taking away supply when there's already so much demand."

Councilors would also like to explore the possibility of requiring everyone who has a short-term rental to

be professionally managed, feeling that those who rent homes for a living are more likely to understand the city's rules and thus have fewer violations. Currently, the city requires every permit holder to have a "local representative" available to check on the property if issues arise. But what the city is often finding, Barnes said, is that people will list a neighbor or friend who may or may not be in town when needed.

"The worst problem we have is people who self-manage and are very casual about it," Barnes said.

Cannon Beach Academy awarded US Bank grant

Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach Academy has been awarded \$1,250 from the US Bank Foundation's Community Possible Grant program, according to Jason Kunde, US Bank's Cannon Beach branch manager.

The Cannon Beach Academy received the award from the Community Possible Grant program's "Learning Through Play" initiative, which supports the creation of active play spaces that help K-12 students learn through play. The purpose of active

play spaces, as noted on the US Bank website, is to encourage innovation, creativity, and collaboration.

The grant will be used to pay for the installation of playground equipment that has been donated by a long-time supporter of the school.

The Cannon Beach Academy is situated in the former Children's Center at 3781 S. Hemlock. While the site has ample space for a playground, it lacks playground equipment.

Playground equipment will be installed later this fall.

City, state candidates to debate issues

Forum from Page 1A

of Astoria and Tim Josi, a Tillamook County commissioner and former state representative. Mitchell, a case management coordinator in child services, received 41 percent of the vote to Orr's 29 percent and Josi's 29 percent, according to unofficial results.

Vineeta Lower, a Seaside resident, moved to the Northwest from Delhi, India, where she was born, and grew up in Olympia, Washington. A Republican, Lower moved to Seaside after accepting a long-term position at Warrenton Grade School teaching eighth-grade language arts.

Brian Halvorsen, a Rockaway Beach resident, is running as an independent candidate.

Halvorsen told the Astorian he believes the two-party system is broken and neither the Democratic or Republican parties represent the will of the voters. Instead the two major parties are sold to the highest campaign donors.

City races

In Cannon Beach, two seats on the City Council and the mayor's seat will be on the November ballot. The mayor's race is uncontested, with incumbent Sam Steidel seeking re-election.

Steidel, elected in 2014, wants to run again to keep working on "unfinished business," he said in a July interview with the Gazette's Brenna Visser. He also said he "didn't get a sense of someone else stepping up."

Many of the priorities Steidel held in his last campaign remain the same, including purchasing the Cannon Beach Elementary School site, developing the 55-acre South Wind property and building affordable housing.

On the council, incumbent Mike Benefield, real estate agent Robin Risley, and hotelier and Cannon Beach Cham-



Mike Benefield



Greg Swedenborg



Robin Risley

ber board president Greg Swedenborg are seeking election to two seats, currently held by Benefield and George Vetter in the November election. The two top vote-getters will serve in the new year.

Benefield served four years on the Planning Commission before being appointed to the council in 2013. He was elected in 2014, largely on a platform to push for more affordable housing. If re-elected, Benefield said developing more long-term housing would remain a priority.

"We have no place to rent unless you're a tourist," he said in early July. "We either need to quit talking about it or get it done."

Another priority for Benefield is to steer lodging tax dollars away from supporting tourism promotion and more toward improving tourism-related facilities.

In announcing her intention to run, Risley said she loved the community and wants to be part of the decision-making process.

If elected, Risley would work on finding solutions for the Cannon Beach Elementa-

ry School property, rebuilding City Hall and other capital projects on the city's plate. Priorities for Risley are bolstering the arts, as well as preserving the character of Cannon Beach for both full-time residents and tourists.

Swedenborg said as councilor he would focus on promoting sustainable tourism, affordable housing and addressing parking issues. He advocates for more private and public cooperation to address the affordable housing shortage, like supporting tax rebates, providing land at a lower cost to those intending to build affordable homes or other solutions that don't involve the city being a landlord.

Anticipated topics include affordable housing solutions, parking, traffic safety and emergency preparedness, among others. The event is free and open to all. Attendees will be invited to submit questions to the candidates.

Gazette editor R.J. Marx will serve as moderator. The theater is located at 108 North Hemlock. For further information, contact 503-738-5561.

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