



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

JULY 2009

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Quote of the Month

If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.

~Margaret Mead



Mayor's Message By Ron Brean, Mayor

VARIETY

Variety is said to be the spice of life. If that's the case, it's hard to imagine a community more spicy than ours. In music it moves from jazz to rock to chamber to blue grass and hootenannies, from guitar to piano to ukulele to drums of all shapes and sizes to...well just about anything else. In art there's sculpture in diverse media, there's painting in every style and on every "canvas" from conchs to driftwood to pieces of metal to tiles to actual canvas. Even the scenery changes by the minute as clouds waft overhead and waves and tides reshape, renew, and reinvent our prospect. If you want a variety of opinions just go wherever people congregate and you can find ones that match your own or those that come from a whole different place giving you a healthy look at another point of view. Styles of dress, modes of transportation, choices in pets, clean shaven faces and bearded ones, occupations, religions, and points of origin all blend to make us a very interesting and diverse community.

Recently, we as a community were challenged to defend ourselves for our perspective on diversity. At the north end of town there is a nearly-completed development intended to provide housing for those that are a part of our community's work force but who have difficulty finding affordable housing here. The street adjacent to that development is named

"Diversity Drive." It seems that someone (perhaps a local, perhaps a visitor) felt that putting such a name on a street that serves a "low income housing development" might be a bit insensitive. Perhaps it was named so because it was felt that minority citizens would be housed there. A complaint was made to both the County Commissioners and to Representative Cowan's office. I received an e-mail from one of Cowan's aides asking that we explain ourselves so that he could provide an answer to the complaining constituent.

While I thought that naming a street in a way that shows commitment to diversity couldn't really be a bad thing, I began to research the origin of the name. I was advised that developers typically propose names for streets in their developments and generally, those names are accepted by the planning commission. I asked a few planning commission members and others about the name. They all remembered that there was a naming theme for the whole of the development, but since Diversity Drive is the only one constructed so far the theme had escaped them.

I dug out the plat maps to see what the rest of the streets were named. They included roads, streets, and lanes with names like Dignity, Humanity, Independence, Habitat, and Unity. The more I looked at the various names the more honor I saw in the pattern. That group of words seemed familiar. Where had I seen them together before? That's when it dawned on me that they were the core words from the "Vision 2020" document. They are a recording of what this community values, including diversity.

Upon completion of the development, Diversity Drive will go right on past the lower cost housing into neighborhoods of more stately dwellings. Neighbors at both ends of the road will be citizens of our town that value diversity, promote dignity, revere humanity, and honor our natural

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surroundings and habitats.

I sent the information back to Representative Cowan's office feeling pleased and even more grateful to live here than I was before. It's good to be challenged once in a while. It's a good thing to inspect for unintended offenses. It's even better to find out that there's virtue at nearly every turn. We as a community could obviously be more diverse in many ways. Being a village that values diversity, I believe we will continue to move in that direction. After all, variety is the spice of life.



The Councilor's Corner

By Greg Scott, City Councilor

Transparency in Government

Last year, the City Council approved a database project designed to improve access to public documents. This project is now known as the Yachats Document Library and it contains almost 1,500 records. These include most Yachats City Council and Commission minutes back to the year 2000, newsletters, studies, financial reports, citizen letters and many other public documents. If you want to know what the City is doing on a specific topic, you can now search City records online. If you do not have a computer, volunteers at the library will help you with your search. The web link for the document service is: <http://YachatsDocuments.info>

This spring the council approved a new initiative for a community "yellow pages" now known as the Go Yachats project. Accounts for all businesses and non-profits have been created and the current goal is to make much of the community data visible by September. In addition to the web and database work, there is a beautification effort in progress and a part-time event marketing position will be recruited this summer to help with the fall visitor campaign. The goal of this effort is to stimulate an increase in Yachats visitors this fall. A healthy local economy is essential to the City's goal of paying \$45,000 a month in new debt service for the sewer plant without levying additional property taxes.

The Go Yachats website includes a new design that will be used to update both the Document Library and the City's primary website. Later this summer

work will begin on a redesign of the City's primary website using the basic design from the Go Yachats project. When complete, all three City websites will have similar navigation and will appear as one integrated website. This should make it easier for residents and visitors to locate the information they seek.

To enhance public access to all this data, wireless networking has been added to the Commons. Council, commission members, and the public are able to search the document library and research issues during meetings. People like to talk about the need for transparency in government. Yachats is delivering on that objective.



Get Rid of Noxious Vegetation

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

It's that time of the year – the sun is shining, flowers are blooming, and noxious vegetation is growing at an accelerated rate. Properties are looking a little 'unkept' unless you are one of the citizens that don't allow noxious vegetation to take over your property.

Yachats Municipal Code Section 5.08.110 prohibits property owners or people in charge of property to allow noxious vegetation to grow on property. Uncontrolled noxious vegetation is unsightly, adversely impacts the healthy growth of native vegetation and ornamental plants, and can be a fire hazard.

Common types of noxious vegetation include Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom (the "pretty yellow flowering plant that will dominate an area quickly if not removed). There are other types of noxious vegetation listed in Section 5.08.110, i.e., Canada thistle, French broom, Gorse, Japanese knotweed, Poison hemlock, Purple loosestrife, Waterweed (Elodea), and Tansy ragwort.

Getting rid of noxious vegetation will make your property look better, make you feel better about your property, and keep the complaints down which makes everybody happier.

For more information and to download a complete guide to noxious vegetation, log on to

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Public Works Department
By John McClintock, Director

On June 11th and 12th, the Public Works Department worked very hard on the sewer main on Highway 101 cleaning a large grease blockage in the line.

When businesses and homeowners disregard sewer regulations and improperly dispose of grease, fat, or oil, sewer lines become clogged causing sewage back up into basements, homes, and commercial establishments.

To work effectively, sewer systems need to be properly maintained from the drain to the treatment plants. If wastes are not disposed of correctly, the City's sewer system cannot handle them without problems. Grease is an example of waste that the sewer system *cannot* handle; therefore should *never* be put down drains. The City needs businesses and individuals to do their part in maintaining the system. Yachats Municipal Code 8.02.040 requires proper disposal of grease by commercial establishments.

For businesses, following the practices listed below greatly reduces grease discharge:

1. Educate kitchen staff on best management practices.
2. Clean interceptor/grease traps at scheduled intervals.
3. Document all cleanings.

For further information call the City of Yachats Public Works Department, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at (541) 547-3243.



Thank You Bill Stuffers!!!
By Nicole Clark,
Administrative Specialist

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



Sewer Systems, Part II
By Walt Weyand, PW&S
Commission Chair

Last month I commented on the effects on our coastal beaches caused by faulty, or poorly maintained, residential septic systems. The potential impact these systems have on public safety and area ecology should be a concern to all Yachats residents and visitors. But what can be done to ensure potential impacts don't become genuine hazards?

The Public Works and Streets Commission began a discussion some months ago with John McClintock, Yachats Director of Public Works, concerning various sewer issues, based on the City's newly expanded sewer plant coming on line. During our discussions, McClintock updated members on work the City has begun performing under contract for the Federal government. This includes laboratory analysis and other functions for sewer plants at Angell Job Corps and Cape Perpetua Visitor Center. These contracts utilize and enhance the training and expertise of Yachats city employees, bring in needed revenue to the City, and reduce costs for the Federal government.

A "what-if" discussion followed during which commission members asked a number of questions and advanced several ideas exploring future directions the City might take. One idea was to study the eventual connection of both Angell Job Corps and Cape Perpetua to the City's sewer system. McClintock stated that it would be physically possible to do so, and could be a win-win situation for all parties. But of course, the Federal government would have to study the feasibility and cost/benefits of such a plan, and agree to cooperate with Yachats.

A second idea discussed would be an offering of sewer service to residents outside the current sewer system footprint to include those with septic systems north and south of Yachats. Commission members spoke favorably of this idea, but have not yet proceeded further realizing the significant costs involved and legal requirements.

Perhaps the time might be right to commission a study of the project's feasibility, and of the likelihood

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that Federal, State, and/or County funds could be found to assist in this project. If so, the aged and inefficient sewer plants at Angell Job Corps and Cape Perpetua could be retired, and the financial impact of failing septic systems on coastal residents could be reduced.



More Fun at the Commons
By Leon Sterner, User Support Manager

On Friday, July 17th *The Friends of the Yachats Commons* are sponsoring a “hootenanny” in conjunction with the Oregon Summer Folk Festival series.

Three concerts and three workshops will take place between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. here at the Commons. Workshops include guitar, banjo, and the Songs of Woody Guthrie. Concert performances will be by: The Wanderers, Riverbend, and The New Folksters.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and are good all day. A delicious chili and cornbread meal will also be served all day by the Friends for only \$5. Tickets are available at Shirley’s and Raindogs in Yachats and at Chuck’s Video and Natural Selection in Waldport, as well as at the door. For more info call (541) 961-4258. See you there!



Hitting the Trails
By Lauralee Svendsgaard, Trails Committee Chair

In surveys of Yachats’ visitors and citizens alike, trails have consistently risen to the top of the priority list. Much has been done to provide routes for foot travel through town and it is hoped that the trail system proposed in the Village Circulation Plan can be completed in the next 5 years. The Plan, developed a few years ago, describes a system of trails that can enhance the joy and health benefits of walking, puts us in closer contact with nature and our neighborhoods, and provides a transportation alternative that reduces consumption of fossil fuels. Walking is sustainable, enjoyable, good for body and soul, and just plain fun.

With completion of the Village Circulation Plan an

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ad hoc trails committee began designating and constructing segments of the trail system. Following the successful completion of several trail links around town, their work progressed to a point where “critical mass” made it appropriate to turn the existing trails and the remaining effort over to the City to administer. That responsibility was assigned to the Parks and Commons Commission who recently established a trails committee. The committee’s charge is to complete the remaining links, upgrade some of the existing trails in order to make them more accessible, and assist in the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the trail system.

The committee will work with the community to establish trail standards, assess existing trails to ensure compliance with those standards, and upgrade trail segments where necessary. We’ll also work to complete the remaining trail segments as funds and access become available. The committee is very excited about the work underway and the prospect of establishing routes to other Forest Service properties, the Gerdemann Gardens, and elsewhere through town.

The award of an Oregon State Parks grant recently enabled the City to begin construction of a link that will connect the 804 Trail to Cape Perpetua. The new trail begins at the south end of Yachats Ocean Road and will link to Forest Service property at the north end of the Amanda Trail. Trail contractor Frank Hays and stalwart Yachats volunteers are currently working on this project, which also serves as a crucial link in the Oregon Coastal Trail. This link includes a bridge over Gender Creek, a gabion reinforced drainage crossing, stair structures on steep areas, and of course the trail tread. We anticipate completion before the end of this month.

If you are interested in volunteering or otherwise assisting the Trails Committee, please e-mail me at lsven@peak.org.



Transient Rental FYI
By Nicole Clark,
Administrative Specialist

Now that summer is here and tourist season is upon us it is important to understand the rules and regulations associated with owning and operating a transient rental property. All residential

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properties rented out for less than 30 consecutive days at a time must be licensed through the City of Yachats. Applications can be downloaded off the City's website at www.ci.yachats.or.us or picked up inside City Hall. There is a \$40 yearly licensing fee for each transient rental.

The following conditions are required to operate a transient rental:

- ❑ A contact person or agent within the local 547 or 563 calling area must be available by phone at all reasonable times (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.) and immediately respond if there is a problem during the dwelling's use.
- ❑ One off-street parking space must be provided for each bedroom, but no fewer than two spaces.
- ❑ Vehicular traffic generated by the use of the home as a transient rental shall not exceed what is reasonably expected within a residential neighborhood.
- ❑ There must not be any noise, litter or odor noticeable at or beyond the property line resulting from the use of the dwelling as a transient rental.
- ❑ The use must not adversely affect the residential character of the neighborhood.
- ❑ Garbage receptacles and weekly collection service must be provided.
- ❑ Licensees must comply with the requirements of the Transient Room Tax Ordinance, collect 7% tax and file quarterly returns in a timely fashion.
- ❑ Transient Rental licenses are non-transferable.

Questions or complaints regarding transient rentals can be answered by contacting us weekdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at (541) 547-3565 or by email at cityhall@ci.yachats.or.us.



Yachats Public Library
By Marie Green, Commission Chair

Do you have to make one of those quick trips to Portland or just over to the Valley? The Library has many new books on CD for you to check out, just come in and ask at the desk. A list of current acquisitions, books, including large print books, books on CD, videos and children's books are all available. If you don't find what you are looking for on the new book shelves or the list, just ask us to put it on the "to order" list. There is no guarantee that it will be

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ordered but suggestions are always welcome.

Every Wednesday until August 12 is "Young Children's Afternoon Book Club" for ages 6 and under at 3:15 p.m. Children will not only have fun at the library listening to the stories read by early-childhood educator, Kelly Everfree, but will also receive a brand-new book for every 30 minutes of their own reading time. In addition to the book club, "Our Northwest Home" day camp is set for the week of August 24th through the 28th from 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. This day camp is for children ages 3-6. Both events are free.



Little Log Church & Museum
By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

The Little Log Church has hit the airwaves via cable access channels in Eugene and Springfield, with a possible additional three channels in the Willamette Valley in the works.

As part of a project showcasing rural museums in Oregon, Springfield videographer Ron Herbert and his wife Janice visited the museum last month to photograph some of the exhibits at the Little Log Church and record a bit of the history of Yachats and the church.

So far they have documented museums and histories at Newport, Waldport, Lincoln City, the North Santiam and Mill City Museum, and the Brownsville Museum in Linn County.

The Herberts scanned exhibits inside the museum, the sanctuary, and the lovely garden, with narrative provided by Log Church docent Mary Crook.

The presentation on DVD is about 25 minutes and can be seen at the Little Log Church during regular hours, daily except Thursday, noon to 3:00 p.m. Oprah, look out!



In the Garden
By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator

Things are blooming at the Little Log Church and Museum. Several years ago the caretaker of the grounds, Ellie Ewan, put some columbine seed in the flower

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bed behind the fern garden, and this year they are so beautiful! There are dark and light purple both in there and very double blossoms. I hope you get a chance to see them.

The new Darlingtonia is showing signs of liking its new home. There was a blossom on one of them, but the raccoons took care of that before I got the cage up. I am not sure they will honor us with another blossom or not. I did put in a little rock pathway right up to the cage so you can get really close to see them. It won't be long until that pathway won't be necessary as they do get rather tall.

The hardy fuchsias are really doing well and the bees and hummers just love them. I had to cut the hybrid fuchsias back as they had a lot of frost damage, but they are coming back very well now too.

Our fern garden is growing like it is on steroids! Who ever said that ferns had to be entirely in shade? I guess the Little Log Church just proved them wrong.

Our herb garden is doing really well now too. I hope you get a chance to cut some of those to use at home in your favorite dishes. They are absolutely organic in every way and constant trimming really helps them grow better.

I put a sealer on both our new bench and the picnic table. I thought I was getting a clear sealer, but it turned out to be a redwood color. I used it anyway, and think I like the color better than if it had been clear. Check it out and see what you think.

Many times, when I am working on the grounds, people stop by to tell me how nice *my* garden is. I hope you know that those grounds are *your* garden, not mine. I just try to tend to them for you and hope that you get some enjoyment from them. Seeing people having lunch on the picnic table, just sitting on the bench, picking a few herbs, or just walking around that is my reward and makes it all worth while for me.



Yachats fireworks

donations can be mailed to PO Box 940 Yachats OR 97498, payable to Yachats Fireworks Cmmtte.



Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program By Debbie Jackson, Director

Scientists Announce New Insights into Rubber Duck Migration

The first recorded sighting of rubber ducks occurred on the Yachats River estuary July 4th, 2006. A team of Yachats scientists has been tracking the population ever since. The ducks have made Yachats a regular stop, returning for a single day on July 4th every year since. In this, they mirror a pattern seen in many human visitors and confirm the value of Yachats as a tourist attraction.

Many questions remain about the behavior the ducks display on their visits to Yachats. The first year, upon landing in the river, some swam upstream, some down. The following year, most of them clung to the banks for upwards of ten minutes, before dashing headlong for a barrier that had mysteriously appeared earlier in the day. Last year, they all moved as one. Each duck displays a number on its rump, possibly suggesting a friendly competition. Based on statistical analysis of the past three years' data, the scientific team states they have no idea what the ducks will be up to this year.

Ornithologists are expected to crowd the beach in anticipation of this unique phenomenon. An unscrupulous local nonprofit has again announced plans to sell tickets ahead of time. This reporter's advice: buy your tickets early, creek-side seats are always the first to go. Rumors that this nonprofit is responsible for the mysterious barrier, and may even hire the ducks to make an appearance, are discounted by the scientists.

A word of caution: although the ducks' population is thought to have increased since their first sighting (roughly 1500 are expected to pass through Yachats this July 4th), their viability as a species is still in question. They suggest that the more tickets are bought for this Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program fundraiser, the better the chances for an even better event in years to come.

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Join YYFAP in the la-de-da Parade

All past and present Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program participants and friends are invited to join us at the la de da Parade in Yachats on July 4. Don the traditional YYFAP tie-dye and march with us through the streets. There will be a special tie-dye session during Rec. PLUS the week of June 29 if you need to refurbish your tie-dye wardrobe. Call (541) 547-4599 for more information.

Babysitter Training in Yachats

The American Red Cross and the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program are sponsoring babysitting training for youth ages 11-15 in Yachats on Saturday, July 11 from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Participants will gain the confidence, knowledge, and skills to care for infants, toddlers, and school aged children. Material to be covered will include safety issues, age appropriate games and play, basic child care, how to get babysitting jobs, and CPR/First Aid. Graduates may choose to be part of a babysitter roster distributed to local motels and the chamber of commerce. The cost for the class is \$40 per person. Partial scholarships are available. Full scholarships are available for those with family members in the military. For more information or to register call Ceci Pratt at (541) 265-7182 or me at (541) 547-4599.

Indoor Park Goes Outdoors

This summer parents are invited to bring their child (ren) ages 0-5 to Yachats Indoor Park in Room 4 of the Yachats Commons. The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program provides this opportunity for parents with small children to come together on Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., beginning on June 24. Moms and dads, grandparents, and others can meet and connect with other caregivers while the children can interact with other kids and adults. It is also a great opportunity to talk about choices and questions that parents have. Discussion topics may include diapering alternatives, baby food choices, toilet training, language acquisition, and low-cost entertainment...anything that interests participants. Toward the end of each gathering, participants are invited to go outside for a walk around the park to enjoy the sensory experience of the natural world.

Each session will be hosted by Cicely Bernard, a horticultural therapist, nature lover, and mom. She will be accompanied by her son Sawyer. The cost of Indoor Park is \$1.00 per child. Yachats Indoor Park is supported financially by Trust Management Services and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon. For more information, call (541) 547-4599.

Picture Yachats: A YYFAP Summer Art Project for All Ages

You will want to look your best on Thursdays in July, as bands of photographers wander the town looking for photo opportunities. Every Thursday, beginning July 9, accomplished photographers will lead walking expeditions around Yachats, helping novice photographers capture the essence of our town. In August, the photographs will be incorporated into a new collage to hang in the Yachats Commons. If you would like to help with this project, or participate, call Stacy Smith at (541) 547-4599.



Exercise Class is a Great Opportunity

By **Bev Barmore,**
Participant

The Yachats Exercise Class meets in the gym at the Commons every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and is a VERY fine health enhancement opportunity for all. It is lead by Fred Jones and Andrea Scharf. The cost is *only* \$2 per person for each class, with all the money going to the Commons.

Only in Yachats can you get such a well-balanced program for so little money! The class involves careful warm-up stretching, strength training, aerobics, balance exercises, and cool down stretching. There are no pushups or other harsh activities. Fred and Andrea encourage people to start slowly and work at their own pace. Most folks exercise with 3-5 lb weights, which together with the fun of aerobics promote overall fitness. The Yachats exercisers are a friendly, welcoming group to newcomers and you can borrow weights when starting the class. We can't turn back the clock by just living in Yachats, but we can slow it down a bit by regular and challenging exercise and other healthy living practices. Come join us!

Special Note: Congratulations to Zoe Thomas this year's winner of the "If I Were Mayor" contest. To see Zoe's winning submission come by City Hall during business hours or log on to the City's website.

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