



NEWSLETTER



June 2005



EARTHQUAKE! TSUNAMI WARNING!!

By Mayor Susanne Smith

June 14th provided us with an "up close and personal" opportunity to assess our strengths and weaknesses in terms of emergency preparedness. Hats off to our great Fire Department for not only stepping up but running up to the plate to warn residents and visitors; to get folks off the beaches and out of the campgrounds and to make sure folks were evacuating in an orderly and safe fashion. I applaud all residents and visitors who took this threat seriously and moved immediately to higher ground. We know we need to think about a warning system and we are already (and again) involved in discussions with our County Commissioners and fellow Lincoln County Mayors about possibilities for coastal warning systems, not just community ones. The challenge with this kind of system (sirens) is that they are subject to corrosion and rapid deterioration in our coastal weather. Research is being done into solar powered siren systems or movement generated systems (in the event that electrical service is interrupted). Some coastal towns with sirens currently in place either opted not to use them until an actual evacuation order was issued or, as in the case of Lincoln City, found that only one of their two sirens was functioning.

Our local motels and hotels are to be commended for evacuating their guests and staffs in an orderly and efficient manner. Local businesses also participated fully. Neighbors called neighbors and people left together. One couple knew nothing about what was going on until a relative from the east coast called. They then mobilized their neighbors.

I would urge folks to remember that 911 is an emergency line (for requesting help in the event of an accident, a life threatening illness or event, etc.). It is not to be used for information retrieval; nor should Lin-Com be called except in extreme emergency. Both agencies have the capacity for dispatching emergency equipment but only for that.

This earthquake reminded us that there are several kinds of fault slippages and that we can't possibly prepare for every single eventuality. But each of us can re-assess our individual plans for evacuation; our emergency kits, be they backpacks or bags or boxes (in the event that some can drive out) and make needed adjustments. I would once again urge each of you to take stock; check the City and County websites for information and be as ready as you can be in case.



Urban Growth Boundary Reconfiguration Given "Conceptual" Approval

Steve and Robert Hamilton filed an application requesting that the Yachats Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) be reconfigured in order to create a useable lot while at the same time keeping the UGB area the same. Currently, the southern portion of their property is within the Yachats Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and city limits, and the northern portion is outside the Yachats UGB and city limits. The current city limits and UGB line, which goes through the lot, was an old water district line that was used when the original City Charter was drafted.

The property is located on the east side of Highway 101 at the north end of the City. The lot is 5.37

acres, with 1.80 of that currently within the UGB and city limits.

In their application, the property owners asked that the UGB line be re-drawn to bring some of the more developable land that is currently in the County into the UGB, in exchange for moving a like amount of land out of the city and into the County's jurisdiction. The part of the property the owners proposed be removed from the UGB will also need to be de-annexed to make it outside the city limits as well. The de-annexation process requires an election, as per the City Charter.

At the public hearing Steve Hamilton said that the two sections of their property are completely different, the part that he is asking be included in the UGB could be developed easily; while the eastern part that is currently inside the city, would not be. It is steep forestland. Hamilton said that some of those who opposed the change earlier have agreed that if the part that is trees were made into an environmental easement, they would no longer oppose the request.

While the City received testimony opposing the exchange, unless the forest area involved is kept as a natural wilderness reserve through a conservation easement or is deeded to a nature conservancy organization, that specific issue was not within the City's jurisdiction to consider.

City Council voted to approve the requested UGB reconfiguration, contingent upon the following conditions:

- The land being removed from the Yachats Urban Growth Boundary shall also be de-annexed from the Yachats city limits.
- The applicant shall be responsible for preparation of any legal descriptions or other required documents or legal instruments necessary to finalize the UGB amendment.
- The applicant shall be responsible for any future efforts to annex the land being incorporated into the UGB into the Yachats city limits.

Staff will prepare an Order stipulating all of the conditions for City Council adoption at the July meeting.

Before the reconfiguration is final, the County will have to agree to the "exchange." The de-annexation will be presented to the voters later this year.

If all of the conditions are met, voters will also have to approve annexation of the area within the newly drawn UGB before any City services will be available.



DEQ Loan for Sewer Plant Signed

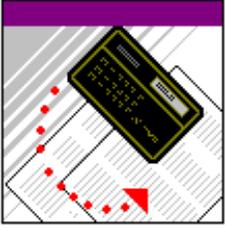
At the June 9, 2005 City Council meeting, the Mayor was authorized to sign the Loan Agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality for the Sewer Plant Project. The loan, which is funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, is for the full \$5,900,000 it will cost to build the new sewer plant and complete the other system improvements.

Although the voters approved a general obligation bond and property tax levy for the full 5.9 million, the City has until the project is complete to decide whether to use a bond for any or all of the payment. City Council may choose to repay the loan with a combination of sources, including bonds, sewer bill revenue, room tax, or other income.

The Public Works and Streets Commission continues to look at the rate structure and will be making recommendations to the City Council.

When submitting the signed Loan Agreement to the DEQ, the City also requested that the next ten sewer connections, known as Equivalent Dwelling Unit Allocations (EDUs), be released. In the Mutual Agreement and Order, securing the financing for the project is one of the milestones at which release of the EDUs will be approved. The DEQ notified the City this week that they signed the Loan Agreement and have released the sewer connections; making it possible for the City to release the building permits that are on the waiting list.

The final set of sewer connections will be authorized by the DEQ when they approve the engineering plans for the sewer plant, which the City's engineering firm is working on now.



Budget Adopted for 2005-2006

The City Council adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st. City Council made a few changes to the budget approved by the Budget Committee. As per law, the water and sewer funds will be supported entirely by user fees; while the major source of funding for most other activities comes from transient rental taxes. Property taxes levied for bonds total \$118,850. Because of Measures 47 and 50, the State established the permanent tax rate for Yachats at 0.1717. This will raise close to \$30,650 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 \$6,300 will be received. This amount, like the cigarette and liquor taxes received from the State, is based on population.



City Council Meeting Highlights

- City Council approved the use of alcohol on City property for events scheduled by the Friends of the Yachats Commons and the Village Music Foundation.
- City Council approved a change of Oregon Liquor Control Commission License (OLCC) for the Wine Place. The final decision will be made by OLCC. Owner Carrie Yano wants to be able to serve wine on a part of the deck outside her shop.
- City Council awarded the contract for management of the Visitors Center for 2005-2006 to the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce.
- City Council adopted a resolution amending several budget items in the 2004-2005 budget. The changes were for personnel costs in the street, water and sewer funds.
- City Council renewed the contracts for planning services and the City Recorder.



July 4th Parade Scheduled

City Council approved closing the streets for the Annual La De Da Parade to be held July 4th sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The parade route will start at the Commons and end near the Post Office. From the Commons it will proceed west on Fourth Street, turning south onto Ocean View, going through the State Park, continuing east, then turning North on Beach Ave.

Look for the City Council in the manure spreader!

Call the Yachats Visitors' Center for further information and for more activities at 547-3530.



Watch for Traffic Controls this July 4th

The parade route, starting at Fourth Street, along Ocean View Drive and then to Beach Street, will be closed for the famous July 4th La De Da Parade, which begins at noon on.

Yachats Ocean Road will be a one way street for the 4th. Vehicles will enter from the north end (nearest the bridge and exit at the south end at the new T-intersection. Signs will be in place and Fire Department Personnel and Yachats Safety Patrol members will be monitoring open access for emergency vehicles if they are needed.



Public Works Director Hired Full Time

Yachats is fortunate to have John McClintock as Public Works Director on board full time. For the past four years we have "shared" John with Waldport via an intergovernmental agreement in which we contracted with Waldport for 40% of his time. What has developed over this period of time is that the job has gotten bigger than was originally anticipated, mostly due to the Mutual Agreement and Order with the Department of Environmental Quality for the construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. John's experience with projects of this type makes him an invaluable resource for the City of Yachats over the next several years. Welcome aboard, John!



Yachats Safety Patrol

The Yachats Safety Patrol is officially "up and running". The task force that was created to build this program has been officially dissolved and Robin Link, one of the Safety Patrol volunteers has offered to coordinate the program, set schedules, conduct monthly meetings, keep notes, be a contact person with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and perform other duties as might be needed. Susanne Smith has agreed to serve as liaison between the Patrol and the City. Cars can be recognized by the magnetic signs affixed to the sides that say YACHATS SAFETY PATROL. Volunteers have hats and vests that are also marked. They are present to help us all. Any questions about this patrol can be asked at City Hall.



Meeting Times

City Council meets the second Thursday of the month at 2 P.M. (with a Work Session....also a public meeting....on the Monday before at 9:30 A.M.) The public, as always, is welcome and encouraged to attend. There is, on the agenda a time for Citizen's Concerns during which any citizen may address an item of City business whether or not it is on the agenda. Several years ago, City Council decided to start meeting during the day in an effort to improve attendance as well as in an effort to avoid staff's needing to be present after office hours. If you would be more likely to attend a meeting in the evening than during the daytime, we would like to know what you think. Please just write your preference on the bottom of your water bill. Or give me a call (547-4679) or send me an e-mail (suemiks@pioneer.net) Evening or Daytime?



Public Works Director's Report

By John McClintock reported:

- The public works crewmembers have been working on park improvements, including running water and power lines to the picnic shelter.
- John Potts, from the Oregon Health Dept., performed a sanitary survey of the water system last month. Public works crewmembers are to be commended for their efforts in achieving high marks in the survey.
- The 2004 Annual Water Quality Report is ready for mailing on July 1, 2004.
- May efficiency figures were at 75%. Crew and staff members have isolated a few other minor meter problems, which should increase next month's calculations.
- Previous problems with the contractor working on Radar Road appear to be decreasing after several conversations with the crew superintendent.
- The main pump station building is almost complete and the emergency generator has been installed.
- The sewer plant is running as well as can be expected.
- Thank you to the members of the Public Works and Streets Commission who volunteered to man the dumpsters for the clean sweep.



News from the Yachats Public Library!

We have received a number of unusual and interesting nonfiction books:

- Let Me Go, Helga Schneider's memoir of a daughter's final encounter with her mother, a former SS guard at Auschwitz
- Ranch Under The Rimrock by Dorothy Lawson McCall. This book, published in 1969, tells of the ranch life in Central Oregon.
- A Court Divided by Mark Tushnet. This interesting (really!) book gives us a look at the views of the individual justices on the Rehnquist Court.
- Forever Ours by Janis Amatuzio, M.D. Real stories of immortality and living are told by a forensic pathologist.
- Knowing God, is an inspirational book by J.D. Packer

Thanks to a grant from Trust Management, we are now receiving the Eugene "Register Guard" the Florence "Siuslaw News" and the "Wall Street Journal" newspapers.

We also have gotten a number of new books for our younger readers:

- The Keys To The Kingdom by Garth Nix. We have all three books in the series including the latest, Drowned Wednesday.
- Artemis Fowl a five-book series (so far) by Eoin Colfer. The latest, Opal Deception was checked out almost as soon as I had processed it.
- Two new magazines "Muse" and "Click" are here to be checked out.

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 Reporting Through 5-31-05

Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$615,500	\$537,921
Library	\$15,758	\$12,621
Little Log Church & Museum	\$13,418	\$12,010
Parks & Commons*	\$117,412	\$115,315
Streets	\$121,913	\$100,170
Water	\$405,769	\$322,244
Sewer	\$690,714	\$651,329
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,350,199	\$1,266,769
Debt	<u>\$128,138</u>	<u>\$80,615</u>
	<u>\$3,458,821</u>	<u>\$3,098,994</u>



Reminder:

Business Licenses and Transient Rental Licenses expire on June 30th. If you have not received a renewal notice, or if you have not returned the form with the annual fee, please contact City Hall before July 1st. Avoid Delinquent Fees!



Licenses Required

If you rent your home for less than 30 days, 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.



YACHATS COASTAL GARDEN TOUR

Six new gardens highlight the 5th annual garden tour, which benefits our own Yachats Community Health Clinic. Scheduled for Sunday, July 15, from 9 AM to 5 PM, the tour will offer gardens ranging from seaside to forest, with all manner of floral and plant combinations.

Guests will again be transported from the Yachats Commons to the gardens by bus, and provided with plant lists for each of the gardens. At the Commons there will be a large Farmers' Market, gourmet treats and a fabulous raffle.

Tour tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in Yachats at Raindogs, Toad Hall, Judith's Kitchen Tools and Bank of the West. For additional information call 547-4101 or email lotushouse@newportnet.com.



Fire Department Volunteers Needed!

The Yachats Rural Fire Department is looking for volunteers! Firefighters and EMTs are needed. Neither age nor training is a consideration. Training will be conducted as needed by the Fire Department. Each volunteer translates into dollars saved and is vital to the safety and well being of the community. Either stop by the Fire Hall (W. 2nd Street) or call 547-3266.



Dogs

An unfortunate incident occurred several weeks ago in which one dog was attacked by another in the center of town. The attacking dog was neither on a leash or other restraint nor under voice command/control of the owner. The victim was treated successfully by a veterinarian in Newport and his owner has pursued legal actions against the owner of the attacking animal. This should

serve as a reminder that both the City of Yachats and Lincoln County have ordinances addressing loose animals. Section 5.08.030 of the Yachats Municipal Code states that, "No owner or person in charge of any animals shall permit the animal to run at large; included but not limited to dogs." Lincoln County's ordinance can be found in Chapter Two, Animal Control.

Even when City Hall is "closed" we are "open for business"



Although there are answering machines at both the Sewer Plant and the Water Treatment Plant, those Public Works Department numbers are not the best numbers to use when reporting emergencies

Even when City Hall is closed, the phones are forwarded to an answering service so it is answered by real people **24 hours a day**, making it the best one to use for reporting any situation that requires a timely response. The answering service will dispatch the Public Works Department crewmember currently on call.

So if you need to get in touch with the City, day or night, call 547-3565. Whoever answers the phone will be able to help you in case of an emergency; it doesn't matter if it is a City employee or the answering service!

[City of Yachats](#)