



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

September 2002

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



THE WONDERS OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT

From the Mayor

At the June & July City Council meetings we were presented with the draft of an extended study of the City's wastewater treatment systems. With minor changes, the final draft is expected to be accepted by the Council at our September 12 meeting. What does this mean to you and me? With more stringent Federal and State requirements for processing sewage, coupled with an increasing population, it means additional maintenance, improvement to the existing system and eventual expansion and improvement of the wastewater treatment plant. All of this, of course, means money. How much and how soon are questions to which we are now seeking answers. While evaluating the various alternatives that are available for funding this type of project, we will be starting immediately on portions of the work that can be handled by our Public Works staff. One of the first visible signs of their work will be a smoke testing program that will be undertaken this fall to identify inappropriate water inflow from roof and other drains that should be connected to the storm drain system. This is creating an unnecessary volume of water that does not require treatment. Additionally, infiltration into the system at leaky manhole covers and pipe connections will be identified and corrected. This will help reduce the wintertime excess flows. Once this work is accomplished, the development of a realistic facility plan can be undertaken to determine the final sizing and required improvements to the treatment plant based on the reduced flows. Other improvements involve upgrading of pump stations and potential replacement of a few inadequate lines. Is there anything that Yachats citizen can do? Yes, particularly in the area of grease control sending grease to the treatment plant not only causes grief for the plant operator but also costs the City money

(currently estimated at \$8400 annually) in line cleaning and added processing time. Homeowners and especially restaurant operators can significantly reduce these costs by not sending grease down the drain.

None of this particularly exciting to the average person, but particularly with today's environmental requirements, this is one of the most important responsibilities that city government has. Our goal is to provide this service in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.



GOAL 17 EXCEPTION RESCINDED

In December 2000, following public hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council, Ordinance No. 218 was adopted that took an exception to State Planning Goal 17 Implementation Requirement 6. The exception excluded certain identified land within the City along Ocean View Drive, in the area know as the 804 S, from the requirements of Statewide Planning Goal 17. At that time the City determined that the lands within the exception area were irrevocably committed to private use and development, and that retention or replacement of the existing South 804 right of way for public access to and along coastal waters, as required by Goal 17, was impracticable. This Ordinance and the County's vacation of the same area were both appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

At the same time, the City was taking part in mediation related to the same issue. The result of that mediation was a settlement document in which the parties agreed to vacate the area and rescind the exception.

Several months ago, the County completed the vacation process and the appeal time expired. In addition to the vacation proceedings, an independent action by affected property owners to quiet their title has been completed effective July 26, 2002 and the appeal time has run out on that action as well. Although not a condition of the Settlement Agreement, the Council decided to defer the rescission action of Ordinance No. 218 until the quiet title action had been resolved.

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

At the September 12, 2002 meeting City Council held a public hearing and decided to rescind the exception. Staff has been directed to draft an ordinance for adoption at the October meeting.



SEWER PLANT RECEIVES NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Mayor Corbin announced that the City of Yachats received a letter from the Department of Environmental Quality in which the agency gave the City notice of noncompliance with the permit to run the sewer plant. Corbin said that the DEQ has offered to enter into a Mutual Agreement and Order to resolve the past violations and settle potential future violations. The MAO would also include a negotiated corrective schedule. Corbin stated that this notice would influence the timeline for improvements, the ability to get grants and loan money. In the mean time, the public works crew will do what ever they can to optimize the daily operation of the plant.



STREET SURVEY RESULTS

The Public Works and Streets Commission would like to thank everyone that returned the street survey. This survey is, by far, the most successful one the City has ever done in terms of responses. 31% of the surveys were returned!

In reviewing the results, the Commission reported it seems that *generally* the citizens are satisfied with the condition of their street and the overall condition of Yachats' streets. Of all the funding options presented in the survey, formation of a Road District was favored. However, there were a lot of no comments and some comments appeared ambiguous so the Commission felt that perhaps citizens needed more information before they could adequately respond to this question.

COMMONS POLICY MANUAL CHANGES



City Council adopted two changes to the policy manual relating to the operation of the Commons, as forwarded from the Parks and Commons Commission.

Language was added to stipulate that no rooms will be set aside for exclusive, permanent rentals except for leases with the Yachats Youth and Family Activity Program. The Commission said that since there are a limited number of rooms it was not a viable use of those rooms to rent to any



KING STREET VACATION FINALIZED

City Council adopted Ordinance No. 231 vacating a portion of King Street and retaining certain easements. This ordinance was drafted by staff following the public hearing in July and subsequent discussions regarding the required easements at the August meeting; and, it specifically identifies the area City Council voted to vacate and the easements that will be retained. This ordinance and supporting documents will now be filed with the County as one of the final steps in the vacation process that was started when Mr. Jones submitted his petition in June.

The vacated area is the portion of King Street that is platted, but undeveloped, extending from the end of King Street to Horizon Hill Road. Currently this right-of-way is used only as a pedestrian trail. City Council retained an easement for utility lines and a pedestrian trail over the entire area.

PUBLIC HEARING ON VACATION OF OLD RADAR ROAD



City Council held a public hearing to consider the petition filed by Richard and Ann Chandler requesting the vacation of a portion of Old Radar Road that lies between King Street and Radar Road.

Ann Chandler said that they submitted the petition to vacate because they want to "square up" their property line because they own property on each side of the proposed vacation.

Chandler also said that a fire hydrant and part of King Street are actually on their property and so an exchange may be part of the vacation process.

Council voted to continue with the vacation process. The petitioners are suppose to submit a survey and the City will investigate what easements will be required. Staff was directed to draft an ordinance for consideration at the next possible meeting once all the information has been assembled.

one particular group in a way that would exclude use by others.

The other policy change states that anyone suspended from a Commons event or program for misconduct will not be allowed to use any portion of the Commons building or grounds during the term of suspension.



IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL NEWS

- City Council approved the job description for a new position in the public works department - a utility crew foreman. This will not be a new employee; rather it will be duties assigned to one employee in addition to their normal work. A small increase in pay will be offered for the additional responsibility. The utility crew foreman will be responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of city streets, water distribution, water treatment, sewage collection systems, maintenance of other city owned property and buildings in the absence of the Director of Public Works, who is part-time.
- City Council adopted the sewer master plan as developed by Dyer Partnerships.
- City Council received and discussed the first draft of a bluff protection ordinance. Consideration of a bluff protection ordinance was one of the conditions in the 804S mediated settlement and grant funds were secured from the Department of Land Conservation and Development to cover the related expenses.
- City Council accepted the recommendations from the Parks and Commons Commission related to the trail system on Commons property.

Annual Budget Summary Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003
--

<i>Reporting Through</i> Program	<i>8/31/02</i> Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$484,565	\$244,585
Library	\$13,550	\$3,337
Little Log Church & Museum	\$8,315	\$1,446
Parks & Commons*	\$171,903	\$17,953
Streets	\$84,700	\$30,726
Water	\$364,774	\$77,595
Sewer	\$320,100	\$45,900
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$916,253	\$915,252
Debt	<u>\$134,511</u>	<u>\$5,560</u>
	<u>\$2,498,671</u>	<u>\$1,342,354</u>



SMOKE TESTING TO BE DONE IN SEPTEMBER

During the wet months storm water deluges the sewer system - this is called *Inflow*. Inflow comes from storm water that enters the system through leaky manholes and down spouts or other drains that are connected to the system. The good news is that inflow sources are usually easy and inexpensive to correct. **Smoke testing** will show where the inflow originates.

Smoke testing is scheduled to be done in late September. During that time the public works crew will be introducing smoke into the sewer system in different areas of town to see where the smoke comes out. This means that smoke may come out of down spouts or other places where it really should not be...and it may look like a house is on fire.

Public works crewmembers will be knocking on doors in each area before they start the tests to let people know what is going on. The smoke they use for the testing is non-toxic, but if you or a family member has respiratory problems please call City Hall so we can make a special effort to give you personal notice

While the testing is going on the old saying, "where there's smoke there's fire" may not be true. Calls to the Fire District should

only be made if you are sure the smoke you see really is a fire.

If you have any concerns or questions please call City Hall at 547-3565



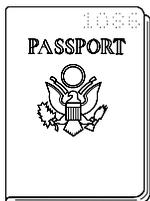
PARKING

Recently Council members, Planning Commission members, City staff, and volunteers conducted a parking survey on a busy, summer Saturday.

Surprisingly the results of that survey showed that the City doesn't have a problem, in general. However, there are two specific types of problems. The first problem that comes to mind is large RVs blocking spaces and views, mainly in the downtown area. *Friendly* reminders and directions to the RV parking area behind the bank may help eliminate that problem. The second problem, and the one that accounts for most of the complaints City Hall gets, is vehicles parked in violation of the code in residential areas. These vehicles inconvenience 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.

The best way citizens can help eliminate this problem is by being thoughtful and courteous of their neighbors.



PASSPORT APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT YACHATS CITY HALL.

Please call Yachats City Hall to make an appointment at 547-3565

Applications are available at Yachats City Hall. You may fill out the application prior to submitting it, by leave it unsigned. You will need sign

it in the presence of the City Recorder.

Also bring with you the following items:

- 2 identical passport pictures (2" by 2" in size). Pictures must meet passport office specifications.
- A current State drivers license will be required. If a child is under the age of 16 (or does not have a drivers license), a parent's drivers license will be used.

- A **certified** birth certificate **or** a passport issued previously.
- A certified check, money order or personal check, payable to the SEATTLE PASSPORT AGENCY in either of the following amounts:
 - \$40.00 (age 15 and under) - Passports valid 5 years
 - \$55.00 (age 16 and over) - Passports valid 10 years
- A separate fee, cash or check payable to the City of Yachats in the amount of \$30.00.

If your most recent passport was issued after your 16th birthday, and was issued within the past 15 years you may renew your passport by mail using FORM DSP-82. This form is available at Yachats City Hall.



Even when City Hall is "closed" we are "open for business"

Most of the time, you can count on emergencies happening when City Hall is closed. And, since the public works department has different hours than City Hall there may be times when they are working, but there is no one at City Hall to talk to. However, even when City Hall is closed, the phones are forwarded to an answering service so it is answered by real people 24 hours a day, so the City Hall phone number is still the one to use for reporting any situation that requires a timely response. The answering service will dispatch the Public Works Department crewmember currently on call.

So if you need to get in touch with the City, day or night, call 547-3565. Whoever answers the phone will be able to help you in case of an emergency, it doesn't matter if it is a City employee or the answering service!

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



QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT A WATER BILL

When City Hall staff receives a complaint or question about a bill the first thing the billing clerk does is check the computer to make sure that there hasn't been a mistake. If there was - then an adjustment is made, the customer is told the correct amount to pay, and the staff offers an apology for the mistake.

If there is no apparent mistake on the computer the next step is to have the meter re-read. If the reading was a mistake, then an adjustment is made, the customer is told the correct amount to pay, and the staff offers an apology for the mistake.

If the meter reading appears to be correct then the staff contacts the property owners to let them know that the billing is correct and we try to assist them in determining a cause. Some times, in the course of the conversation the customer remembers an unusual event that would account for the large billing. We also provide them with information about simple things they can do to look for leaks such as putting food color in the toilet tanks and auditing their meter operations.

If the property owner finds a leak that did not go into the sewer system and lets us know that, we adjust the sewer portion of the bill.

Meters and the meter connections are checked by City crews if there appears to be a problem, and/or if the property owner requests it. If the meter is malfunctioning it is replaced.

Any property owner may request to have a meter tested. If the meter tests bad there is no charge. If the meter tests good the property owner is charged for the testing.

In all cases, the staff makes every attempt to find and correct a mistake or assist the property owner in determining the cause so that it can be fixed. Sometimes we just do not find a reason. There may have been a toilet that stuck open just once, there may be a leak that is so small it can not be found, or there may be a leak that is located in an area that has enough natural drainage it never appears on the surface. Sometimes it may be unauthorized use, such as the time neighbor kids were filling water balloons (without permission) and left a faucet on for several days.

And of course, the best way to protect yourself from any of those problems happening while you are away from home for more than a day is to turn off your service at your hand valve.



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



YACHATS CLEAN SWEEP

Help us help you clean up our community! The City of Yachats, with cooperation from SOLV and Dahl Disposal, is sponsoring a community wide clean up the week of September 23rd, culminating on Saturday,

September 28th, the day of the Great Oregon Beach Clean up.

****Wednesday, Sept. 25th:** Yachats residents place any unwanted items (no household trash or hazardous materials) at the **edge of the street next to the curb**.

****Thursday, Sept. 26th:** "One person's trash is another's treasure." Yachats' citizens and Friends are invited to "cruise" the City streets in search of treasures and take what they want from along the edge of the street.

****Friday, Sept. 27th:** Shoppers and Treasure Hunters continue to "cruise" the City streets in search of treasures they may have missed the day before. Residents may bring any remaining unwanted items to the back Commons parking lot where there will be dumpsters marked for disposal.

****Saturday, Sept. 28th:** Great Oregon Beach Clean Up and Yachats Clean Sweep. Residents may continue bringing unwanted items to dumpsters until 5 p.m.

If residents notice any public areas inside the City that need cleaning, they should call City Hall so that volunteer crews can tend to them.

Proof of residence (physical address within the City limits) will need to be shown when items are disposed of at the Commons.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

Autumn is just about here and the town is slowing down a wee bit. Now is the time to consider your fall activities and plan your calendar.

The Lunch Bunch, our senior lunch crowd is putting on another good luncheon on September 26 at 12:30 pm. The Friends of the Yachats Commons are bringing a big-name group to town, the Cajun band Etouffee will be playing here on the 28th of September. Doors open at 6 pm and the band begins at 7:30. A Cajun café will be serving delicious food before the concert. Running into October, the Yachats Big Band will once again perform a swinging good time for the dancers in the community; music starts at 7 pm.

The Yachats Chamber of Commerce will be putting on a special mushroom dinner here on the 18th of October, featuring many tasty mushroom-related treats. The annual Halloween bash will be hosted jointly by the Friends of the Commons and the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program. Dust off the cobwebs and plan your costume now.

Work will commence on the Commons soon as the US Forest Service grant for upgrading the building is implemented. A new stove is already sitting in the hall, purchased by the Friends through this grant, for the kitchen.



RECYCLING WATER

Fish tank water is high in nitrogen and phosphorous making it a great fertilizer should you decide to recycle it by watering your plants.

While the use of gray-water to irrigate may seem to be an ideal way to reuse water that has been used for washing dishes, laundering clothes, or bathing extreme care should be taken to ensure the health and welfare of your family and/or neighbors is not jeopardized. Gray-water contains grease, food particles, hair, and any number of other impurities which should be considered.

Toilet flushing may be the best way to reuse gray-water however DO NOT put the gray-water into the toilet tank. Gray-water in the tank may not only cause the flushing mechanism to malfunction, but could be back-siphoned into the fresh water supply.

High bacteria counts will cause objectionable odors if you attempt to store the gray-water; use it the day it is collected.

Precautions should be observed as gray-water may contain sodium, bleach, or borax - all of which can damage plants. Liquid fabric softeners and detergents with softeners should not be used when washing your clothing; dryer fabric softener sheet should be used instead.