



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

June 2004

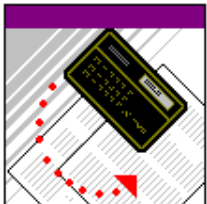
FROM THE MAYOR

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN--VISITORS, VISITORS EVERYWHERE

That's the good news and (depending upon your point of view) that's the bad news. The next time we complain about not readily finding a parking place, or having to wait to gain access to Highway 101, we need to remember that visitors are the economic lifeblood for Yachats. Without those who come for a day or stay for a month we would have many fewer services than we enjoy. Our retail stores, restaurants and motels rely heavily upon "outsiders" to be able to stay in business. Without them many of these businesses couldn't make it and "us locals" would have to drive to nearby communities or do without these services.

In addition, through the payment of the city's transient room tax, much of the cost to run the city is paid by those who stay in the motels and vacation rental homes. Of course these same visitors contribute to the cost of city operations from the need for enlarged water and waste water treatment facilities to wear and tear on streets, and some operations, like the Little Log Church, exist largely to serve our visitors. Recognizing that these room taxes come directly from these tourists, the City Council agreed that 30% of the dollars collected would be used specifically for "Visitor Amenities". Of this amount, no more than 50% will be allocated for operation of a Visitors' Center. Last year, a task force recommended that a "Visitor Amenity" be where 75% or more of the use or value of the amenity benefits the target visitor; a "Resident Amenity" be where 75% or more of the use or value of the amenity benefits the City's residents or other local residents; and a Mixed Amenity be an amenity that is more or less, equally shared by the City's residents or other local residents and the visitor.

Within these suggested guidelines, the Council has authorized funding for a variety of projects such as: Public toilet facilities in the visitor center (\$4,400); partial funding for 2nd street State Park beach access (\$8,800 of a \$35,000 project); Partial funding for expansion of the Little Log Church (approximately \$2,600 out of a total cost of \$10,800); partial funding for Yachats Commons Park (\$6,800 out of a current fund of \$59,000); development of a new north "Gateway" (\$16,200) and \$1000 for View the Future (in recognition of the importance of our view shed for future tourism). In each case, careful analysis of future maintenance impact has been a vital part of the decision making process. There isn't much point in developing a "Visitor Amenity" if we can't properly maintain it. This is a valuable resource for the City and one which is carefully evaluated by the Council prior to any expenditure.



Budget Adopted for 2004-2005

The City Council adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st. City Council made one change to the budget approved by the Budget Committee. The change will be to include funding for a part-time police officer as part of the "COPS in Schools" grant program. City Council also earmarked various project to be funded specifically by visitor amenities funds. Once again the water and sewer funds will be supported entirely by user fees, and the major source of funding for most other activities comes from transient rental taxes. Property taxes levied for bonds total \$143,542. As a result of Measures 47 and 50 the State established the permanent tax rate for Yachats at 0.1717. This will raise close to \$28,600 next year for the City. Residents in Yachats enjoy one of the lowest rates in the state.

As part of the annual budget process there was also a public hearing and a resolution adopted concerning the City's election to receive State Revenue Sharing funds. Approximately \$5,000 will be received. This amount, like the cigarette and liquor taxes received from the State, is based on population.



New Garbage Service Rates Approved

At the June City Council meeting Dahl Disposal requested, and was granted, an adjustment in their rates for disposal services within the city limits. The increase will be 5% for residential and 2% for commercial service. They will also be adding some new services, such as a "carry out" service for customers who are not able or choose not to carry the can out to the curb for pickup.

The new rate structure will go into effect July 1, 2004. City Council approval is required under the franchise agreement Dahl has with the city for garbage service.



Visitor's Center Contract Awarded

In response to the advertisement and legal notices placed in the local paper one proposal to run the City's Visitors Center was received from the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce.

City Council agreed that in the coming months they will evaluate the current operations and determine if there are any changes that could be made to enhance the center or reduce the cost.



In other City Council Business

- City Council authorized the Mayor and City Planner to proceed with applications for projects for funding under the Oregon Department of Transportation Enhancement Program
- Council renewed the agreement with Larry Lewis for planner services for the fiscal year 2004-2005.
- City Council agreed on a set of rules for Council conduct.
- City Council set a public hearing for the July meeting concerning the draft City Charter revisions.
- City Council approved an application for a Liquor License for Grand Occasions Catering.



Public Works Director's Report

By John McClintock

- Repairs to the Library have been completed.
- Public works will be switching to Verizon for cell phone service.
- Public works is working on getting the speed monitor sign operating correctly.
- The water audit was over 80% efficient last month.
- The water plant shut down and would not start back up and it was discovered that the computer had failed and so the entire system will be upgraded.
- The Consumer Confidence and Water Quality Report will be mailed to all customers this month. This is the annual report and once again the City has had a good water year. Currently the City tests for 90 compounds.
- The wastewater facilities plan will be delivered the last week in July.

- The Department of Environmental Quality will be doing a walk through of the plant next week.
- The Yachats Ocean Road project preliminary plan will be presented on June 16.
- The pre-construction meeting is being planned for the T-intersection project. Alpine Construction was awarded the contract for that job.
- At the City's request Central Lincoln PUD is preparing a proposal for undergrounding the electric lines along Hwy. 101 from 7th to Yachats River Road.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

You can now come to the Yachats Commons and check out softball equipment to use on our field out back. We have purchased balls and bats and gloves of various sizes for a game. So, get your group organized and show that we do not fit the nation's average for obesity. We also have basketballs, soccer balls and footballs to check out.

To schedule practice and game time on the field, please contact me at 547-4734.

While on the subject of exercise, consider a ballroom dance class. Fred Ditzhazy from Florence is offering a 4-week class on the basics of ballroom dance techniques. He is willing to teach beginning steps as well as more advanced moves for those interested. Sign up now with me. Classes will be Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 pm, beginning July 6. Cost for the class is \$30 per person, \$50 for couples.



Roads and Parks

Each year the City receives a lot of calls from residents and visitors concerned about the tall grass at the parks and the condition of the roads. There are a lot of public areas in and around town, and there are also a lot of different agencies responsible for the maintenance.

The Whale Tail Park, Commons, Little Log Church and Museum, and the Library are City parks or facilities. Maintenance is done by dedicated volunteers and employees. The public works employees are also responsible for those streets that are official, dedicated and accepted City Streets. All other areas in town fall under the jurisdiction of the State, County, or private property owners.

Yachats Ocean Road and the three State Parks in the area are maintained by the State Parks Department. Jurisdiction for the Yachats area parks is assigned to the Honeyman office. The actual work crews are dispatched from the Beachside State Park, north of Yachats. Yachats Ocean Road will be paved this summer.

State Parks - Dennis Davidson (541) 997- 3851

Ocean View Drive is a County road and all maintenance is the responsibility of their public works department.

James Buisman - Public Works Director

(541) 574-1200

Jim Chambers - Road Main. Supervisor

(541) 574-1203

"Main Street" in Yachats is Hwy. 101, and is maintained by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Streets signs are also ODOT's responsibility.

ODOT - Highway Division - Newport Office (541) 265-2644

If you need help determining which agency to contact please call City Hall for assistance. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help with the maintenance of the City parks and facilities let us know. We can put you in contact with the volunteer coordinator.

Yachats City Hall (541) 547-3565



New City Employees Welcomed

You may have noticed that we have a couple of new "employees" working part-time in the office. Dana is a volunteer who has been helping out here in City Hall and the Preschool. Her partner, Larry, has been working as a part-time janitor in the Commons. Both of them have been a great addition to our crew and are very much appreciated. They both are working hard and always have a smile! Say hello next time you see them Commons.



Licenses Required

If you rent your home for less than 30 days at a time you must have a Transient Rental License. Forms are available at City Hall.

Anyone you hire to do work in and around your home must have a City Business License even if the physical site for their business is located outside the City limits. You may check with City Hall for those that are licensed.



Dahl Can Haul Your Lawn Debris

Dahl Disposal can help you with your lawn and yard debris disposal. Call them for pick-up on an "as needed" basis at 563-3888.

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004		
<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>5/31/04</i>	
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$542,118	\$460,592
Library	\$16,503	\$13,953
Little Log Church & Museum	\$8,423	\$4,453
Parks & Commons*	\$86,905	\$67,114
Streets	\$138,613	\$103,632
Water	\$510,600	\$412,024

Sewer	\$351,138	\$298,469
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,649,360	\$1,010,670
Debt	\$128,426	\$96,207
	<u>\$3,432,086</u>	<u>\$2,467,114</u>

[City of Yachats](#)