



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

January/February 2007

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for the minutes of City Council and Commission meetings

From the Dalai Lama: Not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of good luck

*Mayor's Message
Happy New Year!*

As I looked through the City newsletters from 2006, I was amazed at what we have accomplished together in the last year. For a little town, we sure are mighty. I think we all deserve a pat on the back or, at the very least, a "Way to go!"

- The Green Ribbon Committee finished its work and made its recommendations to the City Council of ways to help raise funds to repay part of the loan for building the new wastewater treatment plant.
- We considered, studied, and created an Urban Renewal District which will help significantly with the repayment of the City's loan as well.
- The Planning Commission distributed a survey and hosted a series of meetings in an effort to tap into Yachats ideas about the community. This was a part of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan review which is nearing completion.
- We studied, discussed, studied some more, discussed a great deal more a Proposed Food and Beverage Tax as a way to help with partial payment for the wastewater treatment plant debt. The rationale for this particular tax is that restaurants place a disproportionate load on sewer systems and this seemed a logical place to capture some revenue. This issue is being referred to the voters by the Restaurant Association. Please watch the Newsletter for further information on this important issue.
- The Public Works and Streets Commission

hosted another hugely successful Clean Sweep.

- The Public Works crew have kept us all (at no small amount of effort sometimes) in clear, clean water and with a working aging sewer plant that will have to serve us until the new one comes on line (in about two years)
- We have adopted a new structure for Systems Development Charges after much work by the commission and their consultant.
- The wetlands area behind the Commons has been restored and an osprey platform is planned for the spring.

These are just some of the highlights. Ongoing projects include Trails development, tsunami preparation, parking in the downtown core and more. What a wonderful place Yachats is!



WAVE ENERGY

We are hearing a lot lately about the possibility of producing electricity through the energy from waves in the ocean. Oregon State University is studying this at length and apparently the ocean off Lincoln County is ideal for this type of energy source. Plan to attend the February 5 City Council Work Session at 9:30 a.m. when we will hear more about it from our County Commissioners. Many of you indicated an interest in alternative energy when you filled out the survey last spring so this might be of interest to you.

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**CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES
ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL**

Following the presentation by Consultant John Ghilarducci from FCS Group at a public hearing, City Council adopted changes to the System Development Charges.

FCS Group has been working with City staff, the Public Works & Streets Commission and City Council for the past several months on this study. And, when it came down to it, the actual fees were changed very little. The main change is in the methodology which will move the sewer portion from “improvements” to “reimbursement” which will allow the City to use the fees as they are received to help pay the annual loan payments on the sewer plant. The System Development Charges are just one of the pieces of the financial puzzle suggested by the Green Ribbon task force to pay the loans.

A system development charge is a *one-time* charge, paid *at the time of development*, intended to equitably recover the cost of the system capacity needed to serve that development.



EXERCISE CLASS

Although Joe and Julie Valenti have moved from Yachats to the Portland area, the Good Morning Yachats exercise class is continuing. A group of devoted exercisers is committed to keeping the program alive and well. Cardio and weight training are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the Commons. The cost for each session is \$2 which covers the use of the facilities in the Commons.



**DEALING WITH RECYCLING AND TRASH
COLLECTION ISSUES**

Dahl Disposal representatives met with City Council to address some concerns about the "new and improved" trash and recycling efforts. Although the system is still a work in progress, they are anxious to hear from customers about the new containers, pick-up times, and anything else of concern regarding the program. They can be reached at 563-3888. Dealing with the wind on the coast and the need to keep containers secured is an ongoing challenge. They have said that having cans out by 7 a.m. (instead of the previously stated 6 a.m.) is probably sufficient for pick-up. Considering curbside glass pick-up and wood waste is in the works as well.

LIBRARY NEWS



Yachats Public Library was the recipient of some of the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Mushroom Festival funds and has been creating a growing collection of books on CD and CD players for loan. For those folks who can't get to the library, they are offering to deliver books on CD and players, as well as a favorite book or two. Hours at the library are 12 - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The phone number is 547-3741.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



On February 25, 2007 from 1 -3 pm., the Yachats Ladies Club will hold an Open House to celebrate their 80th Anniversary. The Yachats Ladies Club has been a fixture for years. Happy Birthday!

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WELCOME

NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS APPOINTED

Burgundy Featherkile, Don McDonald and Carl Miller were appointed to serve on the Planning Commission. McDonald was on City Council for four years in the 1990's. Miller has also served on the Parks and Commons Commission and the Budget Committee, as well as various other special committees and the Log Church Board. Featherkile served on the Green Ribbon Task Force.

Marie Green was reappointed to the Library Commission and Library Volunteers Maggie Marshall and Carol Summers were appointed to fill vacant seats.



YACHATS CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

- 1 - Parks and Commons Commission**
Term ending December 31, 2009
- 1 - Public Works & Streets Commission**
Term ending December 31, 2008
- 2 - Budget Committee**
2 - Term ending December 31, 2009

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.



WORKFORCE HOUSING

A second gathering is planned to continue the conversation about Affordable/Workforce Housing in Yachats. It will be February 20 at 5 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room. This is an important issue which will require a great deal of research, thought and effort.



LITTLE LOG CHURCH TREE BEING REMOVED

Board members of the Little Log Church and Museum report that the beautiful, big shore pine has to go.

The winds we have been experiencing during our current season, combined with those of last season, have finally taken its toll on the beautiful shore pine that has graced the grounds of The Little Log Church and Museum for years. The strong winds have twisted many of the branches causing the heart-wood to shred. It is true the bark can heal over this damage, but the branches will always remain weak in those areas as heart-wood will not mend.

Despite major efforts on the part of Angell Job Corps to thin the branches allowing the strong winds to go through rather than twist the branches, the tree has now become a major liability. Most recently a large branch fell that could have caused major injury or even death if someone had been walking under it.

It is with sad hearts that the Board of The Little Log Church and Museum decided that it is time to remove the beloved tree. Angell Job Corps will be doing this work. The Board requested they save a slab from the trunk that they can smooth, seal and display in the museum. From this slab we will also be able to tell how old the wonderful tree was. A birdbath that was created by local artist Mimi Fox will be mounted to the top of the stump.

<i>Reporting Through December 31, 2006</i>		
Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$707,453	\$527,387
Library	\$17,603	\$8,834
Little Log Church & Museum	\$12,175	\$7,332
Parks & Commons*	\$97,093	\$59,399
Streets	\$129,234	\$62,817
Water	\$473,507	\$235,959
Sewer	\$6,219,536	\$381,861
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$2,056,246	\$1,689,827
Debt	\$134,855	\$90,221
	<u>\$9,847,702</u>	<u>\$3,063,637</u>

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PLANTING PARTY

Saturday, February 17th, 2007,
9:30 AM

(Meet at the picnic shelter behind
the Commons)

This will be our third and final PLANTING PARTY in the park behind the Commons. Betty Bahn and David Schlesinger have ordered 600+ native shrubs, bushes and trees. They will be arriving bare-root and need to be planted immediately.

Bring your shovel or spade and wear appropriate Oregon coast attire.

Please call Betty Bahn (547-3693) and reserve your space. BRING A FRIEND. See you on the 17th!



HISTORICAL ITEMS ON DISPLAY

Many of the historical items from the January 20 Community Celebration will be posted in the front hall of the Commons for people to look at more closely. Also, many more materials are available at the

Log Church Museum.



NAVIGATING SAFELY ON FOOT

See And Be Seen

As reported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there has been an increase in pedestrian deaths in 2005. Of the total 43,443 fatalities in 2005, 4,881 were pedestrians. Here are some tips that can help you become a safer pedestrian:

• Cross Intersections Carefully:

- Stop

- Look left-right-left again and over your shoulder
- Cross as quickly as possible
- Cross at intersections or marked crosswalks.

• **Pay attention:** Be alert for turning vehicles. Make eye contact with the motorist to make sure they see you. Do not assume the motorist will stop.

• **Walk on the sidewalk or, if there is no sidewalk walk on the shoulder, facing traffic.**

• **Don't drink alcohol before walking:** The chances of suffering an accident increase significantly if you've been drinking alcohol. Take a cab, a bus or let a sober person walk or drive you.

• **Take extra care at dusk and at night—Wear retro reflective clothing or shoes:** The chances of death or injury increase when walking at night. Drivers cannot avoid what they cannot see. Retro reflective clothing and shoes bounce light back toward the light source making them startlingly visible.

• **Supervise and teach children about safe walking:** Children often lack the judgment to make safe choices when dealing with traffic. Their size also makes them difficult to see.

• **Do not cross between parked vehicles.**

• **Understand traffic signals:** If you haven't yet begun to cross and the "don't walk" sign starts blinking, wait until the next cycle. If you're already crossing and the signal appears, continue walking.

• **Walk with children.** Always hold the hand of any child under 10 when crossing the street. While you're walking, explain proper crossing methods. After safely crossing, praise the child for copying safe actions.

• **Older adults—pay heed:** According to an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study, pedestrians 65 and older are twice as likely to be involved in fatal crashes at intersections. Older pedestrians are also over represented in crashes with turning vehicles, in part because of their slower walking speed and diminished vision, hearing and reaction time.

For more information on the Oregon crosswalk law, visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/pedestrian.shtml.

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Public Works Director's Report

By John McClintock

- A pedestrian island is in the works near Lori Lane. It was included in the Hwy 101 Refinement Plan, which has been accepted by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).
- The sewer plant plans and specifications will go to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for review by the end of the month. It should go out to bid in March.
- When the project starts, public works will be moving into temporary quarters consisting of metal containers on the lot between the Library and the sewer plant.
- The public works crew cleared the intakes at Reedy and Salmon Creek of debris carried down stream during the recent storms.
- Crews have been replacing old water pumps.
- The new disinfectant system conversion is nearly complete. When it is finished, the City will create "bleach" onsite. This system is much cheaper and safer than using chlorine that is delivered in tanks.
- The west side of Beach Street from 1st to Ocean View Drive has been striped as a "No Parking" area.
- There is enough available right-of-way on that side of the street to create a parking area. That would be a dry weather job.
- The County will be removing the boulders along Ocean View Drive. Those boulders will be stockpiled at the sewer plant. They will be installing "no parking" signs now; and, the extruded curb later when the weather is dry.



COMMONS NEWS

By Susan Garner, Commons

If you've been at the Commons in the last month or so, you might have noticed the bare wood on the ceiling in the multipurpose room. The Friends of

the Commons are paying for a new ceiling and less delicate lights in the room. Angell Job Corps took the old ceiling tiles down, and now the Friends are looking for volunteers to help put the new tiles back up. Call Leon Sterner at 547-3588.

Mark your calendar now. On Saturday, February 17th, the Yachats Parks Task force would like any and all help in planting small trees and shrubs in the park behind the Commons. Contact Betty Bahn at 547-3693 for more details.

Another reason to mark your calendar! Clean out your closets and attics and garages. Reserve a table here at the Commons for:

Yachats Commons Community Swap Meet March 10, 2007 9 - 4

Rent a table space here at the Commons for \$15 for the day and sell your cast offs to treasure seekers. There will only be 25 spots available, so call me at 547-4734 to reserve your space now.

The activities are heating up again here at the Commons. Below are some not-to-be-missed activities here:

February 1 – 7 pm – Big Band Dance
 February 3 – 7 pm – Barbershop Quartet
 February 7 – 6 pm – Aquatic Center Meeting
 February 10 – 7 pm – Health Clinic Fundraiser Dinner
 February 15 – 6:30 pm – Movie Night
 February 22 – noon – Lunch Bunch
 February 23 – 7 pm – Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra

For daily activities and events, see the calendars posted on the bulletin boards at the Commons, or call me at 547-4734 or visit our web site,

www.yachatscommons.org

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LEAKS AND LEAK DETECTION

A little leak can account for large amount of lost water. A pinhole size leak can mean a loss of gallons in three months, and it is so hard to find.

Most of the meters in Yachats have a leak detector on the face. It is usually a small triangle that will spin when water is going through the meter. The faster it spins – the more the water. If you look at the face of the meter, and you know that no water is actually being used, but it is spinning – then you know you have a leak.

A water audit is another good way to determine if you have a leak.

Locate your water meter and make note of the meter reading. Turn off all the fixtures in and around your home and don't use any water for an hour. Then go back and check the reading on the meter, if it has changed, you have a leak or leaks!!

Repair any leaks, retro-fit with water saving devices, insulate pipes and water heater, and adjust water use.

Check water use for several months after your audit, repairs, retro-fits, and adjustments to compare use.



GREAT WATER SAVING TIPS INSIDE AND OUT

- When buying a new washer, purchase one with conservation features. Choose a washer with load size selector and variable water level control.

- Install water saving devices outside. Use a nozzle that can be shut off or adjusted to a fine spray. When finished, shut off at the house instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks. Consider a water saving drip irrigation system that provides a slow, steady supply of water to garden and shrubs.
- Warm weather means more outdoor activities, and more outdoor water use. Be as careful and efficient outdoors as you are inside the home.
- Presoak grills and oven parts overnight, then wash with an abrasive scrub brush or pad and use plenty of elbow grease to minimize water use.
- Check faucets and hose connections for leaks. Repair or replace when necessary. Inspect pipes for pinhole leaks.
- Check the filtration systems on your hot tubs and spas; and repair any leaks.
- Composting is an alternative to using the garbage disposal, and all that water. Several styles of containers are available to hold the materials while minimizing the odor and unsightliness.

Even when City Hall is "closed" we are "open for business"



Even when City Hall is closed, the phones are forwarded to an answering service so it is answered by real people 24 hours a day, making it the best one to use for reporting any situation that requires a timely response. The answering service will dispatch the Public Works Department crewmember currently on call.

So if you need to get in touch with the City, day or night, call 547-3565. Whoever answers the phone will be able to help you in case of an emergency, it doesn't matter if it is a City employee or the answering service!

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