

# Como, longtime City Hall clerk in Gearhart, set to retire

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal



Gail Como in her office at Gearhart City Hall.

For 17 years, Gail Como has been the first person residents meet at Gearhart City Hall.

At a City Council meeting this month, City Administrator Chad Sweet announced Como's decision to retire May 1.

"Everything goes through Gail," Sweet said. "She's integral to us. She's going to be hard to replace, but I'm looking forward to her being retired. We're happy for her."

Como serves full-time as treasurer, water clerk and administrative assistant. A job description posted by the city advertises "a little adventure every day," with tasks that include accounting, bookkeeping, elk management, short-term rentals and parks planning.

"Gail took me in when I became city administrator," Sweet said. "She showed me the ropes. She's an extremely strong woman. Even though the city's daily work is incredible sometimes, she was always calm, cool and collected. She just took it all in stride."

Como, raised in Ridgefield, Washington, worked in offices in Portland before coming

to Gearhart in 2004. She and her husband, Randy, will remain in Gearhart. Their daughter, Jill, lives in Vancouver, Washington. She has three stepsons, Tony, Randy and Josh.

Como plans on pursuing hobbies, including refinishing an old treadle Singer sewing machine dating to 1889.

"I've met so many great people here in town and I'll miss interacting with them on the phone and in person," she said. "It always brought joy to my heart to hang out with some of these folks that are going through tough times or good times."

"I'll sure miss all the people I work with too," she added.



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Contaminant						
 Diapers	 Plastic bags	 Plastic baskets	 Snack bags & wrappers	 Plastic utensils & straws	 Food Residue	 Napkins & Paper Towels
Why not at the curb?						
Diapers cannot be recycled or composted in our programs. Dirty diapers cause serious health risks to workers at sorting facilities.	Plastic bags clog the machinery at the sorting facility and contaminate the paper stream.	No market for this low-grade plastic. Clogs machinery at sorting facility.	Made with a mixture of material - such as plastic and aluminum, making it very difficult to recycle.	No market for this low-grade plastic. These items can also contaminate other recyclable items.	Food residue inside containers leads to mold and germs. Always rinse or wipe out containers before placing in the cart.	Paper fibers get shorter each time they are recycled. By the time they become a towel or tissue, the fibers are too short to be recycled again.
Where should it go?						
Place these items in your trash cart. Consider using cloth diapers where possible and practical.	Take to a participating retail store. Consider using canvas or other reusable bags.	Place in your trash cart. Consider less prepackaged foods to reduce plastic waste.	Place in your trash cart. Consider using reusable snack bags.	Place in your trash or consider reusable utensils & straws to cut down on plastic waste.	Rinse or wipe to remove food residue before recycling.	Put in your home compost system or in your trash cart. Reduce by using cloth towels.

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