



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**FEBRUARY 2010**

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## **Mayor's Message**

**By Ron Brean, Mayor**

Years ago I wrote an article for a newsletter that was circulated among employees of California's park system. It was in a time of great change and, not unlike now, a time of great turmoil. In times like those, worried by change, even the most dedicated professionals can have a hard time keeping focused. Employees of California's park system, like people who are entrusted with natural and cultural treasures everywhere, are highly motivated, highly dedicated people. They take adversity to the mission of the Department personally. Financial and political upheaval makes their jobs harder, but it isn't hardship that bothers them. They're used to that. What bothers them is the potential loss of irreplaceable resources. It's the lost opportunity to share the values of nature and the lessons of history with children, the future stewards of those resources. It's the failure of decision makers at levels beyond their reach to understand the long lasting impact and loss associated with poor decisions.

Under those trying conditions I felt compelled to remind my (then) employees about one very important fact. It was our job to prevent change. I reminded them of the ancient VW commercials from the late 50's and 60's. Some of you may remember that they bragged about being the vehicle that "stays the same, but keeps changing." Year after year the famous Beetle had the exact same body. But year after year they improved the transmission, upgraded the electrical system, improved the metals in the engine, and focused their attention on improving the car without changing the beloved look of the car. That was also our job in parks. We used new technologies to great advantage. We replaced worn out facilities with better ones and used better materials. Our techniques changed. The agencies we dealt with

changed. We used more volunteers and helped foster a wide range of non-profit support organization. We found and sometimes invented new teaching techniques, new restoration techniques, and new administrative and financing techniques. We had to keep changing in order to make sure the resources we protected and shared with the world remained the same, forever. However change was inevitable and simply had to be accepted, through it all we had to make sure that the Department and its resources never truly changed.

I'm reminded of that article because of a recent conversation I had over a cup of coffee. The observation was made, somewhat mournfully, that a number of things are changing around Yachats. It's true. There have been a lot of changes and some of them have been painful, at least at some level. A much loved lodging facility is undergoing a transformation. The local grocery has closed. The health clinic has closed. Developments on the hillside have stalled and taken a major turn from what they started out to be. Yachadians who love our town are understandably concerned about all of this change.

I am perhaps less concerned than most. I see all of these changes as part of a process, transition, and steps toward a new version of our town that captures and retains the spirit of place that is at our core. New structures will replace old ones and their inhabitants will be Yachadians. New grocers will replace old ones and maybe even improve on products and services. In the meantime, volunteers have stepped forward in large numbers to ensure those without transportation or the ability to drive can get the groceries they need. We're working toward solutions to finish stalled hillside projects. At the same time we're changing other things for the positive. We've secured Federal funding to finish insulating and residing the Commons. Our trails system is expanding and improving. We

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finally received a grant to address wind screening for the park's picnic shelter. Volunteerism is at perhaps an all-time high. Yachats is not changing. All of the above is just an assortment of various kinds of window dressing. What makes Yachats...well, Yachats, is its heart. The heart of our City is strong, enduring, vital, and magnificent. It is the thing that we must never allow to change while other things evolve around us. It is the rock upon which our town remains solidly perched. We are, I am confident, a town that stays the same while it keeps changing.



### **The Yachats Grocery**

#### **Hotline**

**By Lauralee Svendsgaard,  
Volunteer**

Even before the Yachats Village Market had closed its doors for the final time, Mary Wiltse of Mari's Books was scrambling to figure out how the community could ensure that those without transportation or ability to drive get their groceries. She posed the question and within hours the solution was at hand.

With a phone line and voice mail donated by the City, the Yachats Grocery Hotline was established and within 48 hours over 30 neighbors contacted us eager to volunteer. Our volunteers will coordinate someone who will either drive you to Ray's Food Place in Waldport or pick-up your grocery list, do the shopping, and deliver the groceries to you with payment due upon delivery.

If you are in need of this service or wish to volunteer, call our hotline at (541) 547-4734 and leave your name, phone number and the best time to return your call. We can service those as far south as Ten Mile Creek, as far north as Tillicum Beach and into the Yachats River Valley.



### **Land Use & Building Permit Activity 2003-2009** **By Larry Lewis, City Planner**

The following table provides a summary of land use and building permit activity from 2003 through 2009. Not surprising, the number of building

permits issued in 2009 was the lowest in the past seven years.

Activity	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
New Residential Dwellings	20	26	21	17	18	28*	3
Building Permits: New Construction	18	29	19	17	17	6*	3
Building Permits: Additions/Remodels	30	26	22	21	23	19	8
Property Line Adjustment	2	1	1	3	1	1	1
Land Partition	2	1	1	5	6	3	1
Subdivision	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Planned Unit Development	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Variances	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Conditional Use Permit	1	1	3	0	0	1	0

*\*In 2008, the Fisterra Garden Apartments accounted for 25 of 28 new residential dwellings and 3 of 6 building permits for new construction.*



### **Complaints, Municipal Court, and Mediation** **By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

In order to handle the many complaints we receive each year, the City established a Municipal Court and most recently hired a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. This position has the ability to identify problems and code violations and work with the property owner to achieve compliance.

The City requires that all complaints are received in writing (either via USPS, dropped off at City Hall, or e-mailed to [cityhall@yachats.or.us](mailto:cityhall@yachats.or.us)). We do ask that the complainant first contact the property owner and attempt to resolve the problem on their own. If the complainant is uncomfortable with that suggestion or they have tried and failed to resolve the problem on their own, then the City will determine if it is a public or private nuisance and will mail a complaint notice giving the property owner a limited time to correct the problem to the

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satisfaction of the complainant.

If a reply is not received or no action is taken a citation will be issued and a municipal court hearing date is set. The majority of complaints are resolved this way.

Citizens in Yachats may also receive assistance from Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution. This non-profit organization assists citizens of Lincoln County in all kinds of disputes, including property damage, animals, litter, noise, money, trespassing, harassment, landlord and tenant relations, victim-offender, and family problems. They may be reached at (541) 574-9846.



## **Yachats Trails Committee**

### **Update**

**By Lauralee Svendsgaard,  
Chair**

Since my last report, the Yachats Trails Committee and its volunteers have been working very hard to ensure that they care for and expand our wonderful network of trails.

Joanne Kittel, Layne Morrill and other members of the Trail Development Subcommittee have made important strides in creating a new trail that will link northeast Yachats to the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve and the 804 Trail.

John Mare, our District Representative on Oregon State Parks Recreational Trails Advisory Council, has resurrected the South Lincoln County Committee on Trails. City Planner, Larry Lewis and I were appointed as Yachats representatives to the Committee. Representatives from South Lincoln County communities and wild land management agencies will meet a few times each year to learn about each other's activities to ensure both coordination and collaboration. The Committee will meet on February 2nd at 2:00 p.m. at Waldport City Hall. This meeting is open to the public; however public comment will only be accepted at the end of the meeting time permitting.

Jerry and Kathleen Sand are updating the Yachats Trails map to include both the Gerdemann Botanical Preserve and the Amanda Trail. Once complete we will update the Trails bulletin board at Overleaf Lodge and hope to replicate the display at

other hotel properties and create an updated Trails brochure for residents and visitors alike.

For those who have visited the Amanda statue it is quite apparent that the Amanda Bridge has "issues." Joanne Kittel (with assistance from the community, State Parks, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians) submitted a Recreational Trails Program grant request to replace the bridge. The quality of the application, matched with the generous financial contributions and broad based support from the community and the Confederated Tribes, makes us feel hopeful that the request will be funded.

The Yachats Trails Crew, coordinated by David Lavrinets, has logged over 125 volunteer hours since November. Meeting at designated sites on the first Saturday of each month, these hearty souls have pruned and pulled, cleared and made safer the Prospect Trail, the Amanda Trail and the Nature Area. As a treat to us the U.S. Forest Service asked and received our assistance in maintaining the Giant Spruce Trail from the Visitor Center to our beloved Heritage Tree; where Sally Lockyear told us about the tree's significance.

A grant from the Mid Coast Watershed Council provided us with the services of a group from Oregon Job Corps. Andrew and his Job Corps team have done a wonderful job of tackling ivy on the 804 Trail and assisting the Yachats Trails Crew with maintenance in the Nature Area, Amanda Trail and the Giant Spruce Trail at Cape Perpetua.

Please note that the Trails crew work event scheduled for February 6, 2010 has been cancelled. We will resume on monthly maintenance on March 6, 2010.

If you have questions or ideas you'd like to pursue, or if you'd like to be added to the Yachats Trails Committee's e-mail list, please contact me at [lsven@peak.org](mailto:lsven@peak.org) or (541) 547-3640.



## **Public Works Department**

**By John McClintock, Director**

2010 will be another busy year for the Yachats Public Works Department. As the community is aware, we operate the water treatment plant and distribution system, the

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wastewater treatment plant, and the wastewater collection system on a fulltime basis.

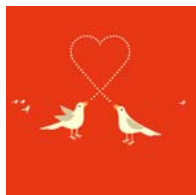
The Pubic Works Department has also contracted with the U.S. Forest Service to operate their wastewater treatment facilities at Angell Job Corps and at Cape Perpetua Scenic Area (which also includes their water treatment plant).

We plan to continue this year doing projects indetified in our Water Master Plan, Wastewater Master Plan and Storm Water Plan Addendum.

The City has budgeted funds to continue repairing and resurfacing of streets in town (Public Works prepares the streets and contracts the pairing portion, weather permitting).

We also get direction from the Mayor and City Council on pending projects and, of course, the Budget Committee dictates dollars for operation and maintenance of all facets of Public Works.

If you have any questions or comments regarding Public Works please call us at (541) 547-3243 or stop by at our facility at 500 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street.



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

Now that our holiday decorations are stored away, our Little Log Church and Museum is ready for some whisper of spring inside and out.

Although it seems as though it will never happen, we know from experience it won't be long before the daffodils and tulips will be sprouting in the garden, and colorful bowls of spring flowers will grace the sanctuary.

We guarantee spring will be beckoning Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> when thoughts turn to love on Valentines Day at the church. This year the museum will once again host its annual marriage vow renewal ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Margo Setrow of Waldport, who plays hammer dulcimer.

Last year we had a full house for the event, so reservations are required. Just give me a call at

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(541) 547-4547 to reserve your space. The museum requests a donation of \$10.00 per couple.

Music will again resound in the church's sanctuary the following weekend on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Nationally acclaimed Celtic violinist Jamie Laval will perform from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Jamie played to a packed audience at the church a few years ago during a Celtic festival. Announcements and flyers will be posted as to ticket prices and sales locations.



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

I hope everyone has survived our storms. As I write this, we have been having one right after the other, and I am about ready for a little break!

I am sure the Little Log Church could use a little sprucing up by now too. I haven't let my time go to waste. I have cleaned up all my tools, sharpened and oiled everything including the wooden handles. Boy, some of them were way overdue! Now I am really ready to show them a little action, if only the weather would cooperate.

I hope you have been able to take a look at the Garryaceae elliptica, or silk tassel tree on the southeast corner of the property. Those start blooming in December and provided the wind hasn't blown all the delicate tassels off, continue through about February or March. They are considered an understory tree and only grow about 12 feet tall. The males have the nicest tassels, which grow to almost a foot long; only the female bears seed and those have to be stimulated to grown by fire. We are lucky to have this specimen on the property for you to see up close.

This spring I will be putting up two new bird houses that I have altered so that they can be properly cleaned annually. I have also ordered some more native plants that I hope will attract more birds. Again, I would like to warn you here about feeding the wild birds. Unless you are feeding them native seeds and berries, please resist the temptation to give them anything. Bread is especially bad for their diets and more so during the winter months as

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it just doesn't have the nutrition required to keep them healthy.

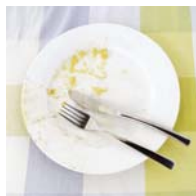
Now on to another little request...actually it's a really big request. My position here at the Little Log Church is going to be available this August. I would like for someone that loves gardening to take it over for me. Please get in touch with me now so that we can work together before that time comes. Please e-mail me at [jodean@peak.org](mailto:jodean@peak.org) or call me between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. weekdays at (541) 563-4529.



**Friends of Yachats**  
**Commons-Year in Review**  
By Jessica Waddell, President

No million dollar bonuses for the execs on our board, instead we passed out a few big bonuses to the Commons: a big, new movie screen and digital projector for Free Movie Night; a refinished stage floor, for all the premier performances that grace it; new piano bench for our Grand Piano; a portable supply cabinet in the kitchen; and last but not least an improved reader board to announce to everyone what's going on at the Commons. Some of our recurring events are Yoga, Exercise Class, Lunch Bunch, Big Band, Movie Night, in addition to some of the special events, like Hootenanny, Archaeology Film Fest, Guitar Festival, Celtic Celebration to name just a few.

Yes, it's been a good year at the Commons. Moreover, we have plans to make 2010 even better. A beautifully remodeled, insulated, painted building will attract much more attention this year. This is just the beginning. So stay tuned, watch the Reader Board, check out the Commons Calendar at our website <http://www.friendsyachatscommons.com>.



**Yachats Youth and Family Program**  
By Bee Bui, RecPLUS Team Leader

**Dine Out for Kids**

On Monday, February 1, 2010 join us for a great meal in a cozy atmosphere, while at the same time helping to support Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program (YYFAP). Linda Hetzler, proprietor of the Drift Inn Cafe here in Yachats, is generously offering all profits from the day's operation to YYFAP. There will be live music performances, featuring talent from YYFAP participants and other local musicians.

The Drift Inn is a family-friendly restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. It is located on scenic Highway 101 with a view of the Yachats River as it reaches the Pacific Ocean. The menu is an eclectic mix of family favorites and original dishes focused on fresh ingredients of the Pacific Northwest, plus coffee drinks, homemade soups, fresh baked breads, and decadent desserts.

YYFAP has been a Yachats fixture for 15 years, offering a wide range of services to local residents. Program offerings include something for everyone—from Indoor Park for the very youngest, to preschool, parenting support and education, teen community service groups, afterschool open recreation, family nights, multi-generational classes, and volunteer opportunities for elders. Our program operates out of the Yachats Commons. Last year, 291 children and youth (0-18), and 298 adults participated in the programs offered.

This event is a great example of how many people come together in supporting the programs of YYFAP. Donations from individuals and businesses, as well as from the City of Yachats make up the bulk of our organization's income. Volunteers help run the program, lead activities, or just have fun with the kids, which lead to an enjoyable, supportive environment. Last year, 368 volunteers donated 4,742 volunteer hours.

The Drift Inn shows community leadership by its dedication to children and families. You too can show your support by Dining Out for Kids on February 1st.

**Magician to Perform in Yachats**

The YYFAP and Pat Hayner are proud to present the return of the professional magic of Stuart Hayner on Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. The Magic Show is sure to dazzle young and old

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alike. Tickets are \$3 for children and their accompanying adults, and \$5 for adults who come without children. Tickets will be available at the door.

Stuart Hayner began learning magic when he was about 10. He began appearing professionally at the age of 14 and performed at magic conventions in Toronto and New York at the age of 16. He moved to Newport in his late teens and performed magic at the Embarcadero and did lights and sound for a band called *Formula L* that played for many weeks at the old Iron Kettle in Waldport. He was house magician at the Organ Grinder in Portland and did lights and sound for *Johnny Limbo and the Lug Nuts* to name a few of his accomplishments. Stuart now lives in Denver, and performs at many festivals and venues in Colorado.

### YYFAP Game Night

Is the rain and the wind leaving you feeling stuck inside? Come on out because people of all ages are invited to Game Night on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Yachats Commons. We will be playing active games, board games, drama games, entering relays, and much more! There will also be door prizes and even a sneak preview of the upcoming Magic Show on February 7th. A simple supper is provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is free.

### Valentine's Day Cards For Our Troops

We are spreading the love this Valentine's Day at RecPLUS (Passages to Learning, Understanding and Success). During the first week of February, RecPLUS youth will be creating handmade Valentine's Day cards for our troops. Children ages 6+ are welcome to join the fun after school every day at the Yachats Commons from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Greeting card creation is just one of the activities offered at RecPLUS. Other activities include cooking, beading, mind teasers or just a game of wall ball. Children may take the school bus to the Yachats Commons after school. There is a suggested \$25 fee per family per quarter and children must be picked by 6:00 p.m. Fees may be paid in installments and can be waived for parents who volunteer on a weekly basis.

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### Tuesday Teens at YYFAP

Do you have a son or daughter in 6th grade or higher? Are you running out of ideas to keep them engaged? Bring them to our newest activity "Tuesday Teens." It is open to 6th graders and up and takes place on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. During each session we will provide dinner and engaging activities tailored for teens such as guest speakers, thought-provoking movies, and much more. The next session will be February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Registration is not required and donations are welcome.

For more information about this or any other YYFAP activity, call (541) 547-4599, e-mail me at [beebui@peak.org](mailto:beebui@peak.org), or visit our website at [www.yachatsyouth.org](http://www.yachatsyouth.org). You can also find us on Facebook.



### Yachats Lunch Bunch By Paul Niblock, Coordinator

Our February luncheon will take place, as usual, on the last Thursday of the month February 25, 2010 inside the multipurpose room at the Commons with doors opening at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. with food catered by the culinary students from Angell Job Corps. We will be served chicken and dumplings, green salad, rolls and lemon bars for dessert. Everyone 55 and over is welcome and there is a suggested donation of \$4 at the door.

This month we will have Bingo and I will be calling the numbers. Winners will get to choose from our vast array of prizes, and everyone plays for free.

Clear your calendars for next month's luncheon on March 25<sup>th</sup> when the Polka Dots make their triumphant return!



### Town Tidbits

Spaces are still available for the **free** CERT class "Disaster Preparedness and Coastal Hazards" on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Yachats Commons.

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Call Betty Johnston at (541) 547-4934 to register as space is limited.

Follow your heart to Ya♥s. Visit [www.goyachats/events](http://www.goyachats/events) to find out more about Valentine gifts, coupons, and a special drawing. You can also visit any of the participating Yachats merchants on February 12, 13, and 14—just look for the Ya♥s sign in their windows.

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