

VOL. II - ISSUE VIII | MAY 2023

CITY OF HOMER

Monthly Newsletter from the Office of the City Manager



Greetings from City Hall

As the snow melts and the days grow longer, our community is buzzing with activity and excitement. The City is excited to bring you the latest news and updates from our vibrant community.



Kachemak Sponge Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Project

At a recent City Council meeting, Coowe Walker, Reserve Manager for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR), announced some exciting news: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) awarded a \$1.28 million Habitat Protection and Restoration grant in support of the City's innovative Kachemak Sponge Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Project. Read the NOAA press release at www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-bil-investments-2023-alaska.

Kachemak Sponge is one of several green infrastructure projects planned by the City that utilizes natural wetlands to help mitigate problems associated with stormwater runoff. Currently, drainage ditches and culverts discharge stormwater directly into Kachemak Bay, which contributes to bluff erosion and introduces turbidity and nonpoint source pollutants into Kachemak Bay. The *Kachemak Sponge* project will convey this stormwater to retention/filtration structures first to remove sediment and contaminants, and then on to peatlands. Peatlands work naturally to absorb stormwater and slow discharge rates into Kachemak Bay. Peatland vegetation also has the ability to further remediate hazardous substances through long-term sequestration and elemental pollution removal.

The system is based on successful wetland treatment projects in Finland that have been proven to work wonders in cold climates. NOAA funds will acquire the peatlands necessary for this project. The City thanks KBNERR for their valued partnership in the project. For more information on this project, visit <https://bit.ly/3AKAKpl>.

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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 Facebook

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](https://www.facebook.com/cityofhomerak)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](https://www.facebook.com/homerparksandrec)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/homerpubliclibrary)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](https://www.facebook.com/homerpolice)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](https://www.facebook.com/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://library.org/homerlibrary/upcoming>

May 3: *Raising Anti-Racist Children* by Britt Hawthorne, 9 a.m.

May 10: *Not Funny* by Jena Fiedman, 4 p.m.

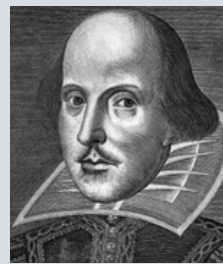
May 20: *Sadie* by Courtney Summers, 10 a.m.

Spring Book and Plant Sale

May 5-6

On Friday, May 5, join Friends of the Homer Library for a **members-only sale!** Browse through hundreds of books and dozens of plants the evening before the sale goes public. Want to become a member of the Friends of the Library and get first pick? Memberships start at \$15. You can join as a member at the door or [sign up today!](#)

On Saturday, May 6, all are welcome! The sale will continue all day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Second Sunday Shakespeare

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 *Henry VIII* by William Shakespeare.

Find more information on the City's website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/second-sunday-shakespeare-2

Lunch with a Council Member

May 9 - Shelly Erickson

Noon - 1 p.m., Library Meeting Room

Join the conversation with Council Member **Shelly Erickson**. Bring your questions and topics for discussion and enjoy a virtual lunch.

[Virtual Meeting Information](#)



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

31st Annual 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 www.kachemakshorebird.org for more information.



Sign up! Form a team!
Step Up for Your Health!



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



Community Recreation



30th Annual Safe and Healthy Kids Fair

The 30th Annual Safe and Healthy Kids Fair is happening on for Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Homer High School. This is a free, family-friendly event for children of all ages to focus on safety, health, wellness, and fun! It offers more than 25 booths and stations with hands-on activities and demonstrations. All attendees are invited to enter their names into a drawing to win one of four brand-new bikes of various sizes for differing age ranges.

Kids are invited to bring their bikes and helmets for a free bike inspection and enjoy riding the course of the bike rodeo. Helmets are required and are available for purchase on-site at a discounted rate.

Other attractions include visits from Beary the Be Well Bear, the infamous teddy bear clinic, stilt walkers, BOB the bookmobile, loads of giveaways, free car seat checks, a children's circus performance, resources from youth-serving agencies, and more!

Food will be available for purchase, and all proceeds from food and helmet sales help support the operational expenses of the fair. The Safe and Healthy Kids Fair is organized by a committee representing local organizations whose missions include facilitating healthy outcomes and injury prevention for youth. The motto reflected at the annual fair is "**Be safe, have fun, do good, and pass it on!**"

For more information or to get involved, visit the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair Facebook page, email safeandhealthykidsfair@gmail.com.

30th ANNUAL!!!

SATURDAY MAY 6TH 11AM UNTIL 2PM

SAFE AND HEALTHY KIDS FAIR

HOMER HIGH SCHOOL 600 E FAIRVIEW AVE.

OUTDOOR event

FUN ACTIVITIES!

BIKE GIVE-AWAYS!

HOT DOGS!

BIKE RODEO

BE SAFE, DO GOOD, PASS IT ON!

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
KPBSD posts flyers a community service. Such posting does not constitute an endorsement for or against the materials or viewpoints expressed in them.

Volleyball Tournament

City of Homer Community Recreation hosted an all-day Adult Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament on Sunday, April 2. A total of eight teams, including one from the Central Peninsula, played 28 games with a crowd of over a hundred fans cheering them on.

Congratulations to **TEAM PENINSULA** for winning the inaugural volleyball Tournament. **TEAM CAROLINE** took second place and **TEAM ANNA** placed third.

To see the entire Community Recreation program list, check out www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec.



Inlet Winds Band Performance

The City of Homer Community Recreation **Inlet Winds Band** held an amazing performance at the Mariner Theater on April 22. An estimated 250 people were in attendance. There are 38 band members including seven high school students who have been practicing once a week for two hours for the past 10 weeks to learn an array of some complex yet entertaining songs. The band was led by volunteer Band Directors Eric and Mary Simondsen. Stay tuned for future band and concert opportunities in the fall!



Fire Department



Residential Fuel Spill

In April, Homer Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call from Enstar Energy regarding a fuel smell in Crittenden and Hidden Way area. Fire Chief Mark Kirko tracked the scent to a property on Hidden Way and reported the spill to the City's Water and Sewer team, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Coast Guard. The spill was determined to be home heating fuel from a 300-gallon tank, with an estimated leakage of 75-150 gallons. HVFD and the City's Water and Sewer team responded with crews to place absorbent boom and pads at culverts and storm drains to help mitigate the spread of fuel toward the bay. DEC has taken over case management and HVFD is no longer involved.

To prevent future spills, the City encourages property owners to take a look at their heating oil fuel tanks to make sure they're in good shape. Even if you have converted to natural gas, you may still have a heating oil fuel tank, so be sure to check out old systems for safety and security!

Check out the [Steps to Close a Heating Oil Tank](#) for some advice.

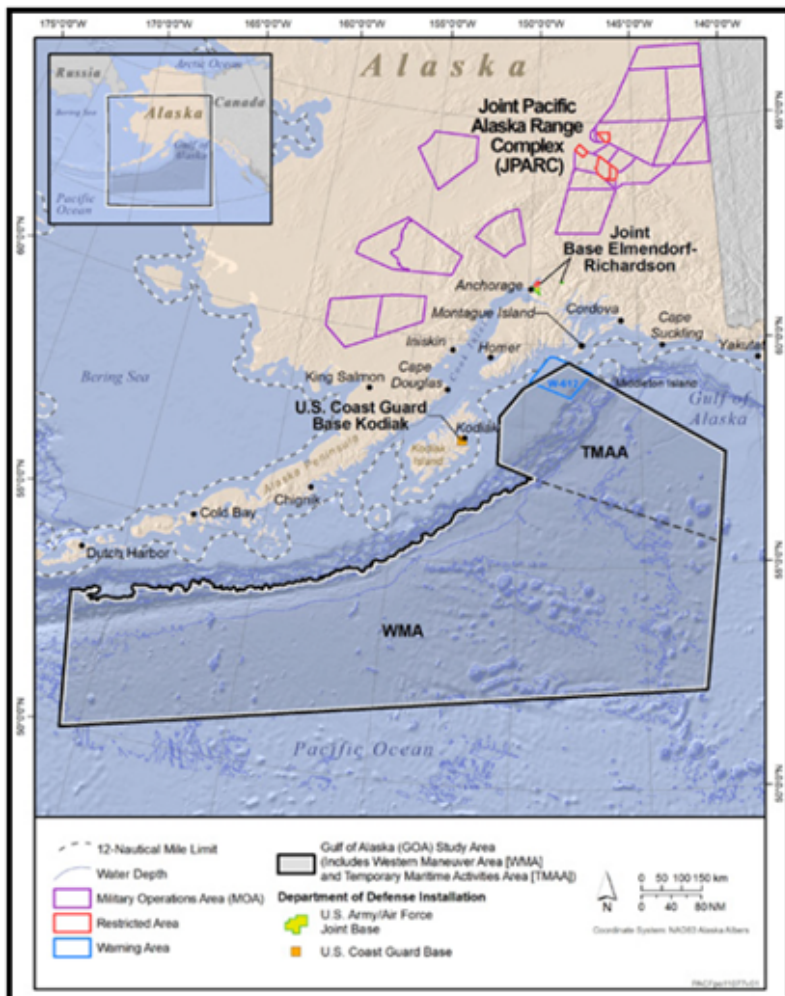
Steps to Close a Heating Oil Tank

- 1 Notify the Oil Supplier**
If you are converting to gas or electric heat or if you are replacing a tank, call your oil distributor and ask them to discontinue the oil service to your tank.
- 2 Remove Product**
Remove all petroleum product from the tank and line before pulling the tank. Your oil supplier may pump out the reusable oil and credit your account. The fuel supplier should have an explosion-proof or air-driven pump or a vacuum truck to remove the liquid in the tank.
- 3 Disconnect all Piping and Drain**
All piping should be disconnected, drained, and capped (if it cannot be removed). This includes the tank fill line.
- 4 Tank Cleaning**
Oil sludge or residue should be removed and disposed of properly.
- 5 Tank Removal**
Once the tank is cleaned, it may be removed from the property and disposed properly.

Northern Edge Exercise

In a virtual meeting on April 20, 2023, Mayor Castner and City staff met with representatives from the Navy to discuss the upcoming Northern Edge Exercise, which will start in early to mid-May. The Northern Edge Exercise is the military's largest joint training exercise in Alaska. Maritime training activities conducted during Northern Edge occur in the Gulf of Alaska within a designated Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA), which is located south of Prince William Sound and east of Kodiak Island, and the Western Maneuver Area (WMA), which is located south of Kodiak Island.

This meeting was part of the coastal community outreach that the Navy is coordinating in anticipation of the exercises which take place every other year and typically last up to 21 days. During the meeting with City staff, John Moser, Environmental Planner for the Navy, discussed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Northern Edge and the mitigation measures in place. The prominent changes since the last exercise in 2021 include an enlarged training area where vessels and aircraft can operate called the Western Maneuver Area (WMA), and a new Continental Shelf and Slope Mitigation Area within the Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA). While in the past a majority of activities occurred in the TMAA, the Navy now prohibits the use of explosives during training in the Continental Shelf and Slope Mitigation Area to protect marine species and biologically important habitat.



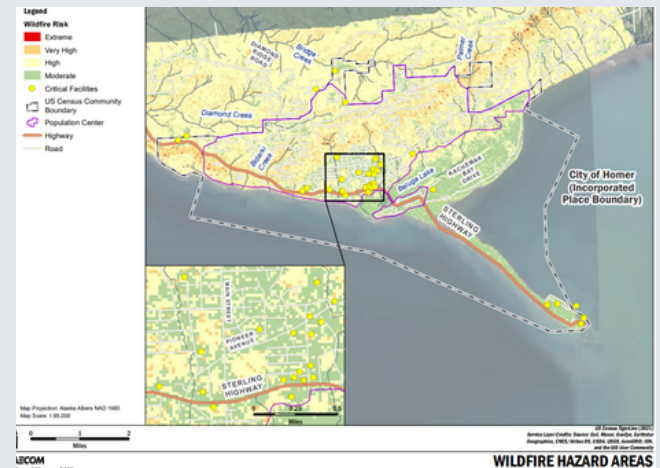
WILDFIRE

A wildfire—also known as a wildland fire—is a fire in an area of combustible vegetation occurring in rural areas. Wildfires can be caused by human activities (e.g., unattended burns, campfires, or off-road vehicles without spark-arresting mufflers); or by natural events (e.g., lightning, drought, or infestation). Wildfires can be classified as forest, urban, tundra, interface or intermix fires, and prescribed burns.

Most of the Homer area has moderate or high wildland fuel risk, with some areas of very high risk. The Homer Spit, tidal flats, and low-lying areas around Beluga Lake are at moderate risk; the areas of very high risk are primarily along the bluffs.

Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home is crucial. For more information on defensible space, review the [AK Firewise Pocket Guide](#).

If you would like to read more about wildfires and their potential hazard of them to Homer, please refer to Table 3-10 of the [Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).



Burn Bans & Permits

As we enter the dry spring season before the green-up, the risk of fire becomes greater. To ensure your safety and the safety of those around you, it is important to take the necessary precautions before burning. Make sure to check if there are any burn bans in effect and obtain any required permits before proceeding. Check out www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/fire/burn-permits for more information.

City Clerk's Office

Celebrating the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week

April 29 – May 6, 2023, is the 54th 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 facilitating 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.



Rachel and the Library Advisory Board. Red Asslin Martin, Marcia Kuszmaul, David Berry, Douglas Bailey, Kathy Carsow, Rachel Tussey, Kate Finn, Michael McKinney, and Bristol Johnson.

May is Bike Month in Homer!

With beautiful scenery and ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, it's no wonder biking is a popular mode of transportation in our community. But biking isn't just a fun way to get around – it's also an important part of our City's [Climate Action Plan](#). By choosing non-motorized transportation options like biking, we can reduce our carbon footprint and work towards a more sustainable future.

Throughout the month of May, Homer Drawdown and Homer Cycling Club will be hosting a variety of biking activities and events. Whether you're an experienced cyclist or just getting started, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Check out the [Bike Month flyer](#) for more details. From a safety class to a film festival and bike rodeo, there are plenty of ways to get involved and show your support for biking in the community.

Community participation is key to achieving the community's climate goals, and that's why community members are encouraged to get involved in bike month activities. By coming together as a community to support non-motorized transportation options like biking, we can make a real difference in reducing our impact on the environment and building a more sustainable future for generations to come. **So grab your bike, join the fun, and let's make May 2023 a Bike Month to remember!**

HOMER DRAWDOWN and HOMER CYCLING CLUB presents BIKE MONTH MAY 2023
www.HomerDrawdown.info

BIKE / WALK TO WORK / SCHOOL WEEK : MAY 15 - 19

ENERGIZER BOOTH at WKFL PARK
coffee snacks bacon
Mon, May 15th, 7:30 - 9:30 am
smoothy bike
Fri, May 19th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

SAFE AND HEALTHY KIDS FAIR
bike rodeo
Sat, May 6th, 11:00 - Noon
High School Parking Lot

KBBI COFFEE TABLE
listen and call in
Wed, May 10th, 9:00 - 10:00 am

FILMED BY BIKE
film festival
Thurs, May 18th, 6:00 pm
Homer Theater
\$10

BY BICYCLE: COMMUTING HOMER
Sat, May 20th, 10:00 - Noon
KPC campus

free safety class

PLAY BIKE BINGO!
Fill out a card and turn it in to the Friday energizer booth for a chance to win prizes!
www.HomerDrawdown.info



Harbor Expansion Study Update

On March 29, 2023, the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) signed a Federal Cost Share Agreement to begin a three-year feasibility study of expanding Homer's harbor. Planning activities with the USACE will kick off with a three-day design charrette, May 17 through 19.

The USACE conducts design charrettes in the very early stage of a general investigation study to identify project requirements, gather functional information from customers and stakeholders, assess the project site, and allow for public engagement with the USACE design team. The full schedule of public events is below and online at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/homer-harbor-expansion. Participation can be in-person or virtual. A link will be provided later at www.homerharborexansion.com.

The City is also working with HDR as an owner representative to assist the City in a successful coordination effort between USACE and the greater Homer community. HDR's planning activities with the City began on Friday, April 28 at a joint work session with the Homer City Council and Port & Harbor Advisory Commission where they began drafting a Charter Document that defines a shared vision, collective goals and objectives, and success factors for the City's role in the Homer Harbor Expansion.

Stay up to date on the Homer Harbor Expansion study at the website: www.homerharborexansion.com.

Mark Your Calendar!



May 17, 18 and 19



Islands & Oceans Visitor Center



www.homerharborexansion.com



Full schedule below

Homer Harbor Expansion Design Charrette

Public Work Session Schedule

Wednesday, May 17

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

First Public Work Session *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*

- Introduction
- USACE Process
- General Navigation Feature vs. Local Services Facility
- Harbor Expansion History

Thursday, May 18

1:30 to 5 p.m.

Second Public Work Session *(Open to the public with full public engagement)*

- Developing potential measures and alternatives to be considered in scoping phase

Friday, May 19

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Third Public Work Session *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*

- Compare measures and alternatives that will be considered in scoping phase

2 to 3 p.m.

USACE Charette Briefing *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*

- Provide summary of work completed during charrette
- Provide USACE next steps in Feasibility Study

Port & Harbor



Float Rehabilitation Project Update

Harbor maintenance staff are working on refurbishing the transient floats on the end of floats K through Q. These floats were built in 1986 and are six years past their engineered life expectancy. Most floats in that area are still in remarkably good condition despite heavy use in Alaskan weather, but the T-Head floats are twisted and damaged from several factors including the age of the floats. Additional strain is caused by rafting multiple vessels on the end floats. High wakes caused by fast incoming vessels traveling to the Load and Launch Ramp add even greater force loads to the floats, more than they were engineered for. With assistance from Bellingham Marine, the City is rehabilitating these floats to relieve the wracking damage and restore a safe walking surface.



Fishing Lagoon Maintenance

The Fishing Lagoon is undergoing maintenance in order to keep the lagoon from filling in with sediment and gravel. Materials are collected in the narrow part of the lagoon, as shown in the photo. If not cleared out, the materials will flow into the lagoon and fill in the lobes, making the depth too shallow for the salmon fry pens.

A local contractor, Dibble Creek, will be walking a large excavator down the entrance of the lagoon to clean out all the materials that they can reach with a 60' boom. The materials will be loaded into trucks and moved offsite to the contractor's materials storage yard on the Spit. They will also clear out the materials that have accumulated in the entrance and clean behind the East groin. It is recommended that the East groin is kept cleared out enough so that the material is not allowed to migrate around and down the entrance into the lagoon.



The Fishing Lagoon does not have a fund to support it, so this time around, City Council approved to trade the dredged materials in exchange for the contractor's services. Dibble Creek is a local contractor with experience completing this type of work for the City. The proposed work is properly permitted and covered under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit currently in place and held by Public Works. This project will preserve the great fishing that the lagoon has to offer.



Parking Fee Structure Update

The City of Homer Port & Harbor department has announced an update to its parking fee structure. The update includes a change to one parking area and an increase in fees in some areas.

Starting Memorial Day, May 29, 2023, the last section of angled parking spaces on the west side of Homer Spit Road will be limited to 3-hour parking and remain free or at no charge. These spaces were previously designated as 7-day free parking.

Additionally, parking fees will increase from \$5 to \$10 per day in certain high-demand areas. These areas include the spaces at the top of Ramps 1 through 4. The fee increase is necessary to keep up with the rising cost of maintenance and operations and to ensure that the parking facilities continue to meet the needs of the community. All other Spit parking lots continue to offer free parking for up to seven consecutive 24-hour days. After seven days, vehicles must be removed from City property for at least 24 hours before returning, purchase a long-term parking pass, or will be subject to citation.

Future expansion of paid parking to most of the areas on the west side of the Spit is under consideration. The City of Homer is working with the State Department of Transportation on implementing paid parking in the public right-of-way. The potential expansion of paid parking is being explored as a way to manage parking demand and support the sustainability of Port & Harbor maintenance operations for high-quality transportation and public spaces.

Future expansion of paid parking to most of the areas on the west side of the Spit is under consideration. The City of Homer is working with the State Department of Transportation on implementing paid parking in the public right-of-way. The potential expansion of paid parking is being explored as a way to manage parking demand and support sustainability of Port & Harbor maintenance operations for high quality transportation and public spaces.

"We understand that these changes may be difficult for some of our customers, but we believe that they are necessary to provide a better parking experience for everyone," said Bryan Hawkins, Harbormaster and Port & Harbor Director. "By implementing paid parking in high-demand areas, we can reduce congestion and ensure that spaces are available for those who need them. And by increasing fees in certain areas, we can ensure that our parking facilities are well-maintained and continue to meet the needs of our community."

The City of Homer is committed to providing safe and affordable parking for all community members and visitors. For more information about the fee structure update or to provide feedback, please visit www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/port-homer-parking.

City of Homer Port & Harbor Facilities Vehicle Parking





Public Safety Corner



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.

Construction Season Safety

As the 2023 construction season kicks off, it's important for all of us to be aware of the hazards and challenges that come with roadwork.

According to workzonesafety.org, in 2022, 857 people were killed in 774 fatal work zone crashes, with 117 of those fatalities being work zone workers. It is crucial for drivers to moderate their speed, stay focused, watch for construction signs, and pay attention to flaggers. At the same time, workers are encouraged to follow important safety guidelines that help prevent worker injury and death. By minimizing distractions in work zones, both drivers and workers can prevent tragedies from occurring.

To help you prepare for construction season, we encourage you to stay up-to-date on construction traffic impacts and delays by checking 511.alaska.gov.



In Homer, we value safety above all else. Let's all do our part to ensure that this construction season is a safe one for everyone involved.



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death from home fires in half.

That's why we're rallying volunteers, fire departments and partners to *Sound the Alarm*.

Together, we're installing **FREE** smoke alarms in your community. Request a smoke alarm installation today!

Homer / Ninilchik / Anchor Point Communities

May 11-13, 2023

Thank You, Southcentral Territory Sponsors:
CHUGACH ALASKA & THE HOMER FOUNDATION

SoundTheAlarm.org/alaska
907-201-2047
bridget.vivoda@redcross.org



Matt Steffy and Donna Aderhold brushing out the Lee Ave Trail.

Red Cross Home Fire Campaign

The Red Cross Home Fire Campaign could help save lives in local communities. From May 11 to 13, they will be providing free smoke alarm installations to homes that do not have them. The Red Cross Home Fire Campaign and is a great opportunity for those who may not have the means to purchase a smoke alarm themselves. To sign up for this free service, visit the Red Cross' website and fill out the form at www.redcross.org/local/alaska/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to come together and ensure the safety of their homes and families.

Don't miss your chance to sign up for a free smoke alarm installation!

359801-04 03/23

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.

- **David Garcia**, Building Custodian
- **Michael de la Torre**, Public Safety Dispatcher

April 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.

Joe Young	Public Works	16 Years
Rick Pitta	Police	14 Years
Erica Hollis	Port	11 Years
Jean Hughes	Public Works	9 Years
Jaclyn Arndt	Fire	8 Years
Dave Berry	Library	4 Years
Ricky Borland	Port	4 Years
Aaron Yeaton	Public Works	2 Years
Evangelina Campuzano	Police	2 Years
Will Kern	Public Works	2 Years
Joe Kahles	Fire	1 Year

Departures & Transitions

The City thanks **Rachel Tussey** for her service to the City and wishes her well on her next adventure!

Rachel started her career with the City as a part-time administrative assistant in the Clerk's office. She also has served as an Administrative Secretary at Port and Harbor and finally as Deputy City Clerk in the Clerk's Office. Rachel also was the Sister City Coordinator with the City's Sister City Teshio, Japan. Rachel is an efficient clerk who had an eye for detail, strong technical writing skills, and helped get some modern touches to the workflows. She was an asset to the team and will be missed!



Meet the Staff



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

After 15 years, and upwards of 300 Planning Commission meetings with the City of Homer, **Rick Abboud** is moving on to a new position with York County, South Carolina which is part of the Charlotte metropolitan area. Rick joined the City in 2008 after serving as the planning director for Bethel, AK. He jumped straight into the big job of wrapping up the 2008 Homer Comprehensive Plan and shepherding it through the



Planning Commission, City Council, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly. During Rick's tenure with the City he has worked with staff, Planning Commission, and Council on projects that have touched every section of Title 21. He collaborated to make additions to code which include solutions relating to steep slope development, grading and filling, over slope development, wind energy, telecommunication towers, storm water, creation of the East End Mixed use District, allowances for accessory dwellings, marijuana businesses, flood hazard ordinances and maps, coastal setbacks, and the creation of the medical district. Rick has also been very active with MAPP, Rotary, the Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition, and served a stint as interim-City manager.

After working for Public Works for over 9 years, **Paul Raymond**, lead equipment operator, is retiring. To complement his enormous skill as an equipment operator, Paul is also a barbecue master. We wish him a happy retirement and his skill both on the job and at the grill will be deeply missed.



Mike Gilbert will be promoted to lead equipment operator after the retirement of Paul Raymond. Mike has worked at Public Works as an equipment operator for 10 years and the promotion to lead operator is well earned. We welcome the wealth of skill and experience that Mike brings to the table and wish him the best in his new position.

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 Director
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

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



Homer harbor, Ed Tussey



Three Cranes, artist unknown

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

May	
3	5:30 p.m. Planning Commission Work Session - Canceled 6:30 p.m. Planning Commission Regular Meeting
8	5 p.m. City Council Committee of the Whole 6 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting
9	6 p.m. Economic Development Advisory Commission
11	5 p.m. ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting
16	5:30 p.m. Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
17	5:30 p.m. Planning Commission Work Session 6:30 p.m. Planning Commission Regular Meeting Various USACE Homer Harbor Expansion Charrette (May 17-19)
18	5:30 p.m. Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
22	5 p.m. City Council Committee of the Whole 6 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting
24	6 p.m. 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

- Building Custodian, Full-Time
- Deputy City Clerk I, Full Time
- Firefighter/EMT-Basic (EMT-I) or Firefighter/EMT-Advanced (EMT II or III), Full-Time
- Parks Technician, Seasonal
- Utilities Laborer, Seasonal
- Harbor Assistant I, Seasonal
- Treatment Maintenance Technician I or II



City of Homer

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