

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. II - ISSUE X | JULY 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

SEASIDE SERENADES

Celebrate our city as the summer sun illuminates (we hope!!) our coastal haven, and stay informed by reading our latest articles, including the harbor's cathodic protection system, updates on the Homer Harbor expansion study, water system flushing, the Borough's siren project, a swift response to a boat fire, an introduction of new city staff, and more!

PIONEER AVENUE BANNERS

The City's Economic Development Commission collaborated with Homer artist Lucas Elliot and Corvus Design to create new street banners for Pioneer Avenue. After careful attention to detail, the final design was refined, and the banners are now proudly adorning Pioneer Avenue. They showcase characters and natural beauty found in and around Homer.



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Library Events
- Community Corner
- 2024 City Budget Adopted
- Special Event Permits
- Port and Harbor
- Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Works
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Public Safety Corner
- Fire Department
- Economic Development
- Meet the Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council
- Join Our Team

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

Subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter:

www.cityofhomer-

ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter

"Where the Land Ends and the Sea Begins"

LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

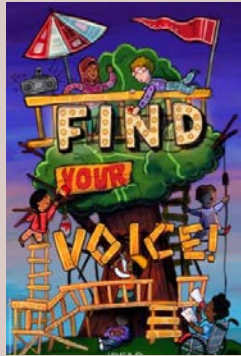
Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to <https://libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming>

- July 15** *Daredevil and She-Hulk* by Charles Soule 10 - 11 a.m.
- July 20** *Chatter* by Ethan Kross 9 - 10 a.m.
- July 25** *Crying in the Bathroom* by Erika Sánchez 12 - 1 p.m.

END OF SUMMER READING PARTY

End of summer reading party includes music, games, ice cream and hot dogs, with prizes for reading-challenge participants and LEGO contest winners.

Saturday, July 29
5 to 7 p.m.



STORIES AND S'MORES AT BISHOPS BEACH



Join us for an evening story time at Bishop's Beach, featuring talking and singing games, stories and s'mores! We'll meet at the pavilion near the beach. S'mores provided.

Tuesday, July 18
7 to 8 p.m.

LIBRARY EVENTS CONTINUED

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| July 3 | Pre-parade meet-up | 3 - 5 p.m. |
| July 4 | Bookmobile in the 4th of July Parade | 3 p.m. |
| July 7 | Intermediate Readers book club | 4 - 5 p.m. |
| July 11 | Family Storytime in the Boat House Pavilion | 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. |
| July 12 | Leap Into Science | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. |
| July 18 | Evening Storytime at Bishop's Beach Pavilion | 7 - 8 p.m. |
| July 19 | LEGO contest | 10 - 11 a.m. |
| July 19 | Movie showing at Library | 6 - 7:30 p.m. |
| July 24 | Teens and Tweens Get Crafty! | 4 - 5:30 p.m. |
| July 27 | Science in the Summer | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. |
| July 28 | Science in the Summer | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. |

Check out the complete line-up of library programs 



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER



4TH OF JULY PARADE
July 4 at 3 p.m., Pioneer Avenue
www.homerak.org/events/annual-events



4TH ANNUAL HOMER PEONY CELEBRATION
July 7-30
www.homerak.org/events/annual-events



FARMERS MARKET
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesdays 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
www.homerfarmersmarket.org



PICKLEBALL CLINICS
July 22-23, HERC Gym
www.worldteampickleball.com/shop/homer

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS 2024/25 CITY BUDGET

The City Council adopted the FY24/25 Operating Budget on May 22 and the Capital Budget on June 26. The Operating and Capital budgets create the City's financial foundation for the next two years.

The Operating Budget includes approximately \$26.2 million in operational spending for FY24 and \$26.8 million for FY25. While the City has benefitted from strong revenue growth the last few years, some of those gains have been eroded by the difficult inflationary conditions which have characterized markets around the world. Additionally, the Capital Budget allocates \$6.1 million for new projects during the FY24/25 biennium. One of the most popular capital projects on deck in this budget is the extension of a sidewalk along Ben Walters Lane, plus others that are highlighted at the right. Learn more about the budget on the City's website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/finance/operating-capital-budgets

Capital Budget Highlights

1. Ben Walters Lane Sidewalk
2. Homer Volunteer Fire Department replacement of outdated fire hose and fleet upgrades including a ladder truck and an off-road firefighting apparatus
3. ADA family restroom at the airport terminal
4. Improvements to Bayview Park, a Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan update and an extension of water and sewer to support future public restroom facilities
5. Comprehensive Plan update to capture the vision of where the community wants to be going forward and a subsequent zoning code update. The plan will provide guidance for Homer's physical development, with an emphasis on future land use, transportation network and infrastructure capacity.

REFLECTING ON POSITIVE CHANGES: MOBILE FOOD SERVICE AND SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS

Since the adoption of [Ordinances 22-15\(S\)\(A\)](#) and [22-14](#) in March 2022, the City's processes for mobile food service and special events have improved. Mobile food service permitting has shifted smoothly to the Planning department, making it more accessible and user-friendly. Most permits are now conveniently handled online. Food truck operators and the Chamber of Commerce have praised the changes, including the allowance of food trucks in parks for special events. Special event permitting is running smoothly under the City Manager's office. Pre-event meetings have been introduced to ensure seamless implementation and minimize surprises. Though fines for code violations were added, we haven't had to impose any punitive fees for public health and safety. We're preparing to discuss further improvements internally. These updates have had a positive impact, fostering growth and enjoyable experiences for our community. We're committed to continuous refinement and improvement.

Hosting a special event?

CHECK TO SEE IF A PERMIT IS REQUIRED

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Special Event Permits: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/special-event-permit-information

Mobile Food Service Vendor Permit: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/mobile-food-service-permits

HOMER HARBOR COMPLETES CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEM PROJECT

The City is pleased to announce the successful completion of a project in Homer Harbor that was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the City, R&M Consulting, Global Diving, and Coffman Engineering. The project installed a passive cathodic protection system to protect the float system steel pile from corrosion due to electrolysis.



The Harbor's float system, comprised of 161,000 square feet of concrete and wood floats is supported by 511 pile, of which 475 are made of steel. Over time, electrolysis had depleted the original protective coating on the steel pile. The City has been restoring cathodic protection to the pile through a multi-year endeavor that began in 2018. The initial phase placed protective anodes on sections of the B, C, D, E, and F floats, and a portion of System 5 large vessel moorage.



Photos by Global Diving

A FY23 Alaska Municipal Harbor Tier II grant of \$366,000, matched by Port and Harbor maintenance reserves, provided the necessary funding to furnish and install anodes on the remaining steel piling to provide electrical continuity to all pile and extend the benefits of the cathodic protection system harbor-wide.

It was no small task. Global Diving welded two 150-pound anodes onto 471 steel pilings for a total of 943 anodes and 141,450 pounds of sacrificial anode material. Coffman Engineering conducted pre and post-installation tests, confirming the system's optimal functionality and sufficient cathodic protection for the submerged dock pilings.

POWER-GENERATING DEVICE EMBARKS ON ANOTHER SEASON OF TESTING

Port Director Bryan Hawkins recently sent us an email starting with, "Walking around the port, sometimes you'll see something that'll make you ask, 'Wow, what's that thing.'" He attached this photo and noted that this is an experimental power-generating device that is being developed and tested in the Kvichak River for the Village of Igiugig. It's the third year that he's seen this device move through the port, and was told that they pull it in the fall because of the ice and because this experimental unit goes back to the shop for more tinkering over the winter.

The device's roundtrip route from Homer to Igiugig demonstrates the Homer Port and Harbor's vital role in statewide transportation:

1. Load onto landing craft Helenka B at the commercial barge ramp
2. Cross the Inlet into Iliamna Bay (Kamishak Bay)
3. Offload at Williams Port
4. Transport overland (16 miles) to Pile Bay Dock in Lake Iliamna
5. Load onto a small tug/barge for transport to Igiugig
6. Offload at Igiugig's barge landing

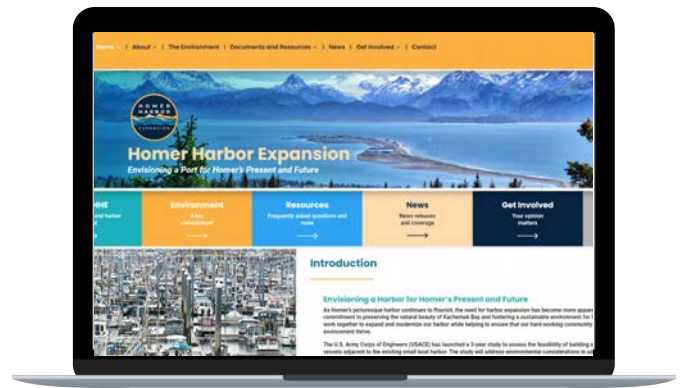


Remarkably, a total of 47 non-road-connected villages and work sites in southcentral and western Alaska rely on essential freight services provided by vessels moored in Homer Harbor. These shipments are a lifeline for these remote communities, ensuring the delivery of crucial supplies and sustaining their daily lives and economic activities. This exemplifies the effectiveness of the Port of Homer as a regional transportation hub.

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION STUDY UPDATE

Over the past couple of months, the Homer Harbor Expansion study has made significant progress toward its first milestone, identifying a small array of design alternatives to advance to more in-depth study. Here are some of the recent key events and an outline of upcoming steps:

- The [Homer Harbor Expansion Charter](#), encompassing the vision, mission, goals, and factors for success, was drafted in a collaborative involving City Council and the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission and staff. It was adopted via [Resolution 23-058](#).
- The study's website, www.homerharborexansion.com, is fully built out and provides updates as the study progresses. Visit the website for the latest information.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Design Charrette from May 17-19 involved community and industry input, along with environmental stakeholder meetings and produced 14 potential alternative designs.
- USACE is undergoing an internal review of each alternative according to a set of criteria to recommend the most feasible designs for further in-depth study. The "future without a project" alternative will be included in all comparisons.
- At the end of June, USACE will complete a Vertical Team Review where they present a study progress report and their initial alternatives screening to USACE leadership from the Pacific Ocean District and Headquarters for feedback. The USACE will share the selected designs once they have alignment with the USACE Vertical Team.



In July 2023, the study will reach the Alternatives Designs Milestone with the identification of design plans to carry forward. This will launch the alternatives evaluation and analysis phase, which is expected to last about nine months and will culminate in a Tentatively Selected Plan.

As part of the alternatives analysis phase, the study team will host another community scoping meeting, likely in September to collect additional public feedback.

Check back each month here for the latest progress reports on the Homer Harbor Expansion Study, or visit the study website.



WATER SYSTEM FLUSHING

Dates and Schedule

Water system flushing started on June 21 and will continue through August 2023. The Public Works Department will be working between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays.

Areas Affected

Flushing will be systematically conducted throughout the city, including residential and commercial areas. During this period, please note that your water supply may experience temporary discoloration or a slight drop in pressure.

Impact on Water Supply

While we carry out the flushing process, you may experience brief interruptions in your water supply. However, these disruptions should be minimal and temporary, typically lasting for just a few minutes. We appreciate your understanding during this necessary maintenance activity.

Water Quality

The flushing process plays a vital role in removing sediment and mineral deposits that naturally accumulate in water mains over time. It is possible that the water may appear discolored or contain small particles during flushing. If you notice any unusual or persistent issues with your water quality, please contact the Public Works Department at 907-235-3170 or via email at publicworks@ci.homer.ak.us to report the matter.

Stay Informed

For updates on the progress of the flushing activities, visit the City of Homer's website at www.cityofhomer.ak.gov/publicworks/water-system-flushing-public-notice. If you have any questions or concerns related to the flushing activities, please feel free to reach out to the Public Works Department at 907-235-3170 or via email at publicworks@ci.homer.ak.us.



— HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN —

LOCAL MITIGATION GOALS

Mitigation goals play a crucial role in shaping disaster management strategies by outlining an agency's objectives in hazard and loss prevention. These long-range policy-oriented statements reflect the community-wide vision and guide the development of effective mitigation plans. The City of Homer utilized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) priorities for the 2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for the recently adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). These priorities serve as the foundation for defining three key goals in Homer's LHMP. This series will delve into the significance of mitigation goals and explore the specific objectives outlined by FEMA for building resilient communities.

1. Enhance climate protection and adaptation efforts.
2. Create a healthy and safe community.
3. Protect critical facilities and infrastructure against hazards.

2 Create a healthy and safe community

The City of Homer's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) prioritizes the creation of a healthy and safe community. This goal focuses on safeguarding public health and safety by implementing proactive measures. Strategies include raising awareness about hazards, establishing emergency response plans, and promoting resilient infrastructure. The LHMP emphasizes inclusivity and equity, ensuring equal access to resources for all community members. By prioritizing a healthy and safe community, Homer aims to enhance resilience and protect the well-being of its residents.



Find the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on the City's website:
<https://bit.ly/3pdCjKh>



In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

KPB SIREN PROJECT UPDATE

The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) provided an update on the Siren Upgrade Project, part of the Mass Notification System, which will enhance safety and emergency communication in Homer. The upgrades address deficiencies identified in the Borough's All-Hazards Alert and Broadcast System (AHABS) assessment.

The project will:

- Boost current coverage
- Provide clearer warning messages
- Expand coverage by adding two new sirens at strategic locations on the Peninsula (one at Northern Enterprises Boat Yard on Kachemak Drive and another at the solid waste transfer site in Anchor Point)

Construction is set to begin in July, with completion expected by mid-August. Updates will be posted on the Facebook page [@KPBalerts](#). Thanks to the KPB Office of Emergency Management for working with the cities in the Borough on this important project.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

SWIFT RESPONSE TO BOAT FIRE

On June 20 at 10:15 p.m., the Homer Volunteer Fire Department swiftly responded to a distress call regarding a boat fire on Ocean Drive. With the support of volunteers and neighboring agencies, the fire was contained to the boat, preserving the surrounding structure with only minor damage to the eave. Thankfully, there were no injuries to the public or the crew, and all equipment performed flawlessly. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire. We commend our dedicated firefighters and extend our gratitude to the Kachemak Emergency Service Area and the Anchor Point emergency response team for their invaluable assistance.



Welcome TO THE TEAM!

The City is delighted to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to Zach and Matthew. We are thrilled to have them join the team!

- **Zach Pettit**, Deputy City Clerk I
- **Matthew Swerdzewski**, Firefighter/ EMT I

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to recognize City staff members with anniversaries last month. 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.

Melissa Jacobson	Clerks	19 Years
Mike Illg	Admin	17 Years
Mike Szocinski	Public Works	11 Years
Jessica Poling	Police	6 Years
Bethany Christman	Public Works	4 Years
Russell Anderson	Public Works	4 Years
James Tingley	Public Works	3 Years
Winifred Shigley	Police	3 Years

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2023 LAND ALLOCATION PLAN

The 2023 Land Allocation Plan is now available for public review. In accordance with Homer City Code Title 18, which governs municipal property management, the Council annually adopts a comprehensive plan that outlines the allocation of lands within the city.

This plan serves as a valuable resource, identifying which properties are available for lease, providing details on lease rates and terms, and outlining any specific requirements or preferences. As per HCC 18.08.020, once the plan is adopted by resolution, the City ensures public notice is given regarding the availability of real estate.

For more information and to access the Land Allocation Plan, please visit the City's website at

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/land-allocation-plan.

MEET CITY STAFF

INTRODUCING NEW CITY PLANNER: RYAN FOSTER TAKES THE HELM

Ryan Foster, previously a Special Project Coordinator in the City Manager's Office, has been appointed as our new City Planner, following the departure of Rick Abboud. Ryan's performance during the busy season led to his permanent appointment, effective July. He brings a deep understanding of planning and dedication to responsible community growth to the organization. Join us in congratulating Ryan on his well-deserved role as our City Planner.



NEW DEPUTY CITY CLERK



Zach Pettit is a dedicated professional serving as the newly appointed Deputy City Clerk. Originally hailing from the state of Virginia, Zach brings a unique blend of experiences and skills to his new role. Having resided in Alaska for a little over a year now, he has already embraced the breathtaking beauty and vibrant community spirit that the Last Frontier has to offer.

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)
Jason Davis (2025)
Shelley Erickson (2024)
Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2025)
Rachel Lord (2023)
Caroline Venuti (2023)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration
Mark Robl, Chief of Police
Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director
Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
Dave Berry, Library Director
Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
Bryan Hawkins, Port Director
Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Ryan Foster, City Planner

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board
Economic Development Advisory Commission
Library Advisory Board
Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Planning Commission
Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)



*Teshio, Japan Artwork Collection, 2002
City Clerk's Office, City Hall*



*Teshio, Japan Artwork Collection, 2002
City Clerk's Office, City Hall*

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July		
13	5 p.m.	ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting
19	6 p.m.	Planning Commission and Economic Development Advisory Commission Joint Worksession
24	5 p.m.	City Council Committee of the Whole

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:

- [Firefighter/EMT-Basic \(EMT-1\) or Firefighter/EMT-Advanced \(EMT II or III\), Full Time](#)
- [Ice Plant Operator I, Full Time](#)
- [Police Officer, Full Time](#)
- [Port Property Manager, Full Time](#)
- [Temporary Building Custodian, Seasonal](#)



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact Bella Vaz at bvaz@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

4th of July

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED ON
TUESDAY, JULY 4**