



## Cannon Beach votes to raise water rates 16 percent



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

### Revenue to finance repairs

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach residents will see their water rates go up 16 percent in March.

The Cannon Beach City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to approve raising water

and wastewater rates to help fund repairs to an aging system. The average residential water bill will go from about \$47.81 to \$55.68 – about an \$8 increase a month.

The increase will raise about \$434,000 in revenue for capital projects next year.

The decision comes nearly a year after former Public Works Director Dan Grassick proposed a 40 percent rate increase to fund half of all of the projects listed in

the water and wastewater master plans – documents that recommend capital projects the city should address for the next 20 years. Between residents taking issue with the sudden increase, and members of the public works committee raising concerns with certain aspects of the master plans, the city decided to table the rate increases.

The public works committee spent six months reevaluat-

ing different rate structures and phase-in options. The committee ultimately recommended financing only half of all projects. The pay structure would have increased rates by 50 percent over five years and generated \$2.1 million and \$1.6 million for improvements to sewer lines, water storage tanks and other infrastructure.

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## City aims for goal posts

### Affordable housing, acquiring Cannon Beach Elementary School among council priorities

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

During an annual goal setting retreat, Cannon Beach city councilors discussed project priorities for the upcoming year, including affordable housing, developing the South Wind evacuation site, renovating city hall and purchasing the former Cannon Beach Elementary School site.

Over the course of six hours, councilors parried between various topics, ranging from long-term financing options, priority capital projects like the affordable RV park homes proposed last year, to even smaller topics like considering public Wi-Fi or town signage changes.

Issues surrounding emergency preparedness were a common theme throughout the meeting — a topic of particular significance for new City Manager Bruce St. Denis. He encouraged councilors to accelerate emergency preparedness efforts as large as moving forward with South Wind design plans to specific projects like replacing water tanks with ones that are seismically rated by current standards.

“(These tanks) were built in a time where (seismic standards) weren’t taken as seriously. It’d be a shame to have a small earthquake and lose our water system,” said St. Denis.

The city council also discussed the importance pursuing solutions to create more affordable housing. In the citizen survey, the topic again was rated as a top issue, and the strategic plan still calls for 25 units to be provided by the end of 2018.

While plans are still in the works to introduce park model homes in the RV Park sometime this year, Mayor Sam Steidel and others on the council felt addressing

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# THE DORYMEN

Cannon Beach author Peter Lindsey presents manuscript-in-progress about the dorymen

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Before Ecola Square became home to artisanal shops and condominiums, local author Peter Lindsey remembers that lot filled with dozens of dory boats.

Lindsey also remembers the “colorful characters” who operated these flat-bottomed boats.

Some of these memories are set a few miles from the shore, with crews braving rough seas by the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse (aka Terrible Tilly). Others memories are set at the community’s former annual fish fry, with kegs of beer and a stockpile of fish caught just a few hours before.

Lindsey has been writing down his memories and the stories of his fellow fishermen for his new manuscript, “Just Movin’ The Water Around.” The book is a collection of tales about the Cannon Beach dory fleet from the 1960s to ’80s.

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COLIN MURPHEY PHOTO

*‘IF YOU WANTED TO LEARN HOW TO FISH FROM A DORY, YOU WATCHED AND LEARNED. IT’S NOT DISSIMILAR TO LOGGING. IT WAS A SUBCULTURAL GROUP OF A TIME GONE BY.’*

— Peter Lindsey



Peter Lindsey, right, and his brother, Tim, prepare to launch Lindsey’s boat, the Schmedlow, in this decades-old photo.

COURTESY PETER LINDSEY

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## GOING FROM CHEMICAL SALESMAN TO GALLERY OWNER

### After 34 years at Ohio chemical company, Joe Clayton takes on Bronze Coast Gallery in Cannon Beach

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

There’s a surprising amount of crossover between operating a chemical company and owning an art gallery in Cannon Beach.

That’s how Joe Clayton, the new managing director of Bronze Coast Gallery, sees it anyway. At the end of last year, Clayton retired after 34 years at the Sea-Land Chemical Company in Westlake, Ohio, to pursue his other passion in life: art.

“They actually have pretty similar business models,” Clayton said. Clayton took over the gallery in January

following the retirement of Kim Barnett, who has owned and operated Bronze Coast Gallery for 25 years. Clayton has spent the majority of his career selling water treatment chemicals like industrial lubricants, but said he has had a love and appreciation for the arts for most of his life.

He remembers touring numerous museums while he studied abroad in Switzerland. He and his wife Marilyn are ardent art collectors, keeping collections from every region in which they have lived. When possible, the two try to support local artists by commissioning pieces.

“I can’t do anything artis-

tic myself. But I appreciate the skill. I’m fascinated by it,” he said. “My love of art always balanced out my career in the business world. Sure, you need creativity in business, but where do you draw that creativity from? Art was my way to balance my life.”

As he prepared to retire, Clayton stayed on the lookout for available galleries to manage. Clayton and his wife were also looking at the Oregon Coast for a summer home. At the same time, Bronze Coast Gallery became available, and the opportunity to manage a gallery by the water lined up.

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BRENNNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Joe Clayton took over as managing director for Bronze Coast Gallery in January.

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