



City of Homer

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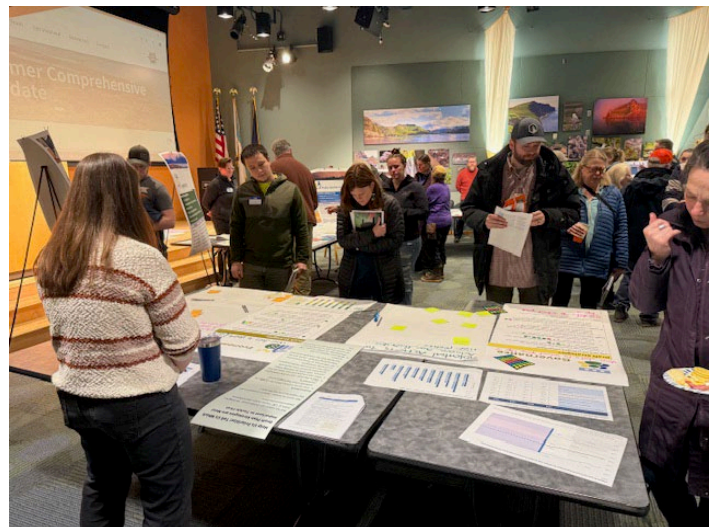
Memorandum

TO: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: February 20, 2025
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for February 24, 2025 Council Meeting

Comprehensive Plan

The Draft Comprehensive Plan was posted for public review on February 7, 2025. On February 11, City Staff, in collaboration with our consultant firm Agnew Beck, held an Open House at the Islands & Ocean Visitors Center to invite members of the community to review, discuss, and provide their thoughts on the draft plan. Public comments on the Draft Comprehensive Plan will be accepted until March 14th. In February and March, Homer Commission and Committees will be encouraged to review the draft plan and provide comments on their area of expertise. Review the Draft Comprehensive Plan and provide your comments here:

<https://homercompplanupdate.com/>



Library News

The western lot committee is ramping up again. The Friends of the Homer Library placed an order for a wraparound tree bench and Public Works will acquire a standard bench for the western end of the trail, identical with the other benches they're ordering for Pioneer Avenue, and there is a plan for stump seating and storywalk posts. The goal is to have these project elements in place by the end of April. Also renovations in study room 6 have begun. All the built-in furniture has been removed, the carpet repaired and the walls painted. The next step is replacing part of the baseboard, then putting up sound-absorbent panels on the walls. The renovations in study room 5 seem to have paid off, as use of that room more than doubled

afterwards. Attached to this report is a copy of the Library's Annual report that reinforces the importance of the library to our community through their services and programs.

Juneau Visit

As I finish up this brief report, I'm in Juneau with Mayor Lord, Councilmembers Aderhold and Hansen, Port Director Hawkins and Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Carroll wrapping up meetings with Legislators, Legislative Staff, US Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. It's been a fabulous opportunity to spend time at our State Capitol meeting with these folks who serve our great state and to work with our lobbyists, J&H Consulting in thanking our Legislators for their support in successful funding of our Harbor Expansion General Investigation, sharing our need for coordinated, multi-agency, long term sustainability planning for Homer Spit erosion and resiliency, and sharing the City's legislative priorities and positions. After we return, I'll follow up with a more complete report and photos.

City Manager Meetings and Events:

- February 11 – Conversations with a Council Member with Councilmember Venuti
- January 13 – Planning Meeting for public outreach for the City lots proposed as a location for the new multi-use community center
- February 17-21 – Travel to Juneau for meetings with J&H Consulting, 20 different State Legislators and their staff, US Coast Guard, and State agencies on behalf of the City.
- Ongoing weekly meetings with Departments, Mayor, and Councilmembers

Attachments:

- Library Annual Report
- February Employee Anniversaries
- Inactive Records Destruction Report

Homer Public Library 2024 Annual Report



On a rainy day in May, two dedicated patrons settled in for some serious entertainment.

- Jan. 1: The New Year opens with plans for major events, particularly the nationwide Big Read. The library has several projects underway, including replacing the chairs and upgrading technology. The balance in the library endowment fund stands at \$56,496.11.
- Jan. 5: Storytime Craft makes suet balls.
- Jan. 8: Council adopts Ordinance 23-49(S), which reorganizes the City administrative structure and creates standalone departments for the library and IT.

Highlights of 2024 included the Big Read in January and February, replacement chairs in April, the summer reading program in June and July, renovations to study room 5 in September and digitizing the *Homer News* archive in December. We encountered some financial turbulence in August, offset by a surge in donations in November. Through it all, the library benefitted from enormous infusions of labor and money from the Friends of the Library, the LAB, numerous businesses and community organizations, and many, many private citizens. Homer really is a unique place.

January

On January 8, Council passed Ordinance 23-49(S). Among other things, this ordinance establishes a standalone library department for the first time in 39 years. It also adds language to the Homer City Code mandating certain qualifications for the library director.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read encourages communities all across the country to select from a shortlist of titles and build public programs around shared reading. For 2024, the Friends of the Library chose *The Cold Millions*, by Jess Walter, and paired it with *The Big Both Ways*, by John Straley. Both books explore social class, protest and economic hardship.

- Jan. 10: Virtual author talk by Rebecca Serle about multigenerational love stories.
- Jan. 11: The RFP for replacement library chairs closes.
- Jan. 13: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone.
- Jan. 19: Big Read Kickoff at Alice's Champagne Palace, including a singalong with live music.
- Jan. 20: Plant Swap.
- Jan. 23: Virtual author talk by Rajiv Nagaich, author of *Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster*. Big Read Book Club discusses the Spokane riots.
- Jan. 24: Big Read Coffee Table on KBBI discusses themes from *The Cold Millions*.
- Jan. 25: Big Read Historical Homer—Clark Fair talks about his ongoing weekly column with the *Homer News*.
- Jan. 30: Virtual author talk with Dr. Robert Lustig on medicine and processed foods.
- Jan. 30: Big Read Book Club discusses the history of unions.
- Feb. 1-May 30: Art in the Library displays works by Andy Sonneborn.
- Feb. 1: Big Read Zoom with authors Jess Walter and John Straley, exploring their books *The Cold Millions* and *The Big Both Ways*. Hosted at the library.



Friends of the Library Coordinator Cheryl Illg and Trivia Master Kathleen Gustafson kicked off the Big Read on January 19.

The Big Read kicked off on Jan. 19 with a night of live music, singing and trivia at Alice's. Over the next 11 days, KBBI featured a book talk, Clark Fair gave a talk on the history of Homer and the Big Read Book Club met twice, talking about the Spokane Riots and the history of unions.

February

The Big Read continued through Feb. 17. The month featured exhibits and discussions, a Zoom talk with Tom Kizzia and both authors, a free-speech panel, a movie showing and more Big Read Book Club meetings. The grand finale starred numerous local citizens in *The Cold Millions Onstage with Pier One*, bringing to life historical speeches and songs from the labor movement.

A brief list of organizations that collaborated on the Big Read: Alice's Champagne Palace, Bunnell Street Arts Center, Homer Council on the Arts, Homer High School, Homer Senior Center, KBBI, Kenai Peninsula College, Ninilchik Library and Pier One Theatre. Individual volunteers are too numerous to list here, but our thanks also go out to all the FHL members and the helpers from the community. Particular recognition goes to Cheryl Illg and Mercedes Harness, who coordinated the schedule and improvised admirably when one of our major author visits fell through.

- Feb. 2: Alarm system replaced. Big Read Conversation about finding home and the local housing crisis. HCOA hosts the conversation and features an exhibit all through February.
- Feb. 4: Big Read explores Alaskan cultures in a new high school curriculum, hosted at the Bunnell Arts Center.
- Feb. 6: Big Read Book Club discusses indigenous perspectives.
- Feb. 8: Big Read book discussion at the Senior Center, followed by sharing stories about homesteading. Virtual author talk with Tessa Bailey on writing romantic comedies.
- Feb. 13: Big Read Book Club discusses leading women.
- Feb. 15: Big Read Book Circle invites elders and long-time locals to the Ninilchik Community Library to talk about *The Cold Millions* and share stories from early Ninilchik.
- Feb. 16 and 17: Big Read watches *The Cold Millions* on stage. Pier One presents historical speeches and songs from labor movements at Beluga Lake Lodge.
- Feb. 16: Big Read watches *Newsies* at the library.
- Feb. 28: Virtual author talk with Kim Scott on managing a workplace.



Paintings by Andy Sonneborn went up in the fireplace lounge on February 1.

March

On March 1, we put up a large display screen behind the front desk, as a way of advertising library resources and upcoming events. The LAB and FHL board held their annual potluck at the library on March 3, with excellent food and a chance to meet people that otherwise would never cross paths.



At the Celebration of Lifelong Learning on April 20, Spencer Co's family accepted the Youth Learner Award on his behalf.

- Mar. 1: A large display screen goes up at the front desk, displaying public announcements and news of upcoming programs.
- Mar. 5: Voznesenka School visits the library. Wii Sports for Tweens and Teens.
- Mar. 14: Showing of Spiderman: Into the Spideverse.
- Mar. 27: Teens and Tweens Get Crafty.
- Apr. 2: New office chairs arrive at the library, replacing worn-out furniture throughout the building. Virtual author talk with Smithsonian curator Paula J. Johnson on the book *Smithsonian American Table: The Foods, People and Innovations That Feed Us*.
- Apr. 9: Virtual author Talk with Colum McCann and Diane Foley on their book *American Mother*, about the murder of Foley's son by ISIS terrorists. Homer High School students present a travelogue about their trip to Australia.
- Apr. 11: Cinda Nofziger, Cheryl Illg and Lyn Maslow present to the Downtown Rotary Club about the western lot project, as well as library and Friends of the Library programs.
- Apr. 12: Library staff play Dungeons and Dragons with teens.
- Apr. 17: Virtual author talk with Xochitl Gonzalez, author of *Anita de Monte Laughs Last*, about art and society in New York of the late 1990s.

April

On April 7, the HPL unveiled new library card designs, featuring the same illustrations that local artist Rachel Tussey produced for the Bookmobile. We also launched the library needs survey, which ran through July 31.

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

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning featured monologues from three DDF students, the much-beloved trivia tree and silent auction, outstanding food and music, and excellent speeches from both awardees (Spencer Co delivered recorded remarks, while Nancy Lord gave her speech in person).

New chairs arrived, taking the place of the aging furniture throughout the building. Patrons particularly appreciated the new office-style chairs, which see heavy use all around the computer terminals.



Eager readers stormed the library for the Spring Book and Plant Sale on May 10 and 11.

May

The bookmobile loomed over the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair on May 4. More than 100 kids signed up for the summer reading program and did arts and crafts.

The Spring Book and Plant Sale on May 10-11 was successful as always! Shoppers arrived with empty bags, and some lined up at the front door before the library opened on Saturday. Many thanks to the Friends of the Library

- Apr. 20: Celebration of Lifelong Learning, featuring food from the Tickled Pear, desserts from BB's Bakery, live music, a silent auction and a trivia tree. Monologues from three DDF students. Congratulations to Nancy Lord and Spencer Co, the adult and youth winners, respectively!
- Apr. 30: Crafternoon for teens and tweens.
- May 1: Virtual author talk with Douglas Brunt, author of *The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel: Genius, Power and Deception on the Eve of World War I*, about the disappearance of the inventor of the diesel engine on Sept. 29, 1913.
- May 4: Bookmobile at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair.
- May 8: The new lounge chairs are set up in the library. Virtual author talk with Nina Simon, author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*, about three amateur sleuths investigating a murder next door.
- May 10-11: Spring Book and Plant Sale.
- May 13: Wii sports for teens and tweens.
- May 14-16: Outreach sessions with Agnew::Beck on the Homer Comprehensive Plan.
- May 14: Poetry reading by local authors Wendy Erd, Linda Martin, Peter Kaufmann and Anne Coray.

Board members (Judy Gonsalves, Lyn Maslow, Ann Dixon, Sara Reinert, Lin Hampson, Linda Robinson, Shellie Worsfold, Sarah Brewer, Joy Steward and McKenna Black), as well as all the volunteers who made the sale possible: Marylou Burton, Eric Fenger, Barb Veeck, Michael McKinney, Bobby Copeland-McKinney, David Lewis, Cecelia Fitzpatrick, Jane Miles, Lolita Brache, Barbara Haynes, Deb Curtis, Carter Davis, Daniel Christ, Doug Baily, Landa Baily, Milli Martin, Annie Williams, Joleene Hooker and Karen McRae. Special thanks to Sara Reinert, Barb Veeck and Marylou Burton for sorting and storing books in preparation for the sale—a job that never ends!

On May 10, volunteers with the Christian Community Church turned out to help clean up the library grounds. They pulled a number of saplings out of the rock garden along the library's north wall and removed the potentilla bushes from the start of the Story Walk Trail, which required some heavy digging.



Four poets visited the library for a collaborative event on May 14.

On May 14, the library hosted a poetry reading with authors Wendy Erd, Linda Martin, Peter Kaufmann and Anne Coray. All four authors read excerpts from their work and took questions from the audience.

The summer reading program kicked off on the last day of the month. Hordes of small people played ring-toss, experimented with a marble maze, and made crafts out of Kleenex boxes and paper towel rolls.

- May 21: Virtual author talk with Rebecca F. Kuang, author of *Yellowface*, about envy and racism.
- May 31: Summer Reading Kick-off in the kids' room, featuring upcycle crafts.
- Jun. 1-Sept. 30: Art in the Library displays works by Bonnie Dupree.
- Jun. 3: Virtual author talk with Matt Shindell, curator of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, on his book *For the Love of Mars*.
- Jun. 5-Jul. 24: Girls Who Code for Teens and Tweens.
- Jun. 6-Jul. 25: Girls Who Code for elementary students.
- Jun. 6: Upcycle old t-shirts into pet toys for the animal shelter or to take home.
- Jun. 10-Jul. 29: Music, Movement and Making for babies through preschoolers features 20-25 minutes of a story, plus singing and dancing, and creative making with recycled materials.
- Jun. 10: Teens and Tweens do "fontomatopoeia" paintings for decorating the teen corner.
- Jun. 11-Jul. 30: Stories and Adventures with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies features read-alouds, games, and crafts in the woods west of the library.



Library staff welcomed volunteers to an appreciation lunch on June 25.

June

The summer reading program continued with coding workshops, author talks, special storytimes and events at Bishop's Beach and in the woods west of the library. Kids made pet toys out of old t-shirts, created paintings for the teen space, learned American Sign Language and enjoyed a "family spa day."

On June 25, the library workroom hosted a volunteer-appreciation lunch for all the groups that offer their time to support the library: the FHL board and the LAB; the regular volunteers who shelve, clean and repair books; the members of the Teen Advisory Board and the others who assist with youth events; the dozens who sort book donations, drive the bookmobile, read between the lines on the radio, and hang flyers around town; and the huge crowds who help out with the book and plant sales, the Celebration of Lifelong Learning, the chess club, the summer reading program, the author events and other special projects. FHL provided an outstanding selection of food and put up some impressive decorations. The list of invitees came to more than 90 people, of whom about a third managed to attend. Thank you all!

July

The summer reading program cruised on through July. Volunteers decorated the bookmobile and marched with it in the Fourth of July parade. Authors from across the country gave more presentations, and a Junior Iditarod racer visited the library with her retired sled dog. We saw more art and more Sign Language, plus LEGOs, movies and s'mores.

- Jun. 11: Storytime at Bishop's Beach includes songs, poems and a free book from the bookmobile. Touring author Ken Waldman reads for kids and performs on the fiddle.
- Jun. 12: Zoom author talk with Chris Grabenstein, Hena Kahn and Mychal Threats, live in the kids' room.
- Jun. 13: Upcycle old t-shirts into pet toys for the animal shelter or to take home. Virtual author talk with Frieda McFadden, author of *The Housemaid* and others, about writing psychological thrillers.
- Jun. 14: Family Spa Day includes a DIY bath bomb, a balm and a scrub to take home.
- Jun. 17: Artist David Braeme and teens and tweens do "fontomatopoeia" paintings for decorating the teen corner.
- Jun. 19: Showing of *Wall-e*, about a robot at the end of the world.
- Jun. 20: Virtual author talk with Tiffany Jewell, author of *Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School*, about racism in education.
- Jun. 24-26: Upcycled hand puppets.
- Jun. 27: Yoga for Teens and Tweens.
- Jul. 3: Pre-parade activity and sign up to walk with the bookmobile, library staff and Friends of the Library in the Independence Day parade.



Youth Services Librarian Cinda Nofziger set the tone for the July 4 parade.

The summer reading program party drew something like 100 attendees. The marimba was great, the hot dogs and ice cream outstanding, and many games and prizes got the kids wildly excited. Many thanks to Cinda Nofziger, Cheryl Illg and all the volunteers who helped out with setting up and serving throughout the event.

Overall, the summer reading program featured 95 programs and events, with 1,129 attendees. Nearly 300 people took part in the reading challenge and 123 completed it! A brief list of all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes and sponsored readers: The Alaska State Library, Susan Jeffres, the Homer Bookstore, Homer Emblem Club #350, Ulmer's Drug and Hardware, Homer's Jeans, Two Sisters Bakery, Wagon Wheel, Cycle Logical, Sustainable Wares, Saw and Cycle, Homer Art and Frame Co., Bubbles Soda Parlor, BB's Bakery, The Fringe, Coffee Smith Café, Swell Taco, Salmon Sisters, Nomar, Wayne Aderhold, Save U More and many anonymous individuals.

- Jul. 4: BOB the Bookmobile cruises in the Independence Day parade.
- Jul. 8-29: American Sign Language with Sherry Pederson.
- Jul. 9 and 11: Making reusable snack bags.
- Jul. 9: Virtual author talk with Newbery Award winner Kate DiCamillo, about the fun-loving pig Mercy Watson. Shown live in the kids' room.
- Jul. 15: Art for Teens and Tweens. Artist David Braeme helps kids with "fontomatopoeia" paintings for decorating the teen corner.
- Jul. 16: Virtual author talk with Max Brallier, author of the series *The Last Kids on Earth*. Shown live in the kids' room.
- Jul. 17-23: LEGO Contest drop off. Competitors bring their creations to the library for judging.
- Jul. 17: Showing of *The Mitchells vs. The Machines*, in which a family battles a robot uprising.
- Jul. 18: Yoga with Anna for Teens and Tweens.
- Jul. 19: Junior Iditarod Musher Addy and her retired leader dog visit the library.
- Jul. 22-26: Art with Sharlene creates art from recycled materials.
- Jul. 22: Spa Day for Teens and Tweens includes a DIY bath bomb, a balm and a scrub to take home.



Friends of the Library Board Members Judy Gonsalves and Joy Steward ran one of the most popular tables at the end-of-summer-reading party on July 27.

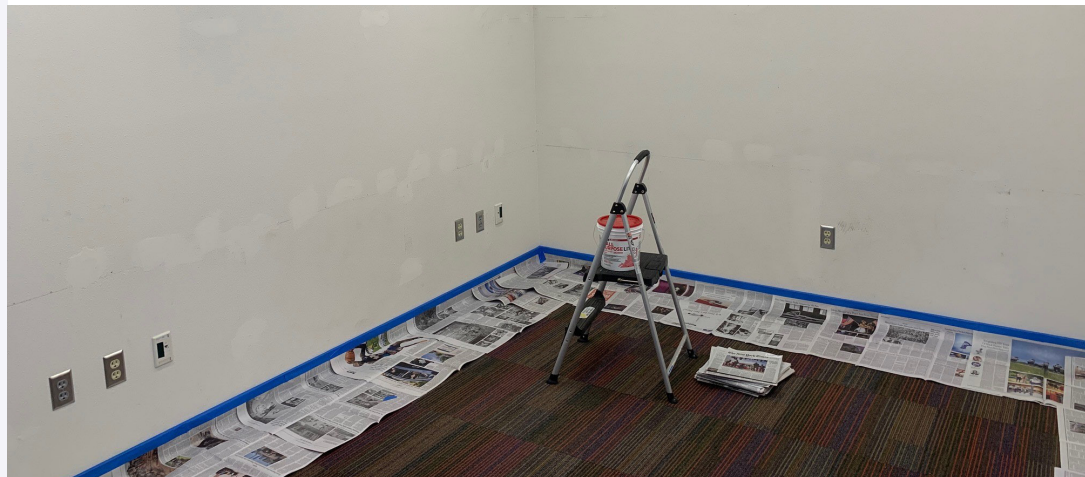
August

On August 16, the State Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) announced major cuts to the Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants, reducing the per-library allocation from \$7,000 to \$1,829. Following public protest, the LAM restored the full amount of the grants in October.

Separately, the amount allocated to the State Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) dropped from \$500,000 to \$369,514. SLED provided 60 of the 68 databases available to patrons through our library website. Several small databases (LearningExpress, Auto Repair Source, Hobbies and Crafts Source, Home Improvement Source and Small Engine Repair Source) disappeared from the list.

Renovations began on study room 5, and we shifted furniture around on the main floor to create more open space and smooth the flow of traffic.

- Jul. 23: Virtual author talk with Elizabeth Acevedo, author of *The Poet X*, about using poetry to express hidden feelings, including a short workshop. Stories, S'mores and Science at Bishop's Beach.
- Jul. 25: Storytime on the Spit with Youth Services Librarian Cinda Nofziger.
- Jul. 26: End of the summer reading challenge.
- Jul. 27: End of summer reading party, with hot dogs from Global Federal Credit Union, ice cream from Udder Delights and marimba music from Shamwari.
- Jul. 31: Virtual author talk with Caldecott Medal winner Dan Santat, author of *A First Time for Everything*, about the practicalities of creating graphic novels.
- Aug. 7: Virtual author talk by Jennifer Levasseur, curator at the Smithsonian, about the International Space Station.
- Aug. 15: Virtual author talk with Irena Smith about the college-admissions process.
- Aug. 21: Virtual author talk with Shelby Van Pelt, author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*.
- Aug. 22: Author talk by Susan Pope, author of *Rivers and Ice*, a memoir of life in Alaska.
- Aug. 29: Candidate Forum for Mayor and City Council, organized by KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion and League of Women Voters.



Building Maintenance staff renovated study room 5 during September.

- Sept. 4: Sound Publishing, the publishers for the *Homer News*, kindly donate bound volumes containing the print run of the newspaper from 1976-2022.
- Sept. 6-7: Book and plant sale.
- Sept. 10: Virtual author talk with Garret Graff on the oral history of D-Day and the September 11 attacks.
- Sept. 13: *The Muppet Movie* in the meeting room.
- Sept. 18: Virtual author talk with Nate Klemp on living with an expansive mind in a distracted world.
- Sept. 21: Virtual author talk with Liane Moriarty explores character development.
- Sept. 26: Renovations on study room 5 are complete.
- Oct. 1: The library sends its microfilm records of the *Homer News* to Ancestry.com for digitization. After scanning the images and putting them up online, Ancestry provides a free link for Homer Public Library patrons. The microfilm returns to the library in January 2025.
- Oct. 2: Virtual author talk with scientists from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute offers a journey into the hidden world of tropical bats.



Bound volumes of the Homer News and Homer Tribune fill the compact shelves on September 4.

September

The *Homer News* closed its local office and took most of the furnishings and equipment up to Kenai. However, they donated bound volumes of the newspaper from 1975-2021 and some loose-leaf issues from the 1960s. The set now takes up nearly a complete range of the compact shelving in the staff area.

The Parks Division put in a ton of work on the western lot—grading the trail, clearing away underbrush, constructing bump-outs for the storywalk posts, and laying sod around the tree where the wraparound bench will someday go.

Building Maintenance completed the renovations on study room 5 on Sept. 26. Staff immediately labelled it the “executive suite,” but the room’s first use was as a gaming den for patrons playing Splendor.

- Oct. 9: The new digital resources page goes live on the library website. Virtual author talk with Silvia Moreno-Garcia on Latin American genre fiction. Mushroom stamp art.
- Oct. 10: Students from Voznesenka School visit the library. Chief Technology Officer Bill Jirsa, Special Projects Associate Susie Inglis and Library Director Dave Berry discuss and demonstrate Artificial Intelligence.
- Oct. 11: The Pratt Museum visits the library to introduce kids to owls.
- Oct. 22: Virtual author talk with Lori Gottlieb, author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*.
- Oct. 25: Showing of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, in which Halloween spirits attempt to take over the Christmas season.
- Oct. 29: Candidate Forum for House District 6, organized by KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion and League of Women Voters.
- Oct. 30: Spooktacular teen and tween costume contest.
- Nov. 7: Virtual author talk with Stanley Milford, author of *The Paranormal Ranger*.
- Nov. 14: Virtual author talk with Javier Zamora, author of *Solito*, on childhood migration from Central America.
- Nov. 15: *The LEGO Batman Movie* in the meeting room.



The Parks Division cleared and regraded the trail on the western lot and prepared the site for the bench that will wrap around this tree, as seen on September 20.

The book and plant sale came off wonderfully, as always. Many volunteers work both sales during a given year, which is all the more impressive. Look at the list below, and compare it with the people who volunteered in May: The Friends of the Library board, Marylou Burton, Tom Goode, Eric Fenger, David Lewis, Stu Schmutzler, Beau Berryman, Michael McKinney, Bobby Paulino, Deb Curtis, Helen Armstrong, Charlie Barnwell, Sandy Early, Janet Fink, Gina Creedon, Janet Klein, Barbara Haynes, Jacque Peterson, Jenny Coyle, Milli Martin, Annie Williams, Kate Finn, Megan O'Neill, Carter Davis, Daniel Christ, Bonnie Jason, Ollie DeLyser, Mable DeLyser, Calvin Wedvik and Karen McRae.

Following extensive debate, the LAB approved the 2025-2029 Library Strategic Plan. Anticipating population growth, the plan identifies future needs for space, staffing, technology and collection development, as well as maintenance requirements for gradually aging infrastructure. Library services have improved greatly in the past several years, but plenty of opportunities remain!

- Nov. 16: Mr. Whitekeys visits Homer to talk about his new book, *The Voyage of the Alaska Union*. Hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus.
- Nov. 18: Games for teens.
- Nov. 20: Virtual author talk with Mona Susan Power, author of *A Council of Dolls*, on Native rights and culture in fiction.
- Nov. 27: The giving tree goes up in the library lobby. Over the course of December, patrons pick all 60 titles off the tree and donate \$440 in gift certificates for the Homer Bookstore.
- Nov. 30: Friends of the Library Pop-Up Plant Sale.
- Dec. 4: Virtual author talk with Jeffrey Post on the Smithsonian National Gem Collection.
- Dec. 5: Technicians from Convergent replace the computer and software controls that manage the library's HVAC system.
- Dec. 11: Virtual author talk with Laura Dave, author of *The Night We Lost Him*, on pulse-pounding, family-driven mysteries.
- Dec. 12: Crafternoon for teens and tweens.
- Dec. 13: A region-wide power failure forces City buildings to close at 11:30.
- Dec. 17: Tom Kizzia and Rich Chiappone discuss writing and history.



On October 10, Susie Inglis and Bill Jirsa visited the library to discuss recent developments in Artificial Intelligence.

October

The library hosted a discussion about Artificial Intelligence on Oct. 10. Chief Technology Officer Bill Jirsa and Special Projects Associate Susie Inglis visited the library to explore the evolution of AI, its impact on society, and what it can do, complete with a live demonstration. The audience of about 25 people chimed in with lots of questions.

On Oct. 29, about 40 people showed up to hear the candidates for House District 6 answer questions. As with last year's candidate fora, this one was organized by KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion and the League of Women Voters.

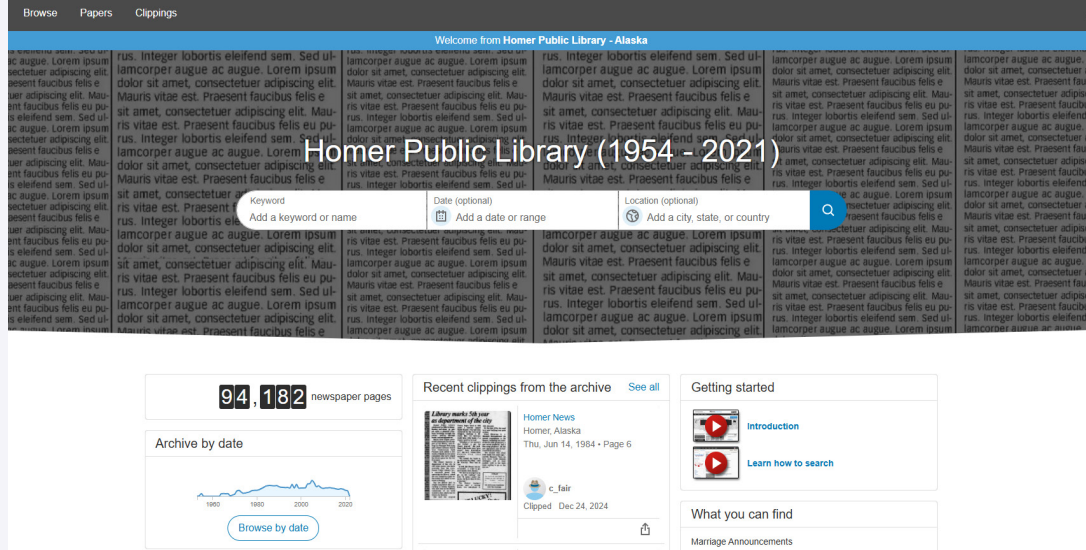
The library website got an overhaul, simplifying access to the 60+ subscription databases that provide everything from peer-reviewed articles to streaming videos. The list can be sorted by title, subject, content format and age group.

November

The library received a state grant for \$6,462 to offset the cost of providing internet service to the public. In the space of two months, four donors collectively contributed \$14,000 to the Library Endowment Fund. The Friends of the Library set up the giving tree on Nov. 27 and people purchased the first items that afternoon, starting a run that ended with patrons plucking all 60 book tags and donating \$440 worth of gift certificates to the Homer Bookstore.

The Teen Advisory Board gave a brief presentation at the start of the LAB meeting, describing some of their activities and advocating for a dedicated teen space in the library.

- Dec. 19: Digitization of the *Homer News* is complete and the link goes live on the library website.
- Dec. 31: The year ends with a sense of accomplishment and many plans for the future. The balance in the library endowment fund stands at \$81,842.72.



Newspapers.com finished digitizing the Homer News on December 19.

December

In late October, we shipped our entire collection of the *Homer News* on microfilm to Ancestry.com, the parent company of Newspapers.com. They spent a couple of months scanning and indexing the material, and the archive (1954-2021) became available online on Dec. 19. Patrons can access it from any computer in the library building, and anyone with a personal subscription to Newspapers.com can find it anywhere.

A region-wide power failure on Dec. 13 forced City buildings to close halfway through the day. The library's backup generator worked fine but the internet went down, which drove some patrons to read books instead. We stayed open from 10:00 to 11:30 and managed to get in one nearly-complete storytime.

On Dec. 17, Tom Kizzia and Rich Chiappone visited the library to talk about history and writing, drawing a crowd of 63 people. Tom received a well-deserved award from Representatives Andrew Gray and Sarah Vance.

Thank you!

Our deepest thanks to all those who supported the library over the past year. Many members of the public contributed their time, energy and money to guarantee the success of the institution. We here recognize those who donated to the library's long-term sustainability:

Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous (4)

Anonymous, in honor of Steve Gibson

Kathryn Anderson

Dave Berry

Kathy Carssow

Richard Chiappone

Kate Finn

Marcia Kuszmaul

Miller Morris, in honor of Dr. Ian Wisecarver

Lesa A. Osborne, in honor of Ann Keffer

Terri Spigelmyer and Andy Haas

Glen Williams, in memory of Gene Williams

Friends of Homer Public Library Endowment Fund

Harmon Clines

Patricia McNeill

Beverly Nikora

Joy Steward and Stu Schmutzler

2024 by the numbers at Homer Public Library



101,206

Visits to the library



170,248

Items checked out

674

New library cards issued

14,213

Patrons attended programs

1,129 attended
Summer Reading events

3,023 sessions
Study Rooms + Meeting Room

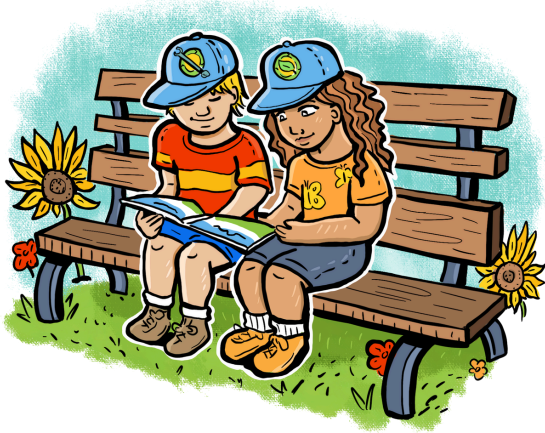
30,573 sessions
Public computers + library WiFi

3,076

Volunteer hours logged



www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



SUMMER@ HPL 2024

... by the numbers at
Homer Public Library

293
Reading challenge
participants

123
People finished the
reading challenge!

26,200
Books + library
items circulated

95
Special events
& programs

1,129
Event
attendees

12
Community
collaborators

13
LEGO challenge
participants

9
Teen + tween
volunteers!

71
Community
donors

READ, RENEW, REPEAT

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MEMORANDUM

February Employee Anniversaries

Item Type: Informational
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council
Date: February 24, 2025
From: Andrea Browning
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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.

Jenny Carroll	Admin	9	Years
Morgan Tracy	Police	8	Years
Kevin Co	Library	6	Years
Tyler Jeffres	Police	6	Years
Mike Swoboda	PW	2	Years
Dan Kort	PW	1	Year
Leon Galbraith	PW	1	Year



MEMORANDUM

Inactive Records Destruction Report 2024

Item Type: Informational
Prepared For: Mayor Lord & Homer City Council
Date: February 13, 2025
From: Zach Pettit, Deputy City Clerk II

In accordance with HCC 2.92.030(g), the City Clerk's Office completed the annual inactive records destruction process for 2024.

On December 8, 2023, Department Heads were notified of the inactive records that were eligible for destruction, and as a result, 68 boxes of records were approved, pulled, and staged in the Council Chambers. Arctic Shred performed on-site shredding of the inactive records on July 17, 2024.

Arctic Shred travels from Anchorage to the Peninsula to provide their on-site service and then brings the shredded materials to their facility in Anchorage for appropriate disposal. This is the City Clerk's Office first year working with Arctic Shred for our inactive records destruction. Their services were retained after solicitation of prices from three vendors that service the Kenai Peninsula and recommendations from the City Clerks of Soldotna and Kenai.

Copies of the Inactive Records Storage Forms and memorandums approving destruction are available in the City Clerk's Office for review.