



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

August 2004

FROM THE MAYOR

SO YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT?

Government at all levels, including the City of Yachats, is a frequent recipient of a variety of complaints—often well reasoned but sometimes not well thought through. What does it take to gain the attention of public officials and City staff to solve your "problem"?

First, find out if the problem is something over which the City has jurisdiction. Many of our streets, for example, are the responsibility of the County or the State. You can make this determination by calling City Hall at 547-3565.

Second, if you are calling, be polite. The person who answers the phone may not be in a position to solve your problem but they are more likely to see to it that it gets attention if you don't yell at them.

Third, if you elect to send a written complaint, the letter should be clearly written and should identify the sender, if you wish a response. Surprisingly, we receive a number of complaints that are unsigned, making it impossible to provide a response to the sender.

Fourth, determine who is best able to respond to your concern. Sending your complaint to the Mayor or City Council frequently slows down the process. Why? Because the City operates with a system of Commissions for specific purposes; Planning,

Public Works & Streets, Parks & Commons, Little Log Church and Library. If your area of concern is a street problem, send it to Public Works & Streets. If you send it to the Council, it will probably be referred to the Public Works & Streets Commission; since the Council only meets monthly, your request will be delayed. If you need help to determine where it might best be sent, call City Hall.

Fifth, be specific. If you really want to get action, include a possible solution to the problem that you are presenting. Certainly we don't have all the answers. Having a starting point will expedite your complaint and make it more likely that you receive a prompt response. It has been well said that "'tis better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Finally, try to be patient. The wheels of government turn slowly. Frequently liability issues, insurance concerns and the like require research and discussion with outside agencies, which slows down the process. If all else fails, call me at 547-3565. If I don't have an answer, I'll get one for you!



New City Charter Goes to Voters

At their August meeting, City Council adopted Resolution No. 434, which will refer a new City Charter to the voters at the November 2, 2004 General Election.

The City Council explained that they desired to update the Charter for the City of Yachats because the current one has become outdated since the incorporation of the City in 1967.

A Charter Review Committee reviewed the existing charter and recommended submitting a completely revised charter to the voters rather than trying to update the old one by a lot of

different amendments. The committee agreed that the proposed revision of the charter should be based on the 6th edition of the Model Charter for Oregon Cities as developed by the League of Oregon Cities.

In this revised edition, certain topics have been eliminated because the State has preempted the city's authority. In addition, the language has been made gender neutral. The committee also made some amendments, additions or deletions to the model to reflect provisions in the existing Yachats Charter in either the same wording or as modified by the committee.

The proposed Charter is available at City Hall for review. This new charter, if adopted by the voters at this November General Election, will go into effect on February 1, 2005.



City Council Schedules Two Special Work Sessions

City Council will hold two special work sessions in the next few weeks. On Wednesday, August 25 at 9:30 a.m. they will meet to discuss such things as Volunteer Police and public safety. They will also revisit the 2020 Visioning Report.

On September 7, 2004, in the afternoon following the regular work session, they will meet to discuss the details of the Bluff Protection Ordinance and proposed changes and additions to the current draft.



Yachats Community Park Plan Approved

At the August City Council meeting, the conceptual park plan received approval, which now allows the task force to move ahead with physical accomplishment. If there should be a major change required in the plan, additional commission and council approval would be necessary.

The task force's next meeting consists of two items:

- 1) A review of the items included in the Parks & Recreation grant application
- 2) A thorough discussion of development (if any) techniques for the "library" trail to include:
 - a. Is it necessary to make this trail ADA compliant?
 - b. Is added protection for surface roots needed. John Stewart recommends a gravel trail with bark or pine needles over it.
 - c. What tree trimming/removal do we wish to entertain? Bird life as well as human life to be considered.
 - d. Can we consider planting the West side of the spruce forest with the suggested "green fence" so that these plants can start maturing.



In Other City Council Business

- City Council Authorized the Mayor to sign an application for a Grant from the Oregon Parks

and Recreation Department for Pedestrian Trails, Wetland Overlooks, Signage and Associated Park Improvements at the Yachats Community Park.

- City Council adopted Resolution No. 436 - A Resolution Declaring October 2004 Disability Employment Awareness Month in Yachats.
- City Council upheld an administrative decision regarding use of the Civic Meeting room.



Public Works Director's Report

In his report to the City Council John McClintock said that he wanted to thank the Public Works and Streets Commission members for taking the tour of the public works facilities. It makes it easier to report to the commission each month if they have first hand knowledge about the facilities.

- McClintock said that several changes have been made to the way the reporting is done at the sewer plant, which bring the plant into compliance with State requirements.
- The T-intersection is under construction at the south end of Yachats Ocean Road. The contractor is doing a great job. The job should be completed by the end of September.
- The paving project on Yachats Ocean Road will begin following the completion of the archeology study. The plan has been changed slightly and the University of Oregon will do the study.
- The speed monitors are operational and the City now has the capability of downloading useful data from the unit on the trailer by using a laptop computer.
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Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005		
<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>7/31/04</i>	
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$575,180	\$287,708
Library	\$15,758	\$2,257
Little Log Church & Museum	\$8,418	\$1,050
Parks & Commons*	\$117,412	\$49,488
Streets	\$120,013	\$26,827
Water	\$398,931	\$53,265
Sewer	\$436,033	\$147,877
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,289,151	\$1,282,306
Debt	<u>\$126,118</u>	<u>\$11,963</u>
	<u>\$3,087,014</u>	<u>\$1,862,741</u>



It has been suggested that it would make the town a much more pleasant place for everyone if pet owners would clean up after their animals.

The Yachats Public Library and its Supporters are proud to announce the formation of

Friends of Yachats Library

The Friends will continue the traditions of the Library by hosting such events as the annual book sale and lemon pie social. We will, more importantly, take the responsibility for applying for grant and other financial opportunities available to our community library.

In the past, the library has missed funding opportunities because it did not have an organization with a 501c3 non-profit status. As an example, thanks to a one time exception of that rule in 2003, a Trust Management Services, LLC grant of \$8,000.00 was awarded to the Library. That money was used to enhance the children's reference material, and to update the library office with a business computer and library management software. The grant was also used to fund a public access computer for internet access for patrons and visitors. That particular grant will be available again in 2005. The Friends will be ready to respond to this and other opportunities for financial support to do work above and beyond the reaches of the Library budget.

Tax deductible donations to the Friends can be dropped off at the Library during regular business hours or mailed to us at:

Friends of Yachats Library

PO Box 540

Yachats, OR 97498

The Friends welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have to enhance the environment and the services of our Library.

EARTHQUAKE/Tsunami INFORMATION

A TSUNAMI is a series of sea waves, usually caused by a displacement of the ocean floor by an undersea earthquake. As tsunamis enter shallow water near land, they increase in height and can cause great loss of life and property damage.

There have been some rumblings lately off the coast of otherwise peaceful Yachats. Commenting on the biggest of the recent earthquakes, July 12, 2004, Robert Dziak, a researcher and seismologist at Hatfield Marine Science Center in South Beach said "This was an extraordinarily rare event", and "It was a pretty big earthquake (4.9) for being so close to shore (33 miles out)." Rare or not, the occurrence prompted some valid questions and answers:

1. How to get information about what to do next.
2. What to do if you feel an earthquake

The Yachats Rural Fire Protection District and the City of Yachats has just received the enclosed Tsunami pamphlets. This brochure includes an evacuation map, earthquake response instructions, suggested contents for an emergency kit and contact information for Federal, State, City and County agencies.

If you would like additional maps please stop by the City Hall office.

MEANWHILE:

What to do if you feel an earthquake:

- **DROP, COVER, HOLD** until the earthquake is over, protect yourself
- **MOVE IMMEDIATELY INLAND** to high ground and away from low-lying coastal areas
- **GO ON FOOT** if at all possible
- **DO NOT PACK** or delay
- **DO NOT RETURN** to the beach
- **WAIT** for an "all clear" from local emergency officials before returning to low-lying areas

How to get the "all clear" from local emergency officials (and other information)

The most practical and relatively inexpensive recommendation is to have on hand a battery operated **NOAA radio**. This small portable radio is backlit, with digital channel number and alert status words, has audio and alarm-tone volume controls and its circuitry lets you (or your retailer) program local county/city codes into memory so that it sounds an alarm only when a weather emergency is declared in your immediate area.

If you do NOT FEEL an earthquake, but hear about an earthquake far away, (such as Alaska), a Tsunami make take several hours to occur. Sources of information include:

- AM1310; KNPT Radio – Emergency Broadcast Station
- www.co.lincoln.or.us (Lincoln County)
- www.WCATWC.ARH.NOAA.GOV (West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning)

- www.NEIC.usgs.gov (U.S. Geological Survey)
- www.AEIC.ALASKA.EDU (Alaska Earthquake Information Center)
- www.geophys.washington.edu/SEIS/PNSN (***Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network***)

The July 12th earthquake was indeed "close to shore" and "pretty big", but still prompted very few people to "move immediately inland" (only one person reported doing this). To underscore the importance of evacuation, the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District, in conjunction with the City of Yachats, is currently making plans for a citywide Tsunami drill. A planning meeting will take place on August 31, 2004 in the Civic Meeting Room at 5:00 p.m.

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