



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

February 2003

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FROM THE MAYOR

TRANSPORTATION GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Last summer, under a grant for \$86,600 from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD), the City selected a Portland engineering consultant to develop a Highway 101/downtown refinement plan. Following a parking study and initial meetings between the consultant and a broadly based citizen advisory committee, the consulting team brought two proposed schemes to the February 10 City Council work session. The proposed one-hour review lasted for four hours with much interaction by all participants and a "preferred" plan was selected for the consultants to polish and bring back on March 24 for a public open house. This plan addresses three primary concerns that have been consistently identified relative to Highway 101, particularly in the Town Core area:

1. Safety is compromised as traffic speeds are regularly above the posted speeds- Vehicles, particularly through traffic, often have a high rate of speed due to the lack of visual clues that the motorist is in an urban area. Vehicles pulling out of parking spaces are in conflict with these fast moving vehicles.
2. Pedestrians are unable to easily cross Highway 101-the high vehicle volumes and speeds make it very difficult for pedestrians, especially the less agile, to cross Highway 101. The few existing crosswalks are not signalized or clearly marked to vehicles.
3. Limited parking in popular areas-Vehicle congestion is increased as people circle and back out of spaces. Parking

locations are not designated, which increases confusion in the congested areas. The parking supply is further impacted by the multiple spaces used by Recreational Vehicles and the visual barrier they provide.

To resolve these issues the consultants have developed several proposed modifications to the street grid system as follows:

- Improve the intersection of 2nd, Beach and Highway 101 to make access to the Post Office safer.
- Make changes to Ocean View Drive and Highway 101 to improve safety and provide for pedestrian crossing.
- Identify transition areas at the North and South entrances to town to help slow traffic.
- Create sidewalks from the Core area to the North and identify crosswalk locations.

The proposed plan, when adopted, will form the basis for improved parking, pedestrian traffic and street enhancement for the core downtown plus recommending methods for traffic calming at both the North and South Gateways to Yachats. The suggested methods employ some fairly radical departures from current traffic patterns and will take a significant amount of time as well as money to accomplish. Before implementing many of these changes, we expect to use temporary markings and/or a traffic cone to see how practical the concept is before it becomes permanent.

This is where you come in! Please plan on attending the public meeting on March 24 to provide your input.



EROSION ALONG OCEAN VIEW DRIVE A HAZARD

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At the February meeting, City Council discussed the increasingly dangerous situation along Ocean View Drive, particularly in the area near the intersection of Fourth Street.

City Council adopted the following resolution, which has been forwarded to the County Board of Commissioners:

Resolution No. 403 - A Resolution To Protect Ocean View Drive

WHEREAS, Ocean View Drive is a key component of the City's transportation system; and **WHEREAS**, Ocean View Drive is under the jurisdiction and responsibility of Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, between 4th Street and 5th Street on Ocean View Drive, erosion of the adjoining bluff has occurred potentially endangering both motorists and pedestrians, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Yachats desires to protect its citizens by immediate provision of additional guard rail, and;

WHEREAS, protection from further erosion is essential to the future maintenance of Ocean View Drive.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Yachats resolves as follows:

- 1) that Lincoln County immediately arrange for sufficient guard rail to provide vehicular and pedestrian safety;
- 2) that Lincoln County obtain appropriate permits and proceed with needed erosion control.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Yachats on this 13th day of February 2003.



IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS

- City Council voted to go on record as supporting the Mayor of West Linn in his efforts for proposed State legislation for System Development Fees for Schools and Police, Fire and Library Facilities; Repeal of 20-Year Land Supply Rule; and, Repeal of Revision of Expedited Land Division Law
- Council changed the April Meeting dates. The work session will be on the 14th and the regular meeting on the 17th

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- City Council approved the Parade Permit submitted by the Catholic Mothers for Peace.
- Directed the City Planner to review the current code related to abatement and nuisances concerning structures; and, to survey other cities. The Planner will report his findings to the City Council at a later meeting.
- Council returned the proposed changes for the kitchen and dish rental rates to the Parks and Commons Commission for reconsideration.



**PUBLIC WORKS AND STREETS COMMISSION
ADOPTS 2003 GOALS**

At their meeting on February 4th the Public Works and Streets Commission adopted the following goals.

- Monitor the schedule set for sewage collection system and treatment plant upgrades in the MAO.
- Pursue extension of the city's water rights on the Yachats River.
- Monitor and participate in the TGM/ODOT Transportation/Parking/Circulation Study
- Review the five-year Street/Storm/System plan and budget figures.
- Assess the desirability of a transportation fee for street improvements.
- Assess options for fundraising to purchase a speed-monitoring device.
- Review water and wastewater rate recommendations from the Ray Bartlett Study and make recommendations to City Council.

In his report to the City Council, Commission Chair, Drew Roslund, said there was a positive turn out for the Grease Trap Meeting, which included a demonstration on grease traps. There will be a follow-up with the restaurant owners who were unable to attend.

Roslund said that the Public Forum on Transportation Fees resulted in a general consensus to work within the existing budget and set priorities. The Commission will continue to address this issue and make recommendations to the council.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT



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- The Solid Waste District has set the next paint collection for March. In the District's recycle program latex paint is collected and re-screened for sale at \$5/gallon.
- Monthly efficiency audit was 76% due to minor leaks. As projects are addressed this summer the goal will be to remain above the 80% mark.
- The Reedy Creek watershed access road permit was extended until December 31, 2003. Upon the Forest Service's review of the work performed the City will be issued a five-year extension on that permit.
- The application for the Yachats River water right permit extension was received a few weeks ago. Up to now the city has not exercised the permit. Currently the Oregon Department of Water Resources is requesting a justification for maintaining the permit and the methodology for use of the water drawn from the Yachats River. A meeting with engineers and a review of the Master Plan will be helpful.
- The Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) was signed a few weeks ago; however, the City has not received a fully executed document from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The EPA Optimization Audit was performed and a written report is expected within 2 weeks. Dyer Partnership has submitted proposals for completing the Inflow & Infiltration Rehabilitation and the Facilities Plan. In the MAO the I & I Rehab has a sixty-day window and the Facilities Plan is approximately 18 months.
- A tentative meeting with Lincoln County, DLCD, and State Parks representatives, together with a geologist to discuss concerns about the erosion at the end of Fourth and Ocean View Drive. The public works crew is working on the Seventh Street storm system. It should be completed within the next two weeks. Prospect was completed last year. Both projects were incorporated for cost savings purposes.



**LIBRARY COMMISSION MEMBER
APPOINTED**

Janet Hickam has been appointed to serve on the Library Commission for a

term ending in 2005. Hickam is a retired businesswoman. She and her husband have owned a house in Yachats for seven years and moved here permanently 2 years ago. Hickam said that she has been volunteering at the Library for about 1½ years and that she loves what the Library stands for in the community.



**YACHATS CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING
VACANCIES:**

1 - Planning Commission

1 - Term ending December 31, 2006

2 - Public Works and Streets Commission

1 - Term ending December 31, 2003

1 - Term ending December 31, 2004

2 - Budget Committee

2 - Term ending December 31, 2005

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

For a complete description of the duties and requirements, please ask at City Hall.

Those interested in serving on the Commissions or Committee can pick up a Volunteer Application Form at City Hall, 441 N. Hwy 101, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 p.m.

In order to provide the Commissions the opportunity to review the applications and make recommendations to City Council please submit as soon as possible.



Commons News

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By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

If you wandered through the Commons recently, you probably noticed that once again it seems to be in a state of flux. The Angell Job Corps painters, under the leadership of their instructor, Rich Bappe, are busy giving the Civic Meeting Room a new look. They will also be painting City Hall and finishing some work around the rest of the building. The two rooms will also be getting new carpeting, which will be a great improvement. Have patience with all this. It will be well worth it in the end.

There are also a brand new batch of tables, donated by the Friends of the Commons. And for those of you who have had to move the old behemoths, you will appreciate these new ones. They are so light and can be moved by one strong person. The Commons has also been the recipient of new black chairs, also by the Friends, which will now complete our set for the building.

Should you be wandering around the Commons, you might notice the great array of daffodils springing forth around the front of the building. This very cheery message was planted by the master gardeners last fall. We are very lucky in this community. The amount of volunteerism that makes our lives richer and more interesting is amazing.

For the next few weeks, the Commons will be the place to be. On Saturday, March 1, the Recorder Society will be presenting a concert at 3 pm. This is a fund-raiser for the Youth Chorale.

On Sunday, March 9, the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program is putting on their annual talent show. Come to the Commons for a good time and great entertainment at 2 pm. On Friday, March 14, the Yachats Homeschool group will be showing off their master projects at 6 pm. Come see what these hardworking children have been doing.

On March 22 and 23, the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual and much-loved arts and crafts fair. Shop for Christmas very early and shop often!

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

In public hearings held in January and February, the Planning Commission heard from the public and deliberated on several issues as follows:

Proposed Flood Hazard Ordinance - City Planner, Larry Lewis, explained that adoption of the changes would bring the City Code into accordance with Federal Flood Prevention guidelines. The Planning Commission voted to recommend City Council adopt the Flood Hazard Ordinance as a final draft with amended corrections as suggested by City Planner Larry Lewis.

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance - Lewis explained that a "Accessory dwelling unit" (ADU) is the general term for accessory apartments and cottages that are a subordinate residential dwelling unit incorporated within or on the same parcel as a single-family structure that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons. Lewis distributed three letters received in testimony regarding the ordinance. Two supported the ordinance and the other opposed ADUs. Public comments included:

- There is a lack of affordable housing in the City.
- An R-1 residential zone is intended to provide a quality environment for low density, urban, single family residential uses, so problems of suitable low cost housing should be addressed and rectified in areas zoned for multiple housing units.
- While under the agreement with the DEQ the City should make every attempt to limit the amount of wastewater going into the treatment plants.
- The additional automobiles, noise and air pollution will degrade the livability of the R-1 Zone.
- It is counter productive to the village atmosphere Yachats is promoting.

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- The ability to enforce the ordinance was questioned.
- The impact of the ADUs in a R-1 zone on property values and the number of potential home buyers was questioned.
- There is an assisted living facility in town if people need that.

The Planning Commission voted to continue this matter at their March meeting.

Reduction of Minimum Lot Area

Required for two-family dwellings - Lewis explained that the proposal for reducing the minimum lot size for a two-family dwelling from 10,000 square feet to 7,500 square feet in R2, R3 & R4 zones was because there are many lots in those zones that are too small for anything besides a single family dwelling under the current code. Adoption of the amendment would facilitate multi-family dwellings, smaller rental units.

The Planning Commission voted to recommend City Council adopt the change.

Proposed Line Adjustment Ordinance -

Lewis said that the City does not have a property line adjustment ordinance and without one there is no mechanism for the City to provide input when the County processes such requests so illegal or nonconforming lots could be created as a result. The ordinance would authorize the City Planner to review the request to ensure it is in conformance with the City Code. Notification would be sent out to property owners within 100 feet and upon approval the owner would be required to present a plat prepared and a deed signed by both affected property owners before finalizing the adjustment. Public comments included:

- A variance process should be applied.
- This will increase bureaucracy.
- If the issue is a mechanism so City knows what is happening why not work with the County on a communication mechanism instead of putting an ordinance in to place.

The Planning Commission voted to recommend City Council adopt the change.

City Council will consider these issues at a public hearing later in the year.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Making sure your house number is clearly visible could mean the difference between life and death. Emergency vehicles need to be able to see the number when responding to a call. The UPS or Fed-X driver would probably thank you as well.



A City ordinance requires that all house numbers be posted, and they should be visible from the street ***at night***, and in all kinds of weather.

The City has been working with the County to ensure that all addresses are appropriate, and that those in use are correct. If you have any questions about your address, or if you would like to know more about the ordinance requirements, please call City Hall.

The Fire District may be able to assist you if you can not hang the numbers!

WATER SAVER CONTEST SUGGESTIONS



Last year the City Council had a contest for water saving suggestions. Each month for three months the winning suggestion was awarded a discount equal to the base rate for water that month.

The suggestions received were so good they are being reprinted.

- Keep a container by the sink to put any unused water from glasses, pet water bowls, or cleaning vegetables - use it for plants
- Shower with a friend.
- Collect water while you wait for it to get warm and use it to water plants
- Take showers instead of baths
- Use the dishwasher instead of doing them by hand
- Do not leave the water running while you brush your teeth or soap up in the shower or while washing your hands
- Park on the lawn while you wash your car - this waters the grass too (use biodegradable soap)
- After soaking in an Epson salts bath save the water for plants - it is good for the plants
- Landscape using native plants that have adapted to periods of drought
- Use the water from steaming vegetables on plants
- Catch rainwater (or fog moisture) in a barrel to water plants
- Plant in pots and containers so you can really target the water on that plant.
- Only do laundry when the tub is full
- Put the toilet lid down and flush less often
- Wash dishes in the largest container used to prepare the meal rather than filling up the sink
- Collect water when washing your hands to water plants
- Use a non-electric pressure washer that uses 6 quarts or less to wash small loads of laundry up to 6 lbs. Then use the water

for plants. (The pressure washer costs \$49 uses less than 2 oz. Of soap for a 6 lb. load. Catalog information is available at City Hall)

- Place bark dust (or other mulch) around plants so that water does not evaporate.
- Use recycled water to wash deck surfaces, railings, porches, and cars.
- When using the garbage disposal after washing dishes or vegetables turn on the disposal only, and let most of the water out of the sink before turning on the water faucet. Turn the water on only for a second or two after the water empties from the sink.
- Use a washing machine that saves wash or rinse water. It empties into a laundry tub and then can be used to refill your machine for a second or third load of wash.
- In new construction be sure to have a water circulator installed. Warm water will always be there instantly, eliminating the need to let water run before getting warm.
- Take showers or baths every other day instead of every day.
- Use a timer to control the time of your showers.



VISIT THE CITY OF YACHATS ON THE INTERNET!

The City web page is the place to check out information about:

- *City Council and Commission Members, Minutes, and General Government*
- *The City Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Land Use*
- *The Commons, Little Log Church, and Library*
- *News*
- *History*
- *Emergency Information*
- *Links to other County and State Government Internet Sites*

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