

#### CITY OF YACHATS

## NEWSLETTER



#### OCTOBER 2013

#### THE YACHATS CITY COUNCIL VISION

Adopted: April 2, 2009

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.



#### Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

The world, more now than ever, is abuzz with information. You can find out almost anything about almost anything. There are people and organizations utilizing myriad methods of information dispersal

that want us to know things. They are sending out emails, newsletters, stuffing additional information into bills, developing web pages, taking out ads in newspapers or advertising circulars, posting on Facebook or twitter, or phone banking. There is too much to track it all, or even a major part of it, effectively. As a consequence we all make choices about what we pay attention to, and what we tune out.

As a result, if you're like me, there are times when something sneaks up on you. I'll say something like "How did that happen? Or "when did that change?", or (and this is the big one) "Why didn't anyone tell me?"

The fact is, someone probably did try to tell me. I pulled my statement out of the bill from the electric company or the phone company and, anxious to get it paid and get out from behind my desk or to get on to other information I knew I needed, I threw away the "junk" that came with the bill and I never saw the information.

Therefore, I'm sometimes surprised when a power line project gets underway or my internet service goes down for a few hours. I might miss

an event I would have liked to attend and wonder why I wasn't told.

In the City of Yachats we try really hard to make sure people are "told" about everything we do. All decisions are made in public meetings, agendas are announced in advance, minutes are posted, all documents produced by the City are published on the City's document library, special "town hall" meetings are held to get public feedback, annual State of the City events are held to inform everyone what we're working on and what we've done, and a great deal of information is put into this newsletter. Still we sometimes hear that people feel they've not been told, and on rare occasions we're even accused of having secret meetings.

I understand the frustration. These, for the most part, are intelligent people who are paying attention to the things that affect the fast moving pace of their daily lives. In order to keep up with that pace and pay attention to those specific areas, they've chosen to ignore (or only periodically check in on) other issues. Consequently, they are sometimes genuinely surprised by how far something has moved along before someone "told" them.

The current case-in-point is the bicycle/
pedestrian safety improvements to the core area
of town. A young girl was killed on Highway 101
over 20 years ago, which is what started a
process to figure out what to do to be sure it
didn't happen again. Public meeting after public
meeting, published plans, open discussions,
newsletter articles, State of the City meetings,

grant applications and the construction of small sidewalk projects have filled the years in between. Then a significant grant from ODOT enabled further implementation of the plan that all of the public process created, and the information reached critical mass, spilled out of the envelope, and found its way to the radar screens of those people who had not yet tuned in.

So where are we now? Actually, we're in just the right place. Even though it can be frustrating to feel you've been left out of the loop, and even though it can be frustrating to feel you've done everything you can do to communicate (and more), the fact of the matter is we reach a point of common discussion only when our interests, our time, our ability to absorb and use information, all come together at the same time. So our job now is to build on the reality that we are now on the same temporal plane and advance this project to the best possible outcome for all concerned.

Over the next weeks and months I plan to take on a more personal role in fine-tuning the design. I'm neither an architect nor an engineer, but I'm not bad at pragmatic problem solving and reasonably good at listening. Over the years I've found that the best ideas often come from the least expected places. When it's all said and done I think we will be able to solve the pedestrian/bicycle/vehicle safety issues, increase the business appeal of our town, provide



more parking than we currently have, increase the amount of business done by all businesses in the project area, and do it in a way that preserves the integrity of this precious community.

As we fine tune the design and implement this project I know you'll be paying attention. We will redouble our efforts to make sure you hear what you need to hear...and we do too.

#### Yachats Public Works Department is:



#### <u>City Council Announces</u> <u>Commission/Committee</u> Vacancies

The City of Yachats is looking for volunteers to fill vacancies on the following Commissions:

- Planning Commission-1 vacancy: term ending 12/31/13.
- Parks & Commons Commission-1 vacancy: 1 term ending 12/31/13
- Budget Committee-1 vacancy: term ending 12/31/15

Volunteers are required to attend monthly meetings and may be asked to attend training sessions. For a complete description of the duties and requirements and an application please inquire at City Hall weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except holidays) or log on to our website anytime at <a href="https://www.ci.yachats.or.us">www.ci.yachats.or.us</a>.



#### Yachats Trails Update

By Jan Brown, Trails Committee Communications Leader

Happy Anniversary Amanda! September 17th marked the Amanda statue's 10th anniversary gracing the Amanda Trail and the

creek that was named after her by the US Geologic Survey. To mark this milestone year, the Angell Job Corps (with donations of materials from a fellow Yachatian and Oregon State Parks) built beautiful stone steps from the south end of the bridge down to Amanda's grotto. In a practical sense this eliminates the slippery and somewhat risky descent down the banks of the creek bed for those who come to honor her. In a more spiritual sense, some say that Amanda, who in life was blind, is very sensitive to visitors who are also in some way disabled but wish to visit her. We hear she is very pleased with this new addition --and trail walkers are too!

Starting later this month, hikers will also find a new surprise as they traverse the trail a bit further north. A sculpture of two life size bears



is being built by Sy Meadow, the artist who created the Amanda statue. Yet another reason to get outside this month and explore one of the area's most beloved and scenic trails!

With the summer season now behind us we're taking a deep breath and reflecting, with amazement, on the number of people who have inquired about and visited our trails this year. Keeping the hotel literature racks stocked with trails brochures has become a full time job for our volunteers! A quick check at the Visitors Center shows that roughly 70 percent of the thousands of people who come in looking for information on what to do leave with trails maps and literature, delighted to find new ways to explore our village and reasons to extend their stay.

But, while the summer rush has ended, work on trails (and usage by visitors) continues, regardless of the season. We'd be delighted to have more volunteers join us in the coming months for ongoing maintenance and working on



fall plantings. And, of course, another great event coming up along local trails is the annual <u>Yachats Village</u>
<u>Mushroom Fest</u> that will feature (among other

activities) nearly 30 guided mushroom walks along the forested trails of Cape Perpetua and the Gerdemann Botanic Preserve. Whatever the reason, we hope to see you enjoying the beautiful autumn season on our local trails and pathways and if you'd like to get more involved, see the schedule of events and contacts below.

#### YIPS! (Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee) News

In the past month, we held a special YIPS foray into the Cummins Ridge wilderness, just south of Cape Perpetua. Three miles up a pleasant trail we encountered a veritable forest of tansy ragwort... protected by a nest of definitely unfriendly bees. None-the-less, within a few

hours we dealt with all the flowering tansy plants plus many immature ones that would otherwise be flowering next summer and threatening grazing animals in our area. And the bees did their job as well, stinging a few of us, just to ensure that it wasn't all one-way traffic. Another special YIPS outing in mid-September cleared tansy from the road leading up to the Cape Perpetua lookout. Thanks to all who came out to help on these "emergency" missions.

On our regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday work session in September, our main target was ivy in the pine woods to the west of the Commons wetland, adjacent to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. All we can say is we pulled a MOUNTAIN of ivy that day!

October's weed of the month needs no



introduction to anyone who has spent more than about five minutes on the Oregon coast. Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus* 

armeniacus) is great if you like blackberry jam, but it pretty quickly takes over disturbed areas unless you are really diligent about tackling it. For advice on managing this and other local invasive species, go to

http://www.ci.yachats.or.us/weeds/Brochureweeds.pdf

If you have questions about weeds, you can also call Don (541-961-6695) or Wally (541-547-5474).

#### Upcoming Trails, YIPS! and Related Events in October and November

The Yachats Trails Crew meets on the first Saturday of each month and the YIPS! Crew on the third Saturday, both from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please come join our merry band as there are always opportunities for all levels of ability - even consultants!

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Upcoming events to add to your calendar include: October 5th (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Trails work event -- Gather at the Amanda Trail on the east side of Windy Way. We'll be doing some clearing and planting.

October 18-20 <u>Yachats Village Mushroom Fest:</u> guided trail walks.



October 19<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

YIPS! Work Event -- Butterfly habitat restoration needs YOUR help! U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has once again asked for our assistance in planting 6,000 native plants in their on-going effort to re-establish habitat for the Oregon silverspot butterfly. The event will take place in the meadow behind the homes east of the SeaPerch RV Park along Hwy 101. Lots of help is needed, so please join us if you can. The small sprouts are fairly easy to get in the prepared soils, so this task is relatively easy. Carpooling is encouraged. To coordinate carpools, email Wally at worchard@peak.org.

November 2 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Trails work event (Location to be announced via email to the Trails Committee's contact list.)

For more information, and to sign up for the mail list, contact any one of us via phone or email:

- Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair, Yachats Trails
   Committee at 541.547.3640 or <a href="mailto:lsven@peak.org">lsven@peak.org</a>
- Joanne Kittel, Leader, Development Committee & Amanda Trail at 541.547.3144 or jnkittel@peak.org
- Wally Orchard, Leader, YIPS! at 541.547.5474 or worchard@peak.org
- Jan Brown, Leader, Communications at 541.547.4927 or <u>espressobrown@qmail.com</u>









#### <u>Little Log Church and</u> Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

"To everything there is a season", so says Ecclesiastes. It seems that once our calendar page announced the first day of autumn, the air felt different, the rains began again in earnest, and even the birds sang in a different cadence. The animals know. They are so wise.

It is again time to thank the animals for the comfort, wisdom and pure joy they give to us. You are invited to bring your cherished charges - be they dogs, cats, lizards or llamas, guinea pigs or goats (on leashes or contained, of course) to the garden at the Little Log Church on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. for our annual Blessing of the Animals. We will be by the statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is in early October. If it is not practical for you to bring your animal in person, a photo will do, or just write the name on a piece of paper. They will be honored, as will the wild creatures of the Earth.



We also have some sad news to report. A memorial service was held at the Log Church on September 24<sup>th</sup> for Chad Link, a volunteer and member of the

Board of Directors for the LLC&M for many years. Chad passed on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Chad and his wife Robin came to Yachats 15 years ago and soon began to give their energies and talents to our community in many ways.

One wouldn't guess that the person sitting at the desk at the Log Church on Fridays had been a

vice president for AT&T and served as a communications consultant in India. He would happily tell visitors about museum exhibits and local history, but probably didn't reveal he dabbled in cartooning, played guitar, and was a fine woodworker. The two-seater Austin Healey and later the MR2 Spider parked across the street from the museum was one of his passions. And he could tell you the plot of just about any episode of *Gunsmoke* ever made.

Chad was preceded in death by his wife Robin, who died unexpectedly last year. We were happy that Chad was able to attend the dedication of the memorial plaque placed in the LLC&M's garden in Robin's honor just last August. He is survived by his children Cal, Kristi Monks, Donald, and Brian, and his seven grandchildren.

We feel privileged to have known Chad, and we'll certainly miss him.



# Yachats Public Library

By Sandra Calkins

Have you noticed a

touch of coolness in the air? Are the days getting shorter? Have our rains that keep this area so green and lush finally returned? Yes, you are right. Autumn has returned to the Oregon Coast. The frantic rush of summer has subsided. You can cross the street in safety. And ... you can actually pull your car out onto Highway 101.

Now comes the time of year when residents of this area who serve our summer visitors can take their real vacations, or at least breathe a sigh of relief and relax. Now is the time when we can enjoy the beauty of this area. We can stroll the beaches and streets of our special community. We can greet neighbors and visit the quaint little stores that are such an attraction for our visitors.

Now the library has quieted down. There is no trouble getting time on a computer. Finding the new book that you have wanted to read all summer is easier. The library is a peaceful place where you can relax and have a quiet visit with a friend. You can browse the shelves at leisure. So let us all enjoy this special season. Find a good book and curl up in your chair to read it. Check out a DVD or VCR tape and share it with your family. Read the newspapers and magazines that you don't receive at home.

A couple of reminders for all of you: Reminder 1: Even though our family historian has been very ill, we still have people to help you research your family history. Check the library any Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Reminder 2: We have a binder labeled OUR STORIES. Please add an anecdote from your life. Those special serious or funny moments are too precious to lose.

Come visit us at your library. You are always welcome.



# Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program

By Alice Beck, Executive Director

YYFAP Fundraiser October 11<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm

Join YYFAP supporters for the Premiere Showing of "The Little Theater's Production of Hamlet" by One of Us Productions at the Yachats Commons. There will be drinks, hors D'oeuvres and a silent auction all to benefit local youth and families. Tickets are \$35 (\$10 admission to the play and \$25 to benefit YYFAP). Call 541-547-4599 to reserve



tickets. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Show is at 7:30 pm.

Come enjoy the fun all for a good cause!

#### Families Together in Yachats

On October 18<sup>th</sup> Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program and the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church will host their monthly dinner focused on early literacy. All children attending will receive a free copy of the featured book for the evening, Sixteen Runaway



Pumpkins. There will also be free, age appropriate books available for older brothers and sisters attending. Dinner and books are provided free thanks to grants from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Foundation Fund and Mari's

Books. We hope you will join us!

#### Rec-Plus Afterschool Adventures

Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program has space available in their afterschool program for school aged youth. They are open from 3:45 to 6:00 pm every day that school is in session providing fun activities, homework help, arts and crafts and other fun activities. The school bus drops off near their door and they offer a sliding scale starting as low as \$30 per month for those on free and reduced lunch. Ages six and up. Call for details 541-547-4599 or you can find the registration form on their website at www.yachatsyouth.org



#### DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR PROPERTY'S HAND VALVE IS? By Kimmie Jackson

Yachats Municipal Code 8.04.140 requires that all residential and commercial owners have a hand valve installed in the meter box on the property's side of the meter. With the unpredictable winter months just ahead it is essential to know where your hand valve is located, if it is functioning, It is also required that the box is free of dirt and debris. Public Works will be inspecting the meter boxes in the upcoming months for compliance. The City recommends that customers check the hand valve on their property twice yearly when the time changes over. In addition, we recommend that customers turn their water off at the hand valve if their property will be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days.

It is also wise for Property Managers to remember that if a property is going to be vacant for more than 3 consecutive days the water should be shut-off at the hand valve. This will help to prevent any unnecessary water consumption, call out fees, fines, and preventable high water bills.

Taking time to do so will lessen frustration and the risk of an enormous water bill.



### Yachats Lunch Bunch

By Will Williams, Coordinator

The lunch bunch will meet, as usual, on October 31th inside the Commons. Lunch will be served at noon. The luncheon is open to everyone 55 years and older.

The menu for October is; Lasagna, Green salad, rolls & cookies. Doors open at 11:30. We will have some great entertainment so come and socialize with your fellow Yachations. (There is a suggested donation of \$5).



#### 2013 Holiday Food Baskets & Children's Gift Program

Each holiday season, for the past 31 years, South Lincoln Resources (SLR) has distributed approximately 300 Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to families and seniors in the South Lincoln County area. SLR is an all-volunteer, non-profit charitable organization with no paid positions and no government In addition to the holiday food basket program, they also run a program that provides Christmas gifts to children who would otherwise have none.

Applications for Holiday Food Baskets & Children's Christmas (Gift) program are located inside the Emergency Food Pantry in the Yachats Commons. Applicants are responsible to properly complete their applications and returning them (to Washington Federal Savings in Waldport) or mailing them (SLR P.O. Box 1638, Waldport, OR 97394) by the designated deadlines. This year's deadlines are November 12th for Thanksgiving food baskets and December 10th for Christmas baskets and children's gifts.

1638, Waldport, To donate to th Program co	OR 97394. ne South County N all (541) 563-322	563-2388 or mail 1 leedy Children's Ch 6 or mail P.O. Bo	nristmas		
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