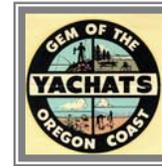




CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2012

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's 2012...How did that Happen?

Looking back through previous newsletter articles for January the last dozen or so years I see that it is customary for Mayors to do a little recap. I'm not going to do that, for two reasons. The first is that we plan to do the second annual *State of the City* event on the 15th of January. If you are interested in hearing what's happened, what's in the works, or if you have any questions you'd like to ask we would invite you to join us. I think you might find it more informative than anything I might write here. The second reason is that I find those recaps a bit boring.

All I want to do with this message (aside from that invitation) is to wish you great happiness and success in this new year. I also want to offer you my thanks for your help in making our community what it is. It may be something different to each of us, but to me it's the place I love and you all contribute to that.

Not everyone is engaged heavily in the day to day goings-on here, but everyone contributes their own piece in their own way. "We" are the sum of our parts. Many of you volunteer your time and your talents to the betterment of the whole. You serve on commissions, you work at the library, you show up for Trails Crew projects or Yachats Invasive Plant Subcommittee efforts, or you volunteer for the Celtic Music Festival or for the Friends of Yachats Commons, or for the Lions or the Lady's Clubs. Maybe you help out at the Visitors Center. There are myriad volunteers contributing in myriad ways and their help is wonderfully appreciated.

But there are others, too, that also make this community vibrant by simply being who they are and doing what they do without any specific intent to "volunteer". Yet they do contribute. Sometimes it is

through music. Sometimes it's through art. Sometimes it's just through calloused and talented hands applied to earning a living, and sometimes it's through a heartfelt smile offered at just the right time.

All I really have to say in recap of 2011 is thanks.



City Council Announces Commission/Committee Vacancies

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

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

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.

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 in December. 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 January 31, 2012 to renew their licenses to avoid a late fee.



Building Permit & Land Use Application Activity

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The following table provides a summary of activity from 2007 through 2011:

Activity	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
New Residential Dwellings	18	28*	3	7	7
Building Permits: New Construction	17	6*	3	8	9
Building Permits: Additions/ Remodels	23	19	8	14	9
Property Line Adjustment	1	1	1	1	1
Land Partition	6	3	1	1	1
Subdivision	0	0	0	0	0
Planned Unit Development	1	0	1	0	0
Townhouse Planned Unit Development	(The Townhouse PUD ordinance was adopted in 2011)				1
Variances	1	1	2	0	0
Conditional Use Permit	0	1	0	1	1

*In 2008, the Fistera Garden Apartments accounted for 25 of 28 new residential dwellings and 3 of 6 building permits for new construction.



Public Works Department

By John McClintock,
Director

With the beginning of a new year I thought it appropriate to go over some of the highlights of 2011 and take a brief look at 2012.

2011 turned out to be another very busy year for Public Works. In addition to our daily tasks there were a number of projects we were able to address and complete.

At our Water Treatment Plant we were finally able to install an onsite emergency back-up power source by repurposing the diesel generator that was used to provide emergency power at the old Waste Water Treatment Plant.

We were also able to install electronic monitoring for water production. This new application gives us a much

more accurate measurement process for treated water than the old mechanical method.

The Oregon Department of Health extensively inspected our Water Treatment Plant, storage reservoirs and distribution system. We received high marks on all three facets by the OHD.

The City of Yachats in conjunction with the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District went through a very thorough inspection and rating of our distribution system related to fire flow. This gave us important data in hydrant efficiency, flow characteristics, along with storage and production capacities. Both the City and YRFPD received good ratings.

We continued our efforts to tighten the water distribution system by identifying and repairing any systemic leaks. As this process continues we see better efficiencies between the water we produce and the amount supplied to customers.

Per voter approval, we are moving forward in acquiring property south of Yachats Bridge for a new water reservoir. This will enable that part of town to have available water if the main on the bridge were to break. This is not only critical for residential and commercial use but for sustained fire flow as well.

Throughout 2011 we continued to fine-tune the operation of our Wastewater Treatment Plant. We now have several years of data that help us provide the conditions for optimal plant operation and cost effectiveness. We have been able to archive outstanding effluent results using only one of the SBR basins. This not only helps save on operational costs but enables us to have one basin in reserve.

We also continued with repairs and upgrades to the City's wastewater collection system. We were able to thoroughly clean lines with the high pressure hose on our Vac-Con® truck and were able to look inside the sewer lines with our small main line camera system. This enables us to locate breaks, cracks, leaks, and illegal hook-ups to the system. For each gallon of infiltration and inflow we remove from the system it is one less gallon we will not have to pump or treat. In the past 5 to 6 years we have removed in excess of 1 million gallons per day during wet weather flow.

Allocated funds in the fiscal year budget enabled us to prep and pave a number of city streets. We have a prioritized list of streets and if we are able to gain approval of allocated funds we will be able to continue

to address in the next fiscal year.

Public Works is still in the process of tackling some of the storm drain projects identified in the *Yachats Storm Water Master Plan Addendum*. In 2012 we will continue to focus on ditch maintenance, and culvert upsizing and replacement. As I stated in an earlier newsletter edition we finally got ODOT to replace the Highway 101 culvert at Gender Creek (south of the bridge) and so far it is functioning well.

As I mentioned in discussing our progress in 2011, this year we will continue moving forward on upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant, water rights with regard to the Yachats River, and water storage south of the bridge on Highway 101 as well as continuing to identify and repair or remove infiltration and inflow in the wastewater collection system.

If you have any questions or concerns, the Public Works Department is located at 500 West 7th Street between the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church and the Yachats Public Library. Feel free to stop by and see what we're doing. You can also call us at (541) 547-3243 weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., except holidays.



Code Enforcement Report

Donald Niskanen, Code Enforcement Officer

The past two years have been interesting for me since I accepted the Code Enforcement Officer position. I wanted the job in part because I have been a member of this community for over 30 years and because I either know or have had interactions with most of the long-time residents. Accepting this position has also afforded me the opportunity to meet many of the "newer" residents.

It is my job to study and know the *Yachats Municipal Code*. While I am no legal expert I believe the City's codes are fair and do a good job protecting citizen's rights.

When I first took on my new role I experienced a steep learning curve as the City's representative in several of the City's Municipal Court hearings regarding a transient rental with numerous repeat violations. The City prevailed in 65 of 67 hearings.

Unlicensed contractors have taken up a lot of my time.

For the most part there is willing cooperation my request has been fulfilled before I followed up. Of course there have been several encounters that were not too friendly but that comes with the job.

The City's Transient Rental Task Force has been working on clarifying the City's Municipal Codes with regard to transient rentals. It is going to take some compromise from all parties to make this work, but I see some positive results coming from this joint effort. The transient rental business has a major impact on the City, other local businesses, local employment, and property owners.

The Trails Committee and the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee (YIPS), in cooperation with the Parks and Commons Commission, have made a major impact on invasive plant species within the City's limits. None of this could have been possible without volunteer citizen participation.

Yachats is at the end of the line for our county transit system. We have managed to get signage on the buses to help emphasize this point. However I saw and encountered more transients in Yachats last year, than I have in the last 30 years. Our current state, national, and global economic climate is certainly part of it. I am sure there are those individuals who are just moving to find a new beginning, but increasingly, I am encountering individuals that have no destination, no goals, and no hope. They make-do as best as they can, sleeping behind vacant buildings or various on public properties around town. While I have every sympathy for these people, I have no issue calling the Lincoln County Sherriff in if the situation goes beyond my scope of training or jurisdiction. The Sherriff's response has been immediate and helpful so far.

The Code Enforcement position has been an experiment for the City. From the word "go" I've felt nothing but support from the City Council and City staff members. Overall I feel it has been a positive experience since most residents don't want to approach their neighbor directly or file a formal complaint and go through the whole hearing process. As the Code Enforcement Officer I can deal with these situations in an objective way by asking a few simple questions: is it in the Yachats Municipal Code; is there a violation of the Code; is it a civil matter; and do other agencies need to be contacted?

I have been through the whole gamut in the past two years and really appreciate the citizen support I have received. Of course I have to acknowledge that there

are a few folks who have a less than positive attitude towards me and the position. Regardless, I am looking forward to a good New Year for all of us.



The Fiscal Year and Your City of Yachats Quarterly Tax Returns

By Debrah Edwards, Deputy City Recorder

According to www.Dictionary.com a fiscal year is a noun that describes any yearly period without regard to the calendar year, at the end of which a firm, government, etc., determines its financial condition. Not every government or business utilizes the same fiscal period however the one the City of Yachats uses—beginning July 1st and ending June 30th of each year—is the most commonly used relative to financial accounting

There is often confusion between a calendar year and a fiscal year and like so many others I also struggled with the concept at first. To help clarify the City's fiscal year structure I've included the illustration below with the current quarter bolded to help those who prepare and submit *Prepared Food and Beverage* and *Transient Rental* tax forms to the City each quarter better understand the difference:

<u>Fiscal Year 2012</u>		
1 st Quarter	Jul. 1 – Sept. 30	2011
2nd Quarter	Oct. 1 – Dec.31	2011
3 rd Quarter	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31	2012
4 th Quarter	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30	2012
<u>Fiscal Year 2013</u>		
1 st Quarter	Jul. 1 – Sept. 30	2012
2 nd Quarter	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	2012
3 rd Quarter	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31	2013
4 th Quarter	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30	2013

Quarterly taxes are due on the 15th day of the month following the end of the quarter, i.e., in the bolded example January 15, 2012.



Commons User Support Changes

By Don Niskanen, Former Acting User Support Manager

My temporary role as Commons User Support Manager has come to an end and Leon Sterner has resumed his position as of January 1, 2012.

Even though I have been active at the Yachats Commons since the City purchased it some 20 years ago, this has been a different and interesting experience.

It is amazing how many independent groups we have using the Commons on a regular basis and the wide array of offerings that take place here. There are: general exercise and Zumba® classes; Tai Chi, yoga and *Wild Goose* Qigong; as well as Salsa Dance lessons. Not to mention the weekly drop-in 14+ basketball games on Monday nights and the *Yachats Rhythm Weaver's* drumming group on Wednesday nights.

All of our City Council and Commission meetings take place here and large groups such as the U.S. Forest Service use the Commons on a regular basis for their training sessions.

On the third Thursday night of the month there is a free movie night showing current full-length features and you know it's the first Thursday of the month when the Yachats Big Band Concert and Dance Yachats gets the place hopping.

There are many regular annual and semi-annual events such as: arts and crafts fairs; the Yachats Arts Guild; the Yachats Mushroom Festival; a Celtic Music Festival; theatrical productions by *One of Us Productions*; and presentations by the Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Yachats Lion's Club Crab Feed uses the Commons for their overflow and the Yachats Village Ringers entertain us twice a year.

A church group rents the whole facility in October for their annual meeting, which has a major positive economic impact on our Village.

Private parties use the space for reunions, weddings and anniversary celebrations, birthday parties and "Celebration of Life" events.

The Yachats Youth and Families Program has a multitude of activities that include the *Community Annual Talent Show*, the *Martin Luther King Celebration*, individual recitals and other family oriented activities.

Our Yachats Preschool program (part of YYFAP) is very active with 23 little ones (21 from Yachats) enjoying a multitude of activities and learning social skills.

I'm sure I missed a few, but you can always log on to www.GoYachats.com and click on "events" to get a complete listing of happenings at the Commons and elsewhere in town.

For its size, the Yachats Commons has more activities than many larger facilities. It is rare to find a day when there isn't something going on.

I am not going anywhere—except on my regular fishing trips to the Olympic Peninsula. I still wear several different hats and they all include the Yachats Commons in some way. Thank you for your support.



Yachats Public Library

By Sandra Calkins, Volunteer

By the time all of you are reading this, the Christmas frenzy will be over and we will be celebrating a brand new year. Now that you have the time, come in to the library and check out some of our new additions and those that you may have missed reading over the past few years. There is nothing better to do during the cold, wet weather in January than curl up in front of the fireplace with an apple and a good book.

Maybe you're the type that made a New Year's resolution to clean out the clutter. If your clutter includes books you're in luck. The library accepts donations for the annual *Friends of the Yachats Library* book sale, which will be held in March this year. Those funds help keep our library a welcoming, friendly place for patrons of all ages.

We also want to take a moment to remind folks who use the free paperback rack inside the Commons (next to the Emergency Food Pantry) that our supply of paperbacks has seriously dwindled. Please remember that if you borrow a paperback either return it to the rack, drop it off at the Library or donate a replacement.

Whatever your choice of Oregon Coast winter activities are the Yachats Public Library is here for all to enjoy.



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

Eighty-One Years Later...

We invite you to step back in time to January 1, 1931. It's Thursday evening and you are sitting in the Little Log Church with your family and friends for a special New Year's service. You were there the previous August for the dedication of this wonderful community church and

your heart sang with your voice as the pump organ played the hymns you loved.

Economic times are tough, but you and your family believe you will manage somehow. A loaf of bread is 8¢ (the bread slicer—invented the previous year—is the best thing since well, sliced bread!). A letter costs 2¢ to mail and fresh eggs are 50¢ a dozen. You probably won't get a car this year with the average price at \$530 or 35% of the average annual income of \$1,527. Who knows where prices will go now that the DOW Jones Industrial Average is headed down to 78. You and your sweetie are listening to Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo," and you've been reading a lot about the Academy Award winning movie produced by RKO – *Cimarron*.

Your pastor announces that the church and the congregation are doing well and there is much to be thankful for. He would like to see a sidewalk made from the road to the church entrance on 3rd Street as the women echo their support so they can stop getting the hems of their dresses wet. If not this year, perhaps next year. Somehow the community will pull through.

Yachats has pulled through, year after year, for 81 years! Reverend Phelps and the pastors who followed him and the congregations who gave their hearts and hands to the Little Log Church still echo within the walls of this precious museum.

Perhaps you would like to reflect on where we are now, and how you might like to contribute to the life of the museum in the 21st century. Here are some ways to do that:

- Bring your family and friends to visit this lovely place (or come alone).
- Drop a donation in the box now and then.
- Volunteer as a docent or occasionally as a helper in the garden.
- Come to some of the events that occur there during the year.
- Be an ambassador of Yachats and its treasures (it's okay to brag a little).

We thank you for your support throughout the years, and in the future. Have a great 2012!



From the Garden of the Historic Log Church

By Louis Mensing, LLCM Gardener

During this past year much of the

garden was brought back to "health" and a number of new plants were introduced. Now that winter has begun there will be a lot pruning and heading back of hedges and shrubs that have outgrown their location. With the invasive plants gone there is more room to introduce foliage that will provide solid blocks of color and texture. Come spring, I am looking forward to adding more of the species I have already propagated.



Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program

By Alice Beck, Executive
Director

Dine Out with Kids

On Wednesday, January 25, 2012 the Drift Inn Historic Pub & Café will host "Dine Out with Kids." All the day's profits will go to support Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP). Eat breakfast, lunch, dinner, or all three if you are really hungry and/or really supportive! Please mark your calendars for this extra-special event—the YYFAP kids and families will thank you!

YYFAP also sends out a big "thank you!" to the Drift for its super support of our mission!



WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

The Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock,
Coordinator

The Yachats Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, January 26, 2012 inside the multipurpose room at the Yachats Commons. Doors open at 11 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 and dressing; French bread or roll with butter; and banana cream pie for dessert. There is a suggested donation of \$4 per person. As always there will be great live entertainment.

If you've never been to a Lunch Bunch luncheon why don't you make this your New Year's Resolution? It's sure to be the one you keep.



Alzheimer's Disease

Seminar

By John Cooper, Seminar Coordinator

An Alzheimer's disease seminar will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Yachats Commons multipurpose room to discuss why this destructive disease is so prolific and what can be done about it.

Presenters from many diverse backgrounds as well as studies from around the globe will be a part of the seminar that will focus on avoiding the onset of the disease and improving cognitive skills.

For more information contact me at (541) 547-3066 or (541) 961-2118 or email me at johncooperservices@gmail.com.



Coming to Yachats this Year

By Andrea Scharf, Marketing
Director

Winter on the Oregon coast is one of the world's best-kept secrets. During that quiet period from January through May, people are missing our stunning scenery, dramatic storms, the cozy ambiance provided by our local lodging industry. For businesses, this is a difficult time as they wait for the return of tourist season. Revenues also slow down for the City of Yachats, which depends on transient rental and food-and-beverage taxes to fund services. The position of marketing director was created to find ways to increase tourist visits during the winter and early spring.

This effort is taking an exciting new direction: the Yachats Center for Lifelong Learning. YCLL will offer classes, programs, and workshops. The first, *Depth Perceptions: A Confluence of Science and the Arts*, is an exciting opportunity to learn about deep sea research from scientists Mark Hixon and Holger Klinck. Pictures of deep sea life and sound recordings taken in the depths of the ocean will inspire participants in a series of creative exercises led by local artists and writers.

In April, *A Celebration of Japanese Arts & Culture* will bring workshops in Japanese style basketry, several different types of Japanese fabric decoration, temari, sushi making and more. This four-day event will also benefit the effort to collect debris which is washing up on our beaches from the Fukushima tsunami and return the items to Japan.

Other workshops, lectures, and classes are still in the planning stage. Watch for the launch of the Yachats Center for Lifelong Learning website at the end of January for more information.