



CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2011

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

On the first day of 2011, I joined about 60 other people for Yachats' 1st Annual New Year's Day Peace

Hike. If you were lucky enough to be on the hike with us you know what a special event it was. If you were not, I would encourage you to consider joining us next year. Not only was it an enjoyable and uplifting experience, but it was yet another metaphor for life in Yachats.

We gathered together at the Commons. Some enjoyed a cup of coffee and others just chatted as we waited until the prescribed departure time, not wanting to leave before all who wanted to participate could join us. About a dozen volunteers, mostly from the City of Yachats Trails Crew, had previously divided up the tasks required to make sure that the route was covered safely. Refreshments were lined up, the road crossings were considered, backup transportation for those needing assistance was coordinated, and the program at our destination was ready to go. We walked from the Commons to the ocean, then along the ocean to its intersection with the stretch of the Amanda Trail that was dedicated in 2009, and then all the way to the bridge and Amanda's statue.

A brisk and chilly breeze was blowing as we made our way along the route. We enjoyed the fresh air, the sunshine, the company of like-minded people, and the exercise. Then, as we entered the Amanda Creek valley, we paused for historical reflection and offered up prayers and wishes in assorted ways to the sound of lovely and haunting flute music provided by Doc Slyter of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. We found ourselves surrounded by a stillness in that deep verdant glade. It was a moment to reflect on the years past and their history, good and

bad. It was a time to offer wishes for a better future. It was a time to appreciate each other, our community, and the natural wonder of our surroundings. It was a time to revel quietly in being a Yachatian.

The metaphor lies in the spirit of volunteerism that built the trail, organized the hike, and the program. It is in the helping hands that made sure all who wanted to get to the bridge and Amanda statue had the opportunity to be there, regardless of their ability to accomplish the sustained walk 2.7 miles one way. It lies in the widespread community desire to begin a new year with a focus on something positive, a direction to head that makes our town and the world a better place. It was in enjoying each other, sharing what we value, helping each other along, and just being together. It was a reflection of the collective personality of the town.

The City of Yachats just held a community event called *The State of the City* wherein we brought the City Council and the various commissions together to highlight what we've been doing. We answered questions and explained what we're working on. We've made great progress. There is, of course, much to be done. We can never consider the work finished. But the constantly recurring metaphors of life in Yachats fuel an immense optimism for a brighter and better 2011 and years to follow. I will enjoy walking down that trail with you.



Planning Commission Activity

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The Planning Commission continues to work on amendments to the *Yachats Zoning & Land Use Code*.

Some of the amendments will implement ordinances for policy statements identified in the *2008 Yachats*

Comprehensive Plan Update. Other amendments will result from current issues that the Commission has identified through review of the *Yachats Zoning & Land Use Code* and from review of recent land use applications. Any amendments to the *Yachats Zoning & Development Code* require public hearings with the Planning Commission and the City Council. The Planning Commission will be considering additional code amendments throughout this year. A summary of recent and ongoing Planning Commission's amendment activity follows.

Subdivisions and Partitions

Proposed amendments to Chapter 9.56 Subdivisions and Partitions would: 1) eliminate the majority of redundant language; 2) delete language regarding "agreeing, offering or negotiating to sell" lots prior to recording the plat; and 3) eliminate or alter performance agreement language, i.e., the option of permitting a developer to post a performance agreement, record the subdivision or partition plat, and sell lots prior to construction of streets and utilities.

Townhouse Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.)

The Townhouse P.U.D. would allow a person(s) to own a residential dwelling in a multi-family development. In the multi-family residential zones (R-2, R-3, and R-4), condominiums and apartments are currently allowed because the underlying land remains in single ownership. The Townhouse P.U.D. would allow the same type of multi-family development. However each residential unit and the land the unit sits on could have different owners. A Townhouse P.U.D. would be subject to specific development standards and approval by the Planning Commission.

C-1 Retail Commercial Zone

Proposed amendments to the C-1 zone would: 1) require Planning Commission approval of mixed-use (commercial and residential) developments; and 2) allow for relaxed building setbacks for residential developments in the C-1 zone subject to development standards and Planning Commission approval. The Planning Commission will also be considering amendments to parking requirements in the C-1 zone.

Review of Non-Public Hearing Items

There are several land use actions identified in the *Yachats Zoning & Development Code* that require Planning Commission review however these items are not subject to public hearings. The Commission is reviewing these items to determine which items should be subject to a public hearing.

City Checklist for Land Division Approvals

Following preliminary plan approvals of land division applications by the Planning Commission, there are several requirements and conditions that a developer must follow. A detailed table is being developed to provide a checklist for the City and developers to follow to ensure the development adheres to all requirements and conditions of approval. This checklist does not require an amendment to the *Yachats Zoning & Development Code*; however it will become a policy to be used upon preliminary approvals of land divisions (subdivisions, partitions, and P.U.D.'s).

If you have any questions regarding this or any other city planning or development matter, I am available at City Hall every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except the last Tuesday of each month when I am available on the Monday prior from 12 to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. I can be reached at (541) 547-3565 to accept phone calls or to schedule my own appointments during those times.



Public Works Department

By John McClintock, Director

If you happened to be in town during the M.L.K., Jr. Holiday weekend then you probably noticed that we had a bit of a storm event. At the City of Yachats weather station, we registered over 6.7 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. This amount of rainfall kept the Public Works staff quite busy checking and unclogging storm drains all over town.

We dealt with several major drainage blocks but were able to work effectively to keep the water flowing. Probably the most noticeable blockage was south of the Yachats Bridge at Gender Creek. The deluge of rain brought down rocks, tree branches, and sediment from the hillside severely cutting off the drainage flow and ultimately flooding a portion of South Highway 101.

By the time we arrived on site, Yachats Rural Fire Protection District Chief Frankie Petrick and her crew were on the scene flagging traffic and clearing debris from the Highway 101 drainage pipes.

Thanks to the fire department's help, Public Works was able to remove at least a portion of the debris, put up barricades and warning signage, and clean the debris off of the highway.

It's great to know that in urgent situations like that there is another entity in town willing and able to assist us anyway they can. Again the Public Works Department says "Thank-you" to Chief Petrick and her dedicated and professional crew.

Despite a common misconception, Yachats Rural Fire Protection District is *not* run or funded by the City, but is its own entity funded by taxpayers in the areas they cover—north to the edge of Waldport city limits, south on Highway 101 to MP 166, and east to approximately 10 miles up Yachats River Road.

Anyone interested in accessing the City's weather station data, I mentioned earlier in my article, can log on to <http://yachats.info/weather.htm> for up-to-the-minute Yachats weather reports.



Yachats Fights Back By Wally Orchard, Trails Committee

Ben Hogan had them. Sam Snead had them. Tom Watson still has them. I'm referring to the "yips." The yips are involuntary twitches in a golfer's putting stroke, rendering the poor victim quite unable to hole a simple two-foot putt.

Now Yachats has also got the "yips," and not a minute too soon. For well over a century outsiders have been infiltrating this part of the Oregon coast, sometimes sneaking in and sometimes brazenly crossing the border in broad daylight. These aliens have become so familiar to us that it is easy to fall into the habit of thinking that they have been here all along. The invaders have taken over large tracts of our beautiful town and its environs. Blackberry, broom, knotweed, ivy, clematis, morning glory and reed canary grass are some of the worst offenders, but there are many more. An army of gorse has rounded Heceta Head and is marching inexorably northward. These plants have few, if any, natural enemies in this area and have proliferated to the point of wiping out much of our native vegetation. Humans, often with the best of intentions, were responsible for introducing these noxious weeds and humans should therefore take on the responsibility for fighting back. Enter the YIPS—the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee.

The YIPS and its crew fall under the umbrella of the City's Trails Committee that has done such sterling work in creating, maintaining and improving trails and public

areas in and around Yachats. The task that faces YIPS will be to "take back habitat" from invasive alien plants and restore some of the original natural beauty of our environs. Yachats may be the "Gem of the Oregon Coast," but some people consider it to be the "Weed Capital of the Oregon Coast!" Let's start changing that unwanted perception.

Why, you may ask, should we be concerned about these plants? They may be alien, but surely they add to the biodiversity we are always hearing about. Actually, once they get a toehold they steadily destroy the biodiversity. How diverse is a lot covered in ivy. The ivy constitutes a monoculture that wipes out dozens of native plants, making it hard for wildlife dependent upon our native ecosystem to survive. A hillside full of flowering broom may be bright and beautiful in summer, but only at a terrible cost to the environment. Native beneficial plants such as forage grasses and small trees are displaced. In fact all native life forms, from the microscopic, up through insects, reptiles, birds and mammals are negatively impacted. And if that isn't bad enough, all parts of the hot burning broom plant contain highly toxic quinolizidine alkaloids and can be fatal if ingested.

The Yachats Municipal Code is quite clear on the subject of undesirable vegetation in the City. If you have plants growing on your property that are listed in the Oregon Weed Control Board's "B" list, you are in violation of Yachats Municipal Code, Section 5.08.110. Blackberry, broom, ivy and many other invasive plants are on this list. Fortunately for most of us the City has only recently begun to enforce this code. However, the City is currently hoping that cooperation from landowners will avoid the need for citations.

The YIPS crew has already been working on selected invasive plants in Yachats. Regular YIPS crew sessions will take place on a monthly basis beginning in February. The public launch of the YIPS program will take place in the form of a panel presentation sponsored by the Yachats Academy of Arts & Sciences and the Yachats Trails Committee at the Commons on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 7 p.m. A panel of invited experts, headed by Professor Paul Jepson of Oregon State University will speak about problems caused by invasive plants. Ample time has been set aside for questions. Please be sure to attend this important event.

A few days before that on March 1, 2011 we are putting on a not-to-be-missed bluegrass (sadly a non-native) concert inside the Commons from 7 to 9 p.m. The award-winning bluegrass string band known as the

“Blackberry Bushes” is guaranteed to give us a rousing, hand clapping, clog hopping good time and will provide an important lift to the spirit of our efforts to restore native habitat.

In launching YIPS and in our campaign to “Take Back Habitat,” we have prepared a full-color brochure featuring Yachats’ six most (un)wanted invasive plants, and a supplement consisting of a more comprehensive list of invasives, along with a list of recommended habitat-friendly replacement plants. These two documents will accompany the City’s February water/sewer bills and have are posted on www.yachats.info. Please read them and keep them for future reference. We also plan to have a “Weed of the Month” feature running for much of the year.

How can you help? It’s way too easy to throw up your hands in desperation and say it’s too late to do anything—but it is definitely not too late. You can still help in many ways. If you are able to get outside and pull weeds you are invited to join the YIPS crew for their monthly forays into enemy territory. You can also sign up as a vigilante to keep an eye on selected invasive plant hotspots and deal with the weeds whenever they rear their ugly heads. Some Yachadians are already doing this. As a result two infestations of knotweed have been all but eliminated. You can also provide transportation, carting bags of the bad weeds to the dump. You can alert the YIPS crew to new outbreaks of weeds or you can just come by and cheer us on as we deal with the invasives.

Please give us all the help you can. The sooner we take on invasive plants and the more volunteers we have working, the sooner we can restore natural habitat. For more information or to volunteer call me at (541) 547-5474 or email me at worchard@peak.org.



Friends of the Yachats Commons

By Jessica Waddell,
President

A belated Happy New Year to all and many thanks to everyone who responded so generously to the Friends’ fundraising letter; we hope you also found our newsletter a valuable update of our activities. Every contribution doubly helps the Commons when we ask for support from philanthropic organizations. Your financial commitment is a testament of community support for the facility. An opportunity for us to gain

outside support again comes up this month from the Trust Management. It is our intention to reapply for funds, noting that we have invested in the cost of construction drawings for the space by a local engineer and are ready to present these for bid to three interested contractors.

Every year brings a new challenge—an outstanding one for us is increasing our board membership. We lost four vital contributing members last year. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Commons Kitchen or Room 8 depending on reserved activities. If you are interested in joining FYC, please call Leon Sterner at (541) 961-6597.

While much of what the Friends of the Yachats Commons Foundation set out to do 20 years ago has been accomplished, there remains a need for an active and vibrant board. As long as the Commons is growing and thriving, we have a commitment to serve the community with the activities and services that meet their needs and desires. To that end our board members have participated individually and as representatives of FYC in the ongoing “adult programming” task force meetings. Recommendations have been presented to the Parks and Commons Commission and with their approval we are ready to start some expanded activities at the Commons. So stay tuned!



Yachats Public Library

By Marie Green, Chair Library
Commission

Louise Penny, an Anthony Award winning author, has created Three Pines, a small hamlet in Quebec Province full of quirky inhabitants caught up in murder most foul. Chief Inspector Gamache and his team methodically strip away lies and contradictions to lay bare the truth. The library currently has all of Penny’s books so interested readers can begin with Still Life, then proceed to A Fatal Grace, The Cruellest Month, A Rule Against Murder, The Brutal Telling, and finally Bring Your Dead. If you enjoy intelligent, elegantly told mysteries this is an author for you.

Cocooning during the winter storms? If one of your guilty pleasures is watching MTV’s reality series *Jersey Shore*, then Janet Evonovitch’s main character, bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, is right up your alley. These stories are just as outrageous and silly as *Jersey Shore* and are quick reads. You will also find several

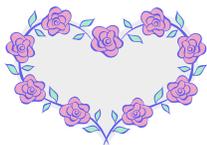
Evonovitch books on the “for sale” shelf and many more in our Mystery section.

Our column this month features favorite authors who have two or more books in our collection. Everyone is encouraged to nominate their own favorites.

The Seed Bank at the library will soon have seeds for anyone to try out. David Baldwin has set up a new rack for gardening periodicals and “how-to” books. Look for Seed Bank materials on the east wall just past books on CD. Also, watch for information about the expansion of the experimental Community Garden on 7th Street.

Have you noticed the wonderful silvery gray driftwood log just east of the library building? We get questions about it all the time—what kind of tree is it, why is it here, how did it get here? No one currently around seems to know. Do you know any of the answers? Please come in and enlighten us and the whole community.

Remember to pick up your newly bar-coded library card if you haven’t already done so.



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Coordinator

Sorry we missed you last month. We do hope you had an opportunity to see the striking 7200 holiday light display in our garden. Kudos to Carl Miller and Robin Link for their efforts in gracing the garden with eye-popping magic. The sea lion sculpture looked particularly handsome bathed in blue light.

Meanwhile our primroses are showing their faces again, as the days slowly grow longer. This means that, yep, it’s time for our annual wedding vow renewal event on Valentine’s Day. It will be the 16th year that couples can renew their marriage vows as a group. Last year 27 couples from Oregon, Washington, and California were in attendance. This year Khlo Brateng will play her beautiful Celtic harp. As always, the event begins at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 14th at the Log Church.

This year we will also be adding something new and a little different for Valentine’s weekend. On Sunday, February 13th at 3 p.m. there will be a gathering for singles, unmarried couples, or friends of any age, titled “A Call to Love.” This will be an opportunity to affirm

the idea of love in general, as love is present in many forms. We think it’s time has come and what better opportunity to bring it to fruition than Valentines weekend!

Due to limited seating, we ask that those who wish to attend either the Sunday afternoon event or the traditional marriage vow renewal ceremony make a reservation by calling me at (541) 547-4547.



Yachats Youth and Family Program

By Bee Bui, RecPLUS Team Leader

Knit and Crochet Social

Join us for a casual all-age, all-skill level knit-and-crochet social on first and third Thursdays of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Yachats Commons in Room 4. Bring yarn, needles, something you’re working on, or just yourself. It is a great way to meet new people and also learn new techniques from local knitters and crotcheter. There is no cost to attend.

Girls Night Out

All teen and *tween* girls (6th graders+) are invited to a post Valentine’s Day celebration on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. in the Commons basement. We will make dinner, discuss girl “stuff,” and learn the history of Mehndi a.k.a. the art of body painting henna, and practice our henna skills with local artist, Gretchen Armstrong. There is no cost to attend but you must register by calling (541) 547-4599.

Recreation P.L.U.S (Passages to Learning, Understanding and Success)

Our drop-in afterschool program for children ages 6+ is available daily inside the Commons basement from 3:30 until 6 p.m. About 20 children from a range of ages attend daily. Children are supervised by at least one staff member and a trained volunteer. Our volunteers come from diverse backgrounds and bring strong skills to Rec.P.L.U.S such as art, beading, homeless advocacy, and of course devotion to serving our youth. There will be a lot of free play, plus opportunities to participate in small group activities such as sports, crafts and brain teasers. Children can look forward to celebrating Chinese New Year—the Year of the Rabbit—on February 3, 2011. We will learn about the Chinese New Year, make rabbit masks and of course eat authentic Chinese food! We also have some new upcoming projects and challenges. Children will be pushed to their limits with logic games, balloon challenges, races, and relays. After

school children can ride the school bus to the Commons but must be picked up before 6 p.m. Cost is based on a sliding scale from \$10-100 per month per family. For more information or to volunteer, please call (541) 547-4599.

Parenting Classes Coming to South County

When it comes to parenting do you ever wish you had a detailed instruction manual? Have you ever wondered if there is a better method? Help is on its way! Now you have an opportunity to ask some of those tough parenting questions and hear from Early Childhood Educator and local mom, Kelly Everfree. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with other parents and will be presenting an empathy-based parenting series.

Watch for the dates and times on our website www.yachatsyouth.org. In the meantime log on to Kelly's website www.peacethroughparenting.org to learn more.

Indoor Park—Lean and Play Together

This play group meets Mondays from 10:30 am-12 p.m. and Thursdays from 2:30- 4 p.m. It is an opportunity for parents, grandparents, or caregivers and children ages 0-6 to get together and visit. Fun and educational extras are always added to the monthly schedule.

Family and Community Nights

Fiesta Night will be on February 18, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. at the Commons multipurpose room. It is an all-ages make-your-own-taco dinner. Families are invited to come early and help prepare the food. Making food together can make it more fun and demonstrate how simple it can be to involve the kids. It also empowers youth to make one of their favorite meals. There will be fun and educational activities after dinner.

Plant-a-Seed Community Potluck will be held on March 4, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. This will be a follow-up to the Community Harvest Potluck "Seed Swap & Recipe Exchange" that took place last fall. There will be fun and educational gardening activities plus an opportunity to network with other gardeners in our area.

Zumba® Classes End February 16

YYFAP continues to offer Zumba® with certified Zumba® Gold Instructor Lisa Bursey. Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Yachats Commons multipurpose room. Children under 17 are free; drop-ins are \$6 per class; and advance purchases are \$5 per class. For more information call (541) 547-4599 or visit www.yachatsyouth.org

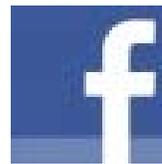


Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock,
Coordinator

Come on down to the Commons on Thursday, February 24, 2011 and join our monthly luncheon that features food, friends, and live entertainment all for a modest suggested donation of \$4. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. We welcome anyone 55 and over (well actually 54 and 364 days 23 hours, 59 minutes and 59 seconds but who's counting).

Our menu is not set in stone, but I believe we're having Chicken & Dumplings, tossed green salad with dressing, rolls and butter, and Lemon Bars for dessert. Oh yes, there's also entertainment. Amongst those who have given us of their art pro bono, we are proud to mention: Richard Sharpless; Bob Welch; Milo Gramaans; Chantall Van Wey; and our honorable Mayor Ron Brean. Hope to see you there!



Go Facebook

By Andrea Scharf, GoYachats
Marketing Director

Have you connected to GoYachats on Facebook? It's a fun way to find up-to-the-minute happenings in Yachats.

This month, the GoYachats Facebook page features a wonderful Valentine designed by Barbara Shepherd, owner of The Village Bean. The whimsical image features Valentine specials on offer from many Yachats businesses. Check it out, you might just find the perfect gift for your Valentine!

My personal Valentine goes to all the volunteers in Yachats who make our town so much better, warmer, and more fun than any other town its size (or bigger). Please know that you are appreciated for a very special reason—it helps me do my job!

Many events that bring visitors to town rely on an army of volunteers. Events like the Celtic Festival, which filled all the motel rooms in town, depended on YOU. .

There are so many wonderful opportunities for volunteers here in Yachats. Look for my good friend and volunteer extraordinaire Gerald Stanley's article next

month detailing all the places in need of volunteers.



Editors Note

By Debrah Edwards, Editor

Thank you to our Administrative Assistant and Billing Clerk, Nicole Clark, for finishing January's newsletter during my unexpected leave of absence at the end of December.