



City candidates find common ground

Candidates field questions on community issues

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The three Cannon Beach City Council candidates talked housing, parking, vacation rentals, tourism, preserving the town's village feel among administrative change and

other community concerns at an Oct. 12 forum.

Each agreed maintaining the small-town character of Cannon Beach would require study, community involvement and creative use of limited resources.

Brandon Ogilvie, Herb Florer and Nancy McCarthy are vying for two spots on the council. While candidates found common ground on issues like the elementary school property and marijuana shops, they expressed some differing views on

For a long-term perspective on the City Council election, see 'Cannon Shots,' page 4A

housing and tourism.

The forum, held at the Coaster Theatre, was organized by Vote Smart Cannon Beach, a nonpartisan and nonprofit group of residents. Candidates responded to the same questions by moderators Andrew

Tonry and Barb Knop and audience members.

A 24-year resident, Ogilvie is a contractor and affordable housing task force member who previously served on the Planning Commission, partly as chairman. He views tsunami awareness, short-term rentals and affordable housing as important issues affecting the city.

Florer, a 12-year resident, is an emergency preparedness committee member and former Port of Astoria deputy director, budget committee

member and planning commissioner. He said the town's sustainability, emergency preparation and infrastructure should be addressed.

McCarthy, a 15-year homeowner and 10-year permanent resident, was a reporter and editor for the Cannon Beach Gazette and is now a freelance writer. The "influx of people," affordable housing and emergency planning are significant issues to her.

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THE STORM OF '16

Cleanup in the WAKE OF A TORNADO



Mark Brennan at work in front of his Manzanita Avenue home.

'It surprises me there wasn't more damage'

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

MANZANITA — Manzanita Avenue homeowner Mark Brennan was in Tigard when he saw his house on TV. "I was watching Channel 6 and I saw my house in the background," he said Sunday. "There were four trees on it."

The tornado that tore through Manzanita Friday morning sliced through town, past the main street of Laneda Avenue and across Fourth and Fifth streets to Manzanita Avenue. The funnel left damage in its wake and on Sunday, contractors, utility crews, and home- and business-owners were equipped with chainsaws and chippers clearing out debris from the storm.

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Damage along Laneda Avenue.

PHOTOS R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Cannon Beach Academy wins board approval

Charter school could open next fall

By Katherine Lacaze
For EO Media Group

The Cannon Beach Academy saw its goal of opening for the 2017-18 school become more attainable Tuesday night when the Seaside School District Board of Directors approved the organization's charter application without conditions.

Nearly four years after a group of residents initiated an effort to create a charter school in Cannon Beach, the organization reached a significant milestone with the approval of its charter. With that piece resolved, the academy's board can move forward and begin finalizing financial details, apply for grants, plan for enrollment, prepare the school building and start hiring staff, according to board president Kellye Dewey and board member Barb Knop.

In October 2015, the district's board approved the charter school's application with a set of conditions, such as the school would serve at least 44 kindergarten and first-grade students in its first year. In March, the district withdrew conditional approval, stating the academy fell short on funding, enrollment and a state-approved English Language Development program for English language learners.

"The bulk of their application was very well done and thorough, but there were a few things that needed to be addressed," Superintendent Sheila Roley said.

Roley, her staff, the district's attorney and the academy's board members worked during the past six months to address the issues that led to the conditional approval being revoked.

The academy's board met with the district's Finance Committee before

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Fire district seeks captain to fill key role

Selection committee looks at talent in ranks

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District is searching for a full-time employee to replace former Capt. Matt Gardner.

A selection committee has been created and the district is considering internal applicants before expanding the search, if needed. The district is looking for a qualified, teachable individual that can eventually be brought up to Gardner's level, Fire Chief Matt Benedict said.

Gardner left the district in April and works as plant operator for the Arch Cape Water and Sanitary District.

The district's selection process will assess applications based on their skills and how they will work well with the organization. Job duties will depend on the applicant and their interests, whether it's training, EMS, public presentations, inspections or other skills, Benedict said. "My feeling is if they don't get excited and

like what they're doing, they're not going to excel in it," he said. "Right now, I'm kind of doing everything, so I just need someone who can take some of the pressure off."

The district expects to hire someone before the end of 2016.

Ham dinner

Volunteers prepared a ham dinner and worked the kitchen to put on the 69th annual volunteer firefighters benefit on Oct. 8.

"Those kids did a phenomenal job," fire district board member Mark Mekenas said of the volunteers.

Board director Sharon Clyde said people came as far as Lynden, Washington to attend the event.

Proceeds from the dinner will help purchase equipment that could save lives of individuals experiencing cardiac arrest. Cannon Beach Academy supporters helped with the event to raise funds for the school.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

TJ White, Mike Johnson and Steven Moon served up ham at the annual volunteer firefighters benefit dinner on Saturday, Oct. 8.