



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

October/November 2006

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for the minutes of City Council and Commission meetings

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."
Gandhi



SUSTAINABILITY

By Mayor Susanne Smith

What is sustainability, other than the latest "buzz" word? The dimensions, according to the American Planning Association's Policy Guide include the following:

- Sustaining communities as good places to live, offering economic and other opportunities to their inhabitants.
- Sustaining the values of our society - things like individual liberty and democracy
- Sustaining the biodiversity of the natural environment, both for the contribution that it makes to the quality of human life and for its own inherent value
- Sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the life-supporting "services" that are rarely counted by economists, but which have been recently estimated to be worth nearly as much as total gross human economic product.

"A sustainable community is one that is consistent with all of the above dimensions."

There appears to be an increasing gap between human consumption of natural resources and the Earth's capacity to supply those resources as well as to reabsorb resulting wastes. Unsustainability results from overconsumption,

population growth, dependence on non-renewable resources, pollution, limited public participation, and other factors. Indications of this can be seen in such human activities as suburban sprawl, developing/paving over agricultural lands, depletion of water resources, loss of wetlands and traffic congestion/air pollution.

The APA identifies four basic objectives for planning toward greater sustainability including:

- Reducing dependence on fossil fuels, etc.
- Reducing dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can then accumulate in nature
- Reducing dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems
- Meeting the "hierarchy" of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.

This issue is complex and multi-faceted. But, as is true with all social habit change, efforts to change begin at home. How can each of us do our part in assuming greater responsibility to our natural world? How can we, then, as a community do the same? Should we? Do we want to? Can we? Food for thought.....

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Mark your calendars! We are going to have another Community Celebration on January 20th. The theme is "Yachats: Past, Present, and Future". This is an "inclusive" event which simply means that it is open to all who care to attend: residents, property owners, visitors, those who live near Yachats (but not in); anyone who would like to celebrate Yachats. Details to follow.

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

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT UPDATE

By Public Works Director, John McClintock
Jan Kerbo from the Dyer Partnership, Engineers and Planners, gave a presentation at the October City Council meeting as follows:

- The design for all of the pumping stations is complete.
- The design on the headworks is about 90% complete.
- The design work on the Sequential Batch Reactors is complete.
- The design on the UV disinfection system is complete.
- Much of the design work on redesign of the old public works building is complete.
- Much of the design work on the new public works building is complete.
- The budget has not changed since the estimate given in April, and in fact, some project costs may drop.
- It should be ready to go out to bid in February 2007.
- Construction should begin in May 2007.
- The Department of Environmental Quality has approved the planning documents that have been submitted to date and indicated that they meet the MAO requirements so they will allow some flexibility on the bid date.
- The City needs to decide what color the public works building and the roof will be by mid-November so that can be added to the specifications in the bid packet.
- The original plans called for a belt press in the de-watering system. There are now two different brands of screw presses available, which are much better, will require less maintenance, and will cost less to operate. They will produce a better sludge that could be applied to parkland and athletic fields. Use of the screw press is the only major change that has been made in the plans since Dyer originally reported to Council concerning plant designs.

The Dyer Partnership also provides a written monthly report to the City Council. The Public Works Director is in almost daily contact with the engineers about the project, and meets with them at least once a month.

Site plans and building drawings are posted in the Civic Meeting Room at the Commons.



CITY COUNCIL CONTINUES DISCUSSION ON PREPARED FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX

Council received a petition signed by 103 people in favor of the food and beverage tax. The Green Ribbon Task Force and the Public Works and Streets Commission have also recommended the City Council enact the tax as a way to help pay for the sewer plant. So, the City Council scheduled a special work session October 30 to continue discussion of the details of the ordinance.

Mayor Smith said that if the City decides to pursue this tax it is not to target the restaurants, but rather the people who eat in restaurants. The City needs money and there are not many sources available from which to get that money. Restaurants place a burden on the sewer system, and this is a way to charge those users with a fair share of the cost. Smith said that this is a huge debt, and the City has to find a way to pay for that debt. Putting all of that debt on the property tax or sewer user fees would place too big a burden on residents trying to live on a fixed income – she does not want to run anyone out of town.

Smith said she believed the question should be put to the voters, but the majority of the Council agreed that this is a decision they should make. Councilor Evans has stated more than once that he believes this is the kind of hard decision they were elected to make; and he wants it passed as soon as possible to give the restaurants plenty of time to get it in place.

Councilor Wulff said that in looking at ways to pay this debt, the City has already agreed to set aside a percentage of the transient rental tax each year, a percentage of the system development charges and a

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percentage of the urban renewal district funds. The City has also agreed that part of the payment would have to come from the sewer rates and the remainder from property taxes. In the first year that would mean that about \$300,000 would have to come from property tax, and that will be a significant burden. It is estimated that if the food and beverage tax is enacted it will raise about \$200,000 so that would greatly reduce that burden.

Richard Bauder, of the Oregon Restaurant Association asked if it is true that if the food tax is not enacted property taxes will go up. Mayor Smith said that seems to be a fair statement, since the money would have to come from some place. Smith said that the Green Ribbon Task Force's report, (which is available on-line) has a table that shows how much the property tax would need to go up.

The draft ordinance should be voted on at the November 9 City Council meeting.



**LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE OUTREACH**

By Mayor Susanne Smith

If you didn't get to one of the Sheriff's Town Hall Meetings, you might be interested to know that there is a website (www.lincolncountysheriff.net) that will give lots of information. Did you know that you can tour the jail? You can also go along with a deputy on a "ride along". Lincoln County is about 1,000 square miles and it is patrolled by very few deputies. The Sheriff's Office wants to know what we think; what we need; how they can improve their service. Overall satisfaction has risen in recent years; they would like to keep that level high.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By John McClintock



- Water efficiency was about 90% last month.
- The crew is doing some maintenance on the water reservoir and the raw water tank.
- All of the paving work scheduled and budgeted for this year has been completed.
- The staff is still working hard to keep the wastewater plant operating within limits.

Smoke testing will be done in November. This testing reveals where storm water or other drainage is entering the sanitary sewer system. Reducing inflow will increase the capacity of the system.



PUBLIC SAFETY IN YACHATS

By Volunteer Safety Patrol
Coordinator,
Robin Link

People new to Yachats may not realize that law enforcement in Yachats is accomplished via a county entity, not a city force. And so they may not know who to contact or how to reach the appropriate office. We all know to dial 911 in an emergency, but do we know who to call when local law enforcement needs to know about a situation that involves minor theft or vandalism? The answer is LINCUM (265-4231). LINCUM is the dispatch service for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, which is our local law enforcement entity. The call is toll-free, the people taking your call are trained professionals, and don't be surprised if you get a follow-up call from a Sheriff's Deputy. Minor theft/vandalism is an irritation that one might hesitate to report because the incident is small. However, perhaps it is not small - maybe the "small" irritation that happened to you has happened to other people as well. Perhaps there is a trend, which the Sheriff's Office will detect and resolve if citizens report such incidents.

Call LINCUM (265-4231) to report situations that involve minor theft or vandalism and

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if you use Internet, check out the new Sheriff's Office website: <http://www.lincolncountysheriff.net> The "News/Media" section contains reports written by deputies about incidences/arrests in the county, including Yachats!



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator



PLAN AHEAD, MAKE A DATE TO BE PREPARED!

By Volunteer Emergency Training Coordinator,
Betty Johnston

Attend the ARE YOU READY? disaster preparedness class on February 3, 2007, 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

The class will include physical hazards of our area, how to assemble a survival kit, differences of local or distant tsunami, warning systems, evacuation information and much more.

The class is designed as a step-by-step guide to help citizens learn to protect themselves and their families in the event of a disaster. Our Oregon coastline is very vulnerable for a disaster, consequently being prepared is essential for our survival. Our first responders might or might not be available to assist us, another reason to be responsible for our own survival.

Please call me (Betty) at 547-4934 to pre-register, the class is limited to 30 citizens. I will give you a reminder call as the date gets closer to the class date.

The class will be held at the Yachats Commons, Room 8. February 3, 2007.



YACHATS PUBLIC MEETING

The Yachats Planning Commission will hold a public meeting November 7 to update the public on the Comprehensive Plan. The meeting will be from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Commons. Come see the summary of data from the survey. Help us validate what you consider to be most important about the future of Yachats land planning.

Although the weather is lovely out, it is still cold, but it is nice to know that our new boiler (less than a year old), is doing a great job heating the building and keeping us all cozy here. And there are certainly a great deal of things going on that need all the comfort they can get.

On Thursday, November 2, the Yachats Big Band will be playing here once again, so, dust off your dancing shoes and have a good time. On Saturday and Sunday, the 4th and 5th of November, Crafts on the Coast is bringing us a great arts and crafts fair again. We are lucky to have them in our community.

The 8th of November will be a great evening of boogy woogy piano music as Bob Milne entertains the community at 7 pm. This is a fundraiser for the Village Music Foundation. Speaking of the Village Music Foundation, Friday the 10th, opens another exciting Celtic Festival put on by that hard-working group. This will be a three day event of music, workshops, classes. Get your complete schedule online at www.yachatscelticmusicfestival.com.

On the 15th of November there will be a one-evening workshop on drawing and metaphysics from 6:30-8:30. And on the 16th, we once again have a free movie during movie night. The Lincoln County School of Theater Arts will be putting on a one act play on the 17th and 18th of November.

The Village Music Festival is bringing a free concert to the Commons on Friday, November 25. The African Children's Choir will be performing that evening.

In addition to all these wonderful special events, we have the usual dedicated folks bringing us yoga, tai chi, exercise classes, basketball, belly dance, etc. Check the weekly Commons Calendar for dates and times.

We are truly lucky to have so much offered to us in this small community. Now it's up to you. Support the community events. Come to the shows. Let those folks who go through all that

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effort know that you appreciate all the good things they are doing for us.

Reporting Through August 31, 2006		
Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$707,453	\$421,761
Library	\$17,603	\$5,637
Little Log Church & Museum	\$12,175	\$5,910
Parks & Commons*	\$97,093	\$37,356
Streets	\$129,234	\$20,152
Water	\$473,507	\$154,689
Sewer	\$6,219,536	\$246,657
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$2,056,246	\$1,689,827
Debt	\$134,855	\$1,000
	<u>\$9,847,702</u>	<u>\$2,582,990</u>



ONE OF US PRODUCTIONS REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

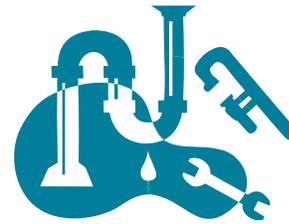
At the October meeting of the City Council, One of Us Board member, Carl Miller reported that they were able to give \$3,400 to local groups after their recent production of "Chaps" in the Commons. The money was divided between the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program, the Yachats Health Clinic, the Lion's Club, the Yachats Ladies Club, the Friends of the Commons, the Little Log Church and Museum and the Skateboard Committee.

Miller also reported that the group is applying for official non-profit status with the State and Federal governments. Other board members are Robbie Schoonover, Don Niskanen, Karl Christensen, Cris Torp, Sally Peterson and David Lothrop.



PLEASE remember to vote on November 7th! It does matter and your vote does count. There is a ballot box at City Hall.

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SEWER WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Why are wastewater treatment plants important? Because, wastewater treatment plants help us enjoy life to the fullest. They protect the public's health from disease causing bacteria and viruses. Treatment plants actually disinfect wastewater, eliminating many harmful organisms. Second, they protect water quality so that we can enjoy clean oceans, lakes, streams and rivers. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) establishes effluent limits for all point-source discharges in the United States. The limits imposed on each discharger are determined by the receiving water's capacity to assimilate the waste, as well as the water's use. Water intended for drinking requires more protection than water used only for boating. All water quality should be suitable for swimming and fishing.

To help keep the Yachats sewer system running smoothly and effectively please follow these "conservation" tips.

- No Grease - Grease that is liquid when you pour it into the drain from your frying pan quickly becomes a stiff, sticky, and insoluble lump inside the pipe. Grease should never be flushed or put down sink drains.
- Avoid flushing chemicals into the wastewater treatment system. Introducing chemical compounds such as drain cleaner, paint, thinners, or other household cleaners result in imbalances at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Do not use the wastewater system to clean unwanted food from refrigerator or other solid matter. Flushing disposal diapers, items of clothing, dirt, gravel, plants, foodstuffs, or other items that do not quickly dissolve in water will block the sewer lateral leaving your home or business.
- Try to limit use of your garbage disposal to relieve the burden on the sewer plant.

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