



CITY OF YACHATS

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011



THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted 4-2-09

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

Yachats Vision Statement

The Yachats City Council put a great deal of time and thought into formulating the vision statement. We wanted to get it right. To a certain extent we wanted it to reflect who we are, but to an even greater extent we wanted it to express clearly who and what we want to be. Vision statements are intended to be a present tense statement that describes a desired future condition. We think we have fairly and hopefully captured what our community desires to be.

Some might say that this statement is a pretty good reflection of Yachats as it is at the beginning of 2011. We do value the natural environment. We do celebrate diversity. Many businesses are showing great promise that they will emerge from the national fiscal calamity in good shape. Most of us are rightfully proud of our community and its spirit, and the amount of artistic and intellectual life that surrounds us is astounding to most visitors.

Others, however, might say (have said) that there is much to be done before we have really achieved the condition described in the vision statement. Have we done enough to protect the marine and seashore environment? Have we adequately protected the riparian areas? Are our watersheds secure? Are our view-sheds shielded from degradation and scarring? Have we assessed and prepared for the possibilities of climate change? Are we living sustainably, reducing our dependence on carbon fuels, reducing the amount of plastic and other garbage that litters and tarnishes our earth?

And are we doing what we should be doing to help our local businesses thrive? Will there be living wages available for working families? Are the services we all

depend on going to be available? Do we really believe in diversity and exhibit it in our population or is it just a nice idea? When we look around town can we all be proud of what we see? Do we all have a chance to learn and grow and achieve spiritual, artistic, and intellectual stimulation?

I am afraid that we must admit, no matter how much we love and appreciate our town and its citizens that we are a good ways away from achieving the perfection our vision describes. There is much to be done as we enter the second decade of the 21st century. I am looking forward to an effort to try and move closer to matching that vision. I'm looking forward to working with a new and slightly revised City Council to seek answers to these questions.

In the coming year I am going to ask the Council to consider many policy and governance issues (and when I'm not asking, I know the Councilors will be). What should our policy be relative to plastic bottles and bags? We will have discussions about protection of mature trees and control of invasive exotic species. There will be agenda items relative to wind and solar power generation, electric charging stations, better mass transportation and other travel alternatives. We will talk about diversity. We will discuss the business climate, fiscal responsibility, infrastructure condition and needs, esthetic improvements, and policy implications of State and National initiatives. We'll talk about the degree to which we should recognize the contributions of our many volunteers. We'll talk about facility and program needs for youth and adult "growth" opportunity. And we will talk about how to carry on with that enduring sense of ourselves that is now, and hopefully always will be, part of our community character.

On behalf of myself and the rest of the Council, thanks for giving us the opportunity to try and get it right. We don't expect to achieve total perfection, but with your

help maybe we can all get just a bit closer.



2011 New Year's Resolutions You Can Keep

Resolve to be Ready

1. Lose Weight
2. **Get a Kit**
3. **Make a Plan**
4. **Be Informed**
5. Remember Birthdays
6. Earlier to Bed

The Saturday, January 8th Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Unit 1 class has been cancelled due to low registration. Those interested in attending free CERT classes may contact South Lincoln County CERT Coordinator Betty Johnston at (541) 547-4934 to obtain more information.

Can't attend a class? Get life-saving information by logging on to <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>.



Public Invited to State of the City Event

On Sunday, January 30th from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. the Mayor, the City Council, and members of the City's Commissions invite the public to share an afternoon of presentations and discussions on the accomplishments, opportunities and challenges facing the City of Yachats. Citizens and neighbors are invited to bring potluck finger foods, visit City related displays, hear short presentations by each of the commissions and the City Council, and ask questions of our city representatives. At the conclusion of the event we'll celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the City's acquisition of the Commons building.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the volunteers who work hard to serve you, to find answers to your city related questions, and to learn how you might become more engaged in community affairs.

For more information, contact me at lsven@peak.org or (541) 547.3640.



Public Works Department

By John McClintock, Director

2011 is shaping up to be another very busy year for the Public Works Department.

Besides normal daily operations, we have planned a number of projects to continue our upgrades in the water, wastewater, streets and storm water departments. These projects are subject to budget approval and are addressed in the adopted water, wastewater, street and storm water plans.

There are several more upgrades in the water distribution system including the water treatment plant; purchasing of land for a potable water reservoir and pumping station south of the bridge, and the continued effort to perfect the water rights on the Yachats River.

Wastewater projects are the continuation of working to decrease the inflow and infiltration of water into the sewer collection system; cleaning the collection system to insure no blockages and to increase efficiency; and to repair and replace a number of manholes in the system.

Regarding city streets, we hope to continue upgrading selected ones based on priority. The Public Works and Finance Committees are looking at revenue sources to help increase dollars available.

We plan to continue upgrading storm water basins identified in the Storm Water Addendum. These projects include ditch cleaning, culvert cleaning, and the upsizing and replacement of undersized storm drain pipe.

These projects and other issues will be done "in house," as much as is practical, by the public works staff. This has proven not only to be more cost effective but much more efficient in how the work is done. If you would like and further information please call us, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (541) 547-3243.



Thank You Utility Bill Stuffers

By Nicole Clark,
Administrative Specialist

I would like to acknowledge all the volunteers who help us every month to fold and stuff the utility bills and newsletters. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by me and all the staff here at City Hall.



Know Where Your Hand Valve is—It Will Save You!

Yachats Municipal Code 8.04.140 requires that “All residential and commercial connections to the city's water system shall have a hand valve installed on the property owner's side of the meter. The valve must be installed inside the meter box or within twenty-four (24) inches of the meter to enable city staff to turn off the water without going on to the property...”

With winter here, it is not only essential to know where your hand valve is located, but if it is functioning, and if the meter box is free of dirt and debris. The City recommends that customers check their hand valves on their property twice a year, once in the spring and then again in the fall when the time changes. In addition, we recommend that customers turn their water off at their hand valves if their property will be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days. Turning a faucet on after the water has been shut off will allow any water remaining in the pipes to drain out and prevent freezing.

Should a customer request that Public Works turn off their water the account holder will be charged a \$20 “call out” fee Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and \$40 after business hours or on holidays. Homeowners may also receive \$100 citation for having a non-functioning or inaccessible hand valve.



Trails Committee

Lauralee Svendsgaard, Trails
Coordinator

Trails Committee Perseveres Despite Inclement Weather

Despite the weather, the City of Yachats Trails Committee continues to be a lively and productive group. On December 4th in just 2 ½ hours we moved 30

3-man (or, as some of us like to say, 1-woman) rocks into position on the Prospect Trail. Given that most of us are over 60, and some proudly in their 70's, we're becoming a true team that increasingly relies on brain rather than brawn.

Trails Crew

Given the soggy state of things, the City of Yachats Trails Crew has suspended its regularly scheduled first Saturday of the month activities. Instead, we're opting for a more haphazard approach these next couple of months, and will simply send an email announcement to those who've asked to be on our list, when Saturday weather predictions appear favorable. If you're not on our email list, please contact David Lavrinets at d_a_nets@hotmail.com or (541) 547.5388.

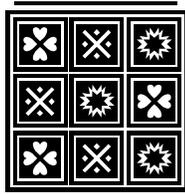
YIPS (Yachats Invasive Plant Subcommittee)

Last month we introduced you to our newest endeavor, tackling aggressive invasive plants. Under the capable leadership of Wally Orchard, and at the City's request, YIPS developed an invasive plant brochure specific to Yachats. The brochure provides photos and descriptions of the six most damaging invasive plants along with a list of other invasive plants of concern in Yachats; and a list of native and habitat friendly plants that can replace the invasive plants. The brochures will be included in February's utility bills and can also be found on the City's website.

And to promote awareness and add a little levity to the very worthy endeavor to “Take Back Habitat,” YIPS will host two very special events:

- Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. the **Blackberry Bushes** will appear in concert at the Commons. Get your clog-hoppers ready and tune up your jaw harp, 'cause this bluegrass string band is gonna give you a hand clappin' good time! Tickets will go on sale February 1st and are \$10 each. Ticket sale locations will be announced on www.blackberrybushes.com
- Saturday, March 5th the YIPS and YAAS (the Yachats Academy of Arts & Sciences) will sponsor a panel presentation: *Aliens in Our Midst: Understanding the Dangers of Invasive Plants*. Learn about the impacts aggressive invasive plants have on our community's health, the economy and our environment. Join Paul C. Jepson, Professor and Director of OSU's Integrated Plant Protection Center, and other experts to learn about the best means of eradicating invasive plants, how to obtain assistance, and to understand truly why doing nothing is no longer an option. Now is the time to take back habitat!

For more information about YIPS contact Wally at worchard@peak.org or (541) 547.5474 or for more information about the Trails Committee, contact me at lsven@peak.org.



Yachats Public Library

By Marie Green, Chair Library Commission

Yachats Academy of Arts and Science (YAAS) is sponsoring a quilt show at the Yachats Commons on January 29th. Would you like more information on quilts and quilting? The Yachats Public Library is a treasure trove of books on the art and history of quilting. Ask one of our volunteer librarians to help you find the non-fiction section on quilts and quilting.

Sometimes a story is a good way to get information on a topic. Jennifer Chiaverine has a whole series of books with a quilting theme. Her Elm Creek Quilts Novels trace the historical legacy and importance, emotion and necessity of quilting in America, including quilts involved in the Underground Railroad during slavery times.

The Library is known for its collection of mysteries and yes, we have one whole series featuring a quilter who is also a former cowgirl, curator of an arts and crafts museum in San Celina, California and just happens to be married to the chief of police.

So, what theme or subject interests you? Come in and let us help you pursue it.

It's time to dig out your yellow library card since you will need it from now on to check out books and movies. Just knowing your number won't work any more since we've moved to a bar system.



Yachats Youth and Family Program

By Bee Bui, RecPLUS Team Leader

YYFAP Wins \$2,500 Grant to Improve Play Space

With over 1,600 organizations all over the nation competing for the best play day, The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) was selected as one of the top ten Play Days in the nation; then the final round was opened to the public for a vote. For the past four weeks South Lincoln County has been tirelessly campaigning to get out the vote for a chance to win one

of only five grants from Mott's and NFL PLAY 60. Even though Yachats is such a small town, it was a tough competition because South Lincoln County is a well connected community with a lot of heart and won hearts all over the country. With all of the dedication, determination and South Lincoln County pride, Yachats won fifth place and was awarded a \$2,500 grant to improve the Yachats Commons play space. A big thanks to the many dedicated online voters! Visit http://kaboom.org/blog/congrats_our_play_day_winners to view The Yachats Community Play Day and check out the results. Feel free to comment about the play days, your experience or anything else you would like to share. Call (541) 547-4599 or visit www.yachatsyouth.org for more information.

Yachats Tree House Complete at Last

In 2004 the Yachats Community Planning Committee asked local children and youth for ideas in planning the Yachats Community Park. The number one suggestion was for a tree house. We all thought it would be an easy idea to implement and the Helping Hands youth group from the YYFAP took on the task, made a plan and a model, and started the search for an engineer to draw the final plans. The process included getting engineered plans and a building permit. Because tree houses are not standardized structures, most engineers were unwilling to participate. Finally, a firm specializing in tree houses agreed to work with us. The engineer made a trip to Yachats to inspect the trees, gave the youth a quick lesson on the issues involved, designed a plan, and shepherded it through the permit process. He did this at a drastically reduced cost. The final plan is beautiful and expensive. Thanks to participation from dedicated adult and youth volunteers, we are able to bring the cost down to a manageable amount- and now it is finally up and beautiful as ever!

Zumba® Returns

YYFAP is proud to offer Zumba® again with Lisa Bursey, certified Zumba® Gold Instructor. Lisa is certified to teach all ages from children to active older adults and welcomes any and all to her class. The class will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Yachats Commons multipurpose room beginning on January 10th.

The routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined with some Latin flavor to give it an international zest. Participants who attend all Zumba® classes will be entered in a drawing to win 10 free classes (\$60 value) during the next session. Children under 17 are free; drop-in adults are \$6 per class or \$5

per class in advance. Call (541) 547-4599 or visit www.yachatsyouth.org for more information.



Shopper's Raffle a Success

by Andrea Scharf, Marketing Director

Did you notice the sparkle in Yachats this holiday season? Many thanks to the merchants who braved the wind and rain to put up festive holiday lights and decorations. Our business area looked great and it seemed as if people were busy rushing in and out of shops through out December. The Shopper's Raffle was a BIG success—we went through at least ten rolls of raffle tickets and lots of out-of-town visitors mentioned seeing GoYachats ads and coming here to shop in order to have a chance at winning.

All of the participating merchants were generous with prizes donations, too. To view a list of the lucky winners stop by the main bulletin board inside the entrance of the Yachats Commons or at the Bank of the West Yachats branch that agreed to host the final drop box, display of gifts, and the drawing. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

Things may slow down a bit in January—but not by much. There are art exhibits, auditions for a new play, pizza giveaways, karaoke, free movie night, and the Big Band dance. At the end of the month, a celebration of the art, craft, and history of quilt-making will take place, with activities for all ages. Visit www.GoYachats.com for more detailed information. In fact, make it one of your resolutions for 2011: Go to GoYachats.com every day!



Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock, Coordinator

The Yachats Lunch Bunch meets on Thursday January 27th. Doors open at 11.30 am and we start serving at 12 noon. A suitably robust meal is featured: Meatloaf; Mashed Potato 'n Gravy; Green Salad; Roll and Butter; followed by Banana Cream Pie. The Lunch Bunch is halfway through its ninth year of offering Yachats a special monthly event. A place for those 55+ to meet and socialize. There will be entertainment, and a suggested donation of \$4.



Sustainability & Planning

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

Sustainability is more than a buzz word. Sustainability is often hard to define, but we know it's vitally important to our communities. The following excerpts are from an article by Dave Stouffer in the Planning Commissioners Journal titled What's "Sustainable"?

So, what's "sustainable"? A common definition offered by the United Nations Brundtland Report states that sustainable development "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The Brundtland Commission also states that "sustainable development" is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come.

Reaching back in history, the "Great Law of the Iroquois" which supposedly commanded sustainability declared, "In every deliberation we must consider the impact on the seventh generation."

We've heard a lot about sustainability and sustainable development the past few years. We may not all agree on a definition of sustainability. It's not crucial that we agree on a definition. What is crucial is that we all gain an understanding of sustainability that we can use in our day-to-day decisions.

For those of us involved in planning and development we need to recognize attributes of sustainable development. And, without ignoring stated requirements for project approval, we need to encourage sustainable development and commend those who fashion a development project that conserves resources, respects its surroundings, and is built to last. With that in mind here are a few sustainable project features:

- Scale – a good fit with neighbors, neither ramshackle nor grandiose.
- Access and mobility – it's easy to get into, out of, and around in.
- Consumption & waste – efforts to minimize are evident and effective.
- Re-use – makes use of recycled building materials when feasible.
- Location and siting – makes the most of orientation to sun, topography, wind, natural resources, and man-made infrastructure.
- Open space and openness – preserves open space and is no larger than necessary for its functions.

Given the state of our world today, especially our accelerating depletion of natural resources and rising costs of man-made resources, sustainability is certain to gain ever-increasing attention. It may be difficult to define, but it's vitally important to our communities.