



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

FEBRUARY 2009

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

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.

~Charles Darwin



Mayor's Message By Ron Breaan, Mayor

UNIQUELY YACHATS

Many are calling the current era a period of change. For good or ill and regardless of philosophical or political bent, almost all of us would agree. Many things **are** changing. There is a new administration in Washington that has promised a different agenda and a different approach. Different stimuli seem to be driving the economy. A new focus is being placed on global interconnectedness and interaction. Talk of sustainable practices and doing "the right thing" for the planet seems to be reaching a level not seen since the late 1960's. In addition, there's a new City Council in Yachats.

What change will that new Council bring? Wouldn't we all like to know?! As a new mayor with one work session and one regular meeting under my belt, I'm hardly in a position to effectively predict. One of our early tasks is to establish our goals for the year. Before we can do that, however, it is important to understand what our goals will be developed to support. We need to understand a desired future condition to which we jointly aspire in order to know what to do to make that condition a reality.

While we carry on the routine business of Yachats we need to prepare for whatever future awaits us. The Council and I have agreed that we need to increase the number of work sessions in the early period of our service together in order to come to a mutual understanding of our city's vision, its

challenges, and its possibilities. From that understanding we will be able to develop meaningful goals. We've only been together as a functioning group twice so far, but I can tell you without fear of contradiction that this is a council that does not want goals for the sake of having them, but rather wants goals that are meaningful, useful, measurable, and responsive to the desires of those who elected us.

Change is inevitable and frequently good. But it is clear that the desire of the citizens of Yachats is to not let some things change at all while other things change around them. There is a sense of place here that we all cherish. There is a sense of community that rises from that sense of place. From community emerges a willingness to give back, to participate, to engage with our neighbors, to solve problems and defend values. And somewhere in these senses and within those values is a pure and simple vision for our village, that which we must not allow to change.

My first priority for this council is to get us all on the same visionary page. We know much "vision work" has been done in the creation of the Vision 2020 document and the Comprehensive Plan. We will be guided by those documents as we seek to articulate a vision that we can share as a working council. Once that is achieved we will be able to develop those meaningful goals we seek. Then I'll better be able to tell you what change to look for. There will be change, but I believe it will be change that protects the core values that makes this place what it is. Perhaps the title of our vision document should be "Uniquely Yachats."



Important Notice for All Commons Renters

Anyone who has a reservation at the Yachats Commons and has

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not confirmed it since August 2008 when City Hall took over management of the Commons, please log on to the City's website at www.ci.yachats.or.us and click on "Commons Calendar of Events" to confirm it is on the calendar.

If your reservation does not appear there please download and complete a "Commons Reservation Form" (also available on our website) and mail or fax it to us at (541) 547-3063. The Commons calendar is updated as new events are scheduled.



The Councilor's Corner

Annette Howarth, City Councilor

One of my personal goals has been to learn more about the City's budget process. We're beginning a new cycle soon—planning for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is slated to start in February. I will give our citizens a monthly update from the beginning process up to the public budget hearing.

Government budgets are complicated, but much of what is done is very much like planning for one's family. We have to estimate how much money is coming in and what our fixed expenses will be along with other adjustable expenses. The expense side of the budget contains some very "fixed" numbers. For instance, we know exactly how much money will be needed to repay the several bonds the city has issued for the new sewer construction. We also know how much will have to be put back into reserves (the savings that are earmarked for future capital expenses).

One of the most challenging parts of the budget process is estimating how much money will be coming in to the City. We receive funds from various taxes, fees, grants, and donations. If we underestimate our income, current expenses must be reduced. In looking at the projected 2009-2010 budget it is sensible to look at our current budget with the intent of reducing expenses wherever possible, without reducing necessary services.

Next month I will talk about how the City estimates future income. City Recorder Nancy Batchelder who has years of experience in this process will assist us in determining how we can come up with an educated prediction of future income. It is the first and most important part of our budget process.

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City Council Chambers

By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

Yachats to Sponsor Historical Marker

The City Council voted to sponsor a Historical Marker to be placed by the Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC).

"Traveling to experience other people's landscapes, history and way of life is an important, growing aspect of tourism," said TIC Executive Director Cheryl Grysbok. "The markers will help preserve an area's unique history and character and at the same time, help boost local economies," she said.

According to the TIC, the first markers will be dedicated in 2009 to coincide with Oregon's sesquicentennial and additional markers will be installed over the next few years. When complete, the series will provide an enduring tribute to the heritage of geographic regions throughout the state.

City Council asked the Parks and Commons Commission to recommend a site. When the Commission met on January 15, 2009 they recommended that the sign be placed in the Yachats State Park near the State Park signs on the southeast side of the pavement near the restrooms.

The sponsorship will be paid out of the Visitor Amenities Fund. The City has been assured that local input will be sought as to content.

Appointments Made

The City Council appointed John Bowie to fill a vacancy on the Public Works & Streets Commission with his term ending December 31, 2011.

When interviewed by City Council, Bowie said that he is interested in the wastewater treatment plant and system because it is similar to what he did as a processing plant engineering manager.

Bowie explained that his parents lived up the road a few miles and he started coming to visit them on vacation. Later he and his wife decided that this is

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where they wanted to live. Bowie said that he sees the streets and the storm water system as the two most pressing issues that the Commission faces in the near future.

Former City Councilor, Yvonne Wulff will join the Budget Committee while Keith Perkins was reappointed to another 3 year term. Budget Committee meetings normally take place in May.

Newly elected City Council President Larry Nixon was appointed to serve as the official City representative on the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA).

City Councilor David Rieseck was appointed to serve as the official city representative on the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation.

Councilor Annette Howarth agreed to be the City's representative to the Lincoln County Transit Advisory Board.

Trail Construction Standards Adopted

Mayor Brean said that the Trails Committee recognized that developers are interested in constructing trails within their developments and the Committee felt standards should be adopted. Brean said he used California Parks Department examples to draft the proposed standards that they recommended to the Parks and Commons Commission; which in turn, recommended to City Council. City Council approved the Trail Standards at the January meeting.

Virtual Yachats?

Councilor Greg Scott explained that he started thinking about something that could stimulate the local businesses in this economic downturn after the City Council received a report from the Finance Committee regarding the decline in the Transient Rental and Food and Beverage Tax revenue.

Scott explained that the Virtual Yachats Project could include three parts: citywide Wi-Fi; a community information/database; and a website to host the information.

There was consensus to authorize Councilors Scott and Rieseck to start the ground work by meeting with a local Internet provider to find out what the system

could look like, what the cost would be, and to speak with local businesses to find out what they need.

The first community meeting took place the following week and based on the input from that meeting changes in the original concept are being considered and additional ideas are being explored.

Look for updates and meeting dates as the project evolves.



Planning Department

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The economic downturn has put an end to the significant building activity and population increase that has occurred over the past few years. It will be a long time (if ever) before we experience that level of activity and growth again. According to the Portland State University Population Research Center, the population in Yachats increased from 620 in 2000 to 780 in 2008 (see data below). That's a 25.8% increase—a significant increase for a city of any size.

Year	Population
2000	620
2001	630
2002	670
2003	670
2004	710
2005	730
2006	745
2007	765
2008	780

The actual population may be somewhat lower than the official estimates. Researchers use building permit activity in determining the population projections. Yachats has a large number of second

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home and vacation residents. Therefore, we have a number of unoccupied homes that should not be reflected in the population estimates. The actual population will likely be more accurately determined when the 2010 U.S. Census is completed.

Nevertheless, we have experienced significant growth during the past few years. Population change is something we need to be aware of and continue to monitor because population increases impact the services the City provides and needs to plan for.



Public Works Department

**By John McClintock, Public
Works Director**

With the new wastewater treatment plant and wastewater pump station coming online we would like to remind businesses and residents of the impact that grease from prepared foods has on the wastewater system.

Restaurants and any businesses that serve prepared food are required by Yachats Municipal Code 8.08.040 Sections E and F to have and maintain a working grease trap. The grease trap is required to be cleaned and the grease properly disposed of. Public Works will be notifying businesses in the next few months concerning inspections of their on-site grease traps.

We ask that homeowners please discard grease in the trash and not down drains. City Hall and Public Works still have grease containers available free of charge. If you have any questions please call Public Works at (541) 547-3243.



Planning Commission

**By Katherine Guenther,
Commissioner**

The Planning Commission could use your help. Despite record-breaking attendance at many of our meetings in the last few years, we can't seem to generate any interest in the three vacancies we currently have. It occurred to me that some of the reluctance people

may have to serve stems from a common misconception about the role the commission plays.

Much of the high-visibility work of the Planning Commission involves ruling on new land use applications. During this process, we, with the help of the City Planner and staff, review incoming land use applications and determine whether the request is in compliance with the City's Municipal Code and Comprehensive Plan. This process is the one that often frustrates onlookers since we have no opportunity at this stage to revise the existing policies. Like it or not, we are bound by the current standards.

Over the past several years, the Commission has been working on a complete overhaul of the Yachats Comprehensive Plan. This document is less rigid than the Municipal Code and allows us some flexibility in describing our collective vision for the future of Yachats. After years of community forums, public hearings and lengthy work sessions, the revised Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City Council in June of 2008. Now the fun begins!

The task at hand for the Planning Commission is the systematic review and revision of some outdated and often poorly worded segments of the Municipal Code. If you felt strongly about the need to update the Comprehensive Plan, you should feel even more strongly about the importance of bringing our code into compliance with the new plan. This is our opportunity to revise existing policies and consider implementing new ones. This is the time to get involved.

If you have been a Yachats resident for at least six months and think you'd like to join us, please fill out a Community Service Application (available at City Hall or online at www.ci.yachats.or.us). There is no experience required, just a willingness to listen and learn. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be February 17th at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see a few of you there!



Lincom Reverse 9-1-1 System in Place

**By Debrah Edwards, Deputy
City Recorder**

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As of December 3, 2008 preliminary testing of the Lincoln County Communications Agency (Lincom) Reverse 9-1-1 was completed. Reverse 9-1-1 is an outbound mass calling system that allows its dispatch staff to send out time-sensitive pre-taped phone, text and paging messages to the public and emergency responders of Lincoln County via phone, cell, email, TTY/TDD or pager.

This system is designed to handle everything from mass natural or manmade disaster evacuations to a community service line capable of assisting with well checks on seniors and the disabled members by their loved ones.

During the January 8, 2009 City Council meeting Director of Lincom 9-1-1 Rick Glasgow addressed concerns that some expressed about the new system. Glasgow said that it is important that people know it takes a couple of seconds for the computer to recognize a voice on the line and start the message (so people should not assume it is a telemarketer or prank call and hang up). They are also working on getting the proper Caller ID information to display on the recipient's equipment. Currently the call registers as "unknown." When the Caller ID is fixed it will read "Emergency 911."

If anyone wishes to add their cell or IP-based phone number to receive community messages or wish to participate in our well check program log on to www.lincom911.org/index.html then click on the "Reverse 911 is Here" link. Please be sure to read the directions and disclaimer before submitting your data.

Lincom would like to hear the public's feedback about their Reverse 9-1-1. Please e-mail them at dfox@lincom911.org.



Understanding Your Bill—Late and Delinquent Policies
By Nicole Clark,
Administrative Specialist

It is important for all City of Yachats water/sewer customers to be aware of the policies regarding late and delinquent accounts. On the 1st of the month the City sends out new bills showing the previous month's usage and corresponding charges. Bills

are due in full no later than the 15th of the month and become late on the 16th.

Any unpaid balance as of the 16th of the month is assessed a late fee of 1.5%, which will appear on the following month's bill. If the account remains unpaid in full on the 1st of the following month, when the new billing cycle occurs, the account then becomes delinquent and the bill is marked past due as a first notice. A courtesy second notice (an orange door hanger) is placed at the property a week later and the account is charged a \$5 fee. After the first delinquent notice customers have 15 days to pay the entire account balance or service to the address will be discontinued and a \$20 shut-off fee is charged to the account. In addition to discontinuation of service, a lien will be placed on the property and the property owner will be assessed lien fees. In addition, the \$60 per month base rate will continue to be charged, and a 1.5% interest fee will accrue on the outstanding balance.

For a more in depth look at the City's policies, log on to our website at www.ci.yachats.or.us and click the "Municipal Code" or call us Monday-Friday 8:30a-4:30p at (541) 547-3565 or e-mail us at cityhall@ci.yachats.or.us anytime.



Yachats Public Library
By Marie Green, Library
Commission Chair

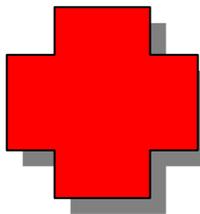
Each year for the past five or so years library readership has increased by about 10%. That's good news but it does keep us hopping to keep ahead of our most voracious readers. For our occasional or newer patrons, here are a few tips to find the latest acquisitions:

- A monthly list of new books, audio books, and new videos is kept on the right hand side of the counter.
- New arrivals, with a small yellow dot, are on the front shelves facing the door.
- On the top right shelves, marked with a star, are New York Times Best Sellers.
- Just below are new mysteries with blue dots. Next section to the left are new non-fiction books including many featuring the Oregon Coast.

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- Again to the left is new fiction, some by local authors.
- On the far left are large print books, each with a small black dot.
- On the east wall are videos and DVDs. We do not attempt to keep them in any particular order.
- Children's videos are in the back. Ask a librarian if you need help locating them. That collection is growing rapidly.
- The library subscribes to a limited number of magazines that may be checked out for two weeks.
- Others, found in the lower front shelves, are recycles. Take what you wish; we just like to keep a count of the number.



Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Wednesday 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Yachats Still Needs Emergency**

Supplies

By Debrah Edwards, Deputy City Recorder

The emergency supply drive held on January 24, 2009 was met with limited success. Due to the cold weather and confusion over the location of the supply drive only a few people brought donations. While the City gratefully acknowledges those who made an effort, we still need more.

The Yachats Rural Fire District was been gracious enough to offer their location on 2nd Street as drop off point available 24/7. In addition, donors may bring their items to City Hall Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (except holidays).

Any questions about needed supplies can be directed to Yachats CERT coordinator, Betty Johnston at (541) 547-4934.



Little Log Church & Museum
By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

Love is in the Air at the Little Log Church

Fourteen is the magic number at the Little Log Church and Museum. For the fourteenth time on the 14th of February we will again offer couples the opportunity to renew their marriage vows. Because of a wonderful article in *Oregon Coast Magazine* reservations for this year's event started to come in before the new year began. Couples from California, Washington, and various places in Oregon plan to visit our little burg to celebrate their love.

South Beach's Kaho Bratteng will once again play her Celtic harp for the group ceremony, and the church will be dressed up with colorful flowers in sweet anticipation of an early spring.

Each year something very special happens in the small sanctuary when couples stand and face their spouse to repeat the vows of renewal and commitment to one another. There is an electric-like quality in the air that is quite palpable. We'll probably have a full house again this year, so if you know of any couples who may wish to participate, be sure and have them call me at (541) 547-4547 to make a reservation.



In the Garden

By Jodi Sons, Landscape Coordinator

What a wet and windy winter we are having at the Little Log Church—it seems like the lawn is under water every time I look at it. As weather permits, I have been trying to clean it up, but this weather just isn't very cooperative.

A very nice thing happened last month. While looking through the drawer in the little desk that is at the museum, Mary Crook found an envelope with my name on it inside a zip top bag. She gave me a call and I asked her to read the letter to me that was in it. It was from Matt and Sandi Schubert. Thank you so much for donating that little pitcher plant that I now have thriving at my home waiting for its new place at the Log Church. It has probably about tripled its size since you donated it. It froze solid during those couple days before Christmas, but after thawing out, it is still doing beautifully. It should be fully harden-off and ready for life at the Little Log Church as soon as I get its place prepared.

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Another person that has donated many plants but more importantly information and at times moral support is Betty Bahn. She also donated another different type of pitcher plant for the Log Church, and it is also doing very well, even after that freeze in December.

As for the Darlingtonia (the giant pitcher plants), I will have to purchase them, probably from the Internet. They are a protected plant and should **never** be taken from the wild. They are a bit costly, so I hope that my little summer fund raiser will also help purchasing those as well as new plant identification signs.

Again, if you wish to make a donation for these before summer comes, you can do so by donating to "The Friends of The Little Log Church" and mail to PO Box 712, Yachats, OR 97498. Please specify on your donation "for garden plant signs and/or plants." All donations are tax deductible.