



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**JULY 2008**

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

## Quotes of the Month

"Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!"

--Unknown

"The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live." --Ethel Percy Andrus

"Paul Revere earned his living as a silversmith. But what do we remember him for--his volunteer work. All activism is volunteering in that it's done above and beyond earning a living and deals with what people really care passionately about. Remember, no one gets paid to rebel. All revolutions start with volunteers." -- Susan J. Ellis

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." --Marjorie Moore

"Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals." --Unknown

"The broadest and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good." -Ivan Scheier



### Mayor's Message By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Obviously, my one quotation for the month turned into several. As I think about the people who are the backbone of this wonderful community, it occurs to me that they are all VOLUNTEERS. I in no way want to diminish the incredible value of our staff, both in City Hall and in Public Works. They keep the framework of this

small city running smoothly. But it is the volunteers who provide the heart and soul. Just within the City alone, there are 63. In addition to those, there are many more volunteers deeply involved in the Fire Department, YYFAP, the Lions Club, the Yachats Ladies Club, the Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Visitor's Center, the Friends of the Commons, the Friends of the Library, the Yachats Lunch Bunch, the Yachats Clinic, and more.

If you are a part of one of these groups or a part of another group outside of the City, like the Oregon Coast Aquarium or the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, pat yourself on the back and consider yourself thanked by your neighbors.

In continuing to think about the "Yachats Essence" that we have talked about from time to time before, I submit that our volunteers are an enormous part of that special quality.

I thank you all and I salute you!



**And so, my fellow Yachatians: ask not what your city can do for you - ask what you can**

**do for your city...**

This famous (paraphrased) quote from President John F. Kennedy exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism.

Be the ultimate volunteer and submit your nomination petition to become the next City Councilor or Mayor of Yachats. The last day to file with the City Recorder is August 26, 2008. Call the office Monday-Friday 8:30a-4:30p at (541) 547-3565 for more information.

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## **City Council Business**

**By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

The permit for the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July *la de da Parade* has been approved. The parade route will begin at the Commons and end near the post office. From the Commons it will proceed west on 4th Street, turn south onto Ocean View Drive, go through the State Park, continue east, then turn north on Beach Avenue. Be sure to look for the City Council on the manure spreader!

Jasmine Hood won a \$50 amazon.com gift certificate, \$50 in cash, and an invitation to ride with the Mayor and City Council on the manure spreader in the *la de da Parade* on July 4 for her submission to the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) "If I were Mayor" contest. Her poster will be on display in the Civic Meeting Room until it is forwarded to the LOC for the statewide competition.

The 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget has been adopted.

Ordinance No. 279 was adopted, formally approving the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Inventory.

The Council continued deliberation on a code amendment related to building height standards and the method for measuring.

A request from Dahl Disposal for a rate increase was approved.

A rental policy for the portable sound system (that was donated to the Commons) and a Donor Recognition Policy for all City facilities were approved.

The 2008-2009 fiscal year contract for the operations of the Visitors Center was awarded to the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Council authorized staff to pursue an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) grant for the construction of sidewalks on the east side of Highway 101 from Yachats River Road north to 7<sup>th</sup> Street including two crosswalks. If approved by ODOT, construction would begin in 2011. The total

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project costs will be around \$310,000 with the City's contribution about \$15,000. The proposed sidewalks and crosswalks were identified in the Downtown Transportation Study prepared several years ago. Before construction begins, the public will be given more opportunities for comment.



## **The Councilor's Corner**

**By Yvonne Wulff, City Councilor**

I grew up in a family with built-in volunteers. My mother's parents and brothers lived nearby, as well as my father's cousins. When the apples and pears were ripe in the old orchard down by the river, everyone who could get loose came to pick. A day or two later Grandma Carpenter arrived to help with the apple butter. Nobody told my sister and me that families worked better when they worked together; we learned by osmosis.

Yachats is the first small town I have ever lived in. It took me about a year to discover that it worked in ways similar to those of my childhood family. People volunteer to do what they can when they can and together provide a lively, well-managed community. The YYFAP, fire and rescue department, library, Little Log Church, Lions Club and Ladies Club, and our parks and trails are all possible because the people who live here volunteer their time and make them happen.

The City Council and Commissions are an essential part of the volunteer effort. These agencies depend on volunteer members to do the research and thinking that leads to community improvement and to its future health. Since Oregon law requires open meetings, these groups also have the benefit of other citizens' experience and knowledge. It is always interesting (and sometimes frustrating) to identify community problems or needs and search for solutions. And it is happily satisfying to enjoy the benefits volunteer efforts provide.



## **Planning Department**

**By Larry Lewis, City Planner**

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Citizen involvement is an essential component in the Yachats land use planning

process. Volunteers are the backbone of the citizen involvement process. When the Oregon statewide planning goals were established, Goal #1 identified the need for and requirement of citizen involvement in the planning process. The statewide goal identifies the following components that need to be incorporated in the citizen involvement program:

1. Citizen Involvement - To provide for widespread citizen involvement.
2. Communication - To assure effective two-way communication with citizens.
3. Citizen Influence - To provide the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.
4. Technical Information - To assure that technical information is available in an understandable form.
5. Feedback Mechanisms - To assure that citizens will receive a response from policymakers.
6. Financial Support - To insure funding for the citizen involvement program.

Check our website or the newsletter each month for information about how you can get involved in the process.



**Yachats Commons**  
**By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator**

The Yachats Commons is certainly one place where the role of the volunteer has been greatly needed and appreciated. It was a group of dedicated volunteers who initially began the process of purchasing the Commons in 1991. This group, which was later the basis for the Parks and Commons Commission and the Friends of the Commons, worked with the City of Yachats and the citizens to purchase our community center.

Throughout the history of the Yachats Commons, it has been volunteers who have made it all happen. It was the volunteers who raised the money and

built the playground; it has been the volunteers who have helped keep the landscaping going here and who keep the reader board current.

The Friends of the Commons, that dynamic group of volunteers, has tirelessly raised money for the Commons. It is the Friends who have raised the money for our commercial kitchen, the stage curtains and lighting, the acoustic tiles in the gym, the upgrades for the youth program facility, the grand piano, and so much more. And while the Commons was getting started as a community center, it was the Friends who put on a large number of events to show the community what was possible.

There are many volunteer groups that make a difference to our community center. The One of Us Production members bring stage and artistic endeavors to the building. The Coastal Gems folks use the Commons as a staging area for their volkswalks. The Yachats Lunch Bunch volunteers their time and often their culinary skills to put on a monthly afternoon of entertainment and good food for seniors. The Yachats Big Band is a group of incredible people who volunteer their time to present us with a big band dance every month.

I am indebted to the volunteers who help make my job easier. It is a group of wonderful people who I can call upon in a pinch to help out when an event needs some additional manpower. Our community is blessed with people who know they can make a difference and who want to. Thanks to all of you who help keep the Yachats Commons alive.

Check the City calendar or the Yachats Commons website [www.yachatscommons.org](http://www.yachatscommons.org) for upcoming events. If you have any questions please call me at (541) 547-4734.



**Yachats Public Library**  
**By Marie Green, Library**

The Yachats Public Library is open 28 hours a week due to the efforts of the volunteers who staff the desk, process the books, take out the trash, and clean the restroom. We simply wouldn't have a library without them.

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On Mondays, Yvonne Misterek assisted by Nick Lammerman checks man the desk. On Tuesdays, Janet Hickman takes care of all non-book ordering while cheerfully checking books in and out for our patrons.

Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sheila Evans, a local writer, and Maggie Marshall, treasurer for Friends of the Library, are assisted by Susan Stoddart and Peggy Fulkerson.

Thursdays, photographer Florence Whitney and Maggie Marshall share duties.

Fridays, City Councilor Yvonne Wulff and Carolyn White staff the desk and order books. Carolyn is the Children's Librarian with the help of Jessa Dyson.

On Saturdays, Annette Howarth opens the library and Carol Summers finishes off the afternoon. Annette chairs the Friends of the Library and orders books for the new Nancy Reynolds Best Sellers Shelf.

Others who substitute and assist in many ways are Darrel Brown, Gretchen Armstrong, Shirley Swaffer, Mary Crook, Nicolle Aiassa and Paddy Pace. And last but not least is Greg Scott our computer guru.

Three cheers for the Library Volunteers!



### **Little Log Church and Museum**

**By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator**

Collective nouns are such fun! We know of a pride of lions.

What about a gam of whales, a murder of crows, or a parliament of owls? Well, I would like to add a "trove of volunteers" to the group. For volunteers are indeed the treasure troves of our community.

We at the Little Log Church and Museum are blessed with a trove of dedicated volunteers who are hosts to our daily visitors. Our volunteers tell visitors of the rich history of the Yachats area and the part the Little Log Church has played in our coastal heritage. Volunteers also ensure that the building and grounds are well maintained, clean, and "ready for company."

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We would love to add to our pool of volunteers at the Little Log Church. If you or someone you know would like to become a part of our trove, please contact me at (541) 547-4547 or stop by and see one of our volunteers in person from noon to 3:00 p.m. daily except Thursdays.



### **Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program**

**By Debbie Jackson, Director**

**S.O.S.--The Yachats Food Pantry is Bare!**

Helping Hands, a community service group of teens in Yachats, started a food pantry for people in need two years ago. Generous residents have kept the pantry supplied with nutritious non-perishable food, and many adults and families have been able to take advantage of those foods when they found themselves in need. In the past several months, there has been more demand for food and the cupboard is nearly empty! Popular and needed items include peanut butter, canned fruit or applesauce, nutritious cereal, canned beans, powdered milk, meals-in-a-box, and the occasional box of cookies. Donations may be dropped off at the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program (YYFAP) in the basement of the Yachats Commons.

### **Free Lunches for Kids**

The YYFAP is partnering with the Lincoln County School District and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to offer free lunches to children every weekday during the summer from June 23 through August 22. These lunches are free to all children 18 and under. Children do not need to be signed up for YYFAP programs. Lunches will be served at 12:30 p.m. at the Yachats Commons.

YYFAP can be reached at (541) 547-4599.



### **Wildfire Awareness**

**By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

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A group of volunteers and staff are working on the Emergency Mitigation Plan for the City. The focus of the last meeting was the potential wildfires in Yachats. Although many people consider our area less susceptible to wildfires because of the mild and rainy climate, history has shown that fires can happen on the coast too. A wildfire in the watershed could affect the water sources and recovery could take as long as five years.

Yachats may be an incorporated city, but it is located in a woodland setting. While homeowners enjoy the beauty of the environment they need to realize there is a very real danger of wildfires. Property owners should take steps to prevent fires in and around their property as well as be prepared in case a wildfire threatens.

Weeds and other vegetation are potential fuel for wildfires. The Yachats Municipal Code requires that any vegetation considered a fire hazard be cut to a height of no more than 6 inches and mulched or removed before July 1 of each year or at any time the City Council declares a period of extreme fire danger. If any owner or person in charge of property does not comply with the code, the City may contract with a firm licensed to do business within the city limits to bring the property into compliance and charge the property owner.

The Yachats Rural Fire District and City Hall have information about creating a safety zone around your home to help prevent house fires and wildfires. This information is also available on the City's website.

KYTE FM radio station at 102.7 is Lincoln County's designated emergency station during disasters. In addition, the public can call (541) 265-2266 to report traffic accidents or other emergencies that need to be on the air.



### **Yachats Ladies Club** **Update** **By Sandy Dunn, President**

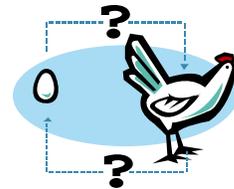
I'm sure many of you are wondering what is going on at the Yachats Ladies Club. What happened to the roof replacement project? What happened to the kitchen remodel? Why have they been holding events in other locations the last 9 months? When

will they be back in the building? Short answers: the new roof is done; the kitchen is about 50% done (problems discovered during renovations have increased the work and expenses delaying its completion); and soon!

Typical with many remodels here on the coast we ran into structural problems. We took this opportunity to fix the problems and improve the quality of the building. Most of the work has been organized and completed by volunteer labor. Funding has come from generous donations, a grant, and our own fundraising events.

Our next fundraiser, the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pie and Ice Cream Social will be held at the Yachats Commons. Watch for the Ladies Club cart on the *la de da Parade* route where you can buy a sack lunch and beverages.

We will be back in the building soon; as soon as we earn a little more to pay for the last of the repairs. Thanks for all your support. We appreciate the workers who have volunteered their time and expertise, the material and monetary donations, and the support from local businesses and organizations. We look forward to showing off our "new" building.



### **Chickens in Yachats?** **By Laura Svendsgaard**

Chicks for Hens, a community cooperative in Yachats, is seeking approval from the Yachats City Council to allow residents to own 3 hens per family (no roosters). The hens would be kept in a fenced area by day and secured in a predator-proof coop at night. Our group's request comes from our growing awareness of the need to adopt more sustainable practices.

This past May 16<sup>th</sup> we held a public seminar demonstrating the benefits, selection, and care of hens. If our request is approved, future trainings will be scheduled. We will be presenting our request to the City Council on July 10th. Residents are encouraged to take a brief online survey at <http://tinyurl.com/3slwj> or submit opinion letters to the City Council at PO Box 345, Yachats, OR 97498 or via e-mail at [cityhall@ci.yachats.or.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.yachats.or.us). Questions about our group or hen-keeping can be

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directed to Yves Nakahama at (541) 547-5238 or  
Marje Takei at (541) 547-3612.



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