



## WANTED MORE CANNON BEACH VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS



By Lyra Fontaine  
For Cannon Beach Gazette

In the next months, Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District will ramp up its efforts to recruit and train volunteer firefighters.

Garry Smith, board member and former firefighter, said at the Jan. 9 board meeting that the board should address volunteer recruitment and retention.

"We're down to our lowest that we've ever been, as far as volunteers on the department, and I think we need to make a substantial effort in planning for the future," Smith said.

The fire district currently has 18 volunteers, though Fire Chief Matt Benedict said certain volunteers show up for most drills while others do not.

"Most volunteer agencies cut that in half for the people that show up for trainings," Benedict said.

October through March are slower months, with calls increasing in April through September and peaking during the summer.

"It's a little bit of a strain right now, but not a huge strain," Benedict said. "Right now, we're in the low-call volume so it's not really hurting us too bad. Hopefully in the next few months, we can start recruiting,

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CANNON BEACH FIRE AND RESCUE  
Cannon Beach volunteer firefighters at an emergency medical services training in early January, from left, Mike Johnson, Joanne Cremer, Margaret Stroyk-Hayes and TJ White.

### Volunteer Firefighter FACTS

- 50%** Percent of volunteer firefighters working at fire departments that protect a population of less than 2,500.
- 21,500,000** The number of calls for medical assistance, the top reason for firefighter response.
- 12%** The decline in the number of volunteer firefighters in the United States since 1984.
- \$139.8 billion** The amount that time donated by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country per year.

NATIONWIDE FIREFIGHTER STATISTICS AS COMPILED BY THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

**'We're down to our lowest that we've ever been, as far as volunteers on the department.'**

—Garry Smith, Cannon Beach RFPD board



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The South Wind property is east of U.S. Highway 101 and south of the Haystack Heights neighborhood. A 55-acre site was acquired by the city in 2013, adding to the 3.3 acres the city acquired in 1990.

## South Wind could offer shelter in disaster

### Cannon Beach plans to transform 55-acre site

By Lyra Fontaine  
For Cannon Beach Gazette

With tsunami safety in mind, Cannon Beach hopes to transform 55 acres of forest into a place for shelter and long-term services in a disaster.

The South Wind site, located east of U.S. Highway 101 almost entirely outside the tsunami inundation zone, was purchased by the city in 2013. The goal was to relocate an emergency shelter, police station, fire station, school, child care and a food bank.

In 2014, the rough estimate of infrastructure development costs — highway, street and storm drainage improvements, among others — was about \$3.4 million.

Preliminary engineering work would cost an additional \$400,000, staff members said at a work session last week. The City Council will decide in coming months whether to include this amount in the budget next fiscal year.

South Wind is vacant except for a water tank and a building used for emergency supply storage. The property needs a new road access, since its current highway access is a logging road. Sewer service could

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## With high bids, officials put City Hall renovations on ice



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

This area of City Hall was among those slated for remodel.

### Bids exceed budget

By R.J. Marx  
Cannon Beach Gazette

The envelope, please. But this time there was no winner. After months of design, updates and review, Public Works Director Dan Grassick opened sealed bids on Tuesday for a major remodel of City Hall. Two construction bids had been received — and both well exceeded the \$150,000 cap the city had budgeted. "Both were well over the estimate and budget by at least \$80,000," Grassick said after bid opening Tuesday.

A new building would have cost at least \$3 million, but renovations to the existing City Hall at 163 Gower were expected to come in at a fraction of that cost. The Design Review Board approved the final stage of a plan to upgrade office space, windows, doors and exterior at a public hearing Thursday, Jan. 19, with board members unanimously voting to approve a site plan to modify three windows on the north side, a change missed at earlier board meetings.

The proposed major modifications include changes to the windows on a portion of the building's north elevation, including the offices occupied by the city manager, assistant city manager and IT director.

"This is major, major retrofit," Public

Works Director Dan Grassick said after the Design Review Board meeting. "We'll end changing the entire inside of City Hall in four phases."

Among changes, the police department would have received a new entrance and doorway and more space for storage.

Plans had placed Haystack Rock Awareness Project offices in an exterior building and the finance corner completely redone and rebuilt.

Building and planning departments would also receive a new, separate entrance so contractors seeking permits can come directly to the appropriate offices.

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## Voices from Cannon Beach join protest at Women's March

### Messages of resolve, unity

By Jack Heffernan with R.J. Marx  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Hundreds of people including supporters from Cannon Beach and the South County gathered in Astoria Saturday for a Women's March to counter President Donald Trump, sending messages of resolve and unity against potential threats to equality and civil rights.

The large, peaceful crowd — mixed with women, men, children and pets from across the Columbia-Pacific region — filled one side of Heritage Square downtown. Many carried handmade signs like "Make America Sane Again," "Power to the Peaceful," and "Girls Just Wanna Have Fundamental Rights."

Cannon Beach was particularly well-represented said attendee Rex Amos, who joined the crowd with his wife Diane. Among those were Betsy Ayres, Watt Childress, Tom Jiroudek, Susan Glarum, Flora Young, Jim Osburn, Leslie McClanahan, Beth Holland, Prissy Martin, Eeva Lantela, Julie Walker and Hank Johnson.

"When I heard Trump say he wanted to 'Make America Great Again' by taking us back to the 1950s, Diane and I decided to join the Women's March in As-

toria to meet with those who recognize that in the 1950s women had little access to professional jobs, were paid less than men, were pressured to stay home and have as many babies as the husband wanted, were subject to verbal and physical abuse including rape, had no property or financial rights without consent of the husband, and could not even make out a will on their own," Rex Amos said on Monday.

Organizers stressed that the march was not a protest against Trump, but the undercurrent was plainly about resistance to the Republican real-estate magnate. Marchers also participated to raise awareness for a number of different issues, from public education and immigration to gay rights.

Some organizers said they were surprised by the turnout. Astoria Police estimated the crowd at more than 1,300.

"We would've been excited if it was 100 people," Sharon Kloeppfer, a former physician's assistant who lives in Gearhart, said.

The demonstration was in solidarity with a national Women's March in Washington, D.C., and in "sister marches" in cities and small towns across the nation and the world.

Clatsop County usually favors Democrats, but



REX AMOS PHOTO/FOR CANNON BEACH

Diane Amos, right, among those at the Women's March in Astoria on Sunday, Jan. 22.

Trump won 41 percent of the vote in November. The march was a reminder that a majority of voters — in Oregon and the nation — preferred other presidential candidates.

The demonstration began shortly after noon. Along

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