



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

January 2003

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FROM THE MAYOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT 101

DEQ, MAO and EDU—these are just some of the abbreviations with which we will become intimately familiar over the next few years. What do they stand for and what effect will they have on Yachats?

- DEQ=Department of Environmental Quality. This is the state agency that governs issuance of waste water permits, inspects treatment facilities and issues citations, and or fines, for permit violations.
- MAO=Mutual Agreement and Order. This is the agreement between DEQ and the City that defines what actions must be taken by the City to improve the waste water system. This MAO sets out time schedules for specific improvements and regulates the number of sewer connections available while the MAO is in force.
- EDU=Equivalent Dwelling Units. These units, which vary from type of dwelling or business, determine the additional "load" to the sewer plant. As improvements to the system are completed, additional EDU's may become available. One (1) EDU is approximately equivalent to one two-bedroom house.

So, you may ask, why would the City consider entering into this restrictive MAO? There are two primary reasons. First, the DEQ has determined that the City has been out of compliance with the Permit on 5 occasions over the last three years. These are what are considered to be "technical" violations but by virtue of this, DEQ could require substantial fines. By agreeing to the MAO, the city will not be fined. Second, when applying to various agencies for potential funding, operating under an MAO opens financial doors that would not otherwise be available. This can translate into more and/or cheaper money. We anticipate signing the final MAO draft before the 1st of February. This will start the clock on a five (5) year process culminating in an expanded treatment facility, which is expected to meet the needs of the City for the next 20 to 25 years. The work to be done involves a series of specified improvements to the collection

system, pump stations and the sewer plant itself. In consultation with Dyer Associates Engineers, who developed our Waste Water Treatment Master Plan, we have divided this process into two basic phases. The first phase involves engineered plans to correct inflow and infiltration problems in the collection system, performance of the construction needed to correct these problems and development of a facilities plan to determine the type of treatment facility best suited to Yachats. This phase, which will also include improvements to the pumps and the current sewer plant, is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000. The second phase is the addition to, or reconstruction of, the sewer treatment plant. This is estimated to cost between four (4) and five (5) million dollars. We are applying through the Oregon Economic & Community Development Department (OECD) for a combined grant and loan to handle the bulk of phase 1. Reserves generated from System Development Charges (SDC's) and fees will also help. Phase 2, reconstruction of the sewer treatment plant, will probably necessitate a long-term bond.

While operating under the MAO, the City Council has determined that building permits will be issued to the extent that EDU's are available on a first come-first serve basis. Although we have no way of forecasting with accuracy how many applications may be received, if the past 3 years' history is a guide to the future, we will have a sufficient number of EDU's to meet the demand.

Please contact Larry Lewis, our City Planner, at 547-3565 for further information regarding building permits and EDU's. Larry can be reached on Mondays and Tuesdays. Technical questions can be referred to John McClintock, Public Works Director, also at 547-3565.

It is too early to tell what this may mean in terms of costs for each of us but it appears likely that increased fees and bond payments will be needed to provide this essential service. As we develop better estimates we will certainly keep you all informed.



**YEAR'S FIRST COUNCIL MEETING STARTS
WITH OATHS OF OFFICE**

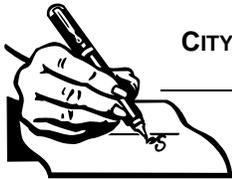
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Lee Corbin took the Oath of Office on January 8 and began serving his second term as Mayor. Corbin ran unopposed for the position.

Sue Smith and Ray Meehan took the Oath of Office as Councilors. Meehan was elected in November to his first term; Smith was re-elected to serve a second term.

Councilor Larry Nixon took part in his last meeting at the special meeting on December 30, 2002. At that meeting Mayor Corbin thanked Nixon for volunteering to fill the short-term vacancy. City Council presented Nixon with a toy tractor and trailer similar to the real one City Council rides each year in the La De Da Parade on the 4th of July.



CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2003

At their January meeting City Council voted to continue their long-term goals as adopted last year and they developed the following objectives for the coming year as a way to meet those goals.

City Council long-terms Goals

- Maintain A Sustainable Water Supply And Adequate Wastewater Treatment System
- Pursue Stable Long Term Funding
- Provide For Resident And Visitor Safety
- Pursue Effective Communication
- Maintain and Enhance The Livability Of Yachats

Objectives for 2003

- Meet Deadlines Imposed by MAO for Wastewater System.
- Start Construction on the Yachats Ocean Trail System.
- Develop a Master Plan Design and Secure Funding for the Park Behind the Commons.
- Maintain Water Rights on the Yachats River.
- Continue to Pursue Increased Raw Water Storage for Future Needs.
- Complete the TGM Planning and Begin Implementation.
- Revisit the Vision 2020 Plan.
- Pass a Bluff Protection Ordinance.
- Have in Place a Bluff Protection Plan.
- Continue as Participating Members and Supports of the South County Water Consortium.

- Host a Business Forum for Interchange with the Local Business Owners.



MEMBERS APPOINTED TO CITY COMMISSIONS

At the January meeting City Council voted unanimously to appoint Leslie Carter to the Parks and Commons Commission. She will fill a vacancy that has a term expiring at the end of 2003.

Carter works at the Bank of the West, and has been a resident for many years. She told City Council that she wanted to do something for her community, and that she was interested in the Parks.

City Council also reappointed Bruce Olson and Nancy McCarty to the Parks and Commons Commission: Drew Roslund, Bob Meyers and George Fisher to the Public Works and Streets Commission; Annette Howarth to the Library Commission; Yvonne Wulff to the Planning Commission.

There are still vacancies on the Library Commission, Public Works and Streets Commission and the Planning Commission. If you are interested in serving, please stop by City Hall for an application form!



IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL NEWS

- Joel Evans was elected Council President and was nominated to serve as the City's representative on the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation
- City Council voted to authorize the Mayor to Sign the Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - see Mayor's article on page 1.
- City Council approved an extension of the current franchise agreement with Charter Cable until a new agreement can be negotiated and approved.
- City Council approved the installation of a street light at the intersection of Pontiac and Fourth Street as per recommended by the Public Works and Streets Commission.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by John McClintock

- The water efficiency audit report for December was above 80%;



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several major leaks were found and fixed.

- A mud slide on Hanley Drive occurred during the bad weather in early January. Improvements will be made to the drainage in that area.
- The MAO has been approved by DEQ and there are very few minor changes made to the draft that was reviewed on December 12, 2002. All things considered the changes are a relative improvement over that draft.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

The new year always brings new resolutions and the hope that one will do things better. My goal for the new year is to have a better flow of communication about events and opportunities here at the Commons. There are all manners of great events going on here and too often people hear about them after the fact. While it is up to the group putting on the event to advertise it, I will try to help get the word out as well.

Going along with this resolution, here are scheduled events for the next few weeks.

Yoga begins again with Ursula Adler at 8 am on Tuesdays and Fridays, beginning on the 14th of January. Please call her for further information, 547-3858.

Another yoga class begins at 5:30 in the afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Dennis McSharry. He can be reached at 547-4107.

The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program is hosting a myriad of great events for youth and family, including teen yoga classes, preschool, music classes, model club and karaoke family nights. For further information, call 547-4599.

The Friends of the Yachats Commons will be putting on a musical review on January 31 and February 1. Stay tuned for time and further details. The Friends are also hosting a Chataqua talk about the politics of Tom McCall on the 2nd of February at 2 pm.

The Florence Chamber Orchestra is playing here on the 9th of February at 2 pm.

More and more events and meetings are going on here at the Commons. The ones that seem to have the widest audience appeal get up on the readerboard in front of the building. Check it regularly and check the weekly calendar of events posted on the bulletin boards in the building.

Beginning January 24th, you will be able to see the traveling exhibit, "My Town in Lincoln County" here at the Commons. This photo exhibit, which comes to us from the Lincoln County Historical Society, will be on display in the main hall for several weeks. Stop by to see this fine exhibit.



For Sale

3 white residential grade toilets. All are working and are in good condition. Salvaged from the Commons when commercial grade fixtures were installed last month. \$25 each. Contact City Hall.

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



Most of the time, you can count on emergencies happening when City Hall is closed.

Additionally, the public works department has different hours than City Hall so there may be times when they are working, but there is no one at City Hall to talk to. Although there are answering machines at both the Sewer Plant and the Water Treatment Plant, those Public Works Department numbers are not the best numbers to use when reporting emergencies.

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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!

LOW INCOME WAIVER ON WATER BILLS



Yachats Code allows the City Recorder to grant a partial waiver if the consumer is eligible.

A waiver of 50% of the monthly base water charge may be considered by the City Recorder based upon written request by the user, and documentation of eligibility for low income assistance from the State of Oregon. Based on the current base rate that waiver is \$11.50 per month.

If you meet the criteria, and would like your case considered contact the City Office.



SAVING WATER INDOORS

Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or cleaning.

Verify that your home is leak-free, because many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste gallons per year, which will add to the cost of water and sewer utilities, or strain your septic system.

Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear within minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily

installed. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)

Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.

If the toilet flush handle frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.

Take shorter showers. Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version. Some units are available that allow you to cut off the flow without adjusting the water temperature knobs.

Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain first and filling the tub only half full. Stopper tub before turning water on.



The initial burst of cold water can be warmed by adding hot water later.

Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.

Retrofit all wasteful household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.

Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or properly set the water level for the size of load you are using.

Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.



Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using the defrost setting on your microwave.

Kitchen sink disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste instead of using a garbage disposal. Garbage disposals also can add to the volume of solids in the sewer system, which can lead to problems and higher maintenance costs.

Consider installing an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will reduce heating costs for your household.

Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

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