



NEWSLETTER

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. Adopted: April 2, 2009

Mayor's Message

By Mayor Gerald Stanley Gerald@yachatsmail.org

First of all, a very Happy New Year to all of you! Because of Christmas, I am writing my January message on December 18, only a short time after the December 13 City Council Meeting. May I say first of all that I am grateful to all of you who attended that meeting. I think we can all feel proud of the way the conversation took place and the willingness to listen intently to what others were saying. It is way too early to offer any analysis of what occurred. On a personal level, many of us will need lots of time to understand our own feelings, convictions, and ideas about guiding our future in the village. I, with many of you, wish Leon well and thank him for what he has done.

At the meeting, I asked the question: "When was the first time you realized that your vision for Yachats would not be exactly what the real Yachats was turning into?" A good friend of mine some days later told me her date would be around 2002, when she realized that Yachats was heading inexorably toward being a "tourist town" and losing its original charm. I suspect there would be many different dates if we all answered that.

So what might keep us pulling for the good of Yachats, even though we may feel deep disappointment and might have to back away from the center of action for some time? Here again, we would surely have multiple answers to the question. I am hanging in because I was born with a sense of obligation and commitment, and am thoroughly enjoying being Mayor, even though my feelings about our challenges may often not go as deep as they do for many others. That may surprise you. But it may help you understand why I

at times appear more analytical and less personally involved than you might want. But I am fully committed to helping in every way I can to chart a positive future for our town. I ask you to ask yourself about your commitment to our future, and search for the motivations that will energize you to not permanently back away.

As those attending the meeting know, it is illegal for the City Council as a group to discuss any City issues without citizens being in attendance at an announced meeting. We cannot even group email each other. So given the pressure of the holidays, I see us meeting to share our responses to this issue on January 3 at 9:30am in the Council Chambers at City Hall. I hope you can be there.

I was deeply impressed with the wisdom that Fran Morse shared at the Council meeting, and I have asked her to share her insights in this newsletter.

Finally, thanks to all of you who attended my 80th birthday celebration, or in any other way acknowledged the event. I have tried to thank each of you personally for the wonderful gifts, but in the course of moving things out of the Lions Hall, a beautiful green glass ball, two gigantic cookies, and some wonderful Dublin Irish Cheese turned up separate from any identification of the giver! Know that you, too, are thanked. But let me know who you are, so that I may thank you personally.

MAYOR'S MORNING COFFEES (8:00 - 9:30)

Jan. 5 (Green Salmon) Jan. 10 (Blue Whale)
Jan. 24 (Drift Inn) Jan. 31 (Green Salmon)

MAYOR'S "OFFICE HOURS" (12:30p - 4:30p)

Mon-Wed-Fri, except Jan. 1, 12, 15, 17, 19, 26

**CITY COUNCIL MEETS IN ROOM 1
Jan. 3 at 9:30am and Jan. 10 at 6:00pm**

Proposed land purchase by City information meeting set for Jan. 17

We have a wonderful opportunity to combine two community input gatherings in January: the monthly manager's meeting and an opportunity to get information and talk about the potential for the City purchasing the Evans-Betz property along the river. Both public meetings are set for Wednesday, January 17. As we all discussed at the last manager's meeting, Shannon will be available beginning at 4pm in the council room, as well as at the land purchase information meeting, which begins at 6pm in the multi-purpose room. If you want to come later in the afternoon, so that you can attend both meetings, please feel free to do so. Shannon will be there for both and happy to talk with you.

The article below appeared in the November City newsletter, but no public input was received. The meeting Jan. 17 will have speakers from View the Future, Parks and Commons, Fish and Wildlife, Forest Service and other expert resources to share information with residents and for the City Manager to receive comment from residents. This is the question we asked, back in November:

WHAT IF WE COULD

What if we could have a wonderful new "place to play" along the Yachats River? A place where people could gather for a picnic; launch a kayak; let their furry friends run and play; a quiet place out of the wind! What would YOU like to see?

Always with an "eye to the future", the local non-profit organization called View the Future has been looking into the acquisition of some available acreage within the City limits. It could possibly be utilized by visitors and residents for both recreation and nature study, while protecting the forested habit along the river from development. The parcel, which fronts the Yachats River, is zoned single family residential, and at one time, condominiums were discussed.

A couple of different grants are designed to promote such projects, but, of course, require some amount of "match" money from the City.

The Visitors Amenities Fund – which comes from the transient lodging taxes that guests pay at local hotels, motels and vacation rentals – is a source for that, and State law prohibits it being spent on infrastructure (e.g., streets, water, wastewater). Taxes paid by overnight visitors generated almost one million dollars last year.

It would support the City's Vision Statement: *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. (Adopted April 2, 2009)*

It would support the City's Comprehensive Plan: *The City shall work to protect and enhance its rich natural, scenic and historic resources. Forests, beaches and water areas; wetlands, air quality, fish and wildlife habitats; historical and archaeological sites, and in particular, pen space and scenic views... (Adopted May 8, 2008)*

If View the Future and the City can get the grants to buy the property, what would YOU like to see?

TALKS CONTINUE ON TRANSFER OF OCEAN VIEW DRIVE TO CITY

For more than 20 years, Lincoln County and City of Yachats have discussed Ocean View Drive/Marine Drive and the eventual transfer of ownership of the road from the County to the City. That day has come, prompted by dwindling County road funds.

A City committee has been meeting with County reps to discuss details. These include the County paying for a pavement overlay on part of the road, and the City will be considering making it one-way to get the weight of traffic off the outer edge and provide for a safe path for pedestrians and bicyclists. Which direction is yet to be determined, but initial information gathering indicates that making the portion from W. 2nd Street to W. 7th Street "north-bound traffic only" may be the best way to get the vehicle weight off of the road's ocean side, which is damaged between 3rd and 4th.

PUBLIC WORKS – Works for you



Public Works crew is happy to have some “new to us” trucks and a new backhoe, to help in their everyday assignments. The red 2007 International 5-yard dump truck replaces a 1990 Ford 5-yard that had become a “money pit”. The white 1988 GMC bucket truck will be used to facilitate cleaning out gutters, accessing spots to repair and maintain buildings and trim tree limbs encroaching on City rights-of-way. A new John Deere 310SL backhoe loader replaces the old one. That vehicle was also being repaired too frequently to be cost-effective.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAININGS

The Emergency Planning Committee needs volunteers to be trained to assist in disasters. Not to attend meetings or regularly commit time, but to become trained on how to save yourselves in the event of natural or man-made disasters. Are you interested? Can one member of your family put in a few hours to get that knowledge? Please email cityhall@yachatsmail.org and we will include you in upcoming disaster preparedness training that is extremely important to us all.

TREE LIMBS OVER RIGHTS-OF-WAY, DITCHES WILL BE TRIMMED BACK

Yachats Public Works will be cleaning and re-establishing drainage ditches during January and February of 2018. Any tree limbs that extend into the City right-of-way will be trimmed back. Utility lines will be marked with spray paint along ditch lines. Cedar Avenue will be the first area to be addressed. If you have any questions, please call (541)547-3565.

RESTROOM REMODEL DECIDED UPON FOR MENS ROOM AT THE COMMONS

Parks and Commons Commission Chair John Moore announced that the Commission recently voted to upgrade the men's restroom in The Commons. There are currently four urinals next to each other along the back wall, and they will be replaced by three new ones, separated by partitions. The strip of concrete in front of the urinals will be replaced with a new and easy-to-clean floor covering. The room was recently painted, and a changing table was added.

The women's restroom received some much needed improvements a couple of years ago.

Discussions by the Commission about adding an exterior restroom to The Commons area continue. This addition would serve vendors and attendees at Farmers' Market, events in the picnic shelter, families that use the playground seven days a week, and visitors/residents walking in this area.

Yachats Lunch Bunch +55

Last Thursday of each month at Yachats Lions Club at 344 W. 4th Street. Doors open at 11:30am \$5.00 donation

Lunch Bunch welcomes back the Ladies Club as this month's chefs on **Thursday, Jan. 25.**

*Meatloaf, herb-roasted potatoes,
green salad and fruit cobbler*

Doors open at 11:30am, with lunch served at noon. A \$5.00 donation is suggested.

Volunteers are needed to help with meals!!

Call Paul at 541-547-4654 for more info.

**SPECIAL ELECTION ON STATE MEASURE 101
JANUARY 23 (Healthcare and insurance costs)**

YACHATS FOOD PANTRY

OPEN M-W-F, 11a-1p
By Pam Luderitz
541-547-4599



Again, a big thank you for all the donations of money and food. We had a very successful year in helping our friends and neighbors through hard times, with approximately 896 clients this past year – only 60 of which were transients. The transients were the biggest users in July and August, as would be expected.

Many of the clients are repeat visitors, especially at the end of each month, but all are grateful for the added help during these times. Some of our clients have given back as they are able, by donating food themselves, or knitting warm caps from leftover yarn and donating those to others.

We would like to publicly name and thank all of our volunteers who helped host the pantry this past year: Ken Parks, Pat Tapp, Creight Horton, Tony Godfrey, Rhonda Moran, Johnni Prince, Jim Finlayson, Myron Eckhardt, Fran Morse, Maggie Marshall, Joel Keller, Jnanda Lampman and Pam Luderitz. Thank you all for helping to make this a success and a great community project.

If anyone would like to volunteer to host please call Pam at 541-547-3493 or 541-547-4599. Checks can be made out to **Yachats Food Pantry** and donations of food are always welcome.

CARD-MAKING WORKSHOP JAN. 17 OFFERED BY YACHATS ART GUILD

Yachats Art Guild will be offering a Card Workshop on Wed., January 17, 2018 and everyone is welcome to attend. The class will be held at The Commons, in the kitchen (Room 5) from 9:30a - 12:30p. There is a \$10.00 class fee, with supplies provided. To register, or for more information, please contact Kathy at krwhitson@peak.org, or call 541-563-3633.



Yachats Public Library

560 W. 7th Street 541-547-3741
**Mon/Fri 12p-4p Tue/Thu 12p-5p
Wed 12p-6p Sat 10a-4p**

By Janet Rackleff, Library Volunteer Manager

In January, we will begin offering a new program in Yachats, and all of Lincoln County: *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library*. This is a book-gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until their fifth birthday. The child receives a free book each month, mailed to their home.

The Friends of the Yachats Library will cover the cost of mailings, along with another Oregon foundation. Jane Shay is spearheading the program for the Library and will have more information about the program. Sign up information will be available at the Library, at the January Families Together Evening on Friday, Jan. 26 or through the Friends of the Yachats Library's website (see below).

Later in this new year, the Library will be moving into the former bank building known as "the 501", at 501 Hwy 101N. Friends of the Yachats Library have sent out individual donation letters to help raise funds for the move. If you would like to donate to the *Library Move Project*, you can get a donation form at the current library or you can donate online through the Friends' website: <https://friendsofyachatslibrary.org>

**FAMILIES TOGETHER EVENING 6PM
JAN. 26 AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVING YYFAP KIDS & FAMILIES**

Facilities Manager Report

By Heather Hoen Smith, 541-272-4213

Facilitiesmanager@YachatsMail.org

I'm so excited to share with you my first-ever report as Facilities Manager for the City. I was born and raised here, and my husband Mark and I are grateful to be raising our son and daughter in this same great community and paradise on earth.

Lots of fun events coming up in the next month at our community center, even though it's January:

Jan. 1 – Gather for Amanda Trail hike	9:30am
Peace Pole dedication by C&K	1:30pm
Jan. 4 – Big Band in the multi-purpose room	7pm
Jan. 13-14 – 6 th Annual Agate Festival	10am-4pm
Jan. 17 – Public info meeting: land purchase	6pm
Jan. 21 – YAAS hosts coast geology speaker	2pm
Jan. 23 – Racism conversation in Room 8	7pm
Jan. 26 – Bunko at 5:30pm in Room 8	5:30pm
Jan. 27 – Lions Crab Feed	12:30pm and 4pm
Jan. 29 – Land purchase grant app hearing	11am

Monthly report to Parks & Commons Commission:

A leak in the roof over the custodial closet and storage area has been addressed by applying rubber coating to cracks in the roof and to the chimney, where it meets the roof. The men's restroom has been repainted, floors stripped and refinished. The concrete strip in front of the urinals has been cleaned and sealed.

I would like to install two coded lock boxes for returning keys from parties who rent the facility. There needs to be a better system for ensuring keys are returned. A refundable deposit could be added to the cost of renting, to cover replacement costs for any keys not returned, or that are broken or lost. Each renter can have a specific code.

The Commons has many weekly events that are occurring like clockwork, as well as larger events for both residents and visitors to participate in, like

the December community events that included the Wind Ensemble, Del Shores, Central Coast Chorale, Winter Solstice Bonfire and much more. We are receiving many more reservations, so 2018 looks to be just as busy as this one has been. I am taking the opportunity to go over equipment with renters to allow for a more hands-on approach to their event. I have learned that many of the groups renting the multi-purpose room for large events also expect Room 8 to be available, without charge. They are accustomed to using Room 8 as a "staging area". I am working with the City on this.

We are all trying to keep utility costs down by shutting off lights and keeping the heat turned down in unused rooms, but I am finding some heaters turned up all the way to "high". I have set all of the thermostats to 62 degrees and I have locked away the remotes.

PUBLIC HEARING ON GRANT APP

In accordance with OAR 695-045-0185 and ORS 271.735, the OWEB Land Acquisition Grant Program is considering a grant application from the City of Yachats to help purchase approximately 29 acres in the vicinity of Yachats. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. OWEB will hold a conservation easement or third party rights of enforcement in a conservation easement, if OWEB funds are used.

The hearing will be held Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 from 11am-12pm, in the Yachats Commons, Room 8, 441 Hwy 101 N., Yachats OR. The purpose of the hearing is to provide interested parties with a meaningful opportunity to comment on the OWEB grant application. Questions or comments about the grant application, or public hearing, may be directed to Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, 775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360, Salem OR 97301-1290 or call (503) 503-986-0047 or send email to eric.williams@oregon.gov. Written comments on the grant application must be received by OWEB no later than January 22, 2018

OBSERVATIONS OF PROCESS

Contributed by Fran Morse, resident

On December 13, there was a very Yachatian response to an important community conflict: the community turned out for the City Council meeting, to learn what had actually happened and to express their feelings about it. What was expressed was a legitimate sense of mourning about recent changes, which feel like a loss of community. Especially iconic and pertinent was the change from the historical Commons User Support Manager position. *The community response was, in itself, a tribute to the person who has held that position, and the positive impact he has had on our sense of connection, belonging, acceptance and mutual respect, for decades.*

People generally assume that the intention of an action is revealed by the impact that action has on us. We assume that if we are hurt, the action was meant to hurt us. The City Council and the City Manager conducted themselves in a markedly non-defensive manner, genuinely listening to hear the grief and sense of betrayal being expressed, and doing their utmost to show that the intended action by the "City" was only to be as impartial as possible. That intention, however, was precisely the problem.

Separating the intent from the impact, it became clear that the explicit community complaint was that Yachats did not want impartiality. The village was reacting in shock and outrage to the change in the old, familiar way of doing things that met with the Yachats identity. Decisions here, particularly personnel decisions, have been typically personality-and-relationship-based, honoring unique personal characteristics and history within the community. This is the simple, personal way that most small groups or organizations begin.

At some point, however, when the organization becomes complex enough, a seismic shift occurs, from primarily honoring personalities to honoring legalities and rules which attempt to be more objective, more broadly fair and equalizing, across a larger range of people. This approach is also more impersonal.

The defense of a good intention does not negate the negative impact. Yet it is important to understand the contribution of this common process of organizational growth and development. It is no one individual's "fault". Evolution is the ongoing change from simple to more complex organisms over time. **This more "objective" change is not the beginning of something new; it is the culmination of what has been happening, invisibly maybe, for years.**

Until now, these changes have evolved behind the scenes, experienced individually, or amongst small groups, creating very little public impact. The centrality of the Commons and its User Support Manager position suddenly made glaringly visible the ongoing Yachats transition from a personality-based, relationship-oriented system to a procedure-based, rule-oriented system.

The question now is how to preserve the founding values defining the Yachats identity. Our collective choice of reactions now will create our tomorrows. Which are the most healing and useful reactions? Resistance, rebellion and revenge? Or clarity, cooperation and commitment to *all* who make up this community? Moving on from our comfortable certainty about who we are, or were, does not mean that we don't regret the real losses. Can we also be curious about the intersection of our wishes for this village with the new changes, and envision what we want to be five years from now? With the use of our treasured respect and reciprocity, I believe we can.

TWO LOCAL "STARS" BENEFIT US ALL!

A hearty welcome to Heather Hoen Smith, our new facilities manager, who was born and raised in Yachats. And a fond farewell to Leon Sterner, our former commons user support. Best of luck, Leon, with your continuing work with the children's' programs in Siletz and Eddyville. You "shine" with kids!



Trails Committee News

By Jan Brown, Communications Leader
541.547.4927 or espressobrown@gmail.com

Since this newsletter went to print prior to the 2018 New Year's Day Peace Hike we hope that it was, for the eighth year in a row, a big success. Thanks to all the fantastic volunteers who helped plan and implement this very meaningful community event.

Now, if you've made a resolution to get a little more exercise and healthy fresh air in the year to come, remember that the Yachats area provides a wide variety of trails to suit all interests and abilities. Go to www.yachatstrails.org or Yachats Chamber of Commerce site www.yachats.org, click on *Take an Area Tour* and *Great Outdoors* tab.

One wonderful place to visit now is the Prospect Trail and its associated garden. The Prospect Garden lies at the point where Prospect Avenue dead-ends, close to its intersection with E. 2nd Street. For many years, this piece of ground was a wasteland, overrun with ivy, blackberry, morning glory and knotweed. The Yachats Trails Committee decided some years ago to create a garden with a meandering trail running through it. Weeds were attacked and many bulbs, shrubs and small trees were planted. But the weeds kept returning, and the garden remained a "work in progress." Then, a few months ago, two Trail Crew members, Sharon



Christensen and Craig Berdie, quietly decided to get to work on the garden. Between them, they have now put in around 200 hours at the garden. First it was weeding, and then it was planting new shrubs according to a revised landscaping plan that Sharon developed. And most recently, with the help of other Trails and YIPS! Crew members, they distributed five yards of hemlock bark mulch around the garden. Craig has also taken time to educate our crews on pruning techniques so we can better keep all our trails beautiful and healthy.

Most of the plantings in the garden are natives. Though there is still work to be done, the garden is now looking beautiful. And come spring, when the plants start putting out new leaves and flowers, it should look even better. If you haven't seen this garden recently, you owe it to yourself to pay a visit. It is one more example of volunteerism in action in Yachats. Thank you Craig and Sharon!



For your calendar: The Yachats Trails Crew meets on the first Saturday of each month and the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee (YIPS!) Crew on the third Saturday, both from 10am-1pm. There are always a wide variety of tasks for all levels of interest and ability, so come join in the fun. We guarantee you a warm appreciative welcome and, if you are so inclined, a friendly social get-together at the Drift Inn to celebrate our accomplishments at the end. Watch the Trails Committee's [website](http://www.yachatstrails.org) for the locations of the January work sessions, or contact any of the leaders listed on our website.

For more information on Trails and YIPS! activities, visit www.yachatstrails.org - thanks!

JANUARY 2018

"Cheers to a new year, and another chance for us to get it right" - Oprah Winfrey

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>PLEASE REMEMBER: The Commons and 501 are scent-free and smoke-free. We appreciate you not wearing cologne, perfume or strong-scented clothing in The Commons or 501. NO SMOKING ON ANY CITY PROPERTY, PLEASE</p>	<p>1 NEW YEAR'S <i>CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED</i> 9:30a Amanda Trail Hike (gather at The Commons) <i>OR FOR NON-HIKERS:</i> 9:30a Candlelight Vigil at Little Log Church & Museum 1:30p Peace Pole dedication in C&K parking lot</p>	<p>2 8:30a Marketing Com Rm1 1:15p Pickleball MP</p>	<p>3 8a Tai Chi 501 9:30a Council Work Rm1 Session 10a Exercise Class MP 11a Ping Pong Rm 8 1p Art in Kitchen Rm 5 1:15p Pickleball MP</p>	<p>4 2p Emergency Plan Rm 1 7p Yachats Big Band MP</p>	<p>5 10a Exercise Class MP</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 8a Tai Chi 501 10a Exercise Class 501 3:30p Volleyball MP 6p Zumba MP 7p Ping pong Rm 8</p>	<p>9 10a Library Comm Rm1 Regular Quarterly Meeting 1:15p Pickleball MP 3p Public Works Com Rm 1</p>	<p>10 8a Tai Chi 501 10a Exercise Class MP 10a Finance Comm Rm 1 11a Ping Pong Rm 8 1p Art in Kitchen Rm 5 1:15p Pickleball MP 6p Council Meeting Rm1 6p Zumba MP</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 10a Exercise Class MP</p>	<p>13 10a-4p AGATE FESTIVAL at The Commons 6th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show with displays & speakers</p>
<p>14 10a-4p AGATE FESTIVAL at The Commons</p>	<p>15 MLK DAY <i>CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED</i> 8a Tai Chi 501 10a Exercise Class MP 3:30 Volleyball MP 6p Zumba MP 7p Ping pong Rm 8</p>	<p>16 1:15p Pickleball MP 2p Planning Comm Work Session Rm 1 3p Planning Comm Meeting Rm 1</p>	<p>17 8a Tai Chi 501 9:30a Card Making Rm5 10a Exercise Class MP 11a Ping Pong Rm 8 1p Art in Kitchen Rm 5 1:15p Pickleball MP 6pm Property purchase proposal info meeting MP</p>	<p>18 3p Parks & Commons Comm Meeting Rm 1</p>	<p>19 10a Exercise Class MP</p>	<p>20 6-8p WINTER WONDERLAND DINNER & CONCERT MP \$40 dinner and concert; with food catered by Ona. Tickets at Presbyterian Church or Mari's books</p>
<p>21 2-3:30p YAAS Presents Dr. Robert Lillie speaker "Oregon Coast Geology" \$5 donation MP</p>	<p>22 8a Tai Chi 501 10a Exercise Class MP 3:30 Volleyball MP 6p Zumba MP 7p Ping pong Rm 8</p>	<p>23 1:15p Pickleball MP 7p Racism conversation Rm 8</p>	<p>24 8a Tai Chi 501 10a Exercise Class MP 11a Ping Pong Rm 8 1p Art in Kitchen Rm 5 1:15p Pickleball MP 6p Zumba MP</p>	<p>25 11a Gentle Yoga 501 11:30 LUNCH BUNCH 55+ at Lions Club, 344 W. 4th St \$5 donation suggested</p>	<p>26 10a Exercise Class MP 5:30p Bunko Rm 8 6p YYFAP Families Together Dinner at Presbyterian</p>	<p>27 CRAB FEED (3 seatings) By Yachats Lions Club 12:30p Seating at Commons 4p Groups Only at Commons 4p Seating at Lions Club "All you can eat, until it is gone"</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29 8a Tai Chi 501 10a Exercise Class MP 11a PUBLIC HEARING for OWEB to consider grant Rm8 3:30 Volleyball MP 6p Zumba MP 7p Ping pong Rm 8</p>	<p>30 1:15p Pickleball MP</p>	<p>31 8a Tai Chi 501 10a Exercise Class MP 11a Ping Pong Rm 8 1p Art in Kitchen Rm 5 1:15p Pickleball MP 6p Zumba MP</p>			
<p>31</p>						