



CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2013

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

It appears that the world did not come to an end on the solstice. Only the Mayan calendar ended. I guess even the wise and ancient Mayan's couldn't make a calendar that lasted forever. I have previously admitted to being a victim congenital optimism. It's one of my many faults, but one that makes it difficult to distract me from the promise of a better future. Therefore it shouldn't surprise you that I was not anticipating the end of the world. Judging from the sales of Christmas gifts nationwide, it would appear that few people were actually anticipating the world to end on the solstice. Since even the Mayans weren't particularly freaked out about it, I guess there must be at least a small dose of optimism in most of us.

Nevertheless, the Mayan calendar ended, as did our better known 12 month calendar. Their endings are probably only different in the length of time they've been around. We're used to starting over in January each year with a whole new stack of 12 pages enumerating the days of the year ahead. We look ahead (if only for 12 months) and start figuring out what we need to do next. If there's a lesson from the ending of the Mayan calendar, it may be that we really need a longer calendar. We need to look ahead more than a year. Why not the next decade? Wouldn't we have a better chance of doing right by the planet and the people and other life forms that live on it if we calendared our plans out with consideration for a century? For seven generations? For a millennium?

Stewart Brand wrote a book entitled "*Clock of the Long Now*". It is a fascinating read that suggest we and all those around us (not to mention all those that follow us) would be better off if our thinking reached into more time and into more geography than were used to. Our pace is fast and our focus is

close and we are likely to miss some important opportunities as a result.

Well, as we begin a new year and some sort of a new Mayan age your City is trying to think longer and wider. Volunteer commissioners and committee members in various configurations are working to anticipate your service and facilities needs far into the future. Your City Council (with a new member starting this month) is looking ahead at those needs as well as at providing an abiding opportunity for the thriving of the ethereal characteristics that make Yachats,...well...Yachats. We look forward to working with all of our neighbors on a brighter tomorrow, a brighter year, a brighter age.

Did I mention that I tend to be optimistic?



City Council Briefing

By Nancy Batchelder
City Recorder

City Council Announces
Commission/Committee Vacancies

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

- Planning Commission—3 vacancy: 2 terms ending 12/31/16 and 1 term ending 12/31/15
- Public Works & Streets Commission—2 vacancies: 1 term ending 12/31/14; 1 term ending 12/31/15
- Parks & Commons Commission—3 vacancies: 1 term ending 12/31/14; 2 terms ending 12/31/15
- Budget Committee—2 vacancies: terms ending 12/31/15

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. (except holidays) or log on to our website anytime at www.ci.yachats.or.us.



Code Enforcement Report

Donald Niskanen
Code Enforcement Officer

Happy New Year to everyone! 2012 just sped by and 2013 is here.

Here are several areas that I will be concentrating on in this New Year.

City Business License: We continue to have contractors that are hired (usually for just one job) that do not have a City Business License, which is required. If I see them, I introduce myself and give them the application. Most are cooperative and obtain their licenses.

Transient Rentals/Vacation Rentals: 90+% of our Vacation Rentals operate with no problems. Other than having new neighbors every weekend, you hardly know they are there. There are a few properties that seem to be having trouble with the rules, whether it is too many vehicles, vehicles parked on City or ODOT right of way, exceeding occupancy or allowing pets to run free.

This can become a nuisance for full-time residents. I am working with rental agencies and property owners to eliminate these problems. If needed, the matter will be referred to the City Council for a hearing and possible revocation of the Transient Rental License.

I have completed about 60% of the Vacation Rental inspections. I was asked to space these inspections out over a five-year period. We are pretty much on target. For the most part, these are common sense safety issues and they protect the property owner, the clients, the agencies and the City. Cooperation has been excellent.

Grease Trap Inspections: I have been asked to undertake regular (bi-annual) inspections of the grease traps at our restaurants and businesses with food preparation. Having had some personal experience in this area, I have given plenty of notice, so the grease traps are sparkly clean for the inspection. This is not a pleasant task, but every effort to keep grease out of our sewer system saves the City money in expensive repairs and

maintenance of our treatment plant. Traps are not required by private property owners, but your attention to fat, oil and grease going into your drains, helps the situation.

Transients: Last year was better than prior years. We still had plenty of people moving through, but they didn't stay in town for an extended period of time. I receive calls from business owners who are losing business when these individuals are loitering in front of their business.

I have had to ask several individuals and groups to leave the Picnic Shelter and the Community Park as camping is not allowed. Where the situation seems threatening, I call the Sheriff's Department.

I look forward to my fourth year as code officer and look forward to this New Year. I hope it is a happy and fulfilling New Year for all of us in this small village.



Yachats Trails Update

By Jan Brown,
Communications, Leader

The Yachats Trails
Committee wishes all of you

a happy new year – and hopefully one that includes a dose of the healing power of the great outdoors. Even in the saddest of times a short walk, a few deep gulps of fresh ocean air and momentary immersion in the forces of the natural world can bring back a renewed sense of balance and direction.

Walking – the simple act of putting one foot in front of another can not only improve your mood; it can improve your brain power, your energy level, and your overall health – not to mention your waistline. (I'm betting I'm not the only one who perhaps went one cookie over the line this Christmas season?) Just Google "benefits of walking" to see the myriad positive effects even a short walk provides.

Luckily for us we have a wide variety of trails just outside our doorways that accommodate any walking style. Just getting started? Only have five minutes? Aging knees? Stroll the flat and friendly 804 Trail. Ready to get your heart rate up? The short climb from Prospect Park to Radar Road can do the trick. And if you're ready to venture farther afield, options like the Amanda Trail will take you all the way to Cape Perpetua, with its own network of trails for all skill levels, and beyond. If you don't

yet have a map of Yachats trails, stop by the Chamber of Commerce to pick one up and plot your route.

Much of the work that that is being done to build and maintain our city trails has been under the guidance of our tireless (and I mean TIRELESS) Yachats Trails Crew Leader Lauralee Svendsgaard, who is also working with the South Lincoln County Rural Tourism Studio group on developing region-wide programs to promote hiking, biking, equestrian and water trails in South Lincoln County. Now we are thrilled to announce that Lauralee has been appointed to a four-year term with the [Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council](#) (ORTAC). In this role she will advise the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation on the development of trails and the Statewide Trails Plan. Her extensive background and history in trails work and advocacy in both Oregon and California will make her a tremendous asset to the ORTAC team and we couldn't be prouder of this recognition of her talent and energy. Congratulations Lauralee!

As always the trails committee would love to see you on the trails, whether you are walking or working. If you'd like to know more about this merry band just contact any of the Trails Committee members listed below or show up at one of our fun monthly work gatherings:

January 5th, Saturday, at 10:00 a.m. – Trails crew work event (location to be announced via email to the Trail Committee's contact list.

January 19, Saturday at 10:00 a.m. – YIPS! work event (location to be announced via email to the Trail Committee's contact list. To be added to the list, send a request to one of the emails listed below.)

No experience is needed, you may join for any length of time you have available and there are always a wide range of tasks to choose from at any of our events. So... hope to see you there!



YIPS! News (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee)

Hello 2013! Last month's news was largely a look back at our achievements over the year. Now it is time to look to the future.

During the winter months we humans have a lot in common with weeds, tending to lie low and not be seen out and about. But as soon as things start warming up, the weeds will be taking off again, and all that soil moisture keeps them going right through the summer. That's also a good time for us to throw off our winter woollies and attack the weeds while they are easily pulled from the damp soil. Weeds with strong root systems and strong stems, such as blackberry and Scotch broom, are often best pulled using weed wrenches. These gadgets give you extra leverage, and they come in three sizes as well. They can be checked out from the Commons, free of charge. If you haven't used one before, it's time to give it a try, and many of us will be only too happy to demonstrate how they work.

This year, we'll again be tracking down the usual suspects. You know them all by now. One important new development is worth mentioning. Knotweeds (several different species) are a big problem in western Oregon, and Yachats is no exception. The usual way of dealing with significant knotweed infestations is to use herbicides, either by spraying or by stem injection. However, we have an important group of residents – the Concerned Citizens for Clean Air (CCCA) - who are passionately opposed to use of herbicides in this way. Some of them have offered to deal with knotweed manually and have also offered to help finance such a program. YIPS!, in conjunction with the city, is currently developing a plan of action for the CCCA to work on a selected knotweed infestation during the upcoming growing season. Pending the outcome of this test program, chemical control of knotweed will be suspended.

YIPS! meets once a month, generally on the third Saturday, at 10 a.m. No special skills are needed, other than the ability to tolerate a bit of dirt under your fingernails! Please join us. You can get on the mailing list by calling Wally at the number below.

If you have questions about weeds, call Don Niskanen (541.961.6695) or Wally (541.547.5474).

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For more information about the Yachats Trails Committee, its activities or to be added to the Committee's email list simply contact 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 jnkittel@peak.org
- Wally Orchard, Leader, YIPS! at 541.547.5474 or worchard@peak.org
- Jan Brown, Leader, Communications at 541.547.4927 or espressoebrown@gmail.com



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

We at the Little Log Church and Museum send you a wish for a peaceful and prosperous New Year. If you are creating some special intentions for 2013 (we don't call them "resolutions"), you might want to put a visit to the museum on your list.

Elaine Tillman, one of our newest volunteers, recently told me one of her favorite pieces of reading material at the museum is a collection of newspaper articles written by the late Fred Harrison, a contributor for many years to the *South Lincoln County Courier*. The articles were published from the 1970s until the mid-1990s, and dealt with items of interest to Yachats residents. His stories about businesses opening (and closing), economic up-swings and down-turns, tourism, local political issues and more are quite revealing. They are a reminder that we in Yachats seem to ride the waves of change pretty well. There are many photos as well. Reading through the spiral bound book was a nice trip down memory lane for Elaine, who had been coming to Yachats almost yearly since the '70s.

Author Fred Harrison was not only a news reporter but a published poet as well. Some of his poetry chapbooks can be found in the museum's collection of local author works. Fred was also the landscape gardener at the Little Log Church in the mid-1990s. Handy for him, as he and his wife Ruth lived just down the street. Fred wrote a lovely poem inspired by his work in the garden in which he referred to "a canopy of sparrows".

So resolve to (oops) create an *intention* to come by sometime and enjoy perusing some of Yachats' rich history and literature. We'd love to see you.



Yachats Public Library

By Sandra Calkins

It is a brand new year and now is the time to make all of those New Year's Resolutions. Isn't that true? You know, all of those New Year's Resolutions that you keep for anywhere from a day to a month. And then you feel guilty, disillusioned

with your stick-to-it-ive-ness, ashamed that you don't have any will power. What a way to start a new year!

Instead, this year, how about a resolution that is easier to keep—one that will make you feel better every time you follow it? Sounds like a plan.

A couple of years ago a blogger began working on what she called "The Happiness Project." Each day she would blog about ways to be happy and in doing so she became happy. If we all tried that this year, tried the little things that make us happy, how much more satisfied would we be with our lives.

Let's say we go for one thing each day that makes us happy. Maybe that would be some "me" time reading a good book, having a cup of coffee with a friend, or just watching our beautiful ocean. Those things make me happy. How about if we give ourselves bonus points for making someone else happy? Write a letter to a friend, play with a child, and take a treat to a shut-in, smile at everyone you meet.

You never know how your small act of kindness might change someone's life. Knowing isn't important. Your act of kindness will make you happy. The combination of the two may make a big difference in our world.

Come visit us in our library and give us one of your smiles. We'll try to return it to you and also pay it forward to the next person. Happy New Year everyone!



Commons Events

By Leon Stern, Coordinator

Resolving to start out the New Year on a new foot? Great - and I've got a place for you to put that new foot; how about on some shiny new flooring in

the Multi-Purpose room at the Commons? Yes, we have new and beautiful flooring in the Kitchen and MP room that has replaced the old and worn tiles.

After years of use and some water damage, the old flooring had its swan song at the end of last month - when Lunch Bunch and Yachats Big Band gave it its farewell foray.

The old tiles were removed and the subflooring repaired. They were replaced with Luxury Vinyl Tiles which are known for their durability and their aesthetic appeal.

We had a chilling realization when removing the old tiles in the kitchen: namely, that the upright freezer had been leaking over the years and had caused some amount of damage to the sub floor beneath and around it. The subfloor has been repaired and the new tiles installed. The Friends have agreed to replace this old and less than efficient freezer with a new one that will work and look much better!

Milo Graamans, our local keyboard hero who has recently returned from Musical Studies at the University of Oregon, has agreed to do a benefit piano concert at the Commons on Sunday, January 13th at 2:00pm. The Friends of the Commons will co- sponsor this fundraising event with Milo and dedicate a large portion of the proceeds towards the purchase of a new freezer for the kitchen. Thank you Milo for this warm offer which will no doubt lead to a nicely chilling outcome! And thanks to the Friends whose ongoing efforts support both the physical and cultural dimensions of our Commons community center.

Gratitude also to Zumba and Exercise class members who were displaced for a couple weeks during the flooring project; and to the Yachats Lions Club for providing the alternate space for these groups and their aerobic activities! Speaking of the Lions, in only a few weeks (Saturday, Jan 26th) they will host two seating's of their annual crab feed upon these very tiles!

Congratulations also to Linda and Gil Lopez who were the first to initiate our new flooring in the kitchen where they recently held their 50th wedding anniversary. Their decorations were beautiful and it was apparent that the new flooring added a very nice touch to the atmosphere of the room.

So please, let your New Year's resolutions include visits to the Commons - where you are always welcome and where you can put your best foot forward and check out the new floors.



Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program By Alice Beck, Executive Director

Families Together is on the 25th, the usual, free dinner at the Presbyterian Church with books go home with the kids.

Diversity Day Celebration will be held on MLK Day January 21st from 6-8 pm at the Commons, with food, music and multi-cultural activities.



Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock,
Coordinator

The Yachats Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, January 31, 2013 inside the multipurpose room at the Yachats Commons. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and we'll begin serving lunch promptly at noon.

Everyone 55 or older is welcome. The menu for January is: meatloaf; mashed potatoes and gravy; green salad; rolls & butter and brownies for dessert. There is a suggested donation of \$4 per person. As always there will be great live entertainment.

Why not make going to the Lunch Bunch luncheon each month your best kept New Year's Resolution for 2013.



GoYachats.com

By Andrea Scharf, Marketing Director

Long-Term Planning for a Healthy Economy

Three years ago, the city authorized development of the GoYachats website, an electronic directory to all businesses licensed by the city (or located in the 547 dialing area). Also included were photos and virtual tours of our beautiful location between the forest and the ocean, and calendars of events sponsored by Yachats organizations and businesses. The idea was to use GoYachats as a virtual invitation to bring more visitors to town and as a resource for local residents.

Why is the city involved in promoting tourism? It's very simple. The City of Yachats doesn't have a municipal property tax, so the transient room tax, paid by people who stay at our motels, hotels, B&Bs and vacation rentals, supports most of the city's services. Other income depends on fees for water and sewer service and the food & beverage tax (which also supports water and sewer costs). The economic downturn that started in 2008 had a

negative effect on travel, and city revenues went down.

The position of marketing director was created to help promote GoYachats, and particularly to attract people during the so-called 'shoulder season'—that period in the fall and spring when travel falls off. (No one's talking about the deep midwinter!) The Yachats Chamber of Commerce and various local businesses have done a wonderful job of bringing people here in the fall, with the Mushroom Festival and Celtic Festival, as well as several art & craft shows. Last spring, GoYachats launched the Yachats Center for Lifelong Learning, an attempt to create a permanent series of programs and events which would attract people to Yachats. This idea still has strong support but neither the funding nor staffing to bring it up to the level necessary to achieve its objective. I continue to believe it's a good idea; hopefully there will be an opportunity in the future to develop this concept which will benefit residents as well as attract more visitors.

This year, the main focus of my work has been a program called the Rural Tourism Studio (RTS). RTS is funded by the state's travel department. Working with a steering committee that included representatives of Yachats, Waldport, and Seal Rock, I helped write a winning proposal for this competitive program, which brought about \$40,000 worth of training workshops to the South Lincoln County area and ongoing training and support to promote tourism based on the natural beauty and recreational potential of this area. Throughout the workshops, participants advocated for a type of tourist activity which would preserve what is unique in this area—not just the beauty but the peace and quiet, the old-fashioned sense of a family vacation, a retreat to renew and rejuvenate the spirit.

Travel Oregon provided \$10,000 in grant money for us to develop some of the ideas that came out of the workshops. These funds were matched by contributions from the Cities of Yachats and Waldport, the Waldport Chamber of Commerce, and the Port of Alsea (which acts as the fiscal agent for the projects). We have also received \$8,000 from the Lincoln County Community & Economic Development grants program. These grants will fund development of a printed map and a digitized

version of all the non-motorized trails from Ona Beach to Cummins Creek; the first annual Oregon Coast Gravel Epic and Gran Fondo, a sanctioned race and cycling event which will take place next October and will help spread the word about cycling and other active recreational opportunities in this area; and We Speak, a training program for people who work in motels, restaurants, visitor centers, and any other place where we have the opportunity of answering visitors' questions (beyond "where's the restroom?") and helping them have the best experience possible so they will stay longer and come back again. Bev Wilson, director of the Yachats Chamber of Commerce has already produced two pilot We Speak programs, which also have been well-attended by local residents who want to know more about this wonderful place where we live.

The RTS program has provided a great opportunity for our communities to work together. There is already a history of cooperation among the fire departments, emergency preparedness programs, and education, but we are building on the unique strengths of each town to support a healthy local economy. I co-chair the RTS Steering Committee with Sue Woodruff, the mayor of Waldport, and members of all three communities participate and support these efforts.

If you would like to know more about Rural Tourism's programs and/or how you can get involved, please contact me at Andrea@GoYachats.com.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year as we bring these wonderful projects to fruition!



**ANNUAL LICENSE
RENEWAL REMINDER**

Business and transient rental license renewal forms were sent via email (if given by the applicant) or USPS (if not) to business and transient rental property owners around the first of January. Those who received their forms by mail were sent instructions asking them to provide a valid email address in order to receive quarterly tax returns, future license renewals, and other related correspondence electronically. Applicants have until February 28, 2013 to renew their licenses to avoid a late fee.