

CANNON BEACH GAZETTE



JULY 31, 2015 • VOL. 39, ISSUE 16

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COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Breakers Point homeowners seek 'return to what was'

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

A new plan to grade sand dunes next to Breakers Point could make the beach safer, restore views and improve quality of life, according to the many homeowners who came to last Thursday's Planning Commission meeting.

About 20 people stood up to show support for the dune grading project, including a handful of residents who do not live in Breakers Point.

"It's been tragic," said Leland Larson, a Breakers Point resident. "It's like some form of water torture to see the gradual erosion of views and the quality of life."

An experimental plan

Rather than move the unprecedented 73,400 cubic yards of sand originally proposed and then denied by the City Council in March, Breakers Point is asking for a conditional use permit to grade 13,700 cubic yards

west of the development, south of West Fifth Street and north of Ecola Creek. The commission heard presentations and testimony on Thursday, July 23.

"There's been a lot of sand accumulation going on," Tom Horning, a geologist with Seaside's Horning Geosciences said. About 75,000 cubic yards over a 15-year period with 25,000 cubic yards graded during that time, according to his report.

Normally the sand that is piling up to nearly 50-foot-tall dunes would blow into the forest, but it's getting caught on European beach grass, he added.

The new Breakers Point proposal includes depositing graded material onto the middle-upper beach area to the west, to be reincorporated into the littoral drift, and the planting of native species to restore native dune prairie ecosystems.

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Pelican Brewing coming to midtown, to replace building

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Pelican Brewing Company intends to start construction soon and have a brewpub running in Cannon Beach by spring.

On July 16, the city's Design Review Board unanimously approved the company's request for construction of a new building. Pelican won't be the only new craft brewer in town, either. An application for modifications to the Lumberyard Rotisserie and Grill for a partial reconfiguration to a craft brewery was also approved.



Pelican's plans involve demolishing the existing building at 1371 South Hemlock St., formerly Dooger's Seafood and Grill, vacant since 2011. Pelican plans to build a new one, according to architect David Vonada with Tolovana Architect.

"We did start out thinking we'd add to the existing building," he said. "When we started contemplating re-designing it, it turned out we were going to be adding onto it in about 40 directions. So at some point, we threw our hands up and said, 'Let's just replace it.'"

The brewpub will be Pelican's third location. Pelican first opened in Pacific City in 1996, and a site in Tillamook was added in 2013. Co-owner Mary Jones said they "love being on the coast" and had contemplated this location for a number of years.

"It's just a beautiful, vibrant community with a strong economy and really we feel like our brand fits well," Pelican's other co-owner Jeff Schons added.

Cannon Beach's site will feature brewery tours and be similar to Pacific City's menu-wise. John Newman was named Pelican's new corporate chef and will be developing and maintaining menu creations at all three locations. Newman, owner of Newmans at 988, was one of Pelican's chefs when the company first opened in 1996.

The 11,422-square-foot building will seat 160 inside and feature outdoor seating for 40 on the sunset side of the building, with a fire table to keep patrons warm during chilly days.

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Legion scores SUCCESS at annual Craft Bazaar

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Johnston family from Seattle comes back to Cannon Beach every summer, but this year was their first visit to the American Legion Auxiliary's annual Craft Bazaar.

"We're seeing some nice things," Bob said, his wife, Oddny, on his arm as they walked the row of vendors Saturday, July 25. "But at our age, it's hard to justify another wall hanging."

Still, there were a few objects that caught their eye, even for a couple who had been vacationing here for more than 50 years. The jewelry exhibits drew Oddny and the bonsai plantings fascinated Bob.

This year's bazaar featured 30 booths, 10 inside and 20 outside, selling items such as artwork, candles and hats at the American Legion Post 168 location.

And it was all sold for a good cause. The event serves as a fundraiser for hospitalized veterans in Oregon's four Veterans Affairs hospitals.

Portland's Larry Shapiro grabbed the attention of visitors with his collection of bonsai plantings, a hobby he began after leaving the National Guard in the 1960s. While in the Guard, he remembers saving a small tree from being run over by a tank. That incident spurred an interest that has continued for decades.

Shapiro uses the "root-over-rock" style. Roots of the bonsai grip the rock for the stability of the tree and integrity of the piece.

Shapiro said his plantings have a 98 percent survival rate. "I tell people bonsai are hard to kill," he added.

He has participated in the Legion bazaar for the past five years.

"This has been successful, right in the heart of town," he said, noting the location move from the Chamber of Commerce to Cannon Beach Elementary School before settling in at American Legion Post 168.

Auxiliary member Jean Furchner said the craft sale originally took place indoors in October. Legion member Nancy Teagle suggested doing it both inside and outdoors. So they moved the bazaar to the summer for nicer weather and more tourists.

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DANI PALMER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Monica and Mahone, 7, take a closer look at pottery during the Craft Bazaar at American Legion Post 168 on Saturday.

Good news, bad news with new flood plain maps

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The city of Cannon Beach doesn't want to wait to adopt new flood plain maps. Despite delays in the North County in flood-prone areas affected by the Columbia River, Cannon Beach officials say they like the federal government's new maps and the city could see cost savings with their adoption.

Flood insurance rates rose significantly two years ago and subsidies were phased out last year.

At the council's July 14 work session, planner Mark Barnes said it could take months to solve the issues up north while changes are

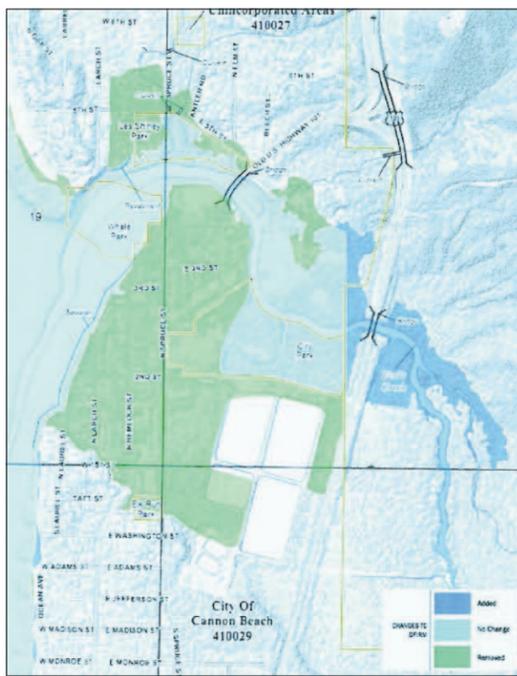
"overwhelmingly good" for Cannon Beach.

Flood plain maps have two significant uses, to set flood insurance rates and to provide cities with guidelines for regulation. New construction in the flood plain is required to be above reach of the 100-year flood level.

"The entire downtown area comes out of the flood plain," Barnes said. "The cost savings there are tremendous for those property owners."

The city is urging acceptance of the Standard Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map drafts from the federal government despite accuracy concerns in flood-prone areas affected by the

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In this FEMA flood plain map draft, Cannon Beach's downtown area would be removed from the flood plain.

Fire danger closes Ecola Creek reserve

Cannon Beach isn't taking chances with dry summer

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

CANNON BEACH — Wanting to escape the city, a hiker makes his way to Ecola Creek Forest Reserve, but instead finds the entrance blocked. "Land closed to public entry due to high fire danger," reads a posted sign, by order of the city manager.

The Oregon Department of Forestry may have Clatsop County's fire warning level set at moderate, but Cannon Beach isn't taking any chances.

"We've always closed it down at some point during the year because there's definitely points in time it gets dry," City Manager Brant Kucera said.

Cannon Beach purchased the first 120 acres of the reserve in 1999, and the rest in 2009, according to the North Coast Land Conservancy.

This year, closure of the 1,040-acre forest reserve came early — right around Independence Day — following the advice of the Oregon Department of Forestry and Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue.

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JOSHUA BESSEX/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

The Ecola Creek Forest Reserve is closed to the public because of high fire risk in the area. Signs hang from gates located on the property.

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