



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS January 2005

From the Mayor - Sue Smith

Happy New Year! This is the time of year for new beginnings; resolutions; opportunities; challenges. As your new Mayor, I appreciate the confidence that you have placed in me to facilitate continuing the good work that the City of Yachats is doing. We are most fortunate in that we have dedicated staff in place who know their jobs and how to do them the best way possible. Our office personnel are hard at work every day with a myriad of duties, most of which we as citizens are not aware of. Our Public Works Director, John McClintock, and his competent crew are to be thanked every time each of us turns on a water tap and clear potable water comes out; each time we flush a toilet; each time we drive on a City street. Our Planner, Larry Lewis, is the one to talk to with building questions and who has answers to questions about zoning and land use. Mike Dowsett, our City Attorney, is invaluable as we try to sort out laws and initiatives and to figure out how they will impact Yachats.

Operating a City, even one as small as Yachats, takes a tremendous number of manhours. Our volunteers are critical to the successful operations of the Commons, our growing Parks system, our infrastructure (streets, water, sewer), our zones and codes, our Library, our Log Church and Museum, and our Visitor's Center, among others. The dedication of all these people is heartwarming and deeply gratifying. If you see a volunteer hard at work,

please thank him or her.

I come into this office with high hopes and expectations. I want to hear from you. My home phone number is 547-4679 , and my e-mail address is suemiks@pioneer.net. I will sit down with you at any time that is mutually agreeable to us to discuss whatever city issue is of concern to you. I plan to spend time at City Hall and to be "out and about" and available. I can't know what you are thinking unless you tell me.

I only have one request. Treat each of us in the City with the same respect that you appreciate from us. Keeping that in mind ensures effective and productive communication. I look forward to working with each of you.



Do we need a new sewer plant?

By Mayor Sue Smith

It has been said that we don't need a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Department of Environmental Quality says we do. The Dyer Partnership Engineers and Planners say we do. John McClintock, our Public Works Director says we do. In fact, the present system is quite literally on its last legs. To illustrate the point, the City has a schedule of permissible "effluent levels" which the DEQ has increased since we have been under the MAO (Mutual Agreement and Order). If they had not increased this, we would have had three infractions in the last year which had **nothing** to do with human error.

Please check your Newsletter next month for further information on options for paying for this new facility.



Is This As Clear As Mud????

By Mayor Sue Smith

City Council thought we knew the clearest and best way to pay for the upcoming Wastewater Treatment Plant until we received some new and different information from a couple of unofficial consultants. Our original thinking was to pay for it using property taxes, which would be deductible on Federal income taxes for those who itemize their deductions. But in looking more deeply, we are finding that that MIGHT be the more expensive option for individuals. It might be that a combination of options make the most sound fiscal sense: levying **some** property taxes and using **some** rate increases, as well as General Fund monies; new monies; System Development Charges, etc.

Passing the bond issue in March does **not** obligate the City to pay for the new plant with property taxes; it merely keeps **all** options open. Payments do not begin until the plant is on line which will be the end of 2007 at the anticipated **soonest**.

The City will continue to gather information, evaluate opinions, and solicit citizen input throughout the next several months. Information will be available through public meetings, the City newsletter, as well as through the City website at (www.ci.yachats.or.us) and www.yachats.info.



ARE YOU READY FOR THE BIG ONE?????

By Mayor Sue Smith

The devastatingly tragic tsunami in Southeast Asia is yet another opportunity for communities along the world's coasts to assess their preparedness for similar occurrences. The first and most important step is individual preparation. Do you have a back pack filled with emergency supplies? Are you ready to head for higher ground at a moment's notice? Do you have water set by to last several days? Do you keep a copy of the Yachats Tsunami Evacuation Map (available at City Hall or online at www.co.lincoln.or.us) nearby?

- The Yachats Fire Department will sound a siren for three minutes to warn of a tsunami. Will you hear it?
- Do you have a radio (with batteries) that you can tune to KYTE-FM 102.7 for information?
- Do you have any kind of weather alert radio (i.e. NOAA)?
- Do you know where the Yachats Emergency Center is?
- Do you know where the tsunami inundation zone is in Yachats?
- Even if you are up on the hill out of immediate harm's way, are you prepared to be without electricity, water or sanitation for several days?

There are several websites that you will find helpful as you educate yourselves about tsunamis, earthquakes, and their effects.

- www.oregongeology.com
- www.geophys.washington.edu
- www.neic.usgs.gov
- www.wcatwc.arh.gov

There are many others which a good search engine (such as Google) will highlight.

Recent editions of the News Times have covered preparedness fully. While there is a County command center, folks in Yachats will be "on their own" for a good while until **help** can reach them.

It is important for EACH of us to assume the responsibility for being ready. Perhaps we will never

experience an earthquake resulting in tsunami but it is always a possibility.

My husband and I have put together two emergency kits: one complete one with things that we can take in the car in the event that we have enough time to drive somewhere, and one with the bare necessities in a backpack that can be carried up the hill behind us. I suggest that each of you consider doing the same thing.



Community Celebration

By Mayor Sue Smith

On Saturday evening, January 8th in the multi-purpose room of the Commons, a Community Celebration/Meet the new Mayor event occurred. Approximately 200 hardy folks (the weather, you may recall, was pretty horrid) ventured out and had a wonderful time greeting their neighbors and other Yachatsians; eating food, some of which was donated by the Friends; listening to music from Thinking With Sand; watching a slide show of people and events around Yachats, and studying still photos placed around the room. Each attendee also had an opportunity to share, on easel paper or sticky notes two things: What they appreciate about Yachats and what their dreams are for the community. While there were some written with levity, most truly reflect what this community is about. I am happy to share them with those of you who were unable to attend.



WHAT IS YOUR DREAM FOR YACHATS?

- A solid infrastructure to support the community balanced with support and value of all of us who make Yachats a beautiful and special place to live.
- To live here forever! Meet new friends like Leslie and Nancy and Shasta.
- Maintain the village feel for ALL (residents and visitors alike); to enjoy the natural beauty
- Regenerate people!!
 - Physically
 - Mentally
 - Spiritually
 - Anti-aging
 - Inter-generational focus
- Education becomes a priority for EVERYONE!!
- Keep the "special character" of our village. We need an ordinance to regulate the type of constructions that "viciously" change the original beauty of the dream place which is Yachats.
- A community garden at the Commons
- A labyrinth
- Volunteer skills bank
- South Yachats walking trail
- Celebrating youth; encouraging young families
- Keep the small town feeling
- "I love it just the way it is!"
- A wailing wall
- A place folks can afford to stay
- More "coastal comfy" ---- less "resorty"
- A Subway
- Family friendly
- Earth Day & Ocean Day '05
- More parties like this!
- Yes!!
- Yachats, Yachats...Paradise and praise, the Rain the Storms and the Friendliness of the people living here.

- Dream Workshop for Yachats Community 3-4 times a year
- Conflict Resolution training (facilitated practice) two times a year.
- At the Commons:
 - Monthly family potluck/movie night
 - Monthly "film buff" potluck night



WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT YACHATS?

- The Gerdemans
- The 804 Trail
- We have a great City Council
- Toad Hall
- Community of People
- The people
- Sue Smith
- Commons and its role in community
- We have a great City Council
- Free spirits
- People
- The Little Kitchen Store
- We help one another
- The gorgeous babes
- Friendly small town atmosphere with amenities
- The backgrounds and professions of people attracted here
- Power of the ocean
- The Celtic Festival
- Visitor's Center
- People let me be ME!
- La-Di-Dah
- It's on the ocean!
- Opportunity to volunteer
- The location
- Yachats Commons
- Visitors, especially from other cultures and countries
- The people
- Lovely view/lovely people
- Sense of community and friendship
- Sense of identity
- The Little Log Church
- A great "destination" place
- 804
- The slow pace of life
- How the town merges with the beautiful environment
- The people
- Care for kids
- Library
- Leadership of women, especially Mayor Sue
- Emerald Coast Realty
- Liberals, liberals
- The village respect/image; keep it up!
- Walks on the beach
- Never a dull moment
- The closed tunnel
- Keep the natural "nature" environment
- Acceptance of lifestyles
- Volunteer spirit
- The Commons
- The great support from the Community for the Commons
- The small size
- Everything
- Save the trees
- Sand on the beach

- Toad Hall
- The Commons
- Save the Trees!
- Friendly
- The friendly post office
- I love Yachats! It's a beautiful village.
- The Community Center
- Activities like this one....thanks!
- The mix of business and restaurants
- All the gentle caring people
- Tolerance
- Natural air conditioning
- Our new mayor, Sue Smith
- We're all family
- The fantastic people that make this community what it is. AND the beautiful environment....let's preserve it.
- Republicans!
- Because we're all family.
- The green hillsides
- The parties
- People here make their own fun
- The Adobe Resort
- The fresh air
- The gorgeous sunsets
- Talent....Love it!
- The church
- Everything
- Thinking With Sand
- Friendly people
- The 2nd Street community
- It's home
- Yachats is a "dream village". Please do not let it expand....It is at its ideal "limits"
- The kids
- I love this town and these people
- Feeling of community
- The ability to be just who you are.
- Most of the people.
- Friendly, accepting
- The Sunday Farmer's Market
- The City Staff
- The friendly people
- Friendly people
- Mark the stop signs with a white line on the ground. Merci



Audit Report

Dan Wilcox, the independent auditor from the firm of Wilcox Arredondo & Company in Canby, Oregon, attended the November City Council meeting to present the completed City Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004. Once again the City received an "unqualified opinion," which is the highest possible rating. Dan Wilcox said that the City's Financial Reports have been given an unqualified opinion.

This is the first year of the new format as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, so Wilcox explained the differences in the format and some of the schedules to City Council at the meeting.

Wilcox credited City Recorder Otterson and her staff for the excellent condition of the books, and their cooperation with the audit team.



Budget Committee Members Appointed

At the January City Council meeting, Brad Webb was reappointed and Immediate Past Mayor Lee Corbin was appointed to the Budget Committee. Webb will serve a three-year term. Corbin will complete the remainder of the term for the seat left vacant when Budget Committee Member Greg Scott resigned following his appointment to the Planning Commission.

The Budget Committee meetings will begin in early May again this year. The annual budget is then forwarded to the City Council for adoption in June; and starts July 1.

There is still one vacancy on the Budget Committee, so if you are interested -- please apply.



Library Commission Members Appointed

In December City Council decided that since a majority of the Library donations received each year and many of the volunteers who work at the Library are from the greater Yachats area it made sense to allow one member of the Commission to be from outside the City Limits. So right after City Council adopted the necessary ordinance at the January meeting they appointed Yachats River Road resident Teresa Springsteen to the Commission. She said that she has been a volunteer since the Library opened but because she lived outside the city limits she had not been able to serve on the Commission until the change was made.

Marilyn Kennelly was also appointed to serve on the Library Commission, with a term to expire December 31, 2007.



In other City Council business:

- Council adopted Resolution No 2005-01-02, which made minor changes to the budget for 2004-2005.
- Council approved the use of right-of-way for a driveway for a property off Cape Ranch Road.
- Joel Evans was elected to serve as Council President for 2005.
- Council authorized a one-time bonus for Public Works Director, John McClintock, explaining that he is spending way more time in Yachats than was originally anticipated, mainly due to the sewer plant condition and the need to meet the requirements of the agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality.
- City Council met with representatives from Charter Cable. The renewed franchise agreement will be on the February meeting agenda for adoption. Cable company representative, Linda Kimberly explained that the proposed agreement is for 10 years with a five-year review because the 10-year agreement will provide the long-term stability necessary to facilitate the system rebuild that is planned. The agreement is non-exclusive, so another company could also serve the community if they wanted to make the investment.



Public Works Director's Report

By John McClintock

- The public works crew recently found and repaired a leak that may have been the "mother of them all" and since the first of the year it has only been necessary to run the water plant four days. Before that leak was fixed the plant was running daily.
- The leak detection service is still scheduled to visit Yachats soon; so, if there are any other

leaks they should find them.

- The annual flushing of the water distribution system will start the second week in February. City staff will be working on the public notices.
- The Yachats Ocean Road paving project is officially complete. Everyone involved with the project seems to be happy with the results.
- With the recent storms it has been possible to conduct flow monitoring and it is clear that the sewer collection system infiltration and inflow rehabilitation projects done last year were very successful in reducing the amount of storm water entering the sewer system.



Water Distribution System to be Flushed in February

The crew will begin the annual flushing of the water system in early February. This will get any buildup on the pipes out of the system. This also provides a water turn over at the reservoir and flushes out the dead-end lines. The process cleans, re-disinfects and freshens the entire system.



Announcements

- **There is a vacant City Council position. Council is encouraging citizens to apply!**
- **Listen to the Mayor on KORC 820 at 8:30 on Council mornings--that is the 2nd Thursday of each month.**
- **Wastewater Treatment plant tours on January 25 (Tuesday) and 26 (Wednesday) from 1 - 3 p.m. Tours will cover the current plant and the future project.**
- **Public Meetings will be held February 9th at 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. regarding the new sewer plant. These town hall / open house type meetings will be attended by representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality and the City's engineering consultants. Come ask the experts your questions.**

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005		
<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>12/31/04</i>	
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$615,500	\$446,657
Library	\$15,758	\$7,301
Little Log Church & Museum	\$13,418	\$10,038
Parks & Commons*	\$117,412	\$81,706
Streets	\$121,913	\$71,831
Water	\$405,769	\$187,266
Sewer	\$690,714	\$466,342
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,289,151	\$1,282,306
Debt	<u>\$126,118</u>	<u>\$11,963</u>
	<u>\$3,395,753</u>	<u>\$2,565,409</u>



COMMONS NEWS

By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator

We are into a new year with new hope and expectations. Hopefully, also with new energy for activities and happenings around our community and the Commons. There is a group of volunteers working hard to come up with an Earth Day celebration to be held here on April 23. The next meeting for this group is on the 22nd of January at 10 am in Room 8. If you have any ideas, suggestions or good energy to contribute come to the meeting.

A number of people have approached me about the need for an adult exercise class here. If you know anyone who is qualified to teach a basic course and would like to work here at the Commons, please call me at 547-4734.

In order to make our community center more vibrant and active, I need to know what sort of class or workshop you are interested in. If you have ever thought of teaching or sharing some knowledge, please call me so we can talk it over.

Meanwhile, we have some good activities scheduled.

Mark your calendar for the 27th of January at 12:30. It's time once again for the Lunch Bunch, the monthly senior luncheon. The meal is prepared and served by the culinary arts students of Angell Job Corps. A small fee is requested for the lunch.

On the 29th of January the Lions Club is hosting an all-you-can-eat crab dinner beginning at 4 pm. The dinner will be held jointly at the Commons and at the Lions hall.

The first Thursday of every month is set aside for the Yachats Big Band Dance which starts at 7 pm. January's proceeds from the dance all went to the tsunami relief fund.

The 17th of February will be full of song as the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program once again hosts a family night out with an evening of family singing at 6 pm.

The Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra will be back on the 18th of February with a concert at 7 pm. Several barbershop quartet groups will be here on the 19th for a rousing musical evening.

February 25 the Friends of the Commons are sponsoring another Chautauqua evening at 7 pm. This event will feature American songs of protest. On the 26th, the Friends are hosting a rousing mardi gras celebration featuring Etouffee.

These are the big events scheduled so far, check the readerboard outside the building, call me, or check the weekly calendars on the bulletin boards in the building for further information.



Thank You, from Kevin Chesshir

The following letter was given to the City by the staff at Bank of the West. It is a thank you note from former sewer plant operator and city employee -- Kevin Chessir

Words are not enough to show the kind people of the Yachats area how grateful I am for your generosity in my time of need. It made it possible for me to spend quality time with my mother and return for her funeral. I do not know who to thank personally thank.

Kevin Chesshir

541-547-5173

485 NE Brubaker St. Yachats

Recycling Water

Fish tank water is high in nitrogen and phosphorous, making it a great fertilizer should you decide to recycle it by watering your plants.

While the use of gray-water to irrigate may seem to be an ideal way to reuse water that has been used for washing dishes, laundering clothes, or bathing, extreme care should be taken to ensure the health and welfare of your family and/or neighbors is not jeopardized. Gray-water contains grease, food particles, hair, and any number of other impurities which should be considered.

Toilet flushing may be the best way to reuse gray-water however DO NOT put the gray-water into the toilet tank. Gray-water in the tank may not only cause the flushing mechanism to malfunction, but could be back-siphoned into the fresh water supply.

High bacteria counts will cause objectionable odors if you attempt to store the gray-water; use it the day it is collected.

Precautions should be observed, as gray-water may contain sodium, bleach, or borax, all of which can damage plants. Liquid fabric softeners and detergents with softeners should not be used when washing your clothing; a dryer fabric softener sheet should be used instead.

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

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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