



NEW FIRE CHIEF

Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict familiarizes himself at the Cannon Beach firehouse.

LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Task force aims to meet housing need

Affordable, workforce units to be considered

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

For the first time, members of an affordable housing task force saw concept designs of potential housing developments for those who work in Cannon Beach and need an affordable place to live.

Portland architect Brian Carleton of Carleton Hart Architecture presented six drawings of what 49 affordable units could look like at two sites identified by the task force: the Spruce Street downtown parking lot and the RV park.

The shortage of affordable housing is a growing problem on the North Coast, but cities have struggled to find solutions. Economic experts have cautioned that the lack of housing could hinder job growth and economic development.

The units in Cannon Beach would be for people in the area's median-income, not low-income, range. The housing is for residents who make 75 to 105 percent of the county's average income, City Manager Brant Kucera said.

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Cannon Beach boosts budget by a third

City seeks to purchase former school building

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

What can a city do with an elementary school located in the tsunami zone? Cannon Beach residents could soon find out, as the city has budgeted a \$665,000 loan for the purchase and remediation of the old Cannon Beach Elementary School site.

Staff recommended a significantly larger proposed budget Wednesday at the first budget committee meeting for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget includes acquisition of the former elementary school site and other capital projects.

The budget is up 31 percent from the current year, mostly due to transfers, loan proceeds and capital grants and projects, according to City Manager Brant Kucera's report.

"I believe this budget represents the true costs of maintaining and improving city-owned assets that have been neglected in the past," Kucera said in the proposal, adding that the city is "investing heavily in our future."

The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is \$19.7 million, compared to \$14.6 million for this fiscal year.

Capital projects — like the City Hall renovation, water and sewer master plans, acquiring the old school property and constructing the proposed Fir Street pedestrian bridge — account for about three-fourths of the budget's increase, Kucera said after the budget committee meeting.

The proposed budget includes \$100,000 for the City Hall remodel, \$135,000 for the master plans and \$250,000 for the city's RV park infrastructure project's second phase.

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New CB fire chief wants to 'bring out potential'

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

After an in-depth selection process, former Pendleton fire marshal and Helix fire district chief Matt Benedict has accepted the position of fire chief as Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District.

"I'm just excited to be here," he said. "This is the last step for me, to become a fire chief in a large organization."

Benedict, 47, will begin June 1, but is currently in Cannon Beach transitioning into his new position with interim Fire Chief Jim Stearns.

His salary will be \$80,000.

Cannon Beach has been without a permanent fire chief since October, when former Chief Mike Balzer was dismissed.



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

See Fire Chief, Page 3A Matt Benedict gets a leg up at the Cannon Beach firehouse.

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DAVE FISHER/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Looking to expand their business, Hannah Hayes and Andrew Buck, owners of Oregon Coast Cannabis in Manzanita, have to await the results of this November's election in order to do so.

Manzanita marijuana sales

Up in the air

Citizens will weigh in on what's best for their city in November

By Dave Fisher
For the Cannon Beach Gazette

While the Cannon Beach City Council opened the door to dispensaries and recreational sales of marijuana earlier this spring, 13 miles to the south the future of marijuana sales in Manzanita is still very much up in the air, at least until the November election.

In November 2014, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 91, which provided for the production, processing, wholesale and retail sale of non-medical

marijuana under the direction of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. The Pine Grove precinct, which includes Manzanita and unincorporated Neahkahnie and Bayside Gardens, approved the measure with 66 percent of voters in favor. However, only 367 voters out of 998 who cast ballots lived within Manzanita's city limits. According to Tillamook County election officials, there is no way to go back and determine what the vote was on Measure 91 within Manzanita.

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