

# COASTAL PRIDE

## Ocean Shores

*and* Southwest Grays Harbor County

Community Newsmagazine  
Celebrating LGBTQA Diversity  
and Dances of the Human Spirit

November/December 2023 v2

INTERVIEW WITH

Rick Winningham

Faith

*and* GOOD  
GOVERNANCE

Gay  
BINGO

The 2023 Furvana  
Convention







## From the Publisher

In this issue Rhonda Brown talks with Rick Winningham about life and work in Ocean Shores and as we head into our primary elections, we look a little further into our local candidates. Teddy MacQuarrie examines the intersection of religion and politics in his piece Faith and Good Governance in Ocean Shores with a focus on Mayoral incumbent Jon Martin and his challenger Frank Elduen. We also look at the campaign contributions of local candidates and Gina McCauley shares our Ocean Shores *The Candidates & The Gays* private candidate forum. Ocean Shores Gay Bingo makes a big move, real estate broker John Dirgo Dewees offers his comprehensive Real Estate Market Update, the 2023 Furvana Convention invades Ocean Shores, and more from Gary Douglas Lennon, David Done Clark and our resident Drag Queen columnist Tru Saint James.

A couple months ago I had the opportunity and privilege of acquiring SGN (Seattle Gay News), a 49-year-old print and online legacy LGBTQA publication of the Pacific Northwest. It's been a significant undertaking, and the heavy lifting of transition and revamp continues. I'm taking a winter break from Coastal Pride but look to resume this publication with the March-April issue. In the interim, SGN has expanded its biweekly distribution points state-wide and now includes our local Ocean Shores Public Library, At The Beach Rentals, and Beach Tyme Quilts. SGN's press release can be found in this issue on page 30. More on SGN can be found online at: [www.sgn.org](http://www.sgn.org).

Thank you for taking a look and joining the ride.

Mike Schultz  
Publisher

# Coastal Pride

## OCEAN SHORES

Southwest Grays Harbor County

Cover photo by Matt Cyphert

November/December 2023  
Vol. 1 Issue 4

Community Newsmagazine  
Celebrating LGBTQA Diversity  
and Dances of the Human Spirit

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# getting to know Rick Winningham

by Rhonda Brown  
photo by Matt Cyphert

With his growing success, and both feet firmly planted in the community, Rick continues to grow his business into managing a variety of homes in the surrounding area by starting *At the Beach Rentals*. After 21 years, 85 homes, a 4.71 stars rating as a Superhost on Airbnb, and many happy repeat customers, he is proud of the business he has created and nurtured.

Coming out is a process. For many of us in the LGBTQ+ diaspora, this may be a long and hard-fought journey. When we feel welcomed and encouraged it is often the "chosen family" we start out with. Some of us have the blessing of finding our family, friends, and workplace as a welcoming environment. In the shadow of so many horror stories of past and present, it is always a joy to hear of an openly gay member of our community that has felt love and support in his personal life,

largely in the Ocean Shores area.

Growing up in Lake Quinault, Richard (Rick) Winningham was a horse enthusiast and fully embraced the logging industry that supported the area. Only an hour away inland from Ocean Shores, Lake Quinault was culturally worlds away for him. He married at age 21, had a daughter, continued to work in the cedar industry, and remained in the closet in the hopes his same-sex attraction would "go away". His spouse had no knowledge, but at

the age of 30, when he just "couldn't do it anymore", he was able to come out and they mutually decided to separate. While this is a difficult process, Rick was able to maintain a positive relationship with his ex-wife, daughter, and extended family. His father's response when receiving the news he was gay was simply, "no shit."

Encouraged by the support of family and friends, and with the

**RICK - To Page 12**



# Faith and Good Governance in Ocean Shores



*Coastal Pride* reached out to both mayoral candidates to discuss their approach to their respective faith commitments and their decision-making processes as leaders.



Mayoral incumbent Jon Martin



Mayoral challenger Frank Elduen

by Teddy MacQuarrie

Candidate photos by Matt Cyphert

In a politically fraught moment in American life, fewer citizens are looking forward to next year's presidential elections than ever. National politics is infamously turbulent, perhaps even toxic as Americans wrestle

with inflation, stagnated wages, and a right-wing culture war that threatens to leave no prisoners.

Situating local politics in this moment can be tricky, as the residents of Ocean Shores have discovered in the ongoing election for mayor. Between incumbent Jon Martin and his challenging

opponent City Councilman Frank Elduen, this election cycle has proven to be taxing and turbulent, with a number of open questions about the role of faith in local governance that have gone unexamined in the form of debate or discussion.

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Asking the question, What should the role of faith be in the decisions of local leaders?, *Coastal Pride* reached out to both candidates to discuss their approach to their respective faith commitments and their decision-making processes as leaders. What emerged in this inquiry has been a discussion of what problems most acutely affect the Ocean Shores community, what norms and guiding principles guide these tough decisions, and the impact that national politics has had in shaping, and even disrupting, the local decision-making process.

Speaking to *Coastal Pride*, Mayor Jon Martin shared that though he's not a current member of any particular church or congregation, "I do believe that you need to have some guiding principles, and that can be religion or that can be something else, but you need to believe in something."

Mayor Martin describes the challenges that he sees on the horizon for the Ocean Shores community: "In ten years, if we don't do anything, we'll lose probably about 50 homes, possibly lose our water treatment plant and possibly have salt water in our freshwater canals," and makes clear that, for this town, this is an existential threat.

From a social point of view, Mayor Martin explains how in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, "The biggest issue that I'm trying to improve is citizen's outreach...people have stopped coming out of their houses. People aren't interacting." He describes the challenges of a town with an aging demographic who often lack local familial support, and the city's efforts to meet the needs of these citizens.

One of the most troubling concerns Mayor Martin expresses, however, is the tenor of the current election cycle. "This election worries me," he said to *Coastal Pride*. "It worries me more than

I've ever been worried before because some of the national politics have come into local politics."

Mayor Martin refers to the lingering questions of faith and religion in local governance caused by the religious commitments of his opponent, Councilman Elduen, who is an active member in Faith Community Church in Ocean Shores, a non-denominational Evangelical congregation.

FCCOS shares beliefs on their website inimical to LGBTQ+ individuals and families, and against women. Their website states, "Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime" and that "God detests all forms of sexual immorality: including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We do not acknowledge or approve of any form of marriage other than the marriage of one man to one woman." On the relationship between a husband and wife, the church states, "A wife is to submit herself lovingly and respect her husband's leadership, serving as his helper wherever possible."

For a community with as unique a melting pot as Ocean Shores, such statements are bound to call into question whether a candidate tied to such doctrine is capable of governing for all.

Councilman Elduen has not responded to emails and requests for comment by *Coastal Pride*. In an earlier text message to *Coastal Pride's* publisher, however, he explained that he's not an "official member" of Faith Community Church, but that he does attend. "My faith has taught me that I should be honest and good to people. I see that as a positive in a candidate," and assures the publisher, "I'm not a Trumper."

"Honest and good" are positive sentiments, but their content is not clear. Exactly what Councilman Elduen's beliefs are is still an open question, and an acute one given

his affiliation with Faith Community Church.

Given the nature of Evangelical political theology, which encompasses a spectrum of views that includes Christian Dominionism, which seeks to establish the U.S. as a nation governed exclusively by Christians and has gained support in national politics in recent years, as well as a reactionary, sometimes-violent strand of social conservatism active and alive in communities across the country, Councilman Elduen, whatever his personal beliefs, possesses the burden of proof to clarify his stance on these issues that directly impact a significant portion of the Ocean Shores community.

This is a task that he has not met. Mayor Martin voices the frustration of many in the Ocean Shores community in light of Councilman Elduen's failure to hold civil discussion on these issues. "I get frustrated because running for mayor you have a high responsibility to the citizens of the town, and they should be open to questions so they could compare and contrast."

Mayor Martin clarified for *Coastal Pride* that "I believe that everybody should be who they want to be, especially in Ocean Shores." Explaining the role that faith commitments play in his decision-making process as mayor, he said, "I actually find it fairly easy. In my personal life, I try to treat everybody with respect, [and] understand that we typically come from different backgrounds and different beliefs, and I try to be accepting of each individual."

Asked about his relationship to local religious communities, Mayor Martin offered, "I see the work that our churches do in our community...but I also believe from a city point of view that we should be blind to religion and race and sexual orientation, that we

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# A look at Campaign Contributions

## Individual Contributions to Federally Registered Political Committees by City Of Ocean Shores Mayoral, City Council and North Beach School District Board Candidates

Source: <https://www.fec.gov/introduction-campaign-finance/how-to-research-public-records/individual-contributions/>

Search results of all candidate names as of 9/26/2023 covering 2020-2023:

<b>Frank Elduen</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
<b>Jon Martin</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
<b>Bob Peterson</b>	Position 2, City Council	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
<b>Thomas Taylor</b>	Position 2, City Council	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
<b>Susan Conniry</b>	Position 3, City Council	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
<b>Lisa Griebel</b>	Position 3, City Council	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
<b>Alison Cline</b>	Position 4, City Council	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23

<b>Caroline M. Emmert</b>	<b>Position 4, City Council</b>
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contributor name	city	state	employer	contribution date	contribution amount	earmarked for ...	committee name
EMMERT, CAROLINE	BATTLE GROUND	WA	ACES	7/9/2020	\$ 50.00	DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)	WINRED
EMMERT, CAROLINE	BATTLE GROUND	WA	ACES	7/6/2020	\$ 50.00	DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)	WINRED

<b>PJ Faria</b>	<b>Position 6, City Council</b>
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contributor name	city	state	employer	contribution date	contribution amount	earmarked for ...	committee name
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/10/2023	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/10/2023	\$ 3.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/8/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/8/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/8/2022	\$ 3.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	9/8/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	7/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	7/10/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	6/24/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	6/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	6/10/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	5/24/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	5/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	5/10/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/24/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/17/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/10/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/9/2022	\$ 5.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	3/24/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	3/22/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	3/17/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	3/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	3/10/2022	\$ 10.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	3/9/2022	\$ 5.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/28/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/26/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/24/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/16/2022	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED

FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PJ	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/11/2022	\$ 10.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/10/2022	\$ 5.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	2/9/2022	\$ 5.00	TRUMP SAVE AMERICA JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (C00770941)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	1/27/2022	\$ 25.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	1/25/2022	\$ 15.00	SMILEY FOR WASHINGTON INC. (C00776765)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/27/2021	\$ 25.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/19/2021	\$ 10.00	NRSC (C00027466)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/23/2021	\$ 10.00	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	10/23/2021	\$ 10.00	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	9/23/2021	\$ 10.00	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	8/23/2021	\$ 10.00	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	7/23/2021	\$ 10.00	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	6/23/2021	\$ 10.00	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	6/17/2021	\$ 2.50	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, P J	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	6/17/2021	\$ 10.00	ALEK FOR OREGON (C00715854)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	1/4/2021	\$ 1.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	1/4/2021	\$ 25.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO MRS.	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/31/2020	\$ 0.75	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	TRANSFER
FARIA, PEGGY JO MRS.	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/31/2020	\$ 6.25	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	TRANSFER
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/31/2020	\$ 18.75	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE [SA12.4852]	SAVE AMERICA
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/31/2020	\$ 2.25	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE [SA12.4852]	SAVE AMERICA
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/31/2020	\$ 3.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	12/31/2020	\$ 25.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/30/2020	\$(970.00)	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE	WINRED CHGB
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/29/2020	\$ 727.50	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE [SA12.4852]	SAVE AMERICA
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/29/2020	\$ 970.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/29/2020	\$ 970.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	11/29/2020	\$ 242.50	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	CONTRIBUTION
FARIA, PEGGY JO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	10/22/2020	\$ 30.00	DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	9/2/2020	\$ 50.00	DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	8/27/2020	\$ 50.00	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE (C00003418)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGY	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	8/12/2020	\$ 45.00	DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	6/5/2020	\$ 50.00	DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	5/28/2020	\$ 25.00	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE (C00003418)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	5/2/2020	\$ 75.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/24/2020	\$ 21.00	TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371)	WINRED
FARIA, PEGGYJO	OCEAN SHORES	WA	RETIRED	4/24/2020	\$ 21.00	MIKE GARCIA FOR CONGRESS (C00701102)	WINRED

<b>Richard Wills</b>	<b>Position 6, City Council</b>
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contributor name	city	state	employer	contribution date	contribution amount	earmarked for ...	committee name
WILLS, RICHARD	OCEAN SHORES	WA	NOT EMPLOYED	11/6/2020	\$ 20.00	JON OSSOFF FOR SENATE (C00718866)	ACTBLUE
WILLS, RICHARD	OCEAN SHORES	WA	NOT EMPLOYED	11/6/2020	\$ 20.00	WARNOCK FOR GEORGIA (C00736876)	ACTBLUE

<b>Jeff Albertson</b>	District 1, NB School District	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
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<b>Rickie Day</b>	District 1, NB School District	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
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<b>Joe Lomedico</b>	District 4, NB School District	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
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<b>Halvar Olstead</b>	District 4, NB School District	ZERO ENTRIES for 2020-23
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<b>Susan Rogers</b>	District 5, NB School District	N/A: withdrew from election
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End of Individual Contributions to Federally Registered Political Committees





Forum co-organizers Dana Clark and Connie Clifford addressing the attendees at *The Candidates and The Gays Forum* at Oyhut Bay Grill in Ocean Shores, Thursday, October 12th, 2023. Photo by Gina McCauley

# The Candidates

## G and the Gays

Private forum hosts candidates for Ocean Shores local LGBTQ community Q&A

### Candidates Attending:

- Jon Martin** – Mayor
- Richard Wills** – Position 6
- PJ Faria** – Position 6
- Alison Cline** – Position 4
- Lisa Griebel** – Position 3
- Susan Conniry** – Position 3
- Bob Peterson** - Position 2

### Candidates Not Attending (declined):

- Frank Elduen** - Mayor
- Caroline Emmert** - Position 4

### No response:

- Tom Taylor** – Position 2



Forum candidates and attendees. Photos by Gina McCauley



by Gina McCauley

Seven of the ten invited candidates running in this year's election in Ocean Shores attended our first 'meet the candidates, meet the gays' event Thursday, October 12, at the Oyhut Bay Grill. Dana Clark and Connie Clifford organized this private forum to engage directly with the current candidates and, more importantly, to introduce them to our LGBTQ+ community within the larger community of Ocean Shores. There were over 24 attendees plus the candidates. Attendees enjoyed a spread of delicious finger-foods before sitting down to business; donations to cover costs were accepted but not required.

Dana and Connie put together a concise and well managed agenda; the rules of engagement were clearly expressed. Everyone was respectful while still asking hard-hitting questions.

The meeting opened with the candidates each giving a short introduction statement:

- Jon Martin listed some of the accomplishments he's proud of on behalf of our city. He also stated that he believes folks should feel free to come to Ocean Shores and be who they want to be.

- Bob Peterson shared some of his history (he's lived in Ocean Shores for 12 years) and experience as a school psychologist working with students who had ID issues. He explained that he has worked with Lisa on several projects.

- Susan Conniry reminded us that she has been on the council before and that she has a 'public servant's heart'. She mentioned her Community Voices group as an example. She stated that she was born in England and wants to give back to her new community here.

- Lisa Griebel shared some of her own history. She lived in Seattle for 20 years, bought property in Ocean Shores in 2010 and moved here in 2013. She has been in public education for 32 years, currently in her 10th year in the Aberdeen School District. She stated that she loves the progress our community has made lately and wants to be involved in that again.

- PJ Faria stated she has lived in Ocean Shores for 11 years and is currently the President of the North Beach Republican Women's group. She stated that this election is 'not about PJ, it's about your voice'. She believes safety is an issue here, and that we are all citizens in one community.

**CANDIDATES - To Next Page**

"Visibility matters. In a world that thrives on inclusivity and representation, our community event served as a beacon, shedding light on the voices and concerns that often go unheard. It is events like these that enable us to celebrate the diversity of Ocean Shores and continue our journey toward a more inclusive and equitable community"

*--Dana Clark, forum co-organizer*



CANDIDATES - From Previous Page

Richard Wills read his opening statement, recounting his military career and his attention to detail. He believes strongly that 'actions speak louder than words'. He has attended, or been involved in, every council meeting since moving here some time ago, except for three.

Alison Cline wrapped up the introductions explaining that she was appointed to take Jon's seat on the council when he moved up to Mayor after the passing of our previous mayor. She is running to maintain that seat. Alison has been in education 28 years, and currently teaches in Aberdeen. She mentioned that we may have seen her volunteering at many of our events in Ocean Shores. Alison believes in equal treatment for everyone.

The Q&A portion of the meeting came next, and was opened by questions posed to Faria and Martin by Ryan Griffiths. The questioner asked these two candidates to address their monetary contributions to other state level politicians and political groups with a record of extreme right wing and/or anti-gay activities. Faria stated that she didn't know about the lady in Arizona's beliefs when she donated to her. She related her work history with Costco, and explained that she is able to leave her personal beliefs at the door. She also stated that she had been discriminated against herself as a Christian Conservative. Martin explained that he is a small business owner of an independent liquor store and he supported those who may have been able to help him with certain business issues, be it Democrat or Republican. Griffiths also asked Conniry about the placement of her political signs with and around other candidates with concerning LGBTQ platforms. She stated that her husband places them for her per constituents' requests.

Panel members were asked to describe how they are different from their opponents.

Bob Peterson explained that he has experience on the council and considers himself a 'problem solver'. He hasn't taken any contributions from anyone or any special interest group.

Alison Cline stated that her opponent is a nice person and they get along fine, but she has experience on the council and has attended many meetings since 2007. She mentioned her volunteer activities again.

Jon Martin said he was disappointed that his opponent was not in attendance, and hasn't been at several other forums, so it's hard for him to know what his opponent stands for. He also stated that this campaign should be about what is good for Ocean Shores, not about sign placement.

Barbara West asked each candidate to describe their vision for Ocean Shores.

Lisa Griebel said she'd like to see our town be more progressive and inclusive, and for it to have more small businesses. She feels that a healthy community has a variety of people living there.

Susan Conniry said she came from California and people thought she was a hippie liberal, but that she felt accepted. She wants to provide a living wage for residents. She feels if we don't do that we won't have any workers or businesses.

PJ Faria commented that our downtown corridor has improved greatly of late. She takes a visual approach to things and feels that making the town look better will attract more

visitors and potential residents. She would like to see improved internet, an Urgent Care facility, and an effective 'escape plan' in the event of serious events like earthquakes and tsunamis. She pointed out that there is only one way out of town.

Alison Cline felt that 1st responders should be better taken care of, that we need sidewalks and more crosswalks. She would like to see the High Dunes Trail extend all the way to the jetty, and hopes to make our town more walkable and bikeable, which will make it more attractive to tourists and potential residents.

Richard Wills pointed out that he's been very active on the Planning Committee and the Fresh Waterways organization as well as the council. He said that funding has always been an issue - no one wants to raise taxes, but asked where the money should/could come from. He felt that increasing tourism may address that issue somewhat.

Bob Peterson explained that we had similar issues in 2016 - some have been addressed but some have not. Businesses did not support sidewalks then. He mentioned the city council's mission statement which can be found on the city website. Bob pointed out that our reserves have increased substantially since 2016 and feels that sidewalks will attract more business. He stated that Ocean Shores is a city, not a tourist destination or a retirement community.

Jon Martin wants to make Ocean Shores a more livable city. He feels we are slow to move forward. He wants us to be consumer friendly and that as a small town we have flexibility to be more creative. Bob added that Ocean Shores needs positive people with positive comments and ideas.

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Co-moderator, Connie Clifford, wrapped up this portion of the forum with a statement to the candidates that 'we are our own community within a community'. Attendees and candidates were then invited to mingle and get to know each other better. As the forum wound down, Connie noted she loved that so many people came to the forum, more than she expected. She liked what everyone had to ask and say, and was glad that Susan and PJ attended, underscoring this forum wasn't a 'block' campaign event. She felt it was a great success and that we could certainly do it again.

Dana Clark, who initiated this idea of a 'meet the candidates and the gays' event, shared this statement:

"I'm thrilled that last night's event was a success.

The event's abundant attendance underscores the importance of providing platforms for visibility and engagement within our community inside the larger community of Ocean Shores.

The strong turnout at the event exemplified the significant support, interest, and curiosity surrounding the issues that affect our community. It was heartening to see my beloved LGBTQIA+ community come together to listen, engage,

and learn from our local election candidates and each other.

Visibility matters. In a world that thrives on inclusivity and representation, our community event served as a beacon, shedding light on the voices and concerns that often go unheard. It is events like these that enable us to celebrate the diversity of Ocean Shores and continue our journey toward a more inclusive and equitable community.

I am deeply grateful to all who attended, participated, and contributed to making the event a success. The meaningful dialogues were only possible because of your presence and commitment.

My hope is that we all carry the spirit of this event forward and continue to support and empower one another."



Gina McCauley lives in Ocean Shores, founded Snooter-doots and is very active promoting small businesses and bringing the LGBTQ community together.



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At The Beach Rentals, <https://www.ricksbeachhouses.com>, is turn-key short-term rental management handling 85 fully furnished houses, cabins and condos located in Ocean Shores, Ocean City, Copalis Beach and Moclips. The office is located at 881 Point Brown Ave NW, Ocean Shores, WA 98569. Photo by Mike Schultz

**RICK - From Page 3**

lumber industry waning, he was offered a job cleaning vacation condos for Beach Front Vacation Rentals for a whopping \$15 per condo in 1995. As his experience and the need for hard-working year-round care continued, Rick found himself managing Chalet Village in 1999: a 19 unit set of beach-adjacent cabins, primarily catering to groups of families that gather yearly. With his growing success, and both feet firmly planted in the community, he continued to grow his business into managing a variety of homes in the surrounding area by starting At the Beach Rentals. After 21 years, 85 homes, a 4.71 stars rating as a

Superhost on Airbnb, and many happy repeat customers, he is proud of the business he has created and nurtured.

Running a vacation rental business hasn't been without its hiccups, however. Especially at peak tourism times he finds himself still working 12 hour days, seven days a week, just as he had when first starting out. Presenting clean and enjoyable spaces also produces a lot of laundry, and initially his mother was helping out by operating machines out of his garage around-the-clock. Learning from the struggles and taking chances have helped in this years-long process, and in 2003 he

took on the risk of first leasing the Ocean Shores Laundromat for a year before ultimately purchasing it. The laundry business has meshed well with the vacation homes, and he is not only proud of the fact that it's "the cleanest laundromat in Washington", but that all the public machines are in use all day, every day of the week in addition to the 4000 pounds of commercial at the Beach produces. For him it's been a "great ride" the whole way.

Inside the successful operation is also his daughter and co-owner, Danielle, and her mother, Tammy, who is often on the other end of the phone when a potential client calls. Rick admits that his work schedule is still, "if I'm awake, I'm working," but has managed to also get away himself from time-to-time, knowing the business is in good hands. As a people pleaser with a hard work ethic, his goal has always been to cater to creating the closest to perfect time and place when they travel here. His experiences as a traveler haven't always been as good as what he aims to provide, but it hasn't deterred him one bit. He even has a favorite destination, and whenever he can manage loves to spend time getting in some rest and relaxation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Taking time to enjoy life isn't simply about slipping away to a tropical resort, though. Rick is a deeply committed family man and devotes much of his time to them

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as well. His father passed away ten years ago, but he continues to visit his mother approximately twice a week at her home in Hoquiam. Rick regularly enjoys spending time with his daughter and two grandkids and continues to have a great relationship with all four of his siblings and their families. Additionally, eight years ago he became guardian to two young girls who are currently 16 and 17 and has dedicated much of his life to raising them independently.

Being a single parent has been an immense joy for Rick. Raising teenage girls is not without its challenges, but they have been a pleasure for the most part and among their favorite things to do together is what he refers to as a "dessert party" - all kinds of treats, glitter, and just being silly together. While openly out and after having a few serious relationships, Rick ultimately decided to focus on being a parent and raising the girls when they came into his life. This doesn't mean he shied away from who he is

with them, however. Both girls are very supportive of not only him, but all those in the community, and he's proud of who they are as young women as well.

Even as he dedicates so much of his life to the happiness of others, Rick is not without his solitary pleasures. You may have seen him riding his horse, Cheyenne, along the beach or down the streets. He started riding at age eight and has been an avid equestrian ever since. Though he never was competitive, he has prided himself on knowledge and care of these gorgeous animals and encourages others at any age to learn to appreciate and ride as well. He currently just has one horse, and has been happily boarding her at Nansea Stables, where he also encourages those living or visiting in the area to patronize for boarding and riding lessons. Riding has always been the big de-stressor in his life, and his favorite spot is a beautiful sunrise at Damon Point, where "you can see the sun come up over Mount Rainier on a perfect day."

Rick Winningham has, in his 63

years on this planet, lived several different lives. He has journeyed through growing up in a small town, raising a family, making his way in the world as an openly gay man, starting a business, and constantly taking on new challenges along the way. When asked what he would say to his younger self, he simply stated: "I was very fortunate, but I learned a lot from the rough spots." He is very grateful that negativity towards his sexuality has, with a brief exception or two long ago, been non-existent. Ocean Shores is the loving community he has been a part of for over 28 years, with no plans to leave, and for that he feels extremely lucky.



Rhonda Brown is a contributor to local LGBTQ+ publications in Washington State. She currently resides in Shoreline, WA and continues to work in art restoration and international finance. Her hobbies include kayaking and caring for elderly and disabled pets.

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Approximately 20 people attended the September 24th Ocean Shores Gay Bingo at Galway Bay Irish Pub in Ocean Shores. Photo by Gina McCauley

by Rhonda Brown

Galway Bay Irish Pub is now the home of the beloved Ocean Shores Gay Bingo that has been a monthly event in this past year. Organizer of Out and Older in Ocean Shores group, Gina McCauley, has spent years since moving here doing all she can to bring together the LGBTQ+ community – specifically those “of a certain age” that are a growing population in the area. She originally created the group on meetup.com to “foster community and get to know each other, which can be difficult for LGBTQ folks as we get older and retire to smaller, remote locations.” The main communication for members and events has since moved entirely

# Ocean Shores Gay BINGO

*makes a big move*

to their Facebook page and has grown to 132 members, of which many are very active.

With the growing popularity of drag queen bingo in many places, and fond memories of gay bars in Seattle having bingo nights, Gina was compelled to organize the monthly bingo game at the Lions Club to continue to bring people together. According to her, “other events we held were intimidating to some individuals who might not know many people here, but this was something we could all attend.” The Lions Club was a great initial location as they were very open and accepting of the event and attendees and had plenty of space. But, as many

new ventures sometimes do, there ended up being a few minor issues that needed improvement: some attendees felt it was too chilly, as it is a very large space and takes a lot to heat, and the setup, tear down, food, and drinks had to be entirely handled by organizers and volunteers. With her busy art business and creator of Snooter Doots, other events through Out and Older in Ocean Shores, and other social engagements, it was a lot for Gina to handle at times.

To her, the move to Galway Bay made so much sense: “I wanted to

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Galway Bay Irish Pub, [www.galwaybayirishpub.com](http://www.galwaybayirishpub.com), is located at 880 Point Brown Ave NW, Ocean Shores, WA 98569. Photo by Skip Radcliffe

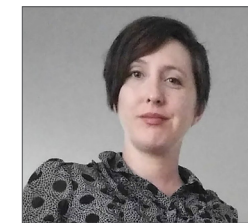
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support a gay-owned business as well”. Chris Doyle is the owner, but Christine Turcotte organized this change with Gina and welcomed this new monthly event to their banquet room. Attendance for this last month’s debut was estimated at close to 20 people, with space to accommodate at least 40. Admission will continue to stay at \$5 per person, but a lot of great changes come along with the shift in venue. A small bites menu is being developed specially for this event, in addition to their full food and drink menu, to ensure those that might want to save on money are still able to enjoy while they are playing. This also brings the added benefit of being able to have an adult beverage, if you so choose. Because of Washington State Law, no outside food or drinks are allowed.

The response has been largely positive. Stephen Gavorcik commented on the Out and Older in Ocean Shores Facebook group page, “Thanks for supporting gay owned businesses. It’s very needed not only everywhere, but our home area of Grays harbor county and Ocean Shores” and plans to attend in the future. “I have attended quite a few bingo parties. I enjoyed this one the best. A much more inviting atmosphere. The option to order food and drink during, I feel was a great addition for those who want to have a snack. It was a great turn out. Looking forward to the next one,” Rick Winningham told our publisher, Mike Schultz.

No matter what, one thing is very apparent: Gay Bingo is a great time to be had by all and is not going away any time soon, if ever. It also has wonderful community support from local businesses. Last month’s grand prize (won by Dana Clark) was a \$50 gift certificate to Too Cool Sportswear by local realtor Dan Darr, who loves supporting the event because, “it brings all the age groups together in a fun, safe, friendly activity.”

This month is going to be extra special, as it’s Halloween themed and not only will there be bingo, and prizes for winners, but there will also be a prize for best costume donated by a local business. Attendees are asked to bring your own dauber, \$5 admission cost, a wrapped <\$20 gift that winners will get to choose from, and a love of fun! Games will be at Galway Bay Irish Pub at 880 Point Brown Ave NE, Ocean Shores on Sunday, October 29th, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.



Rhonda Brown is a contributor to local LGBTQ+ publications in Washington State. She currently resides in Shoreline, WA and continues to work in art restoration and international finance. Her hobbies include kayaking and caring for elderly and disabled pets.

**FAITH - From Page 5**

should deal with each person as an individual and deal with those individual needs. I have meetings with leaders in the church, and I’ve always found those meetings to be helpful and positive.

He added, “You elect a person because they have the best thoughts of what the city needs, and if you disagree with that that’s debated.”

The citizens of Ocean Shores have not had that chance. LGBTQ+ residents do not have the clarity they need to know if they can trust Councilman Elduen to hold their concerns with care. In a national atmosphere in which LGBTQ+ rights are under constant siege by leaders and citizens pronouncing exactly the beliefs his chosen church professes, the question that emerges behind the question of faith and good governance is trust.

Can LGBTQ+ trust Councilman Frank Elduen? Or should they continue to trust Mayor Jon Martin?



Teddy MacQuarrie is a Seattle-based writer and Ph.D. student with a background in Queer life, human sexuality, religion, and arts and culture.

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**Angela Renecker**  
Pastor



# Real Estate Market Update



A comprehensive look at where we've been and where we're going

by John Dirgo Deweese  
Designated Broker  
Realty ONE Group All Stars

First of all, I need to warn people. I am not Pollyanna, although I am old enough to know what means. I am not one of those people who will always put a bright shining smiley face on everything because sometimes things don't deserve it. I am honest and I will tell you the truth.

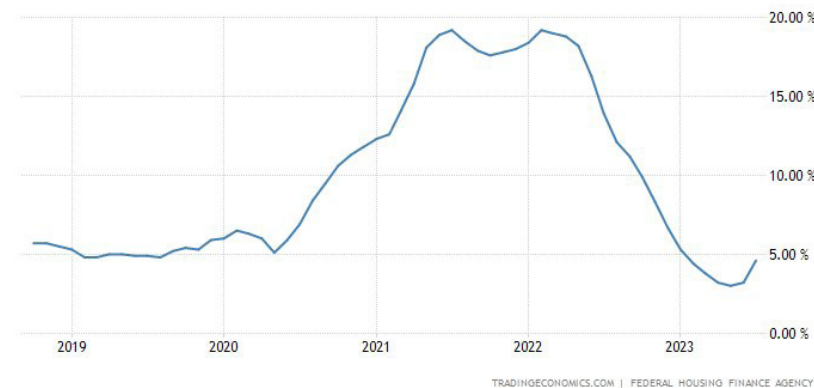
The truth in real estate, in this area, is that prices have declined but not by a huge amount. The number of sales is down (and was down throughout the normally busy summer months). There is nothing to indicate that it is going to change very soon, even though the overall economics of the real estate market remain favorable. People need places to live and rents have gone up so much that a mortgage and rent are often very similar. That should be a stabilizing influence on home prices and maybe even lead to long-term price increases. The key part of that phrase is "long term".

Nationally, over the last 25 years, the average annual increase in home prices was 5%. But that simple statistic hides a lot of fluctuation.

As someone that has been a licensed real estate broker for 20 of those 25 years, I've seen this happening:



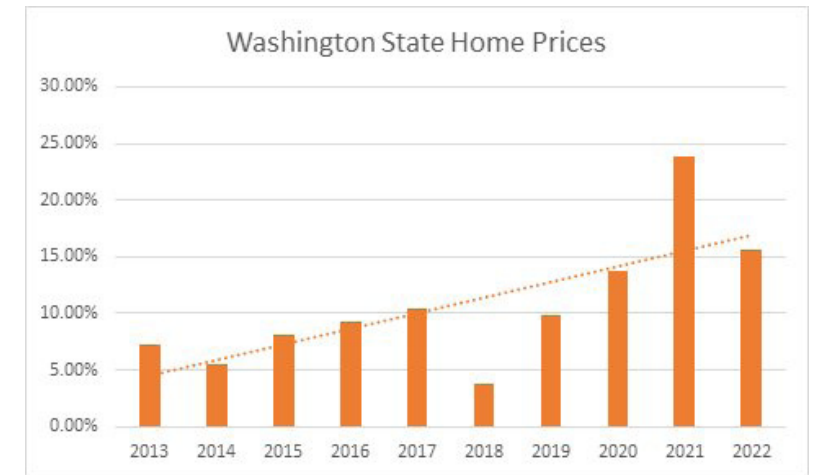
Let's look at the last five years on a national basis. Be sure to notice that the mean line across the middle is not at zero – its at 10%. That's the average for the last 10 years. At the worst, it only dropped back to the historical average of 5%.



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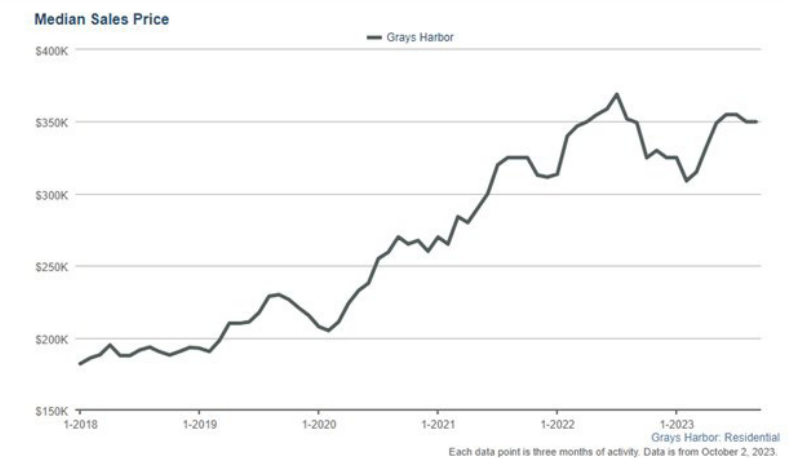
Let's look at Washington State for comparison: OK, so things aren't much better here. I mean, they are better if you were trying to sell a home, but not if you're trying to buy one. Prices were going up quickly. In fact, the lowest increase was 2018 at around 4%. The years of 2021 and 2022 averaged price increases of 20% each year. Let's be honest, that's NUTS.



Now let's look at actual prices here in Grays Harbor over the last 5 years.

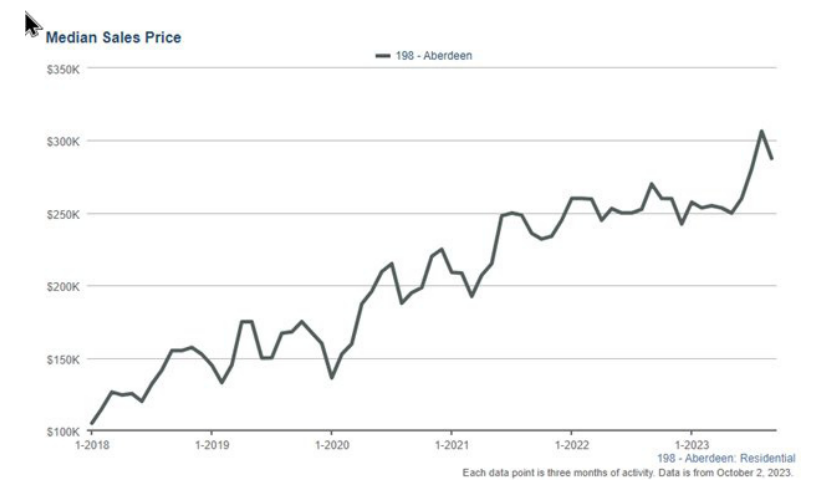
(note: this is a smoothed 3-month rolling average)

The most important point is that it has gone from median sales price of \$182,000 in January 2018 to a median sales price of \$350,000 in September of 2023. In other words, it nearly doubled in 5.5 years:



Let's get a little more specific and look at Aberdeen and Ocean Shores for the same time periods.

Aberdeen went from \$105,000 to \$288,000 in five years.



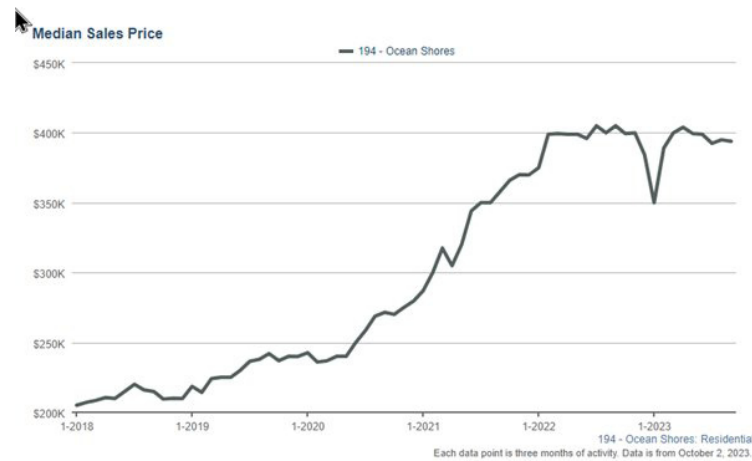
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Ocean Shores went from \$205,000 in January of 2018 to \$394,000 in September of 2023.

But notice what happened at the beginning of 2022 and is still continuing now. Flatness. Sure, there was a weird statistical fluke in January 2023 where the median price dropped by \$35,000 for one month and then bounced right back. But generally, it has been flat.



Let's look at 2023 in Grays Harbor and several of its cities. We're using year-to-date figures through August because at the time of this writing (October 2nd), the September figures could still change.

	New Listings Change - 8/2022 to 8/2023	Pending Listings Change - 8/2022 to 8/2023	Closed Listings Change - 8/2022 to 8/2023	Days on Market Change - 8/2022 to 8/2023	Median Price Change - 8/2022 to 8/2023	Average Price Change - 8/2022 to 8/2023
Grays Harbor	-22.32%	-16.92%	-23.56%	93.10%	-1.43%	-2.90%
Aberdeen	-26.17%	-24.46%	-26.43%	86.96%	7.84%	2.13%
Hoquiam	-23.03%	-13.22%	-23.02%	71.43%	-4.40%	-6.68%
Montesano	-36.64%	-23.86%	-34.41%	93.10%	2.53%	1.69%
Ocean Shores	-26.52%	-19.87%	-28.81%	94.74%	-0.13%	-3.60%
Westport	3.45%	26.47%	32.26%	231.82%	-3.23%	-7.85%

So, what does this tell us? The number of new listings coming on to the market in 2023 are far below the same period in 2022. For example, for Grays Harbor in the period of January through August of 2022, there were 1,429 houses put on the market to sell. That number is over 300 less in 2023. Simply put, even if people are looking to buy, there is less for them to look at and choose from. In Ocean Shores, that figure has gone down from 460 to 338, which is more than 26% less homes for people to tour, look at, fall in love with and buy.

The number of pending and closed (sold) listings is down by similar percentages. That makes sense (when there are fewer homes on the market, the number of sales should be lower). The number of days that

homes are sitting on the market is significantly higher. With less to choose from, buyers are being pickier and not rushing like they were. Prices, overall, are down, but not by a lot. In some areas, they have continued to increase, but again, not a lot.

What has caused this change? Interest rates are probably the largest driver even though by historical standards, they are not high. The average mortgage rate over the last 50 years has been roughly 7.5%. That's about where we are today. So these interest rates are not an anomaly – they are the norm. The 2-4% interest rates we saw a couple of years ago were (and are) the anomaly, and they will not return.

So, what is going to happen? In general, the housing market is

stable (see above: "flatness") and it doesn't appear that the government is going to take any drastic measures in any direction. Some people have complained they should start dropping the rates immediately, but I don't think that's necessarily the right thing to do.

It's important to remember that the government does not set mortgage rates. There are these fundamental economic principles called "supply and demand" and "free market" that the banks use to help them decide what rates they will charge. The 'fed funds rate' (which is one that everyone talks about) is only one of many factors that the banks use.

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That rate will come down some, but it's not going back to zero anytime soon. At least, I hope it won't because it would mean we are in a serious recession and that would be generally horrible all the way around (I remember 2008, the Great Recession that led to those low interest rates). If any of you is waiting to either buy, sell, or do both because you think that interest rates will be back at 3% in a year or two, my advice to you would be to give up that idea now. I do not expect to ever see mortgage rates that low again.

Buyers are starting to get used to the higher interest rates on mortgages, and I think they will eventually come back into the market. I think sellers will start to realize that waiting for prices to increase dramatically before they sell is a fool's game and

it will not happen. Those who were considering selling only because they thought they could get a high price will either adjust their expectations or decide to continue to live where they are. People that want to buy may adjust their price target for their new home to account for interest rates. They will still buy a home; they may just buy something less expensive. We've already seen that – people who were looking in the \$450-500,000 range a year ago are looking in the \$375-425,000 range now. They can still buy a beautiful home that they will love, but it may only have a 2-car garage instead of the 3-car garage.

The real estate market is fine – even if it's not the intense go-go market we saw before. People will still buy homes for their families. Some people will move up to bigger homes and some people will downsize. We will return to a market where buyers and sellers

each give up a little to get what they need. We will negotiate and compromise and shop around and, in the end, it will all work out.



John grew up in a family with a real estate broker mother and a mortgage banker father, so he's been around the profession all his life. Much of his professional career was in the tech field as a programmer, network designer and manager. About 20 years ago, he went back into real estate and now lives in Grays Harbor with his husband, son, dog and three cats

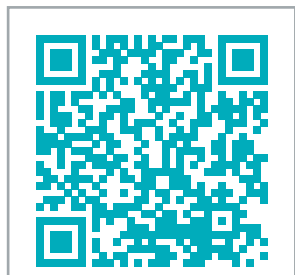
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Memento Mori, Sarth the Snek, Tali Soundwave and Frack enjoy the beach. Photo by Rictar Rat

“We pride ourselves on embracing diversity, encouraging creativity, and creating a support network for each other. So, it’s really no surprise that LGBTQIA people, often cast as the *others* in society, would find a welcome place in the Furry community.”

-Chris Hodges, aka Fritzzy Wolf, co-founder



Furvana is a furry fandom and anthropomorphic arts convention running in the Pacific Northwest. For its third year, over a thousand attendees joined the Furvana events held throughout Ocean Shores September 8-10, 2023.

More on Furvana can be found online at: <https://furvana.org/2023/about.html>

Photos from the 2023 Furvana convention in Ocean Shores can be found online at: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/furvana/pool/page1>

by C. S Anderson

**W**hen we first started vending at various conventions selling our books one of the first communities we ran into was the Furrries. What are Furrries you ask? Well, we will get to that in a moment. Flash forward a few years and lo and behold the community arrived right here in Ocean Shores. I got to meet Chris Hodges otherwise known as Fritzzy Wolf, one of the cofounders of the Furvana event early on and I was impressed by the passion and skill involved in pulling off a convention like this. He was kind enough to answer a few questions for me recently.

**CA** - Introduce yourself, explain your connection to the event.

**Fritzzy** - I’m Chris Hodges, or Fritzzy Wolf as I’m known in the furry community. Alex Visser (Metal Fox) and I are the founders, owners, and event chairpersons of Furvana.

**CA** - Please give us a quick background on the event itself, including how it came to Ocean Shores.

**Fritzzy** - For those who haven’t heard of Furrries before, we’re a loosely organized group of people from all around the world with one main thing in common: a distinct interest in anthropomorphic characters. That interest can take all different forms, writing, artwork, costuming, music, dance, and so much more. Unlike other Anime or Sci-Fi fandoms that geek out over popular shows or franchises, Furrries create our own content. We design characters for ourselves, imagine stories, and sometimes roleplay as these characters. Furvana is just 1 of over 100 such conventions worldwide where Furrries can meet and interact.

We started this endeavor with a very small group of volunteers way back in 2016. At the time, Metal Fox and I had only worked

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**FURVANA** - From Previous Page

smaller roles at other Furry conventions, but we had enough experience to know what worked, what didn’t, and more importantly we weren’t entrenched in old ideas about how something had to be. Because we were starting totally from scratch, we had the opportunity to really build something new and unique to serve the Furry community we love.

We had been searching for a venue for a couple years when I happened to be attending another furry convention down in Portland called Furlandia, and another attendee casually mentioned another unrelated convention they attended in Ocean Shores. They spoke very highly of the area and the people they had worked with, and suggested we give it a shot. Up until then, we had only been looking at venues in the greater Seattle metro area and hadn’t considered a destination venue like Ocean Shores. We thought it was a long shot, would people really want to drive so far?

But we decided to try and took a trip out to the beach to see what Ocean Shores was all about. As soon as we stepped out of the car and smelled the fresh waffle cones coming from Murphy’s, we knew Ocean Shores was going to be a winner!

**CA** - Please explain how the event has ties to and/or supports the LGBTQIA community?

**Fritzzy** - Long before Furvana, the Furry community has always been a welcome safe haven for LGBTQIA people. In fact, some of the very first Furry gatherings were held by a gay couple in California back in the 80’s. We pride ourselves on embracing diversity, encouraging creativity, and creating a support network for each other. So, it’s really no surprise that LGBTQIA people, often cast as the others in society, would find a welcome place in the Furry community. Many Furrries will use their animal characters as a means of self-expression and self-identity, helping us to navigate our experiences and challenges,

and define who we are as people. That’s a journey many LGBTQIA people are all too familiar with.

As a kid, I had always had a preference for shows with anthropomorphic characters. Some of my favorites were Road Rovers, a Pup Named Scooby Doo, and Space Jam. What I didn’t realize at the time was how vast and wonderful that interest could become. I first identified as a Furry back in 2004, shortly after coming out as gay to my mom and while still processing the death of my father. Needless to say, it was a difficult time for me, and without the support of my friends in the furry community I would have turned out to be a very different person.

**CA** - What was the number of attendees this year?

**Fritzzy** - This year we saw an explosive level of attendance, with a total of 1,083 attendees. That’s up 89% from our previous event

**FURVANA** - To Next Page





Ethereum. Photo by Rictar Rat

### FURVANA - From Previous Page

in 2021, far exceeding our projections. Big shout-out to Ocean Sunset Ship & Print and Beach Tyme Crafts for helping us cobble together the extra badges and lanyards when we ran out!

CA - Your thoughts on the future of the event?

*Fritzy* - Furvana has something really special going for it that very few other furry conventions have, and that's the community around it. If we're going to keep growing, we're going to have to start looking for new places within Ocean Shores to host satellite events and gatherings outside of the convention space. Our next event is going to be undergoing a change in leadership. Although we will still be involved with the convention, both Metal Fox and I are going to be stepping down as event chairpersons. It's been a long labor of love, but it's certainly been a labor, and we could use a break. Our convention is 100% volunteer operated top to bottom, and we've decided it's time to hand things off to a new set of paws. We don't have our new chairpersons confirmed yet but stay tuned to our socials for more info. Currently we are only running bi-annually, but with enough staff and volunteer support we'd love to become a regular annual event.

CA - Talk about what your new role is going to be (as a business owner I am quite interested).

*Fritzy* - Although I will no longer be a chairperson, I am planning to take up the role of community liaison. I would like to start getting more involved with the people and businesses of Ocean Shores to see how we can help you, and thereby help our own event in the process. I truly think that's the only way we can continue to grow, the convention center is already bursting at the seams!

CA - I would like to thank Chris for chatting with me about this unique community and event and as a business owner here in Ocean Shores I would like to thank him and all the staff and attendees of Furvana for having the event here in our little coastal community!



C. S. Anderson has been writing since he could form letters. He currently resides in a strange little beach town with his extremely patient wife who also has the misfortune of being his editor.

# ART happens!

by Gary Douglas Lennon

One thing I know about community and the good it brings out for the whole is ART. The doing, the looking, the creating, and the feelings involved all encompass the true essence of community spirit and togetherness we all can share.

Having been in the arts since the mid-1980's I have developed a sense of belonging outside of the usual "family" and "friends". As we broaden our sense and appreciation of the arts we meet and greet new people with new ideas, and we strategically set ourselves up into a comfortable living room recliner of the mind perspective and enjoy the view of the series-like binge-watching of the creativity around us.

Sometimes, as we think we are so different from everyone else, we come to realize just by a glance at a painting or a photograph how we can relate to, on any given level, the same capabilities of thinking and rearranging our thoughts and processing the necessary information to distribute all our good intentions to others if not the entire universe. As an artist, I get to filter out from the crowd my good intentions and my sparks of good energy to everyone around me. And in Ocean Shores, that is something that comes easily and constructively due to the many venues available as art galleries: Fusions Gallery, The Gallery of Ocean Shores and Timothy Rossow Gallery.

Scott Hawn, president of the North Beach Artists Guild

(NBAG), sculptor, and all-around artist leads the way, in my opinion, with the inception of the Studio 6 Clay Studio in the NBAG "square" located on Point Brown Avenue. Encompassing 6 storefronts, NBAG has taken over the area occupied and joined forces with artists of Ocean Shores. Relish the thought of playing with clay as an adult while learning the basic principles of facial form and structure. Delve into your own interpretation of how you see the general structure and benefit from enjoying the company of some of the most renowned artists in western Washington.

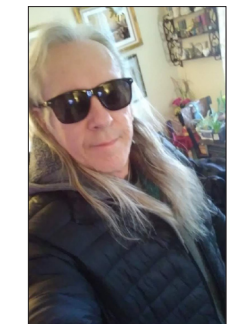
When you sign up for Scott's class you get a big block of clay. He shows you step-by-step the process of using the clay to form facial features on a flat clay surface. You can't help but get increasingly involved in this adventure. I found it fascinating to watch as the contours of the face emerged and dramatically transformed a flat slab into the facial features of a human form. It's a real hands-on experience that teaches some great techniques that we all can use to enhance our art learning about shape and form.

Scott's enthusiasm and encouragement are so welcome. He and the members of NBAG have offered scholarships to any of the many art classes if you can't afford the fees. It's their way of giving back to the community and expressing the idea that anyone can dabble in the arts. The experience caused

me to think in broader terms about the dimensional aspect of shape and form, helping me in my photography and painting as well as mixed media.

And this is why Art Happens!

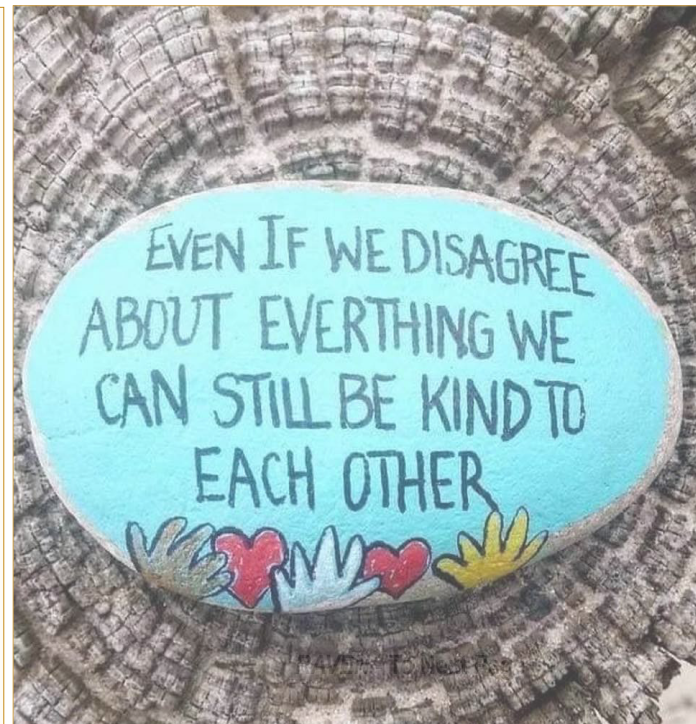
Scott Hawn can be reached at The Gallery of Ocean Shores: <https://thegalleryofoceanshores.com/main/scott-hawn>



Gary Douglas Lennon lives in Aberdeen, WA, but hails from New York (the burbs of Long Island, East Rockaway, a historic bay town on the south coast).

He began a passion for photography in 1986, painting in 2013, and writing since 1989. A descendant of Sir Walter Scott, he is currently working on a book of short stories titled "The Shirtless Man" and a Biographical Metaphysical journey from NY to WA. circa 2009.

VOTE  
BE THE CHANGE  
YOU WANT TO  
SEE IN THE  
WORLD.







Poem by David Clark Done

All the poems in this book were conceived and written over a period of about two years. At first, they were a body of drafts written without a plan to unite them.

Over time, I came to see how they fit together. My purpose in writing them became clearer. I perceived a cogency and made them into a book. It is intended to be a book of "poetry". These are not essays. My "arguments" do not progress in a linear fashion. The details and incidents described are presented in a historically accurate progression. A little bit of "poetic license" is often taken in books of poetry but it has been my intent to hold this to a bare minimum.

Each poem is meant to shine a light on a singular point or period in human history and tell its story. The subjects selected and highlighted vary greatly. The opening poem, In the Beginning There was Incest, points out the obvious fact that we have seem to have descended from a long line of incestuous relationships.

It doesn't really matter if we all have one father and mother as the bible claims. or if the truth is that

there was a first cell, and we all descended from an event created by a mixture of lighting and chemicals. In either case it follows that our whole world is founded on incest because both theories claim there is one common ancestor who is the starting point for all life.

As the book title implies, this is a collection of poems describing a prison. Its bars are often moral codes, fears, or assumptions we have made about the nature of things and then put into social practice or law. Sometimes I have focused on famous persons, or points in time, or events that have forged these prison bars and left a mark on mankind.

I like to believe that if sex is a "prison" of sorts, we are both the jailors and the jailed. My fear is that we created, and made the prison, and accepted our own bars. If so, we live in a prison of our own making. Thus, the title: "The Gulag of Sex".

**GULAG - From Previous Page**

mountain,  
Men lived together obeying laws  
they thought flowed from the fountain  
head of God, laws they believing  
were  
without flaw, laws claiming

that a woman is a possession  
To be kept as property  
to be bought and sold,  
And made to obey her  
Man's every whim!

All women were slaves,  
And all daughters commodities!  
Nothing more than an exotic  
spice,  
To be exchanged like tea  
And sold in the marketplace!

If one were raped,  
Or "used" before her time  
She could be paid  
Her weight in gold,  
to balance God's scales.

and if her spoiled bud  
was opened before its time  
She could be devalued and  
disgraced, and placed  
In public display to be

Put under lock and key  
in her husband's house,  
made prisoner of the Code,  
To be abandoned and kept  
From venturing alone,

baited and defamed,  
lost in an untamed world  
Where all roads are  
Crossed by constant peril,  
and the fear of rape.

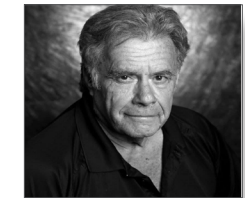
These were the laws,  
Ones that proclaimed a woman  
Was fair game when alone  
Where she could be used  
and made to feel terror!

Feeling wayward and alone  
She was the one to blame,  
And judged to be guilty

She suffer in shame  
Of death by her husband's hand!

This was the first code,  
Known as the code of Ur-Nammu,  
Where all women  
Carried a heavy burden,  
And lived in constant dread!

This was the first law!  
Chiseled and carved in stone,  
Left to stand in public display!  
With Its warning being:  
"Never leave home alone!"



David Clark Done, an Ocean Shores resident, holds a degree in English with a concentration in poetics. He is retired from a career in international shipping and began writing full time five years ago. He is also an actor having performed numerous times at Stage West Community Theater.

**The Gulag of Sex**

"In The Beginning There Was Incest?"

According to ancient lore  
incest is a natural law,  
And has been a part of our  
Culture since the earliest days  
When isolation ruled,  
And separation was cruel  
causing children to bond  
With their own kin.

It was a time that  
Allowed man to fill  
The empty void of  
the world beginning  
from the heart of Africa

To the distant outback  
exchanging females,

And deepening the pool

By tracing our genetic  
Bonds we celebrated the  
birthing of the many  
generations brought in  
unity as the human race,  
Intertwined and merged  
In the flow of  
the river of time!

Dare we exalt in  
Early man's long chain  
Of incestuous mating,  
And his drive to procreate  
In a primal and thorny  
garden of hostile lust  
knowing that this fire  
has fueled the mystery,  
and irresistible drive  
that separates us from the  
vast pulsating sea?

So the poet must ask

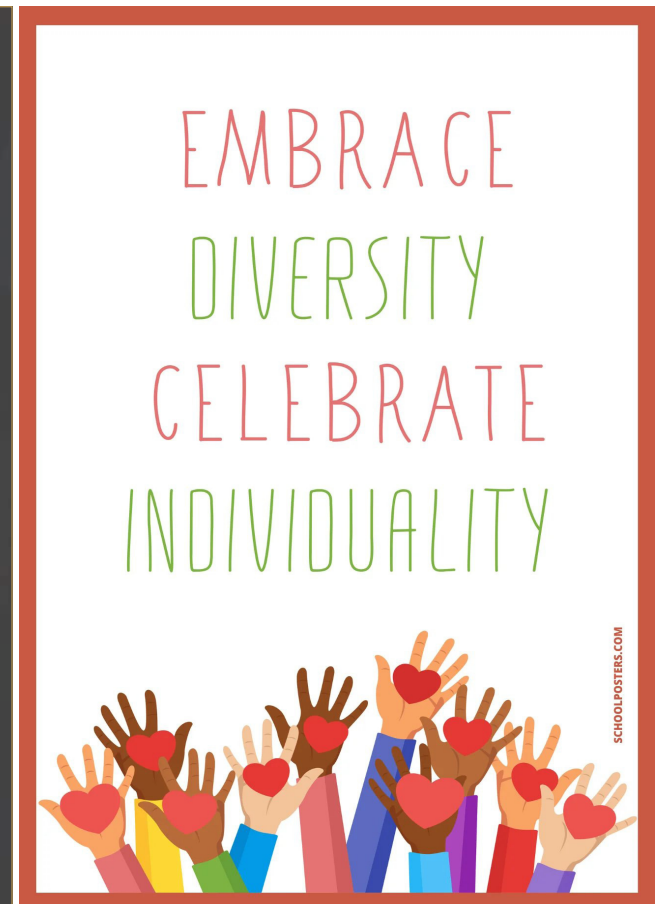
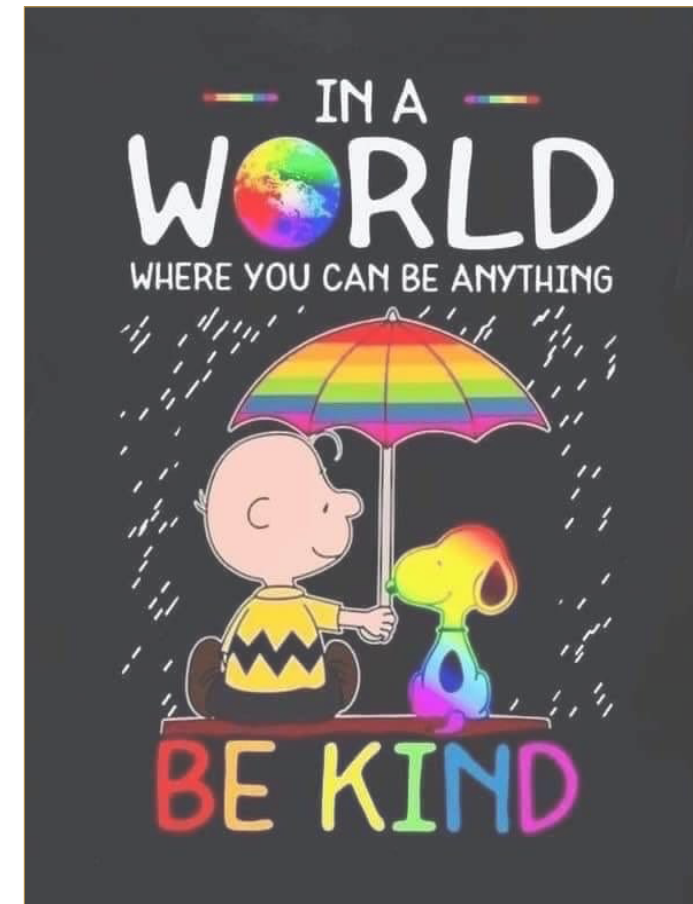
If there was a first cell?  
A single unit from which  
all life came?  
One lone issuance  
that was created,  
and divided  
And then split again?

And if is this is really so  
How could we ever know  
That in the beginning  
There was only one?  
One first cell, the father,  
The mother, a bringer  
Of the eternal light  
That must shine  
In the long book of time.

The Code of Ur-Nammu, The  
fertile crescent, circa 2100 B.C.

Long before Moses climbed the

**GULAG - To Next Page**







Proudly serving the LGBTQA+ community

643 Ocean Shores Blvd NW, Ocean Shores WA 98569  
360-289-3317 | <https://canterburyinn.com>  
[guestservices@canterburyinn.com](mailto:guestservices@canterburyinn.com)



Sorry, but we don't have this for sale, but we wish we did

**ONE REALTY ONE GROUP** ALL STARS  
The **only** LGBTQI+ owned real estate brokerage in Western Washington  
John Dirgo Dewese - (360) 986-5969  
[john@realtyonegroupallstars.com](mailto:john@realtyonegroupallstars.com)

**AT THE BEACH RENTALS INC.**  
Nightly / Weekly Rentals 881 Point Brown Ave. N.W.  
360-289-4297 Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
email: [atthebeachrentalsinc@gmail.com](mailto:atthebeachrentalsinc@gmail.com)  
[RicksBeachHouses.com](http://RicksBeachHouses.com)

**Gary Douglas Lennon**  
Photoartist  
360-556-0036

Smooth Jazz Beach Radio  
Mondays on:  
[www.pacificbeachwa.com](http://www.pacificbeachwa.com)  
11 am till 4 pm  
KXPB Pacific Beach  
89.1 fm  
Thanks for listening!

**Gina McCauley**  
Momma Snooter  
[info@snooter-doots.com](mailto:info@snooter-doots.com)  
**Snooter-doots**  
...we're all a little different  
www.snooter-doots.com  
[etsy.com/shop/snooterdoots](https://etsy.com/shop/snooterdoots)

# two of our Ocean Shores Authors

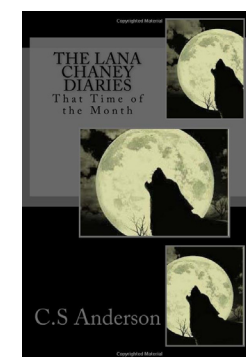
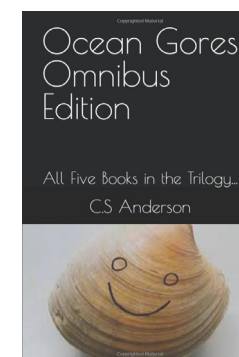
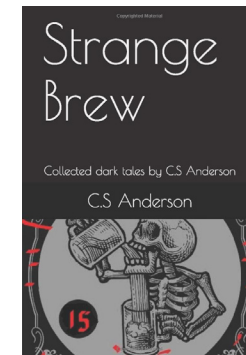
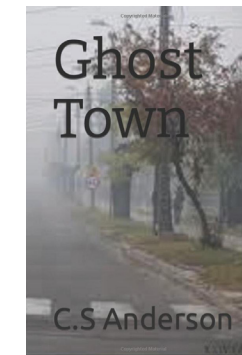
## C. S Anderson

has written 30 books and has been included in a couple dozen anthologies and collections - all of them available on Amazon in Ebook, paperback formats with a growing list available on Audible.

When asked to describe his genre, he notes, "I write in a few genres. Straight up horror, pulpy horror comedy, urban fantasy and science fiction mostly. Some times I throw all these in a blender and hit puree."

Six of his more recent titles are shown to the right.

Amazon link to all of his works: [https://www.amazon.com/s?k=C.+S+Anderson&crd=2VRIY9XOCX0DN&srefix=c.+s+anderson%2Caps%2C131&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_2](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=C.+S+Anderson&crd=2VRIY9XOCX0DN&srefix=c.+s+anderson%2Caps%2C131&ref=nb_sb_noss_2)



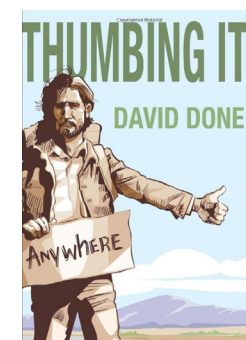
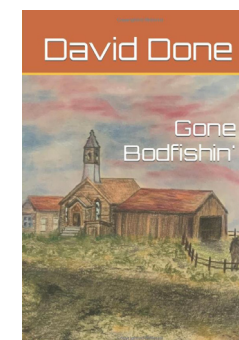
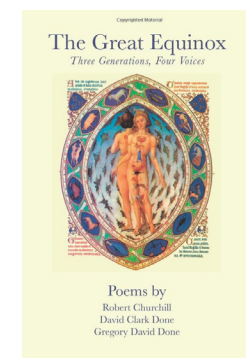
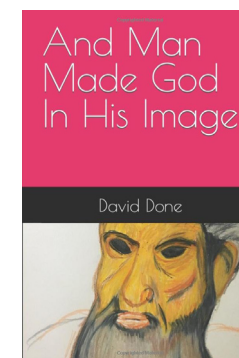
## David Clark Done

has written two novels, a book of short stories plus three more which are poetry, all are available on Amazon.

David doesn't classify his work into genre(s), instead, he writes because it is interesting and important to him.

His six titles are shown to the right.

Amazon link to all of his works: [https://www.amazon.com/stores/David-Clark-Done/author/B083KKDDH3?ref=ap\\_rdr&store\\_ref=ap\\_rdr&isDramIntegrate=d=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true](https://www.amazon.com/stores/David-Clark-Done/author/B083KKDDH3?ref=ap_rdr&store_ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrate=d=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true)





# YOURS *Tru-ly*



Have you ever wanted to tap into the insight and life experience of a drag queen? Now is your chance! Ask Ocean Shores resident Tru Saint James her insight into your love life, personal conundrums, business challenges, family dynamics and much more. Tru is like Dear Abby with a faster wit and sharper tongue.

Tru Saint James would love to hear from you. She can be reached by email: [publisher@coatalpride.net](mailto:publisher@coatalpride.net). Please note in the Subject Line: "Yours Tru-ly"

Dear Tru,

Hi Tru, there sure is a lot of drama and confusion in our local political climate. So many people stirring the pot, muddying the water, and sowing ill will with cheap jabs and hearsay. How do I get involved in a positive way and stay above the fray to find the truth about candidates, their authentic positions and leanings, so my vote best aligns with my priorities and values?  
- Signed Small Town Politics

Dear Small Town Politics,

Ah, sweetie, I hear you! I can relate to the frustration of wanting to listen to solutions to issues instead of how someone feels about another candidate. Recently, candidates would instead get their jabs in at one another, make up stories, or divert from factual issues.

Suppose a candidate constantly blames the former placeholder, the administration, or everyone else in town for problems. In that case, they probably don't know what they are doing and are trying to win by diversion, smoke, and mirrors. I want to hear how we can be in the solution instead of being stuck in the mud. My Aunt Toots always said, "The only thing that likes to swim and dwell in the mud is a pig, so don't be a pig." The same is true

about life. Don't dwell on the negative. The more positivity we put out into the universe, the better. What did Michelle Obama say... ah yes, "when they go low, we go high," even though you know the scenery must not be too bad because the low road freeway is busier than I-5 going south from Seattle on Friday afternoon at 5pm.

Currently, candidates are holding meet and greets, so get out and meet the candidates and go in with questions. Don't pussy-foot around; you may only get a short time to ask them questions, so be prepared. Have your notes and questions written down. In fact, most, if not all, have social media pages, and you can reach out to them there and ask your questions. Seek, and you shall find. Just remember you may not like what's behind that polyester bedazzled curtain.

I prefer to vote on issues and listen to my intuition. I also DO NOT discuss my voting with friends and family. It is no one's business how I cast my vote, and it's also none of my business how someone else votes either.

Keep your chin up, do your best, and keep moving forward!

I hope this helps!

Yours,  
Tru

## Southwest Grays Harbor County LGBTQA

# Resources

### Events

#### Ocean Shores Fun

(Updated July 2023)

Regional

Comprehensive online calendar of regional events, can be filtered by location and LGBTQA specific events.

<https://www.oceanshores.fun>

### Social

#### Out & Older in Ocean Shores

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group fostering community for LGBTQA generally 50 years and older.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/582414015695077>

#### LGBTQ+ Family & Allies - Ocean Shores/ North Beach

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group for LGBTQ+ people, their parents, families and allies, resource and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnballies>

#### Ocean Shores/North Beach LGBTQA+

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group to share events, stories, news, make friends and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnblgbtq>

### Medical/Mental Health

#### BHR

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Counseling LGBTQ  
205 8th St  
Hoquiam, WA 98550  
800-825-4820

#### SeaMar

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Medical and Counseling LGBTQ  
1813 Sumner Ave  
Aberdeen, WA 98520  
360-538-1293

### Advocacy/Outreach

#### North Beach Project Connect

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores

Putting you in touch with the information and services you need.

[nbprojectconnect@gmail.com](mailto:nbprojectconnect@gmail.com)  
<https://nbprojectconnect.com>

#### Harbor Include

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Harbor Include is a nonprofit organization serving teens between the ages of 13 to 18 years of age that are part of the LGBTQ community and their friends.

[info@harborinclude.com](mailto:info@harborinclude.com)  
<http://harborinclude.com>

#### CAYA

(Added June 2023)

Come As You Are

206-307-9388  
[CAYA4youth@gmail.com](mailto:CAYA4youth@gmail.com)  
<https://abelhousefarm.wixsite.com/caya>

#### Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Resource Center, Community Outreach and Education  
PO Box 173 Hoquiam, WA 98550  
360-580-7774  
[outproudghc@gmail.com](mailto:outproudghc@gmail.com)  
<https://opghc.com>

#### Safe Schools Coalition

(Added June 2023)

Anti-bullying, anti-harassment and support for GLBT youth.  
888-307-9275  
[info@safeschoolscoalition.org](mailto:info@safeschoolscoalition.org)  
<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org>

### Churches

#### Galilean Lutheran Church

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores

ALL are welcome. Come as you are.  
824 Ocean Shores BLV NW  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
[www.galileanlutheranchurch.com](http://www.galileanlutheranchurch.com)  
[churchoffice1419@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice1419@gmail.com)

#### Hoquiam Methodist Church

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Reconciling Church  
520 5th St, Hoquiam, WA 98550  
360-533-1101

#### Aberdeen First Presbyterian

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Open and accepting church.  
420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520  
360-532-1330

### Emergency/Hotlines

#### GH Beyond Survival

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Support for those impacted by sexual abuse.  
360-533-9751  
888-626-2640 (24-hr crisis line)  
[admin@ghbeyondsurvival.com](mailto:admin@ghbeyondsurvival.com)  
<http://www.ghbeyondsurvival.com>

#### Crisis Clinic Grays Harbor

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

360-538-2889  
360-584-6569

#### Foster Care Helpline

(Added June 2023)

LGBT youth specifically.  
866-LGBTTeen  
800-227-8922 (STD Hotline)

#### Trevor Helpline

(Added June 2023)

24-hour suicide hotline for LGBT youth.  
800-850-8078  
<http://www.thetrevorproject.org>

### State

#### Equal Rights Washington

(Added June 2023)

Ensure and promote dignity, safety and equality for all LGBTQ Washingtonians.  
<https://www.equalrightswashington.org>

### National

#### SAGE

(Added June 2023)

Advocacy & Services for LGBTQA+ Elders  
<https://www.sageusa.org>

#### Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

(Added June 2023)

Independent nonprofit think tank working to create a thriving, inclusive, and equitable America.  
<http://www.lbgmap.org>

#### Equality Federation

(Added June 2023)

Working collaboratively on critical non-partisan issues that affect how LGBTQ+ people experience the world from cradle to grave.

<https://www.equalityfederation.org>





SGN (Seattle Gay News)  
 509 10th Ave E  
 Seattle, WA 98102  
 206-324-4297  
 info@sgn.org  
 www.sgn.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SGN Changes Ownership**

October 2, 2023

*Print frequency shifts to bi-weekly while its geographic and online markets expand*

The SGN has been acquired by Stratus Group, LLC. The sale closed September 30, 2023. With this ownership transfer also comes a publisher transfer, from Angela Cragin to Mike Schultz, owner of Stratus Group.

The SGN has been the legacy LGBTQ+ print publication of the Pacific Northwest for the last 49 years. It is the third oldest LGBTQ+ publication in the country, and one of the largest LGBTQ+ news archives in the world.

The paper has published its print edition every week since 1974, with over 17,000 monthly readers, and is distributed to over 200 locations across 91 zip codes around the Puget Sound area. The SGN reaches an estimated 47% of the nearly 480,000 LGBTQ+ people in the area.

With its office on Seattle’s Capitol Hill, the SGN is powered by a staff of 18, who are engaged in the community and committed to the causes of inclusion and equality.

As part of a 2021 rebrand, the Seattle Gay News changed to the SGN, underwent a restructure, and repostured for a wider audience beyond the physical paper, attracting a new, younger, tech-savvy demographic.

The SGN also launched its new website, with an online version of each weekly printed publication, now garnering up to 100,000 visits a month. It also began weekly Radio SGN podcasts, and forged a growing social media presence that includes over 12,000 followers on Facebook, over 6,000 on X (Twitter), and over 4,000 on Instagram.

Angela Cragin, daughter of the paper’s prior owner, publisher, and editor-in-chief George Bakan, inherited the SGN upon his sudden death in 2020. With an outpouring of community support, she

chose to keep the business running as she spearheaded the rebrand and restructure. She was cognizant of the value, rich history, and legacy of the publication by and for the LGBTQ+ community of the Pacific Northwest, and she knew the SGN needed to evolve to survive.

**Looking ahead**

This acquisition falls under the umbrella of Stratus Group LLC, which also publishes the new, online, bimonthly LGBTQ+ newsmagazine Coastal Pride (<https://www.coastalpride.net>), centered in Ocean Shores, WA, serving southwest Grays Harbor County. While the two publications appear in different formats and markets, synergistic opportunities exist for content and marketing.

“This opportunity of bringing the SGN under the Stratus Group umbrella is both humbling and inspiring” said Schultz. “My hat is off to Angela Cragin, who exercised the vision and courage to keep the SGN running in the face of significant personal loss and adversity, and negotiated this transition with an eye toward the paper’s future. My gratitude also extends to the dedicated SGN staff, who diligently and brilliantly make the magic happen each week, in print and online.”

Schultz added, “While the SGN’s geographic expansion now extends to Ocean Shores on Washington’s Pacific Coast and Spokane on its eastern border, print issues will consolidate from weekly to biweekly beginning in October 2023, with continued quarterly print special issues.

“The SGN’s long-term focus will be on enhancing information delivery via its website, and continuing to build its uniquely creative content on social media channels — Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and X (formerly Twitter) — and its podcasts on Radio SGN.”

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*Matt Cyphert*

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