



GREEN EDITION



CITY OF YACHATS

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for City Council/Commissions meeting minutes and more!

Quote of the Month

It's not our abilities that show what we truly are. It's our choices.

“Albus Dumbledore”



Mayor's Message By Susanne Smith, Mayor

There is a lot of talk lately about the issues of "sustainability," "going (or being) green," "reducing our carbon footprint," "global warming," etc. There are two things that are undeniable: Man has had and is having a negative impact on the environment; and our physical world is changing. I will leave to the experts the discussions about whether or not all of this is part of the cyclical nature of nature or whether or not we are "killing our world."

One can hardly pick up a magazine or newspaper these days without reading about efforts being made to be environmentally sensitive or to "go green." This is heartening to those of us (and I suspect that that is most of us) who are concerned about man's impact on the planet where we live and how much damage we are doing. What kind of environment are we leaving for future generations?

Candidates for public office are being asked about their intended policies and commitment to sustainability for the future...votes will be won or lost on this issue alone. Three in ten voters say they are concerned about the environment, up from 11% three short years ago. The old saw "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" has emerged with the emphasis now on the "Reduce" part. Can we use less? There are businesses and companies creating products that are environmentally sensitive. There is a new detergent that promises to be as effective in cold water as in hot...worth a try? Can we live

with native plants in our yards and natural grasses that require no water other than what nature provides?

Business schools are offering curricula called "Green M.B.A." that foster traditional skills while also encouraging "unconventional" business values. Sports arenas are using high efficiency bulbs, low flow toilets, and recycled building materials.

In the meantime, while others discuss those things, what can we do as individuals and as communities to improve our natural environment? Certainly we all have ideas about what OTHERS should do, but what can/should each of us do to lessen our impacts on the environment?

The following are a few familiar suggestions which bear repeating:

- Turn off lights when you leave a room; don't light unused spaces
- Turn off outdoor lights unless you are lighting (temporarily) someone's path
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth
- Recycle every possible item that can be recycled; reduce what goes into our landfills
- Use your own bags at the grocery store. We all have plenty of those. (I have mine in both cars; now all I need to do is remember to take them into the stores with me!)
- Compost
- Make your car trips count. Do as many errands as possible in one trip and walk whenever feasible (or bicycle). It will benefit both you and the environment.
- Drive an energy efficient car
- Run your dishwasher and your clothes washer only when they are full
- Build or remodel using green products

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I encourage everyone to take the time to make at least one of these suggestions routine in your everyday lives.



City Council Business

By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

Change in Licensing Renewal Periods Discussed

At their April meeting, the City Council received a request from staff to consider changing the licensing renewal date of businesses and transient rentals from the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) to the beginning of the calendar year (January 1).

How to implement the change was part of the discussion—should the renewals due June 30 be for the 18 month period of July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009 (\$60 due June 30) or should they be for 6 months, with renewals due again in December for the 2009 year (\$20 due June 30 then \$40 December 31)?

The Council would like to hear from the business owners and transient rental owners in writing before they continue this discussion at their May meeting. Please send your feedback no later than May 7, 2008 to cityhall@ci.yachats.or.us or P.O. Box 345, Yachats, OR 97498. The City's drop box is also available 24/7 in front of the Yachats Commons.



Everyday Choices

By Greg Scott, City Councilman

Recent headlines are beginning to point to a coming crisis as world population grows, known oil reserves shrink, and the amount of trash overwhelms our ability to dispose of it. Right off our shore, the salmon industry has shut down because of the depletion of fish populations. The price of gas goes up daily as does the cost of feeding our families. We are watching our planet struggle to meet demands for basic resources.

The concept of sustainability has been floating around for several years. It can be defined as the balance between resources and consumption. If we can't renew or replace what we use up, we will run out. It's as simple as that.

Yet of course, it's not simple at all.

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, almost everything we consume or do has been based on cheap energy. However, energy costs are rising dramatically both because of limits on new sources and because demand is increasing. Fossil fuel production has peaked, but growing world populations and rising expectations for a higher standard of living are demanding more fuel and driving up the prices of a limited resource. No one can seriously assume that we will ever have cheap energy again.

How will the people of Yachats respond to this new world? What everyday choices can we make to prepare our community to meet the challenges of a future in which food and fuel supplies could be disrupted or simply be priced so high that people will have to make choices which are inconceivable today?

Every day we can make choices that will decrease our consumption of scarce resources. Today's crisis could be tomorrow's opportunity. If the era of cheap fuel and food is over, higher prices could stimulate local agricultural production in places like Yachats. Investing in community gardens and local food production will produce healthier food, create jobs, reduce the energy required to deliver food, and reduce our carbon footprint. Getting people out of cars and walking or biking reduces the need for expensive parking and provides us with the exercise that is good for us. Figuring out ways to eliminate car trips by car pooling or designating people to shop for us instead of making many separate trips would help us cut fuel costs. If residents and businesses switched out incandescent light bulbs for compact florescent bulbs, energy for lighting could be reduced by 60-80%. A community composting center could accept both garden clippings and kitchen scraps. The recycled material could be made available to local gardeners. Given the size of our waste stream, we should be considering additional ideas to recycle more of our trash.

Creative ideas about sustainable practices are already being generated by people in our community. The Green Salmon, for example, recycles rain water for plants and uses biodegradable food containers. Another group is working on changes to permit people to raise

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chickens (hens only), which will recycle kitchen scraps and produce eggs. These are examples of actions that would begin to move us toward a sustainable community.

Our electric company produces a bill each month that shows our electrical consumption over the past year. It should be a simple task for the PUD to compute an average electrical consumption by zip code. This could then become a benchmark for comparing community effectiveness in conserving electricity and motivate people to make changes that reduce their electrical use. What ideas do you have that would help to establish Yachats as a sustainable community?

I often hear people say “Yachats is different.” We have an opportunity to demonstrate our difference by showing some leadership in our approach to resource use and reuse. How will you make a difference?



The Councilor’s Corner By Joel Evans, President

Honoring Mom

If your mother was anything like mine, one of her favorite expressions was “Pick up after yourself; don’t leave a mess when you’re done.” Good advice that fits most situations.

Here in Yachats after our long, brutal winter the grass-mowing season will be upon us. All over town on public streets and sidewalks we will see clumps, heaps, and piles of new-mown grass. These are not only unsightly, but they clog drains and on a wet day are slippery. After a while they are no longer green and don’t look any better. Pick up after yourself!

It doesn’t take much planning to cut the first couple of swipes with the exhaust chute pointed inboard. If that doesn’t work, Ned at the hardware store is happy to sell you a broom. If you have a groundskeeper taking care of your estate, he knows how to do this. Just tell him, “Pick up after yourself.”

Mother’s Day will soon be upon us. Let’s honor Mom and pick up after ourselves.

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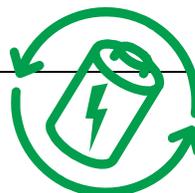
Planning Department By Larry Lewis, City Planner

Moving Towards Sustainable Development

There is an ever-growing national trend for communities to strive towards sustainable development. Discussions on sustainable communities often focus on limiting sprawl and urban growth management. Oregon is well known for its urban growth management. Now local agencies, developers, and property owners are beginning to ‘think green’ when developing and building within urban growth boundaries. Last year the National Association of Home Builders awarded its first Green Land Development of the Year award to a new development in Salem. Green building goals and environmental attributes of the Pringle Creek development include:

- ❖ the largest residential application of pervious asphalt in the country;
- ❖ village center streets made of porous concrete;
- ❖ 100% of the framing lumber for its 190 homes will be Forest Stewardship Council certified;
- ❖ 90% of the rainwater will infiltrate the ground naturally;
- ❖ 80% of the many existing trees have been preserved;
- ❖ lumber from the trees that were removed is being milled on site for reuse;
- ❖ more than half the houses will use geothermal heating and cooling that is 400% efficient;
- ❖ 35% of the land is preserved as open space, parks, plazas, and gardens; and
- ❖ every home will exceed Earth Advantage and Energy Star standards.

As future growth and development occurs in Yachats, we should strive towards implementation of similar green building goals and environmental attributes.



Public Works

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By John McClintock, Public Works Director

One of the most significant “green” efforts concerning Public Works has been incorporated in the construction project at the new wastewater treatment facility and the new wastewater pump stations.

All new electric motors that are being installed are what are referred to as “variable speed drive” motors. These VSD’s mean the motor only runs at the required rate to accomplish the task. Instead of running full speed at all times, when on, the motor only runs at the level needed at a given time. This is not only a more efficient process, but saves energy during start-up and operation and wear and tear on the motor.

Electric motors run all of the wastewater pump stations and pump and air blowers at the treatment facility. We anticipate a decrease in the required energy necessary for the operation of these motors.

On another “green” note, water flow restriction devices for showerheads are still available at City Hall as well as grease containers.

The flow restrictors help conserve water and grease containers keep grease out of the wastewater collection system.



Yachats Commons

Events

By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator

The Mayor asked that this newsletter be devoted to “green” issues, and we certainly try to do our best to adhere to that line of thinking every day at the Commons. Our cleansers are orange and lemon-based products. Whenever possible, we use cloth rags that are then washed and reused thus eliminating the waste of paper products. The rug cleaners we use are nontoxic and hypoallergenic. Recycling bins are available in the kitchen so that events can recycle as much clean waste as possible and Yachats Village Market is also close by for glass recycling.

The Friends of the Commons have literally crawled under the building and insulated our heating pipes. This was not a fun job, but it has saved quite a bit

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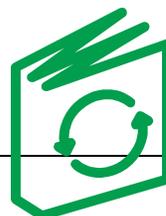
on the use of the fuel required to run our boiler. When the Commons was built, insulation was not something that went into the walls, so we have insulated the ceiling above the multipurpose room and the kitchen. This has also helped keep heat in and the fuel costs down.

For those of you who use the building, a suggestion to save money and resources is to not purchase bottled water. Bottled water is often not as carefully regulated as a municipality’s. The City’s water supply is palatable and meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. Also use our dishes for your events. It may take more time to wash and put away the dishes, but you won’t be contributing to the landfill capacity by using paper products. When you consider your event or meeting, keep the environment in mind.

Lastly, the park behind the building is a lovely place to enjoy nature and surround yourself with the very reason it is important to conserve and protect our environment. This time of year is wonderful for walking on the boardwalk and looking for frogs and newts and birds.

The May calendar has some fun and interesting events on it:

- Thursday, May 1, 7 pm – *Yachats Big Band Dance*
- Friday, May 2, 7 pm – *Chautauqua Talk Wallace Stegner*
- Friday, May 9, 7 pm – *Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra*
- Saturday, May 10, 9 am – *Master Gardeners’ Meeting*
- Saturday, May 10, 10 am – *Author-Fest*
- Sunday, May 11, 2 pm – *YYFAP Talent Show*
- Thursday, May 15, 6:30 pm – *Free Movie Night*
- Friday, May 16, 6 pm – *Hens 101 Info.*
- Saturday, May 17, 7:30 pm – *Jubilate Concert*
- Monday, May 19, 6:30 pm – *Dance of Universal Peace*
- Saturday/Sunday, May 24/25, 10am-4 pm – *Crafts on the Coast Arts and Crafts Fair*
- Thursday, May 29, 11:30 am – *Yachats Lunch Bunch*



Yachats Public Library

By Marie Green, Library Commission Chair

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Renew, Reuse, Recycle

Yachats residents (full and part time) and visitors alike enjoy reading. And this helps build the foundation of what makes the Yachats Public Library special. Each year many gently read books are donated. Duplicates are either sold from the on-going sale shelves in the library or at the hugely popular annual library book sale.

The library also accepts videos which are a favorite of patrons living upriver without television signal access. While the library subscribes to a limited number of magazines, many more are donated and welcomed by readers.

Several years ago, our aging space heaters were replaced by more energy efficient and cost effective models. This Spring all of the old ballasts were replaced on the fluorescent lights. This completed a series of projects to upgrade the library.

The location of the library at the end of the City Park Trail near the 804 Trail encourages pedestrians to stop at the library to access their e-mail or check out books. Our spiffy new bench and Memorial Garden also invites a moment of rest and renewal.



Little Log Church & Museum By Jodi Sones, Master Gardener

The Little Log Church and Museum on the corner of 3rd and Pontiac Streets has a very unique situation. The entire property has a natural underground water flow. I never have to water the lawn and yet it stays green all year long. This can be a fortunate and sometimes unfortunate situation. To me, this means I have to "go with the flow" and make it work for me instead of fighting it.

Parts of the garden are a natural bog. Because of this I have been working on restoring and enhancing a bog area on the property. Old maps of the gardens show that there used to be Skunk Cabbage growing there. They died out long ago most likely due to the years and years of organic debris build-up from the surrounding trees and

shrubs. I have dug out a small area in the southwest corner of the property and there are now six new Skunk Cabbages planted there.

We recently had two trees blow down from the strong winds this past January. The trees were side-by-side, so when the trunks are pulled out there will be quite a large hole. Without those trees, the hole will be in full sun and right in the main path of our underground water flow. I am working on trying to locate some sun loving *Darlingtonia* (Giant Pitcher Plant) to put in that area. They are a protected species and may be difficult to obtain, but I will do my best.

Some shrubs, such as the Rhododendrons we have added to the property, have to be on a raised bed so their roots are up out of the wetness of the bog. There are some plants, though, that like wet "feet." Calla Lilies, most Willows, Hydrangeas and even several Hebes don't mind wet "feet" and by planting them in this area I never have to worry about keeping them watered.

The most fortunate aspect of the underground water flow is a lush, green lawn that stays that way all year long even in the dry summers we sometimes get. I hope that you will come by and visit our garden this summer to see for yourself. We even have a picnic table for you to enjoy a sack lunch or just sit and read. We are quite proud of how we have turned this area into an area the entire community can use and enjoy.



Yachats Youth and Family Program

Help Do Your Part
By Jordan Ostrum

The Earth gives us everything we need, which is why taking care of it is important. Conserving the Earth's resources can help provide our children and our children's children with a healthy planet on which to live. This could be one of the greatest gifts we leave them with. Here are a few pointers on how to use Earth's resources efficiently:

- Take shorter showers
- Leave doors and windows closed when the heat is on

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- Use florescent light bulbs
- Unplug appliances that aren't in use

As the saying goes, "Think globally, act locally!" For more information on helping protect the environment log onto www.epa.gov/.

Helping Hands Needs Your Input
By Milo Graamans

The Helping Hands Youth Group recently placed signs on the perimeter of the ball field behind the Commons asking people to clean up after their dogs. We kids were looking for a way that the field could be used by all who wanted to play on it (human and canine). The signs were accompanied by plastic bag dispensers. The idea was that people could help themselves to a bag, use it to clean up after their pet, and then dispose of it properly. However, due to frequent theft and vandalism, we feel frustrated. Helping Hands would like input from the community about whether the bag dispensers are useful in order to help us decide whether or not it is worth maintaining them. Call (541) 547-4599 or e-mail yapkids@peak.org to give us your input.



Flood Insurance 101
By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

In 2006, 1/3 of all flood insurance claims were submitted by people living in low-to-moderate risk areas. Flooding can result from heavy or prolonged rains, coastal storm surge, snow melt-off, blocked storm drainage systems, or other causes. It can be widespread or localized. To be considered a flood, the waters must cover at least two acres or affect at least two properties.

Using the tools available at www.floodsmart.gov homeowners can assess their flood profile, estimate what a flood could cost, the types of policies available, and find tips on preparedness and recovery.

Even a few inches of water can mean thousands of dollars in repair and restoration costs. Most homeowners insurance does not cover floods.

Flood insurance, like earthquake insurance, is "single peril" insurance sold separately from

homeowners insurance. Flood insurance is available both within and outside of floodplains. Your property's flood risk is available on flood hazard maps.

Different types of policies are available depending on your flood risk. If you live in a *high-risk area*, you will need a Standard Policy. Most mortgage lenders will require that you have such a policy before they will approve your loan.

Outside of high-risk areas, flood insurance is also available usually at lower cost. A Preferred Risk Policy covers both a home and its contents, with premiums as low as \$119 per year. While you aren't required by the Federal Government to have flood insurance in a low-to-moderate risk area that does not mean you won't ever need it. Large floods often extend beyond the boundaries of high-risk areas and smaller floods occur outside high-risk areas as well.

Flood insurance is sold and serviced by private insurers, and backed by the Federal Government. More than 85 companies sell flood insurance. Often the same insurance agent who wrote your homeowners insurance policy can help you obtain flood insurance. Flood insurance costs the same wherever you purchase it, because the rates are set by the National Flood Insurance Program.



Ballot Measure 21-122

During the Oregon Primary Election on May 20, 2008 voters will be asked if the City of Yachats can purchase land for a water reservoir south of the Yachats River Bridge. This measure was referred to the voters by the City Council.

At this time, the City has adequate treated water storage capacity for the existing demand levels. However, additional treated water storage reserves will be required as the population grows. Currently all water customers south of the Yachats River are served by one main line that crosses the Yachats River at the Yachats Bridge.

The need to construct a .25 million gallon (MG) treated water reservoir at a location south of that bridge has been identified in both the Master Water

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Plan of 2001 and the Urban Renewal Plan of 2006. The reservoir will increase the City's treated water reserves, provide more uniform flow and pressure distribution in the southern half of the water system and reduce interruptions in service if the transmission line crossing the river were damaged. Several potential sites have been identified. The Public Works Director and the City's engineers are performing a siting study to confirm the best location and elevation for the reservoir. The siting study will also consider ease of access, cost to improve the access, design considerations and purchase price.

The City Council will, following a public hearing, adopt formal "Findings of Fact" stating the selection rationale and identifying the proposed lot before purchasing any lot. Authorization from the voters is required by City Charter before any land for the project can be purchased. The purchase price for the land shall not exceed \$100,000 and will be paid from existing reserves.



Upcoming Local Elections

On November 4, 2008, during the General Election, election of a new Mayor and two new Council Members will take place to fill the following terms:

- Mayor, two-year term ending December 31, 2010
- Two Council Members, four-year terms ending December 31, 2012

To qualify as a candidate for the any of above listed positions you must be a qualified voter and a resident within the City limits for at least one year preceding filing for office.

Each candidate for office must file a declaration of candidacy and submit a petition for nomination for office with the Yachats City Recorder no sooner than April 28, 2008 and no later than August 26, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. All necessary forms are available at Yachats City Hall located inside the Yachats Commons, 441 N. Hwy 101, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (except holidays).

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Public Notices

Notice of Budget Committee Meeting, Urban Renewal Agency

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Yachats Urban Renewal Agency, Lincoln County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 will be held at the Civic Meeting Room, Yachats Commons. The meeting will take place on the 5th day of May 2008 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 28, 2008 at City Hall, 441 Hwy 101 N., between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Any person may appear at these meetings and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Notice of Budget Committee Meeting

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Yachats, Lincoln County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 will be held at the Civic Meeting Room, Yachats Commons. The meeting will take place on the 5th day of May 2008 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 28, 2008 at City Hall, 441 Hwy 101 N., between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Additional meetings have been scheduled, if needed, for May 6, 7, and 8, 2008. The purpose of these meetings will be to review the budget document and receive public comment. These are public meetings where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at these meetings and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Notice of Public Hearing City of Yachats

The Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on May 5, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the possible uses of State Revenue Sharing Funds in the 2008-

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2009 budget year. Interested persons are invited to attend. Written testimony will be taken at the City Office, PO Box 345, Yachats, 97498. The meeting place is handicapped accessible. Those needing assistance please contact the City Recorder at (541) 547-3565 before the meeting. The City of Yachats is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

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