



*City of Homer
2005 Annual Report*

City of Homer 2005 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Manager's Message.....	2-3
Mayor and City Council	4
Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Committees.....	5
City Facts & Figures at a Glance	6
City of Homer Employees	7
City Manager's Office.....	8
City Clerk's Office	9
Finance.....	10
Planning	11
Public Library	12-13
Volunteer Fire Department	14-15
Police	16-17
Port & Harbor	18-19
Public Works.....	20-21
Capital Improvement Plan (Summary)	22-23
Financial Indicators	24-27
Phone Numbers and Addresses	28

Manager's Message

There is much to note about developments in Homer in 2005, but one event will truly go down in history: Our little town got its first real traffic light! Perhaps we are not so little any more.

Several other events also deserve mention:

City Council gives green light to stores up to 66,000 square feet. In response to a public vote in October 2004, the City Council passed Ordinance 05-02, increasing the allowable area of buildings used for retail and wholesale businesses to 66,000 s.f. Soon, the Fred Meyer Corporation came forward with plans to build a store of that size in Homer's "Town Center." The project remained the topic of much discussion throughout the year. At the end of 2005 Fred Meyer had not yet applied for a building permit, but all indications were that the project would move forward.

Voters approve sales tax increase. In a special election in April, Homer voters approved a 1% increase in the local sales tax, thus averting budget cuts that would have impacted public services. The City Council in turn reduced the local property tax rate by one-half mill.

Three plans completed; two adopted. From its inception in 1998 as the "Town Square Project," the Homer Town Center Development Plan was finally completed through the hard work of the Town Center Development Committee and City Planning staff. The plan was approved by the Homer Advisory Planning Commission and forwarded to the City Council. Two other plans were adopted by the City Council: the Homer Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan



Homer City Manager Walt Wrede

and the Homer Transportation Plan. Homer was also the subject of an Alaska Department of Transportation study (the *Homer Intersections Planning Study*) which will help bring about needed improvements at major intersections.

New Library Capital Campaign ends; construction begins. After 2½ years of fundraising, the New Library Project Capital Campaign ended with a \$1 million dollar appropriation from the Alaska Legislature. A

total of \$7.88 million was raised through an incredible effort by the Library Advisory Board, Friends of the Library, and City staff. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 16 and construction on the 16,000 square foot building began shortly thereafter. The new library is scheduled for completion in late summer 2006.

Improvements completed on the Homer Spit. Local residents and visitors alike were happy to see three new restrooms constructed in the vicinity of the Small Boat Harbor. Another improvement was paving the parking areas at the top of Ramps 1, 2, 3, and 4. More improvements are coming, with development of a Spit Parking Plan and design of major modifications to expand the Deep Water Dock.

New Animal Shelter completed. Homer's new Animal Shelter opened its doors to the public in January, providing a dramatic increase in quality of life for the animals within and for the staff and volunteers who work there. The new shelter is in the same location as the previous facility, next to the Department of Public Works.

2006 budget adopted. Exercising one of its most difficult responsibilities, the Homer City Council adopted a budget for 2006 that addresses depreciation, cost of living increases for employees, some personnel and equipment needs, fund balances, funding for non-profit organizations, and support for Community Schools.

Homer remains a wonderful place to live and work and I am very optimistic about the future of the community. The City government is fiscally sound and the economy is expanding at a steady rate. Homer's elected officials remain committed to enhancing the quality of life and to providing the level and quality of services its residents desire. I look forward to working with the City Council to further diversify the local economy

and provide new, stable, well paying employment opportunities for Homer residents. I also greatly anticipate moving forward with the City's agenda of improving the infrastructure necessary for public health, safety, and welfare. This includes expanding water and sewer systems, repairing roads, constructing trails, improving parks, and providing financial support for the non-government organizations that provide such vital services to the community. In short, Homer is a healthy and vibrant community in many ways and the future is bright as long as the community works together to achieve its common goals.

Walt Wrede



Mayor and City Council

The City of Homer is a First Class Municipality with an elected mayor and city council. The mayor is elected to serve a 2-year term. City council members serve staggered 3-year terms. Expiration of the term for each member is noted in parentheses below.

The municipal election in October 2005 gave Homer two new City Council members, Mike Heimbuch and Matt Shadle. The names and photographs here represent the governing body at the end of 2005.



Val McLay (2006)



Dennis Novak (2006)



Mayor James C. Hornaday (2006) and his dog Sparky



Doug Stark (2007)



Mary (Beth) Wythe (2007)



Mike Heimbuch (2008)



Matt Shadle (2008)

Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Committees _____

The Mayor, City Council, and City employees are grateful to the many local citizens who volunteer their time to serve on advisory boards and short-term committees. The following individuals contributed hundreds of hours in 2005 to help ensure a high quality of life in Homer now and in the future.

Library Advisory Board

Tom Bursch	Michael Hawfield
Ann Keffer	Nancy Lord
Sue Mauger	Bette Seaman
Kyra Wagner	Hannah Harrison (student)
Ella Vick (honorary)	

Parks & Recreation Commission

Tim Dougherty	Dennis Gann
Carole Hamik	Cherish Bee McCallum
Deborah Poore	Lou Stewart
Mimi Tolva	Nyssa Baechler (student)
Kim Greer (alternate)	

Planning Commission

Lane Chesley	Valerie Connor
Rick Foster	Bruce Hess
Ray Kranich	Devony Lehner
Fred Pfeil	

Port & Harbor Commission

Otto Kilcher	Paul Mackie
Sean Martin	Melvyn Strydom
Catherine Ulmer	John Velsko
Kurt Weichland	Dave Vanderbrink and Brantley Edens (lifetime honorary members)

Public Arts Committee

Connie Alderfer	Dave Anderson
Asia Freeman	Don Henry
Angie Newby	Gail Parsons
Ron Senungetuk	Mike Yourkowski

Road Standards Committee

Kurt Marquardt	Fred Pfeil
Steve Smith	Mike Yourkowski



Library Advisory Board members Tom Bursch and Kyra Wagner survey progress during an early stage of construction of the new Homer Public Library, August 2005.

City of Homer Employees - 2005

Names of department heads appear first in each category.

Administration

Walt Wrede	Steve Bambakidis
Sheri Hobbs	Anne Marie Holen
Rachel Livingston	Dan Olsen
Gary Richardson	

City Clerk's Office

Mary Calhoun	Melissa Jacobsen
Jo Johnson	

Finance

Dean Baugh	Jo Earls
Michele McCandlish	Laurie Moore
Joanne Perret	Lori Sorrows
Lisa Vaughn	

Fire Department

Robert Painter	Steve Boyle
Elaine Grabowski	Dan Miotke
Dean Thoemke	Tim Yarbrough

Volunteer Firefighters

Dr. Bill Bell	Christian Black
Kathy Boyle	Denise Bryant
Marti Christensen	Sean Connelly
Pete Coots	Samantha Cunningham
Jose Diaz	Candy Edwards
Arli Emery	Robert Gaedecke
Mary Griswold	Jeanne Hollerbach
Carey James	Pat Johnson
Maynard Kauffman	Susie Malone
Joe Miles	Jason Miller
Patty Murray	Nick Mumma
Trevor Mumma	Karyn Noyes
Robert Purcell	Martin Renner
Josephine Ryan	Matt Sabelman
Matt Schneyer	Brian Schmitz
Jennifer Sokol	Carla Stanley
Terry Sumption	Gary Thomas
Doug Van Patten	Mark Walter
Josiah Wynn	

Library

Helen Hill	Joanna Baugh
Peter Coots	Jolee Ellis
Katherine George	Susan Gibson
Kathleen Pankratz	

Planning

Beth McKibben	Lani Eggertsen-Goff
Engebretsen	Julie Beverly Guyton

Police Department

Mark Robl	Cheryl Bemowski
John Browning	Ineke Buchman
Roger Cornett	Andy DeVeaux
Mike Eastham	Jona Focht
Bill Geragotelis	Kelly Huddleston
Will Hutt	Mark Kruzick
Lary Kuhns	Stacy Luck
Greg McCullough	Paul Meyer
Patti Morris	Randy Rosencrans
Cory Rupe	David Shealy
Steve Smith	Ed Stading
Wayne Stanley	Janie Stewart
Chuck Thorsrud	Barth Troughton

Port & Harbor

Steve Dean	John Bacher
Wes Cannon	Matt Clarke
Dan Cornelius	Chris Dabney
Aaron Glidden	Dana Harrington
Bryan Hawkins	Bonnie Judge
Julia Martin	George Tyrer
Mark Whaley	

Public Works

Carey Meyer	Ed Barcus
John Berelc	David Bolt
Russell Cheney	Harlon Engebretsen
Ken Frazier	Barbara Garcia
Dan Gardner	Richard Gibson
Tamara Hagerty	Julie Harris
Don Henry	Jim Hobbs
Mitch Hrachiar	Patrick Johnson
Jan Jonker	Richard Klopp
Bob Kosiorek	Gerald Lawver
Steve Martin	Brian McCarthy
Jim Nelson	Terry Overton
Mike Riley	Kurt Roe
Glenn Satterfield	Levi Stradling
John Wythe	

City Manager's Office

The City Manager's Office is housed at City Hall and includes the City Manager, Administrative Assistant, Personnel Officer, and Special Projects Coordinator. The Systems Manager and janitorial staff are also considered part of the City Manager's Office.

The Homer City Manager serves as chief administrative officer of the City and is responsible for the effective and efficient administration of all City services through the supervision of administrative staff and department heads. Walt Wrede has served as City Manager since February 2003.



Systems Manager Steve Bambakidis keeps more than 100 computers humming smoothly, including several in his office.

The City Manager works closely with the Mayor and City Council, department heads, and other community leaders to identify and accomplish projects that are in the best interest of the community and to solve problems that might come up. He is responsible for overall budget preparation and shares responsibility with the Mayor and Council for articulating the City's needs to state and federal officials to secure funding for capital projects.

The City Manager is often the first person a community member calls with a question or com-

plaint about City operations. Fortunately, his assistant, Rachel Livingston, is often able to help. Phones, scheduling, and tracking down information are all part of a normal work day. In 2005 Rachel also contributed significant time to the Japanese Sister City program, the New Library Project, and the Public Arts Committee.

Sheri Hobbs has been Personnel Officer for the City of Homer since 1994. She provides invaluable assistance to the City Manager and department heads on personnel matters and can answer virtually any question employees or prospective employees have about hiring, retiring, and benefits. She also produces the employee newsletter, serves as manager of the airport building, and oversees the City janitorial staff. In 2005, she facilitated hiring of 62 full-time, part-time, and temporary employees (including election workers) and helped 69 others transition out of City employment.

The Special Projects Coordinator, Anne Marie Holen, is responsible for producing the annual Capital Improvement Plan and the Annual Report, and seeks funding for City projects through grantwriting and the preparation of legislative request materials. In 2005, she also helped produce the Town Center Development Plan.

Systems Manager Steve Bambakidis is responsible for keeping the City of Homer computer systems running smoothly, including troubleshooting and maintenance for 16 network servers and more than 100 desktop computers. He maintains the City's website as well as specialized automated systems for the Police and Fire Departments and Department of Public Works. In 2005, he installed a new phone system and upgraded the wireless system at Port & Harbor offices. He also installed new public use computers at the Homer Public Library and upgraded the City's anti-virus protection.

City Clerk's Office

For many members of the Homer public, the City Clerk's Office provides the primary point of contact with local government. As evidence of this, the Homer City Clerk's Office logged 20,824 phone calls, e-mails, and faxes in 2005, along with 3,858 in-person contacts.

The City Clerk is an official of the City of Homer, appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council. Mary Calhoun has held the position of City Clerk since 1990 and was Deputy City Clerk before that.

The City Clerk attends meetings of the Homer City Council and keeps the journal for the Council and its advisory bodies and committees. The Deputy City Clerks attend the Council's advisory Commissions and Board meetings and ensure that regulations for public meetings are met. In 2005, staff from the City Clerks Office attended 139 meetings.

The Clerk's Office manages municipal records and makes them available to the public, provides for codification of ordinances and authenticates or certifies records, prepares agendas and packets for the governing body and advisory bodies as assigned, administers oaths of office, acts as the parliamentary advisor to the City Council, and performs other duties required by law, the City Manager, and/or the Mayor or Council.

Public notice and information is essential in a democracy. The City Clerk's Office records a weekly informational segment aired on public radio station KBBI and maintains informational kiosks in five locations within the community: Safeway, Captain's Coffee, the Harbormaster's Office, Pudgy's Meat Market, and City Hall. The Clerk's Office also produces and distributes a quarterly newsletter for City residents and sends a welcoming letter to new businesses.

The Clerk's Office maintains a website (<http://clerk.ci.homer.ak.us>) which contains public notices



Jo Johnson, Deputy City Clerk II, helps keep the community informed by taking minutes at meetings of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission, among others.

and announcements, invitations to bid and requests for proposals, a calendar of events, and various current and archived documents including policy and procedure manuals, fee schedules, port tariff, meeting agendas and minutes, City Code, ordinances and resolutions, and election information.

The City Clerk administers all municipal elections and assists with borough and state elections. Two elections were held in 2005. In a special election on March 22, 63% of voters said YES to the question "Shall the City of Homer Sales Tax rate of levy be increased by 1 (one) percent from 3.5% to 4.5%?" As promised, the City Council then reduced the local property tax by one-half mill.

The regular City election was held on October 4, to elect two City Council members. Mike Heimbuch and Matt Shadle were elected to serve 3-year terms. A total of 1,221 Homer residents cast ballots in the election.

The Clerk's Office works with special needs students who assist the City Clerk with multiple tasks and especially bulk mailings. Their assistance is invaluable.

Finance

The City of Homer Finance Department provides overall administration of the financial activities of the City. The Finance Department is proud to have received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 21 consecutive years.



Homer residents appreciate Accounts Receivable Supervisor Laurie Moore for her helpful attitude, colorful office, and vast knowledge of City utility services and billing.

The Finance Department

- assists in the development of an annual budget and prepares a year-end comprehensive annual financial report.
- provides accounting services for all departments of the City.
- monitors all general ledger account activities.
- administers all accounting functions related to accounts payable and receivable, purchasing,

budget and payroll systems, reception, utility, port and ambulance billings, and capital projects.

- monitors and accounts for the financial activities of grants entered into by the City.
- administers the City property leases.

Finance Director Dean Baugh left the position in late 2005 after being with the City since 1998. After his departure, Lisa Vaughn, Accounting Supervisor, acted as the Interim Finance Director. In this capacity, Lisa finalized the FY2006 budget and handled the City's investments, among other duties.

In 2005 the Finance Department took over the maintenance of the street and address files for the City. Joanne Perret is responsible for keeping these files up to date with address/street data from Planning, permits from Public Works, records of new meter hook ups, utility line diagrams and other engineering information, and records of utility connects and disconnects.

The chart below shows the increased work load that the Finance Department is handling on a regular basis, with no increase in staffing.

The staff is able to manage the increased work load in part due to electronic processing. However, the most important factor in the efficiency of the Finance Department is the dedicated employees who are committed to see that the job is done.

Function	In 2000	In 2005	% Increase
Accounts Payable	3,157 checks processed	3,420 checks processed	8.3%
Grant Accounting	27	41	51.9%
Project Accounting	25	37	48%
Payroll	2,483 checks/direct deposits	3,158 checks/direct deposits	27.2%
Water - Connects	269	295	9.67%
Water- Disconnects	224	243	8.48%
Water Bills	19,916 generated	23,375 generated	17.4%

Planning

The Planning and Zoning Department is responsible for reviewing all Conditional Use Permit applications, variances, rezones, sign permits, and zoning permits. Additionally, staff facilitates long range planning efforts such as updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Staff works with the public to resolve zoning violations and to enforce the parking and zoning codes. The Planning Department maintains a website at <http://planning.ci.homer.ak.us/dahome.htm> to assist the public in understanding Homer's zoning code and to provide easy access to relevant documents.



Planning Technician Julie Engebretsen explains features of the proposed Fred Meyer development in Town Center.

2005 was a year of change in the Planning Department. Beverly Guyton, 15-year Planning veteran, retired and moved to Oregon, and Planning/Code Compliance Technician Lani Eggertsen-Goff moved to Anchorage. New to the Planning Department in 2005 were Planning Clerk Shelly Rosencrans and Planning/Code Compliance Technician Dotti Harness.

2005 was also a busy year. Staff processed 103 zoning permits, including a record number of new home starts (51) as well as 15 new commercial construction projects and nine commercial additions/remodels. Of the 136 staff reports, seven dealt with non-conforming uses, two with applications for a variance, 18 with conditional use permits, and 40 with plats. 2005 was the

busiest year for large subdivisions in the last decade or more, with three large developments approved (Stream Hill Park Subdivision, Barnett's South Slope Subdivision/Quiet Creek Park, and Foothills Subdivision/Sunset View Estates No. 2).

In addition to working with the Planning Commission, staff also assisted the Town Center Development Committee, the Road Standards Committee, and the Lease Policy Committee. Planning Technician Julie Engebretsen also serves as staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Town Center Development Committee worked diligently and completed the Town Center Development Plan, a major milestone in a community planning process that began in 1998 as the "Town Square Project." Staff also worked with the Road Standards Committee to finalize the Transportation Plan, which was approved by the Planning Commission and adopted by the City Council as part of Homer's Comprehensive Plan.



A sign across the Sterling Highway from Safeway and construction of vacation homes at Land's End point to growth and changing demographics in Homer.



MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Homer Public Library is to support the information needs of the community by providing access to quality resources in a welcoming atmosphere by a knowledgeable and caring staff. We take seriously our responsibility to serve as a place for children to discover the joy of reading and the value of libraries. We pledge to promote literacy, learning, and enrichment for people of all ages, thereby enhancing the economic, social, and cultural vitality of our community.

The trend of rapid change due in large part to new technology in public libraries nationwide continued during 2005, and the Homer Public Library was no exception. Libraries have become much more than repositories where books are kept. Today, librarians teach users how to find, evaluate, and use information in many formats. We strive to merge the best parts of traditional library functions with new technology so we may continue to provide excellent library service to the community of Homer.

New Library Project: The successful conclusion of the New Library Project capital campaign and the start of construction for a new library were by far the most significant events for the Homer Public Library in 2005. Impressed by tremendous support within the Homer community and a large grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, major funders including the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Rural Development, U.S. Department of Commerce–Economic Development Administration, and the State of Alaska provided the final \$3 million needed to put the project out to bid. A fun and festive Ground-breaking event was held on May 16, beginning with a procession from the current library to the new library site. Actual construction by local firm Jay-Brant began less than two weeks later. By the end of the year, Homer residents only had to “JUST IMAGINE” the inside of the library, since the exterior was largely complete. A Grand Opening is planned for September 16, 2006.

Visitors and Cardholders: The library assisted over 88,000 visitors in 2005 or 7.6 visits per capita. (The national average is 4.6 visits per capita). The library issued 380 city resident, 320 borough resident, and 57 temporary library cards during 2005. Seventy-seven percent of community residents have library cards.

Collection, Circulation, and Interlibrary Loan: There are 34,791 items in the library’s collection. During 2005, 1,534 items were added to the collection, and 1,465 out-of-date, damaged, and/or lost items were withdrawn. Staff recorded 89,964 circulations during 2005, or 7.9 items per capita. (The national average is 7.0 items per capita). The library was able to provide inter-library loan service for patrons through its subscription to OCLC, a bibliographic database that provides access to other libraries’ resources throughout the state, nation, and world. During 2005, the library borrowed 1,189 items for Homer library cardholders and loaned 610 items to other libraries (a 63% increase over items loaned in 2004).

Programs: The library is fortunate to have many talented members of the community volunteer as readers for Story Hour, ensuring that the weekly pre-school Story Hour program continues to be popular with young children and their parents. The 2005 Summer Reading Program, “It’s Fantastic,” focused on larger-than-life literature such as myths, science fiction and fantasy, folktales and folklore, legends and tall tales, and fairy tales and fables. 2515 children and their families participated in the 8-week program of reading, activities, and lots of fun.

Also during 2005, 19,145 patrons used the library’s six public computers for their electronic research and communications needs.

Grants: Once again, the library received support from The Homer Bookstore to continue with the Born to Read program. This program welcomes

new babies born in South Peninsula Hospital with a gift bag containing a letter of welcome, a book suitable for babies, and a library card registration form. Other grants assisted the library with books and computers: the Public Library Assistance Grant from the Alaska State Library provided the library with additional funds to purchase books and the federal E-rate program provided substantial assistance with telecommunications expenses.

Volunteers: The increase in the number of volunteers since the start of the New Library Project has been phenomenal. In 2005, 486 people volunteered almost 2,570 hours, an increase of over 90 percent since 2002. In addition to the capital campaign activities, the Friends of the Library worked hard to raise money for the library through innovative fundraisers such as their own book, *Where Were You? Alaska 64 Earthquake*, a compilation of local reminiscences of the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. As always, the Friends of the Library's book and plant sales were very well attended by the community. The "Top Drawer Collection," a Friends program that publishes and catalogs the work of local writers, continued to bring local talent into the library where it may be shared with the community.

The library could not function without the help of generous volunteers and local businesses and service organizations who assist with shelving, book processing, Story Hour, Summer Reading Program, National Library Week, and many more programs and services. The library is deeply grateful to the members of the Library Advisory Board, Friends of the Homer Public Library, and the committee members of the New Library Project. In addition, we thank the Reid family for once again providing the library's beautiful hanging baskets and maintaining the library's memorial garden during the summer months of 2005.



Library ceremonial groundbreaking May 16, 2005. From left to right: Library Director Helen Hill, Michelle Hoffman and Bill Allen of the USDA, Mayor Jim Hornaday, Diane Kaplan of the Rasmuson Foundation, Susan Kernes of Wells Fargo, and Berney Richert of the US EDA.



Friends of the Library site tour September 14, 2005.



New library under construction, October 25, 2005.

Homer Volunteer Fire Department

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Fire Department is committed to protecting and serving the public when members of our community are threatened by fire, accidents, and natural or man-made disasters. To accomplish this mission the Department will deliver proactive emergency risk management, emergency services, and educational prevention programs.

General Information: The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is a small combination fire department (meaning that there are both paid and volunteer members) providing fire, emergency medical services, and rescue to the residents of Homer and the surrounding areas. The Fire Department operates as a registered agency with the State Fire Marshal's Office and under annual contract to Kachemak City and the Kachemak Emergency Service Area (KESA). Currently there are six authorized paid positions within the Fire Department: Chief, Assistant Chief, Departmental Services Coordinator, and three Emergency Service Specialists (Firefighter/EMT-III). The Fire Department's activities are spread among three functional areas: Departmental Services, Fire Services, and Emergency Medical Services.

In 2005 the Fire Department responded to 455 fire and emergency medical calls within Homer City limits; 19 calls to Kachemak City; 99 calls to KESA; and 7 calls to other areas of greater Kachemak Bay. Members of the Homer Volunteer Fire Department contributed 4,285 hours of time responding to calls and spent over 6,000 hours in training.

Departmental Services: The Departmental Services section of the department provides member support, facility management, and all public education and prevention activities of the fire department. Members provide outreach education through public and private schools, church groups, childcare centers, and through participation in local events such as the Safe Kids Fair and Annual Health Fair. Departmental

Services also coordinates the issuing of City of Homer and State Division of Forestry Open Burning Permits. Departmental Services members provided 843 hours of prevention and other activities in 2005.

Fire Services: The size and complexity of the Homer area provide an enormous opportunity for firefighters and staff. Under the fire service umbrella fall the following activities: structural firefighting, wildlands firefighting, marine firefighting, aircraft firefighting, heavy rescue and extrication, confined space rescue, and hazardous materials response. The Fire Department is authorized by the State of Alaska Fire Service Training Officer to conduct certified Firefighter I and Firefighter II training. All firefighters are, as a minimum requirement, certified to the Firefighter I level (a training program averaging 300 hours).

In 2005 the Fire Department responded to 16 structure fires, 29 wildlands fires, 12 vehicle fires and 54 requests for public assist. Fires resulted in a fire loss to the community of about \$270,000 dollars, while property saved amounted to over \$965,000.

Emergency Medical Service: The largest functional area of the Fire Department doesn't really involve fires at all. Emergency medical calls typically account for up to 80% of all Fire Department activities each year. 2005 was no exception as the Homer Volunteer Fire Department members responded to 469 medical emergencies including those to Homer, Kachemak City, and KESA.

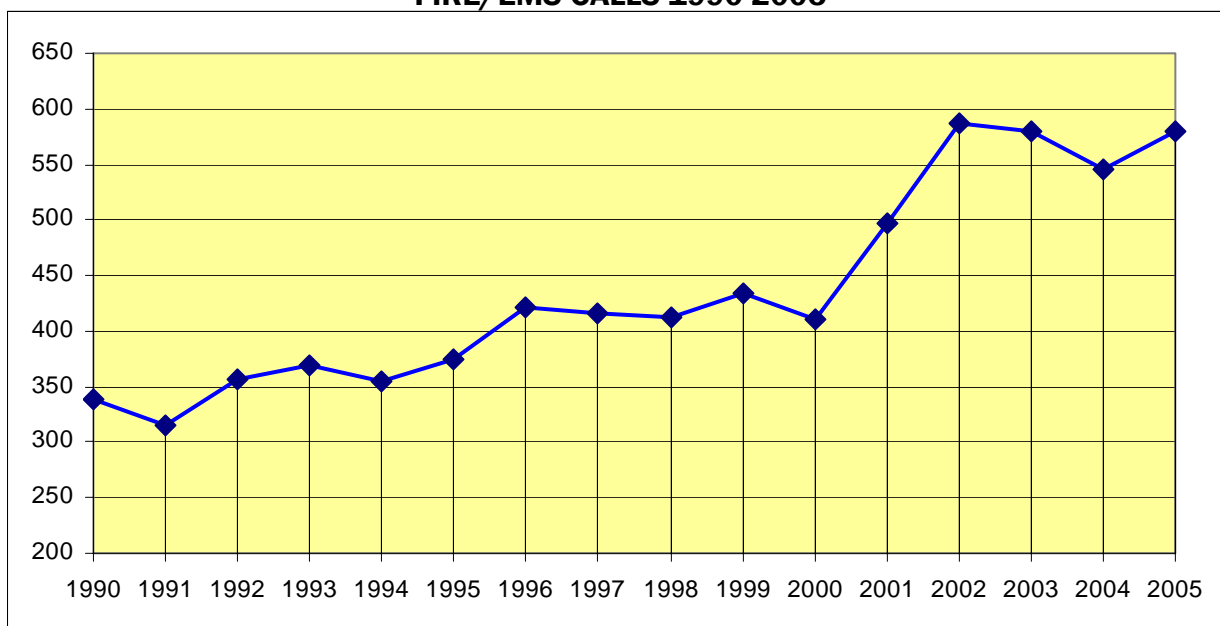
The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is a State Certified "Out of Hospital" Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service. Advanced Life Support services are provided by emergency medical technicians with advanced training including EMT-II, EMT-III and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics. In addition to the basic level classes

required for certification, Fire Department personnel also participate in a multitude of other classes and drills to improve their medical skills and abilities. Some of these courses include: Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation Program, Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals, and Basic Trauma Life Support.



Homer Volunteer Firefighters demonstrate use of ventilation equipment (above) and techniques for fighting a car fire (left).

FIRE/EMS CALLS 1990-2005



MISSION STATEMENT:

To protect the public from criminal wrong doing, keep the peace and maintain order, assist in the orderly flow of traffic, serve the public in times of emergency, and enforce the law of the land.

The Homer Police Department utilizes community-based policing along with proactive enforcement to keep Homer a safe and healthy community. Twelve police officers, seven community jail officers, and seven civilian public safety dispatchers were employed at the Police Department in 2004.

In 2005, the Department received 5,878 requests for service, down 4.3% from 2004. Likewise, the number of arrests made in 2005 (364) was down 15% from the previous year. 464 property crimes and 75 violent crimes were logged, up 14% in both categories. Homer saw a slight increase in motor vehicle accidents, with a total of 168 reported in 2005. The accidents led to 20 injuries and four fatalities.

The Department operates and maintains a seven bed state contract jail facility. Prisoners can be held up to ten days. In 2005, prisoners served a total of 1,046.5 days in the Homer Community Jail, a decrease of 27% from 2004.

The Homer Police Department experienced significant personnel changes in 2005, with six new hires (Ed Stading, Jim Hipbshman, Mike Eastham, Ineke Buchman, Cheryl Bemowski, and Jona Focht) and eight resignations. The Department was pleased to promote Lary Kuhns to the position of Investigations Sergeant in July.

Homer police officers receive extensive training to improve their skills and service to the community. In 2005, eight officers spent a total of 560 hours in training, covering such topics as breath test recertification, Taser instruction, domestic violence, and computer crime. Officers and jail staff also received training for handling hazardous materials and firearms.

Two officers are certified Commercial Vehicle Inspectors and regularly conduct intensive safety inspections of local commercial vehicles. The Department also maintained a cooperative agreement with neighboring law enforcement agencies by providing an officer to train and deploy with the Kenai Peninsula Special Emergency Response Team (SERT).

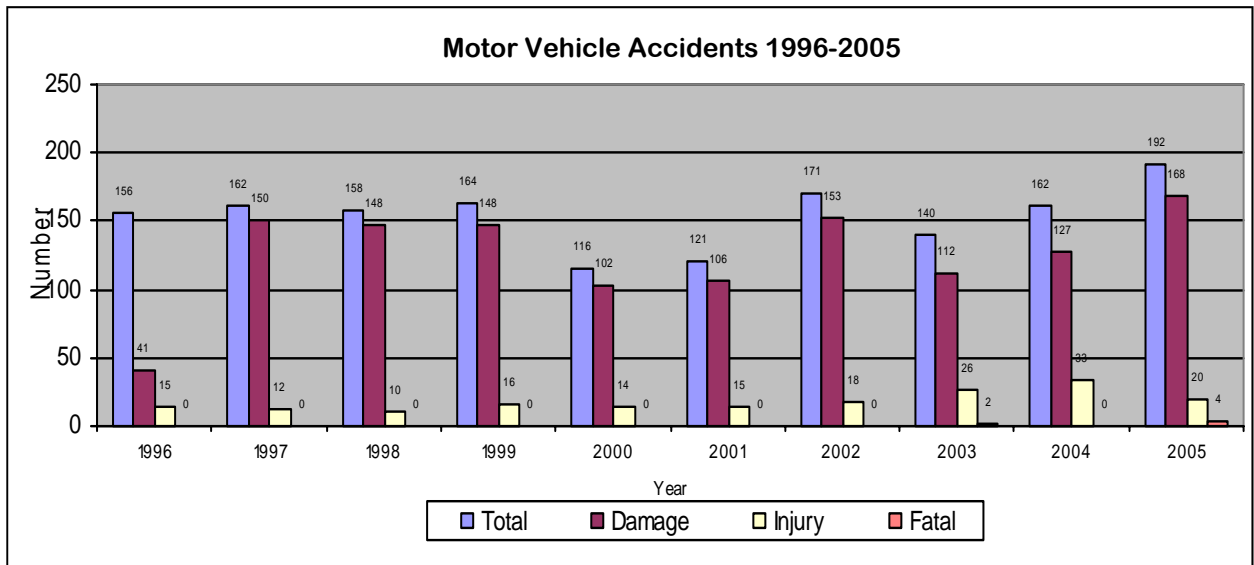
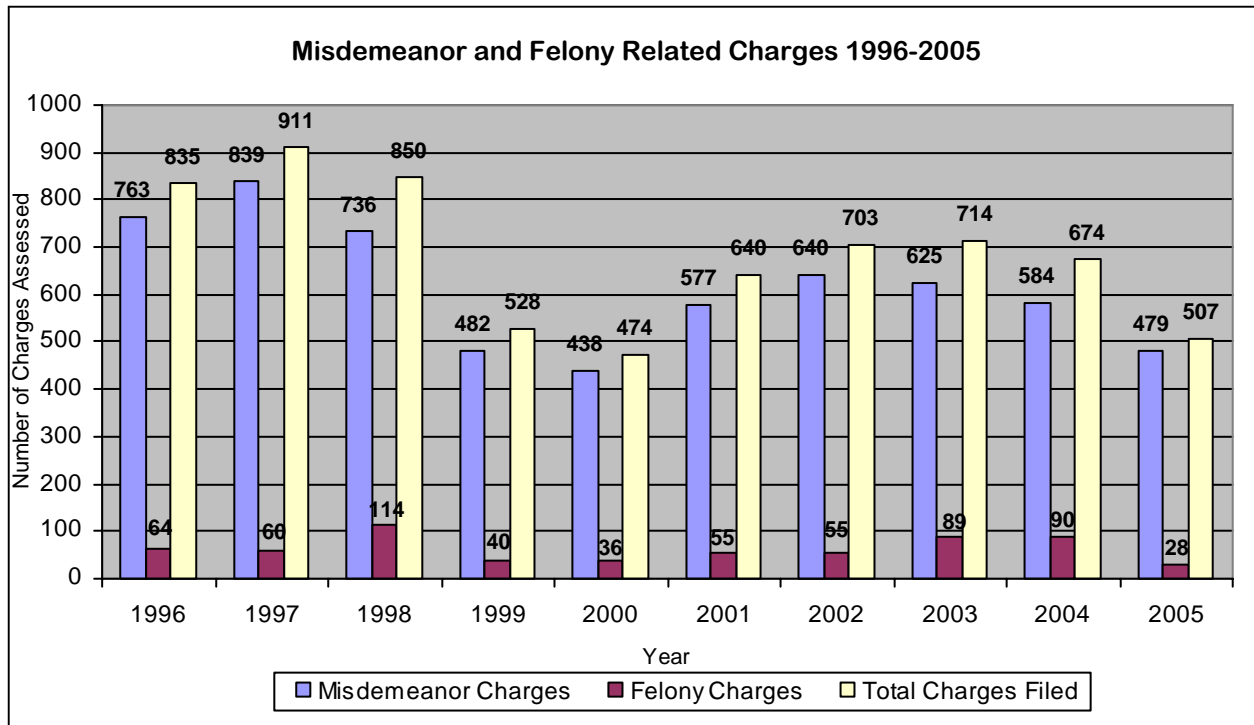
The department's 9-1-1 service includes TDD for the hearing impaired. Homer 9-1-1 dispatches all emergency agencies such as Police, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Alaska State Troopers, Search and Rescue teams, Civil Defense, Alaska State Parks, and Fire/Rescue/EMS south of Ninilchik including across Kachemak Bay and the outlying Russian villages.

HPD is the designated emergency communications and operating center for the southern Kenai Peninsula in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The department operates with the enhanced system which allows 9-1-1 emergency operators to have instant access to the addresses of the 9-1-1 callers.

The Police Department supervises the operation of the Homer Animal Shelter. A new, larger Animal Shelter opened in January 2005. The shelter is open three hours daily and is operated by a private contractor.



Police Officer Steve Smith has been with the Homer Police Department since 2002.



Port & Harbor

The staff of the Homer Port and Harbor Department operates, maintains, and administers the largest single basin boat harbor in Alaska as well as the adjacent Deep Water Dock and Pioneer Dock—and does it 24 hours a day.

Fishing Support and Activity: The city-operated ice plant sold 4,261 tons of high quality flake ice to the fishing fleet and local processors in 2005. This is the second highest annual total since the ice plant began operation in 1983. This ice was used to preserve the quality of over 20 million pounds of salmon, halibut,



Port and Harbor Director Steve Dean helps Homer maintain its identity as a community with a strong maritime tradition.

sablefish, and pacific cod landed at the Port of Homer in 2005. Homer was once again the number one halibut port in Alaska with over 10 million pounds delivered locally.

Small Boat Harbor: The Small Boat Harbor consists of a 48 acre basin with 920 reserved slips, 6,000+ lineal feet of transient floats, the Homer Fish Dock with 483' vessel berthing on sides and face and eight cranes, the Homer Ice Plant producing up to 100 tons of flake ice per day, a wood grid and a steel grid, five-lane boat launch ramp, and

barge/landing-craft loading ramp. At the end of 2005, 133 boat owners were on the wait list for a reserved stall in the small boat harbor.

Preliminary studies have been conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the University of Alaska, Anchorage School of Engineering to plan for future expansion, to relieve congestion, meet projected demand, and improve security.

Port: The Port consists of the Deep Water Dock with 345 feet of face plus three mooring dolphins, two mooring buoys, 40' water depth (MLLW) at the face; and the Pioneer Dock with 469' face, and 40' water depth (MLLW).

The Deep Water Dock saw an increase of almost 25% in landings from 2004 to 2005. These included the Navy Ship *Cromelin*, NOAA ships *Rainier* and *Fairweather*, processor *Discovery Star*, and numerous tugs and barges. Of particular note was the 360' x 100' barge *Sitka Provider* which loaded 2,915 tons of equipment for the Red Dog mine.

The City of Homer received federal funds in 2005 to commission a detailed design and economic analysis for future expansion of the Deep Water



The Homer Small Boat Harbor

©QT Luong, Terragalleria.com

Dock to improve its freight handling capability.

The Pioneer Dock was busy in 2005 providing berthing for the USCG Buoy Tender *Hickory*, preferential berthing for the Alaska Marine Highway ocean class ferries (*Tustumena* and *Kennicott*), and the transfer of 9,652,593 gallons of fuel by tug and barge to the nearby Petro Marine terminal.

There were two cruise ship landings at the Pioneer Dock in 2005. The City of Homer continues to work with the Chamber of Commerce to market Homer as a cruise ship destination.

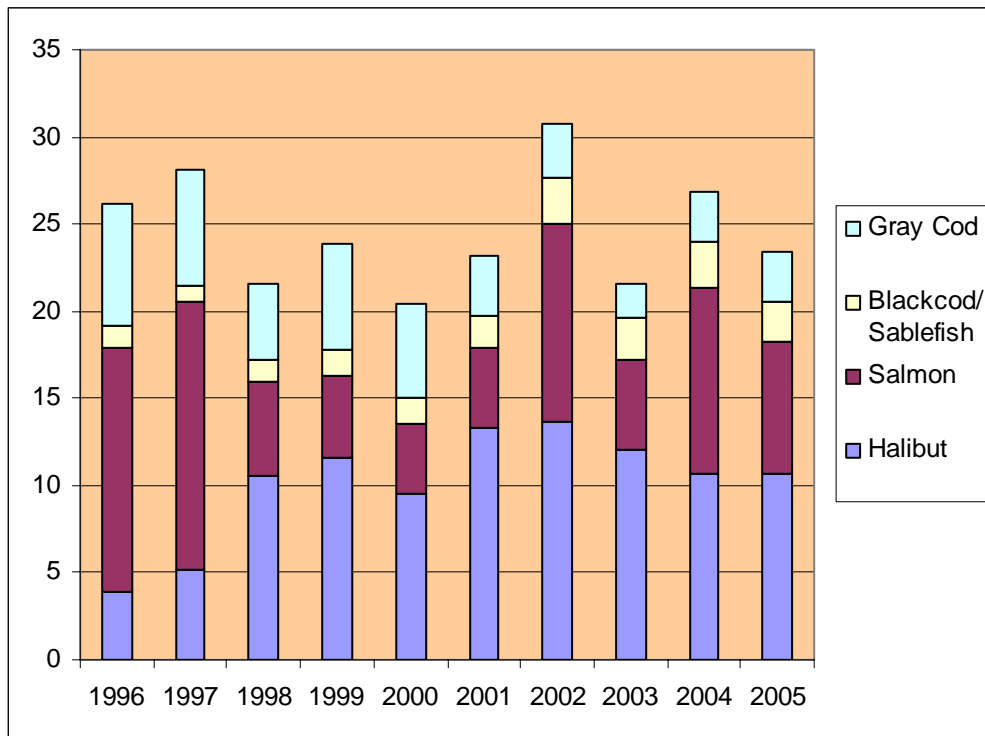
Projects: Projects completed at the Port of Homer in 2005 include three new public rest-

rooms, paving to improve access at Ramps 1, 2, 3, and 4, a new fish cleaning facility at Ramp 6, and a \$450,000 cathodic protection project at the Deep Water Dock.

Future projects funded but not completed include an extension of potable water to floats P, Q, R and S, a high mast light at System 5, a new restroom in the vicinity of the Fish Dock, and driveway access improvements at the Fish Dock.

Training: Staff training completed in 2005 included hazardous materials handling, blood-borne pathogen exposure, AED, CPR, emergency trauma training, facility security and advanced marine fire fighting. The senior operating staff also maintains current USCG Captains licenses at a variety of tonnages.

HOMER SEAFOOD LANDINGS IN MILLIONS OF POUNDS
1996-2005



Homer maintained its reputation as “The Halibut Capital of the World” in 2005, landing 10,716,246 pounds of halibut—28% more than the next closest port (Kodiak).

Public Works

The Homer Public Works Department provides many of the most visible public services in the community, including maintenance of 6.8 miles of “urban” gravel roads, 25 miles of “rural” gravel roads, and 13.7 miles of paved roads. Public Works staff also maintain all 13 City-owned buildings, 18 parks, four play fields, and two campgrounds.

The Parks Coordinator, Tamara Hagerty, is responsible for procuring and planting seeds for the Homer Beautification Program. She also supervises the maintenance of public restrooms, all parks and cemeteries, and airport parking and camp fee collection. Maintenance of Calhoun Trail, Beluga Trail, Fairview Trail, Poopdeck Trail, and the Homer Spit Trail are also the responsibility of the Public Works Parks Division.

The Motor Pool Mechanics are responsible for maintaining the City’s 106 light vehicle and heavy equipment pieces—all the Public Works, City Hall, Police Department, Fire Department/EMS

and Port & Harbor rolling stock.

The Water Utility (1,272 active service connections) consists of 42.10 miles of distribution main lines, four storage tanks, 332 fire hydrants, 567 main line gate valves, 22 pressure reducing stations, the water treatment plant facility, and the raw water pump station facility. The Wastewater Utility (1,359 active sewer service connections) consists of 48.65 miles of collection main lines, 731 sanitary sewer manholes, 9 sewer lift/pump stations (including two residential stations on the Spit), the Spit Fish Outfall pump station, and the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Port Maintenance helps keep the Deep Water Dock, Pioneer Dock, high mast lighting system, boat launch ramp, fire carts/pumps, commercial barge ramp, finger floats, port water and electrical service, wood grid, steel grid, and miscellaneous Port & Harbor equipment in good working order.

Public Works provides construction management, engineering, and inspection services for City construction projects and a wide range of capital improvement projects.

Highlights of 2005 include construction of a 12-bay Large Equipment Storage Shed by Public Works employees.



Above: Terry Overton and Carey Meyer enjoy some sunshine while the “pole barn” is under construction. Right: The completed structure, officially known as the Large Equipment Storage Shed, provides shelter for road graders, plows, and other heavy equipment.



Construction of the new Homer Public Library began in late May and proceeded on schedule during the summer, fall, and winter months. The project will be completed in late summer 2006.

Construction of three new restrooms on the Homer Spit was completed in time for the 2005 summer tourist season. Four LID projects were also completed: Thompson Drive sewer, East End sewer, Hillside Acres water/sewer, and East End water/sewer. Approximately 60,000 cubic yards of fill was placed at the site of the new Jack Gist Recreational Park.

Public Works water treatment plant personnel made improvements to the City water system through modifications to the fixed inlet piping at Bridge Creek Reservoir. The improvements allow the inlet pipe to move up and down in order to extract water from the lake at different depths in response to lake upset conditions. In this way, raw water quality is improved and the plant operates more efficiently.

The Alaska Department of Transportation completed major road improvements on Bartlett Street and Hohe Street, including the replacement of water lines. Although some minor punch

items will be completed by the Contractor, Public Works has assumed maintenance responsibilities for the roads.



Public Works–Parks Division employs a number of seasonal workers, including Fern Cossette and Jim Ladner, shown here tending gardens outside City Hall.



Carey Meyer (far left) and Ben Gibson (far right) lead yet another tour of the new library during construction in fall 2005. In between are Library Director Helen Hill, Mayor Jim Hornaday, legislative aide Jane Alberts, and state Senator Gary Stevens.

Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Homer's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a long-term guide for capital project expenditures. City administration, department heads, advisory boards and commissions, City Council members, non-profit organizations, and the general public are all encouraged to provide suggestions for the CIP. While inclusion in the CIP does not guarantee funding for a project, it can be very helpful since many agencies will not consider funding a project unless it is identified as a community priority in an official plan adopted by the local government.

In October 2005, the Homer City Council approved the Capital Improvement Plan for 2006-2011 with descriptions of 59 projects including roads, trails, buildings and other structures, land acquisition, and equipment.

The City Council was pleased to note that funding for the following projects from the 2005-2010 CIP had been identified or procured:

- Community Ice Rink
- Deep Water Dock Corrosion Control
- New Homer Public Library
- Public Works Large Equipment Shed
- Refurbishing HVFD Tanker 1

At its October 10 meeting, the Homer City Council passed several resolutions relating to the 2006-2011 CIP.

Resolution 05-101 identified three projects of "significant area-wide benefit":

- Deep Water Dock Construction Phase 2
- Water Treatment Plant/Alternative Water Source Feasibility Study
- Kachemak Bay Branch UA Campus Expansion, includes possible purchase of City Hall which may assist in obtaining a new City Hall in the Town Center

Resolutions 05-102 and 05-119 identified seven projects as priorities for funding through the

City's annual request to the Alaska Legislature:

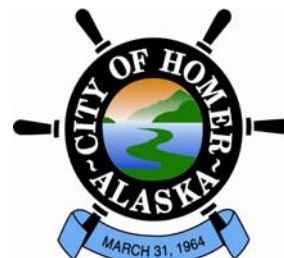
- Water Treatment Plant/Alternative Water Source Feasibility Study
- Deep Water Dock Construction, Phase 2
- Kachemak Bay Branch UA Campus Expansion, includes possible purchase of City Hall which may assist in obtaining a new City Hall in the Town Center
- Skyline Drive Fire Station
- Homer Intersection Improvements
- Harbor Pedestrian and Bike Pathway
- Heath Street Extension

Resolution 05-100 identified five projects to forward to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for funding consideration:

- Water Treatment Plant/Alternative Water Source Feasibility Study
- Spit Water Line Replacement, Phase 4
- Bridge Creek Watershed Property Acquisition
- East Hill/West Hill Transmission Line
- Mountain View to East Hill Water Main

Resolutions 05-103 and 05-119 named five projects for inclusion on the federal legislative request list:

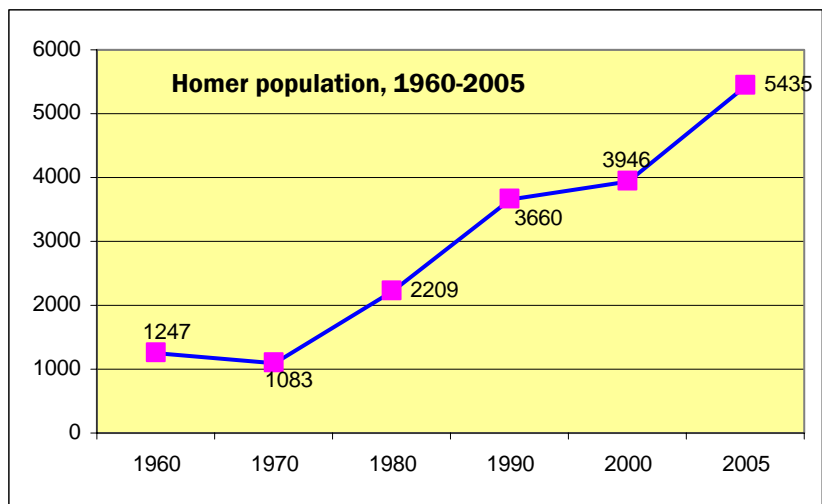
- Deep Water Dock Expansion
- Water Treatment Plant Upgrade/Alternative Water Source
- East Boat Harbor
- Homer Intersection Improvements
- Heath Street Extension





In addition to numerous roads, trails, and water & sewer projects, the City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan calls for replacement of four major buildings: City Hall, the Police station, the Fire Hall, and the Port & Harbor building. All four were constructed or remodeled as City buildings between 1975 and 1986.

The graph at right depicts Homer's population growth from 1960 to 2005. The City of Homer was incorporated in 1964. Population figures for 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 reflect actual Census data. The 2005 figure is the most recent estimate from the Alaska Department of Labor. Some of the increase in population between 2000 and 2005 is due to Homer's



annexation of 4.58 square miles in April 2002. The area population outside city limits (e.g., Diamond Ridge, Kachemak City, and Fritz Creek) has also increased sharply in the last 30 years, impacting local government in Homer.

Financial Indicators

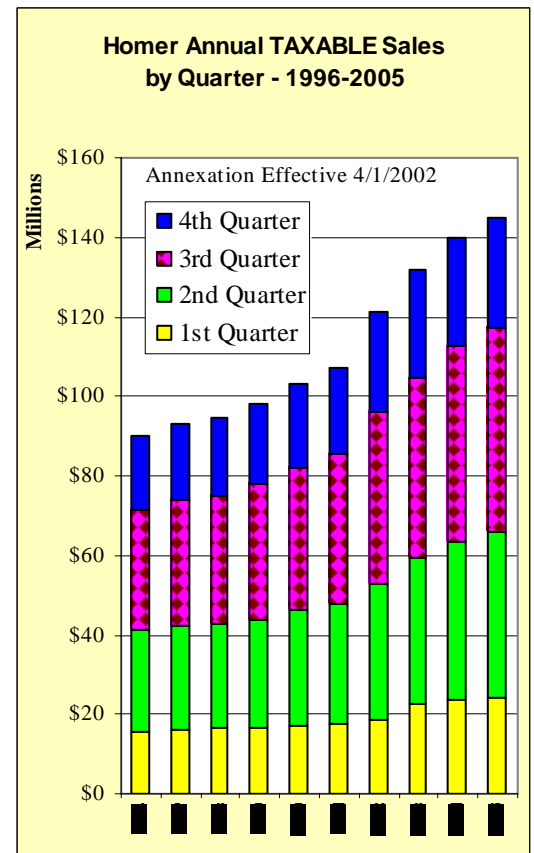
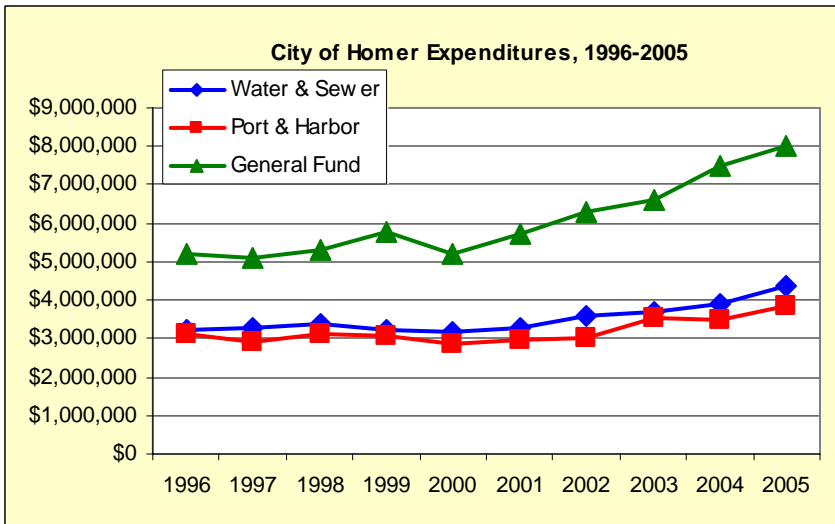
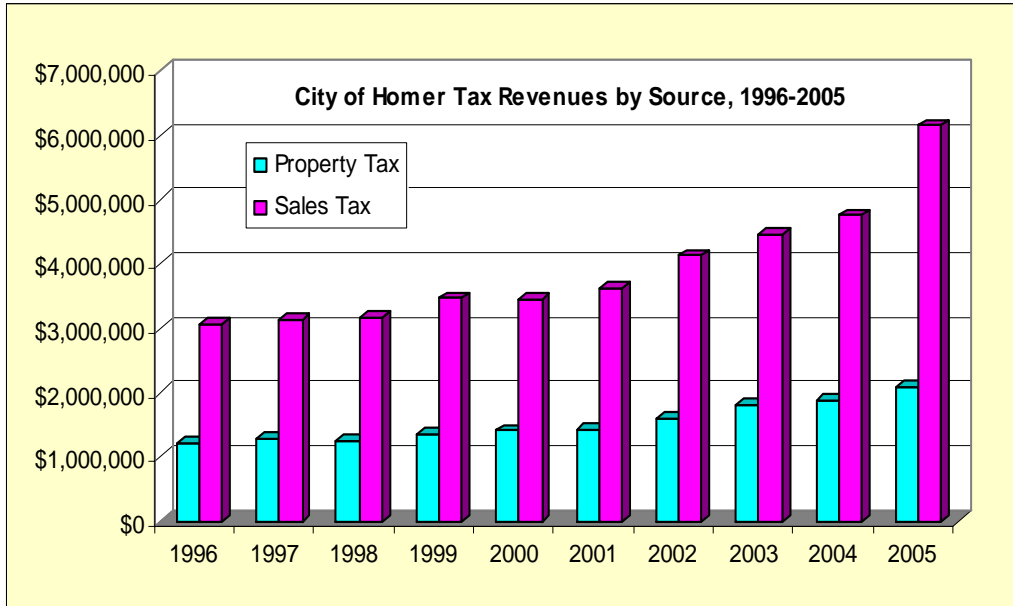
CITY OF HOMER Statement of Net Assets December 31, 2005

Assets	Governmental	Business-type	Total
Cash and investments	\$ 6,653,821	695,282	7,349,103
Receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts:			
Accounts	-	447,137	447,137
Sales and property taxes	955,523	178,938	1,134,461
State and federal grants	1,327,650	1,081,338	2,408,988
Assessments	903,607	125,596	1,029,203
Litigation settlement	-	121,000	121,000
Other	207,715	-	207,715
Internal balances	132,291	(132,291)	-
Inventory	40,459	225,871	266,330
Prepaid items	240,284	64,227	304,511
Restricted cash and investments	-	2,691,307	2,691,307
Assessments due after one year	-	670,211	670,211
Bond issuance costs, net	-	26,971	26,971
Litigation receivable, net of current portion	-	246,511	246,511
Capital assets not being depreciated--			
Land and construction in progress	14,122,487	20,707,542	34,830,029
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	26,654,243	53,385,547	80,039,790
Total assets	<u>\$ 51,238,080</u>	<u>80,535,187</u>	<u>131,773,267</u>
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	1,736,681	383,479	2,120,160
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	137,060	42,394	179,454
Accrued interest	-	154,531	154,531
Prepaid rentals and deposits	-	582,858	582,858
Deferred revenue	13,045	18,000	31,045
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Deferred lease revenue	15,857	396,000	411,857
Due within one year:			
Accrued leave	62,558	25,519	88,077
Notes payable	-	311,881	311,881
Bonds payable	450,280	250,000	700,280
Capital lease obligations	92,393	-	92,393
Due in more than one year:			
Accrued leave	307,084	221,649	528,733
Notes payable	-	7,167,200	7,167,200
Bonds payable, net of deferred loss	480,247	590,366	1,070,613
Capital lease obligations	119,864	-	119,864
Net pension obligation	500,933	233,481	734,414
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 3,916,002</u>	<u>10,377,358</u>	<u>14,293,360</u>
Net Assets			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	39,633,946	65,800,613	105,434,559
Restricted for debt service and capital projects	3,768,592	2,870,245	6,638,837
Unrestricted	3,919,540	1,486,971	5,406,511
Total net assets	<u>\$ 47,322,078</u>	<u>\$ 70,157,829</u>	<u>\$ 117,479,907</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 51,238,080</u>	<u>\$ 80,535,187</u>	<u>\$ 131,773,267</u>

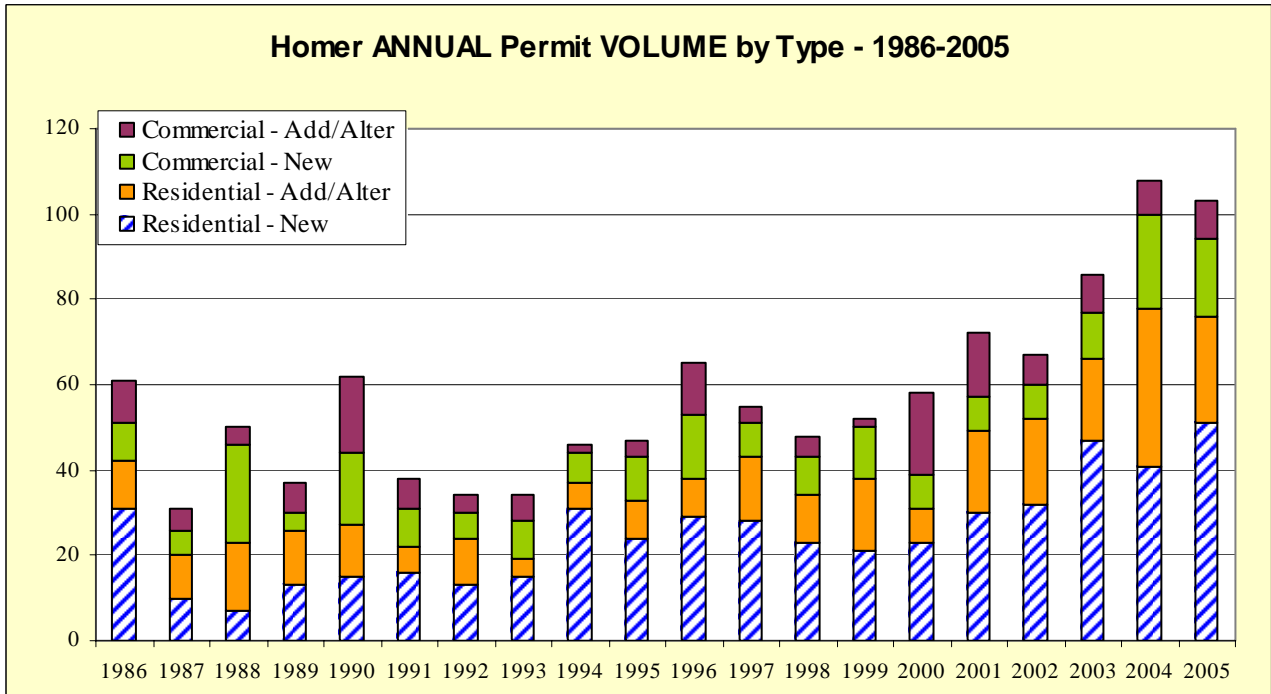
CITY OF HOMER
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2005

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and		
		Fees, Fines,	Operating	Capital	Governmental	Business-type	Total
Governmental							
General government	\$ 1,800,060	433,860	30,000	247,884	(1,088,316)	-	(1,088,316)
Public safety	3,322,075	389,826	544,409	121,992	(2,265,848)	-	(2,265,848)
Public works	1,066,319	61,572	-	-	(1,004,747)	-	(1,004,747)
Library	293,831	-	154,831	3,507,733	3,368,733	-	3,368,733
Airport	149,341	125,316	-	-	(24,025)	-	(24,025)
Parks and recreation	356,721	181,924	-	483,859	309,062	-	309,062
Community services	582,677	-	-	-	(582,677)	-	(582,677)
Unallocated interest	70,829	-	-	-	(70,829)	-	(70,829)
Total governmental activities	7,641,853	1,192,498	729,240	4,361,468	(1,358,647)	-	(1,358,647)
Business-type:							
Port and harbor	3,885,187	2,507,815	-	68,090	-	(1,309,282)	(1,309,282)
Water and sewer utility	4,615,144	2,605,377	-	221,412	-	(1,788,355)	(1,788,355)
Total business-type activities	8,500,331	5,113,192	-	289,502	-	(3,097,637)	(3,097,637)
Total	\$ 16,142,184	6,305,690	729,240	4,650,970	(1,358,647)	(3,097,637)	(4,456,284)
General revenues:							
Taxes:							
					2,091,977	-	2,091,977
					5,119,528	1,031,167	6,150,695
					<u>223,879</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>223,879</u>
					150,223	101,060	251,283
					-	202,080	202,080
					110,000	(110,000)	-
					<u>7,697,607</u>	<u>1,224,307</u>	<u>8,921,914</u>
					6,338,960	(1,873,330)	4,465,630
					40,983,118	72,031,159	113,014,277

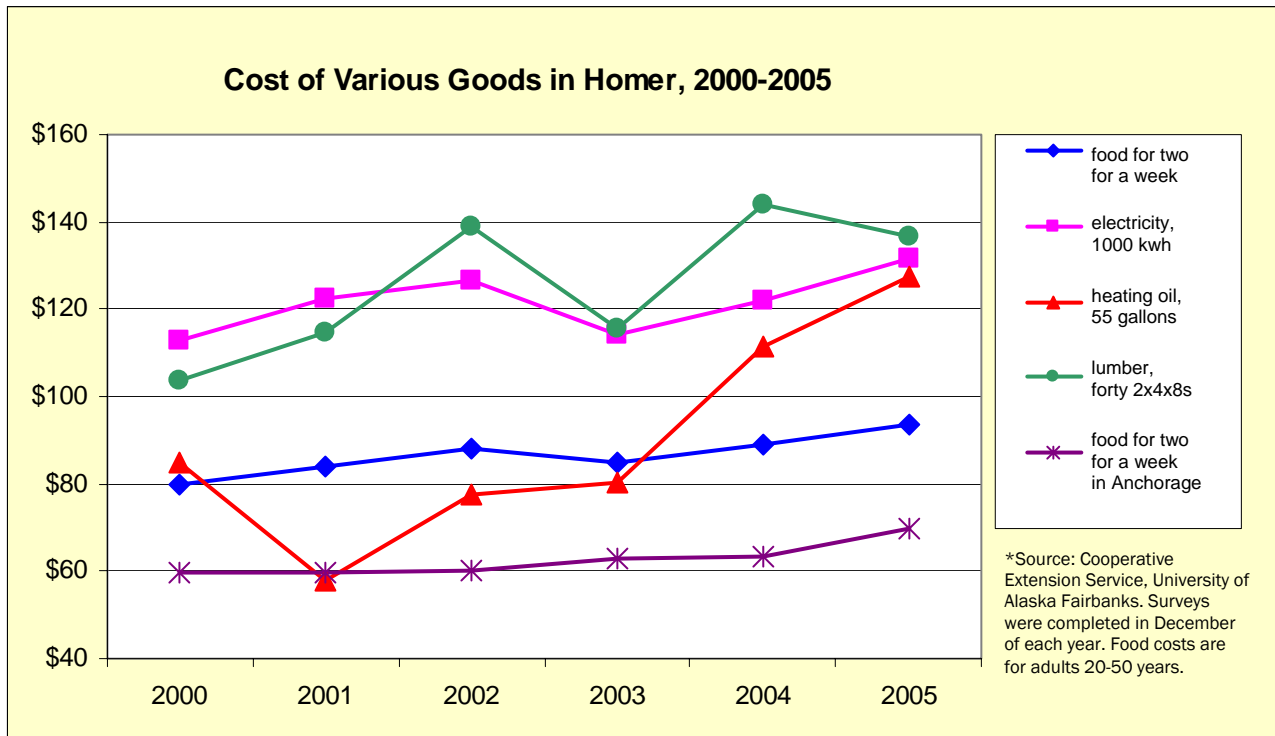
Financial Indicators: Charts & Graphs



Graph provided by Kenai Peninsula Borough



Graph provided by Kenai Peninsula Borough



Phone Numbers and Addresses

City of Homer Departments

CITY HALL ----- 235-8121
491 E. Pioneer Avenue ♦ Homer, AK 99603

Water & sewer billing questions----ext. 2228
Planning Department----- 235-3106
City Clerk-----235-3130

PUBLIC WORKS -----235-3170
3575 Heath Street ♦ Homer, AK 99603

Parks & Recreation-----235-3170
City street maintenance questions--235-3170

POLICE DEPARTMENT -----235-3150
4060 Heath Street ♦ Homer, AK 99603

EMERGENCIES ----- 9-1-1

Animal Shelter----- 235-3141

FIRE DEPARTMENT----- 235-3155
604 W. Pioneer Ave. ♦ Homer, AK 99603

EMERGENCIES ----- 9-1-1

Port & Harbor ----- 235-3160
4350 Spit Road ♦ Homer, AK 99603

Billing questions----- 235-8121 ext. 2228

Public Library ----- 235-3180
141 W. Pioneer Ave. ♦ Homer, AK 99603

Other Frequently Called Numbers

Alaska State Ferry ----- 235-8449

Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center: 235-7740

College (Kachemak Bay Branch) ----- 235-7743

Dept. of Motor Vehicles ----- 235-7341

District Court----- 235-8171

District Recorder-----235-8136

Division of Family & Youth Services---- 235-7114

High School-----235-8186

Pool ----- 235-7416

Community Schools ----- 235-6090

Homer News ----- 235-7767

Homer Tribune----- 235-3714

Ice Rink -----235-2647

Kenai Peninsula Borough-----1-800-478-4441

Homer office----- 235-8840

KBBI----- 235-7721

Legislative Information Office -----235-7878

Public Health programs-----235-8857

Solid Waste Baling Facility
("The Dump") -----235-6678

South Peninsula Hospital----- 235-8101

South Peninsula Women's Services
(Haven House) ----- 235-7712