



CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2012

THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted: April 2, 2009

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.

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." -Mother Teresa



Mayor's Message By Ron Brean, Mayor

A couple of weeks ago Kitty Wells died. She was probably the first woman to successfully point out to the world of country music good-ol'-boys that there were some good-ol'-girls in the world with equally valid perspectives. Her music opened doors for many women to follow. When she died, an old interview was played on the radio. Listening to her speak about her music I realized that her success was partly built on her understanding of how music can reach deep places within each of us. In those deep places we often find an ability to understand each other more completely and more thoroughly than we can in any other way. She said "People love the sad songs". Her point, or at least one I took from her comments, is that we all can relate to basic human emotions because we share them. When explored, they bind us together.

I think that truth is somehow understood more thoroughly by the folks of Yachats, Oregon than it is in many (perhaps most) places in the world. There is certain empathy, compassion, camaraderie, in-it-together spirit that exists just below the

surface of our daily interactions. It rises and shows itself when the need appears. It takes on many shapes, but its essence can be seen everywhere. A car hits an elk and the community helps with transportation. A fire sweeps through a business and hammers and shovels and paint brushes and the like show up in legion to piece it all back together again. A friend, a neighbor, leaves our mortal presence and we grieve our loss together and together find solid ground to hold us up. Lives are disrupted and a home and possession are lost and the community replaces, repairs, and supplies what it can to see a family through. Contributions stream into the Community Food Pantry because some people are hungry. A young life that many sought to guide away from despair is tragically lost and the community offers its hand in support to those who grieve the loss of such potential. A car crashes through a store front causing great damage and injury and the community tunes in, turns on and helps out. And that help was not only for the obvious victims, but also for the grief and pain visited upon the driver whose youth and inexperience created a situational nightmare for all close to it.

I've seen all of these things in Yachats, and I've seen more. I've seen a touch on the shoulder at just the right time. I've heard

words of encouragement when they were needed most. I've seen the glow of warmth and respect drive out the cold and chill of a sometimes difficult world. I've seen local art that inspires hope, heard original poetry that inspires compassion, and music from Yachats musicians that touches that primal place within us all.

I'm not suggesting that our community is perfect. How could it be? There are people in it and I'm one of them. No chance for perfection there. What I am suggesting, and what I am grateful for, is that we ARE a community. We share many a common perspective and no small measure of mutual respect. It is a pleasure to be your neighbor. When we need to, we can sing the sad songs together, but between those times there are happy songs too.



City Council Briefing
By Nancy Batchelder City Recorder

At the July 12, 2012 meeting City Council:

- Council adopted Ordinance No. 314 - An Ordinance Amending the Yachats Municipal Code Chapters 9.04, 9.12, 9.16, 9.20, 9.24 And 9.48 - Parking Regulations. The Ordinance provides a definition of "off-street parking space" and establishes the minimum dimensions of such a space to be 9 feet by 18 feet consistently throughout all zones. It also requires the parking spaces to have gravel, pavement, tile, brick or concrete surfaces. For non-residential use the parking may be provided within 500 feet and clarifies that curbs or bumpers must be provided only in commercial areas where parking is located along the outer boundaries of a lot. Other minor changes were

made to clarify the Code. There is nothing in this amendment that would cause any current situations to be illegal after adoption.

- Council continued the public hearing on Ordinance No. 315 - An Ordinance Amending The Yachats Municipal Code Chapter 9.52, Section 9.52.070 Shoreland Setbacks and Exception to Yachats Zoning & Land Use Code Section 9.52.070.D.1 Ocean Protection Standards for 67 Windy Way to the August 9, 2012 meeting to allow the Planning Commission an opportunity to review some additional changes recommended by City staff following the Planning Commission public hearing on this Ordinance. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed changes, and made a few other changes at their continued public hearing on July 17, 2012 and forwarded the final draft to City Council for consideration.
- Councilors reviewed 19 issues that the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) policy committees have identified as areas to focus on during the 2013 Legislative Session. LOC asked cities to submit their top four priorities. Council submitted three as priorities for Yachats related to more flexibility in the use of transient rental lodging tax revenues, restoring equity in the property tax system, and recapitalization of the state municipal infrastructure funds to assist communities with investments required for compliance with environmental mandates, to meet capacity, or to implement economic development strategies.
- Council voted to recommend to the OLCC that the application for a liquor license be approved for Outtagas Pizza, LTD



Yachats Public Works Department

**By John McClintock,
Public Works Director**

*“Yard & Woody Debris
Recycling Program”*

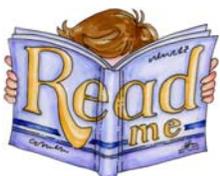
Through the month of June the City supplied a larger dumpster for the residents of Yachats to dispose of yard wastes. The program provided to be so popular that the City Council directed Public Works to continue providing the dumpsters and see how it goes.

The container is located at the Southeast corner of the Public Works facility on West 7th Street. The gate will be open daily Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you need assistance in placing the debris, let us know and we will be glad to help out.

On the Southeast end of each container is a list of acceptable and unacceptable material. The acceptable materials are: Lumber, (nails are OK), Brush, Pruned Branches, Stumps (no dirt) Shipping pallets and other Clean woody debris (organic).

Unacceptable materials are: Treated wood or Painted wood, Noxious weeds (scotch broom, etc.) Cabinets or furniture, Dirt, Plastic bags or pieces, Metal bolts or spikes, Plaster, Cement, Wire fencing or Hinges, Composite roofing and Anything other than clean, woody debris.

If you are not sure or need assistance at the container please call us at 541-547-3243.



Don't forget to read the newsletter in color on the website! www.ci.yachats.or.us.



Code Enforcement Report

Donald Niskanen, Code Enforcement Officer

We are in the midst of our summer tourist season. I do not have hard data on this, but it seems to be a busier summer than last year. The Vacation Rentals seem to be pretty much booked. The restaurants are crowded and there are lots of people on the streets and at the beach.



There have been a few complaints about Vacation Rentals, but they are the same properties and the same agents. 97% of the Vacation Rental properties are following the guidelines proposed by the Task Force and adopted by the City Council. The 3% that are not in compliance or are receiving regular complaints will be referred to the City Council for a hearing.

Letters went out to about 50 property owners (mostly undeveloped properties) regarding invasive species and overgrown vegetation. There has been an excellent response and 75% of these properties have been cleared. There have been a couple of properties (repeat offenders) that have not responded. The City can and does contract this work out and bills the property owner or places a lien on the property.



Tansy Ragwort is our Invasive Plant Species of the month. This plant had a huge impact on our cattle industry in this State. It killed thousand of head of cattle, sheep and horses. It destroys their liver. It will be in full bloom in a couple of weeks and more easily identifiable. Please read Wally Orchard's excellent flyer on this invasive. We will be organizing a volunteer effort in the next few weeks to try and control it this

year. We don't have grazing livestock within City limits, but birds, wind and vehicles can transfer the seeds to more rural areas, where they do have livestock.

Our Yachats Invasive Plant Subcommittee (YIPS) is doing a great job. Please thank Wally Orchard and his dedicated crew when you see them out working.

Our City Code only allows a vehicle to be on City Right of Way, in the same place, for 72 hours. After that time, it can be tagged and towed. I have tagged multiple vehicles and have had several towed away. This becomes a problem with some of our smaller, older, grandfathered lots that do not have garages or adequate on site parking. It gets more complicated, if the resident has multiple vehicles. It means the vehicles have to be moved every three days. That is the Code.



We had our share of transients coming through the Village over the winter and into spring. There were a few incidents, where I had to call the Sheriff. Transients are still moving through. It is mainly men. I have noticed a younger group that may just be off on an adventure. Then there is the older group. These are seasoned road warriors. They have been on the road for a long time and they have learned the art of survival. I only get involved when they are on public property, picnic shelter, Community Park, Library, Little Log Church or the Commons. I will respond if it is a private property owner or business, but I usually refer that to the Sheriff.



The summer burn ban is in effect. No open or barrel burning is allowed. A backyard fire pit is allowed, but a permit is required and there are regulations. Check with Frankie at the Fire

Hall for the regulations at 541-547-3266. We are more fortunate than other parts of the country, where wild fires have created devastation. But it has happened here before.

It is not in my jurisdiction, but the Highway traffic has become very dangerous. Not only has the traffic increased, but also we have drivers that are unfamiliar with the road and are doing their viewing while driving. Our State Trooper patrol has been reduced to five Troopers. They cover the whole county, so we don't see them that often. Our Sheriff's department is also understaffed for this time of year. So, we just need to be careful out there.



We have seen some new private development taking place. That is a good sign, after the economic collapse. But it also creates some problems. I get involved, if the contractors do not have a City Business License. Other issues of equipment going on to other private property or damages to neighboring property are more civil in nature and not covered under City Codes. Yet again, this is an issue for the Sheriff. I am happy to respond and document the damage, but unless it is a specific Code violation, there is not much the City can do.

I appreciate the support I have received from many City residents in trying to carry out this position. I hope it is a good summer for our businesses. They surely need it.



Yachats Trails Update **By Lauralee Svendsgaard**

AS promised, July was fulfilled and highly productive. The presence of our "happy trees" (free of invasives) in the La De Da

Parade were a delight. Many Trails Committee volunteers joined Overleaf Lodge, SOLV and others in removing over 2,000 pounds of ivy from the 804 Trail. Good progress has been made improving Whale Tail Park. Yachats Coastal Gems Volkssport Club made good use of the recently improved Prospect Trail on the 14th. And the great folks joining in our 4th annual Trails Committee Picnic were a terrific bunch, bringing delicious food and merriment.

No doubt August will bring another round of delights. We'll focus on the 804 Trail, continue progress in the Prospect Garden, and push back that dastardly tansy ragwort. We'll also hold one of our semi-annual Trails Committee meetings to learn about the status of the south 804 Trail improvements, the trails link between Gerdemann and Fisterra, updates on our interpretive trail signage plan and other endeavors.

There is a lot to do and lots of terrific people to share in the doing. All are welcome to join in the Trails Committee's August activities described below:

- Saturday, August 4, 10am to 1pm, 804 Trail maintenance -- Yachats Trails Crew to meet at the Overleaf Lodge parking lot (please park on the east side of the lot, across from the Lodge) where we'll head out to do some maintenance along the 804 Trail. The trail's footpath is getting a bit overgrown in areas, so we'll focus on removing foliage and taking it to a site where it can be picked up for disposal. Work gloves, loppers, trimmers and hoes will come in handy, though the Trails Committee has gloves and tools available. Following our good work, we'll head to The Drift Inn to celebrate.

- Tuesday, August 14, 3-5:00pm -- Semi-annual Yachats Trails Committee meeting in Room 8 at the Commons. Updates on current projects, include south 804 Trail improvements, interpretive signage plan and other ventures.
- Saturday, August 18, 10am to 1pm -- YIPS Event location to be announced via email contact list. To be added to the list, please contact Wally as noted below.



YIPS News **(Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee)**

You may have noticed some recent big improvements in the appearance of the Whale Tail Park. Last year YIPS removed loads of ivy, morning glory and blackberry from the wall and the beds behind the whale. Then, this spring we planted some shrubs and sowed wildflower and clover seeds in the upper bed. More recently, we covered the lower bed with landscape fabric and wood chips in an effort to suppress weed growth there. As I write, the blooming wild flowers provide a colorful spectacle in front of the motel rooms.

August's weed of the month (WOM) is tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), a toxic native of Europe that can be fatal to livestock and other grazing animals, and has spread rapidly in the Pacific Northwest. We aim to reverse that spread, at least in Yachats and its surroundings. Last year we launched a major offensive on this unwelcome visitor. Several work parties made up of local volunteers accounted for the removal of thousands of plants in our area.

The best technique for managing this pesky plant is to cut off the flower head and all buds. The flowers can continue to produce and disperse seeds even after being cut from the plant, so place the cut flower, bud and seed heads in black plastic bags for disposal.

Pull the remaining plants and their roots and lay in the sun or compost. If you don't pull out the plant after cutting it will produce new flowers and seed heads within weeks.

Please deal with any tansy ragwort that you come across. If you are unable to tackle it yourself, report it to Don Niskanen (541-961-6695) or Wally Orchard (541-547-5474)

The next YIPS outing will be on Saturday, August 18 from 10am to 1pm. The location is still to be decided. Please contact me if you aren't on the YIPS mailing list and need to find out more.

We're always on the lookout for new volunteers to adopt a small piece of public real estate and tend to the weeds in their own time, or to join us in any of our regularly scheduled activities. Please contact me to find out more. Wally Orchard, YIPS Leader, 541.547.5474 or worchard@peak.org

All WOM publications can be downloaded from the web. Go to www.yachats.info and follow the link.

For more information about the Yachats Trails Committee, its activities or to be added to the Committee's email list simply contact one of us via phone or email:

- Lauralee, Chair, Yachats Trails Committee at 541.547.3640 or lsven@peak.org
- David Lavrinets, Leader, Trails Crew at 541.547.5388 or dalavrinets@peak.org
- Joanne Kittel, Leader, Development Committee & Amanda Trail at 541.547.3144 or jnkittel@peak.org
- Wally Orchard, Leader, YIPS at 541.547. 5474 or worchard@peak.org



We are in need of super talented once a month VOLUNTEERS to help with the Utility Billing/Newsletter stuffing. Call Kimmie at City Hall 541-547-3565 if you can help us out for a couple of hours. Thanks so much!



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

Yachats: A Work in Progress

One of the stated goals of the Little Log Church and Museum is not only to preserve records that describe our history of long ago, but to document changes that occur over the years. For what happens now is history in the making.

A case in point is the little house at the corner of Beach Street and Ocean View Drive. When the owners did some remodeling and re-siding a few years ago, Yachats was treated to a glimpse into the past when a sign saying "Café" was exposed on the east side of the house. The building had, in fact, served as a café and general store in the early 1920s. It was owned and operated by Robert Livengood and his wife Lucy. The Livengoods were avid rock collectors, and jars filled with their treasures can be seen in photos at the LLC&M. They passed the "rock gene" along to their great granddaughter, Susan, who lives in Florence and creates lovely jewelry made from the agates she finds on our beaches.

Pictures documenting the evolution of the structure from the early 1920s to the present day are displayed at the museum. We are grateful to the families who have lived there, and their descendants, who have generously shared their histories with us.

On some of my walks along Ocean View Drive I occasionally see folks enjoying their little Beach Street home -- a part of our past, our present, and our future. I think William Faulkner had it right when he wrote, "the past is never dead and buried; it isn't even past." If we are lucky we are constantly evolving -- a work in progress.

I think there must be quite a few evolutionary stories of Yachats that can be told. Care to share?



Yachats Public Library
By Carolyn White

This is the time of the year when those of us who are lucky enough to live in this area called the Oregon Central Coast are visited by friends and relatives who wish that they were as lucky. Visitors to our area have opportunities to enjoy a variety of attractions during their stay in this paradise. They can go to the aquarium, wander through quaint downtowns, hike trails in the woods and along the shore, fish or dig for clams, or just watch the waves roll in on rocky beaches and on sandy shores.

Ultimately, though, most visitors and full-time inhabitants alike choose to spend part of their time reading. Part of the lure of our area is the unhurried lifestyle that allows one the time to enjoy books.

Our library works to afford opportunities for all to enjoy reading. Full-time area residents and long term visitors of all ages can have a card which gives them access to a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction, videos and DVDs, and books on CD. Both members and visitors can access the Internet either through our shared computers or by Wi-Fi with their own computer.

But what of the short-term visitor? If he or she borrows a book from their host, they may not be able to finish it before they leave. This is why our library always has one large shelf full of books for sale. Some of the nicest donated books end up on this shelf where hard-bounds and trade paperbacks sell for \$1.00 and regular

paperbacks sell for \$0.50. In addition, we have a large collection of donated magazines of all sorts for the unimaginable price of "FREE!"

Whatever your needs for beach reading, come to the Yachats Library. See you there!



Commons Events
By Leon Sterner,
Coordinator
Storage Room Construction Complete: Make way for the New Chairs!

Our Contractor recently completed construction of the Storage Room which is accessed thru double doors on the South wall of the Multi-Purpose room. This storage area is a dream come true for many, who over the years have wished for a larger and more versatile storage space than Room 7 has provided for us up until now. The 300 sq. ft. room with 12 foot ceilings will allow us a flexible space to store tables, chairs and the various other sundry equipment items that we use regularly at Commons events. We will also design shelving and perhaps a lofted area to provide expanded storage capacity. By moving storage out of Room 7, we are gaining a new meeting and event space – with the windows along the North Wall it is a very pleasing room to be in.

With this new Storage Room project in place, we have moved forward with acquiring new – and more comfortable – chairs. A number of people have been gathering information about what chair options are available from a range of sources – and we have settled on Bertolini Chairs out of California. After doing a fair amount of research, it seems their chairs offer the best in both comfort and versatility to meet our needs here at the Commons. The fabric on these chairs is a synthetic material that is highly stain resistant and yet provides the comfort of a cloth covered chair. The added

padding on these banquet style chairs will provide more comfort than our present black-vinyl chairs, and will stack and move easily. The plan is to purchase 160 chairs and to keep enough of the older vinyl chairs to supplement for larger events. We expect delivery on these within 7-10 weeks. Thanks to all those who gave us their feedback in the selection process. And thanks especially to the organizations that contributed to this project: Ford Family Foundation, One of Us Productions, Yachats Ladies' Club, Yachats Lions Club, Yachats Academy of Arts and Science and The Friends of the Commons. These organizations worked together to research and fund this project which has been a long time in the making. It is this spirit of collaboration and cooperation that makes a project like this a fun adventure -using the social capital we have here in our greater Yachats Community. Moving chairs and tables out for Lunch Bunch and Big Band, storing equipment for Movie Night, and setting up the MP room for the upcoming Celtic Festival are just a few examples of how these new chairs and new storage area will improve the comfort, ease and quality of our experiences here at the Commons. Come on over and pay us a visit soon, and please be seated!



Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program
By Alice Beck,
Executive Director

AUGUST ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

Looking for fun activities to get the kids out of the house? Have grandkids visiting in August who want to have some fun? Sign them up for Camp YUGOTTAWANNA! Ages 6-12 (older youth may come and be "helpers") 1-5 PM Monday-Friday. August

weekly themes are: 6th-10th Fun with Pets (including our 2nd Annual Summer Pet Show), 13th-17th Outdoor Camp and the 20th-24th Around the World. We also have a preschool Camp going M/W/F from 10:30-1:30 for the little ones, ages 4-6. Both programs have weekly or daily drop in rates. Call 541-547-4599 for details or visit our website www.yachatsyouth.org YYFAP will be closed August 27th – Sept. 3rd to get ready for back to school!



Acoustic Guitar Concert:
Benefit for YYFAP

On August 24th Terry Robb will be returning to Yachats to do a benefit concert for the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program. Terry plays acoustic guitar beautifully. You don't want to miss it! Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased ahead at Raindogs and Chuck's Video in Waldport. They will also be available at the door. Doors open at 7:00 pm with the concert starting at 7:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

YachatsLunch Bunch
By Will Williams



The August Lunch Bunch will be held on Thursday the 30th at the

Commons. The doors will open at 11.30; lunch is at 12 noon. Lunch is open to young people age 55+ Yachations and visitors alike are welcome. There is a suggested donation of \$4. The menu for August will be: Meatloaf; Mashed Potatoes; Green Salad; Roll and Butter; followed by Banana Cream Pie.



GoYachats.com
By Andrea Scharf,
Marketing Director

Why do people visit Yachats? For many, **it's to**

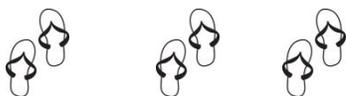
see family and friends who live here. We want them to have a good time (so they will tell THEIR friends to visit Yachats too!), but on the other hand, we all know the challenges sometimes caused by having a houseful of grandchildren, bored teenagers, even adults wondering what is there to do in Yachats besides walk on the beach?

Well there is a lot to do in Yachats!! Your guests can do yoga, aerobic exercise, salsa, qigong, tai chi, basketball, and zumba. There are programs for kids of all ages, including Camp Yachats for kids 4 to 6, Camp Yougottawanna for kids six and older, and there's a reading program at the library for four years and older.

If your guests want to do some 'meaningful' work (and meet some really great people), they are welcome to join the Trails Work Party or the Invasive Species Party (See? They're both parties—that means FUN!) or skip the work and just have fun with the Lunch Bunch on the last Thursday of the month, for people 55 and over).

There are also some special events in August— Pathways to Transformation, on August 5 and 6, features crafts, exhibitors of health and wellness products, seminars about holistic health and spiritual growth, and more. The Tiptons, an amazing saxophone quartet, performs on August 9. The Third Annual Yachats River Valley Farm Tour takes place on August 18. The Yachats Academy presents Tom Kerns on "Fracking—NoWay!" on August 21. And on September 1, don't miss the Ladies Club's annual Labor Day pie and ice cream social for the perfect end to a great summer.

For details, dates, times, and locations, visit GoYachats.com/events. Scroll down the Events List and you'll find so much for your guests to do—they'll need to stay another month! **Enjoy the summer!!!**



Introduction:

What follows is a bit unusual for the Yachats City



Newsletter. The City does not generally advertise or solicit participation in discussion groups or general forums. This one is a bit different. It stems from the idea that, in a democracy, government must be informed by the electorate to be effective. The electorate must be well informed to properly form and express opinions to elected officials. Maxine Sheets-Johnstone has offered to facilitate an open discussion to explore some of the issues facing our country, our state, and our community today. I see this as an opportunity to explore more responsive and more open government in our village. I think we're doing a pretty fair job already, but there is significant truth in the quip "The greatest failure of communication is the belief that it has been achieved". I have offered a certain amount of City sponsorship to this effort in the hopes that the discussions envisioned will help the City's leadership and its citizens make wiser and better informed decisions. Therefore I invite you to consider participating. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Ron Brean, Mayor

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A Philosophical Forum Focusing on Present-day Political Issues

Politically-sensitive issues play a large role in our community and in our nation. They inspire us to think about the present and the future in terms of both our city and our country. "What Do You Think? A Philosophical Forum" will take up the challenge of cultivating an informed, democratically-engaged electorate by providing an opportunity to specify issues of central concern, to hear and ponder a variety of perspectives on those issues, and thereby plumb more deeply into "what I think" and "what others think."

Lively debates and intensive conversations will be the rule rather than the exception.

The Philosophical Forum will meet every two weeks for 3 months from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., beginning Sunday, August 19th thru October 28th.

The Philosophical Forum will be moderated by Maxine Sheets-Johnstone and Albert A.

Johnstone, Topics for the Forum are invited.
msj@pioneer.net.