

Seaside: Runkle, Dillard, Solem, Schorr to run

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finance manager for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

"I've been watching the City Council for the past couple of years, especially through the pandemic and I've seen some struggles happening," he said. "And then seeing Dana Phillips leave and seeing the big shoes she's going to leave, it just seemed like now it'd be a good time to step up and try to fill those shoes."

Runkle is a Society for Human Resource Management certified professional.

Runkle Consulting, based in Seaside, does financial consulting, bookkeeping, payroll, human resources — "a little bit of everything," he said. "I have staff that work for me and then I have a network of consultants that we rely on to be the experts in any given field that a client might come to me for."

Runkle joins two others in the race. Former City Councilor Seth Morrissey and Seamus McVey, an addiction and mental health recovery professional, have also filed for the vacant seat.

Duane Solem

Seaside resident and postman Duane Solem announced this week that he is running for the city's Ward 1 position.

"The reason I'm running is because I speak to people on my route in regards to how they feel and they basically let me know that they're not being represented," Solem said. "I just want to jump in and be part of our community and put my best foot forward for everybody."

Solem grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he lived and worked in the tourism industry for almost 40 years.

"My background is from the casino industry, and one of the things I know is the tourist side as well as being a homeowner here in Seaside," he said.

He said residents complain to him they are not being represented as much as they should. "I assured them that I will keep their concerns because I'm a homeowner as well," he said. "Of course not forgetting anybody. But my main concern is looking out for the people that pay the majority of the bills currently."

Dan Schorr

Dan Schorr is certified to run for the Ward 2 seat, held by incumbent Tita Montero, who was first elected in 2010.

Although most of his experience is in private industry, Schorr spent the last four-and-a-half years with Multnomah County when he was hired as a "commercial experienced" project manager working in central administration to bring together the different human services departments for a common process and limits after a near-collapse of the social service contractors in 2009.

As an elected large homeowners association president for 12 years, he said, he brings experience in dealing with legal matters and understanding state laws.

"I have a strong understanding of the state and county human services functions, and combined with my commercial background, excellent financial skills, including due diligence and turn-around experience with operations significantly larger than the city's operation," Schorr said.

He first addressed the

WHO'S RUNNING IN SEASIDE

Mayor — all wards:
Steve Wright

City Councilor, Ward 1:
Duane Solem

Steve Dillard

City Councilor, Ward 2:
Tita Montero

Dan Schorr

City Councilor, Wards 3 and 4, at-large:

Seamus McVey

Seth Morrissey

Marcus Runkle

City Council almost two years ago about RVs parking on the streets.

"I felt I was not being heard," Schorr said Monday. "As the city clandestinely opened the RV parking between 10th and 11th, we knew we were not being heard."

"As the crime and disorderly conduct as well as the pollution increased and petitions with 100 signatures asking to close the camp were ignored, we now felt we were being held in contempt. The partial block between 10th and 11th accounted for one out of every six police calls for the last year of reporting. Councilor Montero was instrumental in setting up this camp as an 'experiment' and remains an advocate for the street people over the residents of her district."

While talking with people from the area, Schorr said, it became clear that concerns for vacation rentals saturating the second ward and the rubber stamping of approvals left most in the area left residents feeling they had no voice.

"Given these concerns, I believe Councilor Montero does not deserve a third term and I could not stand by and see her unopposed."

Steve Dillard's candidacy comes off a recent campaign for the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners District 5 seat in May. While he lost that election to incumbent Lianne Thompson, Dillard filed for City Council in Ward 1, where he will appear on the ballot with Solem.

Dillard said his run comes at the encouragement of local residents. "I bring years of experience, skills as a local resident and business owner. I am willing to serve the city and help out."

Dillard had a 35-year career in information technology at Advanced Micro Systems in Visalia, California, before moving to Seaside, where he and his wife, Annie, are owner-managers of the Sandy Cove Inn. He is a member of the Astoria Airport Advisory Committee.

In the run-up to the county commission election, Dillard said he and his wife had been looking to get more involved in the community.

About six months ago, he began attending city meetings in Seaside. When he learned the county's District 5 seat was open, he chose to run. Dillard said he wants to support local businesses recovering from pandemic shutdowns.

In a spring election forum, Dillard stressed accountability and transparency in government. "I have a long history of being a business person. I am an outdoorsman, and I'm in love with this country."

Originally from Bellingham, Washington, Gould served as a county sheriff's deputy and first responder in southern California where she also acted with her county's human resources and health and risk management divisions.

Family ties brought her to Gearhart, where she has



R.J. Marx

The "North 40" playing field and land to the north delivered to the city for affordable housing and social services.

Land parcels: Clatsop County transfers lots for affordable housing

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is potential for 18 affordable housing units if a zone change is approved," Rahl said.

There is no financial cost to the city, and applicable taxing districts would forego potential revenues from foreclosed land sales.

State Senate Bill 8 requires local governments to allow development of certain affordable housing on lands not zoned for residential use and allows establishment of certain affordable housing at increased density.

With the bill going into effect, Rahl said, the use of industrial or commercial property for affordable

SEASIDE WILL WORK TO IDENTIFY PARTNERS AT THE SITE.

housing may not require a zone change or conditional use permit. The former high school, adjacent to the lots, is zoned R-2 and a residen-

tial development is already being discussed for the proposed use of the property.

R-2 zoning allows outright usage for single-family dwellings, duplexes, residential homes or facilities, day care providers or residential home care. Conditional uses include churches, parks, nursing homes and park space.

"Clatsop County also recently decided over the property known locally as the 'North 40' for the continuing use of green space and playing fields for local youth," Rahl said. "It's com-

mon for green and park space like this to have neighborhoods and homes in the immediate area."

Seaside has been looking into developing low-income housing on the site as required by the deed restriction, Steve Wright, City Council president and a candidate for mayor, said.

"One of the first steps is identifying partners that will be able to join us," Wright said. "City Manager Spencer Kyle is working on that. It will take some time to figure out all the details, including the zoning."

Gearhart: Competitive races for two City Council positions

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"The Nov. 8 election will provide the citizens of Gearhart the opportunity to decide if I have earned their vote and should remain in this position."

Warren pointed to his background in community development, housing, small business ownership, nonprofit and volunteer management. "I look forward to continuing to work with the citizens of Gearhart to shape the future of our City," he said.

"We are fortunate to live in a community which has a long tradition of forward-thinking volunteer leadership," Warren said. "Examples of this leadership include the comprehensive plan, limitations on short-term rentals, an independent, redundant source of drinking water and the parks plan. I hope to continue to contribute to this legacy."

Preston Devereaux

Preston Devereaux will challenge Warren in Position 3. Devereaux, a retired Gearhart firefighter and ex-chief, took an active role in the recent firehouse bond vote.

"I've got a plan where to put the new fire station," Devereaux said. "It's in the same location as the old fire station. In the downtown core area. It's always been the hub of Gearhart."

Devereaux also hopes to address the city's water concerns and bring a return to in-person council meetings.

Although he attended school in Portland, Devereaux comes rooted in Gearhart tradition.

"My great-grandparents, grandparents had houses in Gearhart here and my aunts and uncles lived here and I grew up here. We've been around for well over 100 years."

Dana Gould

Originally from Bellingham, Washington, Gould served as a county sheriff's deputy and first responder in southern California where she also acted with her county's human resources and health and risk management divisions.

Family ties brought her to Gearhart, where she has

WHO'S RUNNING IN GEARHART

Position 1

Dana Gould

Anne Mesch

Position 3

Preston Devereaux

Brent Warren

lived since 2018. She is seeking election to Position 1 after appointment in July after Kerry Smith assumed the role of mayor.

"Naturally, I am honored to be appointed to the Gearhart City Council," Gould said after her appointment to council in July. "Gearhart is a fabulous little town and as evidenced by the recent Fourth of July parade and street dance, its citizens care deeply for each other. I see it in social media postings. I see it when community volunteers come together to assume personal responsibility to resolve community problems such as beach clean up or ridgeway path upkeep."

"I see it when neighbors greet each other on the street or in their gardens," she continued. "I believe we all want to retain Gearhart's old world, small-town charm, but we also understand the modern world has delivered some very serious challenges to our doors."

She said "it would be a real shame" if the community's future successes came at the price of its camaraderie.

"I hope that in my short term of service I can play a part in helping the city identify a path to move forward together with its citizens, to meet our challenges while preserving all that is so good about our community."

Anne Mesch

Anne Mesch, a former teacher at Portland Public Schools, is also in the race for the Position 1 seat.

Mesch received a master's from Lewis and Clark College. She taught for 27 years, spending 15 years teaching middle school and 12 years teaching elementary grades.

"I'm honored to be running and grateful for the outpouring of support," she said.

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