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NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

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Christine Mallory, Editor

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North Shore City Council Candidates Speak Up

By Kitty Mayo

In the cities of Silver Bay, Grand Marais, and Two Harbors city council seats are up for election. Here candidates were asked to give a synopsis of why they are running to be a city council member and what issues were most important to them.

Silver Bay City Council (elect two)

Carol Youngberg

My name is Carol Youngberg and I'm campaigning to be elected to the Silver Bay council.

I would like the city to have greater visibility to tourists using the Black Beach campground in an effort to boost the local economy. I would like to add a venue to city council meetings that encourages open discussions and participation for our citizens. I would like to see the city partner with the Minnesota Veterans home through increased involvement and recognition. Finally, I would like to see a greater level of transparency of how funds are generated, allocated, and spent by the city.

Dustin Goutermont (incumbent)

It's very important to provide a safe and stable community for our seniors to live in. Part of that equation is creating a viable economy that provides jobs for generations to come. The strength of our community depends on growth. I would like to expand on what we have started with the campground with the development of a new multi-recreational building for our community and visitors alike. I am also an advocate for the neighborhood revitalization grant as it has allowed many residents the additional money to do improvements to their homes. See my insert for more information.

James FitzGerald

As I walk the streets of Silver Bay with my two dogs I see things that need to be done and talk with local residents about their opinions. What I'm seeing and hearing is the streets need repairing. While the County and State can repair some of the streets, Silver Bay needs a long term plan. We need growth in Silver Bay, residential and commercial. We have an industrial park, let's look for companies willing to locate here and offer living wage jobs. We need to bring our building codes up to date and apply them consistently.

Ben Bautch

My name is Ben Bautch. I have lived in Silver Bay my entire life. I'm married and have two children. I've worked for Cleveland Cliffs for the past 13 years. I en-

joy everything about being on the North Shore. I personally believe that change can go a long way. I believe in this town and that we can bring families back and make our town thrive again. Silver Bay has always been home to me and I would like to keep it that way. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (218) 220-0278.

Grand Marais City Council (elect two)

Craig Schulte (incumbent)

A lifelong resident and business owner in Grand Marais for over 35 years, I am concerned about our business infrastructure. We lost seven major businesses this year, and need to attract businesses willing to invest here. Due to COVID-19, businesses suffered from a labor shortage, and along with the Highway 61 project, negatively impacted many businesses, making it difficult to meet demands of increasing tourism. Rewriting the City Zoning Ordinance is another area of concern. Before any revisions are made, I am in favor of listening to my fellow citizens in an open forum, making sure that the changes are understood.

Michael Smieja

I'm Mike Smieja. I'm running Grand Marais City Council because I believe in the people of Grand Marais. I decided to run after watching spending increase, ordinances that target lower income families, and that only benefit certain people, groups, and city council members. I have owned and operated 12+ businesses. Currently, I'm a full time potter. Like most people I have to work other part time jobs to survive here. I am a regular attendee and participant of City Council, Zoning and Planning Commission, and Public Utilities Commission meetings. Find me on Facebook- Mike Smieja for Grand Marais City Council

Michael Garry

The two most important issues for me are jobs and housing. As a member of the planning and zoning commission of Grand Marais for the past five years I have been involved in guiding the development of ordinances for the city that both preserve and promote housing for local residents. As the pandemic has put pressure on all communities the effect on our local businesses has been immense. Our city can help in our current circumstances by advocating for a safe, just, and stable community that supports our businesses while removing impediments to their creative solutions in these trying

times. michaelgarry.org, 218-387-4995.

Diane Greeley

I am running for Grand Marais City Council because I would like to see a change in the way the city projects are decided. There seems to be an ongoing decision making process that does not include all of the town people. Taxation without representation comes to mind. I believe there needs to be accountability for the spending of taxpayers money. Special interest has played a big part of the base for where we are now. I believe a stronger diversified economy base is needed as we go forward in the future.

Two Harbors City Council Member at Large (elect one)

Scott Lucas

I believe in taking care of our water resources, and reducing our chloride impact to Superior. I want to encourage entrepreneurship in our community; unique business to maximize the character and attractiveness of our downtown area. We need to find

ways of bringing people into the downtown area with bike trails and attractive "gateways" into the downtown. We have millions of dollars in our city's coffers; let's spend some of it to boost our small businesses. I would like to install a solar garden near Sonju Trail to reduce utility costs. I swim daily in Lake Superior, even in the winter, volunteer for bike trail construction, and work for a state environmental agency.

Robin Glaser (incumbent)

This has been a challenging year for all of us due to the ongoing Covid Pandemic. I am extremely proud to have been a part of the council helping to guide our staff and citizens in these difficult times. I see the next 4 years as a great opportunity, as we move forward toward upgrading our sewage treatment plant, we can then also focus on improving housing and economic development possibilities. I am committed to improving our streets and sidewalks, and continue to look for new ways to fund these projects. Most importantly I will listen to your concerns and suggestions.

To-go Community Meals Bring Community Together Again

By Kitty Mayo

Sharing a meal together is an integral way that people connect, one that Friends of Finland (FoF) and the UP Church in Silver Bay have relied on to strengthen community for years. However, with the necessity of avoiding gathering in groups, that special way to nurture connection has been sidelined.

Now, through a grant written with the help of North Shore Area Partners in Silver Bay, the organizations are being given a chance to reconnect in a new way.

The funding came from the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging, and Lise Abasz, director of NSAP, says that many older residents attended the past community meal events. In the grant proposal Abasz stated:

"This will provide both wholesome nutrition and a sense of community solidarity after so many months of isolation. It will also provide a means for NSAP to expand its outreach and increase awareness of the ongoing services we are offering to older

adults during this pandemic."

Helping to coordinate the to-go meals, NSAP hopes to resume a semblance of the shared meals that have been a long tradition of North Shore communities by providing nutritious hot meals in a manner that enhances social solidarity while maintaining Covid-19 safety precautions.

Honor Schauland, FoF director, says that they are putting together events for community members to pick up pre-packaged meals.

"It's really been a bummer to feel disconnected without the normal stuff like social events, pot lucks, and especially without our Booya event this year, we want to try to keep people connected and feeling positive and hopeful in this time," said Schauland.

The first event will be a Sisu Stew to be distributed on November 1st. Honoring the tenacity of spirit embodied in the Finnish

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