



CITY OF YACHATS

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014



THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted: April 2, 2009

Our village is a place where natural resources are valued and protected, where diversity is celebrated, and where a vibrant economy and sense of community pride create and recreate a living spirit. Yachats cares not just for its citizens' basic needs but also supports them in their efforts to excel mentally, physically, artistically, and spiritually. It is a community with an enduring sense of itself.



Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

I have the good fortune every year to spend a few days in Southern California with good friends and former colleagues chasing a small dimpled

ball around desert golf courses. We talk about memories we share. We cheer each other toward successful shots. We talk about things we all care about, things we spent our careers trying to affect. We talk about the future and what we might do to make our communities, our states, our planet a better place. And we laugh...a lot.

I have a certain fondness for the desert. My family history has a lot of cactus in it. The Sonoran Desert in particular has stark and dramatic appeal that is difficult to match. In the broad view it can appear bleak and foreboding but a closer look reveals vibrant color, amazing adaptation, and epic geologic stories. For many in my family and a number of my friends the lure of the desert is huge. It is where they choose to live. Some because they like the warmth, especially this time of year. Others, because it somehow feels right to them, piques their awareness of the world around them, opens their eyes.

I came back to Yachats day before yesterday. I took a walk on the beach this morning. I threw balls for the dogs. I watched the waves crash and the gulls soar. I felt the sun warm my face and the winter breeze quickly cool it back down. I sorted through the myriad wave-rolled stones looking for that special one to put in my pocket. I listened to the stream babbling its way to the crashing surf, and I felt at home.

This is our special place. The vistas extend beyond any you can see in the desert. The drama of the ocean and the shore is on stage every day and every day it plays out differently. The beaches and the basalt points and the forests and the streams recite their lines and play their parts. And here in Yachats, there are lots of kindred souls that are doing their best to make the City, and their neighborhoods and their state and their planet a better place.

Doing our work and living up to our responsibilities can be a bit taxing from time to time. It can cloud our vision. For me there few things more focusing than an occasional walk in the desert. It allows me to touch my roots. It allows me to feel part of the vastness of nature. It allows me to achieve greater perspective. It also allows me a greater appreciation of my home and my neighbors. Probably the only thing that is more eye opening than that desert stroll is a quiet and reflective walk on the beach. As always, it's good to be home.





© Can Stock Photo - csp5498252

BIG FREEZE BREAKS RECORD NUMBER OF WATER PIPES!!

Sad to report that we have had a record number of homeowners that did not have their Hand Valve's turned off, in their absence, over the last freeze. It is imperative that you, as the homeowner familiarize yourself, your tenants or managers with your water shut off hand valve. The Hand Valve must be in working condition. The City will only shut water off from the City side hand valve if we receive a request. There is a \$40.00 charge if the City is requested to turn off your water from the City side and after regular city business hours it is an additional \$40.00. If you are away from your home for more than 3 days we strongly recommended you turn off your hand valve before leaving. Should you need assistance with your hand valve, please call a licensed plumber.



Yachats Trails Update

By Jan Brown,
Leader,
Communications

What a spectacular month January was for outdoor lovers on the coast! Starting with perfect weather (again) for the Annual New Year's Day Peace Hike, things just seemed to get better and better, as gazillions of smiling visitors found relief from the bone-chilling valley fog on our beaches and trails.

The Peace Hike continues to grow, drawing more than 150 participants this year from both the community and from afar. Many found it to be an especially moving experience this year and a taste of the day was captured on a lovely video

slide show (including [music from tribal flutist Doc Slyter](#)) that you can watch online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REd10wa8xtc> or on [GO Yachats.com](#). We were also honored on this day to host the family and friends of Don Whereat, the first Cultural Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, who passed away in December. Don was a driving force in helping our community learn, understand and appreciate our First Nation's history and the true impact of the prison camp years on the tribes of this area. The Peace Hike was a meaningful venue for commemorating his life and work.

Buzz generated by the Peace Hike seems to have created heightened interest in our trails, with a number of inquiries coming in about how to find and access the Amanda Trail to our south, as well as the new Ya'Xaik Trail to the North.



Maps showing all the trails and walking paths around town as well as maps of the Cape Perpetua trail

system are available at the Yachats Visitors Center and additional area walking information, descriptions and maps are available on the [Chamber of Commerce's trails page](#) and on the [maps page](#) of [GOYachats.com](#). Soon too, we will be able to share an exciting new printed and digitized map of all non-motorized (hiking, biking, equestrian and water) trails between Ona Beach and Cummins Creek. Watch for more info on that soon!



And if you want to continue all the beautiful peace vibes that flowed out from this year's hike, just set out on one our local trails this month. Mother Theresa - who knew a thing or two about the topic - said "Peace

begins with a smile," and I guarantee you will encounter a lot of smiles and friendly faces on your journey - be it a sunny *or* a rainy day!

YIPS! (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee) News

Favorable weather has helped our YIPS! crew as well. Members have recently been concentrating their efforts on the wetland and park behind the Commons. For many years ivy has been spreading unchecked in this area, but now we have started pushing back at it. Particularly in the forested area to the west of the wetland, the ivy has taken a big hit. We need to be vigilant though - if you just relax for a short time, this fast-growing weed could engulf you. Fortunately for the two crew members in the photo, we freed them just in time!

By the way - and you can see why - English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is our new weed of the month.

If you have questions about weeds, call our experts Don (541-961-6695) or Wally (541-547-5474).

Upcoming Trails, YIPS! and Related Events



The Yachats Trails Crew meets on the first Saturday of each month and the YIPS! Crew on the third Saturday, both

from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. There are always a wide variety of tasks for all levels of interest and ability so come out, breathe in some fresh air and join this friendly and sociable group for a couple of hours of community work. Many hands really do make light work and its fun to see how much can be accomplished in a very short time.

Upcoming events to add to your calendar include:

February 1st and March 1st (Saturdays) 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

February 15th and March 15th (Saturdays) 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

YIPS! work event (Location to be announced via email to the Trails Committee's contact list.)

For more information, and to sign up for the mail list, contact any one of us via phone or email:

- Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair, Yachats Trails Committee at 541.547.3640 or lsven@peak.org
- Joanne Kittel, Leader, Development Committee & Amanda Trail at 541.547.3144 or jkittel@peak.org
- Wally Orchard, Leader, YIPS! at 541.547.5474 or worchard@peak.org
- Jan Brown, Leader, Communications at 541.547.4927 or espressobrown@gmail.com



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

A Yachats Haiku . . .
What creates a smile
during winter's closing
weeks—
A sweet hyacinth!

It's February! A couple of weeks ago I went to our local grocery store, and there on a small table were some lovely hyacinths—a sign that the season of spring is close by, Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and "luv" will be blooming at the Little Log Church once again.

This will be our nineteenth year hosting our annual celebration of renewal and commitment at the LLC&M, offering an opportunity for couples to renew their commitments as a group. Our February 14th ceremony begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. and lasts about 30 minutes. Each couple receives a certificate from the Log Church as a memento of the occasion. We suggest a donation

to the museum of \$10 per couple. It's a lovely thing to do. As always, we will have special music for the ceremony.



If you'd like to attend the vow renewal, please make your reservation by calling Mary Crook at 541-547-4547.

Space is limited. We already have a number of couples who have responded.

A special welcome and thanks to our newest volunteer, Claudia Price. Prior to her retirement Claudia managed the Ocean Cove Inn here in Yachats with her late husband. She has been an active member of the Yachats community for a number of years and brings a vibrant new energy to our Little Log Church on alternate Fridays.

Have a great month, and don't forget to enjoy the flowers.

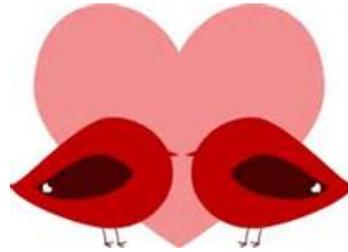


Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Will Williams,
Coordinator

The Yachats Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, February 27th, 2014 in the multipurpose room. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch served at noon. Everyone 55 or older is welcome.

Our "guest chef" for February is Robbie Schoonover. She is preparing: Cantina Salad (Lettuce with chicken, beans, rice and guacamole; all items are optional); chips and mild salsa; and Valentine cupcakes for dessert. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person. Don't forget to wear Valentine RED!



Looking for Meaning

Yachats Public Library

By Sandra Calkins

A good many years ago I majored in English at a small college on the San Francisco peninsula. I had returned to finish my degree after eight years as a new housewife and young mother. On the first evening of Shakespeare class, our assignments were given. We were to write a number of essays of literary criticism. I panicked. I had never heard the term. My first two years of college had been in another state in a two year teaching degree program. If the term was mentioned, it didn't stick.

After class, I cornered the professor and explained my problem. She was sympathetic and helped me with what I needed to know to write my first paper. What I was looking for in Shakespeare's work was meaning and references. In finding this I also needed to explore what other literary critics had written. I don't remember that I had ever before looked for hidden meaning or references in the work that I read. The hunt was fascinating. After I graduated from this small religious based college, I moved on to graduate work at San Jose State University. My first class was entitled Mythology and Symbolism. I was shocked with what I was learning.

Over the years as I read, I automatically look for symbolism. Many of the books I read are popular mysteries but even there, with a good author, you find references and hidden meanings. Dan Brown, author of THE DA VINCI CODE, is one of the best authors for this, but even James Patterson's early books were based on references to nursery rhymes. Many books have Biblical, Shakespearean, or mythological references.

So, as you enjoy your reading this month, look for the hidden meanings. Jot down your discoveries. Some books are allegories, retelling an older story in a new way. Use the Internet to see if your discovery has been noticed by others. Looking for meaning can make all of your reading more enjoyable. Happy Reading!

P.S. The library is still accepting donations of books for our annual sale in March. Just bring your donations by the library during library hours.

Please, please, please

don't let him see his shadow!



Happy Groundhog Day

(I WANT SPRING!)

Commons Events

By Leon Sterner,
Coordinator

February will see some changes happening inside the Commons building. The

Friends have been successful in acquiring a grant from Oregon Community Foundation - to the tune of \$10,000 - and will be putting these dollars to good use. We are removing the old heat exchange units throughout the building (which are from the old oil burning furnace) and refinishing and/or remodeling those spaces. The kitchen and preschool rooms will each have new countertops and cabinets filling the 'vacated spaces' as well as a new row of cupboards above the counters on the East walls. This will add valuable counter and storage spaces in each room. The City Staff is collaborating with the Friends on this project. City workers are doing the removal of the old heating units, and the Friends have contracted with a local carpenter to design and install the countertops and cabinetry.

One of Us Productions has recently been awarded a \$1000 grant from Lincoln Cultural Trust Coalition and matched their funds to purchase \$2000 worth of stage lighting equipment. The 6 new lighting instruments and accessories will nicely expand the scope and

flexibility of our theatre lighting system. We use the lighting system for all the *One of Us* theatre productions as well as many other events that take place throughout the year on our stage. Heads up, hats off and lights on for *One of Us Productions*.

And there's more in the works! Steve Burkle who originally designed and installed the sound system in the Multi-purpose room has volunteered to install a number of newly acquired components to replace and expand the system that has served us well over the years... but which is somewhat worn out and outdated. The new system will be more reliable and greatly expanded. Groups like Zumba and Exercise classes use the system regularly for their musical rhythms. The new CD player will enhance their experience. A new amplifier and mixing boards will also give us more control of sound quality when musical groups and presenters use the sound system in the MP room.

These upgrades and improvements to facility and equipment are well deserved by the Commons which has become such a busy place in our community. You get an idea of 'how busy' when trying to find an available space on the calendar to hold your event - be it yoga class, a meeting or a concert.

Thank you to all who visited the "Giving Tree" during December and contributed financially to the Friends of the Commons.



Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program

By Alice Beck, Executive Director

Little Sweethearts Valentine Dance
Saturday - February 8th - 6-8 pm

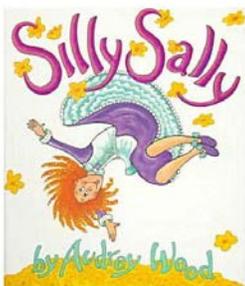
Bring your little sweetheart to the Second Annual YYFAP Valentine's Family Dance. Mother/Son, Father/Daughter or any couple combination of friends and family young and old. No age limit. Each adult receives a flower to give to their date and there will be refreshments and couples photos too. Bring that special little someone in your life and create a sweet memory together. Music by our very own local DJ - JD. Time: 6-8 pm in the Yachats Commons Multipurpose Room 441 Hwy 101 N. **Cost \$10 per couple or \$15 per family.**

participating in a Central Oregon Coast Health Network planning group that is working to identify ways to improve access to health care services for residents in our central coastal communities.

The effort is funded by a grant from the primary Federal agency that focuses on improving access to health care services in rural areas.

In late December/early January we began interviewing a small group of Yachats residents to gather perspectives of the greatest health care needs for Yachats and surrounding area. Early comments indicate significant need/opportunities to address; 1) access within the community to basic health services; 2) issues related to aging; 3) affordability and lack of insurance coverage, especially among working families and 4) transportation to specialty services. Mental health services and improving focus on prevention/wellness are also areas of interest. Over the next several months more conversations, surveys and activities to gather opinions and perspectives will continue.

We'll keep you posted as work unfolds. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact City Council member, Barbara Frye, RN (bfryern@gmail.com) or Mayor Ron Breaun at City Hall.



Families Together -

February 28th 6-8 pm

Join us for a fun family time at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church at 360 W. 7th Street. This program includes a free dinner, story time and crafts. Each family attending will receive a copy of the featured book for

February, "Silly Sally" by Audrey Wood. For more information call YYFAP 541-547-4599.

Dinner and books are provided free thanks to generous grants from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund and Mari's Books.

This program is offered in partnership between Yachats Community Presbyterian Church and Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program.



City Council News

By Barbara Frye, Commissioner

Central Oregon Coast Health Network UPDATE

As we shared in last month's newsletter, The City of Yachats, health care providers in Florence, Reedsport, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, are



City Council Announces Commission/Committee Vacancies

The City of Yachats is looking for volunteers to fill vacancies on the following Commissions:

- Public Works & Streets Commission-1 vacancy
- Parks & Commons Commission-3 vacancies
- Budget Committee-1 vacancies

Volunteers are required to attend monthly meetings and may be asked to attend training sessions. For a complete description of the

duties and requirements and an application please inquire at City Hall weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at www.ci.yachats.or.us.



Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences
By Donald Niskanen



Distant Tsunami Drill on February 13th

The Lincoln County Sherriff's Office (LCSO) of Emergency Management is conducting a county wide **Distant Tsunami**

Drill on February 13th during the morning. One of the objectives is to test the new emergency phone notification system to reach all county residents in the event of a county wide event. Yachats relies on this notification system to warn residents and visitors of a Distant Tsunami.

The Distant Tsunami Drill will use phone notification systems to notify everyone. There will be two different messages 1) for those who live in the Distant Tsunami Evacuation Area (if you don't know if you are in such a zone go to this website and find Yachats on the list of maps <http://www.oregongeology.org/tsuclearinghouse/pubs-evacbro.htm>); 2) all other residents and visitors. The phone message you receive asks that you confirm you heard the message. Please make sure you respond as that provides LCSO information which is used to confirm that the phone notification system is working. In turn this helps Yachats confirm that the city's approach to emergency planning is working.

Please remember that a Distant Tsunami for Yachats impacts the beach and beach access. The other areas impacted by a Distant Tsunami are Bayview Terrace, lower sections of Combs Circle, some of the ocean side portions of Ocean View Drive, and some of the side roads along Yachats Ocean Drive. Make sure you consult the map referenced above or a current brochure so see the specific areas.

Please remember this is ONLY A DRILL not an actual event.

The Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences celebrated the beginning of its fifth year this past November. This would not have been possible without the strong and regular support of our area residents. When neighboring Communities inquire I explain our success is because of great community support.

The Academy is now receiving requests from presenters that want to be included on our roster which has been our goal since the beginning.

New ideas are always welcomed. If you have a special interest or a suggestion of a presentation, please contact me or anyone else on our Board. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month, 3:00 PM in Room 8. You are welcomed to attend and give your suggestions.

Our schedule is almost complete for 2014 and I have listed the events below for your future planning.

February 15, 6:30 PM: Greg Scott, The Cloud Factory - Iceland

March 8, 6:30 PM: Bernie Covino, Bridges of the Central Coast

April 5 (tentative) Science Fair with Waldport Elementary Students

April (TBA) Tour of NOAA 's vessel Rainier with Cmdr. Brennan

May 17, 6:30 PM Tom Kerns "Should Trees have Standing?"

May 23, 6:30 PM Greg Scott, Burma and Thailand

June 16, 6:30 PM Steve McQuiddy, "Here on the Edge" Conscientious Objectors at Angel Job Corps Center

July 15, 6:30 PM Woody Monte, Aspartame

July 22, 6:30 PM Michael G. Moran, M.D." The Psychological Causes of War"

August (TBA) Dr. Robert Nye "The History of Human Sexuality"

October 4, 6:30 PM Rob Suryan "Eagles and Murres"

December 20, 4:00 PM Winter Solstice Bonfire and Celebration.

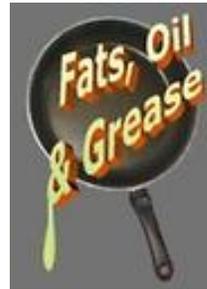
You can always check on GoYachats.com/events to confirm the schedule or call me at 541-961-6695.



Utility Billing/ Newsletter stuffers

We are looking for volunteer help for our Monthly Utility Bill/ Newsletter stuffing. Great conversation, donuts and a cup of coffee for a couple of hours at the end of each month. Email at Kimmie@ci.yachats.or.us for information.

produce. However the by-products of cooking and the content in prepared foods add to the overall amount of fats (solid), oils (liquid), and grease (semi-solid) that are disposed of through household drains. Meats, poultry, fish and cooking oil readily come to mind as dietary sources of F.O.G., but other foods such as: butter/margarine; pastries/baked goods; salad dressing; and dairy products also contain F.O.G.



Some simple steps such as disposing of cooking oil, fat trimmings/drippings (in a disposable container) and wiping residue from dishes/pots with paper towels then disposing of them in the garbage are the easiest ways to help minimize this problematic maintenance issue.

Keeping just 1 tablespoon of F.O.G. out of your drains (or toilets) daily adds up to 12 pounds of F.O.G. each year not running through your pipes, the City's sewer system, and wastewater treatment plant.



Don't Feed the F.O.G. Monster!

By Larry Blanchard,
Public Works Director

F.O.G. still remains a difficult problem to deal with when it comes to removing it from our wastewater system.

While monitoring our system we have observed that quite a bit of F.O.G. originates from households throughout Yachats. We check manholes in neighborhoods and the wet-wells in our pumping stations and see it on a regular basis. What is often overlooked is the fact that F.O.G. is not only a problem Public Works must deal with but F.O.G. can block not only your household drains but your neighbor's as well creating sewage back-ups and overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to your health and to the environment.



The City of Yachats has two ordinances aimed specifically at other sewer system users to keep F.O.G. out of the wastewater system: Yachats Municipal Code 4.08.030, Section H. Transient Rental Licenses Standards requires all transient rentals to provide a grease container, replacement liners and instructions for proper disposal of F.O.G.; Yachats Municipal Code 8.08.040, Section E. Grease Traps Other Pretreatment requires all restaurants to have onsite approved and functioning grease traps that are periodically cleaned and inspected (by the City).

Because local businesses no longer sell grease containers and replacement liners, the City now sells the Fat Trapper® brand at cost inside City Hall during regular business hours, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except holidays). The "Starter Kit" as seen here (a container w/lid and two heat resistant foil liners) costs \$4. Containers sold individually cost \$2.78/each and replacement liners cost \$.62/ea.



We appreciate everyone's cooperation. If you have any questions or would like to see what F.O.G. looks like give Public Works a call at (541) 547-3243.



When most of us think of F.O.G., the source we think about most often is generated by local restaurants and we tend to dismiss the seemingly small amount households



Sometimes...you just need to walk on the beach with a friend....two or four footed!