



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

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Memorandum Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR WYTHE AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK 

DATE: JULY 28, 2014

SUBJECT: AGENDA CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

CONSENT AGENDA

Ordinance 14-33, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a State of Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant for FY 2015 in the Amount of \$6,650 for Books and Library Materials, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Library Director.

Notice of FY 2015 Public Library Assistance Grant

Page 3

Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant Agreement FY2015

Page 5

Ordinance 14-36, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$35,000 From the General Fund / Fund Balance for Clearing Trees and Underbrush on City Owned Property in the Town Center and the Trail From Poopdeck to the Library in Order to Enhance Public Health and Safety. Mayor & City Council.

Re-envisioning the Homer Public Library's Western Lot

Page 7

Ordinance 14-37, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating Up to \$19,000 From the Leased Property Depreciation Account for Improvements at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Gym to Bring the Building Into Compliance With the Fire Code. Mayor.

Written public comments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS

AMLJIA Board of Trustees Summer Meeting, Tuesday, July 29 at Land's End Page 15

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Gas Distribution System Report, written public comments Page 19

Summer 2014 Projects Update Page 23

Memorandum 14-120 from Community & Economic Development Coordinator, Re: *Alaska North to the Future, Volume V* Page 27

RECOMMENDATION:

Voice consensus to changes under Agenda Approval.

Fiscal Note: N/A



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Education &
Early Development

Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums

344 West Third Avenue, Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Main: 907.269-6570
Fax: 907.269-6580

Linda S. Thibodeau, Director

July 2, 2014

Ann Dixon
Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ann,

The total Public Library Assistance grant for FY2015 for the Homer Public Library will be \$6,650. Although the State Library has reduced the grant, your library may NOT reduce the amount of local match, \$7,000.

The reason that we will not be able to fund grant requests at \$7,000 is that the grant line in the State Library's budget has not been fully funded for some years. Since the money appropriated is not sufficient to fully fund the grants, regulations require that we: "reduce each grant proportionally."

In order to receive your grant check as soon as possible, please:

- **Return the enclosed grant agreement and budget revision as soon as you can.** Two different people (the librarian and the appropriate legal authority) must sign the grant agreement, since it is a legal document committing your library to certain obligations in return for receiving the public library assistance grant. Once we have your agreement and budget revision, we will start mailing out grant checks.
- **Please review your original grant budget and revise that budget to show how you plan to spend the lower amount of the grant.** For libraries without branches, show how you plan to spend \$6,650, rather than the \$7,000 you requested on the grant application. We have included a copy of the budget from your original grant application and a budget revision form. This budget revision form should be submitted with your grant agreement.
- **As you fill out the budget revision form, please remember that the library MUST spend at least \$3,500 on the Collection (Library Materials). Of this \$3,500, each library may include UP TO a total of \$500 for Electronic Materials and Online Services. We have broadened the definition of Electronic Materials and Online Services to include: Internet Service Provider (ISP) fees, OCLC license fees, and database access or purchase fees.**

PLAG Cover letter
Page two of two
July 2, 2014

The FY2015 Public Library Assistance grant year starts July 1, 2014. Librarians and officials should carefully note and follow the regulations governing the administration of this grant. To remain eligible for the grant, the library **MUST**:

- Submit by September 1, 2015 the following legally required reports for FY2015: *Final Grant Report*, *Technology Report*, and *Annual Public Library Report*.
- Spend at least \$3,500 on library materials and online services.
- Be open at least 10 hours per week for 48 weeks.
- Schedule some evening and weekend hours each week.
- Have **trained** paid or volunteer staff on duty in the library during **all** open hours.
- Combined school/public libraries must take special care to not use grant money or local funds used as matching money for school library purposes. This includes purchasing school-type library materials (books, magazines, etc.)

Each library director is required to attend at least 6 hours of continuing education during the current two year cycle, which includes FY2014 and FY2015 (July 2013 through June 2015). If you attended continuing education during FY2014, do be sure to record that training on your FY2014 public library annual report.

The State Library audits the records of selected libraries at the end of the grant year and reclaims any grant funds not properly accounted for. Also, any portion of this grant money not spent or encumbered by June 30, 2015 must be returned to the State Library. Please call or write if you have questions. You may contact me at: Patience.Frederiksen@alaska.gov Thank you.

Sincerely,



Patience Frederiksen
Grants Administrator

Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant Agreement FY2015

This agreement made and entered into this second day of July 2014, by and between the **Alaska State Library**, hereafter referred to as the Grantor; and the **Homer Public Library**, hereafter referred to as the Grantee.

Whereas, the State of Alaska has appropriated funds for public library assistance; and whereas, the application of the Grantee for a grant for public library assistance has been approved. NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained the parties hereto agree as follows:

The Grantor will agree to:

1. Furnish funds in the amount of **\$6,650**.
2. Provide advisory services in furtherance of the grant project.

The Grantee will agree to:

1. Expend local funds of at least **\$7,000** for project purposes. Funds may be expended only for public library purposes and must be clearly attributable to public library services and operations.
2. Provide at least the following services free to residents of the municipality or community:
 - Establish and maintain a collection of books and other materials for loan;
 - Provide access to interlibrary loans;
 - Provide reading or other educational programs for children; and
 - Provide reference information.
3. Abide by the conditions set forth in its application and approved by the Grantor, including:
 - The number and timing of open hours;
 - The existing and ongoing educational requirements for the library director.
4. Expend at least \$3,500 on library materials and online services for each outlet.
5. Have trained staff on duty in the library during the scheduled open hours.
6. Submit a Final Grant and Technology Report and Public Library Annual Report by September 1, 2015.
7. Maintain accurate records for auditing purposes.
8. Return any grant funds unexpended or unencumbered by June 30, 2015, and all funds for which there is no proper accounting.
9. Repay any portion of grant funds that have not actually been matched by local funds over the course of the grant period.
10. Receive prior approval from the Grantor for any line item change that exceeds 10% of the line item, except that no prior approval is required for:
 - Line item changes of less than \$100; or
 - Line item changes that add funds to library materials and online services.

The source of funding for this agreement is as follows:

State Sources

\$6,650

By accepting this award or agreement, the grantee may become subject to the audit requirements of State of Alaska Administrative code 2 AAC 45.010. As a result, the grantee may be required to provide for an audit and to permit independent auditors to have access to their records and financial statements. The grantee should consult with an independent auditor for assistance in determining audit requirements for each fiscal year.

The undersigned understands and agrees to the conditions of this agreement. Both signatures are required.

For the Library

For the Legal Entity

Signature

Signature

Title

Date

Title

Date

**PLEASE MAKE A PHOTOCOPY OF THE SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS
RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 TO: GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR, ALASKA STATE LIBRARY,
344 WEST THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 125, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501**

eligible 6/30/14

FY2015 ALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

RECEIVED

DUE: April 1, 2014

1. Library Name: Homer Public Library
2. Address: 500 Hazel Ave.
- City: Homer Zip: 99603
3. Head Librarian: Ann Dixon 4. Phone No: 907-435-3151
5. Fax No: 907-235-3136 6. E-mail: adixon@ci.homer.ak.us
7. Mailing address if award is done as paper check: 491 East Pioneer Ave., Homer, AK 99603

8. Schedule of Hours Library Will Be Open (Note any seasonal library schedule changes you expect this year):

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Total Hours Per Week	Weeks Open Per Year
To	10 To 6	10 To 8	10 To 6	10 To 8	10 To 6	10 To 6	52	52

9. If the library will be open fewer than 52 weeks, which weeks will your library be closed?

10. Number of branch libraries and/or bookmobiles: 0 Please fill out the enclosed **Branch Library or Bookmobile Application Addendum Page** and attach to the grant application. Currently applies just to Anchorage, Barrow, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kotzebue, and Naknek.

11. Budget Summary:

	Local Funds for Match	Public Library Assistance Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Budget
a. Personnel			
1. Salaries and Wages	\$362,248	0	\$362,248
2. Fair Value Rate for Volunteer Labor (#12 below)		Not Applicable	
3. Benefits	\$267,111		\$267,111
b. Collection (Library Materials)			
1. Books	\$43,000	\$7,000	\$50,000
2. Subscriptions	\$8,994	0	\$8,994
3. Audiovisuals	\$16,420	0	\$16,420
4. Online Services, and Internet Service Provider (ISP) Fees (Expenditures up to \$500 total)	0	0	0
5. Microforms, Computer Software for Patron Use, Games and Toys	0	0	0
c. Other Expenditures			
1. Building Operations	\$77,458	0	\$77,458
2. Furniture, Equipment & Computers	\$9,358	0	\$9,358
3. Travel	\$6,718	0	\$6,718
4. Supplies	\$11,470	0	\$11,470
5. Online Services and Internet Service Provider (ISP) Fees (Expenditures beyond \$500 total)	\$6,500	0	\$6,500
6. Services	\$26,431	0	\$26,431
7. All Other Unreported Expenditures	\$6,500	0	\$6,500
d. Total	\$842,208	\$7,000	\$849,208

Note: If Local Funds for Match column totals \$7,000 or more, you should request \$7,000 in Grant Funds Requested column.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSISTANCE GRANT FY2015
Budget Revision**

Budget Summary	Local Funds for Project	Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Budget
a. Personnel			
1. Salaries and Wages (Actual funds)			
2. Benefits			
3. Value of Volunteer Labor		Not applicable	
b. Collection (Library Materials)			
1. Books in Print Format			
2. Subscriptions in Print Format			
3. Audiovisuals			
4. Electronic (Digital) Materials and Online Services (No computers or e-readers.)			
5. Initial \$500 Spent on Internet Service Provider (ISP) Fees. (Report remaining ISP fees on line c-6. No computers or e-readers.)			
6. Other Materials such as Microforms, Computer Software for Patron Use, Games and Toys. (No computers or e-readers.)			
c. Other Expenditures			
1. Building Operations			
2. Furniture, Equipment, Computers, E-Readers			
3. Travel			
4. Supplies			
5. Services (Do NOT include internet service provider fees on this line.)			
6. Internet Service Provider Fees paid beyond \$500-total. (List first \$500 of ISP fees on line b-5 above.)			
7. All Other Unreported Expenditures.			
d. Total			

As Amended for Library Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

Approved: _____ Date _____

For the Alaska State Library: _____

1. The Alaska State Library must approve any change of more than 10% to any budget line on your original grant application. Please show the entire revised budget in the budget summary above.
2. Changes of less than \$100 to any line item or any change that adds funds to amounts budgeted for library materials (lines B1 through B6) do NOT need to be approved by the State Library, even if the change is more than 10%.
3. The librarian should sign this form, then fax it to 907-269-6580 or mail it to Alaska State Library, 344 West Third Avenue, Suite 125, Anchorage, AK 99501 or send a scanned copy to: Patience.Frederiksen@alaska.gov
4. The grants administrator at the Alaska State Library will sign this form and return it to you.
5. Keep the signed copy of this budget revision with your original grant application. Questions? Call 1-800-776-6566!



Re-envisioning the Homer Public Library's Western Lot

The Friends of the Homer Public Library's mission is to provide volunteer support for library programs and services, to raise funds that enrich the library experience and to promote the use and enjoyment of the library. FHL has a 9-member volunteer board plus honorary student member who work closely with library staff to publicize the valuable tools and services available at the library to all community members at no cost, without discrimination. Throughout the Friends' history, the organization has provided resources for capital improvements, including raising funds for the new library and outfitting it with items to enhance library patrons' experience, including children's book bins, lamps, benches, and e-readers. Now with the building and library programs and staff flourishing, the Friends is committed to making the entire library property a vibrant and safe part of the Homer community.

Western Lot

The City of Homer embarked on the New Library Project 10 years ago and set aside lots from Hazel Avenue to the Poopdeck Trail, adjacent to Hazel Avenue, as the location of this civic anchor. The original design plans (see Figure 1) included park-like attributes for the western side of the City property. Due to funding considerations, only a gravel foot path was established to link the library's main parking lot to the Poopdeck Trail. Now in 2014, with increasing concern about safety along the existing foot path and adjacent Poopdeck Trail, the time is right to re-visit the potential of the library's western lot and ways to integrate it into the library mission and programs.

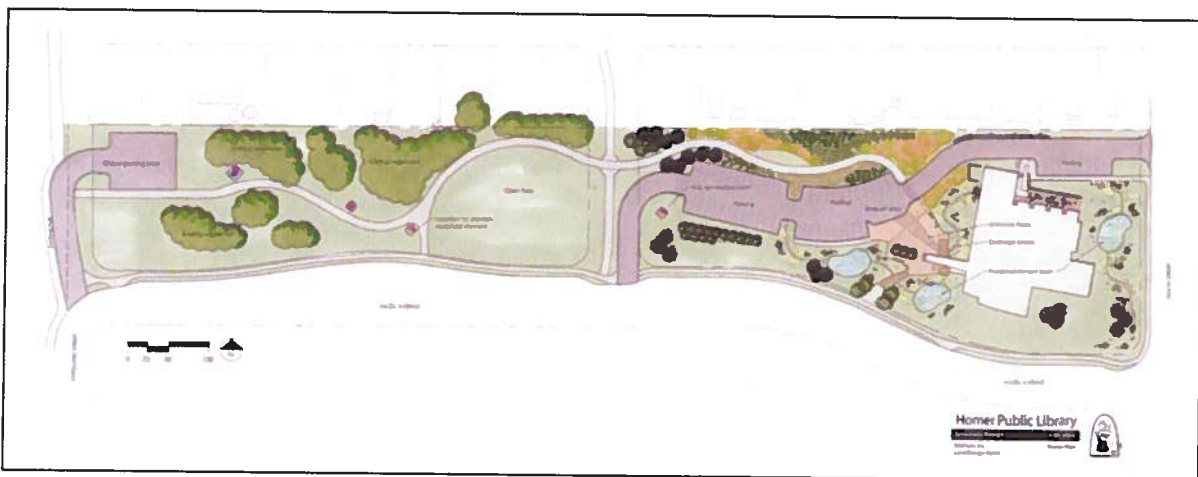


Figure 1. Design plans from 2004 for the New Library Project.

Goals

The Friends of the Homer Public Library propose the following as achievable and desirable goals as we re-envision the library's western lot:

1. increase safety by strategically thinning the vegetation to create better sight lines;
2. expand available space for existing library programs (story hour, summer reading program);
3. create potential space for new library programs (StoryWalk, storybook theater);
4. develop new partnerships with community entities who encourage the use of outdoor space;
5. provide a new community space within the city center; and
6. connect with neighbors interested in improving the Poopdeck Trail area to make it a community asset, not liability.

Why now?

1. Kachemak Heritage Land Trust is moving forward on a trail planning process through the NPS's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to help them re-envision their property which is adjacent to the Poopdeck Trail.
2. FHL staff and board have current capacity to take on a new project now that the library building has been up and running for 8 years.
3. FHL has available funds to get project planning started.

Considerations

- City of Homer and library staff support
- Lot is mapped as upland wetlands. Need a wetlands assessment to identify drainage issues.
- Can we get buy in from local neighbors and other stakeholders?
- Will there be ongoing maintenance, landscaping, lighting or signage costs?
- Who will manage/reserve space use?

Potential design features

expanded footpaths, picnic tables, benches, covered amphitheater, stage, lighting, exercise stations, statues, StoryWalk infrastructure, additional parking

Community Partners/Stakeholders

Homer Police, Safeway, private property owners, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Nature Rock's Homer, Colors of Homer, Pier 1 Theater, Homer-area schools, City of Homer's Parks and Recreation Department.

The Friends of the Homer Library sees the re-envisioning of the library's western lot as an exciting opportunity and is seeking feedback from the City of Homer and library staff on their interest and support of exploring this idea further.



<http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/2013/06/thinking-outside-book-partnering-to.html>

Jo Johnson

From: Renee Krause
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 8:26 AM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Ordinance 14-37

Start the morning right!

From: William Bloom [<mailto:akbillbloom@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 8:10 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject:

To the City council, Please spend the money to do the basic upgrades to the Homer Education and Recreation Center to comply with current Fire and Safety Codes. The gym is too important to let go to waste. Many people benefit from the use of this building.


Thank you, Bill Bloom



Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association, Inc.

807 G Street, Suite 356 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • Phone 800-337-3682 • Fax 907-279-3615

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 25, 2014
TO: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
FROM: Kevin Smith, Executive Director 
RE: AMLJIA Board of Trustees Summer Meeting

Each year, the AMLJIA tries to have its summer meeting in a member community. This year, we will be holding the meeting in Homer on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, at the Land's End hotel. I would like to extend an invitation to those of you who are interested to stop by and say hello.

I've included an agenda for the meeting with this memorandum. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday. The business is light this year, so I fully expect we could be done as early as lunch time. In no case do I expect to run beyond 3:00 p.m. as some folks need to catch the afternoon flight back to Anchorage to catch planes home.

The AMLJIA is not-for-profit self-insurance program for Alaska's local government entities. We've been proud to call Homer a member since 1998. Thank you! We value your membership.

As many of you know, your AMLJIA membership includes property, liability and workers' compensation coverage as well as a tremendous amount of training. You must be a member of the AML to participate in the AMLJIA.

Again, thank you for your continued support of this cooperative program. We appreciate Homer's hospitality and would be pleased should any of you wish to stop by the meeting.

**AMLJA Board of Trustees
Quarterly Business Meeting
Tuesday, July 29, 2014
Land's End Resort
Homer, Alaska**

Notice and Tentative Agenda

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Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions - 8:30 a.m.	
A. Approval of Agenda	
B. Approval of Minutes	
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2. Claims	
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**AMLJIA Board of Trustees
Quarterly Business Meeting
Tuesday, July 29, 2014
Land's End Resort
Homer, Alaska**

Notice and Tentative Agenda


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Board Members/Guests: Questions/Comments	

July 28, 2014

Attention: City Manager and City Council Members

Our family owns two condos at the Landings. We are concerned about the purposed taxing assessment regarding the natural gas installation. The 17 owners at the Landings need to know what the city intends to do about the current unfair method of assessing condominiums here in the city. We would like to know before the assessments are sent out so we can prepare legally if necessary.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Fell".

Mary Ann Fell

Jo Johnson

From: Mesille Mershon <mesille99@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:42 AM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: For July 28, 2014 City Council meeting---Natural Gas Condo Assessment

To Homer City Council,

I am an owner of a condominium in Homer and have heard from other condo owners that the natural gas assessment ruling for condos is still under review. After reading articles in the Homer News regarding the issue, I do not understand why there is still debate over this topic. As per Kenai Super Court Judge Charles Huguelet, a ruling was set forth that stated “lots or parcels that have multiple habitable units and leases were provided the same access to the gas line...and were charged only one assessment charge per lot or parcel.”

I fully support the decision to only charge one assessment per lot or parcel. Our condominium building only has one gas line pipe that provides service to 17 units and should only be charged one assessment. From my understanding, other multi-dwelling buildings such as apartment buildings, lodges, and hotels are only being charged one assessment. Condominium owners should not be unfairly targeted and should be treated and assessed the same as other multi-dwelling lots. One gas line access equals one assessment...period.

My husband and I made the conscious decision to purchase our condo with the specific purpose of lowering our living expenses. I hope that City Council members will listen to us and abide by Judge Huguelet’s ruling.

Sincerely,

Mesille Mershon



City of Homer Alaska

Summer 2014 Projects Update

Homer Harbormaster's Building & DWD Trail Boardwalk:

The project broke ground on July 7th with underground utilities and foundation excavation. Currently all footings have been poured and vertical concrete work is underway. Under slab plumbing is complete and the contractor is scheduling to pour the slab on grade in 2 weeks.



Homer Fire Station #2 – Skyline Drive:

The project got started back in May with underground utility relocates and getting the pre-engineered building ordered from the manufacturer. Currently the buildings slab on grade and perimeter grade beams have been poured. The building structural steel columns and roof beams are being erected and the building roofing and insulated siding panels will be installed by the end of August. Building is still on target for an October completion.



Homer Harbor System 5 Electrical Improvements:

This project was started back in the Fall of 2013 but was put on hold over the winter due to the existing conduits froze solid and would not allow for the new wire to be pulled. Currently the project is underway and all of the new wire has been pulled and the new pedestals have been set. The Contractor will be installing the new potable water riser on the float in the next couple weeks and making all of the final wire terminations. Project is scheduled to be complete by mid-September.





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Administration

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum 14-120

TO: Mayor Wythe and City Council
THROUGH: Walt Wrede, City Manager
FROM: Katie Koester, Community and Economic Development Coordinator
DATE: July 28, 2014
SUBJECT: *Alaska North to the Future, Volume V*

I am pleased to present the draft 8 page spread the City of Homer has purchased in the book *Alaska North to the Future, Volume V*. It is important to note this is not the final copy. I will submit final copy and high-resolution images by the end of the month to Wyndham Publishing who will assemble the layout in their template and the City will be given a chance to approve the final proof. However, I mimicked the layout of the published book to be able to provide as accurate of a mock-up as possible.

Throughout this process I have tried to pay special attention not only to showcasing Homer's natural beauty but also demonstrating the accessibility, infrastructure, industry and quality of life here. Each image was carefully selected to communicate this story, many explicitly shot for the book. The text has been painstakingly paired down to between 200-300 words per 2 page spread (1,077 total word count) to provide a visual balance between text and images. Brevity in text cannot be overestimated; if text is too long or complicated, no one will stop to read it.

I would like to give special thanks to two industry professionals, Taz Tally and Jim Lavrakas who have guided me through this process, loaning not only their beautiful images but also advice and wisdom.

Dr. Taz Tally is President of Taz Tally Seminars, a computer publishing, consulting, and training company. He is the author of numerous books and professor of digital photography, scanning, Photoshop and pre-press fundamentals. A renowned photographer, Dr. Tally is well known for his black and white images that are the background in this project. He also contributed a number of the foreground images.

Many of you know Jim Lavrakas as the director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce. He brought to Homer 30 years of experience as a staff photographer and photo editor at the Anchorage Daily News and applied those skills to this project pro bono. Mr. Lavrakas took time out of his busy schedule to shoot images explicitly for this spread in addition pulling images from his stock of high quality pictures taken over his many years as a photojournalist and photo instructor.

Both of these professionals love Homer and embody what it is that I tried to communicate in the piece that is so great about Homer; the artistic, high quality, community minded people who make up this place we are fortunate enough to call home.

City of Homer



From top to bottom:
Homer Spit with airport runway in the foreground
Ravn Air flight unloading passengers at Homer Airport



Tell someone you are from Homer and there is a good chance they have heard of this eclectic town nestled in Southcentral Alaska. Well known for great natural beauty, Homer is also easy to get to, has well developed infrastructure, and a diverse and vibrant economy rooted in the sea. People live in Homer for a quality of life rarely found in one location: endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, arts and culture and a profound sense of community.

Whether arriving by air, road, or sea the first feature visitors see is the Homer Spit. The oft-photographed narrow point of land is the official end of Alaska's Route 1, the Sterling Highway, 227 miles south of Anchorage. Though Homer is known as the 'end of the road,' it is by no means the middle of nowhere. Homer is a transportation hub for the region. Freight is shipped on barges to provision Western Alaska and supplies are loaded at Deep Water and Pioneer Docks to support oil and gas exploration in Cook Inlet. Millions of pounds of fresh seafood are trucked from Homer every season. The airport's 6,700 foot runway can accommodate jet traffic and hosts multiple commercial flights a day. A 30-minute flight or 4-hour world-class scenic drive is just close enough to the 'big city' – Anchorage - for most Homer residents, who appreciate that Homer has plenty of amenities while maintaining a small-town feel.

From top to bottom:
Driving into Homer on the Sterling Highway
Landing Craft Helenka B loading freight at the Barge Ramp

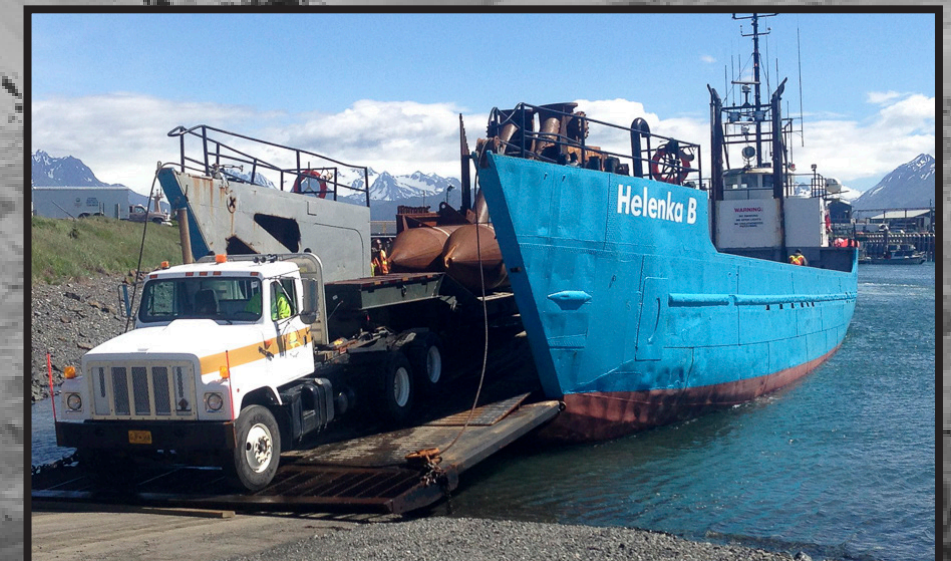


Photo credit from left to right:
Courtesy of Homer Chamber of Commerce
Courtesy of Homer Chamber of Commerce, photo by Jim Lavrakas
Courtesy of Homer Chamber of Commerce, photo by Jim Lavrakas
Photo by Taz Tally
Background photo by Taz Tally



Above:
Wireless internet
satellites on the Homer
ridge line

Homer residents don't have to travel far when they need a doctor: South Peninsula Hospital is a premier full-service medical facility, listed as one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the United States. Area employers benefit from access to graduates of the University of Alaska Anchorage's Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College offering post-secondary degrees and career technical programs on campus and via distance education.

Homer stays connected to the world through six high-speed internet providers. You can day trade from a cabin at the head of a fjord in Kachemak Bay – and people do. Named an Alaskan eCity by Google, many people make their living working online from a home office with panoramic views. Homer is a communications hub for Alaska, with three submarine fiber cables landing on the beach below Old Town, offering opportunity for further expansion in connectivity.

The most recent city-wide infrastructure expansion provided access to natural gas to over 3,300 lots. Businesses and home owners have seen a 60% reduction in heating bills thanks to this affordable fuel source available in and around Cook Inlet. The City of Homer provides road maintenance, police and fire protection, and water/sewer, among other essential services. The water and sewer treatment plants have twice the capacity required to meet current demand, leaving room for future growth.

The City runs the Homer Port and Harbor, located at the mouth of Cook Inlet. With over 1,000 landings a year, the industrial Port of Homer is a buzz with commerce. Kachemak Bay is the only ice free port in the region and is the preferred port of first refuge for ships traveling to Anchorage. The Small Boat Harbor has over 900 stalls filled with fishing, recreation, tourism, freight, research, government and oil and gas support vessels ranging from 16 to 180 feet.



Photo credit from top to bottom:
Courtesy of South Peninsula Hospital, photo by Chris Arnold
Courtesy of City of Homer, photo by Scott Dickerson
Courtesy of University of Alaska Anchorage's Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College, photo by Michael Dinneen
Background photo by Taz Tally

From top to bottom:
Helipad at South Peninsula Hospital
Aerial view of the Homer Port and Harbor
Students at University of Alaska Anchorage's Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College

More than 100 marine trades service providers in Homer repair, weld, supply, and support the fleet. Every year over 30 high quality vessels are built and equipped locally. Commercial fishing is part of the cultural fabric of this coastal community, yielding average annual sales of \$80 million in halibut, herring, shellfish, and sablefish.

Every day the Homer Harbor is a launching point for hundreds of adventures including: sport fishing for salmon, halibut and cod, exploring the 80 miles of hiking trails in Alaska's largest state park, or navigating the water trail around Kachemak Bay. Homer is an ecotourism hot spot, with leisure and hospitality making up the second largest industry. Visitors flood Homer in the summer for fishing, wildlife, hiking, bear viewing, shopping, fine dining, art and culture.

Listed as one of "8 Quirky Spots where you are free to be you and me," by the *Huffington Post*, Homer has a reputation as a funky, artistic community. During the first Friday of every month six downtown art galleries host openings. Internationally renowned artists like Alvin Ailey and Ladysmith Black Mambazo have performed here. Homer's cultural and historical museum, the Pratt, has won national recognition for quality exhibits and service to the community.

From top to bottom:
Commercial fishing boat at sunset.
Young angler reeling in a halibut.



From left to right:
Travel lift hauling F/V Ocean Ranger out for repairs and maintenance.
Visitors enjoying the many attractions on the Homer Spit.



Photo credit from left to right:
Photo by Taz Tally
Courtesy of Homer Chamber of Commerce, photo by Jim Lavrakas
Courtesy of Homer Chamber of Commerce
Courtesy of Homer Chamber of Commerce, photo by Jim Lavrakas
Background photo by Taz Tally

From top to bottom:
Community build at
Karen Hornaday Park
Playground
Kayaker enjoying early
morning on Kachemak
Bay



Homer's dedication to community service was harnessed to construct a state-of-the-art playground at Karen Hornaday Park, when over 500 volunteers collaborated to complete the playground in just one week. The importance placed on the next generation is evidenced by some of the best schools in the state - nearly half of Homer's public schools have been awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award by the U.S. Department of Education.

Homer is equally committed to lifelong learning - the Public Library hosts an annual Lifelong Learning celebration. This modern and spacious public building was the first community building in the state to be awarded Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) status. The City of Homer is a leader in sustainability and their Climate Action Plan is held up as a model for other communities.

With towering mountains, glittering glaciers, pristine ocean waters and abundant wildlife, it is no wonder the community values environmental stewardship. There are countless ways to enjoy the natural beauty of Homer from kayaking, surfing, hiking, paddleboarding, biking, or long beach walks. The beach that runs 4 1/2 miles along the Homer Spit was named one of the top 100 beaches in the U.S. by *USA Today*. Dinner and a stroll among the many shops and attractions on the Spit is a favorite pastime by locals and visitors alike. With over 50 eateries for an area-wide population of just over 12,000, Homer appreciates good food. The resource rich waters of Kachemak Bay provide salmon, halibut, oysters, mussels and clams for local restaurants to show off their culinary skills.

Alaska Natives have lived off the bounty of Kachemak Bay for thousands of years. The Bay continuously shapes this picturesque coastal community that has grown to meet the demanding infrastructure needs of modern day. The ocean provides an economic anchor and supports a thriving maritime and visitor industry. Breathtaking Pacific views draw people to Homer, but the profound sense of community and quality of life are just two of the many reasons to call it home.



From top to bottom:
Homer Public Library
Jazzline dancers
Diners at Fat Olives Restaurant



Photo credit from left to right:
Photo by Taz Tally
Photo by Taz Tally
Courtesy of City of Homer, photo
by Chris Arend
Courtesy of Jazzline, photo by
John Gillam
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