



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
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

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 October 17, 2023

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- [A.](#) Library Director's Report for November 2023
 1. 2023 Statistics
 2. 2022 Statistics
- [B.](#) Monthly Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul
- [C.](#) Monthly Legislative Report - Boardmember Finn

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- [A.](#) The Big Read
 - Memorandum from Library Director as backup.
- [B.](#) Homer Public Library Capital Improvement Projects

Memorandum from Library Director as backup.

C. 2024 FHL - LAB Soiree

Memorandum from Library Director as backup

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. LAB Annual Calendar 2023

B. City Manager's Reports

CM Report for October 23, 2023 City Council Meeting

CM Report for November 13, 2023 City Council Meeting

C. City Monthly Newsletter - November 2023

D. Welcome New Student Boardmember!

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, December 19, 2023 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 23-08, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:32 p.m. on October 17, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS BAILY, CARSSOW, FAIR, FINN, KUSZMAUL

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS MCKINNEY, ASSELIN-MARTIN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

FAIR/KUSZMAUL 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 September 19, 2023

FAIR/BAILEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Director's Report for September/October 2023
2022 Annual Stats
2023 Annual Stats

Chair Finn introduced the item and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry reviewed his reports in the packet. He provided input on the following:

- Council reviewed and postpone action until 8, 2024 Ordinance 23-49
- Trick or Eat Food Drive
- Candidate Forums held in the Library
 - o Borough and City Candidates
- Sister City Teshio 40th Anniversary in 2024
 - o Heading a Committee to plan the celebrations and recognition events
- Building Repairs
 - o Replacement of burners in the boilers
- Friends of the Library events for the fall and winter
 - o Dates set for Lifelong Learning – April 2024
 - o Big Read dates
- Trail work upgrades started
- Author talks

Boardmember Kuszmaul expressed enjoyment with the virtual author talks and hopes that they are well attended.

Boardmember Carssow complimented Library Director Berry on his responses and participation in a panel discussion on Talk Alaska regarding the book challenges locally, in Alaska and across the country.

Chair Finn commented on the virtual talks and spoke on Project Cuddle and Safe Haven laws that resulted from that project. She noted that it was really high quality authors.

Library Director Berry noted that these were recorded incase people are unable to attend when scheduled.

Chair Finn commented on Teen-tober events and the progress of the Youth Advisory Board.

Library Director Berry responded to questions regarding:

- How Ordinance 23-49 will affect departments and personnel
- Increases in attendance and numbers
 - o additional increases in eBooks
 - o drop in DVD's

B. Fundraising Update – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Chair Finn introduced the item and invited Boardmember Kuszmaul to provide the report.

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported that the fish are supposed to be installed by the end of day Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Library Director Berry commented on his interaction with Moose Run Metalsmiths and getting the installation scheduled.

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported that she was not going to be in town to verify that the fish were installed and confirmed that there were five or six.

C. Legislative Update

Chair Finn reported that there was no legislation

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule
Memorandum from City Clerk as backup.

Chair Finn reviewed the memorandum and the requested action of the Board. She announced that December she will be out of state and Boardmember Kuszmaul will be chairing the meeting.

KUSZMAUL/CARSSOW MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

CARSSOW/KUSZMAUL AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE FORWARDING TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTON. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. History of Library Cards
Memorandum from Library Director as backup.

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry reviewed the report provided in packet. He facilitated questions on the renewal policy and processes for adult library cards, when a child turns 18 and gets an adult card those are updated by staff, they keep the same card but there are parameters in the system are changed. He facilitated further discussion on renewals and the process to renew cards; new cards for children and adding new ones before using the current supply with suggestions to order plain cards and offering stickers for children to select from to apply to the card.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. LAB Annual Calendar 2023
- B. October 2023 City Newsletter
- C. City Manager's Report for City Council October 9, 2023
- D. Libraries in the News

Chair Finn facilitated discussion on the following:

- LAB reports to City Council for the October 23rd and November 27th meetings
 - o Boardmember Bailey volunteered for the November 27th Council Meeting, Boardmember Asselin-Martin volunteered for the October meeting.
 - o Boardmember Carsow volunteered for the January 8th meeting to report the December LAB meeting
 - o Appreciation expressed for including the Monthly Newsletter as an informational, how to receive the newsletter and where it is available.
 - o Student Representative Application was received and they should be appointed at the next Council meeting.
 - o Various news articles submitted by the Chair regarding Libraries
 - McCain Library
 - Palmer Residents approving a bond to repair the library
 - o Board representative on the Library Art Selection Committee and submissions.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry noted that the Library will be closed for Alaska Day, Wednesday, October 18th

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Carsow announced her absence for the November meeting and wished every a Happy Thanksgiving.

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported speaking with Mercedes Harness who complimented the Board for how they handled the challenges for the books.

Chair Finn expressed appreciation for the comments made by Jill McCain on hoping that the Library can help refocus public attention to traditional values and political civility.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, November 21, 2023 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.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

Library Director's Report

October 31, 2023

General Notes

On Oct. 20, Moose Run Metalsmiths installed new fish on the fish wall, for the first time in nearly 20 years. The fish wall is an art installation in the plaza outside the library and features copper fish adorned with the names of major donors. Current policy awards a small fish to donors who contribute \$500 in direct financial assistance to the library (preferably through one of the endowment funds), while donors who give \$2,500 or more qualify for a large one. Going forward, we aim to install the fish annually.

Staff Notes

I attended a conference of library directors in Anchorage from Oct. 3-6.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 3
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 1
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 4
- Other: Sister City meetings; Talk of Alaska interview

Facility

On the 26th, vandals spray-painted the sidewalk outside the bookdrop. Building maintenance washed it away the next morning.

City IT is in the process of upgrading the wi-fi nodes inside the building. The new nodes accommodate up to 60 simultaneous users (instead of the current 40) and also provide higher bandwidth. The outdoor node remains unchanged.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB heard updates on events in the library and adopted its meeting schedule for 2024.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

On Oct. 10, work crews began spreading gravel for resurfacing the Story Walk Trail. Crews from public works have since made some changes to address drainage issues. As part of the work, the Story Walk posts have been removed temporarily. The survey of plants on the western lot is complete, and the western lot committee chose a few plants to explore further for signage and programs.

There are a number of author talks and events in the next couple of months, leading up to the Big Read in January and February. FHL is also co-hosting a couple of educational programs on beekeeping. The Celebration of Lifelong Learning is tentatively scheduled for April 20 and the spring book and plant sale for May 10-11.

Going forward, we will try to record more of the Zoom public events, where possible.

Ongoing Events

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

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

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

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: 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

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

- Oct. 2, 4:45-5:45: Teentober: Teen/Tween Rock Painting.
- **Oct. 6, 6:00-7:00: Author visit by John Messick, author of *Compass Lines*.**
- Oct. 10, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Rick Steves, on European travel.
- **Oct. 12, 6:00-7:30: Discussion panel with Guiding Growth.**
- Oct. 15, 10:15-11:45: Family Connect with the Independent Living Center.
- Oct. 17, 4:30-6:00: Teentober: Board Games.
- Oct. 18: Library closed for Alaska Day.
- Oct. 18, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Ruth Ware, master of suspense.
- **Oct. 20: New fish added to the fish wall in front of the library, honoring donors who contributed to the library endowment fund or the Friends of the Library endowment.**
- **Oct. 24-31: Wi-fi nodes upgraded throughout the library, allowing faster data and more simultaneous users.**
- Oct. 25, 10:15-11:45: Family Connect with the Independent Living Center.
- Oct. 25 and 27, 10:30-11:00: Storytime in costume, culminating with a parade through the library.
- Oct. 26, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk with John Irving, on a lifetime of writing.
- Oct. 26, 4:30-5:45: Teentober: Tween/Teen Spooktacular (costumes encouraged).
- **Oct. 26, 6:30-7:30: Author visit by local writer Robert Stark, author of *Warflower*.**
- Oct. 31, 4:00-6:00: Trick or treat in the library.
- Nov. 1, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk with actor John Stamos, on Hollywood, home, heart and healing.
- Nov. 9, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Tiffany “The Budgetnista” Aliche, on getting good with money.
- Nov. 11: Library closed for Veteran’s Day.
- Nov. 15, 10:15-11:45: Family Connect with the Independent Living Center.
- Nov. 16, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk with Joy Harjo, on why she writes.
- Nov. 23-24: Library closed for Thanksgiving.

- Nov. 30, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Naomi Alderman, on the power of women in science fiction.
- Dec. 6, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Victoria Aveyard on world building.
- Dec. 12, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Stephanie Land on motherhood, hunger and higher education.
- Dec. 25: Library closed for Christmas.
- Jan. 1: Library closed for New Year's.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 15-Nov-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	11,843	12,613	11,546	11,646	12,422	13,492	15,594	14,813	14,008	0	0	129,889
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289	9,449	8,728	8,933	9,900	10,782	12,842	11,907	10,991			102,143
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108	116	90	109	111	128	121	115	106			1,095
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408	2,984	2,655	2,507	2,327	2,408	2,465	2,665	2,754			25,616
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22	36	26	27	32	51	30	20	13			285
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16	28	47	70	52	123	136	106	144			750
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14	17	24	13	7	20	21	14	14			168
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6	22	14	26	11	20	23	30	13			183
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500	12,884	12,022	13,253	12,711	10,327	9,676	9,734	8,109			110,448
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219	244	236	237	224	188	256	220	216			2,240
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361	434	426	397	371	283	441	446	414			3,909
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28	36	25	16	34	20	18	25	25			267
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205	238	229	162	383	220	161	230	166			2,276
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	1,840	2,510	2,224	2,427	2,851	2,695	1,226	2,612	1,527	0	0	21,613
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055	1,401	1,372	1,533	1,763	1,588		1,553	447			11,718
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785	1,109	852	894	1,088	1,107	1,226	1,059	1,080			9,895
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966	5,143	4,332	5,041	5,442			2,273	2,789			33,706
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	933	1,101	915	1,206	1,342	1,061	1,200	1,191	459	0	0	10,355
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597	725	662	910	854	751	984	952	182			7,287
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160	143	63	150	217	170	67	78	41			1,265
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26	72	44	34	69	57	36	73	28			453
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44	161	58	85	80	49	76	84	159			859
*Programs for All Ages	24	106	0	88	27	122	34	37	4	49			491
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	3	2	5			25
# People	12	8	14	17	18	11	3	4	11	9			107
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41	33	27	26	28	38	31	32	30	34			320
Borough	30	32	25	26	17	30	30	32	33	32			287
Temporary	0	1	0	0	1	5	3	4	2	1			17
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	1	0			14
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73	67	55	65	39	58	57	60	63	72			609
# of hours	312	227	150	233	198	173	157	196	240	163			2,049
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324	180	143	311	265	190	125	303	189	213			2,243
Audio	7	7	23	11	19	8	6	7	5	12			105
Video	56	31	26	46	74	20	32	18	15	19			337
Serials	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0			3
Electronic Resources	31	61	32	52	16	0	13	0	0	53			258
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523	216	326	95	359	412	88	98	51	141			2,309
Audio	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0			8
Video	0	0	3	15	0	78	33	23	93	1			246
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0			1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1037.00	0.00	1101.00	971.00	915.00	1020.00	1709.00	900.00	906.00			9,424.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	0.00	\$9,424.00

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 2022

Date: 11-Oct-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,269	10,348	12,360	11,394	9,965	11,919	12,015	13,136	11,843	11,313	10,441	10,467	136,470
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	8,788	8,085	9,856	8,940	7,892	9,717	9,620	10,614	9,583	8,849	8,267	8,163	108,374
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	93	78	80	109	76	118	122	117	101	92	73	86	1,145
*Alaska Digital Library	2,295	2,112	2,376	2,297	1,974	2,043	2,242	2,367	2,141	2,329	2,033	2,176	26,385
*Flipster e-magazines	93	73	48	48	23	41	31	38	18	25	39	22	499
*Kanopy streaming video	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	29	20	67
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	59	46	20	14	21	11	18	22	11	20	32	28	302
Outgoing (Lent)	25	21	28	15	18	13	16	19	22	13	27	15	232
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	4,929	5,120	6,573	7,613	6,719	7,675	8,905	8,794	12,042	9,628	6,919	6,570	91487
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	102	136	145	147	269	194	160	261	222	161	174	156	2127
Study Rooms (# of people)	152	214	218	219	370	264	203	342	363	302	296	235	3178
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	13	13	20	19	19	23	28	22	28	30	23	20	258
Meeting Room (# of people)	55	70	144	115	149	217	222	169	286	284	228	132	2071
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,414	1,683	2,053	2,265	2,396	2,995	3,383	3,678	2,399	2,035	1,827	1,700	27,828
*Wireless Internet sessions	765	951	1,147	1,389	1,560	2,075	2,348	2,548	1,488	1,242	1,176	1,039	17728
*Hardwired Internet sessions	649	732	906	876	836	920	1,035	1,130	911	793	651	661	10100
Website visits (sessions)	4,283	3,558	4,217	4,375	4,640	4,583	4,980	4,931	4,618	4,437	4,300	3604	52,526
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,206	1,153	1,006	1,351	1,286	997	1,154	1,285	1,250	1,324	1,003	294	13309
*Programs for Age 0-5	1130	990	914	1184	665	768	658	983	810	930	748	116	9896
*Programs for Age 6-11	15	19	8	66	329	183	213	80	170	215	137	59	1494
*Programs for Age 12-18	22	1	3	4	2	18	9	0	5	31	3	12	110
*Programs for Age 19+	32	53	49	15	10	3	78	149	143	84	90	81	787
*Programs for All Ages	7	90	32	82	280	25	196	73	122	64	25	26	1022
OUTREACH													
# Events	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	21
# People	6	7	11	8	8	15	6	7	12	21	10	6	117
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	14	12	25	27	31	40	32	39	34	21	23	22	320
Borough	20	24	33	33	21	39	34	28	31	20	18	26	327
Temporary	1	0	2	1	2	7	3	3	2	1	0	0	22
Reciprocal	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	3	4	3	1	0	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	60	53	56	39	39	43	46	50	48	47	72	58	611
# of hours	203	206	193	232	159	133	182	183	179	146	288	309	2413
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	282	207	219	231	277	327	272	285	108	295	147	239	2889
Audio	3	8	33	4	46	11	9	17	1	4	7	9	152
Video	25	23	47	68	73	45	35	43	10	27	20	33	449
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Resources	79	45	183	93	73	118	68	0	163	252	19	59	1152
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	168	304	543	567	531	139	272	157	270	229	329	252	3761
Audio	0	0	1	44	25	2	68	0	0	9	1	0	150
Video	0	0	0	33	131	72	0	4	1	79	116	0	436
Serials	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	9
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1075.00	517.20	1570.00	566.00	908.00	455.00	1378.00	9,570.20
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants							7000.00	8058.00					15,058.00
TOTALS	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1,075.00	517.20	8,570.00	8,624.00	908.00	455.00	1,378.00	\$24,628.20

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.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer Public Library

500 Hazel Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

library@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) (907)-235-3180

(f) (907)-235-3136

Memorandum

TO: Library Advisory Board
FROM: David Berry, Library Director
DATE: November 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Big Read

The Friends of the Homer Library (FHL) have participated in the Big Read program several times over past years. A project of the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest, the Big Read is a nationwide effort to encourage communities to engage with books through discussion, artistic interpretation, author talks and other community-focused events. Past titles explored here in Homer include:

- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (2013)
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (2015)
- *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* and *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (2017)
- *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast (2019)

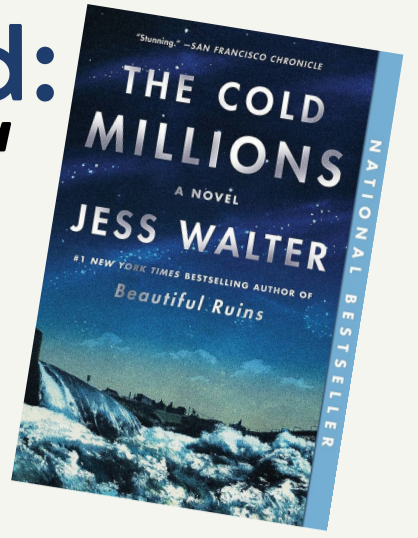
After a brief hiatus caused by a global pandemic, the Big Read will return in January-February 2024. The official title for this round is *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter, and we are pairing it locally with *The Big Both Ways* by John Straley. FHL has put together an extensive schedule of events around these two books.

While the LAB has no official role in the Big Read, it would be helpful to spread the word to the general public.

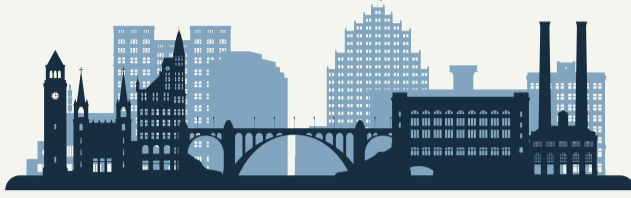
RECOMMENDATION

Help spread the word about upcoming Big Read events.

2024 NEA Big Read: "The Cold Millions" by Jess Walter



★ JANUARY



JAN 19

Kick-Off @ Alice's Champagne Palace:

Pier One Theatre will lead a workshop where participants develop skits inspired by the themes from the book, culminating in a performance with live music. 6 pm



JAN 23

Big Read Book Club

Session 1 - Spokane Riots: A four week book club with a different theme each week led by a local expert. @ Homer Public Library, 6 pm



JAN 24

KBBI Public Radio Book Talk: A live, call-in conversation with the host of the popular weekly Coffee Table program and community guests to discuss themes from "The Cold Millions." 9 am



JAN 25

Historical Homer: Clark Fair writes about our town's early days in a weekly column for The Homer News. He will give a library presentation on his ongoing project. 6 pm



JAN 30

Big Read Book Club

Session 2: History of Unions A four week book club with a different theme each week led by a local expert. @ Homer Public Library, 6 pm



FEB 01

Zoom with Authors: Jess Walter and Alaskan author John Straley to discuss "The Cold Millions" and "The Big Both Ways," which both take place in the Pacific Northwest during the early 20th century and share common themes. @ Homer Public Library, 6:30 pm



FEB 02

Finding Home: Homer Council on the Arts exhibit about the challenges to find home. First Friday opening night will include a conversation about the local housing crisis at 5:30 pm. Exhibit open all February.



Call for Art: Contact HCOA, 907-235-4288. Deadline January 26.

FEB 04

Passages Alaska Workshop: Learn about a new high school curriculum, developed with Alaska Natives, that explores the stories, cultures, and identities of Alaska, with interdisciplinary arts. @ Bunnell Street Arts Center. 12 pm



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

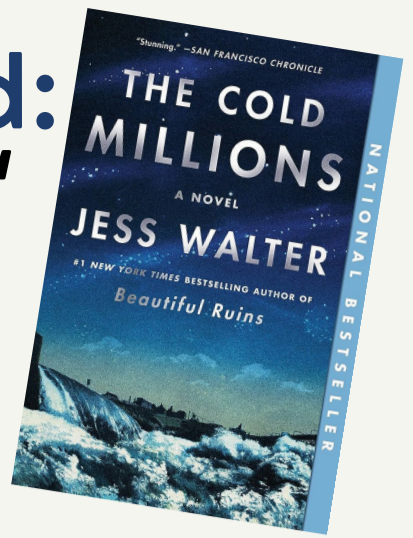


For more information contact Friends of the Homer Public Library at (907) 435-3195 or info@friendshomerlibrary.org



2024 NEA Big Read: "The Cold Millions" by Jess Walter

★ FEBRUARY



FEB 06

Big Read Book Club

Session 3: Indigenous Perspectives

A four week book club with a different theme each week led by a local expert. @ Homer Public Library, 6 pm



FEB 08

These Are Our Stories: A book discussion at the Homer Senior Center, followed by time for seniors to share stories about homesteading days. 1 pm



FEB 09

Free Speech Panel @ Homer Public Library:

Michael Armstrong, retired editor of the Homer News; Jeff Meyer, a historian at Kenai Peninsula College; Megan Edge, former reporter and lawyer for the Alaska ACLU; and others. 6:30 pm



FEB 13

Big Read Book Club

Session 4 - Leading Women: A four week book club with a different theme each week led by a local expert. @ Homer Public Library, 6 pm



FEB 15

Ninilchik Library Book Circle: Tribal elders and long-time locals will be invited to a book discussion and to share stories from the early days of the Ninilchik area. @ the Ninilchik Community Library, 2 pm



FEB 22

Book Talk @ Homer High School : Jess Walter to visit area high school students and read from his book at the Mariner Theater and via Zoom. 3 pm



FEB 23

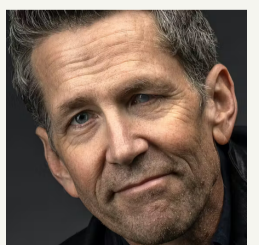
Creative Writing Workshop: led by visiting author Jess Walter @ Homer Public Library. 6 pm



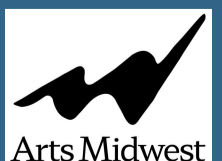
FEB 24

Jess Walter Keynote Address & Book Signing:

Visiting author to read from his critically acclaimed, nationally bestselling novel set in Spokane, Washington, about two brothers who are swept into the turbulent class warfare of the early 20th century. @ Islands & Oceans Auditorium, 6 pm



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



For more information contact Friends of the Homer Public Library at (907) 435-3195 or info@friendshomerlibrary.org





City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: Library Advisory Board
FROM: David Berry, Library Director
DATE: November 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Library Projects in the Capital Improvement Plan

The new City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes three projects related to the library:

1. Replacing siding on all sides of the building
2. Installing a portcullis gate at the library entryway
3. Conducting an engineering study to recommend future repairs or improvements to the building

While the first two projects on this list are relatively straightforward, the last will involve considerable public discussion and debate. Library staff have suggested some highly desirable improvements to the building. The first five of these are listed in the current CIP:

1. A larger meeting room
2. More study rooms
3. A designated Young Adult room
4. An outdoor covered space
5. Accessibility improvements to signage and bathrooms
6. More storage space
7. More office space

Input from the LAB would be welcome.

RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.



Engineering Study for Homer Public Library Remodel

Project Description and Benefit: Homer Public Library has expanded steadily in line with population growth in the area, from a 600 square foot cabin in the 1950s to a 3,500 square foot building in the 1980s to the current 17,000 square foot facility, which opened in 2006. In the 2018 Homer Comprehensive Plan, staff noted that the new building was projected to meet the community’s needs for 20 years, and those projections have proven reasonably accurate. As of 2023, the building has not yet exceeded capacity, but the area population is growing rapidly and utilization of public spaces like the library are rebounding from the Covid-19 pandemic shut downs.

Staff have identified several needs, based on operational impact and competition among patrons for limited resources. Operationally, the library needs increased storage space and office/workspace. Based on use, public use spaces to be considered in the remodel include:

- A larger meeting room. The current meeting room is 19’ x 15’6”. The multipurpose space should be at least twice as large. This was identified as a long-term priority in the Library’s 2019 Strategic Plan.
- An increased number of study rooms was also identified as a long-term priority in the library’s 2019 Strategic Plan.
- A dedicated teen room
- An outdoor covered space, suitable for public programs even in marginal weather. The Friends of Homer Library and some community members have discussed this in conjunction with improvements to the western lot, but it was not considered a high priority for that project. Accessibility improvements, such as signage and bathrooms that are easier to use.

Additionally, accessibility improvements to the public restrooms and signage are needed.

Plans & Progress: Staff has identified specific needs, and some high priority components of the remodel have been prioritized in the Library’s 2019 strategic plan, but no design work or planning has been done. Funding is requested for an engineering study to conduct a needs assessment and provide a detailed space analysis, cost estimate, concept design options and, public outreach. The study will provide the basis for determining feasibility of various projects, which could be combined or treated separately.

Total Project Cost: \$75,000

Schedule: 2026

Priority Level: 2



Library usage has increased substantially over the past seventeen years, and with it, the need to remodel to expand both public use and operational spaces within the building.



Homer Public Library Sliding Security Gate

Project Description and Benefit: The Homer Public Library building was originally intended to have a sliding gate between the meeting room and the main floor. When community meetings occurred after closing hours, library staff could close off the rest of the building while still allowing public access to the meeting room and restrooms. Staff would also lock the front entrance, and the meeting organizer would be responsible for admitting people to the meeting and ensuring that the front door latched upon departure. The Port and Harbor Office has a very similar setup, with an externally-accessible meeting space and a gate separating it from the rest of the office.

For cost reasons, the library gate was never installed. This means that staff must work overtime to supervise any community events held outside of regular hours, which in turn means that community groups must pay \$50/hour to rent the room. This fee discourages the public from using a resource that was designed for them. The room is in constant demand during open hours, and extending its use into the evening would enhance the value of the resource for the community. It would also expand the range of community groups that could use it, since adults in particular prefer to meet after working hours. The gate was listed as a long-term priority in the library's 2019 Strategic Plan.

Installing a gate should be relatively easy, since the building was designed for it and a structural frame is already in place. The corridor is 127 inches wide and 189 inches tall (to the drop ceiling) with a utility space 22" tall above the ceiling, which puts it in the same class as security screens for commercial retail outlets. Given that it is the main egress from the building, it would need to be powered and include an emergency opening switch on the inside.

Plans & Progress: In November 2021, the library director assembled a list of manufacturers and spoke with several of them on the phone about the feasibility of the project. The rough cost estimates varied a great deal, but the consensus was that phase one is an engineering analysis of the space followed by procurement and installation.

Total Project Cost: \$75,000

Schedule: 2025

Priority Level: 2



Structural frame for a security gate that was built in to the Library's entry hall.



Homer Public Library Siding Replacement

Project Description and Benefit: The Homer Public Library building opened in September 2006. The concrete siding was relatively new technology at the time, and while it has lasted 17 years, it is now cracked and falling off the building. The City’s Building Maintenance division has worked hard to patch and replace missing pieces, but the worsening problem is both an eyesore and a potential path for moisture to enter the building.

The siding covers all four sides of the building, but the damage is worst on the south side, where the wall curves outward and the siding is under tension.

Plans & Progress: Building Maintenance has contacted several vendors for cost estimates and are still awaiting response. The costs below are a best guess, based on experience and the area of the building’s façade. Professionals could fully replace the siding in a week or two, weather permitting. If funding and a contract is secured, the project could be done in summer 2024 to protect the facility from water infiltration and damage.

Total Project Cost: \$500,000

Schedule: 2024

Priority Level: 1



Examples of damaged and broken siding on the library’s south-facing wall (at left) and above the library’s back door (at top).



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Memorandum

TO: Library Advisory Board
FROM: David Berry, Library Director
DATE: November 2, 2023
SUBJECT: LAB/FHL Soiree

In 2019, the LAB and the board of the Friends of the Library began holding an annual potluck so that members of both boards could meet each other and build personal connections. No library business can be discussed at the “LAB/FHL Soiree,” but it is a chance for informal socializing and sharing good food.

The last soiree was held in January 2023. For the upcoming year, the Friends have proposed March 3 as a tentative date. As before, the event would be on a Sunday in the meeting room of the library.

RECOMMENDATION

Plan to hold the soiree on March 3. If that date doesn't work, propose alternatives for the library director to present to the FHL board.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/23 6:00 p.m. [Finn]	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/27 6:00 p.m. [Kuszmaul]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board’s Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning
MARCH	Wednesday 3/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m. [McKinney]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/12 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/18 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m. [Asselin]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m. [Baily]	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting – Conducted Worksession on July 11th			Draft Policies Update/Revision
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years • Library Policies Revision • CIP 2024-2029 Draft Recommendations
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m. Asselin -Martin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m. Baily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Friends of Libraries Week
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/19 5:30 p.m.	1/8/2024 6:00 p.m. Carsow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals

*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.



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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: October 18, 2023
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for October 23, 2023 Council Meeting

Sister City 40th Anniversary with Teshio, Japan is Next Year!

For 39 years, Homer has enjoyed a close sister-city relationship with Teshio, in Hokkaido, Japan. Numerous delegations have made the trip across the Pacific, students have participated in exchanges, and both communities have shared cultural connections and traded works of art created by local residents. Next year, in honor of the 40th anniversary, Teshio will again send a delegation to visit Homer. City staff and interested citizens have formed a stakeholder group to plan for their arrival and to come up with other ways of marking the occasion. The group has a wide range of ideas, from a temporary exhibit at the Pratt Museum to refurbishing a "pillar of friendship" to a performance of Japanese drumming. At a future meeting, I will have Library Director Dave Berry give a more detailed update on the 40th anniversary and seek Council feedback on how to proceed.

Sand Island Research Vessel Fire Response

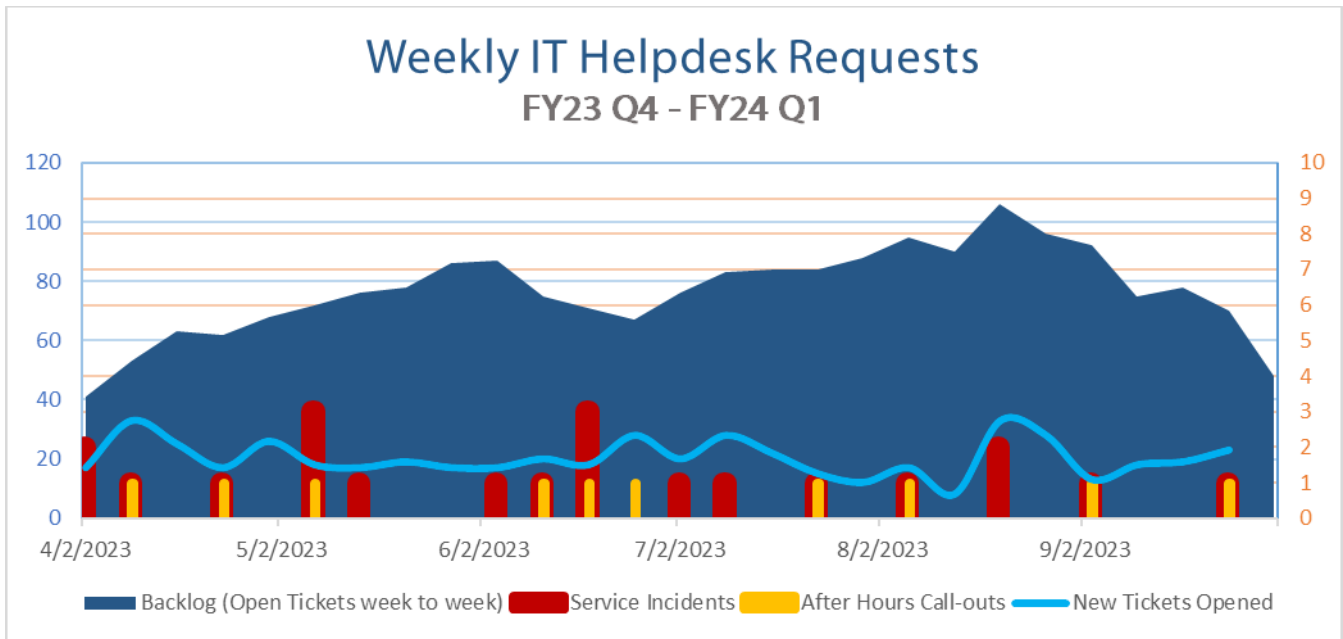
The Homer Volunteer Fire Department responded to a boat fire located at Ramp 8 in the harbor. Thanks to the vigilance of the Harbor's 24/7 operations crew, and the quick response by our firefighters, we were able to put out the fire before it was able to spread and create more significant damage. Attached to this report is an incident brief which gives an overview of the response and a window into what a boat fire response looks like from an operational perspective.

End of Season Trail Work Update

Public Works administration and the Parks Maintenance Division has been working very hard on trail improvements this year and is working with contractors to get as much work completed before the ground freezes. Attached to this report is a series of maps showing recent projects on the City's trail system.

IT Update

The Information Technology division has been putting a lot of effort into reformulating its mission, strategic priorities, processes, etc. to better meet the ever evolving needs of the organization and the threats to our systems. IT is shifting to a mission that is focused on: 1. Using data and technology to enhance the way City employees accomplish their work, and 2. Finding innovative ways of connecting the public to City government. To achieve that mission, IT has set cybersecurity, service management, and infrastructure reliability as their strategic priorities.



One massive step forward made by the IT team in the last year is the implementation of a help desk system which provides significantly better tracking of IT issues and service outcomes. The figure above shows an overview of help desk requests from April to the end of September. We’re also tracking and documenting incidents in a more comprehensive way. In the last six months, 50% of service outages and/or other incidents were associated with the phone system. IT was able to replace the aging system thanks to Council’s approval of Ordinance 23-38 and we are expecting the number of phone system related incidents to experience a sizable decrease.

Guiding Growth

Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen participated in a panel discussion presented by local group Guiding Growth. The panel focused on what is driving change in Homer. It included panelists from the Chamber of Commerce, South Peninsula Hospital, Story Real Estate, and the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies. The panel was held at the Homer Library and well attended by approximately 60 people. Common discussion themes were the aging demographics of Homer, the need to recruit and retain early- to mid-career workers, high housing costs for younger workers, and the allure of Homer for people relocating from the lower 48.

Parks & Recreation Department Update

Staff has been working hard on the tasks outlined in Resolution 23-047(S) which includes creating a 10-year plan for a department. A draft memo is scheduled to go before the Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission on October 19th. Staff is on track for a presentation to Council at the November 27th Council meeting.

Park Planning Updates

Economic Development staff participated in a community meeting hosted by Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships of the Southern Kenai Peninsula (MAPP-SKP) to discuss the results of the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment which were presented to Council at their last meeting. There was a productive discussion and we see opportunities to use information from the MAPP-SKP plan in future City endeavors (i.e., Comprehensive Plan).

Corvus Design is scheduled to present at the October 19th Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission with progress on the public meetings it hosted in Homer in September that were held to gather input on the futures of Bayview and Karen Hornaday Parks.

Homer Represented at 2023 Alaska Recreation and Parks Association Conference

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Chad Felice, Recreation Manager Mike Illg, and Parks & Trail Planner Matt Steffy represented Homer at this year's ARPA Conference in Wrangell. Mike presented educational sessions on Organizing Sports Leagues and Recreation Libraries, and Matt presented on Invisible Disabilities in Recreation Programming and Landscape Architecture as well as Conflict Resolution & Management. As an added bonus, I received numerous photos from the delegation via email of public restrooms. Wrangell uses a portable restroom system that can be tied into water and sewer which is significantly less expensive than a concrete structure, however, it is not at the same level of durability. There is a high probability that these units will be a future topic of discussion as we approach the mid-biennium budget adjust next year.

FY24/25 Budget Documents

The draft FY24/25 Budget PDF is being replaced on the City's website within the next week with an updated final version that contains additional materials required for Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) budget award consideration. This is the first budget cycle in which we've been subject to overhauled award standards and Finance Director Walton has put a lot of effort into getting our document in the right format and expanded with the right content to satisfy the new requirements.

Short Term Rental Update

I met with Planning and Economic Development staff to review a draft ordinance concept, it created some public safety questions that were addressed with Chief Kirko and Chief Robl. After submittal of this report, I will be meeting with Councilmembers Aderhold and Davis for inputs on the draft and guidance on various policy crossroads contained within this topic.

Kenai Peninsula City Manager Meet Up

City Managers on the Kenai Peninsula meet monthly online, but do our best to get together in person twice a year in spring and fall. This year's fall meeting was in Soldotna on October 13th. We largely discussed issues related to recruiting and retention with a focus on wage scales, non-wage compensation, retirement programs, etc. We also had an extended discussion on land use and bridging the gap between the development patterns many in the public desire and the ability (or inability) to create them within existing zoning codes.

Girl Scouts Democracy Event

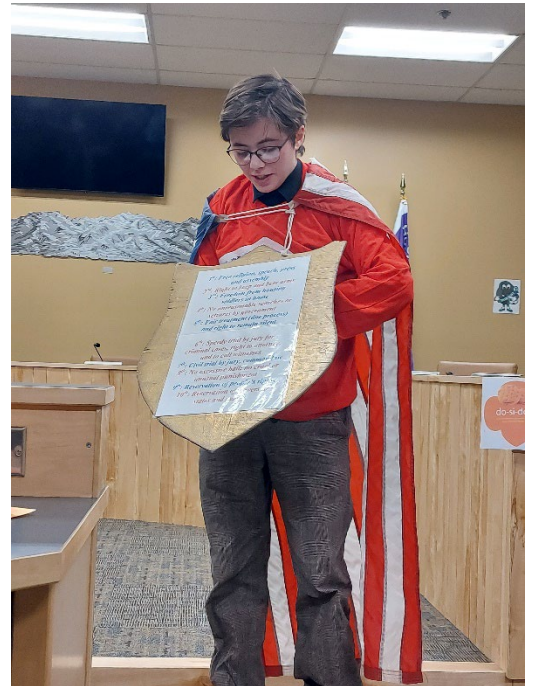
On October 13th the Girl Scouts held a Democracy Event in the Cowles Council Chambers. Ginny Espenshade lead the group through a Bill of Rights activity where they learned about the three branches of government. Guest speakers included Council Member Venuti and Jenny Martin, Staff to Senator Stevens who discussed the legislative branch, Mayor Castner and City Clerk Jacobsen who discussed the executive branch, and Judge Seifert and Ginny Espenshade who discussed the judicial branch. The Scouts held an election on the best Girl Scout cookie, and conducted a mock City Council meeting where they heard audience comments, staff reports, and voted on ranking for three capital improvement projects. It was a fun and educational afternoon for all



Mock Council Meeting



The Girl Scouts



The Bill of Rights

Photo credits Tina Seaton & Megumi Beams

Incident Brief:

Date: October 16, 2023

Dispatch as: Smoke investigation:

Location: ramp-8 in the Harbor

Vessel name: Sand Island

Vessel Type and use: a steel hull research/dive vessel

At 12:39 on Monday, 10/16/23 Homer Fire was toned out to respond to a smoke investigation on a boat in the Homer boat harbor. HVFD responded with Engine-2 and crew of 2, Tanker-1 with a crew of 2, medic-3 with crew of 2 and Chief Kirko and Deputy Chief Kahles.

While in route we were receiving condition reports from Harbor-2 (Glidden) stating that he could see light to moderate black smoke coming from vents on the upper deck. Glidden also stated that the hull was getting hot to the touch below deck indicating potential fire in the engine room or support space below the main deck.

By radio, I asked Glidden to confirm if all crew members were off the boat. He quickly confirmed that they were. I then asked him the size of the boat and if it was tied to the dock or outside of another boat. He confirmed it was tied directly to the dock.

At this time I requested mutual-aid from WES and KESA to respond with an engine and personnel for assistance.

At this time the Harbor crew was setting up the fire cart near the boat, running and water available on the arrival of E-2 crew.

Engine-2 arrived at approximately 12:49 and went to the boat to assess and report conditions to the incoming crews. Chief Kahles and Kirko arrived at approximately 12:51. Chief Kirko assumed incident command and assigned DC Kahles as operations chief at the boat. As incident command I remained at the top of the ramp coordinating incoming resources and assuring crew accountability and safety.

While DC Kahles was preparing the attack team for entry, 3 Coastguardsman approached him offering assistance. One of the crew was a command officer and the other two were geared up in fire PPE and available to assist in firefighting efforts. The initial attack team, HVFD staff, firefighters Knowles and Lowe made entry with a hand-line below deck to aggressively attack the fire. Heat and thick black smoke were present in the engine room greatly reducing visibility. Using a thermal imaging device they were able to see that there was no fire in the engine room and continued to move aft to locate the fire. They opened a hatch which lead to a diver support area which contained a hyperbaric chamber and dive equipment and supplies. Once they opened the hatch the heat and smoke became more intense and fire was visible below the chamber. They quickly brought the fire under control and reported conditions to Command personnel.

Tanker-1 crew arrived at approximately 12:55 and they were initially assigned to water supply operations and then to report to DC Kahles to assist the initial attack team.

The Tanker crew was assigned to assist with ventilation efforts to relieve smoke and heat from the boat so overhaul operations could resume.

When DC Kahles announced the fire under control, I canceled any additional responding units.

When overhaul was complete all fire suppression crews were released to put their equipment back in service.

Chief Kirko, DC Kahles and firefighter Knowles (fire investigation student) again went aboard to investigate the fire. The point of origin was determined and the cause is believed to be electrical in nature.

All HVFD units cleared the scene and returned all equipment and apparatus back in to a service ready status.



Beluga Slough Trail-ADA approaches were installed at each entry point



Charles Way-Installed with water/sewer by contractor



Day view Trail-brush hogged sides, done in house



Spruceview Trail-brush hogged both sides, done in house



Poop Deck Trail-
mowed every other
week during the
summer, in house



Story Trail-redone
with new fabric and
material by
contractor



East Fairview & West Fairview-redone with new fabric and material by contractor



Lee Drive Trail-installed with new fabric and material by contractor



Karen Hornaday Park-fabric and material on numerous walkways leading to the playground, done in house w/some volunteers

Aaron Yeaton and Chad Felice did some on-site work and recon, looking into the possibility of adding a hiking trail North of the campground



Jack Gist-
removed
blown down
trees on the
disc golf
course, done
in house

Reber Trail-brush hogged 1-2 feet on each side, done in house





Ben Walters Trail-new fabric and material were installed, in house



North and South Calhoun Trail-North trail has new fabric and material, south trail brush hogged 2-3 each side, done in house

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2023

Council Meeting Dates	4:00 p.m. Worksession Topic
<i>Monday, May 8</i>	
<i>Tuesday, May 22</i>	<i>Coast Guard ws 2 5 COW @ 4</i>
<i>Monday, June 12</i>	<i>2023 City of Homer Salary and Benefits Survey</i>
<i>Monday, June 26</i>	<i>FY24/25 Capital Budget</i>
<i>Monday, July 24</i>	<i>HDR-Homer Harbor Expansion Alternatives Screening and Next Steps</i>
<i>Monday, August 14</i>	<i>HERC & Hazardous Materials Update – Economic Development Manager & Recreation Manager</i>
<i>Monday, August 28</i>	<i>2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan & FY25 Legislative Priorities - Special Projects & Communications Coordinator</i>
<i>Monday, September 11</i>	<i>HHE study funding and timeline status by the USACE Project Development Team</i>
<i>Monday, September 25</i>	<i>Ord 23-49 Amend Title 2 & Re-Organization</i>
<i>Monday, October 9</i>	<i>HERC – Economic Development Manager & Recreation Manager</i>
<i>Monday, October 18 (off cycle)</i>	<i>Joint Work Session with Planning Commission</i>
<i>Monday, October 23</i>	<i>Finance</i>
<i>Monday, November 13</i>	<i>Exempt Employee Wage Scale</i>
<i>Monday, November 27</i>	<i>Reso 23-027 Follow-Up Re: Recreation Funding Priority</i>



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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: November 8, 2023
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for November 13, 2023 Council Meeting

Pioneer Avenue Trick or Treat

Pioneer Avenue was bustling with trick-or-treaters for Halloween. The Homer Chamber of Commerce planned the event, and the City processed the special event permit and participated at two different locations: City Hall and the Fire Hall. The City also supported trick-or-treat operations in the Mountain View/Bayview neighborhood. Both Police and Fire crews worked to control the flow of traffic and keep everybody safe.



Champion Work Plan Follow Up

At the October 23rd Council Meeting, Council picked out a number of projects/themes that they wanted to “champion.” I have been working with staff to follow up on the creation of these Council champion teams. I’ve been working my way through the list of topics and connecting with the teams.

- Harbor Expansion – Staff is working with Councilmembers Lord and Hansen to develop a resolution that will be before Council at your next meeting. An informational memo from the champions is included in the meeting packet.
- HERC Site/Recreation – Staff has been working on the requests in Resolution 23-118 related to alternative site analysis for a future recreation facility. We will be looking to get together soon with the Council Champions.

- Finance – Staff has been getting geared up to fulfill the requests in Resolution 23-120 related to finance. I have reached out the Champions and suggested a meeting to discuss vision for this topic once Councilmember Davis is available to meet.
- Business Licenses – I met with the Mayor, Councilmember Venuti, and Economic Development Chair Karin Marks to discuss the concept and vision. Once that is firmed up, I expect we'll bring a memo to Council to discuss the merits of the Champions' proposal.
- Stormwater – I have reached out to the Champions to let them know that I wanted to wait for the new Public Works Director to arrive before we start working on the knowledge download from Jan.
- Lands Policy – I've spoken individually with the Mayor and Councilmember Davis, but we haven't met as a team yet. On this topic, the annual Land Allocation Plan update should start making the rounds to Commissions in early 2024.

Siren Update from KPB

Many may remember that the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Office of Emergency Management worked this year to replace tsunami notification sirens throughout the Borough. Technicians are making a final pass on each installation to test the system to ensure it is functioning correctly. Technicians are tentatively scheduled to conduct this work in Homer on November 14th and the testing will be done one pole at a time.

Landfill Fire Response

On October 20th, Homer Volunteer Fire and Western Emergency Services (WES) responded as mutual aid to Kachemak Emergency Services (KESA) to assist in fire suppression operations at the construction and demolition cell of the Homer Landfill. Homer responded with seven personnel who operated an engine and two tankers. Upwards of 60,000 gallons of water was required to put out the fire.



Follow Up to Ordinance 23-21(S)(A)

Ordinance 23-21(S)(A) was voted down by Council, however, there was support to revisit the topic and use recommendations provided by the Planning Commission as a way to move the core concept of the ordinance forward. City Planner Ryan Foster will be working on developing solutions in line with the recommendation

table that accompanied ordinance 23-21(S)(A) and will be collaborating with the original sponsors to get it ready for consideration by the full Council at a later date.

Harbor Parking and Camping Operations Update

At the most recent Port & Harbor Commission meeting, Harbormaster Matt Clarke provided an update regarding the parking and camping operations for this past summer season. Parking revenues totaled approximately \$190,000 by the end of September. Camping on the Spit, management of which was reassigned this year from Public Works, generated approximately \$195,000 in revenues. There are still some operational and funding source questions to be worked out between the Enterprise and General Fund in the shift of Spit camping to the Harbor, but overall I'm seeing that experiment as a success. The Harbor operations team was very well equipped to take on the challenge and we able to maintain a higher level of control and satisfaction for internal and external stakeholders. The Harbormaster's full report is attached to this report. I will continue to work with the Harbor and Public Works to further dial in this change for the 2024 season.

KPEDD Visit

On November 3rd I participated in a meeting with Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) staff and City Managers from around the Kenai Peninsula to discuss local economic development topics as well as KPEDD-specific updates related to the retirement of Tim Dillon who will be replaced in 2024 by Cassidy Cameron. Tim and Cassidy will be visiting with the Council at your next regular meeting.

Attachments:

November Employee Anniversaries
General Fund Expenditure Report through October 2023
Memorandum re: Grant Summary Update
Harbormaster's Parking and Camping Report
Alaska Small Business Development Quarterly Report



City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: November 13, 2023
SUBJECT: November Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Dave Shealy	Police	26	Years
Jenna deLumeau	Finance	14	Years
Ian Overson	Police	12	Years
Cinda Nofziger	Library	2	Years

General Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through October 2023
33% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 4,115,085	\$ 3,388,579	82%	
Sales and Use Taxes	8,939,282	3,554,945	40%	
Permits and Licenses	43,797	13,025	30%	
Fines and Forfeitures	10,303	130	1%	
Use of Money	0	76,227		
Intergovernmental	746,338	90,570	12%	
Charges for Services	396,890	197,521	50%	
Other Revenues	-	52,697		
Airport	198,448	76,551	39%	
Operating Transfers	1,728,989	-	0%	
Total Revenues	\$ 16,179,131	\$ 7,450,244	46%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$ 2,288,320	\$ 598,981	26%	
Clerks/Council	927,024	233,648	25%	
Planning	387,478	86,142	22%	
Library	1,079,132	351,868	33%	
Finance	898,578	243,623	27%	
Fire	1,881,175	567,048	30%	
Police	4,282,603	1,494,619	35%	
Public Works	3,512,438	1,056,952	30%	
Airport	229,618	56,663	25%	
City Hall, HERC	179,040	52,554	29%	
Non-Departmental	179,000	79,000	44%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 15,844,405	\$ 4,821,099	30%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 221,360	\$ -	0%	
Other	103,366	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 324,725	\$ -	0%	
Transfer to CARMA				
General Fund Fleet CARMA	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
General Fund CARMA	-	-	0%	
Seawall CARMA	10,000	-	0%	
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 16,179,131	\$ 4,821,099	30%	
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 2,629,146		

These numbers are preliminary and are subject change

Water and Sewer Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through October 2023
33% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Water Fund	\$ 2,369,005	\$ 916,796	39%	
Sewer Fund	1,948,388	784,306	40%	
Total Revenues	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 1,701,102	39%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
<u>Water</u>				
Administration	\$ 309,507	\$ 118,940	38%	
Treatment Plant	684,568	230,078	34%	
System Testing	33,000	10,917	33%	
Pump Stations	115,707	35,317	31%	
Distribution System	372,744	120,494	32%	
Reservoir	19,025	5,597	29%	
Meters	285,597	19,282	7%	
Hydrants	214,533	68,194	32%	
<u>Sewer</u>				
Administration	\$ 303,612	\$ 118,809	39%	
Plant Operations	836,304	253,322	30%	
System Testing	18,000	4,878	27%	
Lift Stations	216,060	63,909	30%	
Collection System	306,884	79,928	26%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 3,715,541	\$ 1,129,665	30%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 15,769	\$ -	0%	
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%	
Other	22,945	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 38,714	\$ -	0%	
Transfers to CARMA				
Water	\$ 309,001	\$ -	0%	
Sewer	254,138	-	0%	
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$ 563,138	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 1,129,665	26%	
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 571,437		

Port and Harbor Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through October 2023
33% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Administration	\$ 614,164	\$ 297,522	48%	
Harbor	3,961,361	2,769,044	70%	
Pioneer Dock	307,804	130,815	42%	
Fish Dock	578,477	382,401	66%	
Deep Water Dock	182,426	39,230	22%	
Outfall Line	4,800	-	0%	
Fish Grinder	7,390	8,398	114%	
Load and Launch Ramp	130,000	57,063	44%	
Total Revenues	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 3,684,472	64%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$ 1,143,305	\$ 494,034	43%	
Harbor	1,609,487	501,782	31%	
Pioneer Dock	86,345	29,417	34%	
Fish Dock	747,966	217,745	29%	
Deep Water Dock	104,705	35,759	34%	
Outfall Line	13,500	3,280	24%	
Fish Grinder	27,682	23,831	86%	
Harbor Maintenance	533,783	157,046	29%	
Main Dock Maintenance	51,393	15,189	30%	
Deep Water Dock Maintenance	61,893	17,515	28%	
Load and Launch Ramp	138,815	46,528	34%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,518,876	\$ 1,542,127	34%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 73,867	\$ -	0%	
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%	
Debt Service	0	-	0%	
Other	375,092	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 448,959	\$ -	0%	
Transfers to Reserves				
Harbor	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%	
Load and Launch Ramp	-	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 1,542,127	27%	
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 2,142,345		



MEMORANDUM

City Manager Report: Grant Update

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: November 8, 2023
From: Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Carroll
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

This is an informational memo to provide an update on Federal and State grant applications submitted or in process in support of City of Homer projects. New actions/information since the September 20, 2023 Grant Update are highlighted in yellow on the attached chart.

Highlights include:

Homer Float System Replacement Project (HOMER FREIGHT)

MARAD has made its [2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program \(PIDP\) award selections](#). Unfortunately, Homer was not one of the projects selected. The winning projects in Alaska all serve underserved communities; three of the funded projects were submitted under PIDP last year and were not funded. Three were submitted under RAISE, were not funded and were resubmitted under PIDP this year. One project would have lost substantial state and other funding sources without being able to leverage a PIDP award this year.

After reviewing the winning projects, HDR consultants who assisted with the Homer FREIGHT application reported that Homer's project and application was equally as strong as those awarded. Staff will request a detailed debrief of the FREIGHT project to see if there are ways to better portray the project and to help inform a decision on whether to resubmit an application next year.

Brownfield Multipurpose Grant Application

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen, with grant editing support from Special Projects Coordinator Carroll recently submitted a Brownfield Multipurpose grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency for Federal discretionary funds to continue hazardous materials assessment efforts, conduct remediation and development clean up alternatives for the HERC site. Two other Brownfield sites in Homer's downtown are included in the grant's scope (former gas station on Pioneer Avenue and the HEA property on Snowbird Street), through the priority site is the HERC site.

Successful Awards

The City was recently awarded two grants through the Alaska Division of State Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Awards have been offered from the FY23 State Homeland Security Program for improvements to the City's public safety communication system and from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to replace the City's raw water transmission mains. Ordinances to accept these funds are on November 13, 2023 agenda. More information about these projects are provided in the Ordinances section of the meeting packet.

RAISE

Almost a year has passed since the City started developing a Federal RAISE application in support of non-motorized transportation planning and design; the RAISE program is anticipated to reopen for another round in late November (if the schedule is not delayed by a potential government shutdown). The City's FY23 REACH application received a High Merit rating. Staff is evaluating capacity to not only update and resubmit the REACH (Realizing Equitable, Accessible Connectivity in Homer) project application, but also to implement the project should it be funded.

Grant Activity Update 11/8/2023

FY23 Project Supported	TPC	Grant Fund	Grant Funds Req	Match/Local Cost	Status	Notes
Slope Stability- Erosion Mitigation Program						
Kachemak Drive Peatland Water Quality Improvement (Kachemak Sponge)	\$4,388,791	NOAA Habitat Conservation KBNERSS led/City partner	\$ 1,188,275.00 (land acquisition)	\$ 418,000.00 (land acquisition)	Submitted Awarded 4/1/2023 Award Executed	UAA accepted award; sent sub-award agreement to City Ord 23-46 to accept sub-award introduced 6/26/23 Grant is for Kachemak Drive peatlands acquisition
Beluga Slough Stormwater Treatment System	\$ 690,000.00	Alaska Clean Water Actions	\$ 153,307.00	\$ 107,182.00	Submitted 11/9/2022 Awarded 3/1/2023 Accepted via Ord 23-16(S)	City Council approved grant agreement Ord City costs in-kind + eligible for funds from ADEC Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
Transportation						
Transportation Planning	\$ 960,000.00	Safe Streets For All KPB Applic/City partner	\$ 960,000.00	\$ 23,000.00 (in-kind)	Award announced KPB executing grant agreement	Application approved Reso 22-063
Non-Motorized Trans Network (REACH Project)	\$ 1,500,000.00	Fed RAISE Planning Grant	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -	Submitted 2/28/2023 NOT FUNDED 6/28/23	HDR application support Reso 22-087 approved Project support Reso 23-012 approved Application made it to Secretary of Transportation Desk Not awarded but deemed a Merit Application; encouraged to apply again next FY.
Homer All-Ages & Abilities Pedestrian Pathway	\$ 3,900,000.00	State of AK Transportation Alternatives (TAP)	\$ 3,432,000.00	\$ 468,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Advanced to final round: Public Evaluation Board (PEB) Awaiting DOT cost estimate (AK DOT&PF manages/constructs project)	HAPP sections in PW's 5-year road plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved Date of PEB Review pending Unknown award date; Perf period end date June '25 (\$500,000 set aside in HART for grant matching)
Main Street Rehab/ Sidewalk South	\$ 4,200,000.00	State of AK Community Transportation Program (CTP)	\$ 3,696,000.00	\$ 504,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Advanced to final round: Public Evaluation Board (PEB) Awaiting DOT cost estimate (AK DOT&PF manages/constructs project)	Main St in 7-10 year horizon in PW Road Plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved Date of PEB Review pending Unknown award date; Perf period end date June '25 (\$500,000 set aside in HART for grant matching)
Port & Harbor						
Float Systems 4 & 1 Replacement	\$ 59,289,547.00	Fed Port Infrastructure Development Projects (PIDP)	\$47,135,190	\$ 12,154,357.00 (20.5% match)	Submitted 4/28/2023 NOT FUNDED 11/1/2023	HDR application support Ord 23-12 approved Council approved project support Reso 4/24/2023 Could apply for PIDP or RAISE '24 if '23 unsuccessful Added to STIP as illustrative project Revenue bond or TIFIA loan for match
		Municipal Harbor Grant			Grant for construction only must complete design to apply	If funded, leverages State match to lower City match on Federal PIDP Grant

Grant Activity Update 11/8/2023

FY23 Project Supported	TPC	Grant Fund	Grant Funds Req	Match/Local Cost	Status	Notes
Float Systems 4 & 1 Replace		Denali Commission Grant			Application not begun Due date 4/14/24	Can be used as non-Federal Match May not be competitive - \$1M max award Could apply in '24 for Design/Engineering
Fish Grinding Building Replace & Drainage Improvements	\$ 374,978.00	ADFG Dingle-Johnson	\$ 250,000.00 (preliminary)	\$ 93,744.50 (preliminary)	Submitted 7/12/2022 Preliminary award announced 7/7/2023	Finalizing project cost estimate and award amount \$100,000 allocated in FY23 City Capital Budget; for final design and partial match; additional match to meet 25% of construction cost may be necessary Ordinance to accept the grant forth coming
Building Code Development	\$ 587,500.00	State BRIC Sub-Grant (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities)	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 117,500.00 (covered by State of Alaska)	Submitted 12/21/2022 Accepted for further review Awaiting decision	Council Approved application Reso 22-086 As a sub-applic State covers local match
Parks & Recreation						
Bayview Park Renovations	\$ 139,230.00	State of AK Healthy & Equitable Community Round 2	\$ 74,919.00	\$ 52,314.00 Addl redistribution funds requested	Submitted 4/24/2023 Awarded 5/8/2023 Accepted via Ord 23-36	Council Approved Resolution 23-031 \$12,000 donation from Kach Bay Rotary Additional funds from HART approved in COH Cap budget
HERC HazMat Assessment & Remediation		EPA Multipurpose Brownfield Federal Discretionary Grant	\$1,000,000		Submitted 11/13/2023	Council Approved Resolution 23-117
Utilities - Infrastructure Resilience						
Spit Road Erosion Mitigation	\$ 1,812,052.00	Federal PROTECT Grant	\$ 1,812,052.00	-	Submitted 8/18/2023 Awaiting Decision	Application requested planning funds for Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation. City of Homer is project sponsor, but if awarded City will enter MOU with DOT to implement grant activities
Raw Water Transmission Main		FEMA Disaster Mitigation	\$ 1,988,650.00 (direct project costs)	-	Submitted 1/30/2020 Obligating Award Document Recd 11/3/2023	4/11/23: Responded to latest FEMA request for information 5/2/23: Congressional Delegation approved award 7/11/23: FEMA Received Period of Performance Waiver 11/13 Ordinance to accept the grant to be considered by City Council
IT - Communications						
Cybersecurity (City-wide Cybersecurity Assessment and Remote Backup System for Cybersecurity Response & Recovery)	\$ 252,794.00	AK Division of Homeland Security FY22 State & Local Cyberscurity Grant Program	\$ -	\$ 252,794.00	Submitted 8/31/2023 Awaiting Decision	
Public Safety Communications (HPD Backup Repeater & Radio Equip HVFD APX-600 Radio Upgrade)	\$ 119,046.56	AK Division of Homeland Security FY23 State Homeland Security Grant Program	\$ 88,196.56	\$ -	Submitted 1/31/2023 Prelim Award Announcement 9/18/2023 Obligating Award Document Recd	11/13 Ordinance to accept the grant to be considered by City Council

designates grants awarded

designates grants NOT awarded

designates updates since the 9/20/23 grant update

2023 Ramp 1 - 4 Parking Revenue

Marina Account #17770

	Memorial Day to Labor Day					Past Year Comparison																	
	Ramp 1	Ramp 2	Ramp 3	Ramp 4	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	
May	723.23	\$2,030.60	\$769.59	\$296.71	\$3,820.13	\$2,837.28	\$1,414.00	\$1,200.74	\$1,535.84	\$1,255.50	\$1,046.25	\$599.85	\$1,478.99	\$654.87	\$745.25	\$710.68	\$683.72	\$590.00	\$362.78	\$359.95	\$560.54	\$155.54	
No. of Sales:	78	219	83	32	412	612	305	254	331	270	225	129	237	132	144	136	130						
June	\$4,293.00	\$11,840.52	\$4,348.63	\$1,316.64	\$21,798.79	\$18,261.47	10416.32*	\$4,093.64	\$7,131.68	\$6,268.20	\$5,593.95	\$4,849.95	\$4,466.29	\$4,007.70	\$3,479.72	\$3,587.02	\$3,114.86	\$3,394.00	\$2,784.09	\$3,250.56	\$3,853.54	\$4,027.06	
No. of Sales:	463	1277	469	142	2,351	3,939	2,247	883	1,537	1,348	1,203	1,043	800	789	698	694	613						
				Subtotal	\$25,618.92	\$21,098.75	\$11,830.32	\$5,294.38	\$8,667.52	\$7,523.70	\$6,640.20	\$5,449.80	\$5,945.28	\$4,662.57	\$4,224.97	\$4,297.70	\$3,798.58						
July	\$5,961.98	\$17,913.77	\$7,297.17	\$3,356.51	\$34,529.44	\$22,735.27	\$23,880.39	\$7,723.68	\$10,982.88	\$10,629.90	\$9,048.90	\$8,579.25	\$8,414.81	\$8,643.86	\$6,368.68	\$6,268.65	\$8,041.97	\$7,783.75	\$5,891.39	\$6,185.02	\$7,324.48	\$7,893.35	
No. of Sales:	643	1932	787	362	3,724	4,904	5,151	1,666	2,367	2,286	1,946	1,845	1,545	1,655	1,253	1,230	1,575						
				Subtotal	\$60,148.36	\$43,834.02	\$35,710.71	\$13,018.06	\$19,650.40	\$18,153.60	\$15,689.10	\$14,029.05	\$14,360.09	\$13,306.43	\$10,593.65	\$10,566.35	\$11,840.55						
August	\$4,867.87	\$13,722.76	\$4,765.88	\$1,872.97	\$25,229.49	\$19,003.24	\$18,810.38	\$5,697.73	\$8,129.28	\$6,400.01	\$5,910.15	\$6,198.45	\$5,613.61	\$6,325.25	\$4,018.83	\$3,696.34	\$3,993.71	\$4,643.00	\$3,939.28	\$3,921.73	\$4,001.81	\$4,849.64	
No. of Sales:	525	1480	514	202	2,721	4,099	4,057	1,229	1,752	1,376	1,271	1,333	1,062	1,133	816	730	795						
				Subtotal	\$85,377.84	\$62,837.26	\$54,521.09	\$18,715.79	\$27,779.68	\$24,553.61	\$21,599.25	\$20,227.50	\$19,973.70	\$19,631.68	\$14,612.48	\$14,262.69							
September	\$361.61	\$1,168.29	\$370.89	\$101.99	\$2,002.78	\$2,475.66	\$2,800.19	\$1,010.67	\$250.56	\$753.49	\$702.15	\$855.60	\$812.60	\$144.19	\$123.71	\$203.72	\$374.65	\$395.00	\$449.28	\$421.38	\$538.02	\$521.10	
No. of Sales:	39	126	40	11	216	534	604	218	54	162	151	184	144	28	25	44	74						
				Year Total	\$87,380.63	\$65,312.92	\$57,321.28	\$19,726.46	\$28,030.24	\$25,307.10	\$22,301.40	\$21,083.10	\$20,786.30	\$19,775.87	\$14,736.19	\$14,466.41	\$16,208.91	\$16,805.75	\$10,642.73	\$14,138.64	\$16,278.39	\$17,446.69	
				Sales Total	9,424	14,088	12,364	4,250	6,041	5,442	4,796	4,534	2015-2016 xx% inc.	2014-2015 5% inc.	2013-2014 26% inc.	2012-2013 2% inc.	2011-2012 11% dec.	2010-2011 4% dec.	2009-2010 20% inc.	2008-2009 5% dec.	2007-2008 13% dec.	2006-2007 6% dec.	

* June 2021, new paid parking area added between ramp 1 and 2, increase of \$5/per day paid parking by 70+ spaces

**May 2023, parking per day increased from \$5 to \$10/per day

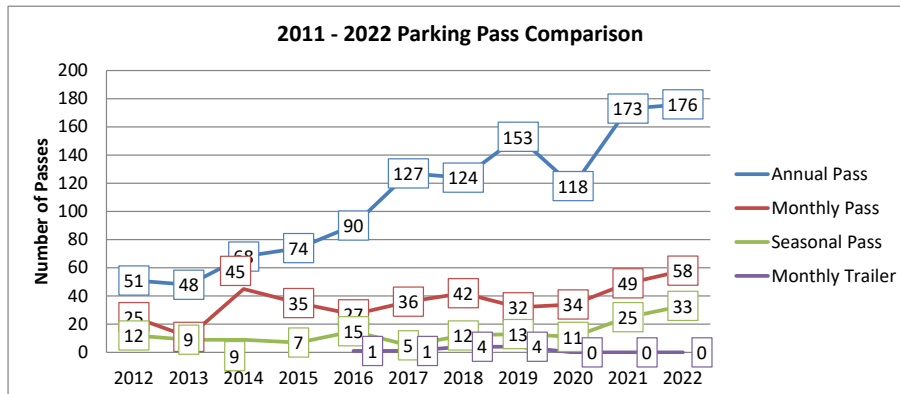
2023 Parking Pass Revenues

Marina Account #17770

* Weekly Pass offered starting 6/15/19

	Vehicle Pass Revenue	Trailer Pass Revenue	Reg Long Term	RSV/TA Long Term	Monthly Less Than 20'L	Monthly Over 20'L	Weekly Long Term	Seasonal Pass	Seasonal Monthly	1 Hour Max Business Pass	Monthly Trailer	Month Total
January	\$5,290.30		26	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
February	\$1,313.51		5	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
March	\$1,658.97		9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
April	\$4,424.49		7	8	0	0	4	10	0	0	0	29
May	\$12,231.75		27	15	10	2	10	21	0	0	0	85
June	\$9,296.31		20	6	20	1	10	15	0	0	0	72
July	\$2,569.75		7	2	7	2	21	0	0	0	0	39
August	\$633.42		0	0	2	2	15	0	0	0	0	19
September	\$479.55		1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
October	\$0.00											0
November	\$0.00											0
December	\$0.00											0
2023 Total	\$37,898.05	\$0.00	102	41	42	7	63	46	0	0	0	301
2022 Total	\$40,756.65		134	42	53	5	73	29	4	0	0	340
2021 Total	\$35,714.31	\$0.00	118	55	45	4	54	18	7	0	0	301
2020 Total	\$28,554.78	\$0.00	106	31	36	3	46	11		0	0	233
2019 Total	\$28,628.08	\$651.00	98	55	31	1	32	11		2	4	234
2018 Total	\$25,435.23	\$700.00	85	39	42	0	N/A	10		2	4	182
2017 Total	\$23,019.12	\$70.00	82	45	36	0	N/A	5		N/A	1	169
2016 Total	\$18,968.12	\$140.00	56	34	27	0	N/A	15		N/A	1	133
2015 Total	\$15,256.04	n/a	48	26	35	0	N/A	7		N/A	n/a	116
2014 Total	\$15,804.91	n/a	47	21	39	6	N/A	9		N/A	n/a	122
2013 Total	\$10,358.26	n/a	33	15	10	1	N/A	9		N/A	n/a	68
2012 Total	\$10,511.70	n/a	32	19	25	0	N/A	12		N/A	n/a	88
2011 Total	\$12,372.16	n/a	40	28	n/a	n/a	N/A	10		N/A	n/a	78

* July Seasonal Pass= 3 additional conversions from annual, rev already caught in annual + \$50x3



2023 Qualitative Analysis of Parking Management on the Homer Spit

Introduction

In 2023, the Port & Harbor department acquired and implemented the UpSafety parking management software system. This marked a significant shift from manual and outdated parking management methods to a modern, cloud-based solution. The new system introduced various technological advancements, including the integration of existing Luke II pay kiosks, mobile pay & text-to-park options, wireless X-2 mobile enforcement devices, and ALPR license plate recognition technology, transforming the parking experience for customers, visitors and staff. This analysis focuses on the impact of these changes, challenges, and future trends in parking management on the Homer Spit.

Parking Technology Improvements

The implementation of the UpSafety parking management software system represents a major step forward in parking management on the Homer Spit. The new system not only streamlines parking operations but also enhances the user experience. Customers can now conveniently pay for parking using various methods, including in-field Luke II pay kiosks, the flexibility mobile payment, and text-to-pay via cell phone, supporting digital permitting and phasing out tangible paper permits that were previously produced and obtained at the harbormaster's office and displayed on the vehicle. This transition to modern technology has reduced the reliance on manual record-keeping using 3-ring binders and Excel spreadsheets, increasing the efficiency and accuracy of parking management.

Enforcement and Compliance

Parking enforcement on the Homer Spit has been significantly improved with the use of technology. Homer municipal code supports writing citations to vehicle license plates, phasing out previous citation methods requiring vehicle registered owner information. Parking enforcement staff equipped with X-2 mobile electronic enforcement devices can monitor vehicles in real-time, checking for compliance with daily fees and vehicle parking & camping permits. The advanced license plate recognition (ALPR) technology further enhances enforcement by scanning license plates to verify permit compliance and check for infractions. The system integrates GPS location and time-stamped photos to ensure accuracy of enforcement in parking lots with time sensitive limits or restrictions. Citations are generated on site by the parking enforcement officer using the X-2 device and its integrated thermal printer. All citation information generated in the field is automatically saved to UpSafety's cloud-based software and is immediately available to parking administration for processing. The convenience of online payment, appeals, and adjudication through a web-based portal has streamlined the citation process, reducing staff time and the need for in-person interactions at the harbormaster's office.

Parking Options and User Groups

The Homer Spit accommodates a diverse range of parking user groups, including recreational boaters, commercial fishermen, commercial charter & passenger vessel crew and customers, upland businesses owners and employees, tourists, day-use recreators, across the bay residents, and regulatory entity personnel. Our variety of parking options caters to these groups' distinct needs, from short-term parking time limits to long-term parking permits without designating or reserving parking to any specific user group. In 2023, the port & harbor took over management of the Fishing Hole & Mariner Park

campgrounds which provide approximately 150 spaces for RV parking and camping. Additionally, we now manage parking enforcement and revenue collection at the Homer Airport terminal which provides parking for approximately 200 vehicles.

Challenges and Inefficiencies

Several inefficiencies and challenges have been identified in the current parking management system on the Homer Spit. Maintaining sufficient parking lot space and mitigating vehicle congestion is our primary challenge. In April 2023, we created an additional “overflow” parking lot containing space for approximately 100 vehicles located at the intersection of Outer Dock Road & Homer Spit Road. This lot offers free parking for up to seven consecutive days.

One measure we currently use to deter demand and drive down congestion is the administration of daily fee parking which requires users to make cost-based decisions involving their parking needs. The affordability of daily fee parking is a financial challenge for many employees working on the Homer Spit.

A second method of congestion mitigation includes the implementation of time limits in high use areas creating greater vehicle turn over. In 2023, a section of the parking lot between the steel grid and Fish Dock Road was changed from 7-day parking to 3-hour parking in order to improve vehicle turnover and access adjacent to the businesses operating in the vicinity.

A significant inefficiency driving space availability for vehicle parking is the allowance of RV and oversized vehicles in the heavily utilized parking lots along Homer Spit Road between ramps 1 and 5. RVs and oversized vehicles require extra wide spaces and turning lanes which, in-turn, reduce available space for standard vehicle parking.

Other challenges include the inefficiencies associated with gravel parking lots. Many of our gravel parking lots have basic, above-grade, methods addressing drainage and run-off which foster potholes and puddles. Ramps 3 to 5 and the boathouse pavilion require drainage ditches bordering Homer Spit Road that consume potential usable parking space. Lack of permanent, uniform striping and delineation on gravel parking surfaces reduce efficient space utilization. Finally, some of our current parking lot time limits may not align with peak demand. All of these issues contribute to parking congestion and dissatisfaction among user groups, particularly represented among boat owners and employees of local business.

Revenue Generation and Budget Considerations

The Port & Harbor generates revenue from the collection of parking and camping fees. These revenues should be used to support future parking lot improvements, growth and expansion of fee-based parking, and the required administration & enforcement. Parking and camping revenues also have the potential to support bond obligations for future capital projects. In April of 2023, the city manager assigned the port & harbor management responsibilities of the Fishing Hole, Mariner Park, and Tent Camp West campgrounds in order bolster enterprise revenues. Daily fee parking rates were increased from \$5/day to \$10/day and RV camping fees were increased from \$20/day to \$30/day. Parking revenues totaled approximately \$190,000 YTD in September. The port & harbor sold approximately 7,100 individual camping permits totaling \$195,000 YTD as of September. The assignment of Homer Spit campgrounds came quickly and without budget preparation. Campgrounds management require variety of basic operating expenses, including facilities maintenance, utilities, camp fee compliance enforcement,

general administration, grounds keeping, signage, refuse disposal and sanitation. It is imperative to strike a balance between revenue generation and sustainable management to meet these financial needs.

Future Trends and Diversification

Several trends are driving the future diversification and use of parking lots on the Homer Spit. Trends in usage impacting demand for parking include the broad growth in the tourism & recreation sector, shore-based tour bus operations originating from other communities with destination on the Homer Spit, the increasing growth and presence of commercial passenger vessels in the small boat harbor, the vehicles associated with their crews and customers, and the need to streamline parking lot traffic flow involving passenger drop-off and pick-up, the multi-purpose use of the barge ramp terminal supporting cargo & passenger vessel operations and the need to accommodate cargo storage and lay-down operations combined with passenger vessel parking needs, growth in ridership and vehicle parking demand near ramp 7 associated with SVT's Kachemak Voyager, cruise ship lightering operations inside the small boat harbor, and event-based parking, such as festivals and special events.

Special consideration should be given to the east side of the Fishing Hole Campground and its dual-purpose use that includes our Marine Repair Facility supporting vessel haul-out and repair. What is the future of a campground that doubles over as a boat yard – or visa versa? Remember, there is only one place to haul-out and work on large vessels on the southern Kenai Peninsula and there are several campgrounds operating in the Homer area.

Near future improvements to parking lots to consider should include the paving of our high-use parking lots in order to improve space efficiency and the quality of the parking experience for the end-user in exchange for daily fee payments. Changes warranting reduction of boat trailer parking time limits and/or the implementation daily fee parking may be more aligned and reflective of current demand.

Finally, not-so-distant future issues to contemplate addressing congestion mitigation should include remote park & ride operations, public transit, and parking garages. These trends necessitate proactive planning and infrastructure improvements to accommodate the increasing demand for parking.

Conclusion

The implementation of the UpSafety parking management software system represents a significant step forward in parking management, operations and growth on the Homer Spit. However, it also highlights various challenges and opportunities for improvement. Striking a balance between revenue generation, user satisfaction, and environmental responsibility will be crucial for the long-term success of parking management on the Homer Spit. Addressing inefficiencies, accommodating various user groups, and staying responsive to evolving trends will be essential in managing our unique parking needs.

Business Analysis: Homer Spit Campground Operations

In 2023, the City Manager assigned the Port & Harbor responsibilities involving campground operations on the Homer Spit, including the Fishing Hole campground, Mariner Park campground, and the Tent Camp West beach site. This assignment comes with a complex array of responsibilities, staffing, equipment, budget considerations, and several challenges and concerns that need to be addressed. Let's analyze these components:

Staffing Requirements:

1. **Parking Enforcement Officers:** Responsible for camp fee compliance, registration, servicing pay kiosks, and revenue collection.
2. **Harbor Assistants:** Responsible for grounds keeping and sanitation of the public fish cleaning station at the Fishing Hole campground.
3. **Port Maintenance:** Maintenance of gazebos, pavilions, and fish cleaning stations.
4. **Parks Staff:** Grounds keeping, brush removal, and lawn mowing.
5. **Public Works Equipment Operators:** Responsible for surface maintenance and drainage.
6. **Public Works Building Maintenance & Custodial:** Cleaning and maintenance of the Fishing Hole restroom.
7. **Campground Hosts:** Responsible for providing information to the general public.
8. **Port & Harbor Administrative Staff:** Responsible for revenue collection and expense tracking.
9. **Homer Police Department:** Enforcement as needed.
10. **Refuse & Sanitation Contractors:** Responsible for trash and sanitation services.

Equipment Requirements:

1. **Parking Enforcement Vehicles**
2. **Pick-up Trucks & Carcass Trailers**
3. **Graders, Snow Plows & Sanders**
4. **Port Maintenance Trucks**
5. **Private Contractor Trash Dump Trucks**
6. **Luke II pay station kiosks & X-2 mobile enforcement devices**
7. **Lawn Mowers, Weed Whackers, Pressure Washers, and Paint Stripers**
8. **Signage & Delineation**
9. **Mariner Park Campground Host Trailer**
10. **Porta Potties & Handwash Stations**

11. **Trash Receptacles**
12. **Picnic Tables & Fire Rings**

Operating Expenses and Revenues:

- **2023 YTD Camp Fee Revenues:** \$200,000 for RV & beach camping.
- **Estimated Total Operating Expenses:** \$63,700
- **Employee & Staffing Wages:** \$30,000
- **Utilities Expenses:** \$3,500
- **Vehicle Expenses:** \$4,000
- **Picnic Tables & Fire Rings:** \$3,000
- **Refuse, Sanitation, and Recycling:** \$5,000
- **Campground Hosts Stipends:** \$5,200
- **Cleaning Supplies:** \$2,000
- **T2 & UpSafety Software:** \$9,000
- **Signage:** \$2,000

Challenges and Concerns:

1. **Land Designation:** Defining what land(s) are considered campgrounds and what land(s) are parks.
2. **Responsibilities:** Clarifying the responsibilities of Port & Harbor, Parks, and Public Works within campgrounds and parks.
3. **Tariff Updates:** Identifying campground land use, rules, and user fees/rates.

Budget:

Developing a budget for Port & Harbor's campground operations, which should cover revenues, employee wages, equipment, operating and maintenance expenses, and fixed infrastructure and capital investments.

Capital Improvements:

Consider the 2024 Homer Spit Campgrounds Renovations provided in the COH's capital improvement plan. This project was identified by Public Works and its Park's division.

Should future campground capital improvement projects be funded by the port & harbor enterprise?

Marine Repair Facility vs. Campground:

Determining the future of the portion of the Fishing Hole (Pier 1 Theatre East) campground that also serves as the Marine Repair Facility.

Bottom Line Analysis:

What is the minimum acceptable profit margin that justifies Port & Harbor's involvement in campground operations? The time and resources dedicated to campgrounds should be weighed against the core responsibilities of Port & Harbor.

In summary, the management of campgrounds on the Homer Spit involves a diverse set of interdepartmental responsibilities, resource allocation, and potential for revenue generation. To make this endeavor successful, it's crucial to address the challenges, establish clear departmental responsibilities, and determine the financial viability and impact on core Port & Harbor operations.



Homer Spit Campground Renovations

Project Description and Benefit: The Mariner Park and Fishing Hole campgrounds are situated on the Homer Spit. Their waterfront locations and close proximity to recreational activities and visitor support services make the campgrounds very popular with both Alaskans and out-of-state visitors. City campgrounds are heavily used in the summer and shoulder seasons, hosting over roughly 20,000 campers annually and generating up to \$200,000 in revenue through camping fees.

The campgrounds are primitive. Campers use porta potties and have no means of hand washing. Campsites are pot holed, poorly marked and without tent pads. Many lack picnic tables and fire rings.

This renovation project greatly improves the camping experience and makes it easier to maintain the campgrounds to a higher standard of cleanliness and safety. Renovations include installing hand wash stations, grading campgrounds, delineating and labeling campsites, developing tent pads in tent camping areas and installing picnic tables and fire rings at sites that currently lack these basic amenities. Mariner Park Campground would also benefit from landscaping.

Completing these renovations bring the campgrounds to a minimum standard to keep them healthy, attractive and competitive. Visitors have a choice of where to stay on the Kenai Peninsula. We anticipate these upgrades will attract new visitors and motivate existing visitors to extend their stays or come back. Summer and shoulder season visitors contribute significantly to Homer's overall economy through their patronage of local businesses throughout their stay.

Plans and Progress: This project is 80% shovel ready.

Total Project Cost: \$95,000

Mariner Park Campground	\$50,000
Fishing Hole Campground	\$45,000

Schedule: 2025-2026

Priority Level: 2



Mariner Campground at the base of the Homer Spit.



October 24, 2023

City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Mayor Castner, City Council, and City Staff,

This letter serves as our quarterly report for the period July 1 to September 30, 2023. During the quarter, the Alaska SBDC received the results from the national SBDC accreditation, with Robert Green and the Homer office receiving exemplary marks and noted as a model that should be replicated across the country. This past year, 81% of Homer clients chose to meet in-person with Robert, indicating a strong preference from local business owners and entrepreneurs to have this service in their community. After the quarter, Robert remains on pace to log the most hours of advising by the SBDC to the Homer area in a year. Here is a summary of deliverables to the Homer community during the quarter (year):

Client Hours: 132.8 (498.3)	Jobs Supported: 56 (236)
Total Clients: 55 (108)	Capital Infusion: \$0 (\$293,000)
New Businesses Started or Bought: 2 (6)	Client Surveys: 100% positive (100% positive)

This report provides lists of the top advising topics and top industries obtaining technical assistance from the Alaska SBDC in Homer. Assistance to entrepreneurs looking to start new businesses and work supporting existing businesses were the top topics this quarter. There was a relatively even split among industries, with retailers moving into the top spot this quarter, followed by food services.

Topics

1. Start-up Assistance: 51.5 hrs (39%)
2. General Management: 40.1 hrs (30%)
3. Financing/Capital: 15.0 hrs (11%)
4. Business Planning: 8.8 hrs (7%)
5. Buy/Sell Business: 8.0 hrs (6%)

Industries

1. Retailers: 25.8 (19%)
2. Food Services: 22.4 hrs (17%)
3. Administrative: 14.8 hrs (11%)
4. Healthcare: 14.6 hrs (11%)
5. Fishing: 13.8 hrs (10%)

We would like to thank the City of Homer for their support of the Homer Business Advisor position. The \$10,000 funding provided by the mayor and city council is critical in retaining the Homer SBDC office in 2024. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, experience, and consistency Robert Green brings to efforts in Homer. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

98AFA012679B4D7...

Jon Bittner

Executive Director
Alaska SBDC

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE III | NOVEMBER 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

COUNCIL MEMBERS LORD AND VENUTI RE-ELECTED

Homer City Council certified the results of the October 3 Regular Municipal Election during their October 9 regular meeting. Council members Rachel Lord and Caroline Venuti were re-elected to Homer City Council after respectively earning 37% and 35% of the votes cast. They each began their third three-year terms after being officially sworn in to office at the meeting.



City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen administers the Oath of Office to the City's newly re-elected Council Members, Rachel Lord (top left) and Caroline Venuti (bottom right).

- Community Corner
- Public Works
- Parks
- Homer Public Library
- Homer Volunteer Fire Department
 - Statewide Emergency Response Exercise
 - Fire at Homer Landfill
 - Contained Spaces Safety Training
- Public Safety Corner
 - Fire Prevention Week
- City Clerks - Girl Scout Democracy Event
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Homer Police - November Charity Events
- Community Recreation - MountainFilm
- Meet City Contractor - AK Mindful Paws
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

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

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

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter



Call for Art!

The Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage recently announced a call for art for the "Japan-Alaska Sister Cities Town Pride Festa." The Town Pride Festa will feature a wide range of original "town pride" art pieces representing sister cities.

The art theme is "Works by citizens and organizations of the Japan-Alaska, that emphasize 'town pride' and introduce shopping streets, tourist attractions, traditional arts, culture, etc. of the town they live in," and there are no restrictions on the medium of the work.

The goal of the Festa is to cheer up the citizens and organizations of the Japan-Alaska sister cities and support the activities of local citizens and cultural groups.

Images of artwork, or videos of performance art can be submitted digitally now through Friday, January 19, 2024. [Click here](#) to read more and submit artwork.

A "judging event" will select the best works from among those submitted and award them luxurious prizes.

Last year, a video titled "[Sisters and Sea Messages](#)" locally produced by Homer's Park Planner, Matt Steffy and friend Stevie Drescher won second place honors from among the eleven videos submitted to the campaign.

A poster for the Rotary Health Fair. It features a yellow sun with rays and a red stethoscope. The text reads: "IT'S YOUR LIFE TAKE A DAY TO BE WELL", "ROTARY HEALTH FAIR", and "Nov 5 9am-1pm | Homer High School".

IT'S YOUR LIFE
TAKE A DAY TO BE WELL

ROTARY HEALTH FAIR

Nov 5 9am-1pm | Homer High School

PEOPLE AND PEAT EVENT SERIES

YOUTH PEATLAND EXPEDITION

Hands-on learning for the whole family with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies.
Friday, October 27 10:00 - 12:00 at the Winn Nature Center.

"THE PEATLANDS" ART INSTALLATION RECEPTION

Featuring talk by artist Kim McNett and refreshments, hosted by Bunnell Street Art Center and the City of Homer.
Wednesday, November 8th 5:00 - 7:00 at the Homer Airport Terminal.

PEOPLE AND PEAT: NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Bring the whole family to learn about Homer's major new Green Infrastructure projects with partners Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, the City of Homer, and the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.
Thursday, December 7 at 5:00 pm at Island and Oceans.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Join a hands-on field walk of the City's Green Infrastructure Project on Kachemak Drive with the City of Homer and Kachemak Bay Conservation Society.
Friday, December 8 at 4:00 pm; details TBD.

A row of five logos: Bunnell Street Arts Center, KBCS, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Alaskan Coastal Studies.A poster for Shop Local Weekend. It features a blurred background of a person's hands and a sign that says "Come in we're OPEN". The text reads: "SHOP LOCAL WEEKEND", "Nov 24 - 26", and "www.homeralaska.org/".

SHOP LOCAL WEEKEND

Nov 24 - 26
www.homeralaska.org/

PUBLIC WORKS

TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INPUT

Thanks to the over 40 who people turned out to comment on the Public Review Draft of the Transportation Plan at an Open House on held at the Kachemak Bay Campus of the Kenai Peninsula College on September 26.



Your participation and comments were greatly appreciated! The next step is for Kinney Engineering to work with and incorporate the public comments received into a revised draft of the Transportation Plan so it is ready for presentation to the Planning Commission. Stay tuned for the next draft near the end of the year or early 2024.

PARKS

END OF SEASON TRAIL WORK

Thanks to the dedicated work of the Public Works Administration and the City's Parks Maintenance Division, ten Homer trails and trail connections saw great improvements this summer, including brushing and resurfacing.

With winter about to set in, the City has been working with contractors to get as much work completed before the ground freezes. If you are out and about, you'll notice great new surfaces on the East and West Fairview Trail sections and the Lee Drive Trail as well!



Improved East and West sections of the Fairview trail on a sunny, but brisk fall day.

LIBRARY

STORY WALK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The Friends of the Library have been working on various upgrades to the library lot, which will eventually include public benches, a play space, and informational signage in the woods to the west of the library. The first part of the project involves resurfacing the existing trail to make it more accessible to patrons with disabilities. The section of trail between the library and the Lucky Shot Trail was completed in October, and the portion between Lucky Shot and the Poopdeck Trail will be completed in 2024.



Contractors improved the surface of the Story Trail at Homer Public Library with new fabric and surface material.

The Western Lot Improvement Project was initiated in partnership with the National Park Service with the goal of creating a new community space in the 2.24 acre land parcel between the Library and Poopdeck Trail. The space will extend the library's mission beyond the limits of the physical building while maintaining the character of the landscape. To learn more about the improvements go to <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/western-lot-project>.

Homer Public Library

500 Hazel Street

907-235-3180

circ@ci.homer.ak.us

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



LIBRARY EVENTS

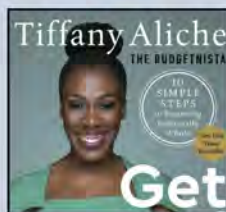
VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

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.



November 1 at 4 pm

Hollywood, Home, Heart and Healing:
a conversation with actor John Stamos



November 9 at 10 am

Get Good with Money & Reach Your
Financial Goals:
with Tiffany "The Budgetnista" Aliche



November 16 at noon

An Afternoon Chat with Joy Harjo,
Internationally Renowned Performer,
Writer and Poet of the Muscogee (Creek)
Nation.



November 30 at 11 am

Power of Women in Science Fiction:
Naomi Alderman on Writing Dystopian
Worlds.



November 14

Noon - 1 pm
with Caroline Venuti

CHECK OUT MORE LIBRARY
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

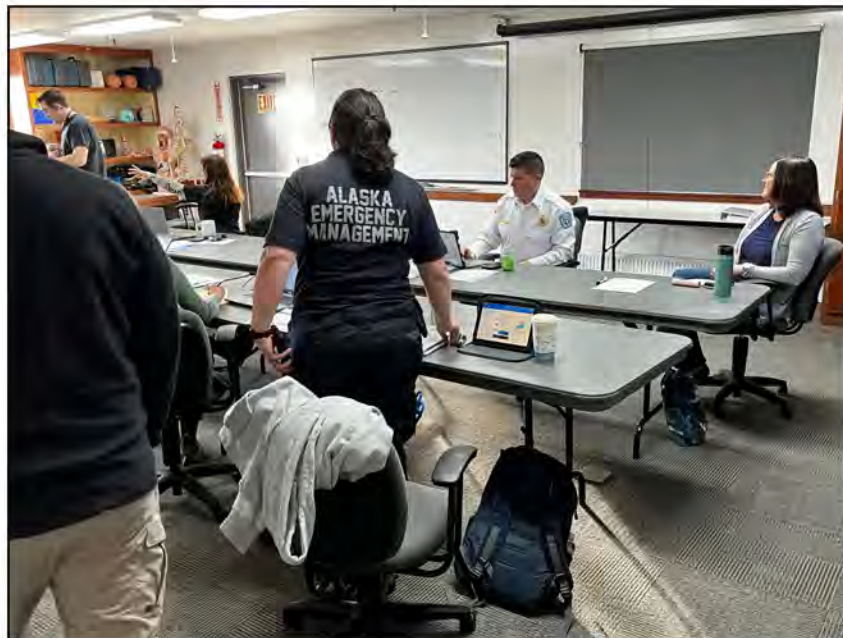


FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATEWIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) hosted members from the State Health Care Coalition who were conducting a large-scale, statewide emergency response exercise that kicked off in Homer on October 4. The exercise was centered around a mock incident at the Homer High School and was designed to test the organization and capabilities of local, state, and federal agencies in the event a mass casualty incident created a hospital surge and required movement of patients in overwhelming numbers.

As hosts, HVFD set up an Emergency Operations Center for the visiting team to work from throughout the exercise, and provided a staging location for volunteer “patients” who were called into action throughout the day to help make the exercise more realistic.

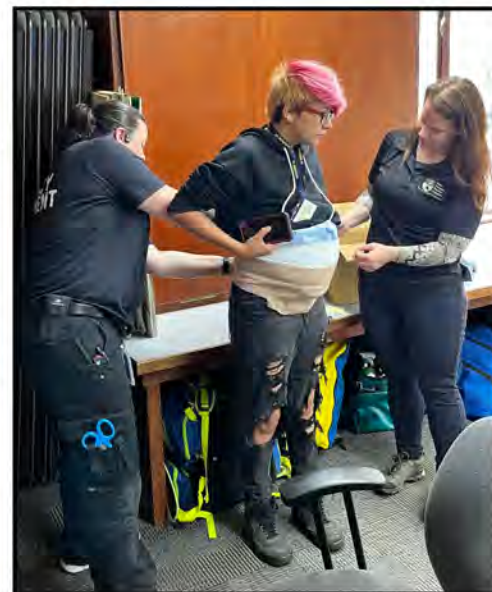


Deputy Fire Chief Kahles assists State Health Care Coalition members in the EOC.

City staff in attendance (Deputy Fire Chief Joe Khales and City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen) got the opportunity to learn more about the critical role first responder’s play in our community and the roles Homer’s EOC, as a partner, would be called upon to perform.

The State Health Care Coalition is comprised of groups of local health care and responder organizations that work together on challenges and find solutions that improve emergency preparedness and the health and safety of Alaskan communities. The work of Health Care Coalitions reflect the unique

needs and features of their local areas and assist health care facilities to plan, organize, equip, train, exercise, and evaluate regional health care system preparedness. Overall, the exercise was a success. Participants were impressed by the communication and collaboration among the members of the Coalition and our team in Homer.



Moulage kits were put to good use to make up student volunteers to simulate different wounds and trauma in order to prepare responders for what they could experience in the field, practice triage skills and lessen psychological trauma.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BUSY FALL FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

On Friday, October 20, Homer Fire responded as mutual aid to Kachemak Emergency Services (KESA) to assist in suppression operations at a fire at the construction and demolition cell at Homer Landfill. Homer responded to the scene with seven personnel that manned an engine, two tankers and provided two chief officers. Western Emergency Services (WES) was also dispatched and responded with a tanker to support operations. An estimated 60,000 gallons of water (collected from a hydrant located at West Hill and Robert Avenue) was used in the response.

Personnel were on scene for seven hours managing the fire. Many thanks to personnel from KESA, WES and the Homer Fire Department for controlling and extinguishing the fire. This could have gone very differently if it was not for their hard work.

October 28 was National Responder Appreciation Day. Time to show a lot

of appreciation for the dedication of all career and volunteer fire response personnel who respond when needed. It is no small task. For example, during the 24-hour period around the time of the landfill fire response, HVFD responders were dispatched to emergency calls during the landfill response and during the two-hour equipment clean up and restoration process required afterward, followed by responding to a house fire at 1:30 am, during which personnel were called to another medical emergency. ❤️ Thank you for taking time away from your job and family, and for getting up in the middle of the night (and in the early morning hours) to help your community in this very important way. ❤️



CONFINED SPACE SAFETY TRAINING



MHVFD's confined space class provided important safety training to City staff and other emergency responders who work in and responding to incidents in confined spaces such as tanks, manholes, ship compartments, etc.

The week of October 25, HVFD hosted a hands-on confined space rescue class for personnel in three departments within the City of Homer as well as emergency responders from around the area.

During the week, HVFD visited different areas in the city to train personnel who must access and work in confined spaces and those who supervise these activities. Confined spaces include tanks, storage vessels, bins, furnaces, sumps, manholes, trenches, and compartments in ships and barges.

The emphasis of the training was safe entry to confined spaces and techniques for safe removal of workers from a controlled space clear of air, gas or fire hazards.



PUBLIC SAFETY CORNER



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.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, OCT 8-14

Homer Volunteer Fire Department was out and about last month during Fire Prevention Week engaging the community about fire prevention.

With chilly weather setting in and lots of holiday cooking on tap, this is the perfect time for some fire safety reminders.

Did you know? According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking was the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in 2017-2021; home heating was the second leading cause. Winter months are also the peak time for fire-related deaths; more than half of reported home structure fires occur November through March.

Cook with Caution Tips

- Avoid unattended cooking. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

Home Heating Safety Tips

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment like space heaters, fireplaces, wood-burning stoves and furnaces.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Plug space heaters directly into an outlet, not a power strip or multi-plug.
- Inspect heating equipment and clean chimneys every year. HVFD loans chimney brushes!
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets and do not place an electrical cord under a rug. Dispose of older, fraying extension cords.



For Fire Prevention Week, HVFD hosted Connections Home School students from pre-K to 3rd grade for a tour of the station, and joined Kachemak Emergency Services at Spenard Builders Supply. Big shouts out and thanks to Connections families and the community for spending time with HVFD and learning more about Fire Safety!

Facts About Smoke Alarms



In the U.S., **62%** of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with inoperable smoke alarms or no smoke alarms.

In the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate:



50% of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms.



23% of the smoke alarm failures was due to dead batteries.



Daylight Savings Time ends November 5th.



When you change your clocks back, change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and remind your friends and family to do the same!

CITY CLERKS

GIRL SCOUT DEMOCRACY EVENT

On October 13th the City hosted the Girl Scouts for a Democracy Event in the Cowles Council Chambers. The event gave the scouts an in-depth, hands on understanding of how local government works, with the goal of preparing them to become civically engaged citizens who create lasting impact and make the world a more equitable and inclusive place.

Ginny Espenshade of Homer Youth Court led the group through a Bill of Rights activity where they learned about the three branches of government. Then a series of guest speakers discussed the duties of each branch with the group.

Presenters included City Council Member Caroline Venuti and Jenny Martin, Staff to Senator Gary Stevens who discussed duties of the legislative branch of Government, Mayor Ken Castner and City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen who discussed the executive branch; and Homer Superior Court Judge Bride Seifert and Ginny Espenshade who discussed the judicial branch.

The Scouts held an election on the best Girl Scout cookie using the Rank Choice voting system. Thin Mint was selected, but not by a thin margin!

They also conducted a mock City Council meeting where the agenda was to prioritize three capital improvement projects. After taking public comment and hearing staff reports on the three projects, the Girl Scout Councilmembers voted and ranked the City Hall Accessibility project as their top choice, followed by Pioneer Avenue sidewalks and Karen Hornaday Park Improvements. The afternoon was fun and educational for all.



Homer Girl Scouts participating in the Democracy Event pose for a photo with City Clerk Jacobsen.



Ginny Espenshade introduces the Bill of Rights.



Scouts held a mock City Council meeting, complete with public testimony, staff reports and a Council vote.

PORT & HARBOR



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION STUDY UPDATE

At the **Monday, October 23 Committee of the Whole meeting**, City Council discussed the current status of the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation (the “study”) and began considering next steps. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team (PDT), upon reaching the Alternatives & Measures Milestone, recalculated the tasks to be completed in the study and added geotechnical analysis and ship simulation. These tasks were added so that the PDT would have sufficient data to produce a more accurate design and more reliable cost estimate on which to base decisions regarding advancement of the Homer Harbor Expansion. These new elements increase the study’s cost to \$4.15M. The PDT is seeking concurrence on the revised plan from their headquarters, and from the City of Homer.

Concurrently, the study is facing a Federal funding gap and, consequently, a work slow down and potential pause. Due to misunderstandings on the Federal level about the source of Federal continuation funding for the study, it was not included in the USACE FY24 Workplan or President’s FY24 Budget. The USACE is pursuing funding in the President’s FY25 Budget, which, if successful would allow the study to resume in October 2024.

During the Committee of the Whole conversation, City Council discussed these matters, potential sources of additional match funds (should Council decide to continue with the study), and they assigned two City Council Champions, Rachel Lord and Storm Hanson. The Council Champions are working with Mayor Castner and administrative staff on a Resolution outlining next steps to be considered at an upcoming Council meeting.

The USACE PDT indicated that if concurrence with the amended plan is approved, they would continue to advance study efforts at a much reduced pace during a study reduction of work period at the beginning of the next calendar year. They would continue their work related to economic, environmental and geotechnical data collection, including approval of an economic survey, preparations and permits necessary for environmental field work and development of a Geotechnical Drilling Plan.

POLICE

NOVEMBER CHARITABLE EVENTS

To help make the holiday season a bit brighter for families in need of a little extra support, the Police Department is participating in two charitable events: No-Shave November and a Toy Drive.

No-Shave November is a fundraiser that encourages participants to donate the money they’d normally spend on grooming supplies, such as razor blades and shaving cream, to a local charity. Participating HPD personnel will each pay \$25 per week in November. The final proceeds will be donated, while the winner with the most hair growth will get bragging rights for the year!

HPD is also partnering with the Homer Chamber of Commerce for a toy drive. Community members can drop off new, unwrapped gifts of toys for families in need at the Homer Chamber or Police Department to be given to area families in need. The event kicks off on Shop Local Weekend and will run through December 15. Call the Cham



907-235-7890 or [visit their website](http://www.homer.alaska.org) for more information.

COMMUNITY RECREATION

CROSS OVER EVENT KICKS OFF UPCOMING WINTER RECREATION SEASON

Join Homer Community Recreation on Wednesday November 8th at Homer High School for a fun night of community connection, bargain shopping, film, food and good times. The event starts at 5:30 pm and concludes with the Mountainfilm Fest at 7 pm!

SKI & WINTER GEAR SWAP



Bring your winter gear to barter, sell or give away! Find the equipment and/or gear you need. Winter clothing, winter gear, skates, snowboards, and of course skis, are welcome. This is free event; no businesses please.

Bring all of your skis and snowboards to get them waxed by the Homer High Cross Country Ski Team for a small fee; this is one of their important fundraisers.

THEN KICK BACK AND RELAX IN THE MARINER THEATER TO WATCH AMAZING DOCUMENTARY FILMS.

Mountainfilm showcases nonfiction stories about environmental, cultural, climbing, political and social justice issues that matter. Mountainfilm goes beyond exceptional film medium by bringing together world-class athletes, change makers and visionary artists for a multi-dimensional celebration of indomitable spirit, aiming to inspire audiences to create a better world.



DINNER & DESSERT FUNDRAISERS



Plan to stay for dinner and support a great cause!

Homer Wilderness Leaders (HoWL) will be selling four different delicious soups and bread as a fundraiser to support outdoor adventure programs for youth.

Fantastic dessert selections provided by the Homer Middle School "AK to DC Annual Trip" fundraising group will also be available for purchase.

Mountainfilm is hosted by Homer Community Recreation.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Homer Mariner Theater door for \$10.

[Click HERE](#) to read descriptions of the nine short films being featured this year.

CITY STAFF OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

Charles Lee completed his third year with the Homer Police Department last month. Thank you for the dedication, commitment, and service you've provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years. You all are an integral part of what makes the City of Homer a great place to work.

SHOUT OUT TO HOMER ANIMAL SHELTER

National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week is November 5-11, a time to recognize often unsung heroes in our communities--local animal shelters. Shelter organizations work tirelessly to provide care, love, and a second chance to countless animals in need. This newsletter issue shines a spotlight on Homer's very own Alaska Mindful Paws, honoring their incredible work at the Homer Animal Shelter, their contributions to the welfare of animals, and commitment to making our world a better place for all.

At the heart and soul of Alaska Mindful Paws is a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who devote time and resources and outstanding service to the public and to animals, providing shelter, medical care, and socialization.



Mindful Paws staff
from left,
Jillian Rogers,
Carly Ott and
Rebecca Bartee

Since January 2023, more than 70 animals (of all kinds!) found new adoptive homes and nearly 80 dogs and cats were returned to their owners. Staff have responded to a whopping 240 animal control calls to assist with public safety. And that's just through mid-October! They have also had to euthanize six animals, and while that decision is never taken lightly, helping animals cross over the Rainbow Bridge is sometimes a necessary last act of kindness. The shelter's save-rate remains high at just over 96 percent.

Mindful Paws' mission goes beyond providing a temporary home for animals. They work closely with City of Homer staff, City Council and the fine folks at the Homer Police Department to raise awareness and implement policies supporting responsible pet ownership. This summer, they worked with Councilmember Rachel Lord and City Clerk Melissa Jacobson to revise Title 20 in City Code. With guidance from the city's attorney and police chief, the City now has an updated, more effective animal control code.

Shelter staff also hosted national representatives from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals who were in Alaska visiting municipal shelters. Homer Animal Shelter received rave reviews for up-to-date policies and procedures, cleanliness, outreach programs and overall daily functions.



Staff have also resumed education and outreach – post covid – at various community events. Homer Animal Friends, the non-profit that helps support the shelter, is as involved as ever helping with spay and neuter costs and clinics.



SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION!

As National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week approaches, we encourage our community to show their support for Homer's Animal Shelter. Whether through donating, adopting, or simply stopping in to socialize with the animals during open business hours, every small effort makes a big difference!

Donate to the Shelter

Donations, whether monetary or in-kind, are always welcome. Items such as pet food, cat beds and litter, enrichment toys, and cleaning supplies like paper towels, bleach and disinfecting wipes are welcome. Monetary donations can help defray care costs or sponsor an animal's adoption fee. To donate go to <https://www.alaskamindfulpaws.org/>.

Adopt an Animal

If you're considering adding a furry member to your family, consider adoption. Adopting from the shelter gives an animal a second chance at a loving home.

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)
 Jason Davis (2025)
 Shelley Erickson (2024)
 Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2025)
 Rachel Lord (2026)
 Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
 Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration
 Mark Robl, Chief of Police
 Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer
 Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
 Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director
 Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
 Dave Berry, Library Director
 Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
 Bryan Hawkins, Port Director
 Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer
 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



Green Trees, a water color painted by Diana Tillion graces the wall of Cowles Chambers at City Hall.

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:
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 to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

November UPCOMING MEETINGS

1	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
1	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
8	5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
9	5 pm	ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting
10	6 pm	Economic Dev. Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
13	5:00 pm	City Council Committee of the Whole
13	6:00 pm	City Council Regular Meeting
14	6:0 pm	Economic Dev. Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
16	4:30 pm	Parks, Art, Rec & Culture Commission Worksession
16	5:30 pm	Parks, Art, Rec & Culture Commission Regular Meeting
21	5:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
27	4 pm	City Council Worksession - Recreation
27	5 pm	City Council Committee of the Whole
27	6 pm	City Council 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

CURRENT JOB LISTINGS

- [Assistant or Associate Planner](#)
- [Building Custodian](#)
- [Harbor Officer I](#)



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.

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October 25, 2023

Beatrix McDonough

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Beatrix,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed/approved your appointment as Student Representative to the Library Advisory Board during their Regular Meeting of September 13, 2021 via Memorandum 23-237. Your term will expire May 2023.

Enclosed with this letter is the LAB's Orientation Packet which provides important guidelines for being a member of the board.

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 23-237
Certificate of Appointment
LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board

City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

Beatrix McDonough

Has been appointed to

serve as

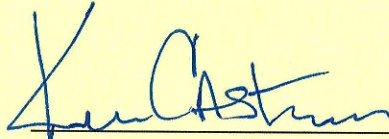
“Student Representative”

on the

“Library Advisory Board”

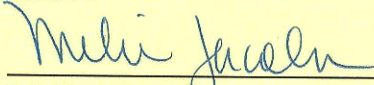
This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, and your contributions and willingness to your community.

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 25th day of October, 2023.*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

