

|| LOCAL & REGIONAL ||

Connolly keeps his eyes on the basics in Frisco

Keeping the town’s infrastructure functioning is key, candidate says

Editor’s note: Over the next few days, the Summit Daily will feature profiles of the various candidates for town councils in Summit County. The elections are set for Tuesday.

By Janice Kurbjun
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Tom Connolly isn’t focused on what’s sexy; he eyes water, sewer, electrical and street maintenance as duties for a Frisco town councilman.

“They’re the things we tend to ignore because we all want to look at the neat, sexy stuff of entertainment and recreation,” said Connolly, new to this council though he currently sits on the Frisco Planning Commission and formerly served as a councilman. He’s been a planning commissioner for 10 years.

Under that infrastructure umbrella, rehabbing Main Street is important, he said.

“That street needs repairing. They’ve been saying it for years,” he said, though he clarified he’s not for an extensive rebuild. He wants to address the crumbling streets and sidewalks and drainage.

“I’m beyond the ‘if you build it, they will come’ mentality,” he said. “I don’t see the need at this time to spend those kinds of moneys.”

Zoning is also important to Connolly, an architect by trade. He wants to make



CONNOLLY

zoning regulations more flexible to encourage businesses to expand or come into the community.

He’d like to see one zoning code extend through Summit Boulevard to give it a better image at the same time it’s more flexible.

“We focus a lot of our efforts on our ‘character’ which is Main Street,” he said. “Our moneymaker is Summit Boulevard.”

As for affordable housing, Connolly sees the single-family home need being met largely through the Peak One development.

But, “There are singles, couples and small families that can’t afford the Peak Ones of the world,” he said, explaining that in his opinion, apartments might be ideal.

However, instead of taking on affordable housing as a lone municipality, Connolly would like to encourage joint ventures with other towns and the county.

Affordable housing is also key for a town manager, Connolly said. Though he knows little of the Michael Penny real estate deal, in which the town acquired two Frisco homes, and therefore has no opinion, he’s not opposed to providing housing for a key town employee. Connolly served on town council from 2000-2003, when he resigned because he disagreed with council decisions. During that time, he was involved in designing a house for

MORE INFO

TOM CONNOLLY

- > **AGE:** 57
- > **YEARS IN FRISCO:** 21
- > **EDUCATION:** BS in architecture from Oklahoma State University
- > **SKI OR SNOWBOARD:** Hot-air ballooning and bowling
- > **FAMILY:** Single with no pets
- > **CONTACT:** tc3.9097@gmail.com or pop into the TC3 office on Main Street

the town manager. It was never built.

“We thought it was viable to take a look at providing some housing for a town manager and give them the option to use it or go do their own thing,” Connolly said. He foresees shedding one of the two properties in town ownership when the market is right and holding onto the other to rent to the town manager, as is currently happening.

Connolly was also on council when it decided not to renew the concessionaire lease for the Frisco Marina. He’s not opposed to looking at new operators for the marina and the Frisco Adventure Park, but said “they are perfect examples of the town owning and running the business.”

Another key for Connolly is looking at the fun stuff that can be done with little money.

For example, hiking and social trails could be organized into a hiking center with the equivalent of green, blue and black hiking trails. It would help boost the town’s recreation assets in summer for little to no money, he said.

“I want to do more with less,” he said of how he’d approach the next four years if he were elected.

▶ LOVE FROM PAGE A2

“Back home, I guess,” she said.

Another couple, Mortiz and Dorothy Kerndt saw the trouble and lent a hand. They taught them how to do things together, and the Camptons claim it’s what saved the marriage. That and counseling from Howard and Joyce Grant. He’s a retired minister from their church in Salida.

If the Camptons could offer one key to any couple wanting to stay married for anywhere near the stretch of time they have, they’d say it’s communication.

Almost losing the relationship wasn’t the Campton’s only tough time. Early in their marriage, Grampy Campy went to World War II and was captured and held for 90 days as a prisoner of war.

Hearing he was missing in action “was terrible,” Daisy says. She had two small children at home at the time. Her only solace was a letter from a comrade who wrote, “Don’t worry. I was there. He’s OK.”

“There were no more details,” Daisy said.

Grampy Campy was 92 pounds when he was released. Weighed at the height of his fitness, when he was just muscle and bone, he was 188 pounds.

Daisy made the most of it, even with children aged 6 and 8 whom she somehow had to tell their father was missing and might not come home. When Grampy Campy came home, he found she’d saved all the money he’d sent home to buy their first house.

Love that’s stronger than ever

Today, Grampy Campy is facing terminal cancer. He breathes with the help of an oxygen tube and is hard of hearing, but he still manages to take every opportunity to hold his wife’s hand and give her kisses when he passes.

“I prayed to get through Saturday,” he said, referring to the day 83 family members and more than 100 community members gathered to celebrate the anniversary.

“Every day is a bonus day. Every day is a gift from God,” Grampy Campy said. “I don’t want to die because I don’t want to leave her, but I know it’s a matter of time. I’m going with a smile on my face and a song in my heart.”

As he and Daisy pressed their lips together for a photograph, their son Chuck said, “You can ask him to do that all day long. He won’t complain.”

“These last few years have been wonderful,” Daisy said. “We just realized how much we loved each other.”

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