



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

OCTOBER 2008

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for meeting agendas & minutes, municipal codes, applications and more!

Quote of the Month

For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other. –Millard Fuller



Mayor's Message By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. –Margaret Mead

That quotation was sent to me ten long years ago when I was contemplating the possibility of running for City Council. I wasn't at all certain, in the beginning, that I was the right person for the job. I would be fooling myself...and all of you...if I said that I hadn't had moments of doubt in the years following. But mostly, I have felt that it was the right thing for me to do and it was the right thing for this community that I love so dearly.

Community, like so many other concepts, means different things to different people: it is family; neighborhood; sub-division; town; county; and so on right up to the human community in the world. It is inescapable! The depth of one's involvement is a matter of choice.

Some have several "layers" and some have one. Few have none. It seems to be the "nature of the beast" that we are inspired and moved by individuals with whom we share common interests. Thus, just as "many hands make light work," many minds make for creative vision. As we grow older we relish community and (if retired) have more time to cultivate and enjoy it.

It is the sense of **community** that brought many of us here and it is that sense that keeps us here years later. But what is **community**? It is the

community of volunteers who keep our charming library the unique and wonderful facility that it is. It is the community of volunteers who envisioned what the Little Log Church & Museum means to this town and dedicated their hours and hearts to the preservation and growth of that historic gem. It is the community of volunteers who have loved, cherished, and endowed our "front porch," the Yachats Commons. It is the community of volunteers who give their time and talents to commissions and the City Council. And it is the "essence" about which we have talked previously that made the visiting couple from Georgia, who had never even heard of Yachats, spend over a month here after they experienced a health scare at a local restaurant and were treated compassionately and tenderly by both restaurant and fire department personnel. They cancelled their plans to go north and savored the "serendipity" of this seaside community. In fact, they have decided that this is the perfect place for a family reunion next year.

As I look at dictionary definitions for the word **community**, I see "a unified body of individuals" and variations. One of the special characteristics of Yachats is that we are not always unified—that we can disagree, but still live in community bound together by our common regard for what this environment has to offer. The opportunities to serve this community are endless. To **be** a part of this community is as simple as **being** a part of it.



**Tuesday, October 14,
2008 is the last day to:**

- Register to vote
- Make residence or mailing address changes
- Make name changes

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- Change your party affiliation

For more information about voter registration and ballot information call the Lincoln County Recorder's office at (541) 265-4131 or log onto their website at www.co.lincoln.or.us/clerk/voter_info.html.



Planning Department **By Larry Lewis, City Planner**

VARIANCE APPLICATIONS

This is the fourth of eight descriptions of different types of land use and building permit applications that the City processes.

What is a Variance?

A variance is a relief given where enforcement of the zoning code would result in unnecessary hardship to a particular property. A property owner may request a variance to zoning ordinance standards. Variance requests are typically for reduced building setbacks, increased building height, increased lot coverage and other identified standards. A variance may not be granted to allow a use of the property that is not identified as a permitted use in the zoning district. For example, a variance cannot be granted to allow a retail establishment in the R-1 Residential Zone.

Circumstances for Granting a Variance

A variance may be granted only in the event that the Planning Commission finds that all of the following circumstances exist:

- Exceptional or extraordinary circumstances apply to the property which do not apply generally to other properties in the same zone or vicinity, and result from lot size or shape, legally existing prior to the date of the ordinance codified in this title, topography, or other circumstances over which the applicant has no control;
- The variance is necessary for the preservation of a property right of the applicant substantially the same as owners of other property in the same zone or vicinity possess;
- The variance would not be materially detrimental to the purposes of this title, or to

property in the zone or vicinity in which the property is located, or otherwise conflict with the objectives of any city plan or policy;

- The variance requested is the minimum variance which would alleviate the hardship;
- The hardship asserted as a basis for the variance does not arise from a violation of the zoning ordinance.

History of Variance Approvals

Only three variances have been approved in Yachats during the past 15 years.

PLEASE NOTE: My hours have changed to Mondays 12:30p-4:30p & Tuesdays 8:00a-12:00p.



Yachats Public Library

**By Marie Green, Library
Commissioner**

We all have ideas about what "community" means, especially here in Yachats. Keeping the small village atmosphere is the number one concern for our residents. With that in mind, the library would like to recommend a fascinating book about the beginning and early times in the Yachats River Valley.

We recently received several copies of the desktop published book The Valley Called Home. If you ever wondered about the original settlers of this area and their descendents, this is the volume to read. There are pictures, poems, old newspaper articles and reminiscences by the early residents. The early homesteads are listed and mapped. There is a chapter devoted to the schools: the first was established in 1886. Another chapter is all about Axtel Creek and the Yachats River sub-agency while another tells us about the early community.

When the editor first began collecting information in 1993, there were only two of the "old timers" living in the valley. However, they had a wealth of remembrances. Howard Howell (born 1913 in Waldport) kept a 50 year diary. The entire 40+ pages are included in this book. Readers will get a real sense of how people survived during the Great Depression and the World War II years.

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The library has put two copies of The Valley Called Home in the new nonfiction section. If both copies are checked out (it's been very popular), just put your name on our informal reserve list. We hope you'll find this book as interesting as we have.



Little Log Church & Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

Although the Little Log Church & Museum is our local historic museum, it is indeed alive and well as a place for current community activities.

A new and wonderful happening now takes place at the Little Log Church & Museum each Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thanks to the leadership of Laura Svendsgaard and a few dedicated local individuals, a one hour silent meditation group has been formed.

If you would like to learn about the benefits of deep breathing, relaxation techniques, and just quieting the mind come by. A designated participant will share how he or she uses meditation in daily life, and then all join in silent meditation for the remainder of the hour. It's a good thing—for the mind, the body, and the spirit.

The Little Log Church & Museum offers this time and space to the community at no charge. Individual donations are, of course, appreciated. For additional information contact me at (541) 547-4547.



In the Garden

By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator

The Little Log Church & Museum improves all the time. If you haven't taken a stroll through our gardens to see the new masonry wall behind our sea lion sculpture, you are in for a real treat. Thanks go to Lou Caputo for a beautiful job. Just in case you didn't know, he also put in the side walk on the north side of our property several years ago.

I've been busy trying to clean up the abundant weeds the rains this summer have blessed us with. Also, I had to have Angell Job Corps remove a couple small trees beside the entrance to our garden path as all the branches on them were blocking that entrance. As usual they did a superb job removing the trees and a couple limbs from another tree that were on our neighbor's roof. It was very interesting to watch them removing those things and not a limb touched the ground. They chipped it all up into their truck and took it away and then cleaned up the street! What an asset they are to our community.

The grounds are starting to dry out a bit, so in a couple weeks or so I will be able to give the City the go-ahead to remove the stump that will leave a large hole for the bog garden where I plan on putting *Darlingtonia* (giant pitcher plants). By the way, the little pitcher plant someone left at the museum for us is doing well and growing, just waiting for its new home on the Log Church grounds.

Next month I hope to have news about a new bench on the grounds for you.



Yachats Community Park is now a Certified Wildlife Habitat

By Cicely Bernard, Activities Leader

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) now recognizes the Yachats Community Park as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. The kids from the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program worked with staff and volunteer Betty Bahn to complete the application process.

This site attracts a variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. In order to be certified, a site must employ sustainable gardening practices and must provide the 4 basic elements all wildlife need: food; water; cover; and places to raise offspring. The NWF has certified 2900 schools and hundreds of business and community sites. Certified habitats can be found everywhere from post offices, hospitals, and places of worship, to community parks, corporate buildings and municipal facilities. In addition to providing for wildlife, this type of

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habitat area helps in conserving our natural resources while helping protect the local environment by reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and/or irrigation water which ultimately protects air, soil, and water throughout our community. Throughout the certification process the kids have become increasingly aware of the natural world surrounding them as they play on the playground after school. They use the Yachats Community Park as a learning lab for native plant identification, wildlife observation, noxious weed identification and removal, and activities such as nature journaling, photography, and berry picking. The kids built nesting boxes and put them up last year and most recently finished a couple bat boxes and are ready to put them up next. They are still waiting for the arrival of an Osprey though.



**Cooperative Preschool
Livens the Commons**
By Mellie Bukovsky, Early
Childhood Education
Coordinator

As folks stop by the Yachats City Hall office, they may hear giggles and laughter floating through the halls. What could possibly be so much fun? The curious are invited to make their way down the hall and peak into the classroom of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program's Cooperative Preschool (YYFAP). This is my second year as YYFAP's Early Childhood Education Coordinator. Each day I provide a unique blend of "fun learning." The children in the class each hold a position as "classroom helper" which provides them with recognition and pride as they complete their tasks. Few are the traditional ways of teaching letters and numbers, senses, or language. Maybe as you walk through or near the Yachats Community Park, you will see the children admiring flowers, and you just might hear "Mrs. B." say, "How many petals are on this flower? Let's count them." Or you may find children picking blackberries along the boardwalk, pondering the question, "Does it taste sweet or sour?" If, by chance, you hear the roars of jungle animals in the park, don't be alarmed. It's only Mrs. B. and her class using their imaginations as they jump, crawl, and flap while they play near the Big Spruce Tree Deck. Please, feel free to come join us!



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Do you still have keys checked out from the Yachats Commons? Please save the City money by returning them inside City Hall or by using the drop box out front.

**Thank you.
Town Tidbits**



MEET THE CANDIDATES

In January, Yachats will welcome a newly configured City Council. While Council members Greg Scott and Larry Nixon will return for their remaining two years of service, two new council members and a new mayoral candidate will appear on the November ballot.

To better acquaint people with the candidates, City Council candidate Dave Rieseck and mayoral candidate Ron Brean invite the citizens of Yachats to join in a "meet and chat" opportunity at the Green Salmon Coffee House, October 19, 2008 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Refreshments, coffee and tea will be served. We sincerely hope you'll stop by.

The other Council candidate, Annette Howarth will be out of town much of October, but will certainly welcome any inquiries upon her return.

**ONE OF US PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS NOEL
COWARD'S "BLITHE SPIRIT"**

October 3-5 and 10-12 Friday/Saturday showings at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday showings at 2:00 p.m.

Yachats Commons multipurpose room

Tickets: At door; Newport Performing Arts; Raindogs; Shirleys; Toad Hall; and Chuck's Videos

FREE DENTAL CARE

October 16-17

Northwest Medical Teams Dental Van sponsored by the Yachats Community Health Clinic. Call (541) 547-3301 for qualifications and appointment information.

JOIN THE YACHATS COMMUNITY GARDEN

(541) 547-3565
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Plots are now available. Contact Prue Zimmerman at (541) 547-4624 or Marje Takei at (541) 547-3612 for rules and procedures.

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The City of Yachats is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.