

CERT leaves Fire and Rescue, now under police department

All-volunteer Cannon Beach team to work with lifeguards, emergency preparedness committee

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

The all-volunteer CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) of Cannon Beach will be supervised by the Cannon Beach Police Department.

CERT members — who get trained and certified in first aid, disaster preparedness, evacuation protocols, the Incident Command System and the National

Incident Management System — are most often seen at major community events, like Sandcastle Day, and emergencies, like dangerous coastal storms.

Their essential duties often include crowd control, directing traffic, setting up radio communication and providing “a reassuring presence,” said Lianne Thompson, a former Cannon Beach CERT leader who stepped down to focus on her new role as the Clatsop County commissioner for District 5.

CERT “just gives you more of a cadre of people to count on if there’s an emergency,” said Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn.

Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue has overseen Cannon Beach’s CERT pro-

gram since 2013, but it wasn’t making use of the roughly 20 active volunteers as often as the police department would, Fire Chief Mike Balzer said.

Moreover, “we don’t have the manpower or the budget to take on a whole CERT program,” he added. “I think they can use them better in the city.”

Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue, which is not a city department but a rural fire protection district, has two paid staff members — Balzer and Capt. Matt Gardner. The police department has nine paid staff members, plus the lifeguards and parking information officers during the summer.

More available staff members means more opportunities for training and reinforcing the CERT vol-

unteers’ “muscle memory” of emergency response, Thompson said.

CERT, “both locally and on a wider scale, is in a state of flux” because, with the effects of climate change, there is a greater potential for natural disasters, she said.

Schermerhorn is seeking a new Cannon Beach CERT leader as well as arranging for more CERT training.

Team members will work closely with their fellow CERTs in Arch Cape and Falcon Cove, Cannon Beach’s emergency preparedness committee and cache container subcommittee, and potentially the lifeguards, Schermerhorn said.

“They’re just another great asset the city’s proud to bring on board,” he said.

City Council sets priorities for 2015

Parks, housing, events center on council’s agenda during this year

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach City Council is anticipating a year packed with projects.

Increasing hotel revenue; expanding NeCus’ Park; adding acreage to the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve; reviewing the master development plan for the city’s South Wind property top the list of the City Council’s goals for 2015.

At its annual retreat Jan. 24 at Tolovana Inn — the first for Sam Steidel as mayor — the council zeroed in on these general concerns, which will become part of a broader strategic plan incorporating feedback from city staff and the Cannon Beach community.

The strategic plan may also lay out options for addressing Cannon Beach’s affordable housing scarcity and making the city more sustainable and eco-friendly.

Woodburn City Administrator Scott Derickson served as the volunteer facilitator, helping to articulate and organize the council’s short-term priorities. Derickson is the former Clatsop County manager and former Warrenton city manager.

Action items

The council plans to start taking care of a handful of items fairly soon, including:

- Hiring a finance direc-

tor and an information technology manager

- Deciding whether the city’s dune management plan should be updated

- Requiring reports from the various city boards, committees and commissions to ensure they’re staying on task

- Identifying how much available land exists in Cannon Beach and determine what could be used to build affordable housing

Work sessions

At its 2015 work sessions, the council plans to discuss:

- Repairs and renovations at City Hall and Tolovana Hall

- Placing the city’s utilities underground

- Setting up integrated wireless Internet access throughout town, beginning in the business corridors

- Whether the city should make public beach accesses more uniform and more visible from the coastline

- Whether an events center should be built in Cannon Beach, and if it should go on the 58-acre South Wind site

- Upgrading electric, water and sewer services at the city-owned RV Park

- Whether the city should allow the proposed Cannon Beach Academy charter school to use a portion of the RV park as a temporary location.



SAM STEIDEL

Cannon Beach Police Log

Jan. 5

4:35 p.m. 3300 block of Hemlock Street: suspicious circumstances. Received a report of a suspicious vehicle that had driven past the Wayside Inn numerous times in the past 35 to 40 minutes. Described as a black truck with a broken rear window covered with a piece of wood. Officer checked and waited in the area but was unable to locate.

6:59 p.m. 3300 block of South Hemlock Street: suspicious circumstances. Report of a possibly intoxicated male in the area. Officer contacted male, who was not intoxicated, just friendly. Male was waiting for a ride from a friend in Arch Cape at bus station.

Jan. 7

12:15 a.m. Coolidge Avenue and Evergreen Street: camping within city limits. Subject warned for overnight camping.

12:23 a.m. Coolidge Avenue and Evergreen Street: camping within city limits. Subject warned for overnight camping.

1:20 a.m. East Second Street: camping within city limits. Subject warned for overnight camping.

9:30 a.m. Sea Ranch: theft of services. Report of cold theft of services. Officer was able to get vehicle information and contact a registered owner. Owner contacted the business and handled the theft civilly.

6:51 p.m. 1300 block of Pacific Avenue: false alarm. Received report of an alarm showing front door entry. Contacted male at residence who stated he was owner’s nephew. Male provided name of owner, which later matched water records. Stated he did not enter alarm code fast enough.

Jan. 9

6:59 a.m. 1100 block of

Spruce Court: call for information. Contacted subject, who was having difficulties with their child. Subject’s child was refusing to go to school. Child ultimately went to school.

1:15 p.m. 3600 block of South Hemlock Street: code violation. Officer observed a code violation: items put out for free in a front yard. Officer made contact with the resident, advised her of the outdoor merchandising violation and issued a verbal warning. Officer cleared.

Jan. 10

2:05 a.m. Tolovana Wayside: camping within city limits. Subject warned for unlawful lodging.

6:36 p.m. 100 block of West Madison Street: sex crimes.

Jan. 15

6:45 a.m. Second Street parking: camping within city

limits. Subjects warned for unlawful lodging.

2:31 p.m. 2100 block of South Pacific Street: code violation. Caller stated neighbor was feeding seagulls. Seagulls have become a nuisance and causing rubbish. Officer contacted citizen and advised of the city ordinance. Officer advised to no longer feed seagulls. Citizen understood.

Jan. 16

6:34 a.m. Skate Park: camping within city limits. Subject(s) warned for unlawful lodging.

10:15 p.m. Second Street sewer: camping within city limits. Subject(s) warned for unlawful lodging.

3:17 p.m. 300 block of Sunset Boulevard: other all. Caller reported hearing gunshots. Officers checked the area and found clay pigeons being used for target practice on county land.

Portland man arrested on DUII charge, released

At 10:42 p.m. Jan. 18, near the intersection of South Hemlock and Delta streets, a Cannon Beach police officer arrested Noah Alexander Keys, 22, of Portland, on accusations of driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was taken to the Seaside Police Department for booking and

later released. He was cited for driving with a suspended license, refusing a breathalyzer test and speeding.

Alexander’s passenger, Malcolm Joseph Oneill, 24, of Tigard, was arrested on a fugitive warrant out of Multnomah County. He was released on his own recognizance.

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