



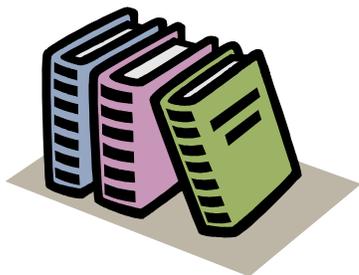
# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**October 2003**

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



FROM THE MAYOR

VOLUNTEERISM AT ITS BEST

Or

(The little Library that could)

When I moved to Yachats, one of the first things I did was search out the public library and I was both surprised and delighted by what I found. Housed in a pleasant airy building on 7th Street I discovered that this was a unique experience in our money oriented world—it was, and is, FREE. What a concept! Manned entirely by a cadre of 20 or so volunteers, built in the mid 1980's by the Angell Job Corps and some more city volunteers, this library offers six day per week service from noon to 4, Monday through Friday and 10 to 4 on Saturday. There aren't even any fines for books that are returned late, just a "conscience" jar for donations that, the librarians insist, yields significantly more than a fine system would. Additional funds are garnered through grants, an annual sell-out lemon pie social, and regular book sales. The next book sale is October 25 from 10 to 4, but

come early for the best selection. Books are sold by the bag and are a true bargain.

The emphasis of this library is on recreational reading. The 20,000 volumes in the adult section include a significant mystery section plus many classics. The children's section houses a separate fine collection. There is also quite a selection of audio books on tape and a recent collection of videos. Again, the volunteer aspect of this library comes through as some 40% of new books are donated, as was the video collection. A relatively new service is the availability of two public access computers. These have high speed DSL Internet access and again, they are free of charge. There is a 30-minute time limit for each user if others are waiting. Yachats residents and many visitors take advantage of this service to check their e-mail and to do Internet research. There is also a computer in the children's section and a staff computer for inventory and book orders.

The library building, which once was the meeting location for the City Council, now serves Yachats youth with a special homework night on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:30; just another service that this unique friendly program offers to the community. Now you can see why I titled this month's article "volunteerism at its best". If you would like to volunteer, contact Annette Howarth, Chair of the Library Commission, at 547-3621.

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**WELCOME TO THE NEW COUNCILOR**

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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)  
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The City of Yachats is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

Yvonne Wulff was sworn into office on October 6, 2003. Wulff was appointed to fill the vacant position until a special election can be held next spring.



#### **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES TO INCREASE**

During the past year a Portland firm named Economic & Financial Analysis has been working under contract with the City of Yachats to update its water and wastewater rates and systems development charges. Based on the forecasts in the reports submitted by Economic & Financial Analysis, the City Council determined that it is necessary to make modifications to the current System Development Charges in order to meet future expected costs.

After receiving the reports in July a public hearing was set for the October Council meeting and 90 days ago a notice was mailed to all property owners who have not yet developed their property or paid their System Development Charges, all the real estate offices in town, and any building contractor licensed inside the City.

At the public hearing City Council adopted the reports from Economic & Financial Analysis as the methodology for determining the System Development Charges and instructed staff to draft a resolution for adoption at the November meeting.

The resolution will have an emergency clause in it, so the new rates will become effective on the date of adoption.

As of the effective date the System Development Charges will total \$6,574 for water and sewer for a single family dwelling.



#### **IS IT STREET MAINTENANCE? or is IT STREET IMPROVEMENTS?**

For years the Budget Committee and the Council have been unclear about what kind of street work is maintenance and what is improvements. At the October meeting the City Council was given recommendations for definitions from the Public Works and Streets Commission.

City Council agreed with the recommendations as follows:

**Street Maintenance:** Any work performed by City crews, or by contract whose purpose is to return the roadbed, road surface or related drainage or utility installations to the same condition as when the road was constructed or improved.

**Street Improvements:** Any work performed by City crews or by contract whose purpose is to increase the quality of the street through improvements of the roadbed, improvements of the road surface (such as paving), widening or changes to the related drainage or utility installations that go beyond the original requirements of the road.

Staff was directed to prepare an ordinance for consideration at the November meeting to include those definitions in the Code.

#### **NEW ORDINANCE PROHIBITS FEEDING WILDLIFE**

At the request of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife the City Council adopted an ordinance which prohibits storing or holding trash in such a manner which enables animals, wild or domestic, to scatter trash. The ordinance also prohibits feeding wildlife, including, but not limited to, bears, raccoons and deer. It is lawful to throw bread or bird feed to wild birds as long as the birds eat the feed immediately and in your presence. The ordinance does not prohibit bird feeders.

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**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

By John McClintock

Sewer Plant Operator, Kevin Chessir, continues to recuperate; however he still suffers from swelling in his brain.

Staff is in the process of reviewing the August statistics for water efficiency. Reedy Creek is still sufficient to meet Yachats' water demands.

The City crews are working on the main water line on Second Street. Public Works crew members worked late on Tuesday night to repair a mainline break.

As per the Mutual Order and Agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ) the City requested the next 10 equivalent dwelling units on September 29, 2003. A copy of the Optimization Report was forwarded to the DEQ on October 2, 2003.

Bids were opened Tuesday for the sewer system improvements to correct infiltration and inflow problems. The low bidder was W.W. Construction at \$295,000. Once that work is completed, in about 60 days, the City will be eligible for an additional 10 edus.

The Oregon Department of Transportation awarded the bid for the sidewalk on Hwy. 101 to Ray Wells Construction.

Road & Driveway is continuing their drainage and trail work on Ocean View Road.

The City is still negotiating with State Parks for overlay of Yachats Ocean Road. This would reduce the bid from W.W. Construction by \$22,000 if the Parks Department pays for the overlay.

The City anticipates installation of the new wastewater alarm system within the next 30 days. L.H. Morris was selected as the contractor for this project.

The City did not receive the Small City Allotment Grant for Second Street, but plans to apply again next year and hope for better luck.

**Year to Date Budget Comparison for 2003-2004**

Reporting Through 9/30/03

Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$542,118	\$282,215
Library	\$16,503	\$6,044
Little Log Church & Museum	\$8,423	\$1,315
Parks & Commons*	\$86,905	\$32,188
Streets	\$138,613	\$22,152
Water	\$510,600	\$206,121
Sewer	\$351,138	\$107,397
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,210,960	\$1,036,159
Debt	\$128,426	\$7,960
	<u>\$2,993,686</u>	<u>\$1,701,551</u>

**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.
- Start your fire with a good hot fire, it will burn more quickly and efficiently.
- Check with the fire department before burning, as permits may be required during dry conditions or a burn ban may be in place.
- If you have any questions, call the Yachats Fire Department at 547-3266.



**LEAKS AND LEAK DETECTION**

A little leak can account for large amount of lost water. A pinhole size leak can mean a loss of gallons each month, and it is so hard to find. The best way to determine if you have a leak is to perform an audit.

A water audit is most accurate in winter months when there isn't outdoor water use.

Locate your water meter and make note of the meter reading. Turn off all the fixtures in and

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around your home and don't use any water for an hour. Then go back and check the reading on the meter, if it has changed, you have a leak or leaks!!

Repair any leaks, retro-fit with water saving devices, insulate pipes and water heater, and adjust water use.

Check water use for several months after your audit, repairs, retro-fits, and adjustments to compare water consumption.

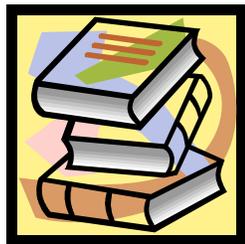
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#### HEAD VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN RESIGNS



At the October meeting of the Library Commission Chair Annette Howarth announced the resignation of Head Librarian, Pat Bierman, effective December 31, 2003. Bierman is resigning due to health issues. She will continue to volunteer at the Library on a part-time basis. Commissioners will consider possible candidates for the position at the January meeting.

*The City would like to thank Pat for her hard work and dedication to the Library for so many years.*



**Book Sale at the Library  
October 25<sup>th</sup>**

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#### GOING AWAY PARTY PLANNED



Sadly, Arthur and Fern Roberts will be relocating soon and leaving our community.

Gladly, we will get a chance to say farewell and wish them well on Thursday, November 13, 2003. There will be a community potluck held in their honor at the Lions Club

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building on Fourth Street. Festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. See you there!

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#### AN OPEN LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE FAMILY OF KEVIN CHESSHIR



(Kevin is the Yachats Sewer Plant Operator who is on medical leave)

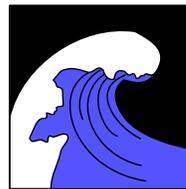
Kevin and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have offered kind words, thoughts and prayers on our behalf.

We're very touched by the contributions to our account at the Bank of the West in Yachats. These funds help employ our family's very capable caregiver, Kate McCaslin, who has been indispensable during this time.

Kevin continues to improve since his release from his release from Rehabilitation Initiative of Oregon at Good Samaritan in Portland. He has a firm goal of returning to his position at the City of Yachats Public Works Department.

Thanks again to the compassionate people of Yachats.

Heidi Chesshir



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#### TSUNAMI INFORMATION

Stop by City Hall and pick up your **FREE** copy of the brochure *TSUNAMI! How to Survive the Hazard on the Oregon Coast*. This brochure has information that could save your life.



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