



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

September 2005



RUMOR, GOSSIP AND HEARSAY

By Mayor Susanne Smith

Rumor is defined as "talk or opinion widely disseminated with no discernible source"; gossip is rumor and hearsay is also rumor. There is plenty of gossip in any town at any time but there is an unusual amount in Yachats right now concerning proposed water rate increases.

- The City is making restaurants pay for the water system.
- The City is trying to run business out of town

Neither of those is true. What the City IS trying to do is find a method of allocating costs for water across ALL user bases in a somewhat equitable manner.

- The City hasn't allowed public input.

Also not true. All of the Public Works and Streets meetings have been open and advertised; all of the City Council meetings have and will be open to the public. Comment at meetings is welcomed. The meeting on September 20th was a work session and because of that, no public comment was appropriate.

- The City voted to assess restaurants by seating capacity to help pay the down payment for the loan for the.....sewer project.

Also not true. The reason the per seat figure was given in the first place was as a guide for people to be able to estimate what their increases might be.

These are just a few of the rumors that I have heard in recent weeks. My advice would be this: If information is what you are seeking or if what the City has done is of interest to you, either ask at City Hall; ask a Council member; check the City website.

While the City has passed an increase that will address some of the need for more money, we are far from finished. In fact, the discussion is just beginning.



New Water and Sewer Rates Set

At a special meeting on September 27, 2005 City Council voted to leave the current billing structure in place and increase the base rates and usage rates. The other issues, such as indexing for inflation, adopting a tier system and calculating the base rate based on the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) chart for "equivalent dwelling units" will be explored further.

Beginning with the bills mailed November 1, 2005 for the October consumption the base rate for water will be \$25, the base rate for sewer will be \$35 and the combined usage rate for water and sewer will be \$7 per hundred cubic feet of water used. These rates will be in place for the rest of this fiscal year or until such time that City Council adopts different ones.

In working on the rate study the Public Works and Streets Commission was attempting to ensure enough cash flow to accumulate the amount of cash the city will need in reserves to meet the conditions of the DEQ loan for the new sewer plant. City Council decided to reconvene the Budget Committee to look at options for raising that money. The Budget Committee will meet on October 13 at 5:00 p.m. to begin that work.

What do the new rates mean for you?

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Water Used | None | 100 cf | 200 cf | 300 cf |
| current bill | \$ 55.41 | \$ 60.36 | \$ 65.31 | \$ 70.26 |
| new bill | \$ 60.00 | \$ 67.00 | \$ 74.00 | \$ 81.00 |
| Increase | \$ 4.59 | \$ 6.64 | \$ 8.69 | \$ 10.74 |
| | | | | |
| Water Used | 400 cf | 500 cf | 600 cf | 700 cf |
| current bill | \$ 75.21 | \$ 80.16 | \$ 85.11 | \$ 90.06 |
| new bill | \$ 88.00 | \$ 95.00 | \$ 102.00 | \$ 109.00 |
| Increase | \$ 12.79 | \$ 14.84 | \$ 16.89 | \$ 18.94 |
| | | | | |
| Water Used | 800 cf | 900 cf | 1000 cf | 1100 cf |
| current bill | \$ 95.01 | \$ 99.96 | \$ 104.91 | \$ 109.86 |
| new bill | \$ 116.00 | \$ 123.00 | \$ 130.00 | \$ 137.00 |
| Increase | \$ 20.99 | \$ 23.04 | \$ 25.09 | \$ 27.14 |
| | | | | |
| Water Used | 1200 cf | 1300 cf | 1400 cf | 1500 cf |
| current bill | \$ 114.81 | \$ 119.76 | \$ 124.71 | \$ 129.66 |
| new bill | \$ 144.00 | \$ 151.00 | \$ 158.00 | \$ 165.00 |
| Increase | \$ 29.19 | \$ 31.24 | \$ 33.29 | \$ 35.34 |
| | | | | |
| note: 100 cf = approx. 748 gallons | | | | |



In Other City Council News

- City Council adopted Ordinance 257 Amending the Yachats Municipal Code Section 6.08.010 - Prohibited Parking. This ordinance prohibits sleeping in a vehicle parked on City property or right-of-way without a permit. Permits may be issued for people participating at events at City owned buildings.
- City Council voted to recommend the Oregon Liquor Control Commission approve event applications submitted by the Wine Place
- City Council adopted the Management Discussion and Analysis for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. This narrative summary will be included in the annual audit and financial reports.
- City Council considered an ordinance that would have imposed a curfew on minors. The ordinance did not pass.
- City Council voted to pass a resolution of concern and support (without any monetary contribution) for the hurricane victims.
- Council Member Ray Meehan volunteered to coordinate the planting of the sidewalk strips between the bank and the Union 76 gas station. Volunteers can contact him.



Ordinance Enforcement

By Mayor Susanne Smith

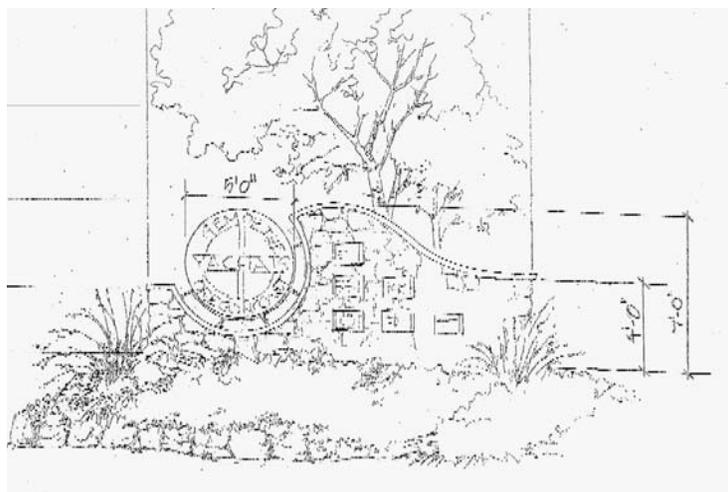
Yachats, like every other city, has ordinances designed to maintain the security and quality of life for its residents. Since we have no official enforcement authority (i.e. police), the City becomes the enforcement entity. If any member of the staff or any member of Council or Commissions sees an infraction, that infraction can be addressed. However, the City staff and officials don't always see everything that is occurring. That is where the citizens become involved in their own enforcement rights and responsibilities. This is referred to as "complaint driven" enforcement. Rather than addressing those infractions directly, the citizen fills out a complaint form at City Hall after which an investigation is made; a letter written or call made; or a citation into Municipal Court issued *by the City*. Many issues can and should be addressed neighbor to neighbor. If a property owner has noxious weeds growing on his property, he might prefer being asked by his neighbor to eliminate them rather than receiving a letter from the City. One's own best judgment must be used in these cases. A zoning infraction can be addressed by the Planner IF it is dealing with the City Code. Some zoning infractions occur because of CC&Rs (Covenants and Restrictions) peculiar to a certain neighborhood and are not in the City's scope of monitoring or enforcement. The City Code is on the City website and is available for all who choose to look it over.



Grant Received

By Mayor Susanne Smith

The City of Yachats is fortunate to have been the number one grant recipient from Oregon State Parks and Recreation for \$75,000 toward completion of the Commons Park. Lee Corbin, Park Task Force Chair, and Larry Lewis, City Planner, made a presentation to the Grant Review Committee in mid-June. With matching funds from the Friends of the Yachats Commons, fundraising efforts, and the City, \$145,000 will be committed to this project. Congratulations to Lee and Larry and to the Task Force who has continued working tirelessly to fulfill the vision for the park.



North Gateway

By Mayor Susanne Smith

The City has a new North Gateway sign welcoming all to Yachats. Lou Caputo, a local contractor,

did the construction and students from the Masonry Department at Angell Job Corps did the rock work. I am reminded once again of how fortunate the City of Yachats is to have Angell Job Corps on our team. The students gain experience from the jobs they perform in the City and the City gains excellent work. The Log Church, the Library, the Commons building, the Senior Luncheons have all benefitted from this relationship.



Public Works Director's Report

By John McClintock

- The water efficiency was 90% last month. The supply is still adequate to meet demand.
 - Russ Roberts was filling in as water treatment plant operator while McClung was on vacation; he did an excellent job.
 - The sewer plant operated within limits with no problems over the Labor Day weekend.
 - The preliminary archeological report was favorable.
 - The engineers were here doing some testing this past month; and that report is favorable as well.
 - Some stop signs have been installed in new places and some older ones replaced.
 - The public works crew has put dirt in the planting strips on the ODOT sidewalk. Planting will take place after the rains start.
 - Maintenance work on the hydrants has been completed, fresh coats of paint applied, and the Fire District has marked each location with a blue "H" on the street.
 - The City has received the plans for the Hwy. 101 overlay project from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). It is apparent that signage issues will need to be addressed before they start the project.
 - Landscaping at the North Gateway will be started soon. The City is waiting for ODOT approval for the South Gateway location
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Skateboard Project

By Max Glenn

Have you parked in downtown Yachats, headed into Clark's Market or another business, and encountered a youth on a skateboard? Our youth are skating sidewalks and streets around town and behind the Commons. On July 18, 2005, youth and parents gathered at the Commons for pizza and began exploring the development of a Skate Board Park in Yachats. Max Glenn and Leon Sterner agreed to work with our youth and their parents to create a Skate Park.

July 21, "Max Glenn appeared before the Parks & Commons Commission to promote a skateboard facility within the proposed Commons Park Area. Glenn, Leon Sterner and several young skateboard enthusiasts met for the first time this week to discuss design and fundraising ideas. Commissioners suggested the group contact the Commons Park Task Force first to obtain initial approval of a plan. Upon acceptance by the task force the plan is then forwarded to Parks & Commons Commission for review and/or recommendation to City Council." (City Minutes)

The Commons Park Task Force considered three proposed sites and voted August 30th "If the City Council approves a Skateboard Park, then the Task Force recommends that the far southeast portion near the entry area (bus shelter) of the ball field be considered, an area no larger than 5000 sq.ft. Or (2nd choice) the northwest corner of the athletic field." (City Minutes)

September 15th Parks and Commons Commission voted: "Accept the Park Task Force recommended location for a skatepark described as `the far southeast portion near the entry area

(bus shelter) of the ball field be considered, an area no larger than 5,000 sq. ft.' and forward to City Council for approval." (City Minutes)

The Board of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program, Inc. has created a special "Skate Park" bank account and contributions can be so designated and sent to P.O. Box 151, Yachats, OR 97498.

The weekend of September 23 & 24, Kent Dahlgren, Executive Director of Skaters for Public Skateparks (SPS) a 28 year Skater, visited Yachats and consulted with those involved in this exciting adventure. SPS is a non-profit skatepark advocacy organization, international in reach, dedicated to providing the information necessary to ensure safe, rewarding, freely accessible Skateparks are available to all skateboarders. Visit their website:

<http://www.skatersforpublicskateparks.org/>



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

The place is hopping and activities are going on all the time here at the Commons. The exercise class with Joe and Julie is well-attended and popular. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday you can come in for a good workout from 10 to 11.

The Good Morning, Yachats exercise class, taught by Joe Valenti with his wife, Julie, is starting an evening session for those folks who can't come during the day. Beginning October 1, there will be an exercise class from 6 - 7 P.M. on Monday and Wednesday evenings. This is the official Good Morning, Yachats Evening Edition. The cost per month is \$30.

Yoga classes with Ursula Adler will not be held in October. Ursula will begin again in November. Dennis McSharry will be teaching one class a week, at 8:30 am on Wednesdays.

Wednesday and Sunday evenings are generally reserved for community volleyball at 7 pm. Tuesday evenings you can come in and play basketball starting at 7.

October begins with a concert by a group from the Lincoln County chorale entitled "Women of Note" on Saturday, October 1 at 7 pm.

October means the Yachats Mushroom festival is looming on the horizon. This year we will be having a mushroom dinner again on October 14, this is put on by the Lodging Association.

Saturday, the 15th, the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program will be having a salmon dinner and the farmer's market will be up and running both on Saturday and Sunday. Stay tuned for more information.

Regular activities for October include the Big Band Dance on the 6th at 7 pm, movie night on the 13th at 7 pm, senior luncheon at 12:30 on the 27th. The Yachats Big Band will also be playing a special concert on the 22nd from 7 to 10 pm. This concert is a benefit for the Del Chinburg Education Fund.

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|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 | | |
| <i>Reporting Through 08-31-05</i> | | |
| Program | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| General Administration | \$643,528 | \$313,889 |
| Library | \$17,571 | \$5,687 |
| Little Log Church & Museum | \$10,038 | \$3,339 |
| Parks & Commons* | \$141,078 | \$84,097 |
| Streets | \$110,545 | \$23,854 |
| Water | \$431,658 | \$99,278 |
| Sewer | \$963,572 | \$100,109 |
| In Reserve for Future Uses | \$1,511,162 | \$1,481,278 |
| Debt | <u>\$131,943</u> | <u>\$1,450</u> |
| | <u>\$3,961,095</u> | <u>\$2,112,980</u> |



REMINDER TO ALL OWNERS OF RENTAL PROPERTY

Remember that the City of Yachats requires a local contact name and phone number on all transient rental properties.



By Mayor Susanne Smith

Please remember to let us know your feelings about enacting a burn ban in the City of Yachats which would include yard debris, construction burning and slash burning. We would like to hear from more of you.



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 approved 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 to apply for the low income waiver contact the City Office.

Leaks and Leak Detection

A little leak can account for large amount of lost water. A pinhole size leak can mean a loss of *gallons*, and it is so hard to find. The best way to determine if you have a leak is to perform an audit.

Locate your water meter and make note of the meter reading. Turn off all the fixtures in and around your home and don't use any water for an hour. Then go back and check the reading on the meter, if it has changed, you have a leak or leaks!!

Repair any leaks, retro-fit with water saving devices, insulate pipes and water heater, and adjust

water use.



Now is an excellent time to get involved in the community and be first up to know what is really going on. Fill out an application for appointment to a Yachats Commission. Currently, there are two positions available on the Budget Committee and one on the Public Works and Streets Commission. The Budget Committee reviews the annual City budget and recommends adoption (or not) to City Council. The Public Works and Streets Commission deals with City infrastructure: water, wastewater and streets. Applications are available at City Hall. Other Commissions are Planning, Parks and Commons, Library, and Little Log Church and Museum. Currently there are no openings on those but there will be as terms expire and/or members choose not to re-apply

[City of Yachats](#)