

Cannon Beach, maybe, but Manzanita now sells weed

Oregon Coast Cannabis gears up for recreational marijuana sales

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The city of Cannon Beach remains undecided whether to give voters the chance to opt out of marijuana sales, or go ahead and start writing up an ordinance regulating dispensaries. Tuesday night the council discussed leaving it up to the voters, like neighboring Manzanita is doing, or going ahead and preparing time, place and manner restrictions. No decisions were made, however.

Meanwhile Manzanita's first medical marijuana dispensary opened its doors over Labor Day weekend.

"It's been a long sprint to get here," said Oregon Coast

Cannabis owner Andrew Buck. "It's almost surreal in a way that we were able to get construction done and pull this vision together."

Buck said he and his partners had discussed opening a dispensary "for some time." They started as growers and transitioned when the time was right.

Oregon Coast Cannabis first went for a business license in March, but was delayed by a city moratorium. La Mota in Rockaway Beach actually became the first dispensary to open in Tillamook County in August.

In July, the Manzanita City Council rescinded that moratorium. Oregon Coast Cannabis started remodeling the building the next month.

But the council also voted in August to let voters decide in the November 2016 election whether all marijuana sales and processing businesses within city limits will be prohibited, according to Ordinance 15-05.



Oregon Coast Cannabis hopes to offer recreational marijuana sales Oct. 1.

Oregon Coast Cannabis would be grandfathered in either way.

"The community as a whole has been supportive," Buck said. The business received letters of support during its talks with the City Council.

Buck added that medical marijuana cardholders have been especially supportive as they no longer have to drive elsewhere for their medicine. He said he has had cardholders come in from Tillamook

and Clatsop counties, along with vacationers.

Cannon Beach: a 'highly contested' decision

Cannon Beach's business license ordinance prevents marijuana dispensaries from opening in town as it requires businesses to abide by local, state and federal laws. Medical and recreational marijuana are now legal in Oregon, but still considered a controlled substance by the federal government.

During a Cannon Beach City Council work session Tuesday evening, council members discussed possible changes as other municipalities have been sued over similar ordinances.

"It's just going to be more highly contested," city attorney Tammy Herdener said.

Cannon Beach's medical marijuana cardholders have dispensaries like Oregon Coast Cannabis, Highway 420 in Seaside and two dis-

pensaries in Astoria to choose from in the meantime.

From medical to recreational

Buck said he has also had inquiries about recreational marijuana. Gov. Kate Brown signed a bill allowing medical dispensaries to start selling recreational marijuana on Oct. 1, which Oregon Coast Cannabis will likely do.

"We've put a lot into it energy-wise and financially," Buck said, adding they want to do things by the book.

Oregon Coast Cannabis has a few products on the shelves, but is waiting for more to be tested and approved.

The dispensary is developing a menu of flower, tincture, transdermal patches and edibles.

"We want to have products available for all people, essentially," Buck said. "Different price ranges, different qualities."

He wants the store "to be warm and welcoming," he said. The shop features a Pacific Northwest theme with local recycled materials, and will be using glass packaging to reduce plastic waste.

Partner Hannah Hayes said they plan to work with local growers and have been helping some get licensed with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

"Our emphasis is definitely on the local, but we're also trying to bring in some really cool Portland products that are already more established, that have been doing what they're doing for awhile," she said.

Oregon Coast Cannabis is working to get its website, orcoastcannabis.com, up and running with a menu and prices.

The dispensary, located at the former Great Northern Garlic Co. at 868 Laneda Ave., is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Runners take off on the beach in front of Tolovana Beach State Park in 2014.

'Race the Wave' event teaches about emergency preparedness

Race the Wave, a 5K and 10K tsunami preparedness fun run and walk, is returning to Cannon Beach Sunday, Sept. 13 at 10 a.m.

The run begins along the beach, follows a scenic evacuation route through the city and ends out of the tsunami inundation zone. A post-race preparedness fair will feature grilled hot dogs, games and giveaways, a photo booth and more.

Registration includes a race T-shirt, timing, swag bag, and shuttle service

between the race start, end and preparedness fair.

A one-mile preparedness walk/roll along a fully paved evacuation route offers another chance to practice. The free walk/roll is suitable for interested those in walking a shorter distance, as well as people of limited mobility.

Evacuation maps are available at OregonTsunami.org as well as at local fire stations.

Being able to quickly move to high ground is critical. A tsunami caused by a

Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake will hit the Oregon coast in as little as 15 minutes. The earthquake will be the only warning that a tsunami is about to arrive.

Race the Wave is supported by the community of Cannon Beach, Cannon Beach Children's Center, Clatsop County Office of Emergency Management, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Oregon Office on Disability & Health at Oregon Health & Science University, the Federal Emergency Man-

agement Agency Region X office, and DOGAMI.

The race begins at Necus' Park, 268 Beaver St. Finish line and preparedness fair near the tsunami supply cache site on Elk Creek Road.

Cost: \$35 registration includes timing and a free T-shirt. The one-mile walk/roll and preparedness fair are open to all and don't require registration. For more information call 971-673-0628 with questions about the race, course route or terrain.

Campfire and burn barrel ban lifted, with restrictions

Recent rains and cooler weather prompted the Clatsop County Fire Defense Board to lift the ban on campfires and burn barrels on Sept. 3.

Oregon Department of Forestry or local fire department issued permits are required for home campfires and burn barrels. Burn barrels are only allowed until 10 a.m. daily. No open debris burning is allowed at this time.

Regulated Use is in effect. Campfires are only allowed

in designated campgrounds. Campers should use the campfire ring and make sure the campfire is cool to the touch before leaving the site. Driving in the forest requires a tool and either one gallon of water or a fire extinguisher.

Call the forest landowner for information regarding access. Confirm that campfires are allowed at your location.

Industrial Fire Precaution Levels are still in effect on industrial forest lands. Currently NW1 and NW2 are at Level I.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Friday, Aug. 28

Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Cannon Beach City Council, work session, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Sept. 17

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Cannon Beach Planning

Commission, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Friday, Sept. 25

Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10 a.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Oct. 12

Cannon Beach City Council, work session, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Oct. 15

Parks and Community Services Committee, 9 a.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Former Cannon Beach city manager Mays takes interim county post

Commissioners select former Cannon Beach city manager

EO Media Group

Rich Mays, the former city manager of Cannon Beach, will serve as interim Clatsop County manager.

The county Board of Commissioners unanimously decided at a special meeting Wednesday, Sept. 2, to have Mays steer the county while commissioners search for a permanent replacement for Scott Somers, who resigned to become city manager in College Park, Md.

"Mays is experienced in the South County," County Commissioner Lianne Thompson said Thursday, Sept. 3. "I am thrilled with his selection. He knows how to work with a board and get the job done. My hope is that he will guide us through until we hire a permanent county manager."

Mays was the city manager in Cannon Beach for more than eight years before retiring in July 2014. He was previously the city administrator in Jefferson City, Mo., and the city manager in Collinsville and Sterling, Ill.

Hired when Dave Rouse was Cannon Beach's mayor, Mays officially became the city's manager on Nov. 1, 2005. After Rouse, Mays

worked with mayors John Williams (who died in office), Jay Raskin (an interim mayor) and Mike Morgan, who served from November 2008 through 2014.

"We worked well together," Morgan said of Mays. "A lot of things happened during his tenure."

During Mays's time as city manager, the skate park and nature trail system were constructed, 800 acres of the 1,040-acre Ecola Creek Forest Reserve and the 55-acre South Wind property were purchased; the inner city trail was created; the Tourism and Arts Fund was established and the latest city park, Necus, was planned.

"There were some ups

and downs," Morgan noted, including a number of personnel changes. "But he kept everything together."

At Mays's retirement "roast" in July 2014, friends and cohorts celebrated him and wife, Rose Mays.

They spoke of his contributions as city manager and about his involvement in the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Cannon Beach Community Church and the Coaster Theatre.

Marty Schwab Harris, a member of the budget committee, said she couldn't "imagine a city manager and his wife who would have taken more of an active interest in the community as opposed to just governing the community."

Before long, the roast turned into a toast to Rich Mays and his service to the town that he and his wife fell in love with during a trip to the North Coast.

Morgan said he thinks Mays will do fine as the county's manager for a few months.

Mays will earn \$11,500 a month and has pledged not to seek the top job, a requirement commissioners had set for the interim position. He will start before Somers leaves on Sept. 18.

Somers said he hopes to have an interim human resources manager by next week. Mays — or the new county manager — will oversee the search for a permanent human resources manager.



ERICK BENDEL/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Rich Mays, shown here at a roast last year when he retired as city manager of Cannon Beach, is the interim Clatsop County manager.

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