

Cannon Beach may cap short-term rentals

More code inspections are possible

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Placing limits on vacation rentals, making inspections more frequent and spreading out permit renewals were potential changes discussed by the Cannon Beach City Council Tuesday night.

The city's strategic goal of making short-term rental regulations "clear and understandable" is moving forward, but will not be complete by December, as originally planned.

A cap on short-term rentals could be considered within the next months.

"If our concern is not totally losing the character

of this town and becoming strictly a destination resort, we should be seriously considering caps," Councilor Mike Benefield said.

Transient "grandfathered" rentals and five-year transient rentals, two types of short-term rentals, are capped at 92 permits altogether.

However, the vacation home rental program — the city's third kind of permit — has no cap and grows by about six permits per year. There are about 120 vacation rental permits, which have a 14-day tenancy limit.

Neighboring cities have limits on short-term rental permits. Manzanita caps permits at 17.5 percent of the city's dwelling units. Seaside caps short-term rentals within certain residential zones. If more than 20 percent of units within 100 feet of the property are vacation rentals, a Planning Commission public hearing and review is required.

"The goal in Seaside was to keep predominately residential neighborhoods from becoming totally dominated with short-term rentals," City Planner Mark Barnes said. "Most people pull back in their plans when they find that there will be a hearing."



Mark Barnes

Barnes said there was no evidence the city could solve its affordable housing problems through changing its short-term rental program. The current short-term rentals would not necessarily be made available by owners for long-term rentals,

he added. However, the vacation rental program is "growing faster than our housing stock," Barnes said.

Benefield said there is evidence that short-term rentals and long-term housing are

connected, pointing to an Icelandic city, where a major increase in Airbnb rentals has led to increased house prices and scarce long-term rentals. Property owners can afford to pay more if they plan to rent their homes short-term to help pay for mortgages, he said.

More inspections

The city inspects homes on a five-year cycle.

"The problem for most of our enforcement efforts is we don't find out about these violations until we do an audit, and then we find out about a big batch," Barnes said. "Some individual permits came with more than a dozen violations."

Councilors agreed that a building official is needed, but the city has not yet filed that position.

While Councilor George Vetter said annual inspections are too frequent, City Manager Brant Kucera said yearly inspections are a public health and welfare issue.

"You are essentially running a business out of your home," he said. "It is a benefit for the city from a liability point of view and people staying there that we have regular inspections."

All potential code amendments will likely go to a Planning Commission public hearing in December.

Good Samaritans rescue fishermen

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Good Samaritans rescued four fishermen who fell in the Columbia River Tuesday.

Deputy Thomas Phillips of the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office's marine unit said four visiting fishermen in a 19-foot boat were trying to pull in a last crab pot near Social Security Beach on the northern tip of Clatsop Spit.

"They started taking some water over the stern," Phillips said, adding more waves submerged the vessel.

An emergency dispatcher

reported four people in the water at just before 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. The dispatcher reported they were all pulled out of the water within seven minutes by a nearby boater.

"They were in the water under 15 minutes," Phillips said. "We had just gone underway when we were told they were already out of the water."

Phillips said the Samaritans then beached their boat on the spit, where the fishermen were met by local firefighters. The sheriff's office hooked the sunken boat with a recovery rope, he said, towing it to the Hammond Marina.

Engbretson picked for Warrenton city manager

Contract to be discussed at future meeting

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Linda Engbretson, Warrenton's city manager pro tem, will be hired as the new city manager.

Mayor Mark Kujala announced the decision, which is still unofficial, at Tuesday's City Commission meeting in response to a question from Bruce Francis, vice chairman of the Skipanon Water Control District.

Engbretson said the commission "has indicated they are willing to look at a one-year contract with me at the Oct. 25 meeting."

The position has been open since former City Manager Kurt Fritsch, resigned in June amid a controversy over the Eighth Street Dam, the center of an ongoing property rights dispute between the city and the water control district.

Engbretson, the former city recorder, has been working for the city more than 20 years. Her temporary role was scheduled to last four months and was due to expire soon.

The decision was not unexpected.

The City Commission had adopted a resolution in August laying out directives for finding Fritsch's replacement, but indicated it was in no hurry to remove Engbretson. Both commissioners and community members praised her at meetings.

Danish bonanza: 80,000 trout set free by accident

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Danish anglers are rushing to a western Denmark fjord to catch some of the up to 80,000 farmed rainbow trout that have been accidentally released into

Danish waters, hoping to keep them from upsetting the area's ecological balance.

A cargo ship on Monday accidentally tore apart a fish farm net off Assens, 124 miles west of Copenhagen in the western Baltic Sea.

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Again, thank you.
Pat Hanthorn and Family

Consult a Professional

Q: What is the best way to secure my computer data?
A: A computer criminal sent an email to my client, telling them they needed to schedule a delivery time with UPS. They clicked on the UPS themed email, and they were infected by "Ransom-ware" virus. Their computer locked up & the hacker demanded \$500 to restore customer histories, invoices, payroll information, accounts receivable. Knowing they were dealing with a crook, they refused. They had Carbonite installed. We recovered all of their data. Happy ending. Visit our web site for more information - AstoriasBest.com.

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A: Painkillers and anti-inflammatories can get us through a tough time with back, neck, head or leg pain, but they weren't designed for long-term use. Yearly deaths from pain medication are climbing. Other side effects can include constipation, liver and kidney damage; addiction from them is real and a growing problem. Pain is a signal that something is wrong. Pain medication does not fix the problem — it changes the brain. Reducing pain can be as simple as identifying its source and providing a different approach — chiropractic is an important part of that. "Maybe you don't have to live with it." Call 503-325-3311.

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Q: Does Original Medicare Part B (medical) have a monthly premium?
A: Yes. This year, most people are paying a standard premium of \$104.90. Those who joined Medicare in 2016 pay \$121.80. Medicare will announce the 2017 Part B premium soon. Premiums depend on factors like Social Security cost-of-living raises, income and disability. If you have a disability or limited income and resources, you may qualify for state programs that lower your premium. Higher-income folks may face a premium surcharge. Find more info at Medicare.gov.

Stefanie Cao
Medicare Market Manager
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www.careoregonadvantage.org

Q: I am interested in changing the shape of my teeth. What options are available to me?
A: Many options exist to solve this question. Depending on the particular situation and condition would determine the best option(s). To name a few options would be: simple recontouring, composite bonding, porcelain veneers, porcelain crowns, and a very thorough mastery of esthetic tooth morphology and dental smile design. Please feel welcome to schedule a complimentary consultation.

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A: Has the thought of the upcoming holidays got you all stressed out? Essential oils are very beneficial for reducing stress and anxiety. Aromatherapy works in direct partnership with the nervous system to send chemical responses to your body when experiencing an essential oil. The results can be felt instantly in most cases. Join us Monday, October 24th at 6 pm at Prana Wellness Center in Astoria for "How to Handle Holiday Stress and Anxiety". Angela is a Certified Holistic Aromatherapist with over 10 years of experience in the field of herbal and aromatic wellness. Call Angela to register 503-338-9921.

Angela Sidlo
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Q: Why didn't razor clam season open this October?
A: A sudden late summer demoi acid algae bloom caused the clam's toxic acid levels to jump from 2 parts per million (ppm) to 34 ppm in a matter of a few weeks. The cut off for food safety levels is 20 ppm. It is very unusual for levels to rise this rapidly. NOAA is studying the conditions that may have caused this bloom, but they are still unsure. Unfortunately, even if the bloom cleared up today, it would still take a few months for the toxins to filter out of the clams. Since crab eat the clams, this could also delay the start of crab season this year.

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Q: When is the last Astoria Sunday Market day the year?
A: This weekend is the LAST MARKET of the season! The Great Columbia Crossing 10K is also on Sunday, so we are staying open an extra week so that participants and spectators alike can enjoy the market. Thank you to all vendors and shoppers for making this a great season. See you at the Market!

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