



# NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

May 2001

## COMPANY'S COMING

By Mayor Lee Corbin

It's almost that time of year again. Shortly the RV's, coastal travelers and summer residents will be arriving to enjoy our beautiful coastal wonders and hopefully to go away thinking of Yachats truly as the "Gem of the Oregon Coast".

Like most gems, a little polishing makes a major difference in the brilliance of the shine. We made a small beginning recently with a spring clean up for the Commons and the provision of giant trash bins which were overloaded by the time they were removed following the weekend—but this is just a beginning. Where else might a little polish show great results? Some of our street corners could benefit from further trimming and perhaps some new flowers. Unused building materials can be disposed of, faded flags replaced, and a little fresh paint goes a long way toward providing a fresh face. If everyone does a little, a lot will be accomplished. It's the same as when guests are coming to our homes; don't we straighten things up a bit? And these are our guests, aren't they? We've advertised to bring them here. We want them to stay in our lodging facilities, eat in our restaurants and shop in our shops, so doesn't it make sense to make them feel welcome and hope they come again?



## WATER EMERGENCY CURTAILMENT ORDINANCE ADOPTED

City Council read Ordinance No. 222 for the second time before adopting it at the meeting on May 10. The ordinance amends the Yachats code to provide the manner and method of declaring a potential water shortage emergency condition. It also provides for the prohibition or restriction of the

use of water for certain purposes once that emergency is declared.

The Ordinance specifies the criteria that will be used to determine the seriousness of any water shortage during drought conditions, and outlines the specific prohibitions that will be put in place during each phase; as well as the penalties for non-compliance. The Ordinance also spells out what will happen in the event the water system is damaged beyond immediate repair and the City is unable to provide service through the normal distribution system.

City Council included an emergency clause, so the ordinance is in full force and effect immediately.

While the City may face drought conditions this summer, *no* water shortage emergency has been declared yet. City Council is going forward with plans to construct a large containment pond on City owned property near the water treatment plant, which will more than double the water storage capacity in the future.



## DELINQUENT NOTICES WILL BE MAILED EARLIER

City Council adopted Ordinance No. 223 which amends the section in the Municipal Code that deals with delinquent water bills. Until the amendment was adopted water and sewer accounts which were delinquent if not paid by the thirtieth day after the billing date did not receive a written notice of that delinquency or intent to terminate water service until the third month. City Council decided that the water and sewer rate increases in recent years, which have resulted in larger bills each month, present a greater financial burden on individuals if the delinquency is allowed to continue for more than one month and they wanted to protect all

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ratepayers from the increased costs related to collection of delinquent accounts.

From now on a reminder of the delinquency will be mailed with the next current billing. If payment has not been received within ten days after the notice to terminate, the city is authorized to discontinue water service without further notice to the property owner and/or user.

No other changes to the code were made, and the City Recorder still has the authority to make payment arrangements if the water customer is unable to pay the bill in full.



**PUBLIC WORKS & STREETS  
COMMISSION MEMBER  
APPOINTED**

Following the Commission's recommendation, City Council appointed Richard Miller to the Public Works & Streets Commission. He will be completing a term that ends December 31, 2001.

Richard Miller was a county road district supervisor in California before he moved to Yachats.



**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES  
FARMERS MARKET'S  
REQUEST TO BLOCK  
FIFTH STREET**

Parks and Commons Commission Chair, Blythe Collins-Niskanen, reported that there would still be accessibility around the Commons, in the east portion of the bank's parking lot, and around to the rear of the bank. Collins-Niskanen said that the Farmers Market was asking for this because the parking lot/street area is more level than the sidewalk they used last year.

The Farmers Market will be allowed to partially block a portion of Firth Street, within the Bank of the West/Commons parking lot, on Saturdays in June, July, August, and September from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with the exception of those Saturdays when the Commons is being otherwise utilized.



**FRIENDS OF THE COMMONS TO INSTALL  
AND DONATE STAGE LIGHTING**

Alice James, representing the Friends of the Commons, explained that the maintenance for the lights would be handled in the same way the piano is; rents for the lights will be used to maintain the lights. The Friends will cover any expenses the rent money does not cover. The renters will need to be "checked out" or certified for simple lighting use, or pay a fee to have someone who is certified operate the computer panel if the renter needs a more complex setup. James also asked that they be allowed to add a ventilation system in the multi-purpose room and on the stage.

City Council approved the installation and donation of the lighting and ventilation system.



**CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS  
AMENDMENTS TO  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY  
CONCERNING COMMISSION  
OPERATIONS & PROCEDURES**

City Council adopted an amendment to Administrative Policy #18, that states: Unless excused by the Chair, any member who has three absences in a twelve month period may be removed from the Commission by City Council.

A second amendment, under membership, now states that any person applying for appointment shall be interviewed by City Council at either a work session or regular meeting. Appointment is usually based on Commission recommendations to City Council. And while most applicants are interviewed by the Commission prior to recommendation, City Council felt it is important for them to have the chance to meet and interview the individuals as well.



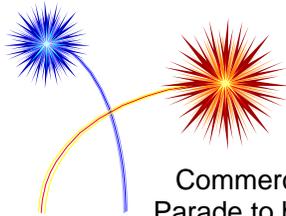
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC  
HEARING**

A meeting of the Yachats City Council will be held on June 14, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001 as approved by

the Budget Committee. A copy of the budget may be reviewed at City Hall. A summary is also available on the Internet at [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) and will be mailed to all boxholders in the 97498 area this month.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on June 14, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed 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.



**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PARADE  
SCHEDULED**

City Council approved the permit for the Chamber of Commerce Annual La De Da Parade to be held July 4<sup>th</sup>.

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 entry... they will be in the City's "new" dump truck.



**IN OTHER BUSINESS, CITY COUNCIL:**

- Adopted Resolution No. 370 - Designating the Week of May 20 - 26, 2001 as Emergency Medical Week
- Adopted Resolution No. 372 - Supporting the City's Application for a Transportation and Growth Management Program Grant request to the State of Oregon to fund development of a transportation plan and a downtown conceptual plan for the City of Yachats
- Adopted Resolution No. 373 - Extending City of Yachats' Workers' Compensation

Coverage to Volunteers This is a continuance of the current status; an annual update is required.

- Approved the Statement of Support and schedule of dues for the Solid Waste District for the Fiscal Year 2001-2002.
- Approved the renewals for all current OLCC Liquor Licenses for business operating inside the City.

**Summary Report for Annual Budget  
Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2001**

<i>Reporting Through Program</i>	<i>4/30/01 Budget</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
General Administration	\$450,891	\$345,590
Library	\$13,525	\$7,083
Little Log Church & Museum	\$7,492	\$2,606
Parks & Commons*	\$119,645	\$108,641
Streets	\$73,818	\$47,235
Water	\$387,344	\$234,927
Sewer	\$307,500	\$234,520
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$699,704	\$619,765
Debt	<u>\$143,649</u>	<u>\$103,882</u>
	<u>\$2,203,568</u>	<u>\$1,704,250</u>

\*Commons Includes Grant from the Forest Service for Improvements



**YACHATS CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THE  
FOLLOWING VACANCIES:**

**2 - Planning Commission**

- 1 - Partial year Term ending December 31, 2001
- 1 - Two Year Term ending December 31, 2002

**2 - Parks and Commons Commission**

- 2 - Two Year Term ending December 31, 2002

Volunteers are required to attend the monthly meetings and may be asked to attend training sessions.

For a complete description of the duties and requirements, please ask at City Hall.

Those interested in serving on the Commissions or Committee can pick up a

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Volunteer Application Form at City Hall, 441 N. Hwy 101, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 p.m.



### COMMONS NEWS

by Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator

A new carpet is going into this old and much-loved building. The old one was ripped out by volunteers (as usual). Blythe Collins-Niskanen, Mayor Lee Corbin, Jim Bowers, Mike Smith and Jerry Kraft were the muscle behind this great undertaking. Never, never underestimate the power of volunteers with passion in their hearts.

There are rumors that abound, like urban myths, that would have us believe there are forces in this town who would like to see the building shut down. What sort of talk is that? What would this town be without a Commons building? Where would we all go for public dances, meetings, workshops? Many children use the building too, residents, nonresidents and lots of grandchildren of residents, for the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program and the many youth-related activities that go on here. After all these years with a community center available to us, it is inconceivable how empty and disconnected this town would feel without the Yachats Commons. This building is much needed, it's what makes this community what it is.

Meanwhile, those forces that want to see this building be viable and thriving continue to go about their business. The Friends of the Commons writes grants, and gets them, to upgrade equipment and facilities around the building. And we all get to benefit from their hard work and vision. The other volunteer groups who use the building are often found lifting and toting those heavy tables to the storage closet or giving a hand moving risers. With no one responsible for moving equipment in the building, it's good to have those stalwart people come through once in a while to lend a helping hand. There is a lot of

positive, hardworking energy in this town and the surrounding community, we should all remember that and give an ear to them rather than the negative comments.

### Coming in the near future to the Commons:

- May 26 & 27 – Arts and Crafts Show
- June 3 – Yachats Youth and Family annual talent show
- June 7 – Yachats Big Band Dance
- June 23 - NW Steelheaders Fishing Clinic

And don't forget, ballroom dance class is going on right now, every Tuesday evening; teen and adult gym night goes on every Monday evening; Wednesday evenings there's a clogging class; a bellringer class is held every Thursday afternoon; and many other events are happening daily. Call 547-4734 for further information.



### YACHATS COMMONS FUNDING TASK FORCE REPORT

The Yachats Commons Funding Task Force has held four meetings (April 5, April 12, April 26, May 10; with one remaining meeting scheduled for May 24.

The assigned goal of this committee was to provide the City Council with an analysis of all identifiable economic alternatives with a recommendation for the optimum choice.

The task force began discussion with a list of ideas developed at a joint work session with City Council/Parks and Commons/Friends of the Yachats Commons that included

- Dues
- Grants
- A taxing district
- A serial levy
- City funds
- An increase in transient rental tax dedicated to the Commons
- Increased marketing of Commons use
- Moving the Visitors' Center to the Commons.

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Other funding ideas discussed by the task force included

- 1 cent a gallon gas tax
- Privatization of the operation
- Withdrawing from the Port of Alsea and using the funds currently paid to the port
- Forming a Community Development Corporation which would operate a for-profit business and donate the funds to the Commons, parks, trails, library, etc.
- Selling the back area (understanding that half of the proceeds would go to Lincoln County Schools as per sale agreement).
- Long term lease of area behind building (wetlands), realizing the probability of very limited use.
- Increase rent fees to outside city limit users.

***IF*** the recommendation to City Council is to pursue the formation of a taxing district, then a serial levy would be needed to provide interim funding for at least one and probably two-three years to put this in place. Massive public education will have to take place. It will be necessary to 1) go to the voters (city only) to see if they want to relinquish control; 2) pass a serial levy; 3) form the taxing district; 4) ask the district if they want to pay/control via board of directors.

The task force will be presenting their recommendations at the June 14, 2001 City Council meeting.

#### 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.

#### MYTHS & REALITIES

***Myth:*** Bottled water is safer than tap water.

***Reality:*** Not necessarily. The safety of bottled water and tap water initially depends on the source of the water. Monitoring and source protection,

treatment, and testing ultimately determine the quality of the finished product. In the United States, the reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act only now requires that bottled water be monitored and tested in the same rigorous manner that tap water has been subject to for years.

***Myth:*** Using a home water treatment device will make tap water safer or healthier to drink.

***Reality:*** Some people use home water filters to improve the taste, smell, and/or appearance of their tap water, but it does not necessarily make the water safer or healthier to drink. Additionally, all home treatment devices, regardless of the technologies they use, require regular maintenance. If the maintenance is not performed properly, water quality problems may result.

***Myth:*** If lead is in your water, it's the utility's fault.

***Reality:*** The most common source of lead in drinking water is the plumbing in your home. Your plumbing may have lead pipes or lead solder in the connections. Lead is a contaminant that is particularly harmful to pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about lead in your water, contact your local health authorities to find out how you can have your water tested by a certified laboratory. If tests reveal that the lead content of your water is above parts per billion, you should reduce your exposure to it. Since warm water absorbs more lead than cold, when you cook, always start with cold water. Because water standing in pipes tends to absorb lead, clear the pipes before drinking by letting your tap run until the water is cold. Catch the running water and use it to water your plants, then fill a pitcher to store the drinking water in the refrigerator.

***Myth:*** There are more pollutants in drinking water today than there were years ago.

***Reality:*** There may be more contaminants that can enter our water sources today. We did not have the technology to know what was in our drinking water years ago. Today we have sophisticated testing instruments that enable us to know more about our water than ever before. With this knowledge, the drinking water community is taking steps to treat what's in our water.