State Approves Homer as Official Early Voting Site

City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen reported an update of the State’s approval of Homer as an official early voting site, which will simplify the voting process. In past State elections, Homer City Hall has served as an Absentee In-Person polling site for the two week period prior to each election. This means that voters come in and complete an absentee in person affidavit envelope, are issued a ballot, the voted ballot is sealed in its envelope, and batches of envelopes with voted ballots are mailed daily to Juneau.

Once in Juneau, the envelopes are reviewed, voter registration is verified, and cross checks are completed to ensure the absentee voter didn’t vote on election day, and then those ballots are counted and included in the certified count.

Over the last several years, the number of absentee in-person voters has increased significantly in Homer, so our Region 1 Director requested that Homer be added as an Early Voting Site. As an early voting site, voters can come in during the two weeks prior to election day to sign an affidavit affirming that they are a registered voter and that their information is correct. The voter will then be issued a ballot that will be counted by an on-site optical scan unit. Just like on election day, early vote ballots will be transmitted to Juneau and be included in the election day results.

If a voter comes to vote early and their voter registration information is incorrect, they will be asked to use the absentee in person voting method, and their absentee in-person affidavit envelope will be used to update their voter registration through the State system. The Clerk’s office is very excited about this change!

Please feel free to call the City Clerk’s office at 907-2235-3130 with questions. The deadline to update your voter registration for the June 11 State Special Election is May 12. Voter registration is available at the City Clerk’s office, the Homer Public Library, and online at elections.alaska.gov. You will also find a helpful video at that web address, which explains Ranked Choice Voting. If you’re interested in serving as an election official in the 2022 elections, please contact the Clerk’s office.
Main Street Sidewalk - It's Time!

A sidewalk on Main Street Sidewalk is in our future! An asphalt sidewalk on the west side of Main Street from the Homer Theatre to Dehl Avenue by Bayview Park includes ADA ramps at all intersections, ADA access to Bayview Park and storm drain upgrades.

Design for the project is complete. Bids are due May 2 and will be brought to City Council on May 9 for approval to award the contract. Construction will start in early June and be completed by the end of October. We all look forward to this new addition.

30th Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival
May 4-8

Celebrate the return of spring and migrating birds on the beautiful shores of Kachemak Bay during Shorebird Festival.

Homer is one of the most popular places in Alaska to view the thousands of shorebirds, representing 25 different species that migrate through the area in early May.

The four-day Festival is a Homer tradition where we welcome the birds back and take the opportunity to learn more through seminars and workshops, children's activities, guided tours and birding opportunities for all ages and skill levels. Whether you're new to birding, or an avid enthusiast, there's something for everyone. Discover more and register for festival events at kachemakshorebird.org.

Coast Guard City Planning

Work is underway for Homer to become a designated Coast Guard City. The application process involves compiling examples of how the community has embraced the US Coast Guard and how we, as a city, support the quality of life for service members and their families stationed here.

Christine Drais, Assistant to the City Manager, and Councilmember Caroline Venuti met April 1st to start work on this project. Our relationship to the Coast Guard started when they arrived in 1969. There are 29 designations with five in Alaska, which include Kodiak, Sitka, Ketchikan, Cordova and Valdez. If you have a story or photos you'd like to share from community events that show support of the Homer Coast Guard, please contact cdrais@ci.homer.ak.us.
Time to get your walking shoes on and join the fun! May 1st is the start of the free Homer Steps Up campaign, a community-wide competition to promote health and wellbeing for everyone to get out and get moving during the month of May.

The City team is undefeated in the larger group division, but this year is a little different. Groups are limited from 5 to 25 people. It’s not too late to create a team or join an existing team and get your steps in.

**Benefits of Walking**

1. Boosts your mood & energy
2. Eases joint pain
3. Strengthens bones and muscles
4. Improves heart health
5. Boosts immune function
6. Burns calories

**Moose on the loose!**

Several moose gather out east to gobble up the fresh spring grasses. A phenomenon in the spring when the grass turns green. Usually moose are seen by themselves or in pairs.

Be aware when out walking, biking or driving on the roads for unexpected moose pop-ups!

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**Winter King Salmon Tournament Crowns 2022 Winners**

Year-long planning and coordination with the Homer Chamber of Commerce is key to facilitating a successful salmon fishing tournament. With 400 vessels and 1,500 anglers, the WKT kicked-off on Sunday, April 10, one day later than scheduled. Now more than ever, the event signifies the beginning of the summer recreational boating season as many of the participants arrive for the tournament, but leave their vessels moored for the duration of the summer.

Port & Harbor employees Mark Whaley, Ricky Borland, and Matt Clarke registered their vessels and fished in the tournament. Borland’s vessel, Gondola (owned by brother Randy), caught a 20 lb. king and placed 2nd in the tournament. The fish was caught by Joe Inglis, a Public Works equipment operator, who helped grade the Port’s parking lots in preparation for hosting the tournament.

**Congratulations to Joe & Ricky on a successful tournament!**
Celebrating the 53rd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week

May 1 through 7, 2022 will be the 53rd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Initiated in 1969 by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and endorsed by all of its members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other countries, the week is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the Clerk’s office.

Although it is one of the oldest positions in local government, few people realize the vital services Municipal and Deputy Clerks perform for their community. They are the local officials who administer democratic processes and ensure transparency to the public, which includes keeping the official records of the city, conducting local elections, and facilitate all legislative actions. They act as compliance officers for federal, state, and local statutes, provide parliamentary support to City Council and the commissions/boards, manage public inquiries and relationships, arrange for ceremonial and official functions, and may even serve as financial officers or chief administrative officers.

For more information on the Homer City Clerk’s Office including our Code of Ethics, staffing history, and the history of the Clerk profession, see the complete Clerk’s Office Current and Historical Information Packet online at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk.

Notice of Vacancy on KPB Planning Commission

Ever thought you’d like to get involved in the community on the borough level? The Kenai Peninsula Borough is accepting applications for the Homer seat on the Borough Planning Commission with a term that expires 7/31/2025.

Applicants must be a Homer city resident and registered voter to serve. All applications must be submitted online through the borough’s Opportunities webpage: https://www.kpb.us/opportunities under Board Vacancies.

The deadline to submit an application is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 27, 2022.

2022 Law Enforcement 5k Torch Run & Pledge Drive

May 21 at 10am
Start & Finish: Base of Homer Spit

Join in the fun for a chance to run, walk or bike a 5k with Law Enforcement and Special Olympics Alaska athletes to raise awareness & funds to benefit local Homer community and sports programs for athletes with intellectual disabilities. This annual event is a fun time for the whole family and is looked forward to every year by all. Come out and meet your Homer Police Department team members and have a great time for a good cause.

Go to specialolympicsalaska.org for more information and to register.
Mobile Food Service Licensing Update

Help spread the word. Having a mobile food truck or mobile food service business in Homer is now a little bit easier - and less expensive! Immediately after the passage of Ordinance 22-15(S)(A) last month, staff began the transition of mobile food service (food truck) licensing from the Police Department to the Planning and Economic Development offices. We will be actively reaching out to food trucks that have been licensing in Homer in the past few years with information on the updated code and fees.

The new license fee is $50 for the calendar year. We hope this new lower fee encourages more businesses to come to Homer for the summer season and beyond. For more information, scan the QR code here or go to: https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/mobile-food-service-permits.

Short-Term Rentals & Sales Tax in Homer

Did you know that short-term rentals are subject to sales tax on a per-unit, per-night basis? The taxes collected are required to be remitted to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. To help remind folks, the City Manager’s office and the Finance Director created a public education flyer and mailed it to utility customers regarding sales tax for rentals. Soon, these flyers will be included in water/sewer bills too.

A larger, more comprehensive, discussion about short-term rentals and the impacts they create in the City is in the works with Planning and Economic Development on the topic. For more information go to: kpb.us/finance-dept/sales-tax/sales-tax-home to download the KPB Guide for Landlords or Lodging Providers.

Sandhill Cranes – Cool Facts:

- Known for their dancing skills
- Their call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound unique to their anatomy
- They mate for life
- Chicks can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching and can swim

Source: allaboutbirds.org
Kachemak Way Sewer Repair

Update from Public Works Director Jan Keiser regarding the recent road closure and sewer repair project on Kachemak Way: "It pays to have a Plan B when you go out of town! This is the lesson a homeowner on Kachemak Way learned recently. The fellow who was looking after the house noticed sewage starting to back up in the house. He called Public Works, who after investigating the situation, concluded the service line was broken in the roadway, making it the City’s responsibility. The operators closed the road to through traffic and mobilized a large excavator to dig up the service line. The water/sewer crew found two separate cracks in the service line, repaired them, and turned the site back to the operators who filled in the hole, cleaned up the site and got traffic moving again the same day. The homeowner came back to a happy and healthy house."

Ultrafiltration Station

City of Homer utilizes a water treatment process called Ultrafiltration. The filter system consist of thousands of membranes. The membranes look like spaghetti. They are a very thin membrane wrapped around a weave backing. The membrane will remove anything from the water that is bigger than 0.04 microns in size. To put that into perspective, a 1000th of an inch is 25 micron, a human hair is 50 micron, the human eye cannot see less than 40 micron.

These membranes have to be cleaned and maintained daily, weekly and monthly to keep them doing their job. The lowest level clean is a simple air scour of the media. The most intense is a 12-15 hour soak in either a high chlorine solution of 500 mg/l or an acid solution where the pH is suppressed down to 3.0. The type of clean we use depends on what's is in the raw water. Rotating between chlorine and acid also helps keep the membranes supple.

If the membranes get “pin holes” they need to be repaired. The filter “cassette” has to be lifted out of the filter tank with a crane, then the individual modules are removed for repair. The operators use a needle to inject silicone into the individual membranes to plug the hole. See the pictures for our most recent repair job.

The membranes have been in service for twelve years. The membranes are in very good condition due the excellent maintenance and conscience operation by the operators.

Right: City of Homer Public Works Water Treatment/Maintenance Crew: Will Kern, Sean Love, Todd Cook, Jim Tingley, Joe Young
Burn Regulations

Air quality is an important issue for all residents in Homer. Recently, Fire Chief Mark Kirko and City Manager Rob Dumouchel met with Councilmembers Caroline Venuti and Donna Aderhold to discuss air quality issues connected to burning within City limits. Existing code and permit conditions are being examined to see how they can be modernized to better serve the community. An extended public engagement process may be integrated into the building code and code enforcement discussions that were a high priority for Council at the visioning session in March.

Protect Yourself from Robocalls and Fraud

Robocalls, texts and spoofing can be annoying, frustrating and even worse - fraudulent. We’ve all gotten them. We all wonder what to do. Here are a few tips for steps you can take to protect yourself from these fraudulent activities.

- Register your mobile and landline numbers on the Do Not Call Registry - donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222.
- Research apps, services or devices that help block unwanted calls.
- Do not answer calls from unknown callers. This could verify you have an active line. Never call back an unfamiliar number - it may lead to a scam.
- Scam callers may pretend to represent an organization, business or even a government agency. Never reveal personal or financial information unless you can independently verify the caller.
- FCC rules offer protection against unwanted calls and texts. File a complaint with the FCC to help us determine where to take action. Visit consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.
- Find resources and learn more at fcc.gov/robocalls.

Who can get a second booster dose?

People over the age of 50 and some immunocompromised individuals may receive a second mRNA booster (Pfizer or Moderna) four months after their first booster dose. Additionally, people who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for both their primary dose and booster dose may receive a second booster dose using an mRNA vaccine.

COVID Mitigation Continues

Although mitigation measures have relaxed in the past several weeks, there are still cases in Homer. Simple mitigations measures like masking and social distancing can help. Free at-home COVID test kits are available at the Homer Library. Contact your health provider to schedule a vaccination if you need one.
Grounding of the Barge Redoubt

On March 31st the barge Redoubt broke free from its moorings in Kachemak Bay and drifted ashore in Mud Bay in ENE winds. The barge Redoubt is a vessel of CISPRI, an oil spill response company, that covers Cook Inlet and has a lot of equipment and personnel based in Homer harbor. The Harbormaster kept Coast Guard Sector Anchorage, Homer Dispatch, and the City Manager’s office updated as the situation unfolded. Local diver/welder/salvage company Alaska Industrial Services responded with a dive support vessel, the Allan G.

To rescue the Redoubt from Mud Bay, the Allan G worked in close to the bow of the grounded barge and attached a 500’ Spectra tow line to the barge. The winds whipped up a short nasty 3’ to 4’ chop that made the task difficult and dangerous, but they took their time and the crew got the line attached without incident. The idea was that once they got tow line hooked to the barge they would stretch it out and drop an anchor that a tug could reach at high tide and then pull the barge back out to deep water. The story is that when the Allan G put a little power on to stretch out the line one of the crew said, "hey, I think the barge just moved," so they kept pulling and thankfully the Redoubt didn’t just keep on moving.

As luck would have it another tug, the Bob Franko, was in town from her job as standby and assist tug at the Marathon refinery dock in Nikiski. Once the Allan G got the Redoubt out to deeper water the Bob Franko made up to the barge and took over the tow. The barge was then brought back to the Deep Water Dock where she was met by officials from our local Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment.

After a few days of inspections it was determined that the barge was undamaged and it has since returned to its moorings. Cispri is in the process of inspecting and repairing their large moorings in the bay to learn what failed and to repair and replace as necessary.

This is a story of a bullet dodged thanks to some really talented individuals that live and work in our community and a story about the little tug that could.

Harbor Parking Maintenance And Updates

The Homer Port & Harbor is a busy place all year round and as we near the summer season, activity is already picking up. Here’s what’s been happening at the harbor to prepare for the traffic.

**Ramps 1-4 & 8:** Operations staff improved the paved parking lots at these ramps the last week of March. Vehicles were removed from the lots for a thorough sweeping by equipment operator, Brody Jones, and the removal of two years of sand and gravel accumulation. Given the opportunity provided by clean surfaces and warming temperatures, the Port & Harbor contracted with Dutch Boy Landscaping for paint striping and stenciling services improving vehicle-space delineation and visibility for ADA-dedicated parking spaces. East Road Services installed a drywell at the entrance to the ramp three parking lot, which will keep large puddles from forming.

**Gravel Parking Lot Grading:** During the first week of April, operations staff closed off approximately 10 acres of gravel parking lots on the along Homer Spit and Freight Dock Roads to traffic. Once the vehicles were removed, Public Works equipment operators Paul Raymond and Joe Inglis graded the surfaces, filled the potholes, and provided improved direction for surface water run-off.

**Lots 9 & 10 and Outer Dock Road:** Recognizing the intent of the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission to increase public parking capacity on the port facility and the direction of the Harbormaster, operations staff commenced on the reorganization of lots 9 & 10, located adjacent to Fish Dock Road. These lots, which have traditionally served as commercial fishing gear storage and laydown, will now be split into two uses. The northern 1/3 of the lot will be dedicated to commercial gear storage, while the southern 2/3 of the lot will be dedicated to public parking. Given the reduction of commercial gear storage space in the area of Fish Dock Road, operations staff measured and delineated approximately 10,000 square feet of space along Outer Dock Road, adjacent to the deep water dock cargo storage yard, which will provide an alternate site for commercial gear storage. Permanent signage and parking lot delineation is pending. Public awareness notices have been sent to affected customers with recent commercial gear storage agreements.
The City of Homer offers terrific indoor programs at the HERC Gym and Activity Room, Homer High School and Homer Middle School. Bookmark [https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/weekly-schedule](https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/weekly-schedule) and make plans to participate in the latest programs such as pick up basketball, pickleball, volley ball, youth yoga and so much more!

**PARKS & COMMUNITY RECREATION**

The City's Lend a Leash program is in place for pets and their owners to stay safe while out on a walk together. Here are the current convenient locations you can grab a leash:

- Karen Hornaday Park
- Poopdeck Trails
- Bishops Beach
- Mariner Park
- Fishing Hole Campground

Learn more about the City's Lend A Leash Program at the link below or scan the QR code above.

[cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/lend-leash-program](http://cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/lend-leash-program)

**PERFECT WEATHER TO GET OUT & WALK YOUR DOG!**

Ever set out to walk your dog and forget to bring a leash?

City of Homer is Hiring for the Summer!

*Ever thought about working for the City of Homer? Want to put your talents to work for the community?*

The Parks Department of Public Works is hiring happy people who would like to work this summer. You’ll get to know the many parks in Homer by keeping them maintained, work on beautification projects like flower beds and streetscapes and with your gardening skills, or learn how to do something new to add to your resume.

To check City of Homer Job Listings go to: [cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs](http://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs)
Meet the Staff

This section is to highlight staff achievements, promotions, retirements, departures and new hires to the City’s workforce.

Dan Miotke Retirement

After graduating from UAF with the ink still fresh on his Fire Science degree, Dan and his wife Amanda made their way to Homer to become one of the first Firefighter/EMTs to be employed by the City of Homer.

Over the next few years Dan furthered his skills with advanced certifications of Firefighter II and EMT-III as an advanced life support medic. He also completed several technical rescue courses and advanced auto extrication courses. He became one of the lead instructors to teach Firefighter I and EMT-I classes to new HVFD recruits as well as the lower peninsula emergency services department until his retirement.

Dan began taking more courses on leadership and advanced firefighting tactics and because of his commitment to the department, he soon earned the rank of Captain. Throughout his career, he continued to learn, teach and lead HVFD members.

Not only was Dan committed to serving the community, spending countless hours training and responding to a wide range of emergencies, but he was a dedicated husband and father to his three daughters. He’s known for coaching Homer’s youth in basketball and other sports activities.

A few years ago, Day began to build a commercial fishing business to start a new adventure for his family after retirement. He will continue to volunteer with the Homer Volunteer Fire Department and we hope to see him for years to come in this new capacity.

Thank you, Dan, for all the great years of dedicated service to the Homer community.

April Anniversaries

This month we recognize City staff members with April anniversaries. Thank you for the dedication, commitment and service you’ve provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years. You all are an integral part of what makes the City of Homer a great place to work and the community.

Joe Young - Public Works - 15 years
Rick Pitta - Police - 13 years
Travis Brown - Planning - 10 years
Erica Hollis - Port - 10 years
Jean Hughes - Public Works - 8 years
Jaclyn Arndt - Fire - 7 years
Dave Berry - Library - 3 years
Ricky Borland - Port - 3 years
Aaron Yeaton - Public Works - 3 years
Evangelina Campuzano - Police - 1 year
STAY CONNECTED WITH CITY COUNCIL
Go to: cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council. Here you will find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION
Learn more about the municipal art collection at: https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection

The Giving Salmon
Wildheart the Giving Salmon is the Homer Foundation’s 25th anniversary gift to the community of Homer. It reflects the Foundation’s core values: solid, enduring, and giving back. Besides being a beautiful sculpture, it acts as a community chest where both residents and visitors can donate money to help meet community needs. It is a vision of philanthropy that is so real one can touch it, feed it, and see the gleam of the sun on its bronze scales!

In 2017, Christina Demetro created this an inspirational bronze sculpture that is located at the Boathouse Pavilion at Ramp 2 of the Homer Harbor, is six feet in length and rides the tops of waves. A great depiction of a favorite fish species in Homer.

JOIN OUR TEAM
The City of Homer has current Job Openings. Sign up for Job Alerts or Apply Online at cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

CURRENT JOB LISTINGS
- Community Jail Officer I or II
- Firefighter/EMT-Basic (EMT-I) or Advanced (EMT II or EMT III)
- Network Administrator
- Special Projects Coordinator
- Temporary/Seasonal:
  - Port Maintenance Technician I
  - Recreation Specialist
  - Parks Technician
  - Equipment Operator
  - Harbor Assistant I
  - Parking Enforcement Aide

City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-8121
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Roster
Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk
Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
Rick Abboud, City Planner
Mark Robl, Chief of Police
Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
Bryan Hawkins, Port Director/Harbormaster
Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director
Jan Keiser, Public Works Director
Dave Berry, Library and IT Director
Nick Poolos, Info. Technology Manager
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Mayor - Ken Castner (2022)

City Council
Donna Aderhold (2024)
Jason Davis (2022)
Shelley Erickson (2024)
Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2022)
Rachel Lord (2023)
Caroline Venuti (2023)

Commissions & Boards
Planning Commission
Economic Development Advisory Commission
Library Advisory Board
Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Standing Committees
ADA Compliance Committee

Upcoming City Council & Commission Meetings for May 2022

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<td>25</td>
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Summer is right around the corner!
Check out all the fun programs for kids at cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation