

Conference center to build new kitchen, dining room

Construction will begin this year on phase one of project

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

A long-planned renovation at the Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center will begin this year and run through 2019.

The center's kitchen and dining room, housed in a World War II-era building east of North Spruce Street, will be torn down and rebuilt as a larger, more modern complex. The new building won't sit in the old footprint but will overlap with it, taking up a portion of the adjacent yard.

The existing kitchen no longer has enough space to prepare more than 380,000 meals per year (at least 1,000 per day), Executive Director Jeff Carlsen said. Nor does the dining room, "originally built to hold about 150 guests," give the center much room to accommodate its growing demand.

The conference center serves more than 17,000 guests a year, including more than 150 church or Christian groups.

"We pack that building out. We're elbow-to-elbow with people now," Carlsen said. "It will make it be a much more positive experience with folks sharing meals and sharing round the tables."

With the second-story dorms included, the existing building has 12,327 square feet. Its successor, whose upper floor also will feature a conference room, is designed for 16,509 square feet — a 34 percent increase in space.

With the added space, the new complex will give the conference center more room to continue doing what it has done for decades: provide instruction, hospitality and recreation for guests



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

Jeff Carlsen, executive director of the Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center, tours the center's current 5,200-square-foot dining room. The new dining room will be 6,700 square feet.



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

The Christian Conference Center's existing dining room (pictured) lies just east of where part of the new kitchen and dining complex will sit. Any trees removed will be replaced.

and spiritual seekers.

Unlike the current kitchen and dining room, built in 1948, the new complex will be up to code. It will also have better technology and audio-visual equipment for conferences, presentations, banquets and other gatherings, Carlsen said.

'Old as the hills'

The construction is scheduled to happen in two phases. Phase one (2015-16) will involve building the new kitchen and phase two (2017-19), the dining room.

The time line is tentative, however, and may be extended, depending on volunteers' schedules.

A design review permit application may be submitted this spring, Carlsen said. If that gets approved on time, the ground work may start before the center's summer conference season begins in June, he added.

As construction begins, some trees near the current complex may need to be removed; they will be replaced in the site plan, Carlsen said. A rock structure that has "historic and sentimental value" to the

center will be relocated.

Except for some double-pane windows, air conditioning units and pieces of kitchen equipment, the center will recycle very few of the original building's materials, he said.

"There's not much to save, to be quite honest with you," he said. Most of what constitutes the current building is "old as the hills and completely worn out."

The center had to fumigate the building several years ago because of a powderpost beetle infestation.

Carlsen estimates the total cost will fall between \$2.8 and \$3.5 million, he said.

Volunteers

Founded in 1945, the Christian Conference Center's sprawling campus comprises several dozen buildings, most of which were built between the 1950s and 1970s.

"In recent years, we've been having to replace them," Carlsen said, adding that the new complex will be more expensive than previous projects but "in many ways, no different."

Historically, the center



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

From left: Danielle, a bakery assistant, Tim and Ben, two kitchen assistants (last names withheld) prepare food in the Christian Conference Center's World War II-era kitchen. More than 380,000 meals are prepared in this space every year, Executive Director Jeff Carlsen said.

has funded the construction of its buildings entirely through donations rather than borrowed money, he said.

It also tries to rely as much as possible on local subcontractors and volunteer labor. The use of volunteers is expected to save the center more than \$300,000 on this latest

project, he said.

Mark Hadley, of Portland, the volunteer landscape architect on the new kitchen and dining room, said his overriding design theme will have a "coastal vernacular."

"We need to make it feel like its place in the world," he said.

Hadley and Guy Wil-

liams, the volunteer project manager, have both donated their services to the center on past projects.

"It's just a very rewarding, fulfilling way to utilize the talents that I've been given," said Williams, who lives in Pullman, Wash. "It's a wonderful ministry, and it's a blessing to be able to be used in that manner."

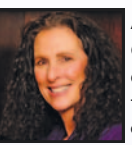


RE/MAX Coastal Advantage

In "THE COURTYARD" @ 219 N. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach



503.436.1777



Alaina Giguere
Owner/Principal Broker
c: 503.440.3202
f: 877.812.1126
e: alainagiguere@mac.com



Martin Giguere
Owner/Broker
c: 503.440.7676
o: 503.436.1777
e: mr007@pacifier.com



Egrane Brown
Broker
c: 503.440.1648
e: egranebrown@gmail.com



Susan Tone
Broker
c: 503.354.4072
e: suanetone@nehalemotel.net



Maryann Sinkler
Broker
c: 503.440.9280
e: maryanns@remax.net

"Our Featured Properties" • Please visit our website to view all our properties!

<p>VERY RARE - OCEAN FRONT</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$3,245,500</p>	<p>RARE BEACH FRONT HOME</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$1,250,000</p>	<p>OCEAN VIEW DREAM</p> <p>Gearhart • \$1,090,000</p>	<p>OCEAN FRONT HOME ON .45 ACRES</p> <p>Manzanita • \$999,000</p>	<p>NICE OCEAN VIEWS</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$995,000</p>
<p>DELIGHTFUL HOME ACROSS FROM HAYSTACK ROCK</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$975,000</p>	<p>PERFECT LOCATION!!</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$649,000</p>	<p>GREAT OCEAN VIEWS!!</p> <p>Manzanita • \$629,500</p>	<p>DUPLEX STEPS TO THE BEACH</p> <p>Manzanita • \$489,000</p>	<p>3 MASTER BEDROOMS</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$474,900</p>
<p>GREAT SUN ROOM</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$449,000</p>	<p>MANZANITA BEACH HOME</p> <p>Manzanita • \$424,900</p>	<p>PRESIDENTIAL MASTERPIECE</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$399,000</p>	<p>WONDERFUL BEACH HOUSE</p> <p>Manzanita • \$387,000</p>	<p>CONDO WITH GREAT VIEW/ RENTABLE!</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$349,000</p>
<p>QUITE- POWER SAVING HOME</p> <p>Gearhart • \$329,000</p>	<p>GREAT OCEAN VIEW LOT</p> <p>Cannon Beach • \$298,500</p>	<p>OCEAN VIEWS, GOLF COURSE LOT</p> <p>Manzanita • \$295,000</p>	<p>CUTE CHARMER</p> <p>Manzanita • \$293,500</p>	<p>RANCH WITH BIG YARD!</p> <p>Nehalem • \$244,500</p>
<p>NEHALEM CUTIE ON .45 ACRES</p> <p>Nehalem • \$229,000</p>	<p>RELAXING BAY VIEWS</p> <p>Nehalem • \$219,000</p>	<p>VACANT LAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean View Lot, Cannon Beach • \$298,500 5 E. Surfcrest Ave., Cannon Beach • \$225,000 2 E. Surfcrest Ave., Cannon Beach • \$180,000 1 E. Surfcrest Ave., Cannon Beach • \$180,000 Pacific Bellevue, Warrenton • \$172,500 Hill Lane, Cannon Beach • \$139,000 Susutna, Cannon Beach • \$139,000 Pinyon Drive, Manzanita • \$125,000 Silverpoint, Cannon Beach • \$125,000 Silverpoint, Cannon Beach • \$125,000 Arcadia/Hwy 101, Cannon Beach • \$99,900 Cedar Street, Arch Cape • \$98,000 Shore Pine Ln. #167, Manzanita • \$92,900 Big Cedar Ct., Arch Cape • \$85,500 		

NOW WITH 2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

219 N. Hemlock in Downtown Cannon Beach 503.436.1777

430 Laneda in Downtown Manzanita 503.368.1777

www.CoastalAdvantage.com

Member of 2 MLS Systems Each office is independently owned & operated

"Real Estate standards for those with 'Higher' Expectations. RE/MAX above the crowd!"