



City Council OKs North Laurel Street development

Tentative decision contradicts planning commission, irks neighbors

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

A groundswell of opposition is rising against recent City Council votes that allow property owner Jeff Nicholson to build three new family-sized homes on his North Laurel Street property.

At its Feb. 10 special meeting, the council unanimously, though tentatively, granted Nicholson a variance to a city rule involving the slope of a lot. The rule prevents developers from building too many structures on a steeply sloped property, which could prove unstable.

The council will take a final vote on Nicholson's proposal at its March 3 meeting.

Normally, to build on properties that, like Nicholson's, are sloped more than 30 percent, the lot must be at least 20,000 square feet. The four buildable 5,000-square-foot lots on Nicholson's property were, therefore, automatically combined into one buildable 20,000-square-foot lot, which could hold only one house. Since a house already stood there, Nicholson wouldn't have been able to build any additional houses.

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Property owner Jeff Nicholson has said he plans to tear down this 99-year-old house at 532 N. Laurel St. and rebuild it using some of the original materials according to modern building codes.



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Frank Milan, aka "The Red Snapper," reads from his recently published book, *Beat Poetry from the 1980s* at the Beachnik Café. He snapped his way through the performance, which often sounded like hip-hop.

That's cool, daddy-o!

Hip locals celebrate all things Beat at the inaugural Beachnik Café

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

Given the demigod status that the mid-20th century Beat writers enjoy in America's cultural consciousness, their present-day fans may forget that Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, et al. didn't present themselves as demigods.

When Nehalem resident Louise Christianson met them at San Francisco's City Lights Bookstore in 1963, the "conservative



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

Tracy Abel reads Allen Ginsberg's political poem, *America* at the Beachnik Café. She attended the two-part Beat Poets workshop at the Tolovana Arts Colony taught by Mark Mizell, an English teacher at Seaside High School.

girl from the Midwest" had no idea what she was getting herself into, she said.

"I never would have had to worry about a thing," she said. "These people, that were living in

San Francisco at that time, in that area, were the most nonjudgmental people I have ever met in my life. They did not care what you wore, what you did, how you looked. They cared

about what was going on in your heart."

Though Ginsberg had already published his poem, *Howl* (1956) and Kerouac his novel, *On the Road* (1957), the writers didn't hold court, she said.

"It was like they were a group of people that read their poems and read their essays along with a lot of other people," she said. "They were funny. Ginsberg in particular had an amazing laugh, and you just couldn't not be happy in his presence. Jack was a little bit more somber."

The Beats created an atmosphere of freedom and safety, compassion and acceptance, where no one got singled out, everyone could speak his or her

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City's insurance may not cover damage done to local home

Homeowners' property flooded after water line breakage

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

The city of Cannon Beach's insurance company has so far declined to cover the exterior flood damage done to a property owner's home after a water line in the north end ruptured last month.

On the evening of Jan. 7, a PVC pipe that runs uphill from the Ash Street pump station to the north reservoir suddenly broke, emptying the reservoir's 30,000 gallons of water onto Ash, Seventh and Larch streets in under 10 minutes, Public Works Director Dan Grassick said. At least 100 homes were without water until about 2:30 a.m. Jan. 8, when the public works crew had replaced the damaged section of pipe and restored water service.

The deluge flushed gravel and debris onto several properties, including the

West Seventh Street property of Douglas and Karen Hadley.

"That water flow was huge," said Douglas Hadley, who, at the time of the incident, was in Charlevoix, Mich., where they live. The city informed him of the incident on Jan. 9. Hadley later flew to Oregon to see the damage for himself.

Though no water got

inside the house, it flowed under and around it. The Hadleys' insurance investigator said the accident appears to have resulted in a broken fence and brick walkway, an undermined retaining wall, some shattered skirting and four support posts no longer in contact with floor joists.

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The broken skirting along the west side of the Hadleys' house resulted from the force of the water and the heavy debris it carried flowing downhill after a PVC pipe broke Jan. 7. The north reservoir emptied its 30,000 gallons of water onto Ash, Larch and Seventh streets in under 10 minutes.

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ASTORIA, OR

Free conference gave local woman WINGS

One-day session helps women who want to go to school

Andrew R. Tonry
for the EO Media Group

A victim of childhood sexual abuse, destabilizing reverberations echoed into Nichole Soares' adult life. At 31, after leaving an abusive partner, she moved into government subsidized housing with her children, aged 4 and 8.

After moving into her home, Soares received a flyer for an upcoming event. It read: "WINGS: Women Interested in Going to School."

"That started my journey," she said. It's been four years since.

Last December, Soares, who lives in Clatsop Plains, just north of Gearhart, earned her bachelor's degree in liberal arts with double minors in sociology and anthropology from Eastern Oregon University. Two years earlier, at Clatsop Community College, she finished her associate's degree in liberal arts with honors.

No longer in subsidized housing, Soares now volunteers at The Harbor, in Astoria, a support center for victims of abuse, as well as at the Crisis Line. She plans to earn a master's degree in social work while focusing on rehabilitating children, juveniles and other victims of physical and sexual abuse.

"WINGS 100 percent got me here," said Soares. "That really was something that changed my life. In that one moment, in that one day, it changed my life completely."

When she arrived at the free, one-day conference, in 2010, she wasn't sure what to expect. Quickly, though, Soares knew she'd found the right place.

"What really resonated with me is that the WINGS conference is all about reaching out to women from all walks of life. That made me feel accepted right off the bat," she said.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nichole Soares, who holds her son, Phillip, says she turned her life around after attending a one-day WINGS conference four years ago.