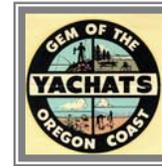




# CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2011

## THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted 4-2-09

Our village is a place where natural resources are valued and protected, where diversity is celebrated, and where a vibrant economy and sense of community pride create and recreate a living spirit. Yachats cares not just for its citizens' basic needs but also supports them in their efforts to excel mentally, physically, artistically, and spiritually. It is a community with an enduring sense of itself.



### Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

There are likely to be more logging trucks rumbling through town most of the summer. I can't say that I'm thrilled about it. The trees will be coming from a piece of property right over the ridge line from town, just the other side of Horizon Hill. They will be removed from the watershed that feeds Salmon Creek, one of the City's primary water sources. I wish that people who were running the town many years ago had thought to acquire or otherwise protect that watershed. They thought of many other wonderful things that helped to make our town what it is today, but they missed that one.

Don't get me wrong. I mean to denigrate *neither* our civic ancestors nor those folks who are trying to make a living in the timber business. Previous leaders had their hands full with other things and had no ready access to the cash necessary to make the property acquisition deal. The land where the trees grow has been owned by a timber interest for a very long time. It's not like the ultimate use of the land was kept secret from us by some evil industry. In fact, the project principals have approached us in an effort to do their work in a way that is most palatable to us. They have also offered to discuss sale of the property (albeit after harvest) so that we can protect the property in the future. It's something we should consider. Obviously the price will be greatly reduced.

Some might think acquiring the property after harvest is a little like locking the barn door after the horse has bolted. The fact is, however, that horse has gotten out before. It's been a very long time, but that property has been cut before. If those civic ancestors I spoke of had locked the barn door then, our horse would be safe. We and several partners are looking at what might be done to protect that watershed property, even in the

short turn if alternatives can be found, but most likely it is the long term view that will have to be our focus.

I write about this pending disappointment for two reasons. First, I think it's important for Yachats citizens to be apprised of what's in the offing and how it may affect us. Second, the City Council has adopted a new goal this year. That goal has to do with "7th generation thinking." It is from a principle held by the Iroquois Nation. They believed all decisions should honor the seven generations that precede us and consider the impacts on the seven generations that follow. We live in a day of instantaneous communication, high-speed travel, and rapid change. It is easy to be short term thinkers in that sort of environment. We do not want to be short sighted. We want to identify opportunities and either capitalize on them or set the stage so that future Yachadians can benefit. We want to avert calamities in future times that might result from our temporal myopia. We want to close the barn door in a timely manner and open doors of opportunity in the same way.

As a consequence, I will be hosting an event on April 22<sup>nd</sup> inside the Civic Meeting Room from 4-7 p.m. to hear your ideas about what Seventh Generation thinking means to you. We'd like to share some of the ideas we on the Council have considered and find out your feelings about them. They include things like: wind generation; solar; electric vehicle charging stations; alternative to open burning; heritage tree protection; and many others. We truly want your input on this goal, and no, it is not a coincidence that the event is scheduled for Earth Day.

Please give it some thought, and then share those thoughts with us.



## Yachats Rural Fire Protection District

Frankie Petrick, Fire Chief

Our hearts are saddened by the devastation in Japan. Although we have no control over the Earth or when it shakes, we can be thankful that it wasn't *our* turn this time.

The Yachats Rural Fire Protection District responded to the tsunami warning that came early Friday morning, March 11, 2011, by ensuring folks made their way to the safety of higher ground by vehicle and on foot. The tsunami that struck our area didn't come with extra high crashing waves but with a deadly surge. The water came crashing into our bay and onto our beaches with more force than we are able to understand. We must all remember to stay vigilant for the next time.

I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation during the evacuation. The kindness and helpfulness shown in our community is something to make us proud. I would also like to thank the volunteers and paid staff of Yachats Fire—they continue to answer the call.



## Tsunami Recap

Betty Johnston,  
South Lincoln County  
CERT Coordinator

The people of Yachats did an outstanding job during the March 11<sup>th</sup> tsunami. This was the first time our area had been under an actual warning—not just a watch. Like most of you I hardly slept that night. My NOAA Radio blasted me out of bed with the alert announcing that a tsunami was crossing the Pacific Ocean from Japan and would arrive on our shores at approximately 7 a.m. Immediately my CERT training kicked in: I dressed warmly; packed my survival gear in the car; and picked up my daughter. Before heading up the hill, I checked in at the fire station where our local incident command center is located.

The moment the tsunami siren was sounded, our firefighters and paramedics went into action driving their vehicles around the west side alerting residents

with their blaring emergency sirens and bullhorns to evacuate to higher ground. I hope everybody, not just those on the west side, heard the various evacuation alerts. If not, now is the perfect time to buy a NOAA Weather Radio Receiver. Details and specifications for these specialized radios can be found at the NOAA website: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>.

Several residents in the non-evacuated areas opened up their homes to evacuees offering them shelter, a hot beverage, or use of their facilities. Down at the Commons, Don Niskanen had the coffee ready and a warm place in the multipurpose room for folks to wait out the evacuation.

Finally, at low tide in the Yachats River Bay, a small but powerful tsunami wave washed ashore and filled the bay followed by a short series of shallow waves that ebbed and flowed. Yachats was more fortunate than other areas where the tsunami kept building into the afternoon reaching to 4 to 6 feet and causing major property damage. In our vicinity Depoe Bay, Brookings, and Crescent City, CA were hit the hardest. Had the water been at high tide, the devastation would have been unimaginable.

### **If nothing else, keep this in mind:**

- ⊙ The March 11<sup>th</sup> tsunami and earthquake was a **distant event**. If it had been a **local event**, i.e., originating from the Cascadia Subduction Zone, we would not have time to pack up our cars and drive to safety.
- ⊙ Our warning will not come from the shrill of the tsunami siren or the beckoning of firefighters announcing the incoming wave.
- ⊙ An earthquake will be our **ONLY WARNING!**
- ⊙ At that point, "DROP, COVER, and HOLD."
- ⊙ When shaking stops, grab your survival kit and immediately head inland or to higher ground.

I hope everyone learned a valuable lesson from this eye-opening event: BE PREPARED AT ALL TIMES!



## Proposed Zoning/Land Use Code Amendments By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The Planning Commission is working on several amendments to the Yachats Zoning and Land Use Code. One proposed amendment involves changes to the C-1 Retail Commercial Zone. Here is a summary:

- \* Mixed-use developments are changed from being an outright permitted-use to a conditional-use. A conditional-use requires review and approval by the Planning Commission.
- \* The current requirement for mixed-use developments to have a minimum 60% commercial use on the ground floor is proposed to be deleted.
- \* If the minimum lot area per multi-family residential dwelling is proposed to be less than 2,500 square feet, a public hearing with the Planning Commission would be required.
- \* For residential-only uses, building setbacks proposed to be less than the minimum required in residential zones would be subject to a public hearing with the Planning Commission.

Later this year the Planning Commission and the City Council will hold public hearings on these proposed C-1 amendments.



### Code Enforcement: First Year Review

By Donald Niskanen, Code Enforcement Officer

It has been just over a year since I took the position as Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Yachats. This is the first effort by the City to fund such a position.

It has been an interesting and productive year. There have been a couple of matters that were unanticipated and required a lot of time, especially Municipal Court time, however, many matters were responded to immediately with a simple phone call or quick site visit.

Recently the City enacted a new inspection policy for all transient rentals. In addition to the city-required inspection there are a few state-mandated safety features and several suggested safety features that I also include. So far property owners and rental agencies have been very cooperative during these assessments.

The City is making a serious effort to monitor and control noxious and invasive plants within the City limits. Letters of compliance have gone out to property owners that have Scotch Broom or overgrown Blackberry stands on their properties.

One the most frequent duties I am in involved in is ensuring that those who do business in town are currently licensed. Most local business owners

understand that anyone providing a service-for-pay must have a current Yachats business license. Quite often though, out-of-town businesses are not aware of this requirement. Property owners should check [www.goyachats.com](http://www.goyachats.com) or call City Hall to confirm the person they are considering hiring has a valid business license with the City of Yachats.

To clarify, I do not serve as the local law enforcement (that is the duty of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department). My job is to handle matters that pertain solely to the Yachats Municipal Code.

As the recently appointed Code Enforcement Officer I am truly enjoying this new challenge and I believe I am having a positive effect. The support I have received this past year has been overwhelming—not just from the City Hall staff, the Public Works Department, and the City Council but from our citizens. I look forward to this next year and with your help it will be even better.

If I can be of assistance please call me at City Hall (541) 547-3565 or on my cell phone at (541) 961-6695.



### FOG—the Other “F” Word

By John McClintock, Public Works Director

I know it is difficult to believe but summertime is fast approaching and with the better weather comes the life blood of Yachats—tourists!

With the imminent influx of tourists, one Public Works maintenance and operation problem becomes even bigger—FOG. Not the kind the dictionary defines as “a collection of water droplets or ice crystals suspended in the air or near the earth’s surface,” but the acronym “FOG” used in the wastewater collection and treatment industry:

F stands for: Fats  
 O stands for: Oils  
 G stands for: Greases

Once introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment systems, these three substances cause numerous operational and maintenance problems.

Fats, oils, and grease originate at the customer’s entry point to the wastewater collection system primarily as a bi-product of food preparation. I know it is easier to wash the “FOG” down the drain than to properly remove it and place it in the trash where it belongs, but

if all restaurants, homeowners, renters, and other users disposed of "FOG" in the trash it would save time, manpower, equipment, and dollars in the operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection and treatment system each year.

Wastewater collection and treatment requirements have evolved over the years into a fairly sophisticated process; however the basic idea is to either incorporate organic and inorganic substances into the process or to remove them. One of the most difficult to deal with is "FOG."

During my 30+ years in public works, I cannot count how many times I have been involved with cleaning clogged sewer mains, laterals, manholes, and pumping stations. As "FOG" builds up it restricts flow and puts more wear and tear on equipment. The easiest solution for this ongoing problem is to keep "FOG" out of our system.

To accomplish this we need all restaurants to train their employees on the use and maintenance of their required grease traps—keeping them clean and in good working order on a regular basis. We need homeowners to be aware of the problems "FOG" creates and dispose of all fats, oils, and greases in the trash instead of the drain. We need rental agencies and landlords to provide grease containers, bags, and instructions for their renters so they can do their part to keep "FOG" out of our system.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation. If you have any questions or would like to see what "FOG" looks like in person give us a call at (541) 547-3243.



## Memorial Requests

Donald Niskanen,  
Parks & Commons  
Commission Chair

The Parks and Commons Commission continues to receive requests from friends and families to place memorials around town to honor their loved ones (Yachats Administrative Policy No. 5 addresses memorial gifts and can be accessed online at the Yachats Document Library website at [www.yachatsdocuments.info](http://www.yachatsdocuments.info)). In light of that, the Commission has been working on a list of appropriate enhancements to our parks and trails that could include a memorial plaque. Benches have been very popular and we have a number of them in the Community Park, so we are looking for other ideas and solicit the public's

input. Included on our list of possibilities are:

- Entryways into the Community Park
- Public art
- Memorial grove of native trees
- Memorial plaque, wall or walkway with funds going into an account for future enhancements
- Adult tree house
- Exercise elements on the trail system
- Interpretive signage on the trail system
- Enhanced sound system for the Yachats Commons
- Funding for a storage room (at the Commons)

Please drop suggestions or comments off at City Hall or email them to me at [dwn@peak.org](mailto:dwn@peak.org). The public is welcome to join us every third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. for Parks and Commons Commission meeting inside the Civic Meeting Room. If you are interested in being on the Commission, we are looking for one additional member. Call or come by City Hall for more details.



## Trails Update

By Lauralee Svendsgaard,  
Trails Committee Coordinator

Join the Trails Crew on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (weather permitting) at the next stretch of the Prospect Trail between East 3<sup>rd</sup> and King Streets to make some improvements there and clear ivy. Notices will go out to everyone on the Trails Committee's email list. If you would like to participate and want to be advised of weather updates simply email me at [lsven@peak.org](mailto:lsven@peak.org) with a request to be added to the Trails Committee's contact list.

Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee (YIPS) staged two successful events in early March. First, the fundraising concert featuring the bluegrass group, "The Blackberry Bushes," with Yachats' very own homegrown band, "Bad Weeds," as the opening act. A few days later there was a panel discussion on invasive weeds featuring three visiting experts led by OSU Professor Paul Jepson. We are pleased to say that both events had impressive turnouts.

Now that YIPS has been infused, first with a dose of cash then with a dose of knowledge. What we need now is a core of volunteers to participate in our monthly anti-weed forays in Yachats. We generally meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. unless otherwise specified. To be placed on the YIPS contact list, call or email Wally Orchard at (541) 547-5474 or

[worchard@peak.org](mailto:worchard@peak.org).

YIPS activities so far have concentrated on the upper section of the Prospect Trail where there was (surprise! surprise!) a lot of blackberry and ivy on both sides. Our next outing will be on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The worksite will be announced closer to the date. Then on Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will join YYFAP in the nature area behind the Commons in order to remove more blackberry and ivy. Come along and join in or just come along and be like Jerome K. Jerome: "I like work: it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours."

Now, while the ground is still moist, is a great time of year to pull invasive weeds. Scotch Broom especially becomes much more difficult to remove when/if summer rolls around and the ground hardens. Weed wrenches are excellent for pulling broom, and are available on loan for free at the Commons. The wrenches also work well for pulling out thick blackberry stumps. And if you haven't yet seen our invasive plant brochure, pick one up at City Hall.

It is with great pleasure that the Trails Development Subcommittee announces that Steve Dennis and Robin Matthews generously gave an irrevocable trail easement through their Earthworks Gallery Complex in order to connect the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve to Highway 101 and the Overleaf Trail.

As a result of the generous donations of public trail easements from Steve, Robin, Drew Roslund (Overleaf Lodge and Fireside Motel), Jerry and Kathleen Sand (Gerdemann Botanical Preserve), and Layne Morrill (Elk Mountain Properties), the Trails Committee is working on a proposal to the Siuslaw National Forest seeking permission to establish a critical link between the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve and Elk Mountain Properties (Fisterra).

Additionally, just off the Prospect Trail, between Highway 101 and East 2nd Street the Ocean Cove Inn's owners (Heidi and Neil Nelson and Judith and John Engstrom) and the Inn's managers (Charley Lawson and Claudia Price) created and installed a permanent memorial commemorating the near-genocide that occurred in Yachats at the Alsea Sub-agency 150 years ago. The memorial also tells Amanda's story and includes a living wreath and large map of Yachats' trails.

Like the others previously mentioned, these property owners personally and professionally support hiking trails in Yachats. Not only for the local economic benefits, but also for the far-reaching values trails

provide to Yachats residents.



## Friends of the Yachats Commons

By Jessica Waddell, President

There are signs of spring everywhere within our village...crocuses blooming, daffodils budding, and camellias blossoming.

At the Commons our hope is to bring some additional classes to the community starting this spring. One that will be coming up on April 9<sup>th</sup> is a Felting Class—from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Commons kitchen. There is a cost for instruction and supplies and some physical requirements to working with the wool. For more information, call Lorraine at (541) 528-7192.

If you like to dance, join us on the first Thursday of the month for Big Band. And if you are interested in helping with refreshments, please give Leon Sterner a call at (541) 961-4258.

Need to shed those winter pounds? Join the exercise classes on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. or Zumba Class at 6 p.m. Salsa classes on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. are a fun way to heat things up!

YYFAP holds an all-ages all-skill levels Knit and Crochet Social on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room 4 .

The third Thursday of the month is (free) Movie Night. Greg Scott has brought some fabulous movies to the screen, in the multipurpose room this year, and he has more surprises in store for us.

As always our third Tuesday-of-the-month meetings at the Commons are open to those who want to bring fresh energy—we welcome new Friends!

## Book Sale



## Yachats Public Library

By Marie Green, Library Commission Chair

Our giant Annual Book Sale will be held in the multi-purpose room of the Yachats Commons on Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Bargain hunters, dealers and book lovers take note: there will be hundreds of almost new, gently used,

vintage treasures, mysteries, cookbooks, gardening books, fiction, nonfiction, children's, biography, travel, history, and humor in hardcover and paperback. Browsing is easy with all books arranged by category. On Friday hardbacks, trade paperbacks/soft covers will be \$1 and paperbacks will be 50¢. There will be a specially priced section including rare books, signed copies, book sets, and coffee table books. The sale also includes audiobooks, VHS tapes, DVD's, and CD's also priced at \$1. Saturday will be "Bag Day." For only \$3 you can fill a plastic grocery bag. Proceeds from the sale are used to add to the library's collection and to buy equipment. If you love to read or watch movies you will want to be at this sale. We will be happy to help you make room for your new purchases by accepting donations of books at the Yachats Library until April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.

The Seed Bank Rack has a number of new books:

Eating Local by Janet Fletcher (645/G)

Do One Green Thing by Mindy Pennybacker (333.72/G)

Starter Vegetable Gardens by Barbara Pleasant (635/G)

Grow Great Grub by Gayla Trail (635/G)

In the Green Kitchen by Alice Waters (645/G)

The Wild Trees by Richard Preston is the top recommendation for this month. Preston tells the fascinating story of people along the coast who live to find the tallest trees. It takes an absolute commitment to locate and explore trees that are 300 to 400+ feet tall and a whole different technique to climb them. Climbers tell of a world in the treetops with critters not found on the ground with lichen and mosses only growing way up high and huckleberries and other shrubs in the tree canopies. This is not a new book, but it takes on new meaning as planting these giants may become a key to restoring the planet. You may need to put your name on a list to check it out.

Need some free help in tracing your family tree? John Cooper will be at the Library on Wednesdays from 2-6 p.m. with many genealogy resources and skills. Bring what family information you have and a USB drive. For more information regarding the program, please contact John Cooper at (541) 547-3066.



## Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

The Little Log Church and Museum is happy to

announce that Pat Armstrong has joined our volunteer family as our GoYachats.com liaison. Pat, who is a LLC&M neighbor just 'round the corner, approached us about volunteering from her home. She then contacted GoYachats "techspert" Greg Scott who guided her through the process of maintaining an informational webpage on GoYachats.com for the Little Log Church and voila—thanks to Pat our announcements and events are now listed online.

Pat moved to Yachats in January of 2009 after retiring from her position with the State Board of Nursing in the Portland area. She tells us she fell in love with Yachats many years ago and was determined to become a Yachatian after experiencing the Yachats Music Festival and meeting so many community-minded citizens on her visit.

Pat learned she had a special connection with us when she found an old sign in the shed of her little house that read "Little Log Church." After a bit of research she discovered that one of the ministers had lived there after the church's manse was taken down.

Pat will keep you up-to-date on happenings at the LLC&M—just log on to [www.goyachats.com](http://www.goyachats.com). Thanks, Pat!



## Yachats Youth and Family Program

By Debbie Jackson, Director

### **Dine Out For Kids at the Drift Inn**

On Wednesday, April 27, 2011 enjoy a great meal in a cozy atmosphere while supporting local youth and adult activities. Linda Hetzler, proprietor of the Drift Inn Cafe, will generously donate all profits from the day's operation to the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program (YYFAP). There will also be live music performances featuring the talent of YYFAP participants and other local musicians.

The Drift Inn is a family-friendly restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. It is located on scenic Highway 101 with a view of the Yachats River where it meets the Pacific Ocean. The menu has an eclectic mix of family favorites and original dishes focused on fresh Pacific Northwest ingredients, in addition to coffee drinks, homemade soups, fresh baked breads, and decadent desserts.

YYFAP has been a local fixture in Yachats for 15 years,

offering a wide range of services to local residents. Program offerings include something for everyone—from Indoor Park for the very youngest, preschool, parenting support and education, teen community service groups, afterschool open recreation, family nights, multi-generational classes, and volunteer opportunities for elders. Last year, 296 children and youth (0-18) and 401 adults participated in the programs offered.

This event is a great example of how the community comes together to support the programs of YYFAP.

Donations from individuals and businesses, as well as funding from the City of Yachats make up the bulk of the organization's income. Volunteers help run the program, lead activities, or just have fun with the kids which provides an enjoyable, supportive environment. Last year, 302 volunteers donated 3,410 volunteer hours.

The Drift Inn demonstrates community leadership by its dedication to children and families. You too can show your support by Dining Out for Kids on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

For more information call (541) 547-4599 or visit our website at [www.yachatsyouth.org](http://www.yachatsyouth.org).



### Director Gives Notice By the YYFAP Board

It is a bittersweet time for YYFAP. Like all families, every organization must go through changes. Life is about change, learning, and growing. Longtime YYFAP Executive Director, Debbie Jackson, has announced that she will be leaving us in this spring. She has been with the program since its inception and all of her children have participated. With her youngest off to college in the fall it is a good time for her to spread her wings and soar into the next chapter of her life.

Debbie has played a big part in the success of the program and the Board—going strong with 3 new members—is supportive of her personal change. Debbie and the Board are working together to hire a new Executive Director and assure a smooth transition.

An event is being planned to celebrate YYFAP's 16<sup>th</sup> year of service to South Lincoln County. It will include an opportunity to wish Debbie luck in her new endeavors and a chance to welcome the new director. The date and place will be announced later.



### Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock, Coordinator

The April luncheon will take place on the last Thursday of the month on April 28, 2011. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and we will begin serving lunch at noon. This month's menu includes: beef or vegetable lasagna; green salad; French bread or roll with butter; and apple pie for dessert. There will be entertainment as usual. The suggested donation is \$4 and the event is open to anyone 55+.

This is an excellent opportunity to mix and mingle with your friends and to meet new ones. We have been in continuous operation since 2001 thanks to the City of Yachats, Friends of the Yachats Commons, Angell Job Corps, pro bono entertainers, and numerous volunteers. We invite you to share the fun.



### Go Marketing

By Andrea Scharf, GoYachats Marketing Director

Decisions about visiting Yachats are often very personal. A child comes to Yachats on a family vacation; when she plans her wedding, it just has to be in Yachats! A couple stays in one of our fine motels; when their church decides to hold a retreat, Yachats is their choice. Yachats residents drop everything to help visitors find a lost dog—and the owners recommend Yachats to everyone they know.

Most of these moments are spontaneous and very personal, but as the Marketing Advisory Committee works through the development of our marketing plan, it becomes increasingly obvious that we are our own best marketing tool. Each and every one of us not only tells others about our marvelous little village, but we all know people to whom we would recommend Yachats—for a vacation, a family reunion, a romantic getaway, a spiritual retreat, or a workshop or conference.

Who do YOU know? Do you belong to a professional association? Are you active in a quilting organization? Do you know people who conduct workshops in painting, writing, ceramics or photography? Do you have contacts where you used to work with people who might consider Yachats for a department or board meeting? We have had four different academic departments from OSU choose Yachats for their get-

