



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

September 2001



ENGINEERING FOR A NEW RAW WATER STORAGE FACILITY DISCUSSED

One part of the water master plan is a priority list for water system improvements; and, the increase of raw water storage is high on that list. Mayor Corbin explained at the last City Council meeting that the City is planning to add storage by building another tank on property near the water plant. Dyer Partnerships, the consultants that drafted the water master plan, estimated that the engineering for the road and the pad will cost about \$29,000. The engineering for the tank will be included in the cost of the tank because it comes as an engineered product. Corbin said that the Oregon Army National Guard may be available to do the actual construction, and they will not be able to do the work until there is an engineered plan. The Mayor explained that it is also necessary to have the road and pad site engineered to protect the City from liability in the future.

Councilor Jerry Kraft said that the City is looking at grants or low interest loans for the construction of the tank, and it may be possible to get a grant for the engineering as well, so Council agreed to get some more information on such grants before they take action.



LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES REQUESTS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Franchise fees, which cities charge various utility companies to use the public rights-of-way, are a major source of revenue for many cities. Yachats receives franchise fees from the telephone, electric, TV cable, and garbage disposal service providers. In recent months

franchise fees to Portland and several other large cities, and has taken those cities to court in an attempt to have franchise fees declared illegal. While Qwest does not provide services in Yachats, the current court cases could effect those utilities that do. Currently the League of Oregon Cities is involved in the litigation and they have asked their members to help pay litigation costs by making a contribution based on a percentage of the franchise fees they collect. City Council voted at their meeting to contribute \$126.



ALL OLDER METERS WERE REPLACED IN SEPTEMBER

In June the City Council authorized the replacement of all the old style meters with new electronic meters. About 600 meters were replaced in September.

Public Works Superintendent, Rod Carrasco, reported that most of the old meters were rebuilt models when installed and many of them are over 10 years old.

Now that the new "touch-read" electronic meters are in service, incorrect readings and wrong data entries will be a thing of the past. All of the readings will be done electronically and the data transferred to the computer by the push of a button.

Carrasco reported that several of the old meters were removed recently for testing and the average efficiency was only 74%. These new meters have been calibrated and tested at the factory and they are guaranteed to measure at least 98% of the water that goes through them. A copy of the calibration record is attached to each meter.

Qwest Communications stopped paying

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Because some of the old meters were not recording the actual water usage, some customers will be surprised to see that their monthly water bill is higher than before now that they have a new meter.

The price to replace the meters is estimated to be \$76,360, but because the improved accuracy of the meters will result in higher bills, it will take less than five years to recover the cost.

By replacing the meters with more accurate ones the City will be better able to audit true consumption in the system. Currently there is no real way to determine the true efficiency of the system because so much of the water used is unaccounted for, and unbilled.



**PARKS AND COMMONS
COMMISSION MEMBERS
APPOINTED**

Nancy McCarty and Bruce Olson were appointed to serve on the Parks and Commons Commission with terms to expire December 31, 2002. McCarty works for the Cascades West Council of Government and Olson is a free-lance journalist.

McCarty told City Council that she enjoys the events that happen at the Commons and is interested in being involved with a commission that is working to preserve the community.

Olson said that he has vacationed in Yachats since 1958; bought a house in 1996; and, moved here in April 2001. Olson stated that he felt that after all this time coming here it is time to give something back to the community, and that it is important to preserve the land and the building that is the heart of the city.



**804 S MEDIATION
AGREEMENT APPROVED**

After two years of mediation efforts, the City Council reviewed the "final" signature copy of the agreement and authorized the Mayor to sign the agreement at the appropriate time, providing it does change significantly following the Lincoln County Commissioner's review and approval. Council also agreed to enter into a bluff protection ordinance agreement, subject to any future amendments needed. Because the bluff protection ordinance is a land use issue, the Planning Commission and City Council will be holding public hearings related to the ordinance before it is adopted. Look for announcements and notices for the meetings.



DECOY POLICE CAR

Oregon State Police Volunteer Representative, Ray Sinclair, reported to City Council at the September meeting that the Oregon State Police have offered to donate a used car to the City that can be parked in different places as a decoy to help keep drivers from speeding. When not in use the vehicle must be garaged, and the Texaco station has agreed to park it at their garage at night. Volunteers will move it from place to place during the day. The State Police will pay for all gas, insurance, etc. for the car.

Mayor Corbin said that he had concerns that the placement of one of these cars is not "Yachats" because residents think of this town as unique and bringing a police decoy car into town doesn't fit that image. Corbin said that perhaps a dummy in the police car would make it more "Yachats" and it could add a little character to the whole thing. But when Sinclair said that there are only eight State Police officers at the station in Newport to patrol all the way up to Tillamook, that they are looking at cutting that total number in half, and that there is usually only one trooper on

the road at a time, Council members agreed that something had to be done, and this would help.

City Council agreed to accept the donation of the decoy car, and will be able to select the sites at which the car will be parked.



IN OTHER BUSINESS THE CITY COUNCIL:

- Approved the Lease with Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program for Use of Commons.
- Approved an amended contract with the City Attorney.
- Discussed the Trail System.
- Discussed a complaint related to signs, and agreed there was no violation, and no need to take action.
- Agreed to review the transient rental license ordinance at the next meeting.
- Approved the closure of Fourth Street between the Lions Club and the Commons for the Mushroom Festival. The barricades will be placed at an angle to allow access to the one home on that street.
- Authorized staff to post "no overnight parking" signs on the wall behind the bank. Participants of events at the Commons will still be allowed to park, as current policy.
- Agreed to continue having City Council office hours.



VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

In tribute of all the volunteers that have served the City of Yachats over the years, City Hall office staff reviewed all the minutes of the past commission meetings and put together a book that shows the names of the Commission, Council, and Mayors since the incorporation of the City. A photo gallery has been started in the back of the book. The album will be kept in the back of the Civic Meeting Room for citizens to look at. If anyone finds that a name is missing please let the City Recorder know so she can add it.



COMPUTER CLEAN-UP ANNOUNCED FOR SEPTEMBER 28 AND 29

The Lincoln County Solid Waste District will be holding a computer collection event at the Lincoln County Courthouse South Parking Lot on Friday the 28th and Saturday the 29th. The event is designed to collect unwanted or outdated computers for free. They will be sending the computers to Saint Vincent DePaul to be reused or recycled. This recycling keeps precious metals, plastics, and hazardous materials out of the landfill.

Because the collection point will be at the courthouse in Newport so some people may not have a way to get their computers there to recycle them, so Public Works Superintendent, Rod Carrasco, has agreed to help out by providing (limited) transportation of computers to the recycling collection site. A pickup and trailer will be parked at the Commons from 10:00 am to Noon (or until full). Citizens can drop off their old computers and the City will take them up to Newport. Items that will be accepted are: computers, mouse, keyboards, color monitors, printers, scanners, desktop calculators, cable, computer speakers, software manuals. Copiers, fax machines and software are not acceptable.



PARKING

In recent months City Council and City Hall staff have received many complaints about vehicles parked in violation of the code. Those vehicles have inconvenienced residents and business owners alike. Vehicles are not suppose to be parked on the public right-of-way for more than 72 hours, nor are they to be parked on a street for the principal purpose of displaying the vehicle for sale; repairing or servicing the vehicle except for repairs necessitated by an emergency; or to sell merchandise from the vehicle, except when authorized.

City Council and the Planning Commission are working on resolutions for the parking problems in the city, and citizens can help out by being thoughtful and courteous of their neighbors.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT BY ROD CARRASCO

Streets

- Street patching for the current fiscal year has been completed.
- The Oregon State Park Service accepted the City's help in managing the replacement of a culvert on the park road. They will pay for the replacement and the City will supervise and inspect the work. The contractor is scheduled to begin this project in two weeks. Ray Wells Inc. is doing the work.
- We have purchased a Kubota 135 - 4 wheel drive backhoe, and public work employees are already making use of it. A time sheet to keep track of equipment usage will be used.

Sewer

- In preparation for the open house, slats are being installed in the fence surrounding the sewer plant. If time permits a coat of paint will be applied to the sewer plant buildings.

Water

- The long awaited project of replacing all of the water meters throughout the City will be completed in September.
- The new meters have an electronic recording head and a touch pad installed on the lid of the meter box. The meter reader will place a wand on the touch pad transferring the reading automatically to a hand held computer thus eliminating the possibility of misreading. Each meter has a unique identification number, which is compared to the information loaded in the hand held recording device. It will also

record the time and date that the meter was read.

- We have survived the summer without having to impose water curtailment. Our primary source continues to have enough water to supply the City's current demand.



WATER SAVER CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

City Council chose James Paul Crowder as the winner in the water saving tip contest for September. Mr. Crowder received a \$65 credit on his water bill for his suggestion to landscape using native plants that have adapted to periods of drought

Other ideas received during the contest have been:

- Shower with a friend
- Collect water while you wait for it to get warm and use it to water plants
- Take showers instead of baths
- Use the dishwasher instead of doing them by hand
- Do not leave the water running while you brush your teeth or soap up in the shower or while washing your hands
- Park on the lawn while you wash your car - this waters the grass too (use biodegradable soap)
- After soaking in an Epsom salts bath save the water for plants - it is good for the plants
- Keep a container by the sink to put any unused water from glasses, pet water bowls, or cleaning vegetables - use it for plants
- Use the water from steaming vegetables on plants
- Catch rainwater (or fog moisture) in a barrel to water plants
- Plant in pots and containers so you can really target the water on that plant.
- Only do laundry when the tub is full
- Put the toilet lid down and flush less often
- Wash dishes in the largest container used to prepare the meal rather than fill up the sink
- Collect water when washing your hands to water plants
- Use a non-electric pressure washer that uses 6 quarts or less to wash small loads of laundry up to 6 lbs. Then use the water for plants. (The

pressure waster costs \$49 uses less than 2 oz. Of soap for a 6 lb load. Catalog information is available at City Hall)

- Place bark dust (or other mulch) around plants so that water does not evaporate.
- Use recycled water to wash deck surfaces, railings, porches, and cars.
- When using the garbage disposal after washing dishes or vegetables turn on the disposal only, and let most of the water out of the sink before turning on the water faucet. Turn the water on only for a second or two after the water empties from the sink.
- Use a washing machine that saves wash or rinse water. It empties into a laundry tub and then can be used to refill your machine for a second or third load of wash.
- In new construction be sure to have a water circulator installed. Warm water will always be there instantly, eliminating the need to let water run before getting warm.
- Take showers or baths every other day instead of every day.

**Annual Budget Summary Report for Fiscal
Year July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2001**

<i>Reporting Through Program</i>	<i>8/31/01 Budget</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
General Administration	\$467,190	\$184,764
Library	\$13,000	\$3,033
Little Log Church & Museum	\$9,499	\$2,008
Parks & Commons*	\$90,948	\$35,967
Streets	\$93,555	\$24,384
Water	\$581,775	\$104,915
Sewer	\$330,209	\$103,228
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$885,228	\$766,974
Debt	<u>\$172,834</u>	<u>\$42,960</u>
	<u>\$2,644,238</u>	<u>\$1,268,232</u>



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Although there are answering machines at both the Sewer Plant and the Water Treatment Plant, those Public Works Department numbers are not the best numbers to use when reporting emergencies. The City Hall number is forwarded to an answering service after hours and on weekends so it is answered by *real people 24 hours a day*, making it the best one to use for reporting any situation that requires a timely response. The answering

service will dispatch the Public Works Department crew member currently on call.

LOW INCOME WAIVER ON WATER BILLS



Yachats Code allows the City Recorder to grant a partial waiver if the consumer is eligible.

A waiver of 50% of the monthly base water charge may be considered by the City Recorder based upon written request by the user, and documentation of eligibility for low income assistance from the State of Oregon. Based on the current base rate that waiver is \$11.50 per month.

If you meet the criteria, and would like your case considered contact the City Office.



VISIT THE CITY OF YACHATS ON THE INTERNET!

The City web page is the place to check out information about:

- *City Council and Commission Members, Minutes, and General Government*
- *The City Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Land Use*
- *The Commons, Little Log Church, and Library*
- *News*
- *History*
- *Emergency Information*
- *Links to other County and State Government Internet Sites*

www.ci.yachats.or.us

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