



Destination for room tax increase still uncertain

Additional revenue to have 'huge impact' on Cannon Beach

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Visitors will be contributing a little bit more to the Cannon Beach experience. Cannon Beach's City Council unanimously approved an ordinance raising the city's transient lodging tax from 7 to 8 percent during their regular meet-

ing Tuesday, Aug. 4. City Manager Brant Kucera said the city anticipates about \$360,000 more in revenue for fiscal year 2015-16, from Oct. 1 to June 30, 2016. The ordinance goes into effect on Oct. 1 and will apply to all reservations made after that date.

Reservations made prior to the passage of the ordinance are not subject to the tax.

The city's room tax was last increased in 2010 and with the state's 1 percent tax, will bring Cannon Beach's lodging tax to a total of 9 percent.

Seventy percent of that 1 percent increase will go toward tourism, likely the Visitor Center, while 30 percent will go into the city's general fund, divided in accordance with state statutes.

The room tax allocation was designated to the center during the city's budgeting process, but City Council talks focused on whether the money would also benefit the Chamber of Commerce, which runs the center and recently received \$81,428 from the Tourism and Arts Commission, for a time. At one point, two different contracts, one for the center and one for the chamber, was suggested.

A final decision on the allocation will be made next month.

The additional revenue will have a "huge impact on Cannon Beach" and planning for the future, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Court Carrier said after the decision.

A whopper of a bill

While future visitors of Cannon Beach will see a slight increase in their lodging bill, residents Cindy Bryden and Ernest Goff saw a massive increase in their water bill — from a monthly average of \$42 to

\$520 — over the March 20 to April 20 service period.

A member of the city's water crew met with Bryden to discuss potential plumbing problems, but none were found, leaving the high water usage a mystery. Public Works Director Dan Grassick said the city's electronic reading meters have a low failure rate and when they do fail, it's in the customer's favor as the volume measuring mechanism slows down. No exterior leaks were discovered, either.

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DANI PALMER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Two-year-old Gunner, the Cannon Beach Police Department's chocolate Labrador K-9 officer, gets some lovin' from his family during National Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 4, at the city park. Surrounded by community members, Officer Josh Gregory's wife, Alisha Gregory, holds Gunner's leash, 2-year-old Colin Gregory smiles as he looks on and Jacie Gregory, 13, and Scott Gregory, 14, pet their dog.

Community and police share a 'National Night Out'

Cannon Beach holds National Night Out

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn has been at the market in uniform and heard a parent tell a child, "You better be good or he's going to get you."

Police aren't out to get people, he said. National Night Out, held at the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Aug. 4, presented a chance for youth to see law enforcement officers aren't scary. "We're just everyday people," Schermerhorn said, working to help people.

Promoting police and community camaraderie, more than 16,000 law enforcement department's around the U.S. held National Night Out, according to the National Association of Town Watch. The evening offered food, activities for

kids, a raffle for all and the chance to chat with the department's officers.

"What the goal is just letting people come talk to us on a different level," Schermerhorn said.

The event offers a chance for community members to bring up concerns or ask questions and get to know the officers, he added.

Schermerhorn had participated in National Night Out as an officer with the Seaside Police Department and said he thought it'd be great to do in Cannon Beach, as well.

While some communities around the nation struggle with police and citizen relations, the small community has already built a strong relationship.

Schermerhorn said residents are good at keeping an eye on their neighborhoods and working with law enforcement.

"In many cases, people call in and let us know what's going on," he said. "Some feel like they're bothering police when they do it and they're not."

Cannon Beach resident Michael Diak brought his son Dominic, 3, to the event.

He said Cannon Beach police do a good job of making the city safe. Having the officers be apart of the community is "a special quality," he added.

In its second year of holding the event, the Cannon Beach Police Department saw about 60 people Tuesday evening, around 20 more than last year.

Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue was unable to attend this year as the department was short handed, but Home Depot came out to offer crafts to the children. Schermerhorn said multiple local businesses and organizations, such as the Cannon Beach Bakery and the Rotary Foundation, also made donations to the event.

Cannon Beach offers multiple opportunities throughout the year for residents to meet with police one-on-one, including Coffee with a Cop and Burger with a Cop.

Cannon Beach keeping an eye on water demand

City officials tap Ecola Creek early

By Dani Palmer
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The city of Cannon Beach is now dipping into Ecola Creek water supply — about a month ahead of schedule for the first time in 15 years.

The Public Works Department started the Ecola plant up in late July, drawing 100 gallons per minute to supplement water that comes from three mountain springs during the summer.

"In a normal year, we'd usually make it to Labor Day weekend," Public Works Director Dan Grassick said.

But it's been a dry summer, with .85 inches of rain in June and only .66 during

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DAN GRASSICK

Weapons fears drive emergency container debate

City plans to continue container program

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The city of Cannon Beach will continue its emergency cache container program, but is exploring changes after concerns regarding safety arose.

Residents spoke against discontinuing the program during a city council meeting in July. City Manager Brant Kucera said despite concerns, the program would not be phased out in Cannon Beach.

"Obviously it's an important program," he said during an emergency preparedness meeting Friday morning, July 31. "So there's no intention of eliminating the program."

But, he added, there is "valid concern" for what is placed inside the containers, intended for use in an emergency such as the Cascadia subduction earthquake and tsunami.

Cannon Beach started the program three years ago and has expanded to three locations

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Save our cannon!

When is the Cannon Beach cannon coming back to the museum?

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum is working to save the city's namesake. So if you're one of those who's stopped by the museum wondering where THE cannon is, it's in Astoria awaiting its new, permanent home.

"People ask every day, 'Where's the cannon? Where's the cannon coming back?'" said Elaine Trucke, executive director of the center and museum.

The cannon is currently at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in storage. The Cannon Beach History Center

and Museum is raising money to install an exhibit that will preserve extensive conservation work, and hopes to have it back by January. The exhibit will be presented in a microenvironment that will help protect the antique in a climate-controlled area.

The cannon was on the USS Shark when it foundered on the Columbia River Bar in 1846, and had been used in border disputes and the West Indies. It washed up onto a beach in Arch Cape but was lost in the tide and not seen again in the area until 1898.

The cannon sat in front of Arch Cape's post office for years before moving in the 1940s, ending up in private



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum's capstan is soaked in wax after a chemical treatment at Texas A&M.

hands and eventually being given to the museum in 2005, Trucke said.

In 2010, while comparing it to other cannons found in Arch Cape, a representative from Texas A&M

discovered the underside was falling apart and was severely rusted from sitting outside for more than a century. Pieces were falling off.

The museum decided then to raise the money to

restore the cannon and the capstan. They shipped it to College Station, Texas, in 2012, where repair work began.

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