



CITY OF YACHATS

NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2014

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

2014! Amazing! It seems like just yesterday we were worried about our computers crashing because they, the computers, didn't know there was such a thing as a 21st century. Now we're only four years away from a generation of voters that never heard of Y2K. It is startling when some occasion, like say a New Year's Day, makes you take stock of the passage of time and the events that take place during that passage. It is amazing how much, and how fast, things change. The world changes around us, sometimes significantly, and sometimes in minor ways. In the lifetimes of many Yachatians men have walked on the moon. The Berlin wall has fallen. The climate has warmed, or at least changed in some way. The nature of the economy has changed. Styles have changed. The way we get around has changed. Even the design of our currency has changed. Major earthquakes and tornados and hurricanes have changed the lives of people in cities around the planet. Even a few minds have changed.

It is amazing how enduring those things that we value the most can be in spite of the change going on around them. We've just finished another year-end holiday season. Most of us drug out ornaments that have withstood generations in boxes eleven months of every year to be pulled out, dusted off, and proudly displayed. Each one reminds us of what we value, the people from our present and from our past

that embody those values, and some simple connection to the hope and joy and solidity of tradition. We've eaten holiday meals, maybe too many, that remind us of meals from our childhood around aunts and uncles and cousins, each of whom brought their unique personality to the occasion and somehow left that personality clinging as an essence, a flavor, in every holiday meal to come. Family traditions, family recipes, and sights and smells and sounds of the holiday season conjure up those ethereal things endure. Over the years Yachats has changed too. It's a lot different physical environment now than it was when the town of Oceanview became the City of Yachats. What was once a gas station now sells ice cream. What was once a school is now a community center. What was once a hamburger chain store is now a coffee house. What was once a community that survived on jobs created by resource extraction now thrives on creative businesses that serve a diverse parade of locals and visitors from all over the world. What hasn't changed is the character of our village. That is another real but ethereal thing that endures. Yachats is Yachats because ideas grow here, because creativity abounds here, because people care about people here, because people care about the natural environment here, because the spirit of the place is stronger than any of the inevitable changes. Yachats is Yachats... because you live here. Yachats magically draws just the right mix of character and personality and talent to keep it the same in spite of changes. I look forward to the challenges and changes of 2014 secure in the knowledge that you will not change. Together we will continue to make our town...well...Yachats.



City Council Briefing

By Nancy Batchelder,
City Recorder

The City's Highway 101
Improvement Project

Planning Group is continuing to work with the business owners to address their concerns and come up with the best plan possible, but it is time for the next phase.

The project is complex and the Oregon Department of Transportation required the City contract with an engineering firm before they would conduct the "Kick-off" meeting as the next step in the process. City Council passed Resolution No. 2013-12-02 at their December meeting, which authorized a contract with the Albany engineer firm of Reece & Associates, Inc. for those engineering services of a specialized and technical nature in order to complete a detailed and technical *concept* plan.

The Council pledges that public comments will continue to be welcomed and concerns will continue to be discussed and addressed as the plan is developed.

If you would like to read the Scope of Work for which the engineers will be responsible, the Resolution and contract document are available for review at City Hall or in the document library at the following:

<http://www.yachatsdocuments.info/library/DocIndex.aspx?classid=30>



Yachats Trails

Update

By Jan Brown, Trails
Committee
Communications
Leader

Happy New Year to all!

2013 was one great year for the trails and YIPS! crews. There is too much to list in the space

allotted here but suffice to say a LOT of very good work was accomplished, topped off by the opening of the new Ya'Xaik trail - an addition to the community that has been hugely popular with residents and visitors alike.

Now, as we launch into 2014, are you starting out the New Year with resolutions to treat your body and soul well...? Get a little fitter, maybe...?

Spend a little less time connected to technology and little more connected with nature...? If so, a wide range of area trails (long, short, steep, flat and in between) are waiting for you to visit to work on your goals. Stop by the Visitor's Center to get a map of trails in the area and go transform those winter blahs into oohs and ahhs!

And soon there will be an even wider range of opportunities to explore local outdoor action at the nearby Brian Booth State Park, which is currently in the planning phase.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission recently combined Ona Beach State Park and Beaver Creek State Natural Area into a single park under a new name, Brian Booth State Park, honoring the first chair of the Commission who passed away a year ago. The original Ona Beach and Beaver Creek areas will retain their traditional names as sub-areas of the larger park. The combined park includes a total of 1,261 acres under OPRD's current ownership.

Looking into the future, Oregon State Parks will be developing trails for hikers and bikers, as well as equestrians. A dedicated 2+ mile mountain bike course is proposed, along with tent, trailer and walk-in camp sites (no RV hook ups), and some cabins. These are exciting amenities that will help draw tourism to our area of the coast and build support for the preservation of our cherished natural resources.

If you would like to know more about this plan you can visit the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's web site at:

http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/pages/planning_bevercreek-ona.aspx and also download a copy of the draft plan at http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/masterplans/Beavercreek-Ona/00 Draft_Plan_with_Maps.pdf



YIPS! (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee) News

Looking back on what the YIPS! crew has

accomplished in the last year, Yachadians can be well pleased with what a small, but invincible, band of volunteers has achieved in controlling invasive weeds and restoring natural habitat in and around our city. Many of you who are private landowners have also joined the fray and dealt with weeds growing on your properties, which is a huge contribution to our efforts. These successes were brought home to us recently when Don Niskanen and Wally Orchard attended a meeting of the local Cooperative Weed Management Area, held at the Forest Service Ranger station in Waldport. In attendance were Vern Holm (coordinator of the Western Invasives Network), as well as representatives from the Forest Service, State Parks and the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. Don and Wally made short presentations about Yachats' efforts at weed control. Yachats was the only city represented at the meeting, and the attendees were very appreciative and encouraging, not only about our own initiatives but also about our willingness to assist agencies such as USFS and LSWCD in their work. We hope you will help us carry on the good work in 2014!

Weeds of the month for January are the various knotweed varieties - Japanese, Himalayan (shown in the photo) and Giant - found in our area. Knotweed actually dies back in winter, but always returns in the summer, usually having spread significantly since the previous season! It flowers in late summer.

If you have questions about weeds, call Don (541-961-6695) or Wally (541-547-5474).

Upcoming Trails, YIPS! and Related Events

The Yachats Trails Crew meets on the first Saturday of each month and the YIPS! Crew on the third Saturday, both from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. There are always a wide variety of tasks for all levels of interest and ability so come out and

join your friends and neighbors for a sociable and productive couple of hours of community work.

Upcoming events to add to your calendar include:

January 4th & 18th (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.

February 1st & 15th (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.

(Locations to be announced via email to the Trails Committee's contact list.)

For more information, and to sign up for the mail list, contact any one of us via phone or email:

Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair, Yachats Trails Committee at 541.547.3640 or lsven@peak.org



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

January may be considered "off season" for tourism here in Yachats, but its "peak season" for those hearty souls who wish to collect the beach and river treasures known as agates. This time of year winter storms churn the sand, and expose more rocks and treasures from the sea. Yachats is internationally known as a great hunting ground for these little gems.

So it was that in 1968, when the local Presbyterian congregation outgrew the Little Log Church at the corner of Third and Pontiac, the decision was made to build a new church and showcase our local agates. The minister at that time, Rev. William Gamble, was to supervise the construction, and he asked the architect to design six agate windows for the sanctuary. This was no easy matter, for a special epoxy had to be developed in order for the agates to adhere to the surfaces.

The entire community helped amass the agates needed to build the windows. A major contributor was Norman Merz, a local artist and enthusiastic agate hunter. Merz and fellow artist Robert Bunnette created the large oil

painting of the three wise men, which is still on display at the Little Log Church. It seemed there were piles of agates everywhere in town. Soon there were enough agates to make the six panels, each containing 15 gallons of agates, 15 gallons of epoxy resin, and each panel weighing about 350 pounds. When the morning sun peeks over Horizon Hill, the windows take on a magical glow. It is believed that the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church is the only one in the world having rock agate windows.

So it's fitting that Yachats, the *Gem of the Oregon Coast*, hosts an Agate Festival each January. The festival brings many people to town during the off season. This year the festival will be January 18th and 19th (the weekend of the three-day holiday observing Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday), and will be held at the Yachats Commons. Vendors from Oregon, Washington, and northern California will show a variety of products using agates, gems, stones, fossils and more.

The folks at the Presbyterian Church have graciously offered to give tours that weekend, and give visitors the opportunity to take a closer view of the windows.

We at the Little Log Church and Museum hope you have a good year in 2014, and will take some time to enjoy our little gems from the beach.



Annual State of the City Event Sunday January 26th 2:00 pm

Do you know what City Council and the Commissions accomplished in 2013? Do you want to know what City Council and the Commissions plan to work on in 2014? Then come to the Annual State of the City Event for presentations from Council and the Commissions. You can meet the Volunteers who are working to keep Yachats Great and learn how YOU can volunteer too! Come for the Cake!



Yachats Public Library By Janet Rackleff

New Year, new resolutions, not a bad idea in theory. In practice, if you're like me, by January 5th you'll have messed up at least 2 of those new resolutions.

This has been so consistent for me over the past decades that I don't even make resolutions anymore. But this year I thought I would try to forget about my usual themes of dieting and exercise and focus on exercising my mind and feeding the remaining brain cells I have.

If you enjoy brain games on the computer try <http://www.7littlewords.com> the game has 7 definitions listed at the top of the page. On the bottom half, they have taken the words, divided them up into syllables, and then mixed up the syllables. You have to determine the word from the definition then see if it is correct by matching up the jumbled syllables. Try for one game a day to keep the mind active. This was a recommendation from a patron, if you have others, let us know and we'll post them at the library.

I'll also be trying to increase both the quantity of books I read and expand my range of reading choices in 2014. I'm a fiction person with an occasional non-fiction or mystery thrown in. I'll try to broaden those genres and invite you to do the same. We have a lot of great new reads and always accept suggestions for new authors and titles to buy for the library. Again, if you've read a great book, let us know.

My favorite quote about genres is from Allen Moore: "My experience of life is that it is not divided up into genres; it's a horrifying, romantic, tragic, comical, science-fiction cowboy detective novel."

Whatever you like to read, pop in to your local library on 7th street and browse the shelves.

Make 2014 the year you exercise and feed your brain. CHEERS!



Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program

By Alice Beck, Executive Director

Join YYFAP for Families Together - Friday Night, January 31st, 6-8 pm

Come enjoy a family evening of free dinner, story time and crafts for the little ones. This month we will feature the story "I Love You as Big as the World". New preschool assistant; Patricia Hettinger will be the guest reader. We are very lucky; every child attending will take home a free book. Free chapter books for older siblings that attend are also available. This program is offered in partnership with the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church and supported by grants from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Mari's Books. We hope you will join us!



Peace Garden to Move as Part of the Playground Project

During January you will begin to see the tear down of the playground as

we prepare to make renovations this spring. Part of that project will be the demolition of the YYFAP Peace Garden. It will be relocated to the entrance of the wetlands park to the right of the picnic shelter. Also in January kids and families will be creating wish lists for the new playground equipment. Keep an eye out for changes and watch the YYFAP webpage and facebook for closures as they happen.

www.yachatsyouth.org



Yachats City Council By Barbara Frye

The City of Yachats, along with health care providers in Florence, Reedsport, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, is participating in a Central Oregon Coast Health Network planning group that is

beginning work to identify the unique health care access needs of residents in our small central coastal communities and to gather ideas for how these needs may be addressed.

The effort is funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the primary Federal agency that focuses on improving access to health care services for people in rural areas or who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. We're excited to be part of this and wanted to let community members know that over the next several months you may hear of/be invited to participate in conversations, surveys and activities to gather opinions and perspectives to help improve health care in our community. We'll keep you posted as work unfolds.

Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact City Council member, Barbara Frye at (bfryern@gmail.com) or Mayor Ron Brean.



Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Will Williams, Coordinator

The Yachats Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, January 30, 2014 in the multipurpose room. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch served at noon. Everyone 55 or older is welcome.

Our "guest chef" for January is Pamela Luderitz. She is preparing: meatloaf; garlic & regular mashed potatoes and gravy; vegetables, green salad, dressing roll & butter; and pineapple bars for dessert. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person.



Winter Weather Warning!

By Public Works Dept.

It is the home owner's responsibility to know where their meter box and hand valve is located on their property. Many residents had frozen pipes during our last freeze which burst and then flooded during the thaw. The result was catastrophic water bills and fees. **PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR HAND VALVES IF YOU GONE FOR 3 DAYS OR LONGER!!**



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

January

1 4th Annual Yachats Peace Hike 10am



City Hall Closed

2 Yarn over Yachats 2pm (Rm3)
7 pm Yachats Big Band Dance (MP) (MP) (541) 265-2514

3 9am Yoga w/ Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)



5 8am Tai Chi (Rm 8)
9am Yoga (Rm3)
9:30am City Council Work Session (Civic Mtg Rm)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
6pm Zumba (MP)
7pm Open Gym + ping pong (MP)
7:05p Amrit-style Yoga (3)

7 2pm Emergency Planning Cmte (Civic Mtg Rm)
3pm Public Works & Streets (Civic Mtg Rm)

Cosmic Lotus Yoga 5:50pm (Rm8)

8 8am T'ai Chi (Rm 3)
9am Yoga w/ Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
10am Finance Cmte (CivicRm)
6pm Zumba (MP)
7:05p Amrit-style Yoga (Rm7)
Rhythm Weavers (Rm3) 7pm

9 2pm City Council Meeting (Civic Mtg Rm)

10 9am Yoga w/ Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)

11 State Representative Caddy McKeown 2pm-3:30pm (Rm8)
YAAS: Indonesian Textiles (MP) 6:30pm

12 Yachats Song Circle 3pm (Rm8)

13 8am T'ai Chi (Rm 8)
9am Yoga (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
10am Parks & Commons Special Mtg (Civic)
6pm Zumba (MP)
7pm Open Gym + ping pong (MP)
7:05p Amrit-style Yoga (3)

14 Cosmic Lotus Yoga 5:50pm (Rm8)

15 8am T'ai Chi (Rm 3)
9am Yoga w/ Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
6pm Zumba (MP)
7:05p Amrit-style Yoga (Rm7)
Rhythm Weavers (Rm3) 7pm

16 Heal the Ocean 12pm - 6pm (MP)
3pm Parks/Commons Commission Mtg (Civic Rm)
Cosmic Lotus Yoga 5:50pm (Rm3)

17 9am Yoga w/Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)

18 Yachats Agate Festival (Commons) 10am

19 Yachats Agate Festival (Commons) 10am

20 8am T'ai Chi (Rm 8)
9am Yoga (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
Martin Luther King Day
6pm Zumba (MP)
7pm Open Gym + ping pong (MP)
City Hall Closed

21 2pm Planning Comm Work Session Civic Rm
3pm Planning Comm Meeting (Civic Rm)
Cosmic Lotus Yoga 5:50pm (Rm8)

22 8am T'ai Chi (Rm 3)
9am Yoga w/ Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
6pm Zumba (MP)
Rhythm Weavers (Rm3) 7pm

23 Cosmic Lotus Yoga 5:50pm (Rm3)



24 9am Yoga w/Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)

25 Yachats Lions Crab Feed (MP) 12:30 & 4pm seating

26 Dance, Movement & Bodies 2-4pm (Rm3)

State of the City Event 2pm (MP)

27 8am T'ai Chi (Rm 8)
9am Yoga (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
6pm Zumba(MP)
7pm Open Gym + ping pong (MP)

28 Cosmic Lotus Yoga 5:50pm (Rm8)

29 8am T'ai Chi (Rm 3)
9am Yoga w/ Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)
6pm Zumba (MP)
Rhythm Weavers (Rm3) 7pm

30 11:00am Yachats Lunch Bunch 55+ (MP)

Cosmic Lotus Yoga 5:50pm (Rm3)

31 9am Yoga w/Dennis (Rm 3)
10am Exercise Class (MP)

YYFAP Families Together YCPC 6pm



“Hope...sometimes that's all you have when you have nothing else. If you have it, you have everything”