



# NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

February 2006



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Mayor Susanne Smith

The Green Ribbon Committee, in looking for revenue sources to repay the loan for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, suggested to City Council that developing an Urban Renewal District be considered. At the January meeting Council decided to hire urban renewal consultant, Charles Kupper of Spencer and Kupper, to help the City with a feasibility study. What this means is that he will work with us to see if that kind of district is in the overall best interests of the City of Yachats.

Simply, an Urban Renewal District is an area within a City in which tax growth revenue is captured and used to finance a variety of projects identified in the Plan. Steps in the process are as follows:

- Total assessed value in the renewal area becomes the "frozen base" of assessed value.
- The total assessed values in the area are re-calculated each year that the plan is in operation.
- Tax increment revenue is produced when total assessed values exceed the frozen base value.
- Under Ballot Measure 50, growth in values comes from new construction, and a maximum 3% growth on existing property.
- The tax increment revenue must be spent on activities written into the renewal plan.
- The tax increment revenue must be spent inside the urban renewal plan boundary.

Two magic numbers that must be kept in mind are that only 25% of the total acreage within a city may be used and the renewal area may not contain more than 25% of the total valuation in the city.

Some projects funded by urban renewal dollars include:

- Basic infrastructure like water, sewer, and storm sewer
- Public improvements like parks, trails, open spaces, as well as assistance in construction of public buildings and facilities
- Redevelopment assistance like land acquisition and disposition for public or private purposes
- Planning and Administration including Traffic and Engineering studies

When the feasibility study is completed, City Council will decide if the district should be established. If City Council makes the decision to go forward with an urban renewal district, public meetings will be held and public input will be sought as part of the process. More information will be available via the newsletter as it becomes available.



## CCI

By Mayor Susanne Smith

The Committee for Citizen Involvement is made up of a group of interested and concerned citizens in a community and is assigned the task of watching, monitoring, and providing information on land use issues to

the citizenry at large. It is a part of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, the first of which is Citizen Involvement. Goal 1, in part, is to "develop a citizen involvement program that insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process". Now, more than in recent years, it is vital to the future planning for Yachats. As we begin updating the vision for Yachats in preparation for updating our Comprehensive Land Use Plan, citizen involvement and participation is critical. For further indepth information, see the DLCD (Department of Land Conservation and Development) website: [www.aviation.or.us/LCD](http://www.aviation.or.us/LCD). For information about how this might work in Yachats, check at City Hall. The Yachats CCI has been dormant for several years.



### **PLANT STRIP UPDATE**

By Mayor Susanne Smith

Thank you to Jim and Janet Burley are in order for their "adoption" of the plant strip in front of their commercial property in Yachats. Almost every strip has been adopted. Look for all the plants to begin growing and thriving as spring approaches. Beautification is an ongoing process. Coordinating this effort has been a considerable undertaking by Bev Barmore and her committee. Thanks to Bev as well.



### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS-KITS, SUPPLIES, ETC.NOAA RADIOS**

By Mayor Susanne Smith

Do you have a 72 hour emergency kit packed and ready to go? Do you have a NOAA radio close at hand to monitor off shore conditions? Do you know where to go in the event of an earthquake resulting in a tsunami? While we all hope none of this will be necessary in our lifetimes, there is a very real possibility that we could have a tsunami.....next year, next month, next week, or tomorrow. In the event that that occurs, we in this area are likely to be on our own not for a number of hours, but for a number of days and perhaps even weeks. All one needs to do is Google the word "tsunami" and all the information anyone could want is available at ones' fingertips. The Red Cross and the City of Yachats have a list of what should be included in an emergency survival kit. At the bottom of the first page of the City website, [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us), is a link to a list of supplies, as well as tsunami evacuation maps and instructions. There are a great number of trite sayings about preparation: Better to be safe than sorry; "Proper preparation prevents poor performance"; "Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it", etc. In this case, they are all appropriate.

In order to help you "Be Prepared", the Yachats Volunteer Fire Department is making disaster packs available. They have very small packs designed to supplement what you may already have, all the way up to packs for 5 or 10 people. The most popular pack has been the 2 or 4 person pack. Prices range from \$26 to \$100 depending on size. If you need help with your disaster planning and how best to build a survival pack, give the Fire District a call at 547-3266 or stop by the fire station at 215 W 2<sup>nd</sup> and look at the display of supplies available.



### **COMMISSION MEMBERS APPOINTED**

The following volunteers were appointed to serve on the various commissions and committees:

#### **The Budget Committee:**

Keith Perkins and Ed Pfannmuller

#### **Planning Commission:**

Katherine Guenther, Greg Dimmick, Max Glenn and Carol Dutra.

#### **Parks and Commons Commission:**

James "Dave" Fisher

Volunteers are the City's most important asset, and thanks goes out to those who have

served as well as those that have been newly appointed.

There are still vacancies on the Parks and Commons Commission. Anyone interested in serving should come into City Hall and pick up an application.



### OCEAN VIEW BOULDER DISCUSSION CONTINUES

Lincoln County requested that the Yachats Public Works & Streets Commission make a recommendation regarding the trail markers along Ocean View Drive. Currently the markers are large boulders, which have raised concerns over liability and risk. The ongoing discussion about what to do along Ocean View Drive and the trail will be addressed at the next Public Works and Streets Commission meeting on March 7 at 7:00 p.m. If you have not yet had an opportunity to express your opinion, this would be the time. The County Public Works Director will make a decision by the May 10 joint meeting with Lincoln County Commission and Yachats City Council.

Mayor Smith announced at the last Council meeting that there has been some forward movement in completing the Ocean View Trail. The State had approved the placement of riprap near the intersection of Ocean View Drive and 4<sup>th</sup> Street, then it was appealed by Oregon Shores. The appeal is in the process of being settled and should be completed within a few weeks. Smith said this brings things a little closer to a final 804 S. settlement. The City will continue to work to secure an easement across the Adobe property and design the public access across lot 1. Smith said there are still some funds available, and all parties will have to figure out how to use those funds.



### MAIL-IN ELECTION MARCH 14

In December City Council authorized a special election to be held in March concerning the urban growth boundary (UGB) changes requested by Steve and Robert Hamilton.

City Attorney, Mike Dowsett explained that an election is required because the City Charter says that any change in the boundary must be voted on by the citizens. The proposed change would not result in any additional acreage being within the UGB because it is an "exchange" of one section of one lot for another section of the same lot, owned by the same owners. This property has been part in the city and part in the county for many years.



Have you ever walked a labyrinth? Should Yachats have one? Want to talk about labyrinths? Please call Mary Crook at 547-4547 or Marie Green at 547-5171.



### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT by John McClintock



Due to the stormy rainy weather recently a hydraulic load has been put on the plant, but it is running ok.

- The crew would like to thank the Mayor for her kind words in the newsletter about the public works staff.
- The water efficiency report shows close to 90 percent. Public works has changed the meter that registers how much water is produced. McClintock said they have finished PLC work and now have the ability to bypass and shut the plant off or turn it on manually.
- McClintock is looking into buying polymer in greater quantities to save money. The price can go from 85 cents down to 60 cents per pound, a \$6,000 savings over a three-year period.
- The wastewater system got through the recent storms and rain ok. Public Works has done a lot of replacement and repair, but that isn't something on which the City should spend too much because of the new plant being built. McClintock spent a day and a half reviewing sewer plant plans with the Dyer Partnership prior to the DEQ review.
- The preliminary wastewater treatment plant plan and report have gone to DEQ. There is a timeline chart available. The tentative plans and specs will now be reviewed by DEQ. Changes will be made and the final plans will be submitted, hopefully by the end of July. Then the City will get back final revisions after the DEQ review and the construction should go out for bid in August.
- McClintock reported that during the end of March through April the public works staff will be smoke testing to check for downspouts or other infiltration into the sewer system. They will notify the public and the Fire Department before beginning.
- McClintock did a walk through with ODOT regarding the overlay project. This will go out for bid next month and be awarded in April. McClintock said the project may begin in May or June, with work being done at night, as agreed to by the Council. The City will have to pay about \$10,000 to raise all risers, manholes and valve lids.
- The State Transportation Improvement Program will be on the PW&S agenda next month. They will also discuss grant possibilities for Transportation Enhancement funds, which can be used for road restoration and sidewalk, bicycle or pedestrian issues.



### THE CITY OF YACHATS NEEDS YOU

*What will define the community of Yachats in the future? What is most important to Yachats residents and people who work here?*

The City of Yachats encourages your participation in updating the vision for our community. When complete, the vision will describe the desired character of Yachats and the future we would like to see. The vision is very important, as it will be used as a guide for future decisions. For example, it will be used this year to guide the update of the City's comprehensive land use plan, the framework for growth and development in the city.

Members of the Vision and Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee are ready to talk with community groups about your vision and what matters most to you. The presentations can be 20 minutes or longer and will be tailored to the time you have. If you can host or participate in a community discussion, please contact Joy McCaslin, Deputy City Recorder, at 547-3565. The results of these discussions will be used to help develop the vision and to create a more detailed community survey that will be included in your April 1 water bill.

**Thank you!**



### COUNCIL SUPPORTS HERITAGE TREE NOMINATION

After hearing a request by Sally Lockyear and Joanne Kittel, City Council voted to authorize Mayor Smith to draft a letter of support for the nomination of the *Giant Spruce Tree* – at Cape Perpetua as an Oregon State Heritage Tree.

Lockyear said she has been around trees all of her life, and since 1984 has come to love the giant spruce. She said she believes it has been tremendously overlooked for this honor, and that it will succeed for nomination in 2006. There is a celebration held the year after nomination. The award would go to Suislaw National Forest because the tree is on their land. Kittel said the tree is a minimum of 565 years old, probably older, which is 50 years before Columbus. The tree is in a unique spot where Douglas Fir and Sitka Spruce meet. The tree has survived storms and earthquakes, fires, logging and even a development planned in

the late 20's that did not take place.



### **COUNCIL RECEIVES THE YACHATS RIVER QUALITY REPORT**

Andrea Scharf reported that the volunteer group has recently completed the sixth year of a ten-year study of the Yachats River. Sampling was done at nine sites each year. This year the group has worked on a special study in cooperation with the Lincoln soil and water conservation district (LSWCD) and the Oregon Department Of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to look at water quality-limiting factors. She explained that there are various levels of pollution that shouldn't be exceeded.

Scharf said they looked at temperatures in the river. Temperatures that are too warm are considered pollution. Temperatures that exceed 64 degrees are dangerous to fish. In that sense, the sun can be a pollutant. The group placed temperature loggers in 33 sites, both in main steam and tributaries. She said they also did onsite inspections, as to the shape of riverbed, rocks and gravel, vegetation, the amount of shade that falls on the stream, and flow measurements.

Scharf said next year they will continue working looking at dissolved oxygen and e-coli. She reported that they found the flow did not go below the average water level, in spite of the dry winter last year. The group was not able to study the estuary this year as they have done in the past three years. They were short some funding last year, and have applied again this year, but may not get it. Scharf said they appreciated the city's financial help.

Councilor Evans asked if they had any theory as to why the water downstream doesn't get warmer. Scharf said the water is deeper at the estuary. She said that where water flows through open pastures it becomes shallow and heats up. Jim Adler reported that the deq's work with the data will answer some of those questions. He said there are cold water intrusions, and the results of the study will be able to start to answer what the mechanics are of heating and cooling. Schlesinger said there is a spot called the enchanted forest where the water cools off because it is shaded for a mile and one half. Nixon asked if there is wood being added to the riverbed. There is some wood being placed, and some added naturally. Scharf invited anyone interested in going along on a sampling trip to call.

Bobbi Lind burg and Gary Arnold, of the Oregon DEQ and Eddie Hackings of Lincoln Soil And Water Conservation District were on hand to present certificates to Jim Adler and Andrea Scharf.

There will be a meeting March 25 at the Yachats commons from 2:00 to 4:00 on this subject.



### **CITY COUNCIL GOALS ADOPTED FOR 2006**

#### *LONG TERM GOALS*

1. MAINTAIN A SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM AND EFFICIENCY RATING
2. PURSUE STABLE LONG TERM FUNDING
3. PROVIDE FOR RESIDENT AND VISITOR SAFETY
4. PURSUE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
5. MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE LIVABILITY OF YACHATS

#### *COUNCIL OBJECTIVES*

- A. TO DEVELOP SIGNAGE FOR INFORMATION (DESIGNATING TRAILS, ACCESS, LEASH LAW, DIRECTIONS, ETC.)
- B. TO CONTINUE WORK ON TSUNAMI (OR OTHER EMERGENCY) WARNING SYSTEM; STORAGE FACILITIES FOR SUPPLIES; SITES FOR PLACEMENT; SUPPLIES; COMMUNICATIONS; CERT TRAINING; RESIDENT/VISITOR PREPAREDNESS
- C. TO MAINTAIN THE OVERSIGHT OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTY
- D. TO REVISIT THE FEASIBILITY OF A TRAIL BYPASSING THE "GORGE" ON HIGHWAY 101
- E. TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CITY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
- F. TO CONTINUE EXPEDITING THE WWTP PROJECT (REPAYMENT PLAN, PLANS, CONSTRUCTION, ETC,)
- G. TO REPOPULATE THE COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT TO WORK WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN PROCESS
- H. TO CONTINUE WORKING ON IMPROVEMENT OF PARKING IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE
- I. TO CONTINUE OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING/ADJUSTING OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006		
<i>Reporting Through January 31, 2006</i>		
<b>Program</b>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$668,528	\$480,102
Library	\$17,571	\$9,833
Little Log Church & Museum	\$10,038	\$6,273
Parks & Commons*	\$141,078	\$112,764
Streets	\$110,545	\$58,288
Water	\$431,658	\$251,720
Sewer	\$963,572	\$378,447
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,616,162	\$1,398,332
Debt	\$147,355	\$106,866
	<u>\$4,106,507</u>	<u>\$2,802,625</u>



### **LOW INCOME WAIVER ON WATER BILLS**

A WAIVER OF 50% OF THE MONTHLY BASE WATER CHARGE MAY BE GRANTED BY THE CITY RECORDER BASED UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY THE USER, AND DOCUMENTATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF OREGON. BASED ON THE CURRENT BASE RATE THAT WAIVER IS \$11.50 PER MONTH.

IF YOU MEET THE CRITERIA, AND WOULD LIKE YOUR CASE CONSIDERED CONTACT THE CITY OFFICE.



### **COMMONS NEWS**

BY SUSAN GARNER - COMMONS COORDINATOR

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF EXCITING THINGS GOING ON HERE AT THE COMMONS THESE DAYS. THE YACHATS YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM, HEADQUARTERED IN OUR BASEMENT HAS A NEW FACE. THE FRIENDS OF THE COMMONS DONATED MONEY TO IMPROVE THE LOOK OF THE ROOM WITH NEW WINDOWS, A NEW DOOR, NEW CABINETS AND NEW LIGHTING. THOSE IMPROVEMENTS GIVE YYFAP A CHEERIER LOOK AND MAKE THINGS MORE PLEASANT FOR THE YOUNGSTERS COMING TO THE PROGRAM. A NEW FLAG AND SIGN OUT BACK ALERT EVERYONE ABOUT THE FACILITY.

OUR COMMUNITY CENTER CONTINUES TO THRIVE. THE TIME IS NOW FOR YOU TO GET A SPACE HERE FOR YOUR EVENT. THE GROUPS THAT REGULARLY HOST THINGS HERE KNOW THAT SPACE IS AT A PREMIUM AND SO BOOK THEIR ROOMS AS SOON AS THE PLANS ARE MADE. THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN SOME COMPROMISES ARE REQUIRED, SO LET US ALL TRY TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE COMMONS AND TRY TO GIVE EVERYONE A SLOT HERE IN THE BUILDING. WEEKDAYS ARE STILL SOMEWHAT OPEN FOR SCHEDULING, SO IF YOUR EVENT CAN BE DONE DURING THE WEEK, PLEASE CALL ME.

### **EVENTS COMING UP IN MARCH**

2<sup>ND</sup> – BIG BAND DANCE, 7 PM

9<sup>TH</sup> – MOVIE NIGHT, 7 PM

10<sup>TH</sup> – YYFAP FAMILY NIGHT, 6 PM

11<sup>TH</sup> – VILLAGE MUSIC FOUNDATION CONCERT, 8 PM

12<sup>TH</sup> – YYFAP INTO THE FUTURE MEETING, 2 PM

18 & 19 – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

MARCH 30- APRIL 1– YACHATS LIBRARY BOOK SALE

**ON-GOING ACTIVITIES**

MONDAYS 8 AM – TAI CHI

MONDAYS 10 AM – EXERCISE CLASS

TUESDAYS 8 AM &amp; 9:30 AM – YOGA

WEDNESDAYS 8:30 AM – YOGA

WEDNESDAYS 10 AM – EXERCISE CLASS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM - VOLLEYBALL

THURSDAYS 4:45 PM – YOGA

FRIDAYS 8 AM – YOGA

FRIDAYS 10 AM – EXERCISE CLASS

SUNDAYS 6:30 PM - VOLLEYBALL

**YFAP - INTO THE FUTURE!**

THE YACHATS YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM INVITES KIDS, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO A SPECIAL EVENT ON **SUNDAY, MARCH 12, FROM 3:00 UNTIL 5:00 PM** IN THE YACHATS COMMONS MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM. JOIN US FOR FOOD, CONVERSATION, DOOR PRIZES, AND DISCUSSION OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR YACHATS CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES IN THE NEXT YEAR, THREE YEARS, FIVE YEARS .....

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup>, PLEASE SEND US A CARD WITH YOUR THOUGHTS!

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A NON- PROFIT GROUP, "**FRIENDS OF YACHATS SKATE BOARD PARK**" HAS BEEN INCORPORATED TO RECEIVE GIFTS AND GRANTS WITH A BANK ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED AT BANK OF THE WEST, YACHATS BRANCH AND THE MAILING ADDRESS IS "FRIENDS OF YACHATS SKATE BOARD PARK" P.O. BOX 325, YACHATS, OR 97498. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: LEON STERNER 961-4258 OR MAX GLENN 547-5171