



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**MARCH 2008**

Visit [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) for the City's meetings minutes, municipal codes and more!

Florence

## Quote of the Month

*No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.*

--Hal Borland



### Mayor's Message

**By Susanne Smith, Mayor**

Having returned recently from brief visits to several countries in Central America, I was reflecting on Yachats' "growing pains" and similar "growing pains" being felt in many of the cities we visited. Infrastructure issues are paramount in each of these communities and countries in order for them to be able to meet the anticipated growth needs of the future. For each of them: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Belize, Panama, and Honduras, having visitors come and stay is vital to their local economies. While the visiting population in those cities is more international than in Yachats, the dollars are nonetheless vital to the communities' well being. We saw streets being upgraded and seawalls being constructed; and docks and piers created or improved to accommodate the yachting community.

As more people visit these countries and decide that they want to spend more time there, second homes and resorts are popping up everywhere, creating what we, too, in Yachats recognize as a "mixed blessing." In talking to locals in the communities we visited, I heard much the same kinds of concerns that I hear in Yachats. Will we be able to remain the village we have long been? Will we become a place only for the wealthy? Will we lose our sense of community? Will people have to move because they can no longer afford to live here? The answers to these and other questions are, of course unknown.

I remember how Yachats was when we first "discovered" it in 1983...coming north from

...having NEVER heard of Yachats, much less having a clue as to how to pronounce the name! Small, charming, nestled between the ocean and the hills with a special "feeling"; warm friendly people; beautiful beach; ample state parks. Could Heaven be any better?! As we returned to Oregon over the next several years, we found ourselves spending more time in Yachats and less time anywhere else. Then in 1991 we bought a lot on which to build a dream home. Such celebration and excitement! How many of you newcomers and "old-timers" remember the same or similar feelings?

Has Yachats changed since we first came? Indeed it has! I think of many people and many places that are different than they were in those early years. Are we better for the changes? I guess that's up to the "perceiver". For the most part, I think we are.



### Mayor Cautions Community to Protect Homes

**By Susanne Smith, Mayor**

It has come to my attention that there has been an increase in attempted home break-ins here in our community. I would like to caution all homeowners whether full or part-time, to exercise due vigilance in protecting their property. Measures that can be taken include: motion sensor lights; alarm systems; and informal "neighborhood watch" groups.

Yachats is a "safe" community and I know that we would all like for it to remain so. The Sheriff's office does want to know about all issues that have the potential for harm to persons or property.

For all non-emergency incidents, the Lincoln County Sheriff's office can be reached at (541) 265-

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

Land Use Issues Discussed  
at Public Hearings

At their February 14, 2008 meeting, the City Council held public hearings on the Comprehensive Plan, Comprehensive Plan Inventory; and ordinances relating to removal, cut and fill definitions and requirements, and definition for building height and natural grade.

Following the public testimony phase, the City Council continued the deliberation on the Comprehensive Plan and Inventory to their work session on March 10 and the regular meeting on March 13, 2008. The ordinance relating to removal, cut and fill definitions was adopted. Adoption of the building height ordinance was continued to the March 13, 2008 meeting.

The only public testimony offered during the hearing on the Comprehensive Plan came from a member of the Quiet Water Homeowners Association. The Planning Commission and City Council have also received a number of letters from property owners in the Quiet Water Planned Unit Development (PUD) asking for clarification about possible exemptions to the current or proposed regulations. The Mayor stated that she intends to continue discussions with the City Planner and City Attorney in an effort to clarify this matter, and that this issue does not keep the City Council from taking action on the plan at this time.

Exception to Policy Granted

The City Council received a request from workforce housing developer, Cascade Housing, asking that they be allowed to begin construction of a 25-unit apartment building although there are no sewer connections currently available. The developer plans to complete the project by March 1, 2009, well after the new wastewater treatment plant is completed and operational.

The developer clarified that they must be able to begin building this spring or the Oregon Community

Housing and Development tax credits will be lost and financing for the workforce housing project will not be obtained.

Since the Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been in effect, it has been the City's policy not to approve building permit applications unless DEQ-issued Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU's) are available.

Before granting the exception, Public Works Director, John McClintock verified with the DEQ that exception would not affect the MAO and the City Council determined that the workforce housing project was a special case that warrants exception to the established policy.

City Council Endorses Agreement

Last year the Oregon State Legislature authorized school districts to adopt a construction excise tax to pay for capital improvements. At the February 2008 City Council meeting, Rich Belloni of the Lincoln County School District explained that the School Board drafted a general broad facility plan that will be funded by that construction excise tax. The School Board plans to go to each community to ascertain what the communities want and then include that information in a more detailed facilities plan to come later.

Belloni explained that the Lincoln County Building Department will be collecting the excise tax for the school through an intergovernmental agreement. Since the City of Yachats contracts with the County for building inspection services, the County is asking that the City endorse that agreement.

City Council noted that since the Oregon Legislature passed this excise tax, each school district will decide if they are going to impose the tax, and what the City endorsed is only the mechanism for collecting the tax. If the County Building Department does not collect the tax when processing building permits the School District would need to find another way to collect it.

In Other City Council News...

The City Council reappointed Don Niskanen to serve on the Parks and Commons Commission for another three-year term.

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Council adopted Resolution No. 2008-02-01 – Authorizing Interfund Borrowing and Interfund Loans During the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year. This “housekeeping” item allows the City to pay the contractors working on the sewer project before being reimbursed from the construction loan.

City Council adopted Resolution No. 2008-02-02 related to policies enacted to comply with the Oregon Identity Theft Protection Act of 2007.

Council authorized the purchase of new digital recording equipment for the meeting room. The equipment will be portable so it can be used in any room in which meetings are held.



### **The Councilor’s Corner** **By Yvonne Wulff, City Councilor**

The question of how city ordinances should be enforced has arisen repeatedly during my tenure on City Council. A series of home burglaries, a rash of illegally parked cars, an abundance of dog leavings, misdirected outdoor lighting, loud music, and various other misadventures have led to many discussions.

In response to citizen concern, we tried a citizen patrol but activities requiring action occur sporadically and don't really require nightly attention. We considered paying for a deputy sheriff and blanched at the cost.

The discussion has been joined again. I would like to see it lay to rest but admit that I do not have a ready solution. If we agree that felonies require the Sheriff's office intervention, we are left with the kinds of violations which drive neighbors crazy and create clutter around town. How much time would be required to monitor for those violations? How frequently should monitoring occur? Could we contract with someone to provide such a service? What criteria would we establish for its operation; for its success? Are there other possibilities?

The next time code enforcement appears on the agenda, I hope you will join the Council discussion and offer some possible solutions.



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### **New Parks and Commons** **Commissioner Appointed** **By Debrah Edwards, Co-Editor**

Richard “Dick” Takei is the City’s most recently appointed Parks and Commons Commissioner. He is retired from a career as a clinical social worker in Eugene, OR. I asked Dick to share a bit about himself and here’s what he wrote:

*“Aloha! I am 65 and have retired here because my wife and I love being nestled between the mountains and the ocean and we have loved Yachats for more than 30 years. I am interested in all that happens in our small but vibrant village. I have come from the Hawaiian Islands where I learned to appreciate an atmosphere of inclusion and expression. I want to help create a community here that shares stories and discusses creative, sustainable ways to use our common area that benefit the most people.”*

If you are interested in joining a City Commission/Committee, there are still openings available on the Public Works and Streets Commission, Library Commission, and the Budget Committee. Come by City Hall for an application or call City Recorder, Nancy Batchelder Monday-Thursday at (541) 547-3565 for more information.



### **Land Use and Building** **Permit Applications** **By Larry Lewis, City Planner**

There are several different types of land use and building permit applications that the City processes. These include:

- Building permits
- Property line adjustments
- Conditional uses
- Variances
- Land partitions
- Subdivisions
- Planned unit developments
- Urban growth boundary expansions/adjustments

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In upcoming newsletters, I will focus on one type of application and briefly describe the process, regulations, and recent activity in Yachats.

I am available from 8:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays to answer questions regarding this or any other planning matter.



## **Public Works Projects** **Move Forward**

**By John McClintock, Public Works Director**

February was another busy month for the City of Yachats Public Works Department. We continue moving forward with the wastewater construction project. The large concrete basins are now full of water and are required to sit for 30 days to detect leaks and test structural setting. At this point they look very good.

The new pump stations have started to arrive and are going into the ground within the next few weeks. The project is approaching 40% completion and is still on schedule.

The two containers behind the Bank of the West were purchased by the City with grant money and are for storage of emergency supplies such as food, blankets, water, etc. The Public Works Department has cleaned them and will be painting them with paint purchased through the Lincoln County Solid Waste District paint recycling program. We will then place them at higher elevations once the sites are prepared.

Also concerning emergency services, we just completed work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement of money used to pay for the damages caused during the high wind storm that occurred December 2-3, 2007. Thank you to Joy McCaslin and Nancy Batchelder at City Hall for providing FEMA with all of the required information. The City will recoup 75% of the total costs.

For more information about Public Works, please stop by 500 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street or call (541) 547-3243 or (541) 547-3565.



## **Yachats Commons Events**

**By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator**

The first spring robins are appearing on the grounds of the Commons and despite the gray skies and rain occasional glimpses of spring are in the air. Walk

the boardwalk and see what's coming up around the wetlands and look for newts and frogs. The park behind our building is a really relaxing place to spend some time.

Inside the Commons, things are busy as usual. There will be another *Are You Ready?* class on Saturday, March 8, 2008. This emergency preparedness workshop is put on by our very own Betty Johnston and begins at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in taking this free class, call Betty at (541) 547-4934.

On Saturday, March 15, 2008 another Winterfest crafts fair will be held here from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To reserve a rental table, call Carol Simon at (541) 547-3699.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 21-23, 2008 local artists are putting together an instant gallery again. This is a great opportunity to see what is new on the local arts scene.

That same Friday and Saturday are important days to keep in mind because the Yachats Library is also going to be bringing their wonderful annual book sale to the Commons. The sale will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and there will be more than 10,000 books to choose from.

The final weekend in March is devoted to the annual Chamber of Commerce Arts and Crafts Fair. This is an amazing event with tremendous opportunity to purchase gifts for one and all. The fair is open Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

And of course, we are lucky to have the Yachats Big Band from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on March 6, 2008. The Yachats Lunch Bunch meets on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at noon. Exercise classes are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Yoga classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. And a group meets every Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for Tai Chi.

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The Yachats Commons is a great place to come to—take advantage of all that your community center has to offer.



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## **Yachats Library Holds Its Annual Book Sale**

**By Annette Howarth, Friends of the Library**

The Friends of the Yachats Library will hold its annual book sale on March 22-23, 2007. A large selection of fiction and non-fiction books will be offered as well as books on tape, music CDs, and a large number of videos. We will also have our "Table of Treasures" which features garden books, cook books, rare editions, like-new books, and a number of excellent history books. This year we also will have a big selection of vintage radio programs on tape.

Hardcover books will be priced at \$1.00 each on Friday; trade paperbacks will be 50¢ each. On Saturday we will hold our "\$3 Bag Sale" (excluding the individually priced items). Hours on both days will be 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

There are no pre-sales, however, doors will open promptly at 10:00 a.m.



## **Library Features Local Artists**

**By Annette Howarth, Friends of the Library**

The Yachats Art Guild is sponsoring a revolving exhibit at the Yachats Public Library. This month features the water colors of the late Helen Pfeifle, a former library volunteer and long-time Yachats resident. This will be your final opportunity to view the work of a wonderfully accomplished artist. Hours for the Library are: 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Wednesday; and 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday.

The Yachats Art Guild will also host a gallery sale in Room 8 at the Yachats Commons on March 21-23 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Come support our local artists!



## **Library Volunteer Retires**

**By Marie Green, Library Commission Chair**

For the past five years Sue May,

"Techie" and all around super-volunteer organized the Friends of Yachats Library enabling the library to qualify for charitable gifts, grants, and carry out other fundraising. Under Sue's leadership as founding president, Trust Management Grants provided funding for projects not covered by the annual budget such as furniture and expanded computer equipment. She kept the electronic equipment updated and running, adding wireless capacity for the benefit of patrons and visitors.

Much of the hard behind-the-scenes work of organizing book sales has been thanks to Sue May and her husband Butch. We salute her and give our heartfelt thanks and best wishes.



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

**By Karl Christianson, Director**

The Little Log Church & Museum had another successful Valentines' Day wedding vows renewal ceremony officiated by Mary Crook. There were 16 couples present which represented a combined 435 years of marriage. One couple was celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary since being united on February 14, 1968. Khol, a local Celtic harpist, provided the music and wrote special lyrics to a classic tune in honor of the occasion. It was indeed a heart warming event and so appropriate in the Little Log Church setting.

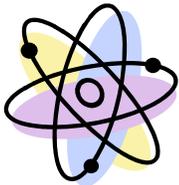
On Thursday, February 21, 2008 an elder hostel group of 40 members from all over the country visited the church & museum. Mary Crook conducted a tour for them which included local historical highlights and background surrounding our artifacts. These groups are always impressed with our historical treasure and are most generous with donations.

We now have available for review a sizeable compilation of documents concerning the 804 Trail controversy. They were compiled by the late Nancy Reynolds and donated by her estate. As with all our documents, the public is invited to peruse them at any time.

Once again a call is going out to anyone interested in being a volunteer docent, either on a regular schedule or as a substitute. If you are interested, please contact Mary Crook at (541) 547-4547.

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## **OMSI is Coming**

**By Debbie Jackson, YYFAP  
Director**

The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program (YYFAP) is bringing the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) to the Yachats Lions Hall on Saturday, March 29, 2008 for a very special day of science activities. In the morning, check out *Snap! Crackle!! BOOM!!!* a presentation on the states of matter. In the afternoon, come back for an OMSI science festival. There will be tables full of hands-on activities including dinosaurs, electrical circuitry, math puzzles, physics gadgets, and more. There will also be special demonstrations throughout the afternoon. This event is designed for families; it will be fun for all ages, and all community members are invited. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation there is no admission charge for this event, although donations will be gladly accepted.

During Spring Break, March 24–28, YYFAP will be open every day between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. In honor of OMSI's visit, the theme for the week will be science. Physical, chemical, and biological science experiments and activities will all be part of Recreation PLUS during the week. Mellie Bukovsky will lead children in explorations of the states of matter and physical and chemical reactions. Cicely Bernard will work with children building an indoor grow-light unit and experimenting with plants. At the end of the week, there will be a field trip to the Gerdemann's garden north of Yachats.

In other news, YYFAP is very grateful to the City of Yachats for the installation of the new bollards at the north end of the Commons. It is a great relief to us that the many children who play behind the building will now be safe from moving vehicles. Between 20 and 30 children come to YYFAP after school where they play basketball, tennis, skateboard, or ride scooters in the area behind the gym. Over the years we have resorted to various means of preventing potential accidents. Chains, signs, sawhorses, caution tape, and rope barriers have all been placed at various times. None of these solutions have been adequate, and certainly not attractive. Thank you to the Parks and Commons Commission and the City of Yachats for recognizing this problem and coming up with a practical solution.

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For more information or if you would like to volunteer call YYFAP at (541) 547-4599.



## **Historic Photos on Display Yachats Commons**

**By Susan Garner and Debrah  
Edwards, Co-editors**

Thanks to the remarkable efforts of Blythe Collins-Niskanen, former Parks and Commons Commissioner, historic photos of the Yachats School (now the Yachats Commons) are on exhibit in the west hallway of the building.

Some of the subjects of the photos have been identified, but many remain unnamed. Come by and see who you recognize. If you are able to make identification, please contact Commons Coordinator Susan Garner at (541) 547-4734.



## **Art Guild Being Formed**

**By Kaye Gregory, Coordinator**

Exciting news for our community: The Yachats Art Guild is under construction!

If you would like to join as a supporter of the arts or as an exhibiting artist, please contact me for more information at (541) 563-6150.

Our first show and sale is scheduled for March 21-23, 2008 in Room 8 at the Yachats Commons from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



## **Licenses Required**

**By Nancy Batchelder, City  
Recorder**

Anyone within the City limits renting their home for less than 30 days must have a Transient Rental License. Forms are available at City Hall or on our website at [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)

In addition, anyone hired to do work in or around your home must have a City Business License even if the physical site for their business is located outside the

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City limits. Please contact City Hall at (541) 547-3565 to confirm licensing.

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