



NEWSLETTER



June/July 2006



VOLUNTEERISM

By Mayor, Susanne Smith

As I look around me and think about the life of this small City, I am struck by how much of Yachats is steered by volunteers. I often hear people say that they don't want to be tied down to specific meeting schedules so they have no interest in serving on any Commissions or on City Council. While I certainly understand that, I know that there are many ways available to "pay back" or "pay it forward" for our good fortune in being privileged to live in this wonderful place on a full or part-time basis. Although City Council and City Commissions, by City Charter, must be "peopled" with residents, there are other avenues to explore for volunteer opportunities: the Library always has room for folks to help in myriad ways; the Little Log Church and Museum welcomes "sitters" or even substitute "sitters"; the Friends of the Yachats Commons is often looking for folks who will help with periodic clean-up days. Don't want to be a regular? How about stuffing water bills occasionally? Weeding around the Commons? Greeting visitors at the City's Visitor Center? Partnering with another on the Yachats Safety Patrol? Anywhere you look, you can find places where volunteers are needed and appreciated. Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program? Sea Aire? Yachats Community Health Clinic? Yachats Ladies Club? Yachats Lions Club? Yachats Rural Fire Protection District? Yachats Community Presbyterian Church or Yachats Baptist Church? How about special events like the Yachats Music Festival? The Clinic Garden Tour? The Celtic Festival? The Mushroom Festival? Part time residents and long term visitors are welcome to participate in any volunteer capacity desired as well. This is what defines "community". The opportunities are endless!



YACHATS VOLUNTEER SAFETY PATROL

What
is
their
role?

How
can
you
help?

City Hall was recently asked what progress the Yachats Public Safety Patrol had made and what types of problems had they seen and reported in the past year. The question of "what progress has been made in the last year" implies that the Patrol has a defined goal toward which they measure progress. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) explains that the Yachats Public Safety patrol members are solely additional "eyes and ears" acting in support of LCSO's scarce resources. If Patrol members see a situation that requires immediate attention by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (e.g. someone sleeping in the post office) Patrol members call them, monitor the situation at a safe distance, and provide assistance (if any) under the responding Deputy's direction. If they notice events out of the ordinary, based on citizen awareness about Yachats, they log the situation. If there appears to be a trend, the coordinator will e-mail the LCSO with log details about the situation and an explanation of why it is troublesome.

The Yachats Safety Patrol provides a needed and appreciated service to the community and would always welcome additional members. You don't have to be a "full-timer" to participate. If you are interested and think this would be a good way for you to serve Yachats, please call Robin Link at 547-5288.



THE BEARS ARE HERE PART TWO!

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Thanks to an alert reader, another suggestion was offered concerning keeping bears out of our backyards. Bird feeders provide food as well as other sources previously mentioned and therefore will be "magnets" to draw bears in. Our feathered friends appreciate and perhaps even need our help through the winter, but during the spring and summer months, natural food is plentiful. We can all do our parts to keep wild animals wild.

P.S. I always appreciate knowing that the City Newsletter is being read! Thanks.

Bear Scares in Yachats

Each June – too soon - we hear alarming tales
of adolescent bears bounced out the door
by testy moms ignoring plaintive wails
and doleful looks. Not knowing what's in store,
these cubs of weak conviction, startled by
their harsh eviction, try to work it out.
They stumble, grumble, fumble, pout, and cry.
Within an hour they veer from cute to lout.
When treed by yipping puppies, jeered by jays.
or stuck in garbage cans, the black and brown
(and green) have seen their better days.
They snarl up traffic in the heart of town.
Puberty ROARS! A mom can but bequeath
few clues of what to do with claws or teeth.

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YACHATS COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING CONTINUES

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

LIVABILITY---WHAT IS IT? In the recent survey completed by many people, the issue of livability ranked very high with almost 90% of respondents. During subsequent discussions among the steering committee and Planning Commission members, it appeared that the concept of *livability* probably means different things to different people. In an effort to further clarify it, we are seeking input from anyone who wants to take a few minutes to define it for themselves and then for us. Does it have to do with size and scale of a community? ease of movement? infrastructure? services? natural resources? beauty? According to the written comments in your submitted surveys livability is all of those and it is more: it is an environment that is beautiful, safe, clean, small, pedestrian friendly, with locally owned businesses. Sounds perfect, doesn't it?

Results of the survey are in. We had fantastic participation as more than 300 surveys were completed. A summary of the survey can be found on-line.

As was done in March and April, Advisory Committee members will be leading a second round of community discussions throughout July and the first part of August. In the first round of discussions, the Advisory Committee met with groups that included Friends of the Commons, the Chamber of Commerce, Sea Aire, and the Lions Club. If you are interested in attending a

discussion or in hosting a discussion in your home, please contact Joy McCaslin at 547-3565.

The City will host a public meeting on **Monday, August 21 from 6-8 p.m.** at the Yachats Commons. At this meeting we will finalize Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, and prioritize short, medium and long-range actions to implement the plan. What you have said has been heard and is being "folded into" the document. This is another opportunity for you to make sure that we heard what you said.



URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT PLANNING CONTINUES

The Urban Renewal District Plan Committee members are steering the planning process as City Council pursues the creation of an Urban Renewal District.

The Committee has finalized the anticipated project list and associated costs to be included in the plan and want to share this information with the public at a meeting to be held on Thursday, July 6, 2006 at 5:00 p.m..

This meeting is to discuss with the public the financial elements of the plan, including revised revenues, project costs, maximum indebtedness and the tax impacts of the plan.



Meeting Times

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Several years ago, City Council decided to hold their regular monthly work sessions and meetings during the day in the hopes that more citizens would attend. We decided when we did that that if it ever appeared to be better for us to return to evening meetings (because a Councilor or Mayor was elected who was not available during the day), we would do so. Certainly another consideration in changing meetings to the daytime had to do with Staff time. If Staff members take minutes during their regular work days, then overtime and/or comp pay are not necessary. One of the things that we found when we did that is that meeting time doesn't seem to make a difference; people will attend if there are items on the agenda of interest to them. We would appreciate hearing from you about what your preferences might be. You can call City Hall (547-3565); e-mail me at sue@ci.yachats.or.us; write a note on your next water bill; drop us a card; or communicate in any other way that works for you. As I have said frequently in the past, this is your City and we care what you think!



YACHATS COASTAL GARDEN TOUR

Five wonderful gardens highlight the 6th annual Yachats Coastal Garden Tour that benefits our own Yachats Community Health Clinic. Scheduled for Sunday, July 16, from 9 AM to 5 PM, the tour will offer gardens ranging from hillside to woodland, several with water features. Guests will again be transported from the Yachats Commons to the gardens by bus, and will be provided with plant lists for each of the gardens.

At the Commons there will be a fabulous raffle as well as a large Farmers' Market. Tour tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in Yachats at Raindogs, Toad Hall and Bank of the West. For additional information call 547-3338 or email lcarter@actionnet.net.



Are You Ready?

Do you know what to do in case of a Tsunami or earthquake? Do you have the right supplies on hand and know where to go?

Join Betty Johnston for the second "Are You Ready" class to be held on August 26, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This informative class is free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please call 547-4934 to put your name on the list.

Other Emergency Preparedness Suggestions

Do you have a 72 hour emergency kit packed and ready to go? Do you have a NOAA radio close at hand to monitor off shore conditions? Do you know where to go in the event of an earthquake resulting in a tsunami? While we all hope none of this will be necessary in our lifetimes, there is a very real possibility that we could have a tsunami....next year, next month, next week, or tomorrow. In the event that that occurs, we in this area are likely to be on our own not for a number of hours, but for a number of days and perhaps even weeks. All one needs to do is Google the word "tsunami" and all the information anyone could want is available at ones' fingertips. The Red Cross and the City of Yachats have a list of what should be included in an emergency survival kit. At the bottom of the first page of the City website, www.ci.yachats.or.us, is a link to a list of supplies, as well as tsunami evacuation maps and instructions. There are a great number of trite sayings about preparation: "Better to be safe than sorry"; "Proper preparation prevents poor performance"; "Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it", etc. In this case, they are all appropriate.

In order to help you "Be Prepared", the Yachats Volunteer Fire Department is making disaster packs available. They have very small packs designed to supplement what you may already have, all the way up to packs for 5 or 10 people. The most popular pack has been the 2 or 4 person pack. Prices range from \$26 to \$100 depending on size. If you need help with your disaster planning and how best to build a survival pack, give the Fire District a call at 547-3266 or stop by the fire station at 215 W 2nd and look at the display of supplies available.

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006		
<i>Reporting Through June 20, 2006</i>		
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$668,528	\$576,545
Library	\$17,571	\$13,553
Little Log Church & Museum	\$10,038	\$8,061
Parks & Commons*	\$141,078	\$136,008
Streets	\$110,545	\$84,646
Water	\$431,658	\$345,147
Sewer	\$963,572	\$539,562
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,616,162	\$1,399,660
Debt	<u>\$147,355</u>	<u>\$133,753</u>
	<u>\$4,106,507</u>	<u>\$3,236,935</u>

There will be no newsletter next month. Look for the next one with your September 1 water bill and check the City website often to see what is happening in the meantime!

Food Tax in Yachats? Be sure to write or email City Council before the July 10 work session because they will be talking about it and your input is needed.

[City of Yachats](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)