



NEWSLETTER



March 2004



FROM THE MAYOR

A VIEW OF THE FUTURE

Towards the end of 2003, Boise completed harvesting the first sections of timber from their holdings Southeast of town. You may not have even known that this was taking place as the harvest area was not visible from town and the only indication that this was happening would be the sounds of the work and the trucks bringing logs off the hill. This will be much the same in 2004 as the selected harvest areas are, again, not visible from town. It is not until 2005 that we will start to have a visual impact and even that will be only partially visible. The areas that are most visible from Yachats are scheduled for harvesting in 2010. Overall, Boise's over 1000 acres will be harvested during approximately the next 10 years and each yearly harvested section will be re-planted within one to two years.

What impact can we expect this activity to have on our community? No one can say with certainty but altering the landscape can subtly affect both resident and visitor if we don't like what we see. Since our local economy is strongly tourist dependent it could have an affect on motel & vacation home rental occupancy. This could reduce transient occupancy taxes, collected by the lodging industry, on which the City relies heavily for many programs and services. Potential homebuyers may be less inclined to purchase and existing homeowners may be more inclined to sell.

Since the City has no official position to take on this matter (the Boise holdings lie completely outside the city limits), why bring it up at all? A number of things that are not "official" City business are still of concern and it seems appropriate to bring to your attention what efforts are being made to explore, with Boise, possible alternatives to harvesting their entire property. To inform yourself of this more completely stop by City Hall and ask to see the Boise harvesting schedule map. Better yet plan on attending the "**View the Future**" presentation at the Commons at 6:30 on Wednesday, March 24. "**View the Future**" is an organization that has been formed to explore alternatives to clear cutting.



City Council Holds Public Hearing on Proposed Coastal Bluff Protection Ordinance

At the March 11 City Council meeting, Mayor Corbin explained that as a part of the 804 S agreement there was a separate agreement that the City would *consider* a coastal bluff protection ordinance. The City received a small grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development to hire an attorney who wrote the first draft. The Planning Commission held two public hearings, approved various changes and has recommended the final draft to City Council for consideration.

Following testimony from various property owners, individuals and public interest groups, City Council voted to continue the hearing to their April 8 meeting. The record has been held open for further comment.



In Other City Council Business

- City Council voted to recommend to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners that no changes be made in the status of the Solid Waste District.
 - City Council referred expenditure requests from the Yachats Commons Park Task Force and the Little Log Church and Museum to the Budget Committee for consideration in the 2004-2005 city budget.
 - City Council authorized expenses related to the Spring Clean Sweep. There was consensus that this would become a semi-annual event in coordination with the SOLV Beach Cleanups.
 - City Council approved a request from the Fire District that on July 4th Yachats Ocean Road be one-way traffic, southbound only, parking to be controlled as to provide ample emergency vehicle access.
 - City Council voted to go on record as strongly recommending that the Waldport Forest Service office be maintained.
 - City Council appointed Greg Scott to the Budget Committee. Carl Miller was reappointed to the Committee.
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Public Works Directors Report

by John McClintock

- I attended the Water Utilities Conference in Bend. Yachats is not the only community that is dealing with infrastructure problems or under a Mutual Agreement and Order with the Department of Environmental Quality.
 - While flushing the water system the crew found seven valves that were closed and two valves that were not previously know about. The valves were opened since a looped and free-flowing system provides better water.
 - The City is waiting for an Oregon Department of Transportation permit to complete the waterline replacement project along Hwy. 101 in the downtown core.
 - There were over 40 applications for the wastewater treatment plant operator job; the new employee will report to work around the 22nd of the month. His name is Mark Wilson and he comes from the Netarts Sanitary District.
 - The inflow and infiltration rehabilitation work on the sewer system has been completed and the City has applied for additional equivalent dwelling units.
 - Obec Engineering still plans to go out for bid in April for the T-intersection project at the end of Yachats Ocean Road.
 - The Oregon State Parks Department is planning to do the improvements to Yachats Ocean Road. They do not plan to change the layout, so it will remain narrow to keep the speed down. The State Parks want the City's engineers (Dyer Partnerships) to design it, and they will pay for all the work.
 - The boardwalks on the Commons trail will be installed next week.
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CIF

(Community Issues Forum of South Lincoln County)

The CIF has been formed to provide citizens throughout the south part of Lincoln County from Ona Beach to the county line a place to express concerns or discuss issues. While citizens in the incorporated towns of Waldport and Yachats have City governments responsive to their voices, those people in the unincorporated areas have no voice other than with the County

Commissioners who reside and work in Newport. The mission statement of the CIF is: "To provide enhanced communications among the citizens and communities of South Lincoln County, and to provide a forum in which to represent, discuss and resolve respective and/or collective issues."

A work group consisting of people from the cities of Waldport and Yachats as well as representatives from the unincorporated area have been meeting monthly to develop a structure for the monthly general meetings which are held throughout the South County area at 10 A.M. on the fourth Thursday. A focus issue is covered at each meeting and representatives from groups such as the Port of Alsea, the South County Trails Committee, the Yachats Health Clinic, Chambers of Commerce, Central Oregon Coast Fire Department, Save Our South County Schools Committee, Samaritan Health, Oregon Coast Community College also provide updates. Meetings are always open and the public is strongly encouraged to attend and participate.

The March 25 meeting will be at the Yachats Commons and the topic will be reviewing the draft of the South County Economic Development Plan, a document that was developed over the last several months under the guidance of Chris Chandler DiTorrice of the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County. As it is a constantly evolving plan, it will be discussed with some frequency in the coming months as economic growth is vital to the future and the quality of life in this area.

The April 22 meeting will be held at the Oregon Department of Transportation District Office at Ona Beach. The topic will be Fire and Emergency Services.

Future meetings will be announced as information becomes available.

Yachats Budget Report - Fiscal Year 2003-2004

<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>2/29/04</i>	
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$542,118	\$400,660
Library	\$16,503	\$11,732
Little Log Church & Museum	\$8,423	\$3,942
Parks & Commons*	\$86,905	\$52,380
Streets	\$138,613	\$89,557
Water	\$510,600	\$361,167
Sewer	\$351,138	\$219,834
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,649,360	\$1,010,670
Debt	<u>\$128,426</u>	<u>\$96,207</u>
	<u>\$3,432,086</u>	<u>\$2,246,149</u>



"YACHATS CLEAN SWEEP"

BARGAIN HUNTERS TAKE NOTICE! BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24TH AND CONTINUING FOR 3 SPECTACULAR DAYS, YACHATS CITIZENS MAY DISPLAY THEIR UNWANTED ITEMS AT THE CURB FOR ANYONE TO TAKE **"FREE"**. on Friday the 26th THROUGH saturday the 27th yachats Residents may BRING their REMAINING TREASURES to the Commons AREA BEHIND BANK OF THE WEST where the CITY will place dumpsters marked for disposal.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- dumpster #1. CLEAN WOOD - YARD DEBRIS, LUMBER,
- dumpster #2. METAL - OLD APPLIANCES, BLINDS, CURTAIN RODS
- dumpster #3. FURNITURE

WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE OR HAZARDOUS WASTE!

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH BEFORE NOON, SENIORS OR HANDICAPPED/DISABLED YACHATS CITIZENS WITH ITEMS THAT ARE TOO HEAVY OR BULKY SHOULD CALL CITY HALL AT (541) 547-3565 AND A PUBLIC WORKS CREW MEMBER WILL COME BY TO ASSIST YOU IN DISPOSING OF THE ITEMS.

REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO RID YOURSELF OF UNUSED ITEMS WHILE BEAUTIFYING THE CITY.

PAINT COLLECTION WILL BE APRIL 20TH. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT A LATER DATE.



Sewer System Quality Information

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.



Who are you going to call...?

Most of the time, you can count on emergencies happening when City Hall is closed. Additionally, the Public Works Department has different hours than City Hall so there may be times when they are working, but there is no one at City Hall to talk to. 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 Council President, Joel Evans, is heading up a task force to review and make recommended changes to the current City Charter.

While the Council does not foresee major changes, the current charter is out of date in language and there are certain sections that need to be changed to be in agreement with State Statutes as they have changed over the years.

The League of Oregon Cities recently revised the Model Charter and that template will be used in considering revisions to the Yachats Charter.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate. Those interested in working on the review should contact Evans at 547 3968.

The Charter, as revised, must be approved by a majority of voters at the November election.

Copies of the current Charter may be obtained at City Hall.

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