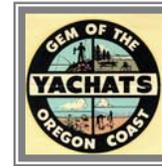




# CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER

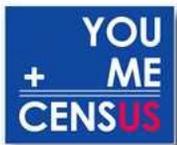


MAY 2011

## THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted 4-2-09

Our village is a place where natural resources are valued and protected, where diversity is celebrated, and where a vibrant economy and sense of community pride create and recreate a living spirit. Yachats cares not just for its citizens' basic needs but also supports them in their efforts to excel mentally, physically, artistically, and spiritually. It is a community with an enduring sense of itself.



### Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

Six hundred and ninety. The official number of Yachats residents in the 2010 U.S. Census is 690. That's 690 of your neighbors and you (1,510 in the 97498 zip code). There will be a great deal more detail released on the Census data in the coming months, but at present what we know is that the population of Yachats has increased by nearly 30 % in the last 20 years. That may seem like a lot to those of you who have been around for all of those years, but our sleepy little village is still sleepy compared to the rest of the world. The population of Oregon has increased by nearly 35% in that same period. It has increased by nearly 1,000% since the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

I have always had an interest in what numbers can tell us. The Census data will be quite revealing when it's all compiled. For Yachats it will tell us how old we are on average. It will tell what the median income is. It will reveal what the proportion of males to females. It will tell how diverse or how lacking in diversity our population is. It will let us know how many people there are around us that are suffering the trials and tribulations of a bad economy. I have no doubt that the number of people in our midst surviving at an income below the poverty level is greater than most of us think.

As interesting and revealing as many of these numbers will be, the official census will not report many of the most important facts about the Yachats population. It will not report the percentage of people who live here that volunteer their time every day for the betterment of the rest of us. It will not list the number of hours given to the Yachats Public Library, the Little Log Church and Museum, the Yachats Area Visitors Center, the Friends of Yachats Commons, the Friends of the Library, the Yachats Invasive Plant Subcommittee, the Trails

Crew, the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program, the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve, the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center, Yachats Ladies Club, and the Yachats Lions Club, not to mention all of the City commissions and the City Council. In that quick run through my mental list of volunteer organizations I know I've missed other organized groups of volunteers (and for any I've left out I apologize) but that list doesn't really tell it all. For every purpose driven organization there are other ad hoc groups forming to deal with a need...of a neighbor, of an acquaintance, of a cause, and sometimes for a total stranger.

The Census will not cover that data. Nor will it enumerate the talents found in you and those 689 other people. It won't reveal the number of artists, musicians, poets, writers, song writers, quilters, glass artists, film makers, actors, photographers, beaders, and artists of every other shape and variety. The Census won't list the thinkers either. There are magnificent ideas arising from every discussion over every cup of coffee or tea and every glass of beer or wine that is poured in this town. The ideas range from the totally brilliant to the totally silly—which has a brilliance of its own.

Six hundred ninety people with the combined community power of a far greater multitude. Yachats has never been about how many of us there are, thank goodness. It has always been and (hopefully will always be) about how much heart and spirit we have.



### Meeting Update

The City Council has rescheduled their monthly meeting from Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 p.m.

Later that day the Council will hold a joint meeting with the Lincoln County Commissioners also in the Civic Meeting Room.



## Update on Potential Amendments to the Yachats Zoning & Land Use Code

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The Planning Commission continues to work on amendments to the *Yachats Zoning & Land Use Code*. Some of the amendments will provide implementing ordinances for policy statements identified in the *2008 Yachats Comprehensive Plan Update*. Other amendments result from current issues that the Commission has identified through review of the *Yachats Zoning & Land Use Code* and from review of recent land use applications. Amendments to the *Yachats Zoning & Development Code* require public hearings with the Planning Commission and the City Council. An update on potential amendments to the *Yachats Zoning and Land Use Code* is provided below:

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>	<u>STATUS/ACTION</u>
<b>Subdivisions &amp; Partitions</b>	1) Eliminate the majority of redundant language 2) Delete language regarding "agreeing, offering or negotiating to sell" lots prior to recording the plat 3) Eliminate or alter performance agreement language, i.e., the option of permitting a developer to post a performance agreement, record the subdivision or partition plat, and sell lots prior to construction of streets and utilities	Public hearings have been held with the Planning Commission and City Council. The reformatting of the current ordinance has been adopted by the City Council that eliminates the majority of the redundant language. The City Council will consider the remaining amendments at a future meeting.
<b>Townhouse PUD</b>	New ordinance allowing separate ownership of residential units in multi-family developments	Planning Commission has reached consensus on a draft ordinance. Next step is to proceed with public hearing process.
<b>C-1 Commercial Zone</b>	Amendments to mixed-use developments and residential setbacks	Planning Commission has reached consensus on a draft ordinance. Next step is to proceed with public hearing process.
<b>Planning Commission Review of Non-Public Hearing Items</b>	Several land use actions require Planning Commission but are not subject to a public hearing	Planning Commission is working on recommendations regarding land use actions that should be subject to public hearings and/or those that should be outright regulations or determined by City staff.
<b>Recreational Vehicles (RVs)</b>	Allowing RV use for temporary living purposes in the R-2, R-3 and R-4 zones as a conditional use	Planning Commission is considering an amendment to either: a) maintain current regulation; b) require RVs used for temporary living purposes to be accessory to a permanent residential dwelling or; c) eliminate RVs for temporary living purposes as a conditional use.
<b>Planned Unit Development (PUD)</b>	--Minimum area required for a PUD --Storm drainage plan --Performance agreements	Planning Commission will consider a) amendment to PUD minimum area requirements in different zoning districts; b) require a storm drainage plans in the application requirements and, c) amendments to performance agreement language once City Council makes decision on performance agreement amendments for subdivisions and partitions.
<b>Stream, Wetland, Riparian Regulations</b>	Need for a natural resources inventory and assessment, and associated <i>Yachats Zoning &amp; Land Use Code</i> regulations.	The City received a state grant for the inventory and assessment that will be conducted in 2011. Once the inventory and assessment is complete the Planning Commission will consider regulations for streams, wetlands, and riparian areas.
<b>Parking</b>	1) C-1 parking within 500' of property 2) Private property parking vs. public right-of-way parking 3) Parking space dimensions; 4) 4½' bumper curb.	Planning Commission will review and consider amendments.
<b>Mobile Vending Stands</b>	Mobile vending stands are not identified as a specific use in the C-1 zone therefore they are considered an outright retail use	Planning Commission will consider whether or not amendments are needed.



## Code Enforcement Update

By Donald Niskanen, Code Enforcement Officer

The City recently mailed out letters to 47 property owners, of both developed and undeveloped lots, who had invasive Himalayan blackberries growing on their properties. Of the 47 letters sent, we received 25 positive responses and 15 of those property owners already taken care of the issue. A dozen more scheduled to do so within the next few weeks, weather permitting.

This is an effort by the City to control some of the invasive plant species that are taking over our native vegetation. The next invasive species to address will be English ivy. Until recently this plant was readily available in nurseries and many college and university dormitories and classrooms are still adorned with English ivy. It is now included on the State of Oregon's *Invasive Plant List*.

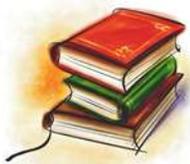
One of the reasons English ivy became so popular was that on the ground it spreads readily and sends out roots at every leaf bud that touches soil. However, controlling its spread can be a chore. Once it starts to grow up trees it girdles the tree eventually killing it. An additional problem caused by ivy growing up trees is it gives easy access to birds that consume the seeds from the flowering ivy and in turn spread the digested seeds wherever they fly.

I have started documenting properties that have English ivy growing up trees and letters will be mailed to affected property owners in June. The easiest way to rid trees of English ivy is to cut all the canes at the base of the tree. They may be left on the tree to dry out and die and then removed or left to be taken by the wind. If you are unable to this yourself, City Hall has a list of City-licensed businesses that can handle the task.

For assistance on any municipal code issue, please call me at City Hall (541) 547-3565 or my cell (541) 961-6695.

## Yachats Public Library

By Marie Green, Library Commission Chair



Oh did it rain, but the Annual Library Book Sale went on never-

the-less with soggy patrons and vendors lining the hallway hours before the sale began on Friday. On Saturday bargain hunters filled bags with their treasures for only \$3. The sale netted about \$3,400 thanks to all the shoppers.

It took a year to collect the books donated for the sale and, thanks to John May's crew, just under an hour to transfer them from the Library attic to the Commons on the Thursday before the sale. Another group of volunteers arranged the books by category on tables filling the multipurpose room. Isn't it great to have Friends—Friends of the Yachats Library!

A book in our Northwest Collection titled *Surviving the Oregon Trail 1852*, by Weldon Willis Rau came highly recommended by a patron. It is based a on a journal kept by Rau's grandfather augmented by other Oregon Trail sources.

Do you have a wish list of books that cannot be found in our collection? Just leave the title and author with the librarian at the counter—we can probably order it and let you be the first to read it.

## **WELCOME** Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

We at the Little Log Church and Museum are very happy to welcome Louis Mensing to the "family fold" as our new landscape gardener, succeeding Jodi Sones, who retired last fall.

Louis came to Yachats from Eugene, where he taught full curriculums in elementary schools primarily in the first and second grades. Retiring after 30 years, he returned to one of his many passions, gardening, which he has nurtured since his early years growing up in a small community in southern Minnesota.

Louis was employed at a nursery in the Eugene area where he not only sold plants, but also developed a huge perennial garden and worked as a seed propagator.

Now a full-fledged "Yachatian," Louis has been enthusiastically developing his own garden at his home just north of town. Those of us who have had the pleasure of meeting Louis have learned that he is quite knowledgeable about landscaping, plants that thrive here locally, and a truly caring citizen of our community.

We look forward to having him as our chief garden tender—welcome, Louis!



## From the Garden of the Little Log Church and Museum

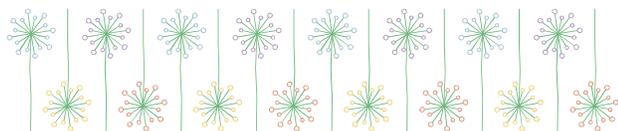
By Louis Mensing, LLCM Gardener

I wish to thank those who supported me and asked me to care for the garden at the Little Log Church and Museum. I will follow through where Mary Crook's article left off.

As a way of introduction I would like to share a little about myself. I grew up in a small community in southern Minnesota with an avid interest in plants and gardening as well as several musical instruments. I attended the University of Minnesota, where I cultivated interests in Botany, Zoology, Cultural Anthropology, and Sociology. While serving in the U.S. Army I attended the Naval School of Music in Washington, D.C. From there I was assigned to an Army band in Frankfurt, West Germany. Later I returned to college in Mankato, Minnesota and graduated with a degree in education and a minor in biology.

I found my first teaching job in the summer of 1964 at an elementary school in Eugene, OR. After 30 years of teaching I retired and went to work in a nursery, developed a huge perennial garden, worked as a propagator, and at times I sold plants. As if this wasn't enough to keep me busy I also volunteered teaching reading to illiterate children. After living such a full and varied life you're probably wondering how I ended up in Yachats—believe it or not I read the website and knew this was the place I wanted to live especially after reading the values of our village.

One of the first plans I'd like to carry out is to start preserving slips and repotting garden treasures in anticipation of our annual garden party in August. I would appreciate donations of empty gallon, half-gallon, or even 4-inch pots to help me along in my project. Empty pots may be left at the west side of the yard by the concrete slab. Thank you.



## Yachats Youth and Family Program

By Bee Bui, RecPLUS RecPLUS Team Leader and Cicely Bernard, Family Support Coordinator

Gnome Hunt at the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve

Savor festive refreshments while wandering the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve to search for garden gnomes that may be your ticket to prizes like a \$500 Travelocity gift certificate, a garden gnome, special potted plants, a Bed and Breakfast getaway and more! The event will take place Saturday, May 21st at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and include roundtrip transportation to the Yachats Commons, refreshments, a Gnome Passport book, and a chance to win a raffle prize. Proceeds will benefit the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP). Please R.S.V.P. at (541) 547-4599.

### Baby Sitters-Get the Edge on the Competition

Start your own summer business by becoming an American Red Cross certified babysitter. Participants will learn basic child care, safety issues, and more. The class will be held on May 16th from 9-6 p.m. in the basement of the Commons (YYFAP). Registration is \$40 per person. Attendees are required to pre-register by calling (541) 547-4599.

### YYFAP Family Night

YYFAP Family Night will be held on May 20th from 6-8 p.m. in the Yachats Commons multipurpose room. The evening will include fun activities, food, and a financial fitness introduction for families with Beth Larsen of Community Services Consortium of Lincoln County.

She will be sharing information about a free class she will be teaching called Money Matters. The classes will be held Tuesdays, June 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Oceanspray Family Center in Newport, OR.



## Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock, Coordinator

Our May luncheon will take place as usual on the last Thursday of the month—Thursday May 26, 2011. Anyone 55+ is welcome. Doors

open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon (suggested donation is \$4 per person).

This month's menu will be BBQ chicken, baked macaroni and cheese, green salad, rolls with butter, and assorted cookies. As always there will be live entertainment, fresh flowers, and table linens to make attendees feel welcome. Come and meet old friends and make new ones, and enjoy a meal prepared by the catering students from Angell Job Corps her in Yachats. They have been serving this community for almost ten years. Look forward to seeing you there!



### Tell Me a Story

By Andrea Scharf, GoYachats  
Marketing Director

In April, I attended the 2011 Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism in Eugene. The theme of the conference was "Tell Me a Story," which coincides nicely with the upcoming launch of the Yachats Beach Blog. Everyone who lives or visits our little village has a story to tell. Stories are what make a vacation memorable; stories are what make our village so appealing.

Stories were the way native people kept their history alive—and still do. Stories fill books about pioneer life, and connect current residents with the past. Stories are about why people choose to move to this little town between the mountains and the ocean. For some, it was the sight of a rainbow arching over the ocean. Someone else might have inherited a little beach cabin which whispered of retirement possibilities. Another couple came to town, couldn't find a motel room, and bought a house instead.

Everyone brings a story and everyone loves a story. Become a fan of GoYachats on Facebook and look for announcements about the Yachats Beach Blog. (And tell your friends!)



### Cape Perpetua Seeks Volunteers

By Lori Robertson,  
Director

Do you enjoy talking with visitors and love to learn new things? If so consider volunteering at Cape Perpetua Scenic Area.

The Cape Perpetua Scenic Area is a fabulous natural attraction. We are located just 3 miles south of Yachats and consider ourselves part of the Yachats community. This U.S. Forest Service site is known for hiking trails, the incredible view from the top of Cape Perpetua, old-growth Sitka Spruce forests, tide pools, mushrooming and ever-popular whale watching.

In the summer the main visitor center and the Devil's Churn information booth are hopping with 300 to 700 tourists per day (of course things slow down in the off-season). Current volunteer positions available include: Visitor Center and information booth greeters; and "rovers" who hike the trails and interact with visitors or others who prefer to get down and dirty maintaining the trail.

We are looking for volunteers to help regularly once or more a week, however we also use people who can fill in on occasion. Training will begin in early June so now is a great time to join us. While I supervise, it is truly the volunteers that keep the "doors open"—I'd be lost without them. For more information about our volunteer opportunities, please call me at (541) 547-3289.



### Town Tidbits

\*As a safety precaution, USPS Postmaster Penny Cooley has been parking in front of the post office.

\*Local non-profit South Lincoln Resources (SLR) runs a program under the SLR umbrella that provides emergency voucher assistance to those needing temporary, limited assistance with groceries, meals, prescriptions, gasoline, transportation, rent, utilities. The program is administered by pastors from churches in Yachats and Waldport. For assistance or to make a tax deductible donation contact SLR at (541) 563-2388.

\*One of Us Productions is holding auditions for Del Shores' *Daddy's Dyin': Who's got the Will*, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Yachats Commons in Room 3. For information call (541) 547-4350.



*Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>*