



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

APRIL 2008

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for the City's meetings minutes, municipal codes and more!

Quote of the Month

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever does.

--Margaret Mead



Mayor's Message

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information from the City Recorder concerning elective positions in Yachats that will be on the November General Election ballot. As she states, there will be two City Councilors and a Mayor elected. Since two of the present Councilors and the Mayor will not be running again, this election will significantly change the Yachats City Council. This is a very good opportunity for citizens in Yachats to consider serving their community and to think about the kinds of leaders we would like to have.

Some time ago, I read a book written by Lee Iacocca called *Where Have All the Leaders Gone?*. In one section he discusses what he calls the NINE C's OF LEADERSHIP, which I share here for your consideration as you think about new leadership for Yachats:

- Curiosity- has to listen to people who are outside of his/her circle who hold a different view
- Creativity- be willing to try something different; to "think outside the box"
- Communication- telling the truth, even when it's painful
- Character- knowing the difference between right and wrong and having the guts to do the right thing

- Courage- commitment to negotiate; it's not about swagger and bravado
- Conviction- a passion
- Charisma- ability to inspire people's trust
- Competence- knowing what he/she's doing
- Common Sense- simply being in touch with reality

Iacocca further states (as we all know to be true) that "few leaders have all of them and different emphases are placed at different times."

Yachats is the best and deserves no less in its leadership.



City Council Business

By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

Sewer Risk Management Ordinance Adopted

Recently many cities have been experiencing an increase in insurance claims for sewer backups. In light of that, City County Insurance circulated information and some suggested risk management steps for cities to consider. City staff has reviewed the current Code and drafted an ordinance to incorporate some of the most useful suggestions. The Public Works & Streets Commission looked at the ordinance during their March 4, 2008 meeting and voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council adopt the code amendments.

Public Works Director John McClintock explained that the changes will clarify that property owners are responsible for maintenance of the sewer laterals from the City's main line to their home. Adding tracing wire to all new installations will make "locates" easier and cost effective.

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The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 278 - *An Ordinance Amending the Yachats Municipal Code, Specifically Sections 8.08.070 Building Sewers and Connections and Section 8.08.080 Construction Plans, Service Connections and Standards for Sanitary Sewer and Building Sewer Construction*, at their March meeting. The ordinance will take effect on April 12, 2008.

City Council Continues Discussion on Comprehensive Land Use Plan

At a special work session on March 17, 2008 the City Council reviewed the proposed Land Use Plan and Inventory forwarded to them from the Planning Commission. During their review the Council identified some items they would like clarified, modified, or defined. The Planning Commission will address those issues at their monthly meeting scheduled for April 15, 2008. Once changes are completed by the Planning Commission, the City Council will review the proposal again, possibly as soon as their May 8, 2008 meeting.

Budget Committee Member Appointed

Tom Lauritzen was recently appointed to serve on the Budget Committee. He has been a corporate accountant and a public accountant for many years. While Lauritzen has been "trying" to retire, he still wants to keep his accounting skills sharp.

The Budget Committee still has one more vacancy and there is still time to apply before the meetings in May. Applications are available at City Hall which is open Monday- Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or on our website at www.ci.yachats.or.us.



The Councilor's Corner By Larry Nixon, City Council

Ahoy Yachats! Let's think about one of our most cherished open spaces—the Pacific Ocean. From the low tide mark 3 miles out is Oregon's Territorial Sea. How far is 3 miles? If you are standing at sea level, the horizon is 7 miles away (due to the curvature of the earth). Thusly if you are standing on top of the coastal headlands, 3 miles is very clear from shore.

The fishing community has used our open space for years. But now wave energy wants the opportunity to tap the ocean's waves within this 3 mile zone. This would be in the form of a wave energy park that could include hundreds of floating devices. Fifty years is seen as the useful lifetime of such devices and its anchors.

Another proposed use of our open space, would be a marine reserve. Our rocky intertidal area lends itself well for habitat buffer and refuge for the fish and wildlife therein. A marine reserve would provide an educational and ecotourism opportunity for our community and its visitors. In fact, the coastline from the State Park's viewing platform north has already been designated the Yachats Marine Gardens.

The creation of marine reserves is a complex issue. The creation of a wave energy park is a complex issue. As users and enjoyers of our open space—what do you want?



What Does a City Councilor Do?

By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

During this November's election in Yachats, two City Council positions as well as Mayor will be decided. Per the City's Municipal Code, potential candidates must be registered voters at the time of the election and must have lived within the city limits during the 12 months immediately preceding the election. An elector wishing to become a candidate must file a nomination petition that has no fewer than 20 valid signatures. Dates to file with the City Recorder begin April 28, 2008 and end August 26, 2008.

What is expected of candidates if they are successfully elected? What powers do they have? What job duties will they have?

City councilors set policy, make decisions about how public funds are spent, adopt ordinances and comprehensive land use plans, have oversight of the administration of the city, oversee projects, make appointments, negotiate contracts, hire employees and consultants, attend meetings, and deal with a myriad of issues presented by citizens.

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But they do all of these things collectively—as a *group*. The mayor and council members only have authority when acting as a group in a meeting. The mayor can sign ordinances, resolutions, loans, grant applications, contracts, and other legal documents on behalf of the city but only as authorized by the collective council.

In a small town like Yachats citizens have easy access to their elected officials—at the store or the post office. And sometimes citizens think that is the perfect opportunity to ask the councilor to help them fix a problem or take some other action. But, councilors have authority in administrative matters only to the extent delegated by the council as a whole. Furthermore, city employees are responsible to their immediate supervisors and cannot "take orders" from a councilor.

The League of Oregon Cities has published a manual that contains a variety of important topics and provides an orientation to city governments for new and veteran councilors. Anyone interested in serving as a city councilor or as mayor can get a copy of this manual from City Hall.



Building Permit Applications By Larry Lewis, City Planner

This is the first of seven descriptions of different types of land use and building permit applications that the City processes.

A building permit is generally required for new buildings or any building additions or remodels that involve structural work. Lincoln County is the City's building official. Lincoln County issues the building permits and reviews structural, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical plans.

The City reviews building permit applications for all planning related issues, i.e., proposed land use, flood zone, natural hazard areas, geologic hazards, parking, lot coverage, building setbacks, building height, and clear vision areas. Additionally, the City reviews building permit applications for public works related issues such as water, sewer, storm drainage, and streets.

The City has processed about 40 building permits per year for the past three years.

Building permit application packets can be picked up at City Hall Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. except holidays.



Public Works Update By John McClintock, Public Works Director

The Yachats Public Works staff remains very busy. The wastewater project is nearing 50% completion. Pump station vaults are being set and Wildish Construction anticipates starting the Public Works storage building within the next few weeks.

Public Works employee, Rick McClung, just became recertified through the State of Oregon in backflow inspection. All property owners with an on-site backflow device are required by both state law and city code to have it checked annually, and repaired if necessary. Both commercial and residential owners will be notified in regard to backflow requirements in the next few months.

If you have any public works-related questions or concerns, please call us at (541) 547-3565 or (541) 547-3243. In addition, everyone is also welcome to stop by the wastewater treatment plant construction site and see the work in progress.



Personal Emergency Preparedness By Nancy Batchelder, Emergency Planning Coordinator

The water line break that occurred south of the Yachats Bridge in February was yet another reminder that everyone should be prepared for all emergencies—large and small. Emergency preparedness is not just about tsunamis, earthquakes or floods. Here are a few easy tips to start with:

- A break in the water line can occur at any time; keep a few gallons of water per person on hand.
- Power outages happen even in the middle of a summer day; keep a hard-wired phone on hand because cordless phones do not

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work without electricity, a flashlight, and candles in an easily accessible place.

- Cars could break down or go off the road at anytime; keep a backpack filled with nonperishable food, a small first aid kit, and a 3-day supply of any prescription medications you take on a regular basis, a gallon of drinking water, a blanket, and some tools.
- In the event of waking up with the flu you may be too ill to drive to the store; keep some easy to prepare foods on hand (such as canned soup), pain reliever, and cold/flu medication to ease your symptoms.

Additional emergency preparedness information can be accessed at www.redcross.org or by calling the Newport chapter of the American Red Cross at (541) 265-7182.

Being prepared will not “invite” disaster, but will prevent unnecessary stress for yourself and others.



Yachats Commons Events By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator

The month of April will be another busy one here at the Commons. We have many interesting events in store that you will want to attend.

As usual, our very own Yachats Big Band will be playing on Thursday, April 3, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It's a great way to have fun dancing and spend a nice evening with friends and neighbors.

The Waldport Boosters will be having their annual dinner and auction will be here on the 5th of April, 2008 starting at 5:30 p.m.

A fundraiser for the Banjika School in Tanzania will be held on April 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. There will be slides, displays, and games highlighting Africa. Bring some finger food and have some fun.

View the Future is hosting a community celebration of the Gerdemann Garden at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2008. For more information, call Andrea Scharf at (541) 547-3092.

Free Movie Night will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2008. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the movie begins at 6:30 p.m. To get the e-mail list for advanced notice of which movie will be shown e-mail a request to movies@yachats.info.

The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) is sponsoring Open Mic Night on the 24th of April 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

The Yachats Lunch Bunch will serve their monthly luncheon featuring a “March Madness” theme. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.

At 7:00 p.m. on the 25th of April, an astronomer will be presenting slides from the Hubble Space Telescope for all to see.

Our ongoing events include: exercise class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; Tai Chi on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.; and regular yoga classes are taught Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

As always, I am looking for people who want to put on activities or events here at the Commons. If you want to organize an afternoon of board games for instance, or you want to teach a particular class or hold a discussion group, please contact me at (541) 547-4734. Spring is here and it would be wonderful to bring some fresh activities to our community center!



Late Mayor **Commemorated at Library** By Annette Howarth, Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Yachats Library has established the “Nancy Reynolds Best Seller Shelf” where patrons will find the latest best-selling books, both fiction and non-fiction.

The late Nancy Reynolds, former Yachats mayor and longtime library volunteer, loved to order popular books preferred by so many readers. In that tradition, the library will continue to purchase best sellers as they become available.

Look for the books on the top shelf (the silver starred volumes) above the new Mystery shelf.

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