



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**September 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

(Originally read at the September 11, 2003 City Council Meeting)

("The following comments regarding Jerry Kraft are an eloquent reflection of my sentiments, although they were prepared by Joy McCaslin, our Deputy City Recorder")



This day, September 11, 2003 is truly a day of reflection, remembrance, mourning and sober realization of the vulnerability of the human race. It is also a day for courage, which brings with it hope for the future.

While we collectively and individually acknowledge the tragic events that have left their mark on this date in history, we, as the governing body of the City of Yachats, also mourn a loss that is on this date close and fresh in our minds and hearts.

There is an empty seat at our table today. We have attended memorial services and each conducted our own personal method of dealing with that loss.

As the Chair of this Council, I felt that a proclamation was in order for this meeting. However, I am moved at this time to leave out all of the "whereas" and "therefore" clauses and proclaim only that we will sorely miss the presence of Jerry Kraft on this council.

Jerry and I began our terms on January 1, 2001, both having come from service with the Parks and Commons Commission. I had long before learned that his analytical, reasonable and open-minded approach to considering matters before the Commission was an asset I could depend upon.

I believe we have all come to depend upon these, and countless other attributes that made Jerry Kraft a valuable member of the council and community. Steadfast in his beliefs, he exhibited patience and a gentle approach to getting his point across. His efforts in the area of water quality have proven to be extremely beneficial, not only to Yachats, but to those who have had the opportunity to have been his students in this field.

Even during his long suffering battle with illness, Councilor Kraft diligently continued his service to the City of Yachats. This says to me personally that he considered this work to be high on his personal priority list. It is my hope that reflection upon his example of personal strength and courage will cause us to renew our own commitments to the service we have pledged to the citizens of Yachats.

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)  
[www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)

Newsletter - Page 1

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



**CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION  
NO 418 -  
A RESOLUTION DECLARING  
OCTOBER 2003 DISABILITY  
EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS  
MONTH IN YACHATS**

**WHEREAS** 20% of the population of the United States of America is comprised of people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS** the Americans with Disabilities Act provided civil rights protection for America's persons with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS** October has been designated by Congressional Resolution as "National Disability Awareness Month" and by way of this resolution, the City of Yachats supports this Congressional Resolution as well as the spirit and letter of the law to assure that all citizens with disabilities are fully included in our social, cultural and economic mainstream; and

**WHEREAS** the State of Oregon has demonstrated its commitment to the employment of adults with disability through an Employment Initiative being administered by the Senior and Disabled Services Division and the Vocational Rehabilitation Division;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** The City of Yachats Resolves:

The month of October, 2003, is designated as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Yachats, and calls upon the residents of Yachats to observe the month by learning about people with disabilities, their strengths and abilities and the programs which serve their needs.



**CHALLENGE TO STAFF DECISION  
HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL**

City Council heard Burd Bicksler's challenge to the Planner and Attorney's Interpretation of Zoning Code. The City received a building permit application to replace a detached one-story garage with a new two-story garage in an R-1 zone. The City Planner approved the plans and the building was constructed. City staff made the interpretation that a garage, attached or detached, is considered part of the primary use. Therefore, the applicable R-1 zone standards apply, i.e. maximum building height of 30 feet.

Staff (City Attorney and City Planner) interpreted that it is not necessarily appropriate to allow a garage with a 30 foot height in one case (attached) and not allow it in another (detached). Also, there is a question about restricting garages to a height of 15 feet, as some RV garages with tall doors and roofs may require a structure exceeding 15 feet.

Mr. Bicksler disagreed with staff interpretation stating that a garage is an accessory, secondary, supporting use. Therefore, the garage should be interpreted as an accessory structure which has a height limitation of 15 feet and one story.

City Council agreed that a detached private garage is an accessory building and limited to 15 feet, however, Council said that in this case, the garage should be considered a lawful nonconforming use, and steps will be taken to record such decision.

**VACATION COMPLETE**



City Council adopted Ordinance No. 239 as the final step in vacating a portion of Old Radar Road and securing certain easements for underground utilities and drainage.

When Mr. and Mrs. Chandler requested that a portion of Old Radar Road be vacated the City realized that part of a water line and fire hydrant are actually located on the Chandlers' property and so it was suggested that an easement be considered for that waterline as part of the vacation.

At the April meeting City Council voted to vacate the portion of Old Radar Road as requested, and to acquire the easements necessary for in-ground utility lines. The ordinance was drafted once the survey and legal descriptions of the area to be vacated and easements were completed.



**IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

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)  
[www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)

- Council authorized the extension of general engineering services for Dyer Partnership
- Council directed City Staff to draft a proposed code amendment to prohibit trash and animal attractants for their consideration at the October meeting.
- City Council recognized that the Rosboro/Forest Service timberland exchange in the Salmon Creek Watershed is not going forward at this time since none of the interested parties have the funds for (or wish to spend the money for) the necessary assessments and studies. The City will continue dialogue with the parties and encourage forward movement. The City will request the return of money paid last year.
- City Council discussed Public Works and Streets Commission's recommendation for definitions for Street Improvement and Street Maintenance. The wording was referred back to the Commission for further work.
- Council directed the Mayor to write a letter to the Forest Service in support of continuance of Keller Creek Park.

implement operational changes to optimize plant efficiency.

- Dyer Partnership sent the City revised plans and specifications on the Inflow & Infiltration project. The project is expected to go out for bid next week.
- The county received only one bid of \$300,000 for the Oceanview Drive/804 work. The county will continue to negotiate with Road and Driveway to reduce costs.
- Public Works brushed a path from Marine Drive to Aqua Vista. The crew anticipates completing a few other small portions of the trail. The County purchased the lots to create the easement for the trail.
- The Highway 101 Sidewalk Project will go out for bid again. ODOT has already allocated funds for this project.
- State Parks and City representatives discussed repairing Yachats Ocean Road. The Oregon State Parks Department is willing to pave the portion just south of the bridge to the future T intersection. The project incorporates paving, parking and a trail for pedestrians.
- Public Works is still waiting for the new alarm system proposal.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

By John McClintock

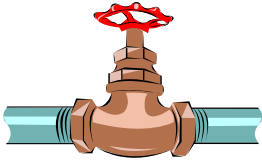


- Sewer Plant Operator, Kevin Chesshir, came home from the hospital a week before Labor Day. Chesshir has a positive attitude and continues to make progress with his physical therapy.

- The City is continuing to improve the efficiency levels - August was 80%.
- The Second Street waterline project is expected to last 10 days to 2 weeks.
- Despite the lack of rain, Yachats continues to meet the demand using only water from Reedy Creek.
- The wastewater plant is functioning well through the busy summer months. Public Works personnel continue to

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)  
[www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)



### **SAVE YOUR MONEY**

City Code requires that each homeowner has a hand valve on their side of the meter. This hand valve should be used to turn the water off when the house will be left empty to prevent *cold water damage* or *unauthorized* water use. If you have not used your hand valve, and there is a leak while you are gone you will be responsible for all the water that goes through the meter - and that could be hundreds of dollars!! Not to mention the potential damage to your home and property.

However, installing them is not good enough if they can't be used. Moles and other small animals digging around the meter, leaves and other debris, or mud can all cover up the hand valve making it difficult to find or use. Twice a year, at the same time you change your smoke detector batteries and change your clocks...**make sure your hand valve is accessible.**

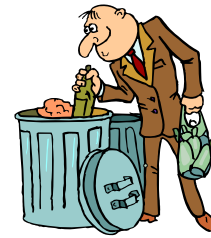


### **LOW INCOME WAIVER ON WATER BILLS**

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.



### **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 22<sup>nd</sup>, culminating on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*Wednesday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>:** Yachats residents place any unwanted items (no household trash or hazardous materials) at the **edge of the street next to the curb.**

**\*\*Thursday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>:** "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. 26<sup>th</sup>:** 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. 27<sup>th</sup>:** 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. A special thank-you to the Public Works and Streets Commission members who will be volunteering their time to this effort.

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

---

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)  
[www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)



Reporting Through	8/31/03	
Program	Budget	Year to Date
General Administration	\$542,118	\$248,112
Library	\$16,503	\$4,758
Little Log Church & Museum	\$8,423	\$1,225
Parks & Commons*	\$86,905	\$27,847
Streets	\$88,613	\$16,398
Water	\$510,600	\$189,464
Sewer	\$351,138	\$97,031
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,210,960	\$1,036,159
Debt	\$128,426	\$7,960
	<u>\$2,943,686</u>	<u>\$1,628,955</u>



### 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 use of the water. 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 can harm the system.
- Try to limit use of your garbage disposal to relieve the burden on the sewer plant.
- In addition, of course, water conservation means less will go into the sewer system.
- Make sure that your gutters are not entering the sewer system. Only your sinks, bathrooms or laundry room should be connected to the sewer.



### Myths & Realities

**Myth:** Bottled water is safer than tap water.

**Reality:** Not necessarily. The safety of bottled water and tap water initially depends on the source of the water. Monitoring and source protection, treatment, and testing ultimately determine the quality of the finished product. In the United States, the reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act now requires that bottled water be monitored and tested in the same rigorous manner that tap water has been subject to for years.

**Myth:** Using a home water treatment device will make tap water safer or healthier to drink.

**Reality:** Some people use home water filters to improve the taste, smell, and/or appearance of

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)  
[www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)

their tap water, but it does not necessarily make the water safer or healthier to drink. Additionally, all home treatment devices, regardless of the technologies they use, require regular maintenance. If the maintenance is not performed properly, water quality problems may result.

**Myth:** If lead is in your water, it's the utility's fault.

**Reality:** The most common source of lead in drinking water is the plumbing in your home. Your plumbing may have lead pipes or lead solder in the connections. Lead is a contaminant that is particularly harmful to pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about lead in your water, contact your local health authorities to find out how you can have your water tested by a certified laboratory. If tests reveal that there is lead in your water you should reduce your exposure to it. Since warm water absorbs more lead than cold, when you cook, always start with cold water. Because water standing in pipes tends to absorb lead, clear the pipes before drinking by letting your tap run until the water is cold. Catch the running water and use it to water your plants, then fill a pitcher to store the drinking water in the refrigerator.

**Myth:** There are more pollutants in drinking water today than there were years ago.

**Reality:** There may be more contaminants that can enter our water sources today. We did not have the technology to know what was in our drinking water years ago. Today we have sophisticated testing instruments that enable us to know more about our water than ever before. With this knowledge, the drinking water community is taking steps to treat what's in our water.

Every month (except July and December) the City of Yachats mails nearly 700 newsletters to residents, property owners, and other interested parties. That is nearly 7,000 a year! But mailing is not the only choice you have for delivery. You can help the City save paper and postage if you choose electronic delivery or if you view it on the city web-site.

If you would like your newsletter emailed (text only) please send an email to [nancyo@ci.yachats.or.us](mailto:nancyo@ci.yachats.or.us) and your email address will be added to the distribution list for electronic delivery.

If you would like to view the newsletter on the Internet at [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) please send an email to the above address letting us know that you would like to be removed from the mailing list. If you like we could even send you an email letting you know when it has been updated.

And don't forget, there is a lot more on the web-site than the newsletter. You can access the minutes of all the City Council and Commission meetings, a calendar of events at the Commons and all the meetings, reports on the quality of the drinking water, water conservation tips, download any number of forms and much, much more.



#### **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](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)

#### **CITY NEWSLETTER CHOICES**



City of Yachats  
PO 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)  
[www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us)

Newsletter - Page 6

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