

CELEBRATING
GEARHART'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Major events in Gearhart's history from its founding to the present day

Timeline from Page 3B

1968 — Gearhart votes in the presidential election, with 185 votes for Richard Nixon; 147 votes for Hubert Humphrey and nine for former Alabama Governor George Wallace.

1968 — Contract for a \$20,000 addition to Gearhart school is awarded, to include a cafeteria, restrooms, library extension and storage room.

1976 — Gearhart Homeowners' Association develops a survey to form an organization that would act as a watchdog against condominiums and commercialism in Gearhart. Both part- and full-time residents respond they "value Gearhart's unique quality of life."

1978 — The state's Land Conservation and Development commission provides grants to Gearhart for completion of its comprehensive plan and a water quality monitoring grant.

1978 — Police Chief John Gardner and the Gearhart Police Department begin a crackdown on stray dogs. Previously, officers had only handled the problem on a complaint basis only.

1980 — Gearhart residents, angry over Surf Pines' homeowners efforts to close the Clatsop Plains beach to cars, gather countywide support in their effort to keep the beaches open to traffic.

1980 — First July 4 "Kid's Day Parade" takes place, down Marion Avenue and onto Pacific Way.

1981 — Author and international gourmet James Beard, a longtime Gearhart resident, dies at age 81. "No place I have ever been gives me quite as much pleasure," Beard wrote in his autobiography.

1986 — Tsunami warning on May 7 causes the evacuation of Gearhart. The result is a massive traffic jam on U.S. Highway 101.

1988 — Scores of people flock to view the dead gray whale the ocean deposited north of Del Rey Beach.

1990 — In July 1989, the Gearhart City Council alleges Pacific Way Bakery and Cafe owners are in violation of zoning laws by serving restaurant food. The council revokes the cafe's business license until Clatsop County Circuit Judge Alan Davis reverses the order, telling the city "it had no right to go that far."

1992 — State keeps Gearhart beach from 10th Street



Members of the Gearhart Fire Department.

GEARHART FIRE DEPARTMENT

north to the jetty of the Columbia River open to vehicles, a 13-mile stretch.

1992 — Kent Smith elected mayor unopposed, a position he is to hold until 2012.

1994 — Gearhart City Council adopts Ordinance No. 691, establishing a transient room tax for the city and procedures for collecting the tax.

1995 — Andrew and Tiffany Wiederhorn revoke an easement to a popular pedestrian path to Little Beach. That action sparks debate, a bitter election battle and years of legal action.

1996 — Gearhart councilors fight a proposed U.S. Highway 101 Parkway, designed to stretch south from the highway's intersection with Pacific Way in Gearhart through Seaside.

1998 — Members of Gearhart City Council consider septic tank issues to meet concerns from the state's Department of Environmental Quality.

2004 — Gearhart voters approve a \$7 million bond measure for a new water system.

2006 — Gearhart votes no on a \$3.75 million general obligation bond measure to replace the firehouse and add a police department and city hall. The vote is 327-231, with 58 percent of residents voting against it.

2007 — Later to be known as the "Great Coastal Gale," residents are isolated after a storm knocks down thousands of trees and leaves thousands with power, many for more than a week.

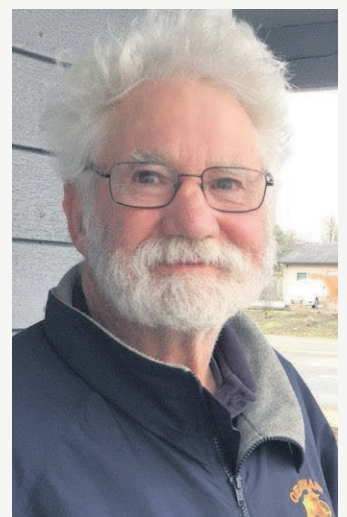
2008 — Five people are killed after a small plane crashes into a vacation home in Gearhart in an incident city officials call the "worst event in the city's history."

2012 — Mayor Kent Smith celebrates the dedication of the city's new water system,



FILE PHOTO

Bob Chisholm, who was assistant chief of the Gearhart Fire Department for more than 25 years. Chisholm died in 1997 at the age of 51, trying to rescue a swimmer who had been swept into the Pacific Ocean near 10th Street by a strong undertow off the coast of Gearhart.



R.J. MARX

Jon Blissett, longtime Gearhart resident, service station operator and firefighter.

delayed after the need to return to voters for another \$4 million in 2010, stricter arsenic standards by the federal Environmental Protection District and the need to rebid the project's construction.

2012 — Mayor Dianne Widdop is sworn in after defeating opponent Bob Shortman by five votes in the November election. Widdop was a city councilor 16 years prior to her election.

2013 — Members of the Planning Commission and City Council consider changes to the way short-term rental properties are taxed and regulated within the city.

2014 — Gearhart resident Harold Gable files a prospective petition to remove Mayor or Dianne Widdop, citing an "abuse of leadership" and "lack of transparency."

2015 — Attempted recall election of Mayor Dianne Widdop fails. In a special recall election, residents voted 321-184 against the recall of Widdop.

2015 — Seaside School District voters approve a \$99.7 million bond to move schools

— including Gearhart Elementary — out of the tsunami zone.

2016 — Gearhart enacts rules limiting and regulating short-term vacation rentals. Council members and supporters say the measure is consistent with the city's comprehensive plan, provides greater safety for residents and visitors alike, and adds to the region's stock of long-term

housing.

2016 — Matt Brown is elected mayor.

2017 — Supporters of Measure 4-188 seek to repeal and replace short-term rental rules enacted the previous fall. The measure is defeated at the polls.

2018 — Gearhart celebrates 100th anniversary with a year of centennial events.



Gearhart residents raise a toast to the next 100 years.



Lisa and John Allen prevailed with three decades of success at the Pacific Way Bakery and Cafe.



The Gearhart Grocery in an undated photo. From "Gearhart Remembered: An Informal History."

SUBMITTED PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL