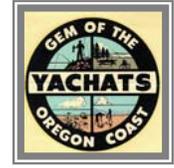




CITY OF YACHATS NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2011

THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted: April 2, 2009

Our village is a place where natural resources are valued and protected, where diversity is celebrated, and where a vibrant economy and sense of community pride create and recreate a living spirit. Yachats cares not just for its citizens' basic needs but also supports them in their efforts to excel mentally, physically, artistically, and spiritually. It is a community with an enduring sense of itself.



Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

Last April I made an effort to warn you about the impending removal of timber from lands that receive the Oregon rains and dole that rain water delicately through the watershed of Salmon Creek and into the domestic water supply of Yachats. At that time, it was my belief that the removal of timber was inevitable and that we would be trying to clean up, as best we could, after the removal of trees left us with a less productive, and more expensive, water source. I was at least partially right about that prediction, but it seems the magic of an engaged community would not allow my dire predictions to be fully realized... at least not yet.

To be sure, some timber harvest is under way in the Salmon Creek watershed. It did not happen as quickly as originally thought, nor as thoroughly ...at least not yet. The extraction of timber resources has been stalled by a number of factors. The reduction of the price of logs in the Chinese market has played a very big role, but there is more. An effort by the City and other interested individuals and organizations to safeguard the City's water supply and the natural landscape and natural resources we cherish as a community has played a role as well. We have commented on the harvest plans with an emphasis on protection of the water supply, endangered species, and concern for geologically unstable areas. Those comments have altered the course of the review, at least somewhat.

Although the upper reaches of Salmon Creek are U.S. Forest Service property and managed in a way that tends to preserve a healthy stream, about 300 acres just above the City's water plant is privately owned by individuals and/or corporate entities whose business model involves timber harvest. I have no argument with folks who make their living in that business, but I am concerned about the affect of such a business on the

water supply of our town. As a consequence I have been working with Councilor Scott and others to try and find ways to either protect the Salmon Creek watershed from harvest or to secure a restoration strategy that would minimize the use of herbicides (a normal landscape treatment that follows harvest to allow for specific species reforestation...for eventual re-harvest), would create a healthy tree/plant species mix to assure a healthy future watershed, and secure future ownership that would promise management designed to promote a healthy watershed. The City Council authorized the contracting of a forester to help us with this effort. Mark Miller of Trout Mountain Forestry has been a real asset.

The United States Forest Service is interested in owning and managing the watershed in question. All it would take is an appropriation from Congress. Although that sounds quite daunting in this day and age, it is not out of the question. It isn't, however, imminent. Consequently, we have been exploring the concept of a Community Forest, of which these properties might be a part. We've been looking at the possibility of watershed protection grants, which are possible if there is an appropriate owner. We've done some exploration of conservation easements. We've been looking of organizations who specialize in offering "bridge funding" to secure properties until a better ownership and resource protection strategy can be secured. Those strategies require a borrower, potential owner, stakeholder, ownership entity that can step forward and take charge and potentially take ownership.

That brings me to an end of my long introduction and to a few items of background that you may need to get to my actual point...which is eventually coming. I promise. The background involves the Yachats Commons. That wonderful community and event center is the outcome of a rather contentious debate in our town some years ago. Some saw the abandoned school as a wonderful opportunity and some saw it as a costly white elephant.

As a consequence, when the sitting City Council of the time voted to acquire the Commons, some citizens were excited and some were outraged. Those that were outraged started an effort to stop any future real property acquisitions by the Council without a vote of the public. Those that were elated wanted to be sure that the City Council couldn't unburden itself of properties (like the Commons) without a vote of the public. The result was a City Charter amendment that ties the City's hands in real property situations. The Council can neither buy nor sell without a ballot measure.

As a consequence, the City has no ability to negotiate, posture, borrow, seek grants, nor seek management status for our own watershed. Further, we have no ability to take advantage of "fire sale" prices that would give the citizens of our town ownership of strategic properties that might, from time to time, come available as foreclosures or other exigencies that would enable us to meet community needs.

At last, here is my point:

Councilor Dunn and I are currently undertaking a review of the City Charter. In most regards our current Charter mirrors those of other cities in Oregon. There is only one significant area in which it does not. That item is the one that prevents your Council from acting nimbly on real property opportunities. That item is the one that prevents us from having status to more aggressively protect your watershed. It is the item whose genesis is in the great debate about whether the City should have acquired the Commons as a community facility.

It may be that the limitation on real property acquisition is still a good one. It may be that it should be changed. There may be other provisions of the Charter that we find to be inadequate, out dated, or too severe. When we have finished our review and presented it to the Council, the Council will decide whether to pass suggested changes on to you. It is a process that depends, in the end, on your participation. Stand by for more. Stand by to make your voice heard. We, the Council and I, are receptive to that voice.

In the meanwhile, we will continue to what we can with the tools available. We're not done trying to protect your watershed...at least not yet.



City Required Licenses

Debrah Edwards, Deputy
City Recorder

Business Licenses

Yachats Municipal Code 4.04.020 defines a business as "any trade, occupation, calling, profession, pursuit or activity which is carried on for the purpose of profit." This includes street vendors or anyone hired to do work in and around homes or businesses even if the physical site of their business is located outside the city limits.

Transient Rental Licenses

Yachats Municipal Code 4.08.020 defines a transient rental as "a single-family dwelling, duplex or triplex which is rented or available for rent for a period of less than thirty (30) days, such as by the day or week. The dwelling may consist of individual units or be in a contiguous form to be considered a transient rental dwelling, however, each individual unit is to be considered separately for licensing and regulation purposes. A home which is listed with an agent as a vacation rental, advertised, available by referral, word of mouth, commendation and reputation are some of, but not limited to, the ways of identifying a transient rental.

A Transient Rental License must be obtained prior to any rental of any rental property fitting the criteria. The Code further states "A contact person or agent within the local 547 or 563 calling area must be identified on the application and available by phone at all reasonable times (eight a.m. to eleven p.m.) and immediately respond if there is a problem during the dwelling's use as a transient rental. The name and phone number of the contact person shall be posted inconspicuously on the transient rental building, but where a neighbor can easily read it."

Licensure may be confirmed by the City of Yachats during regular business hours Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

License applications can be obtained inside City Hall or at the City's website www.ci.yachats.or.us. There is a \$40 licensing fee per calendar year and an additional \$25 application fee for businesses within the city limits (the application fee does not apply to Transient Rental Licenses).

Please contact City Hall at (541) 547-3565 during regular business hours or e-mail us at cityhall@ci.yachats.or.us

for more information



Public Works Dept.
By John McClintock,
Director

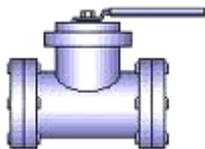
From Monday, November 7, 2011 through about Friday, November 15, 2011 we will be conducting our annual flushing and cleaning of the water distribution system.

For the most part customers will be unaffected by this type of maintenance of the water system but there a slight possibility that some may experience a short-term drop in water pressure or a temporary discolorization of their water. If you notice cloudiness or other discoloration, run the water from on any of your taps for a few minutes to clear it up.

There are several reasons we flush and clean the water system each year:

- To exercise all the valves in the distribution system
- To open and close hydrants to ensure they operate as designed
- To flush and “scour” the water mains and ensure removal of any sediment that may have built up on the water pipe walls or settled on the bottom of the water mains
- To flush and “scour” any dead-end water lines
- To clean and inspect reservoirs

The overall intent of this exercise is to ensure we maintain the highest quality water delivered to our customers. If you have any questions please call Public Works at (541) 547-3243 or the Yachats Water Treatment Plant at (541) 547-3851 weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



**It's Time to Check your
Water Hand Valve Again**

Yachats Municipal Code 8.04.140 requires that “All residential and commercial connections to the city's water system shall have a hand valve installed on the property owner's side of the meter. The valve must be installed inside the meter box or within twenty-four (24) inches of the meter to enable city staff to turn off the water without going on to the property...”

With winter here, it is not only essential to know where your hand valve is located, but if it is functioning, and if

the meter box is free of dirt and debris. The City recommends that customers check their hand valves on their property twice a year, once in the spring and then again in the fall when the time changes. In addition, we recommend that customers turn their water off at their hand valves if their property will be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days. Turning a faucet on after the water has been shut off will allow any water remaining in the pipes to drain out and prevent freezing.

Should a customer request that Public Works turn off their water the account holder will be charged a \$20 “call out” fee Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and \$40 after business hours or on holidays. Homeowners may also receive \$100 citation for having a non-functioning or inaccessible hand valve.



Yachats Trails Update
By Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair

It is a wonderful and heartening thing to watch a community come together for the greater good. Over the last month there have been two deeply touching examples of that coming together, making me so very proud of the Yachats Trails Committee and this community.

Throughout the summer we've shared the progress that's been made in replacing the footbridge at Amanda Creek. The required labor was a joint effort between the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (through their affiliate, Blue Earth Construction), Oregon State Parks, Angell Job Corps and the City of Yachats Trails Crew. Eighty individuals came together from these four groups in order to labor together for a cause—sweating, grunting, toiling and otherwise giving their all.

Then on October 8th the Confederated Tribes led us in the bridge's dedication and in a traditional "Cleansing Ceremony" for Amanda. Over a hundred people solemnly gathered at the bridge and the Amanda statue to remember the painful past and to celebrate the beginnings of a new and better relationship. Nicknamed "the bridge of truth," the bridge project and that day have come to represent a significant step in the healing and (it is hoped) in establishing a relationship between the community and the tribes based on truth and respect.

At the same time, the Trails Committee's Invasive Plants Subcommittee (YIPS) and the Trails Crew have also been heavily engaged in reclaiming habitat on the Prospect

Trail that runs from East 2nd Street to Radar Road. Over the last 18 months we've shared with you the struggles of removing a huge 8-foot high thicket of blackberry, plus English ivy, knotweed, morning glory, crocosmia and other invasives along the lower section of trail. Then patiently waiting for the re-sprouts to appear, removing the sprouts, chasing the roots, waiting again and treating again (I've lost count of how many re-treats have taken place to date). In between treatments the Trails Crew and YIPS improved the trail, adding steps (some in beautiful stone) and realigning the footpath to reduce the steepness.

In August the Trails Committee joined the East 2nd Street neighborhood and friends of Leslie Carter in order to dedicate our first piece of trail art in her memory. The lovely bench with inlaid mosaic now provides a precious place for rest and contemplation, affording a view from the Prospect Trail of the Yachats River and south Yachats over the roof of the old Landmark.

But the new excitement is that finally on October 15th YIPS (under the very capable leadership of Wally Orchard) joined by some ever-so-welcome Angell Job Corps students held its first work event where we've actually begun planting! With all the work of weeding and retreating finally we're getting to put some sweet plants into that lovely soil based on a landscape plan that Jerry and Kathleen Sand worked with us to develop. We are now in the process of planting native and wildlife-friendly ornamental plants (those providing pollen, nectar and habitat equal to native plants) as part of our demonstration garden. You will be able to see for yourself what delightful plants you might use to replace invasives or create a garden more in harmony with nature.

The City of Yachats Trails Committee, its wonderful volunteers, and our allies turned out in encouraging numbers all through the summer never seeming to care how difficult the work. Pitching in as best they can, being conscientious in all that they've done, and never uttering a complaint or a whine. All showing up in numbers time and time again leaving Joanne Kittel (leader of the Development Subcommittee), David Lavrinets (leader of the Trails Crew), Wally Orchard (leader of YIPS) and I consistently encouraged and grateful.

And so, as I began, it is a truly wonderful and humbling thing to see a community come together to give what it can for the greater good. And to all of you who have volunteered in support our efforts, please know that we

are deeply grateful. Your time, your energy, and your enthusiasm are very precious commodities and we thank you very much for sharing with us so graciously.

Of course, we're not done...If you're interested in joining this wondrous group of Yachatsians on one of our invigorating (or not so invigorating) events no experience is necessary and there is always a wide range of tasks available. Here's what's next:

Saturday, November, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the City Yachats Trails Crew will be gathering for trail work at a site not yet determined as of this writing.

Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. YIPS will gather at the lower Prospect Trail to incorporate additional plantings from stock donated by Jerry and Kathleen of the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve.

Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 10 a.m. is our 2nd Annual New Years Day Amanda Trail Peace Hike. I'll announce the meeting place closer to the date.

For more information about the City of Yachats Trails Committee or YIPS or to be added to the Trail's email list contact:

- Lauralee Svendsgaard, Yachats Trails Committee Chair at (541) 547-3640 or via email lsven@peak.org
- David Lavrinets, Trails Crew Leader at (541) 547-5388 or via email dalavrinets@peak.org
- Joanne Kittel, Development Committee & Amanda Trail Leader at (541) 547-3144 or via email inkittel@peak.org
- Wally Orchard, YIPS Leader at (541) 547-5474 or worchard@peak.org



Little Log Church and Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

In our garden, just between the cedar sculptures of St. Francis of Assisi and the Sea Lion, grows an impressive fig tree. For years it was shrouded by two large shore pines causing it to be quite shy about producing fruit and leaves of any size. After some recent years of strong coastal winds and rains those shore pines were lost to the elements. The fig tree then sort of raised its face to the sun, smiled, and grew yielding fruits that now feed the birds as well as the spirits of those who

enjoy the garden. It seems to enjoy its work here!
Now those larger and fuller leaves are dropping to the ground as is their duty to the fall season. Soon our fig tree will be bare along with all of the other deciduous trees. This is the benchmark of the fall season. "To everything there is a season."

Fall is a most special time: A time to be thankful for our abundance. We at the Little Log Church and Museum are thankful for the support you give us throughout the year. We have great volunteers and local folks who are generous in sharing their stories and our visitors enrich us in so many ways. That mix makes the Log Church and Museum a good place just to "be." The Little Log Church and Museum's board and volunteers thank you all.

Holiday-time visitors and townsfolk alike will be delighted to know that our garden will be lit up again this year. Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual opening ceremony of the *Yachats Winter Celebration* on December 5, 2011 at 7 p.m.



Yachats Lunch Bunch Holds its Next Gathering in December

By Paul Niblock, Coordinator

For those of us with short attention spans, including myself, the next Lunch Bunch will take place on **Thursday, December 8th 2011** with no luncheon in November. We traditionally hold our Annual Holiday Luncheon around this time forgoing November's gathering. The reason for this is every year for the past decade the Lunch Bunch has met on the last Thursday of each month. However, in November that would be Thanksgiving Day and in December that would be only three days before Christmas Day. So we combine the November & December luncheons into one great big festive Holiday Lunch Bunch on the second Thursday after Thanksgiving.

Our Holiday Luncheon menu will include roasted turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green salad, rolls, and Christmas cookies. We will offer appetizers and apple cider in addition to the usual coffee and tea. All food is prepared and served by the culinary students of Angell Job Corps.

Lunch Bunch is a monthly (well almost) get-together for folks 55+ to enjoy a delicious hot meal, the company of friends old and new, and some live entertainment. Suggested donation is \$4 per person. Join us at the

Yachats Commons multipurpose room—doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served noon.

Santa may or may not put in an appearance. One year his evil twin "Bad" Santa showed up. If you don't want any coal in your stocking we suggest you bring a food donation for the Yachats Emergency Food Pantry. It's been a tough year for so many. A table will be designated for our donations and we will present our collective offerings to the Emergency Food Pantry during the luncheon. Don't forget—there are also hungry pets who would appreciate your gift of food too!



Donations to Holiday Food Baskets Needed

By Tonner Hayes, SLR President

Helping our neighbors have food on their table for the holidays is one of South Lincoln Resources annual services. You can help fill our Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Food Baskets this year by donating canned and prepackaged foods. Canned soups, vegetables (yams), fruits (cranberry sauce), tuna, and peanut butter are all excellent choices.

Drop off your donations in the collection bins provided at the Bank of the West, Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, and Yachats Baptist Church. We then take your donated dry goods and add a turkey, bread, potatoes, onions, carrots, eggs and a pie to complete our Holiday Food Baskets.

This is the 29th year South Lincoln Resources has made Holiday Food Baskets available to children, families and seniors in Yachats, Five Rivers, Ten Mile, Tidewater, Waldport and Seal Rock. SLR is an all-volunteer, non-profit charitable organization with no paid positions and no government funding.

You can also help us help the community by mailing a tax-deductible check to South Lincoln Resources, P.O. Box 1638, Waldport, OR 97394-1638.

For more information, please call South Lincoln Resources at (541) 563-2388 or visit www.SouthLincolnResources.org anytime.



Sunday, November 6, 2011