



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**March/April 2007**

Visit [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) for the minutes of City Council and Commission meetings

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

*"We don't see things as **they** are; we see them as **we** are."* - Anais Nin

Instead of addressing one specific topic this month, I would like to share several pieces of information, thoughts and suggestions with you regarding events and developments in Yachats. That we are changing is a given; I think it is safe to say that every place that is desirable to live in this country is changing. I was recently in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and listened to concerns about change occurring and concerns for maintaining any sense of community or the elusive "something" that brought each person there. Hearing that gave me a broadened sense of perspective and perhaps even a clearer understanding of reactions to change and to what we are experiencing here in Yachats.

As we have shared often in this newsletter, Oregon has very specific land use laws and requirements for cities in terms of development. Simply, if a City has land that is zoned in a particular way (i.e. single family; multi-family; commercial, etc), then that development must be allowed. Period. Looking at a colored zoning map of Yachats illustrates quite clearly what kinds of developments can occur where. This map is available on the City's website: [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) under the Heading Municipal Code - Comprehensive Plan - Land Use. The Planning Commission is required by law to make development decisions based strictly on zoning standards currently in place.

I am aware that some people think that improprieties have been occurring with Planning Commission decisions. I assure you that they are not. Once again, Oregon law is very clear on what Planning Commission members may and may not do; also what they must do. We are very fortunate in Yachats to have Planning Commission members with integrity and understanding of the law. They

deserve our thanks instead of our suspicion.

On to other things.....

- Please, if you send an e-mail (or any mail, for that matter), include your name and address. It is sometimes difficult to know from whom we are hearing if only an e-mail address is given.
- For the record, the Mayor and City Council, as well as all other Commissioners (Planning, Public Works and Streets, Parks and Commons, Library, Little Log Church and Museum, CIP, and Budget Committee members) are volunteers. The paid positions in the City of Yachats are: City Recorder, Deputy Recorder, Administrative Specialist, Commons Coordinator, Public Works Director, Water Plant Operator and PW Foreman, Sewer Plant Operator, and Utility Workers. The City Attorney and City Planner are independent contractors working for the City.
- We are still in the process of trying to determine if inter-governmental agreements with Lincoln County and Oregon State Parks are advisable in the matter of jurisdiction over property in the City of Yachats. In the meantime, I would suggest that anyone who desires to do any trimming of any nature on property other than their own contact the proper authorities for permission.
- Finally, in late April all Yachats registered voters will receive ballots asking them to vote on the Prepared Food and Beverage Tax ordinance. The Council's position is a matter of public record. I hope that all voters will make every effort to educate themselves about this issue.

There are "up" sides to "down" places and there are "down" sides to "up" places. On the whole, I'd

City of Yachats  
P O Box 345  
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rather be in an "up" place. How about you?



## **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

By John McClintock

The City is currently working with the engineers on the last minute details related to the sewer plant project.

- DEQ has given the engineers a list of minor changes that need to be made in the plans, and the City will go out to bid shortly. Work should begin by July 1. The Sequential Batch Reactor units should be on line by the end of the year.
- All of the manholes are being inspected to determine where storm water is infiltrating the sanitary system. When those problems are identified and repaired it will greatly reduce the hydraulic load on the system.
- The crew is finished with the water main flushing; and, it went well.
- Dyer Partnerships are putting together two proposals for monitoring the Yachats River flows. Hopefully the City can begin collecting data July 1. It will cost approximately \$25,000 to monitor the flows for a year. This will satisfy one of the conditions in the City's agreement with the State Water Right Permit.
- Finding and fixing leaks has been very successful in tightening the system. Now, during an average weekend the same amount of water is used in a three-day period as was used in just one day several years ago.
- Lincoln County Public Works has started removing the boulders along Ocean View Drive.
- Horizon Hill Road repairs will be included in the budget for the next fiscal year.
- The public works department is currently working with eight different developments and another development was just brought before the agenda for the Planning Commission. This will mean the addition of about 280 units in the future.
- The Public Works Department will be operating out of temporary facilities located in two metal

storage containers for the next year or so while the new sewer plant and public works building are constructed.



## **Commons News**

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

Spring is in the air and the first Canada geese have made it to our wetlands behind the Commons. The boardwalk is a wonderful place to stroll and see birds and the first frog and salamander eggs. The newly planted shrubs are all sprouting out.

Inside the Commons, things are busy as well. A new yoga instructor, Steve Davis, has started teaching here on Wednesday evenings at 5:30. He joins the illustrious Ursula Adler and Dennis McSharry who are well-established yoga instructors here.

Joanne Kameal teaches belly dance on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm, and a group of devoted people practice tai chi on Monday mornings at 8 am. If a more strenuous exercise is to your taste, you can come in daily at 10 am for aerobic exercise class.

Don't forget that April 5<sup>th</sup> is the Big Band dance, set aside the 19<sup>th</sup> for movie night and the 26<sup>th</sup> for the lunch bunch. The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program is putting on their annual talent show on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April at 2 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what talent our youth and families bring to this community.

There will be a 21-piece jazz concert, the Pacific Lutheran Choir, here on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. The time has yet to be determined, but it will be in the evening, so put it on your calendar.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, we are hosting a fundraiser for the refugees of Darfur. This should be a thought-provoking event.

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The Commons is bustling with activity, contact me for further information and if you are interested in teaching a class or putting on a community activity or event, call me at 547-4734.



### ARE YOU READY?

Join Betty Johnston for the next "Are You Ready" class to be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00 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.

Do you have a 72-hour emergency kit packed and ready to go? Do you have a NOAA radio nearby 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> and look at the display of supplies available.



### DYLAN'S REVENGE

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Reprinted from the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Newsletter

The Helping Hands youth group of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program was recently granted permission by the Commons Director to place signs on the perimeter of the ball field behind the Commons asking people to clean up after their dogs. The kids were looking for a way that the field could be used by all who wanted to play on it (human and canine).

The signs, which read "Kids at Play, Keep Poop Away" will be accompanied by plastic bag dispensers. People can help themselves to a bag, use it to clean up after their pet, and then dispose of it properly.

Helping Hands members did research, wrote a budget, took pictures, made a scale drawing, and prepared a presentation. The presentation will also be given to the Parks and Commons Commission and the City Council. Members will install the signs and keep the dispensers stocked. All costs will be paid out of the Helping Hands fund.

If everyone cooperates, Dylan will truly get his revenge and no one else will have unfortunate and disgusting encounters while playing in the field.

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## SEWER WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

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Why are wastewater treatment plants important? Because, wastewater treatment plants help us enjoy life to the fullest. They protect the public's health from disease causing bacteria and viruses. Treatment plants actually disinfect wastewater, eliminating many harmful organisms. Second, they protect water quality so that we can enjoy clean oceans, lakes, streams and rivers. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) establishes effluent limits for all point-source discharges in the United States. The limits imposed on each discharger are determined by the receiving water's capacity to assimilate the waste, as well as the water's use. Water intended for drinking requires more protection than water used only for boating. All water quality should be suitable for swimming and fishing.

To help keep the Yachats sewer system running smoothly and effectively please follow these "conservation" tips.

- No Grease - Grease that is liquid when you pour it into the drain from your frying pan quickly becomes a stiff, sticky, and insoluble lump inside the pipe. Grease should never be flushed or put down sink drains.
- Avoid flushing chemicals into the wastewater treatment system. Introducing chemical compounds such as drain cleaner, paint, thinners, or other household cleaners result in imbalances at the wastewater treatment plant.

- Do not use the wastewater system to clean unwanted food from refrigerator or other solid matter. Flushing disposal diapers, items of clothing, dirt, gravel, plants, foodstuffs, or other items that do not quickly dissolve in water will block the sewer lateral leaving your home or business.
- Try to limit use of your garbage disposal to relieve the burden on the sewer plant.



### **BUILDING PERMIT QUESTIONS**

City staff frequently receives questions regarding the need for building permits for various home improvement projects. There are some types of projects that do not require a permit. Fences not over 6 feet high; accessory buildings not over 200 square feet or a height of 10 feet tall; patio covers; porches; sidewalks; driveways; and some decks are examples.

While these projects do not require a building permit there are many other factors that need to be considered before proceeding. A quick visit with the City Planner before you start could eliminate problems and additional expenses "down the road." Some things can be confusing. For example a deck less than 30" high does not need a permit, but if it is more than 8" high it must be considered when determining total lot coverage. Lot coverage, easements, set-backs, and safety concerns are some of the things the Planner may be able to help you with.

Larry Lewis, the City Planner is in on Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each week. He is available to discuss your plans before you start.

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For the Budget Year 07-01-06 to 06-30-07		
Reporting Through February 28, 2007		
Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$707,453	\$559,700
Library	\$17,603	\$11,664
Little Log Church & Museum	\$12,175	\$8,341
Parks & Commons*	\$97,093	\$72,083
Streets	\$129,234	\$71,064
Water	\$473,507	\$307,094
Sewer	\$6,219,5366	\$470,295
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$2,056,246	\$1,689,827
Debt	\$134,855	\$90,221
	<u>\$9,847,702</u>	<u>\$3,280,289</u>

**CITY COUNCIL**

Susanne Smith, Mayor  
 Joel Evans  
 Larry Nixon  
 Greg Scott  
 Yvonne Wulff

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Lawrence Musial, Chair  
 Annette Howarth  
 Don McDonald  
 Greg Dimmick  
 Katherine Guenther  
 Burgundy Featherkile  
**Vacant – Help Wanted**

**PUBLIC WORKS & STREETS COMMISSION**

Walt Weyand, Chair  
 Bob Bennett  
 John McCormick  
 Peggy Fulkerson  
 Michael Trusky  
 Ann Chandler  
**Vacant – Help Wanted**

**PARKS AND COMMONS COMMISSION**

Cy Kauffman, Chair  
 Gerald Stanley  
 (James) Dave Fisher  
 Mari Irvin  
 Ron Brean  
 Will Reed  
 Don Niskanen

**LIBRARY COMMISSION**

Marie Green, Chair  
 Janet Hickam  
 Maggie Marshall  
 Carol Summers  
 Carolyn White

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Ed Pfannmuller  
 Keith Perkins  
 Brad Webb  
 Carl Miller  
 Goodyear Walker  
 (The Mayor and City Council are also members of the Budget Committee)

Yachats City Hall and Public Works 547-3565	
Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm / Monday – Friday	
<b>Σ Emergency Calls 24 Hours a day 547-3565</b>	
441 N Highway 101 / PO Box 345	Yachats OR 97498
Yachats Commons, Room #2	T.D.D. # 1-800-735-2900
City Recorder	Nancy Batchelder
Deputy City Recorder	Joy McCaslin
City Planner (Tuesday)	Larry Lewis
Administrative Specialist	Debrah Edwards
Public Works Director	John McClintock
Water Plant Operator	Rick McClung
Wastewater Plant Operator	Russ Roberts
Utility Workers	Dave Buckwald & Accepting Applications
Yachats Commons	547-4734
Mon 8:30am-4:30pm; Tues/Thurs/Friday – 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm; Sat 8am-12pm	
Commons Coordinator	Susan Garner
Yachats Public Library	547-3741
Hours: 12 – 4 pm M, Tues, Thurs, Fri/ 12-6 Wed. / 10 am – 4 pm Saturday	
560 West Seventh Street / PO Box 817 Yachats OR 97498	
Little Log Church & Museum	547-3976
Hours: 12 – 3 pm / M, T, W, F; S & S Closed Thursday	
328 West Third Street / PO Box 712 Yachats OR 97498	
Director: Karl Christianson. Board Members: Mary Crook, Julie Dutcher, Jodie Sones, Jack Ewan, Charles Link and Leon Sterner	
City of Yachats Visitors' Center	547-3530
Hours: 10 am – 4 pm / Friday – Sunday (Open Daily – March 15 – September 30)	
241 N Highway 101 / PO Box 728	Yachats OR 97498
Managed and operated by the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce and community volunteers. Contract Director: Beverly Wilson.	

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