

In Cannon Beach, workers struggle to find places to live

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian



Aerial view of Cannon Beach.

When opening up the discussion with the City Council about affordable housing, Jeff Adams, the city's community development director, shared stories about the struggles his own employees have had finding a place to live.

One recently received notice that she needs to move out of her home and is scrambling to find another option. Another had to buy a trailer to temporarily live in until he can find housing. A planner who accepted a job withdrew because she could not find housing.

And those stories are not unique to city staff. Just 5.5% of workers in Cannon Beach live in the city, and

some commute from as far away as the Portland metro area, according to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2019.

"If everyone gave their testimonials, it would put a face to what we struggle with as a workforce in this community," Adams said during a work session this month.

"There's not an issue of this that doesn't come out when it's not above the fold," he said, lifting up an edition of The Astorian. "It's housing, it's housing, it's housing in every community. We've got to do something."

Adams pointed to housing studies, reports and task forces that have been put

together to address the housing crunch in the city and across Clatsop County over the past decade. Not a lot of action has come out of them, he said, and the problem is getting worse.

The city's population is contracting and there are more vacant homes, which Adams attributes to a growing seasonal second-home market.

Some believe nothing can be done to cure the problem. Adams disagrees.

He presented some concrete steps to get the ball moving, and used examples from a few destination towns in Colorado and Utah that have successfully increased affordable and workforce housing.

The city, for example, could incentivize building accessory dwelling units

as workforce housing and increase regional coordination with the county, cities and the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority.

Adams said he has started conversations with planning officials throughout the county, but he would like conversations to include elected officials and become more regular and focused.

Over the next couple of years, the city will also conduct a code audit to review and update policies to better support the city's vision in the comprehensive plan.

During a meeting in January, the City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance prohibiting the combination of lots for the purpose of building larger homes.

The council also repealed

the city's planned unit development chapter, blocking any future proposals.

Mayor Sam Steidel told The Astorian he hopes the City Council can address affordable housing through the code audit.

And while he wants to continue the conversation around affordable housing, he said he would like to see the county take on more of a leading role.

Steidel said Cannon Beach has several constraints, including a lack of buildable land.

"We are very dependent of the rest of the county to help us for housing," the mayor said. "I would hope that the county itself is looking more into what they can do in South County rather than depending ... on the cities."

PUBLIC SAFETY



Feb. 4

9:39 a.m., 2400 block U.S. Highway 101: A dog is reported at large on the northbound side of the roadway.

9:25 a.m., 800 block Avenue C: A person is cited for unlawful lodging.

1:44 p.m., Tenth and Necanicum: A person looking into parked cars is reported as suspicious.

4:01 p.m., N. Prom: Police assist removing female from hotel room after she refuses to leave.

11:34 p.m., 500 block S. Edgewood: A transient female reported going through garbage and being noisy is arrested on a warrant.

Feb. 5

3:59 a.m., Eleventh and Necanicum: A person is cited for parking during a prohibited time.

6:28 a.m., Avenue G Bridge: A person is reported as possibly trying to dump his motorhome.

11:47 a.m., 1100 block N. Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant.

9:06 p.m., 1700 block Spruce Drive: Caller reports two women and a man having a physical fight.

11:36 p.m., 1700 block Spruce Drive: Police meet with the same people reported fighting earlier; they say they will stay civil for the rest of the night.

Feb. 6

2:30 a.m., 500 block Broadway: Caller reports his intoxicated girlfriend wants to leave the area but is unable to provide information at what hotel she is staying or any other helpful information.

3:09 a.m., 500 block Broadway: Property crimes are reported.

Feb. 7

2:50 a.m., Necanicum Drive: Parking complaint.

4:06 a.m., 200 block Broadway: A person sleeping in the doorway of a closed business agrees to move along.

9:35 a.m., 400 block Avenue U: Police assist Seaside firefighters on scene for a female reported to have dementia reported stuck in a bathroom.

12:34 p.m., 12th and Prom: Police responding to a report of a car that hasn't moved in three days learn the owner of the car is in jail.

11:42 p.m., 2300 block S. Roosevelt: Police respond to a report of an animal in the water.

Feb. 8

6:07 p.m., 1100 block N. Roosevelt: A person is reporting weaving in and out of traffic, screaming.

6:34 p.m., 1100 block Broadway: Two people are reported crouching in bushes.

8:20 p.m., 400 block Eleventh Avenue: Caller reports two subjects attempting to enter his house.

9:33 p.m., 10th and Necanicum: While responding to a reported disturbance, police arrest one person on an outstanding warrant.

11:39 p.m., Turnaround: Subjects are warned against tents on the beach.

Feb. 9

12:42 a.m., 300 block N. Holladay: A subject is reported screaming and causing a disturbance.

3:42 a.m., 1100 block S. Downing: Subjects playing loud music are advised of the complaint. The music is turned down.

8:15 a.m., Ocean Way restrooms: Criminal mischief is reported.

2:13 p.m., 800 block S. Roosevelt: Motor vehicle accident with injuries reported; fire department is on scene.

3:42 p.m., Convention Center parking lot: A subject is reported "stripped naked" in front of his child; on arrival, police say the person is fully clothed.

4:50 p.m., 12th and Holladay: Caller reports male yelling at him; police contact the yeller who said it was a misunderstanding.

6:58 p.m., 700 block Avenue H: A person is arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

9:52 p.m., U.S. Highway 101: Subject reported lying on the shoulder of the road says they are fine and not in need of assistance.

Feb. 10

7:59 a.m., N. Holladay: Case taken for car break-ins.

6:17 p.m., 2200 block N. Wahanna: Erratic driving is reported; on arrival police find a person is learning how to drive in a parking lot. No erratic driving is observed.

7:49 p.m., 2400 block U.S. Highway 101 northbound: A person is arrested on a warrant.



Feb. 4

10:20 a.m., 200 block N. Downing: EMS call.

8:53 p.m., 500 block Broadway: EMS call.

Feb. 5

12:35 p.m., Worldmark: EMS call.

2:48 p.m., 800 block 14th Avenue: EMS call.

Feb. 6

4:55 p.m., Estuary parking area: Water rescue.

Feb. 7

11:01 a.m., 1600 block S. Columbia: Structure fire. Flames and black smoke reported.

11:39 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: EMS call.

Feb. 8

11:45 a.m., 1400 block N. Wahanna: EMS call.

1:28 p.m., 1100 block Avenue B: EMS call.

Feb. 9

12:53 p.m., 2500 block Pine: EMS call.

4:31 p.m., 300 block S. Columbia: Structure fire.

4:46 p.m., N. Holladay: Fire alarm.

4:48 p.m., 900 block S. Holladay: Fire alarm.

Feb. 10

10:00 p.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: EMS call.

3:37 p.m., 400 block S. Holladay: EMS call.

DEATH NOTICES

Jan. 5, 2022

ROCKWELL, Larry Lee, 77, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 9, 2022

WISEMAN, Levoy, 74, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.



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