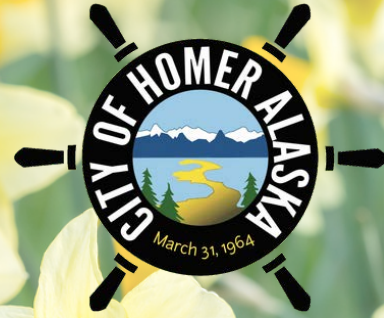


VOL. II - ISSUE VII | APRIL 2023

CITY OF HOMER

Monthly Newsletter from the office of the City Manager



Greetings from City Hall

Happy Spring everyone! The day after the vernal equinox on March 21st, (a.k.a., the 1st day of Spring), the weather decided winter wasn't over yet and dumped about a foot of snow on most of the Homer area.

This winter reminder was preceded by a 5.4 earthquake and a couple weeks of beautiful blue skies that teased us into thinking spring is on the way, well, Alaskan style anyway.

City to Use Weed-free Gravel

As gardens and trees begin to bloom they remind us of a few invasive species like dandelions, hawkweed and others, that grow around our region. To help mitigate this issue, the City of Homer made the decision to use weed-free gravel for all city projects. Three Homer Soil & Water Conservation District (HSWCD) staff are trained as weed free products inspectors, and three gravel pits received Weed-Free Certification through the Alaska Division of Agriculture's Weed Free Program.

The Weed-Free Certification process ensures gravel used on city projects is free from the most harmful invasive plants. It has also provided the opportunity for HSWCD to engage with pit operators and city officials about plant identification and options for preventing and responding to potential infestations.

For more information on how you can help control terrestrial invasive plants within State and Local right-of-ways and in your community, contact HSWCD at 907-235-8177 or <https://www.homerswcd.org/>.



Common Dandelion
Taraxacum officinale



Orange Hawkweed or Devil's
Paintbrush
Hieracium aurantiacum
F. Asteraceae

WHAT'S NEW?

- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- Economic Development
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Port & Harbor
- Public Works
- Public Safety Notes
- Meet the Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council
- Join Our Team

We hope you'll discover something new today as we share the latest information and ways you can tap into what's going on at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Check us out on Facebook

- City Hall - @cityofhomerak
- Parks & Recreation - @homerparksandrec
- Homer Public Library - @homerpubliclibrary
- Homer Police - @homerpolice
- Fire Department - @HomerVolFireDept



Share this link with your friends, so they can get the newsletter too - <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter>

"where the land ends and the sea begins"

LIBRARY EVENTS

Art in the Library

April - June: Photography by R.J. Nelson
Enjoy beautiful photos of flowers and nature in the Fireplace Lounge.



Poetry Readings

April 6: Community Poetry Reading, 6-7:30pm

April 21: Reading by local poet, *Peter Kauffman*, 6:30-7:30pm

Virtual Author Talks

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books.

For complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to <https://libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming>



April 4: *Hark! A Vagrant!* by Kate Beaton, 3pm

April 27: *Ordinary Grace* by William Ken Krueger, 4pm

May 3: *Raising Anti-Racist Children* by Britt Hawthorne, 9am

May 10: *Not Funny* by Jena Fiedman, 4pm

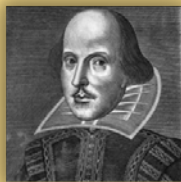
2nd Sunday Shakespeare

April 9: *Pericles*

May 14: *Henry VIII*

Friends of the Homer Library, in partnership with Pier One Theatre and Kachemak Bay Campus, invite you to participate in an online reading of a play by William Shakespeare.

Zoom instructions found here.



Lunch with a Council Member

April 11 - Donna Aderhold

Noon - 1pm, Library Meeting Room
Join the conversation with Council Member **Donna Aderhold**. Bring your questions and topics for discussion and enjoy lunch over Zoom. **Follow instructions here.**



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

What's happening around the City of Homer

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8, 11am-1pm

Church on the Rock is holding a Community Easter Egg Hunt at Karen Hornaday Park Lawn & Pavilion for an afternoon of family fun.



Sign up! Form a team!
Earn Wellness Points!



7th Annual Free Community Walking Challenge

SAVE THE DATE! ORGANIZE YOUR TEAM!
REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 10!

May 1st - 28th, 2023

WALK TO WIN: WEEKLY DRAWINGS FOR HOMER BUCKS!

End-of-challenge CASH PRIZE DRAWINGS – \$100 • \$200 • \$300
\$500, \$300 or \$200 to donate to your team's charity of choice!

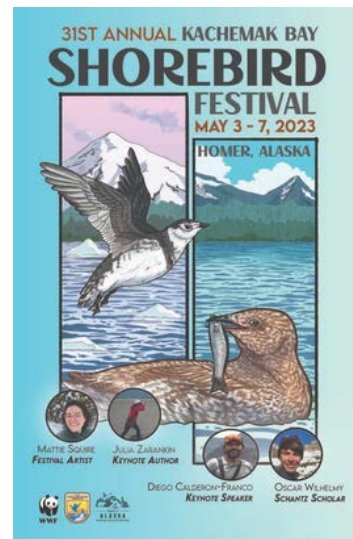
Custom "2023 Homer Steps Up! Winners" T-shirts for your team!

HOMERSTEPSUP.COM

31st Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

May 3-7

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival is right around the corner! Bird watchers from all over the world flock to Homer to experience the annual migration of birds along the miles of shoreline and intertidal habitats found here. Homer is a prime location to catch a glimpse of the birds and take part in the educational programs led by the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, the Pratt Museum and Park and more.



Online registration is open - Go to kachemakshorebird.org for all things Shorebird Festival!

Community Recreation

Check out these fun and exciting featured programs. To see the entire program list, go to <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec>



Kids Yoga!

Starting April 5th, Kids ages 5 - 11 can join Joanna, a certified yoga teacher, with certification specializing in kids yoga, for an interactive class with yoga poses, breathing exercises, games and relaxation.

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 -11:30am for Pre-K (ages 4-6)

1:30-2:30pm for Elementary grades 2-5 (ages 6-11)

HERC Activity Room

\$5 per class



Economic Development



Greater Homer Housing Conversation

A collaborative group of community organizations hosted an event on March 25th at the Christian Community Church in Homer. The purpose of the event was to start a discussion on the topic of housing in the community, identify key issues, and discuss potential solutions.

This collaborative effort consists of the following community organizations interested in the topic of housing: Choosing Our Roots; City of Homer; Homer Chamber of Commerce; Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District; Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition; Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships; and South Peninsula Hospital Foundation. Look for more conversations as the community explores ideas on this important topic and updates at <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/housing>

Childcare Meeting with Alaska Department of Health

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager, and Ryan Foster, Special Projects Coordinator met with staff representing the Childcare Program Office and Healthy and Equitable Communities of the State of Alaska Department of Health, to discuss childcare challenges in Homer. The conversation was focused on the topic of childcare home businesses including the State's streamlined application process, and challenges such as zoning, safety inspections, strong demand for childcare, and the various impacts childcare can have on employment, quality of life, and overall community health.

One of the biggest surprises the state folks found was the lack of information and almost misinformation they were hearing from people about licensing requirements. If you or someone you know is interested in starting a daycare, get information direct from the source! A great contact is Staci Collier, Community Care Licensing Specialist 3 with the State of Alaska. She can be reached at 907-269-4518, or staci.collier@alaska.gov.

HERC Update to Council

The City Council and city staff members *Jan Keiser, Mike Illg* and *Julie Engebretsen* had a work session about the HERC buildings on March 20th. The meeting covered four topics:

1. Demolition of HERC 2
2. The need for a business plan
3. How to right-size the new building
4. How to fund construction of a new recreation center

Staff presented ways they plan to accomplish these tasks, and how to best communicate progress to council. Near term next steps include Council approving funding for the last round (hopefully) of hazmat testing for HERC 2, and another work session with Council specifically on the construction budget. Stay tuned for a June or August work session! The other tasks will be worked on over the next year.

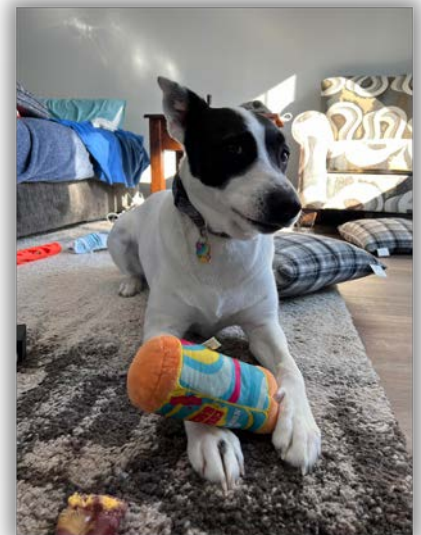


HERC 2 (smaller building)

Homer Animal Shelter 🐾 🐾

It's cat-mania at the animal shelter. Luckily adoptions are picking up after a slow start to the year. 'Kitten season' is also in full effect. Because the shelter has been at capacity for cats, we are working more closely with our amazing rescue partners! Cat Tree and Barkery Kitten Rescue has taken two litters for us. Speaking of rescue partners, we teamed up with Kenai Peninsula Animal Lovers Rescue to host a dog spay and neuter clinic in March. Big success all around.

So far, 2023 has seen its ups and downs when it comes to our community's pets, lost and neglected animals, but we try to focus on the good stuff because it's what keeps us going! At right is a photo of a sweet husky mix named 'Lily'. She was one of our harder-to-adopt canines last fall. Harder to adopt, not because there's anything wrong with her, but because she had A LOT of husky energy! Yet, as we always do, we eventually found her the perfect home and recently received the best update from her new person saying that he was so happy to have her. We love our 'Happy Tails'!



Lily is happy in her new home!

Shelter Director *Jillian Rogers* recently connected with the regional (Pacific Northwest and Alaska) representatives from the ASPCA and they've decided to come to Alaska to conduct a detailed site visit of the Homer Animal Shelter to explore how they can help support the work we do and the education and outreach programs we are currently working on restarting. (Extra programs came to a screeching halt with the pandemic.) We are looking forward to showing off our city facility and chatting with ASPCA reps and vets that are coming for the visit. In addition, we will be attending an upcoming conference, (funding dependent), include a quick trip to Anchorage this spring for the annual Alaska Animal Control Association conference and meeting. Speakers from around the country will be there to talk about all things animal control and give updates in the world of animal welfare.

For the latest information about the Homer Animal Shelter, please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/akmindfulpaws>.



Fire Department



Jaclyn Arndt Completes IDI 350!

Congratulations Jaclyn Arndt! Our in-house athlete has done it again. We are so very proud to say that Jaclyn completed her second year of skiing in the Iditarod Trail Invitational. She said this one was brutal compared to last year due to weather and conditions. 96 racers started with 46 who scratched including some who had to be medevacked. For those of you new to this fine Alaskan sport, every year about 100 people from all over the world walk, ski, or bike the 350-mile portion of the Iditarod from Knik to McGrath, some even continue on to Nome to travel 1000 miles. Conditions like whiteouts, ferociously bitter winds on the river portions of the trail, trail-breaking after snowfalls, and even pouring rain can greatly challenge the contenders. Add in the factor that all your supplies have to be carried with you then flown back on your own dime- well, you can see why we admire Jaclyn!

Her strategy was to ski at night when possible and keep warm while moving. She also gained a reputation for being a champion napper, able to sleep trailside almost anywhere, although not so much in the Farewell Burn. Jaclyn didn't personally see the bison herd that lives in the Farewell Burn, but she did find herself puzzled over what could leave a pile of poop that big on the trail before she remembered them. Another race participant found the herd while on bicycle, in the pitch black, and rode whooping through them probably thinking he was hallucinating.

Another highlight of being out there the full 9 days was that she got to cross paths with a few lead mushers from the Iditarod race who were coming down the trail with their teams. Getting to see the 4-legged athletes in action on the Iditarod is a rare treat! Jaclyn provided entertainment for the mushers as well. One looked at her and asked how long she had been out there- she admits she may have looked a little frayed by the end.



Real Alaska- 30 miles out of Rohn, photo credit to Iditarod Trailbreakers .



Cold day selfie.



Warm day selfie.

Upon returning to Homer, Jaclyn was very grateful for the mound of cookies provided by one HVFD member, and also for her co-workers valiantly covering all the shifts while she finished the race. It takes a team to care for our community, both inside and outside the fire station. As they say, 'it takes a village', and this village was rooting for Jaclyn the whole way!



Nap time on the trail.

!!30th Annual!!

**SATURDAY
MAY 6TH
11AM
UNTIL 2PM**

**SAFE
AND
HEALTHY
KIDS
FAIR**

**HOMER HIGH
SCHOOL**

600 E FAIRVIEW AVE.

**OUTDOOR
EVENT**

BE SAFE, DO GOOD, PASS IT ON!

**FUN
ACTIVITIES!**

HOT DOGS!!

**BIKE
GIVE-
AWAYS!**

**BIKE
RODEO**

**lower parking lot 11AM - 2PM
HELMETS REQUIRED
(available for purchase on-site)**



Contact the Safe & Healthy Kids Fair Committee for more info: safeandhealthykidsfair@gmail.com

Your Pics

March 11-12 was the **Special Olympic Winter Games** for snowshoeing in Anchorage. It's been a great three months and loved seeing the athletes represent Homer on the podium. Jaclyn Arndt pictured far left with athletes.



LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

VOLCANO



Homer, Alaska is a snapshot away from some of the most spectacular volcanoes located across Cook Inlet. *Redoubt Volcano* dominates the horizon at 10,197 feet and regularly blows off a little steam at its summit located about 50 miles west of Clam Gulch at the mouth of the Kenai River while *Iliamna Volcano* towers 10,016 feet across from Anchor Point. *Augustine Volcano* is 70 miles southwest of Homer on its own island.

The Alaska Volcano Observatory is monitoring these three volcanos for activity. Eruptions have ranged from a cloud of smoke, ash plumes and ash clouds.

- **Augustine:** last active 2006
- **Iliamna:** 1953
- **Redoubt:** 2009, 1990, 1968

Given the proximity of the volcanos and history of these past events, most of the City of Homer could have an ashfall event in the next 10 years (1 in 10 chance of occurring) with a likelihood of ash accumulation of 1-4 inches.

There are three types of volcanic eruptions: Magmatic, Phreatomagmatic and Phreatic. Some volcanoes may exhibit only one type of eruption during an event, while others may have all three!

Other hazards potentially caused by volcanic eruption include:

- Volcanic ashfall
- Lava flows
- Lahars (debris flows)
- Volcanic gas
- Pyroclastic surges or flows
- Volcanic landslides

If you would like to read more about volcanos and the potential hazard of them to Homer, please read Table 3-9 of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Be ready for the next volcanic event:

- **USGS**-www.usgs.gov/programs/VHP/be-ready-next-volcanic-event
- **AK Volcano Observatory** - www.avo.alaska.edu/

Police Department



Parenting in the Digital Age

Lieutenant Ryan Browning has been busy traveling all over the state to spread the word and educate families on today's dangers in the digital age. Children, teens and adults alike are affected by online bullying, exploitation and inappropriate materials that are readily available without filters. Lt. Browning's presentations are candid, inviting and provide a safe place for everyone to talk about these issues. In the last month he has traveled to Soldotna, North Pole, Sitka and has captured broader attention in our effort to help build awareness of this important topic. Look out for more dates to be added.

Women's Self Defense Classes Continue

The free self-defense classes for ladies continues to be a popular pass time! What's not to like? You get to toss a cop around and learn how to defend yourself in one place! Join Lt. Ryan Browning along with other HPD officers and State Troopers team up to learn basic and advanced self-defense tactics in a safe environment. Stay tuned to [HPD's Facebook](#) page for dates of the next class.



HPD/HVFD Joint Training Exercise

We are always up for a joint training, and this month we had a great one! Homer Police Department and Homer Volunteer Fire Department participated in a training event they held at the Homer Middle School on the March 12th. Along with providers from KESA, we had a great time putting on moulage- that's stage makeup designed to make people look ill or injured- and then had the ambulance standing by for support as police "cleared the building". EMS then came in and supported with patient care as they continued the event. It was a perfect chance for us to review tourniquet use, bleeding control, and situations that we very much hope will never happen. Everyone is looking forward to more trainings together in the future.



-Samantha Cunningham, Assistant EMS Chief



Helping people to safety.

Port & Harbor



Float Rehabilitation Project Prep

The Port Maintenance crew received and unloaded a container of materials from Bellingham Marine. These materials will be used for the rehabilitation of some mid-1980s concrete floats, specifically the ends of K thru Q floats. The materials consist mostly of lumber, milled to original specifications and pressure treated, and new galvanized steel hardware.

Bellingham Marine will be sending a technician to Homer this spring for two weeks to oversee the rehabilitation project. We're looking forward to having the floats restored to a safe working order.



Public Works



Water Service Pipe Inventory Project

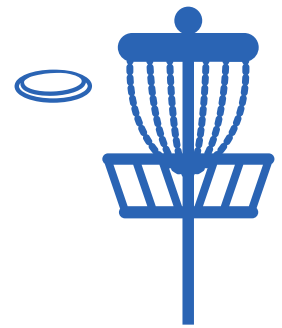
The EPA has recently directed all public water utilities to conduct an inventory of water service pipes and materials, to identify lead piping that might be present in the service lines or household plumbing. This inventory, which is in direct response to the problems in Detroit and other cities where lead materials, present in water plumbing, caused sickness for water customers, must be done by the end of 2024. Homer has over 2,000 individual water service connections, all of which must be inventoried.

Homer's water utility workers are developing a strategy for complying with the inventory requirements in a timely manner. We will be reaching out to our water customers as time goes by to collect the necessary information.



Temporary Disc Golf at Karen Hornaday Park

With the closure of the Hornaday Park Campground this year, the Homer Disc Golf Association has suggested the installation of a 9-hole temporary disc golf course in that area. The City plans to purchase the equipment (~\$6,000) and the Homer Disc Golf Association has offered to help install and maintain the temporary course. We are enthusiastic about this temporary use because it will ensure that there is activity appropriate use in the campground area this summer while camping is shut down. This proposed use was unanimously supported by the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Commission and can be supported by existing Public Works operating funds for park equipment.

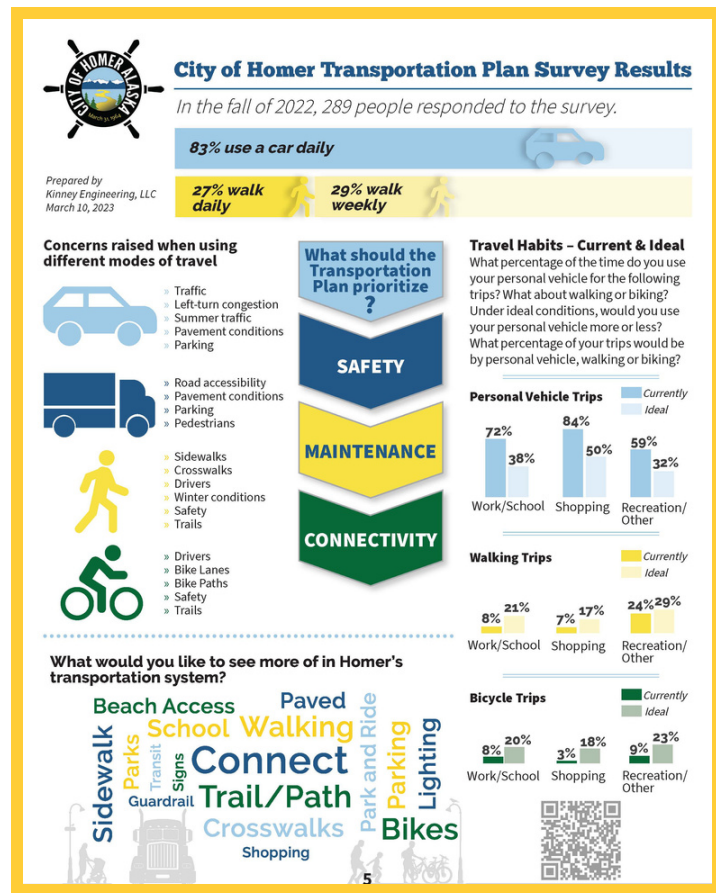


Transportation Plan Survey Results are Here

Kinney Engineering, LLC and City of Homer staff hosted several community forums and outreach events this past fall as a part of the Master Transportation Plan update process. Valuable information was gathered from the survey in which 289 people responded as illustrated in the infographic at the right. Travel habits, both current and ideal were explored for personal vehicle trips, walking trips and bicycle trips. Concerns raised when using different modes of travel revealed helpful insights; and participants were asked what they would like to see more from Homer's transportation system.

Goals and objectives were also identified through input from the public and city staff. The goals describe the fundamental outcomes of the Master Transportation Plan, while the objectives are more specific and measurable outcomes that support the goals.

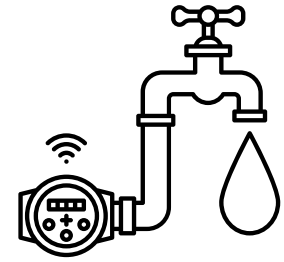
The planning effort to develop an updated Comprehensive Plan for the City of Homer has recently started. The goals and objectives in this Transportation Plan support the Comprehensive Plan goals.



To read the complete Goals and Objectives for the Master Transportation Plan, go to: https://www.cityofhomer-k.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/page/76454/goals-objectives_transportation_plan.pdf

Water Meter Swap

The City of Homer utilities team at Public Works will be calling on existing water meter customers to update their water meters. Over the next few weeks, you will be contacted to make an appointment with the Public Works Utility team to change out your meter. These new meters offer more accurate readings and integrate with our billing system.



Artist David Pettibone with model Ken Castner.

Mayor Ken Castner modeled for the Ptarmigan Arts Visual Arts Scholarship fundraising event on March 25. Artist David Pettibone traveled from Anchorage to participate in the 'Ready, Set, Art!' event. Artists had one hour to create an art piece to be auctioned off at Grace Ridge Brewing Inc. that evening. What a great way to support local arts!



HVFD friendly reminder to help clear the snow away from your hydrants. Pictured above: Firefighter/EMT Lowe hard at work

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTES

"Public Safety" covers a lot of areas - from health and wellness to fire safety, safe driving practices and winter tips for safe travel. Don't forget our pets too! Each month we strive to provide relevant information to help you live well and stay healthy. If you have a tip to share, please let us know - email us.

KIDS DON'T FLOAT

Kids Don't Float (KDF) is a statewide injury prevention program that was developed to address Alaska's high child and youth drowning rate. In a collaborative effort between several state and federal agencies, organizations and local grass-roots sponsors, Kids Don't Float now includes a [life jacket loaner board](#) component and an [educational component](#).

Kids Don't Float began in Homer, Alaska, in early 1996. The Homer Volunteer Fire Department, with a grant from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, collaborated with Homer Safe Kids, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Homer School District to establish 15 life jacket loaner stations in communities around Kachemak Bay. The stations, or "loaner boards," display life jackets that can be borrowed at no cost and returned after use. The public response was so positive that, in November of the same year, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Section of Community Health and EMS, the U.S. Coast Guard District 17 Recreational Boating Safety Program, and Alaska Safe Kids partnered on an expansion. In 2000, the newly established State Office of Boating Safety joined the partnership.





Our Sister City relationship with Teshio, Hokkaido in Japan will mark its 40th anniversary in 2024. Homer and Teshio have continued their relationship through a variety of programs. Last fall, the Japanese International Exchange Programs resumed Japanese classes and online exchange sessions to connect students in Homer's after school program and three schools in Teshio, Japan: Taishi High School in Hyogo; Teshio Junior High and High School in Hokkaido. Seven sessions allowed students to talk about school, their towns, and what life is like in both cities to gain an understanding our different cultures and recognize what we all have in common.

Students in the Japanese class from Paul Banks Elementary School wrote letters to students at Wakamiya Elementary School, Hyogo, in the south west of Japan. The principal of the school put this exchange event on their school website to share with parents and students in Japan. Students in the Japanese class from West Homer Elementary School had the opportunity to have pen pals with Taishi High School, Hyogo and Teshio Junior High School students in Hokkaido, in the northern part of Japan. The Hokkaido News featured these events in their newspaper.

Students in Homer's Japanese classes were invited to Homer's City Council Meeting last October. Students introduced themselves in Japanese and greeted Mayor Ken Castner, the City Council members, and the audience in Japanese. They had a wonderful experience and did a great job!

Another amazing connection with our Sister City in Teshio is when six elementary schools in Homer and Anchor Point participated in a project called **"Friendship without Boundaries,"**

which emphasizes living in harmony and developing true friendships. The project involved painting 1,000 - 22" x 22" canvas panels that were made into banners. Banner materials were donated by NOMAR and Homer Rotary Club. In 2019, the banners were hung in the Homer High School commons area and in the auditorium the night of the Peace Concert led by Mark Robinson and Kyle Schnieder. The conductors then took two of the banners to display during their concert trip to France and Belgium. Another one of the peace banners was mailed to Teshio Junior High School along with letters from class members, West Homer Principal, Mayor Ken Castner and Homer Rotary Club with translations by the Japanese International Exchange. Homer Rotary Club mailed gifts which included pictures and postcards by Gary Lyon, Homer artist.

Japanese International Exchange has been developing relationships with other cities in Japan as well. Please contact **Megumi Beams**, Sister City Liaison/ Interpreter & Japanese International Exchange Coordinator/ Instructor, at morikawabeams@aol.com if you are interested in these programs or have any questions. Please also visit Japanese International Exchange on Facebook.



Teshio students (above) and Homer students (below) with their banners.



Welcome

ABOARD

Let's give a warm Homer welcome to the newest recruits! We are happy to have you as part of our team and wish you the best in your new ventures.

- **Matthew Hudson**, Firefighter/EMT1
- **Dexter Lowe**, Firefighter/EMT1
- **Mike Swoboda**, PW Utilities Technician
- **Kane Graham**, HPD - Jailer, part-time
- **Bill Jirsa**, Chief Technology Officer

IT Division: Fully Staffed

After a long period of transition, the City IT division is back up to full strength! Just in the past year, *Tomasz Sulczynski* has taken the position of Network Administrator, *Matt Dominguez* has come onboard as the IT Support Specialist, and in March we welcome *Bill Jirsa* in the role of Chief Technology Officer. Tom has been with the City for fifteen years and is familiar to many Homer residents, not only because of his work with City IT, but through his past job providing wireless internet service to local area residents and businesses and his present support for community events like Salmonfest and Tech Help in the library. Matt joins us from Phoenix, where he worked on a huge array of technologies for a gigantic school district. Bill has worked most recently for Polar Field Services in Colorado after 14 seasons at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. We look forward to tackling a variety of pending projects all over town!

March Anniversaries

We would like to recognize City staff members with anniversaries this 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.

Matt Clarke	Port	22 Years
Elton Anderson	Port	17 Years
Renee Krause	Clerks	16 Years
Mike Parish	Public Works	9 Years
Angie Kalugin	Finance	8 Years
Elizabeth Walton	Finance	6 Years
Kurt Read	Port	6 Years
Matt Smith	Library	5 Years
Matt Steffy	Public Works	5 Years
Mike Pettit	Public Works	4 Years
Jan Keiser	Public Works	3 Years
Amber Baldus	Fire	1 Year

The City of Homer has current Job Openings!

Sign up for Job Alerts or Apply Online at:
cityofhomer.ak.applicantpro.com/jobs

Meet the Staff



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

Departures & Transitions

The City Manager's office is saying farewell to **Christine Drais** as she relocates to South Carolina in April. Christine served as Assistant to the City Manager since 2021 and has been a bright spot in City Hall. She will be working remotely to support **Bella Vaz** in her transition to the role from her position as Associate Planner in the Planning Department. We wish both of them the best of luck in their new endeavors.

Matt Steffy is upping the game for Homer parks! Matt has transferred into the Economic Development Division with the goal of expanding Homer's park planning, grant capacity and community partnerships. A crew of seasonal maintenance workers will still be utilized to keep parks looking great, but Matt will be freed up from day to day operations.

As Homer's park usage and summer tourism has grown, long term planning for these gems has become more important than ever. Economic Development and Homer's quality of life go hand in hand. The City is fortunate to have his skills to tackle the challenges of increased park usage, the need for forward thinking in how park dollars are spent, and finding grants to make projects happen. Congratulations Matt!

Paul Raymond, Public Works Lead Equipment Operator, retired and **Mike Gilbert** was promoted to this lead position. Congratulations to them both!

Your Pics



"Can't a girl have a snack?" Little Miss Moose was enjoying the sunshine and warm grass on Sterling Hwy. Photo by Christine Drais.

City of Homer Roster

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration
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/City Engineer
Dave Berry, Library and IT Director
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

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)

Commissions & 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

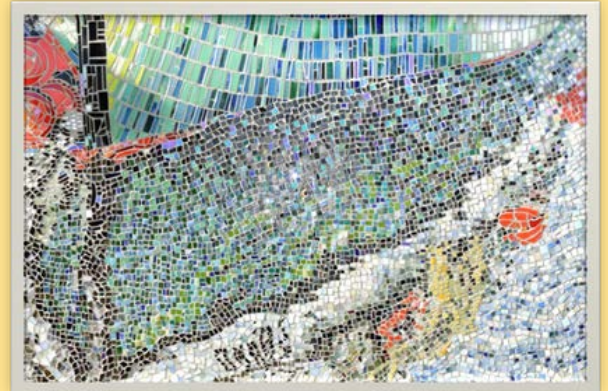
MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection>



The beautiful glass mosaics at End of the Road Park by artist **Sheila Wyne**, *Escher's Stair Reflection Series*, (above) and *Danny J Reflection Series* (below) are 66" x 40" and were acquired in 2014 through the City of Homer 1% for the Arts program.



STAY CONNECTED TO 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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

- | | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 5 | 5:30pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| | 6:30pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 10 | 5:00pm | City Council Committee of the Whole |
| | 6:00pm | City Council Regular Meeting |
| 11 | 6:00pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 13 | 5:00pm | ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting |
| 18 | 5:30pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting |
| 19 | 5:30pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| | 6:30pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 20 | 5:30pm | Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 24 | 5:00pm | City Council Committee of the Whole |
| | 6:00pm | City Council Regular Meeting |
| 26 | 4:00 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |

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 I, II or III, Full-time
- Port & Harbor Administrative Assistant, Full-time
- Mechanic I or II, Full-time
- Treatment Maintenance Technician I or II, Full-time
- Temporary/Seasonal Harbor Assistant I
- Temporary/Seasonal Parking Enforcement Aide
- Temporary/Seasonal Parks Technician

City of Homer

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