



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

APRIL 2009

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Quote of the Month

"When you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there"
-Lewis Carroll



Mayor's Message By Ron Brean, Mayor

VISION

Since I became Mayor, I have been asked to speak to various groups. When I inquire as to what they would like me to talk about, invariably they say "Tell us about your vision for Yachats." So far I have ducked the question. I've talked instead about the process for developing a sense of vision. You see my vision for the future of Yachats means very little if it is not understood and shared by the rest of the City Council.

It's not that I don't have any ideas about what our future reality should look like. I do. I have many. But to be truly effective in our efforts to skillfully lead our community, the Council needs to have one vision rather than mine and 4 others. Sure, there are communities that do "okay" with a group of leaders, each with their own agenda and their own altruistic sense of direction. But "okay" isn't good enough for our town. You've seen cities and counties and other levels of government with truly dedicated elected officials who are doing their best to do the right thing, but they just don't seem to excel. The reason is that no individual can make their vision a reality in a vacuum. Rarely an individual's ideas will catch fire and become a shared vision for a population. That's when "movements occur." But more often when a group is trying to do something without a common vision, communally understood, jointly acquired, their successes only come after personal agendas collide, ricochet, and then accidentally meld into one or two pieces of a shared desire for the future.

So I have kept my ideas to myself and initiated an effort to find out what our common vision is as a Council. We've made this effort understanding that even the five unique perspectives we bring will not yield an effective sense of vision if we don't incorporate the ideas of our town. Much work has been done in the past by our citizenry in search of an elusive sense of an ideal future. The Vision 2020 document from ten years ago captured a lot of ideas. The recent revision of the City's comprehensive plan captured more. A huge amount of public input in these processes gave us huge clues.

And then our work began. We used tricks and tools to get a peak at what the future will bring us. We looked at the past. We put all the ideas previously expressed into a big pot and boiled it down to its essence. Then we seasoned all of that with our own personal desires, wishes, dreams, perspectives, and dedication. We think we've done it. We believe we have captured the elusive essence of what we all desire for our town. I can now stop ducking the question. The vision of the Yachats City Council, and therefore my vision for Yachats, is now defined:

THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

OUR VILLAGE IS A PLACE WHERE NATURAL RESOURCES ARE VALUED AND PROTECTED, WHERE DIVERSITY IS CELEBRATED, AND WHERE A VIBRANT ECONOMY AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY PRIDE CREATE AND RECREATE A LIVING SPIRIT. YACHATS CARES NOT JUST FOR ITS CITIZENS' BASIC NEEDS BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS TO EXCEL MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY, ARTISTICALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY. IT IS A COMMUNITY WITH AN ENDURING SENSE OF ITSELF.



City Council Chambers By Debrah Edwards, Deputy City Recorder

- The City has made the final payment on two bonds this year. One of the payments was

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made a few months early so we saved about \$480 in interest. The annual payments for those bonds were about \$47,000. This means that the amount of property tax levied in the next fiscal year will be that much less.

- Discussion regarding funding for the Yachats Community Health Clinic was continued during the March 12, 2009 City Council meeting. Board member Gerald Stanley reported that the clinic was beginning to see an increase in receivables; however the board plans to meet on April 15th to decide whether or not the clinic should remain open. The Emergency Planning Steering Committee recommended that the City not give the Clinic any funding until and unless the Clinic develops an emergency operations plan and participates with the City in emergency planning. Councilor Nixon said that he would like to see a clinic board member attend the next Emergency Planning committee meeting before he makes a decision about the funding. Councilor Scott said that he would also like to know where the community stands on this issue before he considers using general fund money. Mayor Brean said that he would feel better about a loan secured by the accounts receivables rather than an additional payment; and, that it would seem to make sense to wait until after a Board decision is made on April 15. There was consensus to continue this item until after the April 15 Clinic Board meeting.



Public Works Department **John McClintock, Director**

Public Works has finally moved into our new facility. It is terrific to be able to have a place to keep City equipment out of the weather and a place to work on projects concerning maintenance and repair.

The wastewater project is finally winding down with the contractor finishing up the "punch list" of items to be completed. We are hoping for the "grand opening" early to mid April.

New logos with "Yachats—Gem of the Oregon Coast" are being installed on all City vehicles and other rolling equipment.



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

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place." Yachats' water supply originates in a watershed east of the city and north of the Yachats River containing much natural vegetation in the form of trees, brush, grasses, and ferns.

Water that falls as rain, snow, or sleet, as well as spring water from underground is collected in several creeks and run-off channels in our watershed. Eventually, some of that water reaches the municipal water plant where it is impounded. After treatment to improve its quality and safety, it is delivered to our homes for our use.

Within a healthy watershed, a water supply is partially cleansed of impurities and organic material by natural processes. These natural processes, mostly filtering of running water, aid the Public Works and Streets Department in producing clean and healthy water for our consumption. Without a healthy watershed, the cost of providing safe water would likely be higher, or even impossible.

The greatest danger to the watershed serving Yachats is, believe it or not, wildfire. Even in our naturally rainy climate, summer/fall wildfires are possible. As Yachats citizens dependent on clean water for our survival, and the survival of our community, we must always guard against forest fires in the watershed. Be careful when we enter the watershed, and be vigilant when observing the activities of others.



Water/Sewer Billing **Expanding its Horizons**

By Nicole Clark, Administrative Specialist

The City of Yachats now accepts Visa and MasterCard payments for water/sewer bills inside City Hall. This new payment option allows customers yet another convenient way to pay their utility bills.

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The City of Yachats introduced its' eBill/ePay service this past December. We have had a great start with a total of 139 customers registered 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 helps the City keep costs down and allows all of us to contribute to a more sustainable method of doing business together.

Our new service is quick, easy, and free to use. Customers can view, print, and pay their water/sewer bills in just a few minutes. Log on to www.ci.yachats.or.us and click on the eBill/ePay link for more information.



Little Log Church & Museum
By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

April has brought so much to our gratitude list! In last month's newsletter we requested a donation of a laptop computer to help us with our somewhat daunting inventory project. Thanks to Yachats' own John and Jo Willmorth we now have a two-year old laptop to do just that. Many thanks, John and Jo!

We also had some creative responses to the word scramble puzzle hidden in the Little Log Church's March message. The correct answer was "volunteer." LeeAnn Bourcier called with the first correct answer. Since the answer was "volunteer" I asked LeeAnn, who happens to be a long-time student of Lincoln County history, if she might like to volunteer as a docent at the museum. She enthusiastically said yes! And so, you may meet LeeAnn at the Little Log Church should you stop by on a Sunday afternoon at the museum. Many thanks, LeeAnn.

Thank you to all of you who support the Little Log Church and Museum. No promises, but there may be a puzzle hidden in these messages in the future. Keep on reading!



In the Garden
By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator

Spring is upon The Little Log Church and Museum with the first

blooms. The Forsythia and red flowering Current have bloomed. The Current is a new addition, located by the new fence, near where I have the pad for the debris I remove from the grounds.

We ran into a bit of a snag in installing the two tubs for the pitcher plants. In digging one of the holes, we hit the underground water flow. It will take some doing, but we are going to have to make sure it will continue to flow uninterrupted and still put a tub there. I hope to get that all squared away in the next month or two and at least have the smaller pitcher plants in place for you to enjoy. I want to thank Jay and Kathleen Sands for giving me the website address where to purchase the Darlingtonia.

I didn't get one response to the request for a bird house to put on the property. I asked for one that will open so that it can be cleaned out annually. We do have a one really nice birdhouse that was donated some time ago, but I am going to have to close up the opening as it cannot be cleaned. The tree stump that we left is where I will be mounting the birdhouses, if we get any. My e-mail address is jodean@peak.org.

If you want to donate something to The Little Log Church and Museum, you can do so by sending it to "The Friends of The Little Log Church" P.O. Box 712, Yachats, OR 97498. Please specify that your donation is "for garden." Any donation is tax deductible.



Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program
By Debbie Jackson, Director

Affordable Housing Coming to Yachats

For the last two years, the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) has participated in the Yachats Affordable and Workforce Housing Committee. This group of citizens has worked to inform and educate the community about the need for affordable housing, sponsored workshops on home ownership, supported a new Yachats Comprehensive Plan which specifically mentions affordable housing, inventoried available rental housing in Yachats, and supported the new Fisterra Gardens Apartments, 25 one and two-bedroom rentals for low-income families located in the City of Yachats.

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Fisterra Gardens is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in late June. To get all the information about income guidelines and required documentation call The Housing Authority of Lincoln County at 265-5326, ext. 300 or by logging on to www.halc.info.

Sign up Now for 13th Annual Yachats Family Talent Show

YYFAP is proud to bring another afternoon of eclectic entertainment to the South County community. On Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. the talented will gather at the Yachats Commons to strut their stuff. To sign up, call (541) 547-4599. Musicians, dancers, actors, joke-tellers, jugglers ... come on down. Family acts are especially encouraged.



City Council Approves Concept Design for Commons Expansion Chris Graamans, YYFAP Consultant

Strong teamwork between the City Council, the Parks and Commons Commission, The Friends of the Yachats Commons and the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) has produced a major milestone in a process started 15 months ago. The City Council approved the concept design for an addition to the Commons at their March meeting.

The expansion will enhance the Community Center by integrating the Park, the play ground and the picnic shelter into the building design, and by creating a sheltered courtyard for all residents.

YYFAP will be able to expand to meet community needs, and will benefit from spaces expressly designed for its purposes. These spaces will also meet all state regulations for youth services. In addition to current programs, YYFAP plans to add a daycare program, and additional services to community elders.

The City of Yachats will benefit by having more essential services centrally located in a more attractive Commons as an anchor for the community.

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To find out more about this exciting project, please contact me at 961-1676, or Leon Sterner at 961-4258.

For Oregon's 150th birthday, we find there is a sesquicentennial connection to our town. The following article is offered by Parks and Commons Commissioner Gerald Stanley:



Reason To Celebrate Gerald Stanley, Commissioner

On February 14, 1859 the Territory of Oregon joined the United States of America. As our state celebrates 150 years of statehood this relatively new resident of Oregon has a special reason to celebrate. I write this article in memory of my great-grandfather, Stephen J. McCormick, a member of the Constitutional Convention that made it all happen. Stephen McCormick was a 27-year-old Irish-Catholic, who in the midst of a New England-influenced Protestant city managed to be elected by Multnomah County to represent it at the convention. McCormick was one of two foreign-born delegates, and as a member of the committee on the Bill of Rights successfully stopped the effort to limit voting rights to naturalized citizens ("to think that foreigners were a set of the most ignorant and degraded set of being under the sun").

He returned from the convention to be elected Mayor of Portland from 1859-1860. He went on to become Multnomah County Commissioner and served in the State Legislature. In 1863 he was director of Portland's public schools.

My great-grandfather was a literary man. He ran a bookstore and publishing house in Portland, published Oregon Monthly Magazine (the first of its kind on the West Coast) and started three newspapers, including Portland's first daily evening paper, the Portland Daily Advertiser.

For Catholics, his life has a special importance. He was editor of the Catholic newspaper in Portland, The Sentinel from 1872-1881. He founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society and helped to lay the groundwork for St. Vincent's Hospital.

In 1881 he left Portland to become the editor of the San Francisco Catholic newspaper. He died of illness at the age of 61 and is buried in Mt. Calvary

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Cemetery in Portland. His passing was eulogized by seemingly all the San Francisco papers and by the Catholic press throughout America.

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