



A PLACE TO CALL HOME?

The affordable housing shortage in Cannon Beach

DANNY MILLER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach, a city known for carefully protecting an image as an idyllic coastal getaway, has taken a practical approach to the housing crunch.

The city has prioritized workforce housing and a task force is analyzing potential options on three city-owned properties.

In a citizen survey this year, 76 percent responded that it is necessary or important for the city to assist with developing affordable housing. The City Council has set a goal to add 25 affordable units by 2018, and 25 more by 2020. "It is absolutely essential for the health of Clatsop County that we begin to address affordable housing," City Manager Brant Kucera said.

Kucera has spoken about living in Tillamook County because he cannot find housing locally.

Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict also struggled to find housing in town. He stayed in the Cannon Beach and Arch Cape fire stations for several months until finding a place to rent and then purchasing a home.

"I basically sold everything I had so I could buy a house here," said Benedict, who recently closed on a Haystack Heights home. "We're happy. It's where we want to be."

Housing specialists and local business leaders interviewed in an affordable housing report in 2013 said most of the city's workers reside in other towns. Many earn too much money to qualify for low-income housing, but not enough to live in town.

Housing for workers

The affordable housing task force — comprised of community members, the

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Cannon Beach at a glance		
Item	Cannon Beach*	Oregon
Population (2015 est.)	1,702	4.03 million
Median household income	\$44,423	\$50,521
Male median income	\$28,542	\$37,399
Female median income	\$18,750	\$26,077
Persons in poverty	23.3%	16.6%
High school graduate or higher, age 25 or older	89.3%	89.5%
Without health insurance, under age 65	23%	11.5%
Veterans	137	313,261
Median housing value, owner-occupied units	\$466,900	\$234,100
Total housing units	1,795	1.72 million

Source: U.S. Census Bureau *Based on 2010-14 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group



SUBMITTED PHOTO

TOP: Cannon Beach as seen from the air. In a citizen's survey earlier this year, 76 percent responded that it is necessary or important for the city to assist with developing affordable housing.

LEFT: An artist's rendering of an affordable housing plan.

PICKING UP THE PIECES

Manzanita rebuilds, honors responders

Still too early for damage estimates

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

SEASIDE — The Manzanita Visitors Center's Manager Dan Haag came to Seaside to give an update on Manzanita's tornado recovery efforts.

The Oct. 14 event tore through downtown Manzanita before striking U.S. Highway 101.

"It could have been a lot worse," Haag told members of Seaside's Chamber of Commerce at its Friday breakfast. "From what you've seen and heard on the news, obviously some serious damage. Luckily it happened when no one was around and a lot of those houses were unoccupied."

According to Haag, 128 different buildings were damaged and six businesses sustained damages. "The cleanup has progressed really well," Haag said. "Ninety-seven, 98 percent of our merchants are open for business. Lots of trees are down — that's going to take some getting used to. But if you came down and you saw the damage immediately after the tornado, you'll see the difference is amazing."

Estimating damages

At a special Manzanita City Council meeting Oct. 21, officials estimated they had spent about \$35,000 clearing debris from city rights-of-way.

The decision was made to wait and see how much debris remains after a few weeks before possibly making damage estimates, according to Manzanita Administrative Assistant Kristin Grasseth.

"We're trying to find what insurance is doing and who's doing what," she said Friday. "What we're coming to find is that there's more homes with damage that wasn't visible."

Doors not being able to shut are indications that "something shifted," Grasseth said. "Some people are not even aware there is damage to their homes."

Engineers are being called in to examine homes in the

tornado's path.

Grasseth described one property on cinder blocks that shifted 19 inches.

"That house is coming down," she said. "Those are the things we're up against right now."

On Friday, Laneda Avenue was closed throughout the day from Third Street North to Fourth Street North so that

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Tip-A-Cop raises money for local Special Olympics

Officers wait tables to benefit Special Olympics athletes

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach and Seaside police served the community in a new way on Oct. 27. Officers served trays of food, carried and refilled drinks, busied tables and talked with customers during a Tip-A-Cop event, in which all additional "tips" for officers directly benefited



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Coach Steve McAloney (second to left) and Special Olympics athletes Will Kelso, Beau Routh, Sam McAloney and Jason Cly greeted customers at the Tip-A-Cop event.

Special Olympics programs in Clatsop County.

Within four hours, the officers raised \$1,724 for local

Special Olympians' uniforms, equipment and other costs.

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A voter's guide



Nancy McCarthy



Brandon Ogilvie



Herb Florer

Cannon Beach Gazette

While Cannon Beach residents are already in the voting process, the electorate still has a chance to decide on not only national races but those close to home. They include two new faces for the City Council and a ballot measure

seeking to prohibit the licensing of retail cannabis sales in Cannon Beach.

A \$99.7 million bond to move three schools — Gearhart Elementary School, Seaside High School and Broadway Middle School — is also before the voters.

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