

Higgins bids farewell to city

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Wendy Higgins enjoyed her last Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce's Wednesday morning meeting, as she prepared to say farewell to the city where she has lived and worked.



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Wendy Higgins and George Vetter at the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce coffee meeting, the last before Higgins heads to a new job in Washington state.

money here," she said. "The city wasn't supportive. Now we're in a really good place."

Higgins will be going to Escape Lodging's Lodge at Columbia Point, in Richfield, Washington, an 82-room resort hotel in the state's wine country.

"Cannon Beach has such an amazing reputation," Higgins said. "Where we were and where we're going is just amazing, I'm really proud to have been a part of that. I'll always be a part of this community."

Higgins was Chamber of Commerce president before the business community encouraged her to run for office. Higgins was elected to City Council in 2008; her term expires at the end of this year. As a 34-year area resident and The Ocean Lodge's general manager for 14 years, she has balanced a full-time job with councilor duties. While she is moving next week, she will serve out her City Council term until the end of the year.

"We have an amazing group down here," Higgins said. "As a community, we have come so far, with our city government and our chamber. I'm ecstatic about where you guys are."

When Higgins first became involved with the chamber, "there was no

Cottage embodies historic preservation

House from Page 1A

make room for developments like the Lloyd Center, the house has a unique collection of details, including marble floors, cast iron pieces, quirky stencils of seahorses and a window that curves outside to resemble a captain's window on a ship.

Bathroom floor tiles include address numbers from former Portland houses, some arranged in the "pi" numerical sequence, and a tower with stained-glass windows can be reached from attic-like stairs that fold down.

Since Bosco's death in 1987, Schein and her husband, Ed, have taken care of the home. But the upkeep and distance became too difficult for the Seattle-based couple, and they put the updated home on the market with local real estate agent Robin Risley, of Cascade Sotheby's.

The home will likely be featured in the upcoming Cannon Beach Cottage and Garden Tour.

Bosco and the Architectural Heritage Center's other founder, Ben Milligan, salvaged architectural pieces from demolished historic buildings in the Northwest. They collected a significant amount of architectural artifacts that are still on display and were advocates for historic preservation.

The center in Portland offers exhibits, education and walking tours of historic areas.

Besides conserving architectural history, Bosco taught arts and ceramics classes in Portland. The home showcases his sculpture work, including one blown-glass creation resembling a sea anemone.

"Each person has different feeling about what's really special here," Schein said about the sculpture collection.



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

A tower with stained glass windows is accessible from fold-down stairs on the second floor.

Who would be the ideal buyer for the home?

"Somebody who appreciates the unusual, unique and artistic qualities - and

the historic qualities," Schein said. "All these pieces were from historic houses, even the shingles. I don't want it torn down."

Community grants benefit 18 Clatsop County groups

Organizations have social impact

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The North Coast Food Web's fruit box program allows Astoria High School students to have access to fresh fruit when they visit the vice principal's office. The city of Cannon Beach will help support this initiative and many more through its community grant program, now in its 28th year.

The city will disburse \$75,000 to 18 organizations in the county that provide arts, educational, recreational, environmental, community or social services. The parks and community services committee interviewed each group and recommended grant amounts.

"We meet the people and see their passion and dedication," parks committee chair Barb Knop said in July to the City Council. "It's a wonderful program. It speaks very highly of Cannon Beach."

New organizations receiving grants are North Coast Food Web, South County Community Food

Bank and Clatsop Community College Foundation, which will use funds to improve English literacy through its volunteer tutoring program.

Cannon Beach Arts Association and Tolovana Arts Colony will receive grants of more than \$10,000 each to support their community programs. The Cannon Beach Chorus, Cannon Beach History Center and Coaster Theatre also received funding.

Organizations outside of Cannon Beach receiving grants include Restoration House, the Wildlife Center, Clatsop Community Action, The Harbor, Healing Circle and Helping Hands.

The council plans to adopt the recommendations on August 2. Grants will be disbursed shortly after. Each grant recipient undergoes an evaluation to measure whether the organization achieved its goals. Grant recipients will present at a September community potluck.

"A few of these organizations, although they are not in the city, obviously benefit our residents as people who live in Clatsop County," City Manager Brant Kucera said. "They provide services you will find nowhere else in the county."

Survey: 59 percent of residents want fewer STRs

Rentals from Page 1A

"Cannon Beach has already the most restrictive short-term rental rules on the coast," resident Alaina Giguere said. "This plan is working, our neighborhoods are protected, our property managers here are wonderful and respectful."

"If anything, make it more lenient so the city can be enjoyed more and more," said resident Steve Crane.

Steve Fulkerson, homeowner in the lottery program, said short-term rentals allow large groups affordable lodging.

Due to city notices containing two different dates, the hearing continued July 28, after the Gazette went to print. If the Planning Commission made a recommendation, a City Council public hearing would be held in September. The council has the final action.

Transient rentals are part of the city's short-term rental program, which also includes about 110 vacation home rentals with a 14-day limit.

Transient rentals, limited to 92 permits, include about

58 transient rentals grandfathered into the program, and 22 current lottery transient rentals that expire after five years. The lottery sub-program is growing, Barnes said, with 142 names on the list.

In 2014-15, short-term rentals generated \$288,700 in transient room taxes, a number that has since increased, City Planner Mark Barnes said.

Some opponents said limiting short-term rental regulations could negatively affect businesses and home values, and short-term rentals would continue regardless.

"Cannon Beach is a resort town and there isn't going to be any regulations we can have that will change that," said Pat Sparks, a short-term rental owner. "I've never had a neighbor that's complained about anyone."

Resident Jan Siebert-Wahrmund was the only speaker not opposing the changes. She said she supports the council "relooking at this issue for the livability of our community."

Some objected to how the proposed amendments were brought to the Planning Com-

mission without a decision or vote. The council directed the staff to bring the amendments to the commission, Barnes said, and an agreement is enough to start a process.

"I think it's difficult for staff to interpret what City Council sometimes is wanting to have done," resident Herb Florer said. "I don't know if there was ever a direction. I don't think there should have been a direction since there is nothing in the record that shows any kind of decision."

"The direction to me was unmistakable, but there was no motion and vote," Barnes said Tuesday.

Short-term rental problems discussed by councilors and staff during public meetings included enforcement issues and regulations not reflecting the changing, increasingly digital industry.

The council has also discussed short-term rentals in the context of affording housing.

"I think the relationship between the two is tenuous at best, but there's at least the

perception that there's a relationship there," Barnes said. "Even if that's not correct, I think it bears some looking at."

Petrina said he would never rent his home long-term because he uses his house during the year.

"I think the council is overreacting thinking that short-term rentals are what's the cause of not having long-term rentals," Giguere said. "One does not have anything to do with the other."

At an April work session, councilors discussed possible further limits on short-term rentals. In a May planning session, councilors and staff planned to examine short-term rental regulations.

For 59 percent of citizen survey respondents, it is important that the city reduce the number of short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods.

"The city finds that the rental of dwelling units for periods of 30 days or less has the potential to be incompatible with surrounding residential uses," the staff report states.

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