



# City of Homer

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

## Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

## Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager  
DATE: June 9, 2022  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for June 13, 2022 Council Meeting

---

### **Tsunami Warning**

Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Tsunami Warning Sirens in Homer were activated at approximately 8:30 a.m. without any indication of earthquake activity in or around Homer. Fire Chief Kirko reported he and Homer Police Department were initially challenged in getting answers because they were unable to connect KPB Office of Emergency Management. Chief Kirko connected with KPB Emergency Manager Brenda Ahlberg via cell phone, and she confirmed at approximately 9:07 a.m. that it was a National Weather Service Test that was intended to be a silent test, but was done as an audible test in error. She advised they were conducting all clear messages for the effected communities. On Friday, all stakeholders met by Zoom to go over the events, lessons learned, and steps to prevent similar mistakes in the future.

### **Bunnell Avenue and Kachemak Drive Fires**

During the early morning hours of June 4<sup>th</sup> the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) responded to a report of a fully involved commercial structure fire in the Old Town area of Homer. Dispatch received the first report at 2:40 a.m. and 6 trained firefighters, including the Chief, responded along with 3 EMT's from HVFD and 7 additional personnel from mutual-aid departments, Kachemak Emergency Services (KESA) and Western Emergency Services (WES). The three departments were actively engaged in suppression efforts until approximately 8:30 a.m. when Chief Kirko called the fire under control. KESA and WES units were released from the scene by 9:00 a.m. and HVFD engine-2 was released about a half an hour later. The cause of the fire is still under investigation and Chief Kirko is working with the State Fire Marshal's Office, Homer Police Department, and a Fire and Arson investigator representing the insurance carrier to try and determine the cause.

At 11:36 that same morning, HVFD was paged out to a residence on Kachemak Drive for a reported small fire on a residential deck. Chief Kirko turned command of the Bunnell fire over to Firefighter Larson and responded to the Kachemak Drive fire along with Engine-2 and Medic-2. Chief Kirko returned to the Bunnell incident at 12:15 and resumed command of the scene. Tanker-2 remained on scene at Kachemak Drive working residual hot spots until 12:54 when they were released.

## Little Libraries are up!

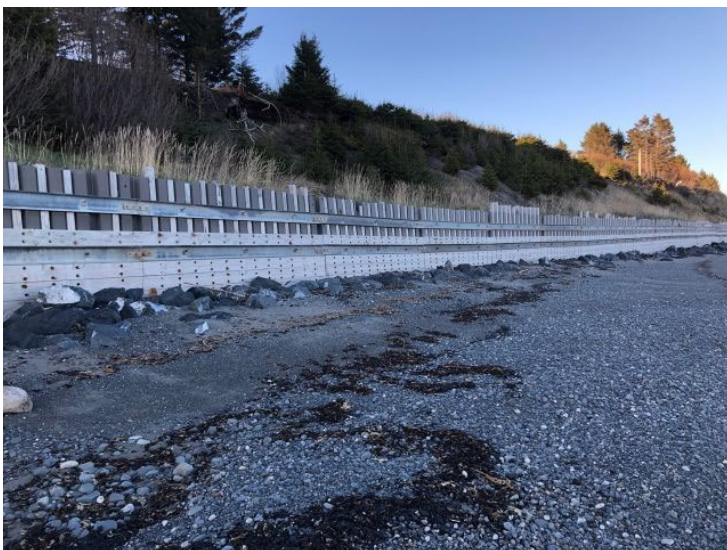
In December 2021 Council accepted a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for \$5,950 for installing Little Libraries. The Parks Division has installed them at Mariner Park, the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon, Karen Hornaday Park, and WKFL Park (pictured).



## Ocean Drive Loop Seawall

Public Works Director Keiser has received some positive feedback from property owners along the seawall following the first season of winter storm activity. Martin Renner shared the following comment and photos-

*I've walked the length of the wall a few times since April. There is great news: this winter, waves deposited a lot of material, rather than eroding this section of coastline. The new material may be up to 1.5 me thick, covering up most, in a few cases all of the new riprap. This obviously makes for excellent protection for the time being. But what the waves give, they can also take away again. It's conceivable that the riprap helped slow down wave action near the wall, dissipating rather than reflecting wave energy, and thereby contributing to this accumulation of sediment, but that's hard to know. We'll see what the next winter will bring. In any case, the raised beach has covered all of the exposed foot of the wall and should protect it very well from wave-driven erosion. Cheers, Martin*



John Szajkowski sent some historical photos and shared that this doesn't happen anymore-the armor rock revetment works!



### **Early and Absentee Voting**

Early and Absentee Voting was open for the State Special Primary Election during regular business hours May 27<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup>. As of the writing of this report in person voter turnout was small, ranging between 8 voters and 22 voters per day, but that was anticipated since voters received their ballots in their mailboxes. The City provided messaging when early and absentee voting was available through the City Website and Facebook page, in the Clerk's weekly meeting notice in the paper, and on the Clerk's Calendar recording on KBBI. Clerk's office staff also coordinated with Chief Kirko for messaging and placement of the electronic reader board on the Sterling Highway. It was a good introduction to the State's early voting process and the Clerk's Office looks forward to providing support for the upcoming State Primary in August and General Election in November.

Enclosures:

1. June Employee Anniversaries





# City of Homer

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

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

## Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: Andrea Browning  
DATE: June 13, 2022  
SUBJECT: June 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.

<b>Melissa Jacobsen</b>	<b>Clerks</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Mike Illg</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Rachel Tussey</b>	<b>Clerks</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Mike Szocinski</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Jessica Poling</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Bethany Christman</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Russell Anderson</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>James Tingley</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Winifred Shigley</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>James Young</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Years</b>