



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**DECEMBER 2008**

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

## Quote of the Month

*Don't be dismayed by good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends.*

~Richard Bach



## Mayor's Message

By Debrah Edwards, Editor

For the final newsletter of Mayor Smith's administration, I conducted a brief interview with both Mayor Smith and Mayor-elect Brean. Here's what they had to say:

### Mayor Smith

*What were some of your accomplishments?*

Oversight of the largest infrastructure project (the wastewater treatment plant) in the City's history has to come at the top of the list. Improved communication is a very close second. I fully realize that I can not (and do not) consider any of these as my accomplishments; they are all results of collaborative efforts among many people through the years. Projects that have come "under my watch" include in no particular order are: Community celebrations; Yachats Safety Patrol; a mediated settlement to the 804 Trail controversy; completion of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (thanks to the many hours spent by the Planning Commission); Emergency Management; creation of an Urban Renewal District; enacting a 5% Prepared Food and Beverage tax to help pay for the new Waste Water Treatment Plant; the Green Ribbon Committee; staff reorganization; a Capital Improvement Plan; creation of a Finance Committee; increased water efficiency; increased collaboration with government agencies such as the Sheriff's Department and State Parks Department;

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and commissions that function fully and productively.

*Were there goals you hoped to meet but were not able to? If so, why not?*

Former Councilor Jerry Kraft, a very wise man, reminded us a number of years ago that goals are on-going and never attained. Objectives, however, may be. I hoped in the beginning to maintain my optimism and my deep hopes for this community. I like to think that Yachats is a better place because of my ten years of service.

*Looking back, what sticks out most in your mind during of your tens years of public service? Highlights, lowlights?*

Having been elected to City Council in the first place was hugely exciting for me. Of course, being "recruited" to run for Mayor was a major highlight. The recent August 17<sup>th</sup> celebration was as deeply touching for me as anything I have experienced in my public life. Seeing consensus in action and respect among elected officials and with the public are highlights for me.

The only "lowligh" during my ten years has been the unwarranted hatred for what I "represent." Some of that "goes with the territory." Would I do it all again? Absolutely!

*What advice would you give Mayor-elect Brean? What would you advise against doing?*

While I am convinced that Mayor-elect Brean does not *need* my advice, I would suggest that he be: accessible; available; be a good listener; recognize the excellent staff working for the City; and remain sensitive to the issues that affect Yachadians. He is seasoned and will be excellent, I am quite sure.

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## Mayor-elect Brean

*Why did you decide to run for Mayor of Yachats?*

Because some people asked me to, because I am naïve enough to think I can be of service, and because I am experienced enough to know that naiveté is a great asset. Without naiveté people would believe in the impossibility of the task rather than just going out and achieving it.

*Tell us a little bit about your background?*

I'm a lover of all things out-doors. As a consequence I studied wildlife management and pursued a career as a park ranger. I'm passionate about preserving natural resources and sharing their re-energizing power with others. That led me to want to have the greatest impact I could on protecting and improving parks, so I promoted and kept promoting. I finished a career with California State Parks at the highest level one can achieve without being a close personal friend of the Governor. In the process I was able to participate in what I loved while learning the functions and processes of government, management principles, leadership skills, and group process, among other things. I received the Department's Olmsted Award for Leadership and Vision.

*Do you have your own agenda or do you plan on picking up where Mayor Smith left off?*

The City of Yachats is in really good shape thanks to the efforts of Mayor Smith and outgoing Council members Evans and Wulff, as well as those of the members remaining. So I guess it's safe to say the new Council will pick up where those that went before us left off. There will be new challenges awaiting us, and the new Council will start with what we've been given (grateful that it's not a big mess) and refine a vision that keeps us moving in a positive direction. There has been a lot of work done on describing a desirable future for Yachats with the Vision 2020 effort and the Comprehensive Plan. Our first job will be to refine that vision into a useable tool for the Council, a basis from which to make decisions, and then carry on the day to day work of our community.

*What do you plan on doing the same/differently than Mayor Smith?*

I hope to achieve the same level of dedication and devotion to duty. I know we share a sense of the importance of the Council's job and a desire to respond efficiently to the needs of the community while maintaining the "sense of place" that makes Yachats unique. We both are inclusive in our approach to problem solving. I suppose there are many things that will look very much the same.

There are, of course, differences in our experience and background that will lead to differences in style, approach, experiential knowledge banks, and historical perspective. There are some things I may do better, and there are undoubtedly some things I won't be as good at. There are also two other new members to the Council that will add their talents, knowledge and experience to the process. Therefore, I'm sure that there will be minor differences in style, and personality.

There are challenging times facing the entire nation: environmental issues, sustainability, social concerns, and economic concerns to name a few. Our village will not be immune from those challenges. Since I was asked to consider running for mayor, I've come to realize that the circumstances of my life have inadvertently prepared me to be of assistance in facing those challenges. I am somewhat uniquely qualified to facilitate not only the administrative functions of the City, but also the community dialogue that will see us through the present and coming turbulence.

As far as the actual differences are concerned, I think I will be discovering the differences between a Council led by Mayor Smith and one led by Ron Brean at the same time everyone else does.

*Do you have any questions for Mayor Smith?*

I have lots of questions for Mayor Smith. I have new questions everyday. I intend to chase her down periodically and ask them.



## The Councilor's Corner

### Yvonne Wulff

Sue Smith is one of the people who helped convince me to fill a mid-term vacancy on the City Council. She

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told me that the Council worked together in a civil manner to do what had to be done. She didn't tell me what had to be done ranged from A to Z in several alphabets.

Yachats is a small city, a small town, a village. The description depends on the speaker: for the state it's a city, for most visitors a small town, for some residents a village. Each view of the city comes into play for the City Council. In the five years I served on the Council, my understanding of how complex the environment created by six hundred citizens is has expanded to include all of these views and one more. Yachats is home.

Making sure that Yachats has the resources, i.e., the structure, money and expertise to maintain itself and to grow in an orderly way has been the central focus of my thinking about each of the issues or problems which came before the Council. A close second has been my interest in keeping an environment in which people know how to make their own fun, are willing to put time and effort into making improvements, and to offer their years of experience and knowledge to help move the city/town/village forward.

The next few years will be more difficult for the City than those of my tenure. I hope that the structural improvements this Council leaves behind: CIP, the food and beverage tax, and the Finance Committee, will help the next Council cope with the financial issues which seem certain to arise. I also hope that we will continue to make our own fun and help other along the way.

#### **Larry Nixon**

The City of Yachats is better off for the efforts of Mayor Sue Smith. She has involved countless people in making Yachats better for everyone. It isn't always easy or fun being a leader, but Sue has done an excellent job. The citizens of Yachats have much to thank her for. Thank you Sue!

#### **Joel Evans**

In my years as a Yachats City Councilor, I worked with/under five mayors. I'll bet that I was the one in more four-to-one votes than any other member.

I'll say that in terms of getting things done and keeping the Council working together, Mayor Smith ranks among the best.

#### **Greg Scott**

Councilor Scott was out of town at press time on urgent family business and was unable to submit his comments.

As readers may remember, Councilor Scott wrote a fine article in the August 2008 edition about Mayor Smith and organized a community potluck to celebrate her accomplishments.



#### **City Hall**

**By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

All of us at City Hall would like to say a big THANK YOU to Susanne Smith as she leaves office. As Mayor she has always made herself available to us and has helped in many ways, both professionally and personally. She has always expressed her appreciation with words, little souvenirs she would bring back from her vacations, staff lunches, dinners out, flowers or hugs. I know that whenever I had a question or concern I could always go to her for advice and guidance. At one seminar I attended years ago they asked us to list the traits of someone we admired and Sue's name was the first one that came to mind. The citizens of Yachats, and the staff have been lucky to have her as City Councilor and Mayor these past 10 years. We will miss her.



#### **Planning Department**

**By Larry Lewis, City Planner**

Mayor Sue Smith is much more than a great mayor. She is a great friend of the Yachats community. As a mayor Sue always maintains a "what's best for the community" mentality. When issues arise, Sue has forethought to know what resources are available, how to tap those resources, and how to formulate a game plan for achieving resolution. Her mayoral presence will be missed but her achievements will continue to benefit the community for many years.

However, Mayor Sue's attributes go way beyond her mayoral duties. She has an uncanny ability to befriend people. A lot of that ability comes from her always-positive attitude. It takes a whole lot of

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nonsense to take Sue out of a good mood—and those rare times are very short-lived. Yachats will miss her smiling face and her cheerful greetings. We all wish Sue and her great husband Mike good luck in their future endeavors.



**Public Works Department**  
**By John McClintock, Public Works Director**

On behalf of the Yachats Public Works staff I would like to thank Mayor Sue Smith for her continuing support of our department. Mayor Smith has always been an advocate of providing the best possible service for the community. She has been one of the major driving sources in all facets of one of the largest infrastructure improvements with the new wastewater facility, pumping station replacements and public works building. Whether dealing with Federal and State agencies, engineers, and contractors, Mayor Smith has shown great leadership and passion representing Yachats.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with Mayor Smith on almost a daily basis. She always has time for any problem, idea or concern, whether it is small or large. She is very thoughtful and always has great input.

On a personal note, I have truly enjoyed working for Sue and wish her and Mike the best in their next adventure. I will miss her as a boss and as a friend.



**Public Works & Streets Commission**  
**By Walt Weyand, Chair**

When Oregon Department of Environmental Quality ordered Yachats to upgrade its failing sewer plant, many in town were dismayed at the impact the projected cost of more than \$6,000,000 would have on the property-owning tax payers of the city. Sue Smith was not dismayed. She asked the Public Works and Streets Commission, made up of volunteer citizens, to review sewer rates and costs. This we did and recommended that rates be adjusted upward, with most of the adjustment applying to businesses that were heavy users of the system. Sue and the City

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Council implemented our recommendations quickly. However, we also pointed out that these adjustments would fall far short of the revenues required to pay for the new plant.

Interested community members recommended that another group be formed specifically to find additional sources of revenue. Sue quickly formed the Green Ribbon Committee. The members of the committee identified multiple potential income sources and recommended them to the Mayor. Sue seized on many of these recommendations and shepherded them through the City Council. Included were the creation of an Urban Renewal District and a Prepared Food and Beverage Tax. Today, Yachats has mechanisms in place that are paying for the new sewer plant improvements without heavy additional burdens on the property owners.



**Planning Commission**  
**By Katherine Guenther, Commissioner**

There's no doubt that Mayor Smith will be remembered for some remarkable accomplishments during her ten years of service to the City. But perhaps Sue's greatest legacy will be the team she's leaving behind. In the fifteen years I've lived in Yachats, I've never seen such a talented, dedicated and cheerful group involved in the daily workings of the City. I can only attribute this to Mayor Smith's determination to approach every new challenge with enthusiasm, understanding, compassion and humor. Sue has set a new standard for all of us. Fortunately she's also given us a way to live up to these new expectations. She's leaving us with the best combination of City staff, elected officials and volunteers that I have ever seen.

For the last year or so, the Mayor's message has frequently addressed "Yachats Essence," or that "thing that makes Yachats the place we have all chosen to call home." Sue Smith is "Yachats Essence" personified. If I had to sum it up in three words, I'd say "Mayor Smith Rocks"!



**Parks & Commons Commission**  
**By Cy Kauffman, Chair**

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THANKS Mayor Smith for your guidance and leadership to the “good ship” Yachats and the Parks and Commons Commission. Your steady hand at the tiller was always welcome and never heavy. With your help the City now has a park with trails and quiet places to relax and enjoy and a new treatment plant that will be the envy of Bellingham. You fought along with the commission to make the Commons the heart of the community and a place that residents could take pride in and enjoy. You had a tough four years but you survived and made the City a much better place. We bid you fair winds and following seas on your next big adventure.



**Yachats Public Library**  
By Marie Green, Library  
Commission Chair

Yachats Public Library is an all-volunteer effort. Mayor Sue Smith was our Children’s Librarian and did the summer activities program for a number of years soon after she and Mike moved to Yachats. Little did she guess that it would lead to her becoming mayor and leading the village into the major construction, now almost completed, of our wastewater treatment plant.

We have two new volunteers, Ann Berry and Norma Elliott, currently in training. Several others will begin soon. The more volunteers we have, the more hours we can be open.

After a year of searching for a library manager to replace Annette Howarth, we have three volunteers who will share those tasks and responsibilities: Maggie Marshall; Carolyn White; and Janet Hickman.



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

Mayor Sue Smith and her husband Mike have been strong supporters of our Little Log Church & Museum just about from the moment they unpacked their bags and became Yachatians. Shortly after the church’s restoration was completed Sue offered her services as a volunteer docent and as a board member. This

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was before the museum annex existed, so the board met in the sanctuary, crowded between pews and sundry display cases.

We were sorry to lose Sue’s ebullient positive energy when she decided to leave the board and run for city council, but we knew we would not lose her support. Many times Mike and Sue would bring visitors and newcomers to the Log Church proudly to show off its treasures and tell its story. You were likely to see the Smiths at nearly every special community event held at the church—and *always* at the annual Christmas concerts. A most memorable event occurred there on June 13, 1999 when they renewed their marriage vows in a celebration commemorating their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

We still see Sue’s signature in the museum’s guest book when she stops by to say hello to her hubby, who still volunteers from time to time.

Sue, the Little Log Church and Museum wishes to thank you for making a difference—as a volunteer, board member, supportive city councilor, mayor, and most of all, an enthusiastic Yachatian!

And to all you other enthusiastic Yachatians out there: we hope to see YOU at our annual Christmas concert Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.



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

This is the last month of the year, and Christmas is upon us at the Little Log Church and Museum. As always, we hosted an opening program for the holiday season. I hope you were able to be there, as well as the Ladies Club right across the street with their wonderful treats and music in their beautifully remodeled club house.

I thought this month I would tell you what all we’ve accomplished during this past year on the grounds at the Little Log Church. Among our assets is now a new fence along the entire west side and part of the south side of our property thanks to Leon Sterner and Don Niskanen. A new arbor to tie the roses to along the walk to the museum, again thanks to Leon Sterner and Don Niskanen. A

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donation from the estate of Thelma Green provided us a new masonry wall behind our sea lion wood sculpture thanks to Louis Caputo. The bird bath, donated by Mimi Fox, is now installed on top of the stump in our fern garden thanks to Melvin Larsen. We have many, many new plants thanks to Seal Rock Garden Club, who also donated toward the purchase of our new bench. Plants were also donated by Bev Barmore, Peggy Gray, Mary Larsen and Betty Bahn.

And I can't complete this report without thanking all those that have helped me with the continual clean-up around the grounds through the year. Joan and Doug Johnson, Mary Larsen, Robin Link, Paula Walkenshaw, Dean Richmond, Buck Henderson, Ellie Ewan, and Angell Job Corps. You were all great to volunteer your time so willingly. Thank you so much.



### **Yachats Youth and Family Program**

**By Chris Graamans, Board President**

As we near the end of another year, it is a good time to reflect.

It has been a good year at YYFAP. The after school Recreation Plus and Summer programs, Early Childhood Education and Parent Support Programs, Classes and Educational Support, and Teen and Community Service programs continue to serve a great many in our community. During the July-September quarter, over 300 children and adults participated in these programs, with upwards of 150 volunteers donating their time to assist our board and staff, and 6 other organizations collaborating with YYFAP for mutual benefit.

As most of you are aware this level of activity has left YYFAP feeling pinched for space. The City of Yachats has generously allowed us use of the Commons basement free of charge. We do rent additional space upstairs for our preschool and for other activities as needed. A year ago, the board of directors of YYFAP started on a serious exploration of how to fill our space needs into the future. This process has evolved into a joint process with the City of Yachats and YYFAP. We have teamed up to examine options for expansion of the Yachats Commons, to accommodate the needs of both the Community Center and YYFAP's programs. We

are currently reviewing the first sketches from the architects.

As an organization, we are very fortunate to have a steady, productive partnership with our city's government. We have many people to thank for this: City Councilors; Parks and Commons Commissioners; the Friends of the Commons; and others. But, as we near the end of mayor Sue Smith's last term in office, on behalf of YYFAP, I'd like to extend a special thanks to Sue. Over the years, I have attended many City Council and Budget Committee meeting on behalf of YYFAP. Sue's style, professionalism, sense of humor, and her obvious love and concern for Yachats and its community, have contributed greatly to not only effective government, but also to meetings that are a lot more fun (and sometimes downright entertaining) to attend, and she has also inspired many in the community to positively participate in that government.

Sue: THANK YOU, it's been a pleasure, and we'll miss you. Enjoy your next adventures!



### **Help Wanted**

**By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

The City of Yachats is most clearly defined by the vital role volunteers play in the management of the City, City owned facilities and all the organizations and groups that offer services and recreational activities that enrich the daily life of its citizens.

Volunteers, with their abundant skills, abounding energy, and limitless talents represent the most valuable resource to which the City has access, and their work affects every citizen, in many ways, every day. Without these individuals the quality of life experienced in Yachats would be greatly diminished.

The City has many opportunities to volunteer, and your interests and skills are wanted for the following commissions:

#### **3- Planning Commission**

- 1 - Term ending December 31, 2010
- 2 - Term ending December 31, 2012

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## 2- Parks and Commons Commission

Term ending December 31, 2011

## 3- Public Works & Streets Commission

Term ending December 31, 2011

## 2- Budget Committee

1 - Term ending December 31, 2010

1 - Term ending December 31, 2011

For a complete description of the duties and requirements, please log on to our website at <http://www.ci.yachats.or.us> or call me Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Those interested in serving on the Commissions or Committee can pick up a Volunteer Application Form at City Hall, 441 N. Hwy 101, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or download one from our website at <http://www.ci.yachats.or.us>



### **eBill/ePay Update**

**By Nicole Clark, Administrative Specialist**

The City of Yachats introduced its new eBill/ePay program this past month. We had a great first month with a total of 67 people registering to use the program. We are excited to get the program rolling even further and hope to have even more people register in the months to come. This program allows the City to save money and time while at the same time helping conserve resources.

This new program is very versatile. Customers can view, print and pay your water/sewer bill in just a few minutes. The program allows customers to receive their bills online or customers can choose to do both receive their bills online and make payments. Customers who have multiple accounts can create one profile and add all their accounts.

This new program is quick, easy, and free to use. All customers need is a copy of their most recent City of Yachats water/sewer bill(s) for the account(s) you wish to register. Locate the five-digit PIN located in the upper left area above the name and mailing address on the bill. Log on to [www.ci.yachats.or.us](http://www.ci.yachats.or.us) and click on the eBill/ePay link and complete the registration form. After the first of each month registrants will receive an e-mail notification letting them know their new bill ready.



## **Emergency Supplies and Equipment Drive in Yachats**

**By Betty Johnston, CERT Coordinator**

The City of Yachats is requesting that our citizens consider donating emergency supplies and equipment for our two storage units for use after a disaster. One unit has been placed near the water reservoir on Radar Road and the other unit is placed temporarily on the west side of Bank of the West building. It will eventually be placed on the south side of the bridge.

The City will continue to park this unit in its temporary position until after the holidays. In January, the City will announce the dates that they will collect donations of emergency supplies and equipment for the storage unit and will continue to collect these supplies for approximately three months. It is of utmost importance to have needed supplies available to all of our citizens after a disaster.

Within the next two months please take the opportunity look around your home, look for bargains in the newspaper, or to look in your pantry and start a box of items for the emergency supplies and equipment list. The list is very specific for survival items and it is as follows: tarps, blankets, fishing gear, camp type dishes or paper plates and plastic ware, collapsible water containers, air mattresses, flashlights, large garbage bags, diapers and other baby items, pet food, radios, lanterns, folding camp furniture including chairs and tables, clean storage tubs, camp kitchen equipment including camp stoves and the fuel, camp coffee pots, toilet paper, paper towels, tape, rope, shovels and bleach. Questions about emergency items can be directed me at (541) 547-4934.

These items will be collected on a Saturday in January. The South Lincoln County CERT Team will be available at the storage units to check in the supplies. LET'S BE PREPARED NOW!



### **Town Tidbits**

To donate used Christmas cards: call Carl @ 547-4350 to arrange for pick up.

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