



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

JANUARY 2010

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for City minutes and codes, receive/pay your bill, schedule/view Commons events, and more!

Quote of the Month

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.

–Albert Einstein



Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

My first year as Mayor has come to an end. It has been a bit of a wild ride. I knew I didn't really know what I was getting into, but I didn't know how much I didn't know. Now I know...at least some of it. There may still be some things I don't know, but I don't know for sure.

Seriously, it has been interesting and productive. The Council and I worked through a Vision Statement attempting to capture a picture of the future we desire for our town. Although you may not know it, you played a role in developing that statement. We drew on many resources that reflect what the folks in Yachats treasure, want to protect, encourage, or avoid. This vision led to the defining of long term goals.

We've been working on the economic vitality of our town through this difficult financial downturn. We've hired a Marketing Director to attempt to capture new tourism. We've started the *GoYachats* website to make our town more visible and attractive to the internet-savvy traveler and introduce customers to our businesses. We're working on what real estate agents commonly refer to as "curb appeal" by considering opportunities to improve appearances.

Maintaining and improving the City's infrastructure has led us into a number of projects. The new wastewater treatment plant was completed and opened early this year. It subsequently won recognition as the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year from the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association. Likewise, Dave Buckwald, the City's

primary plant operator, won honors as the Wastewater Operator of the Year. We began efforts to both improve the energy efficiency of the Commons and its appearance by residing and insulating the building. Simultaneously I applied for a grant from Federal stimulus funds in the energy efficiency field to fund the rest of the project. That grant has been approved. What we've done so far will serve as a match for the grant that will allow us to finish the work. The result will be savings on heating bills and leaving a smaller carbon footprint.

We got another grant and completed the Amanda's Trail extension providing pedestrian access all the way to Cape Perpetua. We helped fund the public trail through the Gerdemann Botanical Garden. We've begun a process to address invasive exotic plants without the use of toxic chemicals. We've organized volunteer efforts on a number of fronts including trail maintenance and sprucing up the Commons grounds.

Between us we've attended numerous meetings with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Mayor's conference, League of Oregon Cities, Lincoln County Transit Advisory Council, Oregon Marine Reserves, Lincoln County Communications Agency, LOC Small Cities, County Business Database, Solid Waste Management, and more than a dozen City Council meetings.

We've developed policy directives that speed up decision making and apply consistent criteria. We've begun tackling the difficult job of resolving infrastructure deficiencies left behind by a failed development. We have begun a process of completing a County project to improve Ocean View Drive and the 804 Trail in that area with county funding. There's more, but I'm running out of room. I don't have room in this newsletter to let you know all the things we've done.

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I usually take a different approach to these articles. I find a listing of details a bit boring, but the end of a year is a good time to stop and take a look at what's been done. When you consider that a huge amount of the items on this list, and more, have been accomplished by the volunteers that serve you on the City Council and by other dedicated volunteer contributors and your small City staff it, it is really a quite impressive list.

Like I said, it's been a wild ride...but I like where it's going. While there have been bumps in the road, and there will likely be more, I am very optimistic about what lies ahead.



2010 New Year's Resolutions You Can Keep

Resolve to be Ready

1. Lose Weight
2. **Get a Kit**
3. **Make a Plan**
4. **Be Informed**
5. Remember Birthdays
6. Earlier to Bed

Spaces are still available for the **free** CERT class "Disaster Preparedness and Coastal Hazards" on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Yachats Commons. Call Betty Johnston at (541) 547-4934 to register as space is limited.

Can't attend this class? Get life-saving information by logging on to <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>



City Council Chambers **By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

At the December 10, 2009 meeting, City Council adopted the Storm Water System Development Charges as recommended by the consultant hired earlier this year. FCS Group of Redmond, Washington presented their recommendations to the Council at a public hearing

in August 2009. The Council continued the discussion at their work session in September and again in December as they considered testimony received at the public hearing. The Council voted unanimously to adopt all the recommendations made by FCS. Effective January 14, 2010 all new developments and redevelopments will be charged \$1,151 per Equivalent Service Unit (ESU) before a building permit will be issued. An ESU equals 2,500 square feet of impervious surface and is for one single family dwelling. Multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings will pay multiples of the ESU based on the total amount of surface.

Council voted to authorize Mayor Brean to write a letter of support for the View the Future grant application to replace the old bridge on Amanda's Trail. The declaration of support will also designate the Yachats Trails Crew as the official maintenance crew for the trail system and authorize the Trails Crew to assist with dismantling the old bridge. The City will also contribute \$5,000 as part of the matching money that will come out of the Visitor Amenities Funds.

The City Council hired Don Niskanen as the City's Code Enforcement Officer. He will start this month after his contract is drafted and signed. Niskanen will be in charge of the Code Compliance Program as an independent contractor working approximately eight hours a week.

Council adopted the Yachats Addendum to the Lincoln County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Yachats Emergency Planning Committee worked with Lincoln County to identify natural hazards and things that can be done (or are being done) to mitigate loss in the event of those hazards. This plan was funded by grant money the County received from FEMA. Completion of the plan makes Yachats eligible for further FEMA money.

Gretchen Armstrong was appointed by the Council as commissioner for the Parks and Commons Commission. Armstrong has worked as a volunteer at the Library and participates in many other community activities.

Lastly, the City Council approved a permanent easement for a driveway on King Street near Prospect; adopted their Goals and action items for 2009-2010; and confirmed February 17, 2010 as

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the next Joint City Council/County Commissioner Work Session.



City Required Licenses
By Nicole Clark, Administrative Specialist

Business Licenses

Yachats Municipal Code 4.04.020 defines a business as “any trade, occupation, calling, profession, pursuit or activity which is carried on for the purpose of profit.” This includes street vendors or anyone hired to do work in and around homes or businesses even if the physical site of their business is located outside the city limits.

Transient Rental Licenses

Yachats Municipal Code 4.08.020 defines a transient rental as “a single-family dwelling, duplex or triplex which is rented or available for rent for a period of less than thirty (30) days, such as by the day or week. The dwelling may consist of individual units or be in a contiguous form to be considered a transient rental dwelling, however, each individual unit is to be considered separately for licensing and regulation purposes. A home which is listed with an agent as a vacation rental, advertised, available by referral, word of mouth, commendation and reputation are some of, but not limited to, the ways of identifying a transient rental.

A Transient Rental License must be obtained prior to any rental of any rental property fitting the criteria. The Code further states “A contact person or agent within the local 547 or 563 calling area must be identified on the application and available by phone at all reasonable times (eight a.m. to eleven p.m.) and immediately respond if there is a problem during the dwelling's use as a transient rental. The name and phone number of the contact person shall be posted inconspicuously on the transient rental building, but where a neighbor can easily read it.”

Licensure may be confirmed by the City of Yachats during regular business hours Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

License applications can be obtained inside City Hall or at the City's website www.ci.yachats.or.us. There is a \$40 licensing fee per calendar year and

an additional \$25 application fee for businesses within the city limits (the application fee does not apply to Transient Rental Licenses). Questions regarding business licenses can be directed to (541) 547-3565 during regular business hours or e-mail us at cityhall@ci.yachats.or.us.



Public Works Department

By John McClintock, Director

During the recent cold-snap the Public Works department spent a lot of time turning off water service lines due to pipes freezing and breaking or thawing out and breaking. We would like to remind our customers that pipes, outside lines and faucets should be insulated. In addition, if residents are away for more than 3 consecutive days (regardless of the weather) we strongly urge that they shut their water off at the hand valve.

Now that the weather has warmed up we are back to flushing the water distribution system and cleaning out reservoirs. Any loss of pressure should only be minor, and if your water is discolored or cloudy let it run for several minutes and it should clear up.

For more information please call Public Works at (541) 547-3243 or City Hall at (541) 547-3565.



Knowing Where Your Hand Valve is Will Save You So Much

Yachats Municipal Code 8.04.140 requires that “All residential and commercial connections to the city's water system shall have a hand valve installed on the property owner's side of the meter. The valve must be installed inside the meter box or within twenty-four (24) inches of the meter to enable city staff to turn off the water without going on to the property...”

With winter upon us, it is not only essential to know where your hand valve is located, but if it is functioning, and if the meter box is free of dirt and debris. The City recommends that customers

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check their hand valves on their property twice a year, once in the spring and then again in the fall when the time changes. In addition, we recommend that customers turn their water off at their hand valves if their property will be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days. Turning a faucet on after the water has been shut off will allow any water remaining in the pipes to drain out and prevent freezing.

Should a customer request that Public Works turn off their water, the City charges the account holder \$20 for call outs from 8:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday, and \$40 after-hours or on holidays. Homeowners may also receive \$100 citation for having a non-functioning or inaccessible hand valve.



Gimme Five!

By Andrea Scharf, Marketing Director

As the GoYachats marketing director, I'm always looking for leads—people to contact who might be interested in bringing a conference, a board retreat, a workshop, a family reunion, or other event to Yachats. Personal connections—networking—make the best introductions.

If you know someone who is in a position to make decisions about this type of meeting, please let me know. You can send me an email (dreams@peak.org) or leave a note in my box at City Hall. The first 20 people to share network connections will receive a \$5 gift certificate good at any business listed on GoYachats. Just one name is fine—or you can “Gimme Five!” Please be sure to include your name and a mailing address so I can send you your gift certificate.

Don't forget to visit GoYachats.com to find out what's going on in town, where the sales are, and what our wonderful local businesses have to offer.



Yachats Public Library

By Marie Green, Commission Chair

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Several of our volunteers are focusing on rounding up overdue, missing or lost books and other library materials. We **promise** we won't yell at you if you bring in long overdue books, videos, DVDs, or CDs, not even if they are damaged.

The Spring Break Library Book Sale is coming up. Remember it whether you are looking to empty some shelves or to fill some up. Contributions of barely read books are welcome anytime and the library has an ongoing bookshelf of books for sale.

Looking for a read after hours? The library keeps a rotating rack of paperbacks at the Commons, right outside the Food Pantry. Take one, bring it back, or donate another.

Don't forget our WiFi Hotspots located inside the library, the parking lot in front, and the garden on the side of the library. Back in the quiet reference room is a table with plug-ins for laptops and up front are three public-use computers. In between are rows and rows of book shelves with books to check out for your reading pleasure on these dark winter nights. Winter library hours are:

Monday and Friday 12:00 p.m.-4 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

Our Little Log Church and Museum enjoyed a full and successful 2009. There were nearly 2300 visitors who signed in last year. In addition to a dozen or so weddings held at the church, we were host to several anniversary renewal ceremonies, as well as the ever-popular Valentine's Day group renewal event.

Other visitors included a group from the Peoples Church of Fresno, California and two Elderhostel groups with individuals from throughout the U.S.

A DVD of a museum “talk and tour” was made during our first Garden Party in September and is now available for viewing or purchase at the museum. The Garden Party proved to be so

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successful that we now have plans to make it an annual happening. Other annual events included the Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day and the Opening Ceremonies for the Yachats Winter Celebration. An ongoing event has been the Wednesday evening silent meditation group, which meets at 7:00 p.m. each week.

We have enjoyed being a beautiful part of Yachats, a place for quiet recollection and a maker of sweet memories. We look forward to more of the same in 2010, and we thank you for your continued support.



In the Garden
By Jodi Sones, Landscape
Coordinator

Happy New Year to everyone from the Little Log Church! Hope this year brings you health and happiness throughout the year.

As I write this, we are in the middle of a very cold arctic front that has covered all of the Pacific Northwest. I hope that it is gone and done by the time you are reading this. I moved from Reno, Nevada to this area about 15 years ago to get away from a lot of that cold stuff, and it feels like it has followed me here. I just hope the snow doesn't follow too.

I am afraid to rake any more pine needles from the grounds at the Little Log Church. Every time I've done that, we get a really big wind storm and the grounds are covered over again. I just can't win. At least we haven't lost any more of our Shore Pines only a few small branches here and there, nothing major. Everything else is in a holding pattern now, just waiting for spring.

I have just about finished modifying the two bird houses that were donated to the Little Log Church so that I can get in to clean them every year. I've also put sealer on the outside to help them last through our harsh weather. I will be putting them on the tall tree stump we left by our new bench come spring.

Energy Assistance Open House

Plan to come in to Room 8 of the Yachats Commons on Friday, January 8 between 10:00 a.m. and noon to find out what kind of help is available for those struggling with energy bills this season. Funds are available through the Community Services Consortium. A representative will be on hand to explain eligibility requirements and guide those interested through the process. Information will also be available about other emergency services, including rental subsidies, prescription drugs, and other utilities.

Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

On Monday, January 18, in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, the Helping Hands group of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program will be organizing a food drive to collect food for the food pantry in the Yachats Commons. There is a special need at this time, since supplies are limited after Christmas. The food drive will cover downtown Yachats from Ocean View Drive to King Street and from the river to Marine Drive. Anyone living in this area can leave food on their porch to be picked up in the late morning. For those not in the pick-up area, we welcome donations at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, to be held at the Commons later in the day. Community members of all ages are invited to a special evening of celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. The evening will be filled with food, fun, and remembrance. Please join us at 6:00 p.m. at the Yachats Commons for a potluck supper. Multi-cultural dishes and dress are encouraged. There will even be a costume prize! Everyone can look forward to information about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement, games, entertainment, a dream wall, drum circle, and more. Bring a rhythm instrument with you if you have one. There will also be an opportunity for three-minute readings or remembrances. For more information, call (541) 547-4599 or e-mail Helping Hands at yhh@yachatshelpinghands.org.



Yachats Youth and Family Program
By Bee Bui, RecPLUS Team
Leader

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Mark Your Calendars for Yachats Lunch Bunch
By Paul Niblock, Coordinator

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One of the best kept secrets hiding in plain view may be the Yachats Lunch Bunch. The luncheon is held at the Yachats Commons on the last Thursday of each month January through October with our Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 9th 2010 and is open to those 55 years+.

This month's luncheon will take place on Thursday, January 28th. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. There is a suggested donation of \$4. The menu for January will be a hearty meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green salad, rolls with butter, and banana cream pie. The menu, as usual, will be prepared and served by the culinary students from Angell Job Corps.

This is a great opportunity to get out of the house, meet friends and neighbors, enjoy a cup of coffee and a hot meal served on table linen, with fresh flowers, and entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there.



Holiday Food Basket Update

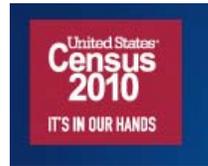
By Tonner Hayes, SRL President

South Lincoln Resources is pleased to report all applicants for Holiday Food Baskets have been served with thanks to our generous community. A record 276 baskets were distributed for Thanksgiving and served more than 725 people. This number includes 200 children and nearly 270 senior citizens. The numbers for Christmas were not ready for this newsletter but another record is expected. Over 300 applications were processed by two weeks before Christmas.

Funding for all the SLR programs comes solely from the South Lincoln County community. Tax deductible donations can be sent at anytime to South Lincoln Resources, P.O. Box 1638, Waldport, OR 97394. In addition we take your used-but-still-in-good-condition household furniture and appliances and distribute them to those in need.

For more information, visit www.southlincolnresources.org or call us at (541) 563-2388.

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The Census: A Snapshot

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. All U.S. residents must be counted—both citizens and non citizens. All residences will receive a questionnaire in March 2010 either by U.S. mail or hand delivery. Some people in remote areas will be counted in person.

The U.S. Constitution Title 13 Section 221 requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities and determines boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Contact the U.S. Census Bureau at (800) 923-8282 for further information or log on to their website at <http://www.census.gov>.

Town Tidbits



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The Lincoln Co. Children's Advocacy Center is holding its annual charity ball on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at the Best Western Agate Beach Hotel. Call (541) 574-0841 for more information.

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The City of Yachats is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.