



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

March 2002

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for the minutes of City Council and Commission meetings

WHY VISITORS?



Yachats visitors (or tourists, if you like) are the economic blood of the community. They are the “clean industry” that makes it possible for restaurants, motels and service businesses to stay in business. Without them many of our local merchants could not exist and we as residents would be the losers. How inconvenient would it be to have to go to Florence or Newport anytime we wanted to eat out; or needed gas; wanted an ice cream cone or needed a gift for someone? Yes, we complain about the extra traffic and the need for more parking but think of the alternatives. And did you know that these same “guests” when they occupy our lodging accommodations pay a room tax that supports a high percentage of the city’s general fund. This is the fund that covers the extra costs for the Library, Little Log Church and the Commons as well as supplementing street repairs. The general fund also covers the administrative costs for running the city. It’s fair to say that without these “guests” we would be without some of the services that we enjoy—or we would be paying for them in some other way.

It would seem sensible to me that we should go out of our way to treat our guests as we would if they were visiting in our home, in a courteous friendly manner. I know that our volunteers in the Visitors Center make it a point to help these visitors feel at home but it shouldn’t stop there. We all can offer a smile and an offer of assistance and we’ll be helping ourselves while helping our guests. Let’s have Yachats be known as that “friendly little village on the Oregon coast”.

CITY PLANNER HIRED



Current City Planner, Ron Thompson, will be retiring June 1st so City Council hired Larry Lewis to perform the planning services beginning in May.

Mr. Lewis has a certificate through the American Institute of Certified Planners, has 22 years of experience in planning and is acquainted with Yachats. Lewis assisted the City several years ago in developing the Village Circulation Plan.

Lewis will be working two days a week in Yachats. He is also the planner in Depoe Bay and Waldport.

SEWER CODE AMENDED



In the past when a property owner or developer asked to be connected to the water the City public works crewmember would set the water meter and the utility bills would start coming for both water and sewer service. This was because the connection to the sewer is typically done by a plumber and unless somebody called City Hall to say they were "up and flushing" the City had no way of knowing when to start charging for sewer service. So, staff and City Council decided to change that. Public Works Director, John McClintock, suggested that if the City required an inspection of the sewer connection before the property owner covered up the ditch the quality of the work could be verified before use; and, it would let the office staff know it was time to start billing for the sewer service.

So now, with the adoption of Ordinance No. 227, amending the Yachats Municipal Code section related to sewer service, no one

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should get charged for sewer service until they are using it.



NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Yachats, Lincoln County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 will be held at the Civic Meeting Room, Yachats Commons. The meeting will take place on the 15th day of April, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 1, 2002 at City Hall, 441 Hwy 101 N., between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Additional meetings have been scheduled for April 16, and if needed, April 22, and 23, 2003. The purpose of these meetings will be to review the budget document and receive public comment. These are public meetings where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at these meetings and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

The Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on April 15, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the possible uses of State Revenue Sharing Funds in the 2001-2002 budget year. Interested persons are invited to attend. Written testimony will be taken at the City Office, PO Box 345, Yachats, 97498. The meeting place is handicapped accessible. Those needing assistance please contact the City Recorder at 547-3565 before the meeting.



NEW BUDGET MEMBER APPOINTED

City Council appointed two members to the Budget Committee, filling all vacancies before the meetings begin in April.

Brad Webb is a former C.P.A. who stated on his application that he wants to assist in the process of overseeing the safeguarding of public funds. Webb and his family have lived in Yachats for several years and he is currently assisting in the development of the Overleaf Village.

Another applicant, Dale Garrell, was unable to attend the regular meeting, so City Council will interview him at their special meeting on March 21. Garrell has an extensive background in hospital finances as well as experience with city management, has also applied to serve on the committee.



IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL NEWS

City Council adopted a resolution to continue the policy of setting money aside in the budget for future equipment purchases and improvements to the City infrastructure and facilities.

City Council adopted a resolution to amend the employee's deferred compensation plan, as was required by Federal law and IRS rules.

City Council designated the specific officials who are permitted to access the safe deposit box at the local bank. This was a procedure required by the bank's policies.

FREE HELP

The public works department has a new free "employee" through a workers rehabilitation program connected to Lane Community College in Florence. Rick Allen was unable to return to his job following an injury and he is attending classes at the college in Florence to become a treatment plant operator. The rehabilitation program will pay his wages and all related expenses for one year while he works here in Yachats to get on-the-job training.



This is in addition to the new employee City Council authorized at the February meeting. Public Works Director, John McClintock, reports that he has been interviewing applicants and he will be making his hiring decision by the time this newsletter is ready to mail, so the public works department will have five crewmembers to cover the busy summer season that is approaching.

your contributions to. P O Box 940, Yachats, OR 97498 For further details you can still call Toni at (Coldwell Banker) 547-3171 or (home) 563-4438. Look here for information as the committee raises funds!



CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES A SPECIAL MEETING

**March 21, 2002
2:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

- I. **Appoint Budget Committee Member**
- II. **Beach Access in the Bayview Terrace Area**
- III. **Room Tax Rate Changes and Uses**
- IV. **Approve Contract for Johnson & Sherton, Planning Commission for Ordinance Development Services**

This meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend. This is an open meeting under Oregon Revised Statutes, not a community forum; audience participation is at the discretion of the Council.



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

According to Murphy's Law, you can count on emergencies happening when City Hall is closed. And, since the public works department has different hours than City Hall there may be times when they are working, but there is no one at City Hall to talk to. But don't worry; there is always someone ready to answer the phone in case of an emergency. You just have to know what number to call! 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!

**Annual Budget Summary Report for Fiscal Year
July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002**

<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>3/1/02</i>	
Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$467,190	\$332,988
Library	\$13,000	\$9,487
Little Log Church & Museum	\$9,499	\$3,988
Parks & Commons*	\$92,948	\$69,797
Streets	\$99,555	\$51,155
Water	\$581,775	\$324,824
Sewer	\$330,209	\$209,957
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$885,229	\$655,427
Debt	<u>\$178,509</u>	<u>\$134,842</u>
	<u>\$2,657,914</u>	<u>\$1,792,463</u>



**FIREWORKS COMMITTEE
HAS NEW ADDRESS**

The Fireworks Committee now has a post office box you can mail

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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John McClintock

- There was an overwhelming response to the advertisement for a utility worker; 8 people were interviewed and the new crewmember will be selected within the next week or so.
- The City has a “free” employee working through a worker rehabilitation program. Rick Allen, who was injured in a logging accident, is a student at Lane Community College to become a treatment plant operator and he will be getting on the job training working at the City of Yachats. All his wages and related expenses will be paid by the rehabilitation program. He will be here for a two-week trial period, and if it works he will be here for a year. So far it looks good.
- There was some trouble with the Pontiac pump station during a power outage and the alarm did not go off, so a new alarm system is being installed. That should be done within the next couple of weeks.
- The City is exploring the possibility of getting some money from the city allotment program for street improvements.
- Signs have been installed restricting tall vehicles from parking on Hwy 101 and directing them to an area behind the bank. Public works has installed additional signs and put in gravel to improve that parking area.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

The Yachats Commons has been the scene of some very busy weeks, with many activities happening here in and around the building. The Florence Chamber Orchestra was here for a wonderful concert in early February, and a Barbershop Quartet show was

very well attended. See this month's calendar in the newsletter or check the readerboard to find out about upcoming events.

All these programs are good for the community, but they do take a toll on the building. There are very few maintenance hours allocated to the Commons and the cleaning crew is not paid enough to come in on a daily basis. If you are part of a group that is putting on an event here at the Commons, remember, you are responsible for cleaning up after yourselves and making sure the room is ready for the next renter.

Those of us intimately connected to the building have been trying to improve and streamline things here. Some of the old and worn-out items around the building have been taken away and now need to be replaced. Our wish list continues, but please contact me at 547-4734 before bringing anything into the building.

Commons Wish List

- A good couch in an unobtrusive pattern
- A treadmill in good working order
- Sports equipment such as balls of all kinds, bats, etc.
- A good exercise bike
- A slide projector



WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT COMPLAINTS?

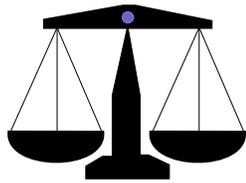
The City receives many complaints each year, and City staff is asked to assist in the resolution of each. The City established a Municipal Court to deal with ordinance enforcement and public nuisances. However, many times the problems that give rise to the complaints are more personal in nature, and the City's court system was not established to handle these types of problems. There are many times when resolving the problem may be as simple as speaking with the person or neighbor and letting them know what the complaint is. When parties have discussed all the concerns and share a common awareness of the issues they can begin to focus on a solution. When two or more people are cooperating to find a creative solution it is much more effective and welcome than a judgment handed down by a court.

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Successful dispute resolution is most effective if you prepare and plan, and keep a cool head. Although you may not agree with what the other person is saying, a workable resolution is possible if you calmly listen and get the issues and feelings out in the open.

Locally the Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution organization assists citizens of Lincoln County in all kinds of disputes, including property damage, animals, litter, noise, money, trespassing, harassment, landlord and tenant relations, victim-offender, and family problems. They are a non-profit organization, and donations are requested from each party. They may be reached at 574-9846.



A BALANCING ACT GOOD WATER AND REASONABLE RATES

Congress enacted the *Safe Water Act* with the goal of providing safe drinking water to all persons served by a public water system. The amendments require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate more contaminants, define maximum contaminant levels, set compliance deadlines, regulate surface water treatment, require disinfecting and protection for wells, and strengthen enforcement. The EPA is responsible for setting national drinking water standards; individual states carry out and enforce those regulations for public water systems.

But safe water, and the regulations that ensure it, cost money... money that consumers pay in higher water rates. So the City of Yachats is always performing a balancing act to provide the safest water possible, at the lowest cost.

It seems that each year more mandates are handed down. Did you know that the City has to treat the water to prevent lead and copper contamination that may occur from the pipes *inside* the house by adding chemicals to prevent corrosion?

Compliance has required the construction of the water plant, certification for the operators, and purchase of additional chemicals.

Advanced contaminant detection improves the quality of the water, but the cost for the testing is high now, and rising each year.

The chemicals currently added to the water cost money. These include Alum and Anthracite Coal as filters, Chlorine as disinfectant; and, Soda Ash and

Polyphosphate for corrosion control. **These chemicals are added to *improve* the quality of the water and have *no* adverse health effects.**

Some cities in Oregon still don't have a treatment plant, but the City of Yachats has a state-of-the-art facility. And our plant is the reason the operators must maintain a high level certification. Each operator must then continue to attend training sessions each year to ensure they keep that certificate. All of this costs money.

The City of Yachats is required to treat the water the same way that Portland does, but the customer base is much smaller - and it is that customer base that must pay the bills.

Yet even so, the price is less than many places in the state and country, and the water is safe to drink.



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS ON THE INTERNET

The Internet is a valuable source for ideas concerning water conservation. One home page titled *Water Wise & Energy Efficient An Education Conservation Program* at <http://www.getwise.org> provides newsletter articles and educational materials. You can also share your conservation ideas and look at other postings from all over the world.

Another site called WaterWiser at <http://www.waterwiser.org/> is a good source for information and links to products.

The United State Geological Survey's site at <http://www.ga.usgs.gov/edu/> is a great place for kids to learn about water. It is especially set up for school use, and has an interactive site where you can voice your opinions and test your water knowledge.

And don't forget the City of Yachats has a lot of water conservation information at <http://www.ci.Yachats.or.us>

NOTICE: The April City Council meeting will be held one week later than normal. It will be on April 18th at 2:00 p.m.