

# John Chapman announces mayoral bid



## Broadcaster is longtime resident

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Radio station owner John Chapman is the first candidate to file for mayor of Seaside.

Jay Barber was appointed mayor in 2017 to fill the remaining term of Don Larson, who died in December 2016. Barber has announced his intention to run in November, but has yet to file paperwork, according to City Recorder Kimberley Jordan.

Chapman arrived in Seaside in 1989 as the Shilo Inn's entertainment director and entered local broadcasting soon after. After years as an employee and co-owner of KSWB with Cal Brady, he purchased the station in 2011.

Chapman, 52, stressed family, community and business as motivating his decision to run.

"I want to continue to develop and make things better in the community we live in," he said. "Also, to the fact that the city gathered around me when I was sick, and gave me life."

Chapman suffered from swine flu in 2009 and spent 65

days in the hospital.

"The community gathered, did some fundraising and that helped us medically and financially succeed through that process," he said.

Chapman listed housing as a key issue, and its impact on the city's economic base, employees and businesses.

"How do we continue to find ways that we can grow our city's boundaries and bring new and long-lasting people into our community?" he asked.

Chapman said a proposed accessory dwelling unit ordinance amendment, designed to increase the availability of long-term rental units, has his

support.

He also urged support for the new middle and high school campus in the city's Southeast Hills. "The city needs to embrace the development of that school in every way we can," he said.

Chapman said he would like to see greater cooperation between the county's cities on disaster preparation.

"My biggest concern is that we don't have a county-wide structure plan," he said.

Chapman, raised in Great Britain, is a 27-year Seaside resident. He is married to Karen Chapman, and they have five children, Peter, Erin, Elizabeth, Henry and Patrick.

A former member of the city's budget advisory committee, he also served on the city's tourism advertising committee. He unsuccessfully sought appointment to Barber's open City Council seat in 2017.

Public office has been in his plan for several years. "This is not anything new," he said. "I've talked about this and being involved with this for a long time."

In addition to the open mayoral seat, three city council positions are open, in Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 3 and 4. The seats are held by Steve Wright, Tita Montero and Dana Phillips.



Breakaway Lodge in Gearhart.

## Camp to close after half a century

Camp from Page 1A

"There are more than a few guest care and service upgrades that would not be prudent to invest in," he said.

With the closing, Johnson said all of their middle school campers will be headed to the camp in Antelope starting next year.

### A religious history

Young Life operates camps in 17 states, as well as Canada, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom, Armenia and France. The largest of these is the Washington Family Ranch in Antelope, a small town in Wasco County.

Johnson has been on Young Life staff for 38 years in eight locations and is now entering his 14th and final summer at the Gearhart camp. The lodge was built in the early 1920s and became occupied by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in 1924.

Situated across the street from St. Margaret's Chapel, built in 1923, the lodge was called the St. Margaret's Cottage and was used by the sisters as a summer retreat.

"Many of the Holy Names sisters were teachers around the state and would come for 10-day retreats in the sum-



Breakaway Lodge in Gearhart.

mer," Johnson said.

Arriving by train near the Gearhart Dairy Queen, they walked the dirt road to the cottage.

In 1959, the cottage and chapel were sold to the Episcopal diocese, which used it as a youth camp in conjunction with their other camp east of the lodge, between Second and Third streets. They renamed the lodge Scott Hall.

In 1969, the diocese sold the lodge property to Young Life, a nondenominational ministry group, founded in 1941, and joined their collection of summer camps maintained by the ministry.

### Why now?

This final summer at Breakaway will be like so

**'Each (camp) is a special place where lives have been changed for eternity.'**

Breakaway Camp manager Jeff Johnson

many others before it, as the camp is fully booked for the final 11 five-day camp sessions. The camps consist of a variety of both camping and church activities.

According to Johnson, the campers gather everyday "to sing, play games, watch skits, and hear about Jesus."

Campers also get a lot of beach time, as the walk down to Gearhart beach is some 400 yards away.

Campers also spend time kayaking, paddleboarding and tubing at Cullaby Lake.

"We have the best backyard anywhere, with more than a dozen games and sports to fill any gaps," Johnson said.

### Residential zoning

The building's future is limited to residential use, according to Gearhart's city administrator Chad Sweet, which eliminate commercial or short-term vacation rental usage. Young Life's usage had been grandfathered in by previous administrations, he said.

The property will be put on the market this fall, Patchell said.

Johnson, who has run the camp with Suzanne Como for the last 12 years, both plan to stay in the area, which he said is one of the things that has made the camp special.

"Small is beautiful," Johnson said. "We are the smallest residential camp in Young Life — a third of the size of the next smallest."

And with the camp closing, it will join others in the Young Life network who have "completed their term of service."

"Each is a special place where lives have been changed for eternity," said Johnson.



Members of the city council and parks committee at the ribbon-cutting at Goodman Park.

## Upgrades at Goodman Park

### Goodman Park gets a face-lift

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

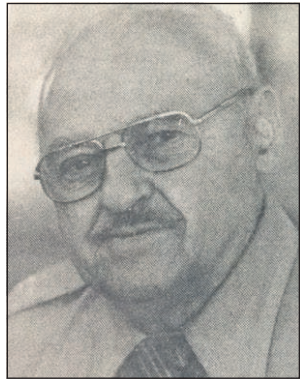
Trivia question: Who was the mayor in 1971, when Seaside first approved a convention center?

The answer is Elvin C. Goodman, a man who Seaside's Tom Horning recalled as well-mannered and soft-spoken. Goodman is also the namesake of Goodman Park at 970 Necanicum Drive in Seaside. The park received a city refresh from the Department of Public Works, in an upgrade and improvement led by public works director Dale McDowell. McDowell, city staff and members of the parks advisory committee gathered Monday, June 4, to unveil changes at the park.

"It was antiquated, with play structures, from the 1950s and 60s," McDowell said.

Old swings and playground equipment were replaced, and the park — one of 14 in Seaside — was upgraded to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Railroad ties and pressure-treated wood were removed.

McDowell credits street



FILE PHOTO

Elvin C. Goodman, namesake of Goodman Park.

department foreman Jeremy Strimple and his team of Matt Long, Steven Keever, Nate Kerwin and Cesar Alcalá for the renovation work. Brice Rieck and Scott Hanna installed the irrigation system.

A bus stop used by Sunset Empire Transportation was improved and an automatic sprinkler system installed. A picnic shelter is scheduled to arrive in the fall.

For trivia buffs, Elvin Clyde Goodman died in 1980 at age 76. He moved to Seaside in 1942 and was a past president of the Seaside Kiwanis Club, past member of the Seaside Lions, a member of the Seaside Elks and a charter member of the Seaside Moose Lodge No. 798. He served as Seaside mayor from 1974-1986.

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