



# Agenda

## Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

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### Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

### Zoom Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>  
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;  
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

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### CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

### RECONSIDERATION

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [A.](#) Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

### VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

### STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- [A.](#) Library Director's Report
  - Stats for 2023
  - Stats for 2024
- B. Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul
- C. Legislative Report - Boardmember Finn
- [D.](#) Comp Plan Steering Committee Report - Boardmember Carsow
  - Unapproved CPSC Regular Meeting Minutes of May 6th, 2024

### PUBLIC HEARING

### PENDING BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Update on Library Needs Survey

Memorandum LAB-24-013 from Library Director as backup

[B.](#) Library Strategic Plan

Memorandum LAB-24-012 from Library Director as backup

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

[A.](#) Haas Appointment

[B.](#) Item from Boardmember Finn

[C.](#) Judgement on Ulysses

[D.](#) Benjamin Franklin

[E.](#) City of Homer Newsletter for April 2024

[F.](#) 2024 LAB Calendar

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute time limit)

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Session 24-04, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:30 p.m. on April 16, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS FINN, MCKINNEY, BAILY, FAIR, KUSZMAUL, CARSSOW, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER ASSELIN-MARTIN

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Finn read the supplemental items into the agenda STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS Item A. Library Director’s Report and the 2024 Monthly Statistics, INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS Item F. Brooklyn Public Library, Seattle Public Library Joint Report on Banned Books. A motion and second to approve the agenda as amended was requested.

CARSSOW/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)**

**RECONSIDERATION**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

KUSZMAUL/CARSSOW MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Library Director’s Report

Library Director Berry noted that the big news for the month of April is that the new office chairs have arrived. He shared that April 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> was National Library Week, and that the new library card designs are up and running. Other discussion topics included the following:

- Library needs survey.
- Potential of hosting a Human Library event at the library.
- Removal of the youth outreach group from the regular programs list.
- April 9<sup>th</sup> travelogue presentation from high school students who traveled to Australia.

Mr. Berry then moved onto staff notes, noting the following:

- Cinda Nofziger and some representatives from Friends of the Homer Library delivered a presentation to the downtown Rotary Club on April 11<sup>th</sup> regarding library programs and services.
- Western lot project is moving ahead.
- The soiree was a successful event.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – Celebration of Lifelong Learning.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> – Safe and Healthy Kids Fair at the high school.
- May 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Book sale at the library.

Boardmember Kuszmaul stated that the Human Library sounds like a fun project, and encouraged everyone to visit the library in Seldovia. Chair Finn echoed Ms. Kuszmaul, saying that she felt the Human Library event would be a great idea.

Boardmember Baily shared that he was at the Rotary on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and that the presentation from the library was excellent.

2024 Monthly Stats

2023 Annual Stats

B. Fundraising Report – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared that the folks with Moose Run Metalsmiths are still out of town in Hawaii. She reminded the group that some representatives from the Homer Foundation will be attending the next Library Advisory Board meeting to talk about the endowment.

C. Legislative Update

Chair Finn provided a brief legislative update, stating that there is \$750,000 in the budget for the library network. She also discussed school funding and the veto requirements.

D. Comp Plan Steering Committee Report - Boardmember Carsow  
CPSC Minutes for March 29, 2024



Chair Finn introduced the item and deferred to Boardmember Carsow. Ms. Carsow provided a quick summary of Agnew::Beck's first community visit to Homer. She added that this coming Friday the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has another meeting with the consultants to discuss what was learned during the first community visit. The group will also take a look at finalizing the online questionnaire at the meeting. Lastly, she noted that Agnew::Beck will be returning to Homer in May for another community visit to work with focus groups. Library Director Berry inserted that Agnew::Beck will be at the library for the purpose of public outreach meetings May 14-16.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Election of LAB Officers  
Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk as backup

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and asked for a motion on how the LAB would like to hold their elections.

MCKINNEY/CARSSOW MOVED TO HOLD ELECTIONS BY SHOW OF HANDS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Boardmember McKinney was nominated; he agreed to accept the position.

With no other nominations called out, Chair Finn declared Boardmember McKinney as Vice Chair and passed the gavel.

Vice Chair McKinney opened the floor for Chair nominations.

Boardmember Kuzmaul was nominated; she stated she would be willing to serve if there is no one else willing to do so.

Boardmember Baily was nominated; he stated that he would be willing to accept the position.

After a show of hands vote resulting in just one vote for Boardmember Kuzmaul and three votes for Boardmember Baily, Vice Chair McKinney declared Boardmember Baily as the Chair as passed the gavel.

B. 2018 Comprehensive Plan Reading Assignment  
Memorandum from Chair Finn/Vice Chair Kuszmaul

Chair Baily introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Boardmember Kuszmaul.

Boardmember Kuszmaul stated that the idea for this discussion came from the Comprehensive Plan Book Club, and that she felt it would be relevant for the Board to review what had been said about the library in the previous plan.

Library Director Berry reviewed the matrix on page 19 of the packet, noting that all of the information came as a result of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. He stated that some of the statistics needed updating, but that overall the trends are the same. He covered the following:

- I-G-1 Create technology fund.
  - Mr. Berry noted that there hasn't been a specific technology fund created through the City Finance Office, but that the library did create a depreciation schedule for essentially every piece of equipment that the library owned back in 2019. He added that the library has created a specific line item in the operating budget for subscription databases, and that the library has boosted more spending on the two line items that deal with computer-related items and tools and equipment. The changes come as a result of print-based media becoming more obsolete with the current trend indicating that things are moving to a predominately digital medium.
- I-G-2 Maintain training schedule.
  - Mr. Berry noted that this is an ongoing item that the library stays on top of.
- I-G-3 Continue to report usage and demand for services to the City Council.
  - Mr. Berry said that the library continues to report usage demands for services to City Council, and that the library has an annual report that is completed every year in addition to the monthly stats that are provided to the Library Advisory Board.
- I-G-4 Track demand for space and share information with others providing community meeting spaces.
  - Mr. Berry stated that the library is tracking demand for space, but that he's unsure if the library coordinates with other entities that offer meeting spaces.
- I-G-5 Identify and explore funding opportunities for operations.
  - Mr. Berry said that this is something the library continues to do, adding that the library has an endowment fund now that's actively receiving donations.
- I-G-6 Evaluate appropriate levels of service in relation to probable budget scenarios.
  - Mr. Berry stated that this is done on an ongoing basis, highlighting the strategic plan that the Board is tackling this year and the Comprehensive Plan as examples.
- I-G-7 Keep abreast of and comment on neighborhood developments.
  - Mr. Berry claimed that the neighborhood comes to the library. He provided that the library hosts various public events throughout the year.

When asked by Chair Baily where the LAB can improve to help out the library, Mr. Berry asserted that the only thing he could think of is fundraising. He commended the LAB on the previous work the Board handled roughly a year ago, hearing all of the various book challenges and overhauling all of the library policies.

Boardmember Kuszmaul noted that she would like for the narrative of the new comprehensive plan to be more forward-looking and more aspirational in terms of what the vision of the library is.

Library Director Berry stated that the library is projecting a need for more community space, including but not limited to: a larger meeting room, a teen room, more storage space, more meeting spaces, and repairs to the building. Although not directly related to the library, he also spoke briefly on the need for some kind of mass transit system within the City, noting that it's hard for people who don't drive to get to the library. He shared that he foresees the future of the library moving in a direction that is increasingly digital, but even with that being said it's still clear that people want physical access to the building.

Chair Baily shared that the Friends of the Library filed a grant request with the Homer Foundation for a comprehensive summer plan, which would cover the cost of the bookmobile and various other items. He noted that if approved, there would be at least several summer programs that would be available this coming summer.

Boardmember McKinney stated that he wasn't sure if statistics are valuable in regards to the comprehensive plan. He added that statistics are important for selling the ideas that the library wants to implement.

Boardmember Kuszmaul acknowledged the demand for physical upgrades at the library, noting that the building is approximately 20 years old now, and it was built with a 20 year horizon. She made a point that a focus on youth should be included as part of that expansion.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. American Library Association (ALA) Report
- B. Reappointment of Boardmembers Asselin-Martin and McKinney

Boardmember Finn noted that it was great that Boardmembers Asselin-Martin and McKinney have gotten themselves reappointed. Library Director Berry informed the Board that Boardmember Fair would not be seeking reappointment this time around.

- C. City of Homer Newsletter for April 2024

Chair Baily noted the new library cards in the newsletter. Boardmember Finn said that it was nice to see the virtual author talks in the newsletter. There was also brief discussion regarding the City Manager's position.

- D. 2024 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals
- E. 2024 LAB Calendar

Boardmember McKinney volunteered to report to City Council at the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- F. Brooklyn Public Library, Seattle Public Library Joint Report on Banned Books

Chair Baily noted the joint report in the supplemental packet. Boardmember Finn provided more background and read an excerpt from the website.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute time limit)

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Library Director Berry shared that he had a budget meeting with the Acting Interim City Manager and the Finance department, noting that a couple of requests had been submitted for interior renovation/decorating the library. He spoke briefly on the letter that the Board received from the Attorney General last November. He noted that the City of Palmer wrote a letter to the Attorney General asking for clarification on what his letter meant, and additionally they sent him a specific list of 56 titles that are currently being challenged in the Mat-Su Borough with a question posed on how exactly to apply the Attorney General’s instructions.

**COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS** (if Present)

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Boardmember McKinney thanked Boardmember Fair for his time with the Board.

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared her appreciation for Mr. Fair’s service. She also thanked Boardmember Finn for her chairmanship, specifically in the work she did leading the Board through the book challenges.

Boardmember Carssow thanked Mr. Fair for his time served with the Board. She then thanked Ms. Finn for her time served as Chair.

Boardmember Finn thanked Mr. Fair for his time with the Board. She thanked Boardmember McKinney for assuming the role of Vice Chair, and also thanked Chair Baily for taking on chairmanship.

Boardmember Fair thanked all the Boardmembers for their warm regards, and noted that the only two Boardmembers that were on at the time he joined were Ms. Finn and Ms. Kuszmaul. He thanked Ms. Finn particularly for leading him through moments like the book challenge that the Board dealt with last year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Baily adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

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ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

# Library Director's Report

April 30, 2024

## General Notes

April 7-13 was National Libraries Week. HPL launched its new library card designs and also launched the library needs survey, which will be available through July 31.

On April 9, students from Homer High School presented a travelogue about their trip to Australia. A dozen kids showed off pictures, told stories and raffled off small packages of vegemite.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning was spectacular! The event was sold out. Three students from DDF gave monologues, the silent auction went well, the food and music were outstanding, the trivia tree was a hit, and we had excellent speeches from both awardees (Spencer Co delivered recorded remarks, while Nancy Lord gave her speech in person). A stellar event all around.

## Staff Notes

I was out of state from March 23 to April 13.

Cinda Nofziger and two representatives from FHL made a special presentation to the Downtown Rotary Club on April 11. The talk covered programs and services offered by the library, as well as an overview of everything the Friends do, and wrapped up with a description of the western lot project.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 1
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 0
- Council: 1
- Department Heads: 1
- Other: Various sister-city meetings, IT planning for cybersecurity review, helping with Celebration of Lifelong Learning, running meeting for League of Women Voters

## Facility

All the chairs have arrived! I've heard from several people that they really like the new office chairs, which are much more comfortable. No comments yet on the new lounge chairs, but they're the same model as the old ones, so I expect people will be used to them.

### **Library Advisory Board (LAB)**

Boardmembers Baily, McKinney and Asselin-Martin renewed their terms on the board, and the LAB elected Doug Baily and Mike McKinney as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Many thanks to Kate Finn and Marcia Kuszmaul for filling those offices so capably!

Given that the City of Homer is currently revising its Comprehensive Plan, the LAB reviewed the library section from the 2018 Plan to see what needed updating. The overall trends identified six years ago remain in force: there is steadily increasing demand for space and materials, particularly for youth. The library remains a vital community hub, though we are seeing more and more demand for digital services.

### **Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)**

Deputy Director David Bernard filled in for me at the meeting. The board noted there are issues with the wi-fi and data ports on the public floor; these concerns have been relayed to IT. The planning for the Celebration of Lifelong Learning was well in hand. The board also discussed plans for the Spring Book and Plant Sale and the bookmobile's summer schedule. The text for the western lot signs has been largely finalized, and the committee is working on grants.

## **Ongoing Events**

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30: Chess Club

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30: After School at the Library

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 3:30-5:45: Live-Action Role Playing (LARP)

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Tech Help

Second Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45: Teen Advisory Board

Second Saturdays, 10:30-12:30: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Tuesday following the first City Council meeting of the month, 12:00-1:00: Conversations with a Councilmember (schedule may vary depending on availability)

## Special Events

- Apr. 2, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Smithsonian curator Paula J. Johnson on the book *Smithsonian American Table: The Foods, People and Innovations That Feed Us*.
- Apr. 5, 10:00-3:30: Homer Eyecare.
- Apr. 5, 6:00-9:00: Defenders of Wildlife.
- Apr. 9, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author Talk with Colum McCann and Diane Foley on their book *American Mother*, about the murder of Foley's son by ISIS terrorists.
- **Apr. 9, 5:30-7:30: Homer High School students present a travelogue about their trip to Australia.**
- Apr. 9, 5:45-7:30: Surfrider Kenai Peninsula.
- **Apr. 11: Cinda Nofziger, Cheryl Illg and Lyn Maslow present to the Downtown Rotary Club about the western lot project, as well as library and Friends of the Library programs.**
- Apr. 11, 5:00-7:00: Food Not Bombs.
- Apr. 12, 10:30-12:00: Let's Talk Politics.
- **Apr. 12, 2:30-4:30: Library staff play Dungeons and Dragons with teens.**
- Apr. 16, 6:15-7:45: Kachemak Bay Swim Club.
- Apr. 17, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk with Xochitl Gonzalez, author of *Anita de Monte Laughs Last*, about art and society in New York of the late 1990s.

- **Apr. 20, 6:00-8:00: Celebration of Lifelong Learning, featuring food from the Tickled Pear, desserts from BB's Bakery, live music, a silent auction and a trivia tree. Monologues from three DDF students. Congratulations to Nancy Lord and Spencer CO, the adult and youth winners, respectively!**
- Apr. 23, 11:00-12:00: Independent Living Center.
- Apr. 25, 5:00-7:00: Food Not Bombs.
- Apr. 26, 2:00-3:30: Homer Drawdown.
- Apr. 27, 9:00-2:30: League of Women Voters statewide meeting.
- Apr. 30, 1:30-4:00: Homer Pickleball Club.
- **Apr. 30, 4:30-6:00: Crafternoon for teens and tweens.**
- May 1, 11:00-12:00: Virtual author talk with Douglas Brunt, author of *The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel: Genius, Power and Deception on the Eve of World War I*, about the disappearance of the inventor of the diesel engine on Sept. 29, 1913.
- May 4, 11:00-2:00: Pier One Theatre.
- **May 4, 11:00-2:00: Bookmobile at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair.**
- May 4, 3:00-4:30: Seed and Soil.
- May 8, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk with Nina Simon, author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*, about three amateur sleuths investigating a murder next door.
- **May 10-11: Spring Book and Plant Sale.**
- **May 13, 4:30-5:45: Wii sports for teens and tweens.**
- **May 14, 1:00-4:00: Outreach session with Agnew::Beck on the Homer Comprehensive Plan.**
- **May 15, 10:00-12:00: Outreach session with Agnew::Beck on the Homer Comprehensive Plan.**
- May 15, 12:00-2:30: Michael Baker International/Alaska Energy Authority.
- **May 16, 10:00-1:00: Outreach session with Agnew::Beck on the Homer Comprehensive Plan.**
- May 21, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk with Rebecca F. Kuang, author of *Yellowface*, about envy and racism.
- May 21, 6:00-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- May 27: Library closed for Memorial Day.



Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 16-May-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
<b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>	<b>11,912</b>	<b>11,843</b>	<b>12,613</b>	<b>11,546</b>	<b>11,646</b>	<b>12,422</b>	<b>13,492</b>	<b>15,594</b>	<b>14,813</b>	<b>14,008</b>	<b>14,064</b>	<b>13,681</b>	<b>157,634</b>
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289	9,449	8,728	8,933	9,900	10,782	12,842	11,907	10,991	10,976	10352	123,471
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108	116	90	109	111	128	121	115	106	120	122	1,337
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408	2,984	2,655	2,507	2,327	2,408	2,465	2,665	2,754	2,771	2938	31,325
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22	36	26	27	32	51	30	20	13	32	29	346
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16	28	47	70	52	123	136	106	144	165	240	1,155
<b>INTERLIBRARY LOANS</b>													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14	17	24	13	7	20	21	14	14	14	18	200
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6	22	14	26	11	20	23	30	13	25	9	217
<b>BUILDING USE</b>													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500	12,884	12,022	13,253	12,711	10,327	9,676	9,734	8,109	7,800	7427	125675
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219	244	236	237	224	188	256	220	216	212	158	2610
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361	434	426	397	371	283	441	446	414	372	302	4583
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28	36	25	16	34	20	18	25	25	21	21	309
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205	238	229	162	383	220	161	230	166	187	151	2614
<b>INTERNET USE</b>													
<b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>2,612</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>25,595</b>
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055	1,401	1,372	1,533	1,763	1,588		1,553	447	1,112	995	13825
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785	1,109	852	894	1,088	1,107	1,226	1,059	1,080	957	918	11770
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966	5,143	4,332	5,041	5,442			2,273	2,789	3,026	2601	39,333
<b>PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)</b>													
<b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>13504</b>
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597	725	662	910	854	751	984	952	872	878	851	9706
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160	143	63	150	217	170	67	78	41	109	37	1411
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26	72	44	34	69	57	36	73	28	12	11	476
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44	161	58	85	80	49	76	84	159	344	49	1252
*Programs for All Ages	24	106	0	88	27	122	34	37	4	49	142	26	659
<b>OUTREACH</b>													
# Events	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	3	2	5	2	4	31
# People	12	8	14	17	18	11	3	4	11	9	15	11	133
<b>NEW CARDS ISSUED</b>													
City	41	33	27	26	28	38	31	32	30	34	25	23	368
Borough	30	32	25	26	17	30	30	32	33	32	22	17	326
Temporary	0	1	0	0	1	5	3	4	2	1	2	0	19
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	1	0	1	1	16
<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>													
# of people	73	67	55	65	39	58	57	60	63	72	61	66	736
# of hours	312	227	150	233	198	173	157	196	240	163	215	202	2466
<b>MATERIALS ADDED</b>													
Books	324	180	143	311	265	190	125	303	189	213	127	185	2555
Audio	7	7	23	11	19	8	6	7	5	12	19	17	141
Video	56	31	26	46	74	20	32	18	15	19	7	38	382
Serials	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	31	61	32	52	16	0	13	0	0	53	67	136	461
<b>MATERIALS REMOVED</b>													
Books	523	216	326	95	359	412	88	98	51	141	110	52	2471
Audio	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	8
Video	0	0	3	15	0	78	33	23	93	1	3	0	249
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>REVENUES DEPOSITED</b>													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1037.00	0.00	1101.00	971.00	915.00	1020.00	1709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	10,315.37
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>865.00</b>	<b>1,037.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,101.00</b>	<b>971.00</b>	<b>915.00</b>	<b>1,020.00</b>	<b>1,709.00</b>	<b>900.00</b>	<b>906.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>891.37</b>	<b>\$10,315.37</b>

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Note 3: Gate count for July may be low due to equipment failure.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 16-May-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
<b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>	<b>14,636</b>	<b>14,431</b>	<b>15,039</b>	<b>14,426</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58,532</b>
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	11,344	11,115	11,546	11,133									45,138
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	90	75	83									339
*Alaska Digital Library	2,936	2,975	3,219	2,990									12,120
*Flipster e-magazines	41	18	36	18									113
*Kanopy streaming video	224	233	163	202									822
<b>INTERLIBRARY LOANS</b>													
Incoming (Borrowed)	19	11	12	11									53
Outgoing (Lent)	28	26	24	28									106
<b>BUILDING USE</b>													
Gate Count	8,880	8,111	8,662	8,564									34217
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	266	238	229	206									939
Study Rooms (# of people)	499	454	442	373									1768
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	27	30	36	34									127
Meeting Room (# of people)	206	214	309	213									942
<b>INTERNET USE</b>													
<b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>3,065</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,713</b>
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,169	2,190	1,923	1,926									7208
*Hardwired Internet sessions	1,146	1,098	1,122	1,139									4505
Website visits (sessions)	3,415	3,136	2,813	2,861									12,225
<b>PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)</b>													
<b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4745</b>
*Programs for Age 0-5	900	884	922	990									3696
*Programs for Age 6-11	31	47	62	24									164
*Programs for Age 12-18	26	16	41	37									120
*Programs for Age 19+	150	134	196	131									611
*Programs for All Ages	98	20	2	34									154
<b>OUTREACH</b>													
# Events	3	1	2	2									8
# People	11	9	9	9									38
<b>NEW CARDS ISSUED</b>													
City	38	24	20	25									107
Borough	19	28	21	20									88
Temporary	1	0	0	0									1
Reciprocal	0	0	3	1									4
<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>													
# of people	71	75	76	90									312
# of hours	248	217	243	251									959
<b>MATERIALS ADDED</b>													
Books	287	219	155	248									909
Audio	9	9	11	25									54
Video	41	34	33	29									137
Serials	0	0	0	0									0
Electronic Resources	50	41	60	28									179
<b>MATERIALS REMOVED</b>													
Books	73	25	57	106									261
Audio	21	74	4	8									107
Video	0	101	1	34									136
Serials	1	0	0	0									1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0									0
<b>REVENUES DEPOSITED</b>													
Fines/Fees/Copies	1000.00	791.00	1453.00	1405.60	371.61								5,021.21
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants	725.00												725.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,725.00</b>	<b>791.00</b>	<b>1,453.00</b>	<b>1,405.60</b>	<b>371.61</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$5,746.21</b>

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Session 24-06 a Regular Meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was called to order by Acting Chair Shelly Erickson at 3:30 p.m. on May 6, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS BARNWELL, DAVIS, ERICKSON,

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER CARSSOW

STAFF: CITY PLANNER FOSTER  
INTERIM CITY MANAGER/CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

CONSULTANTS: SHELLY WADE, AGNEW::BECK

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Acting Chair Erickson announced the supplemental item, a flyer for the event at Alice's Champagne Palace.

BARNWELL/DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2024

BARNWELL/DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

**REPORTS**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Community Visit #2 & Steering Committee Opportunities & Roles

Shelly Wade reviewed the updated schedule for the May 13 through 17 community visit #2. This event will share results from last visit in April and start developing the community snapshot and emerging themes and policies. The week's schedule includes attending meetings with City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, and Parks Art

Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, open meeting times at the Homer Public Library, an event at Alice's Champagne Palace, and additional meeting with community partners.

- B. Public Participation Plan Refresher – key activities and update on more recent engagement activities – interviews, survey, etc.

Ms. Wade reported there have been over 100 responses to the survey in the first week. Members shared that the business cards with the QR code have been great for handing out to citizens, and they discussed having them available for Council Members and Commissioners to get some at their meetings to have in their pockets to hand out when they're out an about.

The Task Force confirmed their next meeting Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> for a visit 2 debrief, and agreed to cancel the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. They will discuss future meeting scheduling on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Comprehensive Plan Rewrite – Flyer for Event at Alice's Champagne Palace

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Mayor Castner commented the Commissions meet in May and it's important that they have a deadline in June to get their weighted recommendations to the consultants. Regarding growth, his interpretation of growth is geared toward population as people notice crowding. He'd be happy to record a public service announcement as the Mayor promoting this process. He noted the Comp Plan is broad strokes and the minutia comes later through policies from Council. He introduced Avram Salzman in the audience, and emphasized the important role of the Steering Committee in this Comp Plan process.

Jan Keiser, city resident, commented as the Homer Soil and Water Conservation Districts designee to follow along and report back to the District and help facilitate decision making. They expect to have some recommendation from the Board sometime within the next few months. She's interested in getting the Meeting in a Box information to help with the conversation. She reported the Guiding Growth Group will be hosting an energy conversation, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. as part of the Comp Plan Book Club meeting, and invited Agnew::Beck to attend.

### **COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF**

There were no comments from staff.

### **COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE**

Member Davis had no comments.

Member Barnwell commented about the importance of clarifying the difference between the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code as some find it confusing.

Acting Chair Erickson commented she's enjoying engaging with people about the Comp Plan and hearing about what they're thinking.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Task Force Acting Chair Erickson adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **Friday, May 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held via Zoom Webinar and in person in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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Melissa Jacobsen, Interim City Manager/City Clerk

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_



# MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## Library Needs Survey—Responses Through 5/14/24

**Item Type:** Action memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Library Advisory Board  
**Date:** May 14, 2024  
**From:** Dave Berry, Library Director  
**Through:** Zach Pettit, Deputy City Clerk I

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The Library Needs Survey has been up and running since April 7. Early results are skewed towards older people and very heavily skewed towards frequent users of the library.

In an effort to get a more representative sample of Homer, we're broadening our advertising:

- The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to spread the word about the survey in their newsletter and on social media.
- Cinda will integrate the survey into some Summer Reading Program events for kids and get the Teen Advisory Board to complete it.

### **Recommendation:**

Encourage more people to take the survey, particularly from demographics we're not currently reaching.

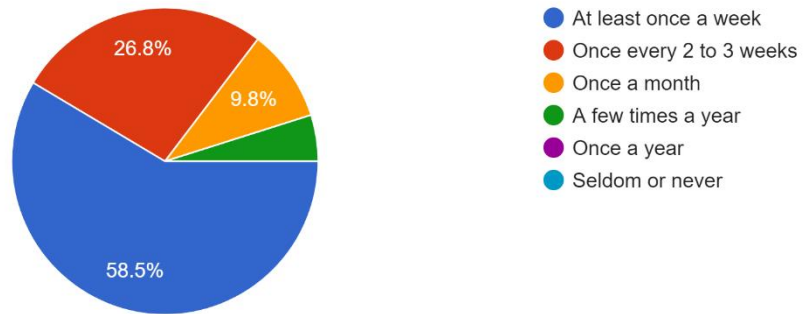
### **Attachments:**

Library Needs Survey—Responses Through 5/14/24

# Library Needs Survey: Reponses Through 5/14/24

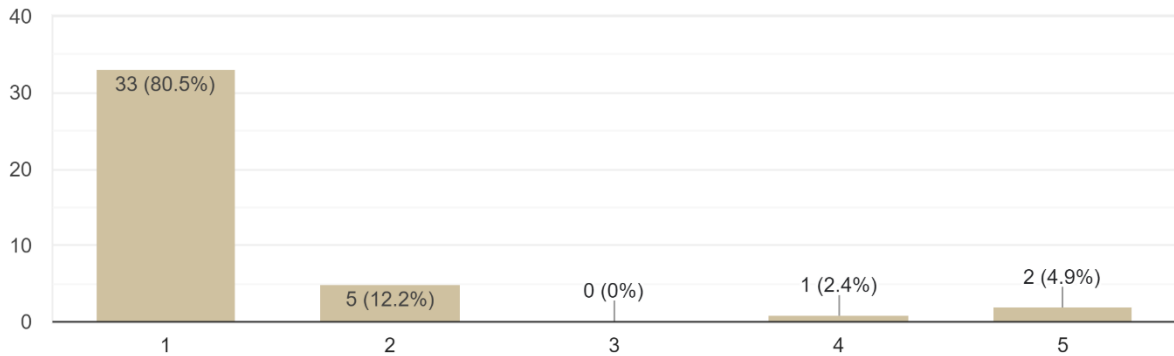
1. How often do you come to the Homer Public Library?

41 responses



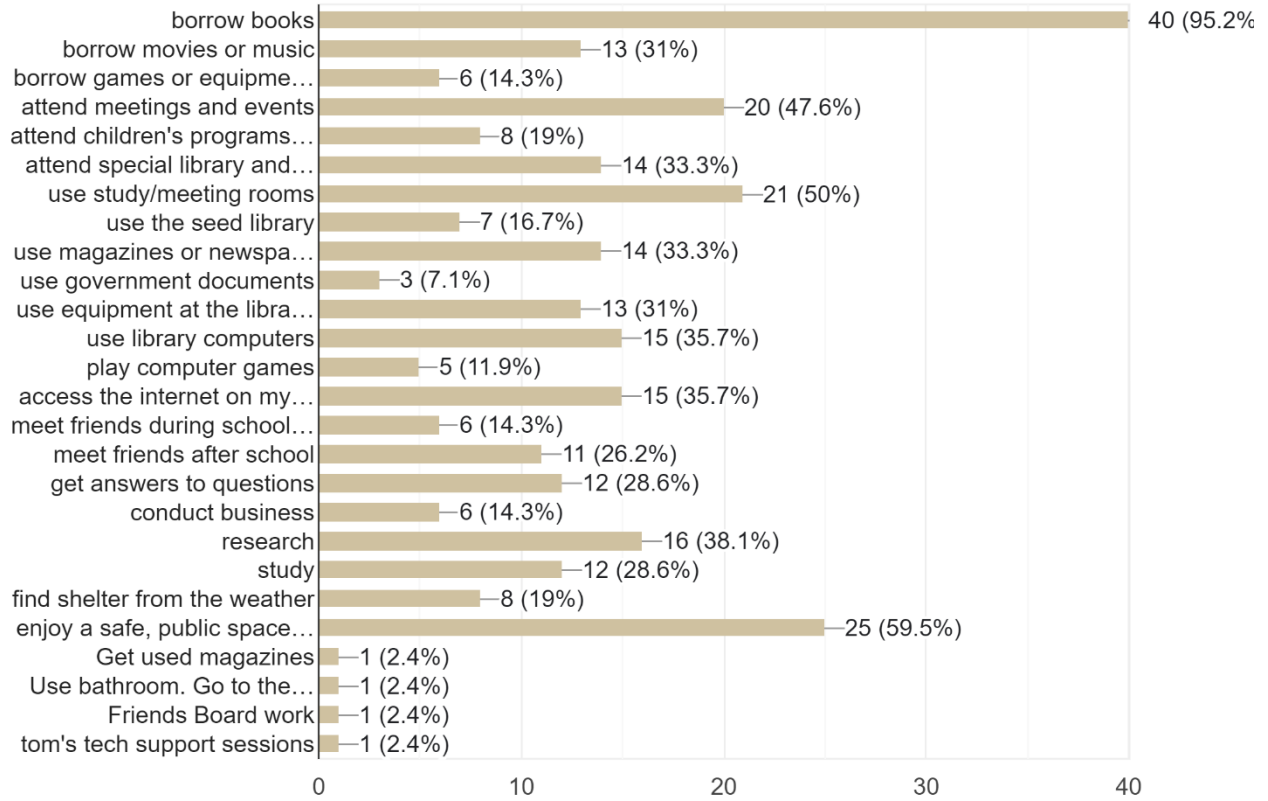
2. How well do you feel the library meets your needs and desires?

41 responses



### 3. What do you come to the library to do? (Check all that apply)

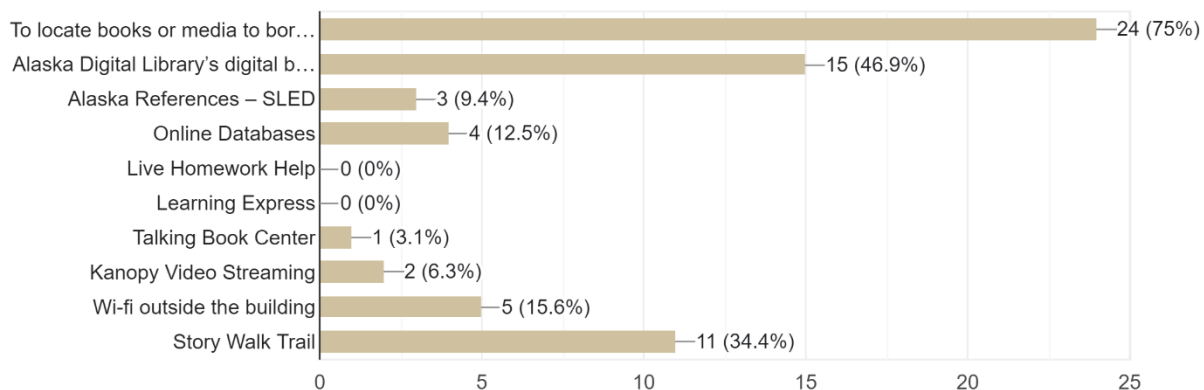
42 responses





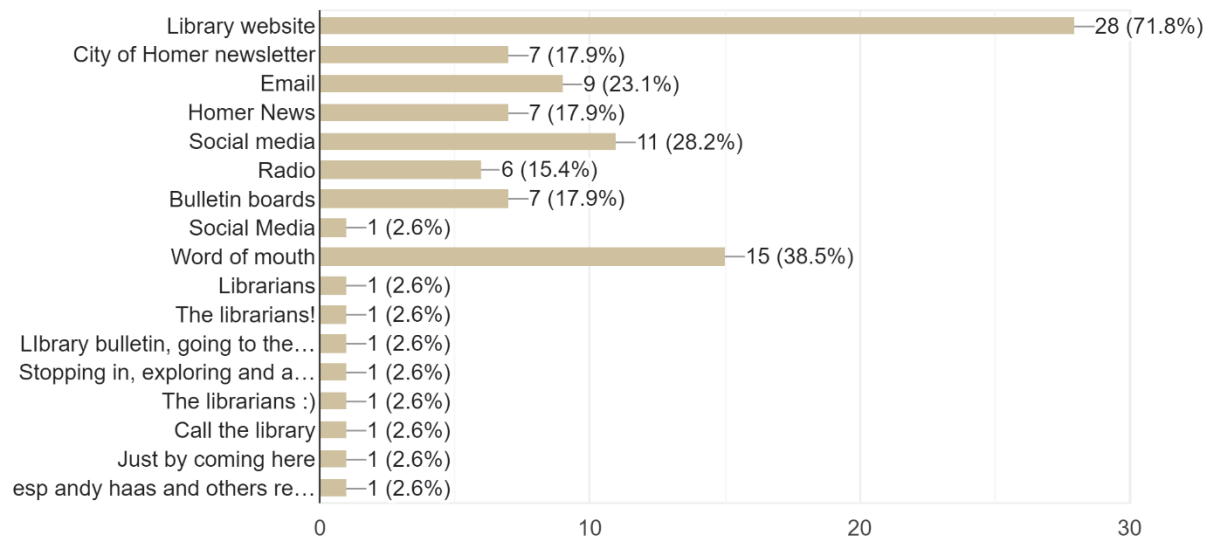
4. What library resources do you access from outside the library? (Check all that apply)

32 responses

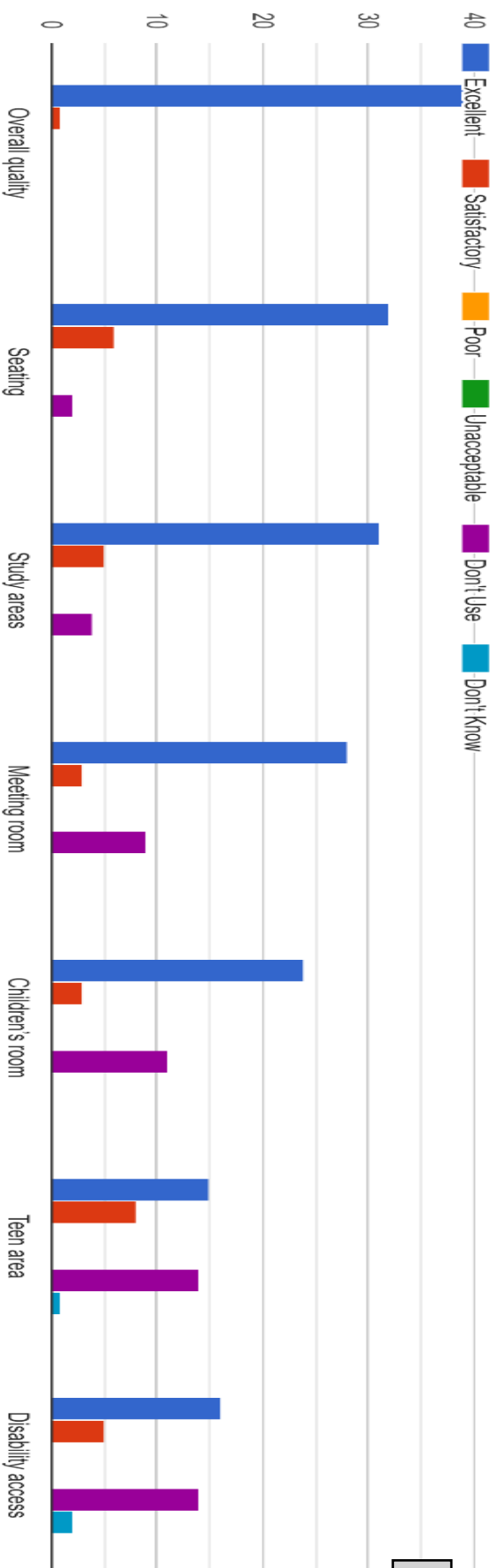


5. How do you find out about what the library offers? (Check all that apply)

39 responses



### 6. What do you think of the Homer Public Library facility?



## 7. How could the library improve its services and programs for you and your family?

18 responses

More meeting space

I think it is perfect the way it is.

More books! More graphic novels for kids!. More Afterschool programs!

Sometimes the meetings get a little noisy.

School kids go to the library after school to wait for their parents to get them. It's a de facto Boys & Girls Club. They can be "spirited" and noisy. This can be disruptive when I'm trying to read or do research. They need to be advised to respect other library users.

Sunday hours, later evening hours.

Staff professionalism, help and friendliness is excellent. Maybe more tech help and tech classes.

Digital access to magazines I like.

The Bookmobile visits the preschool I run every summer! (Yay!) Possibly offering a study room with internet outside of library hours, like 8 am Fri/Sat.

Can't think of any

Great view nice building

Could really use OPEN OFFICE. Get Open Office, allow print from personal device.

It's fine!

Children's room is kind of dirty. Don't allow people to use computers for adult content.

Sometimes it's really cold

Keep doing what you're doing--don't ban books!

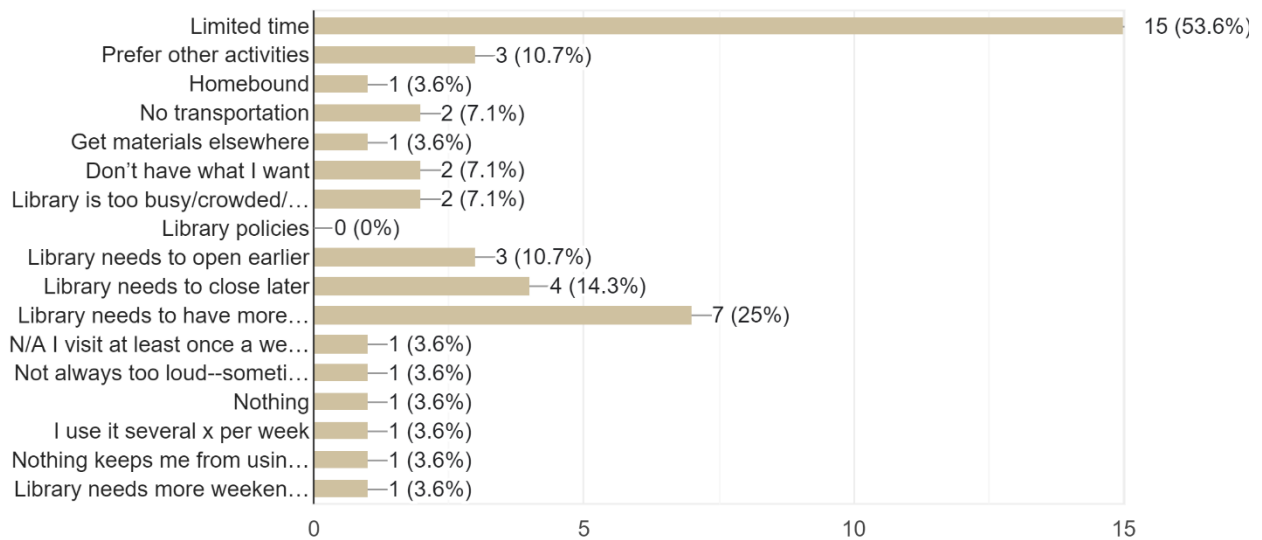
Open on Sundays, too!

we love the library and its staff and the Friends! we'll think about what room for improvement is - what do the librarians suggest? (We'd like to hear!) maybe a HPL book club -- like the Big Read/discussions of books we like? we appreciate the library' guest speakers/authors...(in history: really liked the library working with hospice/Alzheimer's resource center to offer crossover/collaborative events/talks/New Yorker cartoonist/virtual Alzheimer's-dementia tour (learned a lot!) glad that there are good things like chess club for young people - maybe you can have intergenerational events/challenges for critical thinking...? (maybe the Friends can create a book club which invites people to read on some theme and individuals choose/bring/read/"report" verbally on their own book at the meetings...(Groups in community can make suggestions on a theme....i.e. the knitters and fisherman groups could give suggestions on fiber arts and fishing themes...(wine and snacks are always good!?) then reader could read whatever fits before the meeting and give it a thumbs up or down....Farmers....we have suggestions! We SO appreciate Lifelong Learners awards/talks that include/expose us to wonderful local young people and inspire us and so many/make us proud of our community. thank you for resources for general/specific groups/interests in the community (subscriptions to publications like a Growing for Market for farmers, arts, fishing, wildlife conservation a(maybe add subscriptions to groups like Oceana?) Can The Friends/library patrons support that? Maybe add some rocking chairs

(indoor and outdoors)? we love reading in rocking chairs. Thanks for encouraging meeting room use (could be expanded capacity). We encourage intergenerational connections and creativity. We appreciate the art in the library/energy efficiency and thawed concrete to walk in on in the icy seasons!! thank you for your consideration!  
 Enlarge conference room and teen area

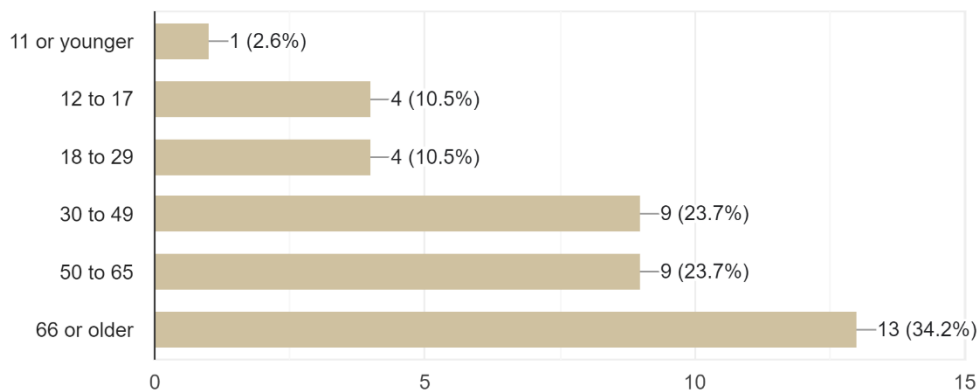
### 8. What keeps you from using the library more often? (Check all that apply)

28 responses



### 9. What is your age?

38 responses



## 10. Please list any programs or services you found out about from this survey.

10 responses

None

talking book center

It would be great if the library could provide access to Consumer Reports Online like some other library systems provide.

Digital books and audio books

SO many! Thank you for everything you offer. The facilities are beautiful, I LOVE the study rooms, and I love the used book sales and free books.

That there are many. I love this library and the staff is super kind and helpful.

HW Help!

Borrowing equipment

I have been meaning to look into the options of streaming library videos/other audio options from home (like Kanopy.) How can we help HPL? (we should look into becoming "Friends"!) Can our Amazon or other purchases support HPL? (i.e. "Amazon smile"? - currently we support Covenant House in Anchorage...) simple things you can suggest to us and the community? Thank you!!!! Homer is SO much better because of HPL!!! I hope my typing/ideas make sense! Have a great day!



# MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## First Draft of Library Strategic Plan

**Item Type:** Information memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Library Advisory Board  
**Date:** May 14, 2024  
**From:** Dave Berry, Library Director  
**Through:**

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Library staff, the Friends of the Library and the LAB are in the process of revising the library's strategic plan for 2025-2029. I have attached a first draft with some supporting documentation. General suggestions are welcome, but we're nowhere close to the copy-editing stage.

### **Recommendation:**

For discussion.

### **Attachments:**

Library Strategic Plan—Draft of 5/14/24

Circulation statistics

Library Endowment Fund by Fiscal Quarter

# Homer Public Library

## Strategic Plan 2025-2029

DECEMBER 2023

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## Executive Summary

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## Mission Statement

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The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.

## Interpretation of the Mission Statement

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The library is a general-purpose facility that provides basic, introductory-level assistance with many social and educational needs. The library is:

- A community center
- An information resource
- A gathering space
- A place for private study
- A place for self-directed entertainment

The library is not a specialized facility which provides in-depth, long-term services or unique materials. The library is not:

- A museum
- An archive
- A school
- A shelter
- A counseling center
- A daycare facility

## Major Efforts, 2020-2024

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The major thrust of the past five years has been modernizing the library's operations and positioning it to handle increasing demands from a growing population.

**Administratively**, we have overhauled the library’s structure, cross-trained staff and streamlined some processes. Some behind-the scenes tasks, such as managing money, ordering materials and analyzing circulation stats, have been automated or simplified. We created a Deputy Director’s position and promoted the library from a division to a department. During 2023, we completely overhauled all the library’s policies and procedures to formalize and clarify our operations. The City abolished library fines in 2020 and instituted automatic renewals in 2023. In 2022, we expanded operations by partnering with the City parks division to install little free libraries in five parks.

In the **technology** area, we have upgraded numerous systems. Zoom programming and outdoor wi-fi began in 2020. In 2021 we installed self-checkout machines and replaced the library’s copper data cable with a fiber line, which massively increased service speeds. In 2023, the library catalog was moved to the cloud and upgraded from version 3.1 to version 3.11 of the Evergreen software. We’ve added various gadgets to the items available for checkout, including laptops, wireless hotspots, sun lamps, digital projectors, video games, a DVD/Blu-ray player and a phonograph. From 2021 through 2023 the library director also supervised the City IT department, which has been reorganized and expanded.

We are taking ongoing steps to make the library more **sustainable** over the long term. The City launched a library endowment fund with the Homer Foundation in April 2020, and as of the end of 2023, the principal has grown to over \$56,000. In partnership with the parks division, we’re reducing maintenance on the library grounds by replacing ornamental gardens with grass beds. There is an ongoing project to improve facilities on the western lot by resurfacing the trail, adding informational signage and benches, and creating play spaces for children. Various furnishings, building components and essential equipment have been replaced or upgraded, including the lights, chairs, boiler components, alarm system, security cameras, microform reader, front-door switch, interior wi-fi nodes, servers, photocopier, pay-station machines, book magnifier, videophone, staff phones and public phone. We also installed a sound system in the fireplace lounge and replaced the television in the meeting room, and public works took steps to address drainage issues in the parking lot.

All this took place against a background of upheaval, as Homer had to find ways to operate despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid severely disrupted library circulation and cancelled nearly all programs for two years. Homer has been affected by the nationwide tension over materials considered acceptable for library collections, particularly in children’s areas. In 2022 citizens started a

petition to remove all LGBT materials from the children’s and young adult collections, and the Library Advisory Board had to conduct two public hearings and read 55 challenged titles before voting to keep the materials where they were.

## Current Challenges

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The current library building opened in 2006. The structure has held up remarkably well, but there are signs of age, as demonstrated by the long list of equipment replacements over the last five years. Smaller repairs and replacements are an ongoing effort, but large **renovations** will be needed in the near future.

There is also the consideration that affects all City operations: **population growth**. The library saw steady increases in demand up through 2019. The Covid pandemic paused that growth, but since the return of normal operations demand has roared back with a vengeance. The library was designed around 20-year estimates for growth, and those numbers have proven remarkably accurate, but we are now approaching the end of the projected period and clearly need to anticipate further increases.

## Proposed Efforts, 2025-2029

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### Grounds

Historically, maintenance of the library grounds was split between numerous bodies, including the City parks division, the Friends of the Library, the Rotary Club, the Pate family and various private citizens. The work of keeping up with it has repeatedly overwhelmed volunteer groups, so in summer 2023 the City assumed responsibility for everything except the Peter Larson garden, which will continue to be maintained by Rotary.

In an effort to **reduce maintenance**, we have already removed the ornamental beds in front of the building, beside the plaza and at the start of the Story Walk Trail. These beds have been replaced with grass. Further efforts may include covering the beds along the south wall of the building.

The parks division has limbed trees and cleared underbrush all over the library lot to improve sightlines. An ongoing project revolves around clearing invasive species, such as the reed canary grass near Heath Street.

The Friends of the Library and the City parks division have made great progress on improving the **western lot**, but much work remains. In 2024 we expect to resurface the trail, install benches and

botanical signs, and replace the Story Walk posts. Larger signs on cultural history will follow. Finally, a play space with local artwork will be constructed near the western end of the trail.

## Technology

For several years, the library has been looking for a way to implement **wireless printing**, but no existing solution has been ideal in all respects. The newly expanded IT department has some ideas about how to do this, and we hope to see it soon.

The **library website** has been simplified and cleaned up over the last several years, but much information is still buried pretty deeply. We would like to cut it down further, possibly after the City moves to a new website platform. As part of that effort, we would also like to implement **single-sign-on** for patrons accessing subscription databases from outside the library, so they don't have to enter their login credentials for each database individually.

## Funding

We launched an **endowment fund** in April 2020, and the principal has grown from zero to over \$59,000 in less than four years. The Library Advisory Board has set a goal of boosting it to \$100,000, which we hope to reach in the next five years. As part of its goals for 2024, the LAB is determined to develop a sustainable, low-maintenance system for soliciting donations.

## Programs

We have partnered with Community Recreation to make sports equipment and sun lamps available for checkout, and there is potential for further collaboration on programming.

Formally, the library has one children's professional, the Youth Services Librarian. For the past several years, we've benefitted enormously from having a Library Tech I with children's experience. Putting 1.5 employees on **children's services** has opened up all kinds of opportunities for expanded programs and provided more consistency when someone is absent. We should consider either formalizing one of the Tech I positions as a youth specialist or else create a Tech II position that would be half children's and half front desk service.

## Collections

Demand for library materials has shifted over time. Since Covid we are seeing greatly reduced demand for DVDs and physical audiobooks, but a slow rise in demand for online audiobooks and

streaming video. Demand for print resources is higher than ever, but many print magazines are closing down or going electronic-only, and patrons have not shown great interest in online magazines. We are considering adding more subscription databases.

For years, we have debated joining the **Alaska Library Catalog (ALC)**. There are three main impediments. First, we would have to adopt the Sirsi catalog software, which is enormously expensive. Second, our postage costs would increase substantially. Third, unlike the Alaska Digital Library, the ALC offers no “local preference” rule that allows patrons of a given library first choice on materials owned by that library. This means that smaller libraries end up subsidizing demand for materials in larger communities. If the ALC considered moving to a different software platform and adopting the local preference rule, it would make the case for joining much stronger.

### Building Repairs

The **siding** on the outside of the library building needs replacement, and this was inserted into the Capital Improvements Plan for the City in 2023. On a more cosmetic level, the countertops and carpeting inside are showing signs of wear and tear.

### Building Improvements

Aside from the siding replacement, the Capital Improvements Plan identified two other building-related projects for consideration: an **engineering study** to analyze the facility’s needs and recommend improvements, and a **portcullis gate** at the front entrance. The gate was included in the building’s original design but never installed, and not having one reduces the value of the meeting room, since it can only be used during working hours unless staff stay late to keep it open.

Staff and the general public have identified several other features that would enhance the building’s utility. A larger **meeting room** would greatly expand the range of groups that could meet in the library. The children’s room fills its task admirably, but a similar space for **teens**—with a door that could be closed—would also be helpful.

Staff could use more storage space and work space, and a front desk with a direct view of the entrance (we currently have a mirror and security cameras that watch the front door, but anyone who has ever worked in retail can tell you the psychology is different when staff have line-of-sight to the entrance).

Other items might be considered luxuries, but could enhance the library experience. The **sound system** in the fireplace lounge is cobbled together from donated parts and a more professional system would make events easier, particularly if they're broadcast over Zoom. If the library had a designated **display/gallery space**, we would be better able to accommodate rotating exhibits and interest from local entities.

## Timeline

	<b>SHORT TERM</b>	<b>MEDIUM TERM</b>	<b>LONG TERM</b>
<b>GROUNDS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grass-in beds</li> <li>2. Remove invasive species</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upgrade trails</li> <li>2. Install benches</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Install signage</li> <li>2. Build play spaces</li> </ol>
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable wireless printing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simplify website</li> <li>2. Enable single sign-on</li> </ol>	
<b>FUNDING</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sustainable fundraising for library endowment</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build endowment to \$100,000</li> </ol>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner with Community Recreation</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formalize children’s staffing</li> </ol>	
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand electronic offerings</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Join ALC?</li> </ol>
<b>BUILDING REPAIRS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Siding</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carpeting</li> <li>2. Countertops</li> </ol>	
<b>BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engineering study</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Portcullis gate</li> <li>2. Sound system for fireplace lounge</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Larger meeting room</li> <li>2. Teen room</li> <li>3. More storage space</li> <li>4. More staff space</li> <li>5. Front desk view</li> <li>6. Gallery/display space?</li> </ol>

## References

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City of Homer Comprehensive Plan

City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan

Homer Public Library Policies and Procedures

## Appendices

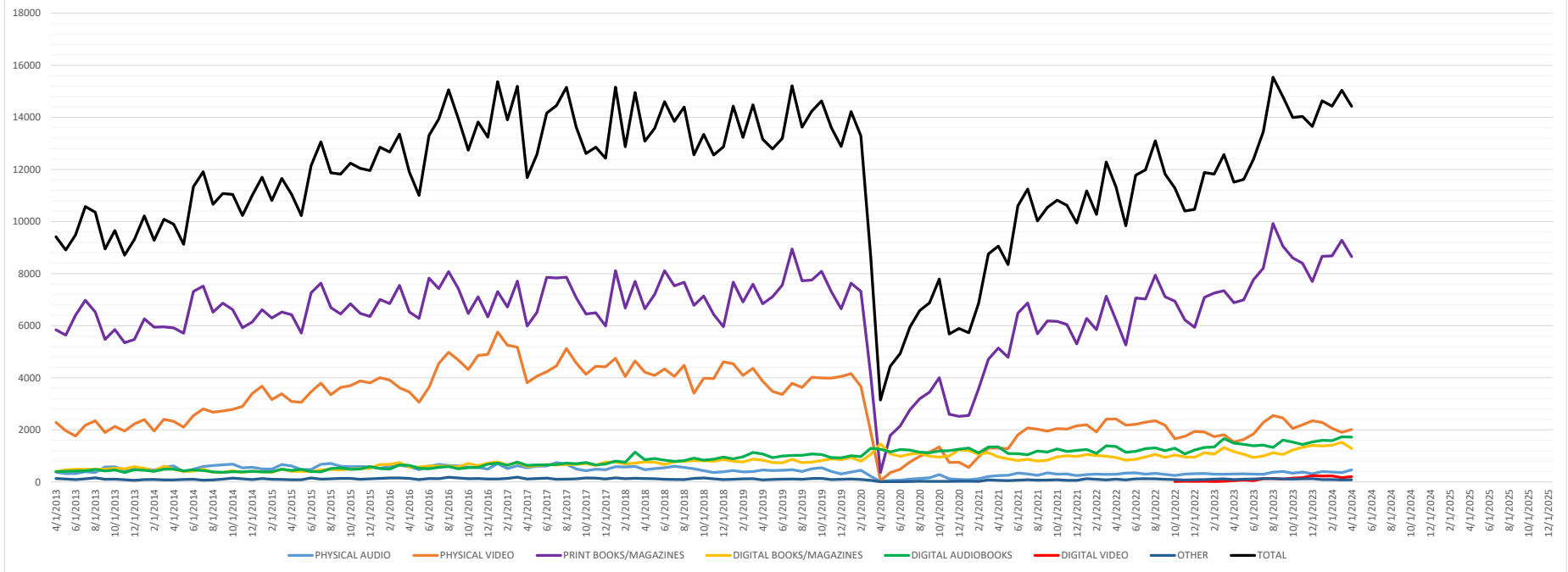
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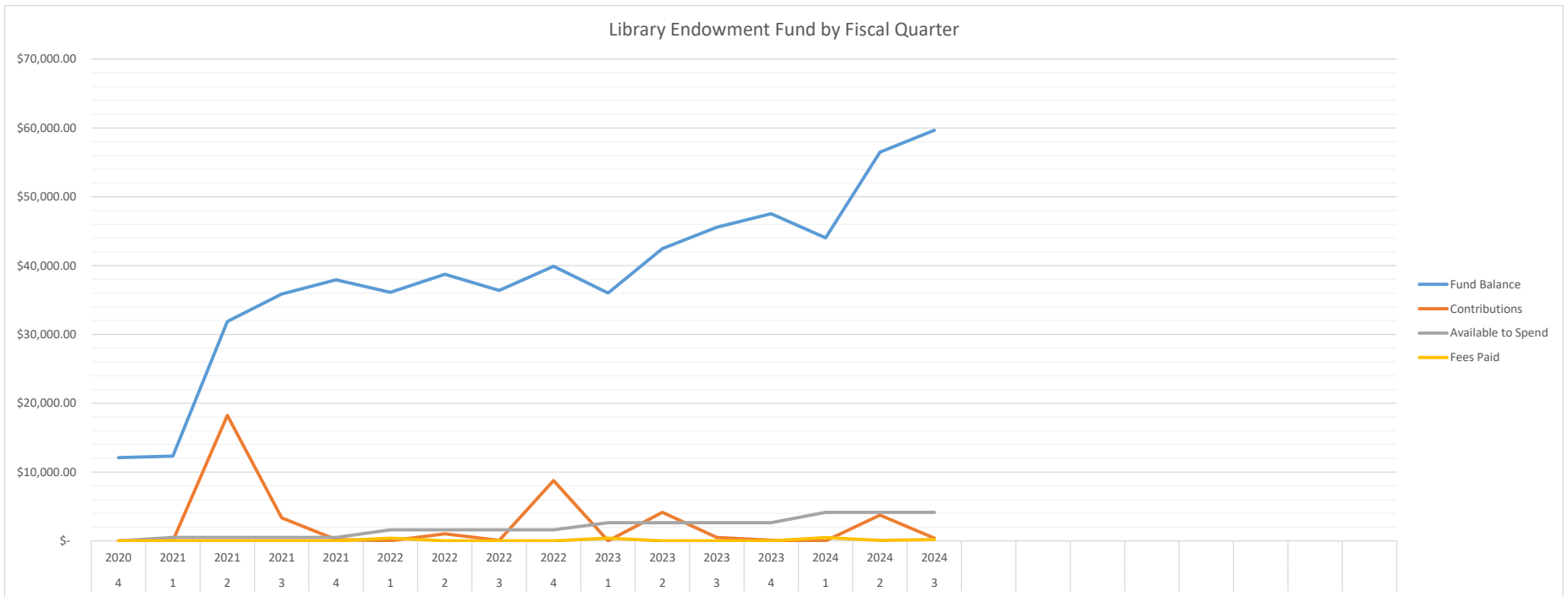
Circulation statistics

Library endowment fund by fiscal quarter



Homer Public Library: Monthly Circulation Totals, April 2013-







# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[mayor@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:mayor@ci.homer.ak.us)

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

April 23, 2024

Andrew Haas  
946 Ocean Drive Loop  
Homer Alaska 99603

Dear Andrew,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your appointment to the Library Advisory Board during their April 22, 2024 Regular Meeting via Memorandum CC-24-088. You will fill the seat vacated by Clark Fair and complete the remaining term, which expires April 1, 2026.

Included is the 2023 - 2024 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Please complete this form and return it to the City Clerk's Office at your earliest convenience. The Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is a public document that may be requested by a member of the public. In the event it is requested, you will be notified of the requestor's name.

Also included is your LAB Orientation Packet which provides important guidelines and information for your role as a boardmember.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Library Advisory Board. There certainly are exciting times ahead!

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enclosed: Memorandum CC-24-088  
Certificate of Appointment  
2023-2024 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement  
LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board

# City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

## Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

*Andrew Haas*

Has been appointed to

serve as

**“Board Member”**

on the

**“Library Advisory Board”**

*This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community and your willingness to serve your fellow man.*

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand  
this 23rd day of April, 2024*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk

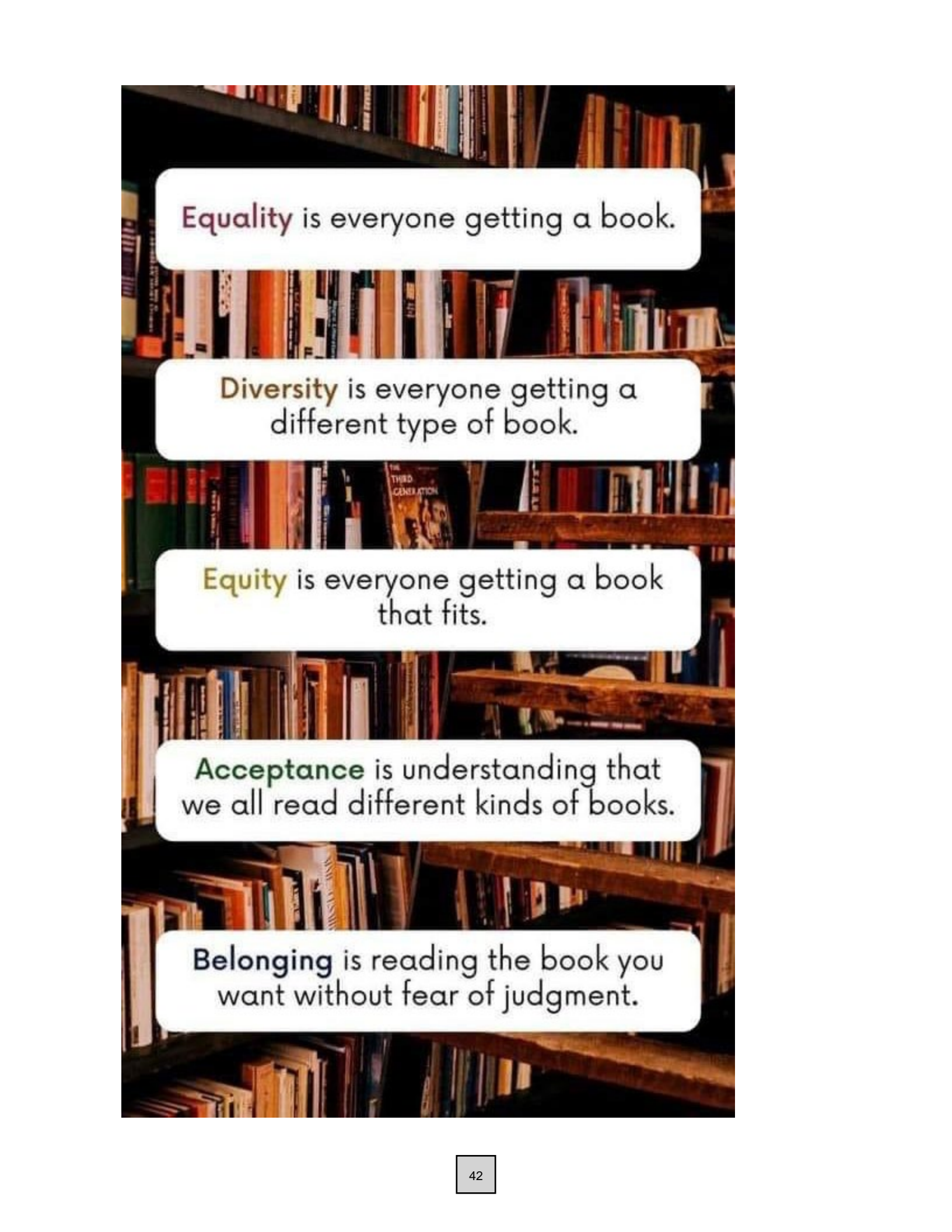


**From:** [Kate Finn](#)  
**To:** [Renee Krause](#)  
**Subject:** For LAB May Packet  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 11:46:36 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Renee,  
Please share this with Zach if he is the one putting together our next LAB packet. Many Thanks, Kate



**Equality** is everyone getting a book.

**Diversity** is everyone getting a different type of book.

**Equity** is everyone getting a book that fits.

**Acceptance** is understanding that we all read different kinds of books.

**Belonging** is reading the book you want without fear of judgment.



THE MONUMENTAL DECISION OF THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
RENDERED DECEMBER 6, 1933, BY HON.  
JOHN M. WOOLSEY LIFTING THE BAN ON  
"ULYSSES."

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States of America,  
*Libelant*

v.

One Book called "Ulysses"  
Random House, Inc.,  
*Claimant*

OPINION

A. 110-59

*On cross motions for a decree in a libel of confiscation, supplemented by a stipulation—hereinafter described—brought by the United States against the book "Ulysses" by James Joyce, under Section 305 of the Tariff Act of 1930, Title 19 United States Code, Section 1305, on the ground that the book is obscene within the meaning of that Section, and, hence, is not importable into the United States, but is subject to seizure, forfeiture and confiscation and destruction.*

United States Attorney—by Samuel C. Coleman, Esq., and Nicholas Atlas, Esq., of counsel—for the United States, in support of motion for a decree of forfeiture, and in opposition to motion for a decree dismissing the libel.

Messrs. Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst,—by Morris L. Ernst, Esq., and Alexander Lindsey, Esq., of counsel—attorneys for claimant Random House, Inc., in support of motion for a decree dismissing the libel, and in opposition to motion for a decree of forfeiture.

## WOOLSEY, J.:

The motion for a decree dismissing the libel herein is granted, and, consequently, of course, the Government's motion for a decree of forfeiture and destruction is denied.

Accordingly a decree dismissing the libel without costs may be entered herein.

I. The practice followed in this case is in accordance with the suggestion made by me in the case of *United States v. One Book Entitled "Contraception"*, 51 F. (2d) 525, and is as follows:

After issue was joined by the filing of the claimant's answer to the libel for forfeiture against "Ulysses", a stipulation was made between the United States Attorney's office and the attorneys for the claimant providing:

1. That the book "Ulysses" should be deemed to have been annexed to and to have become part of the libel just as if it had been incorporated in its entirety therein.

2. That the parties waived their right to a trial by jury.

3. That each party agreed to move for decree in its favor.

4. That on such cross motions the Court might decide all the questions of law and fact involved and render a general finding thereon.

5. That on the decision of such motions the decree of the Court might be entered as if it were a decree after trial.

It seems to me that a procedure of this kind is highly appropriate in libels for the confiscation of books such as this. It is an especially advantageous procedure in the instant case because on account of the length of "Ulysses" and the difficulty of reading it, a jury trial would have been an extremely unsatisfactory, if not an almost impossible, method of dealing with it.

II. I have read "Ulysses" once in its entirety and I have read those passages of which the Government particularly complains several times. In fact, for many weeks, my spare time has been devoted to the consideration of the decision which my duty would require me to make in this matter.

"Ulysses" is not an easy book to read or to understand. But there has been much written about it, and in order properly to approach the consideration of it it is advisable to read a number of other books which have now become its satellites. The study of "Ulysses" is, therefore, a heavy task.

III. The reputation of "Ulysses" in the literary world, however, warranted my taking such time as was necessary to enable me to satisfy myself as to the intent with which the book was written, for, of course, in any case where a book is claimed to be obscene it must first be determined, whether the intent with



which it was written was what is called, according to the usual phrase, pornographic,—that is, written for the purpose of exploiting obscenity.

If the conclusion is that the book is pornographic that is the end of the inquiry and forfeiture must follow.

But in "Ulysses", in spite of its unusual frankness, I do not detect anywhere the leer of the sensualist. I hold, therefore, that it is not pornographic.

IV. In writing "Ulysses", Joyce sought to make a serious experiment in a new, if not wholly novel, literary genre. He takes persons of the lower middle class living in Dublin in 1904 and seeks not only to describe what they did on a certain day early in June of that year as they went about the City bent on their usual occupations, but also to tell what many of them thought about the while.

Joyce has attempted—it seems to me, with astonishing success—to show how the screen of consciousness with its ever-shifting kaleidoscopic impressions carries, as it were on a plastic palimpsest, not only what is in the focus of each man's observation of the actual things about him, but also in a penumbral zone residua of past impressions, some recent and some drawn up by association from the domain of the subconscious. He shows how each of these impressions affects the life and behavior of the character which he is describing.

What he seeks to get is not unlike the results of a double or, if that is possible, a multiple exposure on a cinema film which would give a clear foreground with a background visible but somewhat blurred and out of focus in varying degrees.

To convey by words an effect which obviously lends itself more appropriately to a graphic technique, accounts, it seems to me, for much of the obscurity which meets a reader of "Ulysses". And it also explains another aspect of the book, which I have further to consider, namely, Joyce's sincerity and his honest effort to show exactly how the minds of his characters operate.

If Joyce did not attempt to be honest in developing the technique which he has adopted in "Ulysses" the result would be psychologically misleading and thus unfaithful to his chosen technique. Such an attitude would be artistically inexcusable.

It is because Joyce has been loyal to his technique and has not funk'd its necessary implications, but has honestly attempted to tell fully what his characters think about, that he has been the subject of so many attacks and that his purpose has been so often misunderstood and misrepresented. For his attempt sincerely and honestly to realize his objective has required him incidentally to u

erally considered dirty words and has led at times to what many think is a too poignant preoccupation with sex in the thoughts of his characters.

The words which are criticized as dirty are old Saxon words known to almost all men and, I venture, to many women, and are such words as would be naturally and habitually used, I believe, by the types of folk whose life, physical and mental, Joyce is seeking to describe. In respect of the recurrent emergence of the theme of sex in the minds of his characters, it must always be remembered that his locale was Celtic and his season Spring.

Whether or not one enjoys such a technique as Joyce uses is a matter of taste on which disagreement or argument is futile, but to subject that technique to the standards of some other technique seems to me to be little short of absurd.

Accordingly, I hold that "Ulysses" is a sincere and honest book and I think that the criticisms of it are entirely disposed of by its rationale.

V. Furthermore, "Ulysses" is an amazing *tour de force* when one considers the success which has been in the main achieved with such a difficult objective as Joyce set for himself. As I have stated, "Ulysses" is not an easy book to read. It is brilliant and dull, intelligible and obscure by turns. In many places it seems to me to be disgusting, but although it contains, as I have mentioned above, many words usually considered dirty, I have not found anything that I consider to be dirt for dirt's sake. Each word of the book contributes like a bit of mosaic to the detail of the picture which Joyce is seeking to construct for his readers.

If one does not wish to associate with such folk as Joyce describes, that is one's own choice. In order to avoid indirect contact with them one may not wish to read "Ulysses"; that is quite understandable. But when such a real artist in words, as Joyce undoubtedly is, seeks to draw a true picture of the lower middle class in a European city, ought it to be impossible for the American public legally to see that picture?

To answer this question it is not sufficient merely to find, as I have found above, that Joyce did not write "Ulysses" with what is commonly called pornographic intent, I must endeavor to apply a more objective standard to his book in order to determine its effect in the result, irrespective of the intent with which it was written.

VI. The statute under which the libel is filed only denounces, in so far as we are here concerned, the importation into the United States from any foreign country of "any obscene book". Section 305 of the Act of 1930, Title 19 United

States Code, Section 1305. It does not marshal against books the spectrum of condemnatory adjectives found, commonly, in laws dealing with matters of this kind. I am, therefore, only required to determine whether "Ulysses" is obscene within the legal definition of that word.

The meaning of the word "obscene" as legally defined by the Courts is: tending to stir the sex impulses or to lead to sexually impure and lustful thoughts. *Dunlop v. United States*, 165 U. S. 486, 501; *United States v. One Book Entitled "Married Love"*, 48 F. (2d) 821, 824; *United States v. One Book Entitled "Contraception"*, 51 F. (2d) 525, 528; and compare *Dysart v. United States*, 272 U. S. 655, 657; *Swearingen v. United States*, 161 U. S. 446, 450; *United States v. Dennett*, 39 F. (2d) 564, 568 (C. C. A. 2); *People v. Wendling*, 258 N. Y. 451, 453.

Whether a particular book would tend to excite such impulses and thoughts must be tested by the Court's opinion as to its effect on a person with average sex instincts—what the French would call *l'homme moyen sensuel*—who plays, in this branch of legal inquiry, the same role of hypothetical reagent as does the "reasonable man" in the law of torts and "the man learned in the art" on questions of invention in patent law.

The risk involved in the use of such a reagent arises from the inherent tendency of the trier of facts, however fair he may intend to be, to make his reagent too much subservient to his own idiosyncrasies. Here, I have attempted to avoid this, if possible, and to make my reagent herein more objective than he might otherwise be, by adopting the following course:

After I had made my decision in regard to the aspect of "Ulysses", now under consideration, I checked my impressions with two friends of mine who in my opinion answered to the above stated requirement for my reagent.

These literary assessors—as I might properly describe them—were called on separately, and neither knew that I was consulting the other. They are men whose opinion on literature and on life I value most highly. They had both read "Ulysses", and, of course, were wholly unconnected with this cause.

Without letting either of my assessors know what my decision was, I gave to each of them the legal definition of obscene and asked each whether in his opinion "Ulysses" was obscene within that definition.

I was interested to find that they both agreed with my opinion: that reading "Ulysses" in its entirety, as a book must be read on such a test as this, did not tend to excite sexual impulses or lustful thoughts but that its net effect on them was only that of a somewhat tragic and very powerful commentary on the inner lives of men and women.

It is only with the normal person that the law is concerned. Such a test as I have described, therefore, is the only proper test of obscenity in the case of a book like "Ulysses" which is a sincere and serious attempt to devise a new literary method for the observation and description of mankind.

I am quite aware that owing to some of its scenes "Ulysses" is a rather strong draught to ask some sensitive, though normal, persons to take. But my considered opinion, after long reflection, is that whilst in many places the effect of "Ulysses" on the reader undoubtedly is somewhat emetic, nowhere does it tend to be an aphrodisiac.

"Ulysses" may, therefore, be admitted into the United States.

JOHN M. WOOLSEY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

*December 6, 1933*

## Booking It

### How Benjamin Franklin invented the modern lending library (Smithsonian Magazine April/May 2024)

FOUNDING FATHER Benjamin Franklin knew better than most the benefits of self-education. In 1727, he established the Philadelphia-based discussion group known as the Junto, which sought “mutual improvement” through intellectual dialogue. Yet while Franklin enjoyed the Junto’s spirited—and secret—debates on matters moral and scientific, he became convinced that the group needed an authoritative library to referee basic facts. Books were rare and expensive in colonial America, but Franklin had an idea.

He conceived of a library with a subscription fee, the Library Company of



Philadelphia, which he founded in 1731. The Library Company allowed members—at first, largely male artisans of modest means—to purchase shares in the library at a low cost.

Members also built a sort of intellectual wealth with their shares, as they could be passed down from generation to generation. Since Franklin wished to ensure access to useful books, he favored volumes in English that could be more widely understood. The Library Company’s catalog would respond to readers’ fervent interests—and those readers kept multiplying: After early successes, the Library Company soon began allowing non-shareholders to borrow books, too, requiring only a small fee as collateral. This innovative structure quickly inspired imitators, and by

1800, there were more than 40 lending libraries throughout the United States.

During the same era in Britain, philanthropists donated books to libraries for community enrichment, but only among the stacks; these libraries did not generally circulate books. In some instances, books were chained to bookshelves to prevent theft.

By 1771, as the Revolution neared, Franklin reflected in his autobiography on the lending library's crucial role in fostering democracy: "These libraries have improved the general conversation of the Americans" and "made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries." From the Revolutionary War until 1800, the Library Company served as the first de facto Library of Congress while the federal government was in Philadelphia.

Still supported by shareholders, the Library Company today stands as an independent research library, free and open to the public. Some of its earliest holdings, such as Franklin's original copy of *Logic, or, the Art of Thinking* by Antoine Arnauld and Pierre Nicole, are preserved in its vast, non-circulating collection. Though the Library Company currently specializes in American history before 1900, its mission remains the same. "[The founders] knew that democracies were inherently fragile and that the only way you could sustain a democracy was by having an educated populace," says Michael J. Barsanti, the director of the Library Company. "That's one of our first, most important roles as an institution, and it's one that we still have today....We are trying to remind people, using the Junto as our inspiration, that...we learn best when we learn together." ♦



# CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER

VOL. III - ISSUE VIII | APRIL 2024



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### NEW DESIGNS FOR HOMER LIBRARY CARDS

April 7 - 13 is National Library Week, and we're celebrating big at Homer Public Library! In honor of this, we are unveiling three new library card designs. Choose from Forest, Mountains, Tidepool, or stick with the Classic design when you sign up for a new library card! If you'd like to replace your current card, the cost is \$5.

The new cards were designed by local artist Rachel Tussey and complement her existing artwork on BOB the Bookmobile.



- New Designs for Homer Library Cards
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Clerks
- Community Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Works
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

### CELEBRATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Come support the Friends of Homer Library for a Celebration of Lifelong Learning event at the Homer Public Library. Enjoy appetizers from Tickled Pear, live music, a trivia tree, a silent auction, entertainment, awards and desserts from BB's Bakery.

**When:** Saturday, April 20, at 6:00 pm

**Where:** Homer Public Library, 500 Hazel Ave.

**Tickets:** \$40, Available at the library's front desk starting April 1

### Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

Subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter

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# LIBRARY EVENTS

## VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to [libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming](https://libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming).

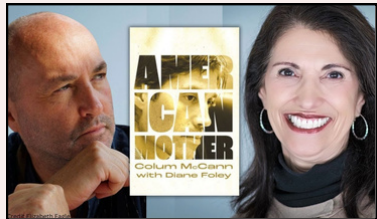
### April 2 at 10 am

The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us—A Sweeping History of Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator **Paula J. Johnson**



### April 9 at 10 am

From Murder to Atonement—Confronting My Son’s Killer with **Diane Foley & Colum McCann**



### April 17 at 4 pm

A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art with **Xochitl Gonzalez**



## SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



### Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

### April 9: Donna Aderhold

### Lit Lineup 2024

The Homer Public Library has created a community-wide initiative to read fifteen books throughout the year.

View the list and submit entries [here](#). You could be eligible to win the grand prize!



Check out more library programs and events



**Homer Public Library**  
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180  
[circ@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:circ@ci.homer.ak.us)  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library)



# COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

## 32nd Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival May 8 - 12, 2024

Experience the joy of Spring's return and the migration of birds along the picturesque shores of Kachemak Bay during the Shorebird Festival.



Homer stands out as one of Alaska's premier locations for witnessing the awe-inspiring sight of thousands of shorebirds.

The four-day Festival embodies a cherished Homer tradition, celebrating the birds' return with many enriching activities. From seminars and workshops to children's activities and guided tours, there are birding opportunities suited for individuals of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned enthusiast, there's something for everyone.

Explore further and secure your spot for festival events by going to [kachemakshorebird.org](https://kachemakshorebird.org).



[Register and Buy Tickets](#)



[Download a Program of Events](#)

## Homer Steps Up - May 1 - 28, 2024 - FREE Event Organized by South Peninsula Hospital

The City of Homer is proud to co-sponsor the Homer Steps Up challenge, again! You too can register in groups to help our community stay active and healthy.

**Registration opens April 1st** for this FREE event running from May 1st to 28th, open to all residents of the Southern Kenai Peninsula. Form teams of 5-25 members and track your steps using a fitness tracker, smartphone, or manual entry.

Walk to Win! Weekly drawings for prizes, end-of-challenge cash prize drawings, and \$500, \$300, or \$200 to donate to your team's local non-profit of choice!



For more information and to register, visit:



[homerstepsup.com](https://homerstepsup.com)



# COMMUNITY RECREATION

## INLET WINDS COMMUNITY BAND FREE CONCERT

A performance you don't want to miss! The Inlet Winds Community Band invites you to the Mariner Theater at Homer High School on Saturday, April 13 at 7pm for a FREE performance.

Under the guidance of Co-Directors Mary and Eric Simondsen, local adult and high school musicians have dedicated themselves to months of practice to prepare a captivating program of songs.

**When:** Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm

**Where:** Homer High School, Mariner Theater

**Fee:** FREE

### Program

**Fanfare -HAYABUSA** -Satoshi Yagisawa

**Watchman Tell Us of the Night** -Mark Camphouse

**Rollo Takes a Walk** -David Maslanka

-Intermission-

**Armenian Dances** -Loris Chobanian

**The Rowan Tree** -Randall Standridge

**March from Symphonic Metamorphosis** -Paul Hindemith



## SUCCESSFUL PICKLEBALL INJURY PREVENTION CLINIC

Preventing injury in pickleball is important to enjoy the game and participate in the sport for the long term.

Staff from our local Summit Physical Therapy generously volunteered their time and expertise to instruct community members on injury prevention while playing pickleball. A total of 18 individuals attended the 2-hour clinic at the HERC gym and found it very beneficial. Summit Physical Therapy brought their own equipment and led participants through dynamic warm-ups, targeted stretches, agility exercises, and much more. They also provided portable cold wrap machines, kinesiology tape, massage guns, and other tools.



Pickleball Injury Prevention Clinic Attendees with Summit Physical Therapy Staff

A big thanks to Summit Physical Therapy, and we look forward to offering more preventive sessions in the future.

# CITY HALL

## SISTER CITY ART EXHIBIT AT THE PRATT MUSEUM



2024 marks the City of Homer's 40th Anniversary as a Sister City with Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan. Established April 7, 1984, Teshio and Homer have enjoyed a profound camaraderie and sharing of families, student exchanges, ideals, and memorabilia.

As part of our community's 40-year celebration, eighteen pieces of art that Teshio has generously gifted the City over the years will be on display in the Main Lobby of the Pratt Museum from **May 1 to September 7**.

This exhibit provides an opportunity to learn more about our Sister City, foster a stronger connection with Teshio, and view these cherished pieces that are part of the City of Homer's Municipal Art Collection.

A First Friday Exhibition will be held **Friday, May 3rd** at 4:00 pm and will be free to the public.

More info on the [Sister City Program](#) and the [Municipal Art Collection](#) can be found on the City of Homer website.

## TOMODACHI TAIKO DRUMMING EVENT

Mark your calendars for an exciting event as part of the 40th Sister City Anniversary celebrations! The City of Homer and the Alaska Japanese Club are thrilled to invite the Tomodachi Taiko Association to bring the rhythms of Japanese Taiko drumming to Homer High School's Mariner Theater on **May 4th**. Join us for a performance featuring 12 drummers from Anchorage and Japan and immerse yourself in the peaceful yet powerful beats of this ancient art form. Additionally, students from the Alaska Japanese Club will showcase their own skills in special Taiko performances throughout the day.

The Japanese Club students have been working hard to create drums since September. They have made 30 cardboard drums, a 50-gallon Taiko drum, and 30 pairs of Taiko drum sticks called bachi. They have been rehearsing twice a week to prepare for this special event. The students will also perform on **April 19th** for the Jubilee Youth Performing Arts Show at Homer Mariner Theater.



Taiko Drum



Japanese Club students with homemade Taiko drums participating in Homer's Winter Carnival

Japanese Taiko drums are traditional percussion instruments that originated in Japan centuries ago. They are characterized by their large size and deep, resonant tones, which are produced by striking the drumheads with wooden sticks called bachi. Taiko drumming is not just about the music; it's a cultural art form that embodies strength, unity, and spirited performances.

Don't miss the unique opportunity to learn how to build Japanese Taiko drums at our drum making workshop on **Friday evening, May 3rd**! Stay tuned for further event details, which will be posted on the City of Homer website and social media. Mark your calendars and get ready to experience the energy of Taiko drumming like never before!



# CLERKS

## HOW TO RUN FOR ELECTED OFFICE EVENT

Are you interested in running for public office this year? Or thinking about it for future elections? Maybe you are just curious about the process?

**On Thursday, April 4th, there is a free event on How to Run For Elected Office.**

The event will feature a presentation on how to run for elected office and a Q&A session with a panel of past elected officials. Application and filing materials will be on hand for review. Oh, and don't forget, there will be refreshments too!

**When:** Thursday, April 4th, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Where:** Homer City Hall, 491 E Pioneer Avenue

**More Info:** Facebook [@kpvotes](#), Instagram [@kpvotes](#), email [kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com](mailto:kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com), or call 907-299-2517

Thanks to Kenai Peninsula Votes and the League of Women Voters on the Kenai who are sponsoring this event with the City of Homer.

### Why is it important to run for Public Office?

Participation in public service is essential for a thriving society and community. Decisions and policies shape what our society looks like now and in the future.

**How to Run For Elected Office**  
City - Borough - State

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters on the Kenai, Kenai Peninsula Votes, and the City of Homer

**Thursday, April 4th 2024**  
Homer City Hall  
491 E Pioneer Ave.  
from 5:30pm - 7:30pm

**What's covered during the event:**

- Presentation on how to run for elected office
- Materials will be available for reference
- Q&A with panel of past elected officials
- Refreshments
- Networking period (time permitting)

For more information: 907-299-2517 - [kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com](mailto:kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com)

### It's important for these reasons:

#### Representation:

It ensures diverse voices are heard and represented in decision-making.

#### Policy Impact:

Candidates shape policies that affect every aspect of society.

#### Driving Change:

Running empowers individuals to champion causes and drive meaningful change.

#### Accountability:

Elected officials are held accountable for their actions, fostering transparency.

#### Inspiration:

It inspires future generations to engage in civic leadership and public service.

#### Community Resilience:

Builds community engagement and resilience in addressing challenges.

#### Preserving Democracy:

Demonstrates a commitment to upholding democratic values and principles by choosing our leaders through voting.

Running for public office is not just a personal endeavor but a vital civic duty that shapes the future of our communities and nation.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## HOMER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REWRITE



Community members noting on maps areas of importance.

The City of Homer launched its 2018 Comprehensive Plan at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center on March 28th, drawing a full house of 75-80 participants.

With support from the Anchorage-based consulting group Agnew::Beck, the city is updating its plan, sparking enthusiastic engagement from community members who offered valuable feedback. Shelly Wade, a principal/owner from Agnew::Beck, led discussions on walkability, recreational access, protection of green spaces, and preserving Homer's "small town vibe". Attendees stressed the importance of youth involvement in the rewriting process, as they will be the ones living in Homer in 20 years.

Moving forward, the consulting team plans to continue community engagement through surveys and future visits. Your engagement and ideas got the planning team off to a great start. Let's keep it rolling!

**For ways to get involved, contribute your ideas, and to receive updates, go to [homercompplanupdate.com](https://homercompplanupdate.com).**

## PORT & HARBOR U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY STUDENT VISIT

Homer's Port and Harbor welcomed four Midshipmen students from the Annapolis, Maryland U.S. Naval Academy for a three-day field study on harbor design. The students traveled to Homer as part of their capstone senior design project as ocean engineers. The team selected the Homer Harbor Expansion (HHE) as their final project and reached out through the HHE website to ask questions prior to scheduling the visit. In addition to meeting with our Port and Harbor team and HDR engineers, the students also gathered site-specific data, such as soundings to measure ocean depth, sediment samples, and information on other site characteristics.

The Ocean Engineering Program at the Naval Academy guides students to explore coastal, offshore, underwater, and environmental engineering to address challenges in ocean environments. Students design structures for shore protection, harsh ocean conditions, underwater living (submarines), underwater working systems (cables, pipelines, shipwrecks, etc.), while also tackling pollution and resource management issues.

Homer feels honored to have been chosen by these young professionals to support their studies. Our harbor's captivating and distinctive geography offers a truly special learning environment. We hope that collaborating with these students during their visit will lead to innovative methods that will benefit ours and many other harbors in the future.



Left to Right: Midn 1/C Tanner Cummins, Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden, Midn 1/C Daniel Gantz, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, Midn 1/C Michael Lancaster, Harbormaster Matt Clarke, Midn 1/C Daniel McMann

**Click here to learn more about the U.S. Naval Academy Ocean Engineering Program:**



### Ocean Engineering Major

Ocean Engineering page for Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering at USNA.edu. Updated Tue Feb 20 14:46:20 EST 2024.

 NavalAcademy

**CLICK HERE** 

# HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

## STUDY UPDATE



Great news for our community!

Federal continuation funds for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation were included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Presidential budget, which was released to Congress on March 11. Though confirmation of the funding is contingent upon approval from Congress during the budgetary process, this is very positive news. The announcement underscores the USACE's commitment to advancing the General Investigation, as well as the support of the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

The General Investigation study allows us to identify sustainable solutions to meet the escalating demands of maritime transportation across the region and address safety concerns, while balancing environmental stewardship and economic vitality.

The US Corps of Engineers project team will be doing environmental fieldwork this summer utilizing remaining Fiscal Year 2023 study funds. The team's first visit will be in April to coincide with an ecological modeling workshop they are also hosting as part of the study. The City is presently contracting for geophysical survey work to map beneath the seafloor in

the area proposed for the harbor expansion. The survey is expected to begin later in the summer. Completing these two study components will allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with design work when study activities resume in full.



Keep engaged with the study at [www.homerharborexpan.com](http://www.homerharborexpan.com)

## ALASKA DOT HOMER AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is currently engaged in a construction project to rehabilitate and improve Homer Airport runways and taxiways with the goals of extending the service life of the airport, improving safety, and improving airport perimeter access for airport security, maintenance, wildlife hazard management, and airfield rescue operations.



View closure schedule and details about the project on the City of Homer webpage, DOT&PF Homer Airport Improvement Project Info:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/airport/dotpf-homer-airport-improvement-project-info>

Stay up to date with DOT&PF's Airport Improvement Project. You can provide public comment via their online comment form.



[Homer Airport Improvements - Public Involvement](https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml)

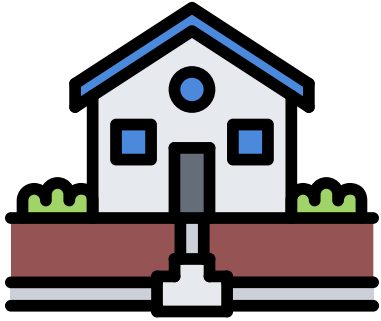
<https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml>



# PUBLIC WORKS

## WATER AND WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS SYSTEM CLEANING

The City of Homer's Water and Wastewater Collections Department needs your help to keep the wastewater collection system clean and operating smoothly! Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to regularly clean their water and sewer lines to prevent pipe damage and clogs, ultimately saving money on costly repairs. Cleaning out these systems pushes debris into the wastewater collection system, which can then be maintained by the City and transported to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



All drainage lines from homes or businesses are linked to the City's collection system. The system consists of water and sewer main pipes, manholes, cleanouts, siphons, lift stations, and key structures, organized into five routes, each receiving annual cleaning. Hydro Jetting is the method used for cleaning, which is a safe and eco-friendly technique utilizing pressurized water and air to eliminate undesirable substances from the system.

Whether from sinks, showers, or toilets, every drain connects to the sewer lines. By maintaining and regularly inspecting systems in your home or business, you contribute to the city's efforts to ensure everything runs well.

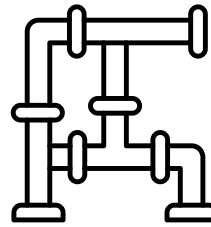


### What you can do:



#### Adopt Good Habits

- Dispose of grease in the trash.
- Use drain strainers.
- Run water regularly.
- Check for leaks.
- Maintain garbage disposals.
- Mindful flushing.
- Use quality cleaning materials.



#### Routine Maintenance:

- Schedule routine inspections every two years.
- Avoiding tree root intrusion on sewer and water lines.
- Install backwater prevention valves.
- Maintain septic systems.

## CITY OF HOMER AWARDED EPA AQUARIUS RECOGNITION

The City of Homer is incredibly proud to announce it has been awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) AQUARIUS Recognition for the Seawall Armor Rock Installation Project. The AQUARIUS Recognition Program nationally recognizes Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funded projects for exceptional focus on six main areas. Homer was chosen for its "Excellence in Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency."

In May 2021, the City completed a significant erosion defense project partially funded by Alaska's DWSRF Program. Focused on reinforcing an existing seawall with armor rock, the project aimed to combat accelerated erosion along the coastline that threatened property and utility infrastructure. Shoreline erosion rates estimated from historical air photos from 1951 to 2002 averaged about 3.5 feet per year. The seawall constructed in 2004 helps protect properties from erosion.

By enhancing the wall's defense with the installation of armor rock, the project ensures stability to utilities infrastructure, including wastewater in the area, and critical drinking water that supplies residents and businesses in Homer. Overall, the City of Homer took decisive action to prevent water supply failures that would have affected residents, tourists, retail businesses, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminal, the fishing industry, hotels, and outdoor enthusiasts that use the Spit as an access point to the wonders of Kachemak Bay.

This award reflects Homer's commitment to environmental stewardship and use of innovative designs to protect our shores from further erosion.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HVFD FIRE ACADEMY

Have you ever considered a career as an emergency responder? The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is looking for dedicated volunteers who are eager to learn.

Be sure to register in time to **attend training from March 25th through July 20th.**

This program equips participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in firefighting and emergency medical services.

Training will consist of fundamental Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II techniques, as well as Hazmat awareness and operations. Recruits gain hands-on experience under the guidance of experienced instructors.

For those looking to start a career as a volunteer firefighter or EMT, this training will provide a pathway for you to make a meaningful impact on your community.

Stop by the Homer fire station located at 604 E. Pioneer Ave., or call 907-235-3155 for more information!



## 2024 Fire Academy Take The Next Step

Kick start your career as an emergency responder by becoming a volunteer firefighter or EMT.

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Receive free training when you become a volunteer. Stop by the Homer fire station or call 907-235-3155 for more information! Stop by today.

**Starting March 25th - July 20th**  
HVFD Fire Academy will consist of Firefighter I training, Hazmat awareness, Hazmat operations, and Firefighter II training.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NATIONAL RX TAKE BACK DAY APRIL 27, 2024

For over ten years, the HPD has participated in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administrations (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Last year, over 22 tons of medications were collected from the Pacific Northwest states (Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho) alone.

The take back program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs while also educating the general public about the potential for medication abuse. We encourage all families, friends and neighbors to participate. Unused prescription drugs can end up in the wrong hands, which can be dangerous and tragic.

At the Homer Police Department, every day is Take Back Day. There is a permanent collection box in the front entrance lobby. Help keep your family and community safe by turning in unneeded medications for proper disposal.





In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

## APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of April, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is raising awareness of the danger of distracted driving. Did you know that distracted driving claimed the lives of 3,522 people in 2021 alone? By being aware and changing habits while on the road can save you a ticket and can save lives.

According to the NHTSA site, “Distracted driving comes in many forms: adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. But it’s cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — that is the most common distraction. Texting, which includes messaging, is considered the most dangerous type of distracted driving because it combines visual, manual and cognitive distraction.”



### Here are some simple tips for a safer ride:

- Need to text? Pull over in a safe spot. No text or notification is worth risking a life on the road.
- Designate a passenger as your "designated texter" for calls or messages.
- Avoid scrolling through apps while driving. Put your phone out of reach until you arrive.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR MOOSE ENCOUNTERS



It’s that time of year when moose often come to graze where snow has melted. Keep these safety tips in mind if you encounter moose while out on walks, on the trail, in your neighborhood, or while driving.

The Alaska Highway Safety Office offers the following tips to help avoid a deadly confrontation with moose:

- Never feed a moose
- Give moose at least 50 feet. If it doesn't yield as you approach, give it the trail.
- If a moose lays its ears back or its hackles (the hairs on its hump) rise, it's angry or afraid and may charge.
- Moose kick with their front as well as hind feet so we suggest not confronting them directly.
- Don't corner moose into fences or houses.
- If a moose charges, there are few options available to you but it has been suggested by many others to simply get behind a tree. A theory stands that you can run around the trunk faster than the gangly moose.
- Never get between a cow and her calf.



# MEET THE STAFF

## Work Anniversaries

Thank you to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment, and service to the City of Homer!

### March

Names	Dept.	Years
Matt Clarke	Port	23 Years
Elton Anderson	Port	18 Years
Renee Krause	Clerks	17 Years
Mike Parish	Public Works	10 Years
Angie Kalugin	Finance	9 Years
Elizabeth Fischer	Finance	7 Years
Kurt Read	Port	7 Years
Matt Smith	Library	6 Years
Matt Steffy	Planning	6 Years
Amber Baldus	Fire	2 Years
Bill Jirsa	IT	1 Year
Michael de la Torre	Police	1 Year
Kane Graham	Police	1 Year



Roslyn Kriegh

Meet **Roslyn Kriegh** who joined the Port & Harbor in March as Port Property Associate.

Roslyn was born and raised on Kodiak Island. Her husband, Thomas Vanek, is from Ninilchik. They have spent the last 7 years in California and Washington state pursuing education and supporting their extended family.

Homer is where they always planned to return, she says, “near our families and in the state we adore. We couldn’t imagine a better place to establish our futures.”

Although Roslyn is still settling into her position, she has been enjoying her interactions with everyone and their excitement for the upcoming season! Outside of work she has several hobbies including a passion for ornithology, animal husbandry, freshwater aquariums, and chickens. Ask her to learn more!

## Welcome to the Team!



We want to extend a warm welcome to **Bradley Gullikson**, who joins the Homer Police Department as a Police Officer. Bradley comes to us from the Alaska State Troopers and brings valuable knowledge and experience to the team.

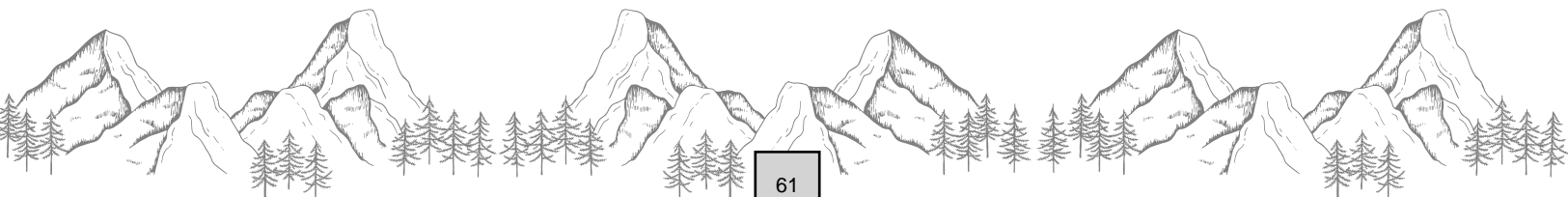


Stephen Overdorf

**Stephen Overdorf** joins Public Works as a full-time Equipment Operator Apprentice. Stephen has worked the last two seasons as a winter temp, working with Airport Building Maintenance.

Stephen came to Homer from Kenai in January of 2000 and was actually a part of the crew that built the Fish Factory in Homer. In his spare time, he works with his sawmill and maintains his hobby farm with goats and a garden.

When asked about what he likes most about Homer, he says, “It’s the best place on earth!” We can agree on that.



# CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

**Mayor** - Ken Castner (2024)

## City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

## City Staff Leadership

Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy  
Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Director of Community Development

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Dan Kort, Public Works Director

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

## Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

# MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Fireweed Wall Mural by Josh Nordstrom - City Hall



Pocket Pebble by Melisse Reichman -  
Boathouse Pavilion on the Spit

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/  
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)

## STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to [cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council](http://cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council) to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### April

- |    |         |  |
|----|---------|--|
| 1  | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |
| 3  | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession                                      |
| 3  | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting                                  |
| 9  | 6:00 pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting             |
| 11 | 4:00 pm | ADA Advisory Board   |
| 15 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |
| 16 | 5:30 pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting                               |
| 17 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession                                      |
| 17 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting                                  |
| 18 | 5:30 pm | Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 24 | 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting                    |
| 29 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |



## JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at: [cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs](http://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs)

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**  
The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at [citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us).

## City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603  
907-235-8121

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

**2024 Calendar**

	<b>AGENDA DEADLINE</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*</b>	<b>ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	Wednesday 1/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/22 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Carssow]</a>	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Wednesday 2/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/26 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Finn]</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules &amp; Regulations</li> <li>• Annual Review of Board’s Bylaws</li> <li>• Celebration of Lifelong Learning</li> <li>• Strategic Plan &amp; Goals</li> </ul>
<b>MARCH</b>	Wednesday 3/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/19 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/26 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Kuszmaul]</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reappointment Notices Sent Out</li> </ul>
<b>APRIL</b>	Wednesday 4/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/22 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Asselin-Martin]</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms Expire April 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>• Advisory Body Training Worksession</li> <li>• Election of LAB Officers</li> <li>• National Library Week, Library Workers Day, &amp; Library Legislative Day</li> </ul>
<b>MAY</b>	Wednesday 5/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 5/28 6:00 p.m.	
<b>JUNE</b>	No Regular Meeting			
<b>JULY</b>	No Regular Meeting			
<b>AUGUST</b>	Wednesday 8/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/26 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years</li> <li>• Library Policies Revision</li> <li>• CIP Draft Recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Wednesday 9/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Card Sign-up Month</li> </ul>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Wednesday 10/09 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year</li> </ul>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Wednesday 11/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Friends of Libraries Week</li> </ul>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Wednesday 12/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/17 5:30 p.m.	1/13/2025 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals</li> </ul>

\*The Board’s opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council’s regular meeting following the Board’s regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.