



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**November 2007**

Visit [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) for City Council/Commissions meeting minutes and more!

## Quote of the Month

*"Animals can learn, but it is not by learning that they become dogs, cats, or horses. Only man has to learn to become what he is supposed to be."*

*Eric Hoffer*



## Mayor's Message

By **Susanne Smith, Mayor**

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The City of Yachats has ordered two metal storage containers to hold emergency supplies for use in the event of a disaster. Situating these containers is in the discussion stages. The containers will be stored temporarily on City property until permanent sites are identified and prepared. Sites currently under discussion are at the top of Crestview Drive; up Cape Ranch Road (both on City right-of-way); and east of the cemetery. Recognizing that any sites will have some degree of visual impact on the neighborhoods, City Council is encouraging public comment. As always, comments can be sent to: City of Yachats, PO Box 345, Yachats, OR 97498 or via e-mail at [ci.yachats.or.us](mailto:ci.yachats.or.us).

Along similar lines of thought, the City Council has created an Emergency Management Team Steering Committee to address issues of importance around pre and post disaster events. Members have been appointed from across the community and include a representative from the Fire District, Public Works and Streets Commission, the Public Works Director, the Public Works Foreman (already previously designated Emergency Management Coordinator), the City Recorder, a City Council member and a member of the business community (as yet unnamed).

As I write this, we are under a high wind warning and traffic is stopped on Highway 101 due to a downed power line. We are approaching winter with storms and possible power outages, not to mention the ever present possibility of slides, earthquakes and/or tsunamis. This is probably a good reminder to assess personal readiness.

- Do you have an emergency kit packed?
- Can you carry it on your back in the event that time is of the essence?
- Do you have food and water for a few days in this pack?
- Does your kit include several days' worth of any medications you take?
- If you have supplies packed, have you "refreshed" them?
- Do you know where your closest "safe place" is?

For further information, go to the City of Yachats website, [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) and click on the links to Emergency Planning. I think today would be a good day for me to heed my own advice and "refresh" my own emergency packs!

It is never wrong to **be prepared**.



## **YACHATS ESSENCE**

On a completely different topic, I have been giving a lot of thought to exactly what defines the Yachats "essence." I suspect that this will be a topic for at least one future Mayor's Message. How would you define it? Let me know via e-mail at [sue@ci.yachats.or.us](mailto:sue@ci.yachats.or.us) or USPS at PO Box 345, Yachats, OR 97498.

**City of Yachats**  
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**Help! SOS! Danke!  
S'il vous plait! Ayuda!**

**Your City Needs You!!  
By Susanne Smith, Mayor**

Currently the City of Yachats has openings for volunteers on several commissions. Commission membership requires attendance at one meeting per month and focus on specific issues unique to the particular commission whose recommendations are often passed on to City Council for adoption. Commission membership also requires primary (do you vote here?) residency within the City limits.

- If your interest is in infrastructure (water, wastewater, streets, etc.), then Public Works and Streets (2 openings) may be for you. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
- Perhaps your focus is on the Commons Building and City parks (including the newly dedicated Yachats Community Park), then Parks and Commons (1 opening) might be your cup of tea. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m.
- Maybe implementing the newly revised Comprehensive Plan and looking at future growth for Yachats is of particular interest to you. The Planning Commission (1 opening) is charged with addressing those issues. While the state of Oregon dictates much of the state's land use policy, including requirements for cities, there is still much work to be done on the community level.
- Last, but far from least, is the City's Budget Committee (2 openings) which meets in May for the purpose of recommending the City's budget to Council for adoption. There are ten members of this committee, five of whom are the City Council. The remaining five are citizens at large. Budget experience is helpful but not necessary.

Volunteers are the backbone of this community and are necessary for effective and smooth function. Full commissions are essential to the operation of the City. Applications are available at City Hall.

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**Finance Committee  
Formed**

**By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

The City Council authorized the creation of a new advisory Finance Committee. By enlisting the assistance of volunteers with analytical and financial backgrounds and knowledge, the City Council will have access to more comprehensive studies and be less reliant on expensive outside consultants.

The Committee will provide financial expertise to the City as they analyze issues facing the community and make recommendations to the Council, Commissions, and staff. The Committee's job will be to look at the "big picture" for the next 3-5 years and forecast how property tax decisions, utility rates and other sources of revenue, and related expenses will affect the City's ability to provide services. The Committee will also be asked to provide "State of the City" financial reports to the City Council that will be a snapshot of how the financial long-term picture looks given certain assumptions.

Members will include one individual from Public Works and Streets Commission, Planning Commission, Parks & Commons Commission, Budget Committee, City Council, and the City Recorder.



**Wastewater Treatment  
Plant Update**

**By John McClintock, Public Works Director**

The Wastewater Treatment Plant project is proceeding on schedule. The contractor is building and setting forms to pour the concrete walls for the sequential batch reactor units.

The goal is to have the structure completed by December. The next step is to fill both units with treated wastewater effluent for 30 days to assure it passes the required pressure tests.

Feel free to stop by the project or call me after November 3 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at (541) 547-3565 or (541) 547-3243 concerning this project or any Public Works issue.

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## **Do You Know Where Your Hand Valve Is?**

**By Debrah Edwards,  
Administrative Specialist**

Yachats Municipal Code 8.04.140 requires that all residential and commercial property owners have a hand valve installed in the meter box on the property owner's side of the meter.

With the unpredictable winter months just ahead, it is essential to know where the hand valve is located, if it is free of dirt and debris, and if it is functioning properly. The City recommends that customers check the hand valve on their property twice yearly when the time changes over. In addition, the City recommends that customers turn their water off at the hand valve if their property will be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days.

Taking time to do so will lessen frustration and the risk of an enormous water bill.



## **The Yachats Lunch Bunch—7 Years and Still Going Strong!**

What began as the Yachats Senior Luncheon in July 2001 with a handful of volunteers putting together a monthly luncheon in the Yachats Commons with food provided by the Angell Job Corps, continues today as the Yachats Lunch Bunch.

Oh to be sure there are a few differences today, not just the name change. Guests weren't too excited about the word "senior" and much preferring a snappier alternative, even one not quite as descriptive. Also the doors open a bit earlier now, at 11:30 a.m. and lunch starts at noon. As for the food, we know what we like and we like what we know. So although the menu is always varied, it's always comfortably familiar. No tofu, mashed yeast or alfalfa sprouts—so far.

To fund the operation, the Lunch Bunch requests a modest donation from our guests. Angell Job Corps does a great job providing fine and reasonably priced meals. There will continue to be

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some form of entertainment each month. It all takes place on

the last Thursday of the month, January through October, with a Holiday Luncheon two weeks after Thanksgiving in December. You'll see Yachats Lunch Bunch fliers all around town and in Waldport; we're in the Pacific Skinny; and on the reader board outside the Commons.

We've purposefully left out all of our names, past and present, because it's not about us; it's about you.



## **Commons Events**

**By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator**

As the holiday season approaches and people are thinking inside thoughts, come down to the Commons for a variety of fun activities and events. The first weekend in November is set aside for the Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. This is always a big one with lots of great gift ideas. The hours this year will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 3, 2007 and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 4, 2007.

If you're a teen or someone looking for things for teens to do, come to Teen Night on Friday, November 9, 2007 at 6:30 pm. They will be playing big screen video games and having lots of fun. The evening is put on by the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program.



## **Call for Artists**

**By Susan Garner, Commons Coordinator**

We are going to try something new here at the Commons for the month of December. The plan is to turn room 8, which is at the north end of the Commons, into a local artists' gallery so that those artists who are not in regular galleries can display and sell their works.

If you are an artist who has been looking for a place to display some of your material and would like to sell some things, please contact Susan Garner at (541) 547-4734 for details. We are looking for gallery-quality art.

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The plan is to have the room open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. We will need some volunteers to sit in and keep the doors open. If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact me at (541) 547-4734.

Space is limited, so at this time we are only taking artists who are from the immediate area.



### **Ford Leadership Update**

**By Debbie Jackson, YYFAP Coordinator**

A year ago, many of your friends and neighbors participated in the Ford Institute Leadership Program, an intensive training program for existing, emergent, and potential leaders in our community. Part of the training process was development of a class project. After much discussion, the South Lincoln County class project is the design and construction of several kiosks to be placed in South County. The purpose of the kiosks is to convey the richness and appeal of South Lincoln County as a whole, and of each region within South County. Kiosks will eventually be placed in Yachats, Waldport, Seal Rock, and Tidewater. In addition to maps and information, the kiosks will each feature a different sea creature as an important design element. Possibilities for Yachats included smelt, salmon, heron, and otter. The front-runner is...a salmon.

Anyone who has input about the kiosks or the Yachats creature may contact any Yachats area class participant. They are Max Glenn, Debbie Jackson, Steven Jackson, Alexander Rose, Gerald Stanley, Laura Svendsgaard, and Brianna Webb.

The Ford Family Foundation is sponsoring the next phase of the leadership program beginning in November, to be held right here in Yachats. Effective Organizations Training is designed to help nonprofit and civic groups strengthen their organizations. Sessions include Vision, Direction, and Strategic Planning; Building Effective Board Leadership; Resource Development; and Operational Management. These two weekends of **free** training are open to all local non-profits and community organizations. To get more information or to register, contact Yvette Rhodes of The Ford

Family Foundation at (541) 957-5574 or yrhodes@tfff.org.



### **YYFAP Seeking Recreation PLUS Volunteers**

**By Debbie Jackson, YYFAP Coordinator**

The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program is open every day after school. Children ages 6 and up pour off the school bus and into the basement of the Yachats Commons for a healthy snack, and an afternoon of learning and fun. We offer a mixture of structured and unstructured activities, believing that after a full day of school, many children need some free time. In that free time, they are learning skills such as positive communication, problem-solving, and responsibility. They also have the opportunity to form positive relationships with supportive adults. In order to offer a high-quality program, we need a high ratio of adults to children from the hours of 4:00 to 6:00. YYFAP is looking for volunteers to come in on a weekly basis to help supervise Recreation PLUS. YYFAP will train all new volunteers, and offer plenty of support. Children of regular volunteers may attend the program at no charge. For more information, call (541) 547-4599.



### **Yachadians Follow in the Wake of the Big White Way**

The Porthole Players, Ltd. has announced its fall production of *Sweet Charity* which will open on November 2, 2007.

Based on an original screenplay by famed director Federico Fellini, *Sweet Charity* is a funny, poignant and tender look at the misadventures of Charity Hope Valentine.

Of the 47 member cast and crew, Yachadians **Dr. Mary Lee Scoville** will be conducting the orchestra, **Carl Miller** will be co-directing and is playing the role of "Daddy," **Steve Burkel** will be designing the sound, **Robbie Schoonover** will be a costumer, and **Caroline Bauman** will be playing various bit parts.

Call (541)265-ARTS for tickets and times.

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