



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

January 2006



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Susanne Smith

While I don't believe in making particular New Year's Resolutions, I do focus on one thing each year for self-improvement. My focus for 2006 is showing APPRECIATION. I would particularly like to acknowledge my gratitude to the employees of the City of Yachats. Our Public Works crew has gone miles beyond the call of duty to keep our water and waste water systems functioning, particularly during the bad weather of which we have had an abundance lately. We probably don't think about these men every time we turn our taps on and clean water comes out or where it goes when it leaves the sink. Of course it's their job, but saying thank you is never inappropriate. So, thank you John, Rick, Russ, Mark and Donald. The ladies in the office are more evident to us because they are the ones who answer the phones, provide counter support to the many residents and visitors who stop in, answer our questions, attend meetings, take minutes, keep the City budget, prepare for the annual audit, help the part time staff (the Planner and the City Attorney), help the Mayor and Councilors with information or requests, provide assistance to the City Commissions and committees, and tend to the smooth operation of the Commons building, and more. Thank you Nancy, Joy, Paula and Susan. Thank you, Larry, for keeping the building so clean and for taking pride in a job well done. I would also like to mention my gratitude to the City Council, as well as all of the members of the following commissions: Planning, Public Works and Streets, Parks and Commons, Library, and Little Log Church and Museum; as well as all of those who serve on the Green Ribbon Committee, the Budget Committee, the CIP Committee, and the various Friends groups (Friends of the Commons, Library, Log Church). Part of what makes Yachats such a charming place is the depth of commitment of ALL the people who work to make Yachats run as smoothly as it does. I am proud to serve with all of the men and women who contribute in such meaningful ways to the City of Yachats. Thank you.



CITY COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER AN URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Green Ribbon Committee Chair, Keith Perkins, reported to City Council that the committee has been discussing the possibility of establishing an Urban Renewal District (URD) as a funding source for the new sewer plant. It would be "new money" that is not going to cost the taxpayers anything more. The committee recommended that the City Council hire a consultant to do a feasibility study to assist the Council in deciding if this would work for Yachats.

Perkins explained that there are 51 URDs in the State and there are four in Lincoln County. This is not a tax increase; the property owners would be paying those taxes anyway; they would just be paying them to another taxing district. Perkins said that projects other than the sewer plant could be financed with these funds too, such as a water storage tank south of the bridge.

Mayor Smith explained that the other taxing districts would continue to receive taxes on the property in the district; they just would not receive taxes on the increased value each year.

Smith said that City Council needs to decide if Yachats should take this idea to the next step, which would be to hire an expert to determine the feasibility. Council voted to hire a consultant from Portland to do that feasibility study, with the understanding that it would not commit the City to anything in the future.



SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR 2005-2006

Following a public hearing, the City Council adopted a supplemental budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

City Recorder, Nancy Batchelder explained that at the end of the last budget year, in preparing for the audit, she discovered that one of the bondholders had failed to invoice the City for the principal part of the 2004-2005 payments. When contacted they said that they had done some computer upgrades and had several municipal bond accounts that were not entered properly. They added the principal to the current invoice. The property taxes received last year were carried forward so the money is in the fund to make the payment, however it is necessary to reallocate the expense.

Batchelder also explained that adjustments to the water and sewer fund were necessary to cover the final payment to a retired employee under an agreement made with him at the time he retired. Retirement funds contributed to a 403(b) plan were returned to the City when it was determined that municipal employees were not eligible for that type of plan. The funds were held in trust and have been paid to that employee over a period of time. This year is the last payment.



DONATION OF LAND FOR PARK CONSIDERED

At their January 2006 meeting, City Council discussed the proposed donation of land for park use. The owner and developer of the Blackstone Sub-division has proposed a donation of 6+ acres of land to the City for parkland. The Parks and Commons Commission discussed the issue and recommended that the offer be declined at this time because there was not enough information about liability, property maintenance or other related costs.

In a memo to City Council, City Planner, Larry Lewis stated that the benefit the benefit of the City accepting this property is that it absolutely ensures that the land will remain as parkland in perpetuity and that it could be the first of several 'offers' that results in the creation of a continuous natural park across the east hillside. The City could ultimately own a significant amount of parkland that would provide a greenbelt across the east hillside and provide public pedestrian access through a naturally forested area with vast views of the ocean, bay and the town. A primary concern of the east hillside development is the loss of open space and the visual impact. The idea that over 1/3 of the (Blackstone Subdivision) east hillside could become city parkland is attractive.

Of course, City Council will need to carefully research the liability, future maintenance and cost issues. Another option is the creation of a conservation easement, which could be similar to the one recently created by the Kittels just south of the city. In that case, the City would not acquire the property but the land could be dedicated as open space in perpetuity.

The discussion was continued to the February meeting and staff was directed to contact the City's insurance company.



OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Council approved the use of alcohol on City property for several Commons renters.
- Council reappointed **Carolyn White** and **Janet Hickam** to the continue as members of Library Commission for another three-years.
- Council elected Joel Evans to serve as 2006 City Council President.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

Joy McCaslin, Emergency Center Manager

Department of Homeland Security
 Federal Emergency Management Agency
 U.S. Fire Administration
 Emergency Management Institute
 Community Emergency Response Team

DHS, FEMA, USFA, EMI – CERT

Whew!

In a nutshell, the City of Yachats has placed the formation of a CERT high on its priority list. All citizens are eligible for CERT training, which will begin in early spring. The course will be approximately twenty hours of classroom instruction over eight or nine weeks, held in the Yachats Commons building. Tentative plans are for classes to be held on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., with a Saturday Disaster Simulation to wrap up the course.

The primary purpose of Community Emergency Response Team training is to provide private citizens who complete the course with the basic skills that they will need to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available. The CERT team is designed to **complement** other emergency services in the community – to **enhance** the community's ability to deal with a disaster.

ANY ADULT can become a CERT member. Some tasks may be more physically or emotionally demanding than others, but there is something that everyone can do to make a difference, to save lives and protect property.

This training will require a degree of commitment on the part of volunteers, as well as some expense to the City for the necessary materials. An introductory course is available on-line at no cost and a minimal time commitment (6 – 8 hours). Completion of this on-line course will be a prerequisite to registering for the City-sponsored course.

If you are willing to respond to this appeal for citizen volunteers, or would like further information please call Joy McCaslin as soon as possible. She is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 4:30 at City Hall – 541-547-3565. CERT trainers can and will assist you with the introductory course – you do not have to be computer literate to take this course!

CERT Training Team members: Susan Garner, Pauletta Huffman, Betty Johnston, Joy McCaslin, Rick McClung, Larry Nixon, Mike Smith.



YACHATS SAFETY PATROL NEWS

The Yachats Safety Patrol (YSP) is alive and operational, although a loss of volunteers, winter darkness and the bad weather has taken its toll on the patrol schedule during the past several months. YSP members are volunteers and personal commitments impact availability to patrol during holidays and winter months. An effective patrol schedule depends on the number of people who are willing to volunteer on a regular basis, particularly during our time of peak need. Without support of Yachats citizens, this activity, the YSP, will atrophy. We really need volunteers and if you are a resident and can devote time for a selected day during the week most of the year, the City will reimburse you for the cost of the required background check. Patrolling can be personally rewarding because you experience new ways to explore the town you live in and care about and, since we must patrol with a partner, it's rarely boring (particularly when Yachats becomes a vacation mecca!). Applications for joining the YSP are located in City Hall and if you would like to discuss joining the YSP, please feel to contact the YSP coordinator, Robin Link (547-5288). We need your help!



PUBLIC WORKS WORKING HARD THROUGH STORMS

At the City Council meeting in January, Public Works Director, John McClintock, reported that in the last month the public works crew measured 24.02" of rain at the sewer plant and, 26"+ at the water treatment plant. Lots of rain usually means lots of trouble and work for the crew members who have to make sure the culverts are clear and running freely and keep both the treatment plants working.

Many of you will remember that several years ago flooding wiped out the headworks and containment pond on Reedy Creek. So the crew has been checking Reedy Creek every few days to make sure that the high run-off is not causing problems again. Off course, high rains create high turbidity so the water needs more treatment. Recently when the clarifier at the water treatment plant failed, the operator had to rely on direct filtration. Although that is a complex process, plant operator Rick McClung never missed a beat.

The water efficiently was 92% last month; and overall the plant is doing well.

Even with the amount of rain that has fallen in the past month the sewer plant has operated within permitted limits. The City would not have been able to do that if the recent Inflow and Infiltration rehabilitation was not done. Sewer plant operator, Mark Wilson, has been on top of things too.

So, if you see John, Rick, Mark, Russ or Donald out there working take a minute to say thanks!



COMMONS NEWS

By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator

As you may have heard or read, we have had some vandalism here in the building. A person or persons with too much time on their hands, came in late Tuesday evening, January 10, and sprayed fire extinguisher throughout the building. We are not quite sure how these individuals got into the building, but we are very saddened by this event. We have always worked on the concept of the goodness of this community but now the city is looking into surveillance and alarm equipment and such a useless act of destruction seems to take the stuffing out of the goodwill in the community.

For two days events had to be canceled here in the building, including community volleyball, preschool, yoga and exercise class, meetings and various workshops. It is really disturbing to think that there are people around who do not want us to be the community we are. If you know who these individuals were who did this useless act, please contact city hall and let us know.

On a cheerier note, the Commons is geared up and running in the new year. The facility is well-booked with interesting events for 2006 and it has become imperative for everyone who wants a room here to book early and be prepared to pay a deposit to keep the space secured. It has become a juggling act to find weekends where the multipurpose room is not taken. And that is really great for all of us in this community.

February Events

On-going Events

Mon & Wed & Fri, 10-11 am, Exercise Class
 Mon & Wed, 6-7 pm, Exercise Class
 Tue, 7 pm, Open Basketball
 Wed, 8:30 am, Yoga
 Wed 7 pm, Open Volleyball, Sun 6:30 pm, Open Volleyball
 Mon, 8 am, Tai Chi
 Tue, 8 am & 9:30 am, Yoga
 Thur, 4:45 pm, Yoga
 Fri, 8 am, Yoga

Special Events

Feb 2, 7 pm, Yachats Big Band Dance
 Feb 3, 7 pm, Chautauqua – History of Islam
 Feb 4, 7:30 pm, Barbershop Quartet
 Feb 9, 7 pm, Movie Night
 Feb 10 & 11, Writing Workshop
 Feb 11, 7 pm, Health Clinic Dinner
 Feb 12, 1 & 7 pm, Tibetan Monks
 Feb 17, 7 pm, Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra
 Feb 18, 7 pm, Classic & Latin Guitar Concert
 Feb 23, 1230, Lunch Bunch
 Feb 23, 6:30 pm, Dinner and Vaccine Discussion Panel

For information about things here at the Commons, call me at 547-4734.



THE CITY OF YACHATS NEEDS YOU

What will define the community of Yachats in the future? What is most important to Yachats residents and people who work here?

The City of Yachats encourages your participation in updating the vision for our community. When complete, the vision will describe the desired character of Yachats and the future we would like to see. The vision is very important as it will be used to guide for future decisions. For example, it will be used this year to guide the update of our comprehensive land use plan, the framework for growth and development in the City.

Members of the Vision and Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee are ready to talk with community groups about your vision and what matters most to you. The presentations can be 20 minutes or longer and will be tailored to the time you have. If you can host or participate in a community discussion, please contact Joy McCaslin, Deputy City Recorder, at 547-3565. The results of these discussions will be used to help develop the vision and to create a more detailed community survey that will be included in your March water bill.

After February 1, additional information will be available on the City of Yachats Web site (www.ci.yachats.or.us) and www.yachats.info.

Thank you!



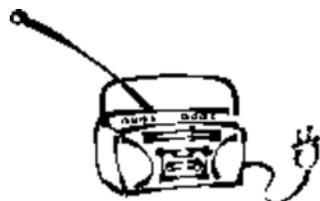
PLANT STRIPS

A big thank you to the businesses and groups that have "adopted a planter" and planted the strips along Highway 101 placed by the Oregon Department of Transportation in conjunction with the sidewalk project from Sixth Street north to the 76 service station. Coldwell Banker Real Estate, the Baptist Church, and the Union 76 have all participated so far. Kudos!



OCEAN VIEW BOULDERS MEETING SCHEDULED

Be sure to attend a meeting on February 15 from 5 - 7 P.M. in the Civic Meeting Room for a continuation of the discussion between Lincoln County Public Works Director, Jim Buisman, and County Engineer, Bill Cox and interested citizens concerning the possible removal of the boulders along Ocean View Drive. "If it is decided that the boulders are to be removed, ALL boulders placed by the county will be removed," said Mr. Buisman in a meeting with the Mayor and Public Works Director.



KORC STRENGTH

If you have not been able to receive KORC, AM 820-Waldport previously, you might give it another try. They have increased their signal strength in order that they reach more Lincoln County folks. Remember, your Mayor is on at 8:30 a.m. the second Thursday of the month, which is also City Council meeting day. Plan to listen at 8:30 a.m. and then attend the meeting at 2 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons.



REMINDER: It is now against City Code to deposit yard debris over the edge of the bluff. Section 5.08.120D: "No person shall deposit on public or private property oceanward of the ocean bluff line, yard debris, lawn clippings, or any form of rubbish, trash or refuse".



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA DEADLINE

Items to be included for City Council consideration must be into City Hall ONE week before Council meeting. This has long been the rule, but it has perhaps been forgotten. This will apply to ALL requests, no exceptions. If the deadline is missed, the request will have to wait until the next scheduled City Council meeting.

Budget Comparison		
Fiscal Year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006		
<i>Reporting Through January 1, 2006</i>		
Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$668,528	\$459,295
Library	\$17,571	\$8,928
Little Log Church & Museum	\$10,038	\$5,830
Parks & Commons*	\$141,078	\$107,071
Streets	\$110,545	\$53,227
Water	\$431,658	\$207,431
Sewer	\$963,572	\$295,505
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,616,162	\$1,366,329
Debt	\$147,355	\$106,866
	<u>\$4,106,507</u>	<u>\$2,610,484</u>

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.

When adjusting water temperatures, instead of turning water flow up, try turning it down. If the water is too hot or cold, turn the offender down rather than increasing water flow to balance the temperatures.

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. But 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!

[City of Yachats](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)