



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

JUNE 2009

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for City minutes and codes, receive/pay your bill, schedule/view Commons events, and more!

Quote of the Month

One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.
~Chinese Proverb



Mayor's Message By Ron Breaun, Mayor

stim-u-lus: \stim-yə-ləs\
noun, Latin root:

something that rouses or incites to activity: as a: [incentive](#) b: [stimulant](#) c: an agent (as an environmental change) that directly influences the activity of a living organism or one of its parts.

It has been suggested that I should write about what the City of Yachats is doing relative to the Federal stimulus package. The Federal elected officials don't like to call it a "stimulus package." They prefer to call it the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," its official title. I'm not sure why they feel its official name is more descriptive than the name by which we all know it. By either name it suggests a chance to get things done and an opportunity to keep citizens employed and productive.

The City has been pursuing this since before it was the law. We've been looking at opportunities to get roads paved that badly need it. We've been looking to address storm drain deficiencies. We've been looking to make facilities modifications and improvements to heavily used city facilities like the Commons. We felt that the underemployed of our community could benefit (experience a recovery) from the work and the local economy could benefit from new project related pay checks. We figured the infrastructure in our town could benefit from some "re-investment." We hoped that we could make progress on our trail system in town.

As you might expect, it's hard for a small town to compete with major population centers. The

system was set up to use existing avenues of money dispensing. Therefore, those that have had the lion's share of the money in the past get it now too. Those governmental entities that have large staffs to research and prepare grant applications have the edge. At a recent meeting involving Lincoln County mayors and a representative from our congressman's office a unanimity of dismay was expressed by the mayors about the inherent disadvantage to small cities like ours (where over half of Oregon's citizens live) in this process. We believe we were heard. Perhaps we'll do better if there are any future stimuli.

Nevertheless, we still have hope for a few projects. A grant application is pending that could assist in residing the remainder of the Commons and provide cost saving insulation. We are very optimistic about some potential highway related funds to improve pedestrian circulation along the highway through town. We're even hopeful (though less optimistic) that a favorable adjustment will be made in the allocation of road maintenance funds from the state level to local governments.

In the meanwhile, we will continue to stimulate decision makers at various levels of government and in various agencies to help us out. As a community we will stimulate each other to diligently care for our town and its facilities. Your City Council and I will continue to do our best to respond to your stimuli to address the needs and desires of Yachadians. It's actually a stimulating time to be involved.



The Councilor's Corner By Dave Rieseck, City Councilor

***Yachats Beautification Project
Takes First Steps***

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The economy may be bleak but the beauty of Yachats still shines in the worst of times. While it's safe to say the compelling natural views are one of our most important and appreciated attractions to our community, our own progress can sometimes blur the vista.

In response to the economic downturn affecting City coffers, the Yachats Beautification Project has taken its first steps. The Beautification Project is one part of the larger three-part Go Yachats project that has been created to boost and encourage the local economy.

This project will work to identify priorities, design, and implement several improvements that may lay the groundwork for a unique and cohesive "community view." While the final designs will surely embrace a distinctly Yachatian flavor, this effort can provide the foundation for many of the beautification components that add, enhance and improve the visual character of our village.

Why do we need to beautify? With 70% of the revenue that pays for city services coming from lodging tax, it is important to understand our tourists. At the Shamrock Lodgettes (which I operate), for example, we track our guests' perspective and preferences in several ways. The greatest numbers of our guests are drive-by visitors. While we have substantial annual and repeat customers, the majority stop along their tour of the Oregon Coast.

With that in mind, the goal of this project is to identify several tangible actions the City can fund that will enhance the look and flavor of our "Main Street," otherwise known as Highway 101. The project is envisioned to support local business efforts that promote the visual character of pedestrian and vehicular experience for residents, tourists and guests.

Ideas that have been discussed include: art and sculpture, in the form of banners and signs; entry and roadside plantings, and planters and landscape beds; benches, bike racks and kiosks. Additional ideas that have been voiced include business and traffic signs, existing plantings, derelict properties and deferred maintenance.

A beautification group has been formed that includes the business community, artists, designers and residents. I've spent much of my career in urban design, community planning, architecture and landscape architecture and I feel comfortable gathering ideas, identifying possibilities and drafting "our" proposed course of action for the city.

There is still time to get involved, and additional participants will be welcomed as the project progresses.



Yachats Clean Sweep

By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

Bargain hunters take notice! Beginning Wednesday, June 24 through Saturday, June 27 the City of Yachats will hold its annual "Clean

Sweep."

Wednesday, June 24 Yachats residents may place any **free** unwanted items (no household trash or hazardous materials) at the edge of the street next to the curb.

Thursday, June 25 Residents 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, June 26 Treasure hunters can continue to cruise the city streets in search of "gems" they may have missed the day before. Residents may bring any remaining unwanted items to the dumpsters set up behind the Commons.

Saturday, June 27 Residents may continue bringing unwanted items to the dumpsters until 5:00 p.m.

Please note:

*Seniors or handicapped/disabled citizens with items too heavy or bulky to move may call City Hall at (541) 547-3565 to schedule a pick up from the Public Works crew no later than 9:00 a.m. on Thursday June, 25.

*Proof of physical residence inside City limits must be shown when items are disposed of at the Commons dumpsite.

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

*Clean wood, yard debris, lumber, metal, appliances, blinds, curtain rods, and furniture are acceptable.

*NO household garbage or hazardous waste

This year we will be having some special recycling opportunities—look for coming announcements.



Public Works Department By John McClintock, Director

Summer construction season is about to start with hopefully dry weather is right around the corner.

This year the majority of Public Works projects have to do with water line replacement, street maintenance and storm drainage upgrades. We would like to remind residents to be on the look out for our signage and crew. We will try to keep everyone “in the loop” as to what and where things are going on to minimize any inconveniences.

On another note, we once again request that restaurants and residents refrain from pouring grease down their drains. We are seeing more and more grease in our wastewater collection system and it is very difficult to deal with. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any questions or comments for the Public Works Department we can be reached at (541) 547-3565 or (541) 547-3242.



Building on Steep Slopes By Larry Lewis, City Planner

There is an ever-increasing demand to build on steep slopes in Yachats. This is due to 1) the limited number of vacant “flat” lots and, 2) lots with steep slopes often provide ocean views.

There are significant hazards associated with building on steep slopes. Nature’s ability to shape and change the landscape is more prevalent on the coast due to wind, rain, and other natural events. Manmade changes also cause and accelerate changes to the landscape, i.e., landslides and increased surface water and sediment movement.

Development in hazardous areas is often discouraged however demand creates strong pressure for new development in some hazardous areas. Despite the risks, it is possible to build relatively safely in some hazardous areas if proper precautions are taken. In Yachats, one key regulation requires the following:

On slopes of 12% and greater: gross excavation or fill of greater than 40 cubic yards, removal of more than 2,500 square feet of vegetative cover (as measured along the slope), road construction and/or building which entails any fill or excavation on a site shall be subject to conditions, restrictions and recommendations outlined by an engineering geologist’s site analysis report.

For a complete description of regulations please refer to Yachats Municipal Code Section 9.52.050 available online at www.yachatsdocuments.info.

Additionally, grading or development on a site cannot result in increased surface water runoff or increased sedimentation onto adjacent property.

Please contact me prior to grading or development activities on steep slopes to ensure you are adhering to all regulations. I am available at City Hall on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Shoreline Septic Systems By Walt Weyand, PW&S Commission Chair

Yachats residents within city boundaries are connected to the City’s waste management system, but many homes just outside city limits still use septic systems. Some of these homes may have failing septic systems. Does yours?

Shoreline Septic Systems Require Special Consideration

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Because soil and water conditions near the shoreline may make the systems less efficient in treating waste. This in turn could cause harmful pollutants to reach the Pacific Ocean and the beaches. The septic system's purpose is to effectively accept and treat liquid wastes from your house and to prevent contaminants from getting onto nearby beaches. Most of this treatment happens in the soil below the absorption field. The physical and chemical properties of the soils combine with microscopic organisms to decompose or prevent movement of contaminants.

When the soil is not saturated with water, biological contaminants (bacteria and viruses) usually are absorbed and rendered inactive within a few feet of the absorption field. However, certain nutrients can travel much greater distances, depending on the type of soil, the amount and concentration of waste, and the age of the system. For example, loam and clay soils have a greater long-term ability to absorb nutrients and prevent them from moving through the soil than do sand and muck soils. When the soil is saturated, nutrients and biological contaminants can move much greater distances (in some cases, up to several hundred feet).

When septic systems close to the ocean are saturated during high water periods or following one of our frequent winter storms, they become likely to leak wastes into the ocean. When shorelines erode, the distance between the septic system and the shoreline becomes shorter, making it more likely that liquid waste could move through the soil to the bank and then onto the beach and into the water.

This pollution can happen even though your septic system appears to be working well and complies with local codes.

Why Septic Systems Fail

Septic systems are designed to have a lifetime of 20 to 30 years, under the best conditions. Eventually, the soil around the absorption field becomes clogged with organic material making the system unusable.

Many other factors can cause a septic system to fail well before the end of its "projected" lifetime. Soils saturated by water, pipes blocked by roots, crushed tiles, improper location, poor original design, or poor installation can lead to major problems. By far

the most common reason for septic system failure is improper maintenance by homeowners. When a system is poorly maintained and not pumped out on a regular basis, sludge (solid material) builds up inside the septic tank, then flows into the absorption field and clogs it beyond repair.

Indicators that Contaminants May be Reaching the Beach or Ocean

- Excessive weed or algae growth in the water near your shore
- An increase in infections or illnesses associated with area beach use
- Unpleasant odors, soggy soil, or liquid waste flow over the beach surface
- Test results indicating the presence of biological contamination
- Indicator dye put into your septic tank reaches the beach or ocean
- Lush green grass over the absorption field, even during dry weather
- Slow flushing of toilets
- Sewage backup in drains or toilets

This article was adapted from information published by South Dakota State University



Mark Your Calendars for Summer Fun at the Yachats Commons

By Leon Sterner, User Support Manager

Every Sunday from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. from May through October visit the Yachats Farmer's Market showcasing locally grown produce and local crafts of all kinds. Come mill around in this leisurely atmosphere where locals and visitors rub shoulders, share stories, and tell news about goings on around town.

If it's swing and jazz music you favor then plan to attend the Yachats Big Band Dance on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Also in the musical category, the Yachats Bell Ringer concert starts at 4:00 p.m. on June 13th. Call (541) 547-4821 for more information.

4th of July events start off at the playground where the *la de da Parade* assembles. To participate in the parade contact the Chamber of Commerce at (541) 547-3530. Then on July 11th the Lion's Club

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holds its annual fish fry at the picnic shelter behind the Commons. There's always plenty to eat and an exceptional mix of people.

On the afternoon of July 17th the Friends of the Commons are sponsoring a Folk Festival and Hootenanny bringing in musicians from far and wide to perform three "foot-tapping, string-busting, old-fashioned folk music" shows as well as numerous workshops throughout the afternoon and evening. Bring your instruments if you like and join in a jam session or attend some of the workshops.

For more information on these and other events held at the Commons, please log on to the City's website at www.ci.yachats.or.us.



Yachats Public Library **By Annette Howarth, Volunteer**

Thanks to a recent Trust Management Services grant, the Library has been able to purchase many new nonfiction books and

books on CD. Patrons will find new books on gardening, history, biography, as well as poetry and literature. Our large-print collection will be enlarged by almost 100 new volumes. There will be a new book case that will hold our much larger collection of books on CD.

We have added two hours to our Saturday schedule. We will be open at our regular 10:00 a.m. time, but will remain open until 6:00 p.m. Our other hours are 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Come visit the Library this summer and check out some of our new items. Everything except reference materials can be checked out for two weeks. It cost nothing to become a patron and there are never any fees or fines.



Little Log Church & Museum **By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator**

Our sanctuary now boasts freshly painted pews, new baseboard

moldings, and a newly painted lectern, thanks to Leon Sterner, Mark Erlander, and Lala MacKenzie who spent many hours sanding, painting, fitting and pounding to give the church a clean fresh look. We certainly appreciate their hard work. Many thanks! The project took just over two weeks plus a few extra days for the paint to thoroughly set and dry. Just in time for the two springtime weddings held on Tuesday May 19th.

The museum has acquired a sleek new DVD player on which the photo history of Yachats can be viewed as narrated by Leigh and Thelma Green, as well as the fabulous montage of the Yachats area created by award-winning musician Patrick O'Hearn.

Stop in and see us. We're ready for summer company!

The answer to last month's puzzler was: The Log Church has 16 window panes fronting West Third St. Although this was virtually an "open book test," there were no responders with the correct answer. In fact there were no responders at all.



In the Garden **By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator**

Congratulations to Jocille Daniel who was the first to get the right answer in the little contest I had in my article last month. She is now the proud owner of her very own frog house from the Little Log Church. The answer to the contest was "frog house."

You might not think of frogs living in houses, but just like birds live in the houses we build for them, they will inhabit a house too. Usually they live in hollows in the ground, under grasses or logs, but if you put a house out for them near water they will, just like birds coming to bird houses, use a house you construct too just as long as you put it in the proper place.

Want to build your own frog house? They are quite easy. Any clean, empty flower pot will do. Just break out a chunk on the rim and place the pot upside-down on the ground near a water source, and presto, you have a frog house.

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The Darlingtonia and also the smaller pitcher plants were installed last month. Sorry about the cage I built around the Darlingtonia. The day after I installed them, I stopped by to take a look at them and raccoons had completely dug them up. We will be putting in a small path to them so that visitors can better see them. They are quite small at the moment.

Have you seen our Gunnera? It won't be long before it is HUGE! Better keep your eye on that one.



**Yachats Youth & Family
Activities Program**
By Debbie Jackson, Director

Summer will be here before we know it, and we are busy planning some great activities for children and youth. We are excited to be able to offer activities from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for five weeks this summer. We hope local parents will find this helpful. Our schedule is as follows:

June 15-19 CLOSED

June 22-July 24 Summer Explorations 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

June 22-July 24 RecPLUS 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

July 27-August 28 RecPLUS 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

August 31-September 4 CLOSED

RecPLUS is our traditional drop-in program. There will be lots of free play plus opportunities to participate in small group activities such as: sports; art; crafts; photography; and more.

Summer Explorations is a more structured program designed for children ages 8 and up. Each week will be organized around a different theme. Pre-registration is required and participation is limited. Children will participate in a variety of hands-on activities designed to engage their minds, hands, and creativity in exciting new ways. Many activities will take place outdoors. The themes are:

June 22-26 Geocaching

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June 29-July 3 Out & About In Nature

July 6-10 5 Days & A Play

July 13-17 Ceramics: Mud Music

July 20-24 Perpetua Discovery

The cost of Summer Explorations is \$180 for all 5 weeks or \$40 per week. Call to ask about scholarships and sibling discounts. During the weeks we don't offer full-day programming, the 21st Century program in Waldport is will be offering special learning activities from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and will provide bus transportation to Yachats. Call them at (541) 563-3476 for more information. For more information on YYFAP programs or to register call (541) 547-4599. We can also be reached by e-mail yapkids@peak.org.

Grants for 2009/2010

Thanks to support from several sources, the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program will be offering a full slate of activities for children and youth this summer and beyond. Recent donations include \$10,000 from Trust Management Services for early childhood education and family support programs, \$4,000 from the Juan Young Trust for summer activities, \$1000 from Bank of the West to support general programming, \$500 from the Lincoln County Cultural Coalition, and \$400 from One of Us Productions. In addition, the City of Yachats allocated a generous \$28,000 to help provide positive activities to resident and visiting youth. The mission of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program is "to provide a safe and supportive environment for children, to be an advocate for youth and families, and to provide and encourage activities that integrate youth into the community." Activities include early childhood education, parent and family support, out-of-school-time programs after school and during the summer, and leadership programs for teens. For more information about the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program, or to find out how you can help, call (541) 547-4599, or go to www.yachatsyouth.org.



**Yachats Chamber Proudly
Recognizes its**

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Volunteers and 2008 Awards Winners

By Beverly Wilson, Director

The Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce holds an annual dinner to recognize its volunteer ambassadors at the Yachats Visitors Center and to present awards to chamber members for outstanding contributions to the community and jobs well done. Winners are selected based upon observations and nominations received from chamber membership. At its annual dinner hosted by The Drift Inn on April 29th, the Chamber proudly announced its 2008 awards winners and presented each with a plaque.

Business of the Year was presented to Luna Sea Fish House. Owner Robert Anthony was recognized for successfully expanding his business from a gourmet canned product to a popular fish house offering delicious fish and chips and a fresh seafood market. *Woman of the Year* was presented to Debbie Jackson, Director of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program. Debbie was recognized for her successful long-term leadership of an organization that gives local youth a place to belong, play and learn and in general improves the livability of Yachats. *Man of the Year* was presented to David Rieseck, General Manager of the Shamrock Lodgettes and new Yachats City Councilor. David was recognized for taking a community leadership role, bringing unique insight to public service from both the Yachats business and resident communities. *Community Volunteer of the Year* was presented to Sandy Dunn, President of the Yachats Ladies Club. Sandy was recognized for her invigorating leadership of this historic service club, expanding its membership and directing the physical renovation of its clubhouse. *Visitors Center Volunteer of the Year* was presented to Danielle Felder, a volunteer of 13 years and a year-round volunteer in 2008. Danielle was recognized for her always gracious, professional demeanor, and long-term occasional service as the Visitors Center's French translator. *Friend of Yachats* was presented to Dan Dolan, who has jumped in as energetic volunteer all over town since his arrival just under 3 years ago. Dan volunteers at the Visitors Center, City Hall, Little Log Church, and for numerous Yachats events. The Chamber also recognized Chamber President Sue Keys (2007 and 2008) with a President's plaque in appreciation of all she does to promote Yachats.

Gift certificates were presented to volunteer ambassadors who served in 2008 at the Yachats Visitors Center and at several Chamber events: Jon Colton (10 years); Daniel Dolan (2.5 year); Betty Dunn (8 years); Norma Elliott (3 years); Danielle Felder (13 years); Diane Freeburg (4 years); Max Glenn (5 years); Tom Gray (11 years); Marie Green (1 year); Margie Laur (18 years); Jannah Loigman (6 months); Bonnie Jean Rea (5 years); Kathe Stander (1 year); Gerald Stanley (4 years); Florence Whitney (13 years); Judy Taylor and Russ Hagg (both 22 years and retiring in 2008). Jon Colton received special recognition for having served as co-chair of the Yachats Original Arts and Crafts Fair for a full decade.

The Chamber Board also extends a special *thank you* to Mayor Ron Brean and his wife Lauralee for attending its annual awards dinner.



The Gerdemann Botanical Garden

By John Cooper, PW&S
Commissioner

Garden paths are undergoing renovation with a wheelchair accessible trail loop, new bridges and public hiking trail. All projects are to be completed by fall if everything goes as planned. Kathleen & Jerry Sand, the owners, are working daily on the project. It is their private property they share with all of us. They ask that potential visitors call to schedule an appointment at (541) 547-5143. The recent tour they gave us and our guests was outstanding. There are many interesting facts about the plants and history. Improved plant identification signage will be delivered and installed by July. This will add to understanding what is observed. Please leave pets at home when touring the garden. For more information log onto www.gerdemangarden.org or send e-mail to GBGarden@Gerdemangarden.org.



Town Tidbits

"The Ghoul from the Tidal Pool" is back! Yachats own movie and the latest entry in the 1950's horror movie genre is scheduled to

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resume filming May 30 and continuing through June. Contact Burgundy at (541) 547-4713 to get in on the fun.

On Saturday, June 13 come and share your favorite story in the cozy atmosphere at The Green Salmon. The story can be made up, life experience, or someone else's work. Call (541) 547-3077 for more information.

Also at the Green Salmon there is a bike rack full of green bikes to borrow. Sponsored by the Waldport Literacy Center just come on down and grab a bike. It's free.

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