

# City wants to evaluate all trees before cutting

**Only unsafe, dying trees may be removed**

By Dani Palmer  
EO Media Group

Cannon Beach is taking another gander at its tree ordinance, working to better protect the piece of nature that allows it to lay claim to a Tree City USA status.

Planning Commission members discussed the ordinance during a work session Nov. 23, but made no decisions. Instead, they plan to seek public input.

Those who wish to cut down trees in Cannon Beach must demonstrate a safety hazard or show the tree is dying and receive a permit.

One idea suggested at the commission meeting was requiring tree-removal-permit applicants to submit to an inspection by the city's arborist, Will Caplinger.

Caplinger examines city trees' health, but in order to inspect trees on residential property, he needs permission first.

Commissioner Lisa Kerr said the city arborist has no checks and balances on "hired guns" brought in by property owners to evaluate trees.

A preliminary city visit before any trees are cut could lower citations, Commissioner Ryan Dewey added.

Kerr said a city arborist allowed on residential property could help resolve similar issues.

Dewey expressed concern, however, over people intentionally damaging trees to get what they want.

He also brought up the city's replacement policy, and suggested allowing people to donate a tree to the city if, in rare circumstances, a replacement tree wouldn't fit well on their property.

"It's about doing the right thing," he said. "It's about replacing something you've taken."

Instead of basing penalties on the number of trees, Commissioner Hank Johnson said they should examine the possibility of assessing fines on the value of the trees. For example, an

older tree 4 feet in diameter would be worth more than a younger 10-inch one.

The current fine is \$500 per tree.

Whether the tree is native or not should not matter, Johnson added. He suggested protected statuses for historical or heritage trees, as well.

Commission President Bob Lundy asked if such a change could lead to another Measure 49 situation. Barnes answered it potentially could if the protected status renders a property unbuildable. Measure 49 allows property owners to claim compensation from local or state governments when their property value is reduced by environmental or land use regulations.

Commissioner Joseph Bernt said the city needs to also think of protecting residents in the ordinance.

"This ordinance is all about preserving trees and protecting trees," Bernt said. "It doesn't deal so much with worrying about trees that are likely culprits in storm damage."

If one of the city's trees are problematic, Cannon

Beach staff can remove it, Barnes said. But if the tree is on personal property, it would be between neighbors. Insurance could cover damage costs, but the city could not do anything about it.

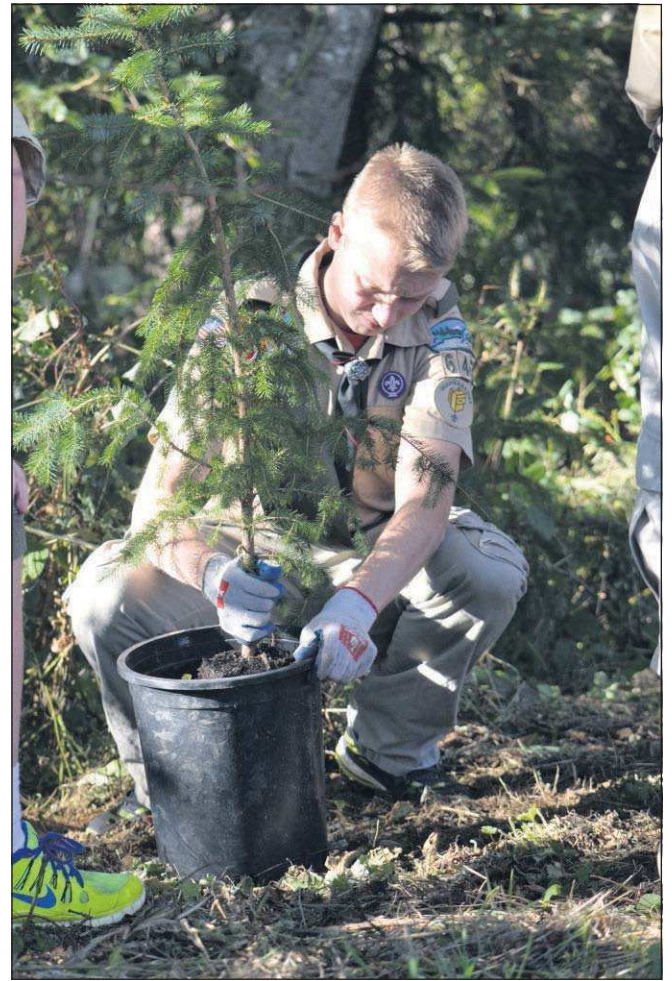
The commission did address an issue on Larch Street that caused community ire. The city was planning to cut down two spruces in the right of way, deeming them unhealthy. But neighbors protested and the tree removal was canceled.

Being a Tree City USA, Dewey said he thinks there needs to be more than a 100-foot neighborhood notification.

"I think this is really important," he said, adding they need to talk with the community and do much consideration before making changes.

Kerr agreed, but said the city should begin a draft with the ideas presented. Barnes said he had enough to do so.

It will be January, at the earliest, before the issue comes back to the commission.



DANI PALMER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Boy scout Jeff Lafferty, 15, of Astoria, helps plant a tree during Cannon Beach's Tree City USA celebration in September. The city is planning a revision of its ordinance.

# Response to new market has been 'overwhelmingly positive'

Market from Page 1A

Tim said they will work with local vendors to supply items like baked goods and partner with Sleepy Monk for the coffee portion. The cafe area will feature an inside eating area seating 17, an outside sitting area and Wi-Fi connection.

A second floor will consist of offices.

Tim said they expect the volume of customers to be about the same as Manzanita Fresh Foods.

"It could potentially be much larger," he added. "We're trying not to get the cart before the horse but based on lodging" and vis-

itor numbers, there could be more customers at the Cannon Beach location.

The Manzanita location receives 800 to 3,000 transactions daily. Tim Welsh added they have had numerous people from Arch Cape and Cannon Beach stop by.

With Manzanita Fresh Foods growing, an influx of visitors from the South Clatsop County area and its increase in tourism, Jon Welsh said Cannon Beach seemed the ideal place to expand.

But they were also cautious about planning, he added, as "commercial real estate is hard to come by there in Cannon Beach." However, within two weeks



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

A large wine selection is coming to the new Cannon Beach Fresh Foods.

of seriously discussing the new store, the family had secured the land.

"It came together really quick," Jon said.

The family has spent time during the last six months meeting with general contractor Vito Cerelli from O'Brien and Company

and speaking to other local businesses.

The response from Cannon Beach has been overwhelmingly positive, they said.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Court Carrier has called Fresh Foods a great addition to the food and beverage industry in Cannon Beach.

The store plans to hire 30 employees.

"We realize people have bills to pay, a life to live, so we try to offer them full-time," Tim Welsh said. Part-time is available for those who seek that option.

Employees work harder over the summer during the

tourist season, but the store doesn't have to let anyone go in the off-season, he added.

Produce manager Ezra Irving and store manager Khy Griffin have been training at the Manzanita location in preparation. Both have experience with natural foods.

Tim said they hope to set a time for groundbreaking ceremony this week. Meanwhile potential Cannon Beach customers may check out Fresh Foods Cannon Beach on Facebook to offer product selection input.

"It's a chance to make the store theirs," Jon said.



18TH ANNUAL

PROVIDENCE

**FESTIVAL OF TREES**

*Dazzle & Delight*

Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation invites you to be

*dazzled and delighted this holiday season!*

**SATURDAY, DEC. 5**

---

**COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**  
**FEATURING SANTA CLAUS**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Free admission

- \* Beautiful Christmas trees
- \* Kids' crafts \* Cookie decorating

**GALA DINNER AND AUCTION**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
Tickets: \$100 per guest;  
\$1,000 for table of 10  
Entertainment by Acústica World Music

---

SEASIDE CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER  
415 FIRST AVE., SEASIDE, OR 97138

For reservations or more information, please call 503-717-7601 or visit [www.ProvidenceFestivalOfTrees.org/Seaside](http://www.ProvidenceFestivalOfTrees.org/Seaside).



Proceeds benefit  
programs and services  
supported by



**PROVIDENCE**  
Seaside  
Hospital Foundation