



NEWSLETTER



August 2005



Mayor's Message - Goals Review

At the June City Council Work Session, we reviewed our 2005 goals. They are reprinted below for your consideration:

Each LONG TERM GOAL is ongoing and can best be measured by residents and visitors. Our Public Works Director assures us that we continue to maintain a viable water supply and efficiency rating. In fact, there are several days each month when the plant doesn't even have to run. That translates into savings in terms of utilities, chemicals, personnel costs, etc. For a third year, our primary water source is getting us through the summer; the secondary source has not been needed. The pursuit of stable long term funding is ongoing. Formation of the Yachats Safety Patrol in conjunction with the Lincoln County Sheriff's department has gone a long way toward resident and visitor safety. Effective communication is best measured by those whom it is intended to serve. Feedback on the City's website, the Newsletter and the monthly KORC radio show indicates that the word is getting out and is being received by those who choose to receive it. Finally, maintaining and enhancing the livability of Yachats will mean different things to different people, obviously. While there may never be consensus on its meaning, acknowledging its importance is of utmost concern to your elected officials.

Council Objectives are in progress. Some of them have been completed (reviewing the City Visitor Center; the formation of the Yachats Safety Patrol in an effort to improve local safety); some are in process (expediting the Wastewater Treatment plant project; pursuing Disaster Preparedness for citizens and visitors; continuing to seek completion of the 804 mediated settlement; working on improving parking in the downtown core); some are ongoing (continuing oversight and monitoring/adjusting of the Capital Improvement Process); and some are still to be addressed (monitoring development of directional signage on trails and in town; implementing citizen review of the 2020 Visioning Plan and re-populating the Committee for Citizen Involvement). This last objective needs help from the public. Anyone with an interest in exploring this further should contact City Hall (547-3565) or me (547-4679)

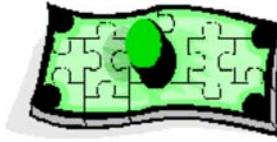
City Council Goals for 2005

Long Term Goals

- Maintain a sustainable water supply & efficiency rating
- Pursue stable long term funding
- Provide for resident and visitor safety
- Pursue effective communication
- Maintain and enhance the livability of Yachats

Council Objectives

- To continue expediting the Wastewater Treatment plant project (plans, construction, etc)
- To monitor development of directional signage on the trails and in town
- To pursue Disaster Preparedness for citizens and visitors
- To review City's Visitor Center
- To encourage citizen review of the 2020 Visioning Plan and re-populating the Committee for Citizen Involvement
- To continue to seek completion of the 804 mediated settlement with the assuming of Ocean View Drive by the City
- To continue working on improvement of parking in the downtown core
- To continue oversight and monitoring/adjusting of the Capital Improvement Process
- To identify and implement specific actions to improve local safety



Public Hearing Set for Water and Sewer Rates

The City Council will hold a public hearing on September 8, 2005 at 2:00 to discuss with the public the recommended water and sewer rate schedule and structure.

The Public Works and Streets Commission recommended an increase in the base amount to account for inflation since the last rate increase; an increase in the usage charge; a tiered structure; and adoption of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Equivalent Dwelling Unit mechanism for calculating base rate.

The Commission said that the recommendations were made to rectify the inequity between residential and business rates that has resulted in residential subscribers paying substantially more per cubic foot of water used than business customers. The Public Works and Streets Commission believes that adopting an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Equivalent Dwelling Unit mechanism for calculating base rate charges is the fairest and most defensible method available to the city that will redress the residence-business inequity. These recommendations also contain an inducement to promote water conservation by all customer classes, and adjust rates to reflect inflation since the last rate treatment.

The recommendations do not address the need to pay for the \$5.9 million debt that will be incurred by construction of the new sewer plant. They do produce an estimated \$122,054 budget surplus annually in order to accrue the funds necessary to build the reserve required to secure the DEQ loan. The Public Works and Streets Commission will begin to address loan repayment options during our next scheduled meeting.

The Public Works and Streets Commission also recommended, based upon data from the League of Oregon Cities, that water and sewer rates be adjusted each year at the rate of annual inflation. This will insure that revenues keep up with normal operational costs, and rate payers will not be subjected to infrequent but inordinately large increases in order to "catch up".

What will the new rates mean for Me???

Following is a chart which shows the current bill, the proposed bill, and the difference each RESIDENTIAL user will see in their bill based on the amount of water used.

Water Used	None	100 cf	200 cf	300 cf
current bill	\$ 55.41	\$ 60.36	\$ 65.31	\$ 70.26
new bill	\$ 60.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 78.00
Increase	\$ 4.59	\$ 5.64	\$ 6.69	\$ 7.74
Water Used	400 cf	500 cf	600 cf	700 cf
current bill	\$ 75.21	\$ 80.16	\$ 85.11	\$ 90.06
new bill	\$ 84.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 103.00
Increase	\$ 8.79	\$ 9.84	\$ 10.89	\$ 12.94
Water Used	800 cf	900 cf	1000 cf	1100 cf
current bill	\$ 95.01	\$ 99.96	\$ 104.91	\$ 109.86
new bill	\$ 110.00	\$ 117.00	\$ 124.00	\$ 131.00
Increase	\$ 14.99	\$ 17.04	\$ 19.09	\$ 21.14

Water Used	1200 cf	1300 cf	1400 cf	1500 cf
current bill	\$ 114.81	\$ 119.76	\$ 124.71	\$ 129.66
new bill	\$ 138.00	\$ 146.00	\$ 154.00	\$ 162.00
Increase	\$ 23.19	\$ 26.24	\$ 29.29	\$ 32.34
note: 100 cf = approx. 748 gallons				



Budget Adjustments Approved

City Council held a public hearing on August 11 and adopted a Supplemental Budget for the current fiscal year. Although the current budget started just last month City Council needed to make some adjustments to those figures.

- Funding for the Health Clinic was added back into the budget as directed by the City Council at their July meeting.
- The Salary, Payroll Taxes and Payroll Benefits amounts for Public Works Director were adjusted due to the hiring of a full time employee to fill the position.
- Transfers from the General Fund to the Street Fund and the Little Log Church and Museum Fund were be reduced because there was more cash carried forward from last year than was anticipated when the original budget was drafted.
- The transfer to the Visitor Amenities Reserve Fund was increased because more transient taxes were received last year than was originally budgeted. As per ordinance, 30% of the actual tax received must be used for visitor amenities.
- Other changes included an increase in the budgeted amount for heating fuel at the Commons and adjustments to the capital reserve and system development charge reserve funds.



Public Works Director's Report

By John McClintock

(John McClintock announced that August 1st was his first official day as the full time Public Works Director for the City of Yachats.

- July water system efficiency figures were 87%. The figures are expected to increase into the 90% range next month due to recent repairs.
- The raw water reservoir (storage tank) was emptied and cleaned this month.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to operate within legal guidelines this summer despite the heavy demand.
- The City's engineers will be in Yachats soon to give a status report on the Wastewater Improvements Project.
- The University of Oregon will be in the area this month to perform an archeological study near the wastewater plant as required by the state.
- Public Works will begin striping parking areas this month. The crew will begin with First Street near the Post Office.
- The Oregon Department of Transportation reports that the open space in the new sidewalk was designed as a planting or green area.

- The Job Corps has begun the rock work on the North Gateway.
 - A low level light will be placed at the base of the gateway to shine directly on the sign in the evenings.
 - Some residents south of the bridge have requested that the city place pedestrian signage along Highway 101, which is a state highway. The request will be referred to the Oregon Department of Transportation.
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Burn Ban

Some time ago a Yachats resident wrote a letter to City Council asking us to enact a year around permanent burn ban. After some discussion, including conversations with the Fire Department, we decided to ask the residents to weigh in on this issue. Concerns about burning center primarily around health and air quality. If there is a ban in place, then some accommodation must be made for yard debris and trimmings. Options include hauling to Toledo or to Dahl Disposal (at a reduced rate). Should an ordinance exempt burn barrels and fire pits? Should it include demolition burning? Slash burning? Construction debris burning? During roughly the months of April to July, could the City rent a chipper to make mulch? What could be done with noxious weeds? Could they be put in a dumpster once a month? These are all questions, and I am sure there are more that would need to be answered before a ban is in place. The first, and most important question, though, is DO YOU WANT IT?



News From The Library

New Library Roof The Yachats Library has a new roof, thanks to the work of eight men who each donated a day's labor. A big thank you goes out to Li Jackson, Mike Smith, Max, David Ball, Vince Bittle, Andy Hansen, Kenny DeLap and John May. We'd specially thank Li Jackson who organized the group and spearheaded the fund raising effort. More than \$900 has been donated so far towards the cost of the materials (the shingles cost \$1400). Li still has a jar down at Toad Hall if you would like to give a donation.

New Selections at the Library Come check out the new books at the library. We have processed more than 80 new Large Print books. You'll find new mysteries, novels, westerns, and fantasy books in our Large Print section. The Robert Warner Memorial Collection continues to grow; *From Moonshine to Madison Avenue: A Cultural History of the Nascar Winston Cup Series* is the latest addition. We do have two copies of the sixth Harry Potter book; there is a short waiting list of anxious readers.

New Children's Librarian Carolyn White has volunteered to be the Children's librarian. She has already done a lot of work in reorganizing the childrens' section. She will continue to do our preschool reading program and work closely with the youth and family group at the Commons. She has many new selections to share and more books are coming.

Library Renovations The library will close for the month of September for renovations. The interior will be repainted and new carpeting will be installed. We'll need to move all the furniture, the bookcases and more than 10,000 books in the process. Thanks to the Trust Management grant, the interior painting cost will be covered. The cost of the carpeting will come out of our capital reserve funds. We hope to have our grand reopening October 26. Until that time, you may deposit your return books in the usual drop box at the library.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

Have you had a chance to walk around the back of the Commons lately? The beginning of the new park looks great. Our playground has new bark chips, the children's garden is a delight for the eyes. The paths are coming along and the horseshoe pit has been rebuilt.

If you have not yet been to the farmers' market on Sunday mornings, come by and enjoy some great produce and visits with your neighbors. It is really a community spot on Sundays. The market runs through October 16 from 9 to 2.

I would like to spend a few lines to say a special thank you to Don Niskanen for his help in emergency situations here at the Commons. He knows the building forward and backward and is a stalwart friend to this community center.

Greg Scott has been instrumental in beginning an exciting series of monthly movie nights here. Every second Thursday of the month we are showing a feature film beginning at 7 pm. The films cannot be advertised due to copyright restrictions, so please call 547-4142 to find out what the next movie will be.

Leon Sterner, president of the Friends of the Commons, has been wonderful in helping at so many events and being available for last minute lighting needs.

Finally, Dennis McSharry has taken over the business of putting up the latest events and happenings on the readerboard every week. It takes a dedicated volunteer to brave the wind, the silly comments and the frustration of the sticky letters to continue to come every Monday morning.

Upcoming Events at the Commons:

- September 1 – 7 pm Yachats Big Band Dance
- September 2 – Red Hot Blues and BBQ, 6:30 dinner, 8 pm concert
- September 8 – 7 pm Movie Night
- September 12 – 7 pm Showing of "End of Suburbia"
- September 17 – YYFAP & Friends of the Commons birthday party
- And potluck 5 pm
- September 24 – 7 pm YYFAP Magic Show
- September 29 – 1230 Lunch Bunch

On-going events include:

- Mon, Wed, Fri – 10 am, Exercise Class
- Mon – 8 am, Tai Chi
- Tue, Thur, Fri – 8 am, Yoga
- Tue – 9:30 am, Yoga
- Wed – 8:30 am, Yoga
- Tue – 7 pm, Basketball
- Wed & Sun – 6:30 pm, Volleyball

For information about these events or to rent the Commons, contact me at 547-4734



Fireworks 2006

By Mayor Susanne Smith

If you enjoyed the wonderful fireworks display this past July 4th (and I can't imagine that anyone who saw it didn't love it!), now is the time to send your check to assure more of the same next year. If your guests were also impressed, they might also be interested in contributing to the finest little July 4th celebration on the Oregon Coast. Make your check out to the Yachats Fireworks Fund and send it to P.O. Box 940 , Yachats, 97498.



Unsigned letters

By Mayor Susanne Smith

From time to time the City receives letters that are not signed. Unfortunately, this does not allow incorrect information presented in these letters to be addressed. The City will not act on suggestions or discuss concerns that are submitted in unsigned communications. If it is worth writing to the City about, it is worth signing one's name.



SIREN TESTING

Yachats Rural Fire Protection District is testing the siren at the Fire Station on 2nd Street in Yachats the first Wednesday of each month at noon. The blast is three cycles. Please be forewarned.

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006		
<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>7/30/05</i>	
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$643,528	\$274,936
Library	\$17,571	\$4,109
Little Log Church & Museum	\$10,038	\$2,644
Parks & Commons*	\$141,078	\$72,990
Streets	\$110,545	\$12,223
Water	\$431,658	\$60,617
Sewer	\$963,572	\$86,598
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,511,162	\$1,495,316
Debt	\$131,943	\$1,450
	<u>\$3,961,095</u>	<u>\$2,010,884</u>



Roads and Parks

Each year the City receives a lot of calls from residents and visitors concerned about the tall grass at the parks and the condition of the roads. There are a lot of public areas in and around town, and there are also a lot of different agencies responsible for the maintenance.

The Whale Tail Park, Commons, Little Log Church and Museum, and the Library are City parks or facilities. Maintenance is done by dedicated volunteers and employees. The public works employees are also responsible for those streets that are official, dedicated and accepted City Streets. All other areas in town fall under the jurisdiction of the State, County, or private property owners.

Yachats Ocean Road and the three State Parks in the area are maintained by the State Parks Department.

State Parks - (541) 997- 3851

Marine Drive and Ocean View Drive are County roads and all maintenance is the responsibility of their public works department.

Public Works Department (541) 574-1200

"Main Street" in Yachats is Hwy. 101, and is maintained by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Streets signs are also ODOT's responsibility.

ODOT - Highway Division - Newport Office (541) 265-2644

If you need help determining which agency to contact please call City Hall for assistance.



Great Water Saving Tips Inside and Out

- When buying a new washer, purchase one with conservation features. Choose a washer with load size selector and variable water level control.
- Install water saving devices outside. Use a nozzle that can be shut off or adjusted to a fine spray. When finished, shut off at the house instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks.
- Warm weather means more outdoor activities, and more outdoor water use. Be as careful and efficient outdoors as you are inside the home.
- Presoak grills and oven parts overnight, then wash with an abrasive scrub brush or pad and use plenty of elbow grease to minimize water use.
- Check faucets and hose connections for leaks. Repair or replace when necessary. Inspect pipes for pinhole leaks.
- Composting is an alternative to using the garbage disposal, and all that water. Several styles of containers are available to hold the materials while minimizing the odor and unsightliness.



Yachats Youth & Family Celebration

On Saturday, September 17, 2005, Yachats is having an anniversary celebration. The Friends of the Yachats Commons will celebrate their 15th anniversary and The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program will celebrate their 10th anniversary! In honor of these milestones, both the Boards are planning an anniversary celebration together. We will be hosting a community potluck at the Commons starting at 5:00 pm on that Saturday. Bring your favorite side dish to share; we will be providing the hot dish and beverages. We would love to see you there and hope you can mark your calendar now and plan ahead.

YACHATS YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM, INC.

PO Box 151 - Yachats, OR 97498

(541)547-4599

ANNUAL REPORT - July 2004 - June 2005

397 individual children and youth, ages 0 - 18, and 181 adults, made 10,371 visits to the following activities:

Recreation PLUS - 688 hours of Recreation PLUS were offered every day after school, and extended hours on no-school days and during spring and summer breaks.

Preschool and Yachats Indoor Park - 337 hours

Classes - 480 hours of classes included instruction in dance, music, ceramics, tie-dye, Spanish, geography and culture, weaving, watercolors, pastels, writing, life skills.

Family Nights & Events - 9 evenings (approximately 20 hours) included ornament-making, Family Talent Show,

homeschool information, health insurance information, family sing-along, Jizos for Peace, Chalkboard Project, Martin Luther King Celebration.

Parent Education & Support - included support groups for parents, and these classes: Becoming a Love and Logic Parent, Coloring Outside the Lines.

Special Teen & Tween Activities - 9 Teen Nights, 3 Tween Nights, Youth Council for high schoolers, Helping Hands for middle schoolers.

All that cost:

\$75,224 Program expense (80%)

\$13,701 Administrative expense (15%)

\$5,187 Fundraising expense (5%)

\$94,112 Total Expenditures

Where the money came from:

\$18,720 individual and business support

\$37,600 private foundation grants

\$20,000 City of Yachats

\$15,000 Fundraisers, Activity fees

\$ 2,800 Miscellaneous

\$94,120

Over 100 volunteers donated 3021 volunteer hours to YYFAP activities.

In-kind donations: \$22,741.00 (includes food, supplies, furniture, rent, professional services, etc.)

Yachats Snapshots

Reprinted by permission by author - Chantall Van Wey (as seen in the Siuslaw News)

I was waiting for a store to open the other day and was just driving up and down the few blocks of Yachats, looking at the small changes that happen in a small town when you've got your back turned.

The first thing I came upon that surprised me was the magnificent new wooden observation deck that the state parks people had erected on the bluffs in front of the little Yachats State Park. Located at the end of First and Second streets, overlooking the ocean, it's a gorgeous piece of work and quite large – about 14 X 14 feet square – and truly beautiful.

The view is nothing less than spectacular. On the left and in back the Yachats River cove meets the ocean, and in front and all around the platform are the big rocks and magnificent Pacific. The workmanship on the deck and railing are exquisite and must be viewed up close to see the great detail that went into this observation post. The state parks people should be proud of this project.

Then I drove by the Yachats Commons, down Fourth Street, and viewed through the trees the great park they've built behind the commons. I know they had their opening celebration a week or so ago, but just viewing it without people was a joy. It really represents such a lot of work, planning, sweat, and effort on the part of so many residents of this small community. For a village of 635 hardy souls, Yachats has the heart of a giant. People come together here to hammer out ideas to improve the village for citizens, tourists, kids and pets in record numbers and give so freely of their time and work. It's heartening to be a part of that special camaraderie and cohesiveness in a world that seems to be flying apart more rapidly than we can hold it together.

There are very few community projects in this small town that would have come about without the aid and assistance of almost everyone in town. The Yachats Community Health Center wouldn't be in existence today if it weren't for the vision, planning and hard work of some dedicated resident volunteers. The library was and is a volunteer-built and run community effort, as is the Little Log Church and Museum and its beautiful, evolving garden area. The Yachats Commons

thrives on the hard work of paid and volunteer workers and is supported by a multitude of events and classes (many of which are staffed solely by volunteers) and the City of Yachats. The parks, walkways, music and cultural events all involve thousands of volunteer hours each year by, the Lions Club, the Ladies Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Village Music Foundation – whose events and shows always benefit some worthy cause or scholarship program in Yachats – and by so many residents who give so freely of their time and labor.

I'm constantly amazed at the willingness of old-timers and newcomers to throw themselves so completely into making Yachats a truly unique and wonderful place to live.

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