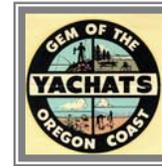




# CITY OF YACHATS

# NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2010

## THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted 4-2-09

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

I decided that I would complain a little. I actually thought it would be easy. It should be easy. I've had a lot of experience. I've been complaining all my life. It is often second nature. And I know that pretty much all of us are very good at it. It seems to be a characteristic of the human species. If you have ever been in public service (either in government or the private sector), or raised kids, or listened to yourself, you know it's true. So it should be easy, but it's not. This is the third or fourth time I've begun this article and I have yet to achieve the proper balance of ire, self righteousness, and altruism. You see all three parts, or at least a facsimile of them, are necessary to develop a good complaint.

I am, in fact, an expert at complaints. I've already admitted to being a practitioner, but I've also spent more than 40 years in public service of one sort or another, and raised a couple of kids, and even listened to myself sometimes. That is a lot of experience in the complaint department. So this article ought to be easy, but it isn't. In fact, it is all that experience that makes it difficult. You see there is one very annoying fact about complaints. Sometimes the complainer has the poor taste and ill-manners to be making a valid point. Knowing that, I should be able to just launch into my complaint, find the self-righteous component in knowing that I'm right, wire on the ire that makes me want to complain, and bolt on the altruistic belief that the intelligence of my complaint will serve all who hear it well. That would be a properly constructed complaint.

My problem is that I want to complain about complainers. It is the topic that makes it difficult since all of those years of experience receiving complaints

have taught me that, for good or ill, most of the improvements made in government are sprouted from the seeds of discontent. Complaints are often no more than identification of things that need to be done, or that should be done differently. If you are a public official and want to succeed, you would do well to listen carefully and react well to the complaints that come your way. Once you get somewhat proficient at handling complaints you will begin to anticipate them and act on them in advance. The public official that masters these skills will have a happy and successful career.

So knowing that, I hesitate to complain about the complainers. I don't want to shut down the mechanism that helps move us in a positive direction. I don't want to dissuade input from the complainers I wish to complain about. They mean well, and will not always be wrong. The problem is, they are wrong this time and they have mounted three or four steeds of wrong headedness all at once and attacked the windmills of clearer thinking. But not wanting to close off the flow of valuable perspectives disguised as complaints, I hesitate to complain about the complainers. Perhaps I should just complain about them being wrong—no, that won't work either. I have experience in that field as well.

Okay. I've got it. Here's my complaint:

You people in Yachats have spoiled me. You are always trying to do the right thing. You are always working hard on solving problems, working together, being respectful contributors to the good of the community, and know how to disagree civilly with others without being nasty. You've made it more difficult to handle placidly the complaints that are mean spirited, misdirected, and just plain wrong. Doggone you anyway.

I know, as a complaint it doesn't rate any higher than a C- but I've gotten in off my chest. I've made it your

fault. I don't have to reveal the people who caused me to want to complain. I hope that they'll be back with something real to complain about and help solve. I hope that they will do so with more emphasis on altruism and less on self righteous ire. I hope that they will follow the example that all of you have set.

But then what will I complain about?



## 2010 General Election

October 4 Ballots mailed to absentee voters

October 6-8 Voter's pamphlet mailed to local households

October 12 Voter registration deadline

October 15-19 Ballots mailed to voters other than long-term and out-of-state voters

November 2 ELECTION DAY

December 2 Certification of election results

For more information please call the Lincoln County Clerk's office at (541) 265-4131.



## Meet the Candidates

There will be an opportunity for Yachatsians to meet and learn more about the four city candidates appearing on the ballot this

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. On Sunday, October 17, 2010, incumbent Mayor Ron Breaan and City Council nominees Burgundy Featherkile, Wallace "Walt" Weyand, and incumbent City Councilman Greg Scott will be at the Yachats Commons Civic Meeting Room from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

After each candidate has made their opening statements attendees will submit their questions in writing to a small panel for selection. After the candidate's closing statements have been made, beverages and snacks will be served and attendees will have a chance to chat informally with the candidates.



## Planning 4-1-1

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

The City receives numerous inquiries about building height regulations in

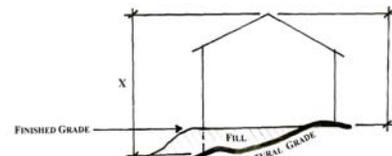
Yachats. The maximum building height permitted in all zoning districts is 30 feet. The method for calculating building height is sometimes misunderstood. Yachats Municipal Code Section 9.04.020 gives the following definition:

*"Height of building" means the vertical distance from the average finished grade to the highest point of the building plus any fill above the natural grade. To determine building height, calculate the average building height for each side: Add the shortest building height and the tallest building height, then divide the two building heights by two (2). Add together the average height for each side and divide by the number of sides.*

### TO DETERMINE BUILDING HEIGHT

"Height of building" means the vertical distance from the average finished grade to the highest point of the building plus any fill above the natural grade.

Step 1. Calculate the average height for each side of structure.



X = tallest building height  
Y = shortest building height  
(X + Y) / 2 = Average height (H)

Step 2. Add together the height for each side and divide by the number of sides.

$$\frac{H_1 + H_2 + H_3 + H_4}{4} = \text{average building height}$$

Calculating the average finished grade to the top of the building means that one side of the building may exceed the 30 foot height limit as long as another side is less than 30 feet. For example, the downhill side of a building can have a 34 foot height as long as the uphill side does not exceed a 26 foot height.

By adding "any fill above the natural grade" in the building height calculation aids in protecting views from nearby properties and helps maintain the existing scale and character of the community. For example, a person may not add 5 feet of fill then construct a building with an average finished grade to top of building of 30 feet. They would only be permitted to have an average finished grade to the top of building of 25 feet (5' of fill plus 25' average finished grade to top of building equals 30' of building height).

Yachats Municipal Code Section 9.52.170 states that projections such as chimneys, spires, domes, elevator shaft housings, towers, aerials, flagpoles and other similar objects not used for human occupancy are not subject to the building height limitations.

There are two additional considerations that may affect building height limitations that property owners need to be aware of: Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) and deed restrictions. In many cases CC&R's and deed restrictions are more restrictive than the Yachats Municipal Code. For example, the Ocean Crest Subdivision CC&R's limit building height to 16 feet. The City does not control or enforce CC&R's or deed restrictions. The City only evaluates proposed development based on the Yachats Municipal Code. Therefore, it is prudent for properties owners to determine if there are CC&R's or deed restrictions that further restrict building requirements.



## Public Works Department

By John McClintock, Director

At September's City Council meeting it was my pleasure to announce that our Wastewater Treatment Operator, Dave Buckwald, was selected as *Oregon State Operator of the Year* by the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNWCWA).

Dave was previously awarded *2009 Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year* by the Central Oregon Section of the PNWCWA and competed against the other regional winners in Oregon to win statewide award. On October 26, 2010, Dave will attend the PNWCWA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Bend, OR to accept his award.

This is not only a great achievement by Dave but it also reflects well on the Yachats community's support of the Public Works Department's mission.



## Yachats Trails Committee Meetings

Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair

There are two opportunities to join the Yachats Trails Committee this month:

The Yachats Trails Crew will meet at the picnic shelter behind the Yachats Commons on Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to landscape and distribute wood chips in the play area. Tasks range from easy to strenuous—you choose. Please dress in preparation for changeable weather. Some tools are available or you

can bring your own. Everyone is welcome.

Then on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 the Yachats Trails Committee will meet at 3 p.m. in Room 8 of the Yachats Commons. During the meeting we'll discuss current challenges and plans for the future and receive updates from the following subcommittees: Development; Promotion; Trails Crew; and Invasive Plants.

For more information contact me at [lsven@peak.org](mailto:lsven@peak.org).



## Karl Christianson

By Donald Niskanen,  
Parks & Commons  
Commission Chair

I have known Karl Christianson for almost 30 years. We happened on the scene at Ten Mile Creek close to the same time. His partner Carl Miller and his now departed mother Margaret Llewellyn became dear friends. We enjoyed many celebrations in that small Community.

In the late 1980's Karl and Carl (as they are commonly known) purchased and operated The See Vue Motel south of Yachats. Their hard work and dedication turned this business into a thriving enterprise. They sold the business and purchased the Castaway's Motel in Port Orford.

Karl was a charter member of One of Us Productions and continues on in his role as treasurer. His behind-the-scenes-work has contributed much to its success.

He assumed leadership of the Little Log Church and Museum. His dedication as curator of that organization has led to continued improvements to the facility and a sought out sight for visitors and locals. Karl's insistence on excellence in exhibits provides visitors to the museum a wonderful experience of the history of Yachats. There are glimpses of the individuals that have been part of Yachats' history.

The surrounding gardens offer a peaceful respite for weary travelers and a known rest stop for our many local hikers.

Karl is quiet, reserved and avoids the spotlight. His contributions to our Community life are immeasurable. We are fortunate to have Karl and many other individuals, who value Community, rather than any personal acclaim. It is part of what makes Yachats unique and invites people to participate.



## The Yachats Food Pantry Update

By Jeannine Janson, Volunteer

Our community is working together for the common goal of ending hunger right here in our own back yard.

The Yachats Food Pantry a.k.a. "The Pantry" is located just inside the main entrance of the Yachats Commons in a space donated by the City. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is operated on a self-serve basis. Anyone in need of food has access to The Pantry anytime during those hours.

The Pantry was initiated in 2007 by the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program's youth group "Helping Hands." Since then, The Pantry has grown into a true community endeavor. It is now the joint project of Helping Hands, Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, St. Luke's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church, Our Coastal Village Inc., and the Friends of the Yachats Commons, with donations of food and money from many local residents and businesses completing the effort.

Yachats Community Presbyterian Church and St. Luke's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church share responsibility for monitoring the food supply and making sure The Pantry is regularly stocked. Our Coastal Village Inc. stocks milk, eggs, and other refrigerated perishables. For those with pets, several of our residents frequently donate cat and dog food.

The Pantry serves a variety of people: individuals; families with children of all ages; seniors; the chronically homeless; and those in need who are just passing through.

Many thanks to the variety of organizations and members of our community whose generous contributions of food, money and time make The Pantry a reality and make a very real difference to the people served.

The Pantry always appreciates donations of canned protein, vegetables and fruit, and dry food goods. Donated food may be dropped off at The Pantry, the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, St. Luke's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church, or Ya-Hots Video.

Further questions about The Pantry can be answered by calling the Yachats Youth and Family Program's Helping Hands youth group at (541) 547-4599.



## Yachats Public Library

By Marie Green, Chair Library Commission

Do you know about banned books?

They are books someone or some group has deemed too outrageous, too salacious or too sacrilegious for ordinary citizens to read. Yvonne Wulff, one of our voluntary librarians, has posted the list published recently by AARP. As a Yachatian and sometime contrarian I was curious to see how many I have read without knowing how dangerous they might be to my values or morals. You might be interested to know some of the titles: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Madame Bovary, The Origin of the Species, The Last Temptation of Christ, Bless Me, Ultima, Gone with the Wind, and James and the Giant Peach. To learn more about banned books log on to The American Library Association website at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).

The back part of the library houses the Children's Room, reference materials, and a table where patrons can plug in their laptops and avail themselves to our free Wi-Fi Hotspot. Four big single plate windows made it downright chilly most of the year but, no more. Following City Council's goal of sustainability, new windows were installed in last month with a higher R-value. A reduction in the Library's heating costs should be reflected in the budget come winter.

Finally, if you can't find your library card ask us because we may have taken it for bar-coding and it is waiting for you at the library counter.



## Little Log Church & Museum

By Mary Crook, Coordinator

### **For All Creatures Great and Small**

A few years ago we were visited by the daughter of Lyman Myers, who served as the pastor at the Little Log Church in the 1940's. She told us that she was about five years old when they lived in what is now the "footprint" of the manse on the property of the Little Log Church and Museum, about where the museum annex is now. They raised rabbits and chickens on the property and kept a cow about a block north of the church. Reverend Myers' daughter remembered her

father carrying the rabbit's newborn kittens to the south window of the manse where she would be peering out from her little house as he held them up to show her the precious new creatures.

The garden where Reverend Lyman Myers held the little newborns to the window is now where the statue of Saint Francis of Assisi stands today.

This has become a garden for the animals here in Yachats. For the third year in a row we will host a "Blessing of the Animals" in the Garden of Saint Francis. We invite you to join us with your animals on Sunday, October 17, 2010 in the garden at 3 p.m. You are invited to bring animals on leashes, in carriers, or other animal/park-friendly restraints for a brief blessing. Ferrets, goats, turtles, bearded dragons and llamas are most welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.



### In The Garden

By Woodrow Eggers, Garden Coordinator

If you've been to the Little Log Church Museum's garden before you've probably seen the bog garden in the southwest corner of the property. Nestled comfortably beneath Twinberry and clumps of *Crocoshmia* are several patches of *Darlingtonia*, better known as the carnivorous pitcher plant. These plants were donated to the garden a while ago and have established themselves quite well.

*Darlingtonia* are one of nature's more deceptive designs. They emit an unpleasant odor that attracts insects to their cobra-shaped hoods. These hoods have downward pointing hairs that trap the insects inside to be dissolved by the plants as food. The trapped insects provide all of the nutrition that the *Darlingtonia* ever need. Next time you're in the garden be sure to check in on the *Darlingtonia*; they truly are one of the more unique and beautiful plants to be found at the LLCM garden.

Since I took over the gardening responsibilities at the church/museum I've done a lot of thinking about how I can contribute to the LLCM garden in a way other than maintaining what already exists in the space. One new creation that I think would be a welcome addition to the space is a succulent-rock garden. Currently the garden is characterized by woody and herbaceous perennials. A succulent-rock garden would add an exciting new dimension to what is already an interesting and diverse

space. Visitors to the garden can expect to see this feature some time in the coming months.

Like I've said before, it's always nice to share a few moments with a garden visitor so don't be a stranger.



### Yachats Youth and Family Program

By Bee Bui, RecPLUS Team Leader

#### **Free Community Harvest Dinner**

The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) is co-hosting the *Harvest Dinner: Potluck, Seed Swap and Recipe Exchange* to be held at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church on October 1, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We encourage everyone to bring a dish to share featuring produce they grew or bought from a local grower (or just bring your favorite dish) along with the recipe to share with others. Recipes emailed to Cicely Bernard [ckbernard@gmail.com](mailto:ckbernard@gmail.com) in advance will be published in the *Summer Harvest Cookbook* each attendee can take home with them. Bring flower, herb, or vegetable seeds to share, swap, and collect from fellow gardeners and farmers. There will be a brief garden tour at the "Yachats Demonstration and Community Garden" to see the YYFAP garden plot where our kids have been growing food.

For more information call (541) 547-4599 or log on to [www.yachatsyouth.org](http://www.yachatsyouth.org).

#### **Zumba® Fitness in Yachats**

YYFAP is excited to offer Zumba® classes with certified Zumba® Gold instructor Lisa Bursey. Her routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined with a little Latin flavor and international zest thrown in for a uniquely enjoyable and challenging workout.

The classes will take place every Monday from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. from October 4 to November 8, 2010 in the multipurpose room of the Yachats Commons. Children under 17 may attend the classes at no charge and adults pay \$6 per class or \$30 in advance for all six. To register, call (541) 547-4599 or visit [www.yachatsyouth.org](http://www.yachatsyouth.org) for more information.

#### **Commons Tree House—A Reality at Last**

In the May 2009 edition of the newsletter an article was

published entitled, "Yachats Commons Tree House Becoming a Reality." It turns out that we were a little premature in that prediction, but now it is really happening.

Back in 2004 when planning for the Yachats Community Park began, the committee asked local children and youth for ideas. The number one suggestion was to build a tree house. Of course everyone thought that was a great idea and an easy one to implement. YYFAP's Helping Hands youth group took on the task by making a plan and a model, and then started searching for an engineer to draw up the final plans.

Because tree houses are not standardized structures, most engineers were unwilling to participate. Finally a firm specializing in tree houses agreed to work with the group. The engineer came out to Yachats, inspected the trees, gave the group a quick lesson on the issues involved, designed a plan, and shepherded it through the permit process—all at a drastic discount. Despite the deeply reduced cost for professional services the plan, albeit beautiful, remained costly.

Thanks to the participation of many dedicated adult and youth volunteers we have been able to bring the cost down to a manageable amount; however we are still seeking donations. If you'd like to make a monetary contribution, please mail it to YYFAP, P.O. Box 151, Yachats, OR 97498. Or if you're interested in volunteering your time towards completion of the tree house please email Chris Graamans at [chrisgraamans@peak.org](mailto:chrisgraamans@peak.org)



### Yachats Commons Community Center Survey Status

By Lauralee Svendsgaard,  
Task Force Leader

While the final results were not in as of this writing, almost 100 surveys have been received to date and there appears to be significant interest by residents and visitors alike in attending both creative and academic classes at the Commons. A summary of the survey results will be provided in the November newsletter.

The Adult Program Task Force will meet Friday, October 15, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 8 of the Yachats Commons to discuss the survey results and determine how to proceed.

Everyone is invited to join the Task Force and help shape adult programming for the broader Yachats community. For more information contact me at [lsven@peak.org](mailto:lsven@peak.org).



### Car Show Success

By Andrea Scharf, Marketing  
Director

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Blues Show & Shine*

took place on the weekend of September 10-12, mostly at the Yachats Inn. Participants stayed at motels all around town and wandered around Yachats shops to fill in their poker cards. GoYachats promoted the event with posters and press releases on the coast and in the valley, and that drew in about 100 visitors who came to see the cars and voted on a *Spectators' Choice* award—a baby blue Saab was the winner—which gave us a nice count of people who came to look.

And then the rains came....well, look at the bright side: the mushrooms will be in full flush for the Yachats Mushroom Festival this month. This event, hosted by the Yachats Chamber of Commerce, has become a positive draw for our town as we move out of the summer peak season.

The latest GoYachats project focuses on books and the people who read them. Many book groups like to plan one of their meetings around a visit to the beach. We want them to choose Yachats as their book-loving destination. GoYachats is targeting Oregon book stores and book clubs with a promotion to visit Yachats during the off-season. If you know of any book groups that might be interested, please email me at [andrea@goyachats.com](mailto:andrea@goyachats.com) with contact information.



### Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Paul Niblock, Coordinator

Unfortunately this year we had to cancel our September luncheon due to a previous booking in the Common's multipurpose room. However we are back on track and look forward to our two remaining luncheons in 2010.

The first is our Halloween Luncheon on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. in the Common's

multipurpose room. Costumes are optional, good taste is questionable, but clothing is mandatory! The menu is: baked ham; macaroni and cheese; green salad; rolls with butter; and apple pie. Entertainment will be provided. Suggested donation is \$4.

Finally the last and one of the best luncheons of the year will be our Holiday Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. Details to follow.