



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

August/September 2006



A FRESH LOOK - MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Mayor Susanne Smith

We, like many of you, I am sure, have entertained out of town visitors this summer. I never tire of the opportunity to look at this beautiful place through the eyes of those who live elsewhere. One set of guests wrote that after having traveled over 6,000 miles, they had seen no place more beautiful than Oregon. Aren't we among the fortunate ones?

Regardless of what the big issues are...and we have plenty of those...we have much to celebrate: the beautiful ocean; the forests with more shades of green than we ever knew existed; the Yachats River and the life it supports; the abundant flora and fauna, and even those things that are man-made such as the Little Log Church and Museum (when is the last time you visited it?); the Yachats Public Library (when is the last time you checked out a book?); the three state parks that we are so lucky to have within our City limits; the beach (when was the last time that you walked on the beach?); the 804 Trail.

Have you visited the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church and really looked closely at those gorgeous agate windows? Have you driven up to the Covered Bridge lately and soaked in the beauty of the Yachats River valley? The facets of this treasured Gem never cease to amaze and delight me. I hope the same is true for each of you. We are approaching our very loveliest time of year when the mornings are crisp with fall and the days warm with the sun. For now, just relax and savor your surroundings...



URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT PROGRESS

By Mayor Susanne Smith

Further discussion of the Prepared Food Tax has been tabled until after discussions about water rates and Systems Development charges take firmer shape. However, the City Council did conduct a public hearing on August 22 to receive comment for and against formation of an Urban Renewal District as recommended last spring by the Green Ribbon Committee. Following the public hearing, Council deliberated and voted (unanimously) to proceed with the formation of the URD.

Misunderstanding about the URD and what it is intended to do is apparently still occurring. Urban Renewal District funds can be used to partly pay for the new wastewater treatment plant which we have to build. It does not say anything about the sizes or numbers of homes or condominiums that can or cannot be built in Yachats. That is covered in the existing zoning code, which has been in place for many, many years. We are not going to have more bigger developments because of the URD; chances are they would happen anyway. And the City is obligated to provide the infrastructure for that growth. In looking back through previous City newsletters, I see that URDs have been addressed in three previous ones in 2006: January, February, and April/May. The February and April/May issues deal particularly with what an URD can and cannot do; is and is not. I refer you back to those. Also, there is a brochure available at City Hall which explains the process. Finally, any Urban Renewal Agency member (City Council member) or staff member would, I am certain, be happy to answer questions or clarify issues if

confusion still exists.



THANK YOU!

By Mayor Susanne Smith

Yachats is fortunate to have a corps of volunteers who quietly tend to their tasks. If you have noticed how nicely the plant strips on Highway 101 have come along, you can thank Bev Barmore and her crew for their weeding efforts. Hats off as well to Evelyn Everett who has planted and is maintaining the strip in the parking lot behind the Commons.



CITY COUNCIL NEWS

- City Council adopted Resolution No. 2006-08-03 – Supporting Lincoln County in their efforts to develop an affordable housing plan with a focus on chronic homelessness
- City Council voted to recommend that the Oregon Liquor Control Commission approve an expansion of license as applied for by the Wine Place.



ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT

By Mayor Susanne Smith

In July you received the annual drinking water report from the City of Yachats and you may have wondered why. It is a State of Oregon Health Department mandate that the City produce this Annual Drinking Water Report. The testing is something that is required on a regular schedule and we are then to report once each year to anyone who drinks or could drink the water. The report template is in our records so it was just the first year that required a lot of work to put that together. You already know the mailing cost, and I would estimate that it takes City Staff about 8 hours (\$180 or so) and the cost to reproduce it is around \$50.



Public Works Director's Report

By John McClintock

- Work is nearly complete on the Hwy 101 overlay project.
- The City has written a letter to the County requesting the boulders along Ocean View Drive be removed and curbing be installed instead. The City has also requested "no parking" signs be placed along the trail to keep cars from parking in the gravel along the bluff.
- The water efficiency was 90% last month. Some water was drawn from Salmon Creek last month, but the supply is still meeting the demand.
- The sewer plant is running at about 140% capacity.
- Dyer Partnerships submitted the first monthly status report; and if other information is needed it can be added to the format for future reports.
- Utility worker, Donald Hunter resigned last month, so that position is being filled.
- Because the Department of Environmental Quality took so long to review the preliminary plans for the sewer plant, the schedule has been set back a little. The City has written a letter to the

DEQ asking for an extension on the Mutual Agreement and Order.

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007		
<i>Reporting Through July 31, 2006</i>		
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$707,453	\$339,696
Library	\$17,603	\$3,350
Little Log Church & Museum	\$12,175	\$4,843
Parks & Commons*	\$97,093	\$26,489
Streets	\$129,234	\$13,421
Water	\$473,507	\$112,354
Sewer	\$6,219,536	\$199,347
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$2,056,246	\$1,741,067
Debt	<u>\$134,855</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
	<u>\$9,847,702</u>	<u>\$2,441,566</u>



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

This community center keeps getting better and better, thanks to all those people who care about our building. The Angell Job Corps students were in for a few weeks, touching up and painting around the inside. They painted room 8 and the halls, and cleaned up the trim work. It looks good and clean in here again.

On July 29th, we had a Commons clean-up day and Evelyn Everett, Betty Bahn, Gerald Stanley, Peter Karrasik, Christine Lothrop and myself weeded around the front of the building and the playground area. We pulled morning glories and tried to bring a little order to our flower beds. Milo Graamans, Jordan Ostrom, Milo Graamans, Nina McDonald, Bobbi Nuggent, Caleb Nuggent, Tommy Jackson, and Keenan Craft represented the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program's youth volunteers. It was a successful and enjoyable afternoon.

The picnic shelter behind the Commons now has electrical outlets and lighting. Water faucets and a sink will be coming next. When the wind is not blowing and the sun is shining, this is a great place to have a picnic. Call me to rent the facility.

The Yachats Farmers' Market is in full bloom right now, with many produce vendors and some great local crafts. The market, which is run by the Friends of the Commons, is held every Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm. It's a wonderful place to get your weekly produce and see friends and neighbors. This village market is a real plus for our community.

To see photos of the market, check the calendar of listings for the month and see photos of past events, go to our web site, www.yachatscommons.org. For further information and to rent rooms here, call me at 547-4734.

The Sheriff has requested that we urge all Yachats residents to notify the Sheriff's Office in the event of any mischief or theft. Siphoning gas from another's car is against the law. The Sheriff wants to know about it so that patrolling deputies can be alerted to things to be watching for. So, even if you think it's "minor" and not in a class with abuse, major theft or other "bigger" crimes, call the Sheriff's Office to report it.

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