

Providence ElderPlace debuts in Seaside



SEASIDE PROVIDENCE SEASIDE/SUBMITTED PHOTO

A crowd gathered for the ribbon-cutting and open house of the Providence ElderPlace North Coast facility located at 1150 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside.

Nearly 100 people gathered last month for the ribbon-cutting and open house of the Providence ElderPlace North Coast facility located at 1150 N. Roosevelt Drive, Suite 104 in Seaside.

Providence ElderPlace is part of the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly, a federally recognized program with over 114 sites operating in 32 states. PACE helps seniors maintain independence and health for as long as possible by combining medical coverage with long-term care and social services. PACE is widely viewed as a program that enhances the quality of life for seniors.

Providence ElderPlace offers an integrated team of medical professionals, including doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, and caregivers. The goal is to get to know each ElderPlace participant on a personal level.

The program is open to anyone who is age 55 or older and is in need of support services as defined by the state of Oregon. Individuals who especially benefit from ElderPlace services have increasing fragility and difficulty in getting to medical appointments for preventative and optimal care and services. Support is also provided to families and caregivers. For more information about ElderPlace North Coast, call 503-717-7150.

New AT&T antenna may boost cell coverage in Cannon Beach

City Council approves wireless company's lease

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Grant Wyatt and his family discovered much of what Cannon Beach has to offer just by wandering around downtown Thursday. But wanting to Google more sight worthy sites nearby, the Portland resident was out of luck. In the corner of his phone were the words "no service."

In Cannon Beach, that usually means AT&T service.

It's notoriously poor in the tourist town. As city councilor Mike Benefield put it, one can tell an AT&T customer apart by who has a phone "up in the air."

"It's not life-altering," Wyatt said with a chuckle, "but it is frustrating."

And, he added, "it has to be a pain" for those who live or work with AT&T service in Cannon Beach.

That could all change soon, though.

Cannon Beach's City Council approved a 20-year lease agreement with AT&T that includes four five-year renewable terms. The deal

will allow the company to add an antenna to the existing T-Mobile tower and build a new cellular service facility adjacent to the T-Mobile and Verizon ones on Spruce Street.

"AT&T's goal is to greatly improve coverage in the Cannon Beach area," said Ken Lyons, an attorney for the company.

Poor cellphone reception 'is not life-altering, but it is frustrating.'

Grant Wyatt,
tourist from Portland

He saw firsthand how "annoying" that lack of wireless service can be while vacationing in Cannon Beach last month. Councilor Wendy Higgins, general manager of the Ocean Lodge, said downtown is basically a dead zone.

Tourists expect cell coverage, Lyons said, and few residents have home phones anymore.

Councilor George Vetter said he gave up on AT&T in December because he couldn't get any service downtown beyond a 50-foot range.

AT&T's new building will contain 240 square feet and the collocated tower equipment will increase the height by 20 feet. Jacob Finney, of Technology Associates in Portland, said the tower increase would be viewable from Spruce Street visitor parking, sitting a few feet above the branches to clear the tree line.

Councilwoman Melissa Cadwallader asked about the wireless providers sharing a structure rather than having three separate ones. She said technology has physically gotten smaller over the years and inquired whether all the space was needed when there's limited land in Cannon Beach and the city is working on affordable housing.

Lyons said the space will host backup power in the case of a natural disaster and be "well utilized." City Planner Mark Barnes noted that it's still up for Design Review Board approval, too.

AT&T will pay \$600 in rent per month for the first five years. After that, rent will increase by 7 percent in year one of each extension term.

Lyons said the company anticipates an improvement in cell coverage by early 2016.

"It's well overdue," Higgins added.

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