



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

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## Quote of the Month

*Be the change you wish to see in the world.*  
Ghandi



## Mayor's Message By Susanne Smith, Mayor

While I am aware that I have shared the above quotation with you before, it seems most fitting in our newsletter this month since we are talking about change.

Fall is the season of change. For us here on the coast it usually represents clear warm days with cool evenings and mornings. Many feel that this is the very best time of year. Children change from summer vacation mode to school mode. Summer residents begin to think about packing up and returning home. Vacationers return home and more "senior citizens" take to the highways.

There are new faces in City Hall and on the Public Works crew; the new Yachats Wastewater Treatment Plant is close to being finished and going on line; sites are being investigated for a water storage facility south of the Yachats River; and there is activity at some of the development projects around town.

There is change occurring in the leadership of the City of Yachats as well. In a few short months, Yachats citizens will have a new Mayor and two new City Councilors. I encourage each of you to chat with the candidates in the two months before the election and ask questions about their positions on issues of importance to you. Each Councilor, as well as the Mayor, has *one* vote, but compromise and adjustment are always hoped for.

In my 14 years in this community, I have seen a lot

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of change. People have come and gone—some to be missed deeply. Homes have been built; properties have changed hands; and progress has been made.

Change is healthy. Embrace it.



## Changes at the Commons By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

Beginning September 1, 2008 the daily operations of the Commons will be facilitated by the staff inside the main City Hall office. We will be scheduling the rooms, writing contracts, collecting rental fees, and distributing keys. To make things as easy as possible during this transition the Commons telephone number will remain the same but will be answered by City Hall. In addition, the Commons now has a cell phone renters can use to call for help after City Hall hours.

The Commons website is now a part of the City's official site too ([www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)). Website visitors can plan their event or check out what is going on in and around the building. Room availability can be viewed on the 24-month scheduling calendar. Rental Request Forms, a sample contract, rental rates, and the Commons Policy Manual can also be viewed. The scheduling calendar has up-to-date information about the rooms that have already been booked. By clicking on the icon at the bottom of the date in the calendar grid detailed information in the sidebar can be viewed. The contract form has also been updated to include more information renters need to know to ensure that their successful events are following the rules. The City website now has a "Commons Events" page that has more information about what is happening.

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The Commons Management Task Force, the Parks and Commons Commission, City Council, The Friends of the Yachats Commons and City staff are all working together to make this transition work smoothly. Input and suggestions from the renters are welcome. Please call us at (541) 547-3565 or e-mail is at [commons@ci.yachats.or.us](mailto:commons@ci.yachats.or.us).

*If you don't like something change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.*  
--Maya Angelou



## **The Councilor's Corner** **Larry Nixon, City Councilor**

### **Will Work for Change**

My Midwestern father always told me and my seven siblings to get a good education and move to the coast for the good climate. Thirty years ago I stood at Yachats State Park looking at the surf filling the bay trying to equate it to an Iowa corn field—the only open space I knew at the time.

Highway 101 still splits Yachats in half. During the summer the traffic flow is like Interstate 5 in volume. Come February you can roll a bowling ball across the roadway and not hit anyone. Of course property owners on Highway 101 have that “God given right” of backing out of parking spaces onto the roadway.

I remember the Yachats City Council meeting being held at the Lion's Hall when the council voted to purchase a computer for City Hall although the city recorder said that her electric typewriter was still working just fine. Today the city staff is starting to scan and create files that will allow Internet access to the City's archived documents.

One summer day years ago I drove through town to find the real estate offices closed; the post office quiet; and the gas station empty. I saw Seagulls circling to the west and found the whole town dipping smelt. That evening the scent of smoked smelt filled the entire town.

The Yachats Public Library was built to hold books. Lately computers have been added and today it is one of the Wi-Fi hotspots in town. If one finds themselves with children in town, it's great to take

them to see a lemon tree and read about a lemon tree in the same visit.

On a February day a couple of decades ago, I helped the public works director load up 50-pound bags of dog food from the market into his pickup. He took the bags of dog food and poured them into the treatment plant basin to feed the “bugs.” Apparently there weren't enough of us in town to keep them alive. Soon we will be bringing the new treatment plant online that has been sized for the future.

Today visitors can toss their car keys onto the table and walk from the north side to the south side of town on a trail just steps from the Pacific Ocean. Soon, another trail will connect it all the way to the highest point on the Oregon Coast—Cape Perpetua. Visitors can walk to our shops, walk to our restaurants, and just enjoy our open space.

When I first arrived in Yachats I was told asked two important things: how much firewood do you have; and is the tide coming in or going out. I still keep firewood in the shed and I see the changing of the tide daily. For some people, that's the only change they want to see.

*If anything is certain, it is that change is certain. The world we are planning for today will not exist in this form tomorrow.* --Philip Crosby



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

### **Conditional Use Permit Applications**

This is the third of eight descriptions of the different types of Land Use and Building Permit Applications that the City processes.

#### What is a Conditional Use?

Each zoning classification, e.g. the residential R-1 through R-4 and retail commercial zones C-1, have what are considered “outright permitted uses” and “conditional uses.” Conditional uses require special consideration because they are different than the primary land uses allowed in the zone and may have an effect on surrounding land uses, i.e., may create traffic problems or have adverse visual impacts on the neighborhood.

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## The Process for Approval

Land uses not identified in the zoning ordinance as an outright permitted use or a conditional use are not allowed in that particular zone. If a use is identified as a conditional use, the property owner must apply for a Conditional Use Permit.

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to determine whether or not the request conditional use is approved or denied. In permitting a conditional use, the Planning Commission may impose additional conditions which are considered necessary to protect the best interests of the surrounding area or city as a whole. Examples of additional conditions include limiting the height of buildings, controlling the location and number of vehicle accesses, increasing parking.

## Examples of Conditional Uses

Conditional uses permitted in residential zones include home occupations, public utility facilities, temporary real estate offices, and bed and breakfast facilities. The City received and processed 5 conditional use permit applications in 2005. Except for the 2005 exception, the City has not received more than 1 conditional use permit application per year for the last six years. The current fee for a conditional use permit application is \$250.

If you have questions about this or other city planning issues, please call me on Tuesdays from 8:30a-4:30p to make an appointment

*Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better. --Sydney J. Harris*



## **Public Works Department** **By John McClintock, Public Works Director**

The Yachats Public Works Department has changed a great deal in the short time I have been with the City. These changes have been out of necessity to keep up with development, growth, and state and federal regulations.

In the past several years we have dealt with seven major developments that have and will put more pressure on the public works department. For instance:

- ◆ Normal growth has increased pressure on infrastructure including water, sewer, and storm drainage.
- ◆ New State and Federal regulations have changed how we do business concerning water, wastewater streets, storm water, etc.
- ◆ We are in the process of building a new wastewater treatment facility and pumping stations.
- ◆ Projects continue to be done upgrading all facets of the infrastructure to meet the growth and regulations requirements.

If you want to know more about the Public Works Department please call us at 547-3565 or attend the monthly City Council Meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room on the second Thursday of each month.

*The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order --Alfred North Whitehead*



## **Disaster Preparedness Class Being Offered** **By Betty Johnston, CERT Coordinator**

Take a moment to remember back last winter, December 3, 2007. The winds were gusting around 70 mph. It was raining steady for days. It was cold and the electricity was out. Were you prepared?

Were you in the Los Angeles area for a vacation a few weeks ago when the 5.6 magnitude earthquake struck? Did you know what to do?

These questions will be answered during the CERT training class. This class will be taught to prepare you, your family and pets, and your neighbors to enable all involved to survive a disaster.

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Why do ordinary people need to take CERT training? We as citizens of the Oregon Coast will play an important role in helping to safeguard, prepare for, and respond to major emergencies and disasters in our communities.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays our community's first-responders, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organization skills they learned during training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until medical professionals can arrive.

Class participants learn how to:

- ✓ Identify and anticipate hazards
- ✓ Reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace
- ✓ Extinguish small fires
- ✓ Assist emergency responders
- ✓ Conduct light search and rescues
- ✓ Set up medical treatment areas
- ✓ Apply basic medical techniques
- ✓ Help reduce survivor stress

This class will cover the first unit of the CERT training. The total training will take 20 hours to complete the 9 units that are required to get certified as an official CERT member. Class will be held September 13, 2008 inside the Yachats Commons, Room 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Class materials will be distributed free of charge. Call me at (541) 547-4934 to reserve a space.

*We must change in order to survive. --Pearl Bailey*



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

Do you have a Yachats Library card? Since the mid-seventies the Yachats Public Library has issued nearly 5000 cards to patrons, both full and part-time residents of our small village. We really like to encourage people to read.

Alas, our card drawer is so full, nary another card will fit. It's time for us to go through all the cards and research the changes in names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Just think, that

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six year-old in 1984 with a "J" for juvenile card is now an adult, going on thirty! It is taking some detective work and many phone calls, but gradually, the cards are getting sorted out, from active to inactive.

Big changes are coming. This winter the patrons will have a code added to the back of their current card and books and videos will be checked out electronically. Don't know where your card is? Not to worry, we will cheerfully issue a replacement.

*People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built. --Eleanor Roosevelt*



**Little Log Church & Museum**  
**By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator**

You wouldn't think a local historical museum would have much to say about change, but that's what the Little Log Church and Museum is all about. We are here to record the changes in our community. From the time the Little Log Church was dedicated in 1930 until the present we have been the storehouse of local history and changes in our community to the present date.

Recently we had a visitor to the Little Log Church who found her picture in a Sunday school photograph from 1938. She was about 10 years old, and had seventy years of stories to tell of her history in Yachats and western Oregon. What changes she has experienced!

We'd love to hear from the folks who have grown up here or who have been transformed by moving here –people who have seen changes in their lives, their families, and their way of living.

We invite you to share your experiences with us. Please stop by, or contact a volunteer about your own story. Remember, history begins with yesterday. Yesterdays create our histories.

*We frail humans are at one time capable of the greatest good and, at the same time, capable of the greatest evil. Change will only come about when each of us takes up the daily struggle ourselves to*

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*be more forgiving, compassionate, loving, and above all joyful in the knowledge that, by some miracle of grace, we can change as those around us can change too. --Mairead Maguire*



**In the Garden**  
By Jodi Sones,  
Landscape Coordinator

The Little Log Church and Museum grounds just keep getting better and better. Things are growing and improvements are getting accomplished with even more planned for the future.

Our antique roses along the sidewalk going into the museum are in full bloom right now. Please stop by and smell them—I promise they will knock your socks off! Thanks go to *Bramble and Rose Nursery* for them. If anyone is looking for a rose that will not fail, be blight resistant and always produce beyond your dreams, take a stroll through their nursery just north of town sometime. They can also be found at the Yachats Farmers Market on Sundays selling their wonderful roses.

Our wildflower bed on the north side of the church has outdone itself too. Next year I plan on putting more of a variety in there for everyone to enjoy. I have been collecting seeds for some time getting ready to put them in. Please keep in mind, also, that I have free seeds (many from our wildflower bed) available inside the museum. Of course a small donation to the museum would be appreciated.

Soon, if not already, we will have a nice new masonry back-drop behind our Sea Lion sculpture to replace the wooden poles that are now rotting out at the bottom. It won't be as tall as the old back-drop, giving you a bit of a view of the gardens behind.

Also, in our fern garden there are plans for a bird bath. It will be on top of the stump of the shore pine that was removed a year ago. It should be in by the time you read this.

I hope everyone enjoys our Little Log Church and Museum. We try hard to make it a relaxing place everyone will want to visit often. Visitors are welcome to take a sprig or two from our herb

garden before they leave. A bit of fresh rosemary goes really well on fish, poultry or pork.

*Growth itself contains the germ of happiness. --*  
Pearl S. Buck



**Yachats Youth & Family**  
**Activities Program**  
By Chris Graamans, Facility  
Committee Head

Exciting changes for the Commons building are in the works. The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program needs more space, and everyone thinks the Commons is where it needs to stay. Surveys were taken, consultants were hired, and many meetings were held. The Parks and Commons Commission, City Council, and the Friends of the Commons got involved. Now, the City of Yachats and YYFAP have entered into an agreement to cooperatively work towards a larger, improved YYFAP facility, while still meeting the needs of the community center as a whole.

Are we talking about an addition, a remodel or an additional structure? What will it look like? These questions have not yet been answered. We are currently soliciting bids from architects for the preliminary design work. The concept design will be reviewed by the City and by YYFAP to ensure it meets the requirements of both organizations. Once the concept design is approved we'll also have cost estimates for the project.

Already, before active fundraising has started, YYFAP has obtained three grants from: the Oregon Community Foundation; the Ford Family Foundation; and from Lincoln County Economic Development funds. Part of this funding goes toward the cost of the planning and design and part (as a matching grant for local contributions) toward construction costs.

*If you were all alone in the universe with no one to talk to, no one with which to share the beauty of the stars, to laugh with, to touch, what would be your purpose in life? It is other life, it is love, which gives your life meaning. This is harmony. We must discover the joy of each other, the joy of challenge, the joy of growth. --Mitsugi Saotome*

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