



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

April 2002

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

From the Mayor

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Yachats has long been known as a community of volunteers, which was again brought into focus by our annual budget process. We will again have a balanced budget that includes activities and services that we've come to expect. If it weren't for the many who volunteer, a number of the things we enjoy would not be possible. Volunteers provide virtually everything for the Little Log Church; the Library is manned entirely by volunteers, which allows us to offer free library services; volunteers develop programs, raise funds and man youth activity programs at our Community Center—the Commons. Each of the cities commissions, Public Works and Streets, Planning, Parks and Commons, Library and Little Log Church is staffed by community members who volunteer hundreds of hours each year working to make Yachats a better place to live. The City Council is all-volunteer. Besides these "permanent" groups are the many task forces and committees that tackle specific individual problems.

But the list doesn't end here. Our Fire Department is made up of dedicated volunteers, as is the Health Clinic, the Lions Club, the Friends of the Commons and The Chamber of Commerce. No doubt, we've still not covered all of the literally hundreds of people who volunteer each year, but we certainly thank all of them. Without you our quality of life would not be what it is.



COUNCILOR PAUL PLUNK RESIGNS

Referring to family and business considerations, Paul Plunk announced his resignation at the special Council meeting held on March 21. Plunk was first elected to Council in November 1991 and has served as Council President and Mayor Pro-tem.

In his resignation letter Plunk wished the remainder of the council wisdom in their decisions and thanked everyone who has supported him over the years.



LARRY NIXON APPOINTED TO CITY COUNCIL

At the meeting on April 18 the first order of business was the appointment and "swearing in" of Larry Nixon to the City Council. Nixon will serve out the remainder of Plunk's term.

Nixon has served on City Council several times in the past He was first elected in 1991. Nixon was also appointed in 1998 following Martha Dillen's resignation.

Nixon will serve through the end of December.



NEW EMPLOYEE HIRED

Russell Roberts was hired as the newest member of the Public Works crew, and began work on March 25.

Roberts lives just north of the city limits with his family, and most recently worked for Southwest Lincoln County Water District.

Roberts has experience in all phases of water distribution systems, and holds a certificate.

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ROOM TAX RATE INCREASED

Following numerous discussions at various meetings, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 228 increasing the transient room tax rate from 6% to 7% on all rentals of less than thirty days, effective July 1, 2002. In adopting the ordinance City Council earmarked a portion to be used for visitor amenities and defined visitor amenities to include things such as, but not limited to, public restrooms, informative signage, trash receptacles, parks & trails, a visitor information center, and any other items that have substantial benefit to visitors, as determined by City Council.



IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS

- City Council adopted Resolution No. 388 Extending City of Yachats Workers Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of City of Yachats. This is required each year.
- City Council approved the annual Oregon Liquor License renewals for all businesses within the city limits.

Annual Budget Summary Report for Fiscal Year
July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002

<i>Reporting Through</i> Program	<i>3/30/02</i> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$467,190	\$332,988
Library	\$13,000	\$9,487
Little Log Church & Museum	\$9,499	\$3,988
Parks & Commons*	\$92,948	\$69,797
Streets	\$99,555	\$51,155
Water	\$581,775	\$324,824
Sewer	\$330,209	\$209,957
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$885,229	\$655,427
Debt	<u>\$178,509</u>	<u>\$134,842</u>
	<u>\$2,657,914</u>	<u>\$1,792,463</u>



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

Last week I was invited to attend the reopening of the South Beach Community Center. It was a great experience. Everyone there was excited and so proud of their building. The kitchen is unusable at this point, the one bathroom is still unfinished, but the building was filled with smiling faces, enjoying a real community potluck and rollicking music of Buddy Musgrove and the Artesians of Yachats.

Ah yes, those were the days. I remember, as probably many people here do, when the Commons was a pretty scruffy building where an evening's potluck was as exciting as it got. Now we have concerts from far and wide, musical events to rival what a larger city has to offer. Private wedding receptions and parties are booked here by people who come from as far as Seattle and California. Our arts and crafts fairs are well known and well attended and the various meetings held here range from watershed management groups to political parties. This building is no longer a small entity sitting in a sleepy village.

But, we still have that feel of being a cozy community center. Even though amazing and very professional things happen here, there is always room for children's cooking classes and model-building club, for the free-style dancers and the walking club, the potlucks and the neighborhood meetings. And room for all those volunteers with a gleam in their eyes to make things happen and clean things up.

Right now, the master gardeners are busy improving the look of the front of the building. The Friends of the Commons, especially Don Niskanen and Alice James, are pulling commercial kitchen together in Room 5 and putting in better lighting for the stage. The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program has an ambitious plan for improvements around the building and have weekly clean-ups in and around the building. Everyone pulls together, even if the ideas may be different, to make our community center the one other communities emulate and look towards.

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CITIZENS ENCOURAGED TO REMOVE NOXIOUS WEEDS FROM THEIR PROPERTY

Tansy ragwort, scotch broom and purple loosestrife are all among the list of noxious weeds that are quite a problem on empty lots, in ditches beside the road, and on local hillsides. City Code requires property owners to eradicate the pests, and City Council has noted that it is important that the proper methods be used to ensure that more damage is not done.

The wet weather in late winter and early spring makes it easy to pull scotch broom. A weed-puller made especially for scotch broom can be checked out from City Hall.

Please contact the OSU Extension office at 574-6534 or Lincoln County Weed Control District at 574-1248 for more information about identification and removal of the weeds.



BUILDING PERMIT QUESTIONS

Spring is here and it seems that everyone wants to do a little sprucing up around their house, make home improvements, build a storage shed or fence, or add a deck so they can enjoy the great outdoors. City staff frequently receives questions regarding the need for building permits for various home improvement projects. There are some types of projects that do not require a permit. Fences not over 6 feet high; accessory buildings not over 120 square feet or a height of 10 feet tall; patio covers; porches; sidewalks; driveways; and some decks are examples.

But while these projects do not require a building permit there are many other factors that need to be considered before proceeding. A quick visit with the City Planner before you start could eliminate problems and additional expenses "down the road." Some things can be confusing. For example a deck less than 30" high does not need a permit, but if it is more than 8" high it must be considered when determining total lot coverage. Lot coverage, easements, set-backs, and safety concerns are some of the things the Planner may be able to help you with.

The City Planner is in Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 4:30 each week and is available to discuss your plans before you start.

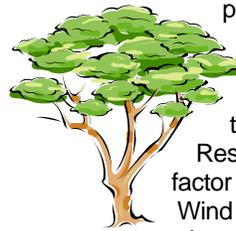


HELP LIGHT UP THE SKY!

Everyone loves the fireworks display each year, but it costs a lot of money to send those rockets up so the Fireworks Committee needs help raising the money. Contributions may be mailed to: P O Box 940, Yachats, OR 97498 For further details you can still call Toni at (Coldwell Banker) 547-3171 or (home) 563-4438.

LANDSCAPING

Planting with water conservation in mind is especially easy here on the central coast. Many native plants thrive in this area so you can have green plants and colorful flowers instead of just cactus.



The native plants are resistant to the wind, slugs, and animals. Resistance to wind is the most important factor when considering water conservation. Wind robs the plants of moisture and if the plant is not hardy, extra watering is necessary. Planning is the most important part of successful conservation landscaping. Begin by deciding if you want to entertain, have privacy, provide area for children to play, or have a garden. You must also consider the areas where sun, shade, terrain and drainage will affect the plants you choose.

A local landscaping architect or nursery can help you with information for a specific area, but the following tips are true everywhere:

- A tree's shade lowers air and soil temperature, this in turn reduces the moisture requirements of nearby plants.
- Reduce grassy areas whenever possible and separate it from other plantings so it can be watered separately.
- Place plants with high water requirements in areas that receive a lot of water naturally.
- Slopes and hills should have a ground cover or spreading plant that keeps erosion down.
- Place shrubs away from the house's foundation watering may damage its foundation.
- Mulches cover and cool the soil and discourage evaporation.
- Soil improvement allows for better absorption and retention of water.
- Group plants with similar water needs together to avoid water waste and reduce maintenance.

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