



MAY 2021

NEWSLETTER



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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY—FRIDAY: 9AM-4PM (Closed 12N-1P)

Mayor's Message

By: [Leslie Vaaler](#)

The Public Works and Streets Commission (PWS) may not be the most glamorous of Yachats's commissions, but it plays a vital role when it comes to protecting our community's health, safety, and wellbeing. I attended the April PWS meeting, and I think you might have been impressed by the variety of topics that were discussed with great thoughtfulness and even humor.

First off, PWS continued their review of our forthcoming Water Master Plan. The Water Master Plan, commissioned in the fall of 2018, is a document which provides a comprehensive evaluation of the City's water system and which lays out planning recommendations for the next twenty years. Posted online in the meeting materials, it makes for splendid reading for those curious souls yearning to understand more about current and potential sources of water, about changes in water demand over time, about possible system upgrades and associated costs, and indeed about much more besides! I particularly like some of the colorful maps and the pictures displaying examples of local infrastructure. (Now I know what they all are!)

Next, PWS discussed some issues relating to various streets. The commission considered a proposal to vacate some land at the south end of Shell Street and found it acceptable. PWS determined that the sole bid received for work on La De Da Lane is much too expensive, so they recommended that Council should not accept the bid. Next followed a street consideration with an obviously very human element. It concerned traffic and speeding on West Second Street. Residents described their observations and frustrations, and PWS agreed to work on developing measures which could provide relief.

All this was done by just four commissioners, as PWS has three vacancies. Ladies and gentlemen of Yachats, I encourage you to volunteer! You do not need to be an expert in construction, pipes, or engineering. If you have experience walking or driving in town, turning on the water, paying utility bills, or caring about your neighborhood, then you have relevant experience!

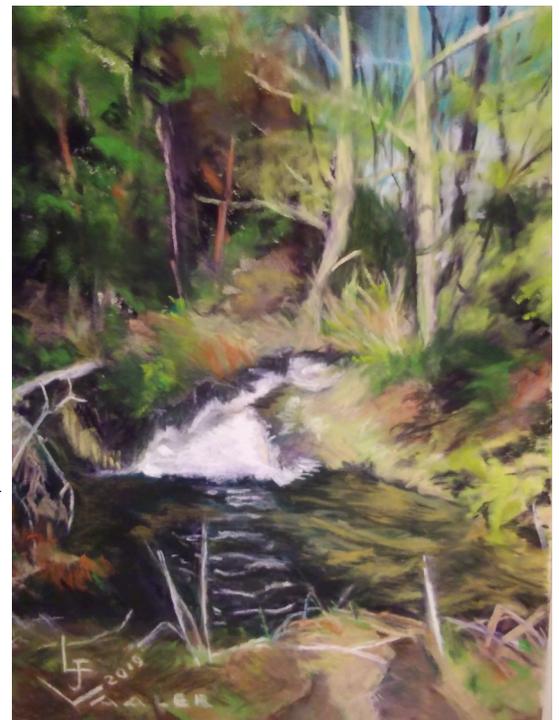
Your Council has also been busy.

- Council finalized our annual list of goals. It is posted on the city website.
- We approved the Library reopening for curbside pickup of reserved books, and we agreed that the Pavilion doors can be left open during business hours. Some picnic tables have been relocated from the Pavilion to the ball field for pandemic-safer use.
- Council authorized the Library Commission to use up to \$14,000 from the Hall bequest to develop expansion plans.
- Ocean View Drive south of 7th Street has been slated for new guardrails. These are being installed by the County in conjunction with the transfer of Ocean View Drive from the County to the City. Council has requested cable guardrails. County-provided improvements will include striping, signage, and vertical reflective indicators to the east of the 804 trail.
- An ordinance regulating lighting, including a curfew for existing marine lighting, received non-unanimous approval. Per our charter, a second affirmative

vote is still needed for passage. Look for another vote in May. Your mayor voted against the ordinance, citing enforcement concerns.

- We appointed Matthew Muenchrath as Municipal Judge and Tom Lauritzen and Brad Webb to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee has scheduled public meetings starting at 9:30 AM on May 20 and May 27.
- Council had a productive question-and-answer session with Engineer Chris Brugato concerning the Water Master Plan.

May promises to be another beautiful month. I am excited to see daffodils, iris, and rhododendrons in bloom. Stay well and be happy! (Painting with pastels makes me happy, and this month I am sharing a landscape portraying a scene near our water plant.)





City Council Goals

2021

Improve timeliness, relevance, quality and effectiveness of City service delivery

1. Recruit, evaluate, and hire city manager.
2. Survey residents to identify their experience with and expectations of the City services.
3. Evaluate the responsibilities of the City Manager, as well as those of staff members, to ensure that they meet the needs of the Yachats Community.
4. Improve effectiveness of code enforcement.
5. Bring Accounting Services in-house.
6. Finalize Water Master Plan and work on priority items, taking care to keep water plant running smoothly.

Prioritize and demonstrate environmental responsibility in all actions and decisions

1. Identify priorities relative to water sustainability.
2. Review all city plans and Capital Projects with the objective of preserving and protecting the area's natural resources.
3. Effectively partner with local organizations committed to our community environment.
4. Encourage staff and commissions to act on opportunities that positively impact our planet.

Strengthen relationships with Community

1. Communicate with citizens by providing written minutes, website content, and monthly newsletter, using updated contact information.
2. Develop collaborative relationships with business owners and the Chamber.
3. Organize public forums and surveys to gather citizen input and guidance on city projects and initiatives.
4. Sponsor low-cost events and activities that contribute to the well-being of the community.

Provide a safe environment

1. Monitor and complete Ocean View Drive Project. (Boardwalk Project will not be completed in 2021)
2. Manage the city's response to the Pandemic using guidance from OHA, CDC and citizens' input.
3. Ensure that intersections and streets have appropriate signage and other modifications to protect citizens and visitors.
4. Prioritize maintaining adequate water flows for fire safety and user needs.

Demonstrate Financial Responsibility

1. Practice long-term planning, making choices that allow the city to build up reserves.
2. Reevaluate the Finance Committee in terms of expertise needed on the committee and the role of the committee.
3. Seek a plan to address and prioritize city projects and apply for grants when available and useful to suggested projects.

Housing

1. Appoint a taskforce to seek and identify avenues to address the lack of affordable housing for moderate to low-income citizens.

A Library of Dreams

By: Peggy Speer

As many Yachadians may already know, the Yachats Public Library is going to get bigger. Planning for the long-needed expansion has been in the works for awhile, and now the Library Commission has passed a plan to extend to the east and south, adding more than 1300 square feet to the building. What will we do with all that room??

Sitting back in my comfy reading chair

and bay windows with stained glass. There was an oak staircase with carved bannisters. There were nooks and crannies with chairs and reading lights, and window seats where I could go on an uninterrupted journey into the world of the book I'd chosen. Like the tent in which Harry Potter and his friends 'camped' at the World Cup Quidditch Match in "The Goblet of Fire", impossible new vistas

polished long wooden table in the study area, decide which would offer the most pertinent information, and leave with a bundle of books in my bike basket, hoping for an 'A' paper.

Ah, memories! The older I get, the more they seem to busy my brain! While the Adams Memorial Library will always be the original blueprint in my mind for what a library is, everything that I cherished there and then - the journeys of discovery and the infinite boundless joy of reading - is here, now, at the Yachats Public Library. While there will probably be no turrets or oak staircases with carved bannisters in our new 1300 square foot expansion, there will be much more space for the building blocks of the imagination - books, books, and more books. What a good idea!



one recent rainy day, with a cup of tea warming my hands, I closed my eyes and recalled one library that has always been dear to my heart, a place where possibilities seemed endless.

The Adams Memorial Library in Wheaton, Illinois, was built in 1891 by John Quincy Adams, a descendant of the 2nd and 6th presidents of the United States, in memory of his late wife Marilla Phipps Adams. It was the first commission for Charles Sumner Frost, a prominent Chicago architect who went on to design 127 railway stations for the Chicago and North-western line, Navy Pier in Chicago, and the state of Maine's Pavilion for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. But I digress.

It was the stuff of dreams. To me, a girl in the 1950's who loved to read, it was like a castle, with turrets, arches,

of imagination opened up with every door. Shelves of books of every description fitting every fantasy and curiosity rose to the ceilings. I can still conjure up the addictive fragrance of the books' bindings. It was truly magical.

To get serious for a minute, of course the library was also my only resource for research for school papers and essays in those days long before the internet. Armed with pencil and notebook I'd seriously search the card catalog, carefully ordered by the Dewey Decimal System, for those volumes that would give me the inside scoop on Mesopotamia or the history of the American flag. This card catalog system had a learning curve and required some patience to master, but it was like riding a bike - once learned, it was easy. I'd take piles of possibilities to the solid, well-

For more info on the Adams Memorial Library:

<https://dupagemuseum.org/architectural-cultural-history/>



library open for pick ups

THE LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:00 TO 3:00 FOR RESERVATION PICK UP.

RESERVE YOUR LIBRARY MATERIALS USING OUR ONLINE CATALOG VIA A DIRECT LINK FROM FRIENDS OF THE YACHATS LIBRARY WEBSITE: WWW.FRIENDSOFYACHATSLIBRARY.ORG OR THROUGH THE CITY WEBSITE WWW.YACHATSOREGON.ORG UNDER DEPARTMENTS-LIBRARY.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP WITH CATALOG SEARCHES, PLEASE CALL 541-547-3741 DURING OPEN HOURS ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS.

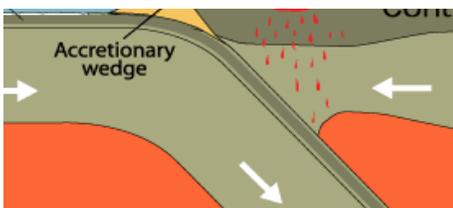


What is the Cascadia Subduction Zone and What Does it Mean for You?

By: Tom Fisher



If you live on the Oregon coast, or have just visited the Pacific Northwest, you have likely encountered these words: "Cascadia Subduction Zone". You might ask; "What is a Subduction Zone?". To understand the concept, you first need to learn some terminology from the field of geology. Earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called **plates**. The plates are made of solid rock. Under the plates is a softer layer of lava rock. The plates are constantly shifting over the softer layer. **Subduction zones** are areas where one plate dives or "**subducts**" beneath another plate. The world's most powerful earthquakes are produced at the boundary between the two plates. YEP – you are reading an article about earthquakes!



The **Cascadia Subduction Zone** stretches for 700 miles from British Columbia south to Northern California. The Cascadia Subduction Zone has produced large earthquakes in the past (of magnitude 9.0 or higher) and is estimated to produce a large earthquake roughly every 200 to 530 years. The last time a 9.0 earthquake occurred along this

Zone was the year 1700 - some 320 years ago.

It is impossible to pinpoint when a future earthquake of such magnitude might occur again, but this is what is meant when people talk about the "Big One". The 'Big One' is a hypothetical earthquake of magnitude 9 or greater that is expected to happen at some point in the future along the San Andreas Fault in California, south of the Cascadia subduction zone. The theory is that the Juan de Fuca plate off the Northwest coast could be shoved underneath the San Andreas plate to create a 'mega' earthquake.

SHAKEALERT: AN EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE WEST COAST In the year 1700, there were no early warning systems for earthquakes. Birds and small animals may have provided early indicators, but today we have seismometers and early warning systems. **ShakeAlert®** is an earthquake early warning (**EEW**) system that can detect a large earthquake quickly such that it can send real time alerts before shaking occurs, offering seconds of advance warning. ShakeAlert does not predict earthquakes, rather a ShakeAlert Message warns that shaking is imminent.

This can be done by detecting the Primary (P) wave energy radiating from an earthquake, which rarely causes damage. This method can provide a warning before the Secondary (S)-wave arrives, the strong shaking that can cause most damage. ShakeAlert® sends text like messages automatically to your cell phone. The alert makes a distinct sound and displays a text message that reads: Earthquake Detected! Drop, Cover, Hold On. Protect Yourself

No action needs to be taken to receive ShakeAlert warnings other than enabling emergency alerts on your cell

phone. Check on your mobile phone under "Settings" that Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are turned on.

For more detailed instructions on enabling ShakeAlert on your phone, go to: <https://www.oregon.gov/oem/hazardsprep/Pages/orshakealert.aspx>

What to do when you feel shaking due to an earthquake (ready.gov)

- ◇ If you are inside, stay away from windows and avoid doorways.
- ◇ Drop, get under a desk or table, cover your head and neck with your arms
- ◇ If you are in bed, turn face down and cover your head and neck with a pillow.
- ◇ If you are in a car, pull over and stop. Set your parking brake.
- ◇ If you are outdoors, stay outdoors away from buildings, trees, and power lines

How to prepare for a potential earthquake

- ◇ Move objects in hallways that might fall and obstruct an exit
- ◇ Consider using L brackets to secure top-heavy items such as bookshelves
- ◇ Place heavy objects and electronic equipment on a lower shelf or table
- ◇ Consider placing large vases or glass objects on a lower shelf or table as well
- ◇ Mount mirrors and overhead lamps securely
- ◇ Close curtains in bedroom to cover windows at night

For information and tips on ways you can prepare for and recover from a natural disaster, you can go online to: yachatsoregon.org/153/emergency-preparedness

Yachats Trails – YIPS

By: Loren Dickinson

Yachats Trails – YIPS continues to have good turnouts for work sessions, averaging eighteen to twenty-two volunteers for our sessions on the first and third Saturdays of each month. We continue to practice Covid-19 restrictions, with distancing requirements and masks being required, and are also able to split into several smaller groups to work on many tasks.

Crews have been working on the Amanda gathering area to clear and improve additional standing and seating areas. The newly cleared areas will have better view to the Amanda statue in anticipation of future special events. Crews are also working to clear and prepare the area for construction of the new suspension bridge scheduled to start on October 1. The Amanda Trail from town to the Grotto has also been maintained and improved.

Trails leaders are delighted to be working with City officials, and volunteer landscape architect and consultant Kevin Shanley, on the implementation of the walkway project, to be located at the south side of Ocean View Drive between the Underground restaurant and the old Landmark property. Heather Hoen, City Community Services Coordinator, has been selected to be the City's project manager. Mr. Shanley, Heather, Trails representatives, and Parks and Commons representative Michael Hempen, have been exchanging exciting new ideas and information

in preparation for designs to be presented by Mr. Shanley. When the conceptual design is firmed up sufficiently for review, we will look forward to citizens' input.

You might have noticed some new interpretive signage on Yachats' paths and trails. Yachats Trails' committee members Bob Langley and Wally Orchard have initiated, designed and procured 4 new interpretive signs which were installed with the help of City forces at the path between Aqua Vista Loop Drive and Marine Drive, along Ocean View Drive to the State Park, and at the west end of the Gerdemann Public Path.



In addition to these special activities, crews



have been maintaining the rest of the Yachats area trail system, the Prospect Park and trail, and continuing to remove invasives in and around the Commons. The Commons wetlands boardwalk has routinely been cleaned and kept free of overhanging branches and blackberry canes.

A word from YIPS! Coordinator Wally Orchard: Spring is the time when everything starts accelerated growth. And that includes weeds. This is the perfect time to tackle those invasive weeds. The soil is still moist so the plants can be easily pulled or dug up. Also, by getting in early you don't give the weeds a chance to flower and set seed for next year's generation. And with these mild sunny days, what could be better than getting outside and working in the environment?

Little Log Church and Museum Update

By: Mary Crook

Although the Little Log Church and Museum has been closed to the public for over a year, the volunteer board of directors has not been idle. Members who are a part of the Friends of the LLC&M have been active in plans for fundraising projects in anticipation of the restoration of our city's treasured landmark. Thanks to people like you, contributions have been added to the special 501(c)3 account set up for the restoration project. Soon we will have enough funds to qualify us to apply for grants to get the project underway.

We have added a talented member to our LLC&M family. James Kerti has come aboard as a member of the Friends of the LLC&M as well as a member of our board of directors. James brings fresh new ideas about fundraising and promotion and a spurt of energy we can certainly use.

In addition, board member Vicki Martin and her husband Duane have been instrumental in helping some of us non-tech types get our COVID vaccinations. Vicki is skilled in maneuvering through the web of online applications and schedules to set up appointments for several of our volunteers and local citizens. Then she has made follow-up phone calls to make sure we're clear on times and details. (I say "we" because I'm one of the beneficiaries of her talents; I now call her my "vaccination mother"). Thanks to Vicki and Duane I am fully vaccinated and feel like a good citizen because of it.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future,

we will be able to re-open the LLC&M and get back to the business of sharing our history and memorable events with visitors and locals again. What a refreshing thought that is! We will be recruiting new volunteers to help us. Training will be provided, so you needn't worry about being an expert from day one.

If you are interested in being a Yachats ambassador or finding out more about what's involved, please call me, Mary Crook, on my old fashioned home phone of 541-547-4547. I'd love to speak with you.

Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program

By: Ms. Patricia



So many exciting changes are happening here at the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program! At the end of last month, we said goodbye to our previous Director,

Alice Beck, and wished her a happy retirement. At the same time, our longtime Lead Preschool Teacher, Patricia Hettinger, became our new Executive Director. We are currently looking to hire a new Lead Preschool Teacher as well as a Programming Coordinator to help plan and run our summer camp and afterschool programs. These are both fulltime, year-round positions. Please check our website at yachatsyouth.org for more information.

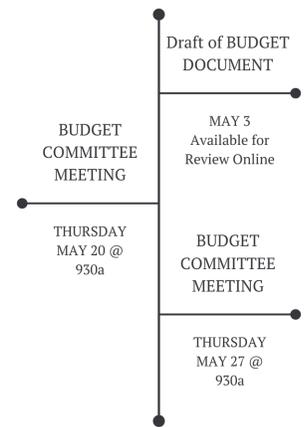
We are currently a Preschool Promise provider and offer free preschool to families that meet income guidelines. Preschool is currently being offered online in small groups and

includes fun songs, games, and engaging activities. If you are interested in enrolling your 3- or 4-year-old child, please email us at yyfapkids@gmail.com.

Finally, Spring is here and we are starting to make plans for summer and fall programs. We will be working with the City to see what indoor and outdoor spaces might be available for small group, in person activities this summer, as well as what options are available for next school year's preschool and Rec Plus programs. We will make additional announcements regarding upcoming programs once we have more information and a plan in place.



KEY BUDGET TIMELINE



Farmers Market is Back

By: Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey



The 2021 Yachats Farmers Market, established in 1994, will open on May 9th. Mother's Day. All of your favorite vendors will be back. Local farmers and artisans will display their products, artistic creations, flowers, and harvests, with care, which makes for a vigorous and vibrant market for all to enjoy.

The Market is open every Sunday from 9-2 through mid-October. Masks will again be required this year, hopefully the last. Even though many of us have been fully vaccinated, Social Distancing will continue to be strongly recommended. While we love dogs, most of us involved with the Market have a dog; we believe it best that dogs not be brought in the market area unless they can be carried.

Finally, we are looking for a few volunteers to greet the shoppers as they enter the Market. It is a great way to catch up with old friends and make new friends. If you are interested in volunteering, email Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey at oshaughn@illinois.edu.

Come celebrate the beginning of the 27th year of the Yachats Farmers Market, where you can find great art, amazing food products, fresh produce, and lots of good community energy.

CITY HALL

Customer Service Improvements

BE ON THE LOOKOUT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS FOR

1. More Options to Pay

Directly Online for Business Licenses, Taxes, Fees, Reservations, ETC.

2. Updated Business and

Vacation Rental Licensing Module on the City Website

Parks & Commons Survey

By: Craig Berdie

Can you imagine other uses for the open space behind City Hall?

Several groups have approached the Parks and Commons Commission (PCC) with ideas.

Dog owners have asked for a fenced area to keep dogs contained, children and parents have asked for a fenced area to keep dogs out, and baseball players have asked to fully rehabilitate the playing surface.



Others have suggested a combination of gardens with picnic benches, contemplation areas, and open spaces for gathering. Many of these ideas and more were in the 2010 Master plan but were never implemented.

Given the varied ideas, PCC would like to get input from the whole community. Look for a survey mailed to your water bill address. Feel free to copy if your family has multiple inputs. The survey will be available on request at City Hall for those who reside locally but outside the Yachats city limits.

Please complete it and return to City Hall by May 30th.

Yachats Pantry

By: Pam Luderitz

Having the Food Pantry open five days a week seems to be working. It is slow, as people get used to it, it may pick up. We will continue for another two months into the summer to see how it is received.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help make this a reality.

Thank you to everyone who donates food, particularly for our wonderful fresh egg donations.

We will continue to be open Monday to Friday from 11am to 1pm. Donations can be dropped off at the Pantry inside the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church located at 360 W 7th St, during those times.



WHEN ARE THEY IN THE OFFICE?

CITY PLANNER:
TUESDAY & THURSDAY

CODE ENFORCEMENT:
TUESDAY & THURSDAY
*SCHEDULE MAY FLUCTUATE

CONTINUE TO GO TO YACHATSORÉGON.ORG AND REPORT A CONCERN

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Parks & Commons Commission Meeting @2PM	5	6 City Council Work Session and Regular Meeting @ 930AM Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting @ 2PM	7	8
9	10	11 Public Works & Streets Commission @2PM	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Planning Commission Work Session and Regular Meeting @ 2PM/3PM	19 Finance Committee Meeting @ 10AM City Council @ 2PM	20 Budget Committee Meeting @930AM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Budget Committee Meeting @930AM	28	29
30	31					



We're Here to Help
Just call us at
541.547.3565



To Attend the Zoom meetings, go to www.YachatsOregon.org and scroll down to **UPCOMING EVENTS** And click the Calendar event you are interested in.

As changes can occur, subscribe to **NOTIFY ME** for meeting changes and Agenda/Meeting Material availability

WWW.YACHATSOREGON.ORG

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