



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHTS

AUGUST 2008

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for meeting agendas & minutes, municipal codes, applications and more!

Quotes of the Month

A house may draw visitors, but it is the possessor alone that can detain them. -Charles Caleb Colton

We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love...and then we return home. -Australian Aboriginal Proverb



Mayor's Message By Susanne Smith, Mayor

A *tourist* is defined by Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary as "one who makes a visit for pleasure or culture." *Tourism* is the practice of traveling for recreation. To *visit* is to "journey to and stay or short sojourn at a place." August is one of the busiest months of the year as people from all over the country, and even the world, discover and visit our slice of Paradise. While we locals may "grouse" a bit about the fact that it takes us longer to get out on to the highway or that we have to add an extra fifteen minutes to our trips to Newport or Florence, would any of us really want to live anywhere that folks didn't want to visit?!

In February's Mayor's Message, I included a letter from a visitor from England that offered his perspective on what we have been calling "Yachats Essence." That discussion continues as we hear from other visitors (from France) who experienced: an "ample swell that seems to come from the other end of the world" as they watched the ocean from their hosts' home; "from their armchairs the gracious ballet of the sea lions larking about in the waves"; or "the whiff of a good deal of rotten fish"; or "...delicate food, good Oregon wines, that may rival any reasonably good European brand, elegant décor; and a charming reception by a sympathetic

waitress who acted as a butler." The article

continued with "...we were not long to notice that Yachats people were genuinely friendly to strangers." "Keep on investing in smiling" was their advice to Oregon officials.

Why do people like to visit Yachats? Is it because of all the qualities mentioned above? It probably is, and more. Most of us first came here as visitors and decided, for whatever the reasons, that we would make this magical place **home**. I have often said that the very things that charmed and delighted me as visitor (primarily the pace) can tend to irritate me as a local.

Our visitors can teach us lessons. They can remind us of why we are here and what we love about this place. For each of us it is something different, but for many of us it is essentially the same.

Welcome Visitors, to our slice of Paradise. May you love it and find its "essence" as we residents have.

ABJECT APOLOGY

I owe a **huge** apology to our faithful utility bill stuffers! When I wrote my Mayor's Message last month about volunteers, I neglected to mention them. It was purely a careless oversight on my part and for that I am very sorry. I do appreciate their dedication in helping out on a monthly basis and even when extra hands are needed for other mailings. Thank you very much:

Dana Copeland
Mary Crook
Lynn Dimmick
Dan Dolan
Susan Heacock
Nancy Hull
Doris Gardenhire

Robin Link
Lala MacKenzie
Keith & Kathy Perkins
Oz Rothermich
Carolyn Schneider
Mike Smith
Leon Sterner

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Thank You



The Councilor's Corner **By Greg Scott, City Councilor**

Last month Councilor Wulff wrote that Yachats “depend(s) on volunteer members to do the research and thinking that leads to community improvement and to future health.”

When most of us think about volunteers contributing to Yachats, it is natural to think in terms of individuals who contribute their time in support of the library, the parks, the Little Log Church & Museum, YYFAP, Yachats Rural Fire Protection District, the Ladies Club, the utility bill stuffers, commissions and committees, events at the commons, and emergency preparedness.

But there are another group of volunteers equally committed to serving Yachats. They are the individuals elected to serve on the city council and as the mayor. Most of us don't realize the current mayor averages 15-20 hours of volunteer time per week in that capacity. Under the Yachats Charter, the mayor functions as the chief operating officer and supervisor for all department heads.

A deeper understanding of Mayor Smith's work for Yachats is provided by those that work closest to her. Councilor Wulff said that “After watching her work for several years, I think the qualities of listening to and respecting others characterize all of her public actions and serve as a model for the rest of us. None of us ever loses our cool because she doesn't lose hers.”

Councilor Nixon was more specific when he said, “As a long-term City Councilor I have never seen a mayor whose skill and ability in involving volunteers into city services more impressive than Sue Smith's. Sue is more connected to this community than anyone ever before and has led the City by her reasoning and leadership skills.”

To me, Mayor Smith's leadership has been instrumental in the design, financing and construction of Yachats largest public works project. Her willingness to consider all ideas and options for financing this project resulted in a substantial reduction in the cost to residents and property owners. What I appreciate most about

Mayor Smith is the fact that she is always available when someone wants to talk.

It also has been my pleasure to watch Sue tossing out beads during the *la de da* parade. Her smile and wave to people along the route made me know she was glad to see them in Yachats. I wish to say ‘Thank You Sue’ for a job well done.

We all owe Susanne Smith a word of thanks for her twelve years of commendable public service. On August 17th at 2:30 p.m. we will be celebrating Susanne Smith's 12 years of leadership. Join us for at the Commons for a community potluck.



City Council Seeks Your Help

By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

The City Council is looking for a volunteer to serve as the City's Designated Alternate Representative on the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA). The OCZMA bylaws require that the City's primary representative be an elected official. However OCZMA normally meets at the same time as the Yachats City Council does and that has limited the Council's ability to participate.

Meetings are held at various locations along the coast and reasonable travel expenses could be covered by the City.

OCZMA Mission Statement

OCZMA serves local elected officials on the Oregon Coast. OCZMA is a clearinghouse of objective information on issues relating to the Oregon Coast—this information is then shared with the state and federal government. OCZMA conducts studies on the Oregon Coast's economy and carries out applied research to improve the standard of living in the region. Through our extensive network of local government officials and many other partners, OCZMA gives voice to the concerns and needs of coastal residents.

More information about OCZMA can be found on their website at <http://www.oczma.org> .

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If you are interested in serving, please complete a Volunteer Service Application available at City Hall.



Are You Fire Safe?

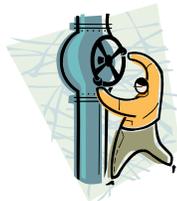
By Frankie Petrick, YRFPD Fire Chief

I wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate what City Recorder Nancy Batchelder talked in last month's newsletter regarding fire danger in our fair city. The Yachats Volunteer Fire Department has already responded to three fairly large brush/beach fires due to the dry conditions. The chance of more fires occurring is greatly increased as the forecast will be calling for even more severe drying.

While small camp fires are still allowed on public beaches, open burning is closed for the season unless a special permit is obtained from us.

During burn season anyone wishing to openly burn must obtain a permit from us by coming down to the station on West 2nd Street. There is no charge for a permit, but a pit or screened appliance must be used to contain the fire. Example photos are available at the station.

Thanks for your efforts to keep our homes and property "fire safe." Please do not hesitate to call us at (541) 547-3266 if you have questions about how to improve the "safety zone" around your property. Have a great summer!



Public Works Department

By John McClintock, Public Works Director

The impact of tourism on Yachats affects all facets of Public Works.

An excellent example of this occurred during the three day 4th of July weekend. With all the visitors in town, the additional demands on our water and wastewater systems were significant.

The Public Works Department began preparing for the summer season and busy holidays like Independence Day well in advance to be able to

handle the increased burden on the City's water and sewer systems.

These preparations included adjustments at the wastewater treatment facility for the increase in organic loading that result from busy restaurants, motels, and vacation rentals. In addition, water reservoirs are kept full and the water treatment plant is at optimum treatment level to keep up with demand and ensure adequate supply for emergencies.

In addition to the regularly scheduled "on call" worker available 24/7, we try to issue an additional back-up person for any "other than normal" after hours call outs.

Of course we take advantage of the dry weather months to complete our outdoor projects, but it can be a challenge to accomplish those projects and try to have as minimal of an impact on the tourists as well as the residents of Yachats. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding during this busy time of the year.



Yachats Commons

Events

By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator

I was in the Midwest recently and visited several community centers. I was impressed with what these small communities had to offer but was struck once again by the amazing wealth we have here in our Commons. The events that are put on here for our education and enjoyment are incredible and the volunteers who do all this must be thanked over and over again.

At this time of year, many tourists and visitors wander into the building and come to my office to find out what's going on while they are staying here. It is very gratifying to give them the long list of activities available to them. By having this community center open to all, with many events going on, people become familiar with our town and want to return. Many wedding receptions and family reunions have been booked here because people have attended activities here while vacationing.

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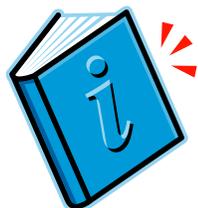
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In the spirit of great things going on, these activities are scheduled for August:

August 2/3	Pathways to Transformation Fair
August 7	Yachats Big Band Dance
August 16	Waldport High School Reunion
August 17	Celebration to Honor Mayor Smith
August 21	Free Movie Night
August 28	Yachats Lunch Bunch
August 29	Piano & strings recital

In addition to these special events, we have ongoing tai chi, yoga classes, exercise class, Spanish class and various youth and family programs

For further information please call me at (541) 547-4734. The Commons calendar can be viewed at www.yachatscommons.org.



Yachats Public Library
By Marie Green, Library Commissioner

Do you ever drive by the Yachats Library on 7th Street and notice that all of the parking places are full? Chances are at least half are out-of-town cars.

We volunteers at the library pride ourselves on being of service to tourists and our Yachats part-timers. We have three public computers available as well as free Wi-Fi. The Wall Street Journal and Christian Monitor are available in addition to local newspapers and soon to be added will be Monday-Saturday editions of the Oregonian. Popular with tourists, just inside the front door, is a whole section of nearly new inexpensive sale books in both hardcover and paperback editions.

What does the library get out of this? We get to meet people from all over the world who appreciate our "Gem." The Visitor Amenities Fund underwrites part of our annual budget. And visitors donate a lot of books for the annual book sale. Oh yes, we enjoy sharing our world with our tourists.



Little Log Church & Museum

Volunteers Honored
By Mary Crook, Coordinator

The Little Log Church & Museum has about 2,000 visitors per year and most are from out of town. Many are from other countries. It's often stated that the church is one reason they wanted to visit Yachats. We welcome the tourists and are proud to provide a wonderful venue for them.

The volunteers of the Little Log Church were honored on this past Sunday, July 20 with a festive church garden party. Tea sandwiches, various savories, and desserts were prepared and beautifully presented by Robbie Schoonover, Julie Dutcher, and Jodi Sones. Those in attendance were Karl Christianson, Mary Crook, Dan Dolan, Julie Dutcher, Karl Evans, Jack Ewan, Chad & Robin Link, Matt Olsen, Robbie Schoonover, Jodi Sones, and John Thornton. Those also in attendance were Estle Cook, Ellie Ewan, Doug & Joan Johnson, Dean Richmond, and Bonnie Thornton. Dedicatory plaques were presented to Ellie Ewan, Thelma and Leigh Green, and Isabel Prescott for their many untiring years of commitment to the Little Log Church and Museum.

In the Garden
By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator

It seems everyone loves The Little Log Church and Museum. The Seal Rock Garden Club donated almost \$50.00 worth of plants to us, many of them native. I have put them in and have added a very special plant to the gardens as well the one they sold to me at a bargain price. It is called a Gunnera. It is like a rhubarb plant on "mega steroids." The leaves can get to be 6 feet across! It needs water every day, so I have planted it in the bog area of the gardens. I planted it close enough that everyone can get a real close-up and personal look at this amazing plant.

By the time you read this article, our wonderful Gallica *Tuscany Superb* should be in bloom. That's the heirloom rose located to the left of the walk going to the museum door. I hope you take time to smell those beauties. There isn't anything like the fragrance of an antique rose.

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Some time back a beautiful bird bath was donated to the Little Log Church & Museum. I have now installed it on top of the stump from the large shore pine we lost in a bad wind storm the year before last. This bird bath was hand made and is one-of-a-kind. Please take time to take a peek at it. You will find it right in the middle of our fern garden.

Next month I hope to tell you about some more new additions to your Little Log Church gardens.



Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program

By Debbie Jackson, Director

Scientists Study Rubber Duck Migratory Habits

Ever looking to be the first to uncover rare facts, scientists scour the globe for subjects. After observing a great many rubber ducks (*quackus latexus*) in the Yachats River estuary on the 4th of July in both 2006 and 2007, a team of Yachats scientists decided to investigate. A lengthy search of science periodicals for other studies on the species yielded little of substance. Grants were obtained, a junket conceived, and many meals were charged to expense accounts—but was it ever worth it! Data was gathered in copious quantities, many theories were conceived and rejected, and scientists confidently predicted a reoccurrence of the phenomenon on this year's 4th of July.

Ornithologists crowded the beach in anticipation of this unique phenomenon. An unscrupulous local nonprofit announced plans to sell tickets ahead of time. A record 1130 tickets were sold to locals and tourists alike, raising over \$3800 to benefit the children, youth, and families served by the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program.

Many questions remain about the behavior the ducks observed on their visits to Yachats. Scientists are expected to continue this investigation next year on the 4th of July.

Free Assistance for Potential Home-Buyers

The Yachats Affordable and Workforce Housing Committee will be hosting a Home-Buyer Assistance Workshop on Wednesday, August 20 at the Commons in Room 3. All interested people

with low to moderate incomes are urged to come learn about funds that are available to buy or fix-up their own homes.

Presented by Karen Ramsden of the Regional Housing Center, the sessions will provide information about home-buyer assistance programs. There are a surprising number of

financial assistance options available, many of them for first time buyers. These options include grants, loans, and matching funds. Money is also available to weatherize a renter's home, rehabilitate a home, and/or add features to help the disabled.

To ensure that everyone who wants this information can attend, there will be three identical 2-hour sessions held at 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. For more information, call Gerald Stanley at 547-4509 or Debbie Jackson at 547-4599.



Yachats Commons Park Wetland Update

**By Betty Bahn, Dylan
McDowell, and David
Schlesinger**

The Yachats Commons Park Wetland is now in its second growing season since being restored in September 2006. Here are some notable developments:

- Wildlife sightings have included Mallards, Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, a Green Heron, a Lesser Scaup, a Northern Shoveler, and a pair of Red-necked Phalaropes. These birds did not frequent the area prior to restoration. They've been attracted by the opportunity to hunt and forage in the water and among the stands of new wetland vegetation.
- Judging from the noise, populations of Red-legged Frogs and Pacific Chorus Frogs have increased dramatically. During May and early June, their loud croaking could easily be heard as far away as King Street and Radar Road.
- Water-plantain (*Alisma*), Common Cattail (*Typha*), and Daggerleaf Rush (*Juncus ensifolius*) are spreading rapidly. Pondweed (*Potamogeton*), Watersmartweed (*Polygonum*), Water-parsley (*Oenanthe*), Horsetail (*Equisetum*), Arrowhead (*Sagittaria*), Water-

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starwort (*Callitriche*), and Soft Rush (*Juncus effuses*) are spreading more slowly, but still doing well. Burreed (*Sparganium*), Softstem Bulrush (*Scirpus lacustris*), and Small-fruited Bulrush (*Scirpus microarpus*) have recently become established, having arrived at the wetland on their own.

- Water levels in the ponds this summer are similar to summer 2007 levels. The southern pond dried up in late June. The main central pond is holding plenty of water, and there is still

a noticeable inflow at the spruce deck and outflow under the boardwalk. There is still some water in the small northern pond, but it will likely dry up next month.

- Wetland restoration has not increased the mosquito population. We are unaware of any complaints about mosquito bites in the Yachats Commons Park and no mosquito larvae have been observed in the ponds.
- The wetland was a Garden Tour destination this year. Also, during the 2007/2008 school year, students from Crestview Heights School in Waldport were given tours of the wetland on several occasions.
- Throughout the year, littering continues to be the main problem in and around the wetlands. There is a frequent need to remove the usual flotsam such as cans/bottles, cigarette butts, and food wrappers, as well as some less common items (clothing, plywood, and a bicycle in the water).
- The main central pond appears to be evolving toward a bioswale. We expect that floating and emergent wetland plants will eventually spread across the surface of the pond so that there will be little open water visible during growing season. In this respect, the central pond may come to resemble an Everglades-style "river of grass."

For a fee of \$75 (regardless of age), U.S. Passports can be renewed by **mail** or **online** at www.travel.state.gov (Form DS-82) if the following criteria are met:

- Passport is not more than 5 years past the expiration date
- Most recent passport is undamaged and available to submit
- The passport was issued after passport holder turned 16 years old
- The passport holder has the same name or can legally document their name change

If the passport holder cannot meet all of those criteria or their current their U.S. Passport has been lost or stolen then they must apply for a new passport.

Applying for a New Passport

- Download a Form DS-11 from www.travel.state.gov or pick one up at City Hall
- Carefully read and fill out the application
- Call City Hall at (541) 547-3565 M-F 8:30a-4:30p (except holidays) to make an appointment with the Passport Acceptance Agent
- Bring in completed DS-11 form, 2 identical passport photos taken within the last 6 months, proof of U.S. citizenship, valid photo ID, and two checks or money orders—one made out to the City of Yachats for \$25 (execution fee) and one made out to the U.S. State Department for \$75 (for those 16+ yrs old) or \$60 (for those under 16 yrs old) for the application fee

Additional information can be obtained at the National Passport Information Center by calling (877) 487-2778 or TDD: (888) 874-7793 Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Eastern Time or by logging on to www.travel.state.gov.



Need a Passport?

By Debrah Edwards, Administrative Specialist

Passport Renewal

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Town Tidbits

The Yachats Precision Umbrella Drill Team is now recruiting members. The tourists love us and we plan on marching in more parades including those next year in Newport, Florence and Eugene. It's a lot of fun and great exercise. We will be meeting once or

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twice a month during the off-season so we can be well prepared with many new maneuvers. Call Carl Miller at (541) 547-4350 or via e-mail mtnshores@hormail.com .

Yachats Community Garden: Let's make it happen! Contact Prue Zimmerman (541) 547-4624 or Marje Takei (541) 547-4624.

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Newsletter - Page 7

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