



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**October 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**

## **SPEEDERS BEWARE**

At our most recent City Council meeting we placed in priority order the most important issues facing the city. This listing becomes our "Needs and Issues" inventory for 2003 and places us in position to apply for various grants. High on the order was the issue of speeding on Highway 101. This is an old problem with no easy solution. Our discussion with ODOT specialists indicated that the only sure way of controlling speed is physically—that is, with stop signs, stop lights, etc. Short of that, narrowing traffic lanes, creating the illusion of a narrower highway by placing buildings close to the road, and placing speed reminders are of some help. You've probably noticed when entering Waldport that the 25 MPH speed reader-board tells you how fast you are driving (and I notice that it is usually over 25) and it reminds you to slow down. This seems to be of help and we are placing the purchase of one of these mobile units high on the priority list. They cost \$10,000.

To improve our chances of getting a grant we need to form a group to develop plans for raising matching funds for the reader-board and recommend other measures to help bring speeds within posted speed limits. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact City Hall at 547-3565.

At a recent meeting with ODOT officials, the coastal Mayors discussed this problem and concluded that the speeds posted are satisfactory--it's getting motorists to observe these speeds that is

the problem. With your help we can improve this problem area.



## **RATE AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGE STUDY APPROVED**

For several months the Public Works and Streets Commission and the City Council have discussed the desirability of entering into an agreement with the Ray Bartlett firm of Portland to perform an updated study of water and sewer rates and SDCs, to include an investigation of whether or not the City should be incorporating SDCs for parks and drainage. This study will take a couple of months to complete, followed by a 90 day comment period before any changes will be made.

At their October meeting Council said that the information should be available at budget time and that part of the requirement for this study is under a mandate from the DEQ. Council reported that with the recent completion of the master water and wastewater plans by Dyer Partnership the City has all the necessary data Ray Bartlett would need to develop the study. Council approved contracting with Bartlett, the cost not to exceed the budgeted amount.



## **RECOMMENDATION FOR POLICY CHANGE AT THE COMMONS DISCUSSED**

In reviewing the proposed changes to the Stage/Sound/Lighting Policy for the Commons the Mayor and Councilors expressed a concern with the restriction of the stage area to any single purpose, which would effectively change the room from a multi-purpose facility. Council felt that there are

City of Yachats  
P O Box 345  
Yachats, OR 97498

541-547-3565  
Fax - 541-547-3063  
e-mail - [cityhall@ci.Yachats.or.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.Yachats.or.us)  
[www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)

other activities taking place on the stage, and the feeling was that there could be other protection for the lighting and sound equipment. The consensus was to refer the policy back to the Parks and Commons Commission for revision.



- City Council approved the appointment of Ellie Ewan and Jodi Sones to the Little Log Church and Museum Board. Ellie Ewan, has been in charge of landscaping for the Little Log Church for the last 5 years; and Jodi Sones, has been assisting Ellie this year with the landscaping.
- Council adopted the 2003 Needs and Issues Priority List. These are a list of projects that will be submitted for consideration by various granting agencies over the next year.
- Councilor Kraft reported on a letter he received from Boise Building Solutions, in which they indicate plans for their proposed logging. This logging will have an impact on views.
- Councilor Kraft and Mayor Corbin reported on the Intergovernmental Water Consortium, an agency formed by five water districts and/or cities north from Toledo to Yachats in the south. This group has been meeting relative to sharing water resources. An RFP was offered and awarded to The Dyer Partnership for a feasibility study. IWC set out to seek funds for the study, and a grant was applied for and awarded to IWC by the Economic Development Association in the amount of \$42,560. An additional \$5,000 will be coming from the County, \$6,600 from the Regional Investment Board, and \$1,328 each from the districts represented.

This study will be completed toward the end of 2003.

- Kraft reported that the Siuslaw National Forest local ranger district is asking for written input for plans to make some terrestrial restoration, water shed restoration and road work in the Yachats

water shed. They would like written comments by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Kraft will meet with the Forest Service and the Yachats watershed research team to go over some of the plans that they have outlined



#### **News From the Library**

- The Lemon Pie Social netted \$294.00.
- The Library is in possession of a first edition, On The Road with a value of \$700 - \$2,000. City Council has authorized the Library Commission to offer it for sale on e-bay.
- The memorial garden to honor Eileen Varley is in place to the east of the Library. The work has been done by volunteers.
- Annette Howarth has been appointed Library Public Relations contact.
- Training is taking place on the new computers purchased with money from the Gates Foundation. Commission Chair Mary Crook reports that the computer is a very current state of the art piece of equipment.



#### **Commons News**

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

When you come in the front door of the Commons, you will find a new plant gracing the halls. It's an eight-foot palm donated by Jim and Janice Gerdemann and it certainly makes things look cheerier around the building. Speaking of donations, the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church donated a dolly full of great folding chairs that will come in handy for outdoor events. These chairs are really nice.

Moving down the hall, note that the multipurpose room has been given a new coat of polish and is ready for the Halloween Dance on

**City of Yachats**  
**P O Box 345**  
**Yachats, OR 97498**

**541-547-3565**  
**Fax - 541-547-3063**  
**e-mail - cityhall@ci.Yachats.or.us**  
**www.ci.yachats.or.us**

October 26. This should make all the big band dancers happy - more sliding opportunities. The kitchen, room 5, has a new floor and a new propane stove, thanks to the Friends of the Commons who have been writing grants and raising money to improve this building. The kitchen is ready for lots of things, including the Lunch Bunch on October 31 at 1230.

The Friends and City of Yachats are planning a community potluck on December 8, beginning at 4 p.m. Mark your calendar, it will be a great time to visit with old and new friends and see all the great improvements to the building. Stay tuned for further information about the event.

A committee is forming to consider a possible location for a Yachats skate park. The Parks and Commons Commission is working with a group of volunteers on this project. This could be a really creative process. Our skate park could be a big asset to the community. To get involved, leave a message at 547-4734 and I will pass your name on to those responsible for the park.

There is always something new here at the Commons. Come look at the overflowing bulletin boards and see what available for you to do or join.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Water treatment plant operator, Rick McClung, has been named the Public Works Crew Foreman and will be assisting Public Works Director, John McClintock. McClung has had 15 years of experience and has a degree in water and wastewater technology.

At the last City Council meeting McClung made the following report:

- Rick Allen, the trainee who has been working with the City has gone to the hospital for surgery; he is not expected to return for several months.
- No water leaks were reported this month, the water audit for August reflected an 18% loss, September 14% loss. This is a major improvement over prior efficiency figures.
- A letter was sent to the DEQ requesting to enter into a mutual agreement and order.
- The public works crew has begun smoke testing. Residents are notified when testing is near their homes. Repairs have been made to the air diffusers on the wastewater treatment plant

aeration basin. This will allow better mixing and oxygen transfer for the activated sludge process.

- The crew graveled the top of First Street by the Post Office above Pontiac Street, which was a major improvement. This is also the time of year that the crew spends time cleaning ditches and making sure culverts are clear so that they can drain efficiently.



City Code requires that each homeowner install a hand valve on their side of the meter. This hand valve should be used to turn the water off when the house will be left empty to prevent cold water damage or unauthorized water use. But installing them is not good enough if they can't be used. Moles and other small animals digging around the meter, leaves and other debris, or mud can all cover up the hand valve making it difficult to find or use. Twice a year, at the same time you change your smoke detector batteries and change your clocks...make sure your hand valve is accessible.



#### **HOUSE NUMBERS**

Making sure your house number is clearly visible could mean the difference between life and death. Emergency vehicles need to be able to see the number when responding to a call. The UPS or Fed-X driver would probably thank you as well.

A City ordinance requires that all house numbers be posted, and they should be visible from the street *at night*, and in all kinds of weather.

If you are unable to hang your house numbers, the Fire District may be able to assist you!

#### **A BURNING MATTER**



The Yachats Rural Fire Department has a few suggestions for burning materials in an open burn.

- Be a courteous neighbor. If you plan to burn, and know one of your neighbors has a respiratory illness, let them know ahead of time, so they can close their windows and avoid breathing the smoke.

- Follow the DEQ open burn regulations; these include being in attendance while burning, and having a hose and shovel at hand.
- Have a good hot fire before you add big piles of branches or lawn debris, it will burn more quickly and efficiently.
- Check with the fire department before burning, as during dry conditions permits may be required, or a burn ban may be in place.
- If you have any questions, call the Yachats Fire Department at 547-3266.



**CITY CODE HIGHLIGHT**

City Code Section 5.080 deals with "junk" and keeping the city clean. Violations of this section are handled in much the same way as noxious weeds. However, sometimes it is even harder for the City staff to make a determination if a violation exists because, after all, one's man's junk is another man's treasure. It is the City's policy to first establish if the complaint is a public or private nuisance. If it is determined that the complaint affects only a few residents, such as the immediate neighbor, in most cases it is considered a private nuisance. It is always best if neighbors can work things out amicably, so the complainant will be asked to contact the other property owner to request action, such as removing the junk. If the situation can not be worked out that way, or if the complainant does not get a response, the City will mail a complaint notice giving the property owner a limited time to correct the problem to the satisfaction of the complainant. If no action is taken, and if the original complainant wishes to continue the issue, a citation will be issued, and a municipal court hearing date set. At the hearing the original complainant will have the opportunity to make their case to the Judge. The majority of complaints received by the City are handled in this manner. In most cases, a resolution is worked out before a citation is issued.

If it is determined that the nuisance is a public one, testimony of the original complainant will be made a part of the record, and the City will act as complainant.

**Yachats Municipal Code**

5.08.100

A. No person shall keep junk outdoors on a street, lot, or premises or in a building that is not wholly or

entirely enclosed except for doors used for ingress and egress.

B. The term "junk" as used in this section, includes, but is not limited to, all motors, motor vehicle parts, abandoned or discarded vehicles, machinery, machinery parts, appliances, iron or other metal, glass, paper, lumber, wood or other waste or discarded material.

C. This section does not apply to junk kept in a licensed junkyard or automobile wrecking facility. (Ord. 174 § 19, 1995)  
5.08.120

No person shall deposit, on public or private property, rubbish, trash, debris, refuse or any substance that would mar the appearance, create a stench or a fire hazard, detract from the cleanliness or safety of the property or would be likely to injure a person, animal or vehicle traveling on a public way. (Ord. 174 § 21, 1995)

**KITCHEN DEDICATION & VOLUNTEER  
RECOGNITION  
DECEMBER 8, 2002**

The Friends of Yachats Commons Foundation and the City of Yachats will host an Open House/Potluck at the Commons, Saturday at 4 PM. This event is a community celebration and you're invited!

The event will serve as a showcase by the Friends to officially present the new stage system and a certified food preparation area (kitchen) to the City of Yachats.

At the same time, the City of Yachats will recognize the multitude of individuals and those volunteer efforts that make this community such a great place to live.

Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. Beverages, will be provided. Live music and a light demonstration.