



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**November 2002**

Visit [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) for the minutes of City Council and Commission meetings

## FROM THE MAYOR

### WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

I'm concerned! Over the past year or so, I think we can take justifiable pride in some of the physical accomplishments that have occurred or are about to occur in Yachats. Better water, neater cleaner streets, improved city landscaping, and the preliminary work needed to establish the trail system are all gratifying but I can't help having this feeling of unease—of concern about what the Yachats of the future will look like. Will it still have the "village" feel that we hear so much about or will it be like so many other non-descript small towns with a few marginal merchants, unchecked traffic, runaway signs and indifferent neighborhoods?

What causes me to have this difficult to identify feeling? I guess it's seeing a large cedar tree, in a public right of way cut down up Cedar Street, more new houses constructed with little or no regard for their neighbors view, a sprinkling of chain link fences in front yards, extended landscape plans that include wasteful water features, and "clear cutting" within the community (not to mention the Boise program over which we have little control).

I believe that we have a truly well trained, willing and hard working staff. I believe we are providing good services for the money expended. I believe we are making reasoned decisions as a council. I believe we have an incredible resource in the volunteer energy that we see in so many places in the community. I believe we have the necessary studies and plans to form the basis for planning our future. So what's wrong? We're not looking far enough out—stretching our imaginations—planning the way we want things to be rather than reacting to things we don't want.

Let's try to look downstream at what could happen if we just keep going along.

- The commercial land just North of the Texaco station to Marine Drive has Taco Time, a 7-11 mini-mart, and three vacant shops facing Highway 101. These new businesses have large internally illuminated signs in bright colors.
- Traffic continues to be a problem and the city has had to budget \$100,000 for police services. Since no new taxes can be levied, support for the

Commons, Little Log Church and the Library have had to be almost eliminated to pay for police.

- Even with police presence, meth labs have proliferated and more of our young people have become involved.
- With reduced gas tax from the state, reduced or eliminated franchise fees, and reduced transient occupancy tax following conversion of the Shamrock and Yachats Inn to condominium, the city faces severe revenue shortages and has to curtail all discretionary services.
- Boise has completed harvesting its acreage and we are left with some ugly scars (and some complaining tourists)

Well you get the picture. But what can we do about it? Several things:

- Emphasize the creation of reserves in our budget process so as outside funding sources dry up we can still maintain our facilities. Make sure that all of our programs are run in a fiscally responsible way—lean and mean.
- Re-evaluate our zoning. While recognizing private property rights, create new zones for areas like the property North of the Texaco that will encourage development that we want rather than accepting just what comes along.
- Create codes that prohibit (or at least restrict) undesirable "improvements" like front yard chain link fencing, water wasting landscape plans, and light pollution lighting.
- Develop a reasonable commercial design review process.
- Modify the sign ordinance to eventually eliminate internally illuminated signs and to create a "village" feel.

This is where I think we should consider going. Do you share these concerns? Let's talk about our future!

I welcome your comments and questions.



**DRIFT INN LIQUOR LICENSE TYPE TO CHANGE**

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City Council approved the full On-Premises Liquor License for the Drift Inn. The change in license will allow the Drift Inn to serve hard liquor. After the City approves any application they are forwarded to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for final approval and issuance.

At the City Council work session Linda Hetzler, one of the owners of the Drift Inn, explained that they wanted to be able to serve coffee drinks and mixed drinks; and, that this will expand the type of services they will be able to offer people who wish to rent the establishment for private parties.

Hetzler said that they will continue to operate as a family restaurant that offers a full menu; and, children will still be allowed in the dining area.



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#### IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS:

- City Council adopted Ordinance No. 232 - Repealing Ordinance No. 218, and ordinance which took an exception to Statewide planning goal 17 related to a very specific area of the 804 S. This was repealed in accordance with the mediated settlement agreement.
- City Council increased the part-time administrative specialist position to full time. This position is the employee responsible for the water and sewer billings and over the years more duties have been assigned so more time was needed. This employee also provides backup for the Public Works Director and Commons Coordinator.
- City Council set priorities and established guidelines for the types of materials that may be included in future water bills.
- City Council adopted Resolution No. 400 - Entering into an Interagency Agreement with the County that will allow the City to participate in the County's grant for sharing a GIS system. The City's match in the grant will not exceed \$2,000 and that can be "in-kind" items such as staff time in training on the new system and the cost of the computer equipment on which the software is installed. If the City had to purchase and develop the system on its own it would have cost between \$50,000 to \$100,000 so there is a big advantage in sharing costs with the County.



#### LOCAL OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON CITY ISSUES

Yachats Mayor, Lee Corbin, and the newly elected City Council member, Ray Meehan, joined other elected and appointed officials from cities across the state to discuss important issues facing their communities and share ideas about possible solutions. The event that brought them together was the League of Oregon Cities' 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Business Meeting November 8 - 10 in Portland. Approximately 900 city officials from all parts of Oregon attended work sessions and training seminars designed to help them manage their municipalities more effectively and to share best practices.

Over 30 sessions were offered, covering such topics as dealing with how cities manage revenues and expenditures; homeland security; ethics and conflicts of interest; telecommunications and the public right of way; supporting our youth; and many more.

The LOC Annual Conference gives city officials the opportunity to have direct input into deliberations on statewide issues that have a direct effect on the way their cities are governed and their ability to provide services to local citizens.

Each year the City of Yachats sends one or two members of the City Council to the Annual Conference, and one year Councilor Sue Smith even volunteered to work at the registration booth. In exchange, the League provided her conference registration and lodging free of charge.

Several cities were given awards for various achievements and Safety Awards were presented to cities with the lowest injury frequency rates. Yachats was presented a gold award for having no worker injuries during the year. This was the second year in a row that Yachats won a gold.

The League of Oregon Cities was organized in 1925 and represents 238 incorporated cities in Oregon. The League provides policy advocacy before the legislature, provides information and research reports on issues, ordinances, and best practices; and, provides education and training opportunities for elected and appointed city officials.



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#### KITCHEN DEDICATION AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

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The Friends of the Yachats Commons Foundation and the City of Yachats will host an Open House and Potluck at the Commons on Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 P.M. This event is a community celebration and we extend a special invitation to each of you to attend!

The Friends report that two of their long-term objectives have been realized with completion of a new stage lighting/sound system and a certified food preparation area (kitchen). This event will serve as an opportunity for the Friends to present these improvements to the City.

At the same time, the City of Yachats will recognize the numerous individuals and organizations whose volunteer efforts make this community a viable and wonderful place to live and visit.

Mark your calendar for this event and please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. The main entrée and beverages will be provided.



**NOVEMBER PROCLAIMED  
MEDIATION MONTH IN THE CITY OF  
YACHATS**

Yachats recently joined the State of Oregon and many other cities in declaring November as Mediation Month.

In the past several years a wide variety of organizations have developed programs or been established to provide and support mediation and dispute resolution services to the citizens of Oregon. With the development of these various services residents can choose mediation as a "first resort" to peacefully resolve conflicts, which in turn promotes safer communities, schools, families, saves time and money, and creates better outcomes for everyone;

Locally the Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution organization assists citizens of Lincoln County in all kinds of disputes, including property damage, animals, litter, noise, money, trespassing, harassment, landlord and tenant relations, victim-offender, and family problems. They are a non-profit organization, and donations are requested from each party. They may be reached at 574-9846.



Public Works Director, John McClintock made the following report at the November City Council Meeting:

- The recent rains have been replenishing the city resources.
- There was a major leak on Second Street near the Fire District. That line will be replaced with a bigger line that will be buried deeper for protection.
- The work necessary to complete the requirements related to the access permit is almost done at the Reedy Creek site.
- The streaming current monitor has been installed and is working. The next step will be to install the automatic chemical treatment system.
- Repairs to some hydrants are being completed and some new hydrants are being installed.
- The DEQ has not yet responded to the City's request for a Mutual Agreement and Order to resolve the past violations and settle potential future violations.
- The City has a traffic monitor on loan from the State.
- Additional storm drains have been installed underground.
- Yachats is renting leak detection tools from Waldport.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

The holidays are creeping up on us and if you are in need of extra room because all the relatives are coming for dinner, or you need an extra table and chairs, remember to contact the Commons. We have rooms to rent for large and small private events, a well-stocked, excellent kitchen, and tables and chairs for rent.

The Commons is also a fine place to walk and exercise, the multipurpose room is available most days, just come by and check the calendar for availability. The Youth and Family Activities Program is also hosting a weekly basketball night on Mondays beginning at 6:30 for teens and adults.

It is a good way to work off some of those extra dinners.

In case dancing is more your style, the Yachats Big Band will be putting on a good show again on Thursday, December 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. Another night of dancing will be held on the 27th of December with a dance of universal peace.

Stay tuned here for further events that could be of interest to you and check the weekly calendar posted around the Commons.

A final thank you from the Farmer's Market vendors to all their customers. It was a great year, see you next May.

Annual Budget Summary Report for Fiscal Year  
July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>10/31/02</i>	
<b>Program</b>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$484,565	\$290,632
Library	\$13,550	\$9,866
Little Log Church & Museum	\$8,315	\$1,745
Parks & Commons*	\$171,903	\$40,394
Streets	\$84,700	\$42,689
Water	\$364,774	\$121,499
Sewer	\$320,100	\$82,220
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$916,253	\$915,252
Debt	\$134,511	\$5,560
	<u>\$2,498,671</u>	<u>\$1,509,857</u>



### WINTER TIPS

- Insulating your pipes is usually thought of in the winter to keep them from freezing...but that same insulation will pay off for you in the summer as well. When hot water pipes are insulated, the water standing in the them will remain warm longer, requiring less time to get hot water at the faucets, and less cold water goes down the drain.
- With winter here many people will be off "on the road again"! If you are going to be leaving your home unoccupied while you travel, the water should be turned off at the hand valve to prevent cold weather damage

to your plumbing and depletion of the water supply. City Code requires a hand valve on the homeowner's side of the meter for just that reason.

- Removing handles on outside faucets will make it difficult for any unauthorized or accidental use while you are away.



The Fire District is engaged in a smoke detector program in which they will install, inspect, or relocate smoke detectors in area homes. They are taking donations toward the cost of the program. For more information about the program or to get an application form call 547-3266. An application form is also available on the City of Yachats' website at [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) - click on the link at the bottom of the home page and print out the form.



### VISIT THE CITY OF YACHATS ON THE INTERNET!

The City web page is the place to check out information about:

- *City Council and Commission Members, Minutes, and General Government*
- *The City Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Land Use*
- *The Commons, Little Log Church, and Library*
- *News*
- *History*
- *Emergency Information*
- *Links to other County and State Government Internet Sites*

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