



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

MAY 2009

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for City minutes and codes, receive/pay your bill, schedule/view Commons events, and more!

Quote of the Month

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

~Anne Bradstreet



Mayor's Message

By Ron Brean, Mayor

A park ranger I used to know was fond of taking popular songs and writing new lyrics for them to reflect a ranger's point of view. He took "Mr. Sandman" and turned it into "Mr. Ranger." It had a line in it that went, "Please turn off your flashlight beam, Mr. Ranger it's not what it seems." With a little imagination you can fill in the details.

He also took "I Love a Rainy Night" and turned it into "I Love a Rainy Park." The point of that being that when the rains fall and the temperatures drop caretakers of wonderful places often find themselves alone to enjoy a park in a way that cannot be achieved when park visitors come in flocks. His lyrics were meant for an "inside crowd" and not for public consumption. There was generally a slightly cynical bent that revealed the pressure of a long season of overwork and way too many public contacts, some of them not pleasant. It really was often a relief to see the first rains of winter arrive and the school buses back out on the roads signaling a chance to recover both for the park and for the park ranger.

But a few months of rain was enough to wash the cynicism away. When the migrating birds returned, the sun shone, and the flowers bloomed, the first thing a ranger did was to look around for someone to share it all with.

In many ways Yachats is like one of those beloved and oft visited parks. Those of us who live here enter into winter thankful that the roads are less trafficked, the beaches are more deserted, and that we recognize most of the faces at the coffee shop. We have our town to ourselves again. Even some of our neighbors opt for warmer climes leaving a more intimate and tighter community. But like my ranger colleagues, we love to share our town too.

Yachats is a town of sharing people. Perhaps its greatest strength lies in the willingness of its citizens to volunteer to share their time, talent and labor so that Yachats is a better place. Our library is run by all volunteers. Volunteers support the Yachats Youth and Family Activities program, the health clinic, the little log church, and the Commons. Even the City Council is all-volunteer. You cannot look around anywhere in this town for more than a few seconds before you see someone sharing.

As the migration continues, both of birds and of vehicles with license plates from distant latitudes, our community really blossoms. We will share our roads, our views, our stools and chairs in restaurants, and most of all our spirit. Plays, musical performances, crafts, produce, and local artistry in all its forms will be offered and received. Perhaps we need this season of sharing, long and intense, in order to be ready for the rain again. Or perhaps the energy absorbed from pounding winter storms is what powers our ability to give. I don't know which it is. I do know that I love a rainy park...but I also love sharing the sunshine.



Tsunami Awareness

Town Hall Meeting

By Betty Johnston, CERT Coordinator

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Many coastal residents remember the tsunami that struck along the Oregon coastline in 1964. This tsunami was caused by North America's largest earthquake, 9.2 on the Richter Scale. Only 45 years ago this tragic event resulted in five people in Oregon dying, including four children that were camping with their parents at Beverly Beach near Newport. A subduction zone that ruptured on the ocean floor off the Alaskan coast caused this massive earthquake. A devastating tsunami followed traveling 500 miles per hour to reach our Oregon shores. It also struck Vancouver Island, Washington, and the California coastline from Crescent City to Long Beach claiming 12 lives and causing millions of dollars worth of damage.

Was anyone prepared for such a devastating event? The answer is not at all. Governor Kulongoski recognizes that the people of Oregon, especially on the Oregon coast need more in-depth education to prepare them for this type of disaster.

The City of Yachats will hold a Town Hall Meeting at the Yachats Commons, May 13th in Room 8 at 6:30 p.m. The same experts that have been conducting workshops along the southern Oregon coast will be joining us for a very informative evening. We will learn how the tsunami warning system works, the critical difference between a local and distant tsunami, and the latest tsunami research being done at the coast.

For questions about the meeting or any disaster preparedness inquiries call me at (541) 547-4934.



City Council Chambers
By Debrah Edwards, Deputy
City Recorder

During the April 9, 2009 City Council meeting a motion to approve a payment of \$5,000 per year, for the next two years (2009-2010 and 2010-2011), paid as an advance within the next 30 days was passed. City Recorder Nancy Batchelder explained that it would be paid in this budget year and the Budget Committee would not accept requests for additional funds for the next two years.

Some attendees expressed their concerns over the fact that there has not been a clinic representative present at any of the Emergency Planning Steering

Committee meetings. Board member Gerald Stanley said that he would ensure that someone from the clinic is present at the next emergency planning meeting.



Burning Questions
By Frankie Petrick, YRFPD Fire
Chief

It is that time of year again when the yard debris has accumulated and needs to be disposed of. While we like to see folks recycling, we also know that Dahl Disposal hasn't yet instituted the use of "debris" containers. In the meantime please remember that your right to burn is dependent on several factors. There is a list of items that **cannot** be burned in the State of Oregon. Log on to the DEQ website <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/openburning/regulations.asp> and choose "Lincoln County" from the pull down menu or call the fire station at (541) 547-3266.

We currently issue permits for yard debris burning and burn barrels. There are restrictions about what can be burned, what can be used to start a fire, when to burn and how the smoke impacts neighbors. Burn permits are required but are free of charge. Currently they are being issued for two weeks at a time. That will soon change to one week and then will come to a halt on or before July 5, 2009 at dark. Remember you must call for a permit. Don't wait until the day you are ready, plan ahead to obtain a permit.

We do have a program for fire pit permits for backyard roasting of hot dogs, hamburgers and marshmallows. Those require inspections before being issued a permit for the summer. Please call us for more information.

As you might guess the more our area grows, the less tolerance there is for smoke. Think about ways to recycle, maybe partner with your neighbors to purchase or rent a chipper, compost, or transport to an appropriate area at a landfill. Most importantly, be ever mindful of the rights of others.



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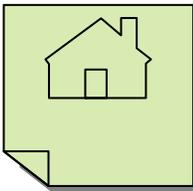


Public Works Department **By John McClintock, Director**

The official ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Yachats Waste Water Facility was held on April 9th, 2009.

The ribbon, made of toilet paper, was cut by Mayor Ron Brean and former Mayor Sue Smith. Also in attendance were members of the City Council, both past and present; representatives from the Dyer Partnership, the engineers who helped design the facility; and Wildish Construction, the contractor that built the facility. After the ceremony tours were given by public works personnel to explain how the new wastewater treatment facility operates.

If you missed the opening ceremony and would like a tour of the plant, please call the Public Works Department at (541) 547-3243 to schedule one.



Obtaining Building Permits **By Larry Lewis, City Planner**

The City has recently received several inquiries about when a building permit is required and what is the process for obtaining a building permit.

When is a building permit required?

Generally, a building permit is required whenever structural improvements are proposed.

Building permits are not required for residential window replacement, siding or roofing. However, if the window or door size changes, a building permit is required. If there are structural changes to the roof, a building permit is required.

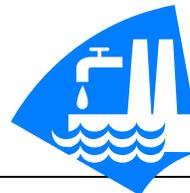
Building permits are not required for an accessory structure, e.g., a shed, for single family and two-family dwellings if the accessory structure is less than 200 square feet and under 10 feet in height.

If you have any question about whether or not a building permit is required, contact Lincoln County at (541) 265-4192 or the City at (541) 547-3565 on Tuesdays.

What is the building permit process?

1. The applicant completes the building permit and contractor's responsibilities forms, and three sets of drawings. Required drawings typically include a site plan drawn to scale showing existing and proposed buildings and setbacks from property lines, floor plans, building elevations and/or sections, and structural details. Application forms are available at the Lincoln County Planning & Building Department, Yachats City Hall, or online at www.co.lincoln.or.us/planning/building/applications
2. The applicant submits the complete application to the Lincoln County Building Dept., 210 SW Second St, Newport, OR 97365.
3. Lincoln County reviews the application to ensure all information has been submitted, and then forwards the application to the City.
4. The City reviews the application for compliance with Yachats Municipal Code standards, proper access, water and sewer availability, storm water drainage, and determines applicable System Development charges (SDC's) and water/sewer hookup fees.
5. Once the application is approved by the City and the applicant pays any required SDC's and water/sewer hookup fees, the City forwards the application to Lincoln County.
6. Lincoln County reviews the application for structural, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical improvements. Once the application is approved, Lincoln County contacts the applicant to inform them the building permit may be picked up at the County and pay the County fees.

Applicants for residential building permits should plan on a three week process from the time the application is submitted to the time they receive the building permit. The timing will vary depending upon the completeness and complexity of the application submittal. Commercial building permits generally take four to five weeks



Public Works and Streets Commission

By Walt Weyand, Chair

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One of the major issues confronting population centers in the immediate future is the provision of sufficient water for population consumption. In some areas of the United States, water is becoming a scarce commodity. Yachats is fortunate that its current water sources are adequate for today's population density. But what if more water is needed in future years as the City grows? What if the NW Pacific Coast undergoes a severe draught? Where will Yachats find additional fresh water?

The Water Code Under Oregon Law

All water is publicly owned. With some exceptions, cities, farmers, factory owners, and other water users must obtain a permit or water right from the Water Resources Department to use water from any source—whether it is underground, or from lakes or streams. Generally speaking, landowners with water flowing past, through, or under their property do not automatically have the right to use that water without a permit from the Department.

Prior Appropriation

Oregon's water laws are based on the principle of prior appropriation. This means the first person to obtain a water right on a stream is the last to be shut off in times of low stream flows. In water-short times, the water right holder with the oldest date of priority can demand the water specified in their water right regardless of the needs of junior users. If there is a surplus beyond the needs of the senior right holder, the water right holder with the next oldest priority date can take as much as necessary to satisfy needs under their right and so on down the line until there is no surplus or until all rights are satisfied. The date of application for a permit to use water usually becomes the priority date of the right.

Preference Generally

Oregon law does not provide a preference for one kind of use over another. If there is a conflict between users, the date of priority determines who may use the available water. If the rights in conflict have the same date of priority, then the law indicates domestic use and livestock watering have preference over all other uses. However, if a drought is declared by the Governor, the Oregon Water Resources Department can give preference to stock watering and household consumptive purposes, regardless of the priority dates of the other users.



Licenses Required

By Nancy Batchelder, City Recorder

Any homeowner within the City limits renting their home for less than 30 days at a time must have a Transient Rental License. Applications are available at City Hall or on our website at www.ci.yachats.or.us.

In addition, anyone hired to do work in or around your home must have a City Business License even if the physical site for their business is located outside the City limits. Please contact City Hall at (541) 547-3565 to confirm licensing or to obtain an application.



Friends of the Yachats Commons

By Don Niskanen, Friends

of the

The Yachats City Council, with input from the Commons Task Force, voted at their February meeting to enter into a private contract agreement with the Friends of the Yachats Commons Foundation to provide Commons User services. This decision was the result of an ongoing effort to change and improve the services provided to Commons users. In this new service model City staff has taken on the administrative responsibilities and the contract between "the Friends" and the City addresses those needs most often requested by users as well as providing that service at the required times.

The Friends have hired Leon Sterner to provide this service, with volunteer support as needed. Leon has been a fixture around The Commons from day one. The Council and the Task Force agreed that there was a certain level of support needed for renters and regular users of the Commons. The Friends, Leon and others have been providing this service for years on a volunteer basis.

Leon is on a flex-schedule 20 hours a week. He is available on Monday and Friday from 9:00 a.m.-

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12:00 p.m. in the Friends office located at the north end of the building. There are many evenings and of course weekends when events take place at the Commons such as music festivals, fund raising dinners, book sales, crab feeds, etc.

Leon is multi-talented and can handle stage lighting, sound, table arrangements, decorating, kitchen set-up, health department requirements and can easily spot potential problems and solve them before they happen.

The City Hall staff will continue handling all the reservation bookings, contracts, rental payments and the Commons Calendar. The calendar runs two years out, so you can easily log on to the City's Web site and see what is scheduled.

Leon also monitors the daily and weekly maintenance of the Commons. A good relationship with John McClintock, Public Works Director, ensures major maintenance problems are dealt with in a timely manner.

In its five month volunteer interim period and its three month contract period, things seem to be running smoothly at the Commons. Just this last week, the Commons hosted regular yoga classes, exercise classes three days a week, rehearsal for the YYFAP Talent Show, a Dinner/Dance Thank You for the Yachats Big Band, a Bob Welch Beachside Writers Workshop, and the YYFAP Talent Show.

There is no way all of these events would have been able to happen without a presence. Leon and other Friends volunteers were there to help make the transitions. It all worked and each group had a successful event.

The Yachats Commons is truly the heart of our Village. If you missed the 13th annual YYFAP Talent Show, you missed some of the most dedicated and talented young people in our Community and some very brave adults that also wanted to participate, as well as some "die-for" strawberry shortcake.

If you have an idea for a community event or some area of interest you think others would like to share, please contact the Friends, talk to Leon, or leave a message in the City Hall office. We, the Friends, will certainly consider it and see if it is possible.

Almost 20 years ago, there was a group of city leaders that realized the potential of the old Yachats Elementary School becoming the heart of this community. Their foresight should not be forgotten. The Yachats Commons has realized itself and has become our community center and the very heart of what is Yachats.



Yachats Farmers Market **Opens** **By Peter Karassik, Manager**

The Yachats Farmers Market will begin its 17th season on May 17, 2009. The market will be held every Sunday from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. through October 18 outside the Yachats Commons.

The Yachats Farmers Market is an informal gathering place where residents and visitors can browse, shop, and visit neighbors and vendors in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. There will be locally grown plants and produce and locally created crafts, all offered by the growers or craftsmen themselves. The Friends of the Yachats Commons sponsor the market. For more information, e-

mail me at yachatsfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



Yachats Public Library **By Marie Green, Library Commission Chair**

After the most successful book sale ever, the Public Library and Friends of Yachats library are getting ready for a busy summer. The outside planters have a new look with blooming spring flowers. Now that the construction is over next door, the library will have more parking spaces available. We are consulting with the Parks and Commons Commission about restoring the path to Yachats City Park, some planting to screen the wastewater treatment plant, and making the north entrance more visible.

The WI-FI system has been upgraded and has been extremely popular with seasonal visitors. The Library Commission has voted to add two hours to our summer schedule between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

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Patrons are urged to come in and vote. Should we add morning hours or be open until 6:00 p.m. some day besides Wednesday? Help us decide.



Little Log Church & Museum

By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

The month of May means getting ready for our summer visitors at the Little Log Church. Be prepared: for the first two weeks in May the sanctuary will be odiferous with the smell of paint and more paint! Leon Sterner will be giving the pews a make-over, trimming the baseboards, and other beautification enhancements. The museum will be open, but don't plan to sit in the pews unless you expect to stick around for a couple of weeks. We look forward to a fresh new interior for our next wedding May 16th.

Puzzler of the month: How many window panes front West 3rd Street? The second caller with the correct answer will receive a small gift from the Little Log Church and an acknowledgement in the next newsletter. Please call me at (541) 547-4547 with the correct answer.



In the Garden

By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator

By the time you read this the Darlingtonia (large pitcher plants) should be at the Little Log Church & Museum. Look for them behind our new bench. I am not sure I will have the other smaller ones in by then or not, but will try to have them there For you too.

A veRy big thank you goes to Jerry and Kathleen Sands for a donation of a very nice bird house for the property. If anyone else can donate one, we would love to include it too. Let me knOw by eMail, my eMail address is jodean@peak.org.

I just love this time of year at the LoG Church. Everything is starting to grow with new leaves and blossoms. Soon the Siberian Iris, 'Caesar's Brother' will be blooming soon. Don't you just love

the name of that iris? I will be splitting some of tHose up this fall, so if anyone wants a start, please let me know.

If yOu want to donate anything to The Little Log ChUrch, you can do so by making a donation to "The Friends of The Little Log Church" and mail to PO Box 712, YachatS, OR 97498. You can specify on your donation "for garden" if you so choosE. Any donation is tax deductible.

I have put some letters in this month's "In the Garden" edition in upper case, or capitalized, in places where they should not have been. It is a hidden message about something I've added to the grounds recently. The first one to eMail me with the correct answer as to what I've added to the grounds will receive a gift from your Little Log Church and Museum. I will tell you about this addition in next month's article. Again, my eMail address is jodean@peak.org.



Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program

By Debbie Jackson, Director

New Improved Yachats Food Pantry

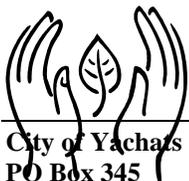
The Yachats Food Pantry has a new permanent home in the Yachats Commons. It is now located in an alcove off the south hallway in the Yachats Commons. In addition to a rack for non-perishables, a refrigerator/freezer is now dedicated to food pantry items. The pantry is open Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. (please enter through YYFAP after 4:30 p.m.) and is operated on a self-serve basis. Anyone in need of food is invited to use it, no questions asked. Donations are always welcome. In addition to foods of all types, paper products and pet foods are also in demand. The Yachats Food Pantry is a joint project of the City of Yachats, Helping Hands youth of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program, the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Renovations were paid for by public donations and by Helping Hands. Special thanks to the Village Bean employees and customers for donating Tuesday tips to the pantry, and also to the many volunteers who monitor the food supply and donate items. For more information, call me at (541) 547-4599.

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Yachats Commons Tree House Becoming a Reality

The Yachats Community Park has become a treasured part of the community of Yachats. It includes wetlands, boardwalks, ponds, benches, play areas, and abundant wildlife and native plants. It provides a place for citizens and visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy nature. When planning for the park began, back in 2004, the planning committee asked local children and youth for ideas. The number one suggestion was for a tree house. Of course everyone thought that was a great idea, and an easy one to implement. The Helping Hands youth group from the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program took on the task, made a plan and a model, and started the search for an engineer to draw the final plans. The reality is that building a tree house on public property is extremely difficult. The process included getting engineered plans and a building permit. Because tree houses are not standardized structures, most engineers were unwilling to participate. Finally, a firm specializing in tree houses agreed to work with us. The engineer made a trip to Yachats to inspect the trees, gave the youth a quick lesson on the issues involved, designed a plan, and shepherded it through the permit process. He did this at a drastically reduced cost. The final plan is beautiful and expensive. In order to comply with regulations, to be safe, and to protect the trees, many of the fasteners are specialized and the materials are expensive. Thanks to participation from local contractors and volunteers, we are able to bring the cost down to a manageable amount. Some money was raised for the tree house when the park was first developed. Still, an additional \$7000 needs to be raised. Helping Hands is determined to see this project through, and is planning a series of fundraising activities. The first was a well-attended Family Movie Night on Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 pm. at the Yachats Commons, sponsored by the Friends of the Yachats Commons. Watch for additional activities in support of the tree house, including an expedition to collect driftwood for the structure. For more information, call Debbie at 547-4599.



Yachats Helping Hands Wins State Award

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Debbie Jackson, YYFAP Director

A few years ago four young people in Yachats got together with the goal of contributing to their community. They called themselves Helping Hands. Those youth, ages 11 and 12, met with city leaders and learned about community needs, project development, budgets, decision-making, and teamwork. They chose a project, developed a budget, recruited volunteers, got approvals, and built and planted a Peace Garden on city property. Since that first project, the group has grown in numbers and activities. Their accomplishments include organizing annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations, offering regular Teen Open Mic Nights, establishing a local food pantry, expanding the food pantry by collaborating with local churches and the City of Yachats, installing pooper scooper signs and bags in the community park, making regular visits to an Assisted Living Center, and developing a website. Currently, Helping Hands is divided into two groups: Senior Helping Hands is composed of high school students, many of them veteran members. Junior Helping Hands members are middle school students, just beginning the journey of developing leadership skills and choosing their projects.

Helping Hands was recently awarded the 2009 Rural Award of Excellence in the Youth category by Rural Development Initiatives. The award honored a "young person or an organization of young people in a rural community who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to community values or have undertaken an important community changing project in the last four years." The award was presented at the state-wide Regards 2 Rural Conference, attended by over 300 people from all over the state of Oregon. To find out more about Helping Hands, visit their website at www.yachatshelpinghands.org.



Tai Chi at The Commons

For those interested in beginning Tai Chi, an ancient and gentle exercise program of movement and meditation, a practice group will meet for its first time on Monday, May 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in Room 3 at the Yachats Commons.

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Participants will meet each Monday and share the monthly cost of room rental. Wear loose fitting and comfortable clothing. Please respect this as a fragrance-free environment. For additional information please call Stacy Smith at 547-3410.



Need a Passport?

Nicole Clark, Passport Acceptance Agent

With travel to border countries such as Canada and Mexico as well as other countries now requiring a U.S. Passport or a U.S. Passport Card it's never too early to get your application in. The current turnaround time to receive a passport is approximately 4-6 weeks and with the new passport requirements and spring/summer upon us these processing times are likely to become longer.

Passport Renewal

For a fee of \$75 (regardless of age), U.S. Passports can be renewed by **mail** or **online** at www.travel.state.gov (Form DS-82) if the following criteria are met:

1. Passport is not more than 5 years past the expiration date
2. Most recent passport is undamaged and available to submit
3. The passport was issued after passport holder turned 16 years old
4. The passport holder has the same name or can legally document their name change

If the passport holder cannot meet all of those criteria or their current U.S. Passport has been lost or stolen then they must apply for a new passport.

Applying for a New Passport

1. Download a Form DS-11 from www.travel.state.gov or pick one up at City Hall
2. Carefully read and fill out the application to the best of your knowledge
3. Call City Hall at (541) 547-3565 M-F 8:30a-4:30p (except holidays) to make an appointment with a Passport Acceptance Agent
4. Bring in completed DS-11 form, 2 identical passport photos taken within the last 6 months, proof of U.S. citizenship, valid photo ID, and two checks or money orders—one made out to the City of Yachats for \$25 (execution fee) and

one made out to the U.S. State Department for \$75 (for those 16+ yrs old) or \$60 (for those under 16 yrs old) for the application fee

Additional information can be obtained at the National Passport Information Center by calling (877) 487-2778 or TDD: (888) 874-7793 Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Eastern Time or by logging on to www.travel.state.gov.



City of Yachats **90-day Notice of System** **Development Charge** **Modification**

The City of Yachats hereby issues public notice, pursuant to ORS 223.304, of its intent to consider adopting a Stormwater System Development Charge.

A technical report addressing the methodology and calculation of the proposed charge will be available for review after June 12 at City Hall or by calling 541-547-3565.

A public hearing to take comments regarding the proposed Stormwater System Development Charge is scheduled for 2 pm, Thursday, August 13, 2009 at City Hall, located at 441 Hwy 101 N. If you wish to comment but cannot attend the public hearing, please address written comments as follows:

City of Yachats
PO Box 345
Yachats OR 97498

Written comments must be received by 4:00 pm, Tuesday, August 11, 2009 to be considered.



Thank You From Yachats **Community Health Clinic** **Gerald Stanley, Board Member**

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Yachats Community Health Clinic, I want to thank the City of Yachats for its recent generous allocation of \$10,000 in support of the continued operation of the Clinic. The support of the City together with that of many generous friends of the Clinic, both in and outside of Yachats,

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is a great help to the Clinic as we pull ourselves out of debt and witness the continuous growth in the number of patients seeking medical service from Dr. Hylton and all the clinic staff. We look forward with hope to a bright future.

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The City of Yachats is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.