



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**February 2008**

Visit [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) for City Council/Commissions meeting minutes and more!

## Quote of the Month

*There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance. --Socrates*



## Mayor's Message By Susanne Smith, Mayor

I promised to share another perspective on what we are calling "Yachats Essence." I received the following from a friend who visited here last summer from Colchester, England. I think we can all agree that there is a special "something" about Yachats. Please continue to send your thoughts to me by e-mail [sue@ci.yachats.or.us](mailto:sue@ci.yachats.or.us) or by U.S.P.S. to P.O. Box 345, Yachats, OR 97498 and I will share them in upcoming newsletters. Happy New Year!

### **IT'S A LONG WAY FROM LONDON TO YACHATS!**

We were very excited—our holiday plans for the summer of 2007 had been finalized. We had been invited to stay with some dear friends in Sacramento, CA, Portland, OR and....Yachats! "Where?" asked my wife Denise. "You know" I said, a little unsure of my pronunciation "Yachats, where Sue and Mike live!" I reached for my world atlas and, after a few hours, pinpointed Yachats for Denise to see.

The Internet is an amazing facility, even Google knows of Yachats. However, no amount of reading prepares you for the real thing. The Oregon coastline reminded me of my visits to New Zealand in the late sixties, where forests and grassland run down to beautiful beaches and an awe-inspiring ocean, and with only a modest two lane highway and the occasional lighthouse to evidence the intrusion of mankind.

Our home in Colchester, England is the oldest recorded town. It has a population of 105,000 and yet it does not have city status. Yachats is a city with a population of a few hundred residents. No wonder the UK and USA are described as two nations divided by a common language.

London, New York, and Hong Kong are cities; Yachats is a charming village with a most welcoming feel. The people I met, be they local or relocated from Los Angeles, were genuinely friendly and polite enough not to comment on our strange accents (we don't have accents—you do). The pace of life is one I aspire to enjoy if I could only slow down for long enough to think about it. I have been lucky enough to travel around the world quite extensively and it is important to me to gauge the 'feel' of a place. I felt very comfortable and relaxed in Yachats, and I was reminded of Bill Bryson's quest for the perfect American town "where friendly neighbors mow each other's lawns." I wonder whether he has visited Yachats yet.

Denise and I have visited eleven countries so far this year, and I have three favorite memories: the serenity of Olympia in Greece where the first Olympic Games were held; the vibrancy of Istanbul in Turkey; and the joy of watching whales frolicking in the Pacific Ocean whilst I was sipping a Mojito cocktail. We will return to Yachats!



## Yachats Disaster Planning: Organizing Neighborhoods for Disaster Preparedness By Betty Johnston, CERT Team Leader

During the past few months a small core of Yachats citizens have been meeting to gather the

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information necessary to set up a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Prepared neighborhood groups can make the difference between life and death for many individuals and families during and after a disaster.

The CERT Class Planning Committee is in the process of collecting information about individuals and families. An assessment survey is available throughout the community to help gather that information. The information then will be shared with the appropriate team and used during an emergency. If you have not already done so, please help us out by filling out one of the surveys available at City Hall, SW Lincoln County Water District, Yachats Fire Hall, Bank of the West, and the Yachats Visitors Center. The Committee will then use this information to form teams utilizing skills they have identified.

As soon as the CERT Class Planning Committee has taken all the steps needed to start classes, we will notify citizens to attend.

In the meantime, take the first step and attend an ARE YOU READY? class. The next class is scheduled for March 8, 2008 in Room 8 at the Yachats Commons. The class is free. Call (541) 547-4934 to reserve a space.



**City Continues  
Emergency Planning**  
By Betty Johnston,  
CERT Team Leader

The City's Emergency Planning Steering Committee recently sent out a survey titled "Household Natural Hazards Preparedness Questionnaire" with January's water/sewer bills. The survey will be used to collect different data than the CERT survey and is part of the Mitigation and Recovery process.

Recently two committee members attended a FEMA training course that focuses on the recovery and mitigation phases of emergency management.

Having recovery and pre-disaster mitigation plans in place help ensure that the community is able to access FEMA funds to the fullest extent possible. FEMA will not help pay for anything that is not in an established plan.

Recovery from a major disaster can take years and can completely change the community unless the recovery and mitigation efforts are undertaken with a clear vision of what the residents want the community to look like ten years down the road.

While it is important to rebuild the infrastructure as quickly as possible following a disaster, it is equally important that the way the community is rebuilt will result in a close fit with that vision.

During the committee's most recent meeting there were discussions about the storm even that occurred on December 2 and 3, 2007.

One of the items of mitigation was the use of the kitchen at the Commons. There is a generator in the Commons that starts immediately when a power outage takes place. The Committee agreed, as did the City Council, that an hour after a power outage begins the kitchen inside the Commons would be available for those who would like use of it. The kitchen is equipped with stove, refrigerator, coffee maker and tables and chairs. The gym will also be available as a shelter and use of the restrooms will be accessible during most disasters.

During severe wind/rainstorms the Commons works well as a shelter. However, all residents should evacuate to the safety zone approximately 60' above Hwy 101 during a tsunami since the Commons is in a potential inundation zone.



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

During January's City Council meeting, Public Works Director

McClintock reported:

- The City is eligible for FEMA reimbursements for expenses related to the December's wind/rainstorm since Lincoln County was included in the disaster declaration. The total in damages and overtime expenses came to about \$13,000. The City anticipates financial reimbursement of approximately 75%.

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- Work has begun on the engineering for the sidewalk improvements authorized by the City Council last month.
- The mobile storage units for the emergency supplies should be delivered by the end of the month.

### **Marine Reserves to Be Discussed at Upcoming City Council Work Session**

The creation of marine reserves off of Oregon's shores is a complex issue and the Yachats City Council feels that they (and the community) need a lot more information about the topic. Onno Husing, Executive Director for the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) has been asked to attend the February 11, 2008 City Council work session to discuss the marine reserves with the Council and any one else who is interested in the subject.

OCZMA, coastal communities, the fishing community, and others have expressed concerns related to the creation of marine reserves. Those concerns include such things as the necessity and desirability of creating the reserves; economic impact; monitoring and enforcement; funding; development of desired outcomes and evaluation of those outcomes; access restrictions both in the water and on the shore; and adequate public involvement in the process.

The public is invited to attend the work session on February 11, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. to learn more.

### **In Other City Council Business**

Council adopted Resolution No. 2008-01-01 Amending the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget. The Resolution was necessary to allocate funds for the storm drain study and engineering study the City Council authorized at the December 2007 meeting,

The Council recognized a grant the Library received from the State for their "Ready to Read?" program. And Maggie Marshall and Carol Summers were reappointed to the Library Commission, with terms expiring December 2010.



### **Yachats Comprehensive Plan Update** By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The Yachats Planning Commission has forwarded a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the updated Comprehensive Plan.

The City's comprehensive plan addresses statewide planning goals and local land use planning needs and issues. The plan responds to the desires, needs, and aspirations of the citizens of Yachats. The updated plan, once adopted, will serve as a guide for land use planning within Yachats. It establishes policies and land use designations which will be implemented throughout the City's zoning and land use ordinance.

The Yachats Comprehensive Plan provides goals, guidelines and standards for decision makers, including City employees and officials, citizens, developers, community groups, and other local, state, regional, and federal agencies. The Plan is organized around the Statewide Planning Goals and address natural resources, natural hazards, recreation, urban growth, public services, land use, housing, transportation, public involvement and other related issues.

The update to the Comprehensive Plan has been developed through a public process that included consultants, an advisory committee, city staff, the public, the Planning Commission and the City Council. A variety of public involvement opportunities were used, such as a mail-back and Web-based survey, open houses and community discussions, and public hearings with the Planning Commission and now the City Council.

The City Council will hold a public hearing February 14, 2008 to discuss and consider adoption of the updated Comprehensive Plan.



### **Public Works Year in Review** By John McClintock, Public Works Director

2007 was very busy year for the Yachats Public Works Department. The biggest project finally started in

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July with groundbreaking for the new wastewater treatment facility and pump station replacements. By the end of the year, the project was about 25% complete. The anticipated completion date is December 2008. Upgrades were completed at the water treatment plant with new disinfection methodology changing from gaseous chlorine to on-site production of sodium hypochloride, a much more safe and cost-effective application.

We continue to pursue final water rights certification on the Yachats River. Included in the Administration Order for the rights was for the City to achieve 85%+ efficiency in the water distribution system. We have reached this goal and intend to get better with continued leak detection and system upgrades.

Public Works responded to a number of emergency power outages—the most recent at the beginning of December caused by hurricane-force winds.

We have been working with major developments making sure infrastructure is up to City code. Unless it is a private development, the City takes responsibility for that infrastructure once development is approved and accepted. Private infrastructure still has to be up to code, owner maintains.

We anticipate 2008 to be just as busy, if not busier than 2007 for the Public Works Department.

If you would like to know more about Public Works in Yachats, please call (541) 547-3851 or (541) 547-3243 or attend the monthly City Council Meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at City Hall at 2:00 p.m.



## **Yachats Commons Events**

**By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator**

During the holiday season we had a wonderful art show here at the Commons. It featured local artists who kept the doors open on the weekends. This group of artists would like to continue the tradition with periodic shows throughout the year. The next show will be the weekend of March 21 and 22. Keep an eye out for those days and see what some of the fine local artists put together.

For those of you who would like to rent the picnic shelter for summertime events, we have just made it less windy in there. A wind screen was installed on the north end of the building which, when the shelter is rented, can be lowered to keep some of our colder breezes out and will help make the shelter a more useable space.

The year is filling up rapidly and the weekends are especially busy. For February, we have quite a great lineup of events. On the 2nd of the month, the Lions Club is once again putting on a wonderful evening of barbershop quartet music. The show begins at 7:30 pm.

The U.S. Forest Service will be presenting an afternoon of information about travel access management for this area. This free presentation is on Monday, February 4th at 4:30 pm.

The 7th of February is devoted to our very own Yachats Big Band dance. It begins at 7 pm.

An evening of gypsy violin music is coming our way on the 15th at 7:30 p.m. Kim Angellis and Josef will be playing the violin and classical guitar. A free workshop is set for the afternoon.

Winterfest, our one-day arts and crafts phenomena, will be held again from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on February 16.

Movie night is on again for the 21st of February, doors open at 6:30 pm. This free movie is brought to you by the Friends of the Yachats Commons.

The senior luncheon, a.k.a. The Yachats Lunch Bunch, is set for Thursday, February 28 at 12:00 p.m. Food is prepared by the Angell Job Corps Culinary Arts students and a flute player from Florence will entertain the attendees.

The Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra is coming back for an evening of "orchestra's choice" on February 29 at 7:00 p.m. This fine orchestra is certainly worth coming to hear.

Besides these special events, we have yoga classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. in Room 3. A Tai Chi group meets every Monday at 8:00 a.m. And our rousing exercise

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class is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) sponsors all sorts of afterschool activities. Call them at for information at (541) 547-4599.

To reach me and set up some new classes, (hint, hint!) please call (541) 547-4734.



### **A Good Read is Hard to Put Down**

**By Yvonne Wulff, Library Volunteer**

For most of the past decade Annette Howarth has served the community by volunteering her time, energy, and ingenuity for the benefit of Yachats Public Library.

She served on the Library Commission (and was voted Chair in January 2003), then became Library Manager shortly thereafter.

Annette's "anything is open to discussion" approach to serving as Library Manager helped the volunteers introduce new services and led to building enhancements:

- a computerized card catalog (no typing card sets)
- grant applications that succeeded and provided public access computers, new furnishings and updated collections
- new roof, stabilized foundation, spiffy paint jobs inside and out
- dedicate the reorganized Children's Room to Virginia Chamberlin
- expand the northwest collection
- add audio and video resources to the circulation collection
- enhance the large print collection and provide a rotating collection of materials to SeaAire readers

Annette's encouragement also prompted the founding of the Friends of the Library whose members have provided support for many of the improvements cited above.

She recruited and trained new volunteers and used years of administrative experience to keep all the

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many pieces together and working well for the benefit of the library's users.

As Annette "retires" from her huge volunteer duty, we all wish her well and once again thank her for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the readers of the greater Yachats community.

If you would like to volunteer to become the next Library Manager, please call the Library at (541) 547-3741 for more information.



*The Little Log Church By The Sea  
Museum*

### **Log Church Thrives on Generosity**

**By Karl Christianson, Director**

The Little Log Church and Museum was quite busy last year. Over 1500 visitors came through the building, from as far away as Europe and Asia. Over 900 volunteer hours were put in by the stalwart crew that keeps the facility up and running. Fifteen weddings and two anniversary renewal celebrations were held here. Mary Crook officiated at twenty five Valentine's Day renewal vows – a new record!

A generous donation to the Friends of the Little Log Church enabled us to paint the sanctuary a new warm color and it is beautiful. Our master gardener, Jodi Sones, continued to create and maintain our naturalized gardens, and we were donated a picnic table for public use.

Our archivist, Robbie Schoonover, continued putting our artifact record onto a computerized data base. More historic photographs were donated to us, as well as a lovely painting by Nina Toepfer and various artifacts of local interest.

Our goals for 2008 include purchasing a cabinet for historic documents, replacing baseboards and fences and doing more painting. We shall continue with projects as funds allow.

For all those who helped last year, thank you and for all of you who have come in for a visit, please come again.

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## **Successful 2007 Makes Way for Bright Future for YYFAP**

**By Debbie Jackson,  
Director**

2007 was a year of renewal and growth for the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program (YYFAP). We started off the year with two new staff members: Mellie Bukovsky who leads our Early Childhood and Recreation PLUS programs; and Cicely Bernard who assists with Recreation PLUS. Both women are creative, caring, and dedicated to the children, youth, and families they serve. We are very lucky to have them.

Highlights of 2007 included: our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Talent Show; special classes for homeschoolers; a summer sailing class; summer exploration sessions; youth performances; a vibrant cooperative preschool; the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Duck Race; participation in many community events; family nights in partnership with the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church; a very active youth service group (Helping Hands); and an afterschool program (Rec. PLUS) with attendance of between 20 and 30.

In 2008, we are looking forward to continuing our successful activities and adding a few more. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry will be coming to Yachats on Saturday, March 29, 2008 to offer a special science assembly and festival to families. A sailing club is also in the formation stage. We are working on more activities for teens, and more parent support.

Volunteers are a crucial component of YYFAP. In addition to many occasional volunteers, eight adults each set aside one afternoon a week to spend time with children after school. Some of them share special skills and some are available to talk, play games, and help with homework. Gerald Stanley, Cindy Baker, Stacy Smith, Bradley Thomas, Barbara Coughlan, Sharlene Hoen, Yvonne Faber, and Pat Hayner are all supporting the positive development of Yachats kids. If you would like to join this special group, please give us a call at (541) 547-4599. The more adults in the lives of youth, the better!

## **By Mary Crook, Board Member, Little Log Church & Museum**

Once again the Little Log Church will host its annual *Celebration of Renewal and Commitment* on Thursday, February 14th at 5:30 p.m. Now a Valentine's Day tradition, couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage vows in a group ceremony conducted by me. I am a non-denominational minister and the Events Coordinator for the museum.

In addition to having the opportunity to renew their vows, couples will be given a certificate as a memento of the occasion by The Little Log Church.

Last year 25 couples, both local area residents and coastal visitors, attended the service and renewed their vows. Some couples have chosen to make this an annual part of their Valentine's Day celebration.

The museum suggests a donation to the museum of \$10.00 per couple to participate in the group ceremony. Those who are interested participating in the marriage vow renewal ceremony may make a reservation by contacting me at (541) 547-4547 or one of the museum volunteers at (541) 547-3976.



## **Straight from the Councilor**

**By Debrah Edwards, Co-editor**

We are excited to announce that we are adding a new regular feature to our newsletter.

Beginning in March an alternating councilor will write an article for "The Councilors' Corner." The article will be an "open mike" to write about whatever issue intrigues them, frustrates them, or any topic they are asked about frequently.

To kick off our new segment, I asked them to write a bit about how they came to their jobs as city councilors so we can all get to know them a bit better.

**JOEL EVANS, PRESIDENT** One of the great things about this community is its welcome to newcomers

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## **Say "I Love You!"**

to participate in civic affairs. I grew up in a town where if your grandfather had not been born there you'd always be considered something of an outsider. Not in Yachats. There is no political establishment, no "first families." Within a year of becoming a fulltime resident, I was serving on the Yachats Street Commission and the Port of Alsea Board. After 32 years of teaching *about* politics and government, I got a chance to *do* it.

**LARRY NIXON** My wife and I found Yachats 30 years ago and were able to move here 23 years ago. At that time the smelt runs still were strong and you would find many folks from town down dipping smelt. An old timer told me there were two things to pay attention to in Yachats: 1) If the tide was coming in or going out; and 2: How much fire wood you had in the woodshed.

I was born and raised in Iowa, a state that takes politics very seriously. When I moved to Yachats in 1984, I was invited to a Yachats Streets Committee meeting one evening. It wasn't very long after that I joined the Streets Committee. I then moved up to the Yachats Planning Commission and finally to City Council in 1991. I have learned much of the history of Yachats and have a story for just about everything in town. I believe in middle ground, compromise and keeping all of the hoops the same size for everyone.

The highlight of my year is hooking my old 2-cylinder John Deere tractor to the manure spreader, loading up the Mayor and City Council into said spreader and driving through Yachats in the "La-De-Da" 4th of July Parade. (You can take the boy out the country, but he will always take some of it with him.)

**YVONNE WULFF** I was appointed to a Council vacancy during Lee Corbin's term as mayor. At the time, I was serving on the Planning Commission and deeply involved in the development of the Yachats Highway 101 Refinement Plan. Moving to the City Council provided me a chance to help implement some of the Plan's features: sidewalks; parking; and improved safety features for pedestrians. And there was the new wastewater disposal plant in the early planning stages, an important step for the long term health of the City.

I tell everyone that being a member of City Council is the best continuing education experience I've ever had.

**GREG SCOTT** My initial interest in the City was an attempt to understand why Yachats utility bills were so large. This interest developed into annual studies of the utility rate structure and analysis that has been used for rate discussions by the Public Works Commission since 2004. My first introduction to many people occurred during these early utility rate discussions when I presented results from the utility rate model I developed.

Delving deeper into City issues generated questions about how our community should grow and pay for City services needed to serve newly developed property. I believe that demand for housing by retiring baby boomers presents our village with enormous challenges. The current sewer plant upgrade is merely the first installment in our transition to meet future population demands.

In spite of the challenges, our community has reasonable options. We also have a window of opportunity to chart the future course of our village and ensure that costs associated with population increases are apportioned fairly. These are a few of the issues that enticed me into public service.



## **Your City STILL Needs You!!**

**By Susanne Smith, Mayor**

The City of Yachats still has openings for volunteers on three commissions. Commission membership requires primary (do you vote here?) residency within the City limits. For more information call City Recorder Nancy Batchelder at City Hall (541) 547-3565.

- If your interest is in infrastructure (water, wastewater, streets, etc.), then Public Works and Streets (1 opening) may be for you. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
- Perhaps books are your thing. The Library Commission (1 opening). The Commission meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each quarter.
- Last, but far from least, is the City's Budget

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Committee (2 openings) which meets in May for the purpose of recommending the City's budget to Council for adoption. There are ten members of this committee, five of whom are the City Council. The remaining five are citizens at large. Budget experience is helpful but not necessary.

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