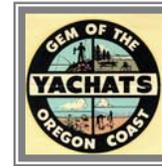




# CITY OF YACHATS

# NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2010

## 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

### **Seventeen Minutes**

Five thousand years ago, give or take a couple hundred years, the sun rose over the Boyne Valley in Ireland on the day our modern calendar identifies as December 21<sup>st</sup>. As the first rays of light cleared the horizon they shot across the valley and found a small opening above the door of a newly constructed tomb. Those rays sparkled across the walls and floor of the passageway to the center of the tomb and lit a small interior room. As the sun inched its way skyward its light poured down that corridor of stone beneath tons of rock and soil and filled it with golden light for about 17 minutes. Each year since, for the last five millennia, on precisely and only that day that room has been similarly illuminated.

There are debates among anthropologists, archeologists, astronomers, engineers and theologians about the purpose of the structure, known as Newgrange. After 5,000 years there's not even any certainty that it is a tomb. Most feel it has religious origins; however, many think it is part of an elaborate astronomical calendar working in concert with other similarly ancient structures nearby. Some are certain that it's the product of technology from another galaxy delivered to primitive Celts by benign alien invaders. I personally don't have a pet theory. I just know it's amazing.

I'm sure it could be duplicated somehow with today's technology but it would take the vast resources of a major government or the staggering wealth of a corporate bazillionaire to manage, fund, mobilize and execute the project. There would be contracts to write, equipment to procure, unions to reckon with, endless permits and reviews, not to mention a few groups

whose sole purpose for existing would be to stop such projects. As far as we know, none of those things existed 5,000 years ago and yet, somehow the "primitives" of Ireland managed to build it. It is a "Clock of the Long Now" (as author Stuart Brand might call it) that has swayed from absolute perfect alignment with the crack of the solstice down by only four minutes in 5,000 years. Astronomers tell us it was perfect on day one and has only varied by the almost immeasurable shifting of orbits over the millennia.

Here's my take: for whatever reason a primitive community banded together, worked as hard as they could over an extended period of time, nurtured and encouraged each other to see the project to completion all to capture the growing energy of the new day on the darkest day of the year. Whether the purpose was religious, scientific, spiritual, or artistic, it really doesn't matter much. It was a great symbolic community achievement that captured hope and illuminated promise.

In Yachats at precisely 3:38 p.m. on the day of the solstice the sun will stand still in the sky. Then it will begin moving, from our perspective, back toward us. Its long southward journey is over, its life giving northward journey beginning. We have not constructed a Neolithic-like structure to capture the event. Many of us will not even take notice of the moment in time when the solar recession is over. Nevertheless, the light of promise that fills the inner recesses of Newgrange will sweep across the Cascades and the Coast Range and onto the sea. When it does it will illuminate this village of not-so-primitive souls who are working together as a community, building our own monument and legacy, aided by neither big government nor corporate largesse, unfettered by naysayers (for the most part) and finding no need to seek permits or permission to be neighborly. Whatever people decide to work on as a community they generally achieve. The stones of our monument are cooperation, vision, concern,

intelligence, art, music, compassion, and no small measure of love. If we keep stacking those stones, 5,000 years from now others will marvel at what we've achieved, and perhaps be illuminated.



## Yachats City Council Announces Vacancies

by Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

Terms for seats on each commission/committee are staggered so that each year on December 31<sup>st</sup> a number of them expire. This year the City Council is announcing the following vacancies and applications are being accepted:

- Planning Commission (2) terms ending 12/31/14
- Public Works & Streets (2) terms ending 12/31/13
- Parks & Commons (3) terms ending 12/31/13
- Library Commission (2) terms ending 12/31/13
- Budget Committee (2) terms ending 12/31/13

Volunteers are required to attend the monthly meetings and may be asked to attend training sessions.

A complete description of the duties and requirements are available on the City's website [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) or inside City Hall.

Those interested in serving on a Commission or Committee can get a volunteer application form on the City's website or pick one up at City Hall located at 441 N. Highway 101, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 p.m. (except holidays).

In order to provide each Commission the opportunity to review the applications and make recommendations to City Council please submit your form as soon as possible.



## Planning Activity

by Larry Lewis, City Planner

The Planning Commission continues to work on improvements to policies, procedures, and draft amendments to the Yachats Zoning & Land Use Code including some of the following:

**Townhouse Planned Unit Development (PUD)**—A draft townhouse PUD ordinance is being prepared that would

allow for multiple ownership of multi-family developments. Currently, apartments and condominiums are permitted in multi-family zones because the land is maintained under single ownership. If adopted, the townhouse PUD would allow for the same type of multi-family development as apartments and condominiums are permitted, however each individual residential unit and the underlying land could be purchased by separate owners. The intent is to provide a mechanism for more affordable home ownership while not increasing the density currently allowed in the multi-family residential zones. Public hearings will be held in 2011 to receive input and consider adoption of the Townhouse PUD.

**Checklist for Land Division Approvals**—Following preliminary plan approval of land division applications by the Planning Commission, there are several requirements and conditions that a developer must adhere to. A checklist has been developed that identifies specific steps that a developer must follow to gain approval of final engineering plans and proceed with construction of new streets and utilities.

**Planning Commission Review of "Non-Public Hearing" Items**—There are several types of land use applications that require review by the Planning Commission through a public hearing process. There are also some items identified in the Yachats Zoning and Land Use Code that require Planning Commission review, but do not require public notice or a public hearing. The Planning Commission is currently reviewing the "non-public hearing" items and considering whether or not amendments are needed to require a public hearing process.



## Winter Preparedness

by Betty Johnston, South Lincoln County CERT Coordinator

We have had our share of rain and wind and even snow and by all indications winter has arrived. Living on the beautiful, but vulnerable Oregon Coast, we must educate ourselves on the natural hazards that have the potential to threaten our lives, property, and other assets.

We read about tragic events in our newspapers every week including the three people recently drowned on the Oregon Coast because of high, powerful seas. Have we educated ourselves and our children enough about the dangers of the powerful Pacific Ocean?

We have experienced very high winds and rains in recent weeks—are we prepared for power outages? Following three hours of power outage during the day, the City and Friends of the Yachats Commons will open the Yachats Commons building to the public. The kitchen will be powered by gas and an emergency generator to provide hot drinks, warmth and companionship.

Along with heavy rains and winds we must be aware that landslides may occur along our highways. Before leaving on a road trip for the valley or beyond, dial 511 or log on to [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) to get current highway conditions to avoid hazardous conditions and road closures.

Erosion along our sandy shores also occurs where we might be hiking, always be aware of those insecure banks taking note of their stability.

Do you have a survival kit in the car? Do you have a survival kit close by the door of your home and workplace? If we are prepared for a large event we are prepared for all natural hazards. Premade kits and NOAA radios are available at the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District at 215 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. As your area CERT coordinator, I cannot stress enough how vital it is to be informed about critical events that are happening or that may happen such as a distant tsunami.

Education is the most important part of survival. Enroll in the next *free* CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Training) on January 8, 2011 here in Yachats. South Lincoln County now has 20 CERT graduates.

To register for an upcoming CERT course or for more information about making your own survival kit, call me at (541) 547-4934.



## Trails Committee Update

by Lauralee Svendsgaard,  
Chair

As I craft this message I'm enjoying a brief break at the National Trails Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Six hundred trail professionals and advocates from all parts of the U.S. and Canada have gathered to share information, challenges, and successes. We've heard from experts in numerous fields of study touting the importance of trails, especially their benefits, in providing a safe means of exercise and reducing the

national obesity epidemic. We've heard about the scientific findings that now show how trails have become the primary means of getting kids outdoors, and how outdoor play is now proven to make children healthier, smarter, and better adjusted. In addition, those who use trails are able to escape the pressure of daily life; connect with nature; and reconnect with our deeper, truer selves.

Closer to home, the Yachats Trails Committee is pleased to announce that we are adding one more very important subcommittee—the *Yachats Invasive Plant Subcommittee* or *YIPS*. We are truly fortunate that Wally Orchard has offered to be the Leader of *YIPS*. A retired chemistry professor and amateur horticulturalist, he is ideally suited to tackle this critical and sensitive issue. Because Wally will be away during December and won't return until mid-January, efforts to increase awareness about the impacts of specific aggressive invasive plants and the safest, most effective means for removal and disposal will begin in February. If you would like more information or would like to assist *YIPS's* efforts, please contact Wally at [WORchard@peak.org](mailto:WORchard@peak.org).

In the meantime, we have several great opportunities coming to us over the next 6-weeks:

On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> the Trails Crew will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street entrance to the Prospect Trail in order to move forward with the actual trail improvements. We'll distribute gravel along the newly aligned footpath and place soil around the recently positioned boulders. If time allows, we may also begin planting the fuchsia and other habitat-friendly starter plants donated to us by Jerry & Kathleen Sand.

A holiday celebration will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the Drift Inn. Trails Crew and Committee members are invited to enjoy beverages, appetizers and what will undoubtedly be a strong dose of Christmas cheer!

On Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> ring in the New Year by joining us for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Yachats Peace Hike. We'll meet in the Commons at 10:00 a.m. and (weather permitting) we'll hike/walk from the Commons, across the Yachats Bridge, along Ocean View Drive to the Amanda Trail, and make our way to the Amanda statue. Blessings and peace offerings will be made and participants may either hike back to the Commons or return by shuttle where they'll be able to pick up a commemorative pin, enjoy snacks, beverages and good company. If weather

proves finicky an alternate route (likely shorter) will be selected.

For more information about the Trails Crew events, please email David Lavrinets at [D\\_A\\_Nets@hotmail.com](mailto:D_A_Nets@hotmail.com). For more information about the Trails Committee and the Peace Hike, email me at [lsven@peak.org](mailto:lsven@peak.org).



## Yachats Public Library

by Marie Green, Chair Library Commission

Have you wondered about those small colored dots on the spine of your library book? The colors do have meaning and are helpful in re-shelving books and/or finding a particular section. A yellow dot signifies a newly acquired book that can be found in the front bookcases at the entrance of the library. A royal blue dot is a mystery and a black dot is large print. Yes, a book may have multiple dots. A new large print mystery will sport yellow, black and blue dots.

Western novels have gold dots and science fiction/fantasy have purple ones. Both these sections can be found between the regular fiction and large print fiction sections in the middle of the library. The Northwest Collection has light blue dots with green dots for local authors like Sheila Evans for whom the Library Friends recently had an afternoon reception. This section is on the west wall just beyond the card catalog.

New on the front shelves are locally produced DVD's with large purple dots. Gardening books and materials have orange dots and mostly are on the white rack on the east wall near the books on CD's. Oh yes, new books with stars on the top right front shelf. This is the Nancy Reynolds-*New York Times* Best Seller Collection, underwritten by Nancy's family.

Totally confused? Colorblind? No worry, just ask one of our volunteer librarians. We love to help our patrons.

Fifteen little wigglers come over to the library most Thursday mornings from the Yachats pre-school at the Commons. They love the Virginia Chamberlin Children's Room and we love having them, especially when parents bring them back during regular hours.

## Museum

by Mary Crook, Coordinator

This is a magical time of year. In our latitude the sun sets a little after 4:30 p.m., and from the darkness emerges light—the twinkling, comforting lights of the season.

This year our little village will be dancing with light, and the Little Log Church and Museum will be among the dancers. Thanks to the loving hands of volunteers Carl Miller and Robin Link, our landmark at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pontiac Streets will be dazzling with 7,200 tiny lights strung throughout the garden and on the bell tower. Thanks to Leon Sterner, our simulated stained glass windows have been hung with utmost care. These window coverings were created by the women of the Yachats Garden Club in 1986 under the guidance of our then curator Isabelle Prescott. They glow each year during December with depictions of the Nativity. Inside, the large oil painting of the Three Wise Men, painted and hung in 1955, is highlighted with a spotlight in the sanctuary. And when light shines through the leaded stained glass window in the door between the museum and the sanctuary, the result is stunning. The window was created by Beverly Burley, a talented local artist. A half dozen or so polished agates are hidden in the window for a special effect.

We invite you to experience the full effect of the holiday lights on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., when the Yachats Winter Celebration is officially declared open. The event will be followed with refreshments and entertainment by the Sweet Adelines at the Yachats Ladies Club. We look forward to sharing this special event.

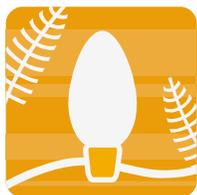


## Yachats Youth and Family Program

by Bee Bui, RecPLUS Team Leader

### **Make a difference—be the difference**

The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) is looking for creative and patient individuals who want to share their skills and passion with our future. Come and volunteer and make a genuine difference in the hearts of local children. To learn more, please call (541) 547-4599 or visit [www.yachatsyouth.org](http://www.yachatsyouth.org).



## Little Log Church &

## **Ornament Night in Yachats**

YYFAP in partnership with the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church invites people of all ages to join together on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church for an evening full of good food, wonderful company and holiday crafts for everyone! There is no charge, but donations of canned goods for the Yachats Food Pantry or gifts for the children at the Yachats Preschool are appreciated.

#### **YYFAP Closed December 20 - January 3**

YYFAP will be closed in preparation for the New Year. All of our programs will resume January 4th including our drop-in afterschool program, RecPLUS for ages 6 and up. Children may ride the school bus to the Commons after school and must be picked up before 6 p.m. There is a \$25 fee per family per quarter.

#### **Yachats Food Pantry in High Demand**

The Yachats Food Pantry, located inside the front entrance of the Yachats Commons, is experiencing a great deal of demand. It is stocked regularly by the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Our Coastal Village Foundation, and many individual citizens. Even so, it is often depleted, and people in need sometimes go away empty-handed. This increased usage means a change in the distribution system. Beginning on November 15<sup>th</sup>, those who want to use the pantry or donate to the pantry will need to go into City Hall to get a key. The pantry will continue to be available to anyone who needs it and no questions will be asked. There is a voluntary survey available so the pantry organizers can assess who is using the food pantry and how many people are being fed. The change is designed to help conserve this community resource so that all who need it have access to it.

#### **Ditch the Workout and Join the Party!**

Imagine a workout where fast and slow rhythms and resistance are combined with some Latin flavor and international zest, while at the same time you are working up a sweat. That is Zumba®! No wonder the five-session, all ages Zumba® class was a town hit. Lisa Bursey, certified Zumba® Gold Instructor completely blew everyone a way. Because Zumba® was such a big hit we are trying to expand more opportunities to Zumba® in Yachats. In January check back with us to see if there is a new Zumba® schedule.

**For more information about YYFAP programs, please visit our website at [www.yachatsyouth.org](http://www.yachatsyouth.org) or call us at (541) 547-4599.**

## Shop and Celebrate Yachats-Style

by Andrea Scharf, Marketing Director

Inside the stores, you will find an incredible variety of gift items, from clothing to fine art, kitchen tools to power tools. Every time you spend \$5, you will receive a raffle ticket at participating stores. There is no limit—the more you shop, eat, and stay in Yachats, the better your chances to win wonderful prizes, including two nights at the Overleaf Lodge, a freshwater pearl necklace from the Fireside Gift Shop, free rental of a DVD player and DVD from Ya-Hots Video, and lots of gift certificates and gift items. Look for posters and drop boxes at participating stores.

The Yachats Chamber of Commerce's traditional WinterFest celebration continues all month with carols, bells, wreath-making, and other festivities. This year, there is also a Winter Solstice Celebration. Visit [www.GoYachats.com](http://www.GoYachats.com) or the Yachats Chamber of Commerce's website at [www.yachats.org](http://www.yachats.org) for more information.

Many thanks to Carl Miller and Robin Link for their fabulous decoration of the Little Log Church, and to all the businesses in town for making our little village festive and bright. However you celebrate the holidays, may they be filled with the joy of the season!



## Yachats Lunch Bunch

by Paul Niblock, Coordinator

The 2010 Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. inside the multipurpose room at the Yachats Commons.

The Christmas fare is as traditional as we can get it: roasted turkey; dressing; mashed potatoes-'n-gravy; sweet potatoes; Waldorf salad; and rolls with butter. This will be preceded by appetizers, and followed by Christmas Cookies. And of course there will be live entertainment.

The event is open to everyone over 55 years with a suggested donation of \$4 per person. In the spirit of the season, we ask that everyone bring a donation for the food bank. Don't forget there are many hungry pets too, who will appreciate your thoughtfulness.





## Holiday Food Baskets & Gifts for Children

by Tonner Hayes, SLR President

Donations to *Operation Santa* of canned food and/or cash or check for our annual Christmas Holiday Food Baskets can be dropped off at the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District at 215 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on Saturday and Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Fire Chief Frankie Petrick and her crew will make sure your donations get to us in time to help families and individuals in need for the Christmas holiday.

Holiday Food Baskets will be filled with canned foods such as: soups; vegetables; fruit; tuna; beans; and chili. In addition to peanut butter, pastas and other dry goods. Collected food goes to South Lincoln Resources where volunteers fill hundreds of boxes, also adding a ham, bread, potatoes, onions, carrots and eggs.

The South Lincoln County's *Needy Children's Christmas Program* has gathered gifts for children of food basket applicants for more than 25 years. New clothing and non-electronic toys are matched to each child. These gifts are gathered all year. Every dollar of donated funds is used to purchase the gifts. There will be *Trees of Giving* until December 10<sup>th</sup> in all south county banks, including Bank of the West in Yachats. For more information about the children's Christmas gift program please call Washington Federal at (541) 563-3226.

This is the 28<sup>th</sup> year for Holiday Food Baskets serving children, families and seniors in Yachats, Ten Mile and other south Lincoln County areas. South Lincoln Resources is an all-volunteer, non-profit charitable organization with no paid positions and no government funding. For your convenience during the busy holiday season, we accept checks made out to "South Lincoln Resources" and mailed to us at P.O. Box 1638, Waldport, OR 97394.

For more information, please call South Lincoln Resources at (541) 563-2388 or visit [www.SouthLincolnResources.org](http://www.SouthLincolnResources.org) anytime.



## Garden Update

by Marje Takei, Yachats Community Garden Board

As I wander the garden in the sun of November I see the splendor all around. Each garden bed has its own beauty. This has been a terrific two

years of gardening in the best possible site in Yachats. Citizens and visitors have appreciated the beauty and productivity of the garden. The garden has provided us with endless produce and quiet moments of solitude or shared appreciation.

However we cannot extend the lease to grow for the year of 2011 as the garden lot is for sale.

We have asked each gardener to make their site as neat as possible and to bag rinsed surplus produce and take it to the Yachats Food Pantry or Food Share in Waldport or Newport. We will plan for a future work day to complete the final clean up soon and hope that others will find time to join us in this final task.

If you know of anyone who is interested in making a worthy donation to the citizens of Yachats please pass on the information that the garden is now for sale.



## Heard Backstage

by Robbie Schoonover, Board President One of Us Productions

Have you always wanted to be in a live theater production? Didn't think you could memorize lines? WELL here is your chance! *One of Us Productions* will be having auditions in January for their March/April show. It is a live radio show called "Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Show." You just need to be familiar with the lines.

Auditions will be held on January 8, 2011 at 7 p.m. and January 9, 2011 at 2 p.m. in Room 8 inside the Yachats Commons and January 15, 2011 at 7p.m. and January 16, 2011 at 2p.m. in Room 3 of the Yachats Commons.

Please call me at (541) 547-3786 for further information.



## Apology from the Mayor

A few people have appropriately pointed out that I made a statement in last month's newsletter that did not properly recognize the contributions of one local family to the quality of life in our town. I said, "We have a grocery store in town that wasn't here last year and it's better than any we've had before." While the statement is true enough, it doesn't recognize the fact that we have that grocery store, and

that it is now better than ever, largely because of the dedication and diligence of the Clark family and their efforts on behalf of our community. They built it and then rebuilt it through their negotiations with the present owners. I apologize for my clumsiness and extend my thanks to the Clark family.