Local Business Owner Announces City Council Candidacy

by K_Guice

Another candidate has thrown his hat into the race for Bend City Council and if this candidate has his way, it wonâ€™t be politics as usual.

Mark Capell

Mark Capell, 46, a forth-generation Bend resident, is running for the seat being vacated by Councilor Dave Malkin, who has chosen not to run for re-election.

In Capellâ€™s bid to run for the seat of Councilor Dave Malkin, he will be running against Derek Stevens. Stevens previously announced his candidacy for Malkinâ€™s seat, and with the cityâ€™s new election system this will be the first contested race under that system.

In the last election, the first held under the current â€˜numbered positionâ€™ system, there was only one candidate filing per seat. Capell and Stevens have until August 29th to return completed nominated petitions to the city recorders office to be on the November ballot.

Capell hopes to be elected and have a positive impact on the community that he says has had a positive impact on him. â€œI really like living in Bend,â€• he said. â€œBend has been good to me. Itâ€™s time to give something back.â€•

With so many important issues facing Bend right now, Capell believes he can have a lot of impact on the outcome of what happens to this town. â€œThere are some positive things, like the city getting scheduled bus service by the fall,â€• he said.

However, Capell is concerned about issues like Juniper Ridge. â€œIt is such a huge opportunity for Bend to add a number of living wage jobs,â€• he said. â€œItâ€™s important for the city council to listen to the citizens of Bend because there is an opportunity to do it right so we get a good return.â€•

There has been talk about affordable housing and Juniper Ridge. â€œPeople are talking about reducing a lot of industrial land and increasing residential land,â€• Capell said. â€œHowever, I think we have to be careful.â€•

Capell worries about there not being enough industrial land. â€œMany businesses already have a difficult time locating to Bend because there is no place to go,â€• he said.

There is still a lot Capell says he has to learn about Juniper Ridge and various other topics. â€œThe main idea is that Iâ€™m not coming in with an agenda,â€• he said. â€œI just want to come in, listen and help make decisions.â€•

Being a resident and a business owner, he plans to serve as a voice and listen to those in the community. â€œI am absolutely not a politician,â€• he said. â€œI have a lot of learning to do.â€•

Capell has deep ties to the community. The Bend High School graduate said he has lived in city off and on but always knew he would return to the town that his great grandfather first came to back in 1915. â€œDad was in the airforce, so we moved around a lot. Iâ€™ve lived in Europe and the Orient,â€• he said.

His family returned when he was a teen and he stayed in Bend until 1988. â€œThen I did the corporate thing,â€• he said. â€œI lived all over the United States following a corporate career.â€• Four years ago he and his wife decided to move back and start a new business.

He is the owner of CMIT Solutions of Central Oregon, a computer services company that does computer training and trouble-shooting for both business and residential.

Capell is a member of the Greater Bend Rotary Club, is chairman of the Bend Community Action Team, serves on the Editorial Board of Cascade Publications, and is a former Bend Chamber of Commerce ambassador.

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