



Journal photos by Gordon Weeks

In November 2013, Kathy McDowell was defeated by Tracy Moore by 13 votes in their bid to join the Shelton City Commission. Now McDowell faces incumbent Mike Olsen and fellow challenger Eric Onisko to join Moore on the commission.



Shelton City Commissioner Mike Olsen and his wife, Jayne, live in a historic home built in 1907 on Shelton Creek on Second Street. Olsen, who has lived in Shelton for 37 years, was elected to the commission in 2012 and is seeking re-election in November.



Eric Onisko is the owner of the Baysore Texaco on state Route 3, near its intersection with Johns Prairie Road. He is running for office for the first time.

# City race: Candidates for position have varied backgrounds

continued from page A-1

they moved to Bellingham, where Michael was studying at Western Washington University.

After six years in Bellingham, the family in 1978 moved to Mason Lake Recreational Park, where Michael was a park ranger. The couple has four children, who range in age from 29 to 40.

McDowell has been the event specialist for the city of Shelton for the past 16 years. The events she schedules in the Shelton Civic Center include funerals, weddings, baptisms and meetings.

McDowell is active at her church, and enjoys spending time with her grandkids and gardening.

## MIKE OLSEN

Olsen, 62, is a Montana native who

Transit-Community Center in downtown Shelton; the Shelton School District/Mason General Hospital partnership that saved the Shelton pool from closing; and the city partnering with the Shelton Mason County Chamber of Commerce to complete a Downtown Visioning Plan to incorporate into the city's comprehensive plan to help revitalize the downtown. Olsen said he is proud to be part of these efforts.

"There's a good movement afoot to pull things together," Olsen said. As for challenges, "streets are a huge one," Olsen said. "That's why I passed the transportation benefit district."

Better streets will help attract new businesses, Olsen said. "We have the sewer and the water, we need to get the roads up to speed," he said.

Residents need to work together to get the roads up to speed, he said.

property. Olsen has two daughters, a stepson and a grandchild.

## ERIC ONISKO

Onisko, 47, grew up in Pasadena, California, and moved to Shelton when he was 11. He moved back and forth between Shelton High School and a high school in California, where he graduated in 1986. His first job was at his family appliance store in El Monte, California.

Onisko worked as the desk clerk at the West Water Inn in Olympia for 10 years. He then managed a truck stop for Weststar on exit 72 on Interstate 5 before becoming a district manager for the company.

Onisko purchased the Texaco station in downtown Shelton, and sold it three years later. He then bought the Baysore Texaco on state Route 3, near its intersection with Johns Prairie

town to create the tax revenue, instead of the people," he said.

The Oniskos recently moved from Mason County into the city limits. Onisko said his monthly utility bill of \$235 for water, sewer and garbage shocks him.

Onisko said he agrees with the Shelton City Commission's decision on May 18 to let voters decide in November whether to authorize a two-tenths of a cent sales tax increase to raise about \$400,000 annually to improve the city's broken roads.

The commissioners could have opted to approve a \$20 annual vehicle fee to improve city streets, without voter approval, through the transportation benefit district. That move would have generated about \$130,000 a year for city streets.

"We need to fix the roads," Onisko said. "It sounds like that's under con-