

Cannon Beach housing too costly for many of its workers

Housing Task Force examines reasons why employees must commute

By ERICK BENGEL
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The second meeting of the city's Affordable Housing Advisory Task Force, held Thursday at City Hall, underlined many of the well-established reasons that low-income families cannot both work and

live in Cannon Beach.

A lack of available units and the prohibitively expensive cost of the units that are available hover near the top of the list, according to task force member Todd Johnston, executive director of Northwest Oregon Housing Authority.

Many of the city's low-wage employees must reside in Seaside, Astoria and surrounding areas, where living costs are cheaper, and then commute to Cannon Beach.

In addition, many property owners actually have little incentive to create more affordable housing: They can

make as much money in a month, or even in a couple of weeks, renting out their units to deep-pocketed short-term visitors as they can renting to a low-income family for a year, Johnston said.

The Northwest Oregon Housing Authority, which administers federal Housing and Urban Development funds, runs several programs that provide access to decent affordable housing in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties. One is a voucher program that will cover up to 70 percent of a tenant's rent if the figure is within 110 percent of what HUD considers "fair market rent."

Though this voucher program "could have a big impact" on Cannon Beach's affordable housing problem, the people who currently manage to use the vouchers in Cannon Beach seem to be exceptions. Oftentimes, "the landlord is a friend of a friend of a friend who agreed to lower their rent" so that a family or elderly person could live in the unit, Johnston said.

During the next year, the six-member task force hopes to prepare a set of recommendations for the City Council to address Cannon Beach's dearth of affordable housing options.



Russ Thompson has been navigating the Astoria Riverfront Trolley up and down the rails through town for 12-plus years.

Volunteer to drive, conduct the trolley

The upcoming Astoria Riverfront Trolley schedule is as follows:

- Noon to 6 p.m. daily March 20 through April 12

- Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday only, April 17 through May 24

- Noon to 6 p.m. daily, May 25 through Sept. 7

- Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday only, Sept. 11 through winter closure

Training for new volunteers starts in March. Volunteers can be Astoria Riverfront Trolley conductors and/or motorman, but all volunteers learn the conductor's duties. Those who wish to operate the trolley undergo additional training and certification.

Volunteers work one or more three-hour shifts per month.

Conductors get a chance to tell visitors Astoria's history, what places to visit, where to eat and what things to do, and have an opportunity to talk to people about what makes Astoria a great place to visit and live. Those who wish to be a motorman, and only want to operate Old 300 and never use the microphone, are encouraged to find a full-time conductor to team up with.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call 503-325-6311 for information about the March training.

Learn more at www.old300.org.



Submitted

Sarahjoy Marsh teaches a class at the 2013 Cannon Beach Yoga Festival in the Cannon Beach Chamber Hall. Marsh will be one of several instructors at this year's festival.

Cannon Beach hosts fifth annual yoga festival

Three-day event offers instruction for all skill levels

CANNON BEACH — Yoga practitioners of all ages and skill levels will converge on the coast for the fifth annual Cannon Beach Yoga Festival Friday through Sunday.

Over three days, participants can choose from 10 hours of yoga, meditation workshops and other programs presented by world-renowned instructors at different spots throughout town.

"With its inspiring natural surroundings, Cannon Beach is the perfect location for a wellness weekend getaway, and I'm very excited about this year's program," said Christen Allsop, the festival director and owner of Cannon Beach Yoga Arts.

For the fifth consecutive year, the yoga festival received funding from the city's Tourism and Arts

Commission as seed money to organize the event. This year, the grant was for \$36,000. Organizations receiving tourism and arts grants must show that their events bring visitors to Cannon Beach from more than 50 miles away and that the event involves the arts.

Allsop estimated that the festival will draw 150 to 175 participants, including teachers and assistants. The number is about the same as last year.

Instructors will include:

- Simon Chokoisky, a teacher at Ayurvedic Institute in New Mexico and author of "The 5 Dharma Types: Vedic Wisdom for Discovering Your Purpose & Destiny;"

- Julie Gudmestad, a certified Iyengar yoga teacher and physical therapist, director of Gudmestad Yoga Studio in Portland and columnist for Yoga Journal;

- Sarahjoy Marsh, a yoga teacher, therapist and founder of DAYA Foundation, a nonprofit yoga center in Portland;

- Brad Waites, one of a few to be certified at the 2,000-hour level by the College of Purna Yoga, and who is a member of the college faculty.

The lineup also includes Dave Stringer, a practitioner of the new Kirtan (call and response chant) movement. Stringer has recorded six CDs and lent his voice to the soundtracks of the film, "The Matrix Revolutions" and the video game, Myst.

Flexible festival

Full festival passes are \$375 and include the choice of 10 hours of main track workshops, morning meditation on Saturday and Sunday, Saturday night Kirtan and opening and closing ceremonies.

Additional optional workshops and lectures also are available throughout the weekend. Partial festival passes are priced between \$20 and \$125. Saturday-only passes are \$210, and Sunday-only passes are \$190.

"There's a ton of flexibility built into (the festival),"

Allsop said. "It's depends on how involved they want to be."

A portion of the festival proceeds supports the preservation efforts of Cannon Beach's nonprofit environmental education organization, Friends of Haystack Rock.

Several Cannon Beach hotels and resorts are offering lodging specials and spa packages for the festival, including Cannon Beach Vacation Rentals, Hallmark Resort & Spa, Inn at Cannon Beach, Land's End at Cannon Beach, Sea Ranch Resort, Sea Sprite Guest Lodgings, SurfSand Resort, The Ocean Lodge, Tolovana Inn and Vacasa Rentals of Cannon Beach.

Local shops, restaurants and wellness businesses will also offer specials during the weekend.

For a full schedule of events, instructors, lodging packages or to purchase tickets, visit www.CannonBeachYogaFestival.com, or call Allsop at 503-440-1649.

Read Across Astor to be held Thursday

John Jacob Astor Elementary School is sponsoring the third-annual Read Across Astor, an event for local business ones to connect with Astoria School District students in order to create excitement about reading.

The event will take place between 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Thursday, in con-

junction with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Local business owners are invited to join a small group of first-graders and read them a book specifically selected for Dr. Seuss' birthday. At the end of the read-aloud, which should take about 20 minutes, each student will get a copy of the book to keep and share

with their families. Enclosed with each book that is given to first-graders is a list of local businesses that have participated in Read Across Astor Day.

Businesses interested in participating in this even can call 503-325-6672 or email Principal Kate Gohr at kgohr@astoria.or.us

US Rep. Bonamici schools amendment gains traction

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., highlighted the bipartisan support for an amendment, co-sponsored by her and Rep. Ryan Costello, R-Pa., that was included in the House's bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The amendment, a version of Bonamici's SMART (Support Making Assess-

ments Reliable and Timely) Act, was adopted in House Resolution 5, the Student Success Act. It allows states and school districts to use federal resources to eliminate low-quality and redundant tests.

"The inclusion of this amendment in H.R. 5 illustrates the reasonable approach the amendment takes to improve assessments and reduce un-

necessary testing, which takes valuable instruction time from students and teachers," Bonamici said. "Although I am pleased to have the amendment included, HR 5 still has serious flaws. It includes several troubling provisions, including one that would divert money from our neediest schools by making Title I funds 'portable.' It also removes the 'maintenance

of effort' provision that currently requires states to maintain levels of school funding.

"The Senate is working on its own bill, and I am optimistic they can take a more bipartisan approach and produce an improved bill. I will continue to advocate for including the full SMART Act in legislation that ultimately replaces No Child Left Behind."

CCC term begins soon

Registration for spring term classes at Clatsop Community College opens to all admitted students Wednesday. Classes begin March 30.

Registering as early as possible provides the best opportunity to secure your most desirable classes. Prior to reg-

istering, degree-seeking students need to meet with their adviser. Students who need advising or other registration assistance should contact Student Services at 503-338-2411.

For more information regarding academic advising, visit www.clatsopcc.edu/advising

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Lifeline eligible subscribers may also qualify for reliable home high-speed Internet service up to 1.5Mbps for \$9.95* per month for the first 12 months of service. Please call 1-866-541-3330 or visit centurylink.com/internetbasics for more information.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

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