



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

MARCH 2009

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Quote of the Month

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it's time to pause and reflect.

-Mark Twain



Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

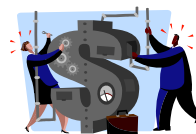
I think sometimes that Mr. Twain was writing a procedures manual for government. He seemed to be well aware that no matter how much study you do on a subject or how much history and background you know, there are still going to be times when one more vital piece of information can change the your view. Getting locked into a given perspective and refusing to budge from it is a quite common human phenomenon but not necessarily the route to the best decision. We'd all do better, particularly those involved in governing, if we'd sit a little less comfortable with "our side" of the argument and take another look at the other. Failure to keep an open mind and hear all sides inevitably leads to inferior decision making and a spiraling and continuing reduction in vital communication. In the imagined procedures manual Mr. Twain points out the down side of a less than open government process. He said "Some times I wonder whether the world is run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it."

Well, in Yachats government consists of a bunch of dedicated volunteers striving to get the best information available, hear all the sides, and make decisions with the benefit of our community in mind. We are aided by the fact that we are blessed with a community of people who, for the most part, understand that the public has a role in government in this country and that respectfully participating in the process results in a far better outcome than standing by, watching, and complaining (not unlike Mr. Twain) about the results.

The key word, the one that's sent me down this path, is "respect" (at this juncture any Motown aficionados will be forgiven for breaking into song). We are so fortunate to live in a community where ideas can be shared respectfully, where opposing points of view can be debated without malice. I used to work with an attorney who was fond of saying "Reasonable people can disagree." Our community is full of reasonable people...therefore, disagreements abound. Yet, those disagreements more often than not result in the thorough vetting of ideas and agendas before any rash decisions are made.

Now I am not naïve enough to believe that animosity never surfaces in such exchanges. Especially around topics of great passion, feelings can surface unbidden and spice up the debate. Nevertheless, most of us are aware that the person I disagree with today will be helping me out tomorrow with a project, with a need or on the same side as myself in another debate.

All of the above is preface to the following: I am so grateful to live in a community that understands and practices respect for others more than any other place I've been in my life. The City Councilors are a pleasure to work with and at times disagree with. The people of our town come together to testify before the council on different sides of issues one day and at a subsequent meeting arrive in agreement on another issue. Citizen involvement, as messy as it can be, results in better government. Thanks for your help.



The Councilor's Corner

Annette Howarth, City Councilor

Money comes into the City of Yachats form a variety of sources: taxes; fees; interest on investments; and from state and federal

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government. That income pays the day-to-day bills, the debt we've incurred to fund major capital improvements along with a portion put aside to fund future capital projects.

The accounting looks a bit complicated. The City places the income from each category into six special funds and one general fund. The General Fund accounts for all revenues and expenditures except those dedicated and accounted for in special funds.

Last year the General Fund received income from one major source plus a number of smaller sources and amounted to about \$850,000. While some monies came in from property taxes most property taxes the City receives are for bonded debt. A minimal amount of property taxes fund the general operations of the City. Transient Room taxes accounted for most of the income, some \$500,000+. That number alone demonstrates the City of Yachats is supported by its tourist industry.

Our City Recorder, Nancy Batchelder, is looking at the income figures from the first two quarters of 2008-2009. We can anticipate government funding will be down. However, for us, the most important numbers will be derived from the current Transient Room taxes. Those are the figures the Budget Committee will use to build the upcoming 2009-2010 budget.



City Council Chambers **By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder**

Visitors Amenities Fund Use Policy Approved

At the February meeting City Council approved a policy they will use in determining what projects, events or ideas could be funded by the money set aside for "visitor amenities" each year. That policy states: **Items will have a clear nexus to visitors; where possible, data would be collected to demonstrate a benefit to visitors of at least 50%; and a prudent reserve will be kept for visitor stimulus.**

From 1997 to 2002 small amounts of money were sometimes set aside in a reserve line item called Visitor Amenities. Initially the main goal was to save enough to build a public restroom. When the Transient Rental Tax Rate was increased from 6%

to 7% a portion of the tax was dedicated to the Visitor Amenities Fund Reserve and that is when the pot of money started to grow.

In 2003 a Visitor Amenity Task Force made up of several business owners met to discuss just what a *Visitor Amenity* was and to make recommendations about how the money should be used. City Council accepted the recommendations and has basically used them as a guideline since.

The Task Force recommended using the money for public restroom facilities, informative signage, enhancements to the Visitors Center, an Agate Museum, Parks and Trails, Fireworks, trash receptacles, parking improvements and drinking fountains.

In the time since the Visitor Amenities Fund was created money has been used to fund various items including:

- Operations of the Visitors Center (from 2002-03 to date)-\$382,650
- Public Restroom in the Visitors Center-\$4,300
- Trails (construction, signage, maintenance, brochures)-\$33,300
- Welcome to Yachats Signs North Gateway (completed a reserve for the South Gateway and a reserve for landscaping maintenance each year)-\$36,905
- Little Log Church Museum expansion project-\$3,204
- Park improvements and reserve for future maintenance-\$29,967
- Downtown planning and engineering (Hwy 101-parking-sidewalks)-\$15,353
- Oregon Travel Information Council Sponsorship (Heritage Marker)-\$10,000

In Other Council News...

- Yachats Community Health Clinic requested additional funding from City Council. Clinic Board Member Gerald Stanley said that the Clinic's problem is one of cash flow not financial stability and asked City Council to consider a one-time allocation of \$10,000. Council agreed to continue the discussion until they had a chance to review the Clinic's financial records and other data.

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- City Council approved a contract with the Friends of the Yachats Commons to provide user support for the Commons. The general administration, including scheduling the rooms and accepting rent will remain City Hall's responsibility. The Friends will assist renters, train and schedule volunteers to help users, respond to calls for help, assist with access, maintain an inventory and monitor events to ensure the property is cared for. The Friends, a non-profit group formed several years ago to provide financial and programming support for the Commons, will make all decisions about how to accomplish the tasks in the contract.
- Council approved the installation of a street light near 8th and King Street.
- System Development Charges for a water connection on the East 2nd Street lot to be used by the community garden were temporarily deferred by City Council. This is similar to an earlier request for a community garden on West 7th Street. In the future, all System Development Charges will be required before any building permit is approved. A meter will be installed and the community garden will be responsible for all water used.
- Council approved and made a commitment to the GO Yachats program and authorized Councilors Scott and Rieseck to go forward with development by talking to specific businesses to arrive at a more detailed program for consideration at the March meeting.
- The Chicks for Hens proposed pilot program discussion was continued. After Council has had time to review the City staff's input on the proposal, Councilor Rieseck will schedule a public forum.



Planning Department
By Larry Lewis, City Planner
Climate Change on the Oregon Coast

Staff from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development gave a presentation on Climate Change on the Oregon Coast to the Oregon Land Conservation and

Development Commission in January 2009. A brief summary of principal changes is provided below.

Temperature

- Temperature will increase approximately 0.5° F per decade through 2050, then . . . ???
- Earlier spring = longer frost-free period
- Warmer summers

Precipitation

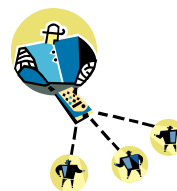
- Annual precipitation totals will be within the historic range
- Longer, drier summers
- Wetter winters, more rain—less snow

Storms

- Increase in intensity/severity
- Increase in frequency

Sea Level Rise

- Estimated 22 inches by 2050; 50 inches by 2100 in Washington
- Will vary by location on the Oregon coast



Public Works Department
John McClintock, Director

Each month on the back of the newsletter is a listing of names and titles of the Public Works Department employees. You see us around town all the time so I thought it appropriate to give a little background about us.

As Public Works Director I have more than 30 years experience in the Public Works sector. I have worked for several small cities and also at the County Public Works level as a Supervisor.

Water Plant Operator Rick McClung has 15+ years of Public Works experience with an emphasis in water treatment. He is a graduate of the Clackamas Community College program in Water and Wastewater. He has now been with the City of Yachats for 12 years.

Wastewater Plant Operator Dave Buckwald also completed the Wastewater program at Linn-Benton Community College. Dave interned with the City of Coos Bay and has been with the City of Yachats for 2 years.

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Utilities Maintenance Worker Russ Roberts has over 20 years experience in the Public Works field with an emphasis on Water Distribution and Wastewater Collections systems. He has been with the City of Yachats for 7 years.

Utilities Maintenance Worker Denny Howell has been with the City for over a year and has a background in heavy equipment operation.

Utilities Maintenance Worker Jeremy Mabe has just completed his 6-month probationary period and is now a fulltime employee. Jeremy also has a background in heavy equipment operation.



Yachats Public Library By Annette Howarth, Volunteer

The Friends of Yachats Library will hold their annual book sale Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th at the Yachats Commons. There will be thousands of books in all categories, including paperbacks, videos, music CD's, and collectables. On Friday prices will be \$1.00 for hardback books, videos, and CD's, and \$.50 each for paperbacks. On Saturday we will feature our \$3.00 bag sale. Everything but the collectables will be included in the bag sale.

The new part of the book sale will be in the kitchen. The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) will be offering coffee/tea and freshly baked cinnamon rolls and scones for sale. Stop by the kitchen and enjoy coffee and a home-baked treat.

The hours are 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on both days. Come early to support two organizations—the Yachats Library and YYFAP. There will be lots of “goodies” in both the big room and the kitchen!



Little Log Church & Museum By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

March has so many possibilities: Daylight Saving Time begins March 8th; March Madness (for both of you basketball fans out there) takes place; the

yellow budding daffodils pop out all over; and it's time to think about starting something fresh after the dormant time of winter.

The Little Log Church and Museum (LLCM) is ready to start something new to preserve the old. Actually, we've been on the new/old project for a while. Volunteer Robbie Schoonover has been putting our entire inventory of exhibits into a database. She's been identifying each item in the LLCM's collection, placing it in an appropriate category, assigning it a number in accordance with the standard handbook for museums, and putting the information into the archival database. She's been doing an excellent job, but it's been a bit cumbersome for her to transfer records from the LLCM's to her computer at home.

This brings us to our March “wish list.” If anyone has a laptop computer they no longer need LLCM would love to adopt it! This generous donation would be tax deductible and would be most appreciated. We would keep the equipment on site and secure, and Robbie would not have to “schlep” the data from one place to another.

You may have noticed there are some letters in this message that are in bold print. This article is also a Word Scramble. If you can unscramble the letters in bold print to make a common word, call me at (541) 547-4547. The first person to solve the word puzzle *before* the next newsletter will get a little prize *and* recognition in the next newsletter. Dare ya!



In the Garden By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator

I am so excited! We haven't had the winds we usually get this time of year at the Little Log Church, so our Garryaceae elliptica (silk-tassel bush) still has most of its tassels. If you purchased one of the little booklets available in the museum about the trees, shrubs and plants at the Little Log Church, you will know that this is a male bush. You can see this amazing bush in the farthest southeastern corner of the property. Seeds from the female plants remain viable over 200 years, but she needs a male close by or she won't produce any seed. They are heat resistant, so must be stimulated to grow by fire.

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The female has a much smaller tassel that turns into seeds if fertilized.

By the time you read this, I hope to have the two donated pitcher plants in their new home on the property. They will be found behind our new bench toward the sea lion sculpture on the southwest side of the property. Next I will be searching for some *Darlingtonia* to put in the other tub that is there. It has different nutritional requirements than the smaller pitcher plants, so it must have its own space. Thanks goes to Richard Sharpless for donating the second tub for our *Darlingtonia*.



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

Thank you, YYFAP Volunteers

Like many Yachats organizations, the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program (YYFAP) relies on volunteers. For every hour worked by a paid employee, a volunteer donates an hour and a half.

Volunteers provide many essential services. Board members set program policy, work on special projects, raise money, and much more. Program volunteers lead activities with groups of children, provide extra sets of eyes and ears after school, and offer valuable support to the children and families served by YYFAP.

During the last quarter (October – December 2008), 118 individual children and youth attended YYFAP activities. These included preschool, afterschool Recreation PLUS, Family Nights, special teen activities, and special events. We are currently seeing approximately 20 children every day after school, and are looking for some additional volunteers. If you have a talent you would like to share with children, or if you are interested in providing general help, please give us a call at 547-4599.

Yachats Food Pantry

Thanks to a partnership between YYFAP's Helping Hands, the City of Yachats, the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Yachats Food Pantry expanded in January to include perishable food. The pantry is housed in the kitchen (room 5) of the Yachats Commons, and is open every weekend afternoon

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between 3:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m. Need has grown dramatically in the last year. Waldport Food Pantry statistics show that the number of households receiving food grew 66% from December 2007 to December 2008. Although the Yachats Food Pantry is operated on the honor system, and does not keep records, we do know that the food has been flying off the shelves. Donations of perishable and non-perishable foods are gratefully accepted. Milk, cheese, bread, fruit, canned meats, peanut butter, soups, and stews are all popular items. Donations may be dropped off in the pantry any afternoon between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Call (541) 547-4599 if you need to bring food at another time

Art for All Ages

The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program is hosting group art sessions for all ages every other Thursday afternoon. The next session will be on Thursday, February 26, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested in spending a little time letting go of worries and accessing the creative side of the brain is invited to join local artists Dave Baldwin and Burgundy Featherkile as they lead creative activities. Artists ages 6–79 participated in the last session, cooperatively producing a group work of art, now on display in the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program. For more information call (541) 547-4599.



**Yachats Clinic Schedules
Town Hall Meeting**

By Barbara Covell, Board Member

Many Yachats residents are concerned and interested in knowing about the recent changes with the Yachats Community Health Clinic, South County's only non-profit freestanding health facility.

The Board of Directors has scheduled an open Town Hall meeting in Room 8 of the Yachats Commons on March 11, 2009 at 7: 00 p.m. This meeting is for any interested citizens in Yachats, Waldport, Toledo, and Newport, Florence or any other locale within our service area. Board members DJ Novgrod and Elaine Harley will address the Clinic's transitions of recent months, including the recruitment of Internal Medicine

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physician James Hylton, M.D., who is the first full-time practicing medical doctor in the Yachats community.

Questions from the community will be taken after Novgrod and Harley's statements.

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