



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Site of a proposed RV park in Arch Cape.

RV park plan rouses Arch Cape residents

Concerns about traffic, environment

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Dozens of disgruntled residents voiced their environmental and safety concerns Thursday, Sept. 28, about a developer's plan to build an RV park across from Arcadia Beach in Arch Cape.

James Smejkal, the owner and developer of the 17.6-acre parcel of forested land, sought temporary road access to the parcel earlier this year with the intent to build an upscale RV park — mostly because it is one of the only types of development allowed with the land's zoning, he said.

Smejkal's consultant, Leonard Waggoner, conducted the neighborhood meeting Thursday. Smejkal was required to invite everyone within 300 feet of the project to a public presentation before submitting a development permit application. "The idea is for the community to give feedback to the developers," Clatsop County planner Will Caplinger said.

But many outside of the 300-foot radius packed the Cannon Beach Fire Hall, some as far north as Astoria and south as Netarts. Organizations such as the Audubon Society of Portland and the Haystack Rock Awareness Program came out to denounce the project. Concerns about adding traffic to an already populated stretch of U.S. Highway 101, threats to water quality and the property's proximity to threatened marbled murrelet habitat all were echoed by multiple residents.

The community's desire to protect the area's old growth forests, however, was the room's unified plea.

"The Oregon Coast is like one big backyard," Netarts resident Shelly Reeder-Lueth said. "We believe it's worth fighting for the last 5 percent of old growth forests. Otherwise, what do you have left?"

The vision

The land was owned by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department before it was traded to Smejkal in 2002 in exchange for land he owned in Columbia County. In 2009, Smejkal attempted to develop the property as housing, which was ultimately denied by the county Planning Commission.

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Chamber head Court Carrier steps down

Carrier resigns due to medical issues

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Court Carrier, the executive director of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, will leave his position in November due to medical issues.

Jim Paino, the chamber's executive assistant and membership coordinator, will serve as the interim director as the chamber's board searches for a replacement.

Carrier started with the chamber in 2014 after a 27-year tenure as the program director and instructor for the Mt. Hood Community College hospitality and tourism program. Before then, he spent 20 years in the hospitality industry.



R.J. MARX/EO MEDIA GROUP

Court Carrier has resigned as executive director of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"It has been a joy to work here," Carrier said. "I've been blessed to live in this heavenly place and make significant progress. I'm disappointed, but it's what I need to do to take care of myself."

The decision came after the chamber board was already evaluating Carrier's three-year contract. Chamber President Greg Swedenborg said Carrier didn't feel he was in a position to extend the contract past the chamber's fiscal year because of "personal and extended family health reasons."

"Through discussions with Court, (the board) felt the timing was right to make the change rather than postpone the inevitable for a few quarters," Swedenborg said in a statement. "Court graciously offered to stay on past his contract date, which will help in the execution of our succession plan."

Carrier will depart on Nov. 20.

Carrier will be moving back to Portland with his wife to pursue his own medical treatment as well as help take care of other family members facing illness.

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Oswald West RIDES AGAIN



Gov. Oswald West 'returns' to greet CoastWalkers

Story and photo by Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

North Coast Land Conservancy, headquartered in Seaside and one of Oregon's leading nonprofit land trusts, hosted the second annual CoastWalk Oregon event from Sept. 22-24.

The 75 people registered for the walk were greeted by a Gov. Oswald West re-enactor, Cannon Beach local Bob Wayne, dressed in 1900s attire with his horse on the beach. The purpose was to pay an homage to the horseback ride West took in 1911 from Ecola Creek to Neahkahnie Mountain that inspired the former governor to declare Oregon beaches as a public right-of-way, conservancy communication coordinator Bonnie Henderson said.

Wayne, who has lived in the area for 40 years, saw this as a way helping an organization that helps pro-

tect the land he has enjoyed for so many years.

"I think the NCLC is fabulous, and I just wanted to support them," Wayne said. "Also I like showing off my horse — look at him, he's a beauty."

The group will walk from Ecola Creek in Cannon Beach through Arch Cape, Oswald West State Park and all the way to Nehalem Bay State Park.

The walk originated as a way for Oregonians and visitors to the state to see some of Oregon's natural wonders while also raising money for the North Coast Land Conservancy. At \$350 a ticket, participants are helping support general operations, Henderson said.

"Having our event sold out two years in a row I think mean people are willing to support conservation and want an adventure," Henderson said.

B. Boutique opens in Cannon Beach

After 14 years, women's clothing store moves from Seaside

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Dozens gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the women's clothing store B. Boutique Thursday, Sept. 21, at its new location in Cannon Beach at 232 N Spruce St.

The store, which the owner Jenny Becker describes as "fun and different styles for all women," oper-

ated in Seaside for 14 years before moving to Spruce Street.

"When we opened in Seaside, we wanted to be closer to the schools for our kids," Becker said. "But now my kids are out of school, and it was time to come back home to Cannon Beach."

Becker, who has lived in Cannon Beach for the past 25 years, operates the store with her mother and daughter. It replaces Primary Elements Gallery, which closed earlier this year.

"I've always loved this building and the fact it had a view of the park," Becker said. "When I saw it come available, I didn't hesitate."



BRENNNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Owner Jenny Becker celebrates the grand opening of her clothing store B. Boutique with a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Sept. 21.

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