



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

April/May 2007

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for the minutes of City Council and Commission meetings

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. -Helen Keller



Mayor's Message
By Susanne Smith

A little over three years ago, a group of citizens, which became a Council - appointed task force, began looking at the possibility of the creation of a Yachats Safety Patrol. Extensive research was done and it was discovered that the most successful citizen patrols have the support of the local law enforcement authorities. The mission of the Yachats group is to:

.....**address issues of safety, public assistance and ordinance enforcement by serving as 'extra eyes and ears, and helping hands' to enhance the quality of life in the City of Yachats for residents and visitors alike.** Its purpose is to "increase a 'presence' in the community in support of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department", and the project goal is "to observe possible safety, security or assistance problems and to report those to the proper authorities; or to provide assistance to individuals by helping them make contact with the appropriate public or private services to meet their needs."

After three years, the original members of the Yachats Safety Patrol are reassessing their function and direction. Some of the questions they are asking of their program are:

- How can we make our effort more effective?
- How can we (or **should we**) create and maintain communication in Yachats to document incidents of vandalism/theft and relate them directly to the Sheriff's Department for citizens who would prefer

not to do it themselves?

- How can we best support the efforts of the Sheriff's Department?
- How can we address change that is occurring and will continue?
- Is the increase in the number of vacation/second homes creating a "target" for inappropriate/illegal behaviors?
- Is walking more effective than driving in pairs?
- Is the current price of gas a factor?
- How do we make ourselves more accessible to the people we are trying to serve?

These and other questions will be addressed at an open meeting on **May 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room at the Yachats Commons.** Come and participate in the conversation; offer your suggestions; see if the Yachats Safety Patrol is an activity in which you have an interest.



CITY COUNCIL HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing and explained that a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a plan for the financing of construction, major rehabilitation and other capital projects. A sub-committee was appointed by City Council to meet and discuss future improvement projects for the City of Yachats and prepare a recommended five-year plan for City Council consideration.

Following the public hearing City Council adopted the five-year plan by Resolution and directed the Budget Officer to put the first year project in the proposed budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

In adopting the plan City Council made it clear that this was a plan that will be reviewed and updated annually.

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BUDGET

The 2007-2008 budget process is underway and the document is available to be looked over at Yachats City Hall. The Yachats Budget Committee met on April 30, 2007 and the City Council hearing has been scheduled for June 14, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. A copy of the budget will be mailed to all boxholders with 97498 zip codes before that meeting.



IF I WERE MAYOR.....

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

The League of Oregon Cities hosts a contest each year for young people entitled, "If I were Mayor....." Middle school aged young people have been encouraged both by the Mayor and by the Director of the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program to create a poster. The City Council will select the local winner and award a prize of a \$50 savings bond and a \$50 gift certificate to Amazon.com. Entries will then be forwarded to the League for the State competition.

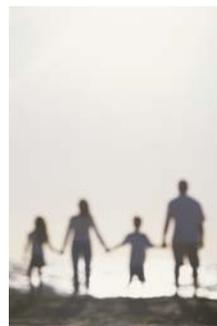


- Helping Hands

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

"Helping Hands" is a group of young people who, as a part of YYFAP activities have been working in a variety of ways to provide community service. One project is partnering on a regular basis with seniors at Sea Aire

Assisted Living. "Dylan's Revenge" is their current project to benefit the Commons and the nearby ballfield. In an effort to "encourage" dog owners to clean up after their pets, Helping Hands has designed a sign and disposal bag setup that will be placed in four key spots on the ballfield. They acquired the necessary money through fundraising and would, of course, welcome donations from the community for their work. Donations for Helping Hands can be sent in care of Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program at PO Box 151, Yachats, 97498 or they can be dropped off at City Hall. This is an admirable example of what most adults would like to see from young people today and this group is certainly setting a fine example for others to follow.



Just a Friendly Reminder

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

As we approach the season when we have visitors in our midst, it would be helpful if all who rent or lend their homes to visitors would remind their guests that specific beach access points are available throughout Yachats and that trespassing across private property is never OK. We appreciate our visitors and all they bring to our community and would like to continue to feel that appreciation.

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Thank you.....

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Spring brings wonderful weather and rapidly growing things.....including weeds. Thanks to our gardening crew consisting of Bev and Fritz Barmore, Mike Smith and Gerald Stanley, the plant strips in front on The Dublin House have been weeded and some fresh plants have been placed. Madeline at Union 76; the Burleys; the Baptist Church; and West Coast Bank all maintain their own plant strips. Please thank these folks if you see them; these planters "soften" the north entrance into town.



By Susanne Smith, Mayor

May 15th is Voting Day. Yachats has one item on the ballot: the Prepared Food and Beverage Tax. If you desire further information about this issue, please feel free to call any City Councilor. Vote how you feel, but please vote.



Library Donations and the Wish List

Each month the Yachats Public Library adds between 50 and 75 new items. Many of them have been donated by our patrons. All videos and DVDs come to us from donors. One out of every three books we catalog is a

donation.

How do we decide which donated books go on our shelves? We have limited space so we carefully choose which book should be shelved. First, the item has to be in excellent condition and recently published. Nonfiction books are needed in a number of subjects. Books on CD, large-print books, history, poetry, books on the Northwest, and How-To books are always welcome.

The Wish List is our way of supplying particular books requested by our patrons. If you cannot locate a particular book, please write the title and author in the Wish Book. We'll do our best to honor your request by purchasing that book. If you belong to a Reading Group, bring in your list and we'll be sure to put the books on our shelves.

Finally, while not every donated item ends up on our shelves, your donations are needed. We depend on them to make our yearly book sale a big success. Thanks for your continued support.

Public Works Director's Report

by John McClintock



- Two of our crewmembers attended a DEQ seminar on lab quality control this past month. Soon the City of Yachats will be doing all of the lab work related to the wastewater treatment plant on-site and this was a great opportunity for training.
- The Department of Environmental Quality will be reviewing and updating the "bio-solids land application" agreements.
- The developers of the proposed Fisterra Planned Unit Development are proposing some low income housing units as part of their project. They have contracted with a group that has expertise in that area and they have

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been in contact with the City regarding infrastructure issues.

- Work and planning continues regarding the steps necessary to finalize the Yachats River water rights
- Potential sites for the reservoir south of the bridge are being investigated.
- The City crew is replacing the second pump at the Radar Road water pump station.
- Central Lincoln People’s Utility District will be moving the pole that is in the walkway between the restaurant parking lot and the Post Office.



**ARE YOU READY?
SPECIAL SESSION OFFERED IN
THE EVENING**

Night Class May 24, 2007
6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Yachats Commons, Room 8.

This program is designed as a step-by-step guide to help citizens learn how to protect themselves and their families against all types of disasters.

The ARE YOU READY? class contains information about survival kits, homemade or assembled kits, understanding the differences between a local tsunami and distant tsunami. The class also addresses recognizing various warning systems and evacuation procedures and routes.

A free instructional booklet provided by FEMA and a packet with pertinent information about disasters along the Oregon coastline will be provided.

The class is FREE. Please call to pre-register – class size is limited. Betty – 547-4934



CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE FOR MAY

City Council will be holding a joint work session with the Lincoln County Commissioners on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. so they have

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decided to hold their regular meeting on the same date at 2:00 p.m.

Both meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

For the Budget Year 07-01-06 to 06-30-07		
Reporting Through March 31, 2007		
Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$707,453	\$589,541
Library	\$17,603	\$13,113
Little Log Church & Museum	\$12,175	\$8,714
Parks & Commons	\$97,093	\$80,753
Streets	\$129,234	\$73,155
Water	\$473,507	\$329,049
Sewer	\$6,219,536	\$508,834
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$2,056,246	\$1,852,619
Debt	<u>\$134,855</u>	<u>\$90,621</u>
	<u>\$9,847,702</u>	<u>\$3,546,400</u>



City Code requires that each water connection have a hand valve on the owner’s side of the meter.

When the City installs a new service the hand valve is included in that installation. But it is the homeowners responsibility to maintain it and replace it when necessary.

The hand valve should be used to turn the water off when the house will be left empty to prevent cold water damage or unauthorized water use.

But, installing the valve is just the beginning. They must be maintained. Moles and other small animals digging around the meter, leaves and other debris, or mud can all cover up the hand valve making it difficult to find or use. Also, if the hand valves is getting old, it will start leaking, and should be replaced.

So, make a list of things to do twice a year:

- Change your clocks to the standard or daylight savings time.
- Change your smoke detector batteries.
- Make sure your hand valve is accessible and in good working order.