



DECEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER



Physical Address: 501 HWY 101 N | Mailing Address: PO Box 345 YACHATS, OR 97498

PH: 541-547-3565/800-735-2900 TDD

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

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 Farewell Message

By: [W John Moore](#)



Yachats has always relied on volunteers to do much of the work of our City, and there are many ways you can participate in helping to make

our community better. The traditional volunteer positions would be serving on City Council or one of our commissions or committees, but there are many other ways you can volunteer your time. If you enjoy gardening, then adopting one of the beds next to the sidewalks on 101 is an option. We also need help folding newsletters at the end of every month.

Here are just a few things that I've done the last few years as a further example of some options.

About four years ago, when the Library was considering moving into the 501 building, the members of the 2+2 committee were having a hard time visualizing what the room would look like without the teller line taking up a big chunk of the space. I asked our City Manager at the time, Joan Davies if she would like the

teller line removed to open up the room as you now see it, and she agreed. So Michael Hempen, Bob Langley, and I came in with our tools and went to work, removing the teller stations first, then dismantling the teller line, and tossed it all into the dumpster. Two days work, and it was done, and we cleaned up nicely afterward—all at no cost to the City, except the dumpster rental.

You may also remember how disgusting the tables in the picnic shelter had become a few years ago. I rounded up several volunteers, and we came out one morning with our sanders, sandpaper, and paintbrushes and sanded down all of the tables and benches back to bare wood, then coated them with a clear sealer. We didn't post our pictures in the newsletter or Facebook – we just took pride in making them look new again.

I've also helped move books for the Friends of the Library book sales, including all of the "pop up" sales in the picnic shelter this year. A lot of book toting to set up and take down after each one, but well worth the effort. When you were so generous with donations to help the fire victims, I drove three full



pickup loads of donations over to the donation center in Toledo.

These are just a few

things, and none of these are dramatic – just little things that help our community be a better place. If you have an idea for a project you'd like to participate in that isn't currently being done, please contact our city office to suggest what you would like to do.

On a different note, after the election, I

received a number of heartfelt emails from colleagues around the state, expressing their thanks for my leadership at the state level. We have some terrific Mayors in our state, and it was indeed a pleasure to get to know so many of them while serving on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Mayors Association this past year. With a great deal of pride, I listened to the Governor spend 4 minutes of her 9-minute speech at the OMA conference this summer talking about the great things that Yachats was doing in our community. I brought Yachats back into the conversation at the state level in many ways. I hope we can continue that connection.

I want to thank those of you who voted for me this time and those who supported me two years ago, letting me serve this community as your Mayor. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. There are many ways you can volunteer to help our City – from the traditional of serving on a commission or committee to doing some of the little things, such as I mentioned earlier.

We all love living here – please be an active part of our community. Do what you enjoy! Thank you.

Thank you!

Mayor Moore
Council President Glenn
Councilor Tooke

Yachats Public Library

By: Sara Moore

When the library had to shut down in mid-March due to COVID concerns, Friends of Yachats Library immediately put up the Free Book Share shelves in front of the 501 building. During the next seven months, they gave away over 3,000 books, DVDs, and jigsaw puzzles. The level of participation in the community was extremely impressive! In October, City Hall moved to the 501, and the shelves needed to come down. Instead, there's now a free box in front of the library with books provided by the Friends during the hours that the library is open for reserved library material pick up.

The Friends continue their support, hoping to apply for a \$10,000 grant in January. They also offer higher-end donated books for sale on eBay and recently sold a donated original oil painting - all proceeds benefit the library.

Instead of the usual summer children's program, there were 11 weekly book giveaways during the summer. Some families came every week, depending

on the library to keep their children reading. The remaining books paid for by the Summer Reading Program grant were distributed during the City's trick or treat event on Halloween.

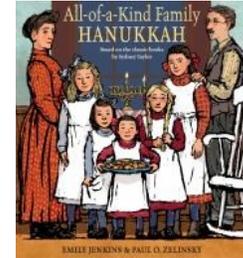
Patrons are encouraged to access the library's book reservation system through the City's website or call the library to request. We can reserve books, DVDs and audiobooks on CD as well as a selection of books for children.

There are sets of Christmas and Hanukkah books that can be checked out for children - some are picture books, but a few

are chapter books for ages 8-12. Other requests for subjects for children are welcome - please call - 541-547-3741 - and let us know what age group would be appropriate for the books.

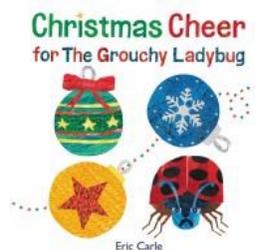
The new books we've received lately

are listed on Friends of Yachats Library's website, on Facebook, and also in the outdoor display cabinet at the library. There are familiar authors - Hilary Mantel's final book in her



trilogy about Henry VIII, a new book by Frederick Backman, author of a Man called Ove, and others, Elly Griffiths has several series of British mysteries - and so many more. I know these and many more would be attractive if you could come in and browse. Unfortunately, even the hours the volunteers can be in the library are limited, so please be patient if you call and need to leave a message - we do want to serve you, but these are challenging times.

Library hours for pick up of reserved books: *Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-3 PM.*



HAVE AN ISSUE?

Report a Concern

GO TO YACHATSOREGON.ORG

OR CALL
CODE ENFORCEMENT
@ 541.265.1963
HOTLINE OPEN 24 HOURS

Don't forget to subscribe/unsubscribe to different levels of messaging by logging on www.YACHATSOREGON.org and clicking on the Notify Me button.

A Message From Public Works

Now that the rains have come, Public Works staff will be inspecting the main sewer lines in the late evening to early morning hours, generally between 11:30 pm-6:30 am. These inspections help identify problem areas where water leaks into the sewer collection system.

The crew will be using the white City van and pickup marked with the City logo.

They will make every effort not to create any excessive noise.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yachats Public Works



11th Annual Yachats New Year's Day Peace Hike Takes on New Form This Year

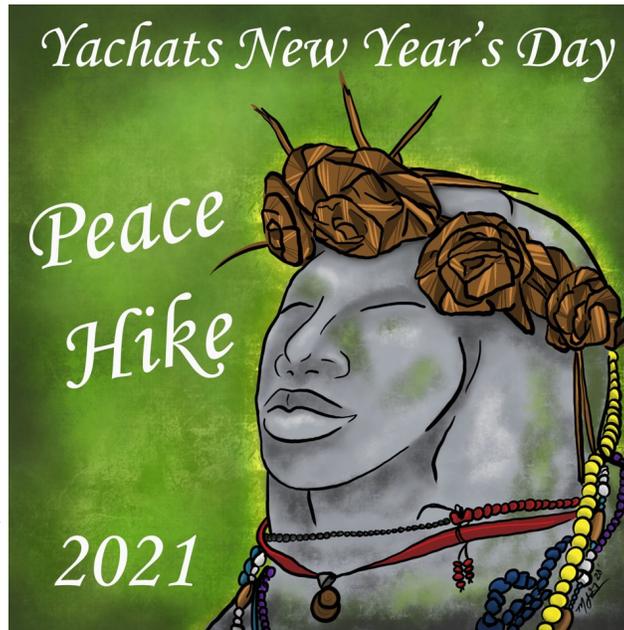
By: Jan Brown

In planning for this year's 11th Annual Yachats New Year's Day Peace Hike, the Yachats Trails Committee's first priority has been to ensure the safety of all who had planned to attend the event. Sadly, at this time, while COVID-19 cases continue to spread, we are not able to provide an adequate level of safety in our traditional face-to-face Peace Hike format. For that reason, we are asking that instead of gathering in one large-scale group this year, you instead conduct your own individual hike(s) or other special rituals that are meaningful to you – while of course still practicing current state and local pandemic safety mandates.

This year the event will not look nor operate the same as it has in the past, but its intent and the vibrancy of its spirit are unabated.

To get you started, we suggest that on January 1st you take the time to watch a video of Miluk Coos Tribal Member Patricia Whereat Phillips, linguist, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) narrating the Amanda story... a story that has been a revelation to many. The video (or further instructions to access) it will be posted on the City of Yachats (www.yachatsoregon.org), View the Future (www.viewthefuture.org), and

Yachats Chamber (www.yachats.org) websites. You'll be notified when it is available.



If you are looking for additional ways to find a place of peace within you, here are some other ideas:

You may want to take a walk or a hike near where you live, or visit the Amanda Trail on a quiet day. Sit with a loved one or alone in meditation. As with traditional Amanda New Year's Day gatherings, you may want to breathe peace into a sprig of cedar and release your wishes into a small fire or into the

air. You may want to sing... or dance! Whatever is in keeping with achieving or maintaining peace in your heart is the right thing to do. Then hold this peace in your heart when you engage with others and as the year goes on, courageously speak out against injustice, bigotry and callous perspectives on those who suffer.

If conditions permit during the New Years week you may also want to pick up this year's wonderful Peace Hike commemorative button created by Morgan Gaines Quuiich (Lower Umpqua) Tribal Member, CTCLUSI. We are looking into making them available through the City Visitor Center, the Yachats Chamber office or by sending an e-mail to yachatstrails@gmail.com. If requesting by e-mail, please be sure to include your name and mailing address with your request.

Watch for updates as the new year draws closer.

In the meantime, be safe, be well and take time to find, and share, the peace you seek within you.

Visitor Center

By: James Kerti

As we head into the cold months, we urge residents and visitors alike to follow public health guidelines, including in holiday celebrations.

You can follow the Visitor Center on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DiscoverYachats](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverYachats) or type Discover Yachats into the search box. Follow along there for updates, and do chime in! Our new website at DiscoverYachats.org may be live by the time you read this message. We're also in the process of launching our Instagram page. We are also in early discussions with local groups about planning in-person events for the second half of 2021, with the understanding that dates may need to be postponed as we get closer. More on events soon!

The Visitor Center continues to coordinate with local businesses, groups, and regional partners as we all try to navigate this difficult situation together. Be well and be safe this holiday season.

Planner's Corner

By: Justin Peterson

The City of Yachats Planning department has been busy processing building permit applications, answering property inquires, and preparing for Planning Commission meetings and City Council meetings.

Planning Commission has meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Planning Commission topics of discussion at recent meetings have included parking, lighting, natural hazards, and member recruitment.

The City website under Departments and Planning has information including maps, application forms, and other valuable information.



The Planner is available at planner@yachatsmail.org. In addition, the City of Yachats implemented a Report a Concern tool that is available on the home page of yachatsoregon.org

Yachats Pantry

By Pam Luderitz

First of all, I must rectify a glaring omission. Last month I thanked the people who worked so hard to set up the new shelves and omitted John Simmons. John works tirelessly behind the scenes and always answers a call to help, so forgive me, John. Additionally, we would be remiss not to include One of Us Productions, who also generously donated.

With people out of work for the last two weeks of November and probably longer, the Pantry is essential to the Community. Donations of food, clothing, or money to purchase food are always welcome. Since March of this year and through October, we have served over 2,000 people. I expect our numbers to rise again in the next few months. Any help will be appreciated by the families that we help to feed. All of the money donated goes to the purchase of food, and all of our workers are volunteers. If you donate and would like a letter of thanks for taxes, please let me know.

I hope you had a safe Thanksgiving and have a safe holiday season, and a much better New Year.

Little Log Church and Museum

By: Mary Crook

We at the LLC&M would like to send a big thank you to the staff at the City of Yachats' offices who helped put together the "Trick or Treat" trail around town for all us kids of all ages on Halloween. Maps of the walkabout were provided to local merchants who could remind their customers of this very cool event. Our Little Log Church was the starting point of the route, where board members Karl Christianson and Carl Miller, in their fabulous costumes, handed out treats to the many, many people who came by.

Thanks to our carillon tech Mark Shepherd, who put together a playlist of spooky music that pealed throughout the downtown neighborhood during the two hours scheduled time.

Grownups and kids alike really got into the spirit of things (if you'll pardon the expression). Where else but Yachats can you see a dad riding a green dinosaur down Third Street! Enthusiasm continued to carry over to the following month when Crystal Pickner, a nurse working at the flu shot clinic on November 12, came to me and told me what fun she and her family had on Halloween. She and her three children, a kindergartener, a 3rd grader, and a 6th grader, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Crystal said, "the walk was beautiful, and the family time was extra special."

Those of us who were lucky enough to get a taste of this special occasion did indeed feel like we were a part of the Yachats family. Can we do it again next year? Huh? Can we?



Let's Fight this Together:
Mask Up



The Whale Park

By: Andrea Scharf and Jim Adler

One of summer's pleasures in Yachats is to watch kids encounter the whale spout. They stand on the grass in the Whale Park, their eyes on the mound that represents the whale's back. Every minute, a six-foot spout of water bursts out of the ground. The children shriek and scream, run closer or jump back. The spout disappears and they cautiously inch closer and then—WHOOSH!!—there it is again, more screams, more shrieks, while laughing parents take pictures.

The whale arrived in the little park in 1991. Before it was a whale park, the lot on the corner of Yachats River Road and Highway 101 was the site of the Crab Shack, operated by Dave and Michiko Ryan. (Michiko Ryan was the Yachats City Recorder from 1977-88.) In the late Eighties, the property was donated to the City of Yachats. Although the donor was a member of the Yachats Lions, and the Lions contemplated a veterans' memorial with flags, plaques, and a small cannon, donors are not allowed to specify the use of land donated to the city.

The low rock wall at the back of the park reminded Jim Adler of a rocky coastline. He imagined a whale swimming by. Jim is a local artist/blacksmith who built a house and studio in the Yachats River Valley in 1975. He started making conceptual drawings with the serious intent of honoring the giant animals that swim past the town. Then someone came up with the idea of a spouting whale and Jim jumped to the challenge, figuring out a way to create the spout with a pressure washer. Jim built a model and brought it to the City Parks & Commons Commission, which approved it. When he brought it to City Council, councilman Burd Bicksler leaned over for a better look, the spout somehow went off and Councilman Bicksler got a face full of water.

The City Council approved the concept but felt they could not invest public money in art, so the Yachats Sculpture Committee was formed. But the Lions still wanted the veterans' memorial, so Jim made a presentation to the Lions. Most of them really liked the proposal and they withdrew their objections and lent their support to the project.

The Sculpture Committee went to work. Members included Tom Smith as chair, Karen Schuster as treasurer, plus Philip Schuster, Mary Welch, and Joni Bicksler. From the beginning, it was agreed that the fundraising campaign had to be fun.

And it was! Judy Grist d'Ville, Jim Adler, and Philip Schuster designed a couple of really nice posters and had them printed, using seed money donated by a philanthropic couple who lived in Yachats. They sent one of the posters to every household in Yachats, inviting people to choose the alternative poster if they wanted to—and please support the whale! And people did. Donations were speedy and generous. The Sculpture Committee received a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission. There were t-shirts, a huge auction (supported generously by many businesses throughout Lincoln County, plus an original painting by artist Michael Gibbons), and concerts at the New Morning Café. And there was the whale salute—donors greeted each other with the whale salute, which consisted of holding your hands at shoulder height and flipping them, like a whale's tail. If Yachats was ever going to have a reputation for whimsy, this was it.

The Whale generated a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. After Jim scaled out working drawings from

the maquette and took them to Farwest Steel in Glenwood, their Operations Manager Ron Berntzen, was so excited by the project that he donated their cutting services and transported the pieces to Portland for free. He got two posters and immediately put them up in his office.

The steel arrived at Marks Brothers Fabrication in Portland. They rolled the pieces and Jim and one of their welders assembled them. The Marks Brothers welder was really good—he re-did Jim's welds too.

Rod Smith, another Yachats resident, took his old beater truck to Portland to pick up the whale tail and bring it home. It was so heavy that the poor old truck stalled out and died on 99. The truck was fixed, and the whale tail continued its journey.

Leigh Green, the ex-postmaster in Yachats, ran a gyppo sawmill after he retired. He brought an ancient log loader to town, took the sculpture off Rod's truck, and put it in place in the park. The equipment was so old, Jim remembers, it looked like the operation was taking place a century ago.

Jim did the work to build up the shape of the whale and set the tail in place on a base buried two feet into the ground. He constructed the spouting apparatus and hooked it up to city water. Then he drove to the Valley and brought back a load of turf. When he got back to town, he was beat—but that turf had to be unloaded and laid.

Vince Bittle, a poet who lived in Yachats, showed up and offered to help. The two of them unloaded the truck and Vince laid the whole load of turf. Dyke Dame and Dave Miller had a yard maintenance business and they volunteered to maintain the park for

The Whale Park *(continued)*

By: Andrea Scharf and Jim Adler

two years, mowing interesting patterns in the grass above the whale.

The public inauguration of the Whale's Tail happened at the end of 1991. Larry Nixon showed up dressed as Captain Ahab, complete with a harpoon that Jim Adler had made for him. The first Halloween, someone put pumpkins carved as eyeballs on top of the whale.

The name of the whale is Bazalgette—look it up if you want to know what it means—and Jim maintained it until 2014, when the City took over its operation. With other duties, the Public Works Department had trouble keeping the pump running, so they asked Jim to rebuild the pump operation, which he did in 2020, with the intent that the whale will continue to spout for many years to come, to the delight of future generations.

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Article originally sponsored by View the Future



See you in the Spring!

Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program

By: Alice Beck

The Youth Program will be hosting several events over the holidays. On *Saturday, December 5th* in coordination with Yachats Fire and Rescue, Santa will be making an appearance around town starting at 1 pm. Look for Santa and some cute little elves on the fire truck! You don't want to miss it.

On *December 12th* from 1-3 pm there will be a toy giveaway. This is to help parents put things under the tree and not for children. It will be in the picnic shelter behind the Commons and regulated carefully to protect from Covid. Masks required and social distancing.



In addition, Santa will be making

phone calls and connecting with children over zoom. More details to come on that later. Please watch our Facebook page for more info.

If you are interested in donating toys or funds to buy toys, please contact the youth program at yfapkids@gmail.com to make arrangements for pick up or delivery. Checks can be made payable to YYFAP and sent to PO Box 151, Yachats. You can also donate using PayPal at the same email; please specify it's for the toy drive.



We also have our annual calendar on sale now to benefit local youth. You can find them in town at C&K Market or The Laughing Crab Gallery. They are also available on our website at www.yachatsyouth.org.

Thank you!

WWW.YACHATSORÉGON.ORG

The annual Solstice Bonfire, sponsored yearly by YAAS (Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences) will not be held this year.

Hopefully, conditions will allow the continuation of this event in 2021.



From the Desk of the City Manager

By: Shannon Beaucaire

Paving Project Between Ballfield and Skatepark (Driftwood)

As noted last month, our modified scope of work meets the grant requirements preserving the \$100,000 grant funding that will protect the city's water lines and address safety issues with the crumbling roadway. The engineers revised the drawing to reflect that scope and City Council approved moving forward with the revised drawings and proceed with developing bid documents. We will go out to bid in the January/February timeline for spring paving which will also meet the grant's timeline requirement.

City Financial Updates

We continue to monitor the City's financial position and the impacts of the pandemic. Council provided a balanced conservative budget in a time when no one could predict the impacts of COVID on our tourism driven town.

I am pleased that we are doing very well. Food and Beverage and Transient Lodging Taxes have been collected for the 1st quarter (July, August, September). Here is where we stand:

	FY2020-2021 Budget	Amount Received Year To Date (YTD)	% of Budget
Food & Beverage Tax	175,000	130,807.31	82.86%
Lodging Tax	492,992	390,312.95	88.94%

The good news is that the conservative budget we adopted back in July is on point for the moment. Yes, we have been impacted by the health pandemic with reduced revenues, but not as significantly as the budget committee anticipated. While we are not out of the woods yet, I thought we could all use some positive news right now.

If you wish more detail, our annual budget is published every year on the City website for transparency in the Document Center under Budget: <https://www.yachatsoregon.org/DocumentCenter/View/857/FY21-City-Budget>

You can also view the City's financial report and summary on the City website in the Document Center under the Reports folder: <https://www.yachatsoregon.org/DocumentCenter/View/1228/2020-10-Financial-Report-Council>

Community Holiday Tree

Our community holiday tree is scheduled to be put up on November 30th. Thank you to Pioneer for partnering with us again to cut, deliver, and set up the tree. Volunteers will be working on lights and decorations. We are still working on a 'virtual' tree lighting, so stay tuned for upcoming details.

Thank you Public Works for getting up our holiday banners and lights. With the addition of storm clean-up, and the bucket truck giving them difficulties, it was definitely a challenge and we appreciate you!

As always, feel free to email me at citymanager@yachatsmail.org if you have any questions or concerns.



Pictured (Left to Right): Shannon Beaucaire and Wendy Snidow

December 2020

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



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.



- * Having issues logging into Zoom?
- * Have questions or feedback?
- * Find a typo?
- * Want a quick tutorial on the website?

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

Just give us a call at 541.547.3565
or email us at CityHall@yachatsmail.org